



www.vesterdalen.org



september 2025

Vesterdalen Lodge No. 2-131 • Sons of Norway • Auburn/Kent, WA • Chartered October 23, 1983

Vol. XLII No. 8

HILSEN FRA PRESIDENTEN



Happy almost-fall Lodge Members,

Can you believe it is already September?! I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer full of relaxation, connection, and hopefully also a bit of sunshine.

I am looking forward to hearing what you have been up to at our next meeting!

A warm thank you to all who were able to join us at the summer picnic, the community block party at Kent Lutheran Church, and other summer events. The block party was a new experience for us, and gave us the opportunity to connect not only with the community but also with other local organizations.

We are hoping to do more small or combined events like this in the future so if you have any ideas please let an officer know.

As the season shifts, we look forward to gathering for regular meetings again, refreshed and ready for the fellowship and exciting programs coming up this fall - and of course we hope some of our new friends will join us! For those of you who attend the board meeting, I will add a quick reminder that we will be meeting on the Monday after Labor Day, September 8 as the first Monday is Labor Day.

Our next lodge meeting will be September 15, so mark your calendars. The program this month comes from Nordic community member Erik G Pihl - if you are interested in the National Nordic Museum or in cars you won't want to miss it! Please bring a dish to share for the potluck if you can.

Med vennlig hilsen,

Amanda

Longest Tunnel in Norway

Norway is digging deep—literally—to transform travel on its rugged west coast. The massive Rogfast tunnel project is set to become the world's longest and deepest subsea road tunnel, plunging 1,300 feet below sea level and stretching nearly 27 kilometers beneath the sea. Once completed by 2033, this four-lane tunnel will connect the cities of Stavanger and Bergen, cutting out ferry rides and slashing travel time by up to 40 minutes.

Costing around \$2 billion, the project involves removing a staggering 8 million cubic meters of rock—a feat of engineering that's making headlines worldwide.

Visit the following website to find local Nordic events

WWW.NORDICSEATTLE.COM

Upcoming Meeting

Monday, September 15, 2025

Messiah Lutheran Church

410 "H" Street NE • Auburn, WA 98002

6:00 PM Potluck

Please bring foods to share such as salads, fruits, hot dishes, desserts

7:00 PM Lodge Meeting Program

LeMay's American Car Museum

Erik Pihl



Erik G. Pihl serves as Vice President for Institutional Advancement for America's Automotive Trust which includes the LeMay America's Car Museum in Tacoma and the RPM Foundation among the Trust's entities.

In this capacity, Erik oversees all aspects of the Trust's philanthropy, marketing, membership and special events activities.

Prior to joining the America's Automotive Trust, Erik served as Director of Development at the National Nordic Museum in Seattle. Erik has an extensive professional career in the museum field specializing in external affairs and philanthropy leadership at mid-size and large art science and cultural institutions in California and Washington.

He is active in the Pacific Northwest's Nordic community, including having served as President of the Norwegian Commercial Club; he currently serves as President of the Seattle Chapter of the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce (SACC).

Erik is a native Washingtonian from the Skagit Valley.

Carol Larson, Social Committee

What's going on around here?
Check out Sons of Norway's District 2 website
<http://www.sonsofnorway2.com>

SUNSHINE REPORT

A Get-Well card was sent to **Larry Scheurer** who had surgery for a fractured wrist. A condolence card was sent to **Kathleen** and **Don Olson** as Kathleen's Mother passed. A congratulation card was sent to **Karen Brown** for her marriage to **Chuck Perkins** this summer. A condolence card was sent to **Vernene** and **Larry Scheurer** as Vernene's brother Vaughn Hagen tragically died. Our hearts go out to his family and friends.

September Birthdays

- 2 Grace Winsor
- 5 Marleen Mandt
- 7 Lois Ladderud
- 9 Vicki Wickham, Patty Ann Ronhovde
- 10 Donald Jensen
- 12 Tom Anderson
- 13 Marne Larson
- 15 Marv Nelson
- 16 David Eidsaune
- 18 Kenneth Sroka, Julie Taylor
- 27 Lee Erickson, Delores Johns



There are 4 milestone birthdays in September.

Please email or call when you know of a member who needs some Vesterdalen sunshine. Your help is needed to reach everyone. Thank you so much.

Diane Fatland, Sunshine Chair

dianefatland@gmail.com 206-947-8776



Congratulations to our Vesterdalen member, Karen Brown and Chuck Perkins on their wedding, July 17th at Crystal Mountain.



Pictured at the Steak and Salmon Fry on July 19th at Trollhaugen are Tim McGuire, Vernene and Larry Scheurer, Nancy and David Sommerfield

SPORTS DIRECTORS' REPORT



Karen arranged a tour of Nordlund Boats. She, Tim McGuire and John Fatland were met and escorted by Kylie Lensgrav, Marketing Director. Nordlund builds, re-

builds and modifies pleasure craft. These "boats" measure from 40' to 80'. They have a fiberglass hull and can sleep 6 and often require a crew. Our tour included the factory, the carpenter shop and the metal shop where an aluminum fuel tank was being welded and the boardroom where Mr. Nordlund gave us some insight. - John Fatland



Open House at Kent Lutheran Church

Our lodge attended a Block Party put on at Kent Lutheran Church on Saturday, August 23. It was great spending time with different cultures and organizations supporting the downtown area. We got to talk about our Norwegian heritage to several folks and there was a lot of interest in our Viking cards, which we were giving away that day. Thanks, Tormod for the invitation!

A Little Humor

One dark night outside a small town in Minnesota, a fire started inside the local chemical plant and in a blink of an eye it exploded into massive flames. The alarm went out to all the fire departments for miles around.

When the volunteer fire fighters appeared on the scene, the chemical company president rushed to the fire chief and said, "All our secret formulas are in the vault in the center of the plant. They must be saved. I will give \$50,000 to the fire department that brings them out intact."

But the roaring flames held the firefighters off.

Soon more fire departments had to be called in as the situation became desperate. As the firemen arrived, the president shouted out that the offer was now \$100,000 to the fire department who could bring out the company's secret files.

From the distance, a lone siren was heard as another fire truck came into sight. It was the nearby Norwegian rural township volunteer fire company composed mainly of Norwegians over the age of 65. To everyone's amazement, that little run-down fire engine roared right past all the newer sleek engines that were parked outside the plant.

Without even slowing down it drove straight into the middle of the inferno. Outside, the other firemen watched as the Norwegian old timers jumped off right in the middle of the fire fought it back on all sides. It was a performance and effort never seen before.

Within a short time, the Norske old timers had extinguished the fire and had saved the secret formulas. The grateful chemical company president announced that for such a superhuman feat he was upping the reward to \$200,000, and walked over to personally thank each of the brave fire fighters.

The local TV news reporter rushed in to capture the event on film, asking their chief, "What are you going to do with all that money?"

"Vell," said Ole Larsen, the 70-year-old fire chief, "Da first thing ve gonna do is fix da brakes on dat truck!"



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 27**

**Kaffe
Stua**

at Fika coffee shop, part of Farm 12 restaurant complex in Puyallup: 1:00 pm. It is flat and very accessible for walkers, wheelchairs.

The Kaffe Stuas we've had thus far at Fika have been really fun and well-attended!

Fika is the cafe near the main restaurant. 3303 8th Ave SE, Puyallup, WA 98372 (253) 697-9486

Carol Larson for the Cultural Committee

The Scandinavian Hour

with Seth Tuffeland is on KKNW 1150 AM on Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Listen anytime at:

<https://www.thescandinavianhour.org>



The Restauration Sails Away

By Luella Grangaard, International Board Chair

I participated in events commemorating 200 years since the initial launch of the *Restauration* in Stavanger, Norway on July 3 & 4.

Many gathered to commemorate 200 years of organized migration to North America and to wish a safe passage to the crew of the replica ship.

In Stavanger I was warmly received and hosted by members from District 8. I sincerely appreciate everything they did to help plan my trip and guide me to each event.

While in Stavanger, I had a chance to visit Sverd i Fjell (the three swords in the rock), the Maritime Museum where they had a display of the *Restauration*, and Ledaal, the Kings residence.

That evening there was a celebration of the migration with a program and meal. At this event they tried to recreate the foods of 1825 including bread made on the ship with Madeira wine from a cask found floating in the Atlantic by the crew of the original *Restauration*.

The big day—the 4th of July—I was able to attend a service at the Domkirke (Stavanger Cathedral). We proceeded to the harbor to see the *Restauration* waiting to start its journey. Many, many boats escorted the *Restauration* out of the harbor. It was an amazing sight.

What an honor it was to represent Sons of Norway and to participate in all these events. It was an amazing opportunity. I can't wait to see the United States welcome the *Restauration* on October 9th in New York. This event is so important to all of us who have a connection to Norway on both sides of the Atlantic. I hope each of you have an opportunity to attend an event whether at your lodge, online or—better yet—for those in the U.S., attend one of the welcoming events for the *Restauration* and be a part of history.



2026 Paulstad Classic Calendars

A limited supply of the beautiful 2026 Paulstad calendars will be available for

sale starting at our General Meeting on September 15th. Get yours before they are gone!

Call Dotty Erickson at 206-356-1858 with your credit card # and she will process your order.

2025 marks the 200th anniversary of Norwegian emigration to America. 200 Norwegians is a podcast series exploring the lives of 200 different Norwegians who have shaped the United States - for better or worse - over the two last centuries.

This biweekly historical podcast series is produced in collaboration with Vesterheim Museum and with the support of Norway House Foundation.

Go to <http://www.200norwegians.com> for information or you can subscribe (free!) wherever you get your podcasts.

Diane Fatland, Cultural co-chair



KALENDAR

The entire annual calendar appears at www.vesterdalen.org

September

- 8 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 15 Social in-person, **Potluck Dinner** 6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting in-person and via Zoom..... 7:00 PM
- America's Car Museum (LeMay) in Tacoma
- 27 Kaffe Stua at Fika Café 1:00 PM

Oktober

- 6 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 9 Leif Ericson Day
- 20 Social in-person 6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting in-person and via Zoom..... 7:00 PM
- 25 Kaffe Stua at Fika Café 1:00 PM

November

- 3 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 17 Social in-person 6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting in-person and via Zoom..... 7:00 PM
- 29 Kaffe Stua at Fika Café 1:00 PM

Desember

- 1 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 5 **Julefest** Christmas Party..... 6:00 PM
- This is our celebration of the holiday complete with a Norwegian Nisse & Santa. It begins with a potluck. Scandinavian desserts encouraged. See the newsletter for more details.*
- 27 Kaffe Stua at Fika Café 1:00 PM

2025 VESTERDALEN OFFICERS

- President Amanda Reding..... 509-881-7639
president@vesterdalen.org
- VP/Membership Don Olson 253-862-6136
dondc@reachone.com
- Secretary Nancy Sommerfield 206-612-6389
dnsommerfield@comcast.net
- Treasurer Kathleen Olson 253-939-0909
kathleenj@reachone.com
- Fin. Secretary Dotty Erickson 206-356-1858
dortaerick@comcast.net
- Publicity Vernene Scheurer 253-221-7059
publicity@vesterdalen.org

Rose Stevens - 1-800-210-0240
Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor

Picnic!



Scenes from our
picnic held in July -
a fun time was had by all....
and the food...YUM!

