



# VIRGINIA VIKING

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 3-522

President: Mike Solhaug Vice President: Jerry Blau Secretary: June Cooper Treasurer: Ragnhild Zingler

## The President's Corner



Dear SON Lodge members

As October brings us autumn in all its glory, and all Scandinavians, especially Norwegians with their Icelandic cousins, celebrate Leif Erikson Day on October 9. Our SON Lodge with the local Icelandic organization will hold the annual joint celebration of Leif Erikson Day at the Leif Erikson statue at the Mariner's Museum, Newport News at 12:00 followed by 12:30 Fellowship Lunch at the nearby

Smoke Barbeque. **"Leif the Lucky"** The story of Leif Erikson, "Leif the Lucky" is told in the Sagas of Icelanders. They are prose narratives mostly based on historical events that took place in Iceland in the ninth, tenth, and early eleventh centuries, during the so-called Saga Age. Written in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Icelandic Sagas are a set of around 40 historical narratives about the Viking age. Nobody knows who authored them; but it's likely that the stories came from Iceland's oral tradition. The Sagas retell the adventures of Leif Erikson, a Viking traveler who sailed west of Greenland around 1000 CE and reportedly founded a settlement in present-day North America. The sagas accounts diverge on specifics, but all agree that Leif Erikson was one of the first Europeans—if not the first European—to ever tread on the continent.

**Leif Erikson Day.** Forty six years after Washington Irving published in 1818 his wildly inaccurate biography of Columbus's arrival in the Caribbean, Wisconsin author Rasmus Bjorn Anderson in 1874 published a book "America Not Discovered by Columbus", which pointed out that Leif Erikson had visited North America 500 years before. Anderson spearheaded a push to create a Leif Erikson holiday to offset Columbus's. He settled on October 9 as the perfect date. The ship Restaurstionen out of Stavanger arrived in New York harbor on October 9, 1825 with the first organized group of Norwegian immigrants. Wisconsin became the first state to

### October 2, 2025

HR Lodge Zoom Board Meeting at  
7:00 pm

### October 7, 2025

Zoom Norge Norsemen Board Meeting  
at 7:00 pm

### October 9, 2025

Leif Erikson Day Celebration by the statue at the Mariner's Museum at noon in Newport News. Lunch to follow at the Smoke BBQ in The Warwick Shopping Center, 10900 Warwick Blvd, Newport News.

### October 16, 2025

Membership Lodge Meeting Bayside  
Presbyterian Church at 7:30 PM.  
Program TBD

### October 27, 2025

Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge  
meeting King of Glory Church, Room 311  
4897 Longhill Road, Williamsburg

recognize October 9 as Leif Erikson Day in 1829. On September 24, 1964 Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing President Lyndon Johnson to proclaim October 9 as Leif Erikson Day and every President has done so since.

**The Statue** was sculpted by A. Sterling Calder and presented by the United States government to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of Iceland's Althing, the world's oldest parliament. This statue is at the front of the Hallgrímskirkja church in Reykjavik. The 12-foot replica of the Reykjavik statue at the Mariner's Museum was presented to the United States by the Icelandic National League in the United States and displayed at the World's Fair in New York in 1939. At the end of the Fair, the statue was sent to The Mariners' Museum for exhibition. At first, it was exhibited facing the original entrance of the Museum. In 2007, it was transported to the current location just outside the main entrance. Please make sure to attend this fun event and have a chance to boast that a Scandinavian and son of Norway was the first to discover America! Looking forward to seeing you all soon. **All the Best, Mike**

Gratulerer med Dagen Happy Birthday

Jerilyn Bugge  
Norma J Castellano  
John Dannon  
Charlotte Ellingsworth  
Jack Espinal  
Nancy Flanagan  
Darrell Heim  
Sandra Jared  
Kaitlyn Reese Lautenslager  
Diane Longworth  
S Joan Losen  
Laurie M Porter  
Erin M Powers  
Martha Rudell  
Marta Seger  
Robert Seger  
Catherine L Williamson  
Leonard A Zingarelli  
Ragnhild Zingler

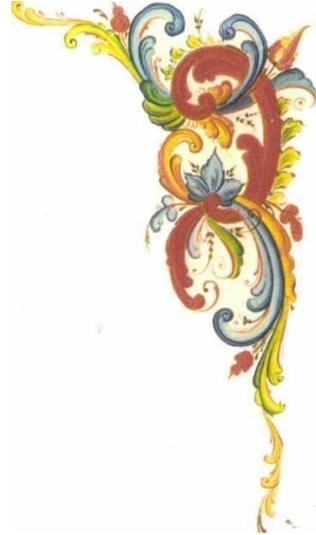
## Sons of Norway Whole Life Insurance

Products provide with single or level premiums and guaranteed level death benefit.

These permanent life insurance plans can provide you and your family with financial security no matter how long you live



## SCANDINAVIAN CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Sponsored By Sons of Norway  
Hampton Roads Saturday,  
November 8<sup>th</sup> , 2025 9am-3pm

Francis Asbury United Methodist Church Fellowship  
Hall  
1871 N. Great Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454

❄️ Viking Long Boat with Viking Re-enactors - photo op

❄️ Norwegian Bakery - Julekake, Kransekake and more

❄️ Norwegian Cultural and Tourist Information

❄️ Children's Activity Table

❄️ Enjoy Traditional Norwegian Food - Lefse, Waffles, Lapskaus

❄️ Great Vendors - Scandinavian Packaged Food & Gift Items

**Come out and join in the Scandinavian culture and fun!!!!**

Visit Our Lodge Site [www.hrson.org](http://www.hrson.org) or on Facebook Sons of Norway – Hampton Roads

## NORWEGIAN NEWS

### Dam sabotage blamed on pro-Russia hackers, embassy strikes back

August 14, 2025

**UPDATED: Norway's police intelligence agency PST is blaming "pro-Russian hackers" for what it calls "sabotage" to a dam at Bremanger in Western Norway last spring. The alleged hackers gained control of a system that allowed water to pour out of the dam for around four hours in April. PST chief Beate Gangås,** who was speaking about hybrid warfare during the large [Arendalsuka gathering](#) this week, said the pro-Russian hackers don't always aim to cause massive destruction but rather "show off what they're capable of doing." In this case, reported newspapers *VG* and *Aftenposten*, the dam at the lake called *Risevatnet* was the target of the attack, which Gangås thinks was meant to "spread fear or unease" among the Norwegian public. The hackers opened vents that allowed nearly 500 liters of water a second to pour out of the dam before their attack on the dam's operations system was discovered and halted. The dam lies above the small community of Svelgen, but there were no consequences since the amount of water released was far below flood capacity of the river below. An investigation by both state crime agency Kripos and PST (*Politiets sikkerhetstjeneste*) concluded that pro-Russian hackers were behind the sabotage. "Our Russian neighbour has become more dangerous," Gangås said. Those who acquired unauthorized access to the dam's operations published a video showing their attack on the reporting service *Telegram*.

**The Russian Embassy in Oslo, meanwhile, has since fired back** after initially failing to respond to Norwegian media inquiries. It sent a message to news bureau *Reuters* instead, claiming Norwegian authorities had failed to provide any evidence to support their accusations, calling them "inappropriate and pointless." The Russian Embassy also stated that it had "offered to establish cooperation with the Russian National Coordination Centre for Computer Incidents" but had received no response. "We consider the latest accusations by the Norwegian special services (PST) to be unfounded and politically motivated," wrote the embassy, publishing its statement on its own website but not attributing it to any official at the embassy. It went on to claim that PST "is unsuccessfully trying to substantiate the mythical threat of Russian sabotage against Norwegian infrastructure" and that "such statements are being spread with the aim of discrediting Russia and strengthening militaristic sentiments in Norway." The Russian response included claims that Norway was trying to manipulate its own society "...in order to fuel Russophobic hysteria" and "worsen Russian-Norwegian relations." It added that "Along with pumping the Kiev regime with weapons, as well as illegal anti-Russian sanctions and attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of our country, such statements (like those of PST) are one of the tools of a large-scale 'hybrid war' that Norway is waging against Russia together with other Western states in the military, intelligence, economic, political and information spheres..." It concluded by countering Gangås' claim that Russia has become a "more dangerous" neighbor by claiming that Norway's "unfriendly actions make Norway a dangerous country for us, posing risks and threats to the national security of the Russian Federation."

**There's little doubt that the relatively friendly relations** Norway had with Russia for decades, especially in the border area in the far north, are over. Iver B Neumann, director of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway and a former professor of international relations at

the London School of Economics, linked Russia's heated response to Russia's Soviet era, when "attack was the best defense." "This is a clear escalation of rhetoric, and reminds us of the Soviet way of expressing yourself." Neumann told newspaper *Aftenposten*. Neumann, who studied Russian at the Norwegian Army Language School before studying international relations at Oxford and launching an academic career, also served as a professor of Russian studies at the University of Oslo from 2005-2008. He said Russia puts large resources into so-called hybrid warfare and that its impulse when defending itself is not just to deny charges against itself but also attack. "It's in line with Russian tradition, to portray itself as the one under siege," Neumann told *Aftenposten*. A PST spokesman, meanwhile, said the intelligence agency had "registered that the Russian Embassy has issued a reaction through its statement," but had no further comment. PST has also issued warnings that Russia will try to influence the [upcoming Norwegian national election](#) via social media and manipulation of so-called "influencers" to spread Russian propaganda or create political conflicts.

**[NewsinEnglish.no/Nina Berglund](#)**



*The Russian Embassy and its ambassador's residence used to attract lots of Norwegian- and other diplomats in Oslo when relations were still friendly. That ended when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the war that it still hasn't won. PHOTO: [NewsinEnglish.no/Nina Berglund](#)*



# Virginia Viking

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