



Idun NEWS

Volume 71

May - June 2025

Issue 3

Fra Presidenten

Great news! The Board of Directors of Idun Lodge has established cultural and travel scholarships for its members. As a member of Idun, you qualify to apply for a stipend that should cover most air travel to Norway. Also, you can learn any number of crafts for free. Or learn how to read and write Norwegian with classes paid for by the lodge. Master the art of rosemaling or embroidery. Take a cooking class. The possibilities are numerous! Details for applying are inside on Page 4 and are also available at lodge meetings.

We'll celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day May 10 with our annual spring banquet at Trinity Lutheran Church. Once again, Kavanaugh's Esquire Club will cater the meal. Our speaker is Christian Øverland, the Ruth and Harley Barker Director and CEO of the Wisconsin Historical Society and an excellent speaker. Tickets for the event are only \$10.00...thanks to Idun Lodge for subsidizing the meal. You will find deadlines and details inside on Page 3.

There are several *Syttende Mai* celebrations in the area for you to enjoy and experience our legacy. *Livsreise*, the Norwegian Heritage Center in Stoughton, offers a fascinating look into the reasons so many Norwegians came to the United States to establish a new life. The interactive exhibits are particularly enjoyable.

Our June meeting is on the 19th, which is the third Thursday of the month. We're making a slight change with the potluck starting at 6:00pm instead of 6:30, with the program to begin about 7:00. Our speaker will be Jim Draeger, who will present the history of Wisconsin bars and breweries.

Be sure to save the date for the annual picnic scheduled for Saturday, August 9, at the air-conditioned shelter at Lakeview Park, Middleton. It's a great location with lots of indoor and outdoor space for all ages. The picnic last year was well attended and was a wonderful chance for members to interact in a different setting. Idun lodge provides brats and fixings.

Thanks for being a member of Idun Lodge and for embracing our Scandinavian Heritage. We welcome any ideas that you have for lodge activities and programming.

Mange takk,

James

Idun Meetings

Trinity Lutheran Church
1904 Winnebago Street
Madison, WI 53704

May 10

Syttende Mai Banquet
Social Hour: 4pm
Dinner: 5pm
Program: 6pm

Speaker: Christian Øverland, director and CEO at Wisconsin Historical Society. Reservations due May 1. See Page 3.

June 19

Potluck: 6pm
Program: 7pm
Speaker: Jim Draeger, author

July

No Meeting

August 9

Picnic, Lakeview Park, Middleton. Details to come.



Officer List - 2024 - 2025 Term

President	James Eliason.....608-772-8526 mobile..... james.eliason@ymail.com
Vice-President	Jon M Grinde.....608-513-6434 mobile..... jonmgrinde1751@gmail.com
Secretary	Gage Trader.....608-770-7635 mobile..... gage.trader@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dee Grimsrud.....608-259-1958 mobile..... idunlodgemadison@gmail.com
Social Director	Lucy Ghastin.....608-225-1412 mobile..... leghastin@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Jane Grinde.....608-513-7565 mobile..... janegrinde@gmail.com

For a complete list of officers, see the Jan/Feb 2024 issue of *Idun News* at sonsofnorway5.com/lodges/newsletters.php.

We still need volunteers to serve as Cultural Director, Youth Director, Sports Director, and Marshall.

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Home Office Contacts

- Member & address updates, submit a death, etc:
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- Foundation, Scholarships & Grants:
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- Fraternal & Membership:
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- Insurance Sales:
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- Passwords or website issues: ithelp@sofn.com
- The toll-free number: 800-945-8851

Just for Idun Members

Idun members are eligible for cultural and travel awards; members and their families are eligible for post-secondary education scholarship, beginning this year. The deadline for student scholarships is June 1. Member travel and cultural grants will be awarded on an on-going basis. Full details are included on Page 4.



CONTACT US

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Idun News is published six times a year. Email articles and photos to IdunLodgeMadison@gmail.com. The final deadline for content submission is the 10th of the month prior to publication; e.g. June 10th for the July/August issue. If you have a change of phone number or street or email address, go to www.sofn.com, sign in with your username and password, then select your Profile to make changes. In addition, please send notification of these updates to the above email address.

*If you now receive the printed newsletter in the mail, you may switch to getting the full-color PDF version via the above email address. Or you can find back issues of *Idun News* (& other lodge newsletters) www.sonsofnorway5.com

Syttende Mai Banquet

Saturday, May 10th

Christian Øverland, Wisconsin Historical Society Director and CEO, will speak on "Building a History Attraction for American Immigration Stories" at our annual Syttende Mai banquet in the fellowship hall of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Øverland came to Wisconsin seven years ago from Michigan where he was executive vice president of The Henry Ford Museum, an internationally recognized history destination in Dearborn, Michigan.

A Minnesota native, Øverland worked for the Minnesota Historical Society and was a volunteer gallery lecturer at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. He earned his undergraduate degree in American Studies and Art History at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis and his master's degree in American History and Museum Studies at the State University of New York College at Oneonta and New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown.

June Meeting

Thursday, June 19th

With our June meeting, we go back to the third Thursday of the month with another fun and interesting program. The gathering starts with a potluck at 6 p.m., followed by the program in the fellowship hall of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Jim Draeger, co-author with Mark Speltz of *Bottoms Up*, will share stories from the book which includes almost 400 photos plus two maps.

Beginning with inns and saloons, the book explores the rise of taverns and breweries, the effects of temperance and Prohibition, and attitudes about gender, ethnicity, and morality. It traces the development of the mega breweries, dominance of the giants, and the emergence of micro-breweries. Contemporary photographs of unusual and distinctive bars and breweries of all eras, historical photos, postcards, advertisements, and *breweriana* illustrate the story of how Wisconsin came to dominate brewing and the place that bars and beer hold in our social and cultural history.

Seventy featured taverns and breweries represent diverse architectural styles, from the open-air Tom's Burned Down Cafe on Madeline Island to the Art Moderne Casino in La

Crosse, and from Club 10, a 1930s roadhouse in Stevens Point, to the well-known Wolski's Tavern in Milwaukee. There are bars in barns and basements and brewpubs in former ice cream factories and railroad depots. *Bottoms Up* also includes a heady mix of such beer-related topics as ice harvesting, barrel making, bar games, Old-Fashioneds, bar fixtures, and the queen of the bootleggers.

Idun is subsidizing the cost of the meal to keep it at only \$10 per adult, \$5 for children ages 6-12, free for ages 5 and under. Payment and reservations are due May 1. Make your check payable to Idun Lodge and mail/deliver it to Mary Zoroufy, 5105 Romay Ct., Madison WI 53711. Include a count of Adults (age 13+) and Children (6-12). Contact Mary at maryzor@charter.net or 608-277-8190.

Please use the entrance doors on Atwood Avenue, or the accessible entrance on Winnebago via the ramp at the front door.

Draeger worked in the field of historic preservation and architecture at the Wisconsin Historical Society for more than 20 years, most recently as the State Historic Preservation Officer. From roadside architecture to Northwoods resorts, Jim celebrates the importance of ordinary buildings to our daily lives through his research, writing, and lectures.



Idun Lodge Scholarships

Education Scholarships

Idun Lodge-Madison will award up to two (2) scholarships of \$1,000 each to provide tuition assistance for students pursuing a post-secondary education.

The Scholarship Committee of Idun Lodge will review the application materials submitted by each student to ensure that criteria have been met and present to the Board of Directors their candidates for the scholarships. The scholarship check will be awarded upon verification of completing one semester of the coming school year.

Eligibility

1. Applicant must be of Norwegian ancestry OR studying the Norwegian language, history, society or culture OR be engaged with Norwegian culture in some way (this is open-ended).
2. Applicant must be affiliated with Idun Lodge as a member OR child or grandchild or sibling or niece or nephew of a member.
3. Applicant must be enrolling or enrolled in an educational program seeking the associate, bachelor's, or graduate degree in any field of study at an accredited university or college.

All applicants must complete the scholarship application and attachments, sign, date and mail materials postmarked no later than April 1 (can be hand delivered). Original and 3 duplicate copies of all materials must be mailed to Idun Lodge, in care of Mary Bennett, 6414 Irving Drive, Sun Prairie WI 53590.

All materials submitted by applicants will become part of the records of Idun Lodge and will not be returned.

1. Interest – In 200 words or less, describe your exposure to and/or familiarity with the Norwegian language and culture.
2. Career Plans – In 150–200 words, describe your educational plans/career goals
3. Essay – Write an original 750–1,000-word informative essay on a major event in Norwegian arts, culture, or history. Explain why the topic interests you or how it relates to you personally. By submitting your essay and application, you agree to its being published in the Idun Newsletter.
4. If awarded a scholarship, you agree to receive the scholarship in person.

Travel Scholarship to Members

Idun Lodge-Madison will award a travel scholarship of \$1,200 to an Idun Lodge member to travel to Norway.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be an Idun Lodge Member;
- Applicant must complete an application which includes an essay on your intended travel plans and why you are taking such a trip;
- Applicant must travel to Norway within one year from the date the money is awarded; and
- Applicant must be willing to present a program and write an article for the Idun Newsletter.

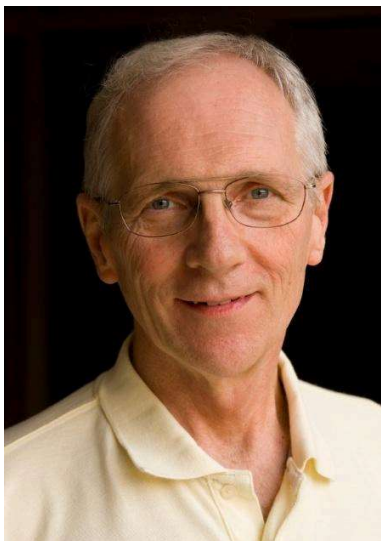
To apply, include the above information in written form to the Scholarship Committee, via email (idunlodgemadison@gmail.com) or U.S. mail (Mary Bennett, 6414 Irving Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590).

Cultural, Language Grants to Members

Up to \$1,000 in increments of \$250 or less will be available annually to members to take language or cultural classes. Application will be on-going, with a member writing a request with details of the class and reason for requesting the money. Each request will be reviewed individually by a committee and approved within three weeks of receipt. When money has been allocated for the calendar year, then requests will be accepted for the following year.

To apply, include the above information in written form to the Scholarship Committee, via email to idunlodgemadison@gmail.com or by U.S. mail to Mary Bennett, 6414 Irving Drive, Sun Prairie WI 53590.

Member Profile: Larry F. Sommers



"I write fiction because I think that it's the best way to tell the truth. I write historical fiction because I seek to find fresh meanings in our common past," said Idun Member Larry Sommers, a best-selling author and long-time Sons of Norway member and world traveler.

While writing seems to have been in his blood, his retirement has

enabled him to pursue it with more focus. His best-selling book, *The Price of Passage: From Norway to America, From Slavery to Freedom*, came out in 2022. Described as "a novel about immigrants, home, slavery, freedom and living a life of honor," it is both heartwarming and tragic, showing the value of friendship and goodness in a time of death and injustice and discrimination during slavery and the Civil War.

A Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he worked 23 years for the State of Wisconsin as a writer, editor, photographer, writing coach, and public affairs consultant in a fast-paced workflow punctuated by crisis communication events. After retiring he served as part time editor of *The Congregationalist*, a national church-related quarterly magazine, from 2009 to 2016.

Larry posts a weekly blog at LarryFSommers.com with

varied reflections on "Past and Present, Spirit and Faith, Story and Narrative, Writing and Writers." He is active in church work and two local writers' critique groups.

He and his wife Jo are avid travelers, but his next big adventure is a solo trip to the Grand Canyon, where he has never been. He will travel by Amtrak to Flagstaff and then participate in a week-long Road Scholar trip by bus to both the South and North Rims, and Sedona.

Take the time to talk with him and Jo, and you learn so much more. When asked why and when he joined Sons of Norway, he answered:

"I joined Sons of Norway about 40 years ago when I was around 40 years old. I had become somewhat aware of the Norwegian part of my bloodline, and my wife--who is both Swedish and Norwegian--was getting interested in genealogy.

"Also, we used to go out to Mt. Horeb for the Song of Norway performances they did around Midsummer. We both thought Norway was cool and being Norwegian was cool, but I at least did not know much about it, having been raised with no consciousness of national heritage.

"My wife was more Scandinavian than I, since being Swedish was a big deal in her childhood household. It was also around that time we visited Norway for the first time--summer of 1990 I think, our daughter was 13--took the Hurtigruten as far north as Bodø."

So, I was aware of being Norwegian, but not in any deep sense. It was an interesting novelty to me."



Check Crossings website for Updates

Crossings 2025 commemorates 200 years of organized Norwegian migration to North America. It's a year to celebrate the strong ties between Norway, the United States, and Canada. It's an opportunity to remember what it means to take great risks and trade one home for another. And it's a chance to better understand the movement of peoples that continues worldwide today.



This is the replica of the sloop Restauration that will sail across the Atlantic to New York harbor 4 July to 9 October

The Crossings website (crossings.norwegianamerican.com) is continually being updated and includes interesting stories and photos and notices of events.

As reported in the last issue of the *Idun News*, Polar Star and Cleng Peerson Sons of Norway lodges are sponsoring a District 5 Cultural Weekend October 3-5 in Norway, IL., to commemorate the anniversary of the Restauration's arrival in the U.S.

The "Celebrating Norwegian Immigration – The Sloop 200th Anniversary," will be three days of fun and culture, featuring Sloop and Fox Valley Settlement pioneer history, traditional Norwegian culture and craft programs and classes, Norwegian barn dance with Norwegian folk music and food, traditional Norwegian worship service, and a chance to meet descendants of the first Norwegian-American immigrants at their Sloop Society annual meeting.

Pre-registration is required. Download PDF files for the full weekend schedule information and registration forms on the Polar Star website: <http://www.polarstarlodge.com>.



Masse Moro Heritage Camp

There is still time to enroll and receive financial support!

Our lodge generously supports young people associated with members (children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews) to attend *Masse Moro*, scheduled for July 14-27 at Beaver Creek Reserve, Eau Claire County. The deadline for financial support is May 17, but don't wait!! Email Dee Grimsrud at IdunLodgeMadison@gmail.com.

What is Masse Moro?

Masse Moro translates to "lots of fun" in English! Just ask any of the returning campers if they agree with the name, and you will hear an enthusiastic affirmation.

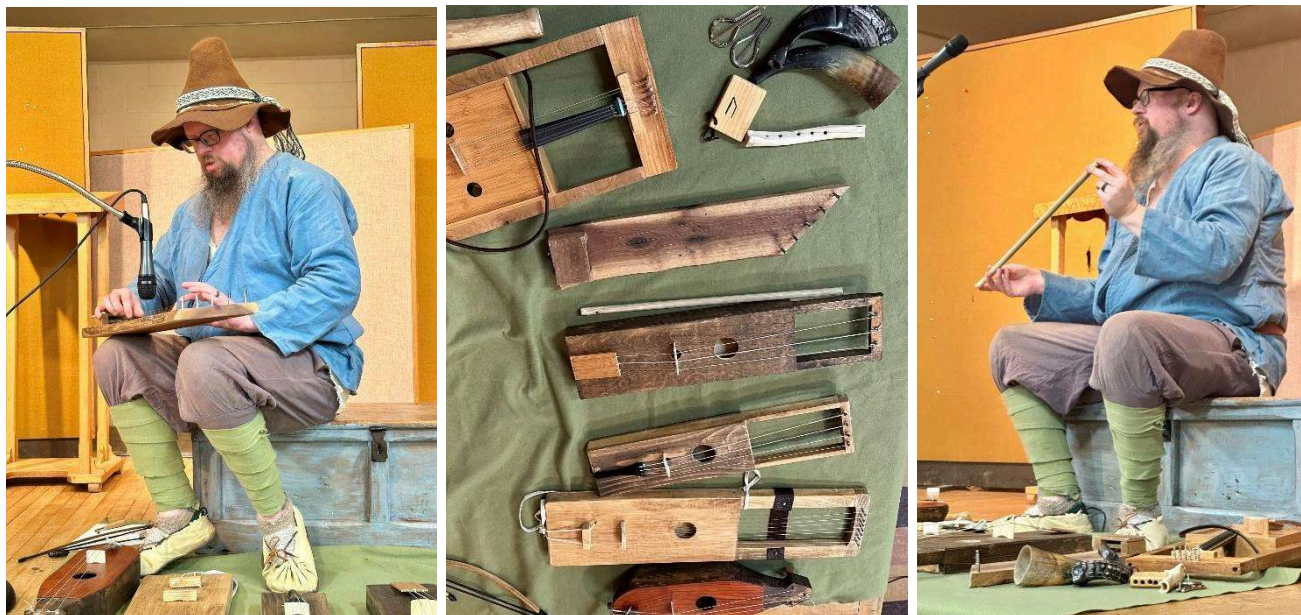
Started by the District 5 Sons of Norway in 1979, the camp shares the history, arts, and culture of Norway with our youth. Campers leave their American culture behind for two weeks and participate in daily activities learning about the culture, language, food, sports, and history of Norway.

To learn more about the camp, visit massemoro.org.

Masse Moro Scholarships 2025

- **First Time Camper Scholarship.** Campers who have never attended *Masse Moro* before are eligible for a \$50 credit toward their tuition, regardless of Sons of Norway affiliation, age, or gender.
- **Invite a Friend Scholarship.** A returning camper who invites a friend who has not attended camp before will receive \$100 credit toward their registrations, up to the total cost of tuition. In addition, the friend will receive \$100 credit. No need for the friend to be Norwegian or affiliated with Sons of Norway.
- **Additional Assistance.** For information on additional financial assistance available, contact the District Five Youth Director at Robert Schuck, Sons of Norway District 5 Youth Director: 608-513-6830.

Pictures from the Lodge



During the March meeting, presenter Eric Bestul showed off and played his early medieval instruments.

Pictures from Beyond the Lodge

Idun Social Director Lucy Ghaslin spent several weeks in Norway this spring, participating in the Vesterheim Northern Lights trip and visiting friends and relatives. She sent these photos and wrote, "The sun is a rarity—mostly rain, some snowflakes at ports of call." We look forward to her reporting on her trip when she returns.

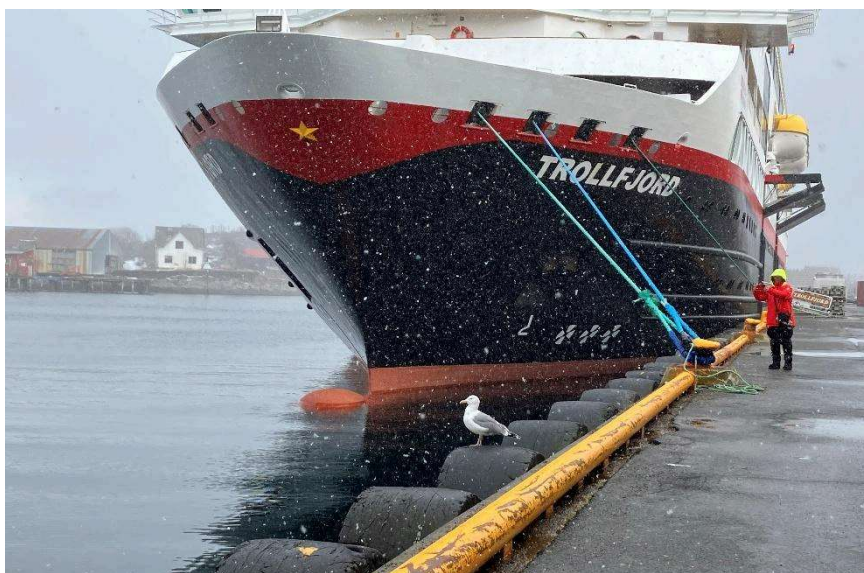
Captions

Right: At port with flurries and a seagull posing.

Bottom (L): Sunset over the ocean.

Bottom (M): Fishing boat going out in the morning.

Bottom (R): Tromsø's Arctic Cathedral, leaving port.



Idun Lodge - Sons of Norway
c/o Dee Grimsrud
107 Sutherland Ct Unit 108
Madison WI 53704-6817

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2025 KALENDAR

May: Sat, 5/10 @ 4pm – *Syttende Mai* Banquet

June: Thu, 6/19 @ 6pm – Potluck & Program

July: NO MEETING

Thu, 7/23 @ 6:30pm – Quarterly Board Meeting

August: Sat, 8/9 – Picnic, Lakeview Park, Middleton

The public is always welcome at Idun Lodge meetings and events! Unless otherwise indicated, our events are free and held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison, at 1904 Winnebago St (at First St). Please use the entrance closest to the parking lot on Atwood Avenue. Or use the accessible entrance on Winnebago St via the ramp at the front door; call 608–513-6434 or 608-259-1958 to be let in. Proceed to the meeting in the Fellowship Hall in the basement.

Sons of Norway offers some excellent financial benefits, including life insurance, long term care insurance, and annuities. For more information, go to www.sofn.com and click on “Financial Products” in the blue strip near the top of the page. Or contact our area’s Financial Benefits Counselor:

Greg W. Ragan, FIC
7042 Kinnikinnick Dr
Rosco, IL 61073

Phone: 1-815-623-8817 Office
1-815-988-5975 Mobile
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The Mission of Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve, and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering maximum benefits to its members.