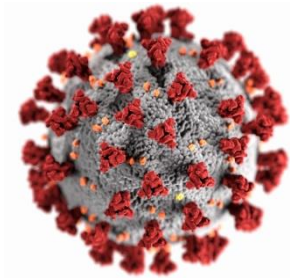




VOLUME 110, NO. 2

DECORAH, IA

Mar.-Apr. 2020



The reason: The coronavirus.



The season: Zoom gatherings. Above, the Luren Singers sing a rehearsal on April 13, 2020, using Zoom software. Each singer was at his own home. Director David Judisch appears at the upper left.

NSAA President's Column

Sangerfest has been cancelled (postponed) for the third time in the history of the Norwegian Singers Association of America. The first times, in 1918 and 1946 because of WWI and WWII, and now in 2020 because of the deadly coronavirus pandemic. Although Sangerfest was postponed in 1918 because of the war, it narrowly escaped the ravages of the Spanish flu.

At the biennial meeting of the Norwegian Singers Association of

America in Fargo ND, in July of 1916, plans were made for the Normanna chorus to hold a Sangerfest in Duluth MN, in 1918. It was anticipated that 1,000 members from every part of the United States would be in attendance.

However, the United States entered the Great War (WWI) on April 6, 1917. Duluth and the surrounding county did their part in the war effort, sending more than 9,000 men into the army or auxiliary services. At least 232 young men from the Duluth area

lost their lives in the war effort. Normanna and the NSAA cancelled (postponed) the 1918 Sangerfest, no doubt because of the complete and total focus on the war efforts.



This photo from about 1920 shows people in Dublin, Ireland using facemasks. Courtesy Dublin Heritage Park and Museums.

As we struggle with the coronavirus pandemic, we think also of the Spanish flu pandemic which killed an estimated 50 to 100 million people. It was as if the virus were a hunter. It was hunting mankind. It found man in the cities easily, but it was not satisfied. It followed him into town, then villages, then individual homes. (The Great Influenza, John M. Barry) The Spanish flu arrived in Duluth in October of 1918 resulting in a complete lockdown of the city. But Duluth survived--and then thrived.

The NSAA and Normanna also survived. The postponed Sangerfest of 1918 was held in Duluth in June of 1920 amid promises of "cool lake breezes" while the rest of the country was sweltering. The NSAA and Normanna held their Grand Concert in Duluth's New Armory on June 26, 1920. "Thousands of visitors" attended, and the program included "some of the best soloists in America

in addition to the magnificent choral work of the best singing societies in the country." (Duluth Herald)

We are in the midst of a war with the coronavirus pandemic. Many or most of us are in a high-risk category because of our age and other underlying medical conditions. But we are resilient—we will get through the present pandemic with greater appreciation of what's important—family, faith and friends. Sangerfest and the NSAA will survive!

So keep your powder dry, stay well and be there for Sangerfest 2022!



Paul Larson, NSAA President

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS Madison, WI

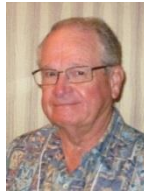
In my last article I noted all of the exciting Chorus activities scheduled for March, April and May, and looked forward to Sangerfest 2020 in Madison. Of course, you know what happened, all of our performances have been canceled along with Founders Day, *Syttende Mai* and sadly, Sangerfest.

The State of Wisconsin remains under a "Safer at Home" order until the day after Memorial Day, May 26. As I write this, Wisconsin has 4,406 active cases of Covid19, 45,000 negative cases, and 222 deaths from the virus.

It is likely that the 2019-20 performance year is over for the Chorus. We hope to resume our activities for 2020-21 in September with our annual fall picnic. I hope we

won't still be wearing masks as it is hard to eat brats that way!

We want to urge all of our brother singers to stay safe until this national crisis is over. Hopefully we will all be singing again soon.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

From the Editor

When the decision was made in mid-March that Sangerfest would not be held because of the pandemic COVID-19, a quick question arose about whether to publish this issue.

We realized that choruses would not be having rehearsals nor concerts, so we wondered whether our correspondents would have reports and what other materials might come. Obviously there will not be the customary issue covering Sangerfest, with extra pictures, etc.

But we thank the correspondents for the reports, extra pictures, etc. for this March-April issue. The NSAA is still alive and active even in these troubled times.

What next? Perhaps we will forgo the May-June and July-August issues, thereby saving some expenses, and anticipating fuller reports in the fall. Your input and suggestions in making these decisions is appreciated.

**NORSE GLEE CLUB
Sioux Falls SD**

As with all the other choruses we at Norse Glee Club have not been at practice because of the Covid-19 pandemic. I do have some things that I wish to share with the other choruses

and that is the obituaries of George Regan and Elvin Thomsen.



George Regan passed away on March 19, 2020. He had been a faithful member of the chorus since 1991. He held positions in the chorus as secretary and treasurer, and he was always willing to help in any way that he could. He would always be willing to give his opinion on anything that pertained to the business of the chorus but would always express this opinion in a kind and thoughtful way. George is survived by his wife Judy, and his children Carol and Ed.



Elvin Thomsen passed away on April 2, 2020. Elvin has been our chorus librarian for many years. He was usually the first one to show up so that he could get the music and the piano out of storage and ready for singing, and many times he would be the one of the last ones to leave. His smile was never ending and he would always be able to come up with a funny one liner that would put a smile on all of our faces. Elvin is survived by his wife Carol and 4 daughters Mary, Beth, Sara and Erika.

Both of these gentlemen will be greatly missed by the Norse Glee Club.

(continued p. 5)

SANGER-HILSEN**(“SINGERS GREETING”)**

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DEADLINE FOR

?-? 2020 ISSUE

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I pray that all will be safe during these troubled times and I hope that we will meet again soon.



Steve Espeland, Corr. Sec.

**NORMENNENES SINGING
SOCIETY
Chicago IL**

We were all set to celebrate our 40th Annual Parade of Choruses on March 27th when we had to honor the stay at home orders for everyone's protection and cancel it. The Grieg Ladies had been invited to participate and we were looking forward to making some history with their participation. This was to be the first year that we would welcome a sister chorus to this annual event. A neighboring chorus, the Waukegan Swedish Glee Club is now an SATB chorus, and continues its long history of promoting Scandinavian culture.

In spite of the challenges facing us, the Society has accomplished quite a bit this year.

We are planning, but with reasonable questions concerning epidemic precautions, for the celebration of our Sesquicentennial. Normennenes has arranged to celebrate its 150th anniversary on October 17 with an evening dinner and concert, followed by a brunch the following morning. We have reserved rooms and facilities at the Marriott O'Hare on Higgins Road in Chicago.

Our director, Chuck Kessel, and accompanist, Mike Benschish are working on plans to help us remotely, preparing rehearsal recordings for the

men to use at home so we will be better prepared when in-person rehearsals resume.

Attention to our website continues (www.norgesings.org) by our music chairman, Bill Johnson, and to our Facebook page (Normennenes Singing Society) by Howard Larson. Also, Karen Potempa has been helping tremendously with all the planning for our 150th anniversary, not to mention all that she is doing for her family while working remotely on her job.

As our president, Frank Potempa, describes it, "we are fanning the embers" to bring renewed energy to our Society.

We are sending out our care and concern to all Normennenes and NSAA members, and their families, especially those who are struggling with health concerns or are grieving at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Boyle, Corr. Sec.

**NORDIC CHORUS.
Sioux City IA**

I hope everyone is staying healthy. Of course just as all of you, the Nordic Chorus is on hold until this pandemic is under control. I was looking forward to the Sangerfest in Madison but Social distancing and everyone's safety take priority. I look forward to the day that we can gather together again.

I have the sad duty to inform the loss of another Chorus member, Lee Schmidt.

Rev. Leland P. Schmidt, 74, of Sioux City IA was called home to heaven on March 6, 2020. Funeral services were held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City on Tuesday, March 10th.



Leland Paul Schmidt was born on June 24, 1945 in Milwaukee WI. He graduated from Concordia High School and Junior College in Milwaukee, and then continued his education at Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne IN, in preparation for the ministry. Lee attended Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis MO and graduated with a MA in divinity in 1971 and was ordained at Elm Grove Lutheran Church in Milwaukee WI. He served several churches in Texas and Iowa.

In 1991, Lee accepted the call to serve as the Iowa District West Chaplain, which included ministry to hospitals, nursing homes, Good Shepherd Hour radio ministry, and training and leadership of Lamplighter volunteers. He retired from full-time ministry in 2007, but continued to serve the church with substitute preaching, as well as filling vacancies. Lee also served on the board of Jesus Our Savior Lutheran School in Winnebago for many years.

Throughout his life, Lee was a beloved pastor, husband, father, grandfather, and friend known for his Shepherd's heart. His compassion and love was a reflection of his

understanding that all souls are precious to our Lord Jesus. He drew strength and guidance from daily study of the Word. He had a great love for nature, especially birds, which he also enjoyed through involvement in the Audubon Society. Lee had a wonderful bass voice and sang with many choirs through the years. In addition to church choirs, he loved singing with the Nordic Choir and attending Sangerfests each year.

Grateful to have shared his life is his wife of 38 years, Paulette. Together they enjoyed spending time with family, traveling, music, and enjoying nature on many relaxing walks. He is also survived by his mother Marion (Severson) Schmidt; his daughter Christy (Matt) Shuput and his granddaughters Audrey and Emily; son Mark Schmidt and his fiancée Anna Johnson; son Tim Schmidt; his mother-in-law Shirley Schuessler; and his brother-in-law Doug Schuessler, as well as many cherished aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Marcus (Bud) Schmidt and his father-in-law Paul Schuessler.

I also have to announce the end of another era with the retirement of Bob Hansen from the Sioux City Nordic Men's Chorus. Bob was a member longer than some of us have been alive, and two of us turn 65 this year. Bob was not only a longtime member, but also as mentioned in the last Sanger Hilsen he was the Corresponding Secretary for many years, and talked me into the position as he was slowing down. Bob was our youth church and bell choir director for some of us in the Chorus. As it was on my bucket list to somehow sing with Bob, he easily

talked me into joining the Nordic Chorus when I moved back to Sioux City. His presence and voice will be greatly missed.

Stay safe and healthy until we are able to meet together again.



Dave Carlson, Corr. Sec.

**NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB
Minneapolis MN**

We hope you, your family, and friends are well and safe during this troublesome time. The Coronavirus ended our plans for spring concerts and events. Our last practice was on March 12, and we canceled our spring Lutfisk Dinner scheduled for March 21. We are sorry the Sangerfest has been delayed but it is good we are doing our part to slow the spread of Covid-19.

Sadly, just before our last practice we lost another longtime friend and Glee Club singer. Bjorn Lasserud passed away March 11. He was 90 years young and is survived by his wife AnneLise, sons Tom (Kris) and Jan (Annette) and daughter AnneMarie (Paul Kilstofte). He had 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Bjorn, AnneLise, and their two young boys immigrated to the United States in 1959 and started a business in Minnesota. Bjorn was an accomplished cross country ski legend. The fellas say he had a room full of trophies. At practice, he sat in front of me. I don't recall how long Bjorn was a member of the Glee Club but it had been long enough so that he knew most of the songs by heart.

We'll miss him when we return. A celebration of his life is expected to be held on May 27 from 3-7 pm at the Cremation Society on 7110 France Ave, Edina.



Bjorn Lasserud

Here in Minneapolis and all of Minnesota, the Governor has closed schools for the rest of the school year. We are practicing social distancing (6ft. apart), wearing masks, washing hands, and whatever we can to slow the spread of Covid-19. I'm learning the Norsk birthday song when I wash my hands. It's about 50 seconds long and they recommend washing 20 seconds at least. :)

Here's one for ya: I told my doctor that I broke my arm in two places. He told me to stop going to those places!

Be good to the folks still working and stay well!



Eugene Willms, Corr. Sec.

**MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR
Sioux Falls SD**

The Minnehaha Mandskor has suspended rehearsals indefinitely after meeting three times in February, and twice in March. The Active Generations facility whose dining room is the meeting place for the Mandskor, is closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Sioux Falls is

the hot spot in the nation for Corona with most of those infected being workers at Smithfield, a local meat packing plant. Formerly known as Morrellø, the plant employed several Mandskor members over the years. Happily, that is no longer so.

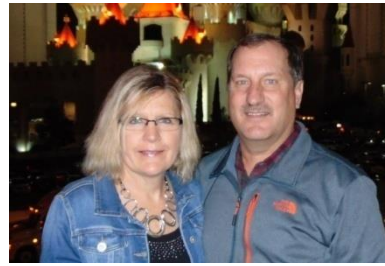
We are saddened by the necessary decision to cancel Sangerfest 2020. These are trying times for every chorus. May this down time provide for needed rest and renewed energy to bring to the organizations whenever they reconvene. This is not the first time the NSAA has needed to cancel the Sangerfest event. It was drawn to my attention that during both WWI and WWII, it was necessary to forego meeting. This is a war too, but we are all in the battle. Some of us wonder if we are at the front line as we dress in our issued face masks to run our errands and buy our groceries. Itø difficult to recognize the enemy. We must continue to do our part to protect ourselves and others.

BUT, we are people of faith. Not a sparrow falls but that our Father does not know. So surely, He will bring us through this if we trust in Him to do so.

Wishing you all good physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health in the coming days.

Mandskor New Member Spotlight

Bruce Johnson has joined the bass section of the Mandskor, February of 2020. A native of Lake Preston, SD, he graduated from Dakota State University in Madison, SD, with a degree in business administration. Bruce works in accounting for Bethany Meadows retirement community.



Laurie and Bruce Johnson

He and wife Laurie live in Brandon, SD, and have 2 married children and 6 (soon 7) grandchildren. Bruce comes highly recommended since he sings in the Brandon Lutheran Church choir with Mandskor members Jon Christopherson, Bruce Duncan, Hans Peterson and Ray Ode, but Ray Ode receives credit for bringing him to the Mandskor.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Walter, Corr. Sec.

LUREN SINGING SOCIETY Decorah IA

COVID-19 wiped out our schedule for rehearsals and concerts from March 16th until ????. There have been a few on-line òrehearsals,ö as the photo on the front page shows, and about 35 were able to take part. News is sparse. We have to simply wait to reschedule once we get the word to go ahead.

We did learn about the death of Ruth Steinbronn, our directorø sister, on March 15th. Her funeral will be private, with a celebration of life at a later date. Her husband, Edwin, died on July 1, 2004; he had sung with us as a second bass for several years.

Ruth had been active in many groups and had the distinction (?) of being voted the Readlyn Grumpøin 2002.

One of our long-time members, Wayne Doc Bicknese, spent quite a lot of time in hospitals in late fall and much of the winter with multiple surgeries, including cardiac surgery in Cedar Rapids. While in the hospital, he learned his granddaughter had given birth to a second daughter. We congratulate Tom and Emily (Bicknese) Stene, as well as Aaron and Carla on this latest addition to the Bicknese and Luren families. (Doc became a member of Luren in 1974.)

New Accompanist



Chris Hadley was born in Waterloo and grew up in Gilbertville. He has a sister and an older brother, both of whom live in Cedar Rapids. His mother worked for a construction company.

Chris attended Don Bosco schools in Gilbertville, taking part in basketball, taekwondo, band and choir.

He began piano at 5, so he has about 32 years of experience already. He went on to Wartburg College where he sang with Ritterkor and got his degree in saxophone performance. Along the way he got his pilot's license

Chris did graduate work at UNI and student taught at Decorah under Jim and Liz Fritz. He has taught piano in

Northeast Iowa and works at West Music Store (formerly Kephart's).

He was recruited by our director. He loves it so far, "Good, good! Welcome Chris!"



Don Berg, Corr.sec.

GRIEG MALE CHORUS Canton SD

Greetings from the Canton, S.D. Grieg Male Chorus, during these VERY unusual times!! I find myself at a loss for words to even describe the feelings one has welled up inside, as we give thanks for each day, and pray for strength and endurance. By now, I am sure many, if not all members of the NSAA, know of people with this virus, or as in our family, have lost a family member to this pandemic.

For me, the weekly meeting with our chorus family, and raising our voices in harmony, has always been a source of strength, and a great energy boost to face the challenges of each day. As I am sure is the case of all of you, I GREATLY miss our weekly rehearsals, longing for the day they resume!!

Every member of the NSAA was saddened the Sangerfest needed to be cancelled! I want to take this opportunity to say Thank YOU to the members of the Madison Grieg Male Chorus and Auxiliary for all the work and preparation you put into the event.

As many others, I have served on NSAA Sangerfest committees, knowing the work begins right after the previous event. You all spent

countless hours of preparation, and all of us planning to attend are sorry to be missing out on the special plans your hosting held in store for us. Sincere THANKS to you for all of your preparations.

One special plan was to show pictures of deceased members during the memorial service. I especially thought that was a very thoughtful idea. My father would have been recognized at that service. Being a member since 1936, and a member through age 102, a friend put together a collage picture for that service showing his badge from first NSAA Sangerfest in 1938, his singers cap which he wore so proudly, his photo as NSAA soloist in 1968, and the photo taken at age 102 when he was soloist at a concert at Good Samaritan, proudly wearing his 3 diamond medal, the first recipient of that award. I include those photos feeling much pride for my Dad, and thankfulness I experienced singing with him in the Grieg since I joined in 1970.



Julien Holter in 1968, and at age 102.

This comment may be out of place, but in an email response from Dennis, he stated he wondered what a 1918 Sangerhilsen would say, during that pandemic. Knowing I had many old editions, I have in order by date, I looked for the oldest edition. The oldest one I have is February 1950, with the cover story being: GRIEG

MALE CHORUS, MADISON, WI, CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY!! I guess I felt it was ironic that in searching, this edition featured the very group we all had so hoped to celebrate with again this year!!



Our Chorus was again saddened by the death of a member, **Roger Iverson**. Roger passed Dec. 30th of 2019. With many family members coming from a distance, plans were made then for a service to be held April 4th, and the members of the Grieg were honored to be asked, by Roger, to sing at his service. Due to the pandemic, the burial and service are still pending.

Roger joined the Grieg in 1970, and was an energetic, enthusiastic member of the chorus, holding many offices through those years. He would scold me for telling, but years when I was Pres. of the Chorus and Roger was Treas. fundraising was regular, but sometimes not quite enough.

At our annual meeting, the treasury always had an ample surplus. In his report was always a couple of large anonymous donations. He would state he had no idea who they were, and I was sworn to secrecy. Most of us knew exactly who it was. That was Roger, the first with quick wit, the first to help, and always on hand. Once you met him, he was your friend! Our members sang for Roger the week he passed. In conclusion one of our members said to Roger, "Well Roger, the next time we meet will be in Heaven, I'll look you up!"

Without a moment of hesitation, with a big grin Roger said "I might be looking you up!" What a powerful statement for us all. We greatly miss him. Roger was equally involved in his church and community organizations, and his celebration of life will be a large and joyous one.

A vivid memory for me is standing with my Grandmother, by two family graves of family members who perished in a previous pandemic. Mother and daughter 10 days apart. I

asked why? Without hesitation she said, "No one took it serious, at first." With the technology and availability of information now, compared to then, I pray it's taken seriously, and ALL of you are healthy and staying safe, as we look out and enjoy the beautiful scenes of springtime!!



Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

Minutes for NSAA Special Board Meeting

Meeting Date: March 17, 2020

Location: Virtual meeting/ teleconference

Selected members of the Edvard Grieg Chorus and NSAA Board members met by teleconference to review options for Sangerfest 2020. Meeting called to order by President Paul Larson at 9am CDT.

1. Roll call of NSAA Officers by the Recording Secretary

President: *Paul Larson, Madison, WI*

Recording Secretary: *Rich Leake, Decorah, IA*

Corresponding Secretary: *Don Berg, Decorah, IA*

Treasurer: *Rich Bjorlo, Rushford, MN*

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

Assistant Director: *Jonathan Schroerlucke, Madison, WI*

State Vice-President: *WI. Jon Lewis, Stoughton, WI*

President of Edvard Grieg: *Dick Johnston, Madison, WI*

President Paul Larson opened the meeting: As you are all aware, Covid-19 is with us and will continue to spread. With that in mind, we need to make decisions on Sangerfest 2020. Consider the following:

Almost all of our members fit into the high-risk age category of over 60;

Many of our members have high risk health conditions;

Covid-19 has now been identified in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota;

Covid-19 will continue to spread and has been declared a pandemic;

The CDC has recommended restricting travel and large group meetings;

There is a significant financial risk of registering few chorus members and having a decimated audience;

There is a probability that we can minimize the financial risk of cancelling because of the force majeure (act of God) clause in our primary contracts. Primary contracts are with the Concourse Hotel and Convention Center, Overture Center, and Orpheum Concert Hall.

Following are options that our group may consider:

1) Cancel Sangerfest 2020. As the Madison and Dane County Health Departments have prohibited mass gatherings until further notice, we regretfully believe this triggers the Force Majeure clause of our contracts, allowing us to cancel our contracts without penalty.

- 2) Rewrite the contract with The Concourse for the existing dates. Because of uncertainty as to the duration of mass gathering prohibition, explore the possibility of the following:
 - a) Change the room reservation deadline to May 15;
 - b) Allow for full room reservation refunds if the mass gathering prohibition remains in effect;
 - c) Eliminate the room and meal guarantees (final meal counts excluded);
 - d) Release us from all financial liability if the mass gatherings are still prohibited.
- 3) Reschedule for June 2021 if performance venues are available.
- 4) Reschedule for June 2022 if performance venues are available.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed to attempt to reschedule Sangerfest for June 2022 and negotiate contracts if performance venues and hospitality facilities are available. No decision will be made until these discussions have taken place. It was further agreed to meet by teleconference next week, March 24, at 9:00 am CDT. In the meantime, a letter will be sent to the president of each NSAA chorus to update them and let them know these discussions are taking place.

2. Adjournment *Meeting adjourned at 9:28 am.*

Respectfully submitted by Richard Leake, Recording Secretary

Addendum:

The Dane County Grieg Chorus along with the Norwegian-American Singers Association (NSAA) have scheduled a Sangerfest (singerøs festival) in Madison from June 18-20, 2020.

Rehearsals, banquets, classes and concerts will be held at the Orpheum, Overture Center and the Concourse Hotel. We have anticipated a grouping of 225-250 chorus registrants along with an additional 100-150 spouse and companion registrants. Sangerfest culminates on June 20 with a Grand Concert at the Overture Center with a total attendance of about 1,000.

The World Health Organization has declared that Covid-19 is pandemic, and national and state health emergencies have been declared. As of this writing, there are an increasing number of people affected with Covid-19 in Dane County, and it is expected that it will double each day. The Public Health Department of Madison and Dane County have ordered the following:

Effective as of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020, and continuing until further notice, public and private Mass Gatherings are hereby prohibited in the City of Madison and Dane County.

The CDC advises that seniors and those with compromising health conditions restrict travel and practice social distancing. Our group fits squarely in this demographic. The Dane County Grieg Chorus and NSAA will meet by teleconference call on Tuesday, March 17, to review options.

Minutes for NSAA Special Board Meeting

Meeting Date: March 24, 2020

Location: Virtual meeting/ teleconference

Selected members of the Edvard Grieg Chorus and NSAA Board members met by teleconference to review options for Sangerfest 2020. Meeting called to order by President Paul Larson at 9am CDT.

- 1. Roll call of NSAA Officers by the Recording Secretary**

President: Paul Larson, Madison, WI

Recording Secretary: Rich Leake, Decorah, IA

Corresponding Secretary: Don Berg, Decorah, IA

Treasurer: Rich Bjorlo, Rushford, MN

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

State Vice-President: WI. Jon Lewis, Stoughton, WI

President of Edvard Grieg: Dick Johnston, Madison, WI

Past President: Roger Buhr, Decorah, IA

President Paul Larson opened the meeting: Covid-19 is with us and continues to spread. Considering the safety of participants and audience, and due to considerable financial risk, we need to make decisions on Sangerfest 2020. The order of business is:

(1) Cancellation of Sangerfest 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic;

Note the letter below from the Edvard Grieg chorus. At this point the Concourse Hotel and Overture Center have agreed to release us from our contract, and discussions continues with the Orpheum Theater. Motion to cancel Sangerfest 2020, seconded, and passed unanimously.

(2) Rescheduling Sangerfest for a future date;

Motion to reschedule Sangerfest for 2022, and seconded. Discussion focused on location and venues. It was agreed that Edvard Grieg will analyze options available and bring a recommendation to the NSAA Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Board Meeting will be held in Decorah late July or early August. There was a suggestion to think about sharing music via a virtual Sangerfest. Also discussed was how to best notify individual choruses, contracted venues, and other interested parties. A letter will be sent by President Larson, minutes posted in *Sanger-Hilsen*, and a notice posted on the NSAA website. Individual chorus members with hotel reservations should be sure to cancel. The July-August meeting will constitute the biennial meeting for NSAA normally held in conjunction with Sangerfest.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26am.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Leake
NSAA Recording Secretary



March 23, 2020

From: NSAA Board of Directors &
Dane County Grieg Chorus

To: All NSAA Member Choruses
Re: Sangerfest 2020

It is with great regret that the NSAA Board of Directors and the Dane County Grieg Chorus have cancelled Sangerfest 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. As you are all aware, the COVID-19 has struck with a vengeance, and federal, state, county and local ordinances are prohibiting gatherings of 10 or greater until further notice. It appears that these prohibitions may extend into early summer. As our greatest concern is the safety and welfare of our members, we find it necessary to make this difficult decision. The NSAA Directors will move forward in scheduling Sangerfest 2022.

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**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 Danish Home of Chicago, 5656 N Newcastle Ave., Chicago IL 60631. President: Roger Stavnem, 1140 Santa Anita Drive, Hanover Park IL 60103, (630)830-2971 lstavnem@sd13.org; Corresponding Secretary: Joel Awes, 2109 N. Kildare Ave., Chicago IL 60639, tel. (773)772-1232.; Director: Edwin Kramer, 32600 East Lane, Grayslake, IL 60030, tel. (847) 546-2050, ed.Kramer@ATT.net.

Normennes 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: Frank Potempa, 1788 W. Sherwood Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. (847) 296-2568 fcpotempa@sbcglobal.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: John Brinkman, 422 Village Wood Lane, Rockford IL 61072, tel. (815)624-0551, sjab37sandra@aol.com; Corresponding Secretary: Dan Lindberg, 1803 Guilford Road, Apt. 2, Rockford IL tel. (815)224-6625 danielalindberg@cs.com. Director: Sherry Dreyfuss, 11665 Glen Eagles Lane, Belvidere IL 61008. Tel (815)885-1424. cdreyfuss@comcast.net

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: David Carlson, 1324 29th St., Sioux City IA 51104. (701)680-9684 n0zln713@gmail.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: Tom Buresh, 905 Locust Rd. Decorah IA 52101 cell: (563)568-1855 tomburesh@netel.net. 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: Eugene Willms, 7646 Prairie Flower Blvd, Chanhassen MN 55317-8334, tel. (952)221-3758. gene.willms@yahoo.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: Ray Schnabel, 2201 Pebble Beach LN, Brandon SD 57005. tel. (309)657-1384 schnarh@gmail.com Corr. Secretary: Terry Walter Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 940-5791, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com Director: John Pollmann, 309 E. 8th St., Dell Rapids SD 57022. tel. (605)370-8092 der_jaeger@hatmail.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: Steve Espeland, 48304 278th St., Canton SD 57103 tel (605)987-5720 cell (605)310-2554 Charsteve.esp@gmail.com. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 212-1309.

Rehearsals: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Canton Good

CANTON

Grieg Male Chorus

Samaritan Center. President: Paul Sogn, 28791 478th Ave, Canton SD. tel (605)368-0475 sognpr@gmail.com Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480th Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161 jerryholter65@gmail.com; Director: Jacob Huber, 907 E 2nd St, Canton SD 57013. tel. (605)305-0648, jacobmhbr@gmail.com

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, 2008 Buckingham, Stoughton WI 53589-2218. Cell (608)217-1433 jonathon.schroerlucke@yahoo.com

SIoux VALLEY SINGERS

ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS: President: Guy Bergren, 48072 289th St, Canton SD (605)321-7061 cell (605)987-2855 guy@bergren.name Vice President Ed Stone, 2009 3rd Ave, S. Sioux City, NE 68776. Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480th Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161 jerryholter65@gmail.com; Treasurer: David Stene, 2316 S. Cliff Ave. No.6, Sioux Falls SD 57105, tel. (605) 376-0771; Director: Jacob Huber, 907 E 2nd St, Canton SD 57013. tel. (605)305-0648, jacobmhbr@gmail.com; Assoc. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

PACIFIC COAST NORWEGIAN SINGERS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

President: Jeffrey Highland; 76 Utsalady Road, Camano Island, WA 98292. (360)387-5285 highland@smumn.edu
 Vice President: Pete Petersen, 713 E 7th Ave. Ellensburg WA 98926, (509) 607-9406 o.petersen@gmail.com.
 Secretary: Doug Wright, 11921 81st Ave E, Puyallup WA 98373, tel. (253)604-4980 douglas.r.wright@gmail.com.
 Treasurer: Allen Feris, 23514 135th Ave NE, Arlington WA 98223, (360)435-3144. feris.allen@msn.com. 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:JonMalmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, jmalmin2@comcast.netAsst. Director-in-Chief: Julie Parsons, jp.conductress@gmail.com

CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND

Normanna Glee Club

Rehearsal: time and place unknown
 President: Larry Schaleger, tel. (510)272-9219 qubedude@aol.com ;Secretary: Paul Eikeberg, tel. (925)485-1538 vikingike@yahoo.com Director: unfilled

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) 708-6171, svenio@cox.net; Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bonita, CA 91902 (619)223-2784 holmerud@cox.net; Director: Alexis Luna.

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: HerleivStorseter, 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94103 tel: (415) 344-0204; Secretary: Mark Mathesen, 1601 Oakwood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403 tel: (650)947-1359, dchouse@earthlink.net; Director: unfilled.

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: BrianRase, tel. (541)686-2733 b.eraser123@gmail.com ; Director: Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, Junction City OR 97448-9438. tel. (541)510-2328 brufflato@gmail.com

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: Neil Haugen, tel. (503)910-1239, neil@haugensgalleri.com ; 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: Gary Strombo, tel. (425)267-9727 gary.strombo@gmail.com .Secretary: John Mickelson, tel. (425)422-6297 john_mickelson@msn.com. Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net

POULSBO

VestreSundMannskor

Meets every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Grieg Hall, Sons of Norway, 18891 Front St., Poulsbo, WA 98370. President: Dick Roemer Tel, (360)693-2317 rproem@yahoo.com; Secretary: Mel Haug, tel. (360)297-0791, mel@melandkathy.com; Director: KathyHaug, 21050 Fern St. Indianola WA 98342. Tel. (360)297-0791. kathy@melandkathy.com.

SEATTLE

Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsal: most Monday evenings 7:30 p.m. Leif Erikson Lodge, 2245 NW 57th St., Seattle, WA 98107, last Monday of month 7:30 p.m. Norse Home, 5311 Phinney Ave N. Seattle, WA 98103. Officers: President: Howard Clausen, tel. (425)774-4635, howardslausen@comcast.net ; Secretary: Paul Hendricks, tel (206)379-0039 phendricksballard@gmail.com ; Director: Julie Parsons, tel (918)273-9268 jp.conductress@gmail.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 and Secretary: Jeff Highland tel. (360)387-5285. highland@smumn.edu 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, jangaard@hotmail.com;
 Director: Jon Malmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, jmalmin2@comcast.net

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With that in mind, here are actions that will be taken:

- If you have sent in a check for registration, a refund check will be issued and sent to you
- We are asking the Concourse Hotel to cancel all Sangerfest 2020 reservations, As you might imagine the pandemonium the Concourse Hotel is going through, you might wait a week before double-checking on the cancellations.

Please pass the contents of this letter on to each of your chorus members, as many are anxiously waiting for updates.

So, hunker in, read a book, clean out your garage or closet, learn a new song, talk to your family. And most importantly, stay well.

Sincerely,

Paul Larson
Chair, Sangerfest 2020
President, NSAA