

## **Freya Lodge #50 Institution**

One hundred two years after Freya Lodge #3 was instituted, about 60 women met in Spokane, again, to institute a Daughters of Norway. Women from seven lodges braved the snow to attend the institution on November 14, 2009.

Grand Lodge President Mary Knutson Sullivan initiated 18 charter members and installed officers. Grand Lodge Organizational Co-Chair, La Vonne Hovland, from Frida Hansen was the Mistress of Ceremonies after helping organize the lodge. Other Grand Lodge officers who attended were Ellen Hinds, Vice President, from Nellie Gerdrum; Judy Hadlock, Secretary, from Ester Moe and Perralina Palm, Trustee, from Sonja Henie. Judy Felker, Membership Chairperson, from Elise Wærenskjold and Jill Beatty, Organizational Co-Chair, from Anna K, attended, also. Jill served as the Grand Lodge Marshal. In addition, she spent time training the escort team.

Thora Stupin, the president, was instrumental in organizing their lodge. Because she is a member of Turid Jespersen in Mission Viejo, CA, she wanted the women in Spokane to learn more about their Norwegian heritage. She and several other women worked tirelessly to obtain names of interested women, call and/or e-mail each one to inform them of meetings and topics pertaining to organizing their lodge. Reba Jewell opened her home and beautiful backyard for several organizational meetings.

At one of the meetings, someone asked the reason for naming their lodge after the original "Freya." While going through boxes in the Sons of Norway lodge, Susan Kirkeby came across several financial records and a book of minutes from the original lodge in the early 1900's. A picture of women from the original lodge was, also, found. So to honor the brave women who established the first Daughters of Norway lodge "on the Pacific Coast" in 1907, the decision was made to name their lodge "Freya." In Norse mythology, Freya is a goddess of love and fertility, and the most beautiful and propitious of the goddesses. Also, in keeping with tradition, they have kept the original spelling. What a wonderful history!

The featured speaker was Mr. Tom McArthur from Spokane. He informed everyone about Norse mythology and Freya in particular. Janet O'Connor did a beautiful job playing music before and during the institution. We all sang "*Ja vi elsker dette landet*" and "We're Proud to be Daughters of Norway."

The refreshments were furnished by members of Freya lodge. Everyone enjoyed a choice of several delicious soups, bread, crackers and several Norwegian desserts. How appropriate to serve soup on a wintery day.

Now that the institution is over, all of the members are looking forward to learning more about their heritage and one another. They are eager to learn how to make *lefse*, *krumkake*, *kranskake* and other Norwegian delicacies as well as learn to do *hardanger*. Several women are interested in learning Norwegian. Who know, maybe someone will be able to translate the original minutes from the early 1900's.

*La Vonne Hovland,*

*Grand Lodge Organizational Co-Chair, 2009*