



Kristiania Lodge 1-047



KRISTIANIA *POSTEN*

2124 Viola Road NE

Rochester, Minnesota

Web page: www.Kristiania1-47.org

Facebook: [@sonsofnorwaykristiania.org](https://www.facebook.com/sonsofnorwaykristiania.org)

2026 Number 7

AUGUST 2026

COMING KRISTIANIA EVENTS

(All events held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church unless otherwise noted.)

Thursday, Aug. 13	Chapter meeting. Program: "In Trunks, Hands, and Hearts: What Norwegian Immigrants brought to the US" with Jennifer Kovarik from Vesterheim. See page 3.	6:30 pm
Thursday, Sept. 10	Board meeting	5:15 pm
Thursday, Sept 10	Chapter meeting. Program: "The True Value of Lefse and How to Keep on Rolling." Speaker: Gary Legwold, the Lefse King	6:30 pm

Featuring this month:

News, reports, and photos from the District One Sons of Norway convention!

Kristiania 47 was well-represented at the June convention in Willmar, and our delegates provide important information and convention highlights on pages 2, 3, and 4.

Hilsen fra Presidenten—

Let's remember and celebrate the wonderful events we've enjoyed over the past months. We commemorated the bicentennial of Norwegian immigration, learned about the three pillars of Sons of Norway from the Chief Executive, heard about the Olsen Lutefisk Company (along with tasting herring samples), and discovered Nordic Figure Carving. We were entertained with Finnish Folk music as well as the music of Grieg and Norwegian sing-alongs. Of course, it wouldn't be complete without all the great food—*kransekake*, soup and pie, Julefest, and the *Syttende Mai* dinner. One of my favorite events this year was the member Show-and-Tell. Thank you to all the event planners, food servers, and people volunteering to make everything run smoothly. It's been a wonderful year!

—Carol Lucido, President

The mission of Sons of Norway is to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members, promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, and celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries. (Updated mission statement, 2025).

Report from Sons of Norway District #1 Convention 2026

As new members to Sons of Norway and first-time attendees of the District Lodge #1 meeting and convention, Steve and I had a huge learning curve. We found the sessions to be interesting and the meetings to be informative, even with our limited knowledge of the structure and function of the Sons of Norway's larger organization.

Mark Haugen, district president, provided wit and wisdom as he brought attendees together for business meetings and social gatherings. Awards were presented to many lodges, and appreciation pins were given to many who have served in some capacity for SON in the last two years. It does take a great number of volunteers and paid staff to keep such a large organization functioning. Again, as naïve new members, we were unaware of what the criteria are for winning the "compliance award" or a "silver award." Maybe in two years.

I must admit that when I first read the SON Mission Statement in the convention brochure, I was surprised to see that the first item in the statement read, "The mission of Sons of Norway is to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members". Only secondly does it say, "promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway," which I assumed was the entire purpose. Then it adds, "and celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries" which pleased my Danish background. I learned that SON is much more than getting together with other people who enjoy lefse and tolerate lutefisk.

I had had no previous knowledge of the fraternal side of the SON so the business meeting was an awakening. At the general session of the lodge, the CEO of the International Board presented the Board's reasoning for the upcoming partnership with Better Life, a fraternal insurance agency. He related that for 10 years the SON international organization has been facing a financial decline. Due to increased costs of running a small company and a decline in financial membership, they have sold off assets and mineral rights to some property to remain solvent. He acknowledged concern by members but assured everyone that due to increased costs of auditing, actuary and investment fees, the cost to run a small business is prohibitive. By partnering with Better Life, a company with a 131-year history of services, SON will become more financially stable.

As support for this change, a representative from the Czechoslovakian Society of America (CSA) spoke to share their positive experience partnering with Better Life over the past couple of years. He assured the SON members that CSA had been able to keep their cultural independence while becoming more financially secure because of the partnership.

Although all questions were not addressed at this meeting, some of the main concerns were:

- Lodges will not shift and will maintain their own identity.
- Dues will be collected centrally by BL and distributed back as in the past.
- Staff in MLPS will remain the same.
- Board International will transition to Fraternal Better Life and may require some changes in the bylaws.
- Vikings magazine will remain as is.
- Lodges will keep their assets unless they disband.
- SON existing financial members will transition to Better Life, staying much the same but backed by BL. Only 22,000 SON member policies will join 90,000 in BL.

Due to the changes happening in the organization, the Board of Directors requested a nomination to table all recommended bylaw changes and resolutions until a later date.

Overall, the convention was a great learning opportunity and created a new view of all that SON can provide its members on a local and an international level.

Barb Milburn, Steve Milburn, Carol Lucido, Kristiania's delegates

Betty Danielson, Zone 5 Director

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NOTE—Please notify **Kristi Simmons** (ssimmons10@aol.com) or **Lisa Fenton** (lj.fenton789@gmail.com) if you know of a Kristiania member who should receive a get-well or sympathy card with greetings from the lodge.

Kristiania August Meeting—August 13, 6:30

Our August program will feature **Jennifer Kovarik** presenting “**In Trunks, Hands, and Hearts: What Norwegians Immigrants Brought to the United States,**” Between 1825 and 1980 nearly one million Norwegians left for new lives in America. Jennifer will explore why they came, what they brought with them, where they settled, and the immigrant experience through stories connected to artifacts in Vesterheim’s collection.

We are still looking for a volunteer to help coordinate our treat schedule going forward. If you’d be interested in taking on that role, please let me know ASAP. There are only 6 meetings per year that need member-provided treats. This is a very low-commitment way to help his lodge! Please consider!

Three generous volunteers signed up to serve on August 13: **Sharon Kingsley, Dean Vigeland, and Renee Thoreson**. Thanks in advance!

We look forward to seeing everyone on August 13!

More District Convention Notes

Since I enjoy history I went on the Old Log Church tour on a farm site near Norway Lake. The church was built in 1868 with few furnishings, but they did have an antique pump organ and log benches for pews. We had a short service where we sang familiar hymns accompanied on the old organ, and the pastor read part of the scripture in fluent Norwegian, Then we went outside where the local ladies had a long table spread with numerous Norwegian desserts, including lefse! I sat at a picnic table with a couple from Omaha and enjoyed getting to know them. And finally, a big surprise: I saw a lady who looked familiar, so I checked her nametag and realized it was the wife of the pastor who had led us on a youth tour of Germany when Barb was the youth director in the 70’s, so we had a lot of catching up to do! —**Steve Milburn**, delegate from Kristiania 47

Til Minne

Helen Thea Anderson (Dec 14, 1936– June 10, 2026), a former member

Velkommen!

We welcome a new Kristiania member, **Michelle Selders**, who lives in Huntersville, NC. She is the daughter of **Linda and Ed Manthei**.



Betty and Larry Danielson, Carol Lucido, and Steve and Barb Milburn at the District One convention in June.



Renee Thoreson's Hardanger won the People's Choice award and the second place ribbon at the District One convention. *Gratulerer!*

Postage stamps—We are still collecting cancelled postage stamps, which are collected on the district level and sent to Norway to help raise funds for humanitarian causes. Look for a box for depositing or bring to the board room/library. —**Ann Romo**, trustee



Pop Tabs—

Kristiania lodge will continue to collect aluminum can tabs for our local Ronald McDonald House. A marked collection box will be available at each lodge meeting on the table located on the side wall.—**Monica VanKirk**

Sons of Norway
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Gifts from Better Life, the new partner of SofN.

I won this “Hello, Kitty” blanket at the convention as a prize from Better Life. I told their rep that I would be donating it to the Women’s Shelter, and he asked what they could donate. The shelter asked for individual snack packages for their residents. I delivered over 20 boxes of snack packages to

the Rochester Women’s Shelter. They send their thanks to **Better Life** and **Sons of Norway** for caring for their families in need.—**Barb Milburn**, Kristiania convention delegate

St. Olaf Heritage Association presents

Taste of Norway

Sunday August 23, 2026 , 2pm-4 pm

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 6200 Co. Rd. 3 SW,

Byron, MN Rain or Shine

“Saint Olaf Himself”

A Skit in 3 Acts at 2:15 pm

2:45—4 pm Tour of the historic Tverberg House

Homemade Norwegian treats:

Rosettes, *Krumkake*, *Fattigman*, *Sandbakkels*,
Goro, *Spritz*, *Kringla*, *Lefse*, Norwegian Cheese,
Pickled Herring, *Rullepølse*