



Norse Valley Lodge 5-491 Nytt Notes June 2025



Mama Rosa Troll in Wauwatosa

In case you missed it....

The Norse Valley Lodge celebrated Norway's Constitution Day (Syttende Mai) with a picnic on a cool Sunday May 18th afternoon at Derks Park in southeast Appleton.

We ate lefse rolled hotdogs, ice cream, pie, and shared side dishes (not necessarily in that order). No one went home hungry. While it was too cool to play lawn games, we did have a pleasant surprise as board member Sharron Huss brought a friend, Rob Molskness, who regaled us with his guitar. We had several sing-a-longs which warmed our hearts and our core temperature.

Board member Diane Mohammadian told us the story of Syttende Mai and how Norway became an independent nation.

Just a friendly fun atmosphere on a cool spring day in northeastern Wisconsin.





Reporting out on our Saturday May 17th Brat and Burger Fundraiser at Festival Foods in Kimberly.

We live and we learn.

We did not have the amount of foot traffic we had last year when we had our first attempt at a Lodge fundraiser in August 2024 at the Festival Foods in Darboy.

We thought we'd give the new Festival Foods in Kimberly a try two weeks ago. The Lodge still made money at this event last month but it was much less than last year. There are no other big stores near the new Kimberly's new Festival so that led to decreased foot traffic and walk up sales.

Thanks to all our volunteers who manned the brat and burger stand on June 17th that still brought in over \$300.00 for the Norse Valley lodge's programs and charitable contributions.

Mark your calendars for our second fundraising opportunity on **Saturday August 2nd at the Appleton Northland Avenue Festival Foods.** We will again sell Brats and Burgers.

We will need the following number of people for each shift to make this fundraiser a success.



8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Set-up: 2 people to help set up and fill orders for any early birds.

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Lunch: 4 people to fill orders, act as cashier and be a runner.

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Post Lunch & Shut down: 2 people to fill orders and help with shut down/clean-up

Treasurer Corey Olson will be the lead for these events and be the grill master throughout the day.

Please sign up by reaching out directly to Corey via e-mail clobadger87@gmail.com.

Thanks in advance for helping out **your** Lodge!

Two Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:



Feeding America

Beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday July 9th, we are looking for Norse Valley members to volunteer at Feeding America on the north side of Appleton to pack food for the Wisconsin Tribal Elder program.

This program aims to increase access to nutritious and culturally relevant foods for Tribal elders over 55. The program purchases food from local and Indigenous producers to create food boxes that are delivered to WI Tribal distribution sites. These boxes contain items like beef, bison, fish, chicken, pork, and seasonal produce.

Please contact Norse Valley member Linda Hash (lhash@new.rr.com), our volunteer coordinator, if you would like to help out.

Norwegian American Genealogical Center

On Wednesday July 23rd, we invite our Norse Valley Lodge members for a day of volunteering at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center near the state capitol building in Madison.

When we arrive at 10:30 a.m. to the NAGC, we commence with some outdoor grounds clean-up and indoor filing. These are two projects we are usually tasked with. We usually carpool down and some folks stay for the nearby Concert on the Capitol Square by the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra at 7:00 p.m. The 23rd concert will feature Pink Floyd's 1973 Dark Side of the Moon album.

By July 10th, please contact Corey Olson at clobadger87@gmail.com or (920) 858-7642 if you are interested in helping out on July 23rd.

No Lodge Meetings in June, July, or August

We will continue the tradition of suspending our monthly Lodge meetings during the summer months so we can take advantage of the little warm weather we have in northeast Wisconsin but will start up again on **Saturday 6:00 p.m. September 20th**.

Slooper's Weekend

The upcoming 200th anniversary of the first Immigrants from Norway to set sail for the new Country of the United States of America will be commemorated this autumn in Norway, Illinois from October 3rd to 5th.

This three-day weekend of Norwegian culture fun will include Slooper and Fox Valley, Illinois settlement pioneer history, traditional Norwegian culture and craft programs and classes, Norwegian games and movie night, a "Sluppen" fun walk, a 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 Slooper Society annual meeting.

If interested, weekend registration is required by September 1st. Here is the registration link:

<https://sonsofnorway5.com/library/original/docman/REGISTRATION-2025-03-18CELEBRATINGNORWEGIANIMMIGRATIONandSLOOPER200thRevised.pdf>

Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner set for Sunday November 9, 2025 at La Sure's Banquet Hall in Oshkosh with dinner served at 5:00 p.m.

The Packers play the next evening on Monday night so this works ideally for you sports, cod, and meatball fans.

Meet Norse Valley member Jo Norman!

In our continuing effort to get to know your fellow local Lodge members, I interviewed Jo in June and here's the scoop...

Do you have a Board position with Norse Valley and what are your duties?

I am a member of the Norse Valley Lodge board. I share the position of Marshall with my husband, Stuart. The Marshall position makes sure that the flags are set up for each meeting as well as getting out the song books and placing them around the tables. We help with any pre- and post-meeting setup as needed. I also co-chair the Nominating committee that helps find members that are interested in taking on board positions, and then nominate them for approval by the entire chapter.

Talk me about your childhood.



I was born in Georgia where my Norwegian family settled after moving south from New Jersey. I was 3 months old when we moved to the San Juan Islands in Washington State. My father, a life-long Merchant Marine, wanted to farm on an island where he still had a connection to the water and could easily make trips to Alaska, which he really enjoyed. However, that life was too much for my mother and we moved to Seattle after 2 years. I spent the rest of my childhood in Seattle and my dad went back to being a Merchant Mariner. Because he was not around much, my 3 sisters and I only got a smattering of Norwegian traditions woven into our upbringing. We learned a few Norwegian words and ate Knackebrod and Tilsorte Bondpiker, which are still favorites today, consumed during holidays.

How long have you been connected with the Sons of Norway?

We joined Sons of Norway about 5 years ago after a Norwegian friend came to visit and told us about his involvement in SON in the Seattle area. He made it sound very interesting and worthwhile, so I went online and found Norse Valley Lodge. We were instantly welcomed and have been very happy participating with this lodge.

Talk about your Norwegian heritage.

My grandparents emigrated from Norway in 1905. They landed in New York and resided there while my grandfather got established at an engineering firm there, then they moved to Teaneck, NJ, where my two uncles and father were born. My grandfather commuted to New York City for his job, which included being on the engineering team for the Empire State Building elevators, and the team that designed the revolving stages for Rockefeller Center.

My roots in Norway are Risor (grandfather) and Mandal (grandmother). My great-grandfather owned a hardware store in Risor that is still operated by family today. My grandmother's family were fishermen. We have visited cousins there twice, as well as cousins that spread out to Varhaug, Bryne and Stavanger. My grandfather was not the first in the family to emigrate to the US, however. My great great aunt and uncle came to America with a group of 25 Lutheran families and a minister in the

1800s and settled Mt. Morris before Wisconsin became a State. I lost my entire family genealogy in a hard drive crash so I can't tell you their names, but I know I still have family in that area.

What are your interests?

I really enjoy fishing, especially fly-fishing, gardening (veggies and flowers), watching bull-riding, programming computer automations, and the Packers - Go Pack Go!

What is one thing that makes you somewhat unique or is something no one knows about you but you are proud of?

While I made my career in the IT industry for 33 years, with degrees and certificates in that area, I am most proud of the certificates I earned from Gemological Institute of America in diamond and colored stone identification and grading. I am very fond of pretty shiny things and have collected boxes of gemstones little by little over the years. We even stopped at Tvedestrand while in Norway and had lunch in this small town that is the Sunstone capital of the world. Sunstone was used by our Norwegian ancestors for seafaring navigation.

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 Judy Ghastin at judy62ghastin@gmail.com or 920-450-3584.