

FRIENDS OF THE VIKING SHIP, NFP
Vice President's and Museum Affairs Report
May 11, 2024 Board Meeting

The First Quarter of 2024 shows FOVS to be in a strong position in tours, community engagement and pursuit of our mission.

CONSERVATION: Bjorn, Perry Straw and I made a trip to Vesterheim Museum on February 13 to examine the faering belonging to the ship which had previously been transferred by the Chicago Maritime Museum to Vesterheim over 25 years ago, and placed there into storage, The faering is lightweight, perhaps 150 pounds, and restorable. The Vesterheim board is in the process of formally transferring the faering out of its collection to FOVS. We expect to soon have a quote for the cost and method for professional restoration to present to our board for consideration. The 1893 VIKING ship was fully vacuumed, the chairs washed and the shelter cleaned and put into order on April 17 for the 2024 season.

HEAD AND TAIL CARVINGS: “Freya”, the now-named and personified head and tail carved ornaments of the bow and stern of the 1893 VIKING, were successfully removed from the Geneva History Museum and installed into the 2nd floor display area of the Geneva Public Library; on January 4, 2024, by Chicago Fine Art Solutions. The work was done on time and as per the approved and budgeted amount. The cost for this installation was paid for by generous 2023 year end contributions by Jamie Larson and the Hansons, and a \$1,000.00 contribution by the Library. Five of the 8 donated shields created by Eagle Scout Erik Longo were also installed there, along with other display items furnished by FOVS and excellent artwork by the Library's graphic design team. The library reports many more visitors to the library to see the installation.

TOURS: The 2024 tour schedule is underway. The first public open day, April 20, 2024, was a great early season success, despite cold weather, with over \$1500 taken in and nearly 2/3 of that in gift shop activity. The combination of Patch and Facebook online promotion efforts are an effective combination to reach potential patrons. Private tours are also off to a good start, with a tour for 20 on April 5, a family tour on April 13, another family tour by Dave Barrows on April 27, and upcoming tours for 71 public school 3rd graders on May 13, a private tour on July 25 and an antique car club tour on July 27. Our three new docents Sherryl Brown, Linda Muth and Ernie Klapmeier have all given tours successfully; Sherryl is poised to also begin book store and library presentations as well.

OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES: I gave a presentation to the Sons of Norway Sjkold Lodge on March 17, resulting in a \$2,000.00 donation to FOVS. I have booked another presentation to the Del Web Scandinavian Club for October 8, 2024. FOVS is registered to enter a “Marching Viking” unit, including a Viking mounted on a horse, in the 2024 Swedish Days Parade, and to have a booth at the downtown Sweden Vast displays. I represented FOVS at the Geneva Public Library's Community Volunteer sign up on April 27. The 2024 “Freya” display at the library will also include 4 presentations on Viking literature collaboratively arranged by the Library and FOVS. The first of these occurred on March 13, 2024 with a presentation by Dr. Charles Peterson, formerly of the Scandinavian Studies Center of North Park University, on the Icelandic Sagas. Three more are scheduled. The August Open Day will also include a kubb game display by the Energy City Kubb Club from Batavia, Illinois.

LAND PURCHASE STATUS: A proposal has been submitted; awaiting formal and detailed response.

David Nordin, Vice President

