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Volume 52, Issue 1

Hovedstad Lodge 2-094

January 2025



# Hovedstad Posten



## Board Meetings

### Zoom Board Meeting

Third Tuesday at 6:30  
All members are invited

### Regular Meetings

September – May  
4th Monday each  
month at 6:30 PM

### Columbian Hall

6794 Martin Way E  
Olympia, WA 98516

### Need directions?

Have a question about an up-  
coming meeting or event?

Contact Jim This  
360-870-5820  
jthis@jthis.com

**Next Meeting**  
**Columbian Hall**  
**Feb 24, 2025**  
**6:30 PM**

## Fra Presidenten

Godt Nytt år,



I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. Sue and I were blessed with a full house of family for the first time in years. ***A reminder that we will not meet in January.*** Our first meeting of 2025 will be on February 24th.

The board will be meeting on January 16th to create a game plan for 2025. If you have ideas about speakers or programs, please send them to me. We want to have a vibrant set of activities for the year. We will share the full calendar in the February newsletter.

Thanks to everyone that made the Julefest a huge success. The refreshments were delicious. We enjoyed musical numbers by Peter A.R. Johnson, master of the Swedish Nyckelharpa.

One of my primary goals for 2025 is to increase our membership and meeting attendance. Please invite friends and family members to attend our meetings and become a "Son". Also – make sure you make attendance a resolution for 2025 – I would love to see 50+ members at each of our meetings.

Ha det bra,

Jim



### *Could a Scholarship help you reach your goals?*

Hovedstad lodge offers scholarships for college or continuing education, for either **YOU** or your eligible grandchildren.

To qualify, all applicants must be a child or grandchild, of a current lodge member who has been active at least three of the past five years. For more details and application forms, contact :

Scholarship Chair, Ken Fialkowski—longlakeken@gmail.com

## Hovedstad Lodge 2025

### Executive Officers

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

Vice President, Jon Halvorson  
360-790-5349  
halvo@comcast.net

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

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

Counselor, Linda Fialkowski  
360-459-3982  
norwaydreamer294@gmail.co m

#### Program Directors

Cultural Director-  
Sue Girsch  
sgirsch@jlthis.com

Social Director  
Deirdre Bissonnette  
deirdrepfundt@gmail.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



## Following the Lights

Widely regarded as one of nature's most gorgeous phenomena, glimpsing the aurora borealis, or the "Northern Lights" is high up on many people's bucket lists. The only problem is finding them, as they require clear skies and total darkness in order to be seen.

This makes the months of January and February peak aurora chasing season in Norway, with the nights being both longer and darker. For those who long to experience the unbelievable colors that dance across the limitless Arctic sky, there are few places on Earth that offer more chances to glimpse the Northern Lights than Norway. Top destinations for aurora chasers include Tromsø, Kirkenes, the Lofoten Islands and Svalbard.

Source: Viking Magazine, Contributed by Sue Girsch

## 2025 DISTRICT 2 SKI EVENTS



**Yes, there is an  
in-person ski race at  
Trollhaugen on *Feb. 1st*.  
Make your reservations**

Here is another way to participate! For the whole month of February, please record how many miles you cross-country ski. This event is open to all ages and experience levels. Send your miles to ***District Two Sports Director: Alisha Anunson***. Be sure to include your *full name, age, and the lodge that you are a member of*.

The cut-off date for submitting miles is ***March 15<sup>th</sup>***. Once all miles have been submitted, they will be tallied, and Laurie Berg will disperse participation awards. Results will be printed in the Dynamic 2.

Miles can be tracked for all skiing, not just miles done at Trollhaugen.

Email mile submissions to:  
[alishaanunson@gmail.com](mailto:alishaanunson@gmail.com)



**SONS OF  
NORWAY**



# Hovedstad Member Spotlight



## Deirdre Bissonnette

My name is Deirdre Bissonnette. My husband Ray and I have been married 14 years this year. We both work for the state, I work in the office at Fish and Wildlife, and Ray supervises a road crew for Ecology. The kids are in 8th and 10th grade this year, and attend Olympia schools on the west side. We've lived in Olympia for 6 years, but have moved around for work quite a bit. Prior to Olympia, we lived in Gig Harbor, Shelton, Leavenworth, and Bellingham.



I bring the Nordic heritage to the family; I'm 28% Icelandic. My great great grandparents Arni Sveinsson and Gudrun Jonsdottir were part of a large wave of immigration from Iceland to Canada. They came in 1877 and settled in Manitoba. Their son married a fellow 2nd generation Ice-lander so my paternal grandmother was still 100% Icelandic. She moved to the PNW and married my Grandpa Cecil, the son of German immigrants.

I was born in Juneau, Alaska and lived as a child in Petersburg, Alaska. Petersburg is known for its beautiful SoN lodge that is a cornerstone of the community. Petersburg hosts a Little Norway festival that corresponds with Syttende Mai - marching in the parade in my little bunad was my first experience with Sons of Norway.

I enjoy cooking and baking, and lately have been making earrings.

We joined the Hovedstad Lodge because, as the kids got a little older, I wanted to explore our heritage more. We started coming to SoN as well as attending events related to our Scottish heritage.

We are fairly new members. We just started attending Hovedstad in 2024.

I'm glad to find a place to grow and give back in the community.

I would tell someone who is thinking of joining the Lodge - the more the merrier! New people bring new ideas and creativity.

## Sofie/Olson Scholarships Available for SON Summer Camps



Do you know of a 9-15 year-old that would be interested in taking part in a Sons of Norway youth summer camp? District 2 plans to hold their annual summer camps - Camp Nidaros in Gearhart, Oregon and Camp Normanna outside Arlington, Washington for 9-12 year-olds, and Camp Trollhaugen in Easton, Washington for 13-15 year-olds. At each camp, kids will explore and celebrate Norwegian culture and heritage. Each year a scholarship is awarded for each camp, eligible to children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews of current District 2 Sons of Norway members. The criteria for selection include "interest and participation in Norwegian cultural and heritage activities." Previous award winners are not eligible. Scholarship applications are due in mid-April. For more information about each camp, and for a scholarship application, contact Laurie Berg at 206-235-5558.

## SoN Dues Information

To be a Sons of Norway member, there are annual dues that you pay. What are the dues currently? What do your dues go towards? Here are the answers:

### Dues Rates—Effective 1 July 2024

	International	District	Local	Annual
Heritage (ages 0-15)				Free
Juvenile (ages 0-21 with Juvenile Insurance)				Free

#### Individual Rates

Regular	\$54	\$15	\$15	\$84
Golden **	\$26	\$15	\$13	\$54
Lifetime	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

#### Family Rates (2 or more individuals in same household)

Regular (2 or more)	\$87	\$27	\$30	\$144
Both Golden **	\$50	\$27	\$16	\$93
One Golden **/One Regular	\$64	\$27	\$23	\$114
One Golden **/One Lifetime	\$26	\$15	\$13	\$54
One Regular/One Lifetime	\$54	\$15	\$15	\$84
Both Lifetime	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

#### Affiliate Dues

\$15

**Note: \*\* Half price dues for a Golden Member only apply if the member was 65 or older and a 30-year member before 1 Jan 2028.**

### Sons of Norway dues support a variety of activities and benefits, including:

- **Cultural experiences:** Access to cultural resources, events, and tours
- **Financial products:** Affordable life insurance plans and other financial products
- **Educational opportunities:** College scholarships, financial aid, and tuition grants for youth summer camps and local schools
- **Philanthropic endeavors:** Support for cancer patients and charitable groups
- **Social activities:** Participation in lodge activities
- **Recreation facilities:** Access to regional recreation facilities and camps
- **Membership magazine:** The monthly Viking magazine, which is published exclusively for members
- **Heritage membership:** Free Heritage membership for children and grandchildren of SoN members who are 15 years and under
- **Promoting Norwegian culture:** Promoting and preserving the heritage and culture of Norway



## **Hovedstad Lodge 2-094 Sons of Norway**

### **Our commitment: Protecting your privacy**

#### **Member Privacy Promise**

**Hovedstad Lodge** respects your privacy. Your information is personal, and we promise to keep it confidential. We want you to understand what personal information we collect, how we use it, and how we protect it.

#### **Information We Collect**

**Hovedstad Lodge** may collect nonpublic personal information about you from your applications or other forms, such as name, age, address, and marital status.

#### **What Information We Share**

We share your information within **Sons of Norway** so that we may provide you with membership services or financial products, and to administer to the lodge system and the Sons of Norway Foundation. We disclose information as required by law.

#### **Security & Confidentiality Safeguards**

**Hovedstad Lodge** has administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect your information. Our safeguards include policies and procedures on handling your information, restricted access to only those who need it in order to provide you service, restricted computer access, technical controls, confidentiality requirements with our outside organizations, ongoing review of our procedures, and staff training to respect and guard your information.

#### **Accuracy & Your Access to Information**

We strive to keep your records accurate. If you see any inaccuracy, please contact the current Hovedstad Lodge President. You may request access to and correction of your information at any time, by emailing **Hovedstad Lodge President: [jthis@jlthis.com](mailto:jthis@jlthis.com)**.

**Hovedstad Lodge** may change our privacy policy to conform to changes in the law and in our business practices. You will be informed of these changes.

We will inform all members of our Privacy Policy at the beginning of our business relationship and annually after that by publishing it in the **Hovedstad Posten**.

Revised: 12/2023

## **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/](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](mailto:mbrown@planmembersec.com)

## Mark Your Calendar

**Jan 16** - Board Retreat

**NO January Monthly Meeting!**

**Jan 25**—Send Betsy Hagen your 2024 volunteer hours

**Jan 26-Feb 2** - Northern Lights Festival in Tromsø

**Feb 1** - Ski Race at Trollhaugen— Registration 8:30 am, Race 10:30 am

**Feb 6** - Sami National Day



**Feb 9** - Norwegian Mother's Day

**Feb 14** - Happy Valentine's Day

**Feb 18** - 6:30 — ZOOM Board Meeting

**Feb 24** - 6:30 - Regular Meeting



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Hovedstad Posten Editor  
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