



SCANDINAVIAN OF THE YEAR

Scandinavian of the Year is one of the most prestigious awards presented annually by Nordic Northwest. It recognizes someone who has made a real and lasting contribution to both their organization and the broader Nordic community in Oregon and SW Washington.

This award honors both long-term dedication and recent impact—people who show up, bring others along, and help make this community stronger and more connected.

We invite your organization to nominate someone who reflects these values. In addition, we encourage the person you nominate to be present on Saturday, December 12, 2026 for the awards ceremony at **ScanFair** – Nordic Northwest's Nordic Christmas Market in the Convention Center and to remain at the festival as long as possible.

Submission Deadline: **October 1, 2026**

Email (preferred): sassac@nordicnorthwest.org

Subject: Scandinavian of the Year Nomination

Mailing Address:

Nordic Northwest

Attn: Scandinavian of the Year

8800 SW Oleson Road

Portland, OR 97223

Questions? Contact Sassa at 971-254-2391 or sassac@nordicnorthwest.org

Thank you for helping recognize the people who make this community what it is.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ross Fogelquist'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ross Fogelquist

Former Scandinavian of the Year and Emeritus Board Member

Nordic Northwest



2026 SCANDINAVIAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Organization Submitting Nomination: _____
Contact Person: _____
Contact Phone: _____
Contact Email: _____
Date Submitted: _____

Nominee Information

Nominee Name: _____
Nominee Phone: _____
Nominee Address: _____
Nominee Email: _____

This is your moment to tell their story. The selection committee may only see what's shared here, so a thoughtful, detailed nomination really helps bring your nominee - and their impact—to life.

1. Why are you nominating this community member? (150–300 words) What has this person done that made a meaningful difference?



2. Nominees Personal Background (*Heritage, family, other organizations, etc.*)

3. Contributions to the Nordic community (*Involvement in Nordic activities within your organization and willingness to collaborate with other Nordic organizations*)



4. Impact beyond the Nordic community *(optional)*

5. Leadership & collaboration *(Chair or leader in major Nordic events. Leadership abilities. Willingness to volunteer and accept responsibilities within your organization. Involvement in Nordic cultural events.)*



6. Number of years of involvement in the Nordic community.

7. Has your nominee been nominated before? How many times? When?

8. Share a short story about this person (Optional)

9. What would be missing without them?

Thank you for helping us recognize the amazing volunteers who make our community stronger!

Nordic Northwest Scandinavian of the Year 2026-2027





PAST SCANDINAVIANS OF THE YEAR

1956 Bob Anderson	1983 Glen Nordby	2007 Carl & Marian Thompson
1960 Marcus Peter Pihl	1984 Rolv Schillios	2008 Ann Grangaard
1961 Carl M. Saltveit	1985 Gerda Farestrand	2009 Denver James/Kristi Johnson-James
1962 Malcolm Frykman	1986 Martha Stenberg	2010 Andy & Margot Toth
1963 Erv Lind	1987 Mel Iverson	2011 Larry West
1964 John Virtanen	1988 Herb Matta	2012 Clinton Maurice
1965 Bardi Skulason	1989 Cathy Bjork	2013 Pauline Coleman
1966 Boris Sirpo	1990 Ellen Jacobson & Maj Persson	2014 Judy Gervais Perkiomaki
1967 Lorentz Bruun	1991 Johanna B. Fedde	2015 Sandra Nelson Miller
1968 E. Dean Anderson	1992 Saara Slossar	2016 Dave Alford
1969 Werner Sahlin	1993 Judy Rust	2017 Jeff Klein
1970 Erik Hauke	1994 Lillian Johnson	2018 Christine, Dirk & Pirjo Schulbach
1971 Ernest Harold	1995 Robert M. Lee	2019 Kirsty Dickinson
1972 Christian Elster	1996 Carol De Sau	2020 Sara Winter
1973 Oscar Nastrom	1997 Kaja Voldbaek	2022 Janet Lien Bowler
1974 Harold Berentson	1998 Rosi Hill	2023 David Champion
1975 Melvin Pihl	1999 Elisabeth Mendenhall	2024 Teresa Svilich
1976 G. Bernhard Fedde	2000 Doris & Harry Heiberg	2025 Sonja Haugen
1977 Lloyd E. Anderson	2001 Steinar Fuglestad & Elsie Nordby	
1978 Magnus Esrom	2002 Toni Linne & John Nielsen	
1979 Faye Frykman	2003 Christie Stilson	
1980 Ross Fogelquist	2004 Aase Maja Besson	
1981 Alpo Tokola	2005 Doug & Ulla Hanson	
1982 Mary Nastrom	2006 Eila Chisholm	