



Norse Valley Lodge 5-491

Nytt Notes September 2026

Happy New Year!

I am not fully off my rocker just yet... Since we historically take the summer months off from organized group gathering, I always look at September as a new calendar year for Lodge meetings.

Because we have reached September 1st (by the way, didn't you notice the Autumn nip in the air today with the temperature in the low 90's and the Dew Point in the 70's), let's talk about what the Norse Valley Board has in store for the next 4 months.

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 a 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.

Refreshments (Norwegian cookies, cheese and crackers) will be served. **At this meeting, we are also looking for 2 to 3 people to serve on the nominating committee for year 2027 board members.**

October 17th Lodge Meeting: 6:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's.

Our guest speaker will be Sherry Johnson.

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

On 7/4/1825 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 LaSure'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.

The price of Lutefisk and Meatballs and other accompaniments continue to rise and unfortunately we find it necessary to pass on a nominal increase to our attendees. Norse Valley Lodge members can attend for \$32 (an increase of \$2) and non-members can partake for \$35 (an increase of \$2). Children ages 7 to 12 cost \$15 (no change from 2025 pricing). Children 6 and under remain free.

Ornaments, bake goods (including Lefse), books, along with other items will be sold at the dinner for interested parties to help offset the higher dinner costs. Entertainment will also be on board.

I will e-mail the 2026 Dinner reservation form to you as soon as I receive the finalized version.

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

Volunteer Opportunity coming up in September!

The next Feeding America volunteer event is coming up on September 23rd!

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday September 23rd 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, September 23rd.

Results from our two Lodge Fund-Raising Brat Fries are in.

We had two successful fund raisers at Festival in 2026.

One on July 25th in Appleton and the other one was on August 22nd in Neenah.

The most recent feed on August 22nd raised a total of \$709.44 (sales of \$642.94 and donations of \$66.50). Thanks to David Murry, Corey Olson, Pam Ulness, Esther Paloma, Scott Behrens, Lois Gruetzmacher, and LeAnn's Ostrem Knoeck's husband Chuck for manning the Brat Fry stand in Neenah.



Corey Olson



David and Pam



Esther, Scott, and Lois

In total, we raised \$1,653.15 (sales and donations) at our two Brat Fries. We received a community grant from Thrivent to help defray costs at each of the fundraising events.

The life and Times of King Harald V

As most of you know, Harald V passed away on August 28th.

He served as King of Norway from 1991 until his death this past week.

Harald was the third child and only son of King Olav V of Norway and Princess Märtha of Sweden. He was second in the line of succession at the time of his birth, behind his father. In 1940, as a result of the German occupation during World War II, the royal family went into exile.

Harald spent part of his childhood in Sweden and the United States. He returned to Norway in 1945 and later studied for periods at the University of Oslo, the Norwegian Military Academy, and Balliol College, Oxford.



An active sportsman, Harald represented Norway in sailing at the 1964, 1968, and 1972 Olympic Games. In 1970 Harald was named the founding president of the Norwegian Sailing Federation. He went on to serve as President of Honor for World Sailing starting in 1994, a position he held until his death, while remaining an active competitor in World Championships until 2022.

Following the death of his paternal grandfather King Haakon VII in 1957, Harald became crown prince as his father became King Olav V. He married Sonja Haraldsen in 1968. Their relationship was initially controversial due to her status as a commoner. They had two children, Märtha Louise and Haakon.

In 1990, when his father's health declined, Harald became regent and took most of the powers of the monarchy while Olav remained the *de jure* monarch. Following his father's death in 1991, Harald ascended to the throne. He was the first Norwegian-born monarch to inherit the throne since Olav IV in 1380, a span of 610 years.

Harald's leadership during major Norwegian national crises earned widespread acclaim both domestically and internationally. His presence during events such as the 1992 New Year's Day Storm, the 2011 Norway attacks, the 2020 Gjerdrum landslide, and the COVID-19 pandemic in Norway earned him the popular nickname "grandfather of the nation" ("nasjonens bestefar").

During his reign, Harald suffered from several health issues, with his son acting as regent several times between 2003 and 2026. He became Norway's oldest reigning monarch in 2024, surpassing his father.

Following the death of Elizabeth II, his paternal second cousin, in 2022, King Harald became Europe's oldest reigning monarch. Upon his death last week at the age of 89, King Harald is being succeeded by his son Haakon.

The new King is called Haakon VIII.

Haakon has an older sister, named Princess Märtha Louise. She was born 1971. Haakon was born in 1973. In 1990, the Norwegian constitution was amended to introduce absolute primogeniture, meaning that the eldest child, regardless of sex, would take precedence in the line of succession. Because the amendment was not retroactive, Haakon retained precedence over his older sister.

The new King's marriage.

In the 1990s, Haakon attended the Quart Festival in Kristiansand, where he first met Mette-Marit Tjessem Høiby at a garden party during the festival season. They met again several years later when she was a single mother of one child.^[36] Haakon married Mette-Marit, a commoner, on August 25, 2001 at Oslo Cathedral.

When their engagement was announced in December 2000, public and media reaction was largely negative.^[41] Many Norwegians expressed concern about Haakon's choice of partner, primarily due to Mette-Marit's status as an unmarried mother. The father of her child had been convicted of drug-related offences, and critics also highlighted her limited formal education, previous relationships with convicted felons, and her social circle, which some commentators described as one "where drugs were readily available". The couple's eight-month engagement included a period of cohabitation in an Oslo apartment, a decision that drew criticism from the Church of Norway, an evangelical Lutheran denomination.

Be that as it may, Haakon and Mette-Marit have two children: Crown Princess Ingrid Alexandra (born in January 2004) and Prince Sverre Magnus (born in December 2005). Haakon is also the stepfather of Mette-Marit's elder son, Marius Borg Høiby.





The new King Haakon VIII and his wife, Mette-Marit, in 2014

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.