



VIRGINIA VIKING

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 3-522

President: Michael Solhaug Vice President: Jerry Blau Secretary: Katie Brink Treasurer: Ragnhild Zingler

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Sons of Norway Members:

LODGE NEWS: At the **February HR Lodge Meeting**, Storyteller, Susan Harwell, gave a dramatized presentation about the tragic shipwreck of the Norwegian Bark ship 'Dictator' off the coast of Virginia Beach. She gave the emotional "first-hand account" as the young pregnant wife of Captain Jørgensen, Johanne Jørgensen, who, along with their young son perished in the incident.

On **March 4 the Norge Norsemen** enjoyed a wonderful presentation by lodge member, Robin Sabo. The program was "Beyond the Scream," where members got to explore many types of Norwegian art, beyond the world famous Edvard Munch.

On **March 22 in place of the regular HR Lodge meeting we held the highly successful "Waffles and Craft Day"** – Featuring Norwegian Heart Waffles (along with other pastries) and assembling Scandinavian Woven Paper Hearts. The family event, located at Bayside Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, featured a great variety of waffles and toppings brought in by members, as well as "on site" cooking featuring Laura Kamosa making Waffles and AnneGrete Peterson making Krumkake. Paper Scandinavian Heart making supplies (and instructions) were provided, which proved to be a favorite of the kids in attendance. A special thanks went to organizers Elizabeth Kahl and Adriana Murphey.

The Sons of Norway Third District 2026 CONVENTION will be held at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach Norfolk 5655 Greenwich Rd, Virginia Beach on THURSDAY JUNE 4, FRIDAY JUNE 5, and SATURDAY JUNE 6. The Convention is co-hosted by the Hampton Roads Lodge and the SON Third District, which is comprised of all the SON Lodges on the East Coast from Maine to Florida. As co-host, our Lodge will need an "all hands on deck" event and we need lots of volunteers for Registration, Help stations, and other support. **For volunteer information, please contact Hospitality Chair: Sue Lebrato slebrato@me.com or Co-Coordinator Mike Solhaug solhaumj@odu.edu.** For further Convention information, including Schedule: <https://3dsofn.org/2026convention/>
All the Best, Mike Solhaug

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Hamton Roads Lodge Zoom Board meeting

April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Norge Norsemen Zoom Board meeting

April 16 at 6:30 p.m.

HR Lodge Meeting at Bayside Presbyterian Church. Program: Presentation by Elizabeth Kahl and Adrianna Murphy on their trip to the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia, PA.

April 18 at 10:00 a.m.

73rd Annual Parade of Nations.
Directions for participating SON Lodge members will be emailed.

April 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Norge Norsemen meeting at King of Glory Lutheran Church. Program TBD.

Gratulere med Dagen (Happy Birthday) To the Following Members in April

Elizabeth Aadahl	Evelyn Keever	Lyndsey Dannon	Kelton Meagher	Brenda Uyak
Rannveig Fredheim	Alivia Wnek	Benjamin Mason	Andrear Hartage	Robin Sabo
Owen Lindenberg	Kaare Lofteim	James Powers	Andrew Meagher	Richard Young
Sophia Meagher	Tiffeni Goesel	Kristin Gotthardt	Clark Elverum	Inga Johansson
Lucinda Larsen	Deanna Rumney	Austin Sutton	Weston Tilley	Bob Longworth
Deborah Inge	Kayla Vanwerkhoven			

Norway temporarily cuts petrol, diesel taxes amid Middle East war

By Reuters March 26, 2026

OSLO, March 26 (Reuters) - Norway's parliament on Thursday passed a bill to temporarily cut petrol and diesel taxes, easing soaring fuel costs in the wake of the [war in the Middle East](#), which has driven up the [price of oil](#). A vote was scheduled at short notice following a proposal from the opposition Conservative Party, bypassing the traditional fiscal budget process that can take months to complete. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up [here](#). The minority Labor Party government had said any changes to fiscal policy should be part of regular committee reviews, which would have delayed the vote in parliament until June at the earliest.

A temporary tax cut on petrol and diesel from April 1 to September 1 would amount to at least 3.3 billion Norwegian crowns (\$342 million) in lost revenue to the state, Finance Minister Jens Stoltenberg told parliament.

Several proposals to temporarily reduce CO2 taxes also passed, parliament's voting record showed, adding several billion crowns to the overall cuts.

The Centre Party, which cast the deciding vote, earlier on Thursday said it would support "any proposal that can bring down taxes".

(\$1 = 9.6499 Norwegian crowns)

Reporting by Terje Solsvik; Editing by Himani Sarkar and Louise Rasmussen

An Independent Norge Norsemen Lodge?

WHAT: The Sons of Norway (SON) has nearly 400 lodges across the US, Canada, and Norway that promote the preservation of Norwegian heritage and culture. By Fall 2026, will the SON have one more lodge? Norge Norsemen!

WHO: Five years ago, Hampton Roads Sons of Norway (HRSON) sponsored the newly named Norge Norsemen as the first SON satellite lodge. Since then, the Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge has flourished while benefiting from HRSON's leadership and support.

WHY: In May 2025, SON District 3 President, Stephen Helmold strongly encouraged Norge Norsemen to become an independent lodge. In five years, Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge has grown to over 100 members and the highly successful annual Scandinavian Bazaar provides financial stability. President Helmold said no satellite lodge is intended to remain a satellite forever--- it's time for independence!

HOW: The *Norge Norsemen Independence Exploration Committee* evaluated what is necessary to become independent. These are the essential requirements:

- Identify lodge members who are ready to assume four key leadership roles: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary
- Obtain a YES vote for independence from at least 25 members during an in-person vote, or over 50% if more than 50 members are present.
- Apply to SON to become an independent lodge through the HRSON and the District 3 office.

Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge has identified the four volunteer leaders and filled most of the other volunteer positions that are needed for a well-functioning lodge. Now, they are in a transition phase that includes training future leaders on SON procedures and reporting requirements with the help of HRSON and District 3 leaders. They are practicing to be independent by following SON Bylaws for conducting business meetings as part of regular meetings.

WHEN: The target date for independence is September 2026. It will take the SON home office several months to process the new lodge application so Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge must hold the vote for independence by May 2026.

This article was prepared by the Independence Committee and submitted by the Norge Norsemen.

The Norwegian Lady Ceremony on March 28, 2026.



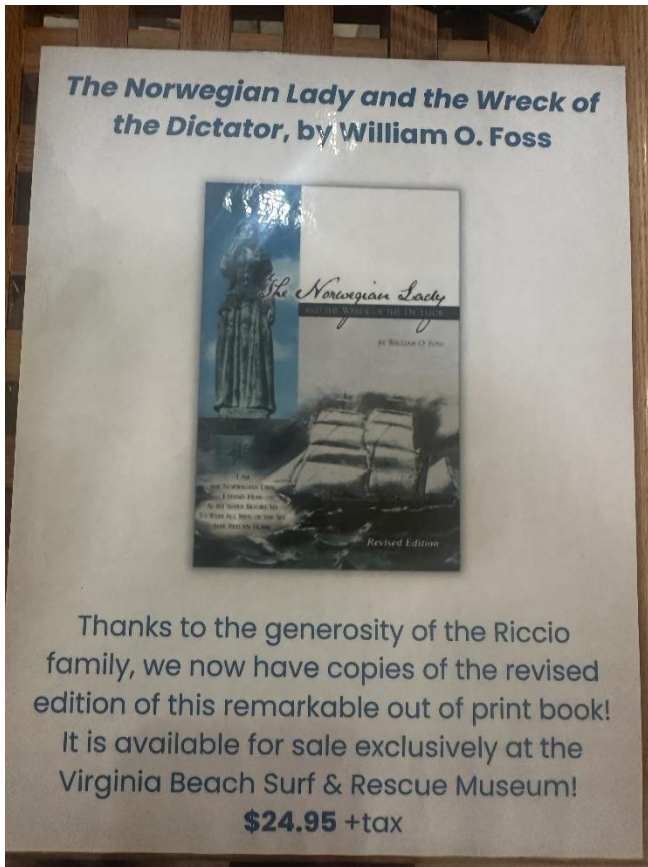
The SON purchased a brick from the Virginia Beach Surf and Rescue Museum to be installed on their walkway.



The Norwegian Flag on top and the Moss Flag below. Moss created a new flag recently



Thank you to Alex Pincus who is the President for the Norwegian Lady Foundation for organizing this event again. Alex is also a Sons of Norway member. In addition, he has also volunteered for the Nato Festival for years.



William Foss's authored this book years ago and told the history of the Wreck and the Norwegian Lady statue. You can visit the museum free of charge. You can support the museum by visiting it and their gift shop where you can find the book.



Astrid Gulas who is the Moss-Virginia Beach sister city representative read the letter from the Mayor of Moss. Astrid is also on the board of the Norwegian Lady Foundation and a long-time member of the Sons of Norway.

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Virginia Viking

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