

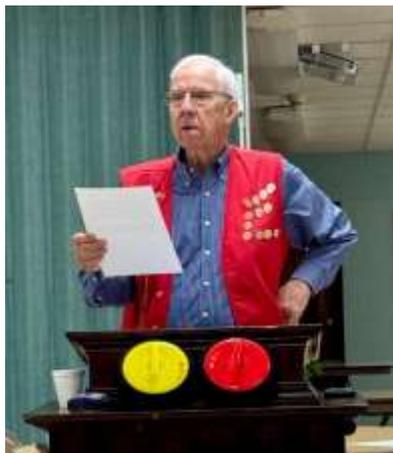
# Sons of Norway

## 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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**God Vår Polar Star!!**

Happy Spring!!! I hope you are all enjoying the snow and the cold !! Hopefully the warm weather will arrive just in time for our April Lodge meeting.

Congratulations to my fellow Norwegian team mates on our victory in the Polar Star Winter Games!!

Thanks to the Olympic Planning Committee and kitchen crew for the fun Lodge event!

Vi sees i April!! (See you in April)

**Your President  
Ken Johnson**



## Polar Star 2026

See page 9 for calendar of events

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## Upcoming Events

**Polar Star April Event**

**CROSSING 200 – A YEAR IN REVIEW**

**Sunday, April 12, 2026**

See page 2 for details

1:30

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

See article on page 2

.....  
**Polar Star Newsletter Deadline  
Will be the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month.**

Please submit all articles to  
Barb Johnson at

[barbijohnsonb@aol.com](mailto:barbijohnsonb@aol.com)

Follow us on facebook @

Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

Visit our website

[www.polarstarlodge.com](http://www.polarstarlodge.com)

# Polar Star Lodge

## April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Event

### 2026 Vesterheim Emigration Tours

### Norway and New York



Barb and Kenny Johnson will share their slides of the Emigration Tours they took with the Vesterheim Museum to Norway in June 2025 and to New York in October 2025. The trips were organized to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first organized Norwegians (“Sloopers”) to immigrate to America in 1825. Please join us as we look back on this important event that led to our Norwegian ancestors building communities here in Illinois.



**Potluck begins at 1:30** followed by the business meeting and program.  
Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

**Polar Star Culture Corner**  
by Barb Johnson  
**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**  
**at Esther's Place in Big Rock Illinois**



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

## Polar Star Sports and Activities

By

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](http://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

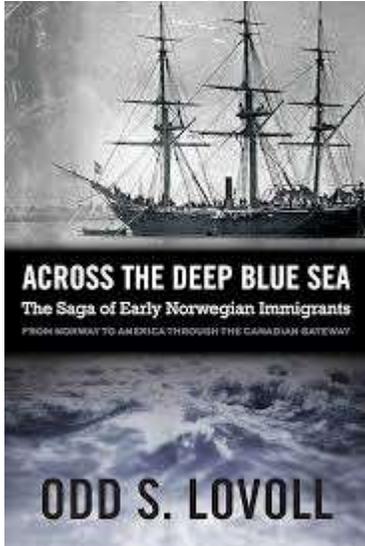
Beyond Kane County, the entire 158-mile water trail flows through charming towns and iconic Midwestern landscapes—prairies, forests, rolling farms, scenic bluffs, and peaceful natural areas. With 27+ public access points, it's easy to choose your own adventure, whether you're paddling a few miles today, 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>

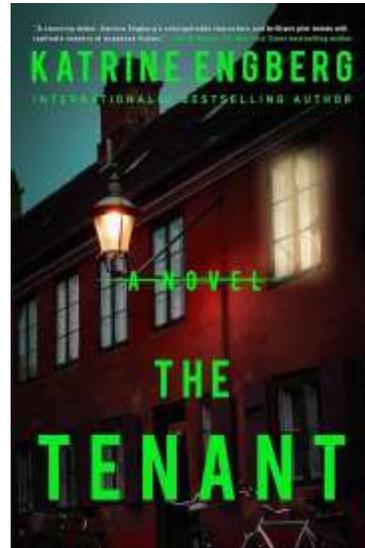
# Sons of Norway Book Club

To join the Sons of Norway Book Club, send an email with your name, lodge name and contact information to [SonsOfNorwayBookClub@gmail.com](mailto:SonsOfNorwayBookClub@gmail.com).

## Sons of Norway April 2026 Zoom Book Club Selections



Main Read



Mystery Read

The Book Club Zoom meeting is held...

- 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month April 30<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 central time
- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month April 27<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m. Central Time



Five Reasons to Join the Sons of Norway Book Club

- Monthly Zoom meetings to discuss fiction and non-fiction book selections from Norwegian and Nordic neighbor authors.
- Easy way to earn all three levels of the Sons of Norway Literature Culture medal
  - Monday evening live "Author Talks" on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month
  - Periodic newsletter with the latest book reviews and literary events
- A chance to meet and interact with Sons of Norway members from other parts of the United Jea

# Polar Star 5-472 - 2026 Events and Programs

## “FUN AND GAMES IN 2026”

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

<b>APRIL 12</b>	
<b>MAY 3</b>	<b>CELEBRATING NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY</b>
<b>SAT. JUNE 6</b>	<b>NORWAY MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE AND BREAKFAST</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>POLAR STAR FAMILY MONTH – NO EVENT SCHEDULED</b>
<b>AUGUST 2</b>	<b>KUBB TOURNAMENT AND PIKNIK</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 7</b>	<b>VASA PARK 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>OCTOBER 4</b>	<b>SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 1</b>	<b>Høstfest begins at 11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>DECEMBER 6</b>	<b>JULETREFEST</b>

### 2025 POLAR STAR KITCHEN COMMITTEE

<b>April 12</b>	
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Jeanne and Craig Leifheit Carol and Don Hirsch</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>Norsk Museum Opening all members</b>
<b>Aug 2</b>	<b>Kelly Welin Barb and Kenny Johnson</b>
<b>Sept 13</b>	<b>Vasa Park Event All members</b>
<b>Oct 4</b>	
<b>Nov 1</b>	<b>Høstfest – all members</b>
<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>Juletrefest – Board Members</b>

### Congratulations CONNIE BENSON KROSS



### Elected District 5 Vice President



**Polar Star Members!**

**MARCH 16-31**

- 19 Art Andersen
- 19 Joni Koehler
- 21 Ronn Vann
- 22 Carol Devito
- 23 Stephan Tanda

**APRIL 1-14**

- 14 Julianne Peterson

**Polar Star Membership Anniversaries**

3-05-17	Josie Gehler	9 yr		4-11-17	Mary Ann Knutson Doetschmann	2 yr
3-07-13	Jerri Lynn Baker	13 yr		4-21-15	Brooke Johnson	11 yr
3-10-20	Craig Leifheit	6 yr		4-21-15	Nels Johnson	11 yr
3-10-20	Jeanne Leifheit	6 yr				
3-27-10	Frank Krawczyk	16 yr				
4-10-17	Tom Harkins	9 yr				

# POLAR STAR OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES CLOSING AND MEDAL CEREMONY



The Olympic Flame Entrance...



The Introduction of the teams...



PARADE OF COUNTRY CAPTAINS, FLAGS AND MEDALS



**THE WINNING TEAM  
2026 POLAR STAR WINTER GAMES ...**



**NORWAY** wins **GOLD!!!!!!!**

## CANADA WINS SILVER



## FIN-MARK WINS BRONZE



## INDIVIDUAL OLYMPIC CURRENT EVENTS WINNER...



## GOLD MEDAL AWARDED TO KELLY WELIN

**SNOWBALL CASTING, HOCKEY SHOOT OUT & CURLING**

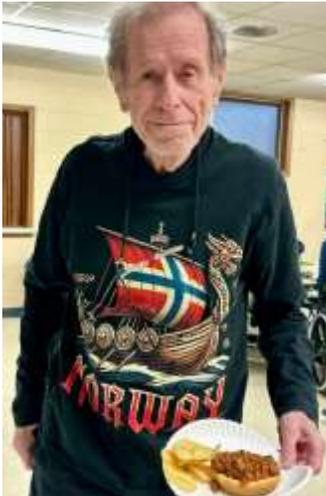
**TEAM EVENT WINNERS**



**The Olympic Torch is extinguished until 2028**



# WINTER GAMES FOOD AND FUN



Thanks Kitchen Committee



# NORSK MUSEUM

## Saturday, June 6, 2026

Help Support the  
Norsk Museum Opening Day &



### Taste of Norway Breakfast

Sat., June 6 2026 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

After Breakfast, join us  
at the Norsk Museum  
[9am to 2pm]

- ◇ Demonstrations in
- ◇ Rosemaling
- ◇ Hardanger
- ◇ Krumkake
- ◇ Cultural
- ◇ Norwegian Food Sales

*Right in Norway — 3656 E 2631st Rd Sheridan, IL 60551*

Enjoy delicious home cooked  
Norwegian Frokost (Breakfast)  
at the Norway Community  
Building. Serving fried Kumla,  
ham, scrambled eggs with  
chives, fruit cups and coffee!



No Advance Tickets  
Donations ONLY  
Support Norway Temperance Hall

Phone (815) 343-5070 (text)



See all the new exhibits  
Visit Norsk Museum  
[www.NorskMuseum.org](http://www.NorskMuseum.org)

# SAVE *the* DATE

DISTRICT 5 CONVENTION  
AUGUST 2 - 6, 2026  
MOUNT LODGE 5-314  
STOUGHTON, WI



## Check the website for updates

- **Website:** [https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/convention\\_events.php](https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/convention_events.php)

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

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

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., following a delicious potluck luncheon. Kitchen hosts were Sue and Steve Tanda, Carol DeVito and Frank Krawczyk.

**President Announcements:**

- Ken opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcomed everyone.
- Pledge of Allegiance was followed by the singing of the United States, Norwegian, and Canadian national anthems.
- Motion to approve the minutes for our February meeting was made, seconded, and passed.
- We plan to participate in the Park Ridge Syttende Mai parade (May 18).
- The District 5 Convention will be held this year August 2-6 in Stoughton, Wisconsin. The three Polar Star delegates will be Ed Hatteberg, Steve Tanda, and Ken Johnson. Alternates will be Diana Raimond, Karen Oswald, and Barb Johnson. Motion to approve same delegate expense assistance as last year was made, seconded, and passed.

**Treasurer Report:**

- Carol read a summary of the monthly Treasurer's report (copy attached). Current checking account balance is \$8,258.84, and our total assets \$23,053.55. Motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and passed.
- Those who would like their name listed as a "well-wisher" in the 2026 Park Ridge Syttende Mai parade brochure, needed to give their \$5 to Carol by the end of today's meeting.

**Secretary Report:**

- Karen submitted our annual Polar Star Volunteer Hours Report to Sons of Norway National. In 2026, we logged 737.25 member activity volunteer hours - about 40% more than last year! And, we logged 1,915.5 community service volunteer hours, more than double the number of hours last year! These increases were mainly due to the extra work we all put in preparing for and working at our hugely successful Heritage weekend last October. Pat yourselves on the back!!
- If you haven't already, be sure to print out a Volunteer Hours Sheet for 2026, and keep track of your volunteer hours every month. Let Karen know if you need a recording sheet.
- She encouraged everyone's volunteer efforts 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.

**Social Director Report:**

- Nancy told us about the great snow and exciting ski jump contest at this year's Norge Ski Club International Winter Ski Jump Tournament.
- She also told us about this year's Norwegian National League Syttende Mai banquet to be held at the Park Ridge Country Club on Saturday, May 16.
- We still need a couple folks to sign up for kitchen duty for our April meeting. Please help out YOUR lodge by signing up. If no one signs up, we will have only side dishes, salads, and desserts.

**Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.

**Awards presented by Cultural Director:**

- Before the meeting, Barb had passed out the final tie breaker questionnaires to all Polar Star Winter Olympics participants, and asked everyone to individually complete it before the start of the meeting. During the meeting, Barb read the answers, and everyone self-scored their own answers. Barb then awarded gold, silver, and bronze Polar Star Winter Olympics medals to all event winners. The Norwegian Team (Carol DeVito, Diana Raimond, Art Andersen, and Ken Johnson) won the overall team gold medal.
- Historical Sons of Norway Membership Anniversary pins were awarded. Going forward, Anniversary pins will be awarded monthly as appropriate.
  - 5 Years: Larry Baker, Carol Baker, Craig Leifheit, Jeannie Leifheit, Josie Gehler, Jo Ann Gryder, Thomas Harkins, Cary Hatteberg, Cynthia Olson, Penny Ray, Beatriz Vann, Richard Vigsnes, Carol Vigsnes, Kelly Welin, Joanne Ward.
  - 10 years: Allan Benson, Brooke Johnson, Jerry Lynn Baker, Sasha Betker, Alan Betker, Diana Raimond.
  - 15 Years: Frank Krawczyk, Carol DeVito, Ed Hatteberg, Richard Jensen, Ken Johnson, Barb Johnson, Joni Koehler, Brianna Meek, Marian Mickelson.
  - 20 Years: Nancy Andersen, Arthur Andersen, Ken Nordan.
  - 25 Years: Al Bergh, Phoebe Bergh, Betty Landorf, Karen Oswald, Gail Anderson, James Van Winkle.
  - 30 Years: Nilslee Kreppert, Harold Broten. Donne Kristensen.
  - 35 Years: Ralph Kristensen.
  - 40 Years: Gelaine Gallucci.
  - 45 Years: Ronald Vann.
  - 50 Years: Jeffrey Anderson, Gardis Dahle.
  - 60 Years: Floyd Anderson.

**Next Meeting:** April 12 (*second Sunday in April, because Easter is on the first Sunday this year*): The program will be “Celebrating Norwegian Immigration Crossing 200”.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Oswald, Secretary

**Please log your volunteer hours for 2026 – form on the next page**

### 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)													
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP HOURS:</b>													

- **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/manage/maintain)													
Norsk Museum Fundraisers breakfast/smorgasbord/etc (prep/food/work)													
Sloopers													
Syttende Mai Parade/Banquet (prep/food/work)													
Norwegian National League (plan/prepare/lead)													
Viking Ship (docent/manage/maintain)													
MSI Christmas Tree													
Barnebirke/Norge Ski													
SOFN Book Club													
Tubfrim													
Schools/Libraries													
Support Other Lodge													
Other (describe)													
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS:</b>													

