The numbers are in...

The Progress Party is likely to do their worst in this year’s municipal elections since 1999

KELSEY LARSON  
Copy Editor

At the time of press, VG Nett’s exit polls confirm the trend throughout the election campaign: Socialist Left (SV) and the Progress Party (FrP) are the election’s big losers, while the Conservative Right party will be the big winner. The Labor Party has stayed in line with their results from the 2007 election.

The Progress Party has fallen the farthest from their previous results. The Labor Party has stayed in line with their results from the 2007 election.

See > ELECTION, page 6

In the heart of Little Norway

The Nordic Maid offers a wonderful world of Scandinavian items in Poulsbo, Wash.

Ke l s e y la r s o n  
Copy Editor

Norwegian cheese slicers to Australia, Swedish welcome lights to Japan, Norwegian troll figurines to Hungary, and Swedish door harps to Saudi Arabia; it’s safe to say the Nordic Maid has shipped just about every Scandinavian good just about everywhere. “Sometimes I feel like a shipping clerk,” says Julie Snouwaert, co-owner of the Nordic Maid gift shop in Poulsbo, Wash.

The Nordic Maid is a Scan...
**NYHETER FRA NORGE**

**Valget 2011: Sjokktall for Frp og SV**

Frp går mest tilbake, og Høyre er valgets store vinner

**VG**


VG Netts valgdagsmåling er basert på nesten 6000 intervjuer med et landsrepresentativt utvalg personer over 18 år. 5100 respondenter hadde allerede avlagt stemme da de svarte på undersøkelsen. SV får en oppslutning på 4,9 prosent, en tilbakegang på 1,3 prosentpoeng fra katastrofvalget i 2007. Bare halvparten av dem som stemte SV for fire år siden har stemt SV i dag.

Ikke siden 1979 – for 33 år siden – har SV gjort et dårligere lokalvalg. SV-nestleder Audun Lysbakken sier partiet tar høyde for at det er et stort, flertall mot tvangssammenslåing av kommuner med tvang, selv om også en tredel av de spurte er imot. Folk er mer i tvil om tvangssammenslåing vil ha gode anslag for hvor store tørkekostnader cirka 200 millioner kroner. Kvalitetsforringelse og volumtap utgjør cirka 300 millioner kroner. – Svært mange bønder sitter med å få høstet avlingene, sier generalsekretær Per Skorge i Norges Bondelag.

**Våt sommer koster 500 millioner kroner**

Den våte sommeren kan ha påført landbruken et tap på 500 millioner kroner, ifølge anslag fra Norges Bondelag.

Bondelagets beregninger viser at tapet i koproduksjonen hittil i sommer kan utgjøre om lag 500 millioner kroner. Av dette utgjør økte tørkekostnader cirka 200 millioner kroner. Kvalitetsforringelse og volumtap utgjør cirka 300 millioner kroner. – Svært mange bønder sitter med å få høstet avlingene, sier generalsekretær Per Skorge i Norges Bondelag.

Bondelaget regner med at tapene vil øke raskt hvis regnværet fortsetter.

– Det er alvorlig med tanke på at kvaliteten på det som er mulig å høste etter hvert, blir dårligere. Dårligere kvalitet på kornet vårt fører til at vi må ut på verdensmarkedet for å kjøpe matkorn. Da er vi samtidig med på å presse prisene i et verdensmarked der prisene for verdens fattige allerede er rekordhøyere, sier Skorge.

Det er ikke bare koproduksjonen som er rammet av nedbøren. Bondelaget melder om betydelige tap også i produksjon av poteter, grønnsaker, frukt, bær og grøtt til dyrevæske. Men foreløpig er det vanskelig for Bondelaget å gi gode anslag for hvor store verdier dette kan utgjøre.

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Sensational gold discovery

National enterprises worldwide

Study highlights the European Union as the most important investment area

New statistics show the activity of Norwegian-controlled enterprises abroad, by measuring the number of enterprises, employment and turnover. The geographical breakdown highlights the E.U. as the most important investment area, with Sweden as the predominant country.

The survey shows that Norwegian-controlled enterprises controlled 2,678 enterprises abroad at the end of 2009. The enterprises were located in 110 countries, of which 69 percent were in the E.U. Sweden hosted 24 percent of the enterprises, followed by Denmark (7 percent), Germany (6 percent) and United Kingdom (6 percent).

Aggregate turnover in Norwegian-controlled enterprises abroad in 2009 amounted to NOK 666 billion, of which 65 percent (NOK 432 billion) was in E.U. countries. Asia and Central and North America followed, with 13 and 11 percent respectively. Manufacturing (38 percent) and wholesale and retail trade (20 percent) were the most important sectors.

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**OSLO BØRS: WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**(September 12, 2011)**

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**Winners**
- Faktor Eiendom 8.59 %  
- Green Reefers 7.27 %  
- Repant 5.53 %

**Losers**
- IE Resources -33.33 %  
- Norse Energy -20.00 %  
- AKPOSE -19.38 %  
- FOPOSE -13.29 %

For detailed information about the Oslo Børs, visit www.dn.no.

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**WINNERS**

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<th>Company</th>
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**LOSERS**

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**BRINGING AN IDEA TO REALITY**

EMGS uses electromagnetic technology to map hydrocarbon reservoirs using a 3-D model.

**RASMUS FALCK**  
Oslo, Norway

In 1997 Terje Eidesmo and Svein Ellingsrud, then at StatOil, had the idea of adopting and applying electromagnetic technology to map hydrocarbon reservoirs from the seabed. The process of testing the idea continued for five years – from small-scale tank tests to full-scale offshore surveys. The technique was called “seabed logging.” In 2002 Electromagnetic Geoservices AS (EMGS) was established to provide commercial services.

In 2006 they received the Entrepreneur of the Year prize from the Norwegian Confederation of Enterprise at SMATINGET in Bodø. At the time they had a staff of 100 and revenues close to 100 million dollars. In 2007 they went public with a share price of approximately 20 dollars. The future looked bright.

Then hard times fell on the company. Share prices fell to under a dollar. EMGS was close to bankruptcy two years ago when they were saved by the Dutch geogiant Fugro that secured a convertible loan of 27 million dollars. Since then the start-up company had a rough period and took losses close to USD 100 million. Now they are finally making money.

In August EMGS was awarded a contract worth USD 90 million by Petrobras to perform a range of electromagnetic surveys in frontier and mature basins in offshore Brazil. With this contract they have hit the bull’s eye. Data acquisitions will be performed using the vessel BOA Galatea and is expected to take a year. Petrobras wants start-up as soon as practically possible. According to president Roar Bekker this is the second largest contract worth USD 90 million. Now they are finally making money.

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**NORWEGIAN AMERICAN WEEKLY**

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**Business News & Notes**

**First US manufacturing facility for Ekornes**

Hendrick Construction, Inc. won a contract to build a furniture manufacturing facility for Ekornes ASA in Morganton, N.C. – the first North American facility for the Norwegian company. Ekornes ASA is the largest furniture manufacturer in Norway and sells products all over the world. The Morganton plant, which will assemble components shipped from abroad, is scheduled to start production in early 2012. Construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2011. “This is an exciting project that will have a lasting impact on the region, and we’re on a fast schedule to finish construction and open the plant,” said Roger Hendrick, president of Hendrick Construction. “We’re proud to be building Ekornes’ first manufacturing facility in North America.”

(Hendrick Construction)

**Co-founder of Apple to visit Norway**

Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple and one of the world’s major IT personalities, is visiting Norway at the end of September to participate in IT-titgen, the largest annual IT conference in Norway. Steve Wozniak’s visit to Norway offers a rare opportunity to meet the man that many people see as the ‘father’ of the personal computer. (EDB ErgoGroup)
Celebrating 200 years of UiO

The University of Oslo looks back at its 200 years of history as Norway’s oldest university

KELSEY LARSON
Copy Editor

Sept. 2, 2011 marked 200 years since King Frederik VI decided to create a university in Norway. The Academic Ranking of World Universities has consistently placed the University of Oslo among the world’s top 100 universities, and in 2010 it was ranked as the best in Norway, 24th best in Europe and 75th best in the world.

To celebrate the occasion, the university has hosted special events throughout the year. They also held special events over the anniversary weekend Sept. 2 – 4.

On Sept. 2, the large new building for the Department of Computer Science was formally handed over to the university. Later that afternoon, a celebration was held in the university’s newly renovated Aula (Ceremonial Hall). Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja attended the event, as did Queen Margrethe of Denmark. The Danish queen’s presence helped emphasize the historical connections between Denmark and the University of Oslo.

Friday evening, the government held a dinner in honor of the anniversary at Akershus Castle. Their majesties Queen Margrethe, King Harald and Queen Sonja also attended this event, where Research and Higher Education Minister Tora Aasland served as host.

On Saturday afternoon, the university hosted an “open day,” allowing people to wander through buildings usually inaccessible to the public. These included the Domus Media (middle building) with the university’s auditorium, Domus Academica (the “clock building”) with the old hall, the old courtroom, the Rector’s office and staff room, and the Domus Bibliotheca (old library).

Guides showed visitors around the old buildings. They could talk about everything from the power struggle and tug-of-war within the academic staff to the new modern gas-fittings and decoration of the ceilings. “Take for example the wallpaper in the Rector’s office,” said guide Nicolai Strøm-Olsen to an NRK reporter. “This is the original pattern, which is now reconstructed and is sold under the name “Domus Academica.”

The University of Oslo is also sponsoring events throughout the year in connection with the 200th anniversary celebration. “Idéfestivalen” (“The Idea Festival”) is one of these. It is an event made up of four separate conferences at Blindern, the main campus. Topics have included climate change (May 21), diversity (June 18), and will also include digitization (Sept. 17) and the human body (Oct. 15). During these festivals, public lectures, discussions, debates and more unfamiliar academic genres—as such as “pop speeches” and “idea ping-pong” will be shared with the Oslo public. There is also music, art, children’s activities, film and exhibitions at Blindern on these four Saturdays.

See > UNIVERSITY, page 19

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We made history in 2006 by becoming the first university in the country to have students and faculty studying on all seven continents simultaneously — including on the Antarctic Peninsula. The achievement was repeated in 2008 and again in January 2010.

Photo by Charles Bergman © 2010.

Photo: Francesco Saggio

HM Queen Sonja (in ivory hat), HM King Harald, HM Queen Margrethe of Denmark (with blue hat) and the Rector at UiO, Ole Peter Ottersen, at the celebration weekend Sept. 2 – 4.
Norwegian companies finding more and more business success in U.S. market

By Van Hipp, Chairman of American Defense International, Inc.

The last several years have been extremely good for Norwegian companies striving to enter the U.S. market. Norway has emerged as a model of success in transatlantic cooperation with the U.S.

Cooperation between the two nations in the areas of niche technologies is literally now in the billions of dollars. Further, what is most impressive is the fact that the majority of these successful Norwegian companies have been small and medium-sized business enterprises.

Norway’s success stems from several factors. First, Norway is well-known by the U.S. government and American commercial entities for its core competency in energy/environmental, medical, defense and agriculture/aquaculture technologies.

Norway’s science and engineering in these sectors is known to U.S. authorities. Much of it is the result of Norway’s early use of simulation based modeling in developing technologies, long before it became a standard for the U.S. government or U.S. industry. I will never forget years ago when one senior technology official in the Office of the Secretary of Defense identified Norway as one of only four countries in the world as having certain niche technologies lacking in America. Norwegian companies who have been successful in recent years have capitalized on this technological advantage.

Secondly, Norwegian companies have been much quicker than other European companies in adapting and conforming to the American business model. Norwegian companies feel at home in the U.S. The fact that many – if not most – Norwegian CEOs, have a cousin in North Dakota or Mississippi certainly makes a big difference! Seriously, though, Norwegian business executives understand the old adage, “When in Rome, do as the Romans do.” In short, the Norwegian companies that have been successful in the U.S. market have been those who incorporate an “American Business Development Plan” in their strategy.

Teaming with the right American partner makes a big difference for a foreign company in succeeding in the American market. Over the years, I have observed that those Norwegian companies who liver were the most successful in the U.S. understand that “biggest is not always best” when it comes to a teaming partner in America. In fact, Norwegian companies that have been the most successful in the U.S. are those who have teamed with a smaller to medium-sized U.S. business.

In such cases, the teaming relationships have been a “win-win” for both companies. For example, most European medical companies would not think of teaming with the University of North Dakota Medical School in Grand Forks, N.D., to pursue medical funding with the U.S. government or the medical industry. However, many Norwegian medical companies, such as a partner like the UND Medical School may be just the right kind of partner they need to succeed in the U.S. Plus, the fact that the UND Medical School has more Norwegian Americans as part of both the student body and faculty than just about any medical school in America, doesn’t hurt.

Further, the UND Medical School is ranked as one of the best medical schools in America focusing on rural health, which is where more and more health care dollars are being allocated.

This makes sense to a Norwegian medical CEO who understands the need to “follow the money!”

Successful Norwegian CEOs have understood in recent years the unique role the United States Congress plays in the American newness process. The foundation for this uniqueness actually rests in our Constitution. Historically, the U.S. Congress has been much more involved than European Parliaments in both funding and working with government agencies and departments in developing requirements for new technologies. Norway has understood this and actually worked with the U.S. Congress to develop the “Friends of Norway Caucus” in the US Congress to foster better business relations between our two nations. Much of the credit for this goes to former Norwegian Ambassador to the United States, Tom Vraalsen. Ambassador Vraalsen’s vision is now a reality. Today, the Friends of Norway Caucus is comprised of approximately 55 members of the U.S. House and Senate. Over the last 10 years, the Friends of Norway Caucus has served as a great vehicle for both the Norwegian Government and Norwegian commercial interests to present new and exciting technologies to the United States.

Lastly, good old fashioned Norwegian humility and sincerity goes a long way with Americans. American Government and business officials know they are getting a good deal as Norwegians almost always “undersell” what they have, in typical Nordic fashion. As one former senior U.S. government scientist once told me, “They [the Norwegians] could have a cure for cancer and AIDS and would bury it on the back-shelf, downplaying its significance.” Need less to say, this U.S. government scientist was a huge proponent of the United States doing more and more with Norway.

In closing, it’s great to see Norwegian niche technologies succeed in the United States to fill critical unmet needs here in America. Those Norwegian companies who have been successful with the U.S. government have consistently seen that success transferred over to the U.S. commercial sector and with increased business back home in Norway. The U.S.-Norwegian business model in recent years has seen much success. It is a successful working model for transatlantic cooperation.
Dear Editor,

During the first two weeks of September, 33 Sons of Norway members from District Two (Washington, Oregon and Idaho), took a cruise to Southeast Alaska aboard the Sapphire Princess. They visited Ketchikan, Tracy Arm, Juneau, Skagway, Victoria, B.C., and then back to Seattle.

Erlene Stevenson and her husband, Bob; District President Waldo Bueing and his wife, Jane; District Vice-President Mark Agersten and his wife, Regina; Zone Two Director Elaine Grasdock and her husband, Lloyd; and Zone Five Director Chris Brevick and his wife, Carol.

While in Juneau on Sept. 7, they were guests of Sons of Norway Svalbard Lodge #2-33, with a reception at the Baronof Hotel. It was an opportunity for the members of the Svalbard Lodge in Juneau to meet and mingle with District Two members from “the Lower 48.” Since Juneau has only three delegates to the District Two convention every two years, most members have not had the opportunity to meet other lodge members from the District.

David Moe
Juneau, Alaska

The District Two Officers that will be aboard will be International Lodge Director Erlene Stevenson and her husband, Bob; District President Waldo Bueing and his wife, Jane; District Vice-President Mark Agersten and his wife, Regina; Zone Two Director Elaine Grasdock and her husband, Lloyd; and Zone Five Director Chris Brevick and his wife, Carol.

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David Moe
Juneau, Alaska

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Sincerely,
Editor
Smart growth for Norway

With an aging population and finite oil resources, Norway aims for smart, sustainable growth

VALERIA CRISCIONE
Nortrade

In September 2009, John Bernander became the new Director General of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO), Norway’s main employer union. He takes over at a time of relative prosperity for the country, which has emerged from the financial crisis relatively unscathed. That did not stop him from taking up a crusade for better productivity and weaning the country off its dependence on oil wealth through what NHO calls smarter growth.

The Dilemma

Norway is in a unique position. The country has the second largest GDP per capita and ranks as the number one place in the world to live according to the UN Human Development Index. It has no budget deficit, three percent unemployment, and NOK 2.6 trillion (USD 443 billion) tucked away in the country’s Government Pension Fund Global from investing its petroleum revenues for future generations.

But the country is at a crossroads. Like many others, it is facing a growing proportion of the elderly in its population who will be leaving the workforce and start tapping into social security benefits. Between 2010 and 2060, the number of people aged 67 and over will almost double, representing at the end of the period 40 percent of the working age population, according to the OECD.

The country also faces the problem of declining oil production, which is the basis for the bulk of the government’s revenues. Output has fallen by circa one-third since the peak in 2000 – 2001. Moreover, fewer students are majoring in science studies and more people have left the workforce to go on social benefits, such as disability and rehabilitation.

In short, the country will be faced with the conundrum of less people having to produce more – without working harder – in order to keep up Norway’s high living standards. The solution: smarter growth.

“Paul Krugman said productivity is not everything, but in the long run it is almost everything,” said Bernander in his NHO annual address. “The way I interpret it, it means that in the long run we can only live off of companies that create profits and not off of those who had to survive on subsidies. For this to happen, we have to work even smarter and there is a clear challenge that awaits us.”

Bernander launched the call for smarter growth at his first NHO annual conference as Director General in January. He is in many ways the perfect candidate to take up the polemic. He has a background in both politics, as former Deputy Leader for the Conservative Party and the State Secretary in the Ministry of Industry, as well as from private industry. He left a job as partner in Kristiansand-based shipping company Mosvold Shipping to head NHO. Prior to that, he was Chief Executive of Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation NRK.

Part of the impetus for the focus on smarter growth was the financial crisis, according to Espen Søilen, NHO Internationalisation and Economics Director. Although Norway was not as affected by the crisis as others, the country did experience a larger percentage of people employed in its public sector, such as hospitals and research, compared to the private sector. This shift towards the public sector led to a decrease in total productivity measured by capital, labour, and competence.

The public sector accounts for one-third of value creation in Norway. The OECD has been critical of Norway for having one of the highest shares of public spending in mainland GDP in the OECD and for its spending inefficiencies in education and health care. Norway’s government service production is 27.5 percent of mainland GDP compared with an average of around 20 percent in the OECD area.

“The sheltered sector and the public sector do not have the same external pressure, but the need for improvements and productivity are as important here,” said Bernander. “The key must be competition between the various players to solve a wealth of different public service tasks.”

Spending Less and Wisely

Public sector reform is just one of several ways to achieve smarter growth, as outlined by Bernander. There is also a need for increased investment in future-oriented skills and more active and engaged owners. But the most important way towards smarter growth, he said, is a return to the 4 percent spending rule, the annual return on the Government Pension Fund that the government is supposed to use as a spending guideline for its fiscal budget.

The spending guideline prevents the government from stoking inflation and helps control the growth of its public sector. The government has recently deviated from the 4 percent guideline and spent more in its 2009 budget in order to mitigate the possible effects of the financial crisis. However, Norway needs to gradually withdraw its fiscal policy stimulus and return to the 4 percent guideline.

See > GROWTH, page 17
The Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce fosters strong connections between Norway and the U.S.

ANNUAL BUSINESS ISSUE

Promoting trade and goodwill

The Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce fosters "to promote trade, goodwill and to foster business financial and professional interests between Norway and the United States of America, to advance the common purposes of its members, and to facilitate contact among its members." These objectives and the spirit behind them are so fundamentally important as to be unchanged despite the passing of two world wars and periods of economic, financial and political upheaval that affected trade between the two countries.

The Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce has been hard at work for over 95 years. A group of business people in New York City who saw that there was a need to get food supplies to Norway during the blockade of World War I and to support Norway’s merchant marine representing a neutral country. A driving force behind the founding of the NACC was the then Consul General Christopher Ravn, representatives of the merchant marine and sardine industries, as well as local Norwegian businessmen.

In its history, the NACC has experienced only two interruptions: During the Great Depression and during World War II. When Norway was invaded and occupied April 9, 1940, the chamber immediately rallied to the country’s aid. NACC’s offices became the headquarters of a number of commercial agencies, but normal activities could not be sustained. A special committee was appointed to handle matters until the chamber could resume.

On Feb. 16, 1944, in the presence of then HRH Crown Prince Olav, the Chamber was reopened. Since World War II, the NACC has substantially influenced the development of trade between Norway and the United States and has taken an active role in the building up after World War II, had become more export-oriented and competitive," says Inger Tallaksen, General Manager of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce in New York. Tallaksen has worked with the Chamber for 30 years.

Norwegian industry, as a result of the build-up after World War II, had become more export-oriented and competitive," says Inger Tallaksen, General Manager of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce in New York. Tallaksen has worked with the NACC for 30 years.

“Norwegian industry was establishing subsidiaries both in Europe and in the U.S., in places such as the Mid-West, Texas and California. For instance, Houston (the NACC chapter was established in 1973), after petroleum was discovered in the North Sea in 1969.”

Today, the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce is headquartered in New York with seven chapters in the U.S., Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle, Los Angeles, Houston, Miami and Washington, D.C. The chambers are incorporated in their respective states and linked through an affiliation agreement with New York. The national board, located in New York, consists of 45 directors, including the chapter presidents.

There are more than 700 members in the U.S., and include most U.S. subsidiaries of Norwegian companies as well as U.S. companies actively involved in trading with Norwegian companies. The organization has strong ties to the Norwegian authorities in the U.S. and Innovation Norway. Besides the weekly news service (Friday’s Bulletin) and the bi-monthly newsletter, NACC@News, the main events are membership meetings held with speakers and conferences on timely business topics.

When asked about the changing business environment, Tallaksen remarked: “The internet has changed people’s need for information. In prior years, people attended NACC events to get current news from Norway and to meet visiting business people and government officials. Meeting representatives visiting from Norway was as important as meeting each other. This started to change in the early 90s with the internet. Before that time our monthly luncheons would have 100+ guests attending, while now the norm is closer to half that, depending on the circumstances. We also conduct fewer events and are very selective of topic and speaker as members are constantly asking themselves ‘What would I gain from attending?’ It is a time/cost issue, and the result has to have value for the individual.

However, when asked in surveys, people are still saying that the networking aspect of an event is as important as ever, and a main reason for joining as a member.”

For more information about the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce, visit www.naccusa.org. For membership information, please contact your local chapter.

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Fax: (281) 587-9284
E-mail: info@naccchouston.org
Website: www.naccchouston.org

In 2007, Norwegian singer Sissel was awarded the prestigious NACC Achievement Award. From left: Former NACC president Per Heidenreich, Sissel, NACC general manager Inger Tallaksen and current NACC president Blaine Collins.

See > NACC, page 12
Norway aims to be the most carbon efficient country in the world

Valeria Crescione
Nortrade

Norway has pledged to cut 40 percent of its greenhouse gas emissions from the 1990 level by 2020 and become carbon neutral by 2030. As the world’s fifth largest oil exporter, its petroleum industry will be a significant part of reaching this goal. The industry has successfully implemented a number of measures that have cut more than 40 million tons during the period 1994 – 2007 and is optimistic it can avoid the release of more than 130 million tons over the lifetime of these measures.

Norway’s petroleum industry has been working to cut emissions, even before climate change became hot on the agenda. Statoil has been pumping CO2 emissions back into the seabed underneath the Sleipner field for the past 13 years. Thirty percent of greenhouse gas emissions saved during the period 1994 – 2007 were in fact from carbon capture and storage (CCS) from Sleipner, according to the KonKraft 5 report produced on behalf of its members, the Norwegian Oil Industry Association, Federation of Norwegian Industries, Norwegian Shipowners’ Association, and Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions.

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The decision to store rather than flare was motivated in part by the Norwegian carbon tax introduced in 1991. The tax has been influential in helping reducing emissions per unit produced on the Norwegian Continental Shelf by 9 percent from 1990 – 2006. Nor
Though the water may rise

Norwegian company AquaFence provides an alternative for flood preparedness

Though the water may rise

These are not statements one would expect to hear during a flood, but they are how customers of AquaFence, a Norwegian company with U.S. subsidiaries, describe their experiences with the product.

In 2003, the flood protection industry was changed forever with the founding of AquaFence in Tønsberg, Norway. The company was established based on the idea of using the weight of oncoming floodwater to support a flood barrier. The result was the AquaFence flood protection system, which is made from marine-grade panels, aluminum, stainless steel, and canvas. The units use water as a stabilizer, so, as water rises against the wall, the system actually becomes stronger and less permeable.

AquaFence has had considerable growth since its founding eight years ago and today is the optimal alternative to sandbags and levees. AquaFence’s products are designed and produced in Norway, but the company serves flood-threatened communities throughout the world through regional offices, including two in the U.S., located in Seattle, Wash., and Minneapolis, Minn. The product holds a prestigious certificate through the Hamburg University of Technology.

AquaFence significantly outperforms other flood protection systems regarding water seepage, and it can be deployed and disassembled much more quickly as well. When the community of Mount Vernon, Washington, utilized sandbags for flood protection, it took 2,000 people 12 hours to protect 1,500 feet. After the community invested in an AquaFence barrier, it took 25 people three hours to protect the same distance: Over 300 times faster!

Other communities in the United States have been very pleased with the performance of AquaFence as well. In 2010 and 2011, record flooding occurred in Fargo, North Dakota, and AquaFence was used both years. Residents commented on the minimal disturbance caused to the community, the absence of environmental impacts to the sites where AquaFence was used, and the green nature of the product. Unlike sandbags, which absorb floodwater contaminants, AquaFence allows for natural dispersion of contaminants and does not absorb any waste. The product also reduces CO2 emissions of flood fights by eliminating the need to transport sand.

Additionally, the Fargo community was grateful for the peace of mind that AquaFence offered during a normally stressful time. Sharri Lacher, Director of Sanford Health’s Reproductive Medicine Institute, commented, “Calm.” “Confident.” “I slept at night.”

Meet these authors at Norsk Høstfest, the largest Scandinavian festival in North America! Sept. 28 – Oct. 1 in Minot, N.D.

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A dual economy

John L. Rogne
Chief Economist at Innovation Norway

During the last 40 years the Norwegian economy has transformed to a dual economy. Oil was first discovered in Norway in 1969. Today Norway has both an oil-based economy as well as an important, competitive industrial-driven economy.

Periods with high oil prices have made the oil and gas industry very profitable. The structural changes in Norway have been driven by the profitability of oil activity, the spillover effects, and the use of tax revenues to increase health and welfare services. Activity has been high and a significant number of Nordic workers have extended the Norwegian workforce in such periods. In later years, workers from E.U. countries such as Poland, also joined the Norwegian market.

A major challenge has been to prevent overly heavy use of “oil money” in the mainland economy, and to avoid strong increases of the cost level, which results in loss of competitiveness for the mainland export industry. This, and the motive to save part of oil revenues for coming generations, is the background for measures such as the government oil fund, which is officially called the Government Pension Fund Global. The fund’s market value is approximated at NOK 2.9 trillion (around USD 517 billion).

Norway’s mainland economy has faced increased cost levels as the oil and gas corporations have made the country richer and wages higher. It has been important to focus on lifting productivity, and innovation is part of this. Norway has managed to understand the high productivity level, measured by GDP per employed, for the mainland economy.

Other factors that has been important for Norway’s successful economic performance so far are:

- Natural resources, such as fish and hydropower.
- Specialized and niche-oriented industries using a high proportion of employees with university or high-school education. Labor-intensive industries and activities have been outsourced.
- High wage level, but a reasonable one for academic and highly skilled workers (which is often called the “Nordic model”).
- Education and research and development (R&D) focus, and strengthening clusters and centers of expertise surrounding important industries.

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Developing Norwegian-American business relations

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Tlf: +47 22 41 50 10 • Fax: +47 22 41 50 11 • Web: www.amcham.no
Opening doors to a global future

Global Future program offers business opportunities for newcomers to Norway

A few months ago, a friend of mine suggested I apply for a limited program called Global Future (nho.no/globalfuture). Over a three-year period (2010 – 2013), two different groups of immigrants from around the world with higher education and a fairly firm grasp of Norwegian, would be given the opportunity to network with the movers and shakers in the Norwegian business community, attend professional conferences, receive one-on-one contact with a mentor selected by the organizers, and attend 19 all-day sessions (15 university credits) through the Bachelor of Management program at BI (Handelshøyskolen / Norwegian Business School / www.bi.no).

But I dragged my feet. I am an artist, a writer, a teacher. I was certain they would all find me to be a closed door. “Global Future would like to ensure that Norwegian companies become aware of the advantages and opportunities that come with migration. If we succeed in developing workplace diversity it can open up for innovation, growth and profitability. This program will mobilize the talents of highly qualified women and men with a multi-cultural background and sufficient language skills in Norwegian for key positions and senior executive positions and board posts.” When the program is over, about 650 will have participated. Numerous partners join NHO and BI including the Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry, Innovation Norway, the NorwegianLabour and Welfare Service (NAV), Manpower and Adecco AFF (affiliated to the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration (NHH), and Retorisk Institutt (Rhetoric Institute). The cost alone for our group, Global Future II, is NOK 2,463,000. And how much is it costing us? The cost alone for our group, Global Future II, is NOK 2,463,000. And how much is it costing us? It is true that Norway’s way of doing business is different from other parts of the world, and the Global Future program is designed to help those of us who are not Norwegian better understand the way the Norwegian mind works so we can find our own ways to fit into that structure. “If I don’t get a job after this,” said one student during introductions, “There must be something wrong with the system.”

“We are training the future leaders of tomorrow,” commented Svein Oppegaard, director of NHO during our initial orientation. “It will be a victory to have people from this program in leadership positions. There is so much competence here and if we can’t take advantage of that high competence, we can’t compete. We want to lift your high competence up.”

Throughout our training so far, I continue to hear the question “what does it mean to be a leader and why is that important to you?”

See > FUTURE, page 12

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Left: Denis Ntaganda from Rwanda is part of the three-year Global Future program. Center: A group of Global Future participants in the Trondheim area. Right: Jin Ling from China is also a member.
Maximizing potential for success

Annual US-Norway trade talks are important to resolve commercial obstacles

JASON TURFLINGER
American Chamber of Commerce in Norway


Thus the stage was set for the annual U.S.-Norway Informal Commercial Exchange (ICE talks) in early June. First organized in 2003 by then U.S. Commerce Undersecretary Grant Aldonas, the ICE talks represent a unique opportunity for Norway and the U.S. to resolve their commercial differences simply – that is, without drawn-out international legal wrangling. Unfortunately for the private industry players on the ICE sidelines, much of the initial optimism for the forum’s ability to get trade disputes resolved has thawed.

For Scandinavian context, and compared to the U.S. – Norway talks, the U.S. and Sweden have approximately half of the number of issues to address during their annual talks. More enviable yet, the U.S. and Denmark do not have ICE talks as there aren’t enough trade disputes to warrant them.

So why are there so many commercial challenges between the U.S. and Norway? For starters, U.S. and Norwegian companies are increasingly good at raising the red flag when commercial obstacles are deemed to be symptomatic of broader policy anomalies. Along with our partners, the American Chamber of Commerce in Norway (AmCham) works with these companies to gather and relay commercial obstacle specifics. Most of the identified obstacles are then included or updated on the annual ICE talk agenda. The current 15 issues can be boiled down to:

- Intellectual Property (3)
- Market access (protectionism) (3)
- Government tender processes (3)
- International standards adherence (3)
- Taxation (2)
- Border security (1)

The repeating themes are the most problematic. Within health care and media, Norwegian needs to make serious efforts to abide by international IP norms. Within seafood and shipping, the US needs to grant reasonable access to Norwegian products and innovation. If these fundamental issues were to be adequately addressed by both governments, we wouldn’t need ICE talks at all. Delegation leaders Rikke Lind, State Secretary at the Trade Ministry, and Juan Verde, Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Commerce Department, could happily redirect their substantial resources toward ground-breaking, proactive endeavors – like a U.S.-Norway Free Trade Agreement – instead of reactively discussing many of the same trade disputes every summer.

Why do so many issues remain on the ICE talk agenda year after year?

Simply put – lack of focus, energy and will. Once legitimate commercial obstacles are identified and reported, private sector follow-up with responsible government officials is timid or non-existent. In Norway, where everybody knows everybody, corporate managers often prioritize cordial relationships with government representatives over maximizing efforts to tear down unjustified commercial barriers. In the U.S., Norwegian business interests are often unwilling to engage in sustained, potentially costly efforts to right commercial barrier wrongs.

The private sector, however, does not bare all blame for mired U.S.-Norway trade negotiations. AmCham has witnessed several generations of ICE talk government negotiators come and go. Though some staff turnover is a natural process in any organization, negotiation continuity – on issues that can in the best circumstances take years to resolve – has become a problem. Negotiators that know they will be reassigned or promoted in a couple years, regardless of success, are less likely to do the hard work of convincing key decision makers within their own governments as to why compromises should be made.

Government representatives, unsurprisingly and again regardless of actual negotiation success, also like positive media attention. The Norwegian delegation’s contribution to the NRK television news piece focusing on relatively minor trade negotiation topics like pilot underwear and Segways (see http://www.nrk.no/nett-tv/indexes/267131/) is a good case-in-point. Such trivializing of serious trade barrier negotiations doesn’t help open markets, save jobs or encourage innovation.

In the final analysis, the U.S. and Norway still need ICE talks. But the talks need...
A look at the Oslo Stock Exchange before and after the 2008 financial crisis

JOHN ERICK STACY
Seattle, Wash.

The Oslo Børs (Oslo Stock Exchange) has not yet fully regained its value prior to the 2008 subprime crisis. From an American investors perspective, you would now have about $70 left of $100 if you had bought into a fund tracking the Oslo Exchange Benchmark Index (OSEBX) in May 2008. The picture is more nuanced when the largest companies in the index are considered individually. Statoil is down about 20 percent from its 2008 highs, whereas Yara is about even, Telenor and DNB ahead by about 10 percent and Seadrill up about 30 percent. The Norwegian krone was also stronger at the end of May 2008, meaning that Americans would only get NOK 5.05 for each U.S. dollar, compared to 5.43 at the end of August 2011.

On the other hand, if you had got in at the tail-end of 2008, the story is much different. As the subprime mortgage crisis was shaping up to be a full-blown financial disaster, investors pushed the dollar up by moving their money out of the market and into cash. When U.S. President Bush signed the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) in early October 2008 a dollar could already get you more than six kroner. The dollar increased further and remained near seven kroner all the way through early spring 2009. Investors that had bought an OSEBX tracker with U.S. dollars anywhere between November 2008 and February 2009 would have seen their money doubled by August 2011. By comparison, the DOW gained about 41 percent since February 2009. Most of the advantage of the OSEBX over the DOW can be explained by the strengthening Norwegian krone.

Most of the companies at the top of the list are the same as those known from 2008. Share prices in these companies, however, are significantly reduced compared to pre-crisis values. Americans holding Statoil (NYSE:STO) from May 2008 will have seen shares fall from around $40 to almost $15 in the first half of 2009, mirroring the decline in oil prices that followed the financial meltdown. Oil prices have risen more or less steadily ever since, with North Sea oil crude now over a hundred dollars a barrel, but Statoil shares have only recovered to about $24 a share. Telenor (PINK:TELNY) shares were trading for nearly $65 and now trade for about $48. Seadrill (SDRL) had reached $30 a share and is now back near that level after trough around new-year 2009.

There are some companies that were among the top in 2008 whose share prices remained flat or declining after the crash. These include Sevan Marine, which is now a penny stock and no longer found among the top 30 companies on Oslo Børs. Also REC (Renewable Energy Corporation) shares, traded in the U.S. as RNWEF, have fallen steadily from about USD 35 to less than USD 2.

Among the companies that have found their place near the top of the list in 2011 are Gjensidige (insurance) and Golar LNG (liquid natural gas tank ships). Neither of these appear to trade as PINK or grey market shares in the US, but Golar (GOL) is valued at nearly twice its May 2008 prices. Also, Statoil Fuel and Retail (SFR), real-estate oriented Olav Thon Eiendom (OLT), oilfield service provider Archer (ARCHER), Aker Drilling and bio-pharma company Algeta (ALGETA) have entered the companies with greatest share value/market capitalization in 2011. Algeta has followed a dizzying trajectory and is now at about four times its 2009 share price.

Comparison of OSEBX (solid line) to DOW (double line) in terms of the percentage change in their value in USD. The dashed line shows the change in the relative value of the Norwegian Kroner (NOK). The time period starts at the high point reached at the end of May 2008 and spans across the crisis connected to subprime lending and collapse of the housing market that resulted in the U.S. government launching the TARP program.

Graph: John Erik Stacy

A look at the Oslo Stock Exchange before and after the 2008 financial crisis.

**Job Needed in New York**

Caroline Arentz, a 29-year-old Norwegian with U.S. citizenship, is looking for a job in New York, starting October 2011.

She has a bachelor's degree in education with 5 years of experience in elementary/junior high schools, and experience in IT and website development. She is open to any opportunities!

Please contact at arentzcaroline@hotmail.com or +47 93 22 15 52.

**Lunde Marine Electronics, Inc.**

Sales and Service

Seattle, WA  
Tacoama, WA  
Dutch Harbor, AK  
Sales@LundeMarine.com

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*Graph and table compiled by author from information published on osloboors.no, finance.google.com, etrade.com and pinksheet.com

**Annual Business Issue**

**Norwegian American Weekly**

September 16, 2011 • 15
The petroleum sector emits an average of 8 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions per barrel of oil equivalent, making it one of the most carbon-efficient in the world, according to KonKraft. So how was the Norwegian petroleum industry able to cut an annual average of 4.5 million tons in greenhouse gas emissions in 2006?

Energy Savings and Reduced Flaring
Norwegian greenhouse gas emissions from its continental shelf accounted for about one quarter of the country’s total 55 million tons emitted in 2007. Turbines on the offshore installations are the largest source of carbon dioxide (CO2) and nitrous oxide (NOx) emissions from oil and gas activities, while flaring accounts for about 10 percent.

Half of the reductions come from energy savings and reduced flaring. One of the biggest examples dates back to 1998, when ConocoPhillips upgraded turbines as part of the Ekofisk II development. This led to an annual carbon cut of slightly more than 1 million tons. ConocoPhillips took the decision to upgrade its turbines as part of its redevelopment of the Ekofisk field, the first Norwegian oil and gas development. It went from the old 1970s turbines and generators to modern BAT (best available technology) low NOx equipment.

Several factors have led to the drop in CO2 emissions, such as more fit for purpose (better match with gas compression needs – better to operate fewer gas turbines with high load than many with low load), Statpipe subsea by-pass (no compression of transported gas for third party) and shut down of four smaller fields resulting in reduced gas compression needs, according to Stig Kvendseth, a ConocoPhillips spokesman.

The KonKraft report said the petroleum industry has further identified about 40 new measures that could reduce carbon emissions a further 800,000 tons by 2013 using cost-effective energy savings and less flaring.

Carbon Capture and Power from Shore
Other areas where the industry has achieved substantial reductions are carbon capture and storage (CCS) and powering offshore platforms from shore.

The petroleum sector cut 30 percent of greenhouse gas emission during 1994 – 2007 from CCS in the Sleipner area. Statoil has been capturing 1 million tons of CO2 from natural gas production on the Sleipner field in the North Sea and storing it in an aquifer 800 meters below the seabed since 1996. CCS has also been initiated for natural gas production on Statoil’s Snøhvit field in the Barents Sea. This development marks the world’s first gas liquefaction plant with CCS. The company has avoided 700,000 annual tons of carbon dioxide as of 2009.

The industry achieved the remaining 20 percent of the greenhouse gas cuts during the period 1994 – 2007 by supplying power from shore to Kollsnes, including the Troll A platform, and the start-up phase for Ormen Lange. In the future, Statoil’s Giga field will have partial power supply from shore for a floating installation and avoid 250,000 tonnes of CO2 from 2010. BP’s Valhall field will have full power supply from shore through rebuild and renewal. It should avoid 300,000 annual tons of CO2 from 2010.

KonKraft estimates the industry can potentially avoid a further 5.5 million tons in annual carbon emissions through a partial supply of electricity from shore to existing fields and through carbon capture at the planned Mongstad combined heat and power station, the Mongstad cracker and the gas-fired power station stations at both Kårstø and Mongstad. However, there are discussions regarding CCS at Kårstø due to high costs and low utilisation.

Statoil, together with Gassnova and Norske Shell, are building a carbon capture facility known as the European Carbon Technology Centre (TCM) at Mongstad, which should be ready by early 2012.

The industry will also be able to use its expertise in constructing and operating installations to help the development of offshore wind power. Fred Olsen Group, which provides offshore drilling and production services, made its first investments in renewable energy in 1997 in a wind power park in Scotland. Most recently, Statoil’s Hywind project became the world’s first full-scale floating wind turbine to come on-stream.

< GREEN
From page 10

The European CO2 Test Centre Mongstad in Mongstad, Norway.
< TRADE
From page 14

to bear fruit for the many companies that are currently unable to hire, build facilities, or invest in modern technologies across the Atlantic as a direct result of today’s commercial barriers. Therefore, AmCham strongly encourages:

- More government negotiator interaction with those negatively impacted in the private sector. The rash of government/company meetings that take place in the days immediately prior to the ICE talks should be a year-round occurrence.
- Better annual meeting follow-up between negotiation delegations through, for example, bimonthly video-conferencing (already attempted but not yet regular) and specialist delegation exchanges.
- Much more detailed, informed negotiations during the annual summit. This means involving more issue experts and spending more than an average of 15 minutes per issue.
- A sense of urgency. At the forefront of negotiator minds should be the understanding that delays in demolishing trade barriers cost both countries dearly.

< AQUAFENCE
From page 11

commented, “We were very sure that all of the contents within the department would be safe.” Now, as AquaFence units are mobile, reusable, and easily stacked and stored, the community of Fargo will be able to use its AquaFence barrier in place in case of a flood.

From a humble founding in Norway in 2003 to a global presence today, AquaFence has established an important presence in the flood protection industry and has greatly aided numerous communities in their fights against flood devastation. It is AquaFence’s vision that, as the company continues to expand, disturbances caused by flooding such as road closure and property damage will be a thing of the past and that flood-threatened communities will enjoy year-round peace of mind.

For more information, visit www.aquafence.com.
Ole and Lena were asleep one night when the phone rang, Ole answered it and Lena heard him yell, “Hell, how da hell should I know, thats over 2,000 miles away!” and he hung up.

Lena said, “Who vas dat, Ole?”

Ole replied: “Hell if I know. Some guy vants ta know if da coast is clear.”

Ole and Lena America’s favorite Norwegians!

Want to be featured in our Photo of the Week? Email naw@norway.com or mail your photo with a caption.

On Aug. 21, 24-year-old Elizabeth Andrews and her fellow Bike and Build participants celebrated the end of their 70-day, 3,939-mile journey from Providence, R.I., to Seattle, Wash., by dipping their bike tires into the cold waters of the Puget Sound at Golden Gardens Park. Andrews, who is from Jamestown, R.I., draped a Norwegian flag around her shoulders in honor of her heritage. The 33 Bike and Build riders spent nine days building affordable housing funded through donations. For more information, visit bikeandbuild.org.

Photo of the Week

Photo: Christy Olsen Field

“Gode ord skal du hogge i berg, de dårligere i snø.”

Translation: “Carve your good words in stone, the bad in snow.”

Share your favorite Norwegian proverb with us! Email naw@norway.com or write to us at Norwegian American Weekly, 7301 5th Ave NE Ste A, Seattle, WA 98115.
In Loving Memory

Do you have a loved one or friend who has recently passed?
Contact us at (206) 784-4617 or naw@norway.com to place an obituary.

Olav Magnus Thompson
September 11, 1913 – August 3, 2011

Olav Magnus Thompson, born Sept. 11, 1913 in Skadenshavn, Nor- way, died Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2011, at The Pines at Whit- ing, N.J. at the age of 97 years old. He is survived by his wife Alice of 25 years, two sons, Arthur (Faith), and Edward (Marilyn), six grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, Olaus Thomassen (John Thompson) and Marthea Johannesdatter Vig and his first wife, Olga after 46 years of marriage.

Magnus and his mother came to the U.S. in September 1929 as citizens by virtue of his father's citizenship. He was an active mem- ber of Bethelship Norwegian United Meth- odist Church, where he served on numerous boards. He was chairman of the Board of the Norwegian Christian Home and Health Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. for over 25 years. It was during those years at The Home when more than 25 years ago, a significant ring was discovered. This ring is an artifact of great importance and value.

The ring was discovered during the course of regular maintenance activities at The Home. It is estimated to be over 1,000 years old and is believed to be of significant cultural and historical value.

The ring was passed to the Norwegian Christian Home and Health Center for safekeeping and further examination. The center has initiated a comprehensive study of the artifact, including chemical analysis, to determine its exact age and origin.

Magnus Thompson's professional career was marked by his dedication to Norwegian community service. He was a long-time volunteer and active member of the Whiting United Methodist Church, where he served on numerous boards. He was chairman of the Board of the Norwegian Christian Home and Health Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. for over 25 years. It was during those years at The Home when more than 25 years ago, a significant ring was discovered. This ring is an artifact of great importance and value.

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Magnus Thompson's passing marks the end of an era for the Norwegian community in America. He will be remembered for his contributions to the community and his dedication to serving others.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Olav Magnus Thompson during this difficult time.
**2011 Event Listings**

Event listings are free, but space is limited. Please contact us at least one month prior to event to be added to the Norway.com online calendar and the Weekly!

**Calendar of Events**

**What's going on in your neighborhood?**

**CALIFORNIA**

**Premiere of “Don’t Hug Me, I’m Pregnant”**  
**Sept. 30 – Nov. 20**  
North Hollywood, Calif.  
The World Premiere of Phil Olson’s musical comedy “Don’t Hug Me, I’m Pregnant” will be presented Sept. 30 – Nov. 20 at the Secret Rose Theatre at 11246 Magnolia Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91601. Clara is 8 1/2 months pregnant when a freak snow storm hits Bunyan Bay. She goes into labor and her husband, Gunner, will have to deliver the baby in the bar. For details, call (323) 822-7898 or DonHugMe.com.

**Nordic Cup Golf Tournament**  
**October 3**  
City of Industry, Calif.  
Send your event to naw@norway.com or call (206) 784-4617 and the Nordic Cup charity golf tournament benefits the Norwegian Seamen’s Church in San Pedro and SCAN (Scandinavian Center at Nansen Field) and takes place Oct. 3 at the “IKE” golf course at Industry Hills at Pacific Palms Resort in City of Industry. The net proceeds of $12,000 from Nordic Cup 2010 were split evenly between the church and SCAN, and was a tremendous financial help for both organizations. Admission: $150 per person (including lunch and dinner). For information, contact Paul Berg at (562) 761-9414 or paul.berg@wilhelmsen.com.

**KANSAS**

**Nordic Heritage Festival**  
**October 1**  
Lawrence, Kansas  
Come to the Nordic Heritage Festival in Lawrence, Kansas, with family-oriented activities for all ages. Celebrate, explore and experience the culture of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland through food, arts and crafts, genealogy, music, dance, Nordic games, and more. The 10th annual Nordic Festival will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Lawrence. For more information, contact www.kansiscardfor.com, email norfest@libu.com or call (785) 843-7535.

**MINNESOTA**

**“A Don’t Hug Me County Fair”**  
**October 16**  
St. Paul, Minn.  
The Twin Cities Premiere of Phil Olson’s musical comedy, “A Don’t Hug Me County Fair” will be presented Sept. 8 – Oct. 16 at Cabaret Theater at Camp Bar at 490 N. Robert St. St. Paul, MN 55101. It’s County Fair time in Bunyan Bay, Minnesota, and it’s the Miss Valleyy Queen competition. The winner gets her face carved in butter at the State Fair! For reservations, call (800) 982-2787. Visit DonHugMe.com.

**Launch of “Norwegians Worldwide”**  
**October 6**  
Bloomington, Minn.  
Nordmanns-Forbundet/Norwegians Worldwide and the Norwegian Honorary Consulate General in Minneapolis invite you to a reception celebrating the launch of the new membership magazine “Norwegians Worldwide.” The celebration takes place 6 – 9 p.m. on Oct. 6, located at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington, Minn. The program includes a presentation by Norwegian explorer Frode Saugestad and photographer Per Breiehagen. RSVP by Sept. 30 to (612) 280-8774 or email rsvp@norctic-home.com.

**Lutefisk and Meatball Dinners**  
**October 6, Edina, Minn.**  
The Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis presents its fall Lutefisk and Meatball Dinners on Oct. 8 at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, located at 4801 France Ave. S, Edina, MN 55410. Serving Times: 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Admission is $18 per person, and tickets are required. Order your tickets early by mailing a check = made payable to the Norwegian Glee Club – to the Norwegian Glee Club, PO Box 23053, Richfield, MN 55423-0035. Deadline for ordering tickets is Oct. 5. Questions? Contact Earl Evenstad at (612) 866-0687 or Robert Olson at (612) 866-0687. Check out our website: www.norwegiangleeclub.org.

**OREGON**

**Daughters of Norway Agathe Mithgul Wergeland Lodge Institution Ceremony**  
**October 2, Eugene, Ore.**  
The Daughters of Norway Grand Lodge invites you to attend the Institution Ceremony of the new Agnes Mithgul Wergeland Lodge #52 in the Willamette Valley. Join us Oct. 2 at 3 p.m. at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 4444 Royal Avenue. Eugene, OR. Refreshment after the ceremony. A woman of Nordic descent, or a woman who is/was married to a man of Nordic descent or who has a relative of Norwegian descent is encouraged to join. RSVP by Sept. 25 to (541) 554-2777.

**Pennsylvania**

**Rosemelting and Woodcarving at LOV**  
**October 9 – 22**  
Susquehanna, Pa.  
Take rosemelting classes with master painter Eldrid Arntzen, all levels welcome! Cost is $125/week, with a possible flat plane woodcarving class to be added. Please join us at the relaxing Sons of Norway recreational center Land of the Vikings, located at 461 Big Valley Rd, Susquehanna, PA 18847. For information, contact Bev Badrick at (570) 461-3500, vikingland@tds.net.

**Washington**

**Nordic Festival**  
**October 15**  
Edgewood, Wash.  
Celebrate our cultural heritage! Daughters of Nordic Embla Lodge #2 presents the Nordic Festival on Oct. 15 at the Mt. View Community Center in Edgewood. Wash. Enjoy traditional music, arts and crafts, refreshments and more, including prize drawings all day. The festival goes 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information, contact Karen Bell at (253) 302-5110.

**Calling all Norwegians!**

Nordmanns-Forbundet launches a remake of membership magazine “Norwegians Worldwide”

**Special Release**

Nordmanns-Forbundet

“Our challenge is to keep the best of the ‘The Norseman,’ while adding something new,” said editor Anne C. Wangberg in Nordmanns-Forbundet/Norwegians Worldwide, which has worked with the remake of the organization’s membership magazine for a year.

On Oct. 6, the magazine will be launched and celebrated with a special reception in Minneapolis, Minn., together with members and friends of Nordmanns-Forbundet/Norwegians Worldwide and the Royal Norwegian Honorary Consulate General in Minneapolis.

“I believe that people who do not own their own heritage and do not appreciate the value it provides, are not fully equipped to understand the positive and special aspects of their culture and life values,” said Hallgrim Berg, the re-elected president of Nordmanns-Forbundet/Norwegians Worldwide. Berg will attend the reception in Minneapolis with Wangberg.

“Our organization and our membership magazine have long and proud traditions connected with our Norwegian-American members and friends. Many of these have a close relationship with their Norwegian heritage. We know that there are millions of Americans with Norwegian roots, yet many of them would like to know MORE about Norway. It is our goal to help with that,” added Wangberg.

Norwegians Worldwide (previously “The Norseman”) is Nordmanns-Forbundet/Norwegians Worldwide’s international membership magazine. The magazine is distributed to Norwegian embassies and consulates all over the world. The editorial content revolves around Norwegian culture and history, as well as food, art, design, literature and film. It also features interviews with profiles in the Norwegian society such as politicians, historical heroes and personalities, artists, filmmakers, authors, designers and more.

Norwegians Worldwide has a new, bigger format, and several new editorial themes. One of these themes is “Young Norwegians.” Through articles about fashion, music, films and more, the editor hopes to boost the interest among younger readers.

“Recruiting new members is a challenge, for many organizations like ours. We know that there are people of Norwegian heritage all over the world. These are the people we wish to reach out to. For us, it is important to be a unifying organization for all Norwegians wherever they live,” said Wangberg.

“Our goal is clear: Nordmanns-Forbundet/Norwegians Worldwide will provide opportunities for all Norwegians, young and old, to come together. Along with our industrial chapters all over the world and the many people who work for Nordmanns-Forbundet/Norwegians Worldwide, we hope to reach more people with our message,” said Berg.

The magazine launch will be held 6 – 9 p.m. on Oct. 6 at the Valley Country Club in Bloomington, Minn. The program includes a Nordic hot dövseu buffett, music by the Twin Cities Spelemannlag, and two presentations: “Why Norwegian Explorers are Successful” by Frode Saugestad, Norwegian explorer, and “The Winter Elf – A Magical Photographic Adventure” by internationally acclaimed photographer Per Breiehagen. To RSVP for the event by Sept. 30, email rsvp@norctic-home.com or call (612) 280-8774.

**Online: blog.norway.com/category/culture**

**ARTS & STYLE**

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The Nordic Maid offers a wide variety of Scandinavian products, including sweaters, books and gifts.

\textbf{< SHOP From page 1}\hspace{1cm}

Norwegian-American weekly   September 16, 2011 •

Norwegians at Carnegie Hall

Norwegian musicians David and Julie Coucheron to give a concert Oct. 17 at the prestigious New York concert hall

\textbf{JON BIRNBERG}

Special Release

Having worked closely with Norwegian musicians during their tour of duty as Consul General in New York, 1989-1994, I, now, along with my flutist wife, am very pleased to learn that two of Norway’s rising stars have made plans to perform at Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall on Oct. 17 at 9 p.m. This time my wife will be back in New York as the Coucheron’s manager.

Accompanying these eminent musicians to New York brings back fond memories of the musical scene in New York, where young, brilliant Norwegian musicians such as Leif Ove Andsnes and Lars Anders Tomter created a sensation at the Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall in 1991.

This time, the Norwegians at Carnegie will be the “Siblings Coucheron” – David, violinist, and Julie Coucheron, pianist. As performers, they are remarkably tuned to each other. David, who plays a Stradivarius, recently was appointed to the coveted position of Concert Master of the preeminent Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. At 25, he is the youngest ever to hold that position.

David studied at Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School of Music, and has already given a great number of concerts and recitals throughout the world. The equally experienced Julie, his sister, completed her education at Temple University in Philadelphia and the Royal Academy of Music in London.

David is the Artistic Director of the newly established Kon-Tiki Classical Music Fest on the Oslo fjord at the Bygdøy museum grounds, where the explorer Thor Heyerdahl’s world-famous raft is displayed.

For more information about the concert, contact Vibeke Steiniger at (917) 863-5892 or Vibeke.Steiniger@gmail.com.

\begin{center}
\textbf{photo: coucheron.com}
\end{center}
Vangsgutane, a classic series in Norway from 1941 to present, was used as curriculum material in Norwegian schools, as the series had easy-to-read text with pictures. Deb Nelson Gourley of Astri om å svare på fantorda hans. men de vil ikke la seg erte, og bryr seg ikke han. Steinar og Kåre blir røde av harme, kommer lusehopperne fra Vangen!» roper glemt skolerennet, der Kåre Vangen hadde furuskogen, lubben og tett. Utafor ungkommer et stykke fram i bygda, får de se håper på gevinst. til henne for. De gleder seg til moroa og dem hver sine 50 øre, så de kan kjøpe lodd domshuset. «Vangsgutane» ber mor om å Boys From Vangen: Vangsgutane” to the readers of the Norwegian American Weekly to practice their Norwegian reading skills, as well as enjoy a Norwegian classic!

VANSGUTANE

**VANGSGUTANE**

written by Leif Halse

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Dreams of Euro 2012

Norwegian national soccer team stumbles 0–2 in qualifier against Denmark

The team’s qualifying credentials were reaffirmed with a 1–0 victory win in Oslo against Iceland, but the 2–0 defeat against Denmark a few days later on Sept. 6 led to discouragement. Norway’s loss means Denmark is now level on points with Portugal and Norway at the top of their Euro 2012 Qualifying Group H – but both Portugal and Denmark have played one game less than Norway. Norway’s fate is now in their rivals’ hands and fans can only hope, against the odds, that the Portuguese or Danes will drop points in their remaining two games in order to let Norway keep the flame going for Euro 2012.
TRAVEL IN STYLE
YOUR STYLE
BUSINESS, ECONOMY EXTRA OR ECONOMY

We use social media. Do you?
If so, we’d like to share the latest Thrivent Financial for Lutherans news and event information with you, and help you connect with other online members.
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