



Loyal Letter

March 2026

Vol : XIV Issue 3

President's Message



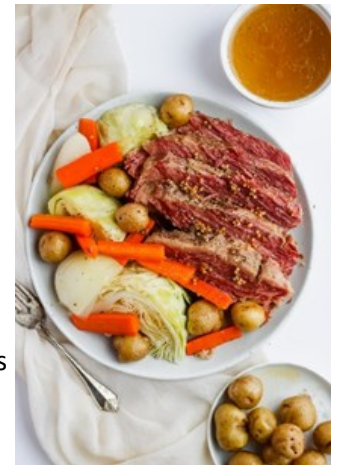
I am reminded that the harshness of this winter (not seen in this form in this area for quite some time) is consistent and normal for most of Scandinavia. With long dark days, cold temperatures and significant snows it beckons for indoor coziness ("hygge") and outdoor sports. While we can't guarantee skiing here at the lodge, we can provide the coziness that will take some of the sting out of the severity of this winter.

Our next Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 1st at 2:00PM. This will be preceded at 1:00PM by a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner to celebrate St. Patrick's Day later in the month. Our own chef, Leif, will be preparing the corned beef (I'll assist but once you get beyond stews, I'm metaphorically speaking on "thin ice.")

For those wishing to participate in the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner please remember:

1. Dinner (and beverages) is FREE for each guest bringing in 5 non-perishable food items for the depleted Smithtown Food Pantry. (If you are a couple, please bring in 10 items.) Place your items in the bin located to the left as you enter the main first floor of Norway Hall.
2. \$10 for all others
3. Of course, sides dishes and desserts are always welcome too!

We will have our luncheon, as we have done over the past two months, upstairs. This provides a cozy, warm and relaxed atmosphere and easily segways into our regular Business Meeting beginning at 2:00PM.



The nature of our Business Meeting will be somewhat brief and adjusted to accommodate a special viewing of:



"The Lady of the Lake" a "cinematic experience surrounding a Native American Princess who is believed to have cursed the Lake Ronkonkoma area." With an introduction provided by cast member and Associate Producer, Leif Easterson.

We do hope you can join us for this special late winter afternoon event.

Stay warm, stay well and "God Vinter" (good winter)! *Bob*

Norway Hall
201 Seventh St
St. James, NY 11780
1st Saturday @ 1 pm

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Calendar of Coming Events



Day	Date	Time	Event
Wed	Feb 25	3:00	Loyal Knitting Club - bring your project, a sandwich/snack, and a friend.
Sun	Mar 1	1:00	Loyal Lodge St. Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner - our regular meeting will follow. This full dinner has become an annual event that members look forward to. It's \$10 /p unless you bring a side, then \$5/p—kids under 18 are free. Please Contact Leif Easterson at eastersonle@gmail.com or text him 631 637-2369 by e34Feb 27th to let him know you're attending and bringing. + Lady of the Lake
Sat	Mar 15	1:00	St. James Parade - this is an annual event celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Information on the event will be discussed at our next meeting
Sat	Mar 28	2:00	The Crowning of Miss Norway of Greater New York - to be held in Brooklyn at the Norwegian Christian Home - see the flyer on page 8
Fri	Apr 4	6:30	Loyal Lodge Annual Spring Ham Dinner - followed by our meeting at 7:30 This is a free pot luck meal. Contact Leif Easterson at eastersonle@gmail.com or text 631 637-2369 by April 2nd to let him know you're attending and bringing . Easter bonnets are encouraged for women and men! There will be a special prizes for the best m/f bonnet. And, you're Gonna be in pictures!
			<i>Just for laughs</i>
Wed	Apr 15	----	Tax Day . . . and the due date for applications for the scholarship program that is sponsored by the Norwegian Children's Home in Brooklyn (info went out via email)
Fri	May 1	6:30	Loyal Lodge Cultural Dinner - meeting to follow.

DATES TO REMEMBER - mark your 2026 calendars

May 3rd 3D Zone 1 Memorial Service St mark's Episcopal Church Islip, NY
 May 17th Syttende Mai Parade Brooklyn, NY
 June 4-7th Sons of Norway Third District Convention Virginia Beach, VA

Birthdays in March

9 Ada Wikoren	25 Jon Reduto
10 Donald Smith	26 Joan Reinertsen
19 Carla Retnaur	30 Jeanine Monsell
24 Leif Easterson	

Gratulerer Med Dagen



Happy St. Patrick's Day

February 1st Pot Luck Dinner

Members enjoyed a koselig afternoon with beef stew, chili, and other goodies. Takk to those folks who provided us with a fine meal.



And were always happy to see potential new members.

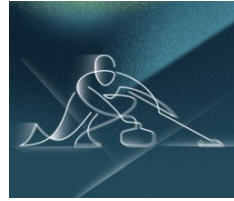
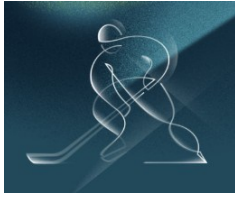


At the opening of each meeting lodge members sing the 3 national anthems - Canada, Norway, and United States.

Thom Brownworth, with Don Reinertsen on piano, created a YouTube video of the 3 anthems with their lyrics for members to sing along. It's available on this link (url).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yalEKrbQXeQ>

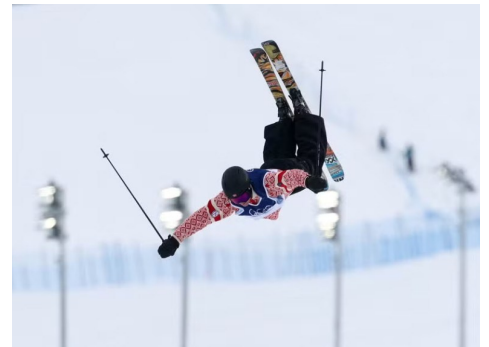
It's a job well done that all SoN lodges can use. Takk!



Anna Odine Strøm pulled off a monumental upset in the individual women's normal hill to clinch Norway's first gold medal. She went on to win the higher hill previously (for men) and her 2nd gold.



Johannes Klæbo collapses from exhaustion after winning the 10-kilometer freestyle cross-country ski race.



Freestyle skier Birk Ruud of Norway won the gold medal in the men's slopestyle event after an impeccable first run on a course that befuddled many competitors.



Johannes Klæbo sets the record with his 9th gold medal in cross-country skiing.



And we're only half way thru!



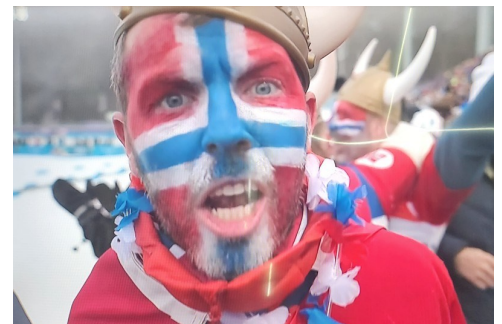
And the support was phenomenal, challenging home country Italians!



Johan-Olav Botn storms to gold in the individual men's 20km biathlon.



Jens Luraas Oftedal races to win the Nordic combined ski jump / 10k gold.



No doubt about his allegiance!

Curling has really captured your editors attention. After watching Tabitha Peterson (Swedish/Norwegian heritage) display her exceptional skills on the ice, I have come to appreciate how just how dramatic every throwing of the 44 lb.

stone is. The US womens team is destined to go up against #1 Sweden in the medal round. Norway may make the medal round in the mens group. The video US womens vs China is just an absolute nail bitter. Check it out on YouTube.



Men's Curling Standings

- 1 - Switzerland (8-0)(Q)
- 2 - Canada (7-1)(Q)
- 3 - Great Britain (5-4)
- 4 - Italy (4-4)
- 4 - Norway (4-4)

Women's Curling Standings

- 1 - Sweden (7-2)(Q)
- 2 - Switzerland (6-2)(Q)
- 3 - United States (5-3)
- 3 - Canada (5-3)
- 3 - South Korea (5-3)

If you don't know much about this exciting sport, check this video to establish your addiction.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p60I9LNHNxg>

Miss Norway of Greater New York Contest set to return

Application and instructions are being se out by Sec'y Barbara Brownworth

Sunshine Committee

Under The Weather



Let Torun Reduto know - 631 862-8017

COFFEE COMMITTEE



Meredith
& Stacey

Loyal Lodge Knitting Club

Meet at the lodge: **Wed Mar 25 3:00 pm**

Bring your project - **Show & Tell**

1st timers are encouraged

Bring a sandwich, a smile, and a friend



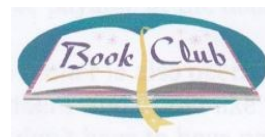
Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge: **Sun Mar 28th 2:00pm**

BOOK: Red Dog Farm

AUTHOR: Nathaniel Ian Miller

A coming of age story set in Iceland



This Side 

That Side 

Norway Hall was open for the Super Bowl.



What an exciting
Super Bowl
Half Time Show
16th commercial



Leif Easterson was one of the few who watched the game.

St. James Parade - this is an annual event celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Members of the lodge will join together with other Chamber of Commerce participants.

Information on early arrival and line-up will come up at our next meeting.

We are looking forward to some youngsters to ride in our Viking ship.



Norway Makes The Short List

The Norwegian film *Sentimental Value* made it to the final nominee list for the Best International Feature Film at the 98th Academy Awards which will take place on **March 15th** in Hollywood.

If it wins it would be eligible for the Best Picture.



Loyal has a surplus of non-perishable items for sale. Go dig out a recipe to use the fish balls and contact Leif Easterson eastersonle@gmail.com text 631 637-2369

So you think you know how to ski . . .

Norwegian Birk Ruud stole the show in men's freeski slopestyle, toppling defending champ Alex Hall of the U.S. by about a half-point (86.28 to 85.75) for a gold medal at the 2026 Winter Games.

(You won't believe how they ski backwards)

Copy this link (url) to a Google home page to watch the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNnuTvbtaiw>

HONOLULU (KHON2) — Navy veteran and retired disabled New York MTA Police Detective John Barnett crossed the finish line at the Honolulu Marathon on Sunday in three hours and fifty-nine minutes.

It was a big win for the veteran as he finished his 50th marathon in all 50 states, and he said he left the best state for last.

“This was my 50th state out of all the states in America and I specifically picked Hawaii as my last state,” he told KHON2 following his finish. “This is the best state in the country to me, and this is the most beautiful state in the country.”

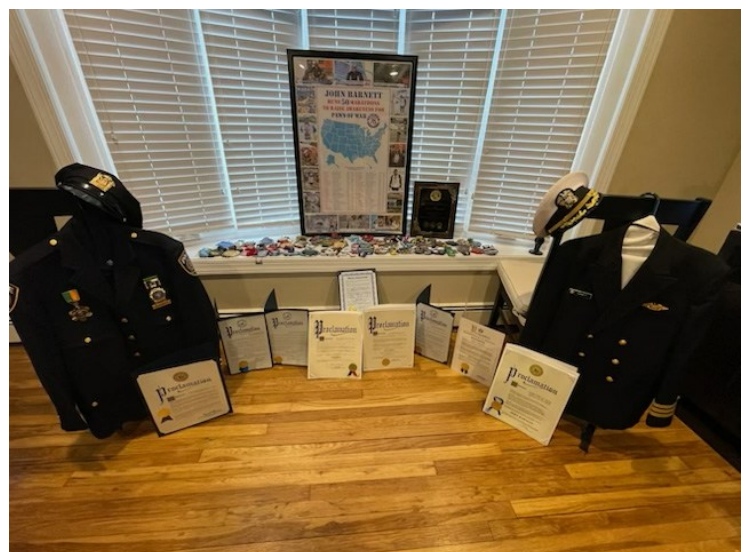
The achievement represents much more than his endurance, his team says it’s a testament to his resilience, recovery and commitment to supporting fellow veterans and first responders through Paws of War.

Barnett served from 1986 to 2010, including deployments during Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Barnett continued his service as an NYPD and MTA Transit Officer.

On July 4th, 2012, while on duty at a Jamaica, Queens subway station, Barnett was brutally attacked by an assailant who stabbed him in the eye. Despite his severe injury, Barnett managed to stop the attack and protect other officers at the scene. The assault left him blind in one eye and battling PTSD.

Following the attack, Paws of War provided Barnett with two service dogs: Blue, a Weimaraner trained as a Level 4 service dog, and Sky, a German shorthair pointer currently in Level 1 service dog training. These canine companions assist Barnett with everyday tasks and significantly reduce his PTSD symptoms, enabling him to pursue his remarkable 50-state marathon quest.

“I started running marathons after I recovered from my injury,” he said. “I started to help veterans and first responders who suffer from PTSD like myself, and Paws of War is the organization that helps veterans and first responders like myself who have PTSD.” Barnett said he will think about which country to travel to next for another marathon.



Visit this link for the video about John:


<https://www.facebook.com/reel/902370239103850>



Exploring your Nordic Culture



<https://loyallodge.org>

 Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway

Norway yesteryear... and today.

This is the architecture in Norway we think about, learn about, relish and cherish.



And then there is the architecture of today... such as the Munch Museum in Oslo.



Sons of Norway Youth Camp



**@ KOINONIA
Highland Lake, NY**

July 26—August 1 for ages 8—17

Activities include: bonfire canoeing Rosemaling Language class Kubb wood carving Hardanger and other cultural studies

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. \$550 Sons of Norway members, \$600 Non-members. The full balance must be received by June 26th.

Applications available from: Katie Brink Sons of Norway Youth Camp Coordinator

7107 Fernwood St #2421 Henrico, VA 23228 uyakm27@outlook.com (614) 202-5964



Upcoming Third District Information Session

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. [February 26 at 7:00 PM](#) or [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-AMERICAN 17TH OF MAY COMMITTEE
OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.**

Parade held in Brooklyn on Sunday, May 17, 2026
Parade Theme: "Our Legacy Continues"

**Join us for the
67th Annual Crowning of
Miss Norway of Greater New York**

We are excited to welcome back **Little Miss Norway** and **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 per Adult
\$10 per Child (12 years of age and younger)
Children under 3 years old are free



Light refreshments served

Please email Arlene Rutuelo for reservations or questions at ArleneRutuelo@gmail.com

Sponsored by The Norwegian-American 17th of May Committee of Greater New York, Inc.
www.17THOFMAYPARADECOMMITTEE-BROOKLYN.ORG



SONS OF NORWAY Zone 1 Scholarship Fund Award APPLICATION



NOTE: All information will be held in strict confidence. No application will be considered unless all questions are answered. Please print or type. Barbara Ruth Kristiansen will email you a note to say she received your application.

ELIGIBILITY: 1) Either the scholarship applicant or his parent/guardian must be a member in good standing of a lodge in Zone 1 For at least two years prior to the date of application by March 15, 2026 and remain so for the remainder of the term.

2) All applicants should intend to be FULL TIME students seeking post-secondary UNDERGRADUATE education. Either for a college/university or a Trade School.

APPLICATION PROCESS: The following must be in the hands of the Scholarship Committee person below before by March 15th deadline.

- 1) This Application completed clearly and legibly.
- 2) Most recent Official Transcript of scholastic record. (Student copies will not be acceptable.)
- 3) Two letters of reference from non-relatives, at least one of which must be from a former or present teacher.
- 4) Short essay (no more than 2 pages) introducing yourself and your involvement in the Scandinavian Heritage and for Sons of Norway
- 5) Copy of current membership card. (either with your family membership – or your own)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Your E-mail Address _____

Check 1 box or both if applicable. Applicant is a member of a Sons of Norway lodge Parent is a member.

Name of Lodge you are a member of: _____

Father's and/or Mother's or legal Guardian's Name: _____

Name of Lodge the Parent/ Guardian are a member of: _____

Schools attended by Applicant

Address

Date of Graduation

Indicate Activities, Honors, Clubs, Other: _____

List any other Grants, Scholarships you will be awarded 1 _____

College, University, Institution to be attended (If known) _____

Course of Study: _____ Length of Course: _____ Admission Date (if known): _____

Remarks: _____

Date Signature Father, Mother, Guardian's Signature

Date and Sign above and Return this application and additional material requested to: You will be emailed a note back your application was received.	Barbara Kristiansen 871 70th Street Brooklyn, NY 11228 mormor46@verizon.net
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January 14, 2024 Queen Margrethe II of Denmark signed her abdication during an exceptional Council of State at Christiansborg Castle in Copenhagen. The Danish Queen announced her plans to abdicate the throne during her annual speech on new years eve. The Queen ruled Denmark for more than 52 years and is the first Danish monarch in nine hundred years to abdicate the throne.



After the signing of the act of abdication by his mother, the new Danish King Frederik X appeared on the balcony of Christiansborg Castle in Copenhagen to be formally proclaimed King of Denmark by Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen. The new King could not contain his emotions. The King first entered the balcony alone to greet the crowds. He was later joined by the prime minister, who officially proclaimed him King

