



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you had a good Christmas season and managed to get your fill of lefse and other Scandinavian delicacies. With the start of the New Year, WRA prepares to turn over yet another year of activity. A proposed budget for our next year is printed in this newsletter as well as the slate of our new officers. As outgoing president, I would like to draw attention to three items:

Budgeting has gotten more difficult recently because our dues have not been increased for many years while most costs have increased. Attendance at our workshops has decreased somewhat also, making the expenses per attendee greater. This past year, we subsidized our budget with \$2,000 from our CD account and the proposed 2007 budget also includes a \$1,500 subsidy. This approach can be continued for a couple more years but it will not be much longer before dues or workshop fees will need to increase.

Finding a place to hold meetings or workshops has gotten increasingly difficult. The Nordic Heritage Museum wants to charge us over twice as much as we paid last year and we have scheduled workshops repeatedly at the same locations because we lack alternative sites. I encourage each of you to ask about fees at meeting spots near your own home so that we have classes in a wider range of places. Pass the information on to **Bess Crawford**, our Vice President elect, so that a list of possibilities can be compiled. **Barb Smith** has requested Bend, Oregon, as a workshop site. During a recent visit, I found Bend to be a delightful town loaded with wonderful restaurants and a multitude of interesting shops waiting to be

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2006 WRA Officers

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The **Acanthus Vine** is published 4 times a year approximately two weeks prior to the coming meeting. News items that any member deems interesting or beneficial to our members is welcome. If you have e-mail, send as **Word Doc** attached to e-mail to **Barb Smith** (address above-left); or surface mail to return address on this Vine.