



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Budstikken

Wergeland Lodge #5/028 P.O. Box 3591, La Crosse, WI 54602-3591

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Facebook: [Sons of Norway La Crosse Wergeland Lodge](#) July/Aug 2026 Vol 61 Issue 7

Fra Presidenten



I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer.

Our August 6th meeting is going to be our usual summer picnic. Hotdogs will be provided but everyone should bring a dish to pass.

Hope to see you there at the Henry J Olson Senior Center Thursday August 6th at 6 pm.

- Dave



Kornfest Parade August 15!

Walk with us (or come and cheer) for Wergeland Lodge! The Holmen Kornfest Parade is on August 15. Line up on Johnson Street at around 10:30 a.m.; the parade starts at 11:00. Please contact Carla Burkhardt if you plan to walk with us.

Wergeland Kalender

- ♦ Aug 6—6:00 Wergeland Lodge Meeting Harry J. Olson Senior Center, 1607 North St., La Crosse, WI
- ♦ Aug 11—Wergeland Board Meeting, 5:30 Perkins
- ♦ Aug 15—11:00 am Holmen Kornfest Parade
- ♦ Aug 17—Deadline for Budstikken articles
- ♦ Aug 27—Budstikken mailed to members
- ♦ Sept 3—6:00 Wergeland Lodge Meeting Harry J. Olson Senior Center, 1607 North St., La Crosse, WI
- ♦ Sept 23—11:00 am – 5:30 pm Chicken Q at Bridgeview Plaza

Chicken Q September 23!

We have set a date for our Chicken Q fundraiser and tickets to sell will be available at the August 6 Lodge meeting. See p. 2 for more details and start making a list of everyone you will sell tickets to!



PROGRAM FOR AUGUST

Picnic Potluck! Program by Hannah Scholze

AUGUST 6 POTLUCK PICNIC!!!

Hotdogs, buns, & condiments will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

(On the signup sheet from the June meeting: **Salads:** Tracey Grinde, Linda Sherwood, Sylvia Attleson.

Desserts: Lynn Curtis, Lee Grippen, Kathy Anderson, Karan Mathison)



Members are asked to donate \$3-5



Birthdays August

21 Dennis H Anderson
14 Susan J Corbisier
19 Lynn M Curtis
06 Kent R Drugan
14 Ingrid A Fowler
21 Mary Everson Ivalis
16 Heather Jacobson
07 Ramona J Johnson
11 Sandra K Kawatski
16 Gary M Knudtson
20 Nathan L Loper
09 Knute P Temte
25 Brian D Rude

Program for September

Donald Fox: The Cover Girl and Kierkegaard

Sekretær Notater...

President Dave brings meeting to order at 6:00. We proceed to receive our lunch. Pledge was said, our "National Anthem", Fedreløssang, and "O Canada" were sung. Secretary's report was printed in the Budstikken and approved as printed. Treasurer's report was read and approved as read. \$250.00 was given to Lilly Jacobson for camp in Spring Grove.

Deaths - a moment of silence was observed for those we have lost.

Guests were introduced.

Raffle: \$20.00 Winners - Don Fox & Kathy Anderson

Ramona reports on Harry J. housekeeping after meeting: chairs need to 4 high, clean off tables & sinks, replace books in bookcase. We need to keep this place clean.

Norwegian Birthday song: We were directed by Sandra Kawatski in singing the Norwegian birthday song.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00

Members present - 36

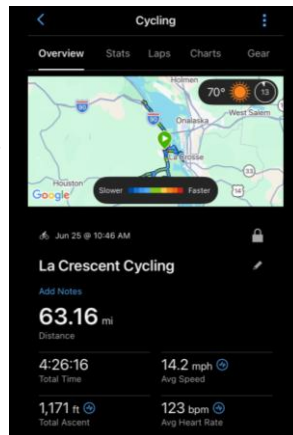
Lee Grippen introduces Larry Scheckel for a program on the "Driftless Area."

Secretary, Kathy Anderson

Tusen Takk til...

...**Dave Glomstad**, who completed his annual Bicycle Ride to benefit Wergeland Scholarships. You can still donate at the August meeting.

...**Carol Stekel**, who provided some of the photos from Sangerfest and Midtsommer this month!



Treasurer's Report:

May 31, 2026 checking balance	\$2924.36
May 31, 2026 scholarship balance	\$1386.00
May 31, 2026 savings balance	\$6914.36
May 31, 2026 Wergeland has	\$11,224.72
June 30, 2026 checking balance	\$2405.43
June 30, 2026 scholarship balance	\$776.00
June 30, 2026 savings balance	\$6957.06
June 30, 2026 Wergeland has	\$10,138.49



Chicken Q September 23! Start Spreading the Word (& sell lots of tickets!)

The Chicken Q will be held from 11:00 am – 5:30 pm on Wednesday, September 23. The location is the parking lot of Bridgeview Plaza (near the Blue Zone Pickleball courts and Harbor Freights store).

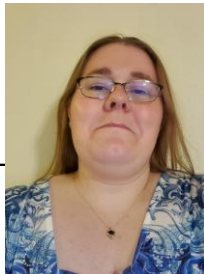
This will be a nice fundraiser for our lodge! We need to sell 300 tickets in advance, so you may take as many tickets as you plan to sell. The tickets will be numbered so we know who has them. The tickets will be available at the August meeting and are available now from Heather Jacobson, 360-259-9935. Bring the money from your sales to the Sept 3 Lodge meeting; sales deadline is September 10.

On September 23, we also will need some folks to help serve the chicken. A signup sheet will be passed around at the August meeting. If you have any questions or need more tickets, please contact Heather Jacobson or Adrian Johnson 608-788-7507.

Program for August: Hannah Scholze: Cornerstone of Faith: The Beginning of Norwegian Lutheran Congregations in La Crosse County, Wisconsin

After La Crosse County was established in 1851, it began to be rapidly settled by a number of European immigrant groups—including Norwegians who were drawn to the fertile farmland of the ridges and coulees in the La Crosse area. The first Norwegian Lutheran congregations in La Crosse County were not within the City of La Crosse, but in the rural areas of Bostwick Valley, Lewis Valley, La Crosse Valley, and Halfway Creek.

Local historian and genealogist, Hannah Scholze, will discuss the early history of these four Norwegian Lutheran churches—many of which are still around today—including the growth of each church and community, the various hardships they faced and overcame, and how Halfway Creek became the “Cradle of Luther College.”



Tri-Lodge Meeting

Westby's Solvang Lodge, Spring Grove's Valheim Lodge, and Winona's Nor-Win Lodge gathered in La Crescent on July 9 for a potluck meal

and a presentation by author John Armbruster, author of the book “Tailspin”. Lee invited Dave Glomstad and Carla Burkhardt to the event.

Kathy and Mike Anderson pose with his 1978 Pontiac TransAm, which was on display in the June Dairy Days (West Salem) car show.



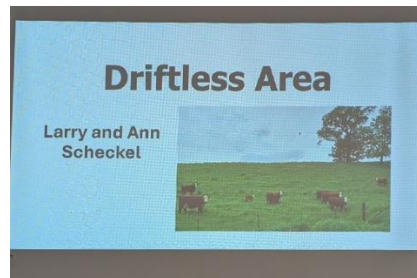
From the June meeting: The Driftless Area

Larry and Ann Scheckel from Tomah gave the program on this “driftless” part of Wisconsin. Larry has authored a number of books, including *Country School Days: True Tales of a Wisconsin One-Room School* and various science books.

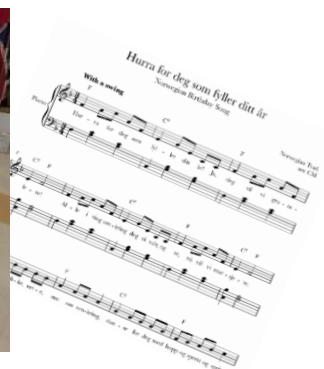


Larry shared facts and photos of the region's state parks, rivers, historical markers, and geological features (such as frac sand and lead mines). The area is also home to Organic Valley, Amish communities, and a number of wineries. An impressive visitor center has been established

in Lansing, IA. Spanning 24,000 square miles, the beautiful features of the unglaciated terrain cannot be taken for granted!



At our June meeting, we celebrated June and July birthdays. **Sandra Kawatski, Ingrid Iverson, and Gregg Attleson** led the singing of the Norwegian Birthday Song. Thank you for the pronunciations! We will add this to our repertoire and our songbooks!





Dis og Dat



Adrian and Ramona Johnson drove to Boise, Idaho, to attend grandson Mark Yenor's graduation from high school. He graduated summa cum laude and plans to attend Boise State to study pre-medicine.

Lilly Jacobson got five chicks for her 12th birthday. Their names are Henrietta, Glenda, Moon Watcher, Martha Stewart, and Stella. She also got a beta fish named Tsunami.

From **Karen Broadhead**: I received a call from Lori Epperly, a sister to Wesley Bangsberg (deceased) who was once a member of Wergeland. She had a framed certificate with names of **charter members** of Wergeland which has been in the Bangsberg family for several generations (since 1908); however, as the remaining siblings in her family are all aging, they were disposing of and donating some family items. She asked if Wergeland would like to have this framed certificate. So, I have picked it up and can bring it to the August meeting.

Dennis and Ann Sprain and 7 family members left on June 7 for Greece where their grandson, Nick Rudrud, is spending the summer abroad learning to sail. They spent time between the island Skopelos and Thessaloniki. While their family members returned home, Dennis and Ann spent the next week touring Norway. Ann & Dennis are pictured below with grandson, Tyson and daughter, Kathryn.

Nick (below left) will return to his final year at Iowa State in September where he is majoring in Cybersecurity. Nick was grateful to receive the Wergeland scholarship in 2024.



Looking Back

Fem år siden (5 years ago) 2021

Arthur Ford celebrated his 100th birthday. He joined the Sons of Norway in 1991. Arthur felt blessed to have reached this milestone birthday.

Nordic Fest was held in Decorah for the 54th year. The theme was Skål Nordic Fest: The Festival with Heart.

Ti år siden (10 years ago) 2016

St. Olav's Day is celebrated across Norway on July 29. Saint Olav's Day is an official Flag Day and Norwegian Feast Day commemorating the accomplishments, contributions, and memory of Olav II Haraldsson, otherwise known as the Patron Saint of Norway, Norway's Eternal King or Saint Olav.

The national exhibition of Norwegian folk art is at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American museum in Decorah, Iowa. The exhibition featured articles from

four different categories: Rosemaling, weaving, woodworking and knife making.

Femten år siden (15 years ago) 2011

Wergeland member Elwood Harebo was honored at the graduation at Logan High School in La Crosse. He was elected to the Logan Wall of Fame in honor of his many years officiating sports, working with youth and community organizations.

Owen Christianson provided July's program, "Eat Like a Viking." He took a trip back through time to the age of the Vikings. Owen uses Scandinavian turning to show how Vikings ate, drank, worked, and played with objects made by turning on a lathe.

Til minner om...

...**Mark Quade**, who passed away on June 3, 2026, at the age of 78. Services were held on June 13 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Mark was a news anchor for WKBT for a number of years, and was active in music, including the Chamber Chorale.

...**Terry Loper**, who passed away on May 24, 2026, at the age of 80. A celebration of life was held on June 7 at the Sparta American Legion. His military service and career with the Department of Defense spanned 41 years. Our thoughts are with his wife, **Nancy**, and their family.



Gratulerer til...

...**Glenn Borreson** on the 55th anniversary of his ordination. He provided the following: Glenn Borreson was ordained in his home congregation, North Beaver Creek Lutheran parish (Faith), on Sunday, May 23, 1971. He is a graduate of Luther College and earned his M. Div. and M.Th. degrees from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. He served five parishes in his ministry: in South Wayne, Elroy, Mauston, Decorah, and most recently, Holmen Lutheran Church from where he retired in 2009. In his retirement, Glenn has presented Norwegian-American history programs and shared "The Last Chapter" blog with colleagues for five years. He is the author of seven books, most recently a book of musings entitled "In the Darkness, Light." He and his wife Mary continue to live in Holmen.



Wergeland Scholarship 2026 Awards

Congratulations to our **Wergeland Scholarship** winners! Two college sophomores will be awarded a certificate and \$300 scholarship at the August meeting.

Asta Griggs, of Dakota, MN, is the granddaughter of **Wayne & Elsie Olson**. She is studying pre-medicine at the University of Dubuque with plans to become a doctor, physician assistant, or dentist. Asta says that Sons of Norway has been a large part of her family's history and has helped them know more about their heritage.



Brady Ferner, from Charlotte, NC, is studying Finance and Banking at Appalachian State University. He is the grandson of **Char Smith** and is thankful for the scholarship which will help fund his studies. He appreciates the connection to his Norwegian heritage through this award.



Jack Broadhead, grandson of **Karen Broadhead**, received the Nordkap Lodge Scholarship. Nordkap Lodge is located near Detroit. Jack is a sophomore at UW-Whitewater.



(to the left:) The Wergeland Kubb set (made by **Dave Glomstad**) saw the light of day at **Carla Burkhardt's** family reunion. The instructions were up for debate, but several rounds were enjoyed. Easton, Carla's son-in-law, is pictured on the right.



A Great Celebration of Norwegian Choruses

Sangerfest 2026 convened at the La Crosse Center June 12 - 13 with Norwegian Mens' Choruses from Madison, Minneapolis, Chicago, and Decorah. This conference is held every other year and hasn't been held in La Crosse since 1906.

Joe Grødahl, director of Giants of the Earth Heritage Center, is also the current president of the Norwegian Singers Association of America (NSAA). The combined choruses gave a wonderful concert on Saturday evening that included sets by the La Crosse Coulee Chordsmen and soprano Adrianna Tam. Volunteers for the event were drawn from the Westby Solvang Lodge and the La Crosse Wergeland Lodge. Pictured below are **David Hendrickson, Carla Burkhardt, Heather & Lilly Jacobson, Karen Broadhead**, Diane Piper, Karen Hankee, Judy Gates, and **Adrian & Ramona Johnson. Lee Grippen**, a member of the Luren Singers, was decked out in white (with his St. Olav's medal) for the concert.



The Dancers at Norskedalen

The **Wergeland Dancers** performed at the Midsummer Fest at Norskedalen on June 20, 2026. Sandra Kawatski and the Dancers are wonderful ambassadors of our Lodge and of Norwegian Music and Dance.



Remember, **Music In The Valley** concerts continue on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30. See <https://www.norskedalen.org/events/> for info.



2027 Officer Nomination Time!

As 2027 is just around the corner, we are working on our Lodge's roster of hardworking officers. If anyone wants to leave their position or add a different one, please let Carla Burkhardt or Ramona Johnson know.

President	_____	Historian	Meg Canepa
Vice President	Heather Jacobson	Greeter	Lee Grippen
Counselor	Dave Glomstad	Marshall	Arlen Henderson
Secretary	Kathy Anderson	Marshall	Gary Knudtson
Volunteer coordinator	Carla Burkhardt	Marshall	Mark Dregne
Membership Secretary	Karen Broadhead	Marshall	Royce Curtis
Treasurer	_____	Marshall	Dan Rogne
Assistant Treasurer, Raffle	Kathi Beane	Marshall	_____
Social Director Chair	Linda Sherwood	Auditor 1st year	_____
Social Comm. special meals	Diana Hobson	Auditor 2nd year	Karen Broadhead
Social Comm. special meals	_____	Trustee 1st year	_____
Social Comm. Jan-Apr	Dave Glomstad	Trustee 2nd year	Gregg Attleson
Social Comm. Jan-Apr	Pam Knudtson	Budstikken Editor	Carla Burkhardt
Social Comm. Jan-Apr	Jim Michelson	Picture Editor & Webmaster	Carla Burkhardt
Social Comm. Aug-Nov	Ann Sprain	Librarian	Pam Knudtson
Social Comm. Aug-Nov	Lynn Curtis	Stamps Chairperson	Marilyn Rudser
Co-Foundation director	Ilene Pavelko	Goodwill-Fliptops	Vivian Sacia
Co-Foundation director	Karen Saegrove	Scholarship committee	Carla Burkhardt
Sports Director	Carla Burkhardt	Scholarship committee	Karen DeSchepper
Cultural/Program	Lynn Curtis	Wergeland Dancers Chair	Sandra Kawatski
Cultural/Program	Dave Glomstad	Salvation Army Bell Ringing	Carla Burkhardt
Cultural/Program	Lee Grippen	Installing Officer 2027	David Glomstad
Cultural/Program	_____	Installing Officer 2027	Karen Broadhead
Co-Musician	Karan Mathison	Installing Officer 2027	Pam Knudtson
Co-Musician	Ramona Johnson		

Whale Watching

Seeing whales off the coast of Norway is not highly unusual. However, seeing a beluga whale swimming in a river near Oslo is. Recently, residents along the Drammenselva river spotted a Beluga whale swimming upstream. Word spread of the strange sight, drawing onlookers and gawkers alike.



Beluga whales are distinct in appearance, with their white coloring and lack of a dorsal fin. These adaptations help them navigate under ice better when they are in their more natural environment of the Arctic. While they have been known to stray off course from time to time and end up in rivers like this one, it is likely the lost whale will find its way back to the sea in time and will have better food options once it does.

In the meantime, marine experts warn that the animal should not be disturbed, and boats should do their best to avoid going near it. They state that if the animal becomes stressed, it runs a higher risk of getting beached and unable to get back into the water.

Sons of Norway
Wergeland Lodge #5/028
P.O. Box 3591
La Crosse, WI 54602-3591

AUGUST 2026



OFFICERS TO CONTACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

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Vice President – Heather Jacobson 360-259-9935
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e-mail: r16464650@gmail.com

Membership Secretary – Karen Broadhead 608-788-2485
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*Send notices of deaths or address changes to the
Membership Secretary*

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Sons of Norway Fraternal Benefit Counselor -
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W1741 Easterson Rd. Eleva, WI 54738
e-mail: hevestnes@gmail.com

Norskedalen Activities

Throne Visitors Center

Hours From May - Oct:
Monday-Saturday from 9am--5pm
Sunday from 11am--4pm



*Admission rates for all programs with
Heritage classes is \$10.00 for adults (\$6 for
seniors/military), \$5.00 for children, \$25.00 for families,
and free for members of "Friends of Norskedalen."*

All visitors, including Norskedalen organization members,
should check in at the Throne Visitors' Center for your
admissions, wristband, maps and information.

Norskedalen Members may use the Norskedalen grounds
365 days a year from sunrise to sunset. Member parking
pass must be clearly displayed in front windshield while
using Norskedalen grounds.

Non-members may only use Norskedalen grounds during
regular business hours and must check-in with office staff
to pay admissions and receive a wristband.

Norskedalsn phone: 608-452-3424

Website: www.norskedalen.org

Email: infor@norskedalen.org
