

Vikingskip

www.vesterdalen.org



november 2026

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

Vol. XLIII No.10

HILSEN FRA PRESIDENTEN



Hello fellow Lodge Members,

Autumn brings crisp air, shorter days, and long, dark evenings, and in Norway there's a special appreciation for making time together feel cozy and welcoming. The Norwegian word *koselig* captures this feeling of warmth, comfort, and connection. One of the best ways to experience *koselig* is simply to gather around the table and share good food with family and friends.

Imagine sharing coffee over a plate of freshly made heart-shaped vafler topped with jam and sour cream, or a pot of soup on a chilly evening. These simple pleasures are about more than what's on the menu; they're about slowing down, making room for conversation, and enjoying one another's company. It's a reminder that hospitality doesn't have to be elaborate to be meaningful.

Sometimes, the best memories come from warm food, familiar faces, and the simple joy of being together. This month, as we continue to think about what we want our meetings to look like going forward, take a little inspiration from Norway and consider what *koselig* means to you. Help us make our November meeting and potluck more *koselig*, or join us for our Kaffe Stua the last Saturday of the month. Invite someone new, or someone you want to catch up with. Be the *koselig* you want to see at Vesterdalen Lodge!

Med vennlig hilsen,

Amanda

BetterLife Insurance Partnership

If you would like more information regarding the partnership between Sons of Norway and BetterLife, there are a number of articles and Q&A questions available at <https://www.sofn.com/newpartnership/> as well as on the BetterLife website at <https://www.betterlifeins.com/sonsofnorway/>, where you can also submit questions yourself.

A Little Humor

Ole and Swen were doing construction on a house. Ole, who was nailing down siding, would reach into his nail pouch, pull out a nail, and then either toss it over his shoulder or nail it into the siding. Swen, figuring this was worth looking into, asked: "Ole, why are you throwing those nails away?"

Ole explained: "If I pull a nail out of my pouch and it's pointed towards me, I throw it away 'cause it's defective. If it's pointed toward the house, then I nail it into the siding."

Swen was outraged. He yelled: "You moron! The nails pointed towards you aren't defective! They're for the other side of the house!"

Ole: What's the wifi password?

Bartender: You need to buy a drink first.

Ole: Okay, I'll have a Coke.

Bartender: Is Pepsi okay?

Ole: Sure. How much is that?

Bartender: \$3.

Ole: There you go. So what's the wifi password?

Bartender: "You need to buy a drink first." No spaces, all lowercase.

Upcoming Meeting

Monday, November 16, 2026

Messiah Lutheran Church

410 "H" Street NE • Auburn, WA 98002

6:00 Soup Potluck

Bring soup, bread or dessert to share

7:00 Program - Amy Tuchenhagen

Director of the Sons of Norway Foundation



We are thrilled to visit with the Sons of Norway Foundation's director, Amy Tuchenhagen. She's the one who sends acknowledgements to donors and makes sure the Foundation remains a key part of our Heritage efforts.

The plan is to make a recording of Karin's interview with Amy and play this at our meeting. We're working out the arrangements, so we hope it will work.

This is a meeting you won't want to miss!

2027 Nominated Lodge Officers

We will vote on 2027 lodge officers at the November lodge meeting.

Contact Vernene or Amanda if you would like to be nominated for an open position.

President	Dave Eidsaune
Vice President.....	Don Olson
Secretary	Nancy Sommerfield
Assistant Secretary.....	OPEN
Financial Secretary.....	Dotty Erickson
Treasure.....	Kathleen Olson
Social Directors.....	OPEN
Cultural	Carol Larson
Sunshine	OPEN
Publicity	Vernene Scheurer
Sports & Recreation.....	Karen Tofte
Foundation	Karen Tofte
Youth Scholarship	OPEN
Historian.....	OPEN
Trustees.....	Jim Larson, Marv Bartlemay
Counselor.....	Tom Heavey
Marshal.....	David Sommerfield
Greeter & Memorial Service ...	Nancy Heavey
Newsletter Editor	Lois Ladderud
Proofreader	Andy Wangstad
Webmaster	Andy Wangstad

SUNSHINE REPORT

A Condolence Card has been sent to **Vernene Scheurer** as **Larry Scheurer** passed away on Oct. 13. A Celebration of Life for Larry will be on Nov. 28 at the WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center (2606 W. Pioneer Ave., Puyallup 98371) from 2-6 PM with a short ceremony to begin around 2:30.

November Birthdays:

- 3 Shirley Olson, Joanna Antrim
- 4 John Lee
- 8 Sherry Fleury
- 15 Karen Tofte
- 16 Odyonn Sullivan
- 19 Nancy Heavey
- 21 Sharon Bersaas
- 23 Clayton Nasset
- 24 Linda Kleppe-Olson, Hannah Ronhovde
- 25 Steven Winsor
- 26 Tom Bellerud
- 29 Karen Brown
- 30 Wendy Olson

There were 2 milestone birthdays in November. 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,

dianefatland@gmail.com 206-947-8776

A little Norway to share this Christmas

Looking for a gift to read together? *The Heart Across the Sea: A Norwegian-American Troll Story* by Ida Höglund follows Christina and Ola as they leave Norway for America. This illustrated story in English explores courage, belonging, and having room for two countries in our heart. For children ages 6-10 and family read-alouds. Find the hardcover on ThriftBooks ISBN 9788269335675.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28



Fika Coffeeshop

Part of the Farm 12 restaurant complex in Puyallup: 1:00 PM.

It is flat and very accessible for walkers and wheelchairs.

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

Fika is the café near the main restaurant.

3303 8th Ave. SE, Puyallup, WA 98372
(253) 697-9486

Carol Larson, for the Cultural Committee

Another Garage Sale

Lots of our Vesterdalen Lodge members took home useful and memorable Vesterdalen things home from the sale before our October meeting. Watch for an announcement about a follow-up sale when you will have a second chance to claim some of the leftover goodies!

Jim Larson



Coming December 4!

At JuleFest we begin with a great potluck dinner - with Scandinavian treats for dessert. Kids will love it!

Then Santa (*psst - he's the real one*) will appear to everyone's delight. If you bring a child and want Santa to present a gift, please bring it (wrapped) and clearly marked who it is for.

It's a Vesterdalen holiday tradition, and your family can make it your own. See you on Friday, December 4 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 6:00 PM!

A Little More Humor

A young man walks through New York's Chinatown and notices a shop with the name Hans Olaffsen's Laundry. He thought it seemed out of place but curiosity got the best of him and he walked into the shop. He sees an old Chinese man sitting in the corner. He asked the old man, "How in the world did this place get a name like Hans Olaffsen's Laundry?"

Old Man - "That's the name of the owner."

Young Man - "Who's the owner?"

Old Man - "I am."

Young Man - "How did you get a name like Hans Olaffsen?"

Old Man - "Many years ago when I came to this country from Hong Kong, I was standing in line at Immigration. A man in front of me was a big blond Norwegian. The lady from Immigration asked him, What is your name? He say 'Hans Olaffsen.' Lady ask me, 'What is your name?' I say Sam Ting."

SPORTS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Field trip to Poulsbo: May or June '27? We will be taking a field trip to Poulsbo- hopefully by bus — either May or June 2027. To decide which, we need our members to indicate their preference. The Viking Fest will be held May 15-16 (we'd go on Sat 15th). Midtsummer Fest is June 19th (Sat) - it's just one day. The only thing is, we'd miss the bonfire at the end. And it is father's day weekend. The Viking Fest in May is probably more fun as it's a whole town event. Parking is a big issue but not on a bus. Let us know.

Karen T.



Notes from the Board Meeting

The Vesterdalen board met on October 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Those in attendance were: Amanda Reding, Andy Wangstad, Carol Larson, Dotty Erickson, Jim Larson, Karen Tofte, Nancy Heavey and Nancy Sommerfield.

Secretary: The minutes of the September board meeting were approved. The minutes from board meetings are posted at each lodge meeting. The Zoom board meeting is open to everyone the 1st Monday of the month. Check in with a board member for the Zoom link.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was approved.

Financial Secretary: Dotty Erickson reported that our membership is at 128 members.

Publicity: No Report

Cultural: Carol Larson reported that our October lodge speaker will be Leah Doctorello, The Fall Prevention Program Manager for King County.

Social: There will be a potluck dinner at the October lodge meeting,

Foundation: Karen Tofte reported that October is Sons of Norway Foundation month and our raffle will benefit the Foundation in October.

Sports and Recreation: The October 3rd walk was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

Sunshine: No Report

Trustees: Jim Larson reported that our indoor storage has been moved to Classroom F.

Youth Scholarship: No Report

Announcements: Turn in your volunteer hours to Dotty Erickson.

Old Business: Committee Reports: Instead of each committee giving a report at our lodge meetings, reports will now be printed on the back of the lodge meeting agenda.

New Business: Nominating committee: Nominations are now open for 2027 board members. Contact Vernene or Amanda. Messiah Lease: Amanda Reding will contact Messiah Lutheran about our 2027 lease. The board will consider other options for a lodge meeting venue.

Garage Sale: Items our lodge is no longer using will be available to members for a donation on October 19th from 4-6 PM at the outside storage container at Messiah Lutheran. See Jim Larson. Tech Setup: Taylor Reding will be our lodge meeting tech through the end of the year & will receive the tech stipend. Amanda will apply for a Foundation grant to set up a portable tech system for the lodge.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Nancy Sommerfield, Vesterdalen Secretary

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

At the Last Meeting

There were 23 members and 4 guests at the lodge meeting on October 19. A delicious potluck dinner including Norwegian favorites of lefse, krumkake and riskrem was served. Thirty-nine dollars was raised for the Kent Food Bank. The raffle raised \$79 and this will benefit the Sons of Norway Foundation for October which is Foundation month. The lucky raffle winners were **Nancy Sommerfield, Tom Heavey and John Nyseth.**

Upcoming Meeting

Our November 16th lodge meeting will be a soup potluck. Please bring your favorite soup, bread or dessert.



Citizenship in Svalbard

Svalbard is an archipelago in the Arctic that lies about 600 or so miles north of mainland Norway. Norwegian sovereignty over the island began in the 1920's with The Svalbard Treaty. It is unique in that it is part of the Kingdom of Norway yet operates under its own laws when it comes to immigration and citizenship.

Due to its isolated location and limited resources to support its population, Svalbard has stringent guidelines around residency and citizenship. While a visa or work permit is not needed to live there, transplants must prove they can support themselves with employment and housing. For foreign nationals living and working in Svalbard, if they want to move to mainland Norway, they need to obtain the required work permits and visas to do so. If they want citizenship, they need to follow the requirements for that including eight years of residency, but time living in Svalbard may not count towards that requirement. However, the Norwegian government continues to look at this issue to see if adjustments should be made.

S/N Newsletter Service



2027 Classic Calendars

You can get those beautiful calendars for just \$15 each. Call Dotty Erickson at 206-356-1858 with your credit card # and she will process your order. They can then be picked up at our November 16 General Meeting.



KALENDAR

The entire calendar will always appear at www.versterdalen.org

november

- 2 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
 16 Social - Soup Potluck..... 6:00 PM
 Lodge Meeting in person and via Zoom 7:00 PM
 28 Kaffe Stua at Fika Café 1:00 PM

desember

- 4 Julefest Potluck 6:00 PM
 7 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
 26 Kaffe Stua at Fika Café 1:00 PM

The Mission of Sons of Norway

is to provide quality insurance
and financial products to our members,
promote and preserve the
heritage and culture of Norway,
and celebrate our relationship
with other Nordic countries.

Cardamom Ring Cake

Ingredients for the cake:

- 3 packets active dry yeast
- 3/4 cup tepid milk
- 3 eggs (1 for brushing the cake)
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 1/2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/2 Tbsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. cardamom
- 11 Tbsp. butter

For the filling:

- 9 Tbsp. butter
- 4 1/2 Tbsp. sugar
- 4 Tbsp. raisins 4 Tbsp. candied citron, chopped
- 4 Tbsp. almonds, chopped

Instructions:

Combine yeast and warm milk in a medium bowl. Let rest until the yeast dissolves and begins to foam (about 10 min). Gently beat in the eggs.

Sift together the flour, sugar, salt and cardamom. Once well-combined, cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse meal. Mix in the eggs and work until you have a smooth elastic dough. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled.

Prepare your filling while the dough is rising. Whip together the butter and sugar until light and creamy. Cover and set aside in a cool place.

Punch the dough down and turn it out onto a floured board. Knead dough, adding flour as needed to prevent sticking, until dough is soft and elastic. Roll out into a 6" x 34" long ribbon.

Spread filling all over the dough. Sprinkle with raisins, chopped candied citron, and chopped almonds for extra taste, if desired.

Roll up dough starting on the long side and form into a twist on a baking sheet. Cover and let rise again. After rising, brush with egg white, sprinkle with granulated sugar and chopped almonds. Bake for 20 minutes in a hot oven (400° - 450°F / 200° C - 230°C).

S/N Newsletter Service



2026 VESTERDALEN OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Amanda Reding, Vernene Scheurer
 Vice President..... Don Olson
 Secretary Nancy Sommerfield
 Treasurer Kathleen Olson
 Financial Secretary..... Dotty Erickson
 Vikingskip Editors..... Nils & Lois Ladderud
 Poofwreader Andy Wangstad

Sons of Norway International Office
 612-827-3611 or 1-800-945-8851
 1455 W Lake St - Minneapolis, MN 55408

SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION

November will be Vesterdalen's "Sons of Norway Foundation (SONF) Month" featuring a video presentation/Q&A with Amy Tuchenhausen, Director of SONF. It's a great month to show your support for the wonderful SON Foundation!

Thank you so much to everyone who purchased raffle tickets in October, which raised \$79 for SONF! SONF spreads Norwegian values in the community.

The SONF is one of the pillars of Sons of Norway: philanthropy. Why is SON philanthropy so important? In short, it makes the world a better place by (1) spreading opportunity throughout the community; (2) spreading Norwegian values in the nation and world. SONF inspires excitement about SON by spreading the word that our wonderful organization is out there helping the community.

Contributions to SONF (a 501(c)(3)) are tax deductible. Therefore, if you are seeking a good place to give charitably, SONF would be an excellent start! It's very easy to donate: Either online or by check. When I donated online, Vesterdalen's lodge number was requested: it's 2-131. If you forget, it comes up on Google!

https://crm.bloomerang.co/HostedDonation?ApiKey=pub_e8ed4675-debd-11e7-94a1-0a7fa948a058&WidgetId=21180416

If you wish to donate by check at November's meeting, Kathleen, Treasurer, will forward to SONF. This year, SONF Foundation is encouraging giving whatever you can, but, if it is in your budget, at least \$60 for the 60th year anniversary celebration would be great! ("60 for 60" campaign).

Scholarship deadline Jan. 15th 2027

We want to encourage lodge members to review scholarships to see if you or your children or grandchildren are eligible. https://www.sofn.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Foundation_Scholarship_Grid_2025.pdf

DEADLINE Jan. 15th 2027!!

Most of the scholarships are for incoming or current college or trade school students. Some fund study in Norway: including a new scholarship started by Mark Agerter and his wife (Mark has served in several leadership roles in District 2).

Lodge vitality grants: please suggest a project

SONF also gives grants to lodges for "lodge vitality" projects. For our lodge, those projects might include partial funding of next Spring/Summer's Poulsbo trip, or a musical performance. Please give other ideas to me and others on the Board. Would you like to write the grant application for such a project? DEADLINE DEC. 15th.

Thank you!

Karen T.

And Even More Humor

Sven and Ole went into a pub and after ordering two beers, took some sandwiches out of their pockets and started to eat them. "You can't eat your own sandwiches in here!" complained the pub manager. So Sven and Ole swapped their sandwiches...