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Facebook: [Sons of Norway La Crosse Wergeland Lodge](#) Mar 2026 Vol 61 Issue 3

Fra Presidenten



I hope to see everyone at the March 5th meeting. I hope the weather continues to be as nice as it was on Valentine's Day. Stay safe and be careful if we have more snow and severe cold.

See you in March.

- Dave



Some Notes!

- Yes, this Budstikken is **early!!** I (Carla) will be in an area with unreliable Wi-Fi at the end of February, so am sending this early just in case.
- See p. 4 about a **Feb 28 program in Westby**
- We need **Lunch Providers** for March! See below.
- The serving/social committees need **more volunteers**. Job description:
 1. Arrive early to make coffee.
 - 2 Set out the food.
 - 3 Clean up after lunch is served.

Talk to Ramona :)

Wergeland Kalender

- ◆ Mar 5—6:00 Wergeland Lodge Meeting Harry J. Olson Senior Center, 1607 North St., La Crosse, WI
- ◆ Mar 10 —Wergeland Board Meeting, 5:30 Perkins
- ◆ Mar 16—Deadline for Budstikken articles
- ◆ Mar 26—Budstikken mailed to members
- ◆ Apr 2—6:00 Wergeland Lodge Meeting, Harry J. Olson Senior Center, 1607 North St., La Crosse



PROGRAM FOR MARCH

Pioneering Sandagers

LUNCH PROVIDERS NEEDED!

(The signup sheet wasn't passed around at the February meeting.)

Sandwiches: We need 4 people to bring 2 dozen sandwiches each

Cake or bars: We need 3 people to bring a 18-piece cake

Pickles: 2 or 3 jars

Fruit or vegetable tray: 2 needed

Please call Ramona 608-788-7507 or Linda 608-784-9788 if you will bring an item. Members are asked to donate \$5





Birthdays March

01 Marilyn L Silbaugh
 03 Lori Anne Dubczak
 04 Jean A Davis
 04 Nancy N Solberg
 06 David D Christianson
 07 Cathy Jo Ells
 08 Pamela J Knudtson
 09 Susan K Renner
 10 Debra A Roe
 10 Terry L Loper
 11 Kathryn R Beane
 16 Elsie K Olson
 16 Marlene C Mc Cabe
 20 Karen A DeSchepper
 22 Lee E Grippen
 24 Mary E Cary
 25 Charles E Hanson
 26 Annika Tanke
 26 Robert Carlson
 27 Hannah Tanke
 28 Mark Joel Quade
 28 Karen Ann Saegrove
 29 Jayden Loper Schmitt

Audit Committee Report

On January 27th, your auditors examined the Lodge financial records and found them to be accurate and in excellent order. We wish to compliment and thank Treasurer **Adrian Johnson**, who with the help of Assistant Treasurer **Kathi Beane**, are responsible for this result.

**-Auditors Karen Broadhead and
Adrian Hagen**

Program for April

For the Love of Cod – Eric Dregne

Sekretær Notater...

Minutes from the February 5 Wergeland Lodge Meeting

President Dave calls meeting to order at 6:30.

Pledge was said and our "National Anthem" "Fedrelanssang" 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.

Raffle: \$19.00 Winners - Dan Rogne and Don Fox

Carla: She is collecting cookies for the Barnebirke! If you didn't bring them tonight, contact her!

May peace and harmony reign in our lodge.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47.

Members present - 40

Program: Liz Bucheit - Sami Jewelry - She owns a store called Crown Trout Jewelers in Lansboro, MN.

Secretary, Kathy Anderson

Treasurer's Report:

Jan 31, 2026 checking balance	\$1593.83
Jan 31, 2026 scholarship balance	\$1510.00
Jan 31, 2026 savings balance	\$8366.72
Jan 31, 2026 Wergeland has	\$11,470.55

Scholarship Applications are Open!

District 5 Scholarships due soon

District 5 Scholarships have **March 16** deadlines. Application links can be found at sonsofnorway5.com/financial/district_scholarships.php (in the right-hand column). Note that the first two (International Summer School Scholarship and Norwegian Folk High School Scholarship) have unique requirements; youth who are interested in qualifying for these scholarships in future years might want to look at the requirements now.

The more general Academic Scholarships are the Olav J. Eide Scholarship, the Cyril K. Wittrock Scholarship, and the District 5 Lodge Academic Scholarship.

Program for March: Pioneering Sandagers

Some of the first Norwegians to cross the Mississippi River and settle in Winneshiek County faced incredible hardships in their early years. Karla Brown's great-great-grandfather Endre Sandager (pictured) and his sister Eli joined their older brother Thore south of Decorah in 1850 and within eight years all but one sibling joined them there. There was one of three incorporators of Luther College and became close to the first minister ordained in Norway to be called west of the Mississippi, Reverend U.V. Koren. Karla has photographs and artifacts that bring to life the harsh realities faced by early immigrants in this area and the role their faith played in helping them endure and thrive.



Karla has lived in Decorah since 2016 and works part-time at Vesterheim Museum. She is a member of the Valdres lodge and has done numerous presentations in the Decorah area, as well as in Minnesota and Wisconsin on this topic and about a trip to Norway in 1908 that her great-great-aunt and husband took using postcards and letters from their voyage.



The elaborate wedding brooches worn by a Sámi bride are quite large to ward off evil spirits. At right, the sleeping accommodations for part of their trip to the Sámi region.

From February's Meeting: Sámi Jewelry

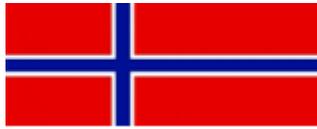
In February, we learned about the Sámi people of northern Scandinavia from jewelry designer, Liz Bucheit. Liz and her husband, Michael, spent three weeks touring and researching the traditions of the Sámi, focusing on clothing and jewelry/adornment.

Reindeer have been vital to Sámi life; all parts of the reindeer have value – the hide, the meat, and the bones (utensils, carving). Reindeer products were traded for silver (ie, a bone-carved spoon traded for a silver spoon). Fun fact: reindeer eyes change color from summer to winter so that they can see moss thru the snow.

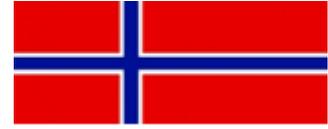
The Sámi believe they are the children of the sun. The use of jewelry and ribbon is especially apparent in wedding traditions. For instance, the belt of a single man has different shapes than that of a married man. The large pin/brooch worn by the bride wards off evil spirits. The bride also wears a jeweled crown.



Liz crafts beautiful jewelry (such as her pendant in the above photo) and owns Crown Trout Jewelers in Lanesboro, MN. More about Liz's artwork can be found at crowntroutonline.com. This would be a nice road trip for members when the days are warmer.



Dis og Dat



Albert Cobisier-Berge's team won the Scandinavian Innovation Award 1st place. Albert is 14 and the grandson of **Gary & Sue Corbisier**.

Linda Sherwood is wearing the same sweater that the Norwegians wore in the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics. The beautiful Dale sweater was sent to her by her son, who lives in Park City, Utah.



Wergeland Lodge member directories will be available at the March Lodge meeting. Officers and Directors get a complimentary copy. Others may purchase one for \$5.

HISTORY ALIVE PROJECT
Presents:
Lars Idar Waage
Stavanger, Norway

PROGRAM
A Dying Norway - In a Living America

Date: February 28, 2026
Place: Basement of Our Saviors Church
Main St. Westby
Time: 1:30 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Lars is a photojournalist from Norway who has presented at the Norsk Museum IL, Norway House in MN & Seamens Church in New York City

Looking Back

Fem år siden (5 years ago) 2021

The Wergeland Lodge received a thank you note and certificate from the Salvation Army for our support over the holidays.

Nordic-inspired ways to celebrate spring:

- Be inspired by natural beauty.
- Make your favorite Norwegian cookie or bread.
- Every Spring bring change to our lives.
- Enjoy a walk in the warming weather.
- Explore a new cultural skill.
- Fill a bird feeder and birdbath for the returning migratory birds.

As you go about your day, live your Nordic values with simple acts of kindness to others and add joyful moments to your life.

Ti år siden (10 years ago) 2016

The youth group from Masse Moro SON Camp reenacted an original play of the lives of the kings of Norway and significant events. The play was based on Anders Kvåle Rue book Kings of Norway.

Corrie Maki Knudson was introduced as the new Sons of Norway International foundation director. She has expertise in various areas of development as well as experience in finance and operations.

Femten år siden (15 years ago) 2011

Vice President Kent Sween presented Darlene Erickson with her Golden Member certificate and pin. A Golden Member is awarded for being a SON member for 30 years and being 65+ years old.

For the second year in a row Norway ranked top of the United Nations Human Development Index's Best Country to Live In. The ranking included data on health, education, income, and economic. Each country is given a Human Development Index (HDI) score which placed Norway 1st out of 169 countries.

Tusen Takk til...

...the **Cookie Bakers** who contributed to the District 5's annual cookie feed at the **Barnebirkie in Hayward**. Carla Burkhardt delivered 37 dozen cookies (with more cookies donated from around District 5) and helped serve them to the littles who skied on Thursday, Feb 19. Around 500 kids skied the Barnebirkie and enjoyed the cookies!



Red Hats – a Symbol of Freedom

Perhaps you have noticed a lot of red hats being worn this winter. We have all heard of the protests on the news from Minneapolis. Well, it turns out that this red hat business has quite a history.

In ancient Rome, a soft felt cap called the [pileus](#) served as a symbol of free men and also was symbolically given to slaves thereby granting them their personal liberty as citizens with the right to vote. Following the [assassination of Julius Caesar](#) in 44 BCE, [Brutus](#) and his co-conspirators used this symbolism of the *pileus* to signify the end of Caesar's [dictatorship](#) and a return to the republican system.

A red hat also appeared during the French Revolution. The red cap symbolized liberty and freedom from tyranny. It represented the liberation of the working class and the overthrow of the monarchy.

Norway also popularized the red hat during WWII as a protest against occupation by the Nazis, until it was banned in 1942.

Anja Hysvær Langgât, conservator at the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History, said the Norwegian flag was also banned during the German occupation. The Norwegians then used Christmas cards with gnomes with red hats to continue their protests. It was said that the people at that time could even be put in prison for wearing a red hat. After that came the familiar paper clip symbol as a protest sign. *Image: etsy.com/shop/PaintAndStitchStudio*



I have crocheted a red hat for someone I know who wants to also wear it as a protest symbol. As one can see, it's nothing new and will probably be used again as a symbol of freedom in the future.

Contributed by Carol Stekel

New Member: Tracey Grinde

Welcome, new Wergeland Lodge Member, **Tracey Grinde**! Tracey is semi-retired, using her sewing skills for alterations of wedding & bridesmaid dresses, men's suits, etc. She has a shop near Center 90 in Onalaska.

Tracey has quite a connection to Norway. She writes, "My Mother's side of the family is mostly Norwegian. Family history is a bit thin, but my mother thought her Grandpa Sever Simenson came from Lillehammer when he was 4 years old. I grew up with lutefisk and lefse. (Ask me about my first taste of Lutefisk). On my father's side, I have ancestors that fought in the American Revolution. My daughter, Josie, married a nice Norwegian man (Kim) she met while she was doing a semester of study abroad in BO, Norway. They live in Hammerfest, where he was born and raised."

Her love of sewing extends to fabrics and needlework. She writes, "I love the Bunads and needle arts of Norway. I attended a couple of week-long classes to learn the construction side of Bunads. I made a silk brocade vest, wool pants, linen blouse, and an everyday bunad. The fabrics used in the bunads are exceptional. I came away from those classes knowing I had only scratched the surface of what there is to know about the Norwegian folk costumes. I have done some Hardanger needlework. My favorite was the baptism gown I made for my youngest daughter. I have a kit to make a Telemark purse."

She concludes, "I'm happy to part of Wergeland Lodge. I especially enjoy the programs that have been presented at the meetings." Please introduce yourself to Tracey when you see her!

Hurra for deg som fyller ditt år

Norwegian Birthday Song

Norwegian Trad.
arr. CM

With a swing

Piano

Hur - ra for deg som fyl - ler ditt år! Ja, deg vil vi gra - tu -

le - re! Al - le i ring om - kring deg vi står, og se, nå vil vi mar - sje - re.

Buk - ke, nik - ke, nei - e, snu oss om - kring, dan - se for deg med hopp og sprett og spring.

Øns ke deg av hjert - et al - le go - de ting! Og si meg så, hva vil du me - re? Gra - tu - le - re!

The musical score is for a piano accompaniment of a Norwegian birthday song. It is written in 3/4 time and features a swing feel. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble and bass clef staff. Chord symbols (F, C7, Bb) are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Sheet Music from [8notes.com](https://www.8notes.com) © Copyright 2024 Red Balloon Technology Ltd.

Norsk Birthday Song

Sandra Kawatski and the Wergeland Dancers introduced this song at the December Banquet. We will add it to the songbooks & try to sing it to honor birthdays!

**Hurra for deg som fyller ditt år!
Ja, deg vil vi gratulere!
Alle i ring omkring deg vi står,
og se, nå vil vi marsjere,
bukke, nikke, neie, snu oss omkring,
danske for deg med hopp og sprett og spring,
ønske deg av hjertet alle gode ting!
Og si meg så, hva vil du mere?
Gratulere!**

Translation:

Hurray for you for celebrating your birthday!
Yes, we congratulate you!
We all stand around you in a ring,
And look, now we'll march,
Bow, nod, curtsy, we turn around,
Dance for you and hop and skip and jump!
Wishing you from the heart all good things!
And tell me, what more could you want?
Congratulations!

New Forest Finn Museum in Grue

The Norwegian Forest Finn Museum of southeastern Norway hosted its opening ceremony in October 2025. The ethnic group is a minority in southeastern Norway, with the name skogfinnene—Forest Finns—referring to the descendants of Finns who first immigrated to Sweden in the 16th century and then migrated to Norway in the 1640s.

The museum has been 25 years in the making and was a joint effort by four institutions of cultural preservation. Opening events featured tours, speeches and the typical Forest Finnish dish motti, roasted oat porridge served with fried pork, pork fat and lingonberries.

Her Majesty Queen Sonja opened the new building that lies in Finnskogen (The Finnish Forest). Along with the leader of Young Forest Finns, Marikken Bruvold, she cut a rope covered with birch bark.

The Queen called Forest Finn culture part of Norway's history, which needs to be preserved and said that the museum "is like A cathedral, with pillars that give the impression that you are out in the forest."

The Norwegian Forest Finnish Museum is located in Svullrya in Grue municipality within Innlandet County.



Masse Moro Heritage Camp

Encourage the young people in your life to attend the Masse Moro Heritage Camp this summer!

Activities: archery, arts & crafts, baking, comedy skits, games, Norwegian language lessons, nature exploration, singing, sports competitions, Viking Olympics, woodcarving, and more!

Camp Dates: Sunday, July 12 – Saturday, July 25, 2025

Camp Location: Eau Claire County Youth Camp at Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. Approximately 12 miles east of Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Eligible Youth: Youth ages 9 - 15 years. Everyone is welcome, Sons of Norway affiliation or Norwegian heritage is not required

Leadership Team: Camp is planned and supervised by the Sons of Norway District Five Youth Director, camp administrators, and camp directors, with advisement by the Sons of Norway District Five Board of Directors

Lodging: Air-conditioned cabins for sleeping; up-to-date restroom and shower facilities

Price: \$100 deposit due upon registration, \$1,200 total for the two-week session

Questions: contact Youth Director Lisa Rove-Williams, 771 W. Dresser Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115. Phone: 815-751-8447. Email: rovewilliams@comcast.net

Website: www.MASSEMORO.ORG

Scholarship information is available at sonsofnorway5.com/financial/youth_scholarships.php.

La Crosse at the 2026 Winter Olympics

La Crosse-connected folks are playing a role in Cortina, Italy, this winter.

From a February 15, 2026, Wisconsin Trending Facebook post, “Team USA — made up of Mike Martino (a La Crosse-based artist), Mike Sponholtz (a Mishicot-based artist) and Tom Queoff (a Milwaukee-based artist)— won the bronze medal at the Olympic Art Festival’s 2026 International Snow Sculpture Competition in San Candido, Italy.

The team was one eight selected from more than 300 applicants worldwide. Their piece, “Zenith,” depicting three figures holding an Olympic torch and laurel wreath.” *Photo at right submitted to and published by UWM.edu*



Additionally, from a February 17, 2026, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Facebook post, “Caroline Kannel, a 2016 graduate of the UW-La Crosse Athletic Training program, is serving as an athletic trainer for the U.S.

Olympic & Paralympic Team, specializing in USA Luge! She is currently supporting Team USA at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Italy.”

(photo from the article at right)



Sons of Norway District 5 Convention

Wergeland Lodge lodge will send 4 delegates, covering a majority of their expenses. That said, **anyone** interested may register as an attendee. There are informational workshops, speakers, and displays with something for everyone.

Details at sonsofnorway5.com/library/original/docman/January302026FFFN.pdf

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

MARCH 2026



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Norskedalen Activities

Throne Visitors Center

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



*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
