



VOLUME 111, NO. 1

DECORAH, IA

Jan.-Apr. 2021



With this science the NSAA choruses hope to get back to in-person rehearsals soon!



NSAA President's Column

The Future Is Coming Sooner Than You Think

The COVID-19 pandemic has sent a wrecking ball through all of our life's activities in 2020, and is extending itself into 2021. Included in the casualties were Sangerfest 2020 plans in Madison, WI. Hopefully, you and your family remain safe and in good health.

That being said, the future is coming sooner than you think. Sangerfest 2022 will be held at the Madison Marriott West Hotel in Middleton WI, on June 16-18, 2022. For those of you that are long time NSAA members, this was the site of

the 2000 Sangerfest. This site has all the space we need, which will be an advantage for those with mobility problems. It will also protect us from the uncertainties of inclement weather, and will afford us a more modest cost. An unexpected twist is that there will be a meeting of the Sons of Norway in the hotel at the same time, with the prospect of some joint activities.

Middleton has grown up since the Sangerfest of 2000. There are many restaurants, shops, the Capital Brewery with beer garden, and a local trolley for exploring the local area. It's a very friendly place to visit.

The format of Sangerfest will see some changes. The program is shortened on the front end, allowing travel to Madison (Middleton) on June 16, for many of our members. Although member choruses will be given an opportunity to perform, the performances will be scattered throughout Sangerfest activities. A formal Parade of Choruses will not be included in the program.

The NSAA has unfortunately lost several choruses through attrition. Individual members from these choruses may still like to attend and participate in Sangerfest 2022. The NSAA bylaws allow individuals who pay NSAA dues and Sangerfest registrations to participate in Sangerfests. If you are one of these individuals, you should request music and learn the music on your own. You may also be eligible for medals for which you qualify.

So, start thinking about Sangerfest 2022. Dust off your white jackets, polish your medals and tune up your vocal cords. Sangerfest 2022 is coming sooner than you think.



Paul Larson, NSAA President

From the Director in Chief

Dear Brother Singers,

These past fourteen months have been like no other time. It has been so difficult and unsafe to get together to sing as we so desperately want to do. Some of us have resorted to gathering through Zoom meetings, just so we could see each other's faces

before we forget who those faces are. Some of us have lost loved ones because of this awful Covid. Some of us have not seen our grandchildren for over a year. All of us yearn to sing together again!!

Even though times like this are challenging we are beginning to see hope. We have vaccines to fight this plague. Many of us have already allowed our arms to be poked so we can get back to normal. Day by day we see more face-to-face opportunities than we did just a few weeks ago. As we all become immunized to Covid we can predict the future that has a large male chorus gathering at a Sangerfest where we can sing our old favorites! We must all get that poke in the arm so Sangerfest can become a reality. Without that herd immunity it may not be safe to sing together in such a large group without wearing masks. I don't know about you, but I would really like to throw all my masks away (as beautiful as some of my masks are). I pray that day will come soon.

As we continue to prepare for the next great Sangerfest 2022 at Madison, Wisconsin, we all know what is so important about Sangerfest. First we continue to make music from the Scandinavian repertoire in order to preserve these fine traditions in that type of music. Second, we come together as brother singers to share common experiences in song. Third, we can greet old friends and make new acquaintances. All in all, Sangerfest is our best opportunity to preserve the Norwegian male chorus heritage and to continue important traditions in male chorus singing that were started long ago. This is by far our best opportunity to preserve the

Norwegian male chorus heritage and to continue important traditions in male chorus singing that were started long ago.

Some of you know that there will be some new faces leading the music at the Grand Concert next year. Ed Kramer returns as Assistant Director-in-Chief, and we look forward to Linda Svanoë leading us in song as well.

Thanks to Paul Larson and all the folks in Madison Wisconsin who will host us for Sangerfest 2022. Tusen takk!

Med sanger-hilsen,



Dave Judisch, Director in Chief

Producing SangerHilsen with Don Berg.

Near the end of December 2020 Don Berg suffered a serious stroke. Sadly, after about two weeks Don died. The Sanger-Hilsen "Christmas Issue" of 2020 was the last issue on which Don worked. Don became editor of Sanger-Hilsen with the January-February issue of 1991. Thus Don served as editor for exactly 30 years.

Don also served as NSAA Corresponding Secretary, which curiously involves the procurement of appropriate Sangerfest medals, and as the corresponding secretary for Luren to Sanger-Hilsen. These are significant holes which have now been filled. Don's obituary appears later in this issue.

I began working with Don on the production of Sanger-Hilsen with the May-June 2007 issue, which is 14 years ago. For some years previously, the Sanger-Hilsen material had been mailed to a printer in the Minneapolis area to be setup and printed. During the year before I began, a Luther student was hired to set up the material in Microsoft Word, and printing was now done at Calmar Graphics near Decorah.

When I began working with Don, we used a seven year old desktop computer (previously my wife's computer) with CRT monitor, set up on Don's living room table. Ten year old Microsoft Word 97 was utilized on this computer. Don always had several Norwegian translation projects going simultaneously on this table, and an area was cleared off for our work.

Don's handwriting was very small, requiring a fine-point ball-point pen. Don's wife Barb often remarked that she could not read Don's writing. He saved paper by writing notes and outlines on the back of envelopes. Barb patiently put up with the Sanger-Hilsen intrusion in their household.

I think Don had a photographic memory. He was an excellent speller, and had an extensive memory of Norwegian American events. Don could read 19th century Norwegian handwriting, and the gothic print used by Decorah Posten and others. We often discussed Norwegian words and idioms, and "wandered afield" from the Sanger-Hilsen issue at hand. It was fun to work with Don as a team on Sanger-Hilsen.

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:

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Subscription price \$20.00 per year

Periodicals postage paid at Decorah, Iowa.

Sanger-Hilsen USPS 481-380

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**DEADLINE FOR
May-August 2021 ISSUE
August 21**



Dennis Barnaal, Act. Ed.

GRIEG MALE CHORUS Canton SD

Spring bursts with countless glimpses of new hope for days ahead! This year it affords us another new hope, returning to regular harmony with our brother singers as soon as safe and possible!!! Greetings from the Canton Grieg Male Chorus!!

It has been well over a year since our chorus gathered vocally or socially. We eagerly anticipate a regular fall schedule. Our chorus planned to host the Sioux Valley Singers Assoc. Sangerfest this year, but it has been postponed until June of 2023. This unexpectedly affords the group the opportunity to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the group in the location of its origin. The organizational meeting was held in Canton in April of 1913, with the first Sangerfest hosted in Sioux City by the Nordic Chorus.

Our chorus sadly lost one member to the Covid pandemic. Pastor Lance Lindgren. More will be shared following his memorial service. Pr. Lance was pastor of the church where I am a member. An energetic vibrant man, conducting an outdoor worship on Sunday, meetings on Wednesday and alarmingly passed the following Monday. Lance followed the guidelines completely, each week reminding parishioners to do the same. He shared his concern that people were not taking the pandemic

seriously enough. The shock and unbelief of his passing, made it much TOO real to the entire community.

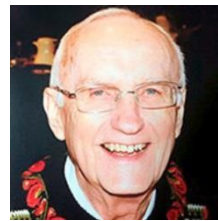
Yes, a truly unforgettable time!!! We have however, all learned the beauty of "Smiling Eyes," and that Fellowship, is a priceless gift!!!



Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB Minneapolis MN

We hope you, your family, and friends are well and safe. It's been over a year (an exhausting year) and our Club is still inactive. We have lost a number of friends and most recently Dennis Sorheim.



Dennis Robert Sorheim

Dennis passed away on February 12, 2021 (age 82) in Edina, Minnesota. In addition to the Glee Club, Dennis was involved with the Vonheim Lodge, Norske Torske Klubben, Kontakt, Vesterheim, and Sons of Norway where he served as Int'l President from 1994-1998. He was a wonderful singer (musician) and will be greatly missed. R.I.P. friend.

Most of our Glee Club members have been vaccinated by now and we are hoping to reassemble soon. Stay well, there will be good news to report in the future.

If you need a smile, see below:

What's the most terrifying word in nuclear physics? "Oops!"

I was wondering why the ball kept getting bigger and bigger. And then it hit me.

What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter? An irrelephant.

What do you call someone who immigrated to Sweden? Artificial Swedener.



Gene Willms, Corr. Sec.

MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR

Sioux Falls SD

The Minnehaha Mandskor board met via Zoom on March 5th. The decision was made to continue in recess from rehearsal until September 13, 2021. It is anticipated that all members will have had both rounds of the vaccine by that time. There was discussion about a possible outdoor event for the chorus in June or July, as well as a rendering of the Star Spangled Banner at a Sioux Falls Canaries baseball game.

A survey to measure the availability of members to assist at the Sioux Empire Fair food booth resulted in the decision not to participate. This is the second year that the group has not been able to run the chislic booth.

Other discussion related to the Mandskor remaining part of the NSAA. The ratio of Norwegian music to English music is unattractive to new and many current members. The issue becomes one of discontinuing association with the NSAA or losing singers. The decision

is tabled until more is known about the music programmed for the 2022 Sangerfest. There is some question as to the future of the Sioux Valley Singers Association, as well. Hence, the objective becomes one of maintaining the Mandskor, but as a community organization without the focus on Scandinavian music.

The Mandskor is saddened by the news of the death of Don Berg. He has served the NSAA so ably and faithfully for many years. We remember him fondly and trust that Barbara and family find comfort in knowing that he is in the presence of the Lord. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15

Respectfully submitted



Terry Walter, Corr. Sec.

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS

Madison, WI

Obviously our Chorus has not been active since the Covid19 pandemic hit the country. In June of 2020 our director announced that he was resigning to pursue other professional opportunities. Consequently our focus has been on finding a replacement so we are prepared to renew our practices and performances once the crisis is over. Fortunately two very talented and experienced women have agreed to be co-directors of the Chorus for the 2021-2022 performance year as we prepare for Sangerfest 2022. Following are the bios of our new co-directors, Linda

Svanoe and Nancy Groeneveld. Both of these professionals have extensive experience as musicians as well as choral directors.

Introducing: Nancy Groeneveld.



Nancy, a Wisconsin native, started playing the piano by ear before the age of two. The daughter of a big band musician, she grew up listening to Ray Charles, Henry Mancini, and Luciano Pavarotti. While studying music and theatre at the University of Wisconsin, she set her sights on Broadway, but a chance meeting with an old friend who was part of a traveling musical ministry changed her trajectory.

She packed her bags, parked her Plymouth Duster in her parents' driveway, and traveled for two years across North America, Europe, and Africa as a musician/music director with Christian pop bands, recording records and performing in concert halls, churches, civic centers, and soccer stadiums.

Since leaving the life of a traveling troubadour, Nancy has served as a music minister, conductor, and worship leader for large churches in both Wisconsin and California. She has composed, arranged, and recorded music for television, radio, and film, and along the way has won various regional, national, and international awards. An educator at heart, Nancy has taught courses in songwriting, choir choreography, and playing the piano by ear at numerous music seminars and conferences for church leaders and musicians throughout the United States and Europe.

Experienced in leading both traditional and contemporary music groups, Nancy currently enjoys working with a large number of amateur and professional musicians. She is an accomplished pianist, singer, conductor, composer, and arranger who appreciates diverse genres of music and loves sharing the joy of music with people of all ages!

Her husband, Bram, son Ryan, and Buddy the wonder dog recently moved from Madison to Waunakee, where Nancy serves on the staff of First Presbyterian Church as Director of Music and Worship Arts as well as On-Site Producer for weekly online church services.

Introducing: Linda Svanoe.



When asked to provide a short Bio, Linda thought it might be rather strange to introduce herself to people she's known for many, many years. Nonetheless, there is much to know about our Linda.

Linda grew up in La Crosse WI and graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. It was there that she met a wonderful tenor named Jim, now her husband of 55 years and our fellow chorus member of 35 years. She was a clarinet player at Luther, but soon after graduation discovered the joys of Renaissance and Baroque music, along with the whole gamut of instruments that went with that musical period.

Linda has been teaching recorder for the past 45 years in Madison. "Time really does fly when you are having a good time," says Linda. Her

students have ranged in age from 8 to 91 years of age. She teaches and directs three recorder ensembles a week, plus she teaches a number of private lessons. Over the years, she has had the honor and fun of concertizing in many different venues -- from European cathedrals to a sheep barn complete with bleating sheep and a dust-covered harpsichord. Her music has ranged from Renaissance to modern. As a recorder quartet member and a church choir member, she has had the privilege of touring Germany twice, as well as Norway.

Linda joined the Grieg Chorus in 2005. She confesses that it has been a total pleasure to be a part of our group, both as an instrumental accompanist and as assistant director. Proud of her Norwegian heritage as many of us are, she is looking forward to continuing to work with us and to explore the sounds of Norway and beyond.

In other news, we have been fortunate in that none of our members have died while the Chorus has been inactive. However, several members have informed us that due medical and other issues they may not be able to rejoin us once we begin singing again. During the break we have been considering what might be a better time and day of the week to conduct our practices. No decisions have been made at this point so I will save that discussion for a future article.

We hope our brother singers are staying safe and getting their vaccine shots as we all look forward to singing again soon.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

NORSE GLEE CLUB Sioux Falls SD

We at the Norse Glee Club have not started our practices as of yet. Hopefully that will change soon.

We have two more deaths in our chorus since my last article. Howard Paulson and Cliff Olson were active members and will be greatly missed.



Cliff Olson was born in Brandt SD and attended high school in Clear Lake. From there, he was a Private 1st Class in the Army from 1944 until 1977 and fought in WWII. He went on to work at John Morrell and Co. for 35 years. This is where he met his wife, Audrey F. Wagner who put in 40 years in the same department. They married in 1956. Cliff spoke fondly of Audrey, recounting that "she never smoked, never drank, and never said a single swear word!"

He and Audrey traveled all over the US, hitting 45 states. They only took two independent trips - he went to Norway to visit relatives and she went to South Africa to see her sister.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Audrey on August 31, 2005; a brother, Elroy; and his four-legged friend, Jake the cat.

Cliff is survived by his great niece and caretaker, Amber (Dwayne) Smith of Sioux Falls; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.



Howard W. Paulson, longtime Sioux Falls attorney, died Thur., Feb. 11, 2021, at Sanford USD Medical Center. He was 84. Howard was born Oct. 20, 1936, in Volga, South Dakota, to Hans and Petra (Olson) Paulson. He grew up and attended school there, graduating with the Volga High School class of 1954. Howard then attended SDSC graduating with a bachelor's degree in history in 1958.

While student teaching at Watertown High School, Howard met Lou Ann Tesch who was working at the school. They were married at St. Martin's Lutheran Church of Watertown on June 10, 1962. Howard taught for a number of years.

In 1974 Howard returned to school, this time to earn a law degree, and began practicing with the Sioux Falls firm, Christopherson, Bailin and Anderson in 1978. Howard diligently worked in the areas of estate planning and estate administration, where his clients often became friends.

Howard had a friendly nature and never met a stranger. He liked visiting with people and finding commonalities between himself and others. He served with many organizations and clubs including the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, Siouxland Lions, Norse Glee Club and Sons of Norway. Howard was a longtime devoted member of First Lutheran Church.

From 1985 to 2009 Howard served the Norwegian government as Consul for the State of South Dakota. This began a long relationship with his parents' homeland where he met more relatives than he could ever have imagined.

Howard is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lou Ann, and four children, Ruth Mendyk, Beth Monson, Wayne, and Michael.

I pray that all are well and that we will be able to sing with gusto again.



Steve Espeland, Corr. Sec,

NORMENNENES SINGING SOCIETY Chicago IL

In this edition of Sanger-Hilsen we especially want to remember our Past President, Thor Fjell. Thor died on January 20, 2021 after a long illness. As many of you know Thor was the longest standing president our club ever had. He did so many things for the club and constantly stayed in touch with everyone. He truly had his

heart set on our club. In the course of his presidency Thor was also an officer of the Scandinavian Club in Arlington Heights, IL. This was home to Normennenes after we sold the historic clubhouse in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago.



Thor at the last Sangerfest.

Thor served as a representative for Normennenes to the Chicago National League, and was an active member of several other Norwegian and Scandinavian organizations, including Sons of Norway ó Skjold Lodge in Palatine, IL. For our National Group, N.S.A.A., Thor was Vice President at large. As a result of all of his attendance at Sangerfest over the years Thor would have received his Diamond Ribbon at the 2020 Sangerfest. He had let us know that he was really looking forward to it.

Thor was tireless in his promotion of our events. He took delight in recording them with his camera. He would frequently pass out photos to us after our banquets or concerts, documenting the good times that we had.

We had our Annual Meeting this winter on Zoom. We also have worked on and recorded a few of our

familiar songs with the app online, *Soundtrap*. Thanks to our accompanist, Mike Benshish and our director, Chuck Kessell who organized this. We were happy to record ourselves during the pandemic. We are now discussing ways that we could start singing again as more men receive the vaccines. It may involve a hybrid arrangement with those comfortable singing at our rehearsal space at the Estonian House, and others joining in by Zoom, and singing along ðon muteö.

We send out our singer's greeting to all of you during this very difficult time for everyone.



Frank Potempa, NSS Pres. and Dan Boyle, Corr. Sec.

NORDIC MALE CHORUS Sioux City IA

Bob Hanson, our oldest member turned 98 recently. One of his most notable vocal performances came at the Sangerfest in Sioux City in 1952. Our friendly chorus members treated the guest soloist, imported from Norway, to a night on the town. Bob, on very short notice, was called upon to be the featured soloist for *Landjening*. It seems that our Norwegian guest had become incapacitated by Sioux City hospitality.

The future of our chorus is somewhat dim at this time as there has been little change in our situation

since the last report. Greetings to all our fellow singers and choruses!
Ed Stone, Corr. Sec.

**LUREN SINGING SOCIETY
Decorah IA**

Hello, My name is Lee Grippen and I will be filling the position of Luren Corresponding Secretary for the late Pastor Donald Berg who passed away this past winter. Don did such a great job with his column and I hope I can begin to fill his shoes somewhat.

Luren lost a former member, Pastor Gary Wees, on Feb. 21st. He sang for 3 years with Luren when he lived in the area. His funeral was at St. Paul Lutheran in Pine Island MN on March 8th with burial in the Pine Island Cemetery. We also lost former member Pastor Gary Lee, as well as Don Berg. Their obituaries follow this article.

We began 2021 with a Zoom rehearsal on Jan. 25, and then followed with two Zoom rehearsals each month in February, March and April.



Luren Zoom rehearsal of April 12, 2021.

We plan to meet in a space with large outside exposure (parking space under the Decorah Public Library) on May 24th for our first in-person

rehearsal with each other. Our plans for the summer include singing at Nordic Fest: three outside concerts July 24, 25, 26 of the Festival. It will be great to actually sing together provided we keep our distance and have our masks on.

Our Luren Food Stand at the Winneshiek County Fair is not set yet as we await the word from the Fair Board as to how we can go forward. Many different plans are in progress on this matter.

This spring our President sent out a survey to ask Luren members about their Covid vaccination status. There were 74 responses, which is very good considering we have 85 members. Of the 74 responses, 63 members are fully vaccinated, which is a good share.

Wishing all Singers a good and healthy Spring.



Lee Grippen, Corr. Sec.

Obituary



Donald L. Berg was born Dec. 14, 1934 to Victor and Bertha Berg near Coon Valley Wisconsin. He graduated valedictorian from Viroqua High School in 1952, and from Luther College in 1956 where he majored in Physics and Math. Don and Barbara Hamre were married Sept. 4, 1960 at

historic Washington Prairie Lutheran Church near Decorah.

Don graduated from Luther Seminary in 1961 and accepted a call to Siloam Lutheran Church in Pauline IA. He served Rock Creek Lutheran Church near Osage IA 1964-1973, and Elim Lutheran and Bethel Lutheran in Randal and Story City IA 1973-1980. In 1980 Don, Barb, and son John (born 1961) did a sabbatical leave in Europe. In Fagerness Norway, Don studied Hans Nielsen Hauge while Barb attended weaving school.

Returning to the U.S., they lived in Decorah and Don served as an interim pastor in a number of northeast Iowa congregations. Don returned to full-time ministry 1987-1997 and served Moland Lutheran Church in rural Kenyon MN, after which they returned to Decorah. Don served several long term supply situations in Decorah and also worked part time at Quillinø Grocery.

Don traveled with Luren singing tours in Norway in 1983, 1993, 1995, 2001 and 2015. Barb joined him on the 1993 and 2015 tours.

In retirement Don was active in various community organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Vesterheim, Sons of Norway, Luren Singers, Nordic Fest Board, and Symra Literary Society. For 30 years Don served as editor of Sanger-Hilsen periodical for NSAA.

Don did many projects translating from Norwegian to English. His first book was published in 2020, a translation from Norwegian: *60 year Journal 1865-1925 of Tolleg Svenningesen, Immigrant from Telemark*. He continued to translate projects until the day of his stroke,

Dec. 21, 2020. Don died in hospice care Jan. 10, 2021.

Don is survived by his wife Barbara, son John, three grandchildren, and three siblings.

Burial will be in the Union Prairie Cemetery in rural Decorah.

Obituary



Gary Lee, age 80. of Decorah died Dec. 17, 2020 at Wellington Place nursing home in Decorah. He was born Mar. 27, 1940 in Aberdeen SD, the son Sophus and Adelyne (Miller) Lee. Gary graduated from Northwood High School in 1958.

Gary attended St. Olaf College, and his freshman year toured as a vocal soloist with the St. Olaf Band, after which he transferred to Luther College and sang in Nordic Choir under Weston Noble for three years. Gary graduated with a Classics major in 1962.

Gary met Geraldine Freeman while at Luther and they married in 1962. He attended Luther Seminary, graduating in 1966. He took his first call to Williams Bay Lutheran Church in Wisconsin.

In 1973 Gary accepted a call at First Lutheran Church in Cresco IA. While there he supervised 33 interns from various seminaries. He also served on the Library Board, he initiated the Howard Country Substance Abuse Council, and served on the Peace and Reconciliation Task Force for the North East Iowa Synod. He retired in 2005.

Gary was a member of Luren 2003-2012. A highlight for Gary and Gerry was meeting Gary's ðLieö (Lee) relatives for the first time on a trip to Norway in 2007.

Gary is survived by his wife Gerry, three children and seven grandchildren.

Disbanding of the Harmony Men's Singing Society, Rockford IL.

The following letter was received:

Hi Dennis Barnaal:

I am sad to inform you but our Harmony Club was sold in 2019 and the new owners took possession in 2020.

The Harmony Club/Charter was established in 1923; at that time the Singers and the Club were one and we were blessed by the family members that supported us and as well as their donations during those earlier times. As the years went by things changed and the Club became a separate entity and in the last ten years they no longer were helping the singers. We started looking for another place to sing, and were invited to another club in Rockford but our hopes were soon put on hold again.

Like all of us when the pandemic hit, we lost not only our club but three of our wonderful singers, one from the Virus, and the another two from Alzheimer and Cancer.

Now with so few left, and getting up in age, not to mention some of their health conditions, they decided it was time to hang up the "Notes."

With a heavy heart our beloved Harmony Men's Singing Society will not be performing anymore. We are sad to say goodbye to all the wonderful groups and the families we

have met along the way, and treasure the memories.

In closing we are happy to say that "Ninety Seven" years of history and memorabilia is not lost. We donated to the Midway Village Museum in Rockford IL all our history of the Harmony Men's Singing Society so it can live on for generations to come.

I have also enclosed four obits of the singers we have lost in hope you can list them in the Sanger-Hilsen.

Thank You.

Sandra Vance... for Dan Lindberg, Sec. Harmony Men's Singing Society and Family!!

Obituaries



Robert Aden of Belvidere IL died 12 May 2020. He was born 7 April 1929 in Toledo OH to Anthony and Raymonde (Pernot) Aden. The family moved to Rockford where Bob graduated from East High School and then attended Iowa Wesleyan College. Bob married Donna Homes in 1950.

Bob enjoyed fishing and hunting, and was a member of the Blackhawk Field Archers Club. Bob retired from Amerock Corp. as display and packaging designer in the engineering department.

After retirement Bob enjoyed golf. He was also an artist on canvas and with woodworking. He could fix and build just about anything. He was a member of five choruses, including Harmony.

Bob is survived by his wife Donna, two daughters and a son, and

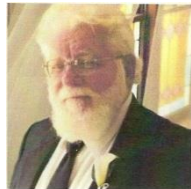
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Steven James died 26 Jan. 2021. He was born 8 Jan. 1945 in Rockford, the son of William and Irene (Cooper) James. Steven graduated from Rockford East High School in 1963. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Steve married Crystal Adams on 7 Oct 1972. He worked for Rockford Standard Furniture for 23 years. He was a member of the Svea Soner Choir in addition to the Harmony chorus. Steve served as corresponding secretary from Harmony to Sanger-Hilsen for several years.

Steve is survived by his wife Crystal, a son and daughter and 7 grandchildren, as well as stepmother Marjorie James.



Ralph Pullin, Jr. died 25 Dec. 2020 at the VA hospital in Madison WI. He was born 1 Feb. 1945 to Ralph Foss and Georgianna Pullin in Rochelle IL. Ralph was a lifelong member of the Lindenwood area and active member of Lindenwood Union Church.

Ralph had many occupations, but was always a musician, even in military service in Vietnam in the 1st Cav. Skytroopers band. Besides

singing in Harmony Men's Singing Society, he played French horn with many groups across northern Illinois.

Ralph is survived by a daughter, two sisters, and two grandchildren.



Bradley Whitlock died 26 Dec. 2020 from complications of Covid after his wife and children said goodbye. He was born 22 Jan. 1958 to James and Barbara (McNinch) Whitlock in Sterling IL. He graduated co-valedictorian from Winnebago High School in 1976.

He then earned a B.S. in Computer Science, summa cum laude, from Northern Illinois University and an M.S. in Comp. Sci. from North Carolina State University. Bradley was married for 41 years to Sharon (Meyers).

Brad enjoyed an array of activities, including figure skating, collecting typewriters, lapidary, music, science fiction, live theater, and especially being a father. Beginning as a teenager he took his religious faith seriously.

Brad is survived by his wife Sharon, two daughters, his parents, and a brother.

NSAA Website News

For the past 16 years, the NSAA has maintained a website to help promote and record information about activities within our organization. The website address is nsaaonline.org or nsaaonline.com or can be found by searching for Norwegian Singers Association of America. The website

contains vital information about the history of NSAA, the constitution, a list of all officers, information about individual choruses, and minutes of recent meetings. Information about past and upcoming Sangerfests are updated to keep us posted on schedules, registration, and important deadlines. Past copies of the Sanger-Hilsen are posted from the last 10+ years for quick reference. Translations for many Norwegian songs are posted when available

According to website analysis, in the first three months of 2020, the website was averaging 535 visits per month, but after Sangerfest was postponed, that number dropped to 220 visits per month. Numbers are increasing again as most people appear to be looking for

announcements and updates on the next Sangerfest. The most frequent visitors are from the United States, Sweden, Germany and Canada, but there are visitors from at least nine other countries as well.

Dates and locations of rehearsals and contact people are included for continued recruitment of new members. In order to make the website as helpful as possible to our membership, it is important that each chorus monitors what is posted for their chorus and notify the webmasters of needed changes. Richard & Penny Leake serve as the current webmasters for the website. Please send any changes by email to nsaaonline@gmail.com or leakeric@luther.edu.

Richard & Penny Leake

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR NSAA BUSINESS MEETING

Adapted from ARTICLE XI

Meeting Date: January 6, 2021 @ 10:04 a.m.

Location: Meeting held via Zoom

Although this was formally an Officer's meeting, the State VP's and Veteran's Chorus President were invited to attend.

1. **Roll call of Officers by the Recording Secretary** showed the following members were present: Paul Larson, Rich BJORLO, Jim Slostad, David Judisch, Roger Buhr, and Rich Leake. Absent: Don Berg, Thor Fjell and Gary Hendrickson. Also attending were Frank Potempa, Jon Lewis, Herb Nelson.
2. **Minutes** of the NSAA Board meetings on July 31, 2020 (not published in *Sanger-Hilsen* yet) were approved as attached to the agenda.
3. **Director-in-Chief report [Judisch]:** Still need to select an Assistant Director. Should be someone with Sangerfest experience. Repertoire will be selected in fall 2021 for Sangerfest 2022. Proposed schedule to be discussed in this meeting looks doable, and may save a night of housing.
4. **President's report [Larson]:** Disbanding of two choruses has occurred due to several factors. And yet the reasons for continued existence for all choruses still exist. At the same time change will need continued discussion. Floor turned over to Jon Lewis for an update on Assistant Director selection.
5. **Treasurer's report [BJORLO]:** Brief report indicating NSAA continues in stable financial position. As of December 31, 2020, with Cash Balance = \$30218.78. Revenue = \$1790, Expenses = \$3229.58, Net Loss = \$1439.58. Some discussion about collecting dues for the current year. Larson and BJORLO will meet to discuss the

current situation recognizing the NSAA and Sanger-Hilsen dues are nominal, and should be assessed in order to maintain continuity.

6. Corresponding Secretary / *Sanger-Hilsen* Editor's report: Discussion of future *Sanger-Hilsen* issues and Editor position. Motion to approve Dennis Barnaal assuming Acting Editor position, including honorarium, for *Sanger-Hilsen*. **Seconded and Passed. This motion does not include the duties of Corresponding Secretary.**

7. Other reports -- none received

8. Unfinished Business

a. Update for Sangerfest 2022 plans

Review of the Sangerfest 2022 plans to be sponsored by the Madison Grieg Chorus. The Madison West Marriott Hotel in Middleton has been reserved for June 16-18, 2022. All the official activities will be held in the hotel so it should be convenient for those with mobility problems. The Grieg Chorus is planning on a more abbreviated Sangerfest as can be seen with the attached proposed schedule. The proposed venue should result in reduced costs for housing, parking, rehearsal and performance space. The Madison Grieg Chorus is requesting approval of the proposed schedule. Motion to Approve proposed schedule with modifications as needed. Second and passed. There were many favorable comments and the Officers recognized the efforts of the Madison chorus. Mange takk!

9. New Business

a. Disbanded Choruses – Sangerfest Implications

Determine whether members of disbanded choruses that should have received medals at Sangerfest 2020 be invited to Sangerfest 2022 for award presentation, and inviting them to sing in the Veteran Chorus.

Determine whether members of disbanded choruses be invited to Sangerfest 2022, and inviting them to sing in the Veteran Chorus.

Determine whether members of disbanded choruses be invited to Sangerfest 2022, and if prepared, inviting them to sing in the Grand Concert.

The NSAA Constitution and ByLaws provides opportunity for members to be considered eligible for Sangerfest if dues are paid and they are in attendance.

Members wishing to participate should correspond directly with NSAA.

Normenneses will happily accept any interested participants from the Chicago area.

b. **Review any applications for hosting Sangerfest 2024.** There was general discussion about the challenges involved in planning and hosting a Sangerfest. Not having a host chorus is difficult. Potential future sites were briefly discussed.

c. **Consider possible future applications for new chorus memberships in the NSAA.** There may be a possibility for adding another chorus in the near future, and there may be others interested or forming choruses in other areas.

d. **Open positions:** Continued discussion for an Acting Corresponding Secretary position. Bjarlo will investigate duties currently performed. Recordkeeping for medals would be an example. Additional discussion about Assistant Director position. Four individuals have expressed an interest in the Assistant Director position. Suggestion for potential future business item -- address meaning of ösingerö with respect to being a director. Will meet again early spring to discuss and resolve these positions.

e. **Consensus agreement to set the next meeting for Feb 17, 2021 at 10:00am.**

10. Adjourned at 12:30pm. MSP.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Leake, Recording Secretary

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR NSAA BUSINESS MEETING**Adapted from ARTICLE XI**

Meeting Date: February 17, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.

Location: Meeting held via Zoom (Zoom link from Dave Judisch)

Although this was formally an Officer's meeting, the State VPs and Veteran Chorus President were invited to attend.

1. Roll call of Officers by the Recording Secretary: Present -- Paul Larson, Rich BJORLO, Dennis Barnaal, Rich Leake, David Judisch, Jim Slostad, Roger Buhr, Jim Glesne, Jon Lewis, Herb Nelson. Absent -- Gary Hendrickson, Frank Potempa, Curt Hepner, Norman Arlandson.

2. Action on the minutes of previous business meetings [January 6, 2021 attached] MSP as attached.

3. Director-in-Chief report: no report

4. President's report: Reviewed previous Sangerfest dates and arrangements. Budget comparison presented showed savings given the previously approved changes to the Sangerfest schedule.

5. Treasurer's report: Reviewed *Sanger-Hilsen* subscription data, financial statements, and projected budget [based on 6 issues with 250 copies]. Discussion of subscription base and online options [spreadsheet attached to official minutes]. Dues mostly collected for 2020-21. Dues and honoraria are reviewed annually. The honoraria for Corresponding Secretary and interim *Sanger-Hilsen* Editor will be determined by the position holders in conjunction with the Treasurer, and will not exceed the approved amount.

6. Corresponding Secretary / *Sanger-Hilsen* Editor's report: Roger Buhr is willing to temporarily assume the position of Corresponding Secretary, and then later yielded to the duly appointed replacement. Barnaal and BJORLO announced that there will be no Jan-Feb issue in 2021.

7. Other reports.

Leake requested submission of any officer changes or other items to be placed on the nsaaonline.org website. The current issue of *Sanger-Hilsen* will be posted online.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Update for Sangerfest 2022 plans

Review of the Sangerfest 2022 to be sponsored by the Madison Grieg Chorus from June 16-18, 2022. No changes from previous meeting.

b. Unfilled Officer positions

Assistant Director: This position had four candidates express interest. After reviewing the applicants, there was a recommendation to consider a co-assistant directorship option. The use of guest directors from the host chorus was also discussed and encouraged. After further review it was moved to appoint Ed Kramer as Assistant Director, seconded and passed. All four applicants will be notified.

Corresponding Secretary: Rolf Svanoë [Luren] is interested. MSP to appoint Svanoë as Corresponding Secretary. Judisch will contact Svanoë.

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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**

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 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.

**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: Ed Stone, 2009 3rd Ave, South Sioux City NE 68776, jeston7@longlines.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: Lee Grippen, 805 North Sp #1, Caledonia MN. Tel. (507)725-3281 cell (507)450-4534. legrippen@gmail.com .-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: vacant

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.net Asst. 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: 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; 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, (541)520-2211. Secretary: John Meshnik, jmeshnik@eeug.com, (541)345-3920; Director: Barry Anderson, 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 ; 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 Slausen, 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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NSAA Vice-President: Would be nice to create this position as the successor to the current President, but that may be unrealistic. Main function is to lead the State-VPs and secure Audit committee. Moved to nominate Frank Potempa, seconded and passed. President Larson will contact Potempa.

9. New Business

- a. Review of any applications for hosting Sangerfest 2024. None received. This will continue to be a topic for discussion.
- b. Act on any applications for new chorus memberships in the NSAA. None received at the present time, but hopefully will hear of applicants soon.
- c. Other New Business - no business items but several announcements about chorus opportunities in the Twin Cities given by Herb Nelson [Minnekirken, Syttende Mai, joint chorus possibilities].

10. Adjournment at 12:05pm.