



* Supporting A Dementia Friendly Society *

NORDEN STAR

NORDEN LODGE #407 HUNTINGTON

Celebrating Our 86th Year



Volume 58, Issue # 4

April, 2026

Meeting normally each 4th Sunday of the month at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church, Huntington Station, NY
Phone (516) 791-3983 NordenLodge407@Gmail.com -Next Meeting **Sunday April 26, at 1 - 5 PM (See Location Change)**
On Facebook at: **NordenLodge3-407 Sons of Norway** - On the WEB at **NordenLodge3-407.org**
Deadline for Items for the May, 2026 Newsletter PERIODICAL is May 11, 2026

MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was so nice to see everyone in person again. It's been a longer winter than it had been in years, but now the sun is shining and the days are getting warmer. - **THIS IS A REMINDER THAT WE ARE GOING TO THE CIMINELLI'S PIZZERIA AND RESTAURANT**. ADDRESS: 427 CENTRAL AVENUE, BETHPAGE, NY. This is a corporation meeting that will begin at **1:00 pm** and is a member-only meeting as we will be talking about financial matters.



I want to share sad news that one of our active members, Robert (Bob) Saunders, passed to Lodge Eternal. He was a good friend and member who helped all who asked and he will be truly missed. Les also found a news article that another active member, in her time, Astri Torkelson had passed to Lodge Eternal. Both will be missed.

Last month we also elected Barbara Struckman as an alternate delegate, so we now have 4 delegates and 4 non-delegates (with the passing of Bob). They are getting ready to head to convention in June, and we thank the corporation for allowing us to attend and bring our thoughts and concerns to the Third District.

2026 will be fun as the parade this year is on the 17th of May. The plans are coming along. Barbara has 2 pins left and will bring them to the meeting.

Kristin and Chuck are planning our outings for 2026, they are planning the Whaling Museum, a trip to a brewery trip in 2027. Les told me that our picnic is scheduled for August 9th, and more.

We congratulate Linda Peterson for winning the "Dues Assistant Program" drawing for her free membership. Again, check your cupboards for raffle items as Karen is asking for members to bring something that can be used as a raffle prize for our Program. We will have the Viking Raffle drawings at the June meeting.

As always, remember each meeting you attend, in person or on zoom, will earn you 1 ticket in the Dues Assistant Program. So, the more meetings you attend the better chance you have of winning a free one-year of membership. Just ask the committee: Roy, Karen, Kristin or Barbara. **Remember --- the meeting is at Ciminelli's in Bethpage beginning at 1pm. Fraternally, Roy**

Directions to Ciminelli's Restaurant This Month's meeting on April 26th, will be at Ciminelli's

Restaurant (Pizza) Located at: 427 Central Ave, Bethpage, NY 11714 from 1 to 5 PM. Because this is the Annual

Corporation there are no non-members and hopefully you have let Karen know you plan to attend.

Generally located North of Hempstead Tpke and South of Hicksville.

- Using LIE Exit onto Rt 135 South (LIE Exit 44S) get off at exit 9 Broadway, Bethpage and make a right onto Cherry Ave. Stay on Cherry the end at the high school make a left onto Stewart Ave. Cross over the railroad track. Make a right at the first traffic light onto Central Ave. Ciminelli's is less than 1 mile on the left in a Strip mall. More parking next to the drycleaners, west of strip mall with access to restaurant.

- (Southern State Exit 28N) - Get off onto Rt 135 take Exit 9 to Plainview Rd. Make left onto Plainview Rd. Stay to the right onto Cherry Ave. Take Cherry to the end and at the high school make a left onto Stewart Ave. Cross over the railroad track. Make a right at the first traffic light onto Central Ave. Ciminelli's is less than 1 mile on the left in a Strip mall. More parking next to the drycleaners, west of strip mall with access to restaurant.

If you hear of anyone who is not feeling well, or needs some cheering up, please contact our **SunShine Lady**, Kathy Johannessen (631) 421-9482, so we can respond & get the word out.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS TO EVERY MEETING.

As voted, a \$1.00 reminder fee for a temporary name rental will be charged each time you forget. This could be fun! Only excellent above reproach excuses will be exempted by Vote on the floor. **See Les Johannessen for your Tag**

NORDEN ALWAYS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS

The exception is this month!

*** *NORDEN OFFICERS FOR 2025* ***

For Contact Info Email bigjobber@aol.com

President: Roy Berntsen

Vice President Kristin Gottilla

Membership Chair: Tim Baxley Assist Mary Booton

Secretary: Barbara Berntsen

Counselor: Les Johannessen

Social Director: Janet Hannigan

Youth Dir: Vacant **Editor:** Les Johannessen

Alternate Editor: Barbara Berntsen **Financial Secretary:** Shirley Erland

Treasurer Shirley Erland **Sunshine:** Kathy Johannessen

Sports Dir. Charles Gottilla **Greeter:** Mary Booton

3-22-2026 Minutes Summary

President Roy opened Norden & wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. He hoped everyone enjoyed our corned beef and cabbage dinner and commented it seems we are getting back to normal with our meetings. He thanked Ellen for coming to entertain us. - Pledge of allegiance and sang the anthems - Secretary Barbara announced a silent attendance taken & last month's minutes were approved as distributed. - There were no applications for membership. - Guest: Tim Dwyer who is engaged to Erica Rucci came with her and Nancy.

Correspondence: All reminded to sign attendance book.

1. Flyers are up front-from Kristin and for Henrik Ibsen's fishing trip
2. We should have the 10 ordered 3d directories soon.
3. Barbara has the parade pins with her and can get more if we need too.
4. A journal ad for the convention journal. And we can vote on a donation and all the other needs for the convention.
5. Barbara reminded us the **May meeting is on May 15 – Friday 5:30pm.**

Financial reports – should anyone have any bills, if you have not already done so, please submit them to Shirley at this time.

The Atlantic City bus deposit was paid. Sent the check for convention delegates and non-delegates for the convention.

Committee reports

Social Directors: Barbara: ordered dinner for the next few months.

Newsletter: Les – has extra copies with him. Remember to sign up for a remembrance and your name in the newsletter. Remember to check your emails as Les finds nice zoom programs to watch and good information to read and learn.

Les said when and if we need a zoom meeting, don't miss out is just a phone call if you do not have a computer.

Sports directors: Chuck & Kristin had planned different outside trip for us.

2026 new sports

- Whaling Museum
- A brewery or distillery venue is postponed until 2027.
- The picnic will be on Aug. 9th – members need to give Kristin or Chuck \$10 and will get it back at the picnic.
- Atlantic City is \$60 per person, and you get money back from the hotel.
- Duck's game is in July, and the cost is \$15 per person.
- Henrik Ibsen fishing trip is \$65 per person. See the flyer in the newsletter.

Zone: Steve / Les / Karen / Barbara

1. Our memorial service will be held on the first Sunday on May 3, 2026. Ibsen is host. It is coming along well. We will also have our scholarship awards given out as Ibsen is the host of that too. We will let the 2 applicants know about that date.
2. The district approved the zone hosting the 2028 convention if we can get those who are on the ground that day. We also need approval from the delegates at the 2026 convention. We will have most of the information by then and it was given to the district secretary Karen.
3. The Zone is sponsoring the Christmas Party next year. We are still working out the final details.

Sunshine: Kathy said Linda Peterson was in the hospital and it was nice to see her here. Bob Saunders is in the hospital so please send cards. Jim Varady had surgery on his arm. All are wished well.

Corporation: Steve – said our next meeting on April 26th will be at Ciminelli's in Bethpage. It is our corporation meeting, and it is only for members. The social directors have a day off.

The corporation approved paying for the convention delegates and non-delegates.

Dues assistance program: Karen – reminded everyone to bring items for the raffle in June. Please bring them early so she can create baskets. Karen asked our guest Tim to pull the winning ticket. Congratulations to Linda Peterson who won the free membership for 2026. The corporation will take over these funds.

3rd district: Steve & Karen:

- **Youth camp** will be held July 20-26, 2026, at Camp Koinonia. The campers age is under 17.
- **Culture camp down south** – it will be held in the same place – the Coastal Retreat Isle of Palms in SC. September 16-20, 2026.
- **2026 convention** will be held in Virginia Beach VA on June 4 – 7th.

It is coming along nicely, and Hampton Roads Lodge and the district are hosting it.

We have 4 delegates and right now we have four non-delegates and 2 guests, but I would like to nominate Barbara Struckman as another non-delegate to the convention in Virginia. Is that approved by the corporation? Yes, it was approved. With that Kristin made a motion to elect Barbara Struckman as a non-delegate. Barbara second. Approved.

Our applications for all (except Christine and Craig who mailed them on their own) were mailed on March 18, 2026.

Parade: Barbara – our pins are here. They are \$6 each.

- Ken Johnson sent out the notice for the Miss Norway contest on March 28th, the Norwegian Home at 2pm.
- We are having a fundraiser at Gjoa on April 11th from 4 – 8 pm and the price to get tickets and some light refreshments is \$25 per person.

New business

Convention news: they are asking for donation for the Viking Auction. They are asking for donations for the Charitable Trust. There will be 3 auctions – raffle – silent – and live for the bigger items. Barbara has a hand painted platter to raffle off. *Karen made a motion to donate the hand painted plate, second by Suzie -- approved.*

Also -- if anyone other than the lodge would like to donate you can bring it to the meeting and we will take it with us.

Good of the order

1. Bob McKeever said how nice it was to see everyone and said as of April 1 the annuity will be 5%.
2. We thanked Ellen again for coming.
3. The 50/50 of \$31. was won by Mary B.

Counselor Les: may peace and harmony prevail within our lodge.

Our next meeting is meeting on Sunday afternoon – April 26 at 1:00pm at Ciminelli's Pizza and Restaurant. Remember to tell Kare or Steve you are coming.

Roy would like to thank everyone for coming today.

Roy now announced the meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

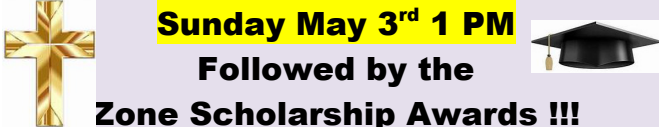
*Respectfully Submitted by Barabara Berntsen
(Edits by the Editor for space considerations)*

Memorial Service this year is on

Sunday May 3rd 1 PM

Followed by the

Zone Scholarship Awards !!!



***** UP COMING EVENTS *****



IT'S ALL SCANDINAVIAN

Follow and see
Ellen Lindstrom's Band
perform at:

<http://www.theswedishmeatballs.com/shows.html>

******* Come One Come All *******

We are **planning a raffle in June** for the Dues Assistance Fund. Please bring some nice items to the May Meeting for the Raffle, It's great! that we continue to support this effort.

THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN 17th OF MAY COMMITTEE OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.



Join us for the
67th Annual Crowning of

Miss Norway of Greater New York

We are excited to welcome back Little Miss Norway & Junior Cadets To this year's Miss Norway of Greater New York event!

To add your child's name to the list, please contact Arlene:

ArleneRutuelo@gmail.com

Saturday, March 28, 2026 – 2 PM

Arthur Nilsen Banquet Hall
Norwegian Christian Home and Health Center
1250 67th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219

\$25/Adult - \$10/Child (12Yrs & Younger)

Children under 3 are free

Light refreshments served

Please email Arlene Rutuelo For reservations/questions noted above

*** Your Editor has Applications available upon request. ***

COME AND SUPPORT THE PARADE!



NORWEGIAN DAY PARADE FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

GJOA CLUB ·

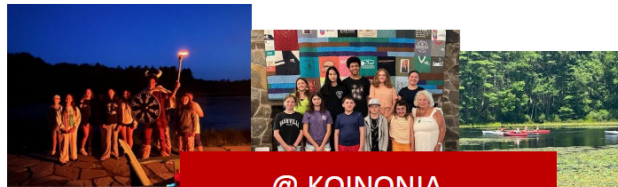
850 62nd STREET, BROOKLYN

**4-8 PM · \$25 PER PERSON
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS · CASH BAR**

**PARK IN BAY RIDGE AND
UBER TO THE GJOA CLUB.**

Our Annual Corporation Meeting on April 26th @ 2PM will be held at Ciminelli's Restaurant, 427 Central Ave, Bethpage, NY – Be sure to let Karen know if your plan to attend.

Sons of Norway Youth Camp



**@ KOINONIA
Highland Lake, NY**

July 26-August 1, 2026 for ages 8 to 17

Activities include:

- Bonfire
- Rosemaling
- Woodcarving
- Cultural Studies
- Canoeing
- Language class
- Kubb, Archery
- Hardanger

The completed application form, along with a \$100 deposit must be sent to: Katie Brink before May 26th. The check should be made payable to Sons of Norway District Lodge #3. You will receive camp materials including a health form when your application is received. Total cost: \$550 Sons of Norway Members, \$600 for Non Members.

The full balance must be received by June 26th

Send to: Katie Brink

Sons of Norway Youth Camp Coordinator
7107 Fernwood St #2421, Henrico, VA 23228

Email: Uyakm27@outlook.com Phone: 614-202-5964

LODGE PICNIC August 9, 2026

11:00AM to 4:00PM

**Centerport Senior Center, Northport
More Information to Follow**

**2026 Henrik Ibsen Fishing Members, Family and Friends
Welcome Aboard the Capt EDDIE B III**

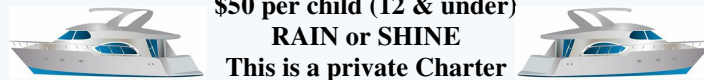
Sunday August 23rd, 2025

1:00pm – 5:00pm (BOAT LEAVES AT 1 PM SHARP)

\$65 per person (includes gratuity)

\$50 per child (12 & under)

RAIN or SHINE



This is a private Charter

You may bring your own food/beverages

We must give a final count so **PLEASE** send names and payment **NO LATER then August 1st 2025**

Make checks payable to: John Kern

Mail to: John Kern

1498 Brightshore Blvd Bay Shore NY 11706

Questions? Please contact John cell/text 631 636-2035

**3D Norwegian Cultural Camp
Returns at The Isle of Palms, SC
For Families and Adults Sept 16 – 20, 2026
More Information to Follow**



FROM THE 3RD DISTRICT

Fra 3D President, Steve Helmold, Spring/2026 - Spring is almost here and I hope the winter we had is over, and everyone can enjoy nice spring weather for a change. Lodges will be celebrating spring with St. Patrick's Day corn beef and cabbage dinners and Easter dinner celebrations.

The Third District is getting ready for the district convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia June 4th to 7th at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center. I hope your lodges will send your full delegation to the convention so they can hear and vote on resolutions and other matters that come up. Remember your delegates are your lodge's representatives to the district meeting (convention), so if you want a say in what is happening at the convention, you should be sending delegates.

Going forward after the convention is the Third District Youth Camp which is from July 26th to August 1st, so if you have children that would like to attend camp, please send in an application which can be found on the Third District Website or contact District Vice President Katie Brink.

Following Youth Camp, there is Cultural Camp September 16th to 20th. For more information, contact Third District Cultural Director Cheri Johnson.

Speaking of Cheri Johnson, as I have done in some of my past president's messages, when I highlighted some of the Third District Board members, I am introducing Cheri Johnson to everyone now. Cheri has been a member of the district board since the 2024 convention and has been the perfect person for the Cultural Director's position. Here is what she has to say about herself in her own words.

It is my pleasure to be involved in the Sons of Norway as Cultural Director of the 3rd District and President of Bla Fjell Lodge in Salem, Va. near Roanoke. When I was a teenager, in a suburb of Chicago, I wanted to be an archeologist because I loved studying cultures of people. I ended up as a Special Needs teacher for 38 years, a profession I loved very much.

During those years I was fortunate to be an exchange teacher through our United States Gov't to Russia, Sweden, Costa Rica, New Zealand, and The Netherlands. At night I taught classes at Roanoke College, UVA, and Radford University in Special Education and Global Studies. My Lutheran church needed a missionary, so I made 7 trips to Central and South America to teach children alongside a medical team. 20 years ago, I became interested in my ancestry. My Norwegian and Austrian grandparents shared their past with me, and I found myself tracing my roots to Telemark, Norway, the Heddal Church, and Vienna, Austria.

Deep down I knew I had the "Viking Spirit" to travel.

I feel very blessed because my wonderful husband, Don of 45 years, and my 3 children, Theresa, Scott, and Tiffany have supported these endeavors. I loved having my youngest daughter, Tiffany, accompany me on several exchanges and missionary trips.

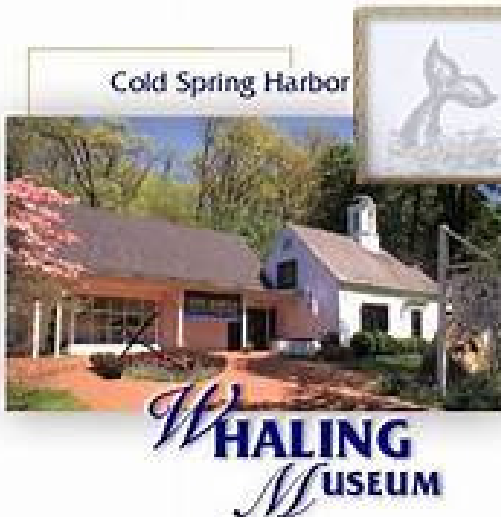
I love my position as Cultural Director in SON. I work with wonderful and talented people and can share in the joy of learning about our Nordic countries. Our Bla Fjell Lodge has 2 Adopt-a-Schools, where I share lessons on the Vikings, Sami of the Northern Cap, and all the Nordic Countries. This is my 20th year at Bla Fjell Lodge, and I love sharing Cultural programs with fellow members, colleagues, and our satellite Lodge, Hardrada, in Charlottesville, Va. My Virginia friend, Katie Brink, and I have worked with the Youth Camp at Koinonia in New York and started a Cultural Camp in Isle of Palms, SC for adults and children. We are all learning from each other and enjoying our love of Norway. I love doing research on many countries, reading, and trying cultural recipes to share with my 74 Cultural Studies students at Cornerstone Classical Academy one day a week. They love it too.

Thank you, Stephen Helmold, for giving me this opportunity to share my cultural experiences with 3rd District, all my Nordic friends, and fellow lodges. Please consider coming to our Cultural Camp in Isle of Palms, SC for fellowship, fun, the beach, and the "joy" of learning with each other from talented instructors in September 2026.

Thank you, Cheri. Karen and I and the rest of the district board are very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Cheri. She has been tremendous in her position, and is always willing to step up to the plate and lend a hand to help out.

Until my next message in May, Karen and I and the rest of the district board would like to wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a very Happy Easter.

Fraternally, Stephen Helmold



**We are planning at Trip
June 27
To the Museum
Put it on your Calendar**

**We will have another
Ducks Game Outing on
July 18th With Fireworks –
More Info to Follow**

**The Atlantic City Trip is
Back On for October 3, 2026
More Info will Follow as we
get closer to the date.**

LODGE SAVE THE DATE 2026

- Apr26** – Annual Corp Meeting at Ciminelli’s Bethpage 1-5 PM
- May15** - Lodge Meeting St Peters 7 PM (Note Date/Time Change)
- Jun28** - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Sept27** - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Oct25** – Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Nov22** - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM

Activities In and Out of Our Zone!!!

- Mar28** – Miss Norway Crowning Norwegian Christian Home
- Apr11** – Parade Fund Raiser GJOA Bklyn 4-8 PM
- May3** – Zone Memorial Service 1PM (Scholarship Awards)
- May15** – Gather Raffle Items at the Lodge Meeting
- Jun27** – Cold Spring Harbor Museum Trip 11 AM
- Jul18** – Ducks Game w/Fireworks 6:25 PM
- Jul 26 – Aug 1** - Youth Camp- Koinonia at Higland Lake, NY
- Aug23** – Ibsen Fishing from Captree 1-5 PM
- Sept 16-20** – Cultural Camp – Isle of Palm, SC

*** BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS ***

Month’s Birthdays – Gratulerer Med Dagen!

Name	Day	Name	Day
Nancy M Seals	3	Nancy K Rucci	18
Craig Schofield	4	Linda A Peterson	22
Richard J Edwards	11	Solveig Accordino	27
Ethel McKeever	11	James J Varady	28
Roy Berntsen	14	Bette I Stahl	29
Frank A Odin	16	Norma J Frey	30
Timothy G Baxley	17		

5 Yr+ Membership Milestones For These Months, Congratulations:

- Eric S Arnum – 35 Years, Karen A Kvam – 35 Years
- Howard Johansen - 31 Years, Janet Hannigan – 12 Years
- Barbara T Struckman – 24 Years, Gayle B Arnum – 12 Years
- Tim G Baxley – 11 Years, Mary T Booton – 11 Years
- Johanna M Fink – 11 Years

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We finally had an in person meeting last Month and it was great to have many attend. Although a ZOOM meeting is great in a pinch, when Mother Nature does not cooperate. But nothing replaces the feeling of an in person warm Koeslig meeting. This month will have the added benefit of a meal of choice to that feeling. I’m sure that our feelings will follow us!

Meeting Attendance – in order to enhance our members benefits by increasing subsidies for good participation. The more involved the more you benefit.

If you don’t see your name, & you attended, let us know.

- March 22:** Roy & Barbara Berntsen, Roy Berntsen Jr., Shirley Erland, Karen Olsen Helmold, Steve Helmold (Z), Chuck & Kristin Gottilla, Les & Kathy Johannessen, Susan Olson, Tim Baxley, Mary Booton, Nancy Seals, Mildred Sandberg, Bob & Ethel McKeever, Erica Rucci, Nancy Rucci, Jim & Heida Varady, Asbjørn Lageraen, Leif Easterson, Craig & Christine Carlsen (Z), Linda Petersen, Anna Tonon
- Guests: Ellen (Music) Tim Dwyer (with Erica R)

50/50 won \$31 by Mary Booton

The Lodge’s Official Annual List of Attendance at our Meetings is Available upon request. Just ask your Editor or any of the Lodge’s Officers.

2025 Norden Star Boosters Updated 3/24/26

Berntsen, Barbara & Roy 5/26	Holvedt, Clif & Nina 11/28
Berntsen, Margret 5/26	Meusel, Helen 6/27
Berntsen, Roy Jr 5/26	Obsberg, Norma 11/26
Brown, Greta & George 6/28	Rucci, Nancy 7/28
Carlson, Craig & Christine 11/30	Sandberg, Mildred 6/26
Erland, Shirly 9/27	Seals, Nancy 5/27
Hansen, Elsa 6/25	Stuckman, Barbara 12/25
Helmold, Steve & Karen 3/25	Tremel, Fred & Jean 9/26

IN MEMORY OF

- Berntsen, Knut 5/26
- Berntsen, Margaret 10/26
- Gladys J Ecock 10/26
- Erland, Endre & Sigrid 9/27
- Frey, Judith 2/30
- Maier, Betsy Jane Sersted 3/26
- Johansen, Lars, Sigrid & Art 10/30
- Jacobsen, Edward 4/29
- Larssen, Tryggve & Signe 3/23
- Obsberg, Artie 11/26
- Hector Rucci 10/28
- Stuckman, Erik 12/25

COMMEMORATORS

- Barbara & Roy Berntsen
- Barbara & Roy Berntsen
- Barbara & Roy Berntsen
- Daughter Shirley Erland
- Daughter Norma Frey
- Daughter Janet Maies Hannigan
- Family
- Brother John & Wife Carol
- Daughter Greta & George Brown
- Wife Norma
- Wife Nancy
- Mother Barbara

Room for more members that would like to join us. The \$5/Yr helps mailing costs. The dates following the names denote the end of the annual support

Please make checks payable to Norden Lodge 407. Cash is fine.

WE THANK ALL OUR BOOSTERS HELPING TO GET THE NEWSLETTER OUT

Don’t forget that 17th of May Pins are available from Barbara Bernsten now!



Our Lodge is once again experiencing the loss off two members . **Bob Saunders and Astri Torkelsen.** – Bob’s passing on March 30 was an unexpected loss of his quite strength, dedication and deep expressions of caring. Seemed like Bob was always there ready to help and participate. As we all bid farewell we should be honored that he chose to share his life with us. Rest in Peace Bob you will and are missed.

- Astri Tokelsen, who we just discovered past last year. She was a longtime member of the Lodge who along with her husband Lars, who’s passing we recognized years ago, both involved in developing plans and participated in the building of our Lodge, both physically & fraternally. Work required that they leave Huntington and move to Southhold and later retire in Riverhead. They maintained membership throughout it all including when health would not allow them to attend meetings. She has and will be missed.

This Month is known for it’s promise of rebirth and renewal! Hope everyone had a wonderful Easter Celebration.

Some Cultural Items for the Month

Cultural Corner: Metal detectorist finds

Viking Age gold coin that might upend history:



The ninth-century coin pendant depicts a Christian saint in a pagan world. APR 8, 2026 EDT Popular Science Magazine
- Less than a 30 minute drive from the University of Cambridge in England, a metal detectorist followed

beeps to a remarkable treasure: a ninth century gold coin pendant.

Now finding long-lost coins in the English countryside isn't exactly unheard of. In 2025, [another metal detectorist discovered a gold coin](#) dating back to the Iron Age in East Yorkshire. Before that, a [Viking silver cache was discovered](#) in North Yorkshire.

- But this newly discovered gold coin isn't like the others. This coin might just rewrite history, at least a little bit. What makes this coin a bit of a head scratcher is what it depicts: a bearded profile of Saint John the Baptist. Thanks to a Latin inscription, experts have no doubts the coin shows the Christian saint. But what experts don't yet understand is why the Vikings, who had conquered the English kingdom of East Anglia (where the coin was found) and who *weren't* Christians, minted or wore a coin with a Christian saint on it. Why would pagans want a coin with a Christian on it?

In an [interview with BBC](#), numismatics expert Simon Coupland compared the coin to "a child trying to fit a hexagonal object into a square hole." The coin just doesn't fit into history the way it should, which suggests we may have some of the history wrong.

- Maybe pagan Vikings liked wearing pendants showing Christian saints as a way to assimilate into East Anglia's largely Christian population? Or maybe a Christian East Anglian wore the pendant? Or maybe a Christian Viking wore the pendant, even though most historians believed the invading Danes were pagan, not Christian? And just like that, one small gold coin can upend history—rewriting England's cultural landscape during the island's perilous ninth century.

LES

History Article: Weird Things about Norway - part 2: 4. Norwegians hike with their babies



I love to hike. At age 64, each summit feels like a personal victory. Yet, time after time in Norway, I have huffed and puffed my way up a steep mountain trail only to find at the top families having a picnic. Kindergarten-age kids run around, nimble as little goats, and there are *babies* in backpacks. In one case I encountered *four* babies on a single mountain top. No wonder Norwegians love the outdoors. They climb mountains before they can walk. Are you kidding me? There's babies, babies everywhere up here!

5. Pizza and burgers are everywhere — and you can get them gluten free!

It's bizarre how popular burgers and pizza are in Norway. Even in the tiniest remote towns, you can easily get both. It seems American-style fast food has conquered the country, but you can get varieties you won't find stateside: Reindeer as a pizza topping? Yes, please. Mooseburger? Yum.

To my delight, as someone with celiac disease, even above the Arctic circle gluten-free options are almost always available. In contrast, in all of Paris, (the food capital of the world) I found only one restaurant with GF pizza and just a handful that have GF burger buns.

6. The lawn is on the roof



Outside cities and towns, it's common to see houses with a turf roof. Putting a thick layer of sod with grass growing on your roof made a lot of practical sense in earlier times, from the Viking Age until the 19th Century (when tin and tile roofs came into fashion). Turf insulation keeps a house dry and warm



in winter, and cool in summer. It is also easy to maintain. Basically, you just have to mow it every now and then, so trees don't start to grow. - Traditional turf houses.

Above: 17th Century home (Alesund Outdoor Museum) - Left: Boathouses Geiranger. Right: traditional Sami winter house (Karasjok Sampi Park Museum).



In recent decades, the turf roof has made a comeback. The market for vacation cottages and second homes in the countryside is booming, and turf roofs add a cosy and warm look to a rustic cabin, which is exactly what Norwegians seek — a feeling they call *hygge*.

Modern turf roofs: Left: Namnestunet fishing lodge; Right: Lofoten summer cottage.

7. Cash is useless

Norwegians buy everything with a credit or debit card. As a result, in Norway ATMs are as rare as phone booths. Banks don't even have them anymore, as they do everywhere else in Europe. When I first arrived, I spent a long afternoon trying to track down an ATM in central Oslo. Eventually, I discovered one inside a deli! There are a few rip-off Euronet machines in most towns for naive tourists. These take a whopping 10% commission! But there really is no need for cash at all. I got 2,000 kroner from the Deli machine mid-June — about \$200 US. Two months later, most of it is still in my back pocket.

One time my foreign credit card would not work at a parking lot ticket machine, so I asked the young woman behind me in line if she would be kind enough to purchase a ticket for me, and I could give her kroner for it. She looked at me as if I had offered to trade her a sack of flour. "I don't *use* cash," she told the old man. Luckily I did find someone in my own demographic willing to accept my gold doubloons in exchange for a ticket I could put on the windshield of my buggy.

Barbara

Don't forget by selecting (clicking) on a picture you can enlarge it by selecting it first and then select & hold one of the dots that appear & pull until the desired size is reached

THERE ARE 3 MORE OF THESE DIFFERENT THINGS ABOUT NORWAY – BUT WE HAVE A SPACE PROBLEM HERE – MORE NEXT MONTH !



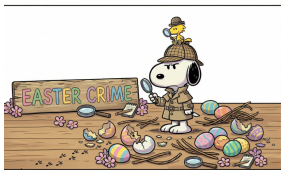
Remembering Crown Princess Märtha -

If you walk down D.C.'s Embassy Row, you will pass countless statues of men—but only one woman. Standing proudly outside the

Ambassador's Residence is Norway's Crown Princess Märtha, the mother of our current King Harald V.

- After fleeing the Nazi invasion, Princess Märtha sought refuge near the U.S. capital. Refusing to retreat into isolation, she became a vital lifeline for her occupied nation. She cultivated a close friendship with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and toured Norwegian American communities to build support, ultimately helping secure crucial U.S. backing for the Norwegian resistance—including the famous heavy water sabotage.

- As we celebrate her 125th birthday and look ahead to America250, we honor her courage and the enduring bonds she forged between our nations. [Read the full story here.](#) [Happy 125th birthday,... - Norwegian Embassy in Washington | Facebook](#)



SNOOPY There's a good reason Snoopy makes the perfect mascot for learning Norwegian Easter terms! In her latest column for Sons of Norway's *Viking Magazine*, Ambassador Anniken Huitfeldt highlights the iconic beagle's surprising heritage. Creator Charles M. Schulz, the son of a Norwegian mother, likely derived the name "Snoopy" from the Norwegian term of endearment *snupi* (or *snuppe*).

A Piece of Space History: Norwegian Flag Returns from Orbit, Finds New Home at Embassy

The Norwegian Embassy was honored to receive one of only 10 Norwegian flags to have ever orbited Earth! Norway's first astronaut, Jannicke Mikkelsen, presented the historic flag—which flew on SpaceX's Fram2 polar orbit mission—to Ambassador Anniken Huitfeldt and Defense Attaché Ole Morten Sandquist. The flag serves as a powerful symbol of the strong and growing U.S.-Norwegian cooperation as we explore the stars alongside our closest allies.

The three articles above were found in the Norwegian Embassy's Bi Monthly Publication in Washington DC

MANY COUNTRIES ARE TURNING TO NORWAY FOR OIL AND GAS SUPPORT

April 11, 2026 Norway is internationally recognized as a leader in accountability and the effective use of oil revenue. The country has established a sovereign wealth fund that reinvests oil and gas revenue for the benefit of future generations of Norwegians. Since the situation in the Middle East the Norwegian government has been trying to pass emergency changes to allow for the export to many countries requesting support.

NORWAY NAMED WORLD'S THIRD-RICHEST COUNTRY IN 2025

JAN, 2026
With a GDP per capita of US\$90,700, Singapore was second only to Switzerland at \$100,000. In the third place was Norway at \$86,800, according to a recent ranking by the British publication *The Economist*. Data from the Ministry of

Manpower shows that employees in Singapore worked an average of 43.3 hours per week in 2024.

By comparison, workers in Norway averaged 33.2 hours per week that year, according to the International Labour Organisation.

In August, Singapore was placed 25th out of 60 countries in Remote.com's 2025 Global Life-Work Balance Index, scoring 57.85 out of 100.

New Zealand, Ireland and Belgium topped the index with scores of 86.87, 81.17 and 75.91 respectively. Singapore nonetheless ranked as the highest-placed Asian country for work-life balance.

- Once hours worked are factored in, Norway emerged as the top-ranked country, followed by Qatar and Denmark. Singapore was in the eight place behind the Netherlands.

REVIEWING

SOME KEY DATES IN NORWAY'S HISTORY:

Circa 800-1050 - Viking Age, in which Scandinavians go on plundering expeditions abroad. Some Norwegians settle at their destinations, including Scotland and Greenland.

1030 - Christianity adopted.

1536 - Norway becomes a dependency of Denmark.

1814-1905 - Union with Sweden.

1905 - Norwegian parliament, the Storting, proclaims independence from Sweden. Prince Carl of Denmark becomes King.

1913 - Universal suffrage for women introduced.

1940 - German forces invade Norway in April, attacking important ports. fighting lasts for two months.

- The Royal Family and the government flee to Britain in June. A government-in-exile is set up in London. Vidkun Quisling proclaims himself head of government in Norway.

1941 - Quisling introduces martial law due to widespread resistance and acts of sabotage by the Norwegian people.

1945 - German forces in Norway surrender in May. The King returns to Norway in June. Quisling is tried and executed for treason. Norway becomes a charter member of the United Nations.

1949 - Norway joins the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato).

1959 - Norway becomes founder member of the European Free Trade Association (Efta).

Late 1960s - Oil and gas deposits discovered in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. By the early 1980s they constitute nearly one-third of Norway's annual export earnings.

1970s - Exploitation of oil and gas deposits begins. By the early 1980s they constitute nearly one-third of Norway's annual export earnings.

1972 - Norwegian voters reject the Labour government's recommendation on EEC membership.

1973 - Norway signs a free trade agreement with the EEC.

1994 - Norwegians for the second time reject membership of the European Union in a referendum, by a margin of about 5%.

2011 - Extreme right-winger Anders Behring Breivik carries out a bomb attack and mass shooting, killing more than 70 people in the worst massacre in Norway's modern history.

2016 - The Lutheran Church - to which three-quarters of Norwegians belong - adopts a new liturgy allowing gay couples to marry in church weddings.

Place Stamp Here



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Our Next meeting Sunday April 26th 1 – 5 pm Will be held at Ciminelli’s Restaurant, 427 Central Ave, Bethpage, NY. Directions have been sent via email earlier as well as herein. This is our Annual Corporation Meeting and therefore as in the past, only Lodge Member may attend. This is another new happening for the Lodge, which will probably be very enjoyable and in keeping with the Lodge’s efforts to keep things interesting. Hope to see you all !!



The Month of Renewal

Are your assets aligned with your financial goals? A Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor will offer a **Free Financial Review.**



Robert McKeever, CLU - 21 Averly Place, Smithtown NY 11787
Phone: (800) 561-1492 - Email: bob@rmclu.com



Got Stamps? Tubfrim Is Still Accepting Stamps !

Please leave a 1/4 " around cut stamps.

We are continuing to support **Tubfrim**, a Norwegian-owned charity that resells cancelled stamps to benefit Norwegian children with health and other physical disabilities. **Every little bit helps.** The effort has continued since 1928 and will hopefully continue with our help as long as there is need. Bring them to the next meeting & any of our officers will take it from there.

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Togetherness in a pleasant setting.*
