



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Budstikken

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

December 2019

Volume 54, Issue 12

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Wergeland Kalender

- ◆ December 5, 5:00 Social, 6:00 Catered Dinner and Program, American Legion
- ◆ Dec 10, 5:30 pm, Board meeting at Perkins on Hwy 16
- ◆ December 12, 6-7 pm, SON program at Rotary Lights
- ◆ Dec 17, Deadline for Budstikken articles
- ◆ Dec 26, Budstikken mailed to members

The **Heritage Dinner** is coming up Thursday, Dec. 5. **We need your baking: cookies, bars, Krumkaka, Rosettes, Sandbakkels etc.** This will be the dessert served at the dinner. We always look forward to this part of the festive meal!



Fra Presidenten

Once again we find ourselves at the end of the year and the beginning of the holiday season. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. Of course we here at Wergeland realize that Christmas doesn't begin with black Friday but rather our heritage dinner at our December meeting. I hope that as many of you as possible can attend this event and bring a guest if you can. We are looking forward to an excellent meal, some Christmas carols and of course lefse and other Norwegian treats. Don't forget that we will also be hosting our annual night in the warming tent at Rotary Lights. This year, we will be at the park on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6:30. We will be singing some of the Christmas carols that we will be singing at the dinner. Unfortunately, ushering opportunities for the Christmas show at La Crosse Community Theatre did not work out but we are working on getting a date for the show that opens in late January.

Also in January we will be installing the officers that we voted on at our last meeting. We still have just a couple of openings that need to be filled (see elsewhere in the Budstikken) so keep that in mind and talk to me at the December meeting and again, thank you to everyone who has volunteered to fill an office for us in 2020.

As this is my last letter for the Budstikken, I would like to close by saying "tusen takk" to everyone in the lodge for your support over the last six years while I have served as president. Your support and kind words have been greatly appreciated and it has been an honor to represent Wergeland lodge on your behalf. Stay warm, enjoy the coming holiday season and I will see you at the Christmas dinner.

-Dave

Next meeting: Thursday, December 5, 2019

**5:00 PM social hour; 6:00 dinner at the American Legion,
711 6th Street, La Crosse, WI**



Program for December

December Heritage Dinner!

Tickets required by Nov 25 from Adrian Johnson.

Catered meal at the American Legion. Norwegian baking provided by "us" - Thank you to those who signed up to bake, but more is better! contact Ramona if you are able to contribute.

Program:

THE LINDISFARNE 9/11 MOMENT:

A 793 Viking Attack That Changed the World



December Birthdays

- 3 AnnElise E Ender
- 5 Barbara Friell
- 5 Rita A Johnson
- 5 Heather M Larson
- 5 Tia Louise Ranis
- 6 Bonnie Jean Koglin
- 6 Isaac Stutesman
- 9 Jeanne C Larson
- 12 Wayne M Olson
- 13 Kristin Peri Krug
- 14 Carol L Marking
- 14 Hudson Loper Schmitt
- 15 Rebecca Johnson
- 17 Charlene L Harnish
- 17 Sharon Quackenboss
- 19 Karen M Broadhead
- 20 Lloyd O Hoff
- 20 Marilyn L Romskog
- 21 David J Lokstad
- 22 Adrian C Johnson
- 22 Todd A Trautmann
- 23 Vilda C Olsen
- 24 Charles L Amundson
- 26 Peter H Gullickson
- 27 Logan J Y Curtis
- 30 Arlan W Henderson

December 12 at Rotary Lights!

JOIN US as our Wergeland Lodge, along with Norskedalen, present music and Norwegian Culture Dec. 12, from 6:00-7:00. Brian Rude will lead the singing, and Joyce Abernathy will make paper hearts with the children.

Program for January

Installation of 2020 Wergeland Officers and Recognition of SON 's125th Anniversary

Sekretær Notater...

Minutes November 7, 2019 General Lodge Meeting American Legion, La Crosse, WI

Lunch was served first at 6:30.

Business meeting was opened by President Glomstad at 7:05. The Pledge of Allegiance and the three national anthems were sung. The charter was draped in memory of four present or past members who recently passed away: Donald A Sannes, Joyce C Halverson, Oscar T Holter, and Marilyn E Trisch.

Guest Finn Brobakken from Snerthingdal, Norway was introduced and brought a greeting. He is related to Jan Brudos and Joan Everson. David thanked the veterans in our membership and had them stand and be recognized for their service to our country. The treasurers report was presented by Shirley Schoenfeld who mentioned that all 2020 calendars have been sold. The Foundation cans were distributed.

David presented the officer and committee positions which were accepted by our members. Linda Sherwood made a motion to accept and the motion was seconded by Marilyn Rudser. The motion passed on a voice vote and there were no more nominations from the floor. There were no volunteers to fill the unfilled positions. The **unfilled positions** are: Vice President, Social Director Chair, Youth Director, Webmaster and Publicity, Rotary Lights Program 2020, Festival of Trees 2020, and Nominating Committee 2020.

The Spring Grove Sons of Norway is celebrating their 90th anniversary on November 17th at 3 PM with a performance by the Luren singers of Decorah. Our lodge is invited to join them that afternoon.

Christmas activities coming up: Heritage Dinner is Dec 5th at 5:00 social and 6:00 dinner. Tickets \$15.00 must be ordered by November 25th. We will once again have a decorated tree at Rotary Lights and put on a program in the tent on December 12 from 6 to 7 pm.

Carla Burkhardt passed around a sign up sheet for Salvation Army bell ringing. Not all times have been filled.

Marilyn Rudser announced the cards have been sent to our service people.

Adrian Johnson presented a line of new merchandise from the 5th district consisting of sweat-shirts, aprons and caps. They will be on sale now through the December Heritage Dinner. Proceeds will benefit the D5 Nordic Legacy Foundation.

Happy Birthday song was sung for the November birthdays.

Next general meeting will be December 5th at 6:00 (5:00 social hour). Next board meeting December 10th at Perkins.

The raffle drawing \$33.00 each to Mark Quade and Dick Marking and \$33.00 to our general fund. A thank you was offered to Carole and Orlando Wadel for their many years of being greeters and selling raffle tickets.

Sports Director Carla Burkhardt announced a new Foundation fundraiser in which members can raise funds for walking and doing ordinary tasks around the house.

(continued on p. 3)

Condolences til...

...Sandra (Sanderson) Kawatski on the unexpected passing of her brother, her only sibling, on Oct. 23, 2019. His funeral was held Nov 7 in Green Bay, where he taught and counseled students for more than 30 years.

Tusen takk...

...from Patti Lokken, Operation Homefront: "Dear **Marilyn & All Who Wrote Letters** to our troops for the Holidays: Thank you all so much for your kind letters of encouragement, support and Holiday wishes! We hear from our troops what a morale boost it is to get letters from home while serving so far away. We are truly amazed by the volume of letters you created (**3,225**)! Please know you have and will have touched the hearts of many service members this Christmas! Thank You from all of us at Operation Homefront."

... Wergeland received memorials of \$250 to be placed in the scholarship fund in memory of Marilyn Trisch, Pete Sherry, and Joyce Halvorson from **Annette Sherry, Viv Sacia, Linda Sherwood, Joan Everson, and Jean Davis**. Thank you very much.

... to all of the exiting **2019 Officers and Committee Members** of Wergeland Lodge, and to those who will lead us in 2020. A special thank you to **Dave Glomstad** for leading us for SIX YEARS! We appreciate your service!

NOTE for Marilyn Silbaugh, Mark Dregne, Lee Grippen, and Marian Mikkelsen: Shirley will bring the cards you ordered on Dec 5.



Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

The following Wergeland members have signed up to ring bells for the Salvation Army.

Friday, December 13, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at HOBBY LOBBY, WALGREENS (by Target) 4415 Hwy 16, Onalaska

10:00-12:00 Dick Marking and Kathi Beane
12:00-2:00 Linnea Mueller and Shirley Schoenfeld

Saturday, December 21, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at WALGREENS, 3909 Mormon Coulee Road

10:00-12:00 Ron & Frieda Nowland
12:00-2:00 Adrian & Ramona Johnson
2:00-4:00 Karen Broadhead and Bev Ranis

(minutes continued from p.2)

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:50 Attendance was 51.

The evening program was presented by Natalie Kostman from the Hillview Urban Agriculture Center.

Submitted by Adrian Johnson, lodge secretary.

Treasurers report from Shirley Schoenfeld: General Fund has a balance of 6042.86, which includes memorials and encumbered funds for dancers; Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$2084.50; Savings Account has a balance of \$18607.48. Total financial assets of \$26,734.84.

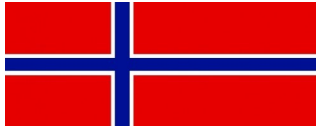
December Program to be presented by **Glenn L. Borreson: The Lindisfarne 9/11 Moment: A 793 Viking Attack That Changed the World**

Do you remember where you were on 9/11? Some dates are forever fixed in the memory. Such was the day the Northmen (Vikings) violently attacked a Christian monastery off the northeast coast of England. This program explores the impact of that attack and the reasons it was a world changer, both for the Vikings themselves and for the people and place they plundered and beyond.

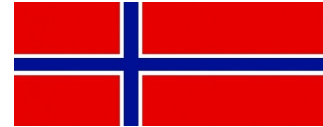
We will also sing some Christmas carols as we lift our voices to welcome the season. This will prepare us to sing at the Rotary Lights tent, as we did last year. Our Wergeland Lodge along with Norskedalen, presents singing and Norwegian Culture Dec. 12, from 6:00-7:00. See p. 5 if you want to start practicing!



Finn Brobakken from Gjøvik, Norway attended the November 7 meeting. He was visiting his father's 2nd cousin, Jan Brudos. He is a member of the Hamar Lodge in Norway and has visited Wergeland Lodge several times. It's always good to see Finn!



Dis og Dat



Elaine Nelson is now residing at Brookdale Senior Living Facility, #949m 10th Ave N in Onalaska. She's recovering with therapy, and likes her new home and would appreciate a visit or card.

Joe and Carol Stekel visited Don and Mary Jo Oss in Spring Valley recently.

They are shown in the museum there with a rosemaled trunk done by Don's great-grandfather, the famous Thomas Luraas (1799-1886), who did much Telemark style rosemaling in churches and buildings in Norway. There is also a trunk done by Luraas at Vesterheim in Decorah. Carol and Joe met Don on a trip to Norway some years ago.



Carla and Carlie Burkhardt enjoyed "Mamma Mia" at Chanhassen and highly recommend it. The show will run until February 22. The part of Rosie is played by the talented Therese Walth of Onalaska.

Bev Ranis and Karen Broadhead recently saw "Church Basement Ladies Sing" and "Phantom of the Opera," both in the Twin Cities. In addition, Karen saw her granddaughter Rosa perform in "High School Musical."

From **Glenn Borreson**: The photo below is of the Nordic cabin or playhouse our son Erik and his brother Mike built for Erik's children, Matt (4 years) and Anna (2 years). It's 6 feet by 8 feet and high enough for an adult to stand inside. Other than the "grass" roof and exterior walls, most of it was made from reclaimed materials. Erik's wife Monica is Polish so the shields represent Norway and Poland. Erik and Matt already have spent a night in it (it would be exaggerating to say they both slept). I think the building is a sign that another generation will value its Norwegian heritage. Erik, Monica and children live near Stevens Point.



From the November Program:

Natalie Kostman, Hillview Urban Agriculture Center (HUAC) Program Manager, shared information about its mission, activities, and programs. The facility originated near Myrick Park but is now housed at Western Technical College, 624 Vine St. in La Crosse. HUAC is a local nonprofit that works in cooperation with Mayo Health Center, WTC, and UW-La Crosse to create a healthy community through a local, sustainable, and accessible food system. Programs focus on fostering community connections to increase composting, growing, and preparing and preserving food in the community. One product that they produce and sell is worm compost and grow-your-own compost kits. Also mark May 16, 2020 on your calendar for their Spring Plant Sale. More info on the Center and how you can get involved as a volunteer is at www.hillviewuac.org.



Natalie Kostman (above right), program coordinator for Hillview Urban Agriculture Center with Terry Benson, a volunteer.

Remember to save and bring to Marilyn in January: 1) leftover blank Christmas cards and 2) fronts of received cards (no writing on back).

Sons of Norway Mission Statement

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.



District 5 Virtual Walk Challenge to Ringsaker, Norway in celebration of the 125th Anniversary for 2020 Convention

Let's walk to Norway—it's only 4139 miles to Ringsaker from La Crosse! As part of the 125th Celebration, Wergeland Lodge is challenged to "walk" while raising funds for the District Legacy Foundation.

Like you, I (Carla), as Sports Director, had some questions:

How do we "walk" to Norway? It's a long way, and there's an ocean to cross...? As you exercise, run errands, or even garden or bowl (see web link below), write down your distance and/or time spent. We'll see how far we get!

How do we record miles? Some tally sheets (sample below) were handed out at the November Meeting and I will have them with me at future meetings.

Put the sheet where you will see it so that you DON'T FORGET to write down your miles! ALSO, other activities can be converted to miles.

Can I get a tally sheet or a conversion chart online? You can download these at http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/programs/sports_and_recreation.php (the 1st & 3rd .pdf links on the right side of the page).

District 5 Sport and Recreation Challenge for the 2020 Convention Tracking Sheet

Name _____ Total for this sheet _____

Date	Miles	Date	Miles	Date	Miles

How is this a fundraiser? As you participate, ask family and friends to "sponsor" you. If everyone asked for a small amount from several people, it would add up quickly. If you collect money, please give it to Karen Broadhead

What is the District Legacy Foundation? The District 5 Legacy Foundation helps support **Masse Moro**, massemoro.org, Norwegian language and heritage camp located on the Beaver Creek Nature Reserve, Fall Creek, WI.

How long does the challenge last? The challenge timeline is from Nov 1, 2019 to June 15, 2020. Plenty of time to collect lots of miles!

Carolers needed!

6:00-7:00 pm Thursday, Dec 12 at the Rotary Lights Warming Tent. Brian Rude will lead the singing; lyrics (på Norsk) will be provided, but here are a few songs if you want to start practicing!

Jingle Bells

Bjelleklang, bjelleklang over skog og hei!
Hør på bjellens muntre klang, når Blakken drar i vei!
Følg oss ut! Følg oss ut over mo og myr
Der hvor veien slynger seg i skogens eventyr.

Silent Night

Glade jul, hellige jul! Engler daler ned i skjul.
Hit de flyver med paradiset grønt,
hvor de ser hva for Gud er skjønt.
Lønnlig i blant oss de går. Lønnlig i blant oss de går.

Julefryd, evig fryd, hellig sang med himmelsk lyd!
Det er engler som hyrdene så,
dengang Herren i krybben lå.
Evig er englenes sang. Evig er englenes sang.

I am so glad

Jeg er så glad hver julekveld,
for da ble Jesus født;
da lyste stjernen som en sol,
og engler sang så søtt.

**Old Fashioned Christmas at Norskedalen
December 7, 10 am – 3 pm**

A day filled with Norwegian holiday traditions! A variety of crafts for the family to create together, hunt for the Yule Log, sing and dance with traditional music, enjoy a holiday meal complete with homemade lefse. Try the lefse bar, start your Christmas shopping in the gift shop, and end your day with a handbell concert in the Benrud Chapel. It's an event you won't want to miss!

Looking Back

Fem år siden (5 years ago) 2014

Wergeland Lodge will celebrate Christmas this year on December 4. We will enjoy food, and the warm gathering of friends. "Kaldtbord" is the Norwegian equivalent of the Swedish smorgasbord. Although kaldtbord literally means cold table, we will have some warm rommegrot, sotsuppe (fruit soup), flatbread, Scandinavian baking, and open face sandwiches. These are the items that bring back memories of our heritage, especially during the Christmas season.

Grand Picnic will provide musical entertainment for our Christmas banquet. Their music is drawn mostly from the "old time" genre, including dance tunes from the 1800's and early 1900's – music that has its roots in the Old Country.

Ti år siden (10 years ago) 2009

The Festival of Nations Ethnic Night at Onalaska Middle

School went very well. Our three big tables were covered with all sorts of beautiful items from Norway plus the lefse made by Jan Brudos, Joan Everson and Jean David; krumkake made by Shirley Schoenfeld; rosettes made by Doc Brudos; and sandwiches made by the chairperson, Carolyn Skogen.

Femten år siden (15 years ago) 2004

According to a La Crosse Tribune article, the city council of Forde, Norway has approved a Friendship City relationship with La Crosse. The connection started when a group of Norwegians participated in a Rotary International cultural exchange. Among the people who met Halvord Mogster, a Forde resident and member of the delegation were Tom Monson, a member of our Lodge and Mayor John Medinger. Mayor Medinger wrote a sister city proposal to the Forde mayor. The connection would result in a cultural partnership like those that La Crosse has with other cities.

Christmas Eve Celebrations in Norway

As 5 p.m. strikes on December 24th in Norway, the church bells are ringing, families are gathering around the dinner table and Christmas medleys are playing in the background. Here are a few fun facts about how Christmas is celebrated in Norway.

Christmas Eve is the biggest day of celebration in Norway, bigger than Christmas Day itself. Houses and yards are cleaned and tidied up. The Christmas Tree is decorated with, among other ornaments, juletrekurv, or pleated Christmas hearts made out of colored paper. The hearts can also be filled with small ginger cookies, raisins, caramels or other treats.

Christmas Eve is also the day that the Julenisse, the Norwegian Santa Claus, makes his rounds to bring gifts to good children.

A special rice porridge (risgrøtkrem) is eaten on Christmas Eve either as a meal at lunchtime or at dinner. The person who finds a whole almond in the porridge wins a special prize—a pink or white marzipan pig!

Little Christmas Eve

Less known in North America is the tradition of lillejulaften, or Little Christmas Eve. Lillejulaften is the day before Christmas Eve—that is to say December 23rd. It is celebrated in different ways, but one can have a little dinner,

cookies, gløggdrinking and maybe a small present that the children can open. Lillejulaften is a good way to prolong Christmas celebrations.

Christmas in Norge, God Jul!

Norwegian homes have trees decorated with julekurver—woven heart baskets and streamers of Norwegian flags.



A sheaf of wheat called a julenek is often left outside for the birds to eat.

Rice porridge is left for the nisse whose job it is to guard the farm animals.

Candles are lit on Christmas Eve and can be seen burning until New Year's Day.

Christmas celebrations began in Norway between the years of 1000 to 1100 AD when Christianity arrived in Norway.

Previously homage was paid to the old Scandinavian gods. The people celebrated jul in the middle of winter—a celebration of the past harvest and a time to look forward to spring.

Much juleøl (beer) was brewed and enjoyed. Nisseøl is made at home, most often sans alcohol.

Each year a huge Norwegian pine is sent to the UK to honor the British for their help during WWII. The tree stands in London at Trafalgar Square.

One baking tradition is to make "sju slag" seven different types of cakes.

A little in English...

Where did the julenisse come from and why do we bring a fir tree into the living room?

Christmas tree

There are several theories about how this tradition came to Norway, but the very first Christmas tree that was observed in this country was supposedly at Nes ironworks owned by Jacob Aall in the 1840s. This is not a Norwegian or Scandinavian tradition, but it probably came from Protestant Germany. It was not until 1870-1880 that it became commonplace in schoolhouses for the teachers to decorate a tree.

The smell of fresh trees and the green color was, however, part of the festival in older peasant culture. You washed the floors with lye and sand, and to create a party atmosphere, you topped it with finely chopped spruce or juniper that you sprinkled on the floor.

Julenissen

Julenissen [the Christmas pixie/Santa] is a figure made up of several different traditions. As a supernatural creature, he has many names. Fjøsningen [the barn pixie] was a little fellow; he often had a beard and was clad in gray, and he lived on farms. At Christmas you needed to leave porridge or a splash of beer in the barn so that he would not pull pranks the rest of the year. If he did not receive these gifts, he might make knots in the horse's mane or do something to hurt the cows.

The Anglo-American tradition originates from St. Nicolas of Europe who is a well-known saint. During Advent, he distributed gifts to those who had been kind, and punished the bad ones. And then we have the Coca-Cola Santa, the advertising version of St. Nicolas from the interwar period.

The julenissen [Christmas pixie] as we know it often has several of these characteristics.

Sons of Norway Foundation Scholarships

The Sons of Norway Foundation awards 25 scholarships to promising students each year. The programs promote cultural exchange and support higher education to help students follow their dreams. Although application deadlines vary from Jan. 15 to Apr 1, it is not too early to think about applying. More information on the following Foundation funds can be found at <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships>.

The following scholarships have an application deadline of **January 15**:

- The Oslo International Summer School Scholarship
- The Helen Tronvold Norwegian Folk High School Scholarship
- The Helen Tronvold Adult Learner Scholarship
- The Lund Fund Scholarship
- The Douglas Warne—Rolf & Wench Eng Scholarship

These scholarships have later deadlines:

- The Astrid G. Cates and Myrtle Beinhauer Fund
- The Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- The Orel and Marie Winjum Memorial Scholarship

Litt på Norsk...

Vet du hvorfor vi fikk julenissen og tok et grantrær inn i stua?

Julegranen

Det er flere teorier om hvordan denne tradisjonen kom til Norge, men det aller første juletreet som ble observert her til lands skal ha vært på Nes jernverk hos verkseier Jacob Aall i 1840-årene. Dette er ikke en norsk eller skandinavisk tradisjon, men den kom antageligvis fra det protestantiske Tyskland. Først i 1870–1880 årene ble dette allemannseie og da gjennom skolehusene hvor lærerne pyntet treet.

Men duften av friske trær og grønnfargen hørte med til høytidsmarkeringen i den eldre bondekulturen hvor man vasket gulvene med lut og sand, og for å få feststemningen toppet man det med finhakket gran eller einer som man drysset ut over gulvet.

Julenissen

Julenissen er en figur som er støpt sammen av veldig mange ulike tradisjoner. Som overnaturlig skapning har den mange navn. Fjøsningen var en liten kar, han hadde ofte skjegg og var gråkledd, som bodde på gården. Men til jul skulle han ha grøt eller en skvett øl i fjøset for at han ikke skulle lage krøll resten av året. Fikk han ikke det, kunne han lage knuter i manen på hesten eller gjøre noe vondt mot kyrne.

Den angloamerikanske tradisjonen stammer fra St. Nicolas i Europa som er kjent som helgen. I tiden før jul delte han ut gaver til de som hadde vært snille og straffet de slemme. Og så har vi Coca-Cola nissen, eller reklameversjonen av St. Nicolas fra mellomkrigstiden.

Julenissen vi kjenner, har ofte i seg litt av alle disse utgavene.

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

DECEMBER 2019



OFFICERS TO CONTACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

President-David Glomstad 608-304-9480
e-mail address: djglomstad@gmail.com

Vice President-Ramona Johnson 608-788-7507
e-mail address: ajrjathome@msn.com

Membership Secretary - Kathi Beane 608-783-3037
e-mail address: beane.kath@eagle.uwlax.edu

*Send notices of deaths or address changes to the
Membership Secretary*

Secretary- Adrian Johnson 608-788-7507
e-mail: ajrjathome@msn.com

Editor- Carla Burkhardt 608-317-3262
e-mail: carla.burkhardt8696@gmail.com

Sons of Norway Fraternal Benefit Counselor-
Helge Enok Vestnes 715-878-9646
W1741 Easterson Rd. Elewa, WI 54738
e-mail: hevestnes@gmail.com.
Cell: 715-797-6414

Norskedalen Activities

Throne Visitors Center

Hours From Nov - Apr:

Monday-Saturday from 9am--4pm
Sunday from 11pm--4pm



Guided homestead tours, when a guide is available, will be at 10 am, 1 pm and 3 pm Monday through Saturday, and 1 and 3 pm on Sundays. Self guided audio tours will be available in any event.

Admission rates for all programs with the exception of Heritage classes is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, \$15.00 for families, and free for members of "Friends of Norskedalen."

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.

Norskedalen phone: 608-452-3424

Web site: www.norskedalen.org

E-mail Address: info@norskedalen.org