



THE RUNESTONE



News from the Sons of Norway Lodge Fedrelandet #23, Petersburg, AK



Spring 2026

Upcoming Lodge Events

Mark Your Calendars!



April 12 – Meatball Palooza 5pm

Please bring a dish to share. This is your opportunity to show off your talent and creativity with meatballs, or bring a side or dessert.

April 18 – Litter Pickup Sandy Beach Road 10am

Our area is from Hungry Point to Sandy Beach. Meet at Sally Dwyer's house (618 Sandy Beach Road) – the mid-way point, and go in either direction from there.

April 26 – Blessing of the Fleet 2pm

Co-hosted by our Sons Lodge and the Petersburg Ministerial Association. We provide the hall and the cookies/veggies/coffee for the community. The Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (PVOA) provides the floral wreath.

Bake Day – TBD Week of Little Norway Festival

May 15 – Little Norway Festival Style Show

May 16 – Little Norway Festival Kaffe Hus

It's hard to believe Little Norway Festival is coming up so quickly. Don't forget to bake a few cookies and freeze for the Kaffe Hus.

2026 Officers

President [Stephanie Thynes](#)

VP [Ambre Burrell](#)

Secretary [Briana Drury](#)

Financial

Secretary [Sharon Wikan](#)

Treasurer (Lodge) [Jenny](#)

[Martens](#)

Treasurer (Non-Profit) [Glo](#)

[Wollen](#)

Social Directors [Carrie](#)

[Martinsen](#) & [Cheryl File](#)

Cultural Director [Olivia](#)

[Martinsen](#)

Property Manager Trustee:

Tanya Somerville

Trustees: [Wendell Gilbert](#)

[\(chair\)](#), [Tom Rockne](#), [Troy](#)

[Larson](#), [Dave Berg](#), [Carolyn](#)

[Kvernvik](#), [Tina Buschmann](#)

Counselor [Sally Dwyer](#)

Newsletter [Robin Roberts](#)

President's Note

Spring is my favorite time of the year in Petersburg!

With that being said, we have had a few of fundraisers and PLENTY of snow shoveling this winter. The Christmas Bazaar the first weekend in December was a huge success, and a big **thank you** to everyone who provided soups for the soup sale.



Judy Ohmer and I had the pleasure of teaching a wreath-making class, and it was so much fun to see how everyone embellished their creations. The locals especially enjoyed using our local cedar boughs to construct their holiday wreaths. Each one turned out unique and beautiful!

If you have a special talent that you would like to share with the community, please let us know!

December 14th, we celebrated our annual **Julebukking/ Julebord member Christmas Party**. We did not expect so many people to brave the snowstorm, but we packed the hall with **170+ attendees**, numbers we haven't seen since the pre-COVID years! This year we changed a few things up, and the changes were highly appreciated.



Julebukking started at 5:00 PM, followed by the piñata for the kiddos. This event took place downstairs for the first time, and the adults enjoyed watching the kids take a swing at the piñata. Thank you, **Ambre Burrell**, for always providing the piñata and prizes and for making this event so special for the kids.



As we head into spring, we continue our stewardship at the Hall. Thanks to the generous support of PMHS, we've been awarded a **\$10,000 matching funds grant** to complete our parking lot project, next railings and cross bracing. This generous offer is valid through **May 17**.

This is the perfect opportunity to **double your impact**—every dollar donated will be matched up to \$10,000!

Your support helps us care for and maintain this historical iconic community space. Thank you for being part of it.

Tusen Takk,
Stephanie Thynes
Fedrelandet #2-23 President



Nordic Easter Tradition

Did you know that it's traditional for Norwegians to read crime novels (paskekrim) at Easter? Norwegian publishers even release their newest crime novels right before the Easter holiday.

SONS OF NORWAY SCHOLARSHIP

Due May 1, 2026

The Sons of Norway is pleased to present two \$500 scholarships for 1 female and 1 male graduating senior who plan to further their education by attending a college or vocational school. Students selection will be based upon their letter of application indicating why they would like to be considered for this scholarship. Please see #7 below.

The packet should include the following:

1. Future Educational Plans

What are the student's long term plans?

Has the student been accepted by a college or vocational school?

Is there a strong possibility of student success?

2. Involvement in school and community

What are the student's extra-curricular activities?

What awards/honors has the student received?

3. Work Experience

It is expected that the student will make a significant contribution to their own education.

4. Financial Need

Need will be determined by the difference of estimated school cost and money available to student from parents and self for the length of the program.

5. Academic Excellence

GPA, class rank, and advanced classes will be taken into consideration as special factors in combination with work experience and school and community involvement.

6. Two Letters of Recommendation (minimum)

One letter must be from a teacher, counselor, or principal

7. Parents/Grandparents of the student are current Sons of Norway Members in good standing for 1 year or more. Please note this in your application.

8. How have you helped the Sons of Norway lodge as a participating volunteer?



Promptness, neatness, and completeness of application, and quality of written comments will be included in the factor that the selection committee will consider. Interested students should submit their packet to the high school counselor by **May 1, 2026**

The selected student will be announced at the graduation ceremony. The scholarship will be paid contingent upon completion of the first term of school as a full-time student with passing grades and enrollment for the second semester. It is also expected that the recipients for this scholarship will maintain written communication with the sponsoring organization to keep them aware of the student's progress and general college or vocational school experience.

Thank you~The Members of Fedrelandet #23 Sons of Norway

Member's Corner

An interview with Grant & Lila Trask

Q - How long have you been a member of Sons of Norway?

(Grant) I was 18 when I came here to work on fishing boats. I quickly realized it was a good community, and the people were so nice. Lila and I went to school together, we got married and moved here because I liked Petersburg so much. We have been members almost 50 years. Both of us are Norwegian so it just seemed like the perfect fit. (Lila said the real reason Grant joined was for the food!)

Q – If you could change one thing about our Lodge, what would it be?

(Lila) I would like the volunteer list of people to help each committee chair be accurate, so the correct person is contacted to help.

(Grant) I would like to see Norwegian adult dancing along with lessons, practice sessions, and training as needed to make it successful.

Q – What do you like best about being a member?

Our lodge is warm and friendly. We appreciate and treasure that it's about family and children of all ages are welcomed.

Q- What's your favorite memory of the lodge, the fellowship or a member?

We both agree that it was seeing long-ago members (Pete and Tora, Earling and Maxine, Roy and Arleen, along with Louie and Ida) Norwegian dancing. They were amazing and we'll never forget.



Classes Coming at the Sons

The Muskeg Maleriers are the rosemaling group in Petersburg who rent space upstairs at the Sons building. We are mostly all Sons members and would like to share times we occasionally bring in teachers to the lodge members.

This year we are planning to bring in two teachers: Patty Jo Meshnik from Eugene, OR is arriving the end of April and will teach four classes. She is also bringing a 45-minute video showing her painting and talking about a grant she received. We plan to host a small reception Meet 'n Greet with coffee and cookies for her on April 20th, time to still be determined.

We would like to invite Sons members to come and meet her, see her samples we will be painting over the following five days, watch the video with us, and perhaps get excited about taking future classes with the Maleriers.

The next teacher is coming the end of June: Sue Regadanz from the Sacramento, CA area and a regular teacher at Camp Norge. She hasn't finished painting all the samples so we do not have any photos, but will later on when it comes time to choose.

Here is an example of one of Patty Jo's workshops - The Bean Pot.



Fun Norwegian Facts

Norway is home to the world's longest road tunnel – the Laerdal Tunnel, 15 miles long.

The world's more remote island is a Norwegian territory in the South Atlantic Ocean called Bouvet Island.

Norway has a 120-mile land border with Russia.

Norway is home to Hell, a small village within walking distance of Trondheim's international airport.

A Norwegian delegation introduced salmon sushi to Japan in the 1980s.

THE RUNESTONE RECIPE BOX

Norwegian Black Pepper Cookies

by Sharon Wikan



Makes 30 cookies

3 ¼ cups flour	2 tsp cardamom
1 tsp baking powder	1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp baking soda	1 cup sugar
1 tsp ground black pepper	1 1/8 cup butter
¼ cup whipping cream	

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Stir in cream. Add baking soda and a little water (no more than 2 Tbsp) to the butter mixture.

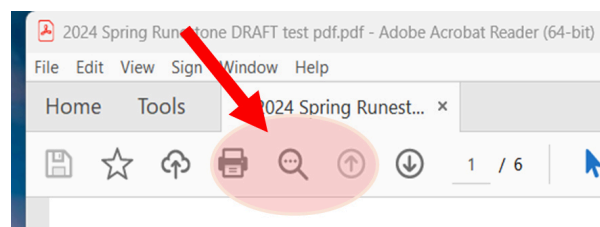
Sift the spices, baking powder, and flour into the butter mixture. Blend until a nice dough is formed. Roll dough into sausages about 2 ½” in diameter. Wrap and let dough chill thoroughly. Preheat oven to 375. Cut chilled dough into thin slices. Bake on lightly greased cookie sheet, 6-8 minutes.



How Does Our Lodge Make Events Happen??

We have a very busy Lodge with many events throughout most of the year. Often, the Lodge puts out a call for volunteers to help out for something specific, but there is also a way for us to spread the work among all our members. On the last pages of this newsletter, you'll find the roster of members and Chairpersons for each month (except summer). To find the month where you've been assigned, go to the tool bar at the top of this PDF document, and look for the magnifying glass icon (highlighted here in red). Click on that, and type your last name into the search box. It should take you to the month where your name appears.

If the month we have you listed does not work with your schedule, please contact Lila Trask at 907-518-0067 to change to a different month. Please let your month's Chairperson know as well.



Sons of Norway Committee List for April & May 2026

Schedule Conflicts:

If the month we have you listed does not work with your schedule, please call [Lila Trask](mailto:Lila.Trask) (907-772-3775), text (907-518-0067), or email to change to a different month. Let your chairperson know as well.

April 2026 Committee

BoF Chairs: Sally Dwyer, Yvonne Thynes

Litter Pick-up Chair:

Events: Blessing of the Fleet April 26

Dick Aho
Sadia Auma
Devren Bennett
Pat Blair & Jeanine Sicard
Michelle Brock
Vicki Curtiss
Bob Dolan
Bergen Dougher, Jacob Dougher

Paul Dupree, Ayla Dupree
Rocky Littleton & Marva Reid
Heidi & Jack Lyons
Hillary MacDonald, Brooklyn, Madi
Whitethorn
Matthew Pallisard
Carson & Sonja Paul, Henry, Mason
Brian Paust
Orin Pierson
Brian & Hannah Smith
Lloyd & Yvonne Thynes
Tom Westof
Patty Zorich



May 2026 Committee

Style Show Co-Chairs: Briana Drury & Glo Wollen

Kaffe Hus Chair: Bridget Wittstock

Events: Style Show May 15

Kaffe Hus May 16

Rick & Sue Braun
Doug & Lana Corl
Clyde & Jean Curry
Charles & Dominique Davis
Briana & Don Drury
Sally Dwyer
Merilee Enge, Marit Frost
Julia Evens
Norm & Lynda Fredricksen
Dick Greseth
Signe Haltiner
Kelsey Hammer & Camille Hammer
Chuck & Cathy Harris
John Hoag & Debbie Downs
Mark Jensen
Tim & Polly Koeneman
Sheryl Leekley
Jenny Martens

Larry & Julie Martin
Morris & Cathy Mattson
Shannon McCullough
Debi & Dan McMahon
April Miller
Katrina Miller, Sarissa Miller
Margaret Newlun
Natalie Nicholson & Michael Reid
Ladd & Brenda Norheim
Chris & Elizabeth Nyssen, Sofie, Sten
Judy Ohmer
Helmer & Annette Olson
Sue Paulsen
Tracy Reid
Jeff Rice & Liz Cabrera
Karen Rosvold
Audrey Samuelson
Mark & Karen Severson
Floyd & Barbara Strand
Stacey Thorsen
Jackie Tyson
Naomi Welde
Bridget Wittstock & Scott May, Gillian, Kjell
Naomi Youngberg