



**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](#) Sept 2026 Vol 61 Issue 8

Fra Presidenten



I hope everyone had a great time at our August picnic meeting. Everyone brought such great dishes/treats.

Remember that on Wednesday, September 23rd, we are going to hold our Chicken Q at Bridgeview Plaza from 11 AM to 5:30 PM. We need to sell at least 300 tickets for this event. If everyone can sell at least 10 that would greatly help our organization revenue stream.

Our next meeting is at 6 PM Thursday September 3rd. Our next board meeting is Tuesday September 1st at 5:30 PM at the Perkins in Onalaska.

- Dave

Chicken Q September 23! Hopefully, we have sold over 300 tickets by now!

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).



Bring the money from your sales to the Sept 3 Lodge meeting; sales deadline is September 10.

Some people are donating meals to the Salvation Army.

The tickets are available now from Heather Jacobson. If you have any questions or need more tickets, please contact Heather Jacobson 360-259-9935 or Adrian Johnson 608-788-7507.

Wergeland Kalender

- ◆ Sept 3—6:00 Wergeland Lodge Meeting Harry J. Olson Senior Center, 1607 North St., La Crosse, WI
- ◆ Sept 1—Wergeland Board Meeting, 5:30 Perkins
- ◆ Sept 14—Deadline for Budstikken articles
- ◆ Sept 23—11:00 am – 5:30 pm Chicken Q at Bridgeview Plaza
- ◆ Sept 24—Budstikken mailed to members
- ◆ Oct 1—6:00 Wergeland Lodge Meeting Harry J. Olson Senior Center, 1607 North St., La Crosse, WI



PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

Donald Fox: The Cover Girl and Kierkegaard

LUNCH PROVIDERS FOR THE SEPT 3 MEETING

Sandwiches (2½ doz): Carolyn Sorenson, Diana Hobson, Linda Sherwood

Cake or bars: Ann Sprain, Lynn Curtis, Karen Saegrove

Pickles: Lilly Jacobson (Dill)

Fruit or vegetable tray: Dave Hendrickson, Attlesons

Members are asked to donate \$5



Birthdays September

- 01 Barbara J Anderson
- 03 Carol A Pestel
- 05 David Hendrickson
- 05 Stacia Nordin
- 09 Teresa J Sacia
- 14 Joseph M Stekel
- 16 Donald H Fox
- 17 Waylon G Stokke
- 22 Stanton M Jorgens
- 23 Doris J Hagen
- 23 Morgan A Jostad
- 25 Ruth J Jostad
- 27 Lois A Preeshl
- 28 Charles E Reimer IV

More positions available for the year 2027: Social Director Chair and Special Meals committee. As a member of our lodge, if you enjoy planning for special events, (May 17, August picnic, and the Heritage Dinner) volunteer to fill one of these positions. When we have new people on a committee, we get new ideas to make these events special. Thank you in advance for helping us fill our roster!

Program for October Restauration Ship Trip - New York Landing

Sekretær Notater...

President Dave brings meeting to order at 6:01. We will eat our lunch.

Dave Brings meeting to order again at 6:45. Pledge was said and our "National Anthem" Fedrelasang" and "O Canada" were sung.

Emma & Julian Glennie (Tracy Grinde's grandchildren) reported on their attendance at Mosse Moro Norwegian camp.

Guests were introduced.

Secretary's report was printed in the Budstikken and approved as printed.

Treasurer's report was read and approved as read.

Raffle: \$17 - winners - Lee Grippen & Ruth Scholze

Lilly Jacobson reported on her attendance at Spring Grove.

Carla - Scholarships given out.

Holmen Kornfest - Aug. 16th - sign up to march, meet on Johnson Street, 10-10:30, parade starts at 11.

Adrian will get a convertible from Dahl Ford,

Ramona - Officer Nominations! Let Ramona or Carla know if you would like to sign up for an office that needs to be filled. Time is drawing near.

Foundation cans were passed.

August birthday song was sung. Sandra was here to help with the Norwegian birthday song, but will try that next month. It will take a while for us to learn that one.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Members present - 55

Program - Early Lutheran Churches - Hannah Scholze

Secretary, Kathy Anderson

*What do you call an
alligator in a vest?*

>
>
>

An investigator.

Treasurer's Report:

July 31, 2026 checking balance	\$2638.43
July 31, 2026 scholarship balance	\$776.00
July 31, 2026 savings balance	\$6957.06
July 31, 2026 Wergeland has	\$10,371.49

From the Social Committee: Thank you to all for bringing food to serve at our lodge meetings. It is very appreciated!

We ask that you do not bring your own serving utensils (unless you label them with your name). Our SON lodge has serving utensils, and we can also use the Senior Center utensils. When cleaning up, your serving pieces get mixed up with ours and we do not know which ones are yours. It will help eliminate confusion and lost utensils. Thank you!

Program for September: The Cover Girl and Kierkegaard, presented by Donald Fox

Twenty-two-year-old Phyllis Bergquist, a 1949 graduation of Northwestern Univ. in Chicago, had done some modeling as a student to help pay college expenses. She went to New York City in August 1949 to study piano. To earn extra money, she became a very successful model. Each month, from Aug. 1949 to April 1950, a photo of her appeared on the cover of a national magazine. During this same time, she was reading the devotional classic by Kierkegaard entitled, "Purity of Heart is to Will One Thing." This reading changed her life.



Rev. Donald Fox is a member of our Lodge. He served Lower Coon Valley Norwegian Lutheran Church from 2004 to 2022, during which time he was also a chaplain at Mayo Clinic

Franciscan Healthcare. He has a special interest in the Danish theologian and philosopher Kierkegaard (1813-1855).

P.S. Phyllis Bergquist Billington (1927-2016) became Donald's mother-in-law in 1984.



At the August Lodge meeting, we heard from some of our Camp Scholarship recipients. **Lilly Jacobson** (left) had a great time at Norwegian Ridge Language & Culture Camp in Spring Grove.

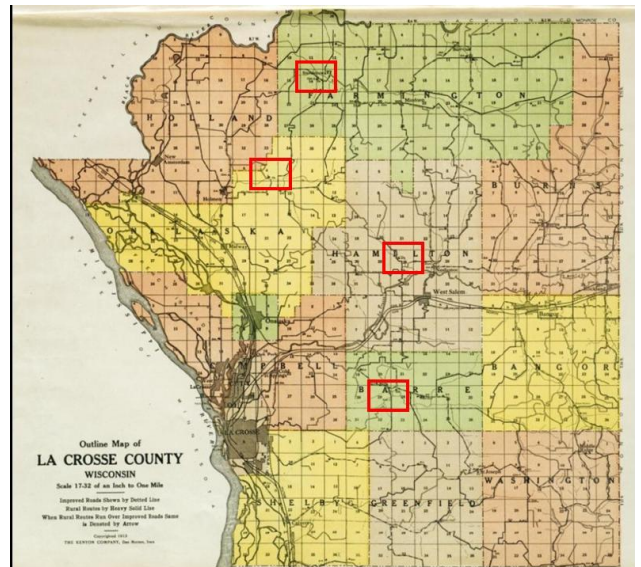


Julian (pictured at right) and **Emma Glennie** (Tracey Grinde's grandchildren) attended Masse Moro this summer and each gave a great report of their experience.

From the August meeting: Cornerstone of Faith: The Beginning of Norwegian Lutheran Congregations in La Crosse County, Wisconsin

Hannah Scholze shared her research into the founding of Lutheran churches by Norwegian immigrants. As La Crosse County was beginning to grow, Norwegians in the rural areas gathered to worship and socialize, resulting in a number of parishes that are still in evidence today.

Hannah outlined the establishment of four churches: Bostwick Valley, Lewis Valley, La Crosse Valley, and Halfway Creek. The various churches experienced fires and other hardships yet most persevered and still exist today. These locations are indicated on the plat map below.



Hannah's slide above showed the resemblance between the landscape that the immigrants left to the Coulee Region/Driftless Region in which they settled.



Dis og Dat



Dave & Becky Glomstad enjoyed a ten-day cruise from Vancouver through the inside passage and on to Alaska for several stops. Great experience along with great weather.

Adrian and Ramona Johnson welcomed their 9th great-grandchild this past month. His name is Henry Price Johnson. He lives with his mom and dad, Josh & Emma Johnson, in Des Moines, Iowa.



Congratulations to Us!

Wergeland Lodge was awarded the 2024 Family Lodge of the Year for our work a few years ago. (The plaque to the left was bestowed upon us at the 2024 District 5 Convention; it was given to our delegates at the 2026 Convention).

Thank you to everyone who made that year, and continues to make, Wergeland Lodge a wonderful place to celebrate our Norwegian heritage!

Looking Back

Fem år siden (5 years ago) 2021

Six Wergeland members attended the Sognerfjordlag Wisconsin in Westby. Most of the attendees had ancestors who had come from the Sognerfjordlag area. They heard talks on the history of Westby, saw woodcarving, listened to Blaine Hedberg talk on "Firsthand Accounts from Dairies and Letters on their Voyage to America during the years of 1825 – 1883." Sue Berg, author, talked about her new mystery novel, Driftless Gold. The six members included Vivian Mikkelsen Schweinfurth, Joe & Carol Stekel, Lee Grippen, Elsie and Wayne Olson.

Ti år siden (10 years ago) 2016

The program for September was "Researching Scandinavian Ancestors," presented by Wergeland member Hannah Scholze. She highlighted several online databases available for Scandinavian genealogical research as well as tips, tricks, and

tools of the trade when trying to find your Old World roots.

Royce and Lynn Curtis traveled to Norway for 10 days with Bethel Home Foundation/Borton Travel. They had a great time, connected with friends, and saw such great sights.

Femten år siden (15 years ago) 2011

Tønsberg, Norway was brimming with excitement with the recreation of one of the area's most famed Viking Age relics, the Oseberg ship. Originally discovered in a Viking burial mound in 1904. The original Oseberg ship is one of the most complete and well-preserved ships ever found.

The Coulee Country Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America sponsored the Oktoberfest Needlework Show at the La Crosse Public Library. Wergeland member, Cathy Ells was one of the organizers of show.

Til minner om...

...**William Ells**, who passed away on July 22, 2026, at the age of 85. Services were held on August 5 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. His career path included being a game warden, police officer, and wastewater treatment operator. Our condolences to his wife, **Cathy Jo**, and their family.



Kondolerer til...

...**Mary Cary** on the passing of her sister, Cindy Cary, on April 28 at the age of 69. Cindy worked as a veterinarian in the Madison area.

Gratulerer til...

...**Diana Hobson** on having three of her DNA Vintner products selected to be served at the Wisconsin State Fair. The "Best of the Best Wisconsin Wine" winners are served at the Wine Bar on the state fairgrounds. Frost Watch Orange, Opell, and Nordic Lights Orange Breeze were the selections, and you can sample them at the DNA Vintners tasting room in La Crosse or purchase at local grocery stores.



Velkommen til...

...**Stacia Nordin**, new Wergeland member! Stacia (at right) lives in the Holmen area and her career as a nutritionist, specializing in sustainable food systems, has given her residence in countries far away.

She met her husband (of Norwegian descent) while serving in the Peace Corps in Jamaica. Their daughter, Khalidwe, lives in Wales; she was born in Malawi and has a Malawian fiancé, Jobiba. They were all together in July for Khalidwe's graduation from Cardiff Met University.

Stacia hopes to get to Norway again – maybe even live there!



Wergeland Scholarship Winners

At the August Lodge meeting, **Brady Ferner and Asta Griggs** were acknowledged for receiving 2026 Wergeland scholarships. Asta (right) was available to attend the meeting. Brady lives in North Carolina, so was not in attendance. We wish both of them a great 2nd year at college!



Lisa Cash experienced a wonderful trip to Norway in June to visit family. Her mother has cousins in Molde and north of there in Farstad where they have a family farm.

The hospitality was gracious and the views were simply amazing! Lisa says, "My mother always wanted to go to Norway and

she never got there. I'm glad I did, and I am sure she was watching from Heaven. Next stop, Lillehammer, the home of my father's parents." Lisa celebrated Midsummer's Eve with her cousins (below).



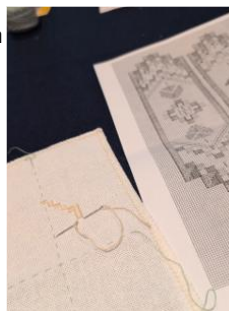
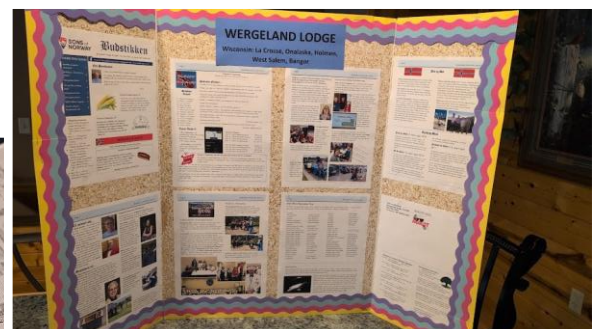
Sons of Norway District 5 Convention

The District 5 Sons of Norway convention was held August 2 – 7 in Stoughton, WI, with over 150 attendees and delegates from six states. Wergeland Lodge 5-028 was represented by (pictured from left to right) **Karen Saegrove, Karen Broadhead, Evonne Kundert, Carla Burkhardt, and David Hendrickson**. In addition, **Carol Steckel** (items pictured) and **Ilene Pavelko** sent hardanger and knit items for the craft display.

Sunday through Tuesday before the business meetings were filled with many events to choose from, such as farm tours or a tour of Koshkonong Prairie, where some of the earliest Norwegian immigrants settled. Several historic churches were also on the tour. Early attendees were welcomed at the President's reception on Sunday evening. Optional classes included rosemaling, hardanger, spoon carving, wet felting, cookie stamps, engraved rolling pins, other crafts, and numerous informational sessions.

Several reps from SON headquarters in Minneapolis were present for the business meeting. CEO Chris Campbell and Connie O'Brien gave a clear explanation of the reasons for the merger with Better Life, while assuring that the core values of preserving the culture and heritage of Norway will be retained. You can read about it on the sofn.com website. Amy Tuschenhagen, Foundation Director, outlined the many benefits of the foundation. Over \$250,000 was awarded last year through grants, scholarships, camperships, and Helping Hands. We also heard a report on a successful Masse Moro camp from the director and other staff members. Both the District Legacy Foundation and the SON Foundation benefited from fundraisers. Several thousand dollars were raised at the "fun night" (Bingo, Heads and Tails, Lucky Paddles, food sales) plus a silent auction of items donated from lodges and individuals. In addition, each Lodge donated \$60 to the foundation in honor of their 60th year of existence.

Other major items of business included the election of district officers and some minor changes in by-laws and resolutions. Scott Wegner from Stoughton is the new district president.



At left: Wet Felting and Hardanger crafts. Above – Budstikken on display.

A little in English...

Vickie Knew Nothing about her Family in Norway

Vickie Richardson and her husband John recently came from the US to Kalvåg to find Becky's roots. She found much more than she expected.

Together with her husband John Richardson, she recently came from Seattle in the USA to find out more about her roots in Norway, a country neither she nor John have visited before.

Vickie's father did some genealogy research in the 80s, but it wasn't until later, when Vickie herself sat down and read through what her father had written, that she herself became curious about the idea of where her grandmother Aslaug Aannevik grew up.

Early last year, she joined Facebook groups that dealt with genealogy aimed at Americans of Norwegian descent.

"Gradually I came into contact with Norwegians, and one lady in Tromsø in particular gave me good advice on how to go about finding Norwegian relatives.

Five of six went to the USA

Aslaug Aannevik was one of six children who grew up on the Aannevik farm, not far from Kalvåg. Five of the six went to America to find a better life.

"Many people from Bremanger ended up in the Seattle area. They were good fishermen and worked hard."

The Richardsons now live in the same area where Vickie's grandparents settled, near Seattle.

One of the siblings returned to Norway

Of the five siblings who sought their fortune in America, one returned to Norway and Bremanger after six years. It was the youngest of them, Julius Aannevik, born in 1890.

Since the heir, the eldest son, Ole, remained in the United States, Julius inherited the small farm of Aannevik.

Julius's granddaughters Irene and Eva Aannevik, both living in Bergen, hosted Vickie and John when they visited the family farm.

During the visit to Bremanger, a lot of old photo albums were browsed, and a lot of information was exchanged about the life of the family on both sides of the Atlantic. "It has been incredibly fun to experience this. I had almost no expectations when I started digging into family history, but now I really feel like I have gained a whole new understanding of family history," says Vickie Richardson.

Litt på Norsk...

Vickie visste ikkje om slekta i Norge

Vickie Richardson og ektemannen John kom nyleg frå USA til Kalvåg for å finne Becky sine røter. Ho fann mykje meir enn ho forventa.

Saman med ektemannen John Richardson kom ho nyleg frå Seattle i USA for å finne ut meir om røtene sine i Norge, eit land verken ho eller John har besøkt tidlegare.

Far til Vickie dreiv litt med slektsforsking på 80-talet, men det var først i seinare tid, når Vickie sjølv sat seg ned og las gjennom det faren hadde skrive, at ho sjølv blei nysgjerrig på tanken om kvar farmora Aslaug Aannevik vaks opp.

Tidleg i fjor meldte ho seg inn i Facebook-grupper som dreiv med slektsforsking, retta mot amerikanarar med norsk opphav.

– Etter kvart kom eg i kontakt med nordmenn, og spesielt éi dame i Tromsø gav meg gode råd om korleis eg skulle gå fram for å finne norske slektningar.

Fem av seks reiste til USA

Aslaug Aannevik var ein av seks barn som vaks opp på garden Aannevik, ikkje langt frå Kalvåg. Fem av dei seks reiste til Amerika for å finne eit betre utkomme.

– Mange av bremangarane hamna nettopp i Seattle-området. Dei var gode fiskarar og vande med hardt arbeid.

Ekteparet Richardson bur i dag i det same området som besteforeldra til Vickie busette seg i, nær Seattle.

Ein av søskena returnerte til Norge

Av dei fem søskena som søkte lykke i Amerika, var det ein som kom tilbake til Norge og Bremanger etter seks år. Det var den yngste av dei, Julius Aannevik, født i 1890.

Ettersom odelsguten, eldsteguten Ole, blei verande i USA, var det Julius som arva den vesle garden Aannevik.

Julius sine barnebarn Irene og Eva Aannevik, begge busett i Bergen, var vertskap då Vickie og John skulle besøke slektsgarden.

Under besøket i Bremanger blei det bladd mykje i gamle fotoalbum, og utveksla mykje informasjon om liva til slekta på begge sider av Atlanteren.

– Det har vore utruleg kjekt å oppleve dette. Eg hadde nesten ingen forventningar då eg begynte å grave i slektshistoria, men no føler eg verkeleg at eg har fått ei heilt ny forståing av familiehistoria, seier Vickie Richardson.

Sons of Norway
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SEPTEMBER 2026



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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

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