



Vennelag Lodge 5-513

## Vennelag News

Juli & August 2025

### Important dates to remember:

**Lodge Meeting Dates: 6:30 pm start**

**July – No meeting - - Kaffe Stue**

**August 28, 2025**

**September 25, 2025**

**\*October 16, 2025 - Change of date**

**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**

**July 9, 2025**

**August 13, 2025**

**September 10, 2025**

**October 8, 2025**

### **Mark your calendar dates –**

**July 19 – 21, 2025 - Kaffe Stue**

**July 31, 2025 – Mallards Social**

**October 9, 2025 – Lief Erikson day**

**October 3-5, 2025 – Sloopier Celebration**

**December 6, 2025 – Independence Day (Finland)**

**February 6, 2026 – National Sami Day (Norway)**

### **From the President-**

*Hei, alle sammen!*

As the poet Chaucer (or maybe it was Dennis Yost and the Classics IV) wrote, "all good things must come to an end", and so it is with these pearls of wisdom that I've been drafting every other month. This will be my last one as President. But I'm pleased to report that this column will be in good hands as Steve Frame assumes the mantle of leadership. Steve, you may recall, spearheaded the 2022 trip to Norway and looks great in his Viking regalia in parades, fundraisers, and a recent District Convention. Thanks to Steve (and wife Jane for "suggesting" it to him)!

It's been an honor and privilege to serve in this role for the past several years, including a lot of fun. It's not been without challenges. Covid in 2020 comes to mind, my first year as president. We had a great 50th anniversary dinner, and have served some wonderful meals to those coming to our breakfasts, lunches and lefse sales. Road trips to the Viking ship in Geneva, Illinois and Vesterheim were culturally enlightening. And showing off our smoke-breathing dragon float certainly is a big hit in the area parades.

So hopefully you'll think that the Lodge is still on solid footing as it was when Cheryl turned over the keys of the kingdom to me. I'll still be around to heckle Steve from the cheap seats (just kidding).

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.**

## Kaffe Stue!!!!

As you might have heard we are changing things up this year but we still need your help!

It was decided to join the Art Fair vendors in the tents so we will need volunteers to man the tent this year, **1 person cashier-ing, 5 people running around the tent gathering orders, 2 people back in the Community Center helping to prep the food items and a runner** (this person will be using an ATV so you will have to be familiar with that type of machinery). We are also switching up times this year as the Art Fair organizers prefer vendors to be there all day, meaning for us that we will have **two shifts on Saturday July 19, 2025 – one 8 to 12 and the one 12 to 5/clean up.**

Also in moving to a tent we have had to drastically reduce the number of food offerings that we are able to serve. We will be offering Rosettes, Sandbakkels, Krumkake, Rommegrot, Frycakes and of course Lefse.

**We are aiming for 20 doz Rosettes, 6 doz of Sandbakkels and 16 doz of Krumkake so we are in need of makers.** Also please keep in mind that we are short of space and if you are inclined to donate food offerings please do not donate typical bake sale items as we will not have space for them and we will be giving priority to the Norwegian items.

The items that will be accepted for offering will be Krumkake, Sandbakkels, Rosettes, Berliner Kranzer, Goro, Fattigman, etc.

To donate items it will still be the same drop off after 3 pm at the Community Center as this will be our staging area.

If you are not able to donate time or food stuffs and would like to support with money please contact our Treasurer Anna Olson - (608) 935-3915 or [oranno@frontier.com](mailto:oranno@frontier.com).

We kindly remind that we can't do these events without you.

For the August meeting we will be having a friendly game or two of Norwegian Jeopardy. This may be questions about geography, traditions or food stuffs so brush up on everything! Prizes may be given for finishing top of the Norwegian knowledge pyramid.

If Jeopardy isn't in your wheelhouse and you wish to socialize - coffee will always be served and there will be other games or cards available to strike up a new friendship over the game.

# Sons of Norway Summer Picnic for all lodges!

**Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM**

**John and Darlene Arneson's, 2056 Skaalen Road, Stoughton, WI 53589**

Join neighboring Sons of Norway- Mandt Lodge and our neighboring lodge members for a good time of fellowship and a preview of what is to come this fall. All are welcome to join us for an afternoon of visiting, fellowship, games, and then we'll play kubba at 4 PM for the usual Sunday Night Kubba at the Arneson pitch. Please bring a dish to pass. Tableware, coffee, juice, and other beverages will be provided.



## Stavanger Celebrates 900 Years

Stavanger was founded in 1125, with the completion of its cathedral. Today, this southwest coastal city stands as the country's third-largest city and is central to the country's oil and gas industry.

To mark the occasion, the city is taking the entire year to celebrate with the theme of *Stavanger 2025: Past, Present, Future*. Over the course of the year, events will occur that include themes of origin, cultural heritage, community, urban life, and natural wonder. The topics of innovation and sustainability will also be evident.

Festivities kicked off in January, with an estimated 17,000 in attendance for light festival events. Spring and summer festivities will be full of music, dance, performances, reenactments, and food celebrations. One of the biggest highlights will happen in July when the replica ship *Restauration* sets sail from Stavanger harbor to re-enact the start of Norwegian mass migration to America in 1825. The year-long commemoration will conclude in December with an event called *Into the Future*, that will focus on technology and innovation topics.



**Sons of Norway District 5 Adult Culture Weekend October 3-5, 2025**  
**“Celebrating Norwegian Immigration - The Sloop 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”**

**Schedule – Information**

2025 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first organized emigration of Norwegians to the United States. The single mast sloop, “Restauration,” sailed from Stavanger, Norway on July 4, 1825 with 52 passengers on board. This group, often referred to as the “Sloopers,” left Norway for religious freedom and new opportunities. They arrived in New York City harbor on October 9, 1825.

The New York Quakers set aside land in upstate New York, near Rochester. After nine hard years of clearing heavily forested land to farm, they sent Cleng Peerson out west in search for better farmland. He and his group of Norwegian settlers traveled to Illinois and followed the Fox River down to LaSalle County Illinois.

Polar Star and Cleng Peerson lodges are planning to celebrate Norwegian immigration and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sloop arrival in America, by presenting a 3-day culture weekend October 3-5, 2025. We will honor the history and culture of the early Norwegian-American pioneers who settled and established farms and communities on the Prairie of LaSalle County, Illinois.

Join us for a weekend of Norwegian fun featuring Sloop and Fox Valley Settlement Pioneer history, Norwegian culture and craft presentations, Norwegian games, a fun Sloop walk, a Norwegian barn dance with Norwegian folk music, a traditional Norwegian worship service, and a chance to meet descendants of those Norwegian-American immigrants at their Sloop Society Annual Meeting.

The Culture Weekend begins at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, October 3 at the Community Center in Norway, Illinois, 3667 E. 2603<sup>rd</sup> Road, Sheridan (Norway), Illinois. The schedule below provides information about:

- Pages 1 and 2: *On your way driving* to the Culture Weekend in Norway, Illinois, some extra activities you might want to check out on Thursday, October 2 or the morning of Friday, October 3.
- Page 3: Weekend activities on Friday afternoon, October 3
- Pages 4 and 5: Weekend activities on Saturday morning and afternoon, October 4
- Page 5: Weekend activities on Sunday, October 5
- Information about Lodging and Food/Restaurant Ideas

Details on all events and activities will be updated as appropriate on:

- Polar Star Lodge website: [www.polarstarlodge.com](http://www.polarstarlodge.com)
- Norsk Museum website: <https://norskmuseum.org>

Questions: Contact Barb Johnson at [barbJJohnsonB@aol.com](mailto:barbJJohnsonB@aol.com) or 630-632-2329.

**Magnus Carlsen Reviews Queen’s Gambit Chess Moves**

The Netflix original series *The Queen’s Gambit* premiered in late 2020, during the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. Set between 1958 and 1968, its main character, orphan Beth Harmon learns to play chess in grade school and becomes an elite chess player who crowds flock to watch. The show was such a sensation that it hit #1 in 12 countries, including the U.S.

The stylish drama made it cool to play chess, causing chess boards to fly off shelves and into homes while sparking the highest interest in chess since the 1970s faceoffs between Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer.

Norway is home to current world champion Magnus Carlsen, who is happy to see his sport portrayed in such a glamorous series. Netflix asked the Norwegian grandmaster to review the final game between Beth and adversary Borgov and it is fascinating to see that Carlsen thinks that the film’s chess was “very, very well done.”

## 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. One of them might just be useful for your travels this summer.

- **Best Western Hotel**- Members receive a discount of up to 10% at any of Best Western's 3,400 hotels in the United States, Canada, and select properties in Scandinavia. When making your hotel reservation, be sure and use the Business Advantage Corporate ID# \_\_\_\_\_ (log in and go to [https://www.sofn.com/member\\_resources/member\\_discounts/](https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/member_discounts/) to get the code. Codes will not be posted online and non-members can access it!) to ensure that you receive your 10% Business Advantage hotel discount at any Best Western hotel within the United States, Canada and select properties in Scandinavia. To make reservations, please visit <http://www.bestwestern.com/ba/index.asp> (the Corporate ID number is already embedded in this link – no need to manually add it). Be sure to add your Best Western Rewards number to the reservation at time of booking in order to receive all of the benefits of this program. You may also call the Business Advantage Hotline at 1-855-504-1079 and select "option 1" for Reservations. Always remember to include your individual Best Western Rewards number (provided above) on all reservations so you don't miss out on any rewards points! Please be advised that Best Western Rewards accounts are under individual traveler's names and not under your company name.

**July 31, 2025 – Join the crew to cheer on the Mallards at the game, details can be found in the previously published newsletters or email [vennelaglodge@gmail.com](mailto:vennelaglodge@gmail.com) your interest**

The 2025 Syttende Mai float crew:





**May Celebration**  
**Photo Credit: David Hansen**



***The Hansen- Masse Moro campers explaining their time at camp during the meeting.***





A fun way to “throw out” some fun during the year as we encourage lodges and SN members to be active! You can track any activities that involved throwing from June 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. We encourage your Sports Directors (or other officer) to keep track of their lodges activities and then submit one report to District Sports Director Clara Solak. We will recognize lodges that participate with certificates and recognize those who are leaders in this challenge.

You should enter the minutes as a LODGE activity (i.e bowling event) with the minutes that activity or event happened. If you have individual members throwing things by themselves and not part of a lodge event, enter those as INDIVIDUAL activities and their total minutes.

What can be thrown? Darts, cards, bowling, softball, baseball, basketball, cornhole, ladder golf, disc golf, curling, broomball, pickleball, axe, kubbs, football, badminton, tennis, dice, and more! Use your imagination!

We also encourage your members to track their individual activities to earn a Sports Medal!

Please send in a preliminary report by September 1, 2025 so we have an idea of who is participating and to help us finalize the recognition.

The reports can be emailed to District 5 Sports Director Clara Solak at [clara.solak23@gmail.com](mailto:clara.solak23@gmail.com) or hard copy at 836 Bennington Drive, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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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](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com).

**\*Find us on the web:** [www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org](http://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.**