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**DECORAH, IA**

**May-June 2009**



The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra will provide instrumental ensemble support for the Sangerfest 2010 Grand Concert. See below article for further details.

### **EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS**

#### **Madison, WI**

Our Edvard Grieg Chorus began its Spring concert series on May 2 with two performances at the Annual Scandinavian Festival in Hales Corners, a suburb of Milwaukee. This event, sponsored by the Sons of Norway, included several musical groups and dancers as well as ethnic foods, arts and crafts from Norway, Finland, Sweden and Denmark.

Another special event occurred the next day. A relatively new group of male singers from Cambridge, Wisconsin, calling themselves The Country Chordsmen, joined the Chorus for a joint practice. Mark Everson, our director, and Judy Brandt, director of the Chordsmen, had been in discussions over several months to put together the details for a joint performance of the two singing groups.

The combined choruses of 70 voices first performed for residents of the Skaalen Home in Stoughton on May 12. This first performance was essentially a warm-up for the joint appearance of the two choruses at Syttende Mai celebrations in Stoughton on May 16.

The musical depth of the combined organizations was evident to all as we sang six songs from our common repertoire.

The Chorus participated in two more Syttende Mai events. Later on Saturday we performed at a special service for the new King and Queen of Syttende Mai at Saint Ann's Catholic Church in Stoughton.

Then on Sunday, May 17, we performed at Christ Lutheran Church where two members of a visiting band from Norway were married in an authentic Norwegian wedding ceremony. Two of the numbers we sang, "Norge Mit Norge" and "The Gift of Love," seemed most appropriate for this special occasion.

The Chorus wrapped up its Spring schedule with June performances at Little Norway near Mt. Horeb and Thunder Valley in Wisconsin Dells. The Chorus also welcomed Fred Hundt as another addition to the second tenor section. Fred is the owner of Sensible Painting in Stoughton.

The planning committee for Sangerfest 2010 continued refining the list of tasks and assigning members to each responsibility. The supporting entity, Dane County Friends of Scandinavian Culture, received the good news that its request for 501(c)(3) non-profit status was approved by the IRS. Grants to support Sangerfest 2010 have been

awarded by the Wisconsin Arts Board and Torske Klubben. On June 26, officers of NSAA visited Madison for their annual meeting, and they toured the Sangerfest 2010 facilities including the Overture Center for the Arts and The Madison Concourse Hotel.

As noted in the previous edition of Sanger Hilsen, the **Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra** (WCO), along with our Grieg Chorus accompanist Carolyn Fuerst, will be providing the instrumental support for the combined choruses at Sangerfest's 2010 Grand Concert. The WCO, currently celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, is a professional chamber orchestra dedicated to providing high quality musical performances for local and regional audiences.

Under the direction of Music Director Andrew Sewell, a native of New Zealand, 34 core professional musicians comprise the WCO which is well known for its six Summer Concerts on the Square and the production of 29 annual concerts. Most of these concerts are held in the Capitol Theater of the Overture Center for the Arts. The Orchestra was the supporting orchestra for Sangerfest 2000 held in Madison, and its members are looking forward to playing again for Sangerfest 2010.

Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

**BJORNSON MALE CHORUS  
Chicago IL**

Dear Brother Singers,

Alas, Time waits for no man! Upon returning from the Fargo Sangerfest last summer, it was great to slow down and relax. When the Chorus convened in September 2008, we still had the summer blahs. With no

immediate dates to sing, we could spend the next three months learning new material. In a way it gave us the opportunity to move at a slow pace, so we old guys could catch on.

Our first gig was in December at the Atonement Church in Elmwood Park. It's an annual thing, especially singing hymns with nine verses. On Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> we did our usual duty for the shut-ins at the Danish Retirement Home, Edison Park IL. The next night we held our Christmas party at the Avalon Banquets in Elk Grove IL. This dinner/concert is always well attended by 200 music lovers who are in a festive mood. The evening unfolds rather smoothly with a cocktail hour adding a certain glow to our audience as the evening meal is served.

The show begins with our talented MC, baritone Phil Holmes opening the program with an endless array of Lena and Ole jokes to keep the folks rolling in the aisles. Then we had a sing-along of English and Norwegian Christmas carols, always a good way to get the crowd into a singing mood.

Serious singing began with the quartet opening the program, offering "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Following were solos by Ken Michaels, Julian Ronning, and Bob Weldon, and a duet by Karen Kramer and Keith Jensen. Hope I didn't forget anyone.

Last, but not least, the Chorus ended the evening with a short program of five songs, the last one featuring Ken Michaels singing with the Chorus, "O Holy Night" Sweet Jesus.

The Chorus was then off until Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. The winter weather was brutal; it kept our attendance at rehearsals to a

skeleton crew for the entire month. It wasn't until February that we started doing some serious singing. We sang at the Lenten service at Edison Park Lutheran Church and were well received.

Normennes Singing Society once again invited Bjornson to participate in the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of Song on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Estonian House in Lincolnshire. Each chorus sang two songs (there were six choruses). Then we joined in a mass chorus and sang six numbers to conclude the program. A social/cocktail was enjoyed all evening by the many people there.

Oh, excuse me! In my haste to write this article, I forgot to mention that we sang at the Christmas service on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at Minnekirken in Logan Square, Chicago. There was a variety of songs by the congregation's choir, the Grieg Ladies, Nordic Singers and, of course, Bjornson. In between were two beautiful soprano solos. Refreshments were served after the service, even marzipan cake. So – I hope you'll excuse my "senior moment."

Our next endeavor was on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, again at Minnekirken, celebrating *Syttende Mai*. The program was filled with the same choruses, only we sang different songs this time. The social hour afterwards is thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our Spring concert is next on the agenda. The date is Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Avalon. Our theme will be songs written by Stephen Foster. It will be outstanding.

Leve Sangen,

George Michals, Corr. Sec.

**"SANGER-HILSEN"  
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**DEADLINE FOR JULY-  
AUGUST ISSUE  
JULY 27, 2009**

**NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB  
Minneapolis MN**

Another busy week for the Norwegian Glee Club. We sang with the Nordkap Male Chorus for the *Syttende Mai* services at the Norwegian Lutheran Church Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The next day we sang at the Rivers facility in Burnsville and followed that up with a concert in Golden Valley on the 21<sup>st</sup>, with rehearsal that evening. It's a good thing that we are a young group with lots of energy and stamina.

We will be missing three of our singers for a while. Bjorn Lasserud wanted to spend *Syttende Mai* in Oslo again, even after sitting in a cold rain last year watching the parade. Carl Pederson is in Norway planting potatoes at his farm, and Glenn Tollefson is at home rehabbing, after having his knee rebuilt again. President Herb Nelson has put the finishing touches on our May 29-31 tour. Only one important detail remains; that is to locate all of the Dairy Queens along the way to satisfy any panic attacks our accompanist, Loryce Sivertson, may have.

Our featured DIAMOND for this issue is Sverre Waagen. This long-time Glee Club member was born on the island Gurskøy, near Ålesund, in 1927. The family had a small farm on the island, on which they raised oats, potatoes, cows, sheep, chickens, and a pig. They fished for cod and needed to purchase only staples such as sugar and coffee.

As a young man, living under the brutal German occupation, Sverre has vivid memories of going to town and having to spend time in an underground bunker while the town and harbor were being shelled by the

Allies. He had a harrowing experience when he and his uncle were required to go out in a small boat in heavy seas to tether a magnetic mine that had broken loose from its mooring line.



Sverre Waagen

One summer he worked as hired help on a farm. He remembers the schedule was 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the fields, and then from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. cutting wood. He said that he did get a lot of meat and potatoes to eat as part of his compensation. He worked also on road construction on the island.

In 1947 Sverre and one sister boarded a troop transport ship and came to America. He arrived in New York with \$50 in his pocket and set out for his initial destination, which was South Dakota. He had been told that it was cold in the Dakotas, so he arrived at Hot Springs in his winter underwear; the temperature was 105! In Hot Springs he got a job in the laundry of the hospital. He was told

that, if he cleaned out all of the red clay and rubbish in a storage room, he could stay there rent free.

After a time he became homesick and decided to go back to Norway. He took a bus to Minneapolis to arrange transportation. While there he saw a sign in a window, "Wanted, bus boy." He didn't know what that meant, but he needed money and applied and got the job, which of course was bussing dishes. That was the beginning for what later would be a long career in restaurants.

In 1950 Sverre got an invitation to join the US Army. After basic training in Kansas, he was soon off to Korea as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, who were landed above Seoul and advanced up to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. A year in Japan as part of the occupation forces followed. While there he served as 1<sup>st</sup> Cook for 250 men.

After being released from the Army he returned to Minneapolis and got a job with Rudy Gmetro's Ham and Egg Restaurant. The writer was a frequent patron of this establishment, and maybe Sverre was cooking those ham and eggs that arrived at our table in a hot skillet.

Soon he was managing this former Gopher football All-American's restaurant. He joined Rudy as a partner, and they opened a drive-in on Shady Oaks Road in Hopkins, and later operated with partners three Golden Chicken franchises. Sverre ended up as the sole owner of the one in Bloomington, which he called the "Big Chicken," and operated it until retirement.

As Sverre loved to dance, he often frequented the Marigold Ballroom. He would seek out the best dancers; one night, that person was Alice who

would become his wife in 1953. Together they raised three daughters and three sons.

In 1961 Sverre was at a *Syttende Mai* event at the Curtis Hotel; at his table were Clarence Hanson and Kris Rusten, both singers in the Norwegian Glee Club. At that time Sverre was President of the *Kontakt* Norwegian social club and agreed that he would join the Glee Club if they would join *Kontakt*, which they did.

During his long, dedicated years with the Glee Club, Sverre served as Business Manager, Treasurer, and for 10 years as Vice-President. He has been another of the "Pillars" who have helped perpetuate the Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis. A recent heart surgery has slowed him down, but we hope to see him in his regular seat at practice soon.

For a smile: In these troubled economic times many feel they need a consultant to tell them what to do. It takes two things to be a consultant: gray hair and hemorrhoids. The gray hair makes you look distinguished, and the hemorrhoids make you look concerned.

Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

### MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR Sioux Falls SD

Dear Brother Singers,

The Mandskor's bus trip to Minneapolis on the weekend of May 16-17, which included attending "Phantom of the Opera" was awesome! Sunday morning we worshipped at Den Norske Lutherske Mindekirke. The prelude concert by the Norwegian Glee Club and Nordkap Male Chorus was very enjoyable. The Norwegian dress, culture and atmosphere was great! —

we were blessed to worship at this festive service. The church was packed.

We've had four joint rehearsals for the Sioux Valley Sangerfest, and we are well prepared for the concert on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> we have been invited to sing at Freeman Retirement Center at Freeman SD. On June 20<sup>th</sup> we will be part of Sioux Valley Singers at the Nordlandfest on the campus of Augustana College.

The Mandskor is honored to be part of the program at the reunion of the veterans of the US Battleship "South Dakota." This reunion will be held at Ramkota Inn in Sioux Falls on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

P.S. The corn and beans are all planted! Have a good summer!

Respectfully,

Robert Stenberg, Corr. Sec.

#### **NORDKAP MALE CHORUS Minneapolis-St. Paul MN**

The days around *Syttende Mai* each year are a busy time for Norwegian singing groups in America. So no one will be surprised to hear that Nordkap met and sang five times in seven days in 2009. Three of these are concerts at Paul Thorson's condo complex, at Lyngblomsten Care Center, and at Sunday morning worship at Mindekirken. We joined the Glee Club at the latter event.

Two of our meetings were rehearsals. Naturally we were ready for a vacation after such a strenuous week. We will not be back until July 12<sup>th</sup>, when we say "Thank you" to Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church by participating in their Sunday worship, and then celebrating Norway Day at Minnehaha Park. Fall rehearsals will

be held in abeyance while plans for our future are being decided.

Thank you to Editor Don Berg for preparing the Obituary for Rev. Eldon Underdahl in the previous issue. This was a surprise and kept us from including Eldon's picture, which we add at this point.



Eldon Underdahl

A second loss mentioned previously, also needs to be noted. Carl Sheie retired from Nordkap several years ago for health reasons. We have not been able to obtain his picture, but some you might remember that he wore red sox instead of black with his full uniform. Carl was 89 years of age at his death Nov. 19, 2008.

He was born on Staten Island NY July 22, 1919. He graduated from Wagner College, Staten Island in 1941 and Luther Seminary, St. Paul MN in 1945. He was ordained upon call to Trinity Lutheran, Madelia MN and Rosendale Lutheran, Rosendale MN, where he served from 1945-47. He then moved to Bethel Lutheran, North Long Beach CA where he served 1947-53. Then he crossed the country to serve St. Olav Lutheran at Weehawken NJ 1953-55, Grace

Lutheran, Uniondale NY 1955-68, New Life Lutheran, Lancaster NH 1968-71 and St. Paul Lutheran, Berlin NH 1971-74. He returned to Staten Island to become chaplain at Eger Lutheran Home from 1975-81. He officially retired in 1984.

His first wife, Agnes (Olsen), whom he married in 1945, died in 1991, and his second wife Olive earlier in 2008.

Services for Carl were held at Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka MN. He was survived by three sons, their spouses, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. We in Nordkap remember him for his second bass voice and his great sense of humor. The Lord bless his memory among us.

Wendell Frerichs, Corr. Sec.

### NORDIC MALE CHORUS

#### Sioux City IA

Some may recall that a Swede made it into MacNamara's famous Irish band. Now, in reverse, here's an Irishman who has long been accepted in the Nordic Male Chorus and its Norwegian background.

Harlan "Bud" Dawson has sung second tenor with the Nordics for 60 years, amazingly half as long as the chorus' organization, dating to 1891! And Bud laughingly declares, "That is without a drop of Norwegian blood."

(Editor's note: Bud may be forgetting the Viking invasions of Ireland and the "contributions" they left.)

Invited to join the chorus in 1949 by a friend in the group, Bud passed Scandinavian "regulations" at that time, through the benefit of his wife

Joyce and her Swedish roots. She has continued to support her husband as a Nordic Auxiliary member in their marriage of 61 years.

Bud has attended a remarkable 28 NSAA Sangerfests and nearly as many Sioux Valley singing festivals, receiving top medal honors along the way.

For a number of years of his membership, Bud reflects, the chorus members were dressed in white pants, black jackets and sea captain hats. They then changed to the familiar colorful vests and black pants, he added.

Born on a northwest Iowa farm to parents with strong Irish training, Bud went on to business training, service in the Air Force, several other jobs and positions, and continues to own and operate Dawson Advertising Specialties.



Harlan "Bud" and Joyce Dawson

Bud and Joyce, who met on a dance floor, have a son and daughter, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In the years this Irish tenor has sung, he has committed to memory many of the Norwegian standards, and he continues his love of music begun



in the church choir, by dropping in for rehearsals of the Nordics, enjoying some popcorn, and joining in the camaraderie of male chorus.

Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

### LUREN SINGING SOCIETY

#### Decorah IA

Our current singing season is coming to a close with a rush. For Dr. Judisch and our accompanist Matt Myers, the spring was extra busy as they were involved in rehearsals and actual presentation of *Die Fledermaus* with Dr. Judisch as director and Matt as the only member of the doubly cast production to perform both evenings. If they seemed a bit “batty” for a few weeks, there was good reason. Matt graduated from Luther this spring and will be returning to his home town of Sioux Falls to do practice teaching and will then seek employment in his field of Music Education. (Take note, you Sioux Falls choruses. Matt is an excellent accompanist and sings first tenor.)

Our joint concert with the Luther College Norsemen, the Viking Boys (Decorah Middle School) and a prize-winning octet from Decorah High School, was a rousing success. The nave of Decorah Lutheran Church was filled, and for our combined numbers the chancel was packed with ca. 175 singers. What fun! The fellowship and food following were fabulous too.

That was on Mothers’ Day. Later in May, on the 30<sup>th</sup>, we traveled to Mankato MN to sing for the Sons of Norway lodge, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The following Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, we took the bus to LaCrosse WI for another Sons of Norway gathering. Then, on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, we took part in the morning worship

at Zalmona Presbyterian Church of rural Waukon IA, where our Luren member Tom Burrell serves as pastor. Following a delicious noon meal we sang another full concert for the Mission Fest.

We have one more concert scheduled for the last Sunday of June at Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church, located between Eitzen MN and New Albin IA. Luren member Loren Hartley invited us back to his church.

Next comes the County Fair in early July, where we operate a food stand, which raises most of our funding for the year. It is also good PR and gives us an opportunity to recruit potential members.

Finally, we will do our usual stints at Nordic Fest, July 23-25. We’ll do some warm-up singing even before the official Opening of the Fest on Thursday evening, then sing our Friday evening outdoor concert at the Courthouse Square, and ride the float in the Saturday morning parade.

We did elect new leadership for the new singing year, which will be ratified in September. Dan Huebner will succeed LeRoy Iverson as President; Roger Buhr will become Vice-President. Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer remain the same, as does our Historian. The new marshal will be Paul Estrem, assisted by Dean Fisher.

We will resume rehearsals on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Carl Peterson** moved to Decorah last December and joined us this spring. He was born on a farm near Worthington MN. His father was a farmer and his mother a war bride from Philadelphia. Carl was the third of four boys. He graduated from

Brewster High School (23 in his class) and went on to Augustana College in Sioux Falls. While in high school he took part in sports, band and choir. He lived in Minneapolis for 20 years, working in the mortgage business, then in Des Moines IA, and later in Denver CO.



Carl Peterson

Carl married his wife Sue in 1971. They have three children, one son in California, one in Decorah, and one daughter in Denver. They have two grandchildren.

Carl had taken a break from singing until about 2000. When he came to Decorah, he heard about a men's group. Interestingly, John Bay, who directs Decorah Chorale, a mixed chorus, encouraged Carl to seek out the Luren group.

Carl sings first tenor. He has been impressed by the camaraderie of the group and the quality of the music.

#### **Future events**

Our first date, after resuming rehearsals in September, will be Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, when we will help host a chorus from Norway and probably do some singing with them.

We are setting up a weekend tour to southeast Iowa and western Illinois for Oct. 23-25. We'll be in the Quad Cities on Friday evening, go on to Bishop Hill in Illinois on Saturday, and climax the weekend with a Sunday afternoon concert at Keokuk IA.

Early Spring of 2010 we are planning for a joint concert in the Center for Faith and Life at Luther College, including the freshmen men from Luther, a group from Minneapolis, and our own men. Larry Monson, one of our newer members, is a member of the Minneapolis group, and is the liaison between the two; it sounds like a winner.

Lastly, we have a questionnaire about a possible concert tour to Norway in 2011. That year is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Luther College, and there is a proposal for a Norway tour by Alumni/ae. There is the possibility of coordinating schedules. There are lots of details to discuss and decide, but we'll keep people posted via this and other means.

Soon we will be hearing about the 2010 Sangerfest music, which will be a major part of the next year's rehearsal schedule. Meanwhile, we will continue to contact prospective members to join us in the fall.

Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

### **GRIEG MALE CHORUS**

#### **Canton SD**

(This report came to the Editor on April 22, too late for inclusion in the issue of March-April.)

Since our last letter to *Sanger-Hilsen*, the Grieg Male Chorus at Canton has enjoyed the opportunity to perform two concerts.

On Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Assembly of God congregation, Canton, hosted a patriotic concert by the Grieg Chorus. It was enjoyable to peruse the patriotic selections in our files, some familiar, some not, and select a program. The concert was performed to benefit Love, INC., an organization working with the Canton Ministerial Association to meet a variety of needs of Lincoln Co. families.

The following evening, at our regular chorus rehearsal, our music folders needed to be switched from patriotic music to all-Scandinavian music to prepare for our next concert. On Saturday, Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>, the Grieg Chorus was asked to present a musical program for Canton's Kong Olav V Sons of Norway Lodge. The event was the Lodge's "Celebrate Spring" evening, beginning with a dinner followed by a program provided by the Grieg Chorus and a group from South Dakota Humanities. The event was held at Canton Lutheran Church.

Both concerts were well attended, with refreshments served following the concerts for the chorus and those in attendance. We appreciate the opportunities to perform, but it is also very gratifying to feel the support from the community for our group.

The remainder of our spring rehearsals will focus on preparing for the Sioux Valley Sangerfest, June 13, 2009.

Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

## **HARMONY CHORUS**

### **Rockford IL**

April activities for the Chorus included two retirement home engagements. They were both well received. June Taylor, our

accompanist, is still doing double duty, and we appreciate her help. It's amazing how much can be communicated back and forth without the traditional arm flapping. June mentioned to us that sometimes on the older songs she adapts the accompaniment to how we sing them rather than how they were written. (I don't know if that's a compliment or not.) I guess as long as the audience claps heartily, we're OK.

In the beginning of May we were saddened to hear of the death of Bertil "Bert" B. Schon, long time Chorus member. He died Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at age 83. Born February 17, 1926 in Rockford, Illinois to Axel and Karen Schon. In a reverse emigration, Bert, at the age of 7, moved to Lidköping, Sweden where he lived until joining the U.S. Army in 1946.

He proudly served in Germany and again served in the Army in Illinois during the Korean War. He returned to Rockford where he met and married Alice Anderson on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1949. He was a small business owner, starting with a bakery in Kenosha, Wis. and then for many years in Rockford. Survived by his wife of 60 years, Alice, sons Tom of Los Angeles, and Randy of Henniker, N.H. and daughter-in-law Christine of Henniker, and special family friend, Rhonda Powlson of Los Angeles.

Bert was a member of various groups in Rockford including Svithiod, Lyran Society, and Harmony Singing Society. His strong bass voice graced many of their activities and his unique sense of humor provided "comic relief" during rehearsals, etc.

For years, Harmony has baked and sold hundreds of dozens of

Scandinavian type Christmas cookies for fund raising, and listening to the banter between Bert and Alice in the kitchen helped to make the activity something to look forward to each year. A graveside memorial service is scheduled for June 13, and the Chorus will be singing for this. Bert will be missed by all.



Bertil "Bert" Schon

We had one singing engagement in May, again at a retirement home. The end of May finds us still looking for a new director. We have a new interview set up for the end of the month. Hopefully this will work out. The Chorus has been serving Friday night dinners all month (these are fund raisers for our Sangerfest trips) and I think we all are looking forward to the 5th Friday finally being over with. However, the long hours have paid off with us making small profit each night so far. Looking forward to our summer break, we have two singing engagements planned, both in local retirement homes.

Speaking of retirement homes: Ole and Lena were getting on in years. Ole was 92 and Lena was 89. One evening they were sitting on the porch in their rockers. Ole reached over and patted Lena on her knee. "Lena, vat ever happened tew our sex relations?" he asked. "Vell, Ole, I yust don't know," replied Lena. "I don't tink ve even got a card from dem last Christmas."

Dan Lindberg, Corr. Sec.

### **2008 Fargo Sangerfest**

**(submitted by Francis Peterson,  
NSAA Treasurer and Past  
President)**

I offer a bit of history leading to the agreement of scheduling NSAA's 2008 Sangerfest in Fargo. It turned out to be a financial disaster!

In September 2004, a representative of the Fargo/Moorhead Chamber of Commerce attended an NSAA Board meeting held in Austin MN. The representative invited NSAA to hold the 2008 Sangerfest in Fargo. Later that fall my wife Marilyn and I visited Fargo. Their invitation was sincere and their facilities were satisfactory.

At the next NSAA Board meeting I recommended and the Board approved to accept the invitation. Kris Noonan, a Fargo/Moorhead Chamber of Commerce representative attended the 2006 Sangerfest in Decorah. In September 2007 we held our NSAA Board meeting in Fargo. At this meeting we discussed many details, including that they develop their budget so NSAA would receive \$3000 from the event.

(continued page 16)

## 100<sup>th</sup> Sangerfest of the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singer's Association

The Norsemen Men's chorus of Sonja Lodge will host the 2009 PCNSA Sangerfest (song-er-fest) or Song Festival at the Hilton Hotel in Eugene, Oregon. The festival will run from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2009 and is highlighted by a Grand Concert which is open to the public. The concert will be performed by a combined choir of nearly 150 singers. It will consist of traditional Norwegian, Scandinavian, and American choral music.

The PCNSA continues the tradition of Norwegian male vocal singing which became popular in the late 1800's and peaked during the early 1900's. Many towns in Norway still support men's choruses and we are thrilled to welcome The Hauka Mannskor (How-ka Manns-koor) from Norway as our guest chorus.

The 2009 Sangerfest is the 100<sup>th</sup> Sangerfest of the PCNSA. Eugene hosted the 50<sup>th</sup> Sangerfest in 1959. Many sons, fathers, and grandfathers have sung together during the life of the organization. Howard Herbranson of Eugene was the president of the PCNSA in 1959 and his grandson, Mark Agerter, also of Eugene, is the president in 2009. Heritage and tradition run deep throughout Norwegian male chorus history.

The public is invited to the Grand Concert which will be held in the Hilton Convention Center on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:30. Tickets are \$20 each and may be purchased in advance or at the door.

This concert is underwritten, in part, by the Sons of Norway Foundation.

For further information contact Dan Moore at (541) 510-8393 or email [centennialsangerfest@comcast.net](mailto:centennialsangerfest@comcast.net).

Daniel Moore – Publicity Chair  
The Norsemen

**The Norwegian Singers Association of America, Inc.  
Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association  
Club Membership Index**

**ILLINOIS****CHICAGO****Bjornson Male Chorus**

Rehearsals: Each Thursday 8:00 p.m. at V.F.W. Hall; Camfield and Higgins Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068. President: John Lee, 738 Bent Ridge Lane, Elgin, IL 60120, tel. (847) 741-4210; Secretary: George Michals, 5236 Arlington Drive West, Hanover Park, IL 60103; Director: Edwin Kramer, 32600 East Lane, Grayslake, IL 60030, tel. (847) 546-2050.

**Normenneses Singing Society**

Rehearsal each Tuesday evening at 8PM (except July and August) at the Estonian House, P.O. Box 95, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. tel: (847)537-8016. President: Thor Fjell, 1031 W. Ogden Ave. #118, Naperville, IL 60563. tel: (630)369-4233, cell: (630) 479-4233, thorfjell@comcast.com. Corresponding Secretary: Truman Eddy, 50 W Medinah Road #105, Glendale Hts., IL, 60139. tel (630)673-4385, te251@juno.com. Director: Charles Kessell, 6042 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60634. tel: (773)481-5941, cell (773)858-5325, perc55@juno.com.

**ROCKFORD****Harmony Singing Society**

Rehearsal each Tuesday 7:30 p.m. at our Club: 1104 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. Rockford, IL 61104. President: Steve Litteral Sr. 618 13<sup>th</sup> St., Rockford IL 61104, tel. (815) 399-2794. Corresponding Secretary: Dan Lindberg 214 Rome Ave. #2 Rockford, IL 61107. tel. (815) 229-0625. Danielalindberg@CS.COM Director: (vacant).

**IOWA****SIOUX CITY****Nordic Male Chorus**

Rehearsals: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 315 Hamilton Blvd. Sioux City, Iowa 51103; President: Gary Munson, 3303 Court St., Sioux City, IA 51104, tel. (712) 277-1428; Corresponding Secretary: Robert R. Hansen, 20 Eastview Drive, Sioux City, IA 51106 ((712) 258-7445 gregors5@juno.com; Director: Charles Schuett, 5040 Stone Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106, tel. (712) 276-2328, off. tel. (612) 673-5150, scschuett@gateway.net.

**DECORAH****Luren Singing Society**

Rehearsal: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Roberts High School. President: LeRoy Iverson, 107 Meadow View Dr, Decorah IA 52101 (563) 382-3584, leroyiverson@skorgen.com ; Corresponding Secretary: Donald L. Berg, 407 Leif Erikson Drive, Decorah, IA 52101-1038, tel. (563) 382-5727; Director: Dr. David Judisch, 814 Fifth Ave., Decorah, IA 52101, tel. (563) 382-9222 judiscda@luther.edu.

**MINNESOTA****MINNEAPOLIS****Nordkap Male Chorus**

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:00 p.m., at Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church, 53rd & Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN. President: Duane Olson, 9850 Lyndale Ave. S. Apt.57, Bloomington MN 55420-5295; Corresponding Secretary: Wendell Frerichs, 1776 Chatsworth St., Roseville MN 55113-6561 (651) 489-8947; Director: Carsten Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639.

**Norwegian Glee Club**

Rehearsal: Each Thursday evening at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave. So., Edina, MN. President: Herb Nelson, 4720 Larkspur Lane, Lake Elmo MN 55042-8541 (651)587-4819; Corresponding Secretary: Charles Engh, 7642 Prairie Flower Blvd., Chanhassen, MN 55317, tel. (952) 4018838; Director: Carsten Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639.

**SOUTH DAKOTA****SIOUX FALLS****Minnehaha Mandskor**

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Center For Active Generations, 2300 W. 46th St., Sioux Falls, SD. President: Ray Ode, 3900 N. Six Mile Rd, Sioux Falls SD 57110. tel: (605)582-3438; Corr. Secretary: Robert Stenberg, 313 Washington Ave., Dell Rapids, S.D. 57022; Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 3390607, <clefdwellers\_on\_oak@juno.com>.

**Norse Glee Club**

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 8:00 p.m. at Nordic Hall. President: Robert Tidemann, 47164 254<sup>th</sup> St., Baltic, SD 57003 (605) 543-5249; Corresponding Secretary: Roger Johnson, 1912 Sylvan Circle, Box 563, Brandon, SD 57005, tel. (605) 582-2588. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

**CANTON****Grieg Male Chorus**

Rehearsals: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Canton Lutheran Church. President: Ronald Larson, 304 E. 2nd, Canton, S.D. 57013, (605) 987-4377; Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480<sup>th</sup> Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161 ; Director: Lane Karli, 3401 S. Grace Ave., Sioux Falls SD 57103-7219, (605) 275-5591. lrkarli@sio.midco.net

**WISCONSIN****MADISON****Edvard Grieg Chorus**

2262 Winnebago, Madison, WI 53704

Rehearsal: Each Tuesday, 7 p.m. President: Steve Christenson, 519 N. Harrison St., Stoughton WI 53579, (608) 873-9846 stevekrisC@yahoo.com; Corresponding Secretary: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 ; Director: Mark W. Everson, 711 Highway #106, Edgerton, WI 53534, tel. (608) 884-9398 [evers11111@aol.com](mailto:evers11111@aol.com).

**SIOUX VALLEY SINGERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Steve Espeland, 48304 278th St., Canton SD 57013; Secretary: Ronald Beck, 28206 465th St., Lennox, SD 57039, tel. (605) 647-2851, becpardox1 @speednet.com; Vice President: Don Cooper, 2708 W Oak St. Sioux Falls, SD 57105 (605) 339-0607, [clefdwellers\\_on\\_oak@juno.com](mailto:clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com). Treasurer: David Stene, 6109 Canary Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1076, tel. (605) 332-2055; Director: Lyle Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

**PACIFIC COAST NORWEGIAN  
SINGERS ASSOCIATION**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Mark Agerter, 3850 Gilham Rd, Eugene, OR, 97408, 541-685-0115, Agerter@peak.org; Vice President: Erling Skaar, 2320 NW 96th St, Seattle, WA 98117, 206787-4944, cleanfish@aol.com; Secretary: Phil Overlund, 11556 Shadow Ranch Rd, La Mesa, CA 91941, tel. (619) 660-1125, [jpooverlund@cox.net](mailto:jpooverlund@cox.net); Treasurer: Orv Sletten, 3087 Oakcrest Dr NW, Salem, OR 97304, tel. (503) 581-7099, [orvviv44@comcast.net](mailto:orvviv44@comcast.net); Marshal: Dan Moore, 210 Sunshine Acres Dr., Eugene, OR 97401, 541-425-6421, daniellemoore@comcast.net; Trustees: Washington - Denney Helseth, 10301 Interlaaken Dr. SW, Lakewood, WA 98498, 253-588-2711, [dhelseth@comcast.net](mailto:dhelseth@comcast.net); Oregon - Roger Ness, 3079 Stapp Dr, Eugene, OR 97408, tel. (541) 683-3359, [rdpjness@juno.com](mailto:rdpjness@juno.com); California - Howard Hansen, 149 Tharp Dr, Moraga, CA 94556, tel. (925) 376-7611.

## CALIFORNIA

### OAKLAND

#### Normanna Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 8:00 p.m., Bjornson Hall, 2258 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602. President: Howard Hansen, 149 Tharp Drive, Moraga, CA 94556, tel. (510) 376-7611; Secretary: Robert Brewer, 15 Castle Park Way, Oakland, CA 94611, tel. (510) 531-9684, [jugjockp47@aol.com](mailto:jugjockp47@aol.com); Director: Dick Meyer, 3440 Adell Ct., Apt. 2, Oakland, CA 94602, tel. (510) 482-4714, [meyersfbc@aol.com](mailto:meyersfbc@aol.com).

### SACRAMENTO

#### Nordik Sangkor

Rehearsal: Second Sundays, 1:30 p.m., at Advent Lutheran Church, 5901 San Juan Ave., Citrus Heights, CA. Contact person/director: Walter Braafladt. President: Walter Braafladt, 4174 Dena Way, Sacramento, CA 95821, tel. (916) 482-7919, [wbraafladt@softcom.net](mailto:wbraafladt@softcom.net); Secretary: Rolf Owre, 145 Baxter Ave., Sacramento, CA 95818, tel. (916) 925-8409; Director: Walter Blaafadt, 4174 Dena Way, Sacramento, CA 95821, tel. (916) 4827919, [wbraafladt@softcom.net](mailto:wbraafladt@softcom.net).

### SAN DIEGO

#### San Diego Mannskor

Rehearsal schedule and location to be supplied. President: David Krogh, 3470 Abbey Blvd., Chula Vista, CA (619) 427-7602 [dekrogh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dekrogh@sbcglobal.net); Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bnita, CA 91902 (619) 470-8745 [holmerud@cox.net](mailto:holmerud@cox.net); Director: Joyce Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Place, Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (760) 735-6171, [joyceolsen@mac.com](mailto:joyceolsen@mac.com).

### SAN FRANCISCO

#### Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Meets every Tuesday 7:00 p.m. at the Norwegian Club, 1900 Fell St., San Francisco, CA. President: Herleiv Storseter, 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94103 tel: (415) 344-0204; Secretary: Mark Mathisen, 1601 Oakwood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403 tel: (650) 574-2935, [dchouse@earthlink.net](mailto:dchouse@earthlink.net); Director: Rebecca Stein, 204 Roseann, Pittsburg, CA 94565, tel. (925) 432-1120, [beccab63@hotmail.com](mailto:beccab63@hotmail.com).

## OREGON

### EUGENE

#### The Norsemen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Sonja Lodge #38, Sons of Norway, 710 McKinley, Eugene, OR 97402. President: Mike Bagaason, 2060 Bailey Hill Rd., Eugene, OR 97405, tel. (541) 687-2562, [bagaason@rio.com](mailto:bagaason@rio.com); Secretary: Roger Ness, 3079 Stapp Dr. Eugene, OR 97408, tel. (541) 505-7769, [mwilliams@eugenlaw.com](mailto:mwilliams@eugenlaw.com); Director: Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, tel. (541) 998-6329 [eamundson@comcast.net](mailto:eamundson@comcast.net).

### SALEM

#### Thorsmen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annex, 1198 Lanning Avenue North East, Salem, OR 97303. President: Robert Johnson, 16485 Oakdale, Dallas OR 97338; Secretary: Roger Vinyard, 4085 47th Ave. NE, Salem OR 97305; Director: Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, [whitewolf@proaxis.com](mailto:whitewolf@proaxis.com).

## WASHINGTON

### BELLINGHAM

#### Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsals every Tuesday evening, 6:00 pm at the Norway Hall, 1419 North Forest St., Bellingham WA. President: Larry Peterson. tel. (360) 935-1110. Secretary: Jim Florence. Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, tel. (360) 966-3132, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto:stmjensen@earthlink.net), cell phone 303-3919.

### EVERETT

#### Norwegian Male Chorus

Normanna Hall, 2725 Oakes Avenue

Everett, Washington 98203

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening, 7:30 p.m. at Normanna Hall, 11665 Pointe Place, Anacortes, WA. 98221-8519; President: Claire Egtvedt, 5904 96th Pl. SW, Mukilteo, WA 98275, tel (425) 347-4944, [chegtvedt01@foxinternet.net](mailto:chegtvedt01@foxinternet.net); Secretary: Robert R. Larson, 1710 163rd St. S.E., Mill Creek, WA 98012, tel: (425) 379-8210, [r2larson@msn.com](mailto:r2larson@msn.com); Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Road, Bellingham, WA 98226, tel: (360) 966-3132, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto:stmjensen@earthlink.net).

### POULBSBO

#### Vestre Sund Mannskor

Meets every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Grieg Hall, Sons of Norway, 18891 Front St., Poulsbo, WA 98370. President: Stan Overby, 29311 Beach Dr., Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 779-2460; Secretary: Robert Ellerby, 1261 Cameo Court, Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 598.4831; Director: Jan Parker Peterson, 21600 Port Gamble Rd., Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 697-3277.

### SEATTLE

#### Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Every Monday evening 7:30 p.m. Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 N.W. 67th Street, Seattle, WA 98117. Officers: President: Don Baines, 9217 27th Ave. NW, Seattle WA 98117, (206) 784-5245, [danbaines@earthlink.net](mailto:danbaines@earthlink.net); Corresponding Secretary: Kenneth Lake, 5003 NE 194th Pl., Lake Forest Park WI 98155, (206) 362-5611, [kennethlake@comcast.net](mailto:kennethlake@comcast.net). Director: Dr. Alf Knudsen, 1513 Debreton Lane, Mukilteo, WA 98275, tel: (425) 347-2769, [alfknudsen@aol.com](mailto:alfknudsen@aol.com).

#### Skagit Valley Mannskor

Rehearsal every Monday at 7:00 PM Fir-Conway Lutheran Church, 18101 Fir Island Rd. Mt. Vernon Wa. 98273. Officers: President Alvin Stenslan, 11665 Pointe Place, Anacortes Wa. 98221 tel. 360-558-1166. Secretary Dick Tjersland, 17638 Greenacres Rd. Mount Vernon Wa. 98274360-428-4650. Director Steve Jensen, Bellingham WA, 98226 Cell phone 360-303-3919.

### TACOMA

#### Normanna Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Each Monday 7:00 p.m., Gloria DeI Lutheran Church, 3315 South 19th Street, Tacoma, Wash. President: Gene Wilson, 7620 98th Ave. SW, Lakewood WA 98498 (253) 582-9249; Corresponding Secretary: Harold Jacobsen, 11111 - 18th Ave. E., Tacoma, WA 98445, tel: (253) 537-7106, [hmandejacobsen@juno.com](mailto:hmandejacobsen@juno.com); Director: Jon Malmin,

The NSAA Constitution states that the host chorus for each Sangerfest is to submit 25% of their net profit to the NSAA Treasurer. Because Fargo was not a member of NSAA, the agreement, not in writing, was that they would provide \$3000 to the NSAA Treasurer.

Early in 2009 I obtained a very brief report from Mr. Carrol Juven, the individual who almost solely organized and conducted the Fest. He indicated to me the following:

Receipts \$59,247.00  
Expenses \$62,114.00  
Net loss \$ 2,867.00, all absorbed by Mr. Juven, who refuses to pay anything to NSAA.

Perhaps we should not have staged a Sangerfest in a non-member city, but we did. NSAA will survive financially, but host choruses need to develop their Sangerfest budgets to make sure that NSAA's 25% is a significant amount of dollars.



