

Sons of Norway Lodge 3-438



Oslo Lodge Mission Statement

“The mission of Oslo Lodge, Sons of Norway 3-438, is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic Countries.”



New York - The Empire State

Oslo L♥dge in the heart of Central New York

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Oslo Lodge Officers

President: Bjorn Solli
president@oslolodge.org

Vice President: Jim Mostrom
vicepresident@oslolodge.org

Secretary: Marsha Roseen
secretary@oslolodge.org

Treasurer: Mike McCadam
treasurer@oslolodge.org

Cultural Director: Karin McCadam
culture@oslolodge.org

Counselor: Fred Watt
counselor@oslolodge.org

Newsletter: editor@oslolodge.org
Web: webmaster@oslolodge.org

OLSO LODGE meets at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 7444 Buckley Rd, Syracuse, NY 13212.

From Oslo Lodge President Bjorn Solli:

Dear members and friends,

First I would like to thank everybody that attended the leadership training in January. Karin made a very, very good soup (sorry no left over's). Arnie and Ragnhild Johnson were well prepared and did a good job as always.

Good news - I have several good news items today. When you read this it's FEBRUARY, that is good news: spring is around the corner. The second good news item is that we got a new member in January. The club is growing and more than ever are we looking for people to help out.

Mike McCadam volunteered to be our new treasurer and was so elected, but he would like for someone to take over the Social Director position. If you have an interest in this position or if you want to know what is involved with the job please contact me.

The next good news item is that you can be a winner in our scholarship raffle you just don't know it yet, see me at our next meeting and I will explain how close you are to winning. Talking about scholarships: make sure your kids or grandchildren send the applications in by the end of February. If you need any forms please contact me.

The last news story I have is that you are all invited to a very nice program in February and I know you would not want to miss it. I hope to see as many as possible there.

Bjorn Solli, President
3-438 Oslo lodge

www.oslolodge.org

A New Year at Oslo Lodge



**Feb. 14 Valentine’s Party
Stories that touch hearts.**

Come for a few laughs and a few tears at our old-fashioned party. Plus the Youth Committee has fun activities planned so bring the kids! Please email your intentions to editor@oslolodge.org

Mar. 14th – March Madness. Bring friends and family to watch “Where the Home Fires Burned”. With spectacular scenery, historical vignettes, it’s only an hour long. Learn how some of our forbearers lived on small treacherous precipices. Don’t miss it or the refreshments. Very short business meeting follows. Guests can stay for it or pick up a membership packet on their way out.



Geiranger Fjord

April 11 Nordic Comedy. Join the fun plus meet our Special Guest Third District President Ralph Peterson. President Peterson is a native North Dakotan (and retired Navy). He is a visionary on the 3D team and will share with us wonderful plans and news. Commit now to be there!

April 24 Zone 4 Scholarship Dinner & Dance, LOV. Read more page 4.

Sat. May 1 St Olaf’s Chapel, Inlet, NY.



Oslo Lodge hosts the Memorial Service for Zone 4. Learn more February 14th.

May 16 “Syttende Mai (17th of May)

Parade” in Brooklyn is the second largest in the world (largest is in Oslo). This year’s theme is: “**Ja, vi elsker dette landet**”. Come march with Oslo Lodge and have an experience to remember.



June 9-13 61st 3D Third District Convention Join the family fun in Harrisburg PA. Details page 8 .

July 24 Zone 4 Picnic at Elvedal, Saugerties, NY, hosted by Hudson Valley. (Zone meeting at 12 noon).

August 2010 Weekend at LOV. Repeat of 2009 summer picnic + LOV weekend.



Swim, hike, relax, bonfire, games, relax, Norsk, scrapbooking, scavenger hunt and orienteering! We’ll have a picnic but also hope to have a weekend. It’s a great place to hold your family reunion as your family can join in all the fun with Oslo Lodge. We can have a weekend if enough overnight weekend reservations are booked.

August 2010 Sons of Norway International Convention Coeur D’Alene, Idaho. Come learn more!

Sept 12 2:00 Coffee, Planning & Nominations

Oct. 17 Membership Dinner – 2010 Central New York Scandinavian Day

Nov. 14 Oslo Lodge Officer Elections, 2011–12

December 5 Juletefest – FUN!

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**News from Norway via websites!**

- [www.aftenposten.no/English](http://www.aftenposten.no/English)
- [www.aftenposten.no/webcam](http://www.aftenposten.no/webcam)
- [www.NorwayPost.no](http://www.NorwayPost.no)
- [www.norway.org](http://www.norway.org)

## **OSLO LODGE NEWS**

### **Youth Activities Committee**

In response to emails sent in January, the first Youth Activities meeting was held on Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Sarah Barbuto. The kids played nicely in the next room while the Committee had fun planning the Youth programming for February and March. The committee is open to any parent or grandparent who is interested in sharing time and talents with the Oslo Lodge Youth. You can commit to helping just once a year, a few times a year or monthly: it's your choice. So please do not hesitate. Come have fun with us. Please look for emails from the Youth Activities Chairpersons soon and for the Youth column beginning in March.

### **Oslo Lodge Treasurer**

It is official, Mike McCadam is our new Lodge Treasurer. This also means that we need a new Social Director. Both positions are to fill out the terms until the end of 2010. There will be elections for the next slate of Officers for 2011-2012.

### **Oslo Lodge Social Co-Directors**

There is a vacancy in the Social Director position. The Lodge is fortunate in that many people are so willing to help out and there is a de facto committee. The Social Committee makes sure we have coffee and treats for each meeting. They also oversee the singing of the National Anthems at the beginning of each program. Oslo Lodge is very open to having one or two people fill this position until the end of 2010. There will be elections for the next slate of Officers for 2011-2012.

### **Oslo Lodge Greeter**

We need two new greeters at Oslo Lodge. If you are a friendly member who is present at most events and are willing to welcome members, visitors and guests, then please state your willingness to be serve.

## **MEMBERS' CORNER**



**Members on the Mend.** Rusty and Marsha Roseen are doing better, but please keep Marsha in your thoughts and prayers.

It was great to see them in January! If you know of anyone who is ill, had surgery or needs a remembrance, please email [secretary@oslolodge.org](mailto:secretary@oslolodge.org).

### **Velkommen - New Member**

Milton Franson, joined Oslo Lodge on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>!

### **Oslo Lodge College Corner**

Greetings, Oslo Lodge! Everything is great here at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. I am a Scandinavian Studies and Philosophy double major, and love my courses and professors. I am also very involved in campus life: I attend Christian events, am part of a club called Social Justice that advocates for equality around the world, and enjoy the many on-campus concerts, dances, comedians, and other events that are offered to us. My favorite thing about Concordia is the friendliness of the people here; everyone is so nice! I don't like the lack of sleep very much, but I'm having such a good time, that it's a sacrifice I'm willing to make, ha-ha. This summer, I am working at Skogfjorden, Concordia's Norwegian language village. (Concordia has about 20 different language villages, and as a language major, I can get credit towards my major for working at one, all while having a great time!) I should be in New York for part of the summer, and hope to see you all then! Beste hilsener fra Sallie

**Give the gift of Sons of Norway Membership!** It is the passport that opens the door to history, language, rich Nordic culture, artisan crafts and much more! Every month your gift will bring the Viking magazine to the home of the new member and an invitation to a local lodge event. Please chat with any Lodge Officer to give an awesome gift for Valentine's Day, a birthday or an anniversary.

### **Oslo Lodge Viking Ship in need of repair**

Yes, you have read this correctly. Oslo Lodge has a Viking Ship, just not a large one! It was crafted by one of the Oslo Lodge Youth many years ago. It has seen better days, but is still worthy of repair. We are looking for volunteers to restore this 8 inch by 36 inch ship in need of mast, sail, and oars.

Zone 4 News

Zone 4 Scholarship Program is in its 38<sup>th</sup> year. This year \$500 scholarships will be awarded to 7 qualified Sons of Norway current members, their children or grandchildren. Applications are available online at www.oslolodge.org and the Raffle Tickets that support the Scholarship Program are available at Oslo Lodge. Completed Scholarship applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2010.

April 24 Zone 4 Scholarship Dinner & Dance, LOV. This is a lovely event. The dinner is always good and there is the presentation of the scholarships, which is so enjoyable. Plus there is dancing for those who want to work off the extra calories. Plus there is the drawing for prizes from the raffle tickets. Where else can you have so much fun for only \$25 a person? Reservations required by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Around The THIRD DISTRICT  
Check out www.3dsofn.org

2010 SPRING Viking Regatta



St. Augustine Florida.

March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by the Gateway to Florida Lodge, Jacksonville. A well-attended event. Check it out at www.sonjax.com

Valentine's Day

This year Valentine's Day falls on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month, which is Mothers' Day in Norway!

Valentine's Day, then and now

Several early Christian martyrs were named Valentine, including Valentines of Rome and Terni. The first was a priest who suffered martyrdom about AD 269: his relics are reportedly at the Church of Saint Praxed in Rome. Valentine of Terni became bishop of Terni about AD 197 and was also martyred and his relics are at the Basilica in Terni.

Valentine's Day is called 'Valentinsdag' In Denmark and Norway". In Sweden it is called "Alla hjärtans dag" ("All Hearts' Day").

In Finland Valentine's Day is called "Ystävänpäivä" which translates into "Friend's day". It is not an official holiday in any of countries



1883 greeting card company advertisement

BENEVOLENCES

"Pass the Piggy" funds are used for benevolences related to natural disasters or other traumatic events.



Tubfrim

Please bring cancelled stamps for Tubfrim to Oslo Lodge



Oslo Lodge Vikings on the Move column returns in March. Don't miss it!

**CULTURAL SKILLS PROGRAM**

**An recent email from LaDonn Jonsen  
Sons of Norway International**

Good morning Karin and all,

Thank you for contacting Head-quarters about the Norwegian Cultural Skills for Youth. And, thank you for being interested in your Norwegian heritage and helping members to become more knowledgeable in their heritage.

Mange tusen takk!

When the youth units were developed some years ago it apparently was felt back then that only Part 1 of adult units were suitable to be designated as "Youth". But, as you know, most "youth" can well handle all 3 parts of the adult units if they are so inclined and have proper supervision or help, where necessary. Our units have been used by Sons of Norway summer camps, home schooled Unge Venner or Heritage members and lodge youth groups and Barnas Norsk groups.

Bring on the youth - boys and girls, young men and women - they can do any of the Cultural Skills units they desire along with the requirements. We are in the process of revising the units so they are more easily understood, and give up-to-date resources.

If you have questions feel free to e-mail me at: [culturalskills@sofn.com](mailto:culturalskills@sofn.com); or call me on the toll free line: 800-945-8851 or 800-877-4299.

AND, a special thank you to you for working so hard to bring the Norwegian culture to your lodge members with the Norwegian Cultural Skills program.

All the best,  
LaDonn Jonsen  
Cultural Skills Coordinator

The **Cultural Skills Program** is open to all Sons of Norway members, both through their lodges or as individual participants. The Cultural Skills Program offered by Sons of Norway serves a variety of purposes:

1. To encourage active participation in both traditional and contemporary Norwegian-North American pursuits;
2. To enrich the lives of members of all ages;
3. To provide the basis for special interest clubs within our lodges; and
4. To provide new reasons for people to join Sons of Norway.

**The Awards**

**Specialist:** One who wishes to go in depth in one area, e.g. Hardanger embroidery or genealogy, et cetera

**Generalist:** One who samples several skills and qualify for the basic level in each, for example: stamp collecting, crafts, and Norwegian foods.

**Mentor:** One who is skilled in activities offered in the Norwegian Cultural Skills Program can do a different challenge: mentor others who need formal or informal instruction. The mentor is an extremely important person in passing on the Norwegian heritage to others.

**Master of Cultural Skills:** One who has completed at least three levels of three different skills, or nine individual basic activities.

**Becoming a More Family-Oriented Lodge**

Did you know that at Oslo Lodge, we have something for almost everyone? Yes, we know that there is always some delicious refreshments and that it is good to catch up with our friends, but there is so much more. This year, we will be concentrating on members becoming more familiar with the Cultural Skills Programs and the Sports Programs, both of which members (Heritage, Unge Venner and traditional members) can earn medals for their participation. Currently we have several adult members who are working on their Cultural Skills in the following divisions: Language, Cooking and Genealogy.

**Adopt a School Program & Youth Programming**

We at Oslo Lodge have discussed the Sons of Norway Adopt a School Program. Unfortunately we've not had enough members with time to commit to this project. However we can begin with members who will commit to assisting our own Youth Activities – perhaps through either the Cultural Skills Program or the Sports Medals Program. **Please give the youth of Oslo Lodge a reason to belong!**

### Join Oslo Lodge and receive Special Travel Benefits

Sons of Norway offers members several exclusive, travel-related benefits, which are listed below. Please visit the Sons of Norway website for additional information.

**Country Inn & Suites:** Members receive a 13% discount off the regular room rate! Check it out at: [www.countryinns.com/sonsofnorway](http://www.countryinns.com/sonsofnorway) to take advantage of your discount! Also Lodges that plan an event and need a block of rooms can contact Janelle Smith at (507) 273-1564 or email her [janelle.smith@carlson.com](mailto:janelle.smith@carlson.com). She will assist members who need to book blocks for rooms at a special rate for personal events such as weddings and family reunions.

**Best Western:** You are eligible for our member discount (up to 15 percent) at any of Best Western's 3,400 hotels in the United States, Canada, and abroad including Scandinavia! Visit Best Western's Web site for specific hotel locations and information at [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com). To take advantage of the Best Western discount, call 800-528-1234 (U.S. and Canada) or 80-01-16-24 in Norway & give the Sons of Norway corporate account number #01195190.

**Avis:** Save money as you travel with Sons of Norway's member discount with Avis (up to 20 percent in the United States and Canada) and on time and mileage rates internationally at all participating Avis locations. To take advantage of the discounts available, go to [www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com) or call 800-831-8000 and provide the Sons of Norway Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) code A835300 when making reservations.

**Borton Overseas:** Enjoy a 5% Sons of Norway member discount when you book a qualifying inclusive tour package with Borton Overseas! You must book directly with Borton Overseas. The discount applies to packages offered in the catalogues or to customized independent tour packages created by Borton Overseas to your specifications. Borton Overseas will create a wonderful travel experience and save you money. Check out [www.bortonoverseas.com](http://www.bortonoverseas.com) or call for a free tour catalogue at 800-843-0602.

**Icelandair:** Sons of Norway members now receive a 10% discount on any published Icelandair airfare\*! When making reservations: identify yourself as a member of Sons of Norway; provide the agent with your Sons of Norway membership number (seven digits); provide the travel agent with the Sons of Norway agreement #SOFN2009

Valid Icelandair U.S. Gateways: Boston, New York (JFK), Orlando (SFB), Minneapolis/St. Paul Humphrey Terminal Valid Icelandair Destinations\*\*:

Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Paris, London-Heathrow, Manchester and Barcelona. Travel to Iceland/KEF as a final destination is excluded from this agreement. However, Iceland may be included as a stopover option, at no additional airfare, for a maximum seven-night stopover.

\*Restrictions may apply. \*\*Icelandair flights only.

**Sons of Norway Visa Card:** Show your Norwegian pride with an exclusive Sons of Norway Visa Travel Rewards card. The card offers reward points for every dollar you spend. Redeem them for free tickets on any airline with no blackout dates, seating restrictions or zone restrictions, or choose from other great rewards including merchandise and gift certificates from name brand retailers.

Give the Gift of  
Membership  
Read more on page 3.



2010

Still not too late for resolutions!

Here are some Lodge suggestions:

1. Come learn how to earn a Sons of Norway Sports Medal via lifelong activity that you can achieve and maintain. Join the Oslo Lodge Sports Team and track your progress whether it is miles walked, laps in the pool or something else.



2. Participate in any of the Cultural Skills Programs: Norwegian Music, Nordic cooking (yes, there are light and healthy recipes ... it is we Nordic Americans and not the Nordic peoples who are overweight); handcrafts (knitting, embroidery, weaving); woodcarving, language. etc. And, did you know that your children and grandchildren can participate with you. Come look through the Cultural Skills binder in February and make a commitment that you can stick with.



3. Commit to Oslo Lodge and help on an event, project, or committee. We work smart and have lots of fun! "Many hands make light work"!



4. Invite someone new to Oslo Lodge. Better yet, bring them. We had great success in October when members invited and brought potential new members. And the feedback was that Oslo Lodge is friendly and fun, but then we knew that, didn't we? We had 10 new members from this one event!



5. Some things shouldn't be delayed, dismissed or abandoned; and one of these is Financial Benefits Planning. Did you know you can provide for your family and also support Sons of Norway? We are fortunate at Oslo Lodge to have a great connection with Sverre Aasgaarden, our Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Advisor who is low-key yet knowledgeable, and has great integrity. Read on for more information. Sons of Norway offers a variety of insurance and Cash Accumulation products designed with you in mind. A Financial Benefits Counselor can meet with you to help you articulate your needs and put together a plan designed just for you, to help reach your financial goals. A Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor can help you to determine which of financial products are right for you. It's the kind of work we do. Get your free Financial Review and get started toward a more secure tomorrow. Sverre Aasgaarden is a pleasure to contact for a complimentary financial review. Contact him at 1-800-314-2955 or by email at aasgaarden@cs.com.



**"EXPLORE YOUR HERITAGE"****Third District Convention, June 9-13.**

Join others who promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and who celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries. Learn about the roots of our Fraternal Aid Society and why we have quality insurance and financial products available to our members.

Relax at the Harrisburg Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, a friendly full-service hotel located just 5 minutes south of Harrisburg in the suburb of New Cumberland. The hotel has easy access to Interstate 83 and Interstate 76 (PA Turnpike) and just 11 miles from Harrisburg International Airport.

Explore Harrisburg, along the shores of the Susquehanna River. It has grown from a modest ferry outpost to a picturesque capital city. As a burgeoning center for the region's arts and culture, the community offers all the pleasures of an urban metropolis with the warmth and caring atmosphere associated with Pennsylvania. And, even if your funds are limited, it doesn't mean your fun has to be! The greater Hershey-Harrisburg area offers an abundance of activities at a price everyone can afford.

**FACTS TO KEEP IN MIND**

1. June 9-13 2010
2. Harrisburg Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center 148 Sheraton Drive, New Cumberland, Pa 17070 1-717-774-2721 (use group code SON). Hotel Cost: \$101.00/night + taxes. Rate is honored 3 days pre / post convention.
3. Convention Tickets (does not include rooms) include the following: registration fee; President's Reception; Thursday & Friday lunches; Saturday Banquet and Dancing; cultural displays, Viking presentation; five (5) coffee breaks; 25 tickets for the Viking Auction. Transportation from airport, bus or train station or parking for your auto. Convention Ticket Cost: Delegates, \$285.00; and, Non-Delegates, \$200.00.

**LAND OF THE VIKINGS**

**Land of the Vikings (LOV)** is located on 150 acres in a peaceful valley in Northeastern Pennsylvania, 35 miles east of Binghamton, NY, and is surrounded by 5,000 acres of state game land.



Land of the Vikings offers fun for everyone: hunting, fishing, swimming, golf, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and hiking are just some of the activities available on the premises or nearby.

Land of the Vikings is open year round and has all-inclusive packages at reasonable rates and is ideally suited for group retreats such as sports clinics, seminars, family reunions, weddings, or anniversaries, providing privacy in a relaxed and comfortable setting. **LOV** also offers cultural and fitness programs such as rosemaling, folk dancing, wood carving, children's summer camp, Ski for Light, and Sports for Health.

**Sons of Norway District 3 2010 Group Cruise**

1. 7-day Norwegian Coastal Voyage aboard the MS Midnatsol on July 17. Price starts at \$2,040/person.
  2. 12-day Norwegian Coastal Voyage aboard the MS Midnatsol on July 17. Price starts at \$2,915/person.
- JENSEN TRAVEL Booking 1-866-552-0371 Email: USBooking@hurtigruten.com



## February 2010 Third District Today

Hei alle sammen,

For many of us the snow came and went but the cold weather stuck around a bit longer than many of us liked. The one good thing is we probably got rid of a few bugs that would have bothered us next summer.

Congratulations to **Gateway to Florida 3-541 and Dovre 3-232** for winning the Fall SON membership competition. **District Three swept both the large and small lodge categories.** Each lodge will get a \$500 check from SON headquarters and a lot of bragging rights. For both lodges it was a big step forward. For Gateway to Florida it was just a culmination of a lot of awards they have recently earned and for Dovre, it was one great giant step forward in their efforts to getting back on solid ground.

January is always a great month. We have Officer Installation ceremonies all up and down the East Coast. We have new ideas being put forth and new members taking offices along with some experienced hands helping them along; it's a great program. Let me offer my congratulations and thanks to all of our new and returning officers.

Some of these new ideas proposed may not always be well received but let's give them a chance. What kind of an organization would we be today if we didn't have women in our ranks or use English in our meetings? Those are two changes that were probably tough for many when they were proposed but they have helped make our organization the great one it is. Above all, let's not forget we are a fraternal organization based on rules that apply to all of us.

District Three and the entire order had great positive membership months during November and December. January is doing ok but not as great as the past two months. Let's get our Membership committees up and going and institute/improve our mentoring programs.



Our web site <http://www.3dsofn.org/home.html> averaged 97 visitors a day last month. As of Jan 18 the daily average for Jan was 138 visitors a day. That is a huge jump from our 64 a day in June 2009. Our D3 blog got a large uptick in traffic as well. Three of our Adopt a School lodges posted notes on their programs. I encourage more lodges to follow their lead. <http://3dsofn.org/blog/2009/11/12/adopt-a-school/#comments> We will be posting additional information on the convention as it becomes available. <http://3dsofn.org/blog/category/convention>

June Cooper, Hampton Roads 3-522, has produced a DVD of the 2008 convention. It is a great production, professionally done, 28 minutes long and covers all the events of the convention. The cost of the DVD including shipping, handling and taxes is \$20. It will be a great program for your lodge as well as your own personal enjoyment. Additional information on ordering the DVD can be found on the web or you can email June at [Junecooper@mindspring.com](mailto:Junecooper@mindspring.com)

LOV recently had a major upgrade to the heating system. The new equipment will improve reliability, safety and reduce the heating costs.

This is the time of year when we start electing Convention delegates, drafting resolutions and filling out Lodge of the Year forms. These are all important events for our lodges. They deserve our complete attention.

The Institution of the Drammen Lodge will take place at The Chelsea Restaurant, 335 Middle Street, New Bern, NC. Festivities start at 5:30 on 20 Feb 2010. Check the web site for full details or call Arty Ellis at 252 637 7547.

Med vennlig hilsen,  
Ralph Peterson, President  
District Three, Sons of Norway



February 2010  
Third District Today



*Fra Vise Presidenten Gail Ekloff*

The 2009 yearend numbers are in and the total 3D membership is 8745 (7,041 adult and juvenile members, 764 insurance non-members and 940 heritage members) compared to the 2008 yearend total of 9,028 (7,302 adult and juvenile members, 782 insurance non-members and 944 heritage members). We had 26 members transfer out of 000-999 lodge to a local lodge. Ten lodges in the District experienced **NET** growth. Many lodges added new members but lost members the same month. The total number of new members is 545 for 2009.

We must address the members voluntarily leaving, 671 in 2009. A concerted effort needs to be made by the lodge to contact these members and retain them as members of your lodge. This is an issue we should be able to turn around since lodges' Vice President and Financial Secretary are sent monthly "Membership Activity Reports" Find out why they are not renewing their membership, is it cost, lack of programs, not feeling welcome? If you bring this information back to your lodge officers and your membership committee, they can see what has to be done to "fix" this issue.

I have discovered that only a handful of lodges utilize 000-999 reports sent to the VP and membership chairs every month. I will now send the names of the 000-999 members sorted by state to the appropriate lodges; this should enable a better follow-up effort in getting these members to join your local lodge. The home office has been providing lodge Vice-President contact information and names of individuals who have signed up on line wanting to join a local lodge; if your lodge requires a vote for membership. Surprisingly, even fewer of these have been contacted by the lodge! At last count, only 3 out of 19 have been contacted by a lodge.

We must work out a different strategy so we don't lose a person actually asking to join a lodge! I will be contacting the 2010 Vice Presidents and Membership Chairs on how to best go forward. This may be the time for lodges to rethink how they handle their membership and consider changing your by-laws so "no vote" is needed. People can then join directly on line and be put in your lodge membership.

Have you posted your event for "March Membership Madness" on the 3D web site? Let all the lodges know what the event will be and after it is over let us know how many members you got!