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Volume 52, Issue 9

Hovedstad Lodge 2-094

December 2025



Board Meetings

Third Tuesday at 6:30

Zoom Board Meeting

All members are invited

Regular Meetings

September – May

4th Monday each month at 6:00 PM

Columbian Hall

6794 Martin Way E
Olympia, WA 98516

Need directions?

Have a question about an upcoming meeting or event?

Contact Jim This
360-870-5820

Next Event:
Julefest!

St. Mark Lutheran Church
2109 College St. SE Lacey
Sunday, Dec 14, 2025

1:00 PM

Fra Presidenten

Hei Alle Sammen:

Join us for Yulefest 2025!

St. Mark Lutheran Church – 2109 College St. SE, Lacey

Sunday, December 14th at 1:00 pm

Celebrate the season with:

Fellowship and community

A performance by the church's bell choir

Fun games for all ages

Installation of officers for 2026

Please bring a **finger food dish** to share. We look forward to celebrating together!

At our November meeting the membership elected the following officers for 2026:

Executive Officers

President: James This

Vice President: Betsy Hagen

Secretary: Susan Girsch

Treasurer: Joanne Gray

Counselor: Linda Fialkowski

Program Directors

Social/Cultural Director: Dierdre Bissonnette

Foundation Director: Joanne Gray

Support Directors

Trustee: three-year term: Kevan Hagen

Greeters: Patty Osier, Cameron Osier and Barbara Murphy

Marshals: David Lee and Terry Larson

Editor: Kevan Hagen

As we head into the new year, we are making a few changes to our meeting schedule we think you will like.

We will start at 6:00 pm with a light dinner.

We have a great line-up of programs – starting on January 26th. We're starting the year with a playful nod to folklore! Join us as we explore the fascinating world of troll sculptures in the Northwest. Afterward, enjoy time to share your own favorite little friend—bring one or two trolls from home to show and tell.

We will strive to end the meeting by 7:30 pm

Gledelige høytider!

Jim

**Hovedstad Lodge
2025
Executive Officers**

President, James This
360-870-5820
jthis@jlthis.com

Vice President, vacant

Secretary, Betsy Hagen
360-789-8607
ebunkey@hotmail.com

Treasurer, Joanne Gray
360-923-1242
joanne@moholtusa.com

Counselor, Linda Fialkowski
360-280-1845
norwaydreamer294@gmail.com

Program Directors

Cultural Director-
Sue Girsch
sgirsch@jlthis.com

Foundation Director-
Joanne Gray

Support Directors

Marshals
David Lee and Terry Larson

Trustees
Terry Larson—3 Yr.
360-688-1857
Mark Sterk - 2 Yr.
208-298-7047
Kevan Hagen - 1 Yr.
360-918-6588

Hostess Coordinator
Patty Osier

Greeters
Barb Murphy and
Cameron Osier

Editor
Kevan Hagen
360-918-6585

**Hovedstad Lodge Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 24, 2025
6:30 p.m.**

Present: 20 members

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jim This

National Anthems

Cultural focus – language lesson

Approval of October minutes – motion for approval by Jim
Hegge, seconded Sue Girsch

Financial report

Joanne Gray shared the bank balance
Kevan Hagen shared the investment balance

Officer reports – Secretary, Betsy requested that members turn
in their volunteer hours to her by the end of December

Communication

Unfinished business

New business

Slate of Officers – Mark Sterk moved for approval by
acclamation, Jim Hegge seconded it

Executive Officers

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Program Directors

Social/Cultural Director: Dierdre Bissonnette
Foundation Director; Joanne Gray

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bara Murphy
Marshals: David Lee and Terry Larson
Editor: Kevan Hagen

2026 Strategic Plan discussion

Deidre Bissonnette made a short presentation on pro-
grams for 2026

Joanne Gray presented the 2026 budget – Sue Girsch
moved to approve and Bob Thompson seconded it

Announcements

Zoom Board – December 16
Yulefest – December 14th – 1 p.m. – St. Mark Luther-
an Church, Lacey

Closing at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Betsy Hagen, Secretary



Julefest

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, 1:00PM
St Mark Church, 22nd & College

**Hovedstad Lodge #2-94 invites you to
be our guest at our Julefest!
We'll have music, games and fun.
Bring your family and a finger
food to share.**



Please let us know if you have children under 12 yrs. attending. 360-923-1242 joanne@moholtusa.com

Chemo Bag Thanks

One of the community services we perform is providing patients at Vista Oncology with a bag full of items that hopefully helps to make their treatment process as comforting as possible. This holiday season, the folks at Vista sent this nice thank you note.

Our deepest appreciation to you and your lodge members for providing Comfort Care bags to our patients who are going through the chemotherapy process. Knowing that others care and understand the challenges of Chemotherapy is very meaningful to our patients.

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and

Happy New Year.

Your friends at Vista Oncology, Lacey Washington



Join Us for Julefest!

We hope you make plans to celebrate the holidays with us, at our annual Julefest! This year's Hovedstad Lodge Julefest will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Lacey, Sunday, December 14 from 1 to 4 pm. It is sponsored by the Sons of Norway Hovedstad Lodge and Prillar Guri Daughters of Norway. Entertainment will be provided by the St Mark Church Bell Choir, and holiday standards by Ron Fialkowski. There will also be a sing-along and games! Bring a finger food item to share. If you are bringing kids under 12, contact Joanne Gray, so we can be sure and have small gifts for them. Join us, and brighten your holidays with fellowship and Norwegian fun!

November Lodge Meeting - A Full Agenda, and Full Stomachs!

November's Hovedstad Lodge meeting was packed with details, as we looked forward through the coming year. Before we got down to business, we feasted on chili, cornbread, salad, drinks, and dessert. Thanks to Betsy and Kevan Hagen and Sue Girsch for providing the grub! President Jim started the meeting, with assistance from Mark Sterk, with a Norwegian language lesson, where we learned to introduce ourselves. Jim then shared the proposed officers for the 2026 year. Since there were no opposed positions, the officers were ratified via proclamation. Goals for the upcoming year were shared, including enhanced programs, increasing attendance at meetings and membership, and creating more opportunities for field trips. Deirdre Bissonnette shared the proposed programs for each meeting for the 2026 year. Marti Brown, Sons of Norway Financial Representative, reminded us of the products available to us as Sons of Norway members. Prizes were given away at the end of the meeting. Congratulations to Kevan Hagen and Patty Osier!



Goals

1. ENHANCE MONTHLY PROGRAMS
 - a) Interesting interactive programs
 - b) Light dinner before each meeting
2. ADD A MINIMUM OF 10 NEW MEMBERS
 - a) Offer two Norwegian experiences
 - b) Use incentives for new members and sponsors
 - c) Collaborate with public entities
3. INCREASE FIELD TRIPS FOR MEMBER
 - a) Viking Days
 - b) Trollhaugen Steak Fry



Sons of Norway Financial Products

As members of a Sons of Norway Lodge, we learn about and enjoy the heritage and culture of Norway, and members also have access to discounts when shopping or traveling. There are financial products available—Term and Permanent Insurances, along with Annuities. If you are in the market for life insurance, get information about the products that Sons of Norway offers here:

https://www.sofn.com/financial_products/products_we_offer/

Contact our local SON financial planner, Marti Brown, at 253-227-4586, or mbrown@planmembersec.com

Christmas in Norway



In Norway, Christmas (Jul) is more than a single day—it's a season filled with light, warmth, and tradition. Preparations begin in late November, when homes and streets glow with decorations and families bake at least seven kinds of Christmas cookies. Advent calendars and concerts set the tone for the weeks ahead. The heart of the celebration is Christmas Eve (Julaften). Families gather for a festive meal—often ribbe (pork ribs) or pinnekjøtt (salt-cured lamb ribs)—before exchanging gifts. Children may

even be visited by Santa Claus, though many households still honor the old barn spirit, the Fjøsnisse, by leaving out a bowl of rice porridge (nissegrot).

Norwegians also cherish quirky traditions. In Bergen, the community builds the world's largest gingerbread town, with schools, businesses, and families contributing miniature houses each year. And during romjul, the quiet days between Christmas and New Year, people enjoy cozy gatherings, skiing, and time with loved ones.

Together, these customs create a holiday that is both magical and deeply rooted in heritage. Whether it's sharing cookies, honoring folklore, or simply enjoying fellowship, Christmas in Norway reminds us that joy comes from tradition and togetherness. Contributed by Sue Girsch

Poulsbo Julefest—Dec. 6 from 10 to Dusk



Don't Forget Your Dues!

As the end of the calendar year approaches, it is a good time to be reminded that dues for 2024-2025 membership to the Sons of Norway need to be paid. You can renew online at <https://www.sonsofnorway.com> or print out the application form and mail a check for \$84 to Sons of Norway, 1455 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408-2666.

Mark Your Calendar

Dec 6— 10 AM-Dusk Poulsbo Julefest

Dec 13—St. Lucia Day

Dec 13 - Northern Lights: Music of the Nordic and Baltic Countries. 3 and 7 PM, Chapel at Bastyr University, Kenmore



Paper Direct

Dec 14— 1 PM-4 PM Hovedstad Julefest, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Lacey

Dec 20—Northern Lights: Music of the Nordic and Baltic Countries. 3 and 7 PM, Seattle First Baptist Church, Seattle

Jan 26 - 6:00 PM Next Hovedstad Lodge Meeting, Columbian Hall, Lacey



[www.facebook.com/Hovedstad Lodge #94, Sons of Norway](http://www.facebook.com/HovedstadLodge94)
and ONLINE at olysonsofnorway.org

Hovedstad Posten Editor
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