

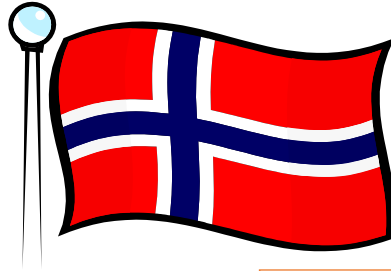
# OLE BULL NEWS

SPRING 2015 ISSUE

FEBRUARY-MARCH-APRIL

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ President's Place
- ◆ Secretary's Buzz
- ◆ Publicity Place
- ◆ Sarah Paulsen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- ◆ Cultured Pearls
- ◆ Lodges in Action



The **OLE BULL NEWS** is named in honor of Ole Bull, (1810-1880) an adventurer, violin virtuoso, composer and international star. He brought the name of Norway to world-wide attention. Keep his spirit alive with your enthusiasm for Sons of Norway.

## MEMBERSHIP FACTS

- ◆ 62 members over 100 years; average age 60; median 69
- ◆ Longest membership 87 years-joined in 1927
- ◆ Average number of years of membership—17 years
- ◆ 14% - Golden Members; 3% Lifetime Members
- ◆ 15% Heritage Members

## PRESIDENT'S PLACE

BY

OWEN CHRISTIANSON

Kjaere Venner,

**2016 Convention:** Great news, Wednesday I signed the contract with Hotel Marshfield for our 2016 Convention. Now we can begin moving forward with plans for the convention.

**Happy Thanksgiving:** I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving. My wife and I spent ours in VA with our daughter and her husband, and our two grandchildren Heidi and Harrison. Our son Knut also came down from NYC. One highlight was Heidi's birthday party with a dozen 3 year olds.

**Work:** As many of you know my work is part time and varies from little to full time. This month I spent several days in Madison working at the university. I almost got to Idun's lodge meeting, and Stoughton's lodge meeting, but work was not going well, and I ended up working late.

**Lodge Demos:** Our lodge participated in an open house at the Marshfield library on Sunday November 16. Over 400 people dropped by, and we may have gotten one new member.

**Conference Calls:** I've wanted to try using telephone conferences to bring our board and lodges closer together, but I did not know how to implement this. Our three conference calls about our 2016 convention, aside from fulfilling our board resolution approving our convention site, did provide useful feedback and I hope kept everyone informed. So how did we do? Let me know what you thought about the conference calls, and whether we should use them again and under what circumstances.

**Other districts** are also exploring using conference calls. One district plans to skype into zone meetings with the district president. We could also try that or use facetime or google hang outs, so that I could spend a few minutes with zone meetings or even local lodge meetings without traveling long distances. Let me know if anyone wants to try this and we can test out our connections.

**District Presidents Council, DPC:** The DPC meets twice a year along with the International Board meeting. The fall DPC meeting was November 14 and 15 in Minneapolis. Each district presents a summary of their activities to the IB. I sent everyone a copy of our report earlier, and George put it up on our website. The DPC spends the two days discussing items of mutual interest, and interacts with the IB.

One item concerned bonding of district officers who sign checks. Sons of Norway has insurance to \$10,000 to cover district and local officers, but for coverage of amounts over \$10K each district board or local lodge will need to purchase additional coverage.

Another item the IB and staff talked about was lodge initiatives. There are several initiatives including 1) lodge improvements, 2) district recruiting, 3) lodge revitalization, and 4) new lodge starts. If a district or lodge incurs expenses under one of these topics, they may ask for reimbursement from the IB. If anyone wants more information, they can contact Linda Pederson.

The IB, the DPC, and committees participated in the ongoing strategic planning. At the international convention in August, the delegates were introduced to Sons of Norway strategic planning. The overall theme is the Sons of Norway is actually three parts of a whole: Fraternal (lodge activities), Financial (insurance and annuities), and Foundation (giving back to members). Most Sons of Norway members do not know how these different parts are interconnected. By promoting understanding of Sons of Norway, it is believed we will increase membership and make SofN stronger. To do this 4 committees were established: Cat 1 3F's, Cat 2 Leadership Recruitment, Cat 3 Lodge Programs, and Cat 4 Membership Structure. We participated in a workshop to plan the next actions for each of the committees or Categories. The results are: Cat 1 market the 3F's and create metrics, Cat 2 use technology to create short videos on leadership topics and place them on SofN website, Cat 3 Lodge Program Revitalization, and Cat 4 simplify dues structure. The committees will continue creating action plans and timelines.

Our VP Diane is knowledgeable about strategic planning. She will look at the SofN strategic planning and determine what is applicable to our district planning.

Another item consisted of a follow up to the nominating committee bylaw change approved at the International convention in August. The DPC chair asked me to explain what was meant by a metric to evaluate the board and candidates to the board. I created a metric based on our candidate application form, and presented it to the DPC. Then, when the DPC presented our district reports to the IB, I also presented this metric and evaluation to the IB. I did not know how it would be received, but it appeared that the IB was happy with the presentation. Our attorney said that this was a 'big deal' and that 'self evaluation like this would be well received by regulators.'

**Board Visit:** Both Cindy Olsen and Linda Pederson will be attending our spring board meeting. This will allow us to get an update on lodge initiatives and foundation work.

**District Theme:** The strategic planning at the IB level has come up with a theme for SofN, the 3F's. We as a district board have several plans to move the district forward, but I think we need to vocalize our plans with a theme. Based on VP Diane's presentation to our board at our October board meeting, I was wondering of 'Building Bridges' might be a reasonable theme for our two year board term until the next convention. Let me know what you think.

**December visits:** I plan to visit Fosselyngen on December 6, and Norway II on December 14. Send me an invitation if you want me to visit your zone meeting or lodge meeting.

**Treasurer:** Duane has been filling in as treasurer, but he will step down **February 1**. A new treasurer must come from the board, so if any officer or zone director is interested or willing to step into the position of treasurer, please let me know.

<b>Building Bridges:</b>	<b>Bygge Bridges:</b>
Across time and space (Viking Age to Scandinavian Immigrants to Present Day) (From Norway to the USA and Canada)	På tvers av tid og rom,
Across generations (From Grandparents to their children to their grandchildren)	På tvers av generasjoner,
Between lodges	mellom stuene,
Between districts	mellom distrikter,

# Sons of Norway District Lodge 5 "The Friendly Fifth"

www.sonsofnorway5.com

## OWEN CHRISTIANSON President

C3808 Heartland Hills Rd.  
Stratford, WI 54484  
715-687-4870

## DIANE HESSELTVAN DIN- TER Vice President

W7130 Center Valley Rd  
Shiocton, WI 54170  
920-757-6085

## DARLENE ARNESON Secretary

2056 Skaalen Road  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
608-873-7209

## TREASURER

Vacant

## ANDREW JOHNSEN Recreation Director

11906 Hawthorne Pl  
Cedar Lake, IN 46303  
219-374-7696

## JOY BASHARA Publicity Director

1460 Maple Hills Dr.  
Green Bay, WI 54313  
920-445-1585

## ESTHER CHARLTON

### Cultural Director

3798 Susanna Dr  
Cincinnati, OH 45251  
513-923-3798

## DENNIS WESTGOR

### Director

724 Burr Oak Ct.

Delavan, WI 53115

262-728-2757

CHERYL WILLE-SCHLESSER

### Youth Director

200 Beth Circle

Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

608-437-8960

## DAVID HERMUNDSON

### Director

2249 Hatch Street

Eau Claire, WI 54701

715-834-7556

## RON IVERSON

### Director

215 West Ave N.

Westby, WI 54667

608-634-4165

## CHRISTINA FAIRCHILD

### Director

417 W. Warren St.

Rockton, IL 61072

815-624-4478

## KATHLEEN SECORA

### Director

1410 Westbury Dr.

Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

847-991-2287



## STRATEGIC PLANNING

### OUR NEW DIRECTION.

By Diane Herssetlvann Dinter

We should be planning and setting goals based on the goals and objections set by International. The lodges should be setting their plans on the District Goals, in addition to local requirements.

#### Purpose of Strategic Planning:

- ⇒ Clearly defines the purpose of the whole organization to establish goals and objectives that can be implemented.
- ⇒ Communicate those goals to the entire organization.
- ⇒ Focuses on key priorities rather than reacting to the moment.
- ⇒ Basis for measuring success and making informed changes
- ⇒ Listening to everyone.

### NOTES ON HOW TO GET MY PHOTOS IN THE VIKING MAGA- ZINE OR THE OLE BULL NEWS- LETTER

- ◆ No more than 5 people in the photo
- ◆ People engaged in activities
- ◆ Significant events in your lodge & the stories behind them
- ◆ Ole Bull News can help with using more photos—make sure you include a little article to go with it.

### EXTRA CHALLENGE

- Publicity people—let me know if you have made a copy of the newsletter and made it available at your lodge meeting
- About half of our lodges have not had a picture in THE VIKING for years and years and years. I am waiting .
- joybaing@gmail.com 920-445-1585

# DISTRICT SECRETARY'S BUZZ



## *District Secretary's Report- January 2015—Darlene Arneson*

Change- Where would we be without it? If our lodges don't change, we become stagnant and our membership numbers and participation reflect it. If we don't change individually, we become complacent and happy with things "just the way they are".

Sons of Norway offers many ways for us to address and implement changes. That doesn't mean we have to throw away or stop all current activities. But it does mean that we need to take time to evaluate what we are doing as a Lodge, District and International; how our lodge operations are handled; how we recruit, retain and engage members in Sons of Norway; and how we as individuals make the most of our membership. In our lodge, we continue to remind ourselves that we must take care of all members- those that are older who have been with us over the years, our new members that are just joining, those that can participate in events, and those that are homebound or live farther away. All are important!

### To help address and learn about changes, I encourage you to consider the following:

1. Help your members learn how to log into the **Members Only Section** of the [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com) website and check their contact information. By doing so, they will learn how to update their information and it provides an excellent opportunity to explore the resources on the International website.
2. For Lodge Secretaries: The **Webinar** for all lodge secretaries to learn more about the event and hour tracking website will be held January 22nd, at 7:00 pm Central time. Look for an invite to arrive by email from Sherry Gorse of Membership Services. Also, the AFA suggests that you use Google Chrome or FireFox when accessing the site. There have been some problems when using the Microsoft Browser.
3. Read the **Sons of Norway Viking Resource**- this is produced bi-monthly by the home office. You can get an email notification of its availability and back issues are in the Members Only section of the [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com) website. It is literally full of excellent information that will keep you current about new activities, reports and opportunities.
4. Read the board minutes and other reports in **The Viking**. They are published to help our leadership understand what is being handled above the lodge level.
5. **Involve your zone directors!** Even though I am also a District Board member, I still rely on my zone director to remind me of deadlines, to help us with issues, or to brainstorm ideas. If you haven't been contacted by your zone director, then invite them to a lodge meeting or activity and discuss what your lodge's needs are. We are there to help you!
6. Use the **"Healthy Lodge Checklist"** with your officers to review your lodge operations. It is an excellent tool that can be used to evaluate your strengths, weaknesses, and areas you can focus on for the year. The checklist can be downloaded from the Members Only Section (Under Management- Forms).

## **TO HELP ADDRESS /LEARN ABOUT CHANGES, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Help your members learn how to log into the **Members Only** Section of the [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com) website and check their contact information. By doing so, they will learn how to update their information and it provides an excellent opportunity to explore the resources on the International website.
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### **January is a time for:**

- Appoint your audit committee so they can help complete your D17 and Lodge Achievement Forms. These are due March 1 and financial information from the audit is needed for both and your auditors must sign the D17 form!
- Set your goals for 2015 for your lodge!
- Conduct lodge officer training if you elected officers this year. Do all officers know where to find the Guide for Leadership?
- If you haven't acquainted yourself with your zone director, invite him/her to a meeting and make sure they are on your newsletter and email lists.
- Keep up on upcoming deadlines for various District activities (i.e. Barnebirkie, scholarships, Masse Moro), International (i.e. grant deadlines, scholarships, required reports).

### **A few reminders!**

1. Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year forms should be completed and sent to your ZONE DIRECTOR. I'd suggest making a copy for your lodge records.
2. The D17 Audit Report only needs to be sent to the International Office. You no longer need to send a copy to the District Secretary.
3. Mary Bennett is continuing to be the Tubfrim Coordinator as well as the Labels for Education Coordinator.
4. You can find the District Board's contact information on the District Five website ([www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com))
5. We are collecting cookies for Barnebirkie and also welcome financial donations!
6. There are some District 5 and convention cheese slicers, lens cloths and potholders left for sale. I have them at my house. All are \$5 each.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JANUARY 2015

- Install officers
- Member submit volunteer hours to lodge secretary
- January 1 – District Bowling Tournament begins (through April 30)
- January 15- Ole Bull article submission to District Publicity Director
- January 15- International **SN Foundation Local Lodge Partnership Grants** due
- January 22- 7 PM- Webinar for Lodge Secretaries on the event and hour tracking.

## FEBRUARY 2015

- Work on **Lodge Achievement** (LA) and **Family Lodge Achievement** (FLAF) forms
- Complete lodge financial audit so the **D17– Financial Report** can be finished by March 1
- Elect District Convention Delegates in even years
- February 6-8 - Wisconsin Regional Ski for Light - Rosholt, WI
- February 1- International SN Foundation **Helping Hands to Children Grants** due
- February 20- Barnebirkie Race, District 5 Volunteer Reception and Display in Hayward, WI (confirmed date)

## MARCH 2015

- March 1- Deadline for **LA** and **FLAF** forms (see February)- send to Zone Director
- March 1- Deadline for **D17 Financial Report** – send to International
- March 1- Deadline for International **SN Foundation Scholarships -King Olav V Scholarship, Astrid G. Cates Scholarship, Oslo International Summer School, Helen Tronvold Norwegian Folk High School Scholarship, Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarships and Lund Fund Scholarships**
- March 16- District Scholarship Applications due
- March 21- Zone 3 meeting in Lake Geneva. Information will come from Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Dennis Westgor and Darlene Arneson
- March 27-28- District 5 Board Meeting in Stoughton, WI

## APRIL 2015

- April 1- International SN Foundation **General Heritage and Culture Fund Grants** due
- April 15- Ole Bull article submission to District Publicity Director
- April 30- District Bowling Tournament Ends. Send forms in by May 10 to District Sports Director



## MAY 2015

- May 10- Bowling forms due to District Sports Director
- May 15- Deadline for filing the **990 form**
- May 17- Early registration deadline for **Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp** to qualify for additional deductions in the cost of camp from the Draxten Fund.

## JUNE 2015

- June 20- Balance due for **Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp** from sponsoring parents/guardians and matching funds from lodges.

## JULY 2015

- July 15- Ole Bull article submission to District Publicity Director
- July 19 - August 1 - **Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp** - Beaver Creek Reserve - Eau Claire, WI

## SEPTEMBER 2015

- Elect Nominating Committee for local lodge elections

## OCTOBER 2015

- October 2-3- District 5 Board Meeting in Rockford, IL
- October 15- **Lodge liability premium due** to International SN office
- Nominating Committee report due to Lodge

## NOVEMBER 2015

- Elect Lodge Officers for coming year (unless you have two-year officer terms)

## DECEMBER 2015

- December 15- **D-63 Report of Elections** due. Send one copy to International Headquarters and one to District Secretary.

## NOTE:

- Check correspondence from the International and District and the International ([www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com)) and District ([www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com)) websites for any updates and changes.
- Additional deadlines for the District 5 and International Conventions/Lodge Meetings will be added as those dates are established. Watch for future mailings and the District 5 website.
- The International Sons of Norway Convention will be August 22-27, 2016 in Tacoma, Washington.

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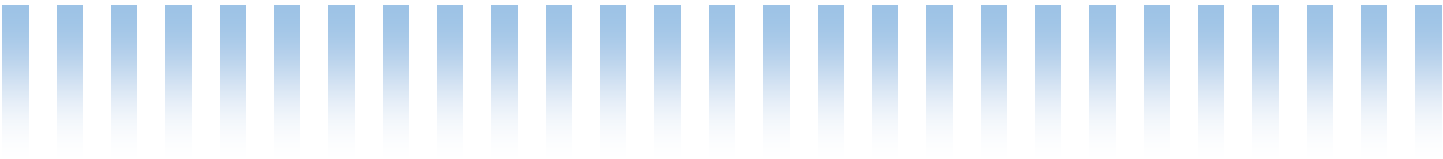
**BARNEBIRKIE MAKES ITS MARK**

**SKI FOR LIGHT BRIGHTENS LIVES**

The Barnebirkie is Thursday, February 20, 2015 in Hayward, WI.

The 2015 Wisconsin Regional Ski for Light is February 6-8 at the Lions Camp for the Visually Impaired in Rosholt, WI.

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# PUBLICITY PLACE

JOY BASHARA, PUBLICITY CHAIR



## PASS IT ON

As we continue providing feedback to our members and our communities through newsletters, photos, articles, and other even more creative ways, perhaps it is time to think of why we want to do this. I am constantly reminded in my Artist-in-Residence work of the importance of passing our enthusiasm onto the next generation and our future Sons of Norway members. We can't live forever you know.

A book called Finding Joy by Charlotte Davis Kasl has this to say about 'passing it on'.

"If you want to leave a legacy of comfort and joy for your children, pass on to them the stories of your life and your heritage. Alex Haley, an African American, was able to write *Roots*-an account of his ancestors' abduction into slavery and the subsequent generations that survived in the United States-because each generations was told to pass on the stories of their lives. Native American as well can return to the circle of their own spirituality and traditions because people secretly kept the traditional knowledge alive during long periods of terrible oppression.

Whether your children are little or grown, write down or record stories from your life-the traditions, your heritage, your beliefs. Include something about your feelings, thoughts, conflicts, joys and heartaches as well. Your children may not be interested at this moment, but a time may come when they will want to know about you, the person, the child, the daughter, the son, the scared one, the brave one. And if you write most of it, record your voice so they can have the remembrance of your voice. Your grandchildren will enjoy it as well.

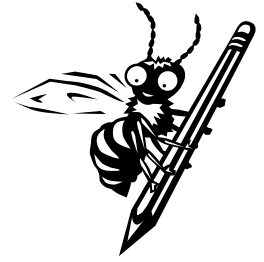
Recently I came across a five-page account my mother had written of her first two years of married life. A strong sense of her presence touched my heart as I read it. She recounts the times when my father was a district forest ranger north of Yellowstone Park and they rode horseback throughout the area checking out forestry cabins. These stories are a link back to her I would never have had if she hadn't written them down because she never told me about those times.

After my father died, I looked for a short article he had written many years earlier on his spiritual beliefs. I was entranced because it gave me a connection to his inner world that I had seldom known. It was a comfort and a blessing to have it, and I saw how much I had absorbed his spiritual values.

We grow up thinking of our parents as just parents. Then one day, we ask, "Who are you?" Whatever your history, it is part of your child's legacy. By passing on the stories of your life you help your children connect with the circle of their heritage."



# DISTRICT SECRETARY'S BUZZZZZZZ CONTINUES:



## Zone and Lodge Assignments

President Owen Christianson has assigned District 5 Board members to lodges. Please add your zone director to your lodge's contact list and invite him/her to visit your lodge meetings and events. The Board of Directors is here to serve your lodges and help where needed.

- **Zone 1- David Hermundson** (other seat is vacant): Loven 29, Trygvason 220, Nordlandet 620, Viking 625, Ulseth 670, Norrona 27, Valkyrien 53, Dovre 353, and Sjoland 635.
- **Zone 2- Ron Iverson**: Wergeland 28, Jotunheimen 286, Solvang 457, Fossen 534 and Fagernes 616. **Owen Christianson**: Rib Fjell 496, Elvedal 556, Norskeland 580, Myrmarken 609 and Vennligfolk 627.
- **Zone 3- Dennis Westgor**: Idun 74, Vakkertland 570 and Norsemen of the Lakes 650. **Cheryl Wille-Schlessor**: Mandt 314, Vennelag 513, Nordland 544 and Ostestaden 642.
- **Zone 4- Diane Hesseltvan Dinter**: Fosselyngen 82, Norse Valley 491, Nordlyset 183 and Hafsfjord 206. **Joy Bashara**: H R Holand 549, Venenskap 622 and Gronnvik 632.
- **Zone 5- Christina Fairchild**: Valhall 168, Polar Star 472 and Cleng Peerson 525. **Kathy Secora**: Leif Erikson 97, Skjold 100, Trollhaugen 417 and Elvesund 593.
- **Zone 6- Andrew Johnsen**: Nordkap 378, Samhold 473, Sonja Henie 490, Sognefjord 523, Christian Radich 568, Scandiana 600 and Askeladden 610. **Esther Charlton**: Circle City 614, Tre Elver 628, Knute Rockne 634, Edvard Grieg 657, Arcic Circle 662, Vikings of the Smokies 677 and Music City Vikings 681.



**DISTRICT DIRECTORY UPDATE:** I am still working with Sherry Gorse to get the last lodge's to report their Officer Elections (D63 report). Once that is done, the directory will be mailed to Lodge Presidents and Secretaries

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOU

Please contact me if you have questions or need assistance.

My home phone is 608-873-7209—Email is arnesonfamily5@gmail.com



**The Sarah L. Paulsen Memorial Scholarship Fund.**

**APPLICATION FOR YEAR 2015**

This year 3 Scholarships in the amount of **\$162.50** will be made available for children to attend the Sons of Norway Heritage Camp at Eau Claire County Youth Camp,

The completed Application (follow instructions on "The Rules") must be postmarked before April 15, and should be mailed to: Oleif Olsaker, 114 Maplewood Tr. Michigan City, IN. 46360. E-mail: [olsaker@comcast.net](mailto:olsaker@comcast.net) Telephone 219-874-7457

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent (s) Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State ZIP

Home Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sons of Norway Member-ship \_\_\_\_\_  
Member Name Relationship to Camper Lodge Name and No.

Will your local Lodge apply for Camp Scholarship Matching Fund from the 5<sup>th</sup> District? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

“Why I believe it is important to know about our heritage” or “Why I want to attend Norwegian Heritage Camp”:  
 Add or use separate page(s) as needed.

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Camper's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments: 2 written references:



## The Sarah L. Paulsen Memorial Scholarship Fund

In August 1995 eight year old Sarah Paulsen of our lodge passed away.

Because Sarah was very involved with the Sons of Norway, and was fascinated with her family's background and with Norwegian culture, friends and family, along with the Scandiana Lodge felt a scholarship established in Sarah's name would be appropriate.

The scholarship will not only carry on her love for the Norwegian Heritage, but will also enable other children to have the opportunity to attend the Sons of Norway Heritage Camp in Eau Claire, in honor of Sarah.

The scholarship will cover one quarter of the camp cost.

Parents may be concerned that getting this scholarship would prevent them from utilizing the District 5 Matching Fund Grant, but this award will have no bearing on other matching funds. This scholarship could be given in addition to District 5 and Local Lodge Matching Fund Scholarships. However, if the applicant's Local Lodge is financially unable to give their children Matching Fund Scholarships, the Sarah Paulsen Scholarship would qualify them for the District 5 Matching Fund Scholarship.

### Rules:

1. The scholarship is open to any child age 9-15, who is interested in learning about the language and culture of Norway.
2. The applicant must be a heritage member or a child or grandchild of a Sons of Norway member, and belonging to a District 5 Lodge.
3. The applicant will write an essay of no more than 500 words. The topic is "Why I believe it is important to know about our heritage" or "Why I want to attend Norwegian Heritage Camp".
4. All applicants will complete a brief application form.
5. Applicant will include 2 letters of reference, including one from a local Lodge officer.
6. Applications must be postmarked before April 15. Decisions will be made by May 1, and winners will be notified by mail. Checks will be issued and mailed directly to the Scholarship Recipient before June 1.
7. Judges will be the Scandiana 600 Sarah L Paulsen Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee.



December 30, 2014,

To: District 5. Publicity Director, Joy Bashara and Web Master, George Sievers.  
Camp Administrator, Kaia Ellis and Scandiana Editor, Larry Vallem.

**The Sarah Paulsen Memorial Scholarships for 2015.**

The Sarah Paulsen Memorial Scholarship Committee announces the following:

There will be 3 scholarships made available for the year 2015, each in the amount of \$162.50 to cover 25% of the total fee for year 2015 District 5. Heritage Youth Camp.

Like last year, the Scholarship Committee will not do any direct mailings to any Lodges or Lodge Officers. The committee feels and hopes that with your help this announcement can be shared with Lodges and members throughout District 5

To everybody reading this message: Please, share this information with your newsletter Editor and fellow members.

All interested Camp Applicants are asked to request application form(s) from Scandiana Treasurer, Oleif Olsaker

114 Maplewood Trl.

Michigan City, IN 46360

Telephone 219-874-7457

E-mail [olsaker@comcast.net](mailto:olsaker@comcast.net)

The completed Application must be postmarked before April 15<sup>th</sup>.

I am really happy to see us still being able to continue this scholarship program this year and for several years to come. Hopefully it will help promote 2 weeks of **MASSE MORO**, and providing an award for each of the deserving applicants.

Fraternally

Oleif Olsaker, Treasurer

# CULTURED PEARLS

BY

ESTHER CHARLTON

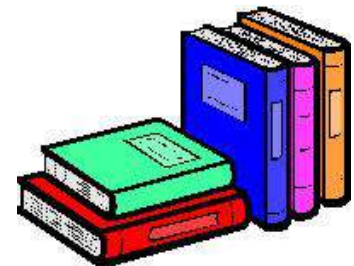
\*As we head into 2015, with all our lodge activities, it is time to think about the cultural skills program. If your lodge has a cultural director, they should be making your members aware of all the various cultural skills that we can work on.

\*There are brochures available that list all the areas for cultural skills, including some cultural skills for your youth members. All of the information about the cultural skills program is on the Sons of Norway website. If you have any particular questions you may contact me with them. I will attempt to find the answers for you.

\*We are going to add something new to the program. The names of those that receive a cultural skills pin will be put on the district website. In a few words they will pass along what they did to earn their pin.

\*A Norwegian author in the news recently is Vidar Sundstol. He has written the "Minnesota Trilogy", three books using the North Shore of Lake Superior as the locale. The first book is "Land of Dreams" and the second is "Only the Dead". The third book, "The Ravens", will be out later this spring. My lodge's reading circle enjoyed the first book but did not find the second book quite up to the quality of the first.

\*If you have any favorite books or authors do contact me.



## INSTALLATION TIME IN AREA LODGES



On January 13, 2015 Dovre Lodge 5-353 installs their 2015 officers at the Barron County Government Center, our regular meeting place. Pictured L to R: Florence Weise, Gerhard Nyhus, Robin Fossum, Eugene Nelson, Kari Mau, Mary Dexter, Karen Schaaf, Carol Anderson, Robin Fossum, Randy Lee, Ingrid Rothenbuehler, Marie Sanborn, , Elsie Krause, Loran Barta, Ruth Barta.

## WORK ON CULTURAL MEDALS TOGETHER POLAR STAR LOVES TO READ (INTERESTING ARTICLE FOLLOWS)






## Polar Star Book Club


The **Polar Star Book Club** members are also members of The Sons of Norway Polar Star Lodge 5-472, a fraternal organization, whose mission is to promote Norwegian culture and heritage. The Book Club was started in January 2011 as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Lodge. The anniversary year goal of the Lodge was to participate in the Sons of Norway Culture Skills Program and earn medals in Norwegian and Norwegian-North American Literature. The Polar Star Book Club met one hour before the monthly Lodge meetings on the first Sunday of the month at St.Olaf Lutheran Church in Montgomery, Il. Starting in January of 2015 the group has been moved to Panera on Orchard Road the Wednesday following a Lodge meeting at 6:00p.m. to allow for discussion that is uninterrupted by other Lodge responsibilities.

The Polar Star Book Club has read a wide variety of books. Norwegians have a passion for crime novels and our Polar Star Book Club members are fans of Jo Nesbø (*The Snowman*), Karin Fossum (*Don't Look Back*) and Anne Holt (*What Never Happens*). We also have read several non-fiction novels about Norway during the time of German occupation "*Pimpernel Gold*" by Dorothy Powel, *Behind the blackout Curtains* by Ellem Daho and Return to the Future by Sigrid Undset . One of our favorite books was "*Race for the South Pole*" the personal diaries entries of Robert Scott and Roald Amundsen.

Currently we are reading "*Land of Dreams*" Part I of The Minnesota Trilogy written by Vidar Sundsrøl. *Land of Dreams* is a murder mystery written by a Norwegian author who lived for two years in Deluth, MN, the setting for the trilogy. Our next selection will be a novel called, "*Heritage of Darkness*", a murder mystery written by Kathleen Ernst that takes place in the "Vesterheim" Norwegian/American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. Ms. Ernst is a local writer from Wisconsin







who all Club members are interested in meeting. The Polar Star Book Club goal for 2015 is to convince Ms. Ernst to attend a lodge meeting so they can propose the setting for her next novel....the Norwegian Museum in Norway, Illinois.

The Polar Star Book Club books are selected to meet the Sons of Norway three-part Literature requirements which include:

- Part 1: Read three novels from three different genre one of which must be written by a Norwegian author.
- Part 2: Read five (5) works of fiction, poetry, or drama by Norwegian or Norwegian-North American authors.
- Part 3: Read five works of nonfiction by Norwegian-North

Polar Star Book Club is open to anyone interested in reading Norwegian Literature. For more information contact Barb Johnson, Polar Star Culture Director, at 630-553-7389.

## **TUBFRIM HISTORY**

Postmaster Ditlef Frantzen in Nesbyen established TUBFRIM in 1928. The aim was to collect and sell used stamps and use the proceeds to aid the eradication of TB among Norwegian children. The first profit was made in 1929 and amounted to NOK 1,500. Profits varied in the following years. TUBFRIM has made good progress since , NOK 150,000 in 1970 to NOK 650,000 in 2009.

## **HOW TO HELP**

- Never throw away canceled stamps and/or phone cards.
- Cut stamps off the envelopes; leave a 1/4 to 1/2 inch margin
- Mary Bennett is the District 5 TUBFRIM Coordinator—contact information is 608-837-8335 or [mjbenn4@gmail.com](mailto:mjbenn4@gmail.com)