



May Anniversary Luncheon featuring Chicago Spelmanslag

In May 1960, the Chicago Torske Klub was founded. We will celebrate with a luncheon, Linne Aquavit, and music. In addition, we will abandon our coat's and ties for your favorite golf or polo shirt for the warm (!) weather.



For the occasion, we welcome members of the Chicago Spelmanslag as guests and musical entertainment. Chicago Spelmanslag is the Chicago area's very own local, "home-town" Scandinavian Folk Band.

Their name comes from a traditional custom common throughout the Scandinavian countries, whereby each town would have its own local band consisting of that town's musicians, who would come together to provide the music for the region's dance parties, festivals, and special events.

In keeping with this custom, the musicians are primarily folk fiddlers from throughout the Chicago area. they also incorporate a variety of other instruments, however, which are less well known, including the nyckelharpa (Swedish keyed fiddle), hardingfele (Norwegian Hardanger fiddle, incorporating 'sympathetic' under-strings), tussefløyte (Norwegian recorder), and munnharpa (jawharp). In addition, they utilize some instruments which are relatively more recent to Scandinavian folk music, such as guitar, string bass, and cello. We will likely see a sample of some of these instruments.

Our torskemaster is our own Program Chairman Thor Jondahl. Reservation line is open.

A Cozy April Luncheon

We were pleased to welcome Mr. Jon Pederson from Minnesota to talk about the Norway house. We were also pleased to host Lodve Solholm from Norway and many other guests who joined up in the smaller upstairs dining area of the Elks. Don Hoganson is a master torskemaster and steered the meeting with the boss, Lowell Olberg. *Thanks to all who assisted and attended.*

Torske Klub Luncheon - May 11, 2019

The luncheon will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847)824-1556 for directions that day). Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS rings the bell to seat us for dinner. Make your regular dinner reservation by the evening of May 6 for the luncheon. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you. The fish order is called in after the deadline. \$5 surcharge for late reservations

**Reservations
by
May 6**

Call **(847)886-4841** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. We have reservations from the following members: **3, 38, 42A, 47, 51, 55, 84, 97, 98, 115, 120, 149.** Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call or prearrange to cancel *or add guest to the count.* If you are not a member and wish to attend, call the same number and leave your name according to the principle "Once a guest, twice a friend, three times a member!" If you prefer email reservations, please send to reservations@torskeklub.com (not .org) with your total number of reservations, including yourself and guests. We will respond with a confirmation email. ****TIP** – Don't know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name. **FREE Raffle Ticket** to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2018/2019 season, excluding father/son/daughter day in April and excluding ladies day in February.

Luncheon Reservation Phone: ☎(847)886-4841

In the beginning, there were 3: Claus Nicoll, Andrew Highland, and Aasmund Rosseland. The idea of a torske club was born by these three men, following a visit to Minneapolis, where they were guests of the Minneapolis Torske Klub.

On February 27, 1960, a selected committee of nine met at the Chicago Norske Klub to organize the club. These were: Andrew Highland, Aasmund Rosseland, Claus Nicoll, Irving Gunderson, Reidar Rosenvinge, James Birney, Bernard Jacobsen, Chris Johansen and Irving Highland. They met five times drawing up rules and regulations with the results being the birth of our club May 14, 1960. Forty members attended that first meeting, and we have been meeting the 2nd Saturday of the month ever since, except for June, July and August. At the luncheons, only the freshest of codfish will be served, with melted butter, boiled potatoes, flatbrod, coffee and two servings of Aquavit. A top notch speaker will be invited to each of our luncheons to give a twenty minute talk. ...

At the Fall luncheon, Saturday, September 10, 1960, Magne Smedvig, Manager of the Sons of Norway Home Office in Minneapolis, was the Master of Ceremonies, and Orlando Wilson, Superintendent of Police for the Chicago, was the invited speaker. Also in attendance were the following members of the Supreme Board of the Sons of Norway: John Kaare Hagen, newly elected president, Vice President Wilhelm Holand, Director-at-Large and Past President Irving Highland, Director-at-Large and Past President Irving Highland, Director Conrad Garmager, and Counsel and Past President Gerhard Sonnesyn - plus the "Boss" of the Minneapolis Torske Klubben, Roy Thorshov.

From the very first meeting, there have been noted individuals in the fields of sports, politics, industry, TV, newspapers, education, and travel who were asked to be the speaker of the day. We should mention that great help in the organization of this club was given by Magne Smedvig, then General Manager of the Sons of Norway. He was instrumental in sending us an outline of the basic organizing rules and regulations governing the Minneapolis Torske Klubben. We have followed these suggestions even to the present day. Many members who are no longer with us will be remembered for their contributions to our club. Andrew Highland, Claus Nicoll, Marshall Pedersen, Rasmus Harr, Art Gulland, and Henry Halvorsen, to mention a few.

The first and foremost purpose of our klub to fellowship. Of course the menu, always undeniably delicious, sparkles up our taste buds. Then too, the speakers who entertain us provide a fitting climax to a very enjoyable afternoon. Credit must be given to Chris Johansen, Ray Newgard, and now Thor Jondahl for their untiring efforts in providing excellent speakers for our entertainment. ...

The site of our dinners moved from the original Norske Klub, later called the Norway Center, to the Scandinavian American Cultural Society in Palatine and in the 90s to Homestead Restaurant in River Grove. About 20 years ago, the luncheons moved to their present location, hosted by the Elks Club in Des Plaines.

59 years later, we are still going strong. We have about the same membership count as we did 25 years ago. Thanks to all our good members. - source from early Chicago Torske Klub History on the website

May Birthdays

This month we celebrate the May birthdays of Nels Nelson, Thor Fjell, Board Member Pastor David Langseth, and our good treasurer and friend of the Viking Ship, Ken Nordan. Skol!

Future Events

- ◇ **May 11**—Torske Klub Anniversary Day
- ◇ **May 17**—Norwegian Constitution Day. Concert, Norwegian Memorial Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL, 7:30 PM
- ◇ **May 19** -NNL Norwegian Constitution Day Parade, Park Ridge, IL. *Torske Klub Marches!*
- ◇ **June-Aug.**—No Luncheons
See <http://www.torskeklub.org> for more info

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

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