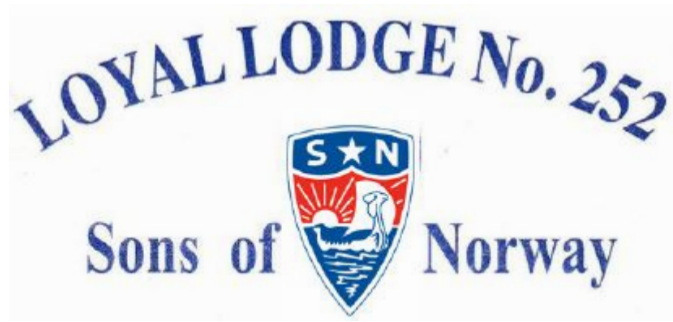




**President's Message**

## *Loyal Letter*

**September 2026**  
**Vol : XIV Issue 9**

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer weather. While it has been warm, it has also, at least for July been wet. As with most things, it'll average out and I hope that the remainder of August and early September will be both pleasant and peaceful for you.

We have scheduled our annual "Return to the Lodge Barbeque" for Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. Leif and I will purchase hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages for the event. The cost will be \$10 per person BUT should you bring a side (one for each attendant) this cost will be waved. As usual, we can always use side dishes!



Following dinner, we will have our first Business Meeting of the year. Along with our financial, communication and committee reports, we will be discussing the possibility of a Strategic Planning Committee to provide some guidance and direction to the lodge relative to the new structuring of Sons of Norway, St. James Day, Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> and our upcoming Bazaar scheduled on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will solicit participants for all these events. In addition, discussion will be held concerning By Law changes to the lodge/corporation and I will announce members of the Nominating Committee. It appears to be a full agenda, and we hope you can join us.

Finally, a reminder that our first lodge event, the Ducks Game is scheduled for Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:35PM. This is the last game of the season for the Ducks, who as I write may have some say in the Atlantic League Playoffs. For those who have tickets you are all set. I have a few remaining tickets at \$15 per ticket which you can either text, call me and I will put your name on one (have a couple of names on a couple of tickets already) and accept payment at the barbeque or you can wait and hope a ticket will still be available at the barbeque. No guarantee on that though.

Enjoy the rest of the summer folks; hope to see everyone Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at our BBQ and until then,

*Tusen takk*

**Bob**

|                                                                                    |                                                                                                         |                                                                                 |                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Norway Hall</b><br>201 Seventh St<br>St. James, NY 11780<br>1st Saturday @ 1 pm | <b>President</b><br>Robert Johnson<br>princip12@aol.com<br>631 942-6844                                 | <b>Secretary</b><br>Barbara Brownworth<br>bbrownworth@gmail.com<br>631 681-4726 | <b>Editor</b><br>Karin Ryan<br>karinryan1@yahoo.com<br>631 862-8017 |
| <b>Website</b>                                                                     |  <b>facebook Group</b> | <b>Eddress</b>                                                                  |                                                                     |
| <a href="http://www.loyallodge.org">www.loyallodge.org</a>                         | <a href="#">Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway</a>                                                         | <a href="mailto:info@loyallodge.org">info@loyallodge.org</a>                    |                                                                     |

### Calendar of Coming Events

|     |     |    |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----|-----|----|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | Sep | 6  | - - - - | Scanfest at Vasa Park - all Nordic all day Great event for the family.<br>Get together with other members and plan on car pooling.                                                                                                                          |
| Fri | Sep | 11 | 6:30    | Loyal Lodge - <i>Return To The Lodge</i> barbeque followed by our meeting.<br>Cost is \$10 p/p . . . unless you bring a delicious side. <i>Welcome!</i>                                                                                                     |
| Sun | Sep | 13 | 1:35    | Long Island Ducks Baseball - Fairfield Ballpark Koselig in the afternoon<br>3 Court House Dr., Central Islip free parking - <i>cushion &amp; hat</i><br>See Bob for any tickets that may remain.                                                            |
| Fri | Oct | 2  | 6:30    | Loyal Lodge dinner and meeting to follow                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Sun | Oct | 4  | 11-5    | St. James Day - 36th Annual St. James Day street festival will be held on<br>October 4, 2026, along Lake Avenue in St. James, New York. The street<br>will be filled with a plethora of craft vendors and a wide variety of<br>food booths for every taste. |
| Sat | Nov | 14 | - - -   | Loyal Lodge Annual Bazaar - details of this coordinated event to follow.                                                                                                                                                                                    |

#### DATES TO REMEMBER - mark your 2026 calendars

|                 |                                                                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 16-20 | Retreat Center - Isle of Palms, SC <b>Sign up is extended to Aug. 20th</b> |
| October 3rd     | Norden's Atlantic City Casino trip - see article                           |
| December 6th    | Zone 1 Christmas Party at the Hartigan House in Bethpage                   |

#### 3rd DISTRICT - DATES TO REMEMBER

**visit** <https://3dsofn.org/>

|                |                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 1st    | - Grant and Scholarship opportunities open                                                                                                               |
| December 15th  | - Grant applications close                                                                                                                               |
| January 15th   | - Scholarship applications close.                                                                                                                        |
| June 4-7, 2028 | - The next 3D Conven <del>on</del> will be hosted by Zone 1 and will hel in<br>Riverhead, NY. Be prepared to contribute your <del>e</del> me and talent. |

**€ 1 = \$ 1.15**



**BBQ**



Loyal Lodge members enjoyed a really tasty meal thanks to Leif and our member donations.



### **Birthdayus In September**

### **Gratulerer Med Dagen**

4 Richard Ohlsen  
6 Torun Reduto  
8 Robert Johnson  
12 Karl Elfers

16 Megan Larsen  
16 Eleanor Supinsky  
18 Lucinda Berninger  
24 Nicole Petersen

25 Patricia Baxley  
25 Pamela Bensin



## Sons of Norway 3rd District Biennial Convention June 4-7, 2026

The full details of the events and procedures carried out at the convention will be reported at the next Loyal Lodge meeting by the delegates.

Of primary concern was the unanimous vote of the International Board to partner with BetterLife, a member-owned life insurance / fraternal benefit society, that will help manage the business side of Sons of Norway.

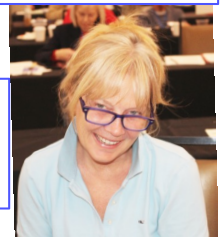


BetterLife rep Dudley Simmons explained the process.



Bob wanted to know more!

OK Kim,  
I got you in!





Memorial  
Service table.

Our delegates  
concentrating  
on business.



Nordic craft  
display / shop

Several fund  
raising raffles



Lots of good food



'Our' Inga and Kiersten Johansson  
report on their experience at Koinonia



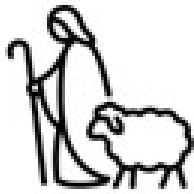
Lots of really good food



Field trip included a visit to the beach to  
see the *Norwegian Lady* looking 'home'.



Toril came to experience "*Koselig*"  
poolside & line dancing



## Sou i ro

Ken Lakeman was a longtime member of Loyal Lodge. He passed to Lodge Eternal on June 19, 2026.



It's not too soon to start thinking about our bazaar and what will be offered.



*Last game of the season*

*Wear a hat... Bring a cushion*

3 Court House Drive Central Islip

Sunday September 13th 1:30 pm

Tickets **\$15** . . . *if any tickets are left*

Contact: Bob Johnson 631 942-6844



## Gjet eller Brun

There is no difference; Gjetost (technically geitost) is just a specific type of Norwegian brown cheese (brunost). They both describe the iconic, sweet, and caramelly whey cheese, but "brown cheese" acts as the broad category, while "gjetost" specifically means it was made using goat's milk.

## Loyal Lodge Knitting Club

Meets at the Hall **Wed Sep 16 3-5 pm**

Bring your project for Show n Tell

Bring a sandwich, a smile and a friend



## Loyal Lodge Book Club

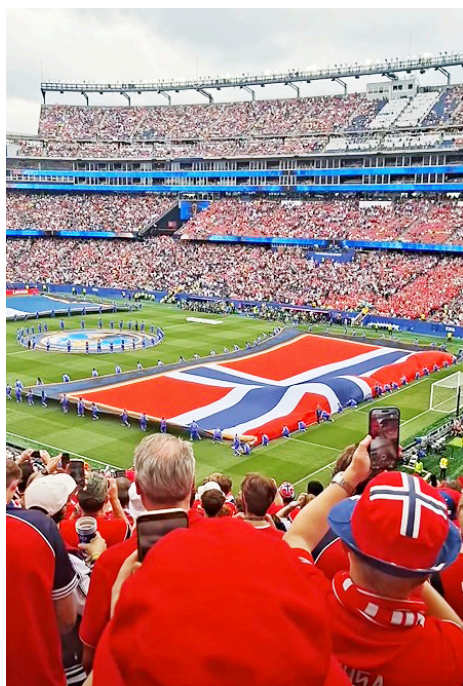
Meets at the Hall no meeting set yet

Book: - - - - -

Author:



# Looking back at the FIFA World Cup Championships



S R O in Dallas, Texas  
lots of red,white and blue.



New York City paid tribute to each of the participating teams by painting subway cars with national flags.



The Norwegian team (Haaland) scored a goal with only 4 minutes to go to take the lead and beat the Ivory Coast 2 to 1 in the opening game.

*Ro ... Ro ... Ro ...*

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/search/?q=NORWAY%20TEXAS>



Erling won the crowd with his goals and the girls with his good looks . . .

*lots of girls!*



Erling Haaland has been a scoring machine for the Norwegian team.

## Final standings (for Norway)



FIFA World Cup  
International

Norway



After ET

1 - 2



England

*This Side* 

*That Side* 

## Norwegian Royalty in the crowd

Princess Ingrid Alexandra and Prince Sverre Magnus traveled to the United States to cheer for Norway's national team in the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The Norwegian royals watched from the stands at MetLife Stadium as Norway beat Brazil to advance to the quarter-finals.



## BACKFIRE

A record number of Norwegian billionaires and numerous multi-millionaires, including industrialist Kjell Inge Røkke, have left Norway in favor of low-tax countries like Switzerland to avoid the nation's increased 1.1% wealth tax.

Over 300 wealthy individuals departed the country which ended up costing the government significantly more in lost tax revenue than the tax increase brought in.



No wind to set the flag flying for a picture

## A Rail Route To Be Remembered

The Bergenbana train (Oslo to Bergen) is a 7 hour tour of beautiful Norway which has as one of its' stops, the 3rd most popular tourist site in Norway - a spectacular excursion train up the steepest climb in Norway to the town of Flåm, 3,000 meters above sea level.

*That's where the fun begins!*

Click this link

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1501578451164946>



# Exploring your Nordic Culture

<https://loyallodge.org>



Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway



## The world is catching on . . .

Banning cell phones in school has been catching on all over the world. Declining test scores, bullying, and reduction in basic skills had to be addressed.

All Scandinavian countries are leaders in going to great lengths to improve children's education.

**Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland** have already invoked the ban during school hours.

**Denmark** is to ban mobile phones in schools and after-school clubs on the recommendation of a government commission that also found that *children under 13 should not have their own smartphone or tablet.*

The government said it would change existing legislation to force all folkeskole – comprehensive primary and lower secondary schools – to become phone-free, meaning that almost all children aged between seven and 16-17 will be required by law *not to bring their phones into school. (not just bell-to-bell)*

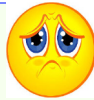
June 23, 2026 — The government of **Norway** announced last week that the use of **generative AI** tools will not be allowed by students in elementary schools starting in the fall session.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, in making the announcement, said excessive reliance on AI risks undermining the development of essential skills. “The most important thing in school is that our children learn to read (with comprehension), write (handwriting) and to perform mathematics,” Støre said.

The new policy comes two months after Norwegian government leaders announced their intention to pass legislation *setting 16 as the minimum age for social media accounts*. **Iceland** has proposed the minimum age of 15. Australia last December became the first nation to prohibit the use of social media for children under 16.

China restricts children's internet and smartphone use through a mandatory "Minor Mode" system, setting daily time caps, overnight lockouts, and age-tiered limits. The rules are managed by the Cyberspace Administration of China to prevent web addiction.

The Energizer Bunny is leaving.



Stacey Ferington is moving to Florida very soon and will be sorely missed by Loyal Lodge. Takk for everything you have contributed to our success and good luck to you always.

Adjø . . . til vi møtes igjen!

Truth be told . . . Stacey is #2  
Meredith is Energizer Bunny #1  
according to a 20 yo newsletter.

## Loyal Lodge Movie Night

Friday October ?? th  
6:30 PM BYO snacks & drinks



Starring John Doe

## Norden Lodge is sponsoring a trip to an Atlantic City casino



Saturday  
October 3, 2026



Cost: \$60 per person

*The Tropicana is giving us \$15 to get us started.*

**RSVP by: August 28<sup>th</sup> Call or E-mail Today!!!**

Contact: Chuck: 516-512-9427

Kris: 516-521-3190

[CGottilla@hotmail.com](mailto:CGottilla@hotmail.com)

The bus will be making several stops to pick up and drop off participants.

It is **very important** that you call to verify trip information in advance.

**\*\*\*All reservations are first come first served\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\*PAYMENT Locks in your spot on the bus\*\*\*\*\***

Consider doing your part  
to keep our hall ship-shape.  
Sign the clean-up book  
when it comes around.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

You are going to be judged by  
others for everything you do so  
do whatever makes you happy.

# Bragging Rights in the Nordic countries

## Denmark



- The oldest continuously used national flag is that of Denmark. The current design of a white Scandinavian cross on a red background was adopted in 1625.
- Largest country (when you include Greenland)
- has the highest number of wind power and the most developed wind energy infrastructure.

## Finland



- is widely considered the Nordic country with the most lakes, famously known as the "Land of a Thousand Lakes" with approximately 188,000 lakes.
- the highest percentage of forest cover.
- has over 3 million saunas, which is the most per capita.
- drinks more coffee than any other Nordic country



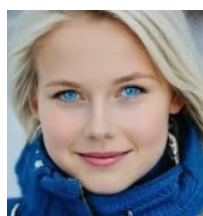
## Iceland

- the land of Fire and Ice has the most volcanoes, featuring roughly 130 active and dormant volcanoes.
- home of The Blue Lagoon and other steaming, geothermal pools.
- it is the world's most peaceful country.



## Norway

- the most wealth fund assets (valued at US \$2.1 trillion (from oil income))
- the most Olympic gold medals (18 in 2026, setting an all-time record)
- the most electric vehicles per capita.
- . . . and did I mention Sissel - Norway's greatest gift to the world.



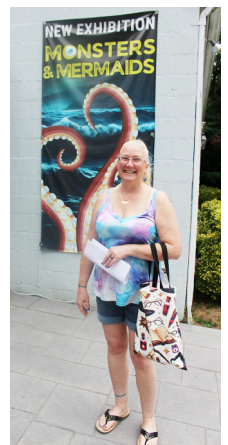
## Sweden

- has the most islands of any Nordic country—and the world—with a total of 267,570 islands. Despite this high number, only around 1,000 of them are inhabited.
- it is also the largest country in the Nordic region by population and area.
- has the most beautiful women

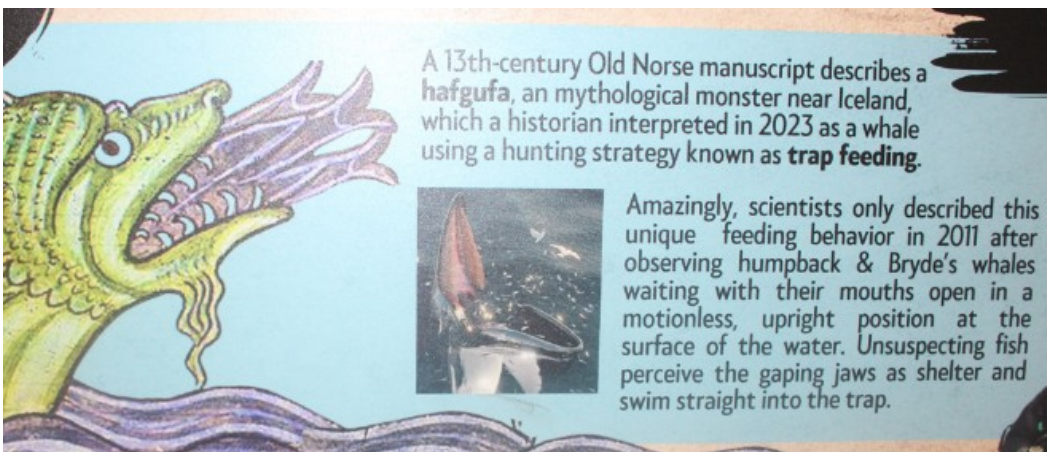
*ok . . . so it's debatable!*

**More on Norway . . .** Once it was desperately poor and dominated by Denmark, which used Norway as a source of taxes, timber and young men to fight its wars. Norway's language and culture were suppressed, a time playwright Henrik Ibsen called the "400 years' night."

*Ken and Susan joined Norden Lodge in a trip to the Whaling Museum*



Windlass to wind up the anchor, a harpoon canon, and an anchor



Blubber boiling tank and whale oil barrels

Giant squid made from ocean debris.



**We need volunteers to sign-up to clean Norway Hall.**

Please contact John Barnett to say you'll help.

Corporation President

917 750-7054



Instructions  
for basic  
clean-up  
are posted  
on the utility  
closet door.



**The Old Whalers Festival (racing)  
in 1970s was a very big deal and  
it's now renewed in Sag Harbor**

**Norway Hall is available for YOU!**

It is owned by Loyal Lodge #252, Sons of Norway.

Location: 201 Seventh Street, St. James, NY

Capacity: tables and chairs available for 75 people

Features: two floors with a full service kitchen, tables,  
chairs, (your) bar, piano, and 2 audio visual set ups.

**Donations are appreciated.**

**Call (917) 750-7054 to tour, or make a reservation.**

## Coffee Consumption

(per capita / per year)



- **#1 Finland:** Approx. 12 kg (26.5 lbs)
- **#2 Norway:** Approx. 9.9 kg (21.8 lbs)
- **#3 Iceland:** Approx. 9 kg (19.8 lbs).

**Other Top Consumers:**

Denmark, Netherlands, and Sweden



**Sunshine Committee**

Under The Weather



Let Torun Reduto know - 631 862-8017

**Have a business to promote?  
Place your business card here.**

**Call 631 312-1085**

Searched online for [Long Island Scandinavian Society . . .](#)  
and the computer returned with this:

#### ◆ AI Overview

The main hub for Scandinavian culture and community on Long Island is the **Loyal Lodge #252 of the Sons of Norway**. Additionally, there are broader regional groups and online communities for Nordic expats and enthusiasts in the area.  Loyal Lodge 252 +1

- **Loyal Lodge #252 (Sons of Norway):** Located at **Norway Hall** (201 Seventh Street, St. James, NY), this is Long Island's most active Scandinavian organization. They host monthly meetings, cultural dinners, and community BBQs. They are also famous for hosting Long Island's annual **Scandinavian & Nordic Bazaar**, featuring imported foods, traditional lunches, baked goods, and a 24-foot Viking ship display. You can find their schedule on the [Loyal Lodge 252 Website](#). 