



**VOLUME 110, NO. 3**

**DECORAH, IA July-August 2020**



Left: *Stokkfisk* (dried cod) in the Hanseatic Museum in Bergen, Norway. (photo D. Barnaal)

Right: can of lye, or *lut* in Norwegian. Useful for unplugging drains, making lye soap, and making *lutefisk*.



### NSAA President's Column

Eat More Lutefisk!!!

Sadly, Sangerfest 2020 is a victim of the coronavirus pandemic. The dangerous and highly infective novel coronavirus originated in China sometime in 2019 and has since spread across the whole world, sparing no country. As of this writing there have been close to 5 million reported cases worldwide, resulting in almost a half a million deaths. Our own Sangerfest fell victim to Covid-19.

We are desperately looking for a way out of this pandemic. There has even been a thought of researching disinfectants that can be taken internally.

Wait a minute, lye is a disinfectant that kills coronavirus. It's also used to make lutefisk. The 16th-century

historian Olaus Magnus describes the dish in *The History of the Nordic People*: í "When you want to prepare these fish to eat, you put it for two days in strong lye and one day in clean, pure water to make it as soft as you want it. After boiling it with an addition of salty butter, you can put it upon the very tables of princes as a well-liked and delicious dish."

([www.thespruceeats.com/lutefisk-fish-2952909](http://www.thespruceeats.com/lutefisk-fish-2952909))

Lye (the main ingredient in Lysol and other cleaning products) is dangerous and should never be taken internally. But waitô what about the small amounts of lye in lutefisk? Is it not toxic? During exactment of workplace safety measures regarding toxic substances in the Wisconsin State legislature in 1982, there was a steamy debate as to whether warning

signs would need to be posted at every lutefisk dinner. The Norwegian lobby boldly stood up, held their ground, and enacted Statute 101.58(2)(j)2.f., which states that a “*Toxic substance means any substance or mixture containing a substance regulated by the federal occupational safety and health administration*” except that “*Toxic substance*’ does not include: ‘*Ludéfisk*’.”

So bring it on! Let's eat more lutefisk.

And what about the disinfectant properties of aquavit?  
Stay well.



Paul Larson, NSAA President

#### From the Editor

This issue is our attempt to maintain contact with the NSAA and PCNSA choruses as encouraged by the NSAA board in July. It may be a patchwork quilt from various sources. Thanks to the correspondents and other contributors to this issue. We plan to have a regular issue for the November-December Christmas Issue. Besides the Christmas Greetings, by that time there may be better news to report

#### From the Director in Chief

Dear Brother Singers,

As we think about the ongoing pandemic, many of us have asked ourselves, "what are we able to do safely?" In view of the rising COVID-19 infections in and around Iowa and surrounding States, we think that there is really no difference in our situation right now compared to what

it was in March or April. In fact, the situation is a little worse than it was at that time.

So, here in Decorah we are considering a couple of options. One involves going outdoors, spacing ourselves, wearing face coverings, and then trying to sing together. But there is so much to overcome that we are not sure how or if that will come about.

Another option would be to do what we did last spring - continue to offer the ZOOM meetings/rehearsals online. Because we want to learn some new music, we would schedule appropriate sectionals having just one section rehearse together at a time, or sectionals going on at the same time using a director for each section.

We are strongly considering creating a "virtual choir." Many of us have seen these or have participated in them. This is possible when we each record ourselves individually at home using two different devices, and then send these recordings to a tech person who puts each of our voices into one unique performance. During this fall season, we would most likely only be able to do one or two pieces that way. We are looking at this seriously and feel like it would be something that could be accomplished.

Whatever your choruses decide to do will not be wrong. It is probably important to maintain that sense of camaraderie and belonging, so trying to do something together may be helpful.

So many things will feel different this year, from wearing masks to keeping physical distances, and yet many things are constant: our sense of community, our mission to sing, and our desire to be together. I am excited

to see the inventive ways all of us will find to adapt in using these difficulties to push our creativity and believing in the possibility of a common project.

Wishing all of you well during this difficult time. Don't worry ó we will sing together again soon!  
Tusentakk,



Dave Judisch, Director-in-Chief

**NORMENNENES SINGING  
SOCIETY  
Chicago IL**

*Dark are the sorrows that come by  
night,*

*Dreams seek for music to bring  
release;*

*Day dawns with sorrow that dims its  
light,*

*Day seeks for music, for song  
bringing peace.*

(English text, by Helen Kaminski, of  
Tonernaby E. G. Geijer)

We faced a week in May that brought much sorrow to our society when we lost three singers in three days. Karl Tangeros, our longest standing member, died May 21<sup>st</sup>. Karl was a member of Normennenes for over 70 years and had participated in over 25 Sangerfests.



Karl and Grete Tangeros at  
Sangerfest, 2016

Dick Fjeldheim, a Past President died on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. He and his wife, Vivian have been supporters, advocates and leaders among the many organizations in Chicago's Norwegian community.

On Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> singer and member, Howard Skoien died. He and his wife, Diane have been faithful members of Normennenes for many years. Howard's grandfather had been a singer in the chorus and Howard would recall memories of attending holiday parties and other Normennenes events as a boy.

It was painful not to be able to gather for traditional funeral and other memorial services to convey our condolences and support to our friends' widows, Grete Tangeros, Vivian Fjeldheim and Diane Skoien, and their families. Our only opportunity to sing our music to help us all grieve was when our chorus, and members of Bjornson Male Chorus, were able to sing outdoors for Karl as his funeral procession paused at Park Ridge City Hall. This was the site of the destination of the annual 17th of May parade. Karl brought new life to the parade when he arranged for it to be brought to Park Ridge from Chicago a number of years ago.

We want to particularly remember our President, Frank Potempa and his wife, Karen, Karl and Grete's daughter, and their family in their time of grief.

Our sense of loss was also accentuated when we made the difficult decision in early July to indefinitely postpone plans we had made to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October. Much thought and years of anticipation have

(continued p. 5)

**SANGER-HILSEN****(“SINGERS GREETING”)**

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**DEADLINE FOR  
?-? 2020 ISSUE  
?**

gone into planning this special and historic anniversary. Plans for musical and social events have been developed, and our Director, Chuck Kessel, has arranged a choral version of *Solveig's Song* which we intend to perform when we do celebrate our 150th anniversary.



Dan Boyle, Corr. Sec.

### EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS

#### Madison, WI

Fortunately the Edvard Grieg Chorus has no obits to share. No other news as our two practice venues remain closed probably until well after the first of the year.

Given the ages of our members the vaccine will be critical to restarting the season. It may be Syttende Mai weekend before we perform again. Wishing everyone the best of health until we can all sing again.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

### NORSE GLEE CLUB

#### Sioux Falls SD

All summer there has been very little connection with the members of the Norse Glee Club. The executive members did meet in June and July and decided to have a Social Meeting with the NGC members and the Auxiliary. There will be a dinner meal served on September 14 with the

tables set far enough apart and numbers at the tables reduced so all can feel comfortable and safe. It has been a long time since we have been able to get together and socialize in our usual way, so this will be a joyful time.

Since Sangerfest was cancelled and there was no banquet we felt that this would take its place and that this would give us an opportunity to celebrate in our own small way. We will also have a short memorial for our members who have passed this year; George Regan and Elvin Thomsen. Both of these men were very active in our chorus and they will be missed by all of us.

We will also discuss how we move forward with safe rehearsals, membership declines, and other difficulties this pandemic may be causing.

I pray that all of our fellow singers are safe and healthy.



Steve Espeland, Corr. Sec.

### LUREN SINGING SOCIETY

#### Decorah IA

As with many of the choruses, we have been lying low with the pandemic. We held a board meeting to discuss some options for rehearsals. See the report by David Judisch.

We have had no deaths among our members due to Covid 19. There have been a few deaths in our county.

We recently learned of the death a couple of years ago of Hazel Braaten, wife of former member Arndt who died a few years ago.

Betty Hansen, wife of former Luren singer Robert (died 2013) died July 14 in Northfield MN.

Rev. Duane Berg who sang with Luren 1970-1985, died on May 12. More recently, Grant Halsne, who sang tenor with Luren for over a decade, died Aug. 22.

*God helse alesammen.*



Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

**NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB  
Minneapolis MN**

We hope you, your family, and friends are well and safe. Thankfully, the Glee Club has not lost anyone to Covid-19 but It's been a somewhat lonely summer. I hope we can survive this pandemic and sing again someday.

Our Club has been inactive since the early part of March and it appears we will continue this way until things change in a good way.

Sadly we lost another good friend. Anne-Lise Lasserud passed away in early May. She was one of the wonderful auxiliary ladies who helped keep us going. Anne-Lise was married to Bjorn Lasserud who passed away in March. They came to the U.S. in 1959. They are survived by sons Tom (Kris) and Jan (Annette) and daughter AnneMarie (Paul Kilstofte). They had 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. They will both be missed. We are so sorry. Peace.

Please stay safe and well. If you are desperate for something to do and have a computer or iPhone etc., check

out a program called "Radio Garden." It is a web site that displays a world globe with little green dots on it. The dots represent radio stations and the globe can be rotated to different countries and if you click on a dot it will play that station. It also displays the city where the station is located. Norway has many stations available.

Here's one for ya: A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."



Gene Millms, Corr. Sec.

**GRIEG MALE CHORUS  
Canton SD**

Greetings from the Grieg Male chorus at Canton SD. Wishing everyone an enjoyable and Healthy summer.



Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

**MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR  
Sioux Falls SD**

The Minnehaha Mandskor remains on sabbatical. President Ray Schnabel notified all that there would be no summer picnic potluck and no chislic concession stand at the Sioux Empire

Fair. The option to reconvene is open for this fall, however director John Pollmann suggests remaining on sabbatical until next February, revisiting the options at that time.

Ones hopes that the group would not lose the feeling of family in terms of communication and concern with and for one another. "Out of sight, out of mind," may be cliché, but it is all too easy to allow it to become reality.

Thanks to Don Berg and Dennis Barnaal for continuing to publish the Sanger Hilsen.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Walter, Corr. Sec.

**BJORNSON MALE CHORUS  
Chicago IL**

The following letter was sent to all Bjornson singers from President Roger Staven.

In the course of time, many good things come to an end. Unfortunately, Bjornson Male Chorus must join that group.

We have been struggling for many years, but the final decision has been made for us. The pandemic has prevented us from rehearsing all spring. The Danish Home had been a wonderful place to rehearse and the staff was more than simply accommodating. Having those snacks at the end of the rehearsal made for an excellent time to meet and talk.

But the pandemic has required the Danish Home to ban all visitors to aid in the safety of the residents.

We are starting to see the end of the restrictions in the future, but one of the last places to open will be the senior residences.

And, even if we can start rehearsing again, many of our members are hesitant about gathering as a group. I have personally contacted all of the active singers, and all agree that the time has come to discontinue the Chorus.



Roger Stavnem, Chorus Pres.

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**Minutes for NSAA Board Meeting**

**Date: July 31, 2020 10:00amCDT**

**Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**The meeting was called to order** on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. by President Paul Larson

**Roll-call** showed the following members were present: Paul Larson, Rich Bjorlo, Jim Slostad, Dave Judisch, Roger Buhr, and Don Berg and Rich Leake joined by phone. Penny Leake joined to help take notes for minutes. Absent: Thor Fjell and Gary Hendrickson.

**Minutes** of the NSAA Board meetings on March 17 and March 24 (as published in March-April 2020 of *Sanger-Hilsen*) were approved as printed.

**Report** by Director-in-Chief Dave Judisch.

- In light of the current situation of Covid-19, he posed a question "What do we do now?"

- Dave reported on Luren activities this spring using Zoom meetings with members of Luren, listen to recordings of music that allowed members to “sing along” and to help keep people connected. He sees no option to resume normal practices for 2020.
- Changes in Bjornson Chorus needs to be discussed (see below).

**Report** by President Paul Larson.

- Disappointed that Sangerfest 2020 didn't happen. Good news was that force majeure clause reduced financial risk. Only about \$4000 costs were lost. Recommended that NSAA use the term “postpone” instead of “cancel” for easier transition to 2022.
- Grieg Chorus has agreed to host Sangerfest 2022. With downtown Madison experiencing lots of damage, including the Overture Center, they are considering holding Sangerfest 2022 at the Marriott Hotel in Middleton which would reduce expenses as well.
- The future of NSAA and future choruses must be discussed. With the aging of participants plus disbanding of Bjornson and Harmony Choruses, we need to ask the questions: How can we grow? How can we change? How can we make it easier to bring new choruses & people into the organization?

**Report** by Corresponding Secretary/*Sanger-Hilsen* Editor Don Berg

- Don announced that the next issue will be delayed. No information coming from choruses at this point except obituaries. Discussion focused on need to publish soon as a way to keep the choruses connected.
- Topics to be included in next issue: minutes of this meeting, change in correspondents from some choruses, changes in index of officers, obituaries, letter from Bjornson, and article about 1890's Sangerfest in Omaha. Don raised questions about Christmas issue, but decisions about that issue can be delayed until later this year.

**Report** by Treasurer Rich Bjorlo

- Rich reviewed the three pages of financial records submitted. Total NSAA assets are \$27,487.34. The 2020 summary report shows \$6600 income from *Sanger-Hilsen* plus dues of \$1300 and a transfer of \$132 from Veterans Chorus. Expenses for *Sanger-Hilsen* were \$8424.28 for a loss of \$1869.84. *Sanger-Hilsen* costs about \$1400 per issue, so perhaps need to consider dropping one summer issue.
- A letter and check from Bjornson Chorus for \$4000 was received by Don Berg upon the dissolution of Bjornson. Treasurer will deposit this check and hold it as a CD to wait for final resolution of this issue at the next Sangerfest biennial meeting.
- There is a continued decrease in membership and dues. No dues have been received by Normenenes to date for 2020. Rich B recommended no change in dues.

**Report** from Marshall Jim Slostad

- No actions without Sangerfest and biennial meeting.

**Report** from Rich and Penny Leake on NSAA website

- Cancellation of Sangerfest 2020 was posted. Will update upon receiving additional information.
- Rich L reported that both the *nsaaonline.org* and the *nsaaonline.com* names are being maintained (dropped the *nsaaonline.net* a couple of years ago). Clarified that we pay for the website and for each name registered to the site.

**Unfinished business**

- **Motion made by Rich Bjorlo (based on prior discussion) to amend previous motion from March 17, 2019 from “Cancellation of Sangerfest 2020” to “Postponement of Sangerfest 2020.” Motion seconded and passed (MSP).**

**New business**

- **Need for a Biennial meeting** -- After considerable discussion and checking the Bylaws, it was determined that without Sangerfest 2020, there is no required Biennial Meeting in 2020. **Motion made to postpone Biennial meeting until Sangerfest in 2022. MSP.**
- **Audit for Treasurer** -- With no biennial meeting, the need for an audit was shifted to 2022. Treasurer agreed to have 2020 and 2021 reports available at that time and is willing to submit the reports to a committee earlier if requested.
- **Review of honoraria, membership dues & subscription rates**
  - Currently the Recording Secretary does not get any compensation for duties which now include maintaining the website. According to bylaws, only the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer receive compensation for their duties. **Motion made to compensate the recording secretary the same \$300 for his/her duties. MSP.** A change in bylaws can be discussed at the next Biennial meeting, but will be paid at this time based on Board action.
  - Currently dues are \$5 per member. Discussion followed with agreement to leave dues and subscriptions (\$20) at the same level as last year.
- Discussion on future of Bjornson and Harmony Choruses. Letter received regarding Bjornson Chorus. Paul will follow up on Harmony Chorus. Don reminded that all chorus records should be sent to the Center for Western Studies. **Motion to postpone action on Bjornson Chorus until next Biennial Meeting. MSP.**
- **Invitation for Sangerfest 2022**– no action needed at this time as Grieg Chorus has agreed to host Sangerfest 2022 following the postponement of Sangerfest 2020.
- **Officer vacancies** – Assistant Director-in-Chief Jonathan Schroerlucke has resigned for personal reasons. Bylaws state this position must be filled by an active singer, but previously directors have also held this position. Perhaps a change in the Bylaws is needed for clarification in the future. Usually the Assistant Director-in-Chief comes from the host chorus, but Grieg does not yet have a director. The Grieg Chorus is approaching several people to take on the position of Greig Chorus director and Assistant Director-in-Chief, but it was agreed to allow other choruses to submit names in order to fill the Assistant Director-in-Chief position prior to the end of the year. Send suggestions to Paul Larson or Dave Judisch.

**Adjournment occurred at 11:20 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Richard Leake, Recording Secretary

**TREASURER’S REPORT NSAA  
BANK ACCOUNTS**

June 30 2020

Checking	\$ 4,331.74
Savings	\$ 1,057.20
Certificates of deposit	<u>\$22,068.40</u>
Total	\$27,487.34

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

REVENUES

Dues		\$ 1,300.00	
Sanger-Hilsen			
Subscriptions	\$5,260.00		
Ads	<u>\$1,340.00</u>	\$ 6,600.00	
Miscellaneous		<u>\$ 132.60</u>	\$8,032.60

EXPENSES

Sanger-Hilsen			
Editor/Prod. Assistant	\$3,600.00		
Postage	\$ 600.00		
Printing	<u>\$4,224.28</u>	\$ 8,424.28	
Miscellaneous			
Secretary Honorar.	\$ 300.00		
Treasurer Honorar.	\$ 300.00		
Web Site	\$ 47.80		
SD Fee	\$ 10.00		
Tax Prep	\$ 50.00		
Director Meeting	<u>\$ 70.05</u>	\$ 777.85	\$9,202.13

<u>EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF REVENUES</u>	<u>\$(1,169.53)</u>
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Reported by NSAA Treasurer Richard Bjorlo

(unaudited)

**TREDIE (Third) SANGERFEST  
OMAHA NEB.**

In lieu of the usual coverage of Sangerfest 2020, postponed to 2022 because of the Coronavirus 19, the following report of the Sangerfest held in Omaha on Sept. 3-5, 1896, is being printed (Sanger-Hilsen did not begin until 1910, so the only report was carried by a Norwegian-language newspaper; which one is unknown.)

John Kvidal, former member of Nordic in Sioux City, now deceased, sent this to me (editor) on July 12, 1996. He wrote, "Evidently there was no historian in Decorah to take upon himself to research the 1896 Sangerfest."

The newspaper story follows.  
(The translation is mine. Ed.)

This Fest was held during the annual State Fair of the State of Nebraska.

Already on Tuesday morning, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Societies began to arrive.-  
Luren from Decorah was the first to arrive and the last to leave. By evening most had arrived, and the white caps were seen all over. Singing was heard from the headquarters and other gathering places.

Friday morning, the 4<sup>th</sup>, the parade was supposed to be. Mr. H. Bie Ravndal, who was Marshal, had not yet arrived because of the train's delay and the parade was therefore led by his first assistant, Mr. Sophus F. Neble.

It was a noteworthy parade, which got started at about 11 o'clock. In the

lead marched 24 erect policemen in gold and blue; the carriages in which the city's mayor and officials, soloists and the Society's Board rode, was decorated and filled with flowers. The Danish Brotherhood Lodge took part in full number. The Choruses with beautiful banners and flags, including a local Ladies' Chorus, marched to five bands which were distributed through ranks. In spite of all the beautiful decoration and all the prayers, it still began to rain, and before the parade ended the whole magnificent flock looked like drowned hens. According to the Program the singers were supposed to go to the Fair grounds after the parade for an open-air concert but because of the rain it was canceled.

During the evening was the Reception for singers in Washington hall, where the mayor in a rather long speech welcomed the singers to the city. President C. J. Johnson responded to the mayor's speech. Then there was alternating between singing and speeches. It was especially "Minnehaha Mandskor" and "Luren" who entertained with singing which received strong applause.

*Ragna Linne* from Chicago, *John Ortengren* and *Olaf Pedersen* had been engaged as soloists.



Ragne Rinné, Chicago

Ragna Linne was very favorable, and her beautiful and lyrical singing and

charming manner won for her generous applause. About Ortengren it is just necessary to mention that he was always popular and had the public and the singers with him. Pedersen, the flutist was also of "Sangerfest-caliber" and received a very enthusiastic reception.

The concerts were held in the Coliseum, which was then the largest assembly place of the whole Northwest, and especially famous for large political conventions. It was here that William Jennings Bryan gave his famous speech on 16 vs. 1, and where he first placed the epigram "The Cross of Gold" into history. The locale was too large; for although the public was rather numerous, still it was for a large part as if far away in the enormous room.

#### FIRST CONCERT

5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

1. Overture. "Freishütz". . . . .Weber  
Scandinavian Band Union  
Prof. Lewis, Director
2. Recitativ og Aria fra "Figaro". .Mozart  
John Ortengren
3. "Norge, Norge". . . . .Wendelborg
4. Fløite Solo  
Olaf E Pedersen
5. Zigenner Sang . . . . .Heise  
Fælleskor
6. Aria fra "Le Cid". . . . .Messener  
Ragna Linné
7. a) Brudfærden i Hardanger. . . Kjerulf  
Fælleskor  
N. S. Ørninggaard. Dirigent  
b) Bröllopsmarsch. . . . . Söderman  
Sangforeningenn "Norden"  
A. Edgren, Dirigent
- c) En Hilsenhjem. . . . .Wendelborg  
**Minnehaha Mandskor.**  
A. K. Indseth, Dirigent
- d) Mitt Hemlands Dal. . . . . Pheil  
**Luren**, Decorah Iowa.
- e) Natebersaastukke. . . . .Kjerulf

- Grieg Mandskor, Ft. Dodge Ia.  
O. M. Oleson, dirigent.
- f) Sångfågglarne . . . . . Lindblad  
II
1. Potpourri of Scandinavian Airs. .Lewis  
Band Union
  2. Føite Solo  
Olaf Pedersen
  3. öLandkjendingö . . . . .Grieg  
Fælleskor og Orkester
  4. a) Jeg elsker dig . . . . . Grieg  
b) Thy beaming eyes. . . . .McDowell  
c) Det är såunderligestelen . . . .Hebbe  
RagnaLinné
  5. Toreado Sang fra öCarmenö . .Trottere  
John Örtengren
  6. öHell dig, du höga Nordö . . . .Crussel  
Fælleskor

Mr. Ernest Nordin directed the combined choruses. He was a very able director and very popular. Mr. W. Miller accompanied on the piano and Mr. Adolf Edgren was organist.

We can not obtain any program of the concert at the Fairgrounds.

The banquets and carousing was uncommonly congenial. öLurenö especially drew attention by singing an original composition, which began with öHer er Liv og her er Loier,ö and ended suddenly surprising with a öEr du med paa den?ö in Allegrissimo:

öI Omaha  
I Sangernes Omaha  
I Omaha  
I Danskernes Omaha ö  
er du med paa den?ö

There was no competitive singing at this Sangerfest.

The following choruses were present and took part in the Fest: öMinnehaha Mandskorö: öBaltic Mandskorö: öSagatun,ö Lounsberry S.D.; öSkandia,ö Willmar Minn.; Normaendenes,ö St. Paul; öIdun,ö

Yankton S.D.; öFramö, Sioux City; öNormaendenesö, Sioux City; öLuren,ö Decorah;ö Grieg Mandskor,ö Fort Dodge Ia.; öNormaendenes, Minneapolis (by delegates); öNordraak,ö Madison S.D.; öGrieg, Canton S.D.; öNormanna Mandskor,ö Duluth; öScandinavian Glee Club,ö and öNorden,ö Omaha. Altogether 16 choruses with about 225 singers.

Among those who have been along the whole time since 1896 and are well-known among the flock of singers, the following can be mentioned, who were there as officers from the various societies:

öMinnehaha Mandskor:ö Th. F. Hamann, Pres; P. C. Ellingson, VP; J. A. Jacobson, Sec.; and WollertHildahl, Treas., with Carl Mannerud as Director.  
öGrieg,ö Canton: H. Greguson, VP and A. K. Indseth, Director.  
öNormanna,ö Duluth: I. N. Sodahl, delegate; öNordraakö Madison S.D., Dr. Johnson, Director;  
öNormaendenesö, Sioux City, N. S. Orninggaard, Director;  
öGrieg Mandskor, Fort Dodge, O. M. Oleson, Director;  
öLuren,ö Decorah: J. Jackwitz, Pres., C. L. Larsen, Sec., and Sigurd Halvorsen, Treas.

**(to be continued)**

### NORWEGIAN "SINGER CAP"

by Roger Buhr

NSAA Past President

Vesterheim has a picture of Luren Singers from about 1887, where the 14 men are all wearing ösinger capsö There is a brief note in Luren's history (on the website) that in 1887, there was discussion regarding caps for the singers, which led to contact with Ben Bear Department Store.



Norwegian singer cap

The Norwegians call these caps, in order of specificity, **lue** (cap), **skyggelue** (billed cap), and **songarlue** or **sangerlue** (singer cap). When Maynard Aaker retired from Luren, he proudly passed his singer cap on to me. I know that some of you have one as well. Mine is basically off white fabric with a black bill. It has two red, white, and blue twisted cords on the front half across the navy blue band attached between two gold buttons with lyres on them. A metal gold lyre pin is in the center.

I don't recall that Maynard gave me any explanation as to how he acquired it. He just said that it was a special ösinger capö and he thought that I would appreciate having it.

What is the history behind this ösinger capö?

I contacted Laurann Gilbertson, the textile curator at Vesterheim. She informed me that the museum has several of them in their collection.. Two are from the 40's or 50's. The one from Carlo Sperati is from the 1930's. They are all from the Chicago Uniform and Cap Company. Since American singing societies were transplanted from Norway, Laurann suggested that I contact some authorities in Norway about its history. She provided me with the names and addresses of several people.

Anne Jorunn Kydland from the music section of the National Library of Norway in Oslo writes this about the singer cap tradition. öTo have a student uniform was discussed for several years in the academic milieu in Norway in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1852, a Scandinavian Student Meeting was going to be arranged in the capital Christiania (now Oslo). Students from Sweden (Uppsala) would arrive, and the Norwegian Students wanted to be visible as a unity. The idea to wear a common student cap was proposed. After some discussion (it was said that to wear a cap would give an undemocratic, conservative signal showing that the academic from the University wanted to be isolated from people elsewhere in the society) ö the student cap was designed and introduced. The first one was made for Johan D. Behrens, the conductor of the eldest Norwegian male choir, **Den Norske Studentensangforening** (established in 1845).ö

öThe reason why the students in 1852 wanted to wear a cap as a group was that the Swedish singer brothers wore a white cap (probably introduced in 1845). Norway got its own university as late as in 1811 (1813) because of the union with Denmark (finished in 1814). In Denmark student caps were in use from about 1845. The Nordic tradition is also influenced by the German student caps in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which were inspired by simple military or workers' caps. From the student singer milieu then the singer cap tradition moved to other choirs in Norway.ö

öAfter this year and in fact up to the present time, this cap is used mostly

(continued page 16)

**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@sdl3.org](mailto:lstavnem@sdl3.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](mailto: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 [fpotempa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpotempa@sbcglobal.net) Corresponding Secretary: Dan Boyle, 8840 Forestview Rd., Evanston, IL 60203, tel (312)330-1450. [danielboyle@me.com](mailto:danielboyle@me.com). Director: Charles Kessell, 6042 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60634. Tel: (773)481-5941, cell (773)858-5325, [perc55@juno.com](mailto:perc55@juno.com).

**ROCKFORD  
Harmony Singing Society**

Rehearsal each Tuesday 7:00 p.m. at our Club: 1104 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, Rockford, IL 61104. President: John Brinkman, 422 Village Wood Lane, Rockford IL 61072, tel. (815)624-0551, [sjab37sandra@aol.com](mailto:sjab37sandra@aol.com); Corresponding Secretary: Dan Lindberg, 1803 Guilford Road, Apt. 2, Rockford IL tel. (815)224-6625 [danielalindberg@cs.com](mailto:danielalindberg@cs.com). Director: Sherry Dreyfuss, 11665 Glen Eagles Lane, Belvidere IL 61008. Tel (815)885-1424. [cdreyfuss@comcast.net](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup> St., Sioux City IA 51104. (701)680-9684 [n0zln713@gmail.com](mailto:n0zln713@gmail.com); Director: Charles Schuett, 5040 Stone Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106, tel. (712) 276-2328, [scschuett@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hauers4804@msn.com); Corresponding Secretary: Eugene Willms, 7646 Prairie Flower Blvd, Chanhassen MN 55317-8334, tel. (952)221-3758. [gene.willms@yahoo.com](mailto:gene.willms@yahoo.com). Director: Carsten Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639 [carstonian@hotmail.com](mailto:carstonian@hotmail.com).

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**SIOUX FALLS**

**Minnehaha Mandskor**

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Center For Active Generations, 2300 W. 46<sup>th</sup> St., Sioux Falls, SD. President: Ray Schnabel, 2201 Pebble Beach LN, Brandon SD 57005, tel. (309)657-1384 [schnarh@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com) Director: John Pollmann, 309 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Dell Rapids SD 57022, tel. (605)370-8092 [der.jaeger@hatmail.com](mailto: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 278<sup>th</sup> St., Canton SD 57103 tel (605)987-5720 cell (605)310-2554 [Charsteve.esp@gmail.com](mailto: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 478<sup>th</sup> Ave, Canton SD, tel (605)368-0475 [sognpr@gmail.com](mailto:sognpr@gmail.com) Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480<sup>th</sup> Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161 [jerryholter65@gmail.com](mailto:jerryholter65@gmail.com); Director: Jacob Huber, 907 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Canton SD 57013, tel. (605)305-0648, [jacobmhbr@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:richarj@charter.net). Corresponding Secretary: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 [richarj@charter.net](mailto:richarj@charter.net); Director: Jonathan Schroerlucke, 2008 Buckingham, Stoughton WI 53589-2218, Cell (608)217-1433 [jonathon.schroerlucke@yahoo.com](mailto:jonathon.schroerlucke@yahoo.com)

**SIOUX VALLEY SINGERS**

**ASSOCIATION**

OFFICERS: President: Guy Bergren, 48072 289<sup>th</sup> St, Canton SD (605)321-7061 cell (605)987-2855 [guy@bergren.name](mailto:guy@bergren.name) Vice President Ed Stone, 2009 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, S. Sioux City, NE 68776. Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480<sup>th</sup> Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161 [jerryholter65@gmail.com](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Canton SD 57013, tel. (605)305-0648, [jacobmhbr@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:highland@smumn.edu)  
Vice President: Pete Petersen, 713 E 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ellensburg WA 98926, (509) 607-9406 [o.petersen@gmail.com](mailto:o.petersen@gmail.com).  
Secretary: Doug Wright, 11921 81<sup>st</sup> Ave E, Puyallup WA 98373, tel. (253)604-4980 [douglas.r.wright@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.r.wright@gmail.com).  
Treasurer: Allen Feris, 23514 135<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Arlington WA 98223, (360)435-3144. [feris.allen@msn.com](mailto:feris.allen@msn.com). Trustees:  
California: vacant  
Oregon: Paul Flora, 6042 Cottonwood St NE, Salem OR 97317 [paulflora@pgn.com](mailto:paulflora@pgn.com); Washington: Allen Feris, 23514 135<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Arlington WA 98223, (360)435-3144. [feris.allen@msn.com](mailto: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.net](mailto:jmalmin2@comcast.net)Asst. Director-in-Chief: Julie Parsons, [jp.conductress@gmail.com](mailto:jp.conductress@gmail.com)

**CALIFORNIA**

**OAKLAND**

**Normanna Glee Club**

Rehearsal: time and place unknown  
President: Larry Schaleger, tel. (510)272-9219 [qubedude@aol.com](mailto:qubedude@aol.com); Secretary: Paul Eikeberg, tel. (925)485-1538 [vikingike@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:svenio@cox.net); Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bonita, CA 91902 (619)223-2784 [holmerud@cox.net](mailto: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: HerlevStorseter, 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](mailto: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: Dan Moore, [danielleemore@comcast.net](mailto:danielleemore@comcast.net), (541)520-2211. Secretary: John Meshnik, [jmeshnik@eeug.com](mailto:jmeshnik@eeug.com), (541)345-3920; Director: Barry Anderson, [barryanderson746@gmail.com](mailto:barryanderson746@gmail.com), (310)863-1873.

**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](mailto:paul.flora@pgn.com); Secretary: Neil Haugen, tel. (503)910-1239, [neil@haugensgalleri.com](mailto:neil@haugensgalleri.com); Director: Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, [whitewolf372@centurytel.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:gary.strombo@gmail.com). Secretary: John Mickelson, tel. (425)422-6297 [john.mickelson@msn.com](mailto:john.mickelson@msn.com). Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:rproem@yahoo.com); Secretary: Mel Haug, tel. (360)297-0791, [mel@melandkathy.com](mailto:mel@melandkathy.com); Director: KathyHaug, 21050 Fern St. Indianola WA 98342. Tel. (360)297-0791. [kathy@melandkathy.com](mailto:kathy@melandkathy.com).

**SEATTLE**

**Norwegian Male Chorus**

Rehearsal: most Monday evenings 7:30 p.m. Leif Erikson Lodge, 2245 NW 57<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle, WA 98107, last Monday of month 7:30 p.m. Norse Home, 5311 Phinney Ave N. Seattle, WA 98103. Officers: President: Howard Slausen, tel. (425)774-4635, [howardslausen@comcast.net](mailto:howardslausen@comcast.net); Secretary: Paul Hendricks, tel (206)379-0039 [phendricksballard@gmail.com](mailto:phendricksballard@gmail.com); Director: Julie Parsons, tel (918)273-9268 [jp.conductress@gmail.com](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Conway WA 98238. Officers: President and Secretary: Jeff Highland tel. (360)387-5285. [highland@smumn.edu](mailto:highland@smumn.edu) Director Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:o.petersen@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Loren Jangaard, 5917 34<sup>th</sup> St NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335, tel. (252)265-2312, [jangaard@hotmail.com](mailto:jangaard@hotmail.com);  
Director: Jon Malmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, [jmalmin2@comcast.net](mailto:jmalmin2@comcast.net)

as a student **singer cap** by the two Oslo University Choirs (although it was in use as a common student cap in the last generation). The female choir (Kvindelige Studenters Sangforening) is the oldest academic female choir in the world. In 2018, they visited the USA at Easter and wore these black caps during some of their concerts.ö

**Ingrid Berger**, Conservator of the Nordfjord Folkemuseum, responded, öI know singer caps from my own life. My father, born in the 1920's, had one. He used it, too. He sang in a man's choir, and I remember the hat was yellow from aging. :-) You can find singer caps in many Norwegian museums and pictures of choirs with singers caps.ö

**Anne Mette Gottschal**, Konservator of the Ringve Musikkmuseum in Trondheim, adds, öThe colors of the caps had different meanings. In a book about choirs in Kristiansand they say that the craftsmen had white caps, the shopkeepers had grey, and the choirs from the districts had black or blue.ö Laurann also said, öThey seem to be related to Norwegian student caps that were all black and had very long and very large tassels.ö They are still in production at the Hufa fabric in lesund; <https://www.norskuniform.no/hufa-luer-og-tilbehor/575-sangerlue-hufa-hvit.html>

Knowing this background gives me a greater appreciation for my historic singer cap.