



VOLUME 105, NO. 1

DECORAH, IA

Jan.-Feb. 2015



Norse Glee Club, pictured at the First Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, the church home of director, Lyle Kroon.

(Note from editors. The following article was submitted for the Nov.-Dec. 2014 issue and was accidentally omitted. Our sincere apologies.)

**NORSE GLEE CLUB
Sioux Falls SD**

Again, by the time this article is published, several notable events (singing and otherwise) will have already taken place. On Sunday, November 2nd, we did sing at the "Festival of Men's Voices" held here in Sioux Falls. Each of the six

participating choruses presented its three or four individual numbers, and then the massed chorus of 100-plus voices closed the event with the Jack Schrader arrangement of *Lord, Listen to the Children*. Some 900 persons were in the audience. A good-will offering of about \$11,000 was gathered. These proceeds will be used by "The Banquet," a local charity, for its "Backpack Program" this year.

Following the "Festival," our musical focus quickly shifted to holiday selections as we had several

other singing engagements booked. Each of the three for December is an annual revisit for us with music appropriate to this time of year. On Monday, December 1st, we sang at the Washington Crossing Retirement home, here in Sioux Falls, to a gathering of about 40 residents. We were well received. A former Glee Club member, Elmer Haugen, Jr., lives there, and he acted as our host.

On Monday, December 15th, we will perform at the Good Samaritan Luther Village. Another former member, Eugene Johnson, has recently taken up residence at this nursing home. Finally, we will perform at the Jameson Annex of the State Penitentiary as part of their worship service on Thursday evening, December 18th. This last event will complete our 2014 singing performances.

Shifting away from music news for a moment, several other items are worth noting. First, on Monday, November 4th, we held a dinner celebrating our 86th anniversary since the club's formation in 1928. Then, in the same week, on Friday, November 7th, we hosted some 500 diners at our annual LUTEFISK supper. Generally, high praise was given by them for the menu, and to Glee Club members and their spouses for their efforts.

The following week, we held our monthly and annual business meetings. Officers for 2015 were elected. For the most part, the slate was the same as 2014. Steve Espeland will stay on for another year as President. However, a relative newcomer, Randy Wallenberg, has agreed to serve as vice-president.

In closing, on Monday, December 8th, we will be holding our annual

Christmas party. Again, this year our Santa will be challenging us with holiday quizzes of secular and Biblical significance. Some of us have been studying up, having been embarrassed in previous years. We will be taking a leave of absence in January, and have agreed to convene again on Monday, February 9th, 2015.

For now, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year is sent to all of you from the Norse Glee Club.

Gail Kristensen, Corr. Secy.

NORSE GLEE CLUB

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Our Nov/Dec 2014 article, somehow, got lost in the cloud. But-- it is to be printed in this edition I understand. That said, let's move on.

As with all the choruses, we are coming off our post-holiday recess, and we begin rehearsals tomorrow night (Monday, February 9th.). We are pointed toward the Sioux Valley Singers Sangerfest in June, and a spring concert for our chorus in mid-March that is in planning.

This month saw a continuation of a 16-year tradition for us when George and Judy Regan played co-hosts at a mid-winter evening of Court Whist. It is an event of card-playing, fellowship, and enjoying good food.

We changed card-playing partners every few hands, and rotated, as scores dictated, among the six tables (a new record number) this year. Prizes were awarded at the end of the evening for high scorers and low scorers. Again, yours truly avoided either distinction. Guess I'll just have to wait until next year.

I regret to announce the passing of a former glee club member. **Kenneth Raanes** (Ray-nez) died on January 8, 2015 at the age of 87 years 4 months. Due to failing health he had not been an active member for several years. Kenneth sang 2nd tenor, and was in the chorus for a time with his brother, Lloyd. Each of them had followed in the footsteps of their father, Han Raanes, who had been one of the earliest members of the Glee Club. Kenneth is remembered as seeing the humor in most situations. He and his wife, Vada, were designated honored foster parents under the auspices of the Lutheran Social Services for their care of some 250 babies over a 21-year span.

Additionally, I am saddened to report that we also lost the second half of a husband-wife team that supported the Glee Club and the Auxiliary for many years. On Wednesday, January 24, 2015, **Delores Blomberg** died at the age of 93 years and 7 months. The Glee Club was asked, and honored, to sing at her funeral service on Saturday, January 31st. We offered *Beautiful Savior* in both English and Norwegian versions. A member of the family specifically thanked us for our participation, and, notably thanked us for including the Norwegian verses.

Delores' husband, Norin, sang 2nd tenor in the 1990s and early 2000s. His health began to fail, and he became a resident in a nearby nursing home until his death in March 2011. Norin, and his son Terry, sang with the Glee Club in the 2004 NSAA Sangerfest when it was held here in Sioux Falls.

Norin and Delores are being fondly remembered for their energy and involvement in our activities. They

were mainstays in the preparation, serving, and clean-up from our Lutfisk Suppers. After one such event, it is remembered, that their solution to this toil was to go dancing --- apparently something which they did often.

Dolores, in addition to being a member of the Auxiliary, was also active with the Viking Leikking Dance Group which performed here locally. Similar to Norin, Dolores' failing health in later years, and numerous hospital stays, caused her to limit her activities. Nonetheless, she remained to the end very much a centerpiece within her family circle.

I find it difficult, when reflecting upon the losses from our ranks over the past several years, to know whether I have adequately commented on their contributions. I hope I do justice to their memories and them. Our love of music brings us together, and camaraderie and service enhance our relationships. May it ever be so.



Gail A. Kristensen, Corr. Sec.

NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB Minneapolis MN

Another year has flashed by, and a good year it was, highlighted by the Sangerfest. We are well into 2015 already, and it is going to be a busy year for the Glee Club. We have had our election of officers for the year and will have our Banquet with Installation on Feb. 5th. As usual, we

SANGER-HILSEN
(“SINGERS GREETING”)

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

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sanger-Hilsen
 Office.

DONALD L. BERG
Editor-Business Manager

407 Leif Erikson Drive
 Decorah, IA 52101
www.nsaaonline.org

Subscription price \$22.00 per year

SangerHilsen Production Assistant Dennis
 Barnaal, barnaade@luther.edu
 Periodicals postage paid at Decorah, Iowa.
 Sanger-Hilsen USPS 481-380

OFFICERS OF NSAA

President: Marlan Velgersdyk, 4509 S.
 Magnolia Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57103. tel.
 (605) 371-0669.

mcvelgersdyk@midco.net

Vice President at Large: Thor Fjell,
 1041 W. Ogden Ave, #118, Naperville, IL
 60563; cell (630) 479-4233,

thorfjell@comcast.net

Recording Secretary: Richard Leake,
 703 Valley View Dr., Decorah, IA (563)
 382-3796 leakeric@luther.edu

Corresponding Secretary: Donald Berg,
 407 Leif Erikson Dr, Decorah, IA 52101
 (563)382-5727

Treasurer: Francis Peterson, 710 Ridge
 Road, Decorah IA 52101 (563)382-4504
fpmp@MCHSI.com

Grand Marshal: Roger Amdahl, 5008 E.
 28th St., Sioux Falls SD 57110 (605) 336-
 6387; cell (605)929-6488.

Assistant Grand Marshal: James
 Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave, St. Paul MN
 55104-7011 (952)953-9264

jim27ps@gmail.com

Director-in-Chief: Dr. David E. Judisch,
 Decorah, IA 814 Fifth Ave., Decorah IA
 52101E-mail: judiscda@luther.edu

Assistant Director: Terry Walter, 2708
 West Oak St., Sioux Falls SD (605)339-
 0607 clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com

Past President: Herbert Nelson, 620 Oak
 St W, Stillwater MN 55082-5624
 (651)587-4819

herbert.nelson@comcast.net

**NSAA STATE VICE-
 PRESIDENTS**

Illinois: Frank Potempa, 1788 W.
 Sherwood Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016
 (847) 296-2568

fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net

Iowa: Robert Lillie, 410 Pleasant Hill Dr.,
 Decorah IA 52101 (563)382-5087

lillierb@salamander.com

Minnesota: Norman Arlandson, 4540
 Columbus Ave, Minneapolis MN 55407-
 3526 (612)822-4216

normanarlandson@gmail.com

South Dakota: Curt Hepner, 321 N.
 Lincoln St., Canton SD 57013-1721

(605)764-2914 mycurt67@gmail.com

Wisconsin: Charles Morkri, 7567
 Pioneer Place, Verona, WI 53593 (608)

833-3732 nordic@tds.net

**VETERAN CHORUS
 OFFICERS**

President: Ronald Beck, 28206 465th
 Ave., Lennox, SD 57039 (605) 647-2851,

beckparadoxr@speednet.com

Vice President Robert Lillie, 410
 Pleasant Hill Dr., Decorah IA 52101

(563)382-5087 lillierb@salamander.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Larry Lubbert,
 2440 Cedar Valley Rd., Decorah IA (563)
 382-8053 lubberr@mchsi.com

Marshal: Steve Espeland, 48304 278th St,
 Canton SD 57103. Tel (605)987-5720;

Director: Bernhard Gluth, 103 Grove,
 P.O. Box 84, Ft. Atkinson IA, 52144,
 (563)534-3079 bcgluth@acegroup.cc

**DEADLINE FOR
 MAR.-APR. 2015 ISSUE
 Apr. 10, 2015.**

have many repeaters, but several changes.

Bob Olson #2 is our new President; Herb Nelson will be Vice-President and in charge of Data Management and other details, which he does with great professionalism. Jack Hauer has taken the position of Recording Secretary; Dennis Sorheim will assist. Julian Ronning will be Assistant Marshal; Erik Bruun, Assistant Business Manager; Andy Anderson, Assistant Financial Secretary; and Carl Pedersen, Assistant Librarian. We salute the Nominating Committee of Jack Hauer, Earl Evanstad and Bent Paulsen for putting together this strong team to manage our busy 2015 activities.

Business Manager Ted Anderson has filled our gig schedule through May and beyond. We are sorry we had to turn some requests down. Even though our singers are indefatigable, there are some limits. We sang at the Rosepoint Senior Center in Rosedale Jan. 14th; will sing at Lyngblomsten Health Care in St. Paul Jan. 30th; Gramercy Club in Burnsville Feb. 13th; Heritage of Edina Mar. 5th.

Our spring lutefisk dinners are March 21st. We'll be singing at Summit Place Campus in Eden Prairie April 10th; Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church April 18th, Masonic Home in Bloomington May 5th, and then, of course, at *Mindekirken* for *Syttende Mai* on May 17th. Our schedule has been posted on our web calendar, where there are time and address particulars.

The Auxiliary has a new President: Maggie Campion. Shirley Engh will be Vice-President. We want to give another big Thanks to the Auxiliary for their wonderful support and assi-

stance during this past busy Sangerfest Year. They have also recently presented us with a very generous cash gift.

Some truisms: 1. Give a person a fish, and you feed him/her for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet, and you won't be bothered for weeks' months' maybe years.

2. Men have two emotions: hungry and amorous, that set them apart. Ladies, if you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

3. All of us could take a lesson from the weather; it pays no attention to criticism.

4. As someone recently told me, "Don't worry about old age; it does not last that long."



Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

NORDIC MALE CHORUS

Sioux City IA

After shelving Yuletide music for another year, work has begun on music for the Sioux Valley Sangerfest which the Nordics will host June 13th at Morningside Lutheran Church.

Both familiar and new selections have been distributed to the folders by Chuck Schuett, who will be Associate Director of the event. Also included in the program material are arrangements by Sioux Valley Director, Terry Walter

Ed Stone, President of our singing group, is heading arrangements for the one-day get-together. All events for both chorus members and spouses, including lunch and dinner, will be staged at the church. Members of the

Chorus and Auxiliary are assisting in planning the fellowship, rehearsals and concert.

They broke from their preparations to honor the ladies of the Chorus at a Valentine's Day dinner at Perkins Restaurant Feb. 13th, with a "Let me call you Sweetheart" singing sendoff.

One day Lena confided to her friend Hilda how she finally broke Ole of his nervous habit of biting his fingernails.

It was really simple, said Lena, I just hid his false teeth.



Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

NORMENNENES SINGING SOCIETY Chicago IL

The Chorus has had great rehearsals preparing for various performances. Jan. 25th was one of those dates, when our Chorus was the opening entertainment at the 110th annual International Ski Jump competition in Fox River Grove. The Chorus sang the national anthems of both the United States and Norway, and *The Winter Song* and *Do You Fear the Wind?*

By the way, there were jumpers from Finland, Sweden, and Slovenia among the competitors. The winning jump was 75 meters (a big jump) and he was a local. A great time was had by all of us, because we had VIP passes, entitling us to various food spreads and great hospitality! Reports are there were 2500+ in total attendance.

On Feb. 14th we were the music entertainment at the Torske Klub of the Chicago Sons of Norway, in Des

Plaines. This was Ladies' Day and Valentine's Day. The attendance was nearly 120 and we had 37 there with wives and friends. Besides the National Anthems we sang *Nidelven* and *Astri, mi Astri*. A great time was had by all of us.

The next performance will be our 35th annual Festival of Song on Friday, March 27th. This is always a great event, when we invite several choruses to participate individually, and we all join in a massed chorus.

Also, final details are being planned for our annual Spring Concert Saturday, May 2nd at the Estonian House, near Lincolnshire. We are also investigating other venues for the chorus, because it could be a source of singer recruitment.

Leve Sangen,



Thor Fjell

MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR Sioux Falls SD

December and January have been mostly idle for Mandskor.

Our traditional Christmas party on December 1, as always, was fun and well attended. The Auxiliary ladies did a fantastic job of decorating, planning the social hour, and games after dinner. The dinner was delicious and bountiful. Mogen's Heroes provided outstanding entertainment. Our own Bill Hoffman was percussionist and vocalist.

Aside from the Christmas celebration, we only had one interruption during the two month break, which was to sing the National

Anthem at the opening ceremonies for the Augustana College basketball games (both women and men) on Saturday, January 10. Because of members gone south, and our director spending time in Arizona, less than half of our members were on deck.

Larry Meyerink, our Assistant Director, did a great job, with eleven voices filling the Arena with song. The games were close and exciting, with the women losing and the men winning against the teams from Mankato State University.

Marlan Velgersdyk, President, and his wife Carol abandoned us for almost the entire month of January to do some major traveling. Early in the month, they flew to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where they boarded a cruise ship bound for Antarctica and the South Pole.

As of a few days ago they returned, tired, but happy. They now own the rare distinction of having rounded Cape Horn at the south end of South America, coming through Santiago, Chile on the return trip.

So far, our agenda for the rest of the season will mainly be to rehearse the numbers for the Sioux Valley Singers Sangerfest in June. This every other year event will be hosted by Nordic Male Chorus in Sioux City IA. We look forward to another great singing and social experience with the other three SVS choruses. Of course, a significant effort will be put forth to prepare for our Kuchen-Chislic booth at the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls in August.

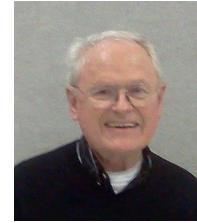
Along with the other SVS choruses, we will continue preparations to host the 2016 NSAA Sangerfest in Sioux Falls. President Marlan, who is chair for this, will be enlisting the help of

all members, as well as Auxiliary to raise funds and organize.

The CD we made in October has arrived, and it turned out well. Director Terry, along with Sound Engineer Mike Jackson from Minneapolis, assisted by Anita Preheim did a professional job of putting this together.

Chorus members have purchased a number of the records, and now we are hoping to sell the rest, mainly in connection with our performances in the near future.

Respectfully
submitted,



John Rasmusson, Corr. Sec.

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS
Madison WI
CELEBRATING OUR 90th
ANNIVERSARY IN 2015

Following our break for the Holidays and a weather cancellation, our Chorus returned to its regular Tuesday night practice on January 13. We began preparing our performance plans for the spring and started practicing the songs that will be included in the programs.

A Board meeting was held on January 20 to begin the process of preparing for the upcoming election of officers. A Nominations Committee was formed that will prepare a slate of candidates by March 1 in anticipation of elections to be held in early April. Members of our Chorus are being encouraged to seriously consider running for one of the following positions: President, Vice President,

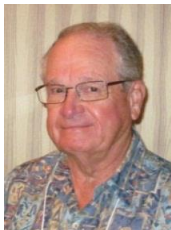
Secretary, Treasurer, Promotions Director, and Social Director.

Three activities are currently on the schedule for February and March. On February 13, our Chorus will sing a Valentine's Day concert at the Verona Senior Center. Verona is a southwest suburb of Madison and is home to Epic Corporation, the leading provider of electronic health care software in the country. This will be our first performance for the very active group at the senior center.

On Sunday, March 15, our Chorus will reprise its St. Patrick's Day performance at the Opera House in Stoughton. This concert proved to be a crowd pleaser when presented two years ago, and we are looking forward to another great audience as we honor all the Irish-Norwegians in our community.

Later that evening we will enjoy our Annual Founders Day dinner as the Chorus celebrates its 90th Anniversary. The planning committee is now hard at work putting together the final details for the gala.

We are also looking forward to the *Syttende Mai* performances scheduled for May 16-17 and the grand opening of Stoughton's new Norwegian Cultural Center. I will have more details about these special events in my next article.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

**GRIEG MALE CHORUS
Canton, SD**

Greetings from Canton SD and the Grieg Male Chorus. The holiday

season is behind us as well as the long winter break.

Our Christmas concert at Touchmark at All Saints was a huge success. The chapel was filled with residents and guests. Our concert lasted about forty minutes followed by cookies and refreshments with our host residents.

The following Monday the Grieg Chorus celebrated Christmas with our annual Grieg Christmas party. We welcomed guests from the Norse Glee Club and the Minnehaha Mandskor of Sioux Falls SD. Our NSAA President, Marlan Velgersdyk, also enjoyed the festivities. A very special guest also joined our fun. Santa Claus (Lyle Kroon) surprised us with his presence in full regalia starting with his arrival in his bright red sleigh. After our meal, Santa enlightened us with the history of Santa Claus and it was very informative.



Lyle Kroon in regalia.

We are off to a good start with rehearsals and are looking forward to concerts already scheduled. The Grieg and Auxiliary are looking forward to a great Sangerfest with our brothers and sisters in Sioux City IA this June 13, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted
Curt Hepner, Treasurer

LUREN SINGING SOCIETY**Decorah IA**

As follow-up to the previous report, we can tell that our pre-Christmas concert on Dec. 14th went very well. We resolved a scheduling conflict with another newly organized musical group, Decorah Youth Choir, by joining forces at Decorah Lutheran Church. Needless to say, attendance was that much better. Then we had a fine party at the Steyer Opera House. There we initiated our new member group. One will be introduced here.



New member

DON HOUSKER

was born at Mabel MN to Norwegian parents. He is the elder of two sons; his brother died in 1968. After high school graduation in 1982 he returned to farming, milking cows until 1994. He has sung in Scheie Lutheran Church choir for years. Don and wife Shirley (married in 1966) have two sons and one daughter, with five grandchildren. Don was invited to Luren by Lester Erickson, a classmate. He sings baritone. He says he enjoys listening to the parts and finds the Luren group helpful and friendly.

This season of joy has been marked and marred by sadness. On Jan. 18th, Joyce Christen, wife of Hub, died of cancer at 78 years. They were married Aug. 2, 1958, and had two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Her memorial service was Jan. 20th at Decorah Lutheran Church.

On Jan. 19th, Pastor Paul Hasvold, a member of Luren for many years, died at Aase Haugen Nursing Home at 81 years. His memorial service was held

at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where he had served as pastor for 24 years, retiring in 1998. His obituary is included elsewhere in this issue.

On Feb. 3rd, Dan Huebner died at age 83. A past-president of Luren, he was also the anonymous donor of funds for the purchase of our latest uniforms, the complete tuxedos with vests. His obituary is also included later in this issue.

On Feb. 8th, Everett Shaw, father of Pastor Carlton Shaw, one of our members, died at Forest City. He would have reached 100 on April 8th. His service was at Immanuel Lutheran in Forest City on Feb. 13th.

Jerry Aulwes, a relatively recent addition to our chorus, had knee surgery recently and is recovering nicely.

We have only one Lenten service on this year's schedule thus far. We'll be at Old East Paint Creek Lutheran on March 4th at 7:30 p.m. Typically, we have one out of town service and one in the city or immediate area of Decorah.

April 12th we'll do a concert at West Clermont Lutheran Church. Details are not all worked out yet.

If you saw the Disney movie *Frozen* you may know that the opening song was done a Norwegian group called *Cantus*. This group will be in Decorah for a concert at First Lutheran Church, Thursday, Apr. 23rd, at 6:30 p.m. Luren will help hosting them in various ways. It is an honor and privilege to have such guests in our community.

Our traditional joint concert with the Luther College Norsemen will again be on Mothers' Day, May 10th, in Decorah Lutheran Church at 7 p.m.

As a kind of pre-tour concert, we will be at the Hesper Lutheran Church

on June 7th for a concert for their 150th anniversary. About 10 days later, about half of our members will leave for Norway for our two-week concert tour. We'll include our itinerary in the next report.

Obituary



Paul M. Hasvold, only child of Morris and Ruth (Levorson) Hasvold, was born Mar. 15, 1933 in Watertown SD, grew up in Flandreau, and died in Decorah Jan. 19th, 2015. After high school he moved on to Luther College and graduated in 1955, majoring in music and philosophy. He received both a Danforth Fellowship and a Fulbright scholarship for post-graduate study, at Michigan and Oxford, respectively. Truly he was a renaissance man, with many skills and interests.

Paul and Carol (Williams) were married Dec. 29th, 1958. She was one of his students when he taught briefly at Luther College. They became the parents of two sons: Peter and Thomas. There are six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

After teaching Religion and Philosophy at the U. of Kansas for four years, Paul received a Call from East Koshkonong Lutheran Church near Cambridge, where he served until his Call to Good Shepherd in Decorah in 1974. He retired in 1998.

Paul played tuba in Luther's Concert Band and continued his love for this instrument when he helped found the Good Shepherd Band. Besides church choir and band he sang with Luren for many years and received his Bronze medal at our Sangerfest in Decorah in 2006.

The memorial service was held Feb. 24th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Luren sang *Rise Up, O Men of God* and *Aftensang*.

Obituary



Dan Huebner was born May 16, 1931, in Minneapolis, the eldest son of Fred and Irene (Burns) Huebner. He received his degree from the U of M and post-graduate degrees from the California Institute of Technology in aeronautics. After service in the Air Force and AF Reserves, he worked for General Electric and later with Northrup Grumman Corp.

Dan married Bonnie (Westby) on May 14, 1955 at the Old Stone Church near Houston MN. They became parents of one daughter, Cynthia, and had one grandson and one granddaughter.

Dan and Bonnie were very active supporters of Vesterheim Museum as well as many other organizations.

After moving to Decorah, Dan joined Luren, where he sang baritone, and served one stint as President of the chorus. As noted above, he funded the purchase of the Luren tuxedos, doing so anonymously.

Bonnie died Aug. 8, 2005. Dan died Feb. 3, 2015. At the memorial service Luren sang *Den Store Hvide Flok, We Shall Walk through the Valley*, and *Aftensang*.

We thank God for the lives of service by both Paul and Dan. Blessed be their memories.



Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

HARMONY SINGING SOCIETY

Rockford IL

We enjoyed singing at the annual Christmas Dinner for our Harmony Club December 9th. Bob Aden soloed and sang *White Christmas*.



Bob Aden performing.

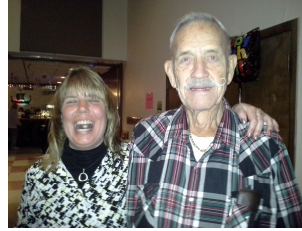
A week later we sang at the Winnebago Nursing Home. We sang many songs and the residents asked for more. This was our second year to sing there. The chorus members and wives then went out for supper and had a grand time.

The next day we sang at Swedish American Hospital. We performed in their chapel and then in the lobby of the heart hospital. Bob Aden soloed again. We had lunch in the hospital and next headed to the Greater Rockford International Airport. We sang in the area where travelers were checking in to board their flight. How nice to be heard by passengers getting ready to depart.



Harmony chorus singing at Swedish American Hospital.

Three days later we sang again at the Harmony Club. A special birthday party was given in honor of Bernie Johnson.



Bernie Johnson and daughter Denise.

He is a 40 year member of the club. Bernie served three years as President and five years as Vice-President. He is pictured with his daughter, Denise.

We next performed a Christmas Concert at Bethesda Covenant Church, December 21st. We were joined by the *Sveas Soner* Chorus. We were 15 voices strong. What a joy to sing individual chorus numbers and to join together and sing several songs! We had a very busy two weeks. This is what we practice for and are pleased that we had several opportunities to share the joy of music.



Steven James, Corr. Sec.

Letter from Director Sherry Dreyfuss

Dear new Norwegian friends,

Steve James, a member of Harmony (Rockford, IL's Norwegian Men's Singing Society) has very appropriately introduced me to all of you - but I thought I would send my own message.

Prior to being hired by Harmony in March 2014 I have had extensive music associations. I have been singing, directing and accompanying since college graduation which was as my kids say: "the dark ages." I moved with my husband during his tour in the USAF and was hired at all locations.

In Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada I was the Protestant choir director with 45 wonderful voices of hostages. This was an isolated base so no one could easily leave! I never had much absenteeism. I was also the Catholic organist on base. I established an extensive choral library at the base chapel with the help from my wonderful friend at Carl Fischer in Chicago. This was a wonderful experience.

We have 5 daughters and I have continued my music!

In 1999 Sveas Soner (Rockford's Swedish Men's Singing Society) hired me without "a Swedish bone in my body." In 2004 I was elected an Assistant Director-in-Chief of the AUSS (American Union of Swedish Singers), in 2008 I was elected the Director-in-Chief of the Central Division of the AUSS, and in 2012 I was elected the Director-in-Chief of the AUSS. From Sveas Soner on I am the first woman to be elected to these positions with the exception of the Assistant Director-in-Chief position. I am very proud of these accomplishments, but even more than

the positions, I love the privilege of working with all of these people across the country.

So with my connection with the Swedes and Norwegians in Rockford we had a wonderful but very busy holiday season. It culminated on December 21st with a joint holiday concert of these two wonderful groups with such a long heritage in Rockford. We had music from Sveas Soner's Christmas repertoire, music from Harmony's Christmas repertoire and joint holiday music that they sang together. What beauty!!!

I love the richness of the sound of the male chorus! I love the dedication of the men in these two choruses! What a privilege to be associated with both!

My husband Chuck sings in both of these choruses - another being without a "Swedish or Norwegian bone in his body" but also enjoying the opportunity to share with these very special people.

I close with what music has always given me - an open door into the community and the hearts and souls of the people residing there. I am honored to be a part of your Norwegian family.



Sherry

Minutes of NSAA Board Meeting, continued from p.13 Sept.-Oct. 2014 issue.

Unfinished business: Roger Amdahl, member of Minnehaha Mandskor, was nominated as Grand Marshal for the 2016 Sangerfest Moved, Seconded, and Passed.

Motion to reduce *Sanger-Hilsen* rate from \$22 to \$20, and increase membership dues from \$3 to \$5. MSP. Discussed elimination of Corresponding Secretary honorarium. No action taken.

No applications received for new choruses. Discussed need to keep membership active and fully participating in NSAA and local chorus events. Lots of discussion of changing demographics and the impact on chorus membership. Suggestion made that each chorus should have a membership chair. That person's name should be considered for the executive board on each chorus, listed on the chorus officer list, and placed on the NSAA website. Recognized need for choruses to be understanding of membership schedules. NSAA membership has been holding around 300 for the last ten years. Music selection is very important when introducing new members and for retaining older members.

Reviewed financial support for Center for Western Studies. Veterans Chorus is supporting Center for Western Studies at \$100 annual membership level and NSAA general membership is supporting Center for Western Studies at \$250 annual membership level. Center for Western Studies is very important for NSAA.

The Board with the help of Past President Herb Nelson reviewed the 2014 Sangerfest held in Minneapolis MN. Sangerfest 2014 was considered a success by the Board. Overall the arrangements went very smoothly and were appreciated by the Board members present. Past President Nelson reported that expenses exceeded anticipated expectations. Since no profit was made, the NSAA treasury will not receive any proceeds from Sangerfest 2014. Efforts to receive grants, sponsorships, and gifts were not as fruitful as hoped. Nevertheless it was a wonderful experience and comments by participants and audience were highly complementary. A handbook of suggestions and ideas has been passed along to Sioux Falls Sangerfest 2016 committee.

The Board briefly discussed the schedule of Sangerfest activities, including awarding of medals, with the goal of better coordination of men's and women's schedules. Important to ensure that events scheduled at the same time do not share same space. Feedback reviewed on Memorial service and the new medals for 25 and 30 year service. Having a different color ribbon for the 25 and 30 year medals was discussed. Board acknowledged concern expressed by some about the cost of attending Sangerfest.

New business: A progress update from the Sioux Valley Singers regarding the 2016 Sangerfest to be held in Sioux Falls was given by President Marlan Velgersdyk. Arrangements have been made for venues and facilities at the Sheraton-Sioux Falls Event Center, which includes housing [\$129+tax], meals, concert space, rehearsal rooms, hospitality and meeting rooms. Other motels are nearby. Parking is free. Menus are to be determined. Lots of volunteers are currently working hard on making arrangements. Advanced ticket sales will be conducted by individual choruses. Donations and advertising ideas are being pursued. Sponsorships also were discussed. The committee expects minimal change to the typical Sangerfest schedule. Board encouraged finding increased ways for individual choruses and groups to participate in afterglows; perhaps seating at banquets and afterglows could be a mix of different choruses at each table. Guests from Scandinavian countries will be encouraged to participate. A planning book prepared by Past President Nelson has been invaluable.

A lapel pin was given to each member attending their first Sangerfest, and they were also made available for sale. It was decided to continue this practice while supplies last.

Potential By-Laws changes were discussed for the Music committee, ribbons, and Sangerfest attendance. Wording will be brought to the next Board meeting indicating that all directors serve on the Music Committee. It was suggested that the ribbons for 20 Sangerfests remain gold; for 25 Sangerfests the ribbon would be red and for 30 Sangerfests the ribbon would be blue. Wording will be brought to next Board meeting. Currently the By Laws allow for a NSAA member to attend and sing in Sangerfests although not a member of a chorus. There is also mention of a Passive member. By Laws should be changed to make clear that members of NSAA who attend the biennial Sangerfest but do not sing still get credit for SF attendance. Wording for these By Laws issues will be brought to the next Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Richard Leake
NSAA Recording Secretary

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 8:00 p.m. at V.F.W. Hall; Camfield and Higgins Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068. President: John Lee, 738 Bent Ridge Lane, Elgin, IL 60120. tel. (847) 741-4210; Secretary: George Michals, 5236 Arlington Drive West, Hanover Park, IL 60103 (630)837-8615; Director: Edwin Kramer, 32600 East Lane, Grayslake, IL 60030, tel. (847) 546-2050.

Normenneses Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. (except July and August) at the Estonian House, P.O. Box 95, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. tel: (847)537-8016. President: Thor Fjell, 1041 W. Ogden Ave. #118, Naperville, IL 60563. Tel: (630)369-4233, cell: (630) 479-4233, thorfjell@comcast.net. Recording Secretary: Frank Potempa, 1788 W. Sherwood Rd., fcpotempa@shcglobal.net Director: Charles Kessell, 6042 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60634. Tel: (773)481-5941, cell (773)858-5325, perc55@juno.com.

ROCKFORD

Harmony Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday 7:00 p.m. at our Club: 1104 15th Ave. Rockford, IL 61104. President: Jim Wolf, 1104 15th Ave., Rockford, IL 61104, tel (815) 965-7833.; Corresponding Secretary: Steve James, 625 Dawson Ave., Rockford IL 61107. tel. (815)601-3813. stevej1945@comcast.net. Director: Sherry Dreyfuss, 11665 Glen Eagles Lane, Belvidere IL 61008. Tel (815)978-2245. swedishcantor@gmail.com

IOWA

SIOUX CITY

Nordic Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 315 Hamilton Blvd. Sioux City, Iowa 51103; President: Gary Munson, 3303 Court St., Sioux City, IA 51104, tel. (712) 277-1428; Corresponding Secretary: Robert R. Hansen, 20 Eastview Drive, Sioux City, IA 51106 ((712) 258-7445 regors5@juno.com; Director: Charles Schuett, 5040 Stone Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106, tel. (712) 276-2328, scschuett@aol.com.

DECORAH

Luren Singing Society

Rehearsal: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Roberts High School. President: Ken Larson, 210 Iowa Ave. Decorah IA 52101. tel. (563)382-8167. larsonke@luther.edu. Corresponding Secretary: Donald L. Berg, 407 Leif Erikson Drive, Decorah, IA 52101-1038, tel. (563) 382-5727; Director: Dr. David Judisch, 814 Fifth Ave., Decorah, IA 52101, tel. (563) 382-9222 judiscda@luther.edu.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS

Norwegian Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Thursday evening at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave. So., Edina, MN. President: Robert Olson, 7442 Pillsbury Ave. So., Richfield MN 55423-4115 tel. (612)866-0687 hobjoolson@comcast.net ; Corresponding Secretary: Charles Engh, 7642 Prairie Flower Blvd., Chanhassen, MN 55317, tel. (952)401-8838; cbengh@hotmail.com Director: Carsten Sløstod, 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: Marlan Velgersdyk, 4509 S. Magnolia Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57103. tel. (605) 371-0669. mcvelgersdyk@midco.net Corr. Secretary: John Rasmusson, 4312 W. 58th St. #109, Sioux Falls SD 57108, tel. (605)271-0838. jpras@midco.net Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 339 0607, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com.

Norse Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Nordic Hall. President: Steve Espeland, 48304 278th St, Canton SD 57103. Tel (605)987-5720; Corresponding Secretary: Gail Kristensen, 111 W. 17th St., Apt. #110, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, tel. (605)731-5281. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

CANTON

Grieg Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Canton Good Samaritan Center. President: Bill Kortemeyer, 406 E. Poplar Dr., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 764-9060. ringshanks@iw.net Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480th Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161; Director: Lane Karli, 3401 S. Grace Ave., Sioux Falls SD 57103-7219, (605) 275-5591. lkarli@sio.midco.net

WISCONSIN

MADISON

Edvard Grieg Chorus

2262 Winnebago, Madison, WI 53704
 Rehearsal: Each Tuesday, 7 p.m. President: Steve Christenson, 519 N. Harrison St., Stoughton WI 53579, (608) 873-9846 stevekrisC@yahoo.com; Corresponding Secretary: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 ; Director: Mark W. Everson, 711 Highway #106, Edgerton, WI 53534, tel. (608) 884-9398 evers11111@aol.com.

SIOUX VALLEY SINGERS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

President: Ed Stone, 2009 3rd Ave, So. Sioux City NB 68776 (402)494-2956 jeston7@longlines.com. Vice President: David Lien, 1800 S. Splitrock Blvs, Brandon SD. 57005. Secretary: Ronald Beck, 28206 465th St., Lennox, SD 57039, tel. (605) 647-2851, beckparadoxr@speednet.com; Treasurer: David Stene, 6109 Canary Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1076, tel. (605) 332-2055; Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 339 0607, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com; Assoc. Director: Charles Schuett, 5040 Stone Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106, tel. (712) 276-2328, scschuett@aol.com.

**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: Phil Overlund, 11556 Shadow Ranch Rd; La Mesa CA 91941, (619)660-1125 jpoverlund@cox.net
 Treasurer: Rick Olson, 8726 Shadowwood Dr, Everett WA 98208, (425)337-0795, olymeister20@comcast.net;
 Trustees: California: Sven Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Pl, El Cajon CA 92020 (760)735-6171 svenio@sbcglobal.net ;
 Oregon: Mike Bagaason, 2460 Bailey Hill Rd, Eugene OR 97405, (541)687-2562, bagaason@rioussa.com; Washington:
 Russ Oberg, 5650 24th Ave NW #603, Seattle WA 98107 (206)362-5913 russ@obergtc.com .Trustee at Large:
 Howard Slauson, 3618 189th Place SW, Lynnwood WA 98036, (425)774-4635, howardslauson@comcast.net ;
 Director-in-Chief: G. Robert Johnston, 4707 NE 192 Pl., Lake Forest Park, 98155, tel. (206)362-1094, bobsings@gohuskies.com ; Asst. Director-in-Chief: Alf Lunder Knudsen, 1513 Debreton Lane, Mukilto WA 98275, (425)347-2769, alfknudsen@aol.com.

CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND

Normanna Glee Club

Rehearsal: time and place unknown

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

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Manskor

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

SAN FRANCISCO

Norwegian Singing Society of San Francisco

Rehearsal: Meets every Monday 7:00 p.m. at 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127. President: Herleiv Storsteter, 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94103 tel: (415) 344-0204; Secretary: Mark Mathisen, 1601 Oakwood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403 tel: (650)947-1357, dchouse@earthlink.net; Director: Megan O'Brien.

OREGON

EUGENE

The Norsemen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Sonja Lodge #38, Sons of Norway, 710 McKinley, Eugene, OR 97402. President: Mark Williams, 29453 Culver Lane, Junction City OR 541-343-8060. Secretary. Duane Esperum, tel. (206)501-2010 desperum@gmail.com; Director: Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, Junction City OR 97448-9438. tel. (541) 998-6329 amundson@peak.org

SALEM

Thorsmen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annex, 1198 Lanning Avenue North East, Salem, OR 97303. President: Paul Flora, tel. (503)363-9753 paul.flora@pgn.com ; Secretary: Wes Anderson, tel. (503)363-1714 wander@comcast.net ; Director: Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, whitewolf372@centurytel.net

WASHINGTON

BELLINGHAM

Norwegian Male Chorus

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

EVERETT

Norwegian Male Chorus

Normanna Hall, 2725 Oaks Avenue

Everett, Washington 98201

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m. at Normanna Hall; President: Craig Fredlund, tel. (425)210-9067, craig_fredlund@jamco-america.com .Secretary: Robert Bruland, tel. (425)335-1150 burland2@comcast.net.
 Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Road, Bellingham, WA 98226, tel: (360) 966-3132, stmjensen@earthlink.net, cell: (389)393-3919

POULSBO

Vestre Sund Manskor

Meets every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Grieg Hall, Sons of Norway, 18891 Front St., Poulsbo, WA 98370. President: Stan Overby, 29311 Beach Dr., Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 779-2460; Secretary: Warren Rosvold, (360)930-0504, wrosvold@gmail.com; Director: Kathy Haug, 21050 Fern St. Indianola WA 98342. Tel. (360) 908-9806. Kathy@meland.com.

SEATTLE

Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Every Monday evening 7:30 p.m. Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 N.W. 67th Street, Seattle, WA 98117. Officers: President: Jens Eysteinnsson, tel. (205)799-8000, JensEysteinnsson@AmericanSeaffods.com Secretary: Rolf Federspiel, tel. (425)823-9080, farfarfed77@frontier.com. Director: G. Robert Johnston, 4707 NE 192 Pl., Lake Forest Park, 98155, tel. (206)362-1094, bobsings@gohuskies.com

Skagit Valley Manskor

PO Box 481, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

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

TACOMA

Normanna Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Each Monday 7:00 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3315 South 19th Street, Tacoma, Wash. President: Pete Petersen, tel.(509)607-9406, o.petersen@gmail.com
 Secretary: Loren Jangaard, 5917 34th St NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335, tel. (252)265-2312, jangaardl@hatmail.com;
 Director: Jon Malmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, jmalmin2@comcast.net



January rehearsal break was a great time to be in AZ. Don Cooper and Terry Walter entertained Shirley Shookman (sister to David Judish), David and Gail Judisch, and Charles and Judy Berdahl at their home on Desert Harbor in Peoria AZ. The Judisches were visiting his sister, the Berdahls winter there, and Don and Terry spent a couple of months out of the cold. It is quite possible that all in the group will be traveling to Norway this summer with the Luren tour.