

# 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



President Ken the Gold Medal "Master Kasten"

Hilsen Polar Star Lodge!

It was great to be outside and playing Viking Kubb at our Viking Olympic Games. I'm honored to earn the gold medal as your "master Kaster" 2024!

Thanks to our kitchen crew for the great food and fun!

Vasa Park Scandinavian Day is coming !!! I hope everyone has started their Norwegian baking and plans to attend this fun fund raising event for our Lodge.

Your President  
Ken



Coming Soon....to Vasa Park

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Scandinavian Days

at

Vasa Park

Sunday September 8th

see details on Page 2

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Polar Star Lodge Event

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

12:00 p.m.

"Slooper Society"

Annual Meeting

Norway Community

Building

Norway, Illinois

details on page 3

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

Follow us on facebook @  
Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

# Vasa Park Scandinavian Festival

Sunday, September 8, 2024  
10:00 – 5:30



The Polar Star “Norsk Bakeri and Loppemarked” will showcase our Norwegian heritage at the 44<sup>th</sup> annual festival of Scandinavian heritage at Vasa Park in South Elgin on Sunday, September 8, 2024. Our booth will feature our homemade traditional baked goods and our “on site “Norwegian Vafler. President Ken has also collected a wide variety of Norwegian “flea market” items that will be sold. Set up will begin at 8:00 a.m and we will work our booth until our baked goods are sold or the last act has performed on the main stage. Please contact Nancy to let her know what baked goods you will be bringing or if you are willing to work in the booth. Call Barb or Kenny if you need to have your baked goods picked up. Bring a lawn chair and plan to enjoy a beautiful day immersed in Scandinavian culture.

This event is our main fund raising event for the year and replaces our September Lodge Meeting. We will not be meeting at St. Olaf on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Polar Star members walk the Viking trail in England to earn our “hiking” pin from Sports Director, Jerri Lynn



Phoebe wins the Viking Ship prize for Virtual Walk participation.



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Welcome to Polar Star Kathy!





**POLAR STAR**  
**OCTOBER LODGE EVENT**  
will be held at the  
**Slooper Society**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Norway Community Building**  
**October 6, 2024 at Noon.**

Polar Star Lodge will hold our October 6<sup>th</sup> Lodge Meeting at the Norway Community Building on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to begin the “2025” celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Norwegian Immigration to the Fox Valley area of Illinois . This annual gathering of the descendants of the “Restoration”, who call themselves “Sloopers” gives us an opportunity to meet with other groups who are connected to the ship that brought the first permanent Norwegian settlers to the Illinois prairie. There will be a catered lunch (with a suggested \$15.00 per person donation). Please RSVP as soon as possible to [barbjjohnsonb@aol.com](mailto:barbjjohnsonb@aol.com) so we can provide the Sloopers with a head count for the caterers. The program planned for the annual meeting will be a” fun look” at the early “Slooper” settlers. You won’t want to miss it!

**Please plan to bring Norwegian baked goods to share with the participants.**



See you at the Polar Star Lodge Bakeri September 8<sup>th</sup>!

at Vasa Park in South Elgin

# POLAR STAR CULTURAL CORNER

by  
Barb Johnson

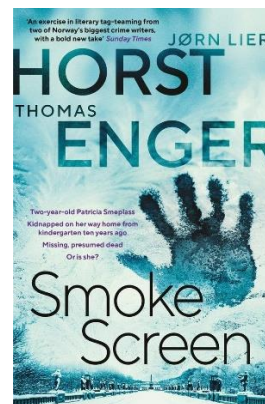
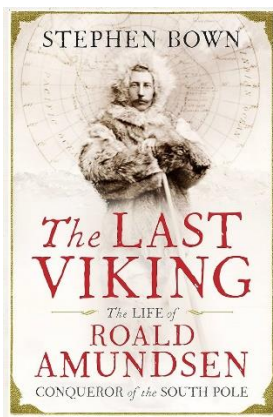
## Sons of Norway Book Club August Book Selections

**Main Read:** *The Edge of the World: Culture History of the North Sea and the Transformation of Europe* by Michael Pye

**Mystery Read** “Rupture” (Dark Iceland #4) by Ragnar Jonasson

**Book Club Zoom Meeting – August 29, 2024**

## September Book Selections



**Main Read:** *The Last Viking: the Life of Roald Amundsen* by Stephen Bowen

**Mystery Read:** “Smoke Screen” (Alexander Blix #2) by Thomas Enger and Jon Lier Horst.

To let us know if you will be participating this month or to ask questions about the book club, please send an email to: [SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com](mailto:SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com) Sons of Norway Book Club c/o Bill Browning P.O. Box 1050 Roswell, GA 30077

# POLAR STAR CULTURE GOALS 2024

## How to Be A Viking

Just a reminder to keep working on your culture goals

To earn the Polar Star 2024 Culture award...

1. Read three books about the Viking era.
2. Read one book of your choice on Norsk Mythology
3. Make a Viking era dish to share with our group and turn in the recipe
4. Listen and review three different Viking era instruments and music

**Complete this form and return it Barb Johnson, Culture Director by December 31, 2024.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. What did you learn about the Vikings?**

Book #1: \_\_\_\_\_ author \_\_\_\_\_

Book #2: \_\_\_\_\_ author \_\_\_\_\_

Book #3: \_\_\_\_\_ author \_\_\_\_\_

Which Book did you like the best? Write what you liked, a quote, a fact, a discovery, a meaningful passage etc.

**B. What Norsk story or Myth did you learn about? What was the message?**

Name of Book and author: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. What Viking dish did you prepare? Be sure and attach your recipe**

**D. What instruments did you listen to? Which recording and/or performance did you like and why?**

# Polar Star Sports and Activities

by Jerri Lynn Baker



**Just a reminder Polar Star Virtual Walkers...."Celebration Migration" begins...**

**Polar Star walkers started the latest Virtual Walk on August 4, 2024. From August 4<sup>th</sup> until October 31, 2025, walk 836 virtual miles from New York City to Norway, IL. "Celebration Migration" is our theme. October next year marks the 200th anniversary of the "Sloopers" arriving in America. Our walking challenge sort of mimics the immigrants making their way across land to Norway, IL. This may seem difficult, but when you break down those 836 miles that only equals 1.85 miles per day. I know you can do this.**

**Please send me an email and let me know you plan to participate. On the first of each month, you can submit your monthly mileage to me.**

**There will be a fabulous raffle at the end of the challenge for valuable prizes and everyone who completes the distance will earn another painted medal for their vest, that reflects some of the immigrant's life in America. You will need to be a Sons of Norway member in good standing to participate.**

**Virtual Walk August question...how many miles do I need to walk every month to reach our goal? **Answer: 55.74 miles****

**On the first of each month, submit your monthly mileage to Sports Director, Jerri Lynn Baker.**

# GRATULERER MED DAGEN POLAR STAR



## 16 - 31 AUGUST

20 August - Floyd Anderson  
23 August - Penny Ray  
30 August - Cynthia Ann Olson

## 1-14 SEPTEMBER

2 September - Frances Berg  
4 September - Gardis Dale



Editor's note: Velkommen og Gratulerer med dagen to our to our newest Polar Star member and my friend Gardis Dahle who I first met at Skogfjorden Adult Norwegian Language Camp.

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## POLAR STAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events held at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Montgomery, Il at 1:30 unless otherwise listed

**SEPTEMBER 8 - VASA PARK Scandinavian Festival - 9:00 a.m.**

**OCTOBER 6 – Sloop Society of America Annual Meeting  
Noon Lunch and Program at Norway Community Building**

**NOVEMBER 3 - Høstfest begins at 11:30 a.m.**

**DECEMBER 1 - JULETFEST**



# Polar Star Viking Olympics 2024



**And the 2024 Kubb Trophy and gold medals are awarded to TEAM Karen, Carol, Jerri Lynn, Diana, and Kathy!**



**Congratulations Ladies!!!**



# **Sons of Norway - Polar Star Lodge 5-472**



## **“Taste of Norway” Høstfest – Fall Festival Sunday, November 3, 2024**

**St. Olaf Lutheran Church – 1233 Douglas Ave.**

**Noon - 3:30 p.m.**

**Montgomery, IL**

**Taste Traditional Norwegian Food**

**Shop for Scandinavian gifts**

**Lefse and Krumkake demonstrations**

**Norwegian Craft demonstrations**

**Contact: Polar Star Cultural Director - Barb Johnson  
email [barbjohnsonb@aol.com](mailto:barbjohnsonb@aol.com) or by phone: 630-553-7389**

**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>													

Revised 2024

**Sons of Norway  
Polar Star Lodge 5-472  
Regular Meeting, August 4, 2024**

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

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m., following a polse and potluck piknik luncheon. The kitchen committee of the day included Frances Berg, Al Benson, and Tom Harkins.

**President's Announcements:**

- Ken opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Guest Gordon Babbitt from St Olaf Lutheran Church, and guest Kathy Benoit, were introduced.
- Pledge of Allegiance was followed by the singing of the United States, Norwegian and Canadian national anthems. We were very fortunate to have a guest accompanist on the piano, Ken and Barb's talented grandson Cole Johnson. What a treat!
- The 2024 District 5 Convention was held June 19-22 in Indianapolis. Ken told us about the lodge Gold Merit awards that Polar Star earned, and told us about some of the activities at the convention. He told us that Polar Star delegate Floyd Anderson became a convention celebrity since he has been a Sons of Norway member since 1962, and has been a member longer than anyone else attending the convention! Ken then called on delegate Kelly Welin and asked about her favorite parts of the convention. She especially enjoyed the culture activities that she attended, including felting class and Sami bracelets.

**Treasurer Report:**

- Carol read a summary of the Treasurer's report (copy attached). Current checking account balance is \$1226.25, and our lunch total assets are \$15,430.27. Motion to approve was passed.
- Carole gave us the great news that our friend rosemalar Lynn Sove Maxson has fully recovered from her July 9<sup>th</sup> stroke.

**Social Director Report:**

- Nancy reminded that the annual Vasa Park Scandinavian festival is Sunday September 8. We all need to get started with baking for our booth at the festival. She will be in touch with each of us to see what we might like to bake and what timeslots we want to volunteer.
- The annual Norwegian Christmas tree trimming at the Museum of Science and Industry is Wednesday November 6 this year. Please let Nancy know if you can consider helping out.

**Sports Director Information:**

- Pins for participating in the 149 mile Viking Way Walk (April 8 to August 3) were awarded. Phoebe Bergh won the drawing for the beautiful Viking ship picture.
- Jerri Lynn announced a new walking challenge, "Celebration Migration", which will run from today August 4, 2024 until October 31, 2025. We will commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sloopers of arriving in America, by virtually walking 836 miles they traveled from the port of New York City to Norway Illinois. Rewards will include a painted participation pin for those completing the walk, and a raffle with various prizes. Details will be in monthly newsletters, and in emails from Jerri Lynn. Be sure to send her an email if you plan to participate.
- Jerri Lynn also gave us some brief advance information about the 1 mile, "Sluppen' Around Norway" walking/history event that will be held during our 2025 "Celebrating Norwegian Immigration" culture weekend in Norway, Illinois.

**Cultural Director Report:**

- Barb gave us much more information about the 2025 "Celebrating Norwegian Immigration" culture weekend, which will be from October 3-5, 2025. Organizational meetings are currently being held to determine plans and

solicit participation of several groups, businesses, churches, etc. with a vested interest in and close relationship to Norwegian immigration history. All participation and suggestions are most welcome. More information to come!

- The 2024 reading culture challenge deadline is being extended to January 2025.

**Meeting Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m., followed by our annual Polar Star Kubb Tournament at 3 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, September 8 at our booth at Vasa Park Scandinavian Festival.  
Our October meeting will likely be in Norway Illinois, attending the Sloopers annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Oswald, Secretary

