

## Norsk News, September 23, 2015

[www.mthorebrotary.com](http://www.mthorebrotary.com)



Absent Members: Burns, D., Helwig, C., Helwig, S., Kennicker, Olson, Orzechowski, Rasmussen, Rooney, Walton

Students: Gabriela Giler (Exchange Student) and Sofia Firmino

Program today is a presentation about the dismantling of the Stave Church that has been residing at Little Norway.

Scott Winner, owner of Little Norway, said that the Norway building has been on the property for 80 years. A group from Norway is taking the building apart piece by piece and is saving the building. Scott introduced the 14 people from Norway. They were our guests for lunch today.

They are dismantling the 56-foot tall building from the smallest trim to the big joists, which were brought from Norway 122 years ago. Every piece is marked and manifested. He then introduced Olav and Arne who presented a power point on what has happened and what will be happening next. Olav's grandfather carved the Stave Church Door!

The building was at Chicago Worlds Fair in 1893. Olav said that it will be a "diamond when it comes back to Norway". Their presentation showed a sawmill that made the wood for the stave church.

The Norway pavilion is modeled off of the Gol Stave Church. There are 8 reproductions of stave churches in the US. Only 28 stave churches are still standing in Norway at this time.

Olav Sigurd Kvaale (Rotarian) and Arne Asphjell grew up together and have known each other since they were 5. They saw an article headlined "Asia wants to buy Norway from the United States". They decided to take action to bring it back to Norway. In November 2014 they got a grant for 2 million Kroners (about \$241,000). They got money from People's Millions\* to use to reprint a book about the church. They showed possible locations for the pavilion. There will be a workbook for 6<sup>th</sup> graders to develop interest in the project.

They plan to create a time capsule to be opened in 13 years. School children in Orkdal and in Mt. Horeb will decide what to put into it. The opening ceremony will be in 2017

As an aside, some of the Norwegians have been working with students in the music program. Four of them sang a song from 1863 for us

Olav visited Little Norway in September 2014. Arne studied at UW Madison in 1987. The people here are volunteers. There is an estimated 4000 hours of work and they think they will be done in 2 weeks. Pictures of the project can be seen [here](#).



### Upcoming Meetings:

Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, Heidi Kopras

Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, Board meeting and Club Assembly

Greeter for September: McNall

Greeter for June 2016: Wedig, K.

\*The People's Millions was a partnership between Big Lottery Fund and ITV, where the public helped decide which local community projects got up to £50,000 of National Lottery funding.