

Solskinn Nyhetsbrev

November 2024 Newsletter from Solskinn Lodge 6-150



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Solskinn Lodge 6-150

Ord fra Presidenten



God Jul,

It's Christmas!!!! I hope you have your reservations for our Christmas social. We made a few changes to the date and the food. But why not do something different? Over the last few years, turkey has become very

popular in Norway for Christmas, so we are going to try that.

How about giving a gift to Norway for Christmas this year? The Viking Magazine has several Christmas gift ideas on pages 12-17. You can also check out the Vesterheim gift store. Better yet, give the gift of a Sons of Norway Membership.

Start a tradition of making Norwegian Christmas cookies with your family or share those homemade cookies with friends and family. Make some lefse. Give a book of Scandinavian literature. Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or a glass of wine and kick back under a snuggly blanket while reading a Norwegian book. And check out the movie "My Norwegian Holiday" on the Hallmark station.

My Christmas day and night will be in Alice Springs, Australia. Almost half a world away, at Ayers Rock, also known as Uluru, at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, where I will see the sunrise on Christmas morning. I will have my family, my fraternal family, and the spirit of Christmas in my thoughts as I experience another culture.

In January, we will enter the "season" of visitors in the valley. We hope you will attend our brunch, to which we hope you will invite your friends.

I look forward to our Christmas social and a happy new year.

Fraternally,
Luella

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December 7, 2024

Christmas Party

**Sing-a-long Gift Exchange
Good Food**

January 25, 2025

**Brunch (Norwegian Breakfast)
Vafler and Lefse Demonstration**

Solskinn Nyhetsbrev



Happy Birthday

Birthdays December 2024 - February 2025

Jhan Schmitz	December 9
Jack Bjerke	December 21
Gail F Ryan	December 23
Corinne J Bjerke	December 24
Charlotte A Larsen	December 26
Sammie Lee Lingle	January 10
Susan Norby	January 21
Terese Olson Hartley	Februarey 11
Donald Lee Lingle	February 16
Sandi Mangan	February 21
Ulf Strandjord	February 23
Darlyn Johnson	February 26
Don Johnson	February 27



H An official holiday.
Similar to federal holiday.
F Official Flag Day.

Norwegian Flag Days, Holidays and Days of Observance

Dec 25	First Christmas Day	H F
Dec 26	Second Christmas Day	H
Jan 1	Nyttårsdag	H F
Jan 20	HRH Princess Ingrid Alexandra	F
Feb 5	Sami People Day	F
Feb 9	Morsdag (Mothers Day)	
Feb 14	Valentindag	
Feb 20	HRH King Harald V	F
Mar 2	Fastelavnsøndag (3 day before Lent)	
Mar 20	Vårjevndøgn (Equinox)	
Mar 30	Summertime starts	

Editor for Solskinn Nyheter (Sunshine News)
Terje "TJ" Berger 760.799.6660
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solskinn150@gmail.com

Solskinn Lodge

Website: solskinn.sofn6.org
Facebook: Solskinn Lodge, Sons of Norway 6-150
Email: Solskinn150@gmail.com

Sons of Norway

Website: sofn.org
Facebook: Official Sons of Norway Facebook Group

Sons of Norway, District Six

Website: sofn6.org
Facebook: Sons of Norway District Six

Social Calendar for 2024-2025 Season

Always a Saturday. Social at 11:00 AM

Cost	General Cost Members \$10.00, Guests \$15.00
December 7	Christmas, Sing-a-long and Gift Exchange Catered food
January 25	Vafler and lefse demonstration Brunch (Norwegian breakfast)
February 22	Salmon fishing, wild caught or farming Salmon
March 22	Hardanger, demonstration and display Traditional open face shrimp sandwiches Cost: Members \$15.00, Guests \$20.00
April 26	World War II. The King's Escape Soup & Salad
May 17	Syttende Mai Hot Dogs and Bløtekake Cost: Members \$5.00, Guests \$10.00
June 28	Bar-b-Que in Morongo Valley Bring your own food to be grilled

BOOK CLUB

December Book

And every morning the way home gets longer and longer
by Fredrik Backman

ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, Dec 12 at 4PM

January Book

Night Falls in Norway
by C W Browning

ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, Jan 16 at 4PM

February Book

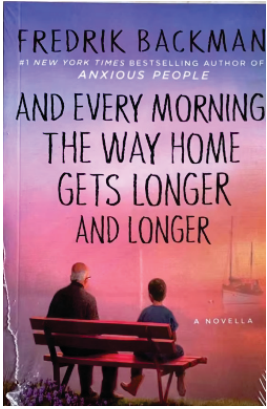
Touch
by Olaf Olafsson

ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, Feb 20 at 4PM

Want to join? Send an email to Luella: morongo2@verizon.net

December 2024



This book is about family, memories, and letting go; it's about learning to say goodbye before it's even time. It's a book about Alzheimer's and how the mind fades like a star before the body is ready to follow. The story was unfortunate, and there wasn't a moment that you didn't feel how somber it is; the moment where three people sit in a room, a child, his father, and his father's father, all of which know that there is one mind in that room that is leaving them, at times already have gone. I had listened to the audiobook version of this short story, and compared to

the [sampler] Kindle book I read, the narrator made an enormous contribution in making this and the characters and all of the feelings and emotions attached so much more real. There are lucid moments when we are in little Ted's or his father's mind, watching their beloved family member leave them piece by piece. There are moments when we are in the grandfather's mind as he sees the world, views his memories, talks to his deceased wife, and understands that each day, his "room" gets smaller and smaller, and each day, memories seem to slip away.

Fredrik Backman (born 2 June 1981) is a Swedish author, blogger, and columnist. The books were number one bestsellers in his home country of Sweden. Backman's books have been published in more than twenty-five languages.



Backman grew up in Helsingborg, Sweden. He has been writing for the Swedish newspaper Helsingborg Dagblad and for the Swedish men's magazine, *Moore Magazine*. Backman debuted as a novelist in 2012 with *A Man Called Ove*. The novel was adapted as a film which premiered on 25 December 2015 and again in 2023. Swedish production company Filmlance bought the rights to his book Beartown. It was adapted for television in 2020. Many of his books have been translated into English. After his debut novel, *A Man Called Ove*, was translated into English, it remained on the best-seller list for 42 weeks.

January 2025

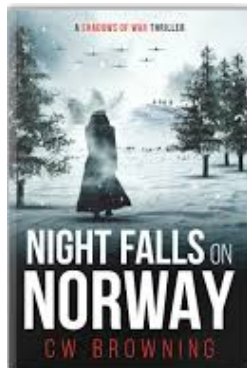
When MI6 sends Evelyn Ainsworth back to Oslo, no one expects any complications, least of all Evelyn. With her identity locked down and her section classified, both her location and her mission are secure.

Or so they thought.

After months of inactivity and scattered warnings across Europe, Hitler finally moves, but not in the direction everyone expects. With tensions between England and Norway rising, the Führer seizes the opportunity to send an invasion force north – straight into Norway.

Trapped in Oslo and facing an advancing German army, Evelyn embarks on a desperate flight to escape the infamous SS. But a deadly foe is right behind her and, as time runs out, she must rely on others to get her out alive...

...or fall victim to the horrors of a war that has well and truly begun.



CW Browning was writing before she could spell. Making up stories with her childhood best friend in the backyard in Olathe, Kansas, imagination ran wild from the very beginning. At the age of eight, she printed out her first full-length novel on a dot-matrix printer. All eighteen chapters of it.



Through the years, the writing took a backseat to the mechanics of life. Those mechanics, however, have a great way of underlining what genuinely lifts a spirit and makes the soul sing. After attending Rutgers University and studying History, her love for writing was rekindled. It became apparent where her heart truly lay. Picking up an old manuscript, she dusted it off and went back to what made her whole.

CW still makes up stories in her backyard, but now she crafts them for her readers to enjoy. She makes her home in Southern New Jersey, where she loves to grill steak and sip red wine on the patio.

Julenisse

What is a Scandinavian Pixie?

In Scandinavia, Pixies or Nisse is a household spirit that is responsible for the care and prosperity of a farm or family. A Nisse is usually described as a short man or woman (under four feet tall) wearing a red cap. While belief in guardian spirits is a very old tradition in Scandinavia, belief in Nisser was prominent in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Denmark, southern Norway and southern Sweden. Many farms claimed to have their own Nisse. The Nisse took an active interest in the farm by performing chores such as grooming horses, carrying bales of hay, and other farm-related tasks. These chores were usually done much more efficiently and effectively than by their human counterparts.

However, Nisser could be temperamental, to say the least. If the household was not careful to keep its Nisse satisfied—usually in the form of a single bowl of porridge with butter in it left out on Christmas Eve—the spirit could turn against its masters.

In the 1840s the farm's Nisse became the bearer of Christmas presents in Scandinavia, and was then called "Julenisse" and has been associated with Christmas ever since.

The Swedish "Jultomte", the Norwegian "Julenisse", the Danish "Julemand" and the Finnish "Joulupukki" still has features and traditions that are rooted in the local culture: he doesn't necessarily retreat to the North Pole, but lives in a forest, field or stream nearby, or in Denmark he lives on Greenland, and in Finland he lives in Lapland; he or she does not come down the chimney on Christmas night, but arrives through the front door, delivering the presents directly to his household friends.



Pixie has multiple meanings, including a mythical creature, a type of person, and a practice management software.

Mythical creature

In British folklore, pixies are mischievous, elf-like spirits or fairies that are often depicted as wearing green and dancing in the moonlight. They are said to enjoy leading travelers astray, frightening young maidens, and playing in water. The word "pixie" may be related to the Swedish dialect word *psyke*, which means "small fairy".

From Fjörn Scandinavian at fjorn.com



Book List for December 2024- July 2025

Want to join? Send an email to Luella.morongo2@verizon.net

December 2024
And Every morning the Way
Home Gets Longer and Longer
by Fredrik Backman
ZOOM meeting December 12

January 2025
The Night Falls on Norway
by CW Browning
ZOOM Meeting January 16

February 2025
Touch, by Olaf Olafsson
ZOOM meeting February 20

March 2025
The Weaver and the Witch Queen
by Genevieve Gronechee

April 2025
The Larasus Solution
by Kjell Oda Dahl

May 2025
Nansen by Rolan Huntford

June 2025
The Axe by Sigrid Undset

July 2025
The Slaves Tale
by Erik Haugaard



Scandinavian History

King Hans of Denmark/Norway

Hans, also known as Johannes (2 February 1455 – 20 February 1513), was a Scandinavian monarch who ruled under the Kalmar Union. He was King of Denmark from 1481 to 1513, King of Norway from 1483 to 1513, and King of Sweden (where he has also been called Johan II) from 1497 to 1501. Additionally, from 1482 to 1513, he held the titles of Duke of Schleswig and Holstein, which he governed jointly with his brother, Frederick.

The three most important political goals of King John were the restoration of the Kalmar Union, reduction of the dominance of the Hanseatic League, and the building of a strong Danish royal power.

Hans was born on 2 February 1455, probably at Aalborg in Northern Jutland. He was the third but eldest surviving son of Christian I of Denmark and Dorothea of Brandenburg, daughter of Margrave John of Brandenburg.

In 1458, King Christian I, the father of Hans, had the Norwegian Council of the Realm commit to electing Christian's eldest son as next king of Norway upon his death. A similar declaration was made in Sweden. In 1467, Hans was hailed as successor to the throne in Denmark. Hans used the title heir to the throne of Norway, in line with Norway's old status as a hereditary kingdom, but this was a claim the Norwegian Council did not immediately recognize. Consequently, upon King Christian's death in May 1481, Hans' position was unchallenged in Denmark, whereas in Norway the Council of the Realm assumed royal authority, and an interregnum ensued. No serious rival candidates to the Norwegian throne existed, but the council was determined to demonstrate Norway's status as a sovereign kingdom. A meeting between the Councils of Denmark, Sweden and Norway was appointed for 13 January 1483 at Halmstad, to work out the terms for electing Hans as king. The Swedish Council failed to turn up at the meeting, but the Norwegian and

Danish councils proceeded to produce a joint declaration containing the terms for Hans' rule, and electing him king. It was hoped that Sweden would later accept the same document and thereby acknowledge Hans as king. Subsequently, Hans was crowned King of Denmark in Copenhagen on 18 May, and King of Norway in Trondheim on 20 July.

During the first years of his rule Hans carried out a balancing policy. By diplomatic means he tried to weaken the position of the Swedish regent Sten Sture, and he also sought new allies—he was the first Danish king to establish political cooperation with Russia. After the 1493 treaty, Ivan III of Russia imprisoned all Hanseatic merchants trading in Novgorod and instigated the Russo-Swedish War (1496–1499). The Hanseatic cities were also troubled by a secret war by Danish privateers. At that time the position of the Hansatic League was slowly but steadily declining because of changes in trade routes and the growing opposition against the Hanseatic League in the Northern European naval states.

Hans' domestic policies were marked by economic support of the Danish merchants and by the widespread use of commoners as officials or even as councillors, something which angered the nobility. The most important of his initiatives was perhaps establishing a permanent Danish navy, one which came to play a role during his later years.

In June 1495, Hans set sail with a fleet for Kalmar, Sweden. Along with the Danish and Norwegian Councils, he expected to meet with the Swedish Council. His goal was the reunification of the Nordic region under his rule: a renewed Kalmar Union. Along the way from Copenhagen to Kalmar, Hans' flagship, Gribshunden, suffered an explosion and sank at anchor near the town of Ronneby. Hans was not aboard at the time; he survived and continued on to Kalmar. However, Sten Sture repeatedly delayed his own arrival, and Hans finally abandoned the summit in August to return



exhausted to Copenhagen. Direct diplomacy had failed, so John turned to other means to achieve his ambition.

On 6 October 1497, Hans conquered Sweden during a short and effective military campaign, defeating Sten Sture at the Battle of Rotebro after having undermined his position by winning over most of the Swedish nobility. Sten surrendered to King Hans in Stockholm and was reconciled with him. Hans was crowned King of Sweden, and Sten was given the highest position of authority in Sweden below the King.

Meanwhile, Norwegian attempts at opposition were strangled by Hans' son Prince Christian (afterward King Christian II), who was the viceroy of Norway from 1506 until he became king in 1513. Between 1510 and 1512, the king fought a last war with both Sweden and Lübeck in which Denmark was at first very pressed but, with the help of the Scottish Barton brothers, partly turned the tables with a naval offensive. The result concerning Sweden was the status quo, but Lübeck suffered a real political and economic setback by the peace.

In 1513, King Hans died at Aalborghus Castle a short time after being thrown from his horse.

He loved Gingerbread cookies.

Famous Norwegian

Ole Bull

Ole Bornemann Bull (b. 5 February 1810, d. 17 August 1880) was a Norwegian virtuoso violinist and composer. According to Robert Schumann, he was on a level with Niccolò Paganini for the speed and clarity of his playing.

Bull was born in Bergen, Norway. He was the eldest of ten children of Johan Storm Bull (1787–1838) and Anna Dorothea Borse Geelmuyden (1789–1875).

His father wished for him to become a minister, but he desired a musical career. At the age of four or five, he could play all of the songs he had heard his mother play on the violin. At age nine, he played first violin in the orchestra of Bergen's theatre and was a soloist with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra. At eighteen, he was sent to the University of Christiania, but failed his examinations. He joined the Musical Lyceum, a musical society, and after its director Waldemar Thrane was taken ill, Bull became the director of Musical Lyceum and the Theater Orchestra in 1828. He also became friends with Henrik Wergeland, who later wrote a biography of Bull.

After living for a while in Germany, where he pretended to study law, he went to Paris but fared badly for a year or two. In 1832 in Paris he shared rooms with the Moravian violin virtuoso Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst. He was eventually successful in becoming a high-level virtuoso, giving thousands of concerts. In England alone these included 274 in 1837, during which visit he also travelled to some of the more remote parts of Britain. Catherine Darwin told her brother about a Shrewsbury concert when "the best performer was Ole Bull on the Violin, who I think very superior to Paganini". Bull became very famous and made a huge fortune. He is believed to have composed more than 70 works, but only about 10 are known today. Best known is *Sæterjentens søndag* (The dairymaid's Sunday).

Bull was caught up in a rising tide of Norwegian romantic nationalism, and acclaimed the idea of Norway as a sovereign state, separate from Sweden—which became a reality in 1905. In 1850, he co-founded the first theater in which actors spoke Norwegian rather than Danish, namely *Det Norske Theater* in Bergen—which later became *Den Nationale Scene*.

In the summer of 1858, Bull met the 15-year-old Edvard Grieg. Bull was a friend of the Grieg family, since Ole Bull's brother was married to the sister of Grieg's mother. Bull



noticed Edvard's talent and persuaded his parents to send him to further develop his talents at the Leipzig Conservatory. During the 1860s and 1870s Bull went on several tours across the U.S., often accompanied by soprano Varian Hoffman, baritone Ignatz Pollak, and pianist Edward Hoffman.

Robert Schumann once wrote that Bull was among "the greatest of all," and that he was on a level with Niccolò Paganini for the speed and clarity of his playing. Bull was also a friend of Franz Liszt and played with him on several occasions.

Instruments Bull also was a clever luthier, after studies in Paris with Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume. He collected many beautiful violins and violas of Amati, Gasparo da Salò, Guarneri, Stradivari and others. He was the owner of one of the finest violins of the world, made by Gasparo da Salò around 1574 for

Ferdinand II, Archduke of Austria. The violin, a gift of his widow to Bull's birthplace, is now in the Bergen Vestlandske Kustindustrimuseum. Bull often performed with Guarneri del Gesù violins during his career.

Ole Bull Colony

Bull visited the United States several times and was met with great success. In 1852, he obtained a large tract of land in Pennsylvania and founded a colony he called New Norway, but that is commonly referred to as Ole Bull Colony. On 24 May 1852, he formally purchased 11,144 acres for \$10,388. The land consisted of four communities: New Bergen, now known as Carter Camp; Oleona, named after him and his mother, six miles south of New Bergen; New Norway, one mile south of New Bergen; and Valhalla in the Kettle Creek area.



Today the site is the location of the Ole Bull State Park, 132-acre state park in Stewardson Township, Potter County, Pennsylvania. Norwegian citizens paid for the construction of a monument on site to honor Ole Bull. The statue was placed in the park on the 150th anniversary of New Norway in 2002.

Gingerbread Cookies

3 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 teaspoon ground cardamom
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 cup white sugar
½ cup brown sugar, packed
1 large egg, beaten
2 tablespoons dark corn syrup



Sift flour, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, and cardamom into a large bowl.

Beat butter, white sugar, and brown sugar together in a separate bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and corn syrup until smooth. Gradually stir in flour mixture until evenly blended. Divide dough into four equal portions and wrap tightly in plastic wrap; refrigerate for at least 1 hour, or overnight.

When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Lightly grease baking sheets.

Working with one disk of dough at a time, and leaving the remaining disks in the refrigerator, unwrap chilled dough and place onto a lightly floured surface. Roll dough with a floured rolling pin to a thickness of 1/8 inch. Cut dough into desired shapes with cookie cutters, dipping the cutters into flour as needed so they don't stick to the dough. Place cookies 1 inch apart on prepared baking sheets.

Bake in the preheated oven until set, about 5 minutes. Transfer cookies to wire racks to cool. Repeat rolling, cutting, and baking the remaining cookies.

From AllRecipes.com

The Gingerbread history

The details of how the gingerbread got its name are ambiguous. One theory is that gingerbread originally contained pepper, while another is that the pepper became an ingredient later and all the exotic spices at that time were called pepper.

According to a myth, you will be kind when you eat gingerbread. How the myth arose is unclear. Gingerbread was liked in the Nordic countries, not least by royalty. The King Hans of the Kalmar Union, is said to have been prescribed gingerbread to relieve his bad mood by his doctor. There are also other theories. One is that potash, which used to be used as a leavening in gingerbread, also contributed to stomach upsets after ingestion of Christmas food and that the

Soft gingerbread cookies

1 cup Syrup
¾ cup Socker
3.5 oz Margarin or Butter
2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp cloves, grinded
1 tsp ginger, grinded
1 egg + 1 egg yolk
1 tsp bicarbonate
1.5 lb (40 cups) flower

Oven temperatur: 400 F

Baking time: 10 minutes

Boil syrup and sugar. Pour it hot over the fat and spices. Whisk together eggs, egg yolk, and milk. Stir it down. Let stand until cool, stirring occasionally. Mix bicarbonate and baking powder with some of the flour. Stir it into the mixture. Add the rest of the flour, a little at a time, and work together into a dough. Let it rest covered for 1 day. Roll out the dough into 1 or 2 lengths, approx. 2.5 to 2.75 inches in diameter, and 5 mm thick. Cut slices with a sharp knife and place them on a baking sheet, lightly greased, or covered with baking paper. Bake in the middle of the oven for about 10 minutes. The cakes then rise and become thick and porous.



people then became more kind.

The gingerbread's early history is uncertain because there is little reliable evidence. Gingerbread may date back to Mesopotamia in 1700 BC. There are also reports that Roman warriors carried gingerbread with them as provisions in the field because they lasted a long time without going moldy.

In Germany, gingerbread molds were made in wood in the 1300's. The notes could represent persons, coats of arms or have religious affiliations. The cookies were considered to have a calming effect and relieve indigestion.

Social November 16, 2024



The new Christmas Ornament from Sons of Norway, won by Ronna



Solskinn Foundation Quilt



Solskinn Foundation Christmas quilt.

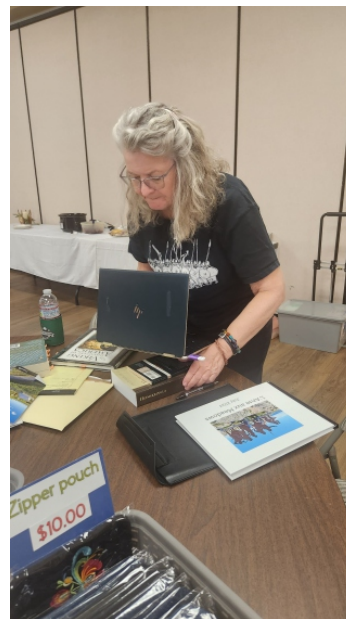
Tickets \$1.00 each.

The drawing will be at the Christmas social, December. Please help support the Sons of Norway Foundation.

If you would like to purchase tickets by mail, make the check out to

Solskinn Lodge.

Mail to
Luella Grangaard,
PO Box 832
Morongo Valley, CA 92256



November 16, 2024

The room was occupied and no access to the TV screen. Luella brought a projector but wrong cables.

Instead we got an excellent presentation of Luella's trip to L'Anse aux Meadows

Solskinn Lodge Officers 2023-2024

Board of Directors

President	Luella Grangaard	760-285-9430
Vice President	Terje Berger	760-799-6660
Counselor	Ulf Lokke	760-808-5403
Secretary	Tone Chaplin	760-408-9170
Treasurer	Nancy Madson	760-238-8819

Program Directors

Social Director	Nancy Madson	760-238-8819
Assisting Social Director	Joy Rogers	760-821-3497
Cultural Director	Luella Grangaard	760-285-9430
Sunshine	Joy Rogers	760-821-3497

Support Positions

Book Club	Luella Grangaard	760-285-9430
Editor, Webmaster	Terje Berger	760-799-6660
Photographer	Miriam Hendrix	
Musician	Terje Berger	

Insurance Professional

James Donovan, FIC, CSA	Cell: 760-276-5529
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	jdonovaninsure@gmail.com

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Terje Berger
52705 Avenida Obregon
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Mission Statement

*The mission of
Sons of Norway
is to provide quality insurance
and financial support to our
members, promote and preserve
the heritage and culture of
Norway, to celebrate our
relationship with other Nordic
countries, and to provide quality
insurance and financial
products to its members*