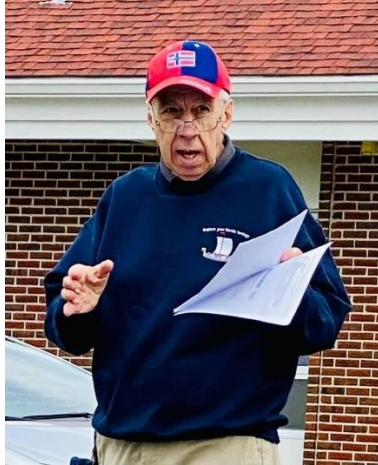


# Sons of Norway

## Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Meetings on the first Sunday of the month – Potluck at 1:30 p.m.  
St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Douglas Road, Montgomery, IL

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President Ken presides over our first live meeting since March 20

**Editor's note:** I thought President Ken's message from last year would be a great review of where we have been and our Parking Lot Picnic Pictures in this issue prove that we have survived and are moving on! Our lodge met our membership goals. Our Lodge won the Virtual Walk to Norway. Our Lodge earned twenty (20) Cultural medals and thirty-one (31) sports medal. We are Norwegian Strong!

Dear Polar Star Lodge,

During this "Pandemic" my wish is that all of you are well and practicing social distancing. We'll get through this, and it will be wonderful to get our lodge back together again. When our ancestors came here from Norway, they experienced much hardship in various forms, but they were able to struggle through due to their resilience and faith. I know we will do the same and be stronger because of it. We even managed to use this time to virtually walk together to Norway and now we are beginning the walk home. What an outstanding job by everyone who participated and thanks to our Sports Director for motivating all of us along the way. This is also good time for us to work on our cultural skills medal requirements.

Our goal for membership this year is to recruit seven new members. At this point in time, we already have four new members, so let's keep asking our Norwegian friends and family to join our Lodge.

Stay positive and well. We'll be together before we know it!

Your President  
Ken Johnson



Barb presents Diana with her Literature culture medal. Polar Star members earned twenty (20) Culture medals during the Pandemic!

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## Upcoming Events

### Polar Star Outdoor Garden Party

**Sunday, May 2  
1:30**

**See page 2 for details**

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**Polar Star Newsletter  
Deadline**

**Will be the 14<sup>th</sup> of every  
month. Please submit all  
articles to Barb Johnson at  
[barbjohnsonb@aol.com](mailto:barbjohnsonb@aol.com)**

**Follow us on facebook @  
Sons of Norway – Polar Star  
Lodge  
or at  
[www.polarstarlodge.com](http://www.polarstarlodge.com)**

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**Polar Star May Event**  
**Outdoor Garden Party!**  
**“April Showers bring May Flowers!”**



**Sunday May 2, 2021**  
**St. Olaf Lutheran Church Parking Lot**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**Bring your lawn chairs, a drink and your garden gloves!**  
**Plan to “dig” in and get your hands dirty!**

**Sub Sandwiches, chips and a dessert will be provided**  
**by the Lodge.**

**Feel free to bring a pre-packaged food item to share**

**Church restroom facilities will be open**  
**Please bring non-perishable items (or donate \$) to give to the St.**  
**Olaf Food Pantry at all Lodge events beginning in May**



**Polar Star**  
**Sports/Activities**  
**by**  
**Jerri Lynn Baker**



**Here is the final list of Walking medals earned during the Pandemic**

**Nancy Andersen** – Enamel  
**Floyd Anderson** - Bronze  
**Jerri Lynn Baker** – Idrettshelt (twice)  
**Al Bergh** – Bronze, Silver, Gold  
**Phoebe Berg** – Gold  
**Don Danielson** – Bronze, Silver, Gold  
**Josie Gehler** – Silver and Gold  
**Tom Harkins** – Bronze  
**Barb Johnson** – Idrettshelt  
**Ken Johnson** – Enamel  
**Matthew Johnson** – Bronze  
**Joni Koehler** – Bronze, Silver, Gold, Enamel  
**Frank Krawczyk** – Idrettshelt  
**Karen Oswald** - Idrettshelt  
**Diana Raimond** – Idresshelt  
**Viola Skogen** – Gold  
**Carol Vigsnes** – Bronze, Silver, Gold  
**Kelly Welin** – Bronze, Silver, Gold, Enamel



# POLAR STAR LODGE 5-472

## Culture Corner by Barb Johnson

I think we can say that this past year has taught us that, yes...you can teach an old dog new tricks! Most of us have been forced to communicate and connect via Zoom. I have actually really enjoyed my Friday morning Language class with Ingers Sråkkrigere and the 16 week District 5 Zoom Norwegian History Class. As part of the history class, I have been researching Norwegian American Women and their contributions to their communities. It has been no surprise to me that very little has been written about the Norwegian women who settled in rural Illinois. What I have discovered is that women who emigrated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were amazing!! They passed their courage, resourcefulness and determination to their children and grandchildren and were instrumental in building lasting communities. My sister Connie and I are preparing a presentation about our research that will be shared on the District 5 website in May. If any of you have female ancestors who immigrated to Illinois in the 19<sup>th</sup> century we would love to hear about them. Pictures, journals and letters that were written by your early female ancestors would be fantastic. If you know of their contributions to their communities that would also be very much appreciated.



**Editor's note: My great grandma Berta Karina (Østerhus) Knutson emigrated from Erfjord Norway in 1888. Pictured here before her death in 1959 with her oldest son, Andrew Bernie Knutson, her oldest granddaughter, Phyllis Neola Knutson Benson and her Great Great Granddaughters, Connie Benson Kross, Barbara Benson Johnson and Joni Benson Koehler.**



# Polar Star Parking Lot Picnic 2021

Polar Star is back!!! We "Circled our Wagons" and met face to face for the first time since March 2020. Everyone brought "Show and Tell" items to share their Covid experiences. Below are the pictures and a brief description.



## Our Modern Wagon Train "Circled" in April to Celebrate Life and Friendship



Kenny "binge watched" *The Crown* and searched the internet for Norwegian treasures. Karen earned six culture medals and participated in several District 5 Zoom Culture classes. Carol made hundreds of face masks for family and other organizations. Connie, our zone Director, is taking the District 5 History and Storytelling classes, studying Norwegian, and is learning to play Bridge. Vi has continued to support Copley Hospital as a volunteer and participated in our Lodge walking challenges.



Kelly created on-line games with her family and as a Veterinarain traveled out of state to administer vaccines. Rich and Carol Zoomed to keep involved in their church marriage encounter group and both did a lot of reading and enjoying the outdoors. Art and Nancy are both studying Norwegian as members of Ingers Språkkrigere. Art also spent time working on his Norwegian stamp collection and Nancy enjoyed gardening, walking and canning her famous cherry jams!





Jeanne stayed active baking and providing services to shut ins. Phoebe studied Norwegian on Duolingo and Al wrote and had a story published about his grandparents experiences during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. Tom walked every day and used the time to recover his health.



The Bergs enjoyed outside movies with their family and Francis was delighted when the library opened so she could check out books. Al Benson has continued to use his talents as a photographer to keep our group in the news. Ed and Diana participated in Polar Star Zoom baking and completely repaired and redecorated their entire house. Rich and Charlotte traveled to see family and most importantly got engaged!!!!

## POLAR STAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1:30 p.m. St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Montgomery, Il (unless listed)

<b>MAY 2</b>	<b>Polar Star Garden Party</b>
<b>AUGUST 1</b>	<b>POLAR STAR INDOOR PICNIC</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 12</b>	<b>VASA PARK</b>
<b>OCTOBER 3</b>	<b>Program TBD</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 7</b>	<b>HØSTFEST begins at 11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>DECEMBER 5</b>	<b>JULETREFEST</b>

# Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday)

## Polar Star Members!



**April 15-30**

**15 Brett Todd**

**19 Phoebe Bergh**

**19 Nicolette Minor**

**23 Jerri Lynn Baker**

**24 Matilda Berg**

**30 Diana Raimond**



**May 1-14**

**7 Ken Nordan**

**12. Reagan Gryder**

**13. Barb's Mom -Phyllis Benson (100<sup>th</sup>)**



**TUBFRIM**  
NO-3540 NESBYEN - NORGE

