

Vikingen



Velkommen 2026! Welcome 2026! Vinter / Winter | Leif Erikson Lodge 2-001 Sons of Norway

Nyttårshilsen fra presidenten

Godt Nytt År from your President! Looking back on this year, I am impressed by how many special events we were able to put on. There is no shortage of people who want to come out, spend time with other Norwegians, and help keep our traditions alive. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us.

I would also like to send a big thank-you to all the volunteers who work so hard to keep our Lodge vibrant. You are always there to help, and it was essential this Fall as we had so many special events in addition to our regular meetings. At the Nordic Market alone, we had more than 80 volunteers over the two days. You are greatly appreciated, and we would not be able to host all these events without you.

We look forward to Volunteer Appreciation Month in April!

We just had a fabulous Christmas Party with 170 people (the most ever). The food was excellent and very traditional, and we sang and danced the night away. If you missed out, make sure you put the second Saturday of December on your calendar for 2026.

This is a critical year for us as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Leif Erikson building. The main celebration will probably be at our June meeting, when we will show a video from the building process. Many of you know the building was built entirely by volunteers, so it will honor the members who put so much into making sure we have a new home for the Leif Erikson Lodge.

The Cultural Committee will meet soon to start planning our membership meetings and special events for the coming year. So, keep an eye on our website for updates, and remember to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

One of my main goals in taking on the Presidency was to encourage our younger members to be more active and to develop programs on Norway today. We need to continue celebrating our traditions, but it is also essential that we learn about Norway today, as Norway holds an important position on the world stage in many areas. I know many of you get news online, but not everyone does, so I will ensure we offer more current programs that will be of interest to our younger audience. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Anne-Lise Berger

President

Leif Erikson Lodge 2-001



Dinner / Membership Meeting for January 2026

14th of Jan. 2026 / Wednesday Social 5:30 PM / Dinner 6:00 PM / Program 6:30 PM Business Meeting 7:30 PM



January 14 is our membership meeting, and we celebrate and install our new officers. We will also feature lively music by the Sølje Sisters to enhance the celebration of our new officers.

The menu is: Poached chicken with Dill and Havarti, small baked potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Green Salad, Bread, and Chocolate Cake.

The dinner price is \$30 and includes dinner, beer, wine, or canned pop. Please RSVP by noon on the 12th of January at 206-783-1274.

We hope to see you there as we start an exciting New Year in 2026. Come and join us for all the good work the lodge does, the camaraderie we share, special events, preserving Norwegian culture and sometimes just plain good fun!

Sheila Bartanen,

Social and Cultural Director

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

Leif Erikson Lodge acknowledges our lodge stands on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish people past and present, and honors with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish people.

Leif Erikson Lodge Officers 2026

President: Anne-Lise Berger / alberger49@gmail.com
Vice President: Kenneth Bartanen / kbarten@msn.com
Counselor: Vacant
Social Director: Sheila Bartanen / sheilajrl14@hotmail.com
Secretary: Eva Phillips / evamarielphillips@gmail.com
Asst. Secretary: Vacant
Financial Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Theresa Nilsen / pearcity@comcast.net
Cultural Director: Sheila Bartanen
Publicity Director: Isabel Bartholomew
Membership Secretary: Wendy Forselius LEL.memberships@gmail.com
Musician/Sports Dir: Kathleen Lange / tatter59@me.com
Foundation Director: Jerry Thorsen - jthorthor@gmail.com
Asst. Musician: Beth Kollé / bethkolle@comcast.net
Youth Director: Vacant
Librarians:
 An-Magrith Erlandsen / an.magrith@gmail.com
 Diana Malone / maloned10@gmail.com
Historian: Christine Anderson 206-784-6181
Trustees:
 Gail Engler
 Sandra Conry
 Chris Varnes

Other Divisions of Leif Erikson Lodge

Leif Erikson Lodge Building Association

President: Daniel Nye / danielnye@seanet.com

LEL Educational Foundation:

President: Heidi Ludeman
Secretary: Jessica Olsen - Apodaca
Treasure: Lorie Lind
Trustee: Christine Anderson
LEL Rep: Diane Malone
leleducationalfoundation@gmail.com

NORNA

Judy Gray & Chris Heins

LEIKARRINGEN

President Sheila Bartanen.

LERA - Norway Park Lodge Reps.

LERABoard@NorwayPark.net
 LEL Lodge Rep. An-Magrith Erlandsen
 LEL Lodge Rep. Erik-Bjarne Witzøe
 LEL Lodge Rep. Doug Warne

SON Lodge-Financial Benefits Counselor: Bill Nelson / 425-784-6433

2026 Calendars of Norway on Sale

Leif Erikson Lodge is selling special Norwegian calendars for 2026, just in time for the holidays. The price is \$15.00 plus \$7.00 for postage if you would like it mailed to you. Mail a cheque, made out to LEL, Leif Erikson Lodge, ATTN: Calendars, 2245 NW 57th St., Seattle, WA 98107. Supplies are limited –order now. Call the office at 206-783-1274. Tusentakk!



Spend this summer studying in Norway!

These scholarships are available for you, your child, niece, or Nephew. Some scholarships have no age limit. Six young women from our district were winners this past summer. If you or someone you know is interested, don't hesitate to get in touch with me, the foundation director, at jthorthor@gmail.com. Act now to qualify for this year's award. -**Jerry Thorsen**



New Phone Number, Email, or Address?

Let us know! Email Wendy at LEL.memberships@gmail.com. Or go to the SON website - www.sofn.com and update your Member profile. Please remember to forward your mail if you are gone for an extended period.

Vikingen

Leif Erikson Lodge No. 2-001 Sons of Norway 2245 NW 57th Street, Seattle, WA 98107-3134 **Business Manager:** Gail Engler **Co-Editors:** An-Magrith Erlandsen an.magrith@gmail.com and Erik Bjarne Witzøe Erik.Bjarne@gmail.com **Phone:** 206-783-1274. **Email:** an.magrith@gmail.com & erik.Bjarne@gmail.com. The submission deadline for Vikingen is **the 14th of each month**. Please send articles or calendar items to both editors. The Vikingen has been published since 1945. Leif Erikson Lodge was founded on May 13, 1903.

You can sign up to receive the Vikingen via email. If you prefer to receive a hard-copy newsletter, let us know at Erik.Bjarne@gmail.com or englergail32@gmail.com or call the LEL office and leave a message at 206-783-1274.

Sons of Norway Cultural Mission:

Promoting and preserving the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries. Leif Erikson Lodge is committed to complying with this mission in all that we do.



Troll Saga

Nyheter fra Norway Park 2026

By Erik Bjarne -w Witzøe
LERA LODGE REP.

Godt Nytt År 2026! As 2025 fades into memory, 2026 brings new possibilities for Norway Park, advancing its cultural mission, restoring infrastructure, and continuing traditional activities, among other initiatives.

I, Erik-Bjarne, have been reelected for another few years to represent the lodge on the LERA Board, a role I've held since January 2020. The first few years of the pandemic posed many challenges; however, in my second term, I was able to secure funding to overhaul the Berg Pavilion, including a new, updated transpiring showcase. With the help of hardworking volunteers, the majority of the pavilion was completed, with finishing touches scheduled for 2026. My Grandparents, the Ringstads, were among the first wave builders in Norway Park, and I spent summers in the cabin I grew up in. I have come to cherish this inspirational place and will continue to serve as Lodge Rep. with a steadfast vision.

Julebord 2025 was a resounding success, with guest attendance exceeding 170. It was definitely a celebration with Jul-time cheer. Thor Gudjonsson, whose Icelandic stage name is better known as Haffi Haff, riled up the crowd with song and dance, though it was a Christmas event, even the Chicken Dance - a beloved favorite of the park- was performed. Mange tusen takk! Berit Smith, with all those volunteers, including Nancy Solheim, Lisa Krause, and Kathy Buholm.

In other news, the annual LERA Stockholders Meeting will be held at Leif Erikson Lodge on Sunday, the 15th of February 2026—time to be announced.

The LERA Board has voted to move Sankt Hans - Midsommer 2026 to Saturday, the 13th of June. This move was made to beat the yearly burn.

Leif Erikson Recreation Association Contacts for 2026

LERA - Norway Park

22128 State Route 9 Lot 220
Mount Vernon, WA 98274
(Pavilion: 24020 Pavilion Drive)



Caretaker: Michael Kojetinsky 360-919-3473

Office Manager: Berit Smith OfficeManager@NorwayPark.net

Pavilion & Bekkestua Rental: Berit Smith 360-820-2625

President: Bjørn Lunde-Bjorn - Lunde@NorwayPark.net

Vice President: Greg Rasmussen - Greg.Rasmussen@NorwayPark.net

Secretary: An-Magrih Erlandsen - An-Magrih.Erlandsen@NorwayPark.net

Treasurer: Grace Schroder - Grace.Schroder@NorwayPark.net

Financial Sec: Charles Hinton - Charles.Hinton@NorwayPark.net

Caretaker Liaison: Tom Zabriskie - Tom.Zabriskie@NorwayPark.net

LEL Lodge Rep. An-Magrih Erlandsen - An-Magrih.Erlandsen@NorwayPark.net

LEL Lodge Rep. Erik-Bjarne Witzøe - Erik.Witzoe@NorwayPark.net

LEL Lodge Rep. Doug Warne - Doug.Warne@NorwayPark.net



Julebord 2025



Greetings from the Kaffestua

Please join us **Wednesdays and Fridays**
from **10 am-2 pm**

during the month of January

(We are NOT open on Friday, January 2)

Please join us:

Saturday Kaffestua on January 3rd from 10am-2pm

Sunday Kaffestua on January 18th from 12-4pm



Cultural Director

Tusen Takk to the terrific planning committee, who also helped each other and the group captains. Anne-Lise Berger, Theresa Nilsen (treasurer for the event and made the Riskrem dessert), Carol Smith, Valborg Nordbo, Kathleen Lange, Lisa Greenough (also printed the program and bar poster), Laurie Lund Gonzalez made the appetizers, coordinated the kitchen crew and table support, Diana Malone, Tina Aure, and Elaine Knudsen for reservation support. I have counted 16 more volunteers who helped lead and gathered even more help. Special thanks to Doug Warne (no-host bar), JoAnne Rudo (Silent Auction), and Erik-Bjarne Witzøe (Flyer/Poster design).

It was my pleasure and privilege to coordinate, work with, and help everyone, and deepen lodge friendships.

- Sheila Bartanen, Cultural Director



What the heck is a Second Saturday Social Hour?

If you participated in any of the 2025 2nd Saturday, low-key, but immensely enjoyable evenings you know what can be found. There were lots of guests meeting and interacting with members both old and new.

Our regulars did a great job of introducing guests and first timers. There were free Get-Acquainted activities, free competitive games with prizes and even free door prizes most months. And Everyone enjoys the full bar with spirits, wine, beer, pop and coffee (if requested.)

Now get this: **Lite supper from the buffet and two drinks from the bar only \$5.00 !**

Bring some
bought or
the **food**
receive
raffle

“food-
as a thank

Great prizes
raffle only which

next **Second Saturday**
regular time is **5:00 to 8:00 pm.**

Where else in Ballard can you go out to dinner with drinks for only \$5?

Remember to **bring something to share** on the supper table and **bring a friend** if you want!

See you January 10 and February 14

-DW



finger food snacks,
home-made, for
table and
some **free**
tickets for the
provider's raffle”
you.

also for the main
cost \$1 each ticket. So the

will be **January 10th** and the

Norsk Hilsen

**Den Norske Kongefamilien Juleportrett 2025**

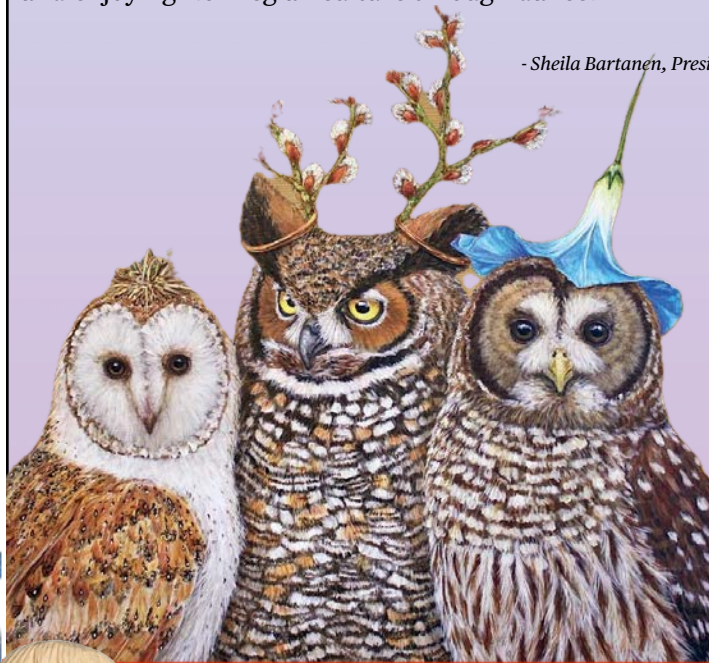
*Prinsesse Ingrid-Alexandra, Kronprinsesse Mette-Marit,
Kronprins Haakon, Prins Sverre-Magnus
Kong Harald V og Dronning Sonja*

**Leikarringen Liaisons**

New officers for Leikarringen are: President-Paul Everitt, Vice-President-Sheila Bartanen, Secretary-Wendy Forselius, Treasurer-Joe Van Wassenhove, Dance Director-Elaine Everitt, Styremedlem-Ken Bartanen, Dance coach-Beth Kolle. We have performed at the Tacoma Sons of Norway Lodge Viking Days, LEL Julebord, and Cogir at Northgate. We have also been busy not only crafting our unique items but selling them at 5 different venues making over \$2300 plus for the lodge as we donate all the supplies and crafting expertise to the lodge. A more detailed report will be in the January Vikingen. Since we are coming into a new year January would be a great time to join us and learn Norwegian Folk Dances. We practice Tuesday, 5-7pm at LEL and all are warmly welcomed.

I would also like to highlight the important work that Elaine Everitt does as part of the leadership team and dance teacher for Barneleikarringen. This vital work builds for the future of not only our lodge but for the learning, celebrating and enjoying Norwegian culture through dance.

- Sheila Bartanen, President

**WOODCARVING**

December 3-10-17

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Scandinavian Woodcarving classes
by Mark Olsen

www.leiferiksonlodge.org/events-calendar

Bibliotek



God Jul og Godt Nyttår fra Biblioteket!

There's lots to look forward to in 2026 in the LEL Library.

Increasing our online catalog, continuing to accept book donations, increasing our collection of bilingual children's books and Norwegian learning books, updating our page on the website (www.leiferiksonlodge.org/ library), and more!

Our hours will continue to be Fridays and first Saturday from 10am-2pm, and before member meetings from 3:30-5:00pm.

Tusen takk,
LEL Librarians



Gratulerer med dagen!



Happy Birthday to all our members with January Birthdays!

Our youngest members are:

Hudson B., Brynlee H., Amelia H., Finn K., Evelyn V., Una W-D., Avery Z.

Our members are:

Karen A., Sophie B., Isabel B., Ellen B., Charlotte B., Mac C., Lori E., Knut-Erik E., Raymond E., Michelle F. K., Connie H., Barbie H., Sharon T., Marian J., Tony K., Gordon J., Gary L., Trine L., Brianna L., Christopher R., Gerald T., Casey W., Wayne W., Grace W.,

Senior Members are:

Alf K., Robert S., Jody G., Rolf W.

Our most Senior Members are: Erling B., Arlene T.,

Gratulerer !

We're sorry we can't list all the Birthday celebrants as there is just not enough room in our newsletter!

Gratulerer med dagen!

FOOD BANK

The day after collecting monetary donations at our December meeting I dropped off all the donations from our members and the lodge to the Ballard Food Bank.

The total we were able to provide to those very much in need was \$925. There were also many food and other donations in the Nisse Bjarne Holiday Box, which the food bank picked up regularly throughout December. About 100 people of all ages, some with physical ailments, were waiting for services in the waiting area. Here's hoping our donations helped ease some of the need.

Christine Anderson, Ballard Food Bank coordinator

Bring your STAMPS to the Leif Erikson Lodge office

Don't forget to include your name, address and phone number. Save at least 1 pound; stamp's will be delivered to District 2 for inclusion in drawing at the next convention (May 2026).

God Jul og Godt Nyttår!

Thank you to everyone who came to **Barnas Julefest** and helped make it a huge success. If you had your picture taken by the photographer and would like a digital copy, email leryouthseattle@gmail.com!

Tusen takk,
Barnas Julefest Committee



Officers for Leif Erikson Lodge in 2026.

*New and continuing officers will be installed at our
January 14, 2026, meeting*

President: Anne-Lise Berger
VP: Diana Malone
Counselor: JoAnne Rudo
Secretary: Eva Phillips
Treasurer: Theresa Nilsen
Membership Secretary: Wendy Forselius
Asst. Secretary: Vacant
Cultural/Social Director: Sheila Bartanen
Publicity Director: Isabel Bartholomew
Musician/Sports Dir: Kathleen Lange
Asst. Musician: Beth Kollé
Foundation Director: Jerry Thorsen
Youth Director: Vacant
Librarians: An-Magrith Erlandsen and Diana Malone
Historian: Christine Anderson
Marshals: Ken Bartanen and Peter Nestingen
Greeters: Andrea Torland and Knut-Sigurd Knuteson
Trustee: Gail Engler (2026-2028)
LERA Rep: Erik Bjarne Witzoe (2026-2028)
Educational Foundation: Heidi Ludeman and Christine Anderson
 (2026-2027)
Continuing terms:
Trustees: Sandi Conry (2025-2027) and Chris Varnes (2024-2026)
Norway Park: An-Magrith Erlandsen (2024-2026) Doug Warne (2025-2027)
Educational Foundation: Lorie Lind and Jessica Apodaca (2025-2026)



New Applicants as of December 10th 2025

Kristopher N Iverson
 Meghan E Iverson
 Jessica N Neverkewitz.
 Evan Elias Mathews, Spouse
 Wyatt Mathews, child
 Rowan Mathews, child

Affiliate

Jeff Otness

Obituaries

Jesse Farrens
 Irving M Haug
 Peter S Haug
 Erling Reidar Ronnig



Julebord 2025
 at Leif Erikson Lodge,
 pictured to the left.

LOCAL MATTERS.
 velkommen nye kunder



Keeping it local

BALLARD 206.397.3110

8550 15th Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98117



Norwegian Ladies Chorus of Seattle



www.nlcoseattle.org
NEW SINGERS WELCOME

Rehearsals: Tuesdays 7:15 - 8:45pm
At Leif Erikson Lodge, 2nd Floor

Joseph To, Director

Contact: norwegianladieschorus@gmail.com

Renewing and preserving our Norwegian Heritage
 through song since 1936



TENOR / BASS
 VOICES
 JOIN THE LONGEST-
 STANDING CHORUS
 IN SEATTLE

REHEARSALS
 MONDAYS AT 7PM

LEIF ERIKSON LODGE: 2245 NW 57TH ST.
SEATTLE, WA 98107 • WWW.SEATTELMANNSKOR.ORG

The Scandinavian Hour

with your host
Seth Tufteland



Saturday & Sunday 6:00-7:00am, Saturday 9:00-10am

Stream us online at <https://1150kknw.com/listen-online>

Visit our website at www.thescandinavianhour.org

Music, News, & Interviews for the Scandinavian Community



SONS of NORWAY

LEIF ERIKSON LODGE 2-001

2245 NW 57th Street Seattle, WA
98107-3134

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Seattle, WA
Permit #672

Please notify Wendy Forselius of any changes in Name, Address, or Phone Numbers. Please also let her know of the death of a family member, LELmemberships@gmail.com

Leif Erikson Lodge Calendar January 2026

- 03 Jan. - Sat. Kaffestua 10 AM - 2 PM
- 07 Jan. - Wed. Kaffestua 10 AM - 2 PM
- 09 Jan. - Fri. Kaffestua 10 AM - 2 PM
- 09 Jan. - Fri. Bibliotek | Library from 10 AM - 2 PM
- 13 Jan. - Tue. LERA - Norway Park Board Meeting 7 PM - Bekkestua
- 14 Jan. - Wed. Kaffestua 10 AM - 2 PM
- 14 Jan. - Wed. Bibliotek - Library from 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
- 14 Jan. - Wed. Membership Dinner & Meeting, doors at 5:30 PM
- 16 Jan. - Fri. Kaffestua 10 AM - 2 PM
- 16 Jan. - Fri. Bibliotek - Library 10 AM - 2 PM
- 18 Jan. - Sun. Kaffestua 12 noon - 4 PM
- 21 Jan. - Wed. Kaffestua 10 AM - 2 PM
- 23 Jan. - Fri. Kaffestua 10 AM - 2 PM
- 23 Jan. - Fri. Bibliotek | Library 10 AM - 2 PM
- 28 Jan. - Wed. Kaffestua - 10 AM - 2 PM
- 30 Jan. - Fri. Kaffestua - 10 AM - 2 PM
- 31 Jan. - Fri. Bibliotek | Library 10 AM - 2 PM

Ballard Health Club Silver Sneakers class meets at LEL Mon, Wed and Friday, 10:00 AM 11:00 AM. Contact Marianne for details.
marianne@ballardhealthclub.com

Exercise class lead by Audrey in main hall Wednesdays 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM. 1st class free, \$5.00 after that. LEL Zoom information:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9155821189> Meeting ID: 915 582 1189; Dial in by Phone: 1 (253) 2158782.

Please check the LEL website, e-news and Facebook for updates to the Lodge calendar and activities. www.leif Eriksonlodge.org
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeifEriksonLodge>



Godt Nytt År 2026!