



VOLUME 108, NO. 3

DECORAH, IA

May-June 2018

INTRODUCING

Dr. Paul Larson was elected President of the NSAA Saturday, June 2, 2018. He was born at Iola IA and grew up in Wittenberg. His father, 100% Norwegian with Telemark roots, sold insurance. His mother, also 100% with Telemark roots, was from rural Gregory SD.

Paul graduated in 1964 from Wittenberg High School, taking part in sports, music, etc. He went on to St. Olaf College, where he met Dianne (Larson), from Sioux Falls, whom he eventually married.

Paul graduated from the Medical School at the U. of Wisconsin in 1972. After serving in the Air Force, he returned to the University, specializing in dermatology (skin cancer), where he practiced until retirement. Since retirement he has worked with his wife in a quilt store in Waunakee WI.

Paul served on the Board of the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center, including a stint as Chair of the Board. One of his ancestors was a Hardanger fiddle-maker, and one grandfather played harp and fiddle. Paul himself sang in church choir and high school, and played cornet in band. He sings Bass. He joined the Edvard Grieg Chorus on 9-11-01!



New NSAA president Paul Larson receives congratulations from past president Roger Buhr.

Paul and Dianne have three children: Erik, Kain and Krista, and six grandchildren.

Knowing of his nomination and anticipating election, Paul already has been busy organizing for Sangerfest 2020, to be held June 18-19-20. We in NSAA congratulate him and wish him and the Edvard Grieg Chorus all the best during these next two years.

NSAA President's Column

What a wonderful experience. Sangerfest 2018 was a tremendous success, and we must give a big THANK YOU to the Luren Singing

Society and all those who helped in making it such a fun time.

We love to sing. To have the fun and privilege of singing in a mass men's chorus is a thrill. It's powerful to sing the last chord in "The Lost Cord." As Dr. Judisch says, music changes lives.

Pass on your excitement. Ask your singing neighbors and friends to join your singing group. The friendships they make, the camaraderie and the joy of music will be contagious. They will be rewarded.

Mange tusen takk for a wonderful Sangerfest.



Paul Larson, NSAA President

BJORNSON MALE CHORUS Chicago IL

Dear Singer-brothers and ladies, Bjornson Male Chorus started our Spring season with a concert at the Avalon Banquet Hall in Elk Grove Village. The concert was well received by our audience. Director Ed Kramer selected four of our ten songs from the upcoming Sangerfest.

He also chose and arranged a number which is sung in both English and Norwegian, "As the Bridegroom to His Chosen," which features a solo by Ken Michaels, and Ed joining Ken in duet. Much of the Norwegian was provided by Eivind Torske, our last singer born in Norway.

The song also features an oboe, which was beautifully done by a very talented young lady, Olivia Peterson.

She also performed the "Sonata #1 for Oboe and Piano" by G. F. Handel.

Ken Michaels gave a stirring rendition of "I Believe," and finished with Victor Herbert's "Thine Alone."

Our next stop took us to *Minnekirken*, in Chicago's Logan Square, where we were joined by the Normennenes Singing Society, the Grieg Ladies, Chicago *Spelmanslag*, and a wonderful group of young people under the direction of a young lady, Evelyn Finne. They are called "The Logan Square Crescendo."

The church had a full house and as usual they had refreshments for all in the downstairs gathering room.

Rounding out our *Syttende Mai* celebration was the get-together of The National League and the Sunday parade, for which Bjornson was Grand Marshal. Having a group rather than one individual is a new idea. Last year it was Normennenes. We are grateful the rain stopped just before our 1 p.m. step-off.

Next stop for the singers of our choruses was Decorah IA for the 62nd NSAA Biennial Sangerfest and the 150th Anniversary of the Luren Singing Society. Congratulations and well-wishes to Roger Buhr and his committees for a wonderful and heart-warming three days of music, food, camaraderie and hospitality.

I cannot describe the thrill and joy of singing in the Grand Concert under such great leadership provided by Dr. Judisch and Terry Walter. Many thanks to both of you.

I want to thank Julian Ronning for helping us out with our Parade of

Choruses numbers. Next, I thank our lead baritone who was unable to attend the grand event due to health issues. I'm talking about our Corresponding Secretary, George Michals. Although not present physically he was certainly present spiritually. For all your help, thanks George.

Another huge Thank You goes to Director Ed Kramer, who was a great help to his own baritones, singing in the Grand Concert.

Other BMC singers unable to attend due to health issues were Harold Erickson, Oystein Borsheim, Eivind Torske and Bob Weldon.

On behalf of Bjornson Male Chorus and Ladiesø Auxiliary, we say Thank You again to all of Luren for a memorable Sangerfest.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger Stavnem

NORSE GLEE CLUB

Sioux Falls SD

Preparations have been completed, and the performances accomplished, for Sangerfest 2018. It is now in our performance history books. We, The Norse Glee Club, wish to thank the LUREN SINGING SOCIETY and its LADIES AUXILIARY for their conduct of this very successful event.

The planning and execution seemed to us to go smoothly. Difficulties, if occurring, were not apparent to us. The powerful musical offerings by all of our 10 choruses seen during the øParade of Chorusesø and the øGrand Concertø were certainly reflective of

significant preparation over the past year.

We were able to register 15 of our 19 members as Sangerfest participants. Unfortunately, three of those individuals opted out in the week before the event due mainly to family emergencies, hospitalization, and acute leg pain involving immobility. Nonetheless, we did have 12 members fully participate in the weekend. As always, the ømusicø is what draws each of us to attend and participate.

Noteworthy for us this time, were the øAwardsø presentations. Our DAVID STENE was recognized for his over-60 years NSAA participation, and was awarded the Gold Medal with three-diamonds. He is the first person of our chorus to be so recognized.

Our director, LYLE KROON, was equally recognized for his over-40 years NSAA participation, and was awarded the Gold Medal with one-diamond. GEORGE REGAN, our long-time treasurer, was recognized for his over-30 years NSAA participation and was awarded the Gold Medal.

Yours truly, and RODNEY HOFF each received a Bronze Medal for our over-10 year NSAA participation. Our accompanist, SPENCER SMITH, received the NSAA pin signifying attendance at his first Sangerfest.

One week after the Sangerfest, on Sunday, June 10th, we entertained members of The Nordland Heritage Foundation, here in Sioux Falls, as it commenced a series of summer activities.

We plan to begin regular Monday rehearsals again on Sept. 10th. Initially, our focus will be preparation of music to be presented in the

SANGER-HILSEN**("SINGERS GREETING")**

Published Bi-Monthly, by the Norwegian Singers Association of America
Incorporated under State Laws of South Dakota as an Educational Society.

Address all matters for publication subscriptions, renewals, change of address, and make remittances payable to: Sanger-Hilsen Office:

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sanger-Hilsen Office.

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407 Leif Erikson Drive
Decorah, IA 52101
www.nsaaonline.org
Subscription price \$20.00 per year

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Periodicals postage paid at Decorah, Iowa.
Sanger-Hilsen USPS 481-380

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**DEADLINE FOR
July-Aug. 2018 ISSUE
Aug. 20, 2018**

community-wide Festival of Men's Voices in late November 2018, and our early preparations for Sioux Valley Singers Association (SVSA) Sangerfest 2019.

One activity item we have deferred until our September business meeting is consideration as to whether we are still able to host a Lutefisk supper this year. Our decision and plans, again, will be contingent on coordination with other groups and individuals who, historically, have supported us. If held, the supper will be in early November.



Gail Kristensen Corr. Sec.

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS Madison, WI

Obviously Sangerfest 2018 was the big story this spring. Congratulations to NSAA President Roger Buhr and the Luren organization for their outstanding work in planning and executing this very successful gathering. Luther College was a perfect setting, and the Parade of Choruses, Grand Concert, concert hall, orchestra, soloists, afterglows and entertainment were all exceptional.

We particularly want to express our appreciation to President Buhr for his decision to award our former Director, Mark Everson, the NSAA Presidential Special Recognition Citation for his 40 years of service to our Chorus. We also appreciated Director Judisch's invitation to Mark to direct *Ja vi elsker* to begin the Grand Concert, a fitting tribute to Mark's contributions.



Mark Everson receives citation from NSAA President Roger Buhr.

The NSAA Business Meeting included two more important actions impacting our Chorus. First, Dr. Paul Larson was elected NSAA President for 2018-2020. Second, our new Director, Jonathan Schroerlucke, was elected to serve as Associate Director-in-Chief for Sangerfest 2020 in Madison. We particularly thank Terry Walter and Ed Kramer for their support of Jonathan.



Jonathan Schroerlucke

In addition to serving as NSAA President, Paul Larson will be the Chair of Sangerfest 2020. Paul has already moved quickly to appoint committee chairs and assign members to the various committees. In addition, the practice, performance, and hotel venues have been secured.

Our Chorus is now in summer recess giving all of us the chance to reflect on the significant developments of 2017-2018. Mark

Everson retired as our Director, Jonathan Schroerlucke was engaged to replace Mark, and the transition was seamless.

We lost our Madison practice facility when Idun Lodge was sold, but found another suitable location at Trinity Lutheran Church. Finally, we added four new members during the year to give us a new record of 40 singers.

My wife and I will be enjoying a vacation in Norway in July and we expect to return refreshed and ready to face the tasks ahead in 2018/19. All of us in the Chorus wish you and your families an enjoyable and relaxing summer.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

NORDIC MALE CHORUS

Sioux City IA

During the week of May 30, the Nordic Male Chorus, wives, director and accompanist made their way to beautiful and scenic Decorah, IA for the National Sangerfest. Although only eight in number, they were mighty in enthusiasm and sang their hearts out at the Parade of Choruses.

Many, many thanks to the Luren Singing Society and everyone else that helped to make the Sangerfest very much enjoyable and successful.

The Nordics will be taking the summer off to refresh and reload. They will resume practices again in late September. They wish everyone a great summer.



Bob Hansen, Corr Sec.

NORMENNENES SINGING

SOCIETY

Chicago IL

Thank you, NSAA, Luren Singing Society, Luther College and Decorah! We had a wonderful time at Sangerfest 2018. After the long drive from Chicago we were met with warm hospitality at Wednesday evening's gathering at the Toppling Goliath Brewery. Singers settled in at either the Fairfield Inn, the accommodations on campus, or an in-town Air B&B.

The Luther campus quickly became our home away from home as we took part in all the rehearsals, meetings, concerts and evening events. One thing stood out about this year's Sangerfest for us in Normennenes.

We all seemed grateful to be able to be there and participate as a chorus. Some of our members inspired us, making the trip while facing significant health issues. Karl and Grete Tangelos had to sit this one out at home while Karl recovers from a recent hospitalization.

Clarence (öPeteö) and Hazel Peterson were able to attend Saturday's Grand Concert with the help of their daughter, Barb, after their recent relocation to Iowa City, and Pete's retirement from the chorus.

Also inspiring were Marit and Henry Carlson, driving to Decorah on their own, and showing up, and staying up late each night to share in all the festivities. Dodging the downpour on Saturday night and

finding their car parked somewhere on the dark campus seemed minor challenges to them, while all the while they maintained such a positive and light-spirited attitude.

We are grateful to Frank Potempa for all the work he put into organizing us before and during Sangerfest. He seemed to be everywhere when something was needed, checking in with all of us throughout the weekend. He even provided free valet parking for Henry and Marit one night outside the Center for Faith and Life! Thanks, too, to our director, Chuck Kessel for preparing us for our performances, and to Mike Benshish for his inspiring accompaniment.

Being on campus together with our fellow singers and members, and enjoying the fine hospitality shown on us by our Luren hosts during all the events, it was easy to feel young again - like we were all young kids away at school, out having a good time, laughing and sharing in all the fun!



Dan Boyle, Corr. Sec.

MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR Sioux Falls SD

As I begin this submission to the Sanger Hilsen, I am still basking in the afterglow of Sangerfest. Congratulations and gratitude are extended to the Luren Singers. Congratulations on their milestone anniversary and their excellent planning and execution of Sangerfest 2018. Gratitude for all the demanding work (we still remember from 2 years ago) and the warm welcome extended

to all of us. Roger Buhr did a commendable job as NSAA president and his support team did not disappoint.

We had 17 singers in attendance for the Parade of Choruses but not all chose to stay for the entire weekend. Jerry Muchow and Terry Walter received gold medals for attending 15 Sangerfests.

Prior to making the trip to Decorah, we finished the season with a joint Sioux Valley rehearsal hosted by the Nordic Male Chorus in Sioux City, April 23, and another in Sioux Falls hosted by the Mandskor, May 21. We participated in worship at Brandon Lutheran Church, Brandon SD, May 20. Our accompanist Deanna Wehrspann had responsibilities at her own church, so Terry Walter moved to the piano bench and Hans Peterson rose to the podium. Hans is part of our bass section and is also the choir director at Brandon Lutheran.



Hans Peterson directing Mandskor at Brandon Lutheran.

While we are officially on vacation from singing, we have tentative plans for a summer picnic July 29, and will again become temporary *öcarniesö* as we open our chislic stand during the 10 days of the Sioux Empire Fair, August 3-11. This is a lot of work,

but also a lot of fun. It provides us with opportunity to work more closely with our fellow singers and auxiliary members and is a bonding experience of sorts. We've done very well with this project for the last six years.

I want to thank the Sioux Valley Singers and my conducting colleagues for a good year of rehearsals in preparation for Sangerfest. And to Lane and Renae Karli, thanks for the memories! Many good wishes go with you as move to your new home in Omaha, find new musical outlets, make new friends and relish in your family. Their gain is our loss. We'll miss you both.

A personal note of thanks to all who made my terms as associate conductor so enjoyable. As I was once again conducting The Lost Chord, I truly wished that time could stand still. It was a moving experience for me as this year I knew somehow that my parents were sitting together in heaven observing everything. They were my biggest cheerleaders. They raised me in a small country church where singing was a big deal. For this and much more, I am profoundly grateful.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Walter, Corr. Sec.

Obituary

Olin E. Opstedahl died April 21, 2018 at Sioux Falls SD at age 91. He was the son of Henry and Ethel (Rogen) Opstedahl, born on May 3,



1927 on the family farm. He attended country school in Highland District 45 and high school in Sherman SD, and graduated from Jasper High School, Jasper MN. Olin then served in the Army during WWII.

After the war, Olin returned to the family farm which he operated until 1988, when he moved to Sioux Falls. He was married to Josephine Darger, and the couple made their home in Sioux Falls. She died in 2014.

Olin was a long time member of the Minnehaha Mandskor and served for many years as its librarian.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, a sister Elaine Quissell, a great niece Jodi Quissell, and nephew Dennis Quissell.

GRIEG MALE CHORUS

Canton SD

Greetings to the members of the NSAA with special Congratulations to the Luren Chorus, Auxiliary, and families for another outstanding Sangerfest experience!! Also special thanks to Dr. Judisch, Terry Walter, and our individual chorus directors and accompanists for preparing us for the Grand Concert experience.

July 2nd the Grieg Male Chorus at Canton will hold an early family picnic and gathering honoring director Lane Karli and wife Ranae for their 25 year devotion to our new life chapter in Bennington NE.



Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

LUREN SINGING SOCIETY Decorah IA

We have been basking in the accolades, expressions of appreciation, congratulations, and praise that have been coming to us as individuals and as the Host Chorus for Sangerfest 2018.

It was a delight and satisfaction to see the plans, long in the making and oft reviewed and revised, come to fruition.

The pre-Sangerfest gathering at Toppling Goliath on Wednesday, hosted by David and Gail Judisch, exceeded expectations. It was a first!

Rehearsals went well. The individual choruses did well. Afterglows and Banquet were remarkable. The Memorial Service had the added feature of showing on the large screen the pictures of the fellow-singers who had left us since Sangerfest 2016.

The awarding of medals as each of the choruses performed had a few hitches, due in part to late additions and deletions, but came off admirably and on time.

Except for a shower Saturday evening just prior to the Grand Concert, which I am sure reduced the attendance somewhat, the weather was very favorable and cooperative.

There were a few mishaps, to be sure. But the whole atmosphere was delightful. Reports on the Ladies Luncheon were enthusiastic.

We've had a feedback session and the financial results are incomplete. When the NSAA Board convenes in the fall, we'll have a more complete picture.

We are humbled and thankful for all the comments, suggestions and proposals for the next Sangerfest in 2020 in Madison WI.

But, back to earth. Coming soon is the County Fair, July 10-14, and our Luren Foodstand, in operation since the mid-1940s, famous for chili, homemade pies, other foods and lots of favorable public relations. After a short break, we'll take part in Nordic Fest July 26-28 after which we hope to be able to rest from our labors.



Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

Message from NSAA Director in Chief.

Dear Brother Singers,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the 2018 Sangerfest such a huge success! Roger Buhr, particularly, should be acknowledged for his leadership before and during the Fest. Everyone from the Luren Singers to you a very hearty congratulations!

My personal gratitude to the fine music directors we have across the Association. Their leadership and musical skills were obvious not only for the fine Grand Concert we had, but also for the outstanding Parade of Choruses concert (one of the finest in recent memory).

I am so proud of all you singers for your great cooperation and for your mastery of the music that we performed together. Thanks to all the professional-level musicians who played or sang solos for us.

I look forward to our next gathering in Madison, Wisconsin, in 2020.

Best wishes to you all!

Tusen takk!!



Dave Judisch
Director-in-Chief
NSAA



Rockford Harmony Chorus sings at the Parade of Choruses.



Decorah's Northern Lights Chorus sings at Parade of Choruses.



Madison Edvard Grieg Chorus sings at Parade of Choruses.



First Sangerfest attendees, front row from left: Jörg Burkhardt, Matthew Johnson, Stewart Storlie, Paul Gray, John Flader, Oscar Toftegaard, Jeremy Reicks. **Second row:** ZiYuan Li, Kenneth Anderson, Mark Nussle, James Irwin, Erik Frydenland, William McBay, Richard Kiehne.



First Sangerfest attendees, front row from left: James Harbaugh, Connely Cyrud, Brent Newgaard, Kim Kapplinger, Randy Schumann, Don Cleven, Robert Stroskopf. **Second row:** James Miller, Guy Bergren, Taylor Kohls, Peter Dyrud, Craig Cutting, Rolf Killingstad, Ed Thom, Jarrett Johnson, David Storlie.



Bronze Medal (5th Sangerfest) recipients, front row from left: Keith Jensen, Loren Hartley, Dick Fjeldheim, Mark Olson. Back row: Tom Buresh, Gail Kristensen, Dave Peterson, Phillip Paulson.



Silver Medal (10th Sangerfest) recipients, front row from left: Bent Paulsen, Ted Anderson, Dennis Barnaal. Back row: Jim Griffin, Gerrit Van Den Top, Larry Weil.



Gold Medal (15th Sangerfest) recipients, front row from left: Terry Walter, Jerry Muchow. Back row: George Regan, Neil Andersen, Frank Potempa.



Gold Medal with one diamond (20th Sangerfest) recipients, from left: Gary Munson, Lyle Kroon, Gary Hendrickson, Chuck Schuett.



Gold medal with two diamonds (25th Sangerfest) recipients, from left:
Einar Johansen, Kenneth Michaels.



Gold medal with three diamonds (30th Sangerfest) recipients, from left:
Bjørn Hagen, David Stene.

First Sangerfest attendees
from left:
Jonathon Schroerlucke,
Rolf Svanoe,
Karl Haakenstad,
Harley Skjerven.



Not pictured. First Sangerfest Attendees: Mark Fideldy, Susan Potvin, Alex Aakre.

Bronze Medal Attendees: Steven Fortney, Nate Hanson, Rodney Hoff, David Lien.



Friday evening banquet.



Norwegian Singers Association of America Officers 2018-2020. Front row from left: Gary Hendrickson, Curt Hepner, Donald Berg, Thor Fjel, Norman Arlandson, Jonathon Schroerlucke. Second row: Jon Lewis, Paul Larson, Roger Buhr, Rich Bjorlo, Jim Glesne, David Judisch, James Slostad, Richard Leake, Frank Potempa.



Skål at the Grand Concert Afterglow.

MINUTES FOR THE NSAA BUSINESS MEETING

Agenda adapted from ARTICLE XI

[Note: *These are unofficial minutes and will be submitted to the Board for approval at their next meeting*]

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Buhr on June 2, 2018 @ 9:45am in the Baker Commons, Luther College, Decorah, IA.

1. Roll call of officers by the Recording Secretary was dispensed because all officers had signed in as part of the credentialing process. The following officers were present:

President: Roger Buhr, Decorah, IA

Vice President at Large: Thor Fjell, Naperville, IL

Recording Secretary: Rich Leake, Decorah, IA

Corresponding Secretary: Don Berg, Decorah, IA

Treasurer: Francis Peterson, Decorah, IA

Grand Marshal: Ken Larson, Decorah, IA

Assistant Grand Marshal: Jim Slostad, St. Paul, MN

Director-in-Chief: Dr. David E. Judisch, Decorah, IA

Associate Director-in-Chief: Terry Walter, Sioux Falls, SD

Past President: Marlan Velgersdyk, Sioux Falls, SD

State Vice-Presidents:

WI: Jon Lewis, Stoughton, WI

IA: Bob Lillie, Decorah, IA

SD: Curt Hepner, Canton, SD

IL: Frank Potempa, Des Plaines, IL

MN: Norm Arlandson, Minneapolis, MN

2. Credentials' committee report [Marshal Ken Larson and Asst. Marshal James Slostad]

Reported 48 credentials/voting members accepted for this meeting. This includes Officers, State Vice-Presidents, other Directors, and elected delegates.

3. Action on the minutes of previous business meetings [Roger Buhr]

Dispensed with reading of minutes; Moved, Seconded and Passed to approve Minutes of previous biennial meeting [June 14, 2016] as printed in July-August *Sanger-Hilsen*. Also approved were minutes of the most recent Board meeting [October 22, 2016] as printed in September-October 2016 *Sanger-Hilsen*. Written reports submitted are attached to the official copy of minutes.

4. Action on applications of new choruses [Don Berg, Rich Leake]

No new chorus applications have been received.

Reports by officers and committees are also submitted in writing or electronically and attached to the official minutes. Each report is briefly summarized below.

5. Director-in-Chief report [Dr. Dave Judisch]

The music directors of the choruses of the NSAA met for a breakfast meeting on Friday, June 1. Guests were Jon Malmin from the PCNSA and Mark Everson, retired director from the Edvard Grieg Chorus in Madison, Wisconsin. After introductions, we updated our addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.

This biennial meeting is a great way to renew our friendships and to become reacquainted. Most of our discussion focused on activities that may have helped one of our choruses to improve their particular situation or status. We also had some discussion on the history of the NSAA, and the way in which they were instrumental in helping to fund the dissolution of the union with Sweden in 1905.

Recruiting new members continues to be an issue for most of our choruses. We continue to advise our individual choruses to appoint / elect a recruiting chair.

I commend the chorus directors for preparing their choruses so well for the Grand Concert this year. I also want to congratulate the individual choruses for their presentations on Thursday evening at the Parade of Choruses. All chose music appropriate for their group and presented it in a most professional manner.

Special thanks goes to Roger Buhr and the many committees who worked so very hard to bring success to another great Sangerfest. [Complete report attached.](#)

6. President's report [Roger Buhr]

President Buhr reviewed the mission of NSAA, and gave a brief history of the NSAA and Sangerfests. Buhr referenced the book, *THEY SANG FOR NORWAY* with the subtitle, *Olaf Oleson's Immigrant Choir*, by Ane-Charlotte Five Aaraset. It is basically the life story of Olaf Oleson who was born in Norway in 1849, emigrated to Fort Dodge, IA, and died there in 1944 at the age of 94. In the book, the author recounts a lot of information about NSAA.

Buhr asked "How are we doing?" We will have 228 singers at the 2018 Sangerfest in Decorah this year representing 10 choruses from 5 states in the Midwest. NSAA could certainly be doing more, but let's not sell ourselves short. We are still an active and vital presence in each of our communities as we promote a love for Scandinavian male chorus music. [Complete report attached.](#)

7. Vice-Presidents' reports

NSAA Vice President at Large [Thor Fjell, given by Frank Potempa] Discussed fund raising and membership. NSAA numbers are holding but need to continue to pursue new members. Most choruses perform at least once a month. Many members are very concerned about the cost of Sangerfests -- professional musicians, facilities, food, housing, and transportation. Acknowledged cost is pricing some singers out of Sangerfest attendance. [Complete report attached](#)

Wisconsin [Jon Lewis] Edvard Grieg Chorus

Mark Everson has retired after over 40 years as Director. Everyone wishes him the very best in retirement. Jonathan Schroerlucke has been hired as a new Director. With the addition of new members, the chorus now has 40 singers. The chorus has had many singing engagements, capped by a very well-attended appearance at the Stoughton Opera House during Syttende Mai. The chorus found new rehearsal space alternating between the Stoughton Opera House and Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison. Members are working on Sangerfest 2020 with the Grand Concert already scheduled in Overture Hall to be held June 18-20, 2020. [Complete report attached](#)

Iowa [Bob Lillie] Nordic Male and Luren Singing Society;

Combined membership of 101 in the two choruses. Nordic celebrated 125th anniversary in 2016 and Luren is celebrating 150th anniversary in 2018. Both choirs have performed many times and contributed over \$6000 to charities where concerts were held. A special highlight for Luren was a concert with Luren and the Luther College first-year men's chorus (Norsemen), plus young men's choruses from the Decorah High School and Middle School ó 160 men from ages 12-92 all celebrating the joy of music together.

[Complete report attached](#)

South Dakota [Curt Hepner] Grieg Male chorus, Minnehaha Mandskor, Norse Glee Club, and Sioux Valley Singers.

The three South Dakota choruses have been very busy since the last national Sangerfest. All three choruses continue to rehearse on Monday evenings, and all three perform regularly in a variety of venues averaging 12-15 events per year. The big concert for all the South Dakota Choruses and the Nordic Male Chorus in Sioux City, IA is the Sioux Valley Singers Association biannual concert. The Sioux Valley Singers includes the four

choruses on the I-29 corridor and has about 80 singers. The SVSA biannual concert is performed in odd numbered years. [Complete report attached](#)

Illinois [*Frank Potempa*] Harmony in Rockford, Normennenes & Bjornson in Chicago. All choruses miss former members/friends who have passed on or experiencing health issues. The choruses are making plans for important celebrations and helping local communities. Some choruses are challenged with expenses, but are finding ways to combine with other choruses. [Complete report attached](#)

Minnesota [*Norm Arlandson*] Norwegian Glee Club in Minneapolis

Arlandson reported it has been a tough winter; even animals are moving into Twin Cities. People are proud of the arts in Minnesota, and encourage others to consider visiting. They need new members and have found that the best way is to listen to people sing and find interested singers wherever you can.

8. Corresponding Secretary's report [*Don Berg*]

Focus of report is on medals, both on cost of medals and access to a jeweler. Have purchased medals to replenish medal supply. Number of diamond honorees increasing. Berg suggested "retiring medals" when moving to a new medal. NSAA has no gender policy, but accompanists/ directors are dues paying members. [Complete report attached](#)

9. Committee and Website reports [*Rich Leake*]

NSAA continues to be a non-dues paying member of Nordisk Sangerforbund. NSF recently went through a reorganization process and remains a valuable resource for individual members and choruses traveling to the Nordic countries.

NSAA website has been functioning since 2005, with peak activity occurring prior to Sangerfests. Since that time, most individual choruses have also set up and maintain their own website, and all are linked to the NSAA website. The top NSAA pages visited are the home/announcement page, the Sangerfest pages, older Sanger-Hilsen editions, and translations pages. Sanger-Hilsen issues are archived on the website from 2009 to the present, and we continue to receive numerous requests each year for older editions to be archived online. NSAA maintains two domain names [nsaaonline.com, nsaaonline.org] for ease in finding NSAA information.

10. Treasurer's report [*Francis Peterson*]

Francis Peterson distributed copies of treasurer's report. Fiscal year ends June 30. Peterson reviewed total balances and membership trends. The NSAA Treasurer maintains two accounts, the General account and the *Sanger-Hilsen* account, both of which are in sound financial position. The General account receives income from membership dues and 25% of Sangerfest net profits. The *Sanger-Hilsen* account just about breaks even after receiving income from subscriptions and holiday greetings/donations. NSAA operates with a checking account and also has laddered CDs. A full report is attached to the official minutes. [Complete report attached](#).

11. Auditors' report [*Thor Fjell, Chair, given by Frank Potempa*]

Audit Committee [*Curt Hepner, Thor Fjell, and Frank Potempa*]: Potempa indicated that the committee found all records complete and accurate. Francis Peterson thanked for his exemplary service to NSAA. It was noted by Recording Secretary that updated incorporation papers were filed with South Dakota by Curt Hepner. Moved, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer's report and Audit report. [Complete report attached](#).

12. Sanger-Hilsen Editor's report [*Don Berg*]

Berg thanked Dennis Barnaal, who serves as technical assistant and co-editor, and the various correspondents for their reports. This is Berg's 14th report, covering 164 issues, and *Sanger-Hilsen* has added more pictures and color. Some of the challenges include postal returns, the need to continue updating Officers, rehearsal times and locations, as

well as writing feature articles on new members. Number of subscriptions remains steady. Thanks to all who submit information. [Complete report attached.](#)

13. Review and determine the honoraria, membership dues, subscription rates, etc.

Moved and seconded that no changes be made to honoraria, dues, or subscription rates. Motion passed.

14. Unfinished business

a. Music Committee -- Change in Article XVIII

[At the October 22, 2016 Board meeting, it was moved and seconded to recommend the Proposed Change to Music Committee language be changed at the Sangerfest 2018 biennial Business Meeting. Motion passed.]

CHANGE IN THE BYLAWS of NSAA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE XVIII currently reads

1. There shall be a music committee of five members, with the Director-in-Chief and the Associate Director-in-Chief as two of its members, and three chorus directors to be elected by the convention. This committee is to select appropriate music for the Grand Concerts at each Sangerfest, and ensure that competent artists are engaged. This committee shall be responsible for determining the order in which the musical selections are performed.

Proposed Change to read:

1. There shall be a music committee consisting of the Director-in-Chief, the Associate Director-in-Chief, and the directors of the NSAA choruses. Chaired by the Director-in-Chief, they will select appropriate music for the Sangerfest Grand Concerts, and ensure that competent artists are engaged. This committee shall be responsible for determining the order in which the musical selections are performed.

Motion to change the Bylaws was made, seconded, and passed.

b. Suggestions for future Sangerfests ó submitted suggestions

*Better coordination with men's and women's schedules and more joint activities.

*Reduce costs/expenses of Sangerfest to encourage attendance.

The suggestions were noted by President Buhr. No discussion.

c. Appointment of Website administrator.

Suggestion made to include duties as part of *Sanger-Hilsen* editor position. It was noted that the website duplicates some of the functions of *Sanger-Hilsen*. The website is currently maintained by Rich and Penny Leake. After brief discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed to include Webmaster duties as part of the Recording Secretary position.

d. Review of Medals ó cost (particularly diamond) and eligibility (pianist)

Discussion about the increasing cost of medals, particularly those with diamonds, and clarification that only one medal can be worn at a time. It was moved and seconded to recommend members return old medals to NSAA when receiving a new medal. Motion passed.

There was also discussion about eligibility requirements. It was acknowledged that if you are registered for Sangerfest, you are considered to have attended. If you are a paid member, male or female, you are eligible to receive medals and be included in memorial services.

15. New business

a. NSAA Presidential Citation

This citation was initiated in 2018 by President Buhr after consulting with officers of NSAA. A Presidential Citation was given to Mark Everson, long-time Director of Edvard Grieg Chorus, Madison. The PCNSA award and medallion were recognized. It was moved and seconded that the NSAA President, with the advice of NSAA Officers, may present a Presidential Citation to a member of NSAA who has demonstrated outstanding and sustained service. Motion passed.

b. NSAA-PCNSA joint efforts

PCNSA guests, Jon Malmin and Rick Larson informed NSAA members about upcoming Sangerfests in Poulsbo, WA [2018], Eugene, OR [2019], and Tacoma, WA [2020]. NSAA members are invited to participate, just as we have invited PCNSA members to participate in our Sangerfests.

c. 2022 Sangerfest

No invitations to host Sangerfest 2022 were submitted at this time.

16. Invitation for the next Sangerfest

Invitation extended by Paul Larson of the Edvard Grieg Chorus of Madison, WI, for Sangerfest 2020 (June 18-20, 2020). Larson gave a brief review of the plans and arrangements already underway.

17. Election of officers

Elected for the following Officer positions:

- President: Paul Larson, Edvard Grieg Chorus
- Vice President at Large: Thor Fjell, Normennes Singing Society
- Recording Secretary: Rich Leake, Luren Singing Society
- Corresponding Secretary: Don Berg, Luren Singing Society
- Treasurer: Rich Bjorlo, Luren Singing Society
- Grand Marshal: Gary Hendrickson, Edvard Grieg Chorus
- Assistant Grand Marshal: Jim Slostad, Norwegian Glee Club
- Director-in-Chief: Dr. David E. Judisch, Luren Singing Society
- Associate Director-in-Chief: Jonathan Schroerlucke, Edvard Grieg Chorus
- Past President: Roger Buhr, Luren Singing Society

Elected for the following State Vice-President positions:

- WI: Jon Lewis, Edvard Grieg Chorus
- IA: Jim Glesne, Luren Singing Society
- SD: Curt Hepner, Grieg Male Chorus
- IL: Frank Potempa, Normennes Singing Society
- MN: Norm Arlandson, Norwegian Glee Club

18. Adjournment at 11:40am by acclamation by President Buhr.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Leake,
Recording Secretary

Minnehaha
Mandskor
performing at
Parade of Chorus.

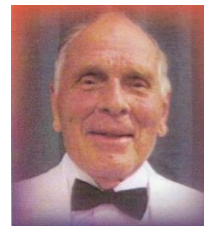


NSAA Financial Report (as of May 29, 2018)

Checkbook and Ledger Balance	\$8,166.41
Savings Account	1,051.05
CD#20008513 (02-29-ø18)	7,614.74
CD#20008514 (08-29-ø17)	7,806.02
CD#20012299 (05-29-ø18)	<u>6,969.65</u>
	\$30,707.87
Sanger Hilsen Balance (05-26-ø18)	\$4,344.09

Income: Holiday Greetings	\$1,330.00
Subscriptions	<u>\$6,525.00</u>
	\$7,855.00

Expenses: salaries	\$3,300.00
postage	\$700.00
printing	<u>\$3,899.47</u>
	\$7,899.47



Submitted by Francis Peterson,
NSAA Treasurer 2016-2018



Saturday orchestra rehearsal with the baritone soloist, Chad Sonka.

**Norwegian Singers Association
of America, Inc.**
(www.nsaaonline.org)
**Pacific Coast Norwegian
Singers Association**
(www.pcnsa.org)
Club Membership Index

**ILLINOIS
CHICAGO**

Bjornson Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Tuesday 7:30 p.m. at 1st United Methodist Church, 9857 Schiller Blvd. Franklin Park IL 60131. 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 (630)837-8615; Director: Edwin Kramer, 32600 East Lane, Grayslake, IL 60030, tel. (847) 546-2050, ed.Kramer@ATT.net.

Normennenes Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. (except July and August) at the Estonian House, P.O. Box 95, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. tel: (847)537-8016. President: Thor Fjell, 1041 W. Ogden Ave, #118, Naperville, IL 60563. cell (630)479-4233 thorffjell@comcast.net Corresponding Secretary: Dan Boyle, 8840 Forestview Rd., Evanston, IL 60203. tel (312)330-1450. danielboyle@me.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 7:00 p.m. at our Club: 1104 15th Ave. Rockford, IL 61104. President: Jim Wolf, 1104 15th Ave., Rockford, IL 61104, tel (815) 965-7833.; Corresponding Secretary: Steve James, 625 Dawson Ave., Rockford IL 61107. tel. (815)601-3813. stevej1945@comcast.net. Director: Sherry Dreyfuss, 11665 Glen Eagles Lane, Belvidere IL 61008. Tel (815)978-2245. swedishcantor@gmail.com

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, scschuett@aol.com.

DECORAH

Luren Singing Society

Rehearsal: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Roberts High School. President: Dan Alstad, 19714 Co. Rd. 4, Spring Grove MN 55974. tel. 507-498-3676, dalstad@springgrove.coop .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

Norwegian Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Thursday evening at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave. So., Edina, MN. President: Jack Hauer, 4804 Elliot Ave. S, Minneapolis MN 55417-1138. Tel. (612)823-6051. hauers4804@msn.com ; Corresponding Secretary: Charles Engh, 309 Chaska Rd, Shorewood MN 55331 tel. (612)244-6679 cell (612)214-5286. cbengh@hotmail.com Director: Carsten Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639 carstonian@hotmail.com .

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: Larry Luinenburg, 7300 S Edinburg Pl, Sioux Falls SD 57108. tel. (410)241-6832 luinenburg@gmail.com Corr. Secretary: Terry Walter (below).; Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 339 0607, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com.

Norse Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Nordic Hall. President: David Lien, 1800 Split Rock Blvd., Brandon SD 57005, tel. (605)582-3565; Corresponding Secretary: Gail Kristensen, 111 W. 17th St., Apt. #110, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, tel. (605)731-5281 mrqail@sio.midco.net. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 212-1309.

CANTON

Grieg Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Canton Good Samaritan Center. President: Doug Olseth, 626 N Broadway St., Canton SD 57013, tel (605)764-2928, olenorsk54@hotmail.com. Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480th Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161; Director: Lane Karli, 3401 S. Grace Ave., Sioux Falls SD 57103-7219, tel.(605) 275-5591. lrkarli@sio.midco.net

WISCONSIN

MADISON

Edvard Grieg Chorus

2262 Winnebago, Madison, WI 53704

Rehearsal: Each Tuesday, 7 p.m. President: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 richarj@charter.net. Corresponding Secretary: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 richarj@charter.net ; Director: Jonathan Schroerlucke, 117 S. Franklin St., Stoughton WI 53589-2218. Cell (608)217-1433 jonathon.schroerlucke@yahoo.com

**SIOUX VALLEY SINGERS
ASSOCIATION**

OFFICERS:

President: Ray Schnabel, 2201 Pebble Beach Ln, Brandon SD 59005. Vice President TBA. Secretary: Gail Kristensen, 111 W. 17th St., Apt #110, Sioux Falls SD 57104, tel: (605) 731-5281, mrqail@sio.midco.net.; Treasurer: David Stene, 2315 S. Cliff Ave. No.6, Sioux Falls SD 57105, tel. (605) 332-2055; Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 339 0607, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com.; Assoc. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

PACIFIC COAST NORWEGIAN SINGERS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

President: Pete Petersen, 713 E 7th Ave. Ellensburg WA 98926, (509) 607-9406 o.petersen@gmail.com. Vice President: Jeffrey Highland; 76 Utsalady Road, Camano Island, WA 98292. (360)387-5285 highland@smumn.edu. Secretary: Doug Wright, 11921 81st Ave E, Puyallup WA 98373, tel. (253)604-4980 douglas.r.wright@gmail.com. Treasurer: Rick Olson, 8726 ShadowoodDr, Everett WA 98208, (425)337-0795, olymeister20@comcast.net; Trustees: California: vacant
Oregon: Paul Flora, 6042 Cottonwood St NE, Salem OR 97317 paulflora@pgn.com; Washington: Allen Feris, 23514 135th Ave NE, Arlington WA 98223, (360)435-3144. feris.allen@msn.com. Trustee at Large: vacant
;Director-in-Chief: Paul May, tel. (619)227-9979 paulthomasmay@gmail.com Asst. Director-in-Chief: : Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, whitewolf372@centurytel.net

CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND

Normanna Glee Club

Rehearsal: time and place unknown

President: Larry Schaleger, qubedude@aik.cin ;Secretary: Paul Eikeberg, tel. (925)485-1538 vikingike@yahoo.com
Director: unknown

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Mannskor

Rehearsal: every Monday at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of San Diego State Univ. in music Bldg. President: Sven I. Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Pl. Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (619) 709-6171, svenio@cox.net; Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bnita, CA 91902 (619)223-2784 holmerud@cox.net; Director: Paul May, tel. (619)227-9979 paulthomasmay@gmail.com

SAN FRANCISCO

Norwegian Singing Society of San Francisco

Rehearsal: Meets every Monday 7:00 p.m. at 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127. 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)947-1357, dchouse@earthlink.net; Director: Megan O'Brien.

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: Mark Williams, 29453 Culver Lane, Junction City OR 541-343-8060. Secretary: Duane Esperum, tel. (206)501-2010 desperum@gmail.com; Director: Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, Junction City OR 97448-9438. tel. (541) 998-6329 amundson@peak.org

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: Paul Flora, tel. (503)363-9753 paul.flora@pgn.com ; Secretary: Wes Anderson, tel. (503)363-1714 wander@comcast.net ; Director: Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, whitewolf372@centurytel.net

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, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net.

EVERETT

Norwegian Male Chorus

Normanna Hall, 2725 Oaks Avenue
Everett, Washington 98201
Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m. at Normanna Hall; President: Craig Fredlund, tel. (425)210-9067, craig_fredlund@jamco-america.com .Secretary: Robert Bruland, tel. (425)335-1150 burland2@comcast.net.
Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net

POULSBORO

Vestre Sundmannskor

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: Warren Rosvold, (360)930-0504, wrosvold@gmail.com; Director: KathyHaug, 21050 Fern St. Indianola WA 98342. Tel. (360) 908-9806. Kathy@meland.com.

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: Jens Eysteinsson, tel. (205)799-8000. JensEysteinsson@AmericanSeafods.com Secretary: Rolf Federspiel, tel. (425)823-9080, farfarfed77@frontier.com. Director: G. Robert Johnston, 4707 NE 192 Pl., Lake Forest Park, 98155, tel. (206)362-1094, bobsings@gohuskies.com

SKAGIT VALLEY

Skagit Valley Manskor

PO Box 481, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Rehearsal every Monday at 7:00 PM at Abel Lodge, 21098 2nd St. Conway WA 98238. Officers: President: Jeff Highland tel. (360)387-5285. highland@smumn.edu
Secretary Skip Ingraham tel (360)387-6168. Director Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net

TACOMA

Normanna Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Each Monday 6:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 20 Tacoma Ave. S, Tacoma, Wash. President: Pete Petersen, tel.(509)607-9406, o.petersen@gmail.com
Secretary: Loren Jangaard, 5917 34th St NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335, tel. (252)265-2312, jangaardl@hatmail.com;
Director: Jon Malmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, jmalmin2@comcast.net



NSAA Sangerfest 2018 Grand Concert, held in the Center for Faith and Life at Luther College, Saturday 2 June 2018 in Decorah IA.