

PRESS RELEASE

For more information, please contact Tom Wickie, Publicity Chair, at tfwickie@mac.com or call (248) 761-9949.

Pioneer Women in Southwest Minnesota, 1880-1915
AT SONS OF NORWAY MEETING

The Sons of Norway Stavanger Lodge 1-538 will hold their next meeting on Thursday, October 15th, 6:00 p.m., Potluck dinner, 7:00 p.m. program at the Cottonwood County Historical Society Museum, Windom, MN.

Dr. Anita Gaul, History Instructor at Minnesota West Community & Technical College, Worthington, will present an engaging history of Pioneer Women in Southwest Minnesota, 1880-1915. "In contrast to the stereotypes of pioneer women as either the "sunbonneted helpmate" or the overworked drudge, women living in southwest Minnesota in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were essential to the success of family farms, as well as integral parts of their rural communities who made important economic, cultural, and even political contributions." Dr. Gaul earned her B.A. from Calvin College, M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

The public is cordially invited to attend this presentation free of charge. Guests are always welcome at any Lodge meeting. Learn of our mission, enjoy the fellowship, hear a historical story about our Scandinavian ancestors.

October is Foundation Month and a time to celebrate and support the services that the Sons of Norway Foundation provides to all members.

In 2025, the Sons of Norway Foundation distributed over \$273,000 in awards; \$148,000 in Scholarships for students to study in the United States, Canada, and Norway, \$110,000 in Grants for Norwegian culture and heritage programs, and \$15,000 in Camperships for kids across the United States to attend Norwegian cultural camps.

The Sons of Norway Foundation awards scholarships to promising students each year. These seventeen scholarship funds support education to help students prepare for their career and journey in life. They also help bring our Foundation mission to fruition by promoting cultural exchanges and the importance of cultural exchange.

Everyone is encouraged to visit the Sons of Norway website (<https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships>) where descriptions of all scholarships offered and applications may be found.

Donating to the Foundation is an opportunity to incorporate your passion for the Sons of Norway into your charitable giving plans. This year, with our "Together We are the Future" fundraising campaign, Sons of Norway aims to raise \$150,000 to support our grants and scholarships.

Kindly visit the foundation website (<https://sofn.com/give2021>) to learn more and donate. Any amount is welcome.

The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve and cherish a lasting appreciation for the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic cultures while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering maximum benefits to its members. The local Stavanger Lodge was chartered in 1974.

For more information about Sons of Norway or the July meeting, please contact co-president Harvey Pedersen, at (507) 445-3188 or co-president Bonnie Frederickson, at (507) 370-2850.