



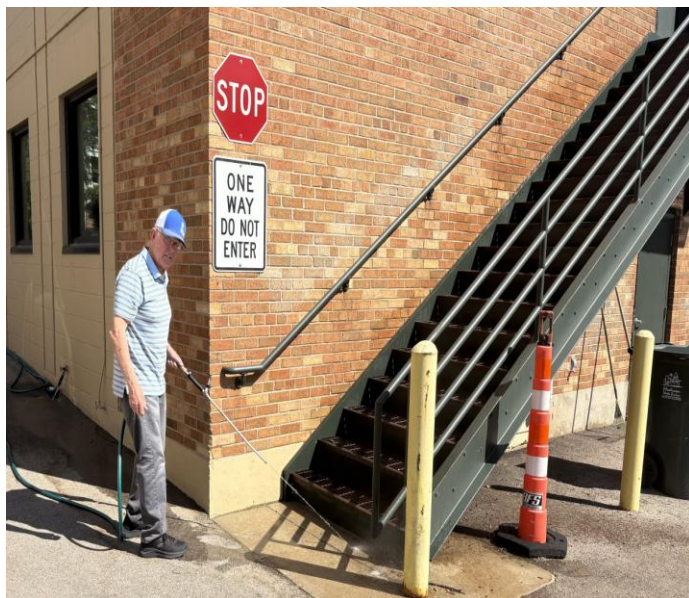
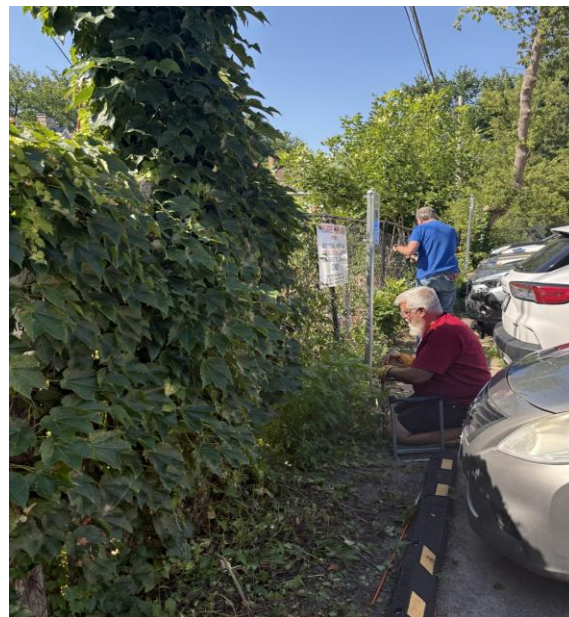
Norse Valley Lodge 5-491

Nytt Notes August 2026

Nine Norse Valley Members volunteered at Madison's Norwegian American Genealogical Center.

We had a nice warm day on Monday July 13th to work at the NAGC to help them with some projects to spruce up their grounds and/or inside library projects. We carpooled to Madison to start work at 9:30 a.m. and finished up around 3:15 p.m.

We were treated to lunch by the appreciative Genealogical Center's staff. Thanks to Corey Olson for organizing this worthwhile volunteer event.



Upcoming Lodge Meetings are as follows:

We are getting to the end of summer and soon we will all be back together for our formal Lodge meetings.

Our first Lodge meeting after the summer break will be September 19th at 6:00 p.m. which will be held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church located at 3009 North Meade Street in Appleton. It will be another good one!

Olaf Minge from Saint Paul, Minnesota will travel to Appleton on September 19th and speak to us about the United States Army's 99th Battalion, a group initially formed to help liberate Norway from Nazi occupation in World War II, were almost exclusively of Norwegian descent. These soldiers began their training at Camp Ripley, MN, but were eventually transferred to Fort Snelling, MN. They were moved to Camp Hale in Colorado around Christmas of 1942, and the mountains of Colorado, much, much larger than Norway's, gave the men a great advantage in their alpine training.

His presentation dives into the 99th's experiences in their training, and also explores the group of soldiers from the 99th that were put into the Special Ops branch and Operation RYPE. These soldiers would be among the few to go to Norway in 1945. The Battalion undertook many challenges during their time in the war, and also lost many. They did, however, come out with a sense of pride and unity as a small group, and eventually served as Honor Guard for the return of King Haakon to Norway.

October 17th Lodge Meeting: 6:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's. Our guest speaker will be Sherry Johnson (pictured on the right).

She will present on Vesterheim's 2025 Emigration Anniversary Tour. Vesterheim is a Norwegian-American museum located in Decorah, Iowa.

On July 4, 1825, the sloop *Restauration* departed Stavanger, Norway for New York City, marking the commencement of 800,000 Norwegian emigrants over the ensuing century. The 52 "sloopers" plus a new baby girl arrived 3 months later on October 9 in America.

A replica of the original *Restauration* embarked on the same voyage 200 years later, (June 2025) accompanied by a farewell from 3 generations of the Royal Family.

Sherry will share a PowerPoint presentation encompassing Norwegian emigration to the Midwest and last year's bicentennial tour to Norway.



November 1st: Sunday at 4:30 p.m. **Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner** at La Sure's Banquet Hall in Oshkosh. **Mark your calendars!** The Packers play on the previous Thursday night so there is no conflict with your favorite team.

December 5th: Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Julefest at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Volunteer Opportunities coming up in August!

The next Feeding America volunteer event is coming up on August 12th!

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday August 12th from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** to help the less fortunate in Northeast Wisconsin at Feeding America. Norse Valley members can volunteer at Feeding America on the north side of Appleton, at that time. This will be a Tribal Pack to supply Elders of our Wisconsin Native American population with good nutritious foods grown here in our state. We will pack boxes with these food items.



Please contact Norse Valley member Linda Hash, (lhash@new.rr.com), our volunteer coordinator, if you would like to help out on Wednesday, August 12th. We are a bit short of volunteers at this August event so contact Linda and help those in our community.

Lodge Fund-Raising Brat Fry on Saturday August 22nd.

We had a successful fund raiser in the form of our Festival Brat and Burger on July 25th at the Festival Foods on July 25th. \$689 was raised on July 25th in part due to our volunteers Corey Olson, Lois Gruetzmacher, Sharron Huss, Mitch Vesaas, Carol May, and Patrick Dier and a community grant from Thrivent.



Our next Festival Brat and Burger fund raiser will be on August 22nd at the Festival Foods Brat Stand on Green Bay Road in Neenah. Corey has again volunteered his whole day for the Lodge to be grill master. He'll need one person to help with set-up from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30. We need two people to help sell brats and burgers from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to handle the lunch rush. One or two people are still needed from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to help with sales and brat stand clean-up.

If you can help the Lodge to fill one of these shifts on Saturday August 22nd, please contact Corey Olson at clobadger87@gmail.com.

We need your help to man the sales counter and / or publicize to your friends and neighbors!

What are the 5 distinct eras of Scandinavian History?

1. Norse Antiquity (ca. 800)

The most ancient history is generally perceived as a shared mainspring for the modern-day Norwegians, Danes, and Swedes. The common ancestors spoke one language and were united by their worship of Odin, Thor, Freya, and the other Norse gods.

2. Viking Age (ca. 800 – 1050)

Also the Viking Age is to a great degree considered an era of Scandinavian unity. The famed Viking journeys all across the known world are for example hailed as shared achievements. However, during this period Denmark, Norway, and Sweden start to develop into three separate states.



3. High Middle Ages (1050 – 1319)

The state development continues in the High Middle Ages, which also sees the definitive Christianization of the North. On the one hand perceived as a liberation from the 'barbarity' of paganism, most authors on the other hand also give expression to anti-Catholic views, portraying Catholicism as a corrupted 'southern import'.

4. Union Period (1319 – 1523)

For the larger part of the late Middle Ages, the three kingdoms are united under the banner of the Kalmar Union. The appreciation for this truly Scandinavian union is highly ambivalent. On the positive side, the union is seen as the political realization of the natural bond between the Scandinavian peoples. However, on the negative side, the Kalmar Union is judged a failed project as the hegemonic position of Denmark went at the expense of the other two countries.

5. Age of Discord (1523 – 1814)

The Kalmar Union lasted until 1523, when Sweden declared independence after years of war. War and conflict between the two Scandinavian blocks – Sweden and Denmark-Norway – was what came to characterize the relations during the following three centuries. The Swedish poet Esaias Tegnér therefore baptized this era 'the age of discord'.

6. After 1814

Tegnér coined this term in 1829, when he symbolically crowned his Danish colleague Adam Oehlenschläger 'King of Nordic Poems', stating that with this gesture "the age of discord was finally over". The authors of the school textbooks pointed out that in 1814 a new era had started which could be described as a return to the harmony that had once existed between the Scandinavians in the most ancient times. The master narrative of Scandinavian history that is thus told is of a cyclical nature: going from a mythical proto-democratic saga age through a time of misguided antagonism to a new golden age of fraternization in the present.

My Odegaard Kit is next to my hand carved "Walleye" cribbage board that I received as birthday presents!



Attention Facebook Users

Be sure to Follow our lodge's Facebook page (@norsevalley) and check in regularly to Like and Share our posts if you happen to miss them in your feed.

The more our posts are Shared and Liked, the more exposure our lodge gets which is great advertising for us. Don't forget that our website norsevalley.org is a great place to find out about upcoming events and check out photos from past events.

Got a question? Send an email to norsevalley@gmail.com.

If you have any questions or concerns about lodge activities, please contact Lois Gruetzmacher at gmacher@charter.net or 920-527-1337.