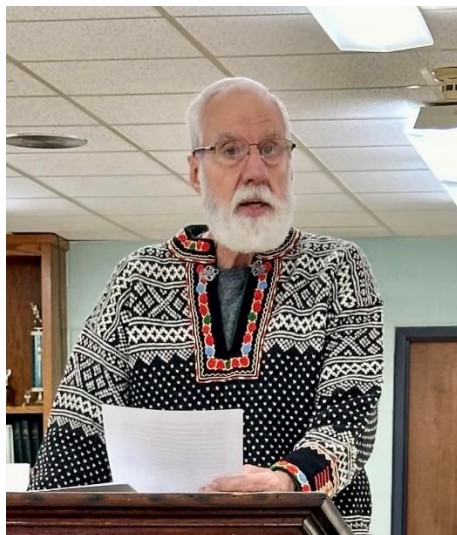


Sons of Norway

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



“King” (Anders) Anderson celebrating Norwegian American Women

Godt nytt år! Happy New Year!
Winter has certainly arrived in Northern Illinois as we prepare for our annual Polar Star Penny Social and Soup competition. Don't forget to also bring cookies for the District 5 Barnebirkie event that will be held in Hayward, WI on Feb. 22. Stay warm and safe and we hope to see all of you on February 4th

**Your President
Ken Johnson**



“How to Be a Viking” Polar Star 2024

See page 4 for details

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 27-28
Nordic Ski Jump
See page 3 for details

POLAR STAR PENNY SOCIAL and Soup Competition

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024
1:30
St. Olaf Lutheran Church
See article on page 2

Polar Star Newsletter Deadline
Will be the 14th of every month.
Please submit all articles to Barb Johnson at barbjjohnsonb@aol.com
Follow us on Facebook @
Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

Godt Nytt År Polar Star!!



POLAR STAR PENNY SOCIAL and The Great Polar Star Norwegian “Soup”er Bowl Competition FEBRUARY 4, 2024 1:30 p.m.

Gather your garage sale treasures for re-sale at our Penny Social Auction and start digging out your Norwegian soup recipes for our annual lodge soup competition. Tickets for the Penny Social will be sold for 25 cents each and soup tasting and judging will begin at 1:30 followed by the Penny Social.



Who will win the title this year??????

Norge Ski Club's
International Winter Tournament 2024
January 27th and 28th, 2024

Noon - 4:00PM
Gates Open at 11:00AM



Weekend Schedule

SATURDAY JAN. 27	SUNDAY JAN 28
Junior Tournament Small Hills – Noon	Opening Ceremonies – Noon
Junior National Qualifier K70 Big Hill	US Cup Competition K70 Big Hill
	Longest Standing Competition



Purchase buttons online \$20.00
Purchase buttons at gate \$25.00

[Norge Ski Club Winterfest Ski Jumping Tournament 2024](#) | [Buy Tickets](#) | [Ticketbud](#)



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE BARNEBIRKIE SUCCESSFUL!

The Fifth District of the Sons of Norway will be assisting with the children's cross country ski race for ages 3-13 in Hayward, WI, on February 22, 2024. District members volunteer to work in the registration area before the race, and they pass out cookies at the end of the course. Members also meet and greet adult skiers later in the day at the EXPO CENTER held inside Hayward High School. It is exciting to interact with skiers from across the world at this international event.

I am kindly asking our members to consider baking for this event. Please refrain from the use of nuts in any of the cookies you make due to allergy concerns in our youth participants. The kiddos enjoy all kinds of cookies, but the most popular are chocolate chip varieties. They also enjoy frosted sugar cookies. Some racers like homemade raisin oatmeal cookies, too! Baking one of your family's favorites is certain to be a winner!

After the cookies are distributed in the Celebration Tent, the excess is moved to Hayward High School where the classic skiers come to obtain their timing chips and bibs. These skiers look forward to seeing our smiling faces, but mostly, they enjoy the homemade cookies made by our Sons of Norway members! Adults savor spice cookies and healthy varieties: molasses, Snickerdoodles, ginger, peppercaker, and cardamom. Our district goal each year is 1,000 dozen cookies-yes, you read that correctly! Oreo cookies are also popular.

I will be leaving for the Barnebirkie on Wednesday, February 21st (sooner if inclement weather is forecast). Additional cars will be heading north to help deliver the cookies and volunteers will help in a variety of locations. You may also deliver cookies to District Secretary Darlene Arneson or drop them off at Open House Imports in Mt. Horeb. I am also available to pick up your donations and have met members from lodges in northern Illinois previously. *Thank you for your support in helping to make the Barnebirkie a memorable event for the littlest skiers of all.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY...The youth registration tent is staffed, but we need help at the Celebration Tent at the end of the race. Volunteers *must* register at the American Birkebeiner Foundation website.

Become a Birkie Volunteer | American Birkebeiner (birkie.com/volunteer) The password for the Celebration (cookie) Tent is finishbarne2024. I look forward to volunteering with you!

SNOW UPDATE-There is little snow in Sawyer County at this writing, but volunteers are making snow during the colder winter night temperatures. They hope to have a 1.5-mile track open later this week. You can check the trail conditions by visiting the American Birkebeiner website, select ski, then *trail report*.

Tusen takk,

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
District 5 President
608-219-4464
cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com

Polar Star Culture Corner 2024

“The Children of Ash and Elm”

“How to be a Viking”

By Barb Johnson, Culture Director

Each year as your Culture Director I try to develop programs around a theme. I also like to set Culture Goals that will help members earn Sons of Norway Culture Skills Medals. With that in mind and after feedback from the members the theme for 2024 will be, “The Children of Ash and Elm” which is the title of a book that was featured in the Sons of Norway Book Club. The author, Neil Price wrote a comprehensive history of the Vikings through the eyes of the Vikings themselves. Hopefully you will take the time to read this book as we take a look at their politics, their view of the universe, their religion and their culture. This year we will cook Viking meals, we will play Viking games, listen to viking inspired music and hopefully our schedule will include a field trip to the Viking Ship in Geneva and possibly another field trip to take a closer look at the runestones in Alexandria Minnesota.

Polar Star Culture Goals 2024

Literature....

Read three Books about the Viking era. The following (*) will be featured in programs....

1. **The Children of Ash and Elm* by Neil Price
2. **The Real Valkyrie* (The Hidden History of Viking Warrior Women) by Nancy Marie Brown
3. Your choice of any book that focuses on *Norsk mythology*

Traditional Norwegian Cooking

Participate in the Polar Star Viking Food Making Event

Music

Listen and review at least three different Viking era instruments and music

Look for more details each month.

Fastelavn Søndag – February 11, 2024

The Celebration of the End of Winter

The term *Fastelavn* comes from Old Danish *fastelaghen*, meaning "fast-evening", or the day before Lent.

Fastelavn is a Carnival tradition in the Northern European, and historically Lutheran, nations of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. Fastelavn is related to the Roman Catholic tradition of Carnival in the days before Lent, although after Denmark became a Protestant nation the festival adopted very distinctive characteristics. The holiday occurs the week before the Christian penitential season of Lent, culminating on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

The traditions of Fastelavn vary somewhat between the countries, and local regions, and some traditions have changed over time. A common theme of Fastelavn in all the countries currently involves children dressing up in costumes, walking door to door while they sing and gathering treats for the Fastelavn feast, a form of trick-or-treat. Today, the festivities of Fastelavn are generally considered to be a time for children's fun and family games.

Here are my favorite Fastelavn traditions that have been celebrated at Polar Star Lodge since first introduced to us by Inger Langsholt, our Norwegian teacher, native speaker, "Come for Coffee" author and friend.

Fastelavsrisis:

This is the week to cut some twigs from trees that will eventually bud. In Norway, twigs from Birch trees or fruit trees work well. (I cut twigs from my Potentilla bush since its two steps from my front door). Decorate the twigs with feathers, bird shapes or egg shells. Children in Norway have been known to wake their parents up with a "Birch switch" touch on Fastelavn Sunday. I just like to place mine in a vase with water and watch it bud to remind me that Spring is on its way!

The *fastelavsrisis* custom was known in 18th century in Germany and it has several roots. It may originate from an old pagan fertility ritual, which has been absorbed into Christianity. The more serious one is that after the reformation, particularly pious people used to lightly flog their children on Good Friday to remind them of the sufferings of Christ on the cross. A similar custom is mentioned in the book "Frauenzimmerlexicon", published in 1715 in Leipzig (Germany), which describes how bachelors and virgins "bid each other goodmorning" by flogging each other and spreading ashes on each other. This custom is also known in both Denmark and Norway.

Earlier, it was mainly the young women and the infertile who were flogged. It was also common that a young man would carry his "fastelavnsris" and gently strike at young women he met on the street. Later it became the children's special right to flog their parents on this day. In any case, the reward given for the flogging would be a fastelavnsbolle.



Polar Star fastelavn boller baking at Carnival 2019

Fastelavn boller: Whipped cream yeast rolls

These delicious whipped cream and almond past filled yeast rolls are a very popular seasonal treat in Norway in the days leading up to lent. Many young people will go door to door dressed in costume singing the fastenboller song in hopes of receiving this delicious treat.



Fa - ste - lavn er mit navn, bol - ler vil jeg ha - ve,



hvis jeg in - gen bol - ler får, så la - ver jeg bal - la - de.

Fastelavnsbolle

Ingredients

75 grams (5 Tbsp) butter
300 ml (1 ¼ cups) milk
10 g (3 ¼ tsp) instant fast action dried yeast
½ tsp salt
55 g (1/4 cup) sugar
1 tsp freshly ground cardamom
500 g (3 ½ cups) all purpose flour – extra may be needed
1 egg

Filling

200 g (7 oz) mandalmassa (almond paste)
120 ml (1/2 cup) milk
240 ml (1 cup) whipping cream
Powdered sugar for dusting

Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the milk and heat until luke-warm (104 degree F). Remove from heat and mix in the yeast.

Combine salt, sugar, cardamom and most of the flour in a large bowl until thoroughly mixed.

Make a well in the center of the dried ingredients and add the milk mixture and the egg. Knead the dough for about 5 minutes, until it is sticky, but doesn't stick to your hands, using the minimum amount of flour possible. Cover the dough and let it rise for about 30 minutes

Place the dough on a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth adding flour as needed if the dough is too sticky, but keep the addition of flour to the bare minimum. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Work the dough into balls of the desired size and place on the baking sheet. Continue until all the buns are formed to the size desired and let rise, covered with a kitchen towel, 30-40 minutes.

Heat the oven to 390 degree- 435 degrees). Bake between 10- 25 minutes depending on the size of the rolls. When they are nicely browned remove them from the oven and let them cool completely under a kitchen towel. The buns freeze well so you make them ahead of time and thaw before continuing to the next step.

Slice a thin portion off the top of each bun and set aside. Using a fork, scoop out a small layer of crumbs from each bun and reserve them in a bowl. Grate the almond paste using the small holed side of the grate and combine it with the reserved crumbs and the ½ cup of milk. Blend everything well until it forms a thick paste. Fill the hole in the bun with a mixture trying to keep it all contained within the bun.

Whip the heavy cream until very stiff and pipe or spoon the cream over the top of the paste filling creating a large mound. Place the lids of the buns on top of the cream and dust them with powdered sugar right before serving. They are best eaten on the day they are filled within a couple of hours.

“2023 “The Year of the Woman” In Review... by Barb Johnson

2023 was devoted to the courageous Norwegian women who made an impact on the lives of our Polar Star Lodge members. Every month we featured these women in our newsletter and at our Lodge Events culminating in a “Festival of Women” Lodge Event on January 7, 2024. Thanks to everyone who participated and thanks to all of the women who made such a difference in our lives.

Submitted by Barb Johnson



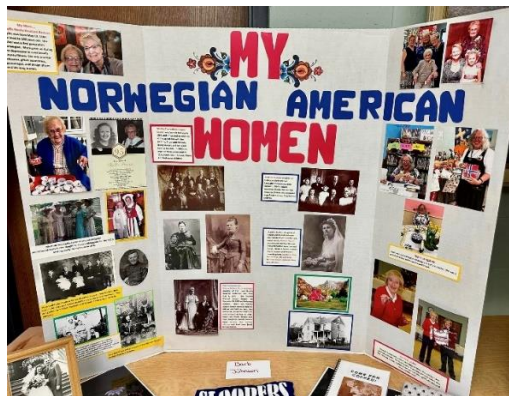
Inger langshold



Martha and Lizzie Anderson



Phyllis Benson



Submitted by Arthur Andersen



Karoline Haver Holm

Submitted by Jerri Lynn Baker



Synnøve Tollevsdatter Sunde

Submitted by Karen Oswald



Bertha Susanna Hansen Ahlsen

Submitted by Al Bergh



Minnie Bergh

Submitted by Kelly Welin

Sandra Kay Welin Grunewald was born on October 4, 1949, in Princeton, Minnesota to Herb and Marguerite Welin, two years after my father, Larry. Growing up, the household also included Sandra's paternal grandmother, who lived with them until she died. Having been teased because he could only speak Swedish when he started first grade, Herb discouraged Grandma Welin from speaking it around Sandra and Larry. Herb proclaimed that his kids were Americans. Sandra would end up teaching herself Swedish when she turned 19 after meeting the Swedish relatives and promising that next time, they would speak Swedish together. Sandra visits the relatives almost every summer now and they mostly speak Swedish, even when she is visiting relatives in Norway. Over the years, she has tried to learn Norwegian, but with the two languages being so similar, she would get confused. Fortunately, everyone manages just fine with her Swedish in Norway. Sandra, or Sandy, as most people call her, didn't realize how many Scandinavian things were in her life growing up until she moved to California as an adult. Treats such as krumkake, kringle, rosettes, and date-filled cookies, as well as lutefisk and Swedish pancakes were served. Christmas presents were opened on Christmas Eve after returning from church. She would be the one to expose me and my siblings to Scandinavian history and culture during our formative years. My family's annual summer vacations in Minnesota to stay with my grandmother and visit with relatives were punctuated with trips to the American Swedish Institute and Ingebretsen's Scandinavian Gifts & Foods in Minneapolis; Scandia, Minnesota's first Swedish settlement and home to Gammelgarden Museum; Alexandria, site of the Runestone Museum; Moorhead, where Hjemkomst Center serves as the home to Hjemkomst Viking Ship and the Hopperstad Stave Church replica; and of course, Decorah, Iowa for the Nordic Fest and visit to Vesterheim Museum. Nordic Fest was where I tried lutefisk for the first time and had lefse in its most delicious state- hot off the grill and layered with butter, cinnamon, and brown sugar. Sandy met the person she would be married to for 43 years when she was in third grade. David (Dave) Grunewald was from St. Paul, but his parents had a cabin about 60 miles away on Green Lake in Princeton that was next door to friends of Sandy's parents. Soon afterwards, Sandy's parents purchased a lot and built a house on Green Lake. Sandy and Dave played together with the other kids on the lake, and soon friendship turned into feelings. My father recounts that he knew something was up when Dave would come over to their house supposedly looking for Larry to play with, but with him standing right there, Dave would be bobbing his head up and down, and side to side, clearly looking to see if Sandy was around. Sandy and Dave attended both of their two proms together and were married a week after Sandy graduated from Augsburg College. They were married until Dave passed away in 2014. Sandy received her bachelor's degree in English and Speech and went on to teach at the junior high level for one year. Even though her students loved her, giving her a dozen red roses at the end of the year, she told her husband that she would rather dig ditches than teach that grade level. Fortunately, she found the right grade level and taught accounting at California Lutheran University (CLU) for 28 years. Over the years, she also taught at Oxnard Jr. College, Ventura Jr. College, and UCSB Extension. Sandy became a certified public accountant and opened her own practice with a friend. Sandy continues to do accounting for a handful of her dearest clients, neither being able to call it quits on one another. Sandy is an adventurous spirit and traveled the world with Dave to places such as China, Africa, Brazil, and Antarctica, to name a few. She has continued her globetrotting ways and estimates she has been to Norway and Sweden at least 30 times and met approximately 150 relatives. She doesn't need a passport in hand to try something new. I can still remember the day my father fetched his new pair of roller blades and had my aunt and grandmother trying them out up and down the gently sloping driveway. Sandy's battle cry for adventure is "Wahoo" and it definitely echoed throughout Princeton on that day. Sandy has flown from California just to attend The Game in Ohio Stadium and cheer on The Ohio State Buckeyes against the Team Up North. On a

visit to see my sister in Hawaii, the pair went zip lining, diving at night to see manta rays, and flew in a helicopter over Kilauea. A passport is necessary, though, if you desire lodging in an ice hotel or mushing across the snowy Scandinavian tundra. Sandy is also resilient. In December 2017, she lost her house and all her possessions to the rapidly moving Thomas Fire, a wildfire that devastated Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. It took several years, but the house has been rebuilt and she is back to life as she knew it before the fire. Sandy kept to the Tudor style of the home but has replicated the Swedish stuga in her Green Lake cabins. Sandy took up Scandinavian dancing after Dave passed away and is a member of Swedish Dancers of Southern California, Scandia Dancers, and the Minnesota Northstar Nordic Dancers. Since COVID, the California group has been having a hard time starting back up. Things might be starting to change as last week Sandy opened up her house and had people on the north side of Los Angeles dancing in her front room. The Minnesota group is going strong and performed at Hostfest in Minot, North Dakota this past fall twice a day for all four days. Uff da! Aside from Scandinavian dancing, Sandy had also dabbled in hardanger and rosemaling, and has taken classes in making bunads. She has made two Hardanger bunads, the old Valdres bunad, Sunnhordland's bunad, as well as three Finnish folk dresses (called Feresi) and two Swedish Leksand folk dresses. Sandy has also given her time and talent to Scandinavian festivals and activities, such as serving as the director for several years of CLU's Scandinavian Festival and the CFO of the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation. Sandy has attended festivals and dances across the country and plans to continue this year with events already scheduled in five states and in Norway.



Polar Star Celebration of Norwegian American Women



Walking 80 Miles For Jesus

Feb 14 - March 28, 2024

by

Jerri Lynn Baker

Polar Star Sports and Activity Director

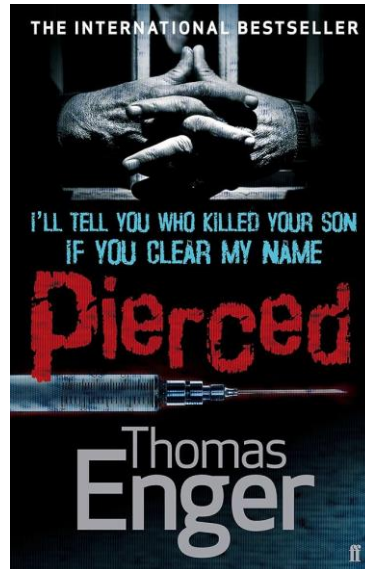
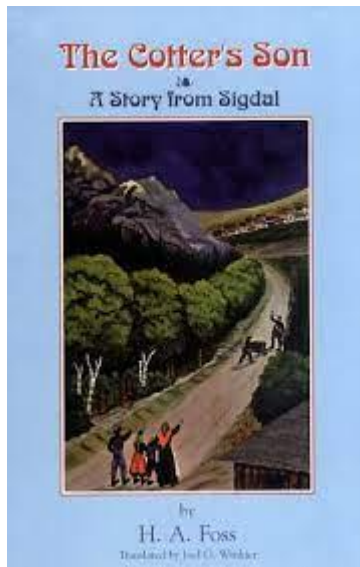


During the Lenten Season, Polar Star Members will be remembering Jesus' journey to the Cross. 80 Miles, the distance from our Lord's hometown of Nazareth to Jerusalem, the Holy City, can be completed with a 2-mile walk each of the 40 days of the season of Lent (Sundays are not included in the 40 days). Two miles can be completed with a measured distance, a brisk 30 minute walk, or around 4, 000 steps. You will be tracking and mark your progress using a Walking for Jesus Calendar . You may walk outdoors, indoors, or use a treadmill. Please use the calendar for suggestions of prayer, thought and healthy living, keeping mindful of the importance of being healthy. Forms will be available at the January 7th Polar Star meeting

Contact Jerri Lynn Baker at lovingmom@comcast.net for more information

To join the Sons of Norway Book Club, send an email with your name, lodge name and contact information to SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com.

Sons of Norway February 2024 Zoom Book Club Selections



Main Read: *The Cotter's Son: A Story from Sigdal* by H.A. Foss

Mystery Read: *Pierced* by Thomas Enger

Zoom Meeting/Discussion Date & Time: February 29 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Central Time

Editor's Note: I have read both of these books. *The Cotter's son* is a Norwegian classic emigration story that I have very strong feelings about. I will be sharing those thoughts at the Zoom meeting. Thomas Enger's novels are typical Norwegian crime if you like that genre as I do.

Polar Star 5-472 - 2024 Events and Programs

The year of....“How to be a Viking”

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

FEBRUARY 4	POLAR STAR PENNY SOCIAL and SOUP COMPETITION
MARCH 3	
APRIL 7	Polar Star Viking Feast
MAY 5	Polar Star Memorial Service
SAT. - JUNE 1	NORWAY MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE AND BREAKFAST
JULY	POLAR STAR FAMILY MONTH – NO EVENT SCHEDULED
AUGUST 4	VIKING Games
SEPTEMBER 8	VASA PARK 9:00 a.m.
OCTOBER 6	TBD
NOVEMBER 3	Høstfest begins at 11:30 a.m.
DECEMBER 1	JULETREFEST

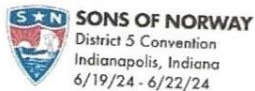
2024 POLAR STAR KITCHEN COMMITTEE

Feb. 5	Karen Oswald And Soup Competitors
March 3	Sue & Steve Tanda Carol and Frank
April 7	Jeanne and Craig Leifheit
May 5	
June 1	Norsk Museum Opening
Aug. 4	Frances Berg, Al Benson, Tom Harkins
Sept 8	Vasa Park Event
Oct. 6	
Nov. 3	All members - Høstfest
Dec. 3	Polar Star Board



January 16-31	Birthdays	February 1-15	Birthdays
Jan 29	Elsie Sorenson	Feb 1	Brianna Meek
		Feb 3	JoAnn Ward
		4	Al Bergh
		6	JoAnn Gryder
		9	Al Benson
		14	Craig Leifheit

RACING TO THE FUTURE



Sons of Norway District 5 Convention
Indianapolis Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel
 2501 S High School Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46241
 June 19-22, 2024

The block of guest rooms for the Sons of Norway Convention is now open. The convention rate of \$129 is in effect for Tuesday, June 18 through Saturday, June 22. This special base rate is for either a king or double queen room. Additionally, a hot, fresh-cooked breakfast for two people is included with each room.

You can reserve your room by calling 317-244-6861 and asking for reservations. The group code is "SNY." Be sure to mention the Sons of Norway District 5 Convention and verify that the base rate is \$129.

If you have any problems reserving your room, you may contact Dawn Huth, Housing Manager at the hotel, 317-243-1030. This opportunity is limited, so reserve your room as early as possible. The deadline is May 19, 2024. It is important to **RESERVE EARLY** to be sure to get this rate and breakfast deal. When our block of rooms closes, the special deal will no longer be available. Do not hesitate! **Reserve as soon as you can before May 19, 2024!**

Please turn in your volunteer hours to Karen Oswald ASAP

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 at/for 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/manage/maintain)													
Norsk Museum Fundraisers breakfast/smorgasbord/etc (prep/food/work)													
Syttende Mai Parade/Banquet (prep/food/work)													
How to be a Viking (prep/food/work)													
Norwegian National League (plan/prepare/lead)													
Viking Ship (docent/manage/maintain)													
Red Hat Knitting													
Tubfrim													
Barnebirke/Norge Ski (prep/food/work)													
MSI Christmas Tree													
Other (describe)													
TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS:													

Revised 2019

**Sons of Norway
Polar Star Lodge 5-472
Regular Meeting, January 7, 2024**

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

The lodge met in person in St. Olaf's Lutheran Church basement. President Ken Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:30, following our 1:45 PM pot luck luncheon. Beef stew was served, along with salads, side dishes, and of course desserts. Kitchen host was Diana Raimond.

President's Announcements:

- Ken opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
- He reported the acknowledgments received for our lodge's December donations.
- The 2024 District 5 Convention will be held June 19-22 in Indianapolis. Let him know if you are interested in being a Polar Star delegate.

Treasurer Report:

- In Carol's absence, Ken read a summary of the Treasurer's report (copy attached), which was accepted. Current total assets of \$17,536.11.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed.

Secretary Report:

- Motion to approve the December Polar Star meeting minutes was made, seconded, and passed.
- Karen reminded everyone to finish recording their 2023 activity volunteer hours, and to submit their report to her no later than the February Polar Star meeting.

Social Director Report:

- The annual Norge Ski Tournament will be January 27-28. Nancy encouraged everyone to attend, and gave information about the VIP tent. Refer to the tournament website or contact Nancy for additional information.
- Karen is host for the February meeting, which will be our annual Soup Contest and Penny Auction. In addition we need to bring cookies for the annual February Barnebirke.
- Frank, Carol, Sue, and Steve will be kitchen hosts for the March meeting.
- Nancy requested everyone to sign up for kitchen duty for least one 2024 Polar Star meeting.

Cultural Director Report:

- Barb said that she is working to determine a focus for 2024 meetings, and is looking for suggestions this week from everyone. She will announce our 2024 cultural goals and meeting focus in the newsletter.
- Barb talked about the national Sons of Norway Book Club and mentioned several books they are reading. They are considering starting a youth book club.
- She announced that the Norsk Museum's Dave Johnson's father has passed away.

District 5 Representative Report:

- Connie announced that the Norsk Museum will be open February 17, 18, 19 from 10 to 4, and that other museums in that area will also be open. Norsk Museum is looking for docent volunteers those days.
- The Sons of Norway District 5 website has a lot of information: sonsofnorway5.com

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Following the meeting, we were entertained by a come-alive, historical genealogical presentation by 1800's immigrants King Anderson and his wife from Norway to Leland Illinois (as re-enacted by Ken and Barb Johnson). Afterwards, everyone was treated to displays by various Polar Star members of pictures, artifacts, and information about important Norwegian women in their lives. Norway maps were set up for everyone to add a pin to represent towns from which their ancestors emigrated.

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 4: Annual Soup Contest and Penny Auction; bring cookies for the Barnebirke.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Oswald, Secretary

