



S M Å S N A K K  
S O N S O F N O R W A Y  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Volume 42 Issue 7

October 2017

 October LODGE MEETING  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13  
fredag, tretten oktober

Hopefully you and your family were not impacted significantly by Irma. Since our September meeting was cancelled because of the storm, please join us Friday, Oct. 13 as we gather following a summer hiatus to enjoy fellowship, our heritage and a delicious dinner. The fun starts at 6:30 followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The menu is garden salad, vegetable, chicken fettuccine, dessert, coffee and cold beverages. The donation is \$15 per person; children age 16 and younger are free. **Please RSVP to Evelyn Hopkins @ [ehop3543@gmail.com](mailto:ehop3543@gmail.com) or call 904-733-4268 by Wednesday evening.**

The evening will include a brief business meeting to present the nominations for our lodge leadership 2018/19 and to learn more about several upcoming events before year end. Of course, your help is needed to make these events successful, so you will learn how you can assist. Members will have an opportunity to share a summer travel adventure, whether you went near or far.

Proceeds from our raffle will be donated to the SON Foundation/humanitarian fund which provides financial assistance to lodge members impacted by heinous acts of nature. The fund has been seriously depleted with Hurricane Harvey, wild fires in the west and Irma in Florida. So, bring lots of cash to purchase tickets or make a donation directly to the humanitarian fund. Additional details at the meeting.

Marci Larson, Assistant Social Director

Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church, 7860 Southside Boulevard, is located on the parallel service road between JT Butler and Old Baymeadows Road. For entry use the service road off Baymeadows on Southside Boulevard or by the Skinner Parkway traffic light. A large white cross is near the driveway. Park and enter behind the building.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
BESKJED FRA PRESIDENTEN**



GREETINGS FELLOW  
MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS:

Happy October to you all. Now is really the time for us to get together to have fun and talk about our heritage and do some business. I hope that everyone came through the Hurricane safely and that you were not significantly impacted. Big prayers

to all the people that were hurt so badly by the storm. I know we are all praying that there will be no more to cause damage to the USA or anywhere else.

We will be having a fun meeting for October 13<sup>th</sup> at Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church. I hope we will have a big group and **please RSVP with me at 904-733-4268 or 904-625-5686.** We will take up from September and have Anthony's do the catering and hopefully have some people tell us about their summer vacation. So as always, we will have good fellowship, good food and fun.

We will also have the nominating committee give us the proposed slate of officers to be voted on next meeting. Please be open to accepting an office if you are called by the nominating committee. We need your help.

We have some fun events planned for the month of October. We have Trick n' Trunk on October 28<sup>th</sup> at Shepherd of the Woods Lakeshore location. It should be a lot of fun. Usually there are over 1,000 people attending this event.

Our board meeting is October 10<sup>th</sup> at the church and everyone is invited. We will be talking about a lot more exciting events.

Eugene Yerkes and Tammy Mayer will give us an update on our beautiful Viking boats and other fun sports events.

We have two of our members who will be receiving their Golden Membership Awards and Pins. They are Beverly and George Teigland. Congratulations to you both.

I am so looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting and hope that we all be safe and no bad storms come our way.

God Bless you all!

Evelyn Hopkins, Your President



Welcome a new member  
to our lodge:

**Linda Williamson**

**IKEA OPENING**



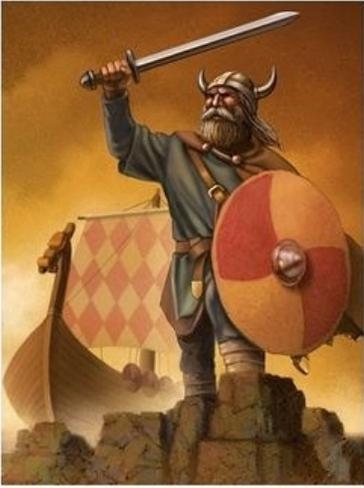
The Swedish home furnishings retailer IKEA is aiming at a October opening at 7801 Gate Parkway near I-295.

The 290,000-square-foot store will feature 50 room settings, three model-home interiors, a supervised children's play area, and a 300+seat restaurant serving Swedish specialties and American fare. Ikea will hire about 250 people to run the store.

The story behind the name:

The IKEA name combines the initials of IKEA founder, Ingvar Kamprad, (IK) with the first letters from the names of the farm and village where he grew up - Elmtaryd and Agunnaryd (EA).

## OCTOBER 9 IS LEIF ERIKSON DAY!



October 9 is not associated with any particular event in Leif Erikson's life. The date was chosen because the ship Restauration coming from Stavanger, Norway, arrived in New York Harbor on October 9, 1825, at the start of the first organized immigration from Norway to the United States.

The book *America Not Discovered by Columbus* by Rasmus B. Anderson was published in 1874, helping popularize the

idea that Vikings were the first Europeans in the New World. During his appearance at the Norse-American Centennial in 1925, President Calvin Coolidge gave recognition to Leif Erikson as the discoverer of America due to research by Norwegian-American scholars such as Knut Gjerset and Ludvig Hektoen. In 1929, Wisconsin became the first U.S. state to officially adopt Leif Erikson Day as a state holiday, thanks in large part to efforts by Rasmus Anderson. In 1931, Minnesota did also. By 1956, Leif Erikson Day had been made an official observance in seven states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Illinois, Colorado, Washington, and California) and one Canadian province (Saskatchewan). In 2012, the day was also made official in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In 1963, the U.S. Representative from Duluth, John Blatnik, introduced a bill to observe Leif Erikson Day nationwide. The following year Congress adopted this unanimously. In 1964, the United States Congress authorized and requested the President to create the observance through an annual proclamation. Lyndon B. Johnson did so, as has each President since. Presidents have used the proclamation to praise the contributions of Americans of Nordic descent generally and the spirit of discovery.

In addition to the federal observance, some states officially commemorate Leif Erikson Day, particularly in the Upper Midwest, where large numbers of people from the Nordic countries settled.

From Wikipedia



## 3D FIT BIT CHALLENGE

Third District Sports Director Andy Mathisen thanks everyone for staying active and fit during '17 so far.

Here are some of the results from lodges in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District:

Fitbit Cumulative Steps:

3rd District Board Members	8.1 Million Steps
Southern Star Lodge	5.9 Million Steps
Noreg Lodge	5.5 Million Steps
Gateway to Florida Lodge	5.4 Million Steps
Norden Lodge	4.0 Million Steps
Restoration Lodge	3.6 Million Steps
Gulfstream Lodge	2.8 Million Steps
Norumbega Lodge	2.6 Million Steps
Bondelandet Lodge	2.1 Million Steps
Biking Challenge led by Norumbega Lodge:	1,044 Miles

## GATEWAY STEPPERS

Hi Steppers! Happy Leif Erikson Day!

Welcome to Autumn (finally!). Thought I'd recognize Leif Erikson Day that's celebrated on October 9!



A small group of the Gateway Steppers braved the wind and weather on Saturday, Sept. 30 to walk around downtown Neptune Beach (see photo).

Although it was a blustery day, we enjoyed the change of weather and lunch at North Beach Fish Camp. Our next walk is the 5K Jaguars Stadium Challenge on Oct. 21 at 6 pm. We'll probably do a tailgate potluck prior to the race. Below is a link if you are interested in joining us. Please contact me if you have any questions.

<http://1stplacesports.com/races/stadiumchallenge/>

Please send me your steps for September. We only have 3 months left, and I've heard that we are currently in second place!

Hope to see you at our many October events this month!

Tammy Mayer

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS GRATULERER MED DAGEN

4 James Lapointe  
8 Ruth Morrison  
9 Dolores Fosaaen  
11 Joy Hauge  
11 Bjorn D. Soyland  
18 Philip Pierce  
19 Angela Davis  
21 Katrina Fluker  
23 Arla Sullivan  
23 Mylie Wilson  
24 Stewart Svendsen  
30 Tod Knudson  
31 DeAnne Adams

Happy Birthday!



## NORWAY EMBRACES RAINFOREST CONSERVATION

Earlier this year, the Norwegian Parliament officially guaranteed that the government's public procurement policy will be deforestation-free. In a nutshell, this means that the Norwegian Government will no longer buy products linked with tropical deforestation or sign contracts with companies that destroy forests.

Forests and trees cover 31 percent of the earth's land, and are vital to human and animal existence. Every second of the day they produce oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, essentially making up our planet's lungs. Without them, survival is nearly impossible.

Norway funds forest conservation projects worldwide and has continued to support human rights programs for forest communities for years. With its commitment to a zero deforestation policy, Norway stays true to its strong stance on supporting causes that protect the environment.



## WE'RE LISTENING TO LESS RADIO

Fewer people are listening to the radio after the FM network was turned off. The P1 channel has 123,000 fewer listeners each day.

A change in the radio network has had consequences. Not as many people are following radio to the new DAB (digital audio broadcasting) network, writes the newspaper VG.

The shutdown of the FM network has been noticed by the major channels. Every day, 1.517 million people listened to the channel P1 on NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation). Then the FM network got turned off. Now there are 1.394 million tuning in every day. This is a decline of 8 percent, numbers from Kantar TNS, (a London-based market research group) reveal.

"The transition from FM requires a lot from the user," said Ole Jan Larsen of NRK. He is the acting radio director. Larsen explains that they noticed that fewer

people were listening after the FM network was turned off.

"But we also see that listeners come back eventually," he says.

Some counties have turned off the FM network for large channels. Thus, you must use DAB digital radio to listen to channels such as P1, P2, P3, P4 and Radio Norway.

Knut-Arne Futsæter is a research leader at Kantar TNS. He says that the decline is as expected.

"Also due to the number of radio stations. They get more listeners," he says.

Larsen also says that people have more channels to choose from on DAB. Thus, people listen to other channels.

Currently, the FM shutdown only applies to the national channels. Over 200 local radio channels may still broadcast online. They can do that through 2021, writes news agency NTB (Norwegian News Agency).

**SONS OF NORWAY VIKINGS IN ORANGE PARK**

Plans are being made for our lodge members and our Viking boat Hagar to appear at Orange Park/ Farmers & Arts Market Sunday, November 19. We would like to sell some wares and publicize our lodge.

Orange Park Farmers & Arts Market is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2042 Park Ave. in Orange Park. More than 100 vendors will be selling local produce and homemade crafts and there will be live music. It's sure to be fun for the entire family! For more information visit [www.OrangeParkMarket.com](http://www.OrangeParkMarket.com).

**Lodge Calendar  
(Subject to Change)**

Wed, Nov 1  
Tues. Oct 10  
Fri. Oct 13  
Sat. Oct 28  
Sat. Oct 21  
Sat. Oct 21  
Sat. Nov. 4  
Tues. Nov 14  
Fri. Nov 17  
Sun. Nov 19  
Sun. Dec 10

Newsletter Deadline for November  
Board Meeting @ 7:15 p.m.  
Lodge Meeting & Dinner  
Trick 'n Trunk at Lakeshore  
Celt Octoberfest in Sarasota  
Jaguars Stadium Challenge 5K event  
Walk in Hanna Park  
Board Meeting @ 7:15 p.m.  
Lodge Meeting & Dinner  
Orange Park Farmers & Arts Market  
Scandinavian JuleFest @ Ramada  
Inn-Mandarin



**SCANDINAVIAN JULE FEST DEC. 10  
RAMADA INN-MANDARIN**

Save the date: Sunday, Dec. 10 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Enjoy an all you can eat delicious Christmas lunch buffet  
Saint Lucia Procession  
Appearance by Santa Claus  
Live music performed by the Corbins  
Christmas Raffle  
Ramada Inn, 3130 Hartley Road, Jacksonville FL 32257.  
Family and friends are welcome



## CELTOBERFEST-CELTIC SARASOTA MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Sarasota Lodge has requested our assistance to help invade the Celts as part of their Celtic Music Festival. Visit their website for more information: [celtoberfest.org](http://celtoberfest.org). The festival opens at 10:00 a.m. and they offer food, crafts and live music.

This will occur on Saturday, October 21 in Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota. Sons of Norway members get a discount upon entry to the park (show your membership card). Viking rowers enter for free. The attack is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. They would like to know how many Viking rowers we will bring to Sarasota for the invasion.

Marty Iverson has volunteered to tow our Viking boat Hagar to Sarasota. Please give Marty a call at 904-210-8930 or e-mail [miverson104@bellsouth.net](mailto:miverson104@bellsouth.net) if you would like to participate in this invasion of the Celts.

Eugene Yerkes  
Sports Director

## MASHED RUTABAGAS (KÅLRABISTAPPE)

Adapted from [500sandwiches.com](http://500sandwiches.com)

- 3 medium-sized rutabagas, peeled
- 3 large carrots, peeled
- 2 tablespoons butter
- Pinch freshly ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup grated Pecorino Romano or Parmigiano Reggiano

Chop rutabagas and carrots. For a finer mash, cut vegetables into small pieces. Add chopped vegetables to a pot of salted water and bring to boil. Cook until easily broken apart with fork, then drain. Return to pot and add butter and spices. Mash or whip to desired consistency then fold in the cheese. Serve hot.



## DISTRICT 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou*



Look at the picture and take a deep breath. Can you smell the fall? The apples? The apple cider? I hope the picture conjures up warm and fuzzy feelings and memories. I hope your mind is taking you down this colorful trail and you can really smell the

leaves!

I recently returned from a business meeting in Denver. While there, I joined District 6 Trollheim lodge for a walleye fish dinner. What made it better is that I was able to reconnect with Kaye Wergedal, District 6 Public Relations Officer. Kaye is a former District 3 member who was instrumental in our Albany convention. Kaye went out of her way to point out the beautiful Colorado sights I should see. I felt right at home and would not hesitate to go there again. In fact, I would feel comfortable attending any Sons of Norway lodge event. Why is that?

That feeling of connection is so hard to explain. You have to experience it. How do you experience it? Attend lodge activities, in your lodge, your zone, other zones, the District, other Districts' events and make connections. That feeling is among the best things about Sons of Norway! Equally important is how we make our new members feel (and we are getting new members). Make a special effort with new members; a kind word, a heartfelt welcome, include them. They will never forget how you make them feel.

Always remember what brought us together in the first place and share it with newcomers. We will be entering the holiday season soon. The time of the year when people turn to family. Let's open our Sons of Norway family to new members!

Høsthilsen,

Mary Andersen

PS: don't forget, Leif landed first!!



## 1,000 YEAR OLD VIKING SWORD DISCOVERED IN NORWEGIAN MOUNTAINS



© Photo: Espen Finstad, Secrets of the Ice/  
Oppland County Council  
© Provided by IBT US

A reindeer hunter in the mountains of southern Norway stumbled upon a Viking sword that has survived exposure to the elements for more than 1,000 years. Einar Åmbakk found the sword because half of its blade was sticking up between stones, according to the council of Oppland County, where the hunter made his discovery. “He had seen the blade and pulled it out,” Lars Pilø, an archaeologist for the Oppland County Council, said in a post on the county’s website for its Glacier Archaeology Program, called Secrets of the Ice. “Only then did he understand that he had found a sword.”

Officials have dated the sword to between 850 AD and 950 AD.

After Åmbakk reported his find, the archaeologists and others returned to the exact location with the help of geographical information stored in photos the hunter had taken of himself holding the sword. They swept the area with a metal detector but did not find any other artifacts at the site, which is more than 5,000 feet above sea level and covered in loose stones, known as scree. According to Pilø, the sword might have come from a lost Viking who died in the mountains.

“The rough scree-covered find spot is not a place where one would walk if traveling through the area, as there is much better terrain for walking not far away,” the archaeologist noted. “This could suggest that the person who left behind the sword was lost, maybe in a snow blizzard. It seems likely that the sword belonged to a Viking who died on the mountain, perhaps from exposure. However, if that is indeed the case, was he traveling in the high mountains with only his sword? It is a bit of a mystery.”

He mentioned the possibility that the Viking died in a different location from where he dropped his sword. If he perished in an icy area, his remains might be preserved. “As it is now, his remains are long gone, and only the sword bears witness to the drama that happened here more than 1,000 years ago.”

The sword could have survived so long because in this mountainous area of Oppland County — which includes the ski town Lillehammer — it would have been covered

with snow for most of the year.

The dry conditions and the high-quality iron used to make the sword would have contributed to its longevity.

[Fox News](#) reported that the find was made in the Lesja area.

“To my knowledge, a Viking sword has never been found at such a high altitude before,” Pilø told that publication. According to the archaeologist, iron arrowheads have been found in the mountains in similarly good condition in the past, some of them dating back even further than the sword.

“It is well preserved without any kind of scratches and bending,” Pilø wrote on the county website about the new find. “Most likely it was still in its original position or had slid somewhat down between the stones.”



© Photo: Espen Finstad, Secrets of the Ice/Oppland County Council Officials search for more artifacts at the scree-covered mountain spot where a hunter found a Viking sword.

One thing that did not survive was its grip at the hilt. The archaeologist said there was probably bone, wood or leather that is now gone.

Although most people associate Viking warriors with the male sex, it’s possible this sword belonged to a woman. A genetic analysis recently proved that the bones found in the late 1800s in the grave of a Viking warrior [belonged to a female](#), despite the fact that experts had assumed she was a man for more than 100 years.

From *International Business Times*. Elana Glowatz. 9/12/17

Thank you to Carol Scott and Marci Larson for submitting this article.

## WE ARE A COMMUNITY



We are a Fraternal Benefit Society, founded because of the needs of immigrants a generation or more ago. Recently our beautiful Country has been hit hard with natural disasters leaving some of our sisters and brothers in a state of salvage. If you need aid, contact Sons of Norway to find out how the Humanitarian Fund can help you. If you haven't been hurt

by these disasters please consider donating to this fund through the Sons of Norway Foundation. We have helped our members after other disasters and are there for you now. Contact Sons of Norway Headquarters at 800-945-8851 or your Financial Benefits Counselor Heritage people care. Ann Krause, FIC, LUTCF Financial Benefits Counselor Sons of Norway 701-720-2755 [annkboat@gmail.com](mailto:annkboat@gmail.com)

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Marci Larson is congratulating Treasurer Franklin Morrison on his 50th Birthday.  
Photo by Kent Larson



## SUNSHINE NEWS

Cheryl Drabek, Cultural Director and Sunshine Committee, has mailed birthday cards to members wishing them a happy birthday in October.

Long time member Milo Holt has moved from Camellia at Dearwood Assisting Living Center to Woodland Grove Long Term Care Facility on Southpoint Drive. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

To report sunshine news please contact Cheryl Drabek at [ceejay611@yahoo.com](mailto:ceejay611@yahoo.com), 904-860-3174 or Anna-Rita Perkins at [annarita@bellsouth.net](mailto:annarita@bellsouth.net), 904-396-7692.



Marci & Kent Larson visited the breathtaking Grand Canyon in Arizona. The Grand Canyon is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Marci also attended a conference for fraternal organizations such as Sons of Norway in Chandler, AZ.

Photo by Kent Larson

You can view the complete 3rd District Newsletters on the internet at:  
<http://www.3dsofn.org/>

**SMÅ SNAKK BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS**

**2016-2017 S.O.N. GATEWAY TO FLORIDA LODGE OFFICERS**

President	Evelyn Hopkins
Vice Presidents	Marty and Ida Iverson
Counselor	Kent Larson
Secretary	Chelsea Knudson
Assistant Secretary	Kristen Allen
Membership Secretary	Bonnie Hardman
Treasurer	Franklin Morrison III
Social Director	
Asst. Social Directors	Laurette Sage, Knute Fosaaen Jr.
Cultural Director	Cheryl Drabek
Assistant Cultural Directors	Ann Crisp & Sharon White
Sports Director	Eugene Yerkes
Asst. Sports Directors	Eric Nord & Rich Brew
Youth Directors	Charlotte Fluker
Adopt A School	Charlotte Fluker
Trustee 1	David Fluker
Trustee 2	Pete Hopkins
Trustee 3	Stewart Svendsen
Communication Director	Marci Larson
Foundation Coordinator	Marty Iverson
Marshall 1	Stewart Svendsen
Marshall 2	Michael Mele
Marshall 3	Martin Rasmussen
Greeters	Judy Silvey & Johanna Miller
Newsletter Editor	Gail Yerkes
Historian	Sharon White
Sunshine	Cheryl Drabek & Anna-Rita Perkins
Tufbfrim	Launi Evenson
Insurance Representative	Ann Krause
Librarian	Carol Scott
Volunteer Coordinator	Ruth Morrison

Your donation is a voluntary act. The Små Snakk booster fee is \$20. This donation helps pay for publication and distribution of the Små Snakk newsletter. Make your check payable to Sons of Norway and mail to Gail Yerkes, Editor. Tusen takk for your support.

BOOSTER NAME	DATE EXPIRES	
Pete & Launi Evenson	May	2018
Bonnie Hardman	May	2018
Roy Hauge	October	2019
Pete & Evelyn Hopkins	September	2018
Marty & Ida Iverson	October	2018
Carol Mele	July	2018
Carol Scott	April	2018
Po Chu Svendsen	April	2018
Jay Vogeley	May	2018



**BATS HARMING CHURCH**



Bat urine may destroy Norway's oldest stave church. Urnes Stavkirke is considered the oldest, preserved stave church in Norway. Now it's facing a rather unique problem: Urine from bats may be destroying the church,

writes newspaper Bergens Tidende.

The church is from the 1100s. It is the only one in the country that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The bats have sought shelter in the church for raising young. This is quite normal. But Urnes Stave Church is made

of wood. The wood is neither painted nor protected in another way. The urine from the bats contains salt. It can break down and destroy the old woodwork.

"It happens slowly. But at worst, the staves that hold the different parts of the church together may lose their grip," explains Kjersti Marie Ellewsen to the newspaper. She is a senior adviser and works at the Directorate for Cultural Heritage.

In other buildings it is common to replace damaged materials. The stave church does not wish to do this. They believe the original parts of the church are an important part of the cultural heritage.

Removing the bats is also not a solution. The reason is that the bat is protected. They should not be disturbed.

"We must either find a way to protect the wood. Or we have to set up breeding crates for the bats. Perhaps they would rather live there," says Ellewsen.

GATEWAY TO FLORIDA LODGE HONORS:

District 3 Lodge of the Year 2003, 2007, 2009, 2010, Large Lodge of the Year 2014. Membership Lodge of the Year 2007-2008, Founders Award for Membership Achievement 2007, 2008-09, 2010-11. President's Gold Merit Award for Fraternal Excellence 2007, 2008-09, 2010-11, President's Special Recognition Gold 2010 and 2011; World of Nations First Place/Best Country 2006, Grand Overall Winner Jacksonville Boat Light Parade 2008, First Place Palm Valley Boat Light Parade 2008, 2010, Organized Club Winner Jacksonville Light Parade 2009, 2010, First Place Whitey's Fish Camp Boat Light Parade 2010, Grand Prize Best Overall St Augustine Holiday Regatta of Lights 2009. Winner of Fall Blitz Recruitment Contest in Large Lodge Category 2009. Third District Golden Newsletter Award for Medium Size Lodge Division in 2009. Newsletter Honorable Mention 2011. Certificate of Recognition Newsletter Contest Third Place Category A 2014, First Place Category A Newsletter Contest 2016. Gold Merit Award 2014.

Lodge Website: [sonjax.com](http://sonjax.com). Third District Website: [3DSofN.org](http://3DSofN.org).

Sons of Norway Headquarters Website: [sofn.com](http://sofn.com)

Twitter: [@SonsofNorwayJax](https://twitter.com/SonsofNorwayJax) Google+: [plus.google.com/+SonJax](https://plus.google.com/+SonJax) Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/196188778036](https://facebook.com/groups/196188778036)




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The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members. Sons of Norway misjon er å fremme og ivareta norske kulturtradisjoner, å feire vårt forhold til andre nordiske land og samtidig tilby de beste forsikrings og finansprodukter til våre medlemmer.