



* Supporting A Dementia Friendly Society *

NORDEN STAR

NORDEN LODGE #407 HUNTINGTON

Celebrating Our 86th Year



Volume 58, Issue # 2

February, 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 February 22, at 2 PM**
 On Facebook at: **NordenLodge3-407 Sons of Norway** - On the WEB at **NordenLodge3-407.org**
Deadline for Items for the March, 2026 Newsletter PERIODICAL is March 16, 2026

MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We missed many of you for the zoom meeting due to the big snowstorm. We have not had snow like that in many years. We got 18 inches in Valley Stream, and I know many received many inches too. My house still has snow from that storm and I do hear we may have another.

We did have the Bowling for Fun with Henrik Ibsen Lodge, and it was a fun afternoon. We had 10 bowlers and a cheering squad, for those who did have a good time.

In January we had our election for the delegates to convention and we have 4 delegates, and 4 alternates going. We thank the corporation for allowing us to attend and bring our thoughts and concerns to the Third District. Come to the meeting and see about the questions we hope to present. It is coming up this June, and it is nice to visit some special stops in Virginia. Again, whether you are a delegate, a non-delegate, or a guest, the hotel is offering a very good rate to visit, plus it will be fun to see everyone from across the district. And since you are down there anyway, plan to see some of the highlights. Like: Mount Vernon, Monticello, Williamsburg and other historic sites. It is the 250th Anniversary for the country so I think the sites are planning something extra to celebrate. We are thinking about where and plan to visit on the trip to Virginia. Take advantage of reasonable prices at the hotel.

2026 will be fun as the parade this year is on the 17th of May. The plans are coming along. Barbara has the pins and will bring them for you. They are really nice and she will keep us up to date on the marching.

Kristin is planning for our outings for 2026, come to the meeting and see what she has in store for us. Those of you who attended our events all had a wonderful time and it was good to get together and not have a meeting. She has more information and I can't wait to see what she and Chuck have for us to do. Les told me that our picnic is scheduled for August 9th but we will not have Ellen playing for us. We need to see if we need music or not. Most of us play the games we have set up, so let's talk about it at the meeting.

Since we had a zoom meeting last month, Karen will be drawing the "dues attendance" name for the free annual membership. Last year Kristin won, so who will it be this year.

Karen is asking for members to bring something that we can use as a raffle prize for our Dues Assistance Program where we will have the cup raffle at the March meeting. So, check your cupboards and find great stuff to raffle off in March. Ellen will be with us too, so when you get up to check out the raffle treasures, dance a little.

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.

Fraternally, Roy .



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

*** *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

1-25-2026 Minutes Summary

Zoom Meeting Opened 2:30pm. Roy wished everyone a Happy New Year & thanked the corporation for hosting such a wonderful Julefest. If you missed it, you missed a nice afternoon. A round of applause to Karen and Steve. Roy also thanked Kristin, Chuck, Mary and Tim for helping with the days activities. – Roy acknowledged the passing of long time Garborg members Fred & Astrid Westin with a moment of silence to reflect. Their Granddaughter Claudia Westin, notified us via a letter (Copy available upon request, from our secretary) indicating some memorable items she had available.

Guests Visitor: 3D Vice President Katie Brink from Hampton Roads Lodge. Meeting is recorded allowing attendance count, approval of previous Minutes, there were no Membership Apps.

Correspondence: Barbara reported: Færder lodge 115th anniversary. Our 5 members planning to attend were unable to do so due to 5-6 inches of snow on the day. Færder understood and has returned our checks. Too bad I'm sure it would have been nice. 2- Barbara's motion to order 10 3D Directories. We get 2 free and the others are \$5.00 each. Second by Kristin and approved. 3- Next order of business to vote Convention Delegates and a Motion for a Journal Entry during new business later. - The Lodge received a thank you note from zone 1 scholarship committee for the generous donation of \$250 to the scholarship fund.

4- Also, Barbara apologized for the mistake in the newsletter concerning the Dues assist and Scholarship Fund timing. (We all have many balls in the air) 5- Barbara noted the church was aware of our need to cancel our meeting and to change the May meeting to May 15 – Friday night at 6pm. 6- Kristin read a memo about joining an all-member meeting with the IBoD. The Member discussion will be held on Feb 9 at 11am – 12:30pm Central Time. 6- **3D VP Katie Brink** said the home office is having a meeting during the day for the younger under 50 members.

Financial reports Report during meeting, available upon request.

Committee reports

Social Directors: Barbara has cancelled today's meal, ordered February, March, and May.

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.

Sports Directors: Chuck /Kristin **2026 sports & Norden Events**

- Henrik Ibsen bowling for fun will be held on February 15th. Let Kristin, Chuck or Roy know, if you want to bowl. It is a fun day even if you just visit. Last year we had 4 teams? Kristin said there were 10 members bowling so far.

- Kristin said the Whaling Museum and Cultural Center is on June 27th and there is a restaurant in walking distance.

- Kristin is looking into a brewery/IPA/ Cider Beer setting this time, but it may be costly like the winery was.

- Chuck is checking on dates for the Ducks Game in July.

- Chuck said the zoom program is up for renewal soon.

- Les report the permit in for our picnic on August 9th is submitted but has not been confirmed yet. (Believes Date is Available)

Zone: We have our meeting in February but here's things to remember. 1- Our memorial service will be held on the first Sunday on May 3, 2026. Ibsen is host. It is coming along well.

2- The zone approved hosting the 2028 convention if we can get those who are on the ground that day. We need a further report from Steve for the third district approval. - We also need approval from the delegates at the 2026 convention. We need most of the information by then to give it to the district secretary Karen.

Sunshine: Kathy said all is good. Les suggested we should think about reaching out to our older members and see if they are OK.

Corporation: Steve – they are having a meeting this Wednesday to discuss April meeting. Karen said the Christmas party went well.

Dues assistance program: Karen – she will pull in the winner of the 1-year dues payment in February. Cliff asked a question of where the money should be coming from. Mabe we should put a blurb in the newsletter again to let more people know.

3rd District: Steve & Karen:

Youth camp will be held July 26 to Aug 1 ,2026, at Camp Koinonia and the age for campers is up to 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.

Karen stated there will be no picnic in august this summer we can not get enough people to attend.

2026 convention will be held in Virginia Beach VA on June 4 – 7th. 3D VP Katie spoke about the convention and the activities coming up. She stated that Hampton Roads Lodge is having a special Friday night activity. The cost is \$25 per person, and you get a dinner and a wonderful Norwegian Band.

Parade: Barbara – our pins are here but we had a zoom, so she doesn't have any yet. We are meeting in March so she will have them at our March meeting.

- Ken Johnson: The Sons of Norway Co-Chair sent out the application if we want to March on May 17th. No one wanted to march as a group.

- Ken also sent out the notice for The Miss Norway Contest on March 28th, The Norwegian Home at 2pm. If you would like an application, please let Barbara know and she will send you one. - We are having a fundraiser at Gjøa On April 11th from 4 – 8 Pm and the price to get tickets and some light refreshments is \$25/PP.

- Les will again have them in the newsletter. He will research golf carts for those who would like to ride them during the parade.

New Business We get 4 delegates and as many non-delegates, so think about if you want to go. - It is coming along nicely, and Hampton Roads and the District are hosting it. - The golf tournament will be the day before and the cost is \$35. Per golfer.

Convention delegates – we are allotted 4 delegates.

Steve nominated 4 convention delegates 1-Roy Berntsen – Pres. 2- Barbara Berntsen 3-Les Johannessen 4-Janet Hannigan

Alternate delegates 1-Shirley Erland 2-Kathy Johannessen 3-Bob Saunders 4-Nancy Rucci

Christine and Craig said they would like to go as guests, as they do not know their plans yet. When they know the specific plans, they will email them to us.

- Vote on the ad for the convention journal. –we have always taken a full page. Kristin made a motion to take a full page /black and white page. Second by Kathy and approved. Barbara will send the information to Les and Shirley. Les will make our ad.

-Donation for the Viking auction. They are asking for a donation where the money will go to the Charitable Trust. There will be 3 auctions – raffle – silent – and live for the bigger items.

- Karen asked that this be tabled this until next month where we will have a better idea of who may bring items & there will be more people in attendance.

- Karen brought forth a resolution. This will need approval at the District Lodge Meeting. The resolution was then read and discussed.

Minutes Continued Fr Pg 2

Barbara made a motion to bring to the district lodge meeting. Clif second, discussion and approved. Counselor Les: "May peace and harmony prevail within our lodge" - Our next meeting is meeting on Sunday afternoon - February 22 at 2:30 I would like to thank everyone for signing on today. I now declare this business zoom meeting adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.

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

**** 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 February for the Dues Assistance Fund. Please bring some nice items to raffle off and let's see how well we can 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

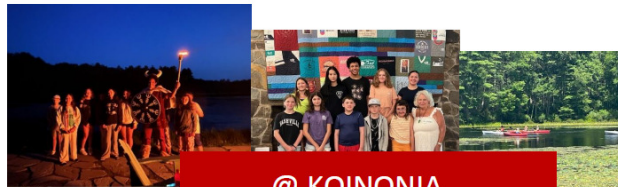
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

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.

Sons of Norway Youth Camp



@ KOINONIA Highland Lake, NY

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

Activities include:

- Bonfire Canoeing Rosemaling Language class Woodcarving Kubb, Archery Cultural Studies 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: Uyakkm27@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

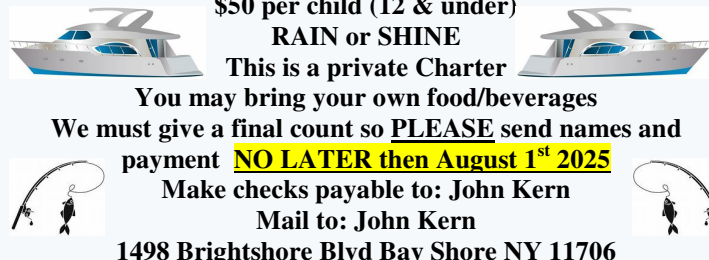
We must give a final count so PLEASE send names and payment NO LATER than August 1st 2025

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, Winter 2025/2026 - Here we are in November, and the holidays are right around the corner with a new year right after that. Where has the time gone? It seems like the year has just started and now it is almost over, and we are getting ready for a new one.

We accomplished a lot this year with activities. We had the Third District Picnic which unfortunately had a poor turnout of members for the second year in a row even though it was a great event with lots of food and fun for everyone. But due to the poor turnout, the Third District Board will be eliminating it for 2026, It is very sad to do that, but it had to be done.

Youth Camp was held this past July and was a huge success and will be back for July of 2026. If you have children or grandchildren, I highly urge you to send them to Youth Camp, where they can learn about the Norwegian heritage and culture and make friends with the other children at the camp. It is the best gift you can give your children.

Weekend Cultural Camp was held this past June and was so successful that not only will it be back in September of 2026, but we will be adding a day to the event, If you are interested in going to the Cultural Camp or have children interested in the Youth Camp, please contact Third District Cultural Director Cheri Johnson or Third District Vice President Katie Brink for more information.

The Third District 2026 Convention, which is being cohosted by the Third District and Hampton Roads Lodge, will be from Thursday June 4th to Sunday June 7th, at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center Virginia Beach, Virginia. I encourage you to send your lodge's full delegation to the convention so your lodge will be fully represented.

Since the Fraternal Funds program has been eliminated by the home office starting January 2026, the Third District Board has come up with a Lodge Assistance Program that will start in January of 2026. We hope to help offset some of the loss of not getting Fraternal Funds from the home office, but it will cover less things than were previously supported. The district's projected income is less due to the drop in membership (dues) and the drop of interest rates, but the Third District will do what we can to continue to support our lodges.

Until my next message in the spring, Karen and I and the whole Third District Board would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy Heathy New Year.

Fraternally, Stephen Helmold

Upcoming Third District Information Sessions


Here as promised are the remaining sessions noted is my earlier email sent to all members.

The lodge officers recently received an invitation to participate in a Zoom session organized by the Third District. These sessions are designed to provide updated information and keep members informed about current developments within the Sons of Norway.

In addition to the officers, all members are encouraged to attend these valuable sessions to stay informed about what is happening in the Sons of Norway. To accommodate different schedules, three separate sessions are being offered:

- February 26 at 7:00 PM
- March 1 at 3:00 PM

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the district's activities and engage with fellow members. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions or would like more information, please email Christine Taylor at christy33774@gmail.com



The Norwegian Children's Home Association of New York, Inc.

P.O, Box 280104, Dyker Heights Station
 Brooklyn, New York 11228-0104
www.nch-assoc.org.org
 Phone: 917 714-2007

The Norwegian Children's Home Association of New York, Inc. is pleased to announce that it will commence accepting college grant applications from qualified candidates for the 2025-2026 academic year. **(ONLY 2025-2026 NEW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.)**

If there is interested in more information on eligibility and getting an application contact your Editor at: email: bigjobber@aol.com Phone: 631-421-9482 or contacting our Lodge Offices!

Remember Zone Scholarship Applications Are Due March 15

LODGE SAVE THE DATE 2026

- Feb22 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Mar22 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Apr26 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- May24 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- 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!!!

- Feb22 – Gather Raffle Items at the Lodge Meeting
- Mar28 – Miss Norway Crowning Norwegian Christian Home
- Apr11 – Parade Fund Raiser GJOA Bklyn 4-8 PM
- Jul 26 – Aug 1 - Youth Camp- Koinonia at Highland 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
Irma Burgert	5	Roy Jr Berntsen	19
Barbara Carlson	5	Lauren A Ecock	19
Jean A Rogers	5	Charles Gottilla	24
Juliana G Solberg	9	Dara Eskenazi	27
Frederick E Tremel	12	Mira Rathkopf	27
Kimberly S Lynn	15		

5 Yr+ Membership Milestones For These Months, Congratulations:

- Michael DeMarco – 64 Years, Barbara Berntsen – 54 Years
- Roy Berntsen - 54 Years, Eleanor Lyhren – 53 Years
- Gladys Solitto – 45 Years, Shirley Erland – 44 Years
- James Solitto – 35 Years, Nina Hotvedt – 34 Years
- Nancy Seals – 28 Years, Linda Hoerberlein – 10 Years
- Kystal Gottilla – 9 Years

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Well we experienced our first virtual (Zoom) Meeting. Considering that it was last minute, due to the weather, the actual meeting accomplished allot. The minutes can attest to that. What was somewhat disappointing was the number of members not in attendance. I believe it's because many of us are uncomfortable with this media. I understand how new things can seem daunting but in this case it's easier than one would think, honestly! Of course many of us don't have the equipment to experience the full effect but one can call in on their phone and join in and get the camaraderie affect we all enjoy during these meetings. Don't miss out, ask how you can add this experience to your life. But let's hope we do not need to do it too often.

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.

Attendance for December 7 & January 25: Susan Olson, Heidy & Jim Varady, Karen & Stephen Helmold, Leif Easterson, Mildred Sandberg, Bob & Ethel McKeever, Joe & Solveig Accordino, Roy Berntsen Jr, Roy & Barbara Berntsen, Chuck & Kristin Gottilla, Shirley Erland, Les & Kathy Johannessen, Dan & Kristin Johannessen, Niki Johannessen, Lili Johannessen, Lea Roth, Rich Piazzi, Bobby Roth, Nancy Rucci, Erica Rucci, Bob Saunders, Barbara Stuckman, Janet Hannigan, Nancy Seals, Asbjorn Lageraaen, Fred & Jean Tremel, Kim & Justin Lynn, Annabelle Lynn, Tim Baxley, Mary Booton, Norma Ohsberg, Linda Pederson

January 25, 2026: Roy & Barbara Berntsen, Roy Berntsen Jr., Christine & Craig Carlsen (Z), Chuck & Kristin Gottilla, Clif & Nina Hotvedt, Karen & Steve Helmold. Les & Kathy Johannessen, Shirley Erland, Susan Olson, Mary Booton, Tim Baxley **Guest:** 3DVP Katie Brink

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 1/18/26

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 11/24	Sandberg, Mildred 6/26
Erland, Shirley 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, Trygve & Signe 3/23
- Obsberg, Artie 11/26
- Hector Rucci 10/28
- Stuckman, Erik 12/25
- Skauvold, Harry & Kate 12/24

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
- Daughter Christine Carlson

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

PODCAST about Notwegians in America

Source: 200 Norwegians

<https://share.google/BXh64vxJ7NvUC2T2z>

Podcast telling the stories about everyday Norwegians in America. Christine Carlson has been enjoying the presentations and recommends them to all.

See the Largest Viking Ship found todote at:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1213251744250211>

Some Cultural Items for the Month

Cultural Corner: *Norwegian Lady & the Wreck of the Dictator* - This June we will be heading to Virginia for the Third District Convention. We've had a convention there many years ago and visited many sights. One of those sights was the "Norwegian Lady" and the beach. It is a fascinating story. It is written: "I am the Norwegian Lady. I stand here, as my sister before me, to wish all men of the sea safe return home." This is the Figurehead Memorial at Virginia Beach.



The "Wreck of the Dictator" and "The Norwegian Lady" which stands guard in Hampton Roads, Virginia and her twin statue stands in Moss, Norway.

The ship the *Dictator* sailed from Moss, Norway. The *Dictator* had a crew of 15 and the captain's family aboard. The sailing ship was en route to [England](#) from [Florida](#) with a cargo of Georgia Pine [lumber](#). After being caught and disabled in several storms along the East Coast of, she was headed up the coast for port at [Hampton Roads](#) at [Norfolk, Virginia](#) to make repairs. Then the crew encountered gale force winds and on [Good Friday](#), March 27, 1891, the Norwegian barque *Dictator*, was lost in the [Atlantic Ocean](#) south of the mouth of the [Chesapeake Bay](#) off [Virginia Beach, Virginia](#). Just a few miles south of [Cape Henry](#), the sailing ship was driven aground on a sandbar over 300 yards offshore of Virginia Beach. There were only two lifeboats that were destroyed when the main mast and other rigging fell onto the deck. As the vacationing guests of the Princess Anne Hotel and area residents of the small new resort town watched in horror while members from [Seatack](#) and [Cape Henry](#) Lifesaving Stations of the [United States Lifesaving Service](#) (predecessor agency of the [United States Coast Guard](#)) worked in the high winds and seas at rescue efforts beginning about 10:45 A.M.

Combined with efforts of the ship's crew and the Seatack crew used several methods including a [breaches buoy](#) before it was too dark to continue. Both crews tried desperately to get the *Dictator* crew ashore. Captain Johanne Jørgensen, was somehow spared and washed ashore semi-conscious, but alive. His pregnant young wife and their 4-year-old son Carl Zealand were among those who drowned in a final escape attempt as the ship broke apart. Captain Jørgensen and the 9 members of his crew survived. The treacherous waters in the area extend south along the [North Carolina](#) coast and had claimed many hundreds of vessels. Since early days of navigation, a ship's [figurehead](#) was placed on the bow of a ship to ensure a safe and prosperous voyage. After the breakup and sinking of the *Dictator*, the ship's wooden female figurehead had washed ashore. It was retrieved by the manager of the Princess Anne Hotel. He placed in a vertical position facing the ocean near the boardwalk as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the [shipwreck](#). Known as the "Norwegian Lady", it was a landmark at Virginia Beach's Boardwalk for more than 60 years as the town became incorporated in 1906 and grew to become a small city in 1923. Placed, as an impromptu memorial the story of the *Dictator* and the souls aboard her would become part of both local tradition and legend in coastal [Princess Anne County](#) and Virginia Beach.

In the brutal coastal weather, the figurehead gradually became weathered and eroded. Then, during [Hurricane Barbara](#) in 1953, it was significantly damaged and was removed to a city-owned building for safe-keeping. Over time the figurehead was lost. As the story of the lost memorial grew in Virginia Beach interest spread across the ocean to Moss. A drive began at both ends to replace the memorial. Norwegian sculptor [Ørnulf Bast](#) was commissioned to create two nine-foot bronze replicas of the original figurehead. The Norwegian Lady statues were unveiled on September 22, 1962. One was presented as a gift to Virginia Beach, and an exact duplicate was erected in Moss, Norway to unite the two cities. Each statue faces the other across the [Atlantic Ocean](#).

Each year a wreath is placed at the base of each Norwegian Lady to remember and honor that fateful day and those who were lost. Hampton Roads Lodge takes part in that ceremony to place the wreath.

Her inscription reads:

1918 postcard of original Norwegian Lady

Did you know that:

There is a book written about the Norwegian Lady and the Dictator. It can be purchased on-line. I have read my signed copy. I wrote this article back in May 2010 but thought it would be nice to share history of Hampton Roads, VA.

Barbara

History Article: *Norwegian City facts you may not know*

GRIMSTAD, was the home of playwright Henrik Ibsen and is also the sunniest place in Norway. You can explore the literary history at the Ibsen Museum, discover maritime heritage at the Maritime Museum, hike scenic trails around the archipelago, visit the historic Homborsund Lighthouse, enjoy beaches at Groos, and cycle through charming pedestrian streets filled with shops and cafes like Café Ibsen, all experiencing the relaxed Sørlandet coastal culture.



TRONDHEIM, was one of Europe's first wireless cities. Visiting offers those who enjoy history, charming cityscapes, great food, and outdoor access, offering a less crowded but culturally rich alternative to Norway's bigger cities, a perfect for a 2-3 day trip. Key highlights include the iconic Nidaros Cathedral, and the colorful wooden houses.



KIRKENES, is as far east as Cairo, farther east than Finland, and only 9 miles (15 km) from the Russian border. It is the best places to see the Northern Lights in Kirkenes. Go deep into the Pasvikdalen Valley. The best months to see the Northern Lights in Norway are generally September to



April.

SOGNEFJORDEN is the largest fjord and deepest in Norway and third largest in the world. It is the longest ice-free fjord in the world and stretches 127 miles (205 km) inland from the ocean. According to UNESCO, the landscape around the fjord arm Nærøyfjorden is "among the most scenically outstanding anywhere".



ÅLESUND (Art Nouveau, fjords), Reine in Lofoten (iconic red cabins, dramatic mountains), and Flåm (steep railway, fjord access) are consistently top contenders, offering unique blends of stunning nature and charming architecture, often surrounded by majestic fjords and dramatic landscapes, appealing to different tastes from art nouveau elegance to rustic island life.



HAMMERFEST proclaims itself as the world's northernmost town. However, the village of **Nordkapp** bills itself as the northernmost point in Europe. The settlement is nearer to the North Pole than to Oslo and sits at 71°10' 21" N, where the sun never drops below the horizon from mid-May until the end of July. Even though Nordkapp claims the distinction, the actual northernmost geographical point in continental Europe is Knivskjelodden. It is 3 km west of Nordkapp, but it sticks its finger 4,780 feet (1,457 m) farther northward.



BOUVET ISLAND, in the South Atlantic Ocean, is the most remote island on earth. Since 1929, Norway has administratively controlled the uninhabited island. In 1971, Norway designated the island and the adjacent territorial waters a nature reserve. Since 1977, Norway has run an automated meteorological station and studied foraging strategies and distribution of seals and penguins on the island.



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

CELEBRATING

A

MONTH

OF:

Valentine's



Behind the Mood-Boosting Power of Smelling Pine Trees

- A whiff of pine can conjure

images of Christmas trees, snow-capped mountains, and cozy fireside chats. But our feel-good reaction doesn't have to do with anything inherent in the scent, scientists say. Instead, it's our association with it that matters. For many of us, pine elicits fond holiday memories — hanging ornaments, placing presents under the tree, and spending time with family — so **our brains link the aroma with comfort and joy**.

- “There is nothing that is in pine that has any specific, inherent pharmacological influence at all on humans,”

Rachel Herz, a neuroscientist at Brown University, told Popular Science. For those who've never smelled pine and don't have any associations with it, it has no effect, she added. Herz explained that our brain's **amygdala-hippocampal complex** (or primary olfactory cortex) handles our perception of scent, connecting specific aromas with past experiences.

- “What I always like to say is that **aromatherapy works, but not in the way people think it does**,” she said. “If I have an emotional association around a certain smell, that's going to be instantly activated upon smelling a particular scent.” Assuming the association is positive, this will lead to an automatic mood-boost, which can then pave the way for nostalgia. “You might reflect on a memory of a time you went camping as a child, for example, but that is not necessary,” she said.

- In other words, **pine's aroma and your unconscious mind team up to produce pleasant feelings** when you sniff a pine-scented candle or freshly cut Christmas tree. So if you're feeling overwhelmed this year, consider taking a moment to stop and smell the pine. Perhaps this is another reason we feel so fondly when our thoughts bring Norway to mind. After all there is a lot of pine throughout Norway!!

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Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C.'s Post

Ambassador [Anniken Huitfeldt](#) was pleased to meet with [Alex Sopko](#) and [Nezly Silva](#), from [FIFA](#) Government Relations and Public Engagement. They discussed coordination on high-level visits, protocol and hospitality arrangements, and FIFA's support around matches and community engagement. **The Embassy is excited about Norwegian participation at the Football World Cup and look forward to staying closely connected as preparations continue. (We here in America look forward to watching these upcoming games with anticipation)**

Ornate medieval ring discovered in Norway's oldest town – An ornate medieval ring discovered in Norway's oldest town. The roughly 800-year-old ring shines with a brilliant blue gemstone. Scientists are still investigating if the ring's center stone is a sapphire or colored glass. Last summer, Linda Åsheim found a ring so beautiful it looks like it could have been made yesterday. But Åsheim is an archaeologist, and she found the rare artifact while excavating in a Norwegian town believed to be the oldest in the country. The gorgeous golden ring is decorated

Read in Popular Science:

https://apple.news/APNCW8dO_TCKhoRwcOjya1w

Johannes Klæbo cheers up his homeland with 10 Medals in the Olympics

February 16, 2026

After weeks of uproar and scandal, Norwegians at least have a lot to cheer about at this year's Winter Olympics in Italy. Both Crown Prince Haakon and Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre were on hand to celebrate more historic gold medals over the weekend, not least all those tied to cross-country skiing star Johannes Høsflot Klæbo.

“It was a fantastic day,” claimed Støre after watching both the men's cross-country relay and the women ski jumping on the big hill formerly reserved for the men. Norway took gold in the relay and both gold and silver in the ski jumping.



Norway's Standings as of 2-18-2026

Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total of 33 Medals
15	8	10	
Presently in first place			

ALMOST ALL NEW CAR SALES IN NORWAY LAST YEAR WERE ELECTRIC

Some 95.9% of all new car sales in Norway last year were electric cars.. In December alone, the electric car share stood at 97.6%, indicating the level to which electric vehicles now dominate the vehicle sales market in Norway..

Policy decisions Some ten years ago, Norway's government set the target of all new car sales to be emission-free by 2025, with this target close to now being achieved. Just 1% of new car sales were diesel, with petrol cars accounting for 0.3% of new car sales..

“We should be proud that Norway has reached the rather ambitious zero-emission target for new car sales At the same time, it is important to remember that around two out of three passenger cars on the road still run on fossil fuels, in addition to the fact that there are regional differences in new car sales. So even though this is an important milestone, we must continue working towards an emission-free vehicle fleet.”

Tesla remains Norway's largest car brand, with 19.1% of the market. Other brands to report a notable share of new car sales in 2025 included Volkswagen (13.3%), Volvo (7.8%), Toyota (5.8%), BMW (5.6%) and Skoda (5.2%).

Place Stamp Here

Norden Star



Sons of Norway

NORDEN LODGE 407

Les Johannessen, Editor
7 Nichols Road
Huntington Station, NY 11746-3419



Join us at our **next meeting on Sunday February 22nd at 2PM** Since it was necessary to move to a virtual meeting last month, no raffle items could be collected. We are therefore now looking for items to use as raffle prizes for our next meeting, to support the "Dues Aid Fund". Come see what else we are planning and don't forget we always love sharing our feelings and demonstrating the meaning of a "Koselig" Atmosphere!!



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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Koselig =

*A cozy and warm atmosphere of
Togetherness in a pleasant setting.*
