



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Vennelag Lodge 5-513

Vennelag News

Mai - Juni 2026

Important dates to remember:

Lodge Meeting Dates: 6:30 pm start

May 28, 2026 - Syttende Mai Celebration

June 25, 2026 - Picnic

July – no meeting Kaffe Stue

August 27, 2026

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

May 13, 2026

June 10, 2026

July 8, 2026

August 12, 2026

September 9, 2026

Mark your calendar dates –

May 17, 2026 - Syttende Mai (Norway)

June 1, 2026 – Deadline Newsletter articles

June 5, 2026 – Constitution Day (Denmark)

June 6, 2026 – National Day (Sweden)

June 15, 2026 -- Edvard Grieg's Birthday

June 17, 2026 – National Day (Iceland)

June 25, 2026 – Lodge Picnic

July 17-19, 2026 – Kaffe Stue at the Art faire

October 9, 2026 – Lief Erikson day

December 6, 2026 – Independence Day
(Finland)

If you haven't heard, Steve Frame has announced that he will not be able to go forward with the duties of President of Vennelag Lodge, effective immediately.

First of all, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to Steve and his wife Jane for their efforts on our behalf, and taking on this responsibility. We all look forward to their ongoing support and participation in future Lodge activities.

At the March Board meeting this issue was discussed at length with the following temporary plan:

First VP Harley Skjervem will be the point person for coordinating board and Lodge meetings. Past President Allen Watrud will serve as Second VP and pretty much work as a tag team with Harley to maintain programs and communications with the intention that the membership will not even notice the changes. But technically it leaves us without a President.

These positions will remain in effect until after the fall elections and subsequent installation of new officers in January. Reading between the lines, you see that we will need a new President and 1st and 2nd VP's this fall. If you are asked to run, please understand that your name was brought forth with careful consideration and regard for what's best for the Lodge.

Thank you all for your support going forward.

Harley Skjervem

Allen Watrud

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.

May meeting:

Author, Gwen Hutchins, of Stoughton, Wisconsin, was awarded best seller status for her recently released book, Critical Air: A Flight Nurses Adventures From Alaska to Nepal.

Her book details rescue missions from remote Alaska villages, and also foreign repatriation of critical patients from Nepal and beyond. She also details her harrowing experience in the Philippines.



Gwen Hutchins is a registered nurse who worked for 25 years in various areas of critical care before taking on emergency flight nursing in remote areas of Alaska and beyond. While training, education, and experience provided the backbone of her career, her rural upbringing, self-reliance, tenacity, and courage made her the nurse who changed the lives of so many. Always the first to volunteer for new experiences, Gwen learned early on the importance of diversity, especially of knowledge. Her fearlessness, caring spirit, no nonsense approach, and ability to fix almost anything, made her a legend in Alaska and around the world.

All proceeds from this book benefit the Ed and Gwen Hutchins Family Foundation and it's goal to support youth communities.

June meeting:

Annual lodge picnic June 25, 5:00 pm at Brigham County Park, Blue Mounds, serving starts 5:30 pm.

Vennelag Lodge will provide burgers, brats; please provide a dish to pass if you can

*******This will be instead of the usual meeting**

COME JOIN US AS WE CRUISE DOWN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN'S MAIN STREETS IN OUR BEAUTIFUL VIKING SHIP PARADE FLOAT.

- **STOUGHTON SYTENDE MAI FESTIVAL**
 - PARADE BEGINS AT **1:30 PM**, SUNDAY, MAY 17th
- **VERONA HOMETOWN DAYS**
 - PARADE BEGINS AT **11:00AM**, SUNDAY, MAY 31ST
- **MOUNT HOREB SUMMER FROLIC**
 - PARADE BEGINS AT **NOON**, SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH

LINE-UP TIMES AND LOCATIONS WILL BE SENT VIA E-MAIL WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, PLEASE LET A BOARD MEMBER KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RIDING SO YOU ARE ABLE TO GET THE E-MAIL.

WATER WILL BE PROVIDED.

COME DRESSED IN YOUR FAVORITE NORWEGIAN ATTIRE.

Your Parade Coordinator,
Mark Hanson



Vennelag Lodge at the Mallards Friday, July 3, 2026
Night-mares (women's softball) starts at 3:05 Mallards game starts at 5:05 Food special starts at 4:35



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FOR 90 MINUTES STARTING AT GATES OPEN

Cheeseburgers, Stoddard's Classic Brats, All-Beef Hotdogs, Vegan Black Bean Patties, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Watermelon, Chips.

BOTTOMLESS PEPSI PRODUCTS AND WATER FOR 90 MINUTES STARTING AT GATES OPEN. \$27

BEER OPTION INCLUDES BOTTOMLESS BEER FOR 90 MINUTES STARTING AT GATES OPEN. \$35



Once-a-year special - two games for the price of one, including ballpark food options! Sign up at any Vennelag event by June 15 or via email to vennelaglodge@gmail.com or awatrud@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAKING LEFSE FOR KAFFE STUE BOOTH/ART FAIR

We will be making lefse at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mt Horeb on Saturday, JUNE 20, 2026 starting at 8:30 AM until about 4:00 PM.

PARK IN THE RED SPACES WITH A PARKING PASS.

If you don't have a pass, see Rita Schraepfer.

Plates, napkins, & silverware will be provided. Contributions toward lunch would be welcome.

Coffee will be provided.

We will not be peeling, cooking, & ricing the potatoes; only mixing, rolling, baking and packaging. The more rollers & bakers we have, the quicker the project will be. If you are able to help make lefse, we encourage you to come & help us. We need people to roll, flip, cool, & package the lefse. Duane & Nancy Kittleson will be peeling, cooking, & ricing the potatoes ahead of time.

If you have your own equipment: griddles, sticks or rolling pins, please bring them.

Check your emails for updates. Listed below are the people who can help so far.

SATURDAY, June 20, 2026

- Rita Schraepfer
- Nancy & Duane Kittleson-

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE EMAIL RITA AT rsderke@gmail.com OR TEXT RITA AT 608-220-7565 & let her know if you can help and what you may want to contribute towards lunch.

The Art Fair will be held on SATURDAY JULY 18 & SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026 Thank you for any help you can give.

Major Changes Coming to Kaffe Stue!!

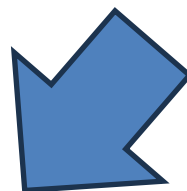
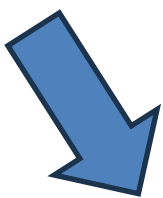
Last year saw our first attempt to change the way the mid-summer Kaffe Stue was offered to the public. This was done due to ongoing challenges in getting enough volunteer workers and adequate food supplies to handle the demand.

We partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to participate in the annual Art Fair by offering Norwegian delicacies, and in spite of the rain it seemed to work fairly well, but with challenges. For the 2026 Art Fair (July 18 and 19), we've come up with some changes to improve the process and quality of the food offerings.

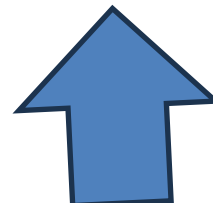
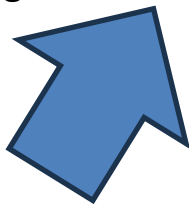
In 2026 we're going to just sell rommegrot, lefse (in packages of 3, or as a single round to eat-on-the-go), and almond cake. We think these products will stand up to the heat and humidity better than the dessert cookies and reduce the amount of pre-sale preparations needed.

But for it to work *we need your help as usual*. We need people to make enough almond cake and rommegrot to last for TWO days of sales. And as usual the lodge will be making lefse at a date to be June 20, 2026. And then we'll need sales people to work in 2 or 3 hour shifts, under a tent to offer shade.

These changes reflect a significant reduction in the workload required for the conventional Kaffe Stue and offer a tremendous forum for publicity. Please give it some serious consideration. As we always say, many hands makes for lighter work.

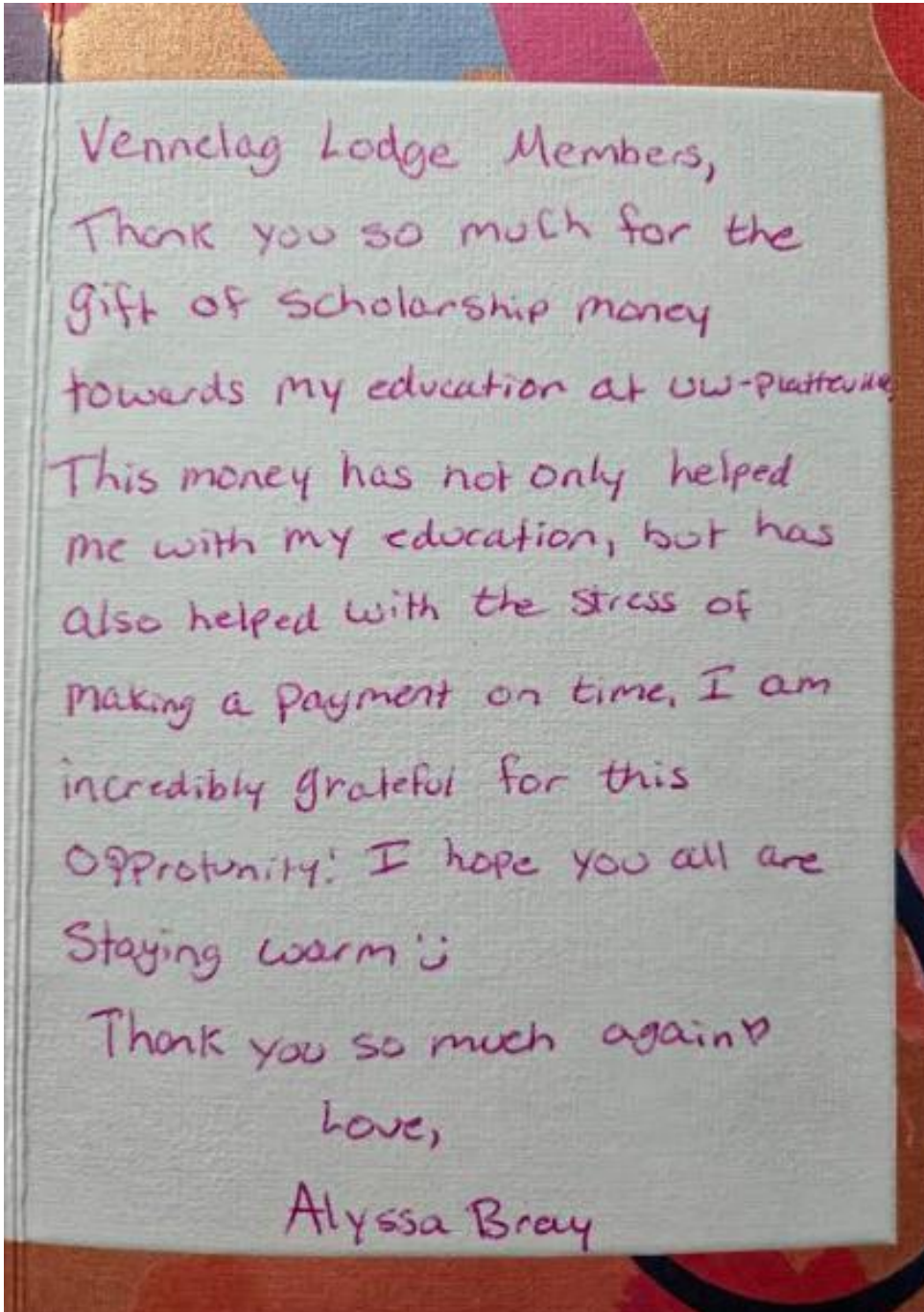


We have tentatively rescheduled the Ukelele group for September 2026 Lodge Meeting.



Vennelag Lodge Members,

Thank you so much for the gift of scholarship money towards my education at UW- Platteville. This money has not only helped me with my education but has also helped with the stress of making a payment on time. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity! I hope you all are staying warm :)



Thank you so much again

Love,
Alyssa Bray





MASSE MORO NORWEIGIAN CULTURAL SUMMER CAMP!



- NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE •
- VIKING OLYMPICS •
- ROSEMALING •
- NORDIC MYTHOLOGY •
- VIKING RUNES •
- HISTORICAL GAMES •



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HELD AT BEAVER CREEK
NATURE RESERVE IN FALL
CREEK, WISCONSIN
12-25 JULY, 2026

Fun things that have happened for the Scandihoovian Fest!



Arlene Watrud-Krueger, Ann Walser, Rita Schraepfer



**Steve Frame and
Martin Amundsen**





Mike Morkri, Allen Watrud and Maya





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Do you have a change of address?

Please inform International Headquarters (800 -945-8851 or address@sofn.com) 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.

