

**Sons of Norway Washington Lodge #3–428**  
**Lodge Meeting: Saturday, June 20, 2026**  
**4 P.M. Doors Open; 5 P.M. Picnic; 6 P.M. Business Meeting**

**Opening (brief): Linda Hestvik, President**

- Welcome: President Linda Hestvik started the meeting at 7:02pm and welcomed lodge members. President Hestvik thanked Youth Programs Director Elspeth Christianson and Cultural Skills Director Owen Christianson for leading a woodcarving presentation.
- Orientation/Logistics/Announcements/Program: President Linda Hestvik pointed members to the fire exits and safety kits if needed.
- National Anthems & Pledge of Allegiance: Music Director Jan Ackley Malecha led the lodge members in signing the U.S. and Norwegian national anthems.
- Guests/Visitors: Bonnie Vona and her grandson, Gunner.
  - Anniversaries: Flowers and cake were presented to the following members celebrating their 50th anniversary this month. The lodge members sang “Happy Anniversary” to them.
    - Paul Rood and Margie Goergen Rood
    - Owen Christianson and Elspeth Christianson

**Business Meeting & Announcements:**

- April lodge member meeting minutes (BS): Secretary Bethany Slingerland read the lodge meeting minutes from April 18th. We did not meet as a lodge in May, so there were no May lodge meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The lodge members voted and approved the minutes.
- Lodge Business: Nominating Committee (LH): President Linda Hestvik announced we are looking for members of the Nominations Committee to elect 2027 new officers. Housekeeping Chair Cathy Sweetser and Member Anja Mansour volunteered to be on the committee. Member Anja Mansour requested a complete list of the members to start the nomination process. President Linda Hestvik stated that Anja would receive this list.
- Request to move WL Election of new officers for 2027 from November to October (LH): President Linda Hestvik requested that the lodge vote on moving our election of new officers from November to October to better prepare ourselves for the 2027 year. Member Christine Knight clarified that our past November election dates were just a tradition and we are free to move the election date to October for our lodge. A motion was made by Paul Rood to vote to move the election to October. This motion was seconded by Member Anja Mansour. The motion passed. Our lodge will hold our elections in October 2026.
- Membership Anniversary Pins (KeAl): Vice President Keith Aleckson announced that ten members were eligible for membership anniversary pins this month. This list includes

both May and June membership anniversaries:

*Sons of Norway Washington Lodge #3-428: Lodge Meeting Minutes: June 20, 2026*

- Monica S. Olsen (May) 5 years
- Matt Turner (May) 5 years
- Davonn Wold (May) 10 years
- Sophia V. Jensen (May) 15 years
- Carolyn Grangaard Smith (May) 15 years
- Brit Nora F. Gauthier (May) 25 years
- Brett A. Nelson (May) 35 years
- Judy Arndt (June) 5 years
- John G. Olsen (June) 10 years
- Peter J. Churchyard (June) 30 years
  - Both Brett Nelson and Monica Olsen were present to receive their pins and certificate. Photos were taken by Newsletter Co-Editor Katia Anderson.
- 3D Convention June 4-7, 2026 in Virginia Beach, Va. (LH): President Linda Hestvik thanked the delegates for representing the largest lodge at the Third District Convention.
  - Vice President Keith Aleckson displayed the framed certificates won for Large Lodge of the Year 2025, Gold Merit Award 2025, and Honorable Mention for Family Lodge of the Year 2025. These awards originate from our service hours dedicated to fraternal and community work, so it is important to log and share service hours with our Secretary for survey reporting at the end of the year.
  - President Linda Hestvik summarized the BetterLife discussion our delegates participated in at the convention. President Hestvik announced the agreement would begin July 1st, 2026. The SON International Board will dissolve and turn into a fraternal board. BetterLife will take over the insurance side of SON and SON money will go to BetterLife. From what we know now, our lodges and property remain ours. We do not have any information until we see the agreement. Delegates asked many questions to BetterLife (BL) leadership at the convention for several hours.
  - Member Christine Knight shared that delegates voted to make the Third District investigate other Scandinavian-based partnerships so that we have other options for the future. President Linda Hestvik, Member Christine Knight and Cultural Skills Director Owen Christianson are on a committee to compile questions for SON regarding the BL partnership.
  - Members can read the May 6th email and Viking Magazine information shared by SON International CEO Daniel Seyfried. Our lodge has no more information than that presented by SON.
  - At this point in time, there is no plan to increase member dues. SON will still allow family membership and we can keep our logo.
  - To be tax-exempt, the fraternal and insurance sides of SON and BetterLife needed

to merge. Our lodge has been active in asking questions and will continue to do so.

- Scanfest September 6, 2026 will be held in Budd Lake, New Jersey.
- Upcoming Lodge Picnics:

*Sons of Norway Washington Lodge #3-428: Lodge Meeting Minutes: June 20, 2026*

- Saturday, July 18, 4pm. Hawaiian theme!
- Sunday, August 16, 4pm
- September, October, November and December programming will be prepared by our new Programs Co-Director, Rhonda Ferguson.
- Interest Groups/Classes: Ongoing
- Syttende Mai: The 17th May celebration at Carderock was a success. President Linda Hestvik thanked Member Christine Knight for organizing all the details. Member Christine Knight requested that all members with Syttende Mai receipts please turn them in to her as soon as possible.
- Norway is in the World Cup: This is the first time in 28 years! Watch parties are being organized for June 22nd and June 26th matches.
- New Wave (CK): The New Wave group had their first event, a watch party for the World Cup match of Norway vs. Iraq on June 16th. Member Christine Knight reported that there were 26 people who attended. Music Director Jan Ackley Malecha brought a drum to help cheer on the match and donated prizes for kids attending. After the World Cup, our next New Wave event will be a Nationals game on August 29th. Since there is a limit of 20 interested members should tell Christine Knight if they would like to attend. New Wave expects to hold four events this year.

**Picnic Meal:**

- President Hestvik and Music Director Jan Ackley Malecha thanked our Hospitality Committee volunteers Paul Rood, Marga Tucker, and Katia Anderson for their hard work. Tusen takk for a wonderful picnic.
- President Hestvik thanked Owen and Elspeth Christianson for their carving workshop held before the business meeting.
- Special thanks was given to Cathy Sweetser for all her hard work cleaning the outdoor chairs and tables to prepare the outdoor area for today's meeting. She was elbow deep in sudsy water doing this!
- Music Director Jan Ackley Malecha led the lodge members in singing "God Bless America" at the close of the meeting. Members were invited to make s'mores outside at the end of the meeting.

**Closing: President Hestvik closed the meeting at 6:38pm.**

**A total of 38 members and 2 guests attended the June 20, 2026, Lodge Meeting.**

Summary/Minutes posted on: June 14, 2026

Members of Sons of Norway Washington Lodge #3-428 are encouraged to submit any questions or comments about the meeting summaries or minutes to the Secretary for

*Sons of Norway Washington Lodge #3-428: Lodge Meeting Minutes: June 20, 2026*

clarification. Summaries/Minutes will be presented at the following lodge meeting for discussion and approval.

Minutes approved on: June 20, 2026

Signature: *Bethany Slingerland*

Bethany Slingerland  
Assistant Secretary

First Draft and Revised copies of these minutes were e-mailed to board members for their review and concurrence prior to the next general lodge meeting.

A Final Copy of these minutes will be posted on our Google Docs website.

A signed Final Copy will be retained by Bethany Slingerland, Secretary.

