

Important dates to remember:

Lodge Meeting Dates: 2 pm start –

January 19, 2025 -Movie

February 16, 2025 start at 1 PM Friluftsliv

March 16, 2025 Ukulele & mystery book event

All Lodge meetings held at the
Community Center - 107 N Grove St. in Mount
Horeb unless otherwise noticed in the
Newsletter article of a different location.

Board/Business Meeting Dates:

6:30pm at Culver's restaurant in Mt. Horeb

January 8, 2025

February 12, 2025

March 12, 2025

Mark your calendar dates –

Twelfth Night – Jan 5 (Sweden)

National Sami Day - February 6, 2025

Waffle Appreciation Day – March 25

Syttende Mai –May 17, 2025

Constitution Day – June 5 (Denmark)

National Day –June 6 (Sweden)

Edward Grieg's Birthday –June 15

National Day – June 17 (Iceland)

Godt nyttår, alle sammen (Happy New Year, everyone!)

I sincerely hope that the Holidays were good for you and yours. I'll attest that travel during those busy days is certainly no fun anymore! But now as we look towards the New Year, the Lodge has a lot to be excited about. To reiterate news items you've already seen, we've got some speakers and programs lined up that should be interesting and fun. The trifold document with the details can be found at meetings or around Mt. Horeb at Open House Imports, the Chamber, or at the Community Center. Please find one and join us as much as possible. Mike Morkri has been busy working on options for the 2026 return trip to Norway. We found that trip to be a good time to raise some serious revenue via raffle ticket sales as well as adding a goodly number of new members. Things to be excited about!

So in the short term, we will be showing a Norwegian-centric movie on Sunday, January 19, starting at 2:00 pm. The February meeting will once again be a "friluftsliv" celebration of the great outdoors at John and Karen Eberhardt's home. And you won't want to miss Ron Goplin's ukulele band on March 16. Hope to see you all soon.

Takk så mye!

Allen



The mission of Sons of Norway is to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members, promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, and celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries.

January meeting:

Cue the snacks/popcorn because it's movie time!! Join us in watching the Hallmark hit – My Norwegian Holiday which is about the main heroine JJ, grieving the loss of her grandmother and seeking inspiration, stumbles upon an unexpected holiday destiny. Meeting Henrik, a Norwegian from Bergen, their connection deepens when he discovers she has a troll figurine from his hometown.



February meeting:

The wood behind the Eberhardt's house is calling our names! Karen and John Eberhardt have agreed to host again our Friluftsliv celebration in February. If there is enough snow plan to bring your sled, snowshoes, cross-country skis or any other outdoor sport you can think of for a winter outing plus a bonfire to keep the winter chills at bay. If there is not enough snow then you can plan on a different jaunt so stay tuned and if you can put in a good word about snow cover we would appreciate it. John and Karen will have markers at their drive way at **2996 Timber Lane, Verona** and will have areas for parking ready for our celebration. Bring your own snacks, and coffee will be on the burner.

Scandihoovian Fest is on our schedule for February 8, 2025, details to follow but if you are a deft hand at helping out we need you!!! We will be running a Hobby Horse course, feeding the good people Krumkake and waffles on a stick so no matter if you have never participated before we need your help.

Barnebirke time!!!!!!

For those that have a spare moment please consider baking a few dozen cookies and package them up in non-returnable containers and bring to the Friluftsliv at Eberhardt's or to Open House Imports in Mt. Horeb by Feb. 18, 2025. The cookies are used for a treat after the children's races in the Hayward/Cable area and are always a hit with the kids. I believe that I heard our District 5 President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser say that our goal this year is over 900 doz of cookies to donate from our District.

Reminder Volunteer hours need to be recorded stay tuned for details on who is collecting that information for 2025.

We will be doing a mystery book exchange for Påskekrim in March. Påskekrim is a Norwegian tradition of getting a murder/mystery book and reading it for the holiday break. We are looking for books that you have read from any Norwegian author that you are willing to pass onto the next person, Tiffany Schwoerer will be collecting them at the January and February meetings then wrapping them for our March meeting so those who brought a book can get a new book for the holiday or summer.



THANK YOU!!!!!!!

If you see these two out and about give them a high-five or two, they donated the potatoes for our lefse; Jackie and Roger Brown and about 100lbs of potatoes they donated for the December Lefse Baking.

Old News:

Norway Reintroduces Dual Citizenship

Following a global trend of connecting worldwide, the Parliament of Norway approved changes to the Citizenship Act in December 2019 to allow for dual citizenship.

This change, which took effect in 2020, means that both Norwegians living abroad and those living in Norway can have passports in their country of birth as well as their country of residence.

Foreign nationals living in Norway no longer have to renounce their original citizenship in order to become Norwegian citizens. Additionally, Norwegians living abroad may now become citizens of other nations without giving up their Norwegian citizenship.

In some instances, people who previously surrendered their Norwegian citizenship in order to become citizens elsewhere may now apply to regain their nationality.

More than 26,000 people applied for dual citizenship in Norway in the first 6 months of the new law. Due to the surge in applications, and delays from the coronavirus pandemic, the wait times for citizenship are currently very long.

To learn more, visit the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) website: udi.no.

Baking Workshop stars:



More Baking Workshop Stars:



Vesterheim Trip in October







**Vennelag Lodge 5-523
Membership Years Awards**

15 Years
Lisa R Salava

5 Years
Mark E. Hanson
Jason M Hayes
Sutton M Hayes
David A Jelle
Marla K Krantz-Wilson
Kjersten A Krueger-Hayes
Cara L Mavis
Jim Mavis
Brielle Nelson
Tresyn Nelson

20 Years
Hollis A Lavelle
Arthur Ness
Ann C Walser

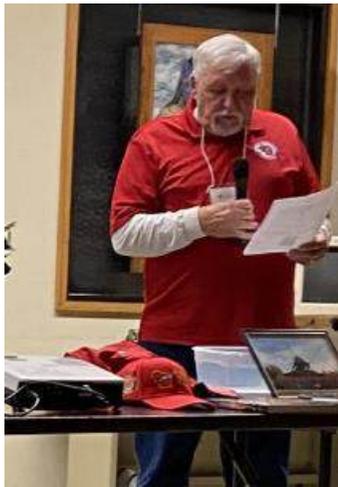
25 Years
Nancy M Kittleson
Cheryl A Wille-Schlesser

10 Years
James H Cook
Cheryle L Goplin
Joyce M Nygard

30 Years
JoDon M Anderson
Gerald R Christiansen
Brian F Larson
Connie J Larson

Membership award recipients at the November Lodge meeting





John Eberhardt gave a presentation of his recent Badger Honor Flight experience at our November membership meeting.

John flew on November 2nd, 2024 Badger Honor Flight out of Dane County Regional Airport. He explained the history and mission of the Honor Flight Program plus a photo display along with the objects which he received as perks and mementos of the day.

John was a member of the 5,000th Veteran to be flown on the "Badger Honor Flight", which is the Madison Hub for the program. All 87 Veterans on the flight were designated the 5,000th Veteran flown.

There are 7 Hubs in our Wisconsin Region and 128 Hubs in 45 States. The Badger Honor Flight Program

flies Veterans to Washington DC for 1-day to visit the Veteran Memorials and other sites of tribute to America's Veterans, and return them home to an amazing "Welcome Home" reception at the Dane County airport.



The Memorials visited were the Iwo Jima (Marine Corps) Memorial, the "Changing of the Guard" at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, the VietNam Veterans Wall, the Korean War Memorial, the Three Soldiers, VietNam Memorial, the Women's VietNam Veterans Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the World War 2 Memorial, and the Air Force Memorial overlooking the Pentagon.

The National Organization is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization and is very highly rated. There were 7 flights this year from Madison and ours was the 57th mission to fly from Madison.



To find out more about the Honor Flight program check out these webpages

<https://badgerhonorflight.org/> or

<https://www.honorflight.org/> to see if there is one near you.

Sons of Norway Membership Benefits you should try! There are many membership benefits that most of us either aren't aware of, don't take advantage of, or don't know where to find them. Having a time at meetings to show them how to log-in is a big first step as that opens up so many resources for members!

Films of Norway- Films of Norway is an internet streaming service with a wide variety of Norwegian movies and TV series offered through a budget-friendly monthly or annual subscription. Watching these programs is a fun way to learn about Norwegian culture and improve your Norwegian language skills. Sons of Norway members worldwide are entitled to 1 free week and 25% off the regular monthly or annual subscription rate.

<https://www.filmsofnorway.com/>

Genealogy Guide- As you dive into your research, you'll get to know your ancestors – who they were, where they came from and what they did with their lives. The Sons of Norway Genealogy resources will help you through this process with insights to Norwegian society, names, language and more; while also providing lists of additional resources, organizations and websites. Enjoy the journey – we'd love to hear what you learn. Download your copy of the Genealogy Cultural Skills Program. Genealogy Guide – Use this updated guide, as you begin to research your family roots. This handy 10-page guide will provide background on Norwegian-North American immigration along with information about Norwegian names and places.



https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/genealogy/

The Sons of Norway Sports Medal Program is a fun and engaging way to stay active while enjoying the Norwegian tradition of friluftsliv (outdoor life and recreation)! It's uniquely designed to reward healthy habits at every age, activity level and exercise preference. It's actually quite simple – and naturally rewarding!

Choose the pin you want to focus on: general fitness, skiing, swimming, biking or walking. • Choose your goal within the program.

Work towards pre-determined requirements to earn your way to the sports medals, earning each level in sequence. • When your record card is complete, submit it to your lodge's Sports Director, who will order your pins and present them to you at a lodge meeting. Get Started Today!

https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/cultural_programming/sports_medal_program/levels__requirements/

Each pin offers four different areas of achievement, giving you the opportunity to earn your way to Bronze, Silver, Gold and finally Enamel (some even have a 5th and 6th level). Learn more about

each of these levels and the requirements for earning them. As with any activity or exercise, we encourage you to consult your physician for advice and recommendations before getting started.

Here's how to earn your pins: • Work through the Sports Medal Program of your choice in a sequence, beginning with the bronze pin. The requirements for each level should be met within 365 days. • As you engage in your selected activity, log the time or distance on your record card. If you achieve a level in less time, you can immediately begin working on the requirements for the next level of the sequence. • You must start at zero every time you begin earning points for your next pin.

Just for the Skiers in the group:

Skimerke – Skiing (shee-merk-eh) The skimerke is the Sports Medal Program's cross-country skiing pin. Cross-country skiing, a sport introduced to North America by Nordic immigrants, is a way to enjoy the outdoors during the cold winter months. Download the "Skimerke" (Skiing) Record – Form 804 (30K)

Jultrefest:
String Ensemble from the Mt. Horeb School District



All the festive wear from some of the party goes



Allen Watrud, President

Phone: (608) 836-3550

Email: awatrud@gmail.com

Anna Olson, Treasurer

Phone: (608) 935-3915

Email: oranno@frontier.com

Mary Gullickson-Kranz, Secretary

Phone:

Email:

Jane Heibel Vice President

(Events)

Phone: (608) 345-3796

Email:

Harley Skjervem, Vice President

(Youth, Communications, Events)

Phone: (608) 829-1728

Email: hskjervem@gmail.com

Tiffany Schwoerer Lodge Editor

Phone: (608) 527-2821

E-mail: Vennelageditor@gmail.com

Greg Ragan, Financial Benefits Counselor

Phone: (815) 988-5975

E-mail: gragan51@gmail.com

Do you have a change of address?

Please inform International Headquarters of any change in mailing address or email.



You may make a request to discontinue the printed copy of the Newsletter and to receive an email copy.

Our newsletters are always available in color on the District 5 website: www.sonsofnorway5.com.

*Find us on the web: www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org

*If you know someone who is interested in membership in Vennelag Lodge, please direct them to this site. It will give them a better idea of our organization.