

Varden Lodge 07-19 Newsletter

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February 2026

Editorial

Hi! I hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season. One highlight, for me, was our Christmas party. Varden was fortunate to hold the party with the Norwegian House Society. Sixty-seven people came. The children looked lovely, especially those with the face painting. Spiderman was popular this year as many of the children choose to have cobwebs on their faces. However, the best part was singing around the tree, then Santa arriving with a big sack of presents handed out by Kristie Lind, our Lodge Queen. I think the party was a success and look forward to next year's.

You may remember I mentioned we were going to have an Installation of Lower Mainland Officers, that was cancelled and replaced by one just for Varden. Gloria Benazic, our District President, however joined our January meeting by Zoom and she installed our Officers.

Our first event of the year was the Norwegian Meatball Dinner on January 23rd. We were busy doing the preparation but it was worth it. Thanks go to many people but especially, Susan Strang for all her organization and planning of the event. I also thought noteworthy were two of our excellent servers; Connor and Penelope Schilbach. Connor handled the cabbage dish while Penelope passed out the dinner buns. Many people commented on how charming they were and what a good job they were doing. I think they impressed our guests, District President Gloria Benazic and her partner, Cal. Gloria is also the President of the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada. She told all of the attendees about how valuable the Foundation is in giving scholarships and emergency funding. Part of the reason we have the dinner is to fund and promote the Foundation. Not only was the dinner informative but also enjoyable. The food was wonderful, the company was lovely. Danny Balen's singing was excellent. All in all a good time.

Next, I want to mention the Lodge's Children's Drawing Contest. Two lucky winners; Connor and Penelope Schilbach. Connor drew the Norwegian Flag, while Penelope drew her favorite Kpop character, Rumi as a Viking goddess. Congratulations!

Another thing, I would like to talk about is the Convention in Port Alberni at the end of May. Please think about being a Delegate, having you represent our lodge and considering serving on the District Board would be beneficial to all. I know the experience can be educational and fun. Meeting new people is exciting and you would get to know people from all over Canada. So please consider. I hope to see you at the Convention as I am going, proudly representing Varden Lodge and hopefully continuing in my position as District Publicity Director.

January Meeting!

This meeting was a business meeting.

March Meeting

The next meeting will be a social meeting.

Education Grant

Varden offers an Educational Grant of \$700 for post-secondary studies to a child or grandchild of a lodge member. **The Deadline for this year is 04/30/2026.** Please contact Krista Solie at 604-540-2376.

Sunshine Report

I heard that Leslie-Anne Forstad's family had bad colds but now are recovering.

February Birthdays

17th-Anne-Lise Berg
19th-Edina Beeby
20th-Susan Strang
23rd-Wesley Britt

February Holidays

2nd-Ground Hog Day
14th-Valentine's Day
16th- Provincial Holiday
17th-Lunnar New Year
18th-Ash Wednesday

Calendar of Events.s

1. Varden Lodge's next meeting will be on Fevb.10th, 2026 at 7:30pm by Zoom. Please contact Susan Strang for more information.
2. Viking Lodge's next meeting will be on Feb.5th.at Tynehead Hall in Surrey.
3. Sleipner Lodge 's next meeting will probably be on Feb.12th.