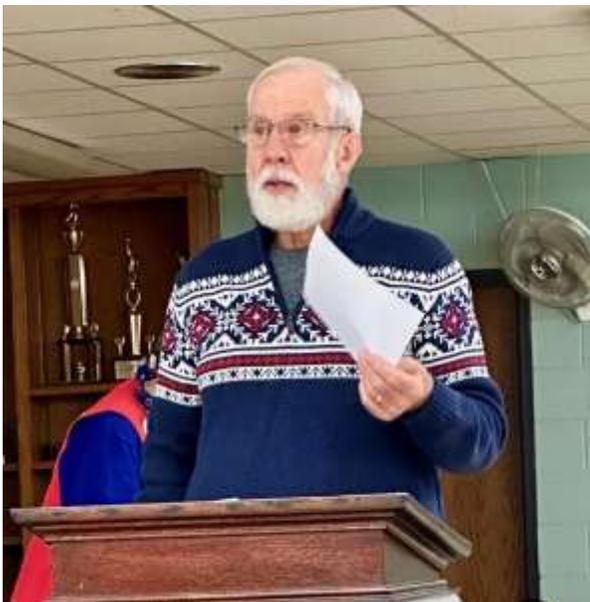


Sons of Norway

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

.....
President's Message



I hope you have all been following the 2026 Olympic Winter Games from Italy in preparation for our final Polar Star “Individual Event” that we will all be competing in at our March Lodge Meeting.

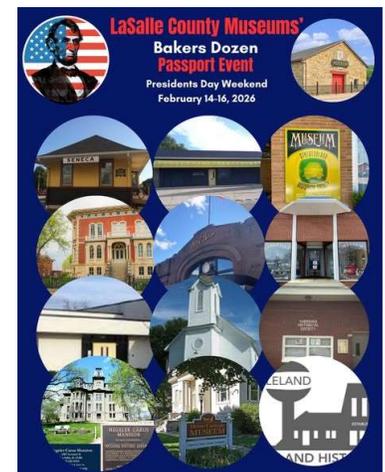
As your President, and the husband of our Culture Director (who has been taking notes every day), take some time to watch the news at the end of every day on NBC. Hopefully the USA (and Norway) will bring home GOLD !!

**Your President,
Ken Johnson**



**Sunday, March 1st
1:30 a.m.
1st St Olaf Church**

See article on page 2



**LaSalle County Museum Event
Details on page 3 & 4**

**Polar Star Newsletter Deadline
Will be the 14th of every month.**

**Please submit all articles to
Barb Johnson at**

barbjohnsonb@aol.com

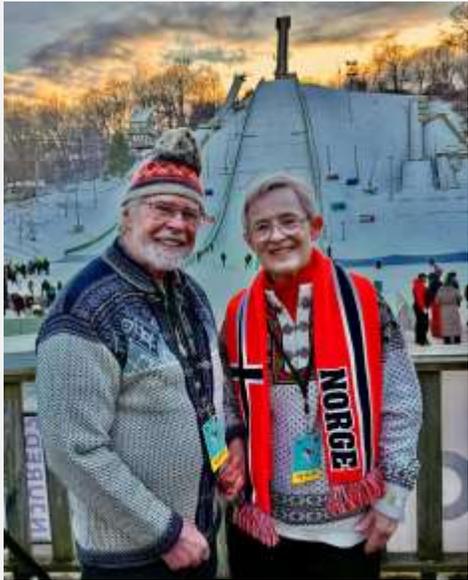
**Follow us on facebook @
Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge
Visit our website**

www.polarstarlodge.com

Member News!

**Jeanne Leifheit Wins
"Soup"er Bowl 2026!**





Art and Nancy Andersen
Enjoy the Nordic Ski Jump
Competition on Feb. 1st!

Polar Star March 1st Event

Polar Star 2026

Winter Games Medal Ceremony

1:30 p.m.

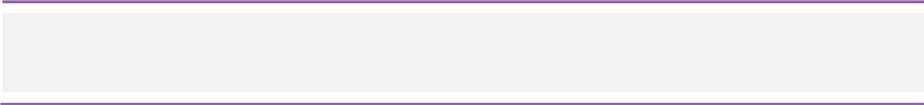
The Polar Star Winter Games final event and closing ceremony will be held at our monthly Lodge meeting on March 1st. Everyone will compete in "Olympic Current Events". The individual scores will be added to the three group events held in January and the winners will be awarded medals.

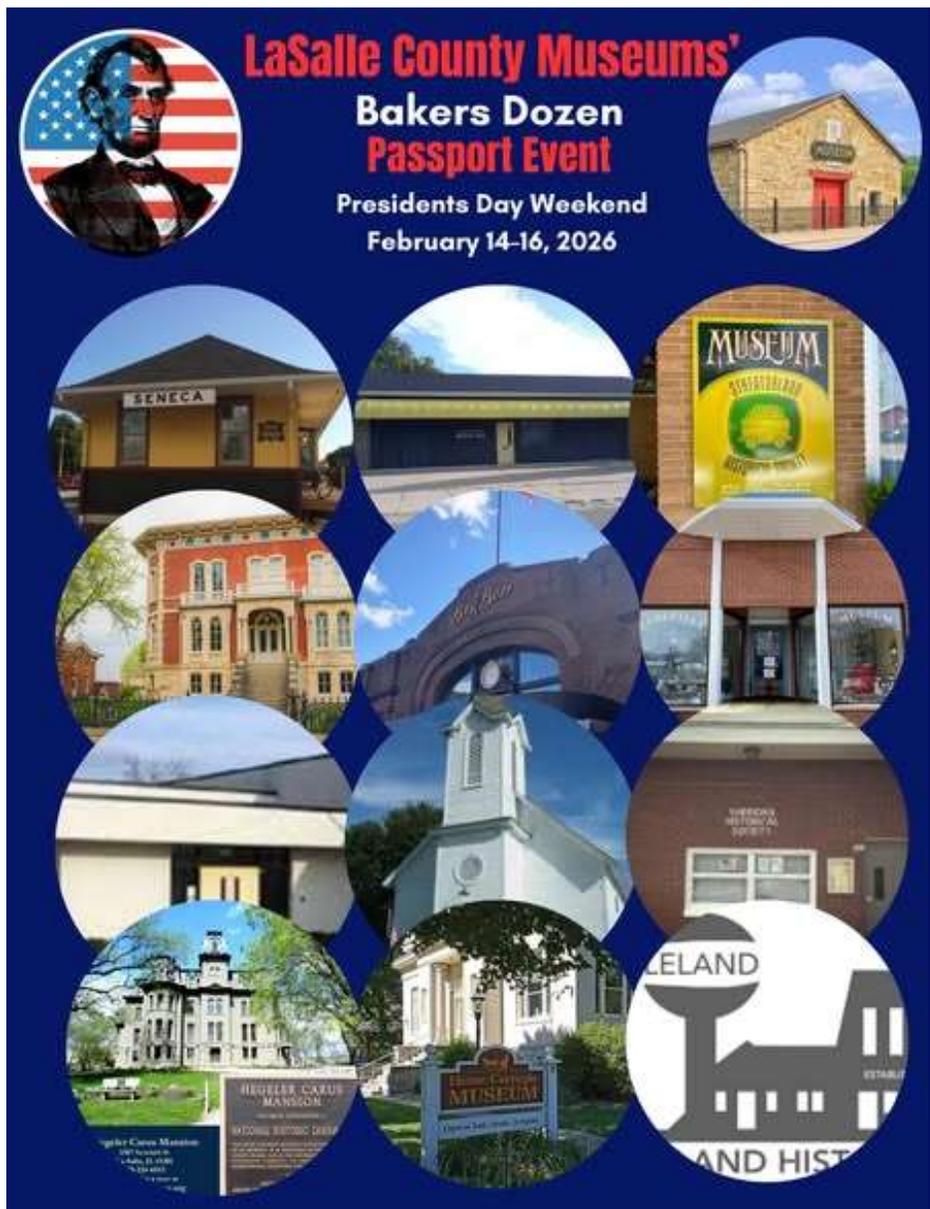
The pot-luck luncheon will begin at 1:30

**Please bring a dish to pass
and your own table service**

Kitchen Committee

- Steve and Sue Tanda
- Carol Devito
- Frank Krawczyk





If you are able to serve as a Docent over the weekend please contact Dave Johnson (david7dog@yahoo.com)

Bakers Dozen

LaSalle County Museums' Tour

February 14-16, 2026

Visitors to La Salle County, IL will have a unique opportunity to visit thirteen area museums, historical societies, historic mansions, and a genealogy guild at a special bargain price. A "Passport" may be purchased at any of the thirteen venues noted below. The "Passport" price is \$1 per person and is valid for three days (February 14-16, 2026). Simply present the Passport at each venue for admission. No further admission fees will apply for this event! NOTE: Some locations have varying open hours noted below.

Sites open Saturday (2/14), Sunday (2/15) & Monday (2/16)

10am - 4pm

Earlville Historical Society

LaSalle County Historical Society

Mendota Museum & Historical Society

Norsk Museum

Ottawa Historical & Scouting Heritage Museum

Seneca Historical Guild

***Westclox Museum (10-2pm)**

Sites Open Saturday (2/14) & Sunday (2/15) 10-4pm unless noted

***Reddick Mansion (10-12pm & 1-3pm)**

Sheridan Historical Society

Sites Open Saturday (2/14) & Monday (2/16) 10-4pm unless noted

LaSalle County Genealogy Guild

Streatorland Historical Society

Leland Historical Society (Sat. 10-1, Mon 10-3)



2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

To encourage the study of Norwegian heritage the Norwegian National League has developed and administers a scholarship program open to children of Norwegian descent in grades 1-12. The students research and write a paper on the topic "Your Family's Norwegian Heritage" (see the Scholarship Writing Guide for guidance). The younger grades will submit a drawing on a Norwegian topic. Winning students usually receive their award in a ceremony during the after the [Syttende Mai parade](#) festivities

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS RANGE FROM \$25-\$1,500.

ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 1st OF EACH YEAR.

For more information about specific scholarships please go to the

Norwegian National League Website

<https://www.nnleague.org/scholarships.html>

The official Norwegian Bicentennial Commemoration Book is Now Available



500 cherished memories from 2025

\$130.00 - available at the Norsk Museum

Contact: Dave Johnson at david7dog@yahoo.com

Sons of Norway "Norsk" Craft Club



January felted wool landscape photo projects

Norsk Craft Club

April Felted Hat Workshop

Friday, April 3, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.



Join our group and make your own Easter Bonnet!

\$80.00 fee covers instruction and all materials

Please pre-register at Esthers Place 630-556-9665

Workshop location: 201 Galena St, Big Rock Illinois

POLAR STAR “VINTER” LEFSE MAKING WORKSHOP

Vi's potatoes have been sighted!!!

APRIL 11TH - 9:00 a.m.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church Basement



Please contact Barb Johnson if you plan to attend
(barbjohnsonb@aol.com) or text/phone 630-632-2329

**Dell Web Scandinavian Club Mtg on Feb. 3
presented by Polar Star Culture Director**



Polar Star 5-472 - 2026 Events and Programs

The Year of "Fun and Games"

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

FEBRUARY 1	POLAR STAR PENNY SOCIAL and SOUP COMPETITION
MARCH 1	Winter Games Closing Ceremony
APRIL 12 2nd Sunday	Nordic Walking
MAY 3	TBD
SAT. - JUNE 6	NORWAY MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE AND BREAKFAST
JULY	POLAR STAR FAMILY MONTH – NO EVENT SCHEDULED
AUGUST 2-5	Sons of Norway District 5 Convention – Stoughton, WI
AUGUST 9 2nd Sunday	Pioneer Piknik and Ice Cream Social
SEPTEMBER 13	VASA PARK 9:00 a.m.
OCTOBER 11 2nd Sunday	Slopper Society of America Annual Meeting Norway Community Building Norway, Illinois
NOVEMBER 1	Høstfest begins at 11:30 a.m.
DECEMBER 6	JULETRFEST

2026 KITCHEN COMMITTEE

APRIL 12 NEEDED	Please contact
MAY 3	Jeanne and Craig Leifheit Carol and Don Hirsch
AUG 9	Kelly Welin Additional help needed

**Polar Star Sports and Activities
by Sports Director, Jerri Lynn Baker**

The 2026 Polar Star Sports Challenge has begun!! Sign up on-line (link below), show me proof that you have signed up and proof that you have completed the challenge. Contact me at lovingmom.com if you have any questions.



Fabulous Fox National Water Trail

Step into History—One Mile at a Time

The Log 250 Challenge isn't just a race—it's a movement. A celebration. A chance to honor America's past while exploring your own path forward. Sign up, start logging your miles, and make 2026 a year you'll never forget.

- 40 miles of river and shoreline trails
- 400+ miles of interconnected land-based trails
- Convenient access to riverside communities filled with local restaurants, historic sites, and cultural attractions

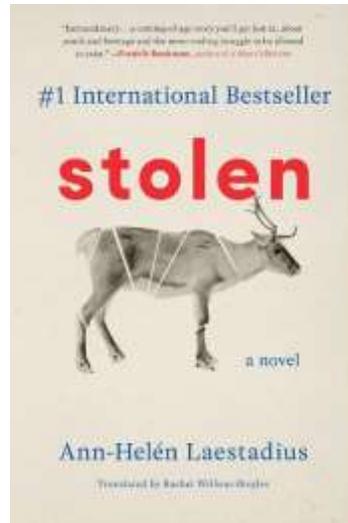
Beyond Kane County, the entire 158-mile water trail flows through charming towns and iconic Midwestern landscapes—prairies, forests, rolling farms, scenic bluffs, and peaceful natural areas. With 27+ public access points, it's easy to choose your own adventure, whether you're paddling a few miles today, or walking a few next week, they all add up in this patriotic challenge. [#log250](https://www.facebook.com/log250)

<https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/KaneCounty/Log250>

Sons of Norway Zoom Book Club

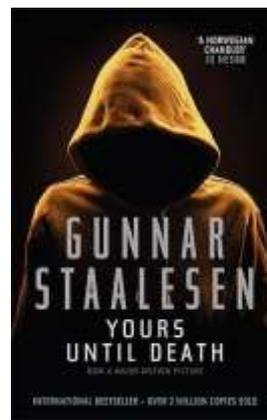
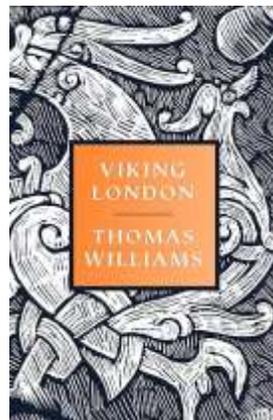
Thursday, February 26, 2026 Zoom Book Discussion – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday February 28 – 3:00 p.m.



Editor's Note: I absolutely LOVED this book! Even if you haven't read the book, I think you will enjoy the discussion especially if you are not familiar with the Sami people and their history and culture.

March Selections



Main Read: *Viking London* by Thomas Williams

Mystery Read: *Yours Until Death* by Gunnar Staalesen

To participate and receive a zoom link contact:

Bill Browing

Sons of Norway Book Club Coordinator

SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com

HURRAH FOR DEG POLAR STAR!



FEB 16-29	GRATULERER MED DAGEN	MARCH 1- 15	GRATULERER MED DAGEN
20	Phillip Nelson	4	BETTY LANDORF
28	Al Benson		
29	Ed Hatteberg		

Polar Star Membership Anniversaries

Cole Johnson - 10 yrs.	Feb. 27, 2012
Al Benson – 10 yrs.	Feb. 28, 2015
Jim Van Winkle – 30 yrs.	March 3, 1996
Jerri Lynn Baker – 10 yrs.	March 3, 2013



**Sons of Norway
Polar Star Lodge 5-472
Regular Meeting, February 1, 2026**

**St. Olaf Lutheran Church
1233 Douglas Avenue
Montgomery, IL 60538**

At 1:40, prior to our usual potluck luncheon, we held our annual Polar Star Soup Cook-Off. Everyone tasted the eight delicious soups submitted for the contest. The Soup contest ballots were counted and Jeanne Leifheit won first place with her Corn Potato Chowder. She was awarded the Polar Star Golden Pot.

The potluck luncheon following the soup contest included several breads, cheeses, salads, side dishes, and desserts. The kitchen committee of the day included Karen Oswald.

President's Announcements:

- Ken called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM, following the Soup Cook-Off and potluck luncheon. He opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, the U.S. National Anthem, and a warm welcome to everyone.
- Ken reminded about Masse Moro camp July 12-25, and also about the Syttende Mai Parade in Park Ridge on May 17th.
- Please leave your Barnebirke cookie donations on the cart just inside the kitchen door.
- The District 5 Convention will be held this year August 2-6 in Stoughton, Wisconsin. We can send 3 delegates and 3 alternates. Please let Ken know if you are interested in being a delegate or an alternate, or just attending.

Treasurer Report: Carol read a summary of the monthly Treasurer's report (copy attached). Current checking account balance is \$8,929.48, and our total assets are \$23,724.19.

Secretary Report:

- Karen reminded that everyone's Volunteer Hours Tracking Sheet for 2025 needs to be submitted to her today, and thanked all who have already submitted theirs.
- She encouraged everyone's volunteer efforts for the coming year by remarking that lots of volunteer opportunities will be available to all of us in 2026, from signing up for kitchen duty at a monthly meeting, to being a docent at the Norsk Museum for a day or two this summer, to having fun volunteering at our booth at Vasa Park in September.
- Be sure to print out your 2026 Volunteer Sheet and keep track of your volunteer hours every month.

Sports Director Report: Jerri Lynn awarded to 200th Sloop Anniversary Virtual Walk pin to Kim Rubin, and reminded everyone to keep walking.

Cultural Director Report:

- Barb told us about the needle felting workshop that was held in January in Big Rock, Illinois. She displayed some beautiful scenes made by her (Kjosfossen waterfall) and by Mandy Beck (sailing viking ship). Information about the upcoming April 3rd needle felting workshop (felted Easter hats) will be included in the March newsletter
- Barb rounded us all up for this month's birthday celebration song.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm, followed by our always-popular annual Penny Auction.

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 2: Final contests and awards for our exciting Polar Star winter Olympics.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Oswald, Secretary

Activity Volunteer Hours Tracking Sheet - Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Member Name _____ Phone _____ Service Year _____

This data is used for mandatory reporting that maintains Sons of Norway tax-exempt status, and for National Sons of Norway to lobby on behalf of Fraternal benefit societies. Annually, by end of January, submit your completed form to the Polar Star Secretary. Tusen takk.

- **Membership Activities** – Volunteer time spent on preparing, running or supporting projects/programs organized by Sons of Norway at a lodge, district or international level that were devoted to lodge business affairs, recreational/social events, training seminars, cultural classes, officer duties, etc. **Include only volunteer time** spent organizing, planning or working before/at/after the events. Do **not** include lodge meeting attendance time.

Member Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Lodge Meeting/Food (prepare food for pot luck; set/clean up; kitchen duty)													
Lodge Meeting Programs/Activities (plan/prepare/lead)													
Training/Seminars (plan/prepare/lead)													
Officer Duties													
Manage Newsletter/ Facebook/Website													
Board/Committee Meetings													
District or National Meetings/Training													
Other (describe)													
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP HOURS:													

- **Community Activities** – Record time that **you volunteered in the name of / on behalf of** Polar Star lodge, another Sons of Norway lodge, or SON district or international level at events focusing on community involvement/interest. **Include only your volunteer time** working at, planning for, or traveling to/from the event. Do **not** include time just attending.

Community Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Høstfest (prep/food/work)													
Fox Valley Norwegian Choir													
Vasa Park (prep/food/work)													
Norsk Museum (docent/manager/maintain)													
Norsk Museum Fundraisers breakfast/morgasbord/etc (prep/food/work)													
Sloopers													
Syttende Mai Parade/Banquet (prep/food/work)													
Norwegian National League (plan/prepare/lead)													
Viking Ship (docent/manager/maintain)													
MSI Christmas Tree													
Barnebirke/Norge Ski													
SOFN Book Club													
Tubfrim													
Schools/Libraries													
Support Other Lodge													
Other (describe)													
TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS:													

Revised 2024

