



Mission Statement: The mission of Sons of Norway is to 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.



Fra Presidenten



Greetings. It is December, and we now are in the full holiday season. The first weeks of December feature holiday walks, mistletoe markets, and Christmas concerts at local universities and churches. In addition, the early snow in November bodes well for cross-country skiing this winter. I enjoy cross-country skiing at the Sunset Hill Farm park in Valparaiso and the Glenwood Dunes Trail in the Indiana Dunes National Park. Our long-time member, Andy Johnson, is an expert skier and volunteered in Wisconsin at the American Birkebeiner race for many years.

Our November 15 lodge meeting featured our cookie exchange. Thanks to all our lodge members who brought their cookies and shared their recipes. I especially enjoyed sampling the three different batches of krumkake and the discussion of the respective merits of electric and stove-top krumkake irons.

We will celebrate Christmas at our December 13 lodge meeting. Wear your festive Norwegian bunads, sweaters, and jewelry. We will dance around our Christmas tree and sing Norwegian and American songs.

Again, I hope you can attend our lodge meeting and Christmas celebration on December 13.

Takk for alt!!

Beste Hilsen,
David Carlson Hirschev



Our December Program - Christmas Party

December 13

12:00PM - 4:00PM

Westchester Library - Baugher Center
100 W. Indiana Ave, Chesterton, IN 46304

Getting down to business - 11/10 Board Meeting

Board Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Henderson, Secretary

The meeting was brought to order by President David Hirschey at 1:10pm. Because of weather related closings, the meeting was held by teleconferencing. Participating were members Sue Strohkirch, Darlene Henderson, Sidsel Lindborg, Kathryn Rowberg, and James Nelson.

Sue gave her Treasurer's report noting our checking balance was in the black, she paid our liability premium and sent \$50 gift to Vesterheim. A request for a \$35 postage reimbursement was mailed to the home office. She also finished accumulating the necessary receipts and picture of Thor to apply for a reimbursement grant for the construction of our Norway Garden Viking. They will be submitted to the home office for consideration. A corrected total taken in from the Foundation auction was \$513. \$256.50 was sent to the Foundation and \$256.50 was deposited in our lodge checking account.

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Board members agreed that the October auction went well. A special thank you was given to our auctioneer, Dennis Lindborg, and bookkeepers Sidsel Lindborg and Kathryn Rowberg, and Irene Nelson who handled to Viking Ship ornament sales.

Members voted to gift the library a Christmas card with \$50 for scheduling our lodge to use the Baugher Center for our meetings throughout the year.

David noted that we will be voting on our slate of officers for 2026 and Darlene will record the slate on the home office computer site.

The 2026 tentative programs were briefly discussed. They will be published in the lodge's January newsletter as will the list of Board and Lodge meeting dates, and the host committee volunteers. Noted were our dates for April and October will deviate from our usual 3rd Saturday Lodge meetings because the library holds their annual book sales on those weekends. We were also informed that the library now allows scheduling for the following year beginning on October 1st.

No old business was discussed

New business, Darlene noted that Thor will be covered with a breathable, protective wrap for the winter.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:07PM

NEXT BOARD MEETING: December 8, 2025 at 1:00PM. Attend in person at the Baugher Center OR contact David to be included in a conference call, (312) 925-5371.

Getting down to business - 11/15 Lodge Meeting

Lodge Meeting Minutes by Sue Strohkirch

The business meeting was called to order by President Dave Hirschey with 13 members present.

We began the business meeting with Jim Nelson leading us in the Norwegian national anthem and then the USA anthem.

At the October lodge meeting our auction raised \$513.00, half of which has been sent to the national Sons of Norway Foundation. We collected \$25.00 for Vesterheim which we matched with \$25.00 from our treasury and a check for \$50.00 was sent to Vesterheim Museum.

The slate of officers for 2026 was presented. Jim Nelson moved that we elect the slate as presented and Kathy Rowberg seconded the motion. The slate of officers was unanimously elected.

The sign-up list for Hosts for 2026 meetings was sent around.

The group discussed and decided that we would take up a free will offering at the December meeting for a family in need.

Hugh Hopkins was asked to list the Scandanavian foods that has for sale in his store and what his store hours were.

Cookie Exchange – Dave had people explain what cookies they brought and how they were made.

Jim Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Hays seconded the motion.

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2026 Officers - Scandiana 5-600

President	David Hirschey
Vice President	Mark Zimmerman
Secretary	Darlene Henderson
Counselor	Darlene Henderson
Treasurer	Sue Strohkirch
Financial Sec.	Sidsel Lindborg
Social Director	Sue Strohkirch
Asst. Soc. Dir.	Kathleen Hays
Cultural Dir.	Kathryn Rowberg
Greeter	Dennis Lindborg
Sunshine	Sue Strohkirch (Birthday Cards) Darlene Henderson (Get well and sympathy cards)
Trustees	1st year - Sue Strohkirch 2nd year - Ann Thorvik 3rd year - Kathleen Hays
Historian	Darlene Henderson
Musician	Sidsel Lindborg
Editor	Ann Thorvik
Foundation	Hugh Hopkins
Publicity	James Nelson
Cultural Skills	Darlene Henderson
Stamps	Darlene Henderson



Thor, settling in for a long winter's nap

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 10-cup capacity bundt pan. Set aside.

2. Place the butter in a medium skillet (preferably not nonstick or cast iron so that you can more easily see the color change) and heat over medium, swirling the pan frequently. Once the butter has melted, continue to cook, swirling frequently, until the butter has a nutty aroma and is golden brown in color. Immediately transfer to a bowl to cool briefly.

3. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, cardamom, and ginger. Set aside.

4. Combine brown butter, oil, sugar and brown sugar in the work bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Mix on medium speed until thoroughly combined, about 2 minutes. Add the eggs one at a time fully incorporating one before adding the next. Add the sour cream and vanilla and mix until fully incorporated and smooth. Add flour mixture and mix on low until just combined. Fold in the pears with a rubber spatula.

5. Transfer the cake batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top. Bake until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean, about 55-60 minutes.

6. Cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Run a knife around the edges of the pan to loosen it from the cake and invert onto a serving plate. Allow to cool completely. Dust with powdered sugar if desired and serve!

NOTES

- While you could simply use melted butter rather than brown butter in this recipe, I would encourage you not to skip this step! Brown butter adds so much delicious flavor to this cake.

- Don't over mix the cake batter once you've added the dry ingredients. This can cause your cake to be tough in texture rather than tender and soft.

- Use ripe pears (preferably the Bartlett variety) if possible.

- Serve simply with powdered sugar or add a dollop of whipped cream, a drizzle of caramel sauce or vanilla sauce or even a scoop of ice cream alongside!

Recipe from True North Kitchen

Spiced Pear Cake with Cardamom

Equipment

10 cup capacity bundt cake pan

Ingredients

3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cardamom
1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
⅓ teaspoon ground ginger
½ cup unsalted butter
⅓ cup canola or vegetable oil
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
½ cup sour cream
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 cups peeled and chopped ripe pears
about 4 medium pears
Powdered sugar for dusting optional



From the Sons of Norway Newsletter Service

Open Village Experience

The cruise company Hurtigruten is taking a new approach to tourism and has an intriguing new offering. They have introduced “Open Village” experiences, which will occur along Norway’s remote coastline. Tourists will have the chance to visit three villages on the coast and get to experience everyday life in these places. The stopovers include: Træna, Bessaker and Sæbø. The voyages will be offered from May to September and guests can experience activities such as church concerts, guided town tours, live music, and homemade treats.

One of the reasons this new offering is so innovative is that the cruise company will be contributing 250 Norwegian kroner per guest to each community visited, which is a major benefit for the people and businesses that reside there. Additionally, the idea also helps the problem of overtourism in the most visited destinations. It seems like a win-win for guests who may never have had this opportunity, and it also means that locals can benefit economically.

Below; Bessaker

Slidreøyen Prison Butikk

In the middle of Valdres, Norway, there is an island called “Slidreøya” that functions as a low-security prison. The prison can house up to 25 inmates and one of its main focuses is rehabilitation. The prison works towards this goal by giving the residents certain responsibilities, opportunities, and activities to cultivate a daily sense of motivation. One such example is the prison shop (butikk) where they sell wooden goods and vegetables produced by the inmates.

Two inmates who are responsible for the prison shop are Geir Langseth and Arne Sjøberg. They appreciate the opportunity to serve their sentence in this way and gain new skills while doing so. Geir even says he “looks forward to going to work every day.” Previously, the prison shop had a self-service booth in town that customers could shop at. However, the prison is now inviting customers to the island to purchase goods at the butikk. The shop has become popular, offering mutual benefits to customers who purchase its products and to inmates who gain a sense

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December's Translation Practice

Provided by the Sons of Norway Newsletter Service, excerpted from snl.no

På norsk

Osebergskipet fremme i siste havn – flyttingen gikk etter planen

Det 1.200 år gamle Osebergskipet ble onsdag kveld senket ned til sin siste havn. Den kompliserte flytteprosessen gikk helt etter planen.

– Jeg er litt sliten, lettet og egentlig veldig godt fornøyd. Vi har klart å følge planen, sier prosjektleder i Statsbygg, Lars Christian Gornæs, til NTB.

Han har ledet den særdeles krevende flytteprosessen, som har vært nøye planlagt i ti år.

Det ble full jubel, applaus og håndtrykk blant museumsansatte, Statsbygg-ansatte og arkitekter, da skipet omsider var senket ned på sin plass.

– Det er en veldig historisk dag. Vi så skipet forsvinne ut av den utstillingssalen hvor den har stått i 99 år, den skal aldri tilbake. Det er siste reis, siste seilas. Det er godt å ha det fremme, sier Gornæs.

– Majestetisk

Hele onsdagen var satt av til å flytte skipet den 100 meter lange ruten fra det gamle Vikingskiphuset til det nye Vikingtidsmuseet, som er bygd vegg i vegg.

Skipet hang på et tidspunkt onsdag kveld flere meter over bakken. Flyttingen skjedde i sakte tempo, opp mot 20 centimeter per minutt.

Museumsdirektør Aud V. Tønnessen ankom museet tidlig onsdag morgen og kjente på sommerfuglene:

– Det er veldig spesielt. Osebergskipet har jo vært skjult under duker så lenge. Så det var veldig sterkt å se det her i dag. Tidligere i dag, da det kom inn her, så var det første vi så stavnen – ormehodet – som tittet fram. Da så man hvor vakkert, majestetisk og stolt det er, sier Tønnessen.

– Måten det flyttes på, det er nesten så det kommer seilende mot deg, veldig langsomt. Man blir jo litt målløs.

Flyttingen har en prislapp på rundt 500 millioner kroner og har vært planlagt i ti år siden skipet er så skjørt.

Fraktes i kasse

Skipet ble løftet i en stor vibrasjonsbeskyttet kasse. En kranbane i taket som er støttet opp av enorme stålrigger, fraktet skipet.

Gokstadskipet står fremdeles inne i gamlebygget og skal gjennom samme flytteprosess senere i høst. Til våren skal også de særdeles skjøre vikingsledene være på plass.

Det nye Vikingtidsmuseet skal etter planen åpne i 2027. Før det skal også Gokstadskipet og Tuneskipet flyttes inn i det klimaregulerte huset. Det gamle museet hadde 15 ganger flere besøkende enn det var beregnet for, noe som gikk ut over tilstanden til de gamle skipene.

December's Translation Practice

Provided by the Sons of Norway Newsletter Service

På engelsk

The Oseberg Ship Arrives at Its Final Harbor – Move Went According to Plan

The 1,200-year-old Oseberg Ship was lowered to its final port on Wednesday evening. The complicated moving process went exactly according to plan.

“I am a little tired, relieved and actually very satisfied. We have managed to follow the plan,” project manager at Statsbygg, Lars Christian Gommæs, said to NTB [Norwegian News Agency].

He has led the extremely demanding moving process, which was carefully planned for ten years. There was cheering, applause and handshakes among museum employees, Statsbygg employees and architects when the ship was finally lowered into its place.

“It is a very historic day. We saw the ship disappear from the exhibition hall where it has stood for 99 years; it will never return. This is its last journey, its final voyage. It is good to have it here,” says Gommæs.

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Majestic

All of Wednesday was set aside to move the ship the 100-meter route from the old Viking Ship Museum to the new Viking Age Museum, which is built next door.

At one point on Wednesday evening, the ship was hanging several meters above the ground. The move took place at a slow pace, up to 20 centimeters per minute.

Museum director Aud V. Tønnessen arrived at the museum early Wednesday morning and felt butterflies:

“This is very special. The Oseberg ship has been hidden under cloths for so long. So, it was very powerful to see it here today. Earlier today, when it came in here, the first thing we saw was the bow—the snake head—peeking out. Then you saw how beautiful, majestic and proud it is,” says Tønnessen.

“The way it is being moved, it is almost as if it is sailing towards you, very slowly. It made me a little speechless.” The move has a price tag of around 500 million kroner [50 million US dollars] and has been planned for ten years since the ship is so fragile.

Transported in a crate

The ship was lifted in a large vibration-protected crate. A crane track in the ceiling supported by enormous steel rigs transported the ship.

The Gokstad ship is still inside the old building and will go through the same moving process later this fall. By spring, the extremely fragile Viking sleds will also be in place.

The new Viking Age Museum is scheduled to open in 2027. Before that, the Gokstad ship and the Tune ship will also be moved into the climate-controlled building. The old museum had 15 times more visitors than it was designed for, which affected the condition of the old ships.



Iconic Norwegian Christmas songs

- **"En stjerne skinner i natt"**: Written by Tore W. Aas and Eyvind Skeie, this song by the Oslo Gospel Choir is considered a modern classic and one of the most recognizable festive songs.
- **"Jula hjemme"**: The Norwegian version of Maria Mena's song "Home for Christmas," it was voted the best Christmas song of the decade in 2019 by NRK P3 and has been certified five times platinum.
- **"Deilig er jorden"**: A traditional hymn, also known as "Beautiful Savior," that is a Christmas favorite and is often performed by choirs like the Oslo Cathedral Choir.
- **"Jeg er så glad hver julekveld"**: Another traditional and widely known song, a popular arrangement of which is featured on the album "Christmas in Norway (Live)".
- **"Glade jul"**: The Norwegian version of "Silent Night," frequently performed by artists like Sissel Kyrkjebø and the Sølvguttene choir.
- **"Nå tennes tusen julelys"**: Meaning "Now a thousand Christmas lights are lit," this song is also a popular choice, with versions by Hanne Krogh and Sissel Kyrkjebo.

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Popular Swedish Christmas Songs

Traditional

- **Nu tändas tusen juleljus**: A classic hymn about the lights of Christmas, written in 1898.
- **Gläns över sjö och strand**: Based on an 1891 poem, this song is a common choice for performances.
- **Jul, jul, strålande jul**: A popular carol often performed by well-known artists.

Modern classics

- **Tänd ett ljus**: This song by Triad is a modern Christmas staple.
- **Mer jul**: A catchy and popular song from 1982 by Adolphson & Falk that translates to "I want more Christmas".

Other popular songs

- **Hej mitt vinterland**: Popularized by artists like Carola.
- **När det lider mot jul**: A calming and beloved song about the anticipation of Christmas.

From Visit South Iceland (<https://www.south.is/en/travel-info/newsblog/the-story-of-icelandic-christmas-trees>)

The Story of the Icelandic Christmas Tree

Icelanders' love for Christmas runs deep, but the iconic Christmas tree hasn't always been part of the tradition. In the mid-1800s, without live evergreens, Icelanders crafted their own, turning resourcefulness into a cherished holiday custom.

Photo: Old Handmade Christmas Trees at Húsið, Byggðasafn Árnesinga in Eyrarbakki.



Icelanders love Christmas. The holiday season in Iceland is a time of light, warmth, and togetherness, filled with traditions that bring families and communities together during the darkest days of the year. But one of the most iconic Christmas symbols, the Christmas tree, hasn't been a part of Icelandic holiday celebrations for very long.

In fact, Christmas trees first appeared in Iceland in the mid-1800s. Back then, importing live trees was difficult and expensive, so Icelanders did what they do best—they improvised. They began crafting their own Christmas trees, using local materials and plenty of creativity.

The Birth of the Icelandic Christmas Tree

Unlike the lush, green evergreens that decorated homes in other countries, Icelandic Christmas trees were often handmade. People used driftwood, timber, or other available materials to build tree-shaped frames. To give them a more natural look, branches from heather or juniper were sometimes attached to the wooden structures.

These trees were then decorated with whatever the household could find—handmade ornaments, apples, candles, and even sweets. The decorations were simple but heartfelt, bringing the Christmas spirit into Icelandic homes despite the lack of live trees.

An Early Example of Craftsmanship

One of the earliest known Icelandic Christmas trees was made in 1873 by Jón Jónsson from Þverspyrna. He created the tree for Kamilla Briem, the wife of a pastor in Hrúni. This handcrafted tree, adorned with local greenery, represents the ingenuity and charm of Iceland's early Christmas traditions.

From Homemade to Modern Trees

As time passed, factory-made Christmas trees became more common in Icelandic homes, but many families continued to cherish their handmade creations. These unique trees often became family treasures, passed down through generations.

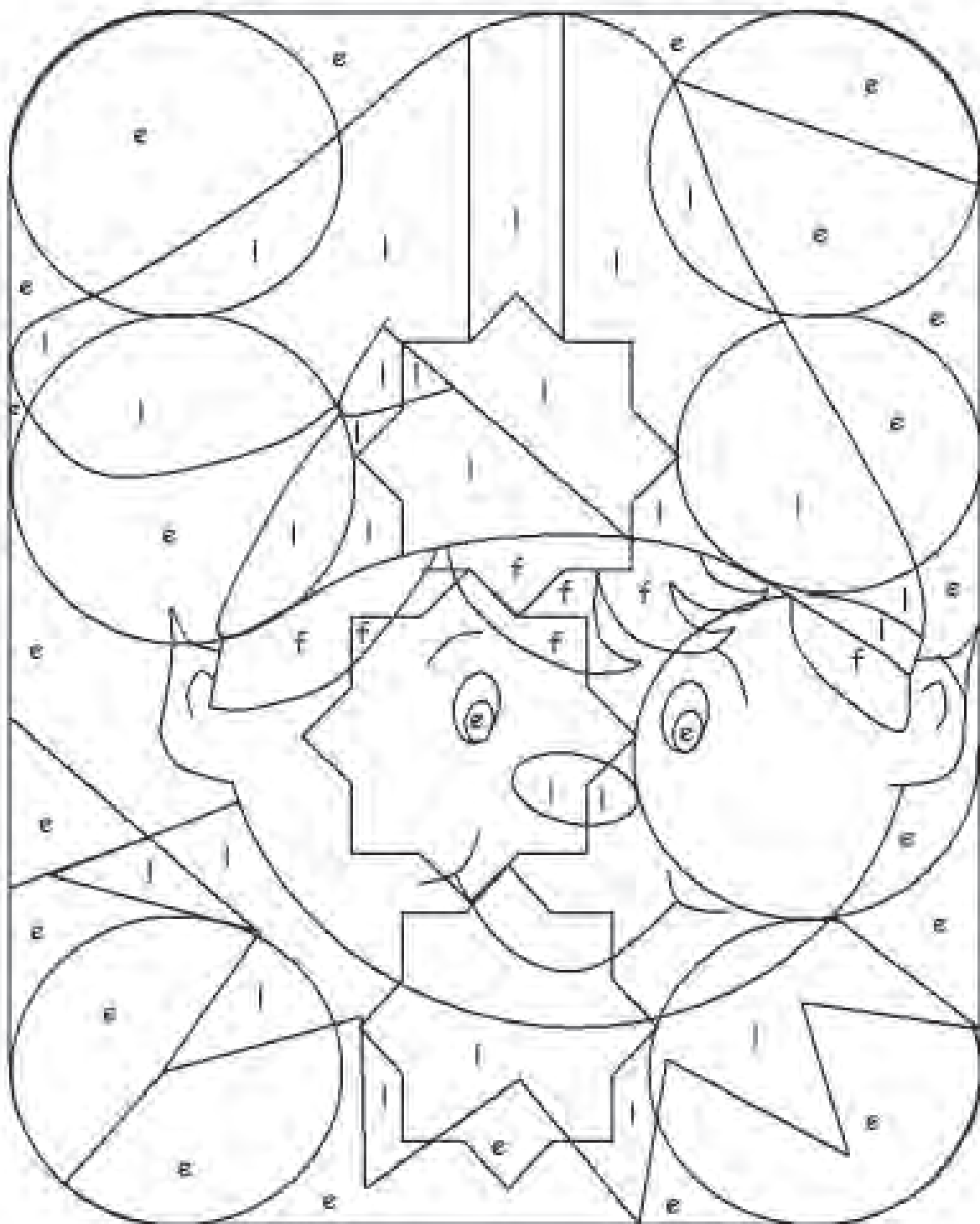
Simple, Beautiful, and Meaningful

The old Icelandic Christmas trees may not have been as grand as the imported evergreens of today, but they had their own charm. They were symbols of resilience and creativity, bringing warmth and beauty to homes during Iceland's long, dark winters. The process of crafting and decorating the tree was as much about the joy of creating something together as it was about the finished tree.

Preserving the Tradition

Today, these handmade trees are celebrated at exhibitions like the one currently hosted at Húsið in Eyrarbakki. Visitors can see examples of old Icelandic Christmas trees, from the handmade creations of the 1800s to early factory-made models from the 19th century. The exhibition highlights how Icelanders adapted the Christmas tree tradition to suit their unique environment and culture.

The story of the Icelandic Christmas tree offers a glimpse into a time when traditions had to adapt to the realities of life in Iceland. These old trees, whether simple or elaborate, remind us of the evolving ways people have brought light and joy into their homes during the darkest days of winter. Today, they serve as a beautiful reminder of how Icelanders have embraced and made their own mark on global Christmas traditions.



e = green

l = red

f = yellow



Gratulerer med dagen

December Birthdays

3	Darlene Henderson
7	Birthe Moe
9	Irene Annette Nelson
15	Lauren Mache



Lodge Contacts:

David Carlson Hirschey, President

By phone: (312) 925-5371

By email: david.hirschey@outlook.com

Darlene Henderson, Secretary

By phone: (219) 221-6641

By email: carvindar@comcast.net

Ann Thorvik, Editor

By email: athorvik@gmail.com

By text: (815) 505-3288

By USPS: Ann Thorvik, 23251 Hamlin St.,
West Hills, CA 91307

SON Financial Services Contact:

Greg Ragan

Sons of Norway Agent

Insurance / Investment Broker

By phone: (815) 623-8817 (Office)

or (815) 988-5975 (Mobile)

By email: gragan51@gmail.com



December Board Meeting

The December Board meeting will be held
at 1:00 PM on December 8th in the
Westchester Public Library's Berthe Wood Room
100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, IN 46304

**Board Mtg.: Monday, Jan. 12, 2026 at 1:00pm in the Berthe
Wood Rm, in main library**

Lodge Mtg: Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026 at noon to 4:30pm in the
Baugh Center

Planning Ahead for the January Program:

Installation of Lodge Officers

White Elephant Gift Exchange

(Gifts between \$15 - \$20)

December 13th Lodge Meeting

Host: Kathy Rowberg

Please bring:

Last names A-J: Sandwiches

Last names K-N: Dessert

Last names O-Z: Soup

Program: Christmas Celebration



Baugh Center doors open 12:00PM - 4:30PM

Lunch served at 1:00PM