

Sons of Norway

Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Meetings on the first Sunday of the month – Potluck at 1:30 p.m.
St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Douglas Road, Montgomery, IL

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President's Message



God jul og godt nytt år!

January 4th
2026

Godt Nytt År
Polar Star

OLYMPIC WINTER
GAMES

Lodge Event

1:30 St. Lutheran Church

See page 2 for details

Upcoming Events

Norsk Ski Jump

Jan. 31-Feb. 1

Details page 3

Lefse Making Workshop

Date TBD

9:00 a.m. St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Details on page 4

POLAR STAR
PENNY SOCIAL
and
SOUPER BOWL

Sunday, Feb. 1st 2026

1:30

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

See article on page 4

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Polar Star Newsletter Deadline

Will be the 14th of every month.

Please submit all articles to Barb
Johnson at barbijohnsonb@aol.com

Follow us on Facebook @
Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

POLAR STAR

“VINTER” OLYMPIC GAMES

2026 is an Olympic year!!

Your Culture Director (Barb) and Your Sports Director (Jerri Lynn) are planning our own Polar Star Lodge version of the Winter Games!!

Be ready for some indoor fun! Dress casually in comfortable clothing and shoes and invite your family and friends!

Buffet lunch will begin at 1:30 followed by the team competition.



Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

POLAR STAR “VINTER” LEFSE MAKING WORKSHOP
Date TBD -on a Saturday morning - 9:00 a.m.
St. Olaf Lutheran Church Basement



Polar Star will be hosting a winter Lefse Making Workshop led by our very own Vi Skogen as soon as the Idaho Russet “Burbank” potatoes become available. The Public is invited to learn how to cook, prepare and roll potato dough to make Vi’s fabulous lefse recipe. Don’t miss this special opportunity to learn this traditional Norwegian staple! Please bring your lefse rolling pins, rolling boards, and grills if you have them. Please let Barb know if you want to be included on the email list when the event is scheduled.

Don’t forget your favorite apron

POLAR STAR PENNY SOCIAL and The Great Polar Star Norwegian “Souper” Bowl Competition

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

1:30 p.m.

Begin gathering your garage sale treasures for re-sale at our Penny Social Auction and start digging out your Norwegian soup recipes for our annual lodge soup competition. Tickets for the Penny Social will be sold for 25 cents each and soup tasting and judging will begin at 1:30 followed by the Penny Social.



Who will win the title this year?????

Norge Ski Club 121st Winterfest Ski Jumping Tournament 2026

Saturday, January 31, 2026 - Sunday, February 1, 2026

11:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Norge Ski Club

100 Ski Hill Road, Fox River Grove, IL, USA



Weekend Schedule

The fun begins Saturday Noon with our juniors, followed by intermediate ski jumpers on our 40 meter jump. The energy grows into the afternoon to the main event: Olympic hopefuls launch off the towering 70 meter jump!

Sunday starts again at Noon, with Big Hill Thrill action on the 70 meter jump all afternoon.

[Norge Ski Club Winter Ski Jump 2026](#) | [Buy Tickets in Fox River Grove](#) | [Ticketbud](#)

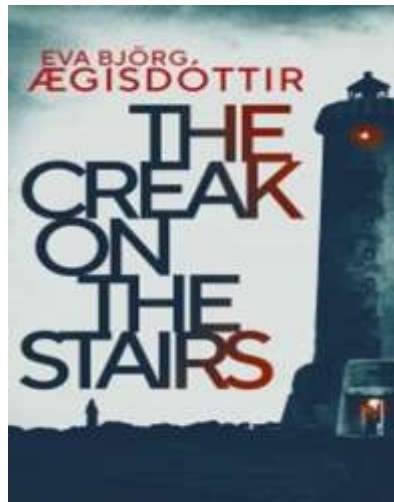
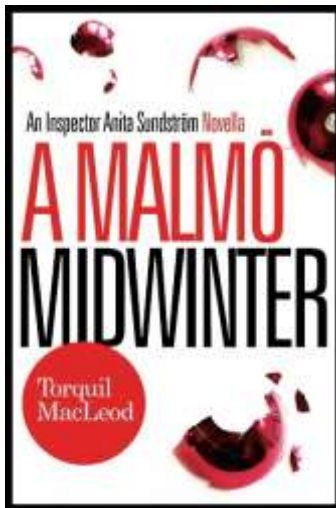
| SATURDAY JAN. 31 | SUNDAY FEB. 1 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Junior Tournament Small Hills – Noon | Opening Ceremonies – Noon |
| Junior National Qualifier K70 Big Hill | US Cup Competition K70 Big Hill |
| | Longest Standing Competition |

Polar Star Culture Corner

by
Barb Johnson

To join the Sons of Norway Book Club, send an email with your name, lodge name and contact information to SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com.

Sons of Norway January 2026 Zoom Book Club Selection



Mystery Read #1: *A Malmö Midwinter* by Torquil MacLeod

Mystery Read #2: *The Creak on the Stairs* by Eva Björg Aegisdóttir

Editor's Note: I have read both books and really liked *The Creak on the Stairs*. It is a series set in Iceland and is Book 1 of the Forbidden Iceland Series.

The Christmas Book Flood is a great little read to explain the Icelandic Christmas Eve reading tradition.

Zoom Meeting/Discussion Date & Time:
Thursday, January 29 - 6:00 p.m. Central Time

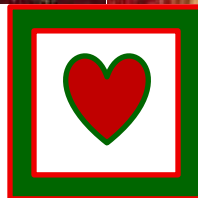
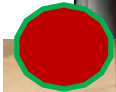
or

Saturday, January 31 at 3:00 Central Time

DECEMBER



LODGE EVENTS



SLOOPER VIRTUAL WALK COMPLETED



Congratulations to the Polar Star Virtual Immigration Walkers who started in New York and ended in Norway, Illinois and received their walking medals.



Polar Star Best Baker 2025 – Kelly Welin



Polar Star Gift Exchange 2025





Fun with the Julenisse



Stavanger Lutheran Church

Scandinavian Candlelight Service



Norsk **December** Craft Club - at Esther's Place



Polar Star 5-472 - 2026 Events and Programs

1:30 p.m. St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Montgomery, IL (unless listed)

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| | |
| JANUARY 4 | POLAR STAR WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES |
| JANUARY 23 | NORSK CRAFT CLUB AT ESTHER'S PLACE – 10:00 A.M. |
| JANUARY 31- FEB. 1 | NORDIC SKI JUMP |
| FEBRUARY 1 | POLAR STAR PENNY SOCIAL and SOUP COMPETITION |
| MARCH 1 | “CELEBRATING NORWEGIAN IMMIGRATION” CROSSING 200 |
| APRIL 5 | TBD |
| MAY 3 | CELEBRATING SYTTENDEMAI |
| SAT. - JUNE 6 | NORWAY MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE AND BREAKFAST |
| JULY | POLAR STAR FAMILY MONTH – NO EVENT SCHEDULED |
| AUGUST 2 | POLAR STAR PICNIC |
| SEPTEMBER 13 | VASA PARK 9:00 a.m. |
| OCTOBER 11 | SLOOPER ANNUAL MEETING, NORWAY, IL |
| NOVEMBER 1 | Høstfest begins at 11:30 a.m. |
| DECEMBER 6 | JULETREFEST |

Help is needed for the Kitchen Committee in 2026.

Please let Nancy Andersen know which month you would like to sign up to be on the kitchen crew

2026 POLAR STAR KITCHEN COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Jan. 5 | |
| Feb. 2 | Karen Oswald and Soup Competitors |
| March 2 | Carol Devito, Frank Krawczyk, Sue and Steve Tanda |
| April 6 | |
| May 4 | |
| June 1 | Norsk Museum Opening |
| Aug 3 | |
| Sept 7 | Vasa Park Event – All members |
| Oct. 5 | Slooper Meeting Event- Desserts needed |
| Nov 2 | All members - Høstfest |
| Dec 7 | Polar Star Board |



SONS OF NORWAY – Polar Star Lodge 5-472

MEETING HOSTS (Kitchen Committee)

At least two members/families are needed each meeting to serve on the kitchen committee. Join in by volunteering for one time each year.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOSTS FOR SETTING UP LODGE MEETING

Chairperson: Contact members of your committee to complete your plans ahead of time. The committee normally supplies meat or main dishes and one gallon of 2% milk and ice for drinking water. All other members are asked to bring a potluck dish to share.

- Arrive at the hall 1-½ hours prior to meeting time.
- Set up 6-8 tables with chairs in their proper places.
- Provide table decorations according to season. Napkins and placemats may be in cabinet – check this at meeting before – for inventory.
- Make the coffee (50-60 cups). Coffee is provided by Lodge and is in the Lodge cabinet. If not, purchase coffee and you will be reimbursed. Start coffee immediately. Takes at least one hour.
- Set up the buffet table (two long tables). Arrange the food on the tables as it comes in. Include a basket at the front end for donations.
- Please set up an entry table for the sign in book.
- Set up the podium and the three flags in the front of the room.
- After everyone has eaten, wash cups, spoons, etc. and clean up area. Use our lodge dishtowels (in storage room). One person from the committee needs to take the dishtowels home, wash them, and bring them back to the next meeting.
- Return all chairs and tables to their proper places
- If it is inconvenient for you to serve at the time scheduled for you, exchange with someone or find a substitute. Any questions notify the Social Chairperson, Nancy Andersen.

If there is anyone who would like to assist in serving, please feel free to do so. The committee will love you!

Don't forget the gallon of milk!

*Coffee: (Usually taken care of by Pres. Ken Johnson.) 1) Fill urn with COLD water. DO NOT IMMERSE URN OR CORD IN WATER. 2) Pour coffee into basket. For 55 cups, use 3-1/2 cups ground coffee. 3) Plug in urn. When it has finished brewing, remove basket with grounds

Updated January 2021 by Nancy Andersen



| December 16-31 | Birthdays | January 1-15 | Birthdays |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14 | Vi Skogen | 1 | Larry Baker |
| 19 | Carol Vigsnes | 5 | Carol Baker |
| 22 | Ken Johnson | 8 | Ralph Kristenson |
| 23 | Tom Harkins | 29 | Elsie Sorensen |
| 26 | Gail Anderson | | |
| 31 | Charles Ray | | |

Please turn in your volunteer hours at the January meeting!

Activity Volunteer Hours Tracking Sheet - Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Member Name _____ Phone _____ Service Year _____

This data is used for mandatory reporting that maintains Sons of Norway tax-exempt status, and for National Sons of Norway to lobby on behalf of Fraternal benefit societies. Annually, by end of January, submit your completed form to the Polar Star Secretary. Tusen takk.

- **Membership Activities** – Volunteer time spent on preparing, running or supporting projects/programs organized by Sons of Norway at a lodge, district or international level that were devoted to lodge business affairs, recreational/social events, training seminars, cultural classes, officer duties, etc. Include only volunteer time spent organizing, planning or working before/after the events. Do not include lodge meeting attendance time.

| Member Activity | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Lodge Meeting/Food (prepare food for pot luck set/clean up; kitchen duty) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lodge Meeting Programs/Activities (plan/prepare/lead) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Training/Seminars (plan/prepare/lead) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Officer Duties | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manage Newsletter/ Facebook/Website | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Board/Committee Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| District or National Meetings/Training | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other (describe) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL MEMBERSHIP HOURS: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- **Community Activities** – Record time that you volunteered in the name of / on behalf of Polar Star lodge, another Sons of Norway lodge, or SON district or international level at events focusing on community involvement/interest. Include only your volunteer time working at, planning for, or traveling to/from the event. Do not include time just attending.

| Community Activity | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Høstfest (prep/food/work) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fox Valley Norwegian Choir | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vasa Park (prep/food/work) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Norsk Museum (docent/manager/maintain) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Norsk Museum Fundraisers breakfast/tenorgerbord/etc. (prep/food/work) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sloopers | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syltende Mai Parade/Banquet (prep/food/work) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Norwegian National League (plan/prepare/lead) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Viking Ship (docent/manager/maintain) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MSI Christmas Tree | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barnbirke/Norge Ski | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SOFN Book Club | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tubfrim | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Schools/Libraries | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Support Other Lodge | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other (describe) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Revised 2024

**Sons of Norway
Polar Star Lodge 5-472
Juletrefest and Regular Meeting, December 7, 2025**

**St. Olaf Lutheran Church
1233 Douglas Avenue
Montgomery, IL 60538**

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m., following a delicious potluck holiday luncheon. Ham and boiled cod were served, along with salads, side dishes, and many desserts including traditional Norwegian risgrøt (rice pudding) with a hidden almond. The marzipan pig was awarded to Floyd Anderson. Kitchen hosts were the Polar Star Board.

President's Announcements:

- Ken opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcomed everyone. We were especially happy to welcome back Floyd Anderson and Craig Leifheit, who have both been absent for several months due to serious medical issues. Guests included Floyd's children and grandchildren Archer and Lucy, as well as Nancy's friends Sandy and Bob Beith.
- Vasa Park Scandinavian festival was Sunday September 7. Our popular booth sold out of almost everything.
- Instead of our usual October meeting, our lodge, along with Cleng Peerson lodge, Norsk Museum, and the Sloop Society hosted the hugely successful October 3-4-5 Norwegian Heritage Weekend, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first organized Norwegian immigration of the sloop Restauration with its 52 passengers from Stavanger to New York City. The Weekend was held in the Community Center in Norway, Illinois with over 260 people attending. Unexpectedly, a significant profit was made and the committee was happily able to make several sizable donations to various non-profit organizations related to Norwegian Heritage.
- Annual Host Fest was held on Nov 2. Very pleased that both attendance and income were more than last year.
- Current Polar Star officers have volunteered to remain in office. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to retain the slate for the next 2-year term.

Treasurer Report:

- Carol read a summary of the Treasurer's report (copy attached). Current checking account balance is \$13,825.77, and our total assets are \$28,437.95.
- The Treasurer's report included information about last year's December donations. Since some of those organizations already received funds from the Heritage Weekend profits, motion was made, seconded, discussed, and passed that we adjust some of those annual donation amounts for this year. In addition, a separate motion passed to make a special \$500 donation to the Minnekirken roof restoration fund.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed.

Secretary Report: Karen reminded everyone to finish recording their 2024 activity volunteer hours, and to submit their report to her no later than January's Polar Star meeting.

Social Director Report:

- Nancy reported that we need members to sign up for kitchen duty for least one 2026 Polar Star meeting. We have a volunteer for February, but coverage is still needed for our remaining 2026 meetings.

Cultural Director Report:

- Barb commented on the success of our Heritage Weekend, and told us about the summary she submitted to National as a follow-up report for the grant they awarded to the committee last spring. Responding to the question about greatest benefit realized, Barb noted that aside from the fun, entertaining, educational activities and presentations enjoyed by everyone (attendees *and* workers), many new working relationships were made with organizations, museums, churches, organizations, community, and local residents.
- Polar Star's Norwegian Heritage Cook Book has been a success, with many copies sold that weekend. There are some left, and she suggested that it makes an excellent present at \$20 per copy.
- Barb reminded us of the Icelandic Christmas Eve Book Flood tradition.
- Kelly Welin was the winner of our annual Christmas Cookie baking contest.
- Cookie tins of traditional Norwegian cookies were auctioned off, won by Steve Tanda and Frank Krawczyk. Proceeds were donated to the Sons of Norway Foundation.

Sports Director Report:

- Jerri Lynn awarded special pins to the six Polar Star members who completed the 15-month, 836-mile virtual walk from New York City to Norway, Illinois. The walk celebrated the 200th immigration anniversary, as well as the Sloopers who eventually migrated to and settled Norway, Illinois. Diana, Karen, Nancy, Barb, Ed, and Jerri Lynn received pins.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:15, followed by Polar Star's Juletrefest traditions: singing around our Christmas tree, a visit from the Nisse with gifts for the children, and our adult gift exchange.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 4: Norwegian Americans 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Oswald, Secretary