



Vennelag News

Juli – August 2026

Important dates to remember:

Lodge Meeting Dates: 6:30 - pm start

July – no meeting Kaffe Stue July 18 & 19
August 27, 2026
September 24, 2026
October 29, 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

July 8, 2026
August 12, 2026
September 9, 2026
October 14, 2026
November 11, 2026
December 9, 2026

Mark your calendar dates –

July 18 & 19 2026 – Kaffe Stue at Art faire
August – District Convention in Stoughton
September 17 to 18, 2026 - Lefse Baking
October 2 to 3, 2026 - Frokost
October 9, 2026 – Lief Erikson day
November 7, 2026 – Baking Workshop
December 6, 2026 – Independence Day (Fin)
February 6, 2027 - National Sami Day (NE)

Kjaere Venner (Dear Friends) & Hei alle (Hello everyone)!

The days are growing longer for us in Wisconsin, and our Vennelag lodge has been busy with our Lodge buzzing with activity. We have participated in city parades with our Lodge float, celebrated Syttende Mai activities, held interesting monthly lodge meetings and are looking forward to upcoming moments we can all enjoy and share together.

We have a number of Lodge activities planned for the summer and into the fall so don't be shy, stop on by the Lodge and say hello!

A warm takk to many of our members who have volunteered their time in creating a great environment for our lodge meeting speakers, food/treats and planning. A thank you also to Mike and Barb Morkri for their efforts in planning and coordinating the Lodge sponsored trip and successful raffle to Norway this summer. It does not go unnoticed!

Norway tidbit.....

Did you know that in Norway, Midsummer eve (sankthansaften) is celebrated with bonfires along the coast to honor the longest day of the year?

Whether you are a long-time member or just discovering our lodge, we'd love to see you at our next event!

Velkommen!

Harley & Allen - Co-Presidents

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.



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

Kaffe Stue – Don't forget to support the Kaffe Stue contact Rita if you are able to volunteer.



Returning in August Dana Kelly serves as the Executive Director of NAGC. An avid genealogist, her first experience with the center was as a member researching her family 25 years ago. Dana's passion for family history led her to a Scandinavian Studies degree from UW-Madison where she learned to speak, read and write Norwegian. She has served on the board of directors for the Koshkonong Prairie Historical Society since 2009 and is a member of several Norwegian cultural and genealogical organizations including Sons of Norway, Vesterheim, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, Dane County Area Genealogical Society, and International Society of Online Genetic Genealogists. She and her husband, Gary Swain, have a dairy farm and three children.

Summary of the Program that Dana will be talking about:

Year 2025 marked the 200th anniversary of organized Norwegian immigration to North America. Dana Kelly will share the story of that first historic voyage as well as photos from the voyage of the replica "Restaurasjon" to New York in 2025.

September Program:

The Wauna-Strummers of Waunakee and Prairie-Strummers of Sun Prairie are ukulele enthusiasts who gather weekly to sing and play their instruments. The two clubs combined have over 150 members on their mailing lists, and usually have between 30 and 50 strummers attending each of their weekly sessions. They share their talents often with many different venues, from Salvation Army Bell Ringing, to assisted living facilities, Friday Night Fish Fries, and various community activities. Many of the members are retirees who have only started playing ukulele in the last few years.



We look forward to sharing some familiar tunes with Vennelag Lodge on September, 24, 2026.



Gratulerer!!!!



Avery Kimmerly, Vennelag member and benefit owner, is a 2026 Foundation scholarship winner! Her scholarship was made possible by District 3's Nordkap Lodge. She is the valedictorian of her graduating class at Williams Bay High School. Recently, she was awarded the John Phillip Sousa Award for musical excellence. She plans to double major in biology and chemistry at UW Madison.

Gratulerer til (Congratulations to) our 2025-2026 scholarship recipients:



Our high school recipients are:

Adalynn Hendrickson from Belleville- Addie has been accepted to the UW Madison and is planning on going into the field of education.

Anna Tranel from Mt. Horeb- Anna has been accepted to the UW Madison and is planning on going into the sciences to do hands-on

work with the ecosystem.

Our post-secondary recipients are:

Natalia Watrud- Natalie will continue in her studies towards a nursing degree at Edgewood University.

Dillon Walser - Dillon has been accepted as a junior transfer student UW Whitewater to the UW Madison. He will continue his studies toward a finance major.

One of the Raffle Drawing Winners:





Norwegian Forest Cats

The Norwegian Forest cats are a long-haired breed, part of their coat can make a ruff around their head, that made their home in Norway for many hundred years.

They typically come in solid orange to tabby to tortoise shell coats, also they are a larger breed of cat as in they are on the heavier than your normal cat, 12 lbs for the female and around 16 lbs for the male. These cats join the group of mammals that have double coat layers like the German Shepard or Polar Bear and are not a huge fan of the hot or humid Wisconsin summers because of this fluffy addition to their wardrobe. They also join the Seasonal Coat Color group that includes Snowshoe Hare and Stoats –many of the cats have been known to change their coats with the seasons.



As any good Norwegian these felines are good family cats and work well in many situations as they are very adaptable. This is evident in the fact that they are excellent sailors, who would take them on board as mouser for their ships.

Additionally, the fact that many of these cats are orange/red are due to the Egyptians. It can be believed that the Vikings were so enthralled by the genetic mutation that is the orange that they saved the coloring from becoming extinct. The ancient Egyptians bred orange cats for their god Bast as they were used as offerings.

Sources: *Cool Cats – Norwegian Forest Cats*; Domini Brown *Norwegian Forest Cats*; Nancy Furstinger

Photo source: Flickr



We got word that two of the Hansens are heading back to Masse Moro.

Can't wait to hear about their time at Camp!

Norwegian Princess in Australia

It has been revealed that Norway's Princess Ingrid Alexandra started her university studies at St. Andrew's College in Sydney, Australia in August, 2025. The news was first leaked when an email went out to students from the college's principal and was soon confirmed in a press release from the palace.

Her schooling plans include a three-year Bachelor of Arts degree for international relations and political economy studies. The 21-year-old plans to live on campus, to best integrate into university life.

Due to her royal background, the school expects that there will be media interest and inquiries into the princess' time there, but the school will have ongoing reminders to students and others that the princess' privacy should be respected. The school is already well-versed in handling high profile students on their campus.

The princess follows in the footsteps of her mother, Crown Princess Mette-Marit, who also spent time studying abroad in Australia when she was a high school student.

Harley Skjervem, Co -Pres/VP 1

Phone: (608) 829-1728

Email: Vennelaglodge@gmail.com

Anna Olson, Treasurer

Phone: (608) 935-3915

Email: oranno@frontier.com

Mary Gullickson-Kranz, Secretary

Phone:

Email: vennelagsecretary@gmail.com

Allen Watrud, Co – Pres/VP 2

Phone: (609) 772-1969

Email: Vennelaglodge@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

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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.

