SANGER – HILSEN
SINGERS' GREETINGS

VOLUME 112, NO. 1 **DECORAH, IA** **Jan.-Apr. 2022**

Marriott Madison West, Middleton WI, the 2022 Sangerfest hotel.

NSAA President's Column

Optimism

How do you define optimism? We know that Ole is being optimistic when he sits in his truck with the engine running while Lena goes into the Dollar Store to buy just one item. That's real optimism!

How do you define the optimism of singers? That's a very interesting question, and the subject of *The Chorus Impact Study: Singing for a Lifetime,* the results of an extensive questionnaire designed by Grunwald Associates LLC for Chorus America, a choral advocacy group. Here are some of the findings:

- There are more than 54 million Americans participating in some form of choral group, more than 1 out of 6 adults greater than 18 years of age.
- Choral singers are more likely to contribute to their communities.
- Chorus members are better team players, listeners and collaborators.
- Choral members are more likely to form long term bonds with others.
- Chorus members are more likely to feel a sense of purpose in their lives.

- Overall, choral members expect more good things to happen to them than bad things.
- Chorus members are more likely to find some benefit in a bad experience.
- Choral members rate their overall quality of life better than the general public.
- Now this one I donôt get. Choral singers report that more singing seems to improve their tendency to snore. Does that mean they snore more, or less?
- And yes, being a member of a choral group promotes optimism about life!

These finding are probably preaching to the choir. As we look forward to Sangerfest 2022, we already know the joys of singing.

Covid has been hard on us, not only because of the risk of viral infections, but also as a result of the separations that it has caused. Only during WWI and WWII and now Covid has the biennial Sangerfest been cancelled. As the pandemic wanes we look forward to seeing and singing with you all at Sangerfest 2022, and the chance to renew friendships.

So, like Ole, keep your engines running, with purpose and optimism.

See you at Sangerfest 2022!

Paul Larson, NSAA president

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS
Madison WI

We had anticipated that after a break for the Christmas holidays we would begin practicing again in January. However, Dane County was hit with another surge in Covid infections and as a result we were not able to resume practicing until the middle of February, almost six weeks later. Our practices since returning have focused primarily on the music for Sangerfest, but we have some upcoming performances in May that also require preparation.

Our first performance will be on Saturday, May 14 as part of the Syttende Mai festivities in Stoughton. We will sing a full concert at the Opera House that will include several Sangerfest numbers as well as some of our ñgolden oldiesò that are always a hit with the audience. Then on Sunday we will participate in the 10:30 a.m service at Christ Lutheran Church in Stoughton, the home church of the King and Queen of the 2022 Syttende Mai celebration. Following the service we will enjoy the annual Norwegian smorgasbord put on by the ladies of the church.

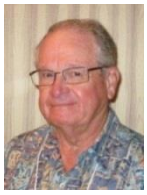
On Memorial Day Sunday the Chorus has been invited to participate in the rededication ceremony of the statue of Colonel Hans Christian Heg that stands at the King Street entrance to the Wisconsin State Capitol. Colonel Heg was born in Lier, Norway, and immigrated to Muskego, Wisconsin in 1840. He commanded the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War.

The Fifteenthôs membership was over 90 percent Norwegian, many recruited by Heg. He died in September of 1863 from wounds

sustained at the battle of Chickamauga. The original statue was sculpted by Paul Fjelde and presented to the State of Wisconsin by the Norwegian Society of America in 1925, the same year the Grieg Chorus was organized. In fact, the Grieg Chorus performed at the dedication of the statue in 1926. The statue was severely damaged during the demonstrations that occurred in Madison in response to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. It has been fully restored and the rededication ceremony will be held on May 29. The Chorus will sing the Norwegian and American anthems as well as ñFor the Fallenò as part of the ceremony.

Col. Heg statue.

We anticipate that we will spend the next several weeks focusing exclusively on Sangerfest 2022. At this point our committees have put together an outstanding program of activities and preparations are well underway. We look forward to your visit to Madison/Middleton on June 14.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

NORSE GLEE CLUB
Sioux Falls SD

Because of our limited membership the Norse Glee Club will no longer be a singing group. We meet socially at a local restaurant once a month with the few members that we have. We have become close throughout the years and wished to continue our friendships as long as possible.

I have joined the Grieg Chorus of Canton and am enjoying the fellowship and the singing which I truly missed during this pandemic. Dave Hanson of our chorus has joined the Minnehaha Mandskor. Others in our chorus have either decided not to sing with a group anymore or are still making a decision.

I will continue as corresponding secretary for the glee club and will only contribute information when needed.

Cordially,

Steve Espeland, Corr. Sec.

SANGER-HILSEN
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DEADLINE FOR
May-Aug. 2022 ISSUE
August 20

Sangerfest 2022 Schedule of Events
June 16-18, 2022

Conference HOTEL: Marriott Madison West Hotel in Middleton

Thursday, June 16	**Activity**	**Proposed Room Assignment**
Noon- 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Lobby/Coat Room
Noon - 6:00 p.m.	Luggage Room	Lobby/Coat Room
Noon - 3:30 p.m.	Hospitality-coffee & treats	Green Bay/Milwaukee
3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Opening/Welcome (All Included)	Superior
4:00 p.m. -- 5:30 p.m.	Mass Chorus Rehearsal	Superior
5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	Veteran Chorus Rehearsal	Superior
6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.	Luren Singers Rehearsal	Wisconsin
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner Buffet	Michigan
7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.	Memorial Service/Veteran Chorus	Superior
8:15 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Afterglow/Cash Bar (Luren Singers/Edvard Grieg/Others?)	Wisconsin
Friday, June 17		
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Mass Chorus Rehearsal	Superior
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality	Green Bay/Milwaukee
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Activities/Demonstrations	La Crosse
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Director's Lunch	Madison Board
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Social Hour/Cash Bar	Michigan
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Formal Banquet	Michigan
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Chicago Norsemen	Michigan
7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Medal Ceremony	Michigan
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Afterglow—Music & Dance with Wiscandia	Wisconsin
8:15 p.m.	Raffle of Bonnie Selje Rosemaled Plate	Wisconsin
Saturday, June 18		
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	NSAA Officers & Delegates Breakfast and Business meeting	Mendota
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality	Green Bay/Milwaukee
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Activities/Demonstrations	La Crosse
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Ladies Luncheon	Michigan
Noon	Gentlemen-Lunch on your own	
2:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Mass Chorus Rehearsal	Superior
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Orchestra Rehearsal	Superior
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Hotel Buffet	Michigan
6:15 p.m.	NSAA Officer photos	Superior
6:30 p.m.	Mass Chorus Photos	Superior
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Grand Concert	Superior
8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Afterglow—Cocktail Snacks/ Desserts/Cash Bar	Wisconsin

NORMENNENES SINGING SOCIETY
Chicago IL

Chuck Kessel, our Director since 2006, died on February 25th. Normennenes chorus members, as well as singers from the Grieg Ladies, who Chuck directed also, joined with members of the parish choir of St. Bartholomew Church in Chicago to sing for his funeral mass on March 3rd. Chuck was Director of Music for the parish. Chuck had served as Music Director in a number of parishes within the Archdiocese of Chicago during his career. He had also directed other ethnic choruses in Chicago and Milwaukee. Chuck loved being a part of Normennenes.

On Saturday March 26th we lost a long-time member, Norma Henriksen. Norma's husband, Pete had been a chorus member and had served as an officer of Normennenes for many years. He was a native speaker of Norwegian from his time there as a youth during WWII. Many of us learned our Norwegian pronunciation for our songs from Pete. Since Pete's death in 2011 Norma continued to regularly attend Normennenes events, and was an engaged member of Normennenes.

The chorus joined our accompanist, Mike Benshish, to sing a Christmas Contata on December 19th at the choir of Lutheran Church of the Master where Mike is Director of Worship and Music Ministries. Singers returned there on April 10th to join the choir in their extended Palm Sunday liturgy. Mike has been leading us in rehearsal since our loss of Chuck. We have been preparing the repertoire for this summer's Sangerfest at our weekly rehearsals.

Over the past year our membership has been exploring possible formal collaboration with the Grieg Ladies. With declining membership, and the trend of other ethnic choruses to combine memberships to sustain their missions, we are looking ahead to see what will be appropriate. Singers from the Grieg Ladies rehearsed with us at our regular rehearsals since January because they also participated in the Palm Sunday liturgy at Mike's church. With pandemic precautions in place we have been able to have combined rehearsals and these have gone well. Joint musical rehearsals and performances will require exploring new additions and arrangements to our repertoire.

Dan Boyle, Corr. Sec.

MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR
Sioux Falls SD

The Minnehaha Mandskor is well into its spring season. The group was well received at its concert at Prince of Peace retirement community April 18. Member John Nelson was responsible for setting up this concert. He and wife Donna are residents at Prince of Peace. The chorus anticipates singing at Dow-Rummel Village on May 2, and for the Sons of Norway Syttende Mai Banquet on May 16.

April 24 will find members Ray Schnabel and Bill Schoep serving Norwegian Cinnamon Thumbprint Cookies. They will be participating in the annual Gourmet Guys fund raiser

for Active Generations. Since the chorus rehearses and houses music at Active Generations, itôs only fitting to be involved in events that benefit the organization. The Mandskor began its association with what was originally the Bergland Center for Seniors, in the 1970s. Bob Stenberg used to say, ñI just feel like weôre married to the senior center.ò The relationship continues to be a good one

In terms of Sangerfest, it would seem that only a few will be making the trip to Madison, WI.

This writer has been happily enjoying the warmth of AZ, but anticipates returning to SD, early May. Hopefully, all enjoyed the blessings and privilege of celebrating Easter in a meaningful way.

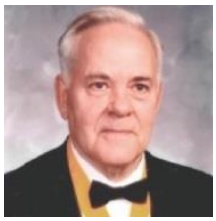
Respectfully submitted,

Terry Walter, Corr. Sec.

NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB
Minneapolis MN

We hope you, your family and friends are well and safe.

I regret to write, we lost another friend and singer this winter. Bjorn C. Hagen passed away January 19. 2022. Bjorn was born in Oslo, Norway·June 13, 1926. His family moved to Brooklyn NY before returning to Norway in 1935. He and his wife Gerd moved back to the United States in 1947. Bjorn joined the Minneapolis Norwegian Glee Club and served and sang in the Club for nearly 70 years. He served as president of the Club several times. Bjorn was a fine baritone and strong soloist. He will be missed. R. I. P. friend.



Bjorn C. Hagen

The Glee Club sang a beautiful Julekonsert at the MindekirkenNorwegian Lutheran Church on December 19. Several choirs sang and it was a joy to have an audience. After the concert we took a break through the worst of winter and resumed practice on March 23, 2022. We practice at Mindekirken from 11:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays and are preparing for the Sanger Fest. We'll have fourteen singers and eight companions attending the Fest.

Spring is slow to come this year. If you have internet access, you've probably read that in Minnesota people are asked to have their fish houses off the lakes by July 3 this year so they don't interfere with the fireworks!

Pray for peace,

Gene Willms, Corr. Sec.

GRIEG MALE CHORUS
Canton SD

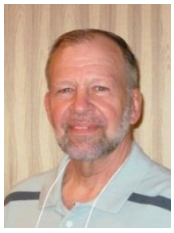
With confidence the calendar is correct, the members of the Canton Grieg Male Chorus send you Spring greetings!! Unusually cold and

windy, our S. D. weather has given cause to frequently check the date on our calendars! As we do every year, as the song title proclaims, we will "Welcome Sweet Springtime."

Due to Covid concerns, and a rise in illness in our community, both of our Christmas concerts were cancelled. Once we resumed regular weekly rehearsals, our director, Jacob Huber, created a program for our chorus to enjoy performing a Palm Sunday Hosanna concert on April 10. This was a first for our chorus, and was well received by the community. Our concert was hosted by Grand Valley Lutheran Church. Refreshments were provided by members of Grand Valley WELCA and the women of the Grieg Chorus. A free will offering benefited Love INC. It was a wonderful experience to perform a live concert again, and with the Palm Sunday theme. We look forward to our next concert on May 2nd, at Touchmark, at All Saints, located in Sioux Falls.

Our Grieg Male Chorus was complimented to have our local paper, The Sioux Valley News, give us a front page story of the history of our chorus including photos, past and present. It was great for our group to receive that exposure, AND afforded us the opportunity to extend an invitation to men of the community.

With wishes that all of you are enjoying this beautiful Easter season.

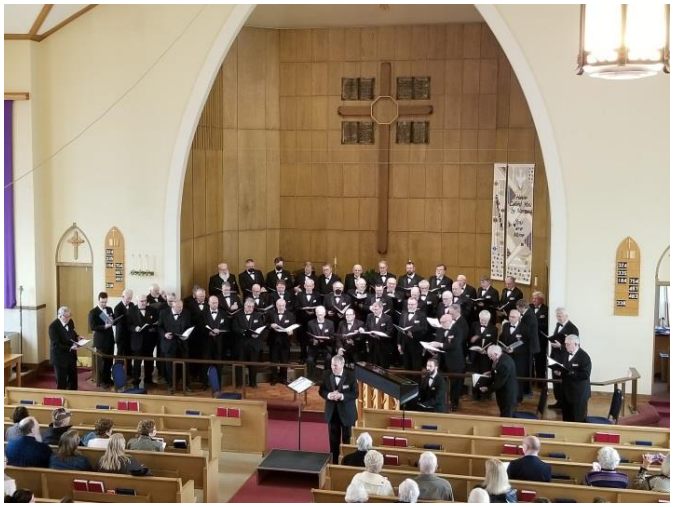


Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

LUREN SINGING SOCIETY
Decorah IA

Greetings to all from the Luren Singers.

Luren rehearsals began in Feb. after a break following the Christmas concert. We met at Decorah Lutheran Church and for precautions, we sat 3 to a pew and every other pew. Most of us wore masks and followed the usual precautions. We had to also rehearse a couple of times at First Lutheran Church in Decorah. We are thankful for the Churches to share their facilities with us for our rehearsals.

We enjoyed presenting a concert for the Telelag Stevne in Spring Grove MN on April 3rd at Trinity Lutheran Church. It was good to be

Luren performs for Telelag Stevne.

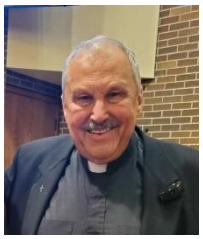
able to sing our concert without wearing masks. We had an appreciative and responsive crowd.

We have several concerts ahead of us and the next will be the annual concert with the Norskkor, Luther first year men, on Mothers Day, May 8th at Decorah Lutheran Church. Then we practice for Sangerfest in Middleton, WI. We hope to see you all there?

New Members

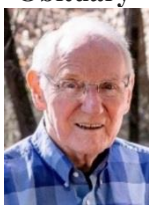
Pr. Matt Larson served as the Pastor of the Burr Oak and Hesper Lutheran Parish (NEIA Synod, ELCA) for 13 years. He currently serves as an Assistant to the Bishop in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

From his home congregation in Hudson, WI to rural settings in Divide County ND, Ottertail County MN, and Winneshiek County IA he has been actively involved in rural ministry for 20 years and is passionate about helping rural congregations thrive. He is the husband of Pr. Amy Zalk Larson (Good Shepherd, Decorah IA), and father to Nathan and Abby. Matt is an avid reader, a semi-proficient cook, and enthusiastic about hunting, camping, and canoeing. Matt hasn't been part of an organized choir since middle school, but has always loved to sing.



The newest member of our Luren family is **Pr. Daryl Thompson** who joined us this spring. Pr. Daryl serves Calmar and Springfield Lutheran Churches. He previously was a registered nurse, EMT worker, corporate pilot, sales mgr and several other background positions. Daryl has 5 children, all grown. He and his wife Wica enjoy the life at the parsonage in Calmar. We look forward to getting to know Daryl in Luren. Welcome Daryl.

Obituary



Luren lost a former member, **Jack Nelson** who at one time was President of the Luren Singers. Jack passed away in January in Rochester. Jack enjoyed singing wherever he lived. After he retired in 2003, Jack and Shirley moved to Rochester where he continued to sing with groups in church and in other community chorus groups. Jackôs service was in January and he was buried by his wife Shirley in Phelps Cemetery in Decorah.

Lee Grippen, Corr.Sec.

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

ILLINOIS
CHICAGO
Normennenes Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. (except July and August) at the Estonian House, P.O. Box 95, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. tel: (847)537-8016. President: Frank Potempa,418 Farmhill Circle, Wauconda IL 60084. (847) 296-2568 fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net Corresponding Secretary. Dan Boyle, 8840 Forestview Rd., Evanston, IL 60203. tel (312)330-1450. danielboyle@me.com. Director: Charles Kessell, 6042 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60634. Tel: (773)481-5941, cell (773)858-5325, perc55@juno.com.

The Chicago Norsemen

Rehearsals: to be announced. Corresponding Secretary: to be announced. Director/President: Edwin Kramer, 32600 N. East Lane, Grayrslake, IL 60030, tel (847)546-2050, ed.kramer@att.net.

IOWA
DECORAH
Luren Singing Society

Rehearsal: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Roberts High School. President: Bill Fried, 18346 Bee Hill Dr., Spring Grove MN 55974 Tel. (507)498-5611 cell (507)381-9293.giantbil1@gmail.com .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 57005tle. (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.comDirector: John Pollmann, 309 E. 8th St., Dell Rapids SD 57022. tel. (605)370-8092 der_jaeger@hatmail.com

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

CANTON
Grieg Male Chorus

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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

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Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association
(www.pcnsa.org)

OFFICERS:

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CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND

Normanna Glee Club

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

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Mannskor

Rehearsal: every Monday at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of San Diego State Univ. in music Bldg. President: Sven I. Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Pl. Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (619) 708-6171, svenio@cox.net; Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bonita, CA 91902 (619)223-2784 holmerud@cox.net; Director: Alexis Luna.

SAN FRANCISCO

Norwegian Singing Society of San Francisco

Rehearsal: Meets every Monday 7:00 p.m. at 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127. President: HerleivStorseter, 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94103 tel: (415) 344-0204; Secretary: Mark Mathesen, 1601 Oakwood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403 tel: (650)947-1359, dchouse@earthlink.net; Director: unfilled.

OREGON

EUGENE

The Norsemen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Sonja Lodge #38, Sons of Norway, 710 McKinley, Eugene, OR 97402. President: Dan Moore, danielleemore@comcast.net, (541)520-2211,. Secretary. John Meshnik, jmeshnik@eeeug.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 Lannsing 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, jangaardl@hotmail.com; Director: Jon Malmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, jmalmin2@comcast.net

Early 2022 daffodils. Daffodil in Norwegian is called ñpåskelilje,ò which is literally ñEaster lily.ò