



VIRGINIA VIKING

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 3-522

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

The President's Corner

Dear HR Lodge Members.

Lodge News: IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: HR Lodge meetings will now start at 6:30, beginning with the February 19 meeting. Same location at Bayside Presbyterian Church 1400 Ewell Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23455. The program for the meeting will be Norwegian Lady Story by Susan Harwell. **NORDIC TRIVIA NIGHT** organized and hosted by Elizabeth Kahl and Adriana Murphy at the recent January HR Lodge meeting was a huge success complete with prizes. THANK YOU Elizabeth and Adriana! **UPCOMING EVENTS: ANNUAL NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST** February 7 at Bayside Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM (all members welcome!). **HR LODGE FELLOWSHIP LUNCH** February 21, 12:00-2:00 at Gus and George's 4312 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. **SPECIAL MARCH HR LODGE MEETING PROGRAM:** March 19 Waffles and Craft Day – "Taste Norwegian Heart Waffles and Make a Scandinavian Woven Paper Heart" again organized and hosted by our incredible duo Elizabeth Kahl and Adriana Murphy. **ANNUAL NORWEGIAN LADY CEREMONY MARCH 28 AT** Virginia Beach Boardwalk 25th St. at 11:00 , Reception at Virginia Beach Surf and Rescue Museum 2401 Atlantic Ave.

BREAKING NEWS: Planned James City County missile factory to be fully operational in 2028

WHRO | By Nick McNamara Published January 19, 2026 at 3:33 AM EST

KONGSBERG DEFENCE & AEROSPACE will produce two types of cruise missiles at the plant, its largest outside of Norway. Construction on a Norwegian defense contractor's missile factory in James City County will start by mid-year, with the first munitions rolling out of production in 2028. Leaders from Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace Inc., alongside Virginia and county representatives, officially broke ground Friday on the new plant

February 2

Norge Norseman Zoom Board Meeting
at 7:00 p.m.

February 5

Hampton Roads Zoom Board Meeting at
7:00 p.m.

February 7

HR Lodge New Member Breakfast at the
Bayside Presbyterian Church
At 10:00 a.m.

February 19

Membership Lodge Meeting at Bayside
Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at
7:30 p.m.. Program TBD

February 23

Norge Norsemen Meeting at King of
Glory Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m.

in Toano. It will be the more-than-200-year-old company's first missile assembly facility in the United States. The 150,000 square foot space will also be the first tenant of a more than 2 million square foot industrial park. Kongsberg expects to employ at least 180 people at the factory to manufacture two types of cruise missiles to sell to the U.S. military, which will be armed at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown. **Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace** is Norway's premier supplier of defence products and systems for command and control, surveillance, space, tactical communications, remote weapon stations and missiles systems. **Kongsberg** is a historical mining town and municipality in Buskerud county, Norway. The city is located on the river Numedalslågen at the entrance to the valley of Numedal. Kongsberg has been a centre of silver mining, arms production and forestry for centuries, and is the site of high technology industry including the headquarters of Norway's largest defence contractor Kongsberg Gruppen.
<https://www.whro.org/local-government/2026-01-19/planned-james-city-county-missile-factory-to-be-fully-operational-in-2028>

All the Best, Mike

Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday) To the Following Members in February

Virginia Ballard	Peggy Carnes	June Cooper	Susan Pincus
Anna Ljungberg	Gregor Sutton	Jared Lindenberg	Garrett Eittreim
Keith Goesel	Cindy Harris	Robert Stanzione	Jeffrey Laugle
Tracy Rindy	Maddy McCoy	Christine Tremblay	Ingrid Kross
Angela Tonnesen			

Fra Presidenten, Stephen Helmold, 3rd District President

His article will be back in a couple of months

Actor Sverre Anker Ousdal was a 'giant' in his time

January 19, 2026



An audience spanning many generations paid tribute on Monday to Sverre Anker Ousdal, recognized as one of Norway's greatest male actors ever. Ousdal was laid to rest in a nationally televised funeral ceremony in Oslo's Domkirke (Cathedral). He was 81.

Veteran actor Sverre Anker Ousdal left deep footprints on Norwegian stages. PHOTO:

Nationaltheatret/Pernille Sandberg

Ousdal's career spanned six decades and a wide range of theater and film roles, from Ibsen and Shakespeare to Cold War movies to the faceless narrator of *Postman Pat*, a British animation series for children. According to a count by encyclopedia *Store Norske Leksikon*, he had more than 70 roles in stage plays and close to 40 in films. "With the passing of Sverre Anker Ousdal, Norway has lost a giant in both film, TV and theater," declared Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in a statement following Ousdal's death on January 3. "It made a deep impression to see him in challenging roles, even after he was marked by illness," Støre also told news agency *NTB*. Ousdal retired in 2014, with the title part of Shakespeare's *King Lear* as his last official hurrah at Norway's National Theater in Oslo. He nevertheless kept on working, and had a major role on the same stage as late as 2024, in Ingmar Bergman's *Jordbærstedet (Wild Strawberries)*. Ousdal was planning a comeback later this year, in a part as an elderly father written especially for him in a play about fragile family relations.



Ousdal's high level of activity late in life was remarkable, considering that he lost 90 percent of his eyesight in 2008 after surgery for liver cancer went catastrophically wrong. Recent audiences at an annual outdoors production of Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* experienced Ousdal by his voice only, in dialogue with another well-known Norwegian actor: His son Mads Ousdal. Father and son had shared the stage before, too, in a version of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* in 2000. Lubna Jaffery, Norway's minister for culture and equal rights, hailed Sverre Anker Ousdal as one of Norway's finest actors, who "delivered a lot over many years, on a high artistic level." "When he passed away, a collective gasp went through the population of Norway, for he had always been here," Jaffery told state broadcaster *NRK*. **Born in 1944**, Sverre Anker Ousdal grew up in Flekkefjord on Norway's southwestern coast. According to his actress colleague and

former boss at the National Theater, Ellen Horn, he harbored no dreams of becoming an actor or movie star. But he became one out of sheer coincidence after spending a few years at sea. "He had gotten his hands on a book called *Hva skal du bli* (a career guide for youngsters) and discovered that he could get into theater school with no secondary education," Horn told the celebrity-packed cathedral. "He got in on his first try, and let's be thankful for that."

In Horn's view, Ousdal was not only a "blessed actor" but also a great storyteller who loved sharing anecdotes like the one above. Another was about his embarrassed father, whom Sverre adored, but who reportedly avoided being seen near the theater when it was plastered with portraits of his actor son.

Horn also read a message from Ousdal about the **deplorable state of the National Theater building in Oslo**, which is slowly falling apart and has been at the core of bitter political battles for years. Horn said he had dictated it to her shortly before his death: *I'm standing in front of the National Theatre, my workplace for 62 years. People say that nothing is happening with this building. That's wrong. A lot of things have happened. Bricks are falling down on the street, the roof is leaky (...). I look at (the Ibsen statue outside). Tears are running down his face. I look at Bjørnson. He's a happy boy, right? No, he's crying, too. I sense a bump in my throat, it seems I'll start crying, too. Or is it just the rain? Anyway, all this is so sad, I think to myself. And I walk away.* The young Sverre debuted at Bergen's *Den Nationale Scene* as an apprentice in 1965. From 1967 he spent three years at *Oslo Nye Teater* in the capital before joining the National Theater. That professional relationship would last for the rest of his career and include the complex title roles of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Ibsen's *Brand*. He also had key supporting roles in other Ibsen productions, notably as gloomy outsider types in both of Ibsen's so-called syphilis plays, *A Doll's House* and *Ghosts*. On the movie front, Ousdal portrayed all kinds of characters, from Amundsen the explorer to Quisling the traitor. He's particularly well remembered as a tough guy in the 1985 thriller *Orion's Belt*, about three shady businessmen men on a freighter who get entangled in Cold War intrigue in Arctic waters. He also had unenviable support roles as an unglamorous man, notably in the 1975 comedy *Hustruer*, about what may happen when three wives decide to go out and behave like their husbands.

A totally different challenge that he tackled was that of Captain von Trapp in a musical version of *Sound of Music* at Oslo's Chateau Neuf Arena in 1988. Ousdal probably enjoyed his fictional love affair with the young star Sissel Kyrkjebø as the heroine Maria. But singing the famous but cheesy *Edelweiss* song was another story: It's said to be the task in his career that he loathed the most.

In 1997, Ousdal was knighted by King Harald V for his services to Norwegian stage and screen. He also won numerous other honours for his work, including the film industry's Amanda Award in 1990 and the special Amanda Honours award in 2009. The same year, Norway's actor association (Norsk Skuespillerforbund) made him an honorary member. In 2024, he and his son Mads were both given the **Wenche Foss** honour award, named after the popular actress. **[NewsinEnglish.no](https://www.newsinenglish.no/)/Morten Møst**



Norwegian films hailed after winning 11 Oscar nominations

January 22, 2026

Even Norway's super-busy prime minister took time away from high-level foreign policy drama to send congratulations to the casts and crews behind Norwegian films on Thursday. They made history in the country after winning 11 Oscar nominations at the upcoming Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

Both of the actresses here won Oscar nominations for their performances in the Norwegian film *Affeksjonsverdi* (Sentimental Value): Renate Reinsve (left) was nominated as Best Actress, while Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas was nominated in the category Best Actress in a Supporting Role. The two played sisters in the film. PHOTO: Norsk Film Institute

"This is a big day for Norwegian film," declared Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, who was **at the World Economic Forum in Davos** trying to shield NATO ally Denmark and Norway itself from the **threats of US President Donald Trump** when the Oscar nominations were announced. Støre congratulated Norwegian film director Joachim Trier "and the entire team behind *Affeksjonsverdi* (*Sentimental Value*)" for snaring nine nominations. He also congratulated the makers of another Norwegian film, *Den stygge stesøsteren* (*The Ugly Stepsister*), after being nominated for best hair and make-up, while Norwegian Espen Nordahl is a candidate for an Oscar for best visual effects in the film *Sinners*, which was nominated in a record 16 categories according to the Norwegian Film Institute.



"An Oscar nomination marks great recognition," said Støre, "and there's all reason to be proud of the Norwegian film milieu." His government minister in charge of culture and equality, Lubna Jaffery, was also delighted. "This is enormous," Jaffery told news bureau NTB. "What outstanding recognition, and what a fantastic ride these films have been on."

They've also been nominated and won awards at earlier competitions. Most agree the Oscars stand out, and **now *Sentimental Value* has also been nominated for "Best Picture,"** the first time a Norwegian film has ever been included in that most revered of all categories. *Sentimental Value's* other nominations include Best International Feature, Best Actress – Renate Reinsve, Best Director – Joachim Trier, Best Actress in a Supporting Role – Elle Fanning and Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas, Best Actor in a Supporting Role – Stellan Skarsgård, Best Original Screenplay – Eskil Vogt and Joachim Trier, and Best Editing – Olivier Bugge Coutté.

The Norwegian feature film *The Ugly Stepsister*, directed by Emilie Blichfeldt, was nominated for Best Makeup and Hairstyling carried out by Thomas Forsberg and Anne Cathrine Sauerberg. The 98th Oscars Academy Awards will be held in Los Angeles on March 15.

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