



Valhall Viking



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Celebrating **125 Years**
1895-2020

Mission Statement

The mission of 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.

October 2022
Valhall Lodge #6-25
<https://lodgeofvalhall.com>
Serving San Diego, CA

Meeting Location
La Mesa Masonic Lodge
4731 Date Ave.
La Mesa, CA 91942

Founded 1912

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| October 3: 9:00 AM | LOV Meeting |
| October 8: 2:00 PM | Lodge Board Meeting |
| October 14-16: | Southern California Kretsstevne |
| October 15: 10:00 AM | Corporation Board Meeting |

Lodge Meetings Rescheduled!

Starting last month (September), lodge meetings and socials are taking place on the **SECOND (2nd)** Saturdays of the month (instead of the 3rd). This means that the next lodge meeting and social will take place on **November 12, 2022**.

Ord fra presidenten

Dear Members,

I regret that illness forced me to miss the September meeting. Unfortunately, Vice President Myla Coleman was sick, too. Graciela and I are fine now. Thanks to Counselor Susan Cody for presiding at the meeting.

I want to thank Emily Morissette for taking on the job as Secretary and Millie Wright for consenting to serve on the Corporation Board. Lodge elections are coming up next month, and we need volunteers to fill the officer positions.



Thanks also to Jim Adams for serving on the Nominating Committee. Please support Jim and let him know what you would like to volunteer to do. That includes helping Jim by serving on the Nominating Committee.

October is the month of Southern California Kretsstevne, so we don't have a lodge meeting or social this month. We'll see you at the lodge hall in November, and we may see some of you at Kretsstevne.

October is also a good month to think about applying for scholarship grants from the Sons of Norway Foundation. (See page 5.)

Respektfullt,
Maury D. Lee
President, Valhall Lodge 06-25



Happy Birthday
Gratulerer Med Dagen!



October Birthdays

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Martin Johnson |
| 5 | Linne Hougen |
| 5 | Linda Rawlinson |
| 7 | Kaarina Koskinen |
| 9 | Thomas Avey |
| 17 | Myla Coleman |
| 22 | Jane Chell |
| 23 | Rick Hausvik |
| 26 | Ronald Swenson |
| 28 | Helen Seiler |

Newsletter editor: Steve Rawlinson
editor@lodgeofvalhall.com

This newsletter is published monthly
except in January and July.

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Links

Our lodge: <https://lodgeofvalhall.com>

District Six Newsletters and Cultural
Newsletters: <https://sofn6.org/newsletters/>

Camp Norge: <https://www.campnorge.org/site/>

District Six: <https://sofn6.org>

House of Norway: <https://www.houseofnorway.org>

International: <https://www.sofn.com>

Valhall Lodge, Sons of Norway

Planned 2022 Social Calendar

This calendar has been proposed by the Social Director. It is subject to change. One likely change agent will be COVID.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|
| JANUARY | 15 | (HELD ON ZOOM) |
| FEBRUARY | 19 | BEEF LAPSKAUS |
| MARCH | 19 | SALMON DINNER |
| APRIL | 16 | SPRING HAM DINNER Movie: "Lutefisk Wars" |
| MAY | 21 | SYTTENDE MAI DINNER |
| JUNE | 18 | ICE CREAM SOCIAL Hot dogs & Games |
| JULY/AUGUST | | (NO MEETINGS) |
| SEPTEMBER | 10 | SOCIAL |
| OCTOBER | | (KRETSSTEVNE MONTH) |
| NOVEMBER | 12 | LUTEFISK & MEATBALLS LILLE BUTIKKEN |
| DECEMBER | 10 | JULTREFEST Maybe potluck or maybe catered |

Hardanger and knitting take place every other Monday (including October 10) at the House of Norway in Balboa Park between 1 PM and 3 PM.

The Social Committee needs volunteers. The planned socials for 2022 are listed in the table above. If you can volunteer to help, please contact Judy Sawyer and let her know which dates you are available. Judy can be reached at sonjsawyer@gmail.com.

Lodge Officers

| Lodge Officers | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| President | Maury Lee |
| Vice President | Myla Coleman |
| Counselor | Susan Cody |
| Secretary | Emily Morissette |
| Assistant Secretary | VACANT |
| Financial Secretary | Aprell Bigler |
| Treasurer | Millie Wright |
| Social Director | Judy Sawyer |
| Asst Social Director | Graciela Lee |
| Cultural Director | Amelia Seeto |
| Marshall | Andy Ueland |
| Assistant Marshall | Janet Weber |
| Historian | Sandra Yeaman |
| Musician | Sven Olsen |
| Editor | Steve Rawlinson |
| Assistant Editor | Arlene Labree |
| Foundation Director | Jim Adams |
| Publicity Director | Susan Cody |
| Youth Director | Myla Coleman |
| Sports Director | Ellen Spitzer |
| Webmaster | Steve Rawlinson |
| Trustee (3 Year) | Susan Cody |
| Trustee (2 Year) | Millie Wright |
| Trustee (1 Year) | Judy Sawyer |

| Auditors |
|-----------------|
| Phil Hinshaw |
| Everett Shogren |
| Sandra Yeaman |

| Corporation Officers | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| President | James Adams |
| Vice President | Andreas Ueland |
| Secretary | VACANT |
| Treasurer | Steve Rawlinson |
| Director | Maury Lee |
| Director | Judy Sawyer |
| Director | Everett Shogren |
| Director | Millie Wright |

| LOV Officers | |
|----------------|---------------|
| President | Millie Wright |
| Vice President | Susan Cody |
| Secretary | Myla Coleman |
| Treasurer | Amelia Seeto |



**SONS of
NORWAY**

JAMES DONOVAN

Your Financial Benefits Counselor

760-440-9905

jdonoaninsure@gmail.com

Scholarship Information

Early Autumn is an excellent time to look into scholarships from the Sons of Norway Foundation. Information is available online:

- https://sofn.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Foundation_Scholarship_Grid_2022.pdf is a grid list of available scholarships.
- <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/> has information on applying.

Application forms were attached in an email sent to members by our Financial Secretary Aprell on September 13 at 12:23 PM PDT. **Take a look at them and be prepared to apply as soon as the portal opens on October 1st!**

Upcoming Officer Elections

We need to continue our more than 100 year tradition of people stepping up to serve the Lodge as officers.

- Jim Adams is chairman of the Nomination Committee. His cell phone is 619-417-6300. He wants to hear from you.
- The Nomination Committee is accepting candidates to serve as officers starting in 2023.
- If you are happy with your current position and want to continue, please let the Nomination Committee know that.
- If you want to take a break from your current office and serve in a different role, please let the Nomination Committee know that.
- If you are new to Sons of Norway or are interested in a position about which you don't feel you know enough, you can read about the offices and their responsibilities at https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/lodge_leadership_resources/administrative_resources/leadership_roles_guidelines/. You will need to log in to [sofn.com](https://www.sofn.com) first in order to access this information.
- Those of you who received an e-mail from Aprell on 9/14/2022 at 11:36 AM will find an attachment in her e-mail that describes the officer positions and their duties.
- Contact Jim if you have questions.

Lodge Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2022

1. Introduction

A regular meeting of the Valhall Lodge, Sons of Norway was held at Masonic Lodge of La Mesa, 4731 Date Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942, on Saturday, September 10, 2022, after a social luncheon. The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m.

2. Chair and Secretary

President Maury Lee was out sick, and Susan Cody acted as President and chair of the meeting; Emily Lynch Morissette served as Secretary of the meeting.

3. Notice

The meeting was held pursuant to electronic notice, given to members, through both announcements on the <https://lodgeofvalhall.com> website and email from Aprell Bigler. A copy of the notice is attached hereto.

4. Directors Present

The following directors were present:

| Present (Yes/No) | Name | Position |
|------------------|------------------|---|
| No | Maury Lee | President |
| No | Myla Coleman | Vice-President, Youth Director |
| Yes | Susan Cody | Counselor, Publicity Director, Trustee (3 Year) |
| Yes | Emily Morissette | Interim Secretary |
| No | Vacant | Assistant Secretary |
| Yes | Aprell Bigler | Financial Secretary |
| Yes | Millie Wright | Treasurer, Trustee (2 Year) |
| Yes | Judy Sawyer | Social Director, Trustee (1 Year) |
| No | Graciela Lee | Assistant Social Director |
| No | Amelia Seeto | Cultural Director |
| Yes | Andy Ueland | Marshall |
| No | Janet Weber | Assistant Marshall |
| Yes | Sandra Yeaman | Historian, Auditor |
| No | Sven Olsen | Musician |
| Yes | Steve Rawlinson | Editor, Webmaster |
| Yes | Jim Adams | Corporation President, Foundation Director |
| No | Ellen Spitzer | Sports Director |

5. Call to Order

Ms. Cody called the meeting to order.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had already been printed prior to the summer break and were accepted as printed.

7. Songs

The meeting started with the anthems for the United States, Norway, and Colorado, in honor of new member, Jerry B. from Colorado.

8. Reports**a. President's Report**

President Maury Lee was out sick. Ms. Susan Cody discussed the nominating committee in his stead and made a resolution (below).

b. Vice President's Report

No report.

c. Publicity Director's Report

No report.

d. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Millie Wright provided the treasurer's report. There was not a change to the savings account. The Lodge paid for two memorials to be publicized by the Sons of Norway, deposited the monies from the June Social, and made delegate reimbursements in June.

Millie also mentioned that there would be an election for the Sunshine committee, which sends cards to members who are sick, having birthdays, etc. Let her know if you are interested in volunteering.

e. Secretary's Report

Ms. Lynch Morissette did not have a report.

f. Social Director's Report

Judy Sawyer was thanked for the soups, which were delicious. Ms. Sawyer indicated that there would not be a meeting in October as it is Kretsstevne (meaning a circle of friends gathering together) month, and that the next meeting would be November 12, 2022. She reminded the membership that the meetings are now on the second Saturdays of the month, versus the third Saturdays of the month.

Excitingly, she announced that people would be able to eat Lutefisk at the November 12, 2022, Lille Butikken (the little shop) social and would be able to order Lutefisk to take home as well. Details about ordering Lutefisk will be forthcoming in October.

Ms. Sawyer talked with the Masons regarding potentially sprucing up the Lodge with paint, if the Lodge receives a grant. Additional grants for flooring, language lessons, and rosemaking lessons may be sought.

g. Cultural Director

No report.

h. Marshall's Report

No report.

i. Historian's Report

Historian Sandra Yeaman stated she needed another week to complete the 2021 history and that the book should be done in October.

Ms. Yeaman gave the Lodge members the opportunity to buy bunad coloring books, which are high quality and make great gifts. They are \$5.00 each and people should contact her soon about purchasing more, for example, for holiday gifts.

j. Foundation Report

Jim Adams indicated people should apply for grants and scholarships from the Sons of Norway as there is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). He recommended getting in applications when the application period opens on October 1, 2022, although they can be submitted into December. Further information is on the Sons of Norway website: www.sonsofnorway.com/foundation.

k. Editor's Report

Steve Rawlinson stated that the newsletter will be out before the socials, meaning that the mailing list will be a month old.

Further, it was discussed how paper newsletters were still being sent out, and that it was a substantial cost, when the money could be funneled into other things for the members.

l. Webmaster's Report

No report.

m. Sports Report

No Report.

8. Adoption of Resolution Related to: nominating committee.

Susan, acting as the President, stated the Lodge needed a nominating committee to present the slate of nominations next month.

Susan indicated that voting takes place in October and the officers start in November.

Jim agreed to be on the nominating committee. Further, Susan indicated that the Lodge would send out an email asking for additional volunteers.

On motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted: RESOLVED THAT Jim will be on the nominating committee and that additional volunteers will be requested.

9. Adoption of Resolution Related to: filling a vacancy on the Corporation.

The Lodge then discussed filling a vacancy on the Corporation.

Millie Wright was nominated by Steve.

On motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED THAT Millie Wright fill the vacancy on the Corporation.

The next regular meeting of the Valhall Lodge will be on November 12, 2022, after the social at the Masonic Lodge of La Mesa, 4731 Date Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942.

There being no further business, after the closing song, the meeting was duly adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Dated: September 11, 2022

/Emily Lynch Morissette/ [e-signature]

Emily Lynch Morissette, Secretary

We Need Volunteers

Following up from a survey taken last year, we have identified tasks that we think would enhance the lodge if these tasks were done. We need a volunteer for each that has the skill an interest to perform that task. Volunteers should contact Maury Lee (president@lodgeofvalhall.com).

- Give the lodge presence on some social media platforms such as Instagram or Snapchat. (We already have a Facebook page, and we do not wish to use TikTok.) We are looking for somebody who can reach out to young people.
- Provide monthly Norwegian cooking classes.
- Provide help in lecturing about Norwegian culture. We already have 2 ladies doing this, but they could use help from an additional person.
- Provide Norwegian language classes.

The item in the green box below was in the newsletter last month:

Statistics Norway to Collect Data in Norwegian Supermarkets

Statistics Norway (SSB), a state-owned entity that collects and communicates statistics in Norway, is pursuing a new type of data collection that is met with differing opinions. SSB wants Norway's major supermarket chains to share their receipt data. The major supermarket chains include: NorgesGruppen, Coop, Bunnpris and Rema 1000. The reason SSB is after this type of information is because they believe it will be a more efficient way of gathering and analyzing household consumption statistics to inform decisions on social assistance, tax policy, and child allowance. In the past, such information was written down in a booklet by Norwegian households, proving to be very time-consuming.

The trend of increased state data collection is concerning to many. In fact, payment processor, Nets, is troubled "about the collection and compilation of data that may be problematic and intrusive for the individual citizen." Additionally, NorgesGruppen plans to appeal the decision. Only time will tell how fruitful the appeal will be.

Valhall Lodge Members: *How would you feel if this idea were implemented in the United States? Please send your comments to the editor: editor@lodgeofvalhall.com. A summary of comments will be in the October 2022 Valhall Viking. - Ed.*

The summary is very easy to provide: Nobody emailed a response. Oh well! An editorial about this and other matters is on Page 15.

Betty A. Luther RIP, 1926-2022

We are sorry to report that Betty Luther, who was an aunt of Judy Sawyer, passed away on August 28. She was born on July 13, 1926 in Colton, South Dakota, on the family farm. She passed away in Tallmansville, West Virginia. She leaves behind 4 children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be laid to rest in the Flowerfield Cemetery in Hills, Minnesota.

Betty Luther was proud of her Norwegian heritage and was a long and faithful Golden member of Sons of Norway. She joined Valhall Lodge on April 14, 1979. She will be greatly missed by all her Valhall friends. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Judy Sawyer, the Hovland family, and the Luther family.

Donate to the Sons of Norway Foundation

In October we celebrate the Sons of Norway Foundation.

- Last year the Foundation distributed over \$147,000 in awards to scholarships, disaster relief, community programs, and cultural exchange opportunities.
- Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. You can send these donations in the name of a loved one.
- If you make a donation to the Foundation between October 1 and the end of the year, Sons of Norway Leadership will match it up to \$50,000.
- You can donate funds for room or furnishings in the new headquarters. A plaque will be affixed with the name of the donor to the room or furnishing.
- You may use the link below to make your donation:

<https://www.sofn.com/foundation/donate/> has a button that says "Donate Now" which will take you to https://crm.bloomerang.co/HostedDonation?ApiKey=pub_e8ed4675-debd-11e7-94a1-0a7fa948a058&WidgetId=21180416

LOV Notes

September 3, 2022

Next Meeting: October 1, 2022, at Denny's
Hostesses: Barbie & Denise (Tink)

Welcome back Ladies, it was so good to see you at the September LOV meeting after the two-month hiatus.

Part of LOV's function is to take care of each other, and in that respect, we need to reach out to our members, especially those who cannot or have not been able to attend the monthly meetings. Phone calls, cards, emails, or even visits are examples of ways to keep in touch with our LOV members. This responsibility does not rest solely on the Sunshine committee of one. I need to take more responsibility regarding this myself, as I hope more of the Ladies will too. This should inspire more reporting each month for the Sunshine committee. Please send cards and prayers for Wilma, Amelia, and Ragnhild.

- Wilma is in hospice care at her home with Janet Michka taking care of her along with the professional caretakers. Janet has been with Wilma for 12 years and hopes for another 10 years. Wilma has good days and bad days – Janet cherishes the good days when Wilma is more like her old self.
- Amelia was unable to join us this morning and it would be appropriate to send ***Thinking of You*** cards and even calling her to chat. I hope to meet with her next week to take care of some LOV business and visit.
- Even though Ragnhild has vision problems, she attended the LOV meeting and provided the Cultural segment of the meeting. She, along with Susan, lead us through ***Jo Mere Vi Er Sammen***, ***BLÅVEISPIKE*** and ***Fader Jacob***.
Still, I think she would welcome cards and phone calls.
On a sadder note, Ragnhild's son, Finn, has passed away. Please convey your condolences to Ragnhild.

I know there are other members that would appreciate hearing from us: Carmen, LaVonne, Barbara, Peggy, Anne, Arlene, Joyce, Denise, Else, Linda, Anita, Dale, Arnette. Plus, we can keep in contact with members who regularly attend the meetings too. The Norwegian Crafting Group that meets at the House of Norway (*see info below*) is a fun place to visit with participating LOV/Valhall members.

Thank you, Judy, Barbie, and Carrie, for volunteering to be on the committee to select a slate of Officers to be presented at the October LOV meeting, so we can vote on the LOV Officers in November for the 2023 year.

Eldbjorg and Ragnhild were hostesses today, although Ragnhild indicated "*Eldbjorg did all the work*"!!! Eldbjorg provided lovely, fragrant candles with glass candle holders for the door prizes. Once again, I received one of the door prizes along with Carrie, Solveig, Tam, Sandra, Barbie, Myla, and Judy. Thank you Eldbjorg and Ragnhild.

I would like all the Ladies and members of Valhall Lodge to join us every other Monday (next meeting is September 26, 2022) to participate in Norwegian crafting, or to just stop by to chat. [Check your email for any updates from Sandra.](#)

Come craft with us – earn Norwegian cultural skill pins

Stay safe, cool, and healthy.

Med vennling Hilsen,

Millie Wright

President, LOV

Sons of Norway 29th Annual Weekend Southern California Kretssteve

Friday, Oct. 14 - Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022

SCK Banning Fall Weekend

Join us for the weekend or a day trip for a wonderful blend of Norwegian Heritage and fellowship. The campground is a short distance south of Hwy 10 in Banning, 25 miles west of Palm Springs. The camp is on level ground at low elevation.



Banning Stagecoach KOA Campground & RV Park

1455 S. San Geronio Avenue, Banning, CA 92220

<http://koa.com/campgrounds/banning-stagecoach> information, only – no reservations

- Enjoy Music, Singing, Heritage Crafts, Camaraderie
- Cultural Food Demonstration and/or games, Bingo, Silent Auction on Saturday

**** Lodging Options ****

Limited number of Park Models (4) for rent. Pricing is for two nights

Park Model – bedroom and foldout couch \$220.00

RV space, full hookups \$ 95.00

Tent space \$ 60.00

Various hotel options in Banning can be found online, if the Park Models are sold out.

Please complete the registration form below and mail with your check made out to:

Southern California Kretssteve. Mail by October 5 to:



Nancy Madson, SCK Registrar
28-351 Via Las Palmas
Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Call Nancy for camp lodging (760) 238-8819
e-mail: norsknn@gmail.com

----- cut here and mail -----

Name(s) _____ **Lodge** _____

Children's names and ages _____

Phone () _____ **E-mail** _____

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Fri. Night Meatball Dinner | _____ Adults @ \$10.00 each | _____ Children under 12 Free | \$ _____ |
| Sat. Vaffler and Eggbake Breakfast | _____ Adults @ \$6.00 each | _____ Children under 12 Free | \$ _____ |
| Sat. Hot Dog in Lefse Lunch | _____ Adults @ \$6.00 each | _____ Children under 12 Free | \$ _____ |
| Sat. Salmon Dinner | _____ Adults @ 13.50 each | _____ Children under 12 Free | \$ _____ |
| Sun. Scandinavian Breakfast | _____ Adults @ \$6.00 each | _____ Children under 12 Free | \$ _____ |

SCK Registration Fee – all attendees _____ **Adults @ 5.00 each or Family \$10.00** \$ _____

Lodging: Use pricing from above - Circle one

Park Model RV space tent space \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT, check written out to: Southern California Kretssteve \$ _____

All proceeds support Camp Norge.

Per Pettersen Picked a Peck of Pickled Pumpkins

As autumn winds down into winter, Norwegians stock up their pantries with the final harvests of vegetables and fruits in the form of canned preserves. Though an uncommon vegetable in Norway, Pickled Pumpkin is a traditional treat featured on “koldtbord” tables, the menus of fine hotels, and on mom’s dinner table.

Get out your canning jars and try this recipe for “Syltet Gresskar” found on arcticgrub.com.

**Ingredients:**

2 pounds of pumpkin – cleaned, peeled and diced into cubes

2 cups apple cider vinegar

1 cup water

3 cups sugar

1 tsp. salt

3 Tbsp. fresh ginger, chopped

15 whole cloves

10 whole allspice berries

2 cinnamon sticks

1 – 2 bay leaves

Optional items:

1 vanilla bean pod

1 whole chili pepper

Directions:

Bring the vinegar, sugar, water, ginger and spices to a boil in a large pot. Add the diced pumpkin. Bring down to a simmer and cook until the pumpkin pieces are clear and tender, which should take 3-4 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, scoop out the pumpkin bits and place into the prepared canning jars.

Continue boiling the liquid until it thickens, about 15 minutes. Pour the liquid over the pumpkin in the canning jars, screw on the lids, and let sit in room temperature overnight. Keep the jars in a cool and dark spot until ready to use!

Find out more here: <https://arcticgrub.com/pickled-pumpkin-a-forgotten-recipe/>

NOTE: Be sure to follow proper canning procedures for safe snacking. A pdf from the FDA can be downloaded here: <https://www.fda.gov/media/107843/download>



Trolling the Internet

Through the magic portal of Netflix, an ancient Nordic creature is scheduled to awaken and wreak havoc on our screens and imaginations. Director Roar Uthaug's much anticipated film, "Troll" is set to stream into homes sometime in 2022.

Born in Lørenskog, about 11 miles west of Oslo, Uthaug is known as the director of 2018's "Tomb Raider" and the Norwegian thriller "Bølgen" - "The Wave" inspired by the real

life Talfjord tsunami of 1934. Of his newest cinematic venture, Uthaug muses, "Troll is an idea that has been developing in the back of my mind for over 20 years. To finally realize it with the enthusiastic and ambitious people at Netflix and Motion Blur is truly a dream come true. I can't wait to unleash this Norwegian monster on the world."

According to Variety magazine, the film's eponymous creature is awakened from a deep sleep under the mountains of Dovre. Understandably crabby, it explodes out of the earth and pounds its way towards Oslo, destroying everything in its path.

You can watch the teaser here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8XFIjkm1s>

Quirky Laws in Norway

It seems that in all countries in the world, if you dig into the rule books, you can find some strange and sometimes downright funny laws. Norway is no exception! Here are a few lesser-known infractions to avoid committing on your next Norwegian vacation:



1. No peeking at your partner's phone! Reading someone else's texts is considered a violation of their privacy and is punishable by up to two years in jail!
2. Should you happen to find a ship that is more than 100 years old, make sure to inform the police immediately. No keeping it for yourself!
3. Don't pick other people's cloudberries. While foraging for berries on public land is acceptable, cloudberries are so rare that they are sometimes called "Arctic Gold." If you want to avoid a hefty fine or even jail time, leave them alone!
4. If you are in Norway for Halloween, resist the urge to dress up like a policeman. Unauthorized use of a uniform can land you in jail for up to 6 months!

Sources: <https://norwaytoday.info/everyday/9-things-thatll-get-you-arrested-in-norway/>

<https://www.scandinaviastandard.com/a-guide-to-cloudberries-all-about-the-norths-most-sought-after-fruit/>

Oslo on Top for Work-Life Balance

Software firm Kisi recently conducted a study of work-life balance in various cities. The study considered areas such as healthcare access, parental leave, flexible work options, vacation days, and safety. Number one on their published list was Oslo, Norway. One of the factors that aided Oslo in the win was its flourishing job market in the energy and environmental industries, life sciences, and IT industry. Data from the study also showed that Oslo workers receive 707 days of parental leave and about 25 vacation days a year. Following closely behind Oslo were Bern, Switzerland, and Helsinki, Finland. Six of the top ten cities on the list were cities located in Europe. There were no United States cities in the top 10; the highest ranked US city was Seattle at number 32. Perhaps this study is an indication that the United States should look outward for tips on work-life balance to retain and compete for top talent.

An Editorial

We do not normally write editorials for this newsletter, but we cannot resist taking exception to some of the material provided for Newsletter use from Sons of Norway Headquarters in Minneapolis.

The above article suggests that companies in the United States should modify work-life balance policies to attract top talent. Your editor, who is also the Corporation Treasurer, encountered this policy with Sons of Norway Headquarters on July 1 one year. He needed to discuss an urgent matter about the Corporation's deposit account but SON HQ was closed for the July 4 holiday. Banks and brokerages were open that day. The Treasurer was frustrated and prevented from doing the needful until the following week. We respect the right of the people in Oslo to have regulatory policies that they like for doing business in their city, but we take exception to this advocacy from the folks at SON HQ. No matter how a company deals with work-life balance, there are consequences to any policy.

The article on the previous page pokes fun at a Norwegian law against unauthorized use of a police uniform. We think that such a law is needed in many countries including our own. We fully respect that Norwegian law. We also respect laws that protect ownership of cloudberries and 100 year old ships. In fairness, it doesn't hurt to warn people not to violate these laws while in Norway, but it's a stretch to call them quirky.

An article that appeared last month and is repeated on Page 9 describes the efforts of the government of Norway to gather statistics from grocery store chains. We have to admit that the reporting of this particular article was balanced. The article explained the alleged purpose of the statistics gathering and also cited some objections to it. We don't think they identified all of the objections that could be raised but we do acknowledge that they reported that people do have objections to the practice.

We publish these articles as part of filling space in the Newsletter, so not all get published. We give priority to recipes. We don't alter the articles that are provided to us. If we don't like some things that are said, we editorialize in a separate block.

Valhall Viking
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Valhall Viking

OCTOBER 2022

CALENDAR

October

October 1: LOV Meeting
October 8: Lodge Board Meeting
October 14-16: SoCal Kretssteve
October 15: Corporation Meeting
October 23: Newsletter Deadline

Next newsletter is the
November issue

Deadline for the
November Valhall Viking
is October 23, 2022

E-Mail articles to
Steve Rawlinson at:

editor@lodgeofvalhall.com