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## April 2026 Newsletter

Volume XIV issue III

The Mission of Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve, and cherish Norwegian Heritage and culture while celebrating relationships with other Nordic countries.

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# 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



## Polar Star 2026

See page for calendar of events  
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## Upcoming Events

Polar Star May Event

“GRUNNLOVSDAGEN”

## Celebrating Syttendemai

Sunday, May 3, 2026

See page 2 for details

1:30

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

See article on page 2

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Polar Star Newsletter Deadline

Will be the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Please submit all articles to

Barb Johnson at

[barbijohnsonb@aol.com](mailto:barbijohnsonb@aol.com)

Follow us on facebook @

Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

Visit our website

[www.polarstarlodge.com](http://www.polarstarlodge.com)

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**«April Showers Bring May Flowers» and for Polar Star Lodge the month of May brings Syttendemai fun! President Ken and Social Director Nancy are so excited to share the May events with all of you! Please check out all of information in this issue of our newsletter and join our group as we attend many of the syttendemai planned events**

**Your President  
Ken Johnson**

# Polar Star Lodge May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 Event “Grunnlovsdagen” Celebrating “Syttendemai”



What are Norwegians celebrating on May 17<sup>th</sup>? Come and find out as Polar Star celebrates this special day in Norwegian History  
Please wear red, white and blue and wear your syttendemai buttons.

**Potluck begins at 1:30** followed by the business meeting and program.  
Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.



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# **PARADE!**

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***Celebrating Norway Day***

**Sunday,  
May 17, 2026**

***Hodges Park Festivities***

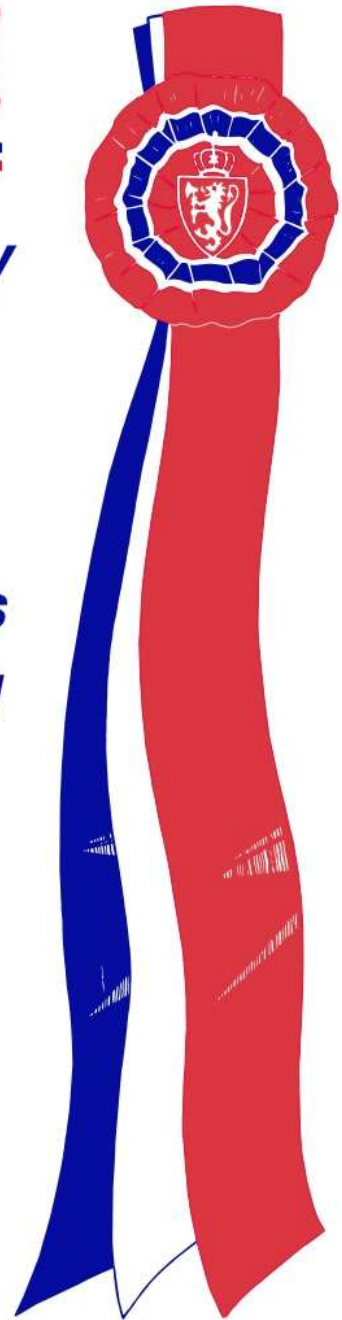
***In front of Park Ridge City Hall***

**Noon - 3:00 pm**

*Music – Vendors  
Children’s Activities – Dancing  
Scholarship Presentation*

**Parade Starts at 1:00 PM**

Talcott & Cumberland  
to City Hall



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Sponsored by the Norwegian National League

[www.nnleague.org](http://www.nnleague.org)



**Norwegian  
Constitution Day  
Luncheon 2026**



*The Norwegian National League  
cordially welcomes you to celebrate Syttende Mai*

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*Saturday, May 16, 2026*

*Park Ridge Country Club  
636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, Illinois*

*Meet & Greet 11:00 am • Luncheon Noon – 3:00 pm  
Duet Plate: Filet & Herb Roasted Chicken Breast, Potatoes & Asparagus*

*Music by Swedish Folk & Normennenes Singing Society  
Raffle Benefiting the Scholarship Program*

*Cost: \$ 80.00 per person - Valet Parking Included*

***Please Note: Cash only for Drinks – No ATM available***

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***Paid Luncheon Reservation Deadline: May 1, 2026***

*Online Reservations: <https://www.norchamchicago.org/events/norwegian-constitution-day-luncheon-2026> or scan the QR code.*



*Mail-in Reservations: Complete the following form and enclose a check payable to **NorCham Chicago**.  
Send to: Matt Nygaard, 4915 N. Winchester Ave, Chicago, IL 60640*

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Questions or dietary concerns? Call Jill Crooker: 847-825-2778

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# Polar Star Culture Corner

by Barb Johnson

## Norsk Craft Club



## May FELTED FLOWERS Workshop

Friday, May 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.



## Join our group and make your own MAY BASKET

\$30.00 fee covers instruction and all materials

Please pre-register at Esthers Place 630-556-9665

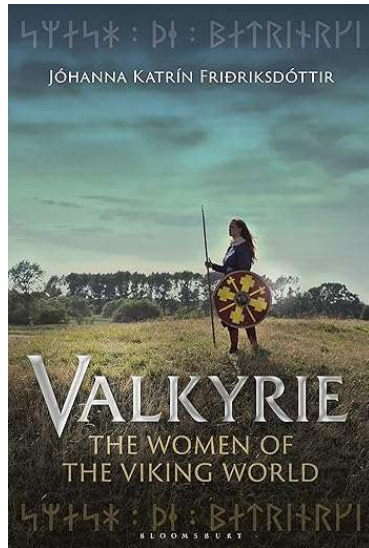
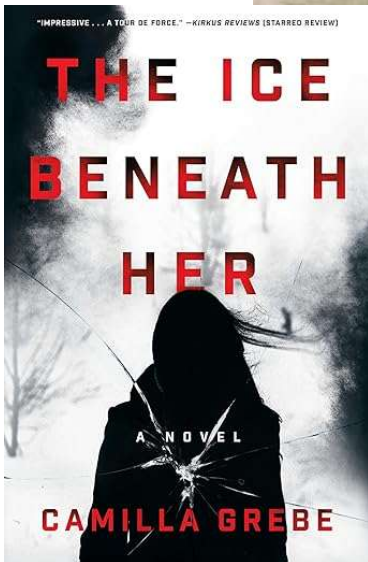
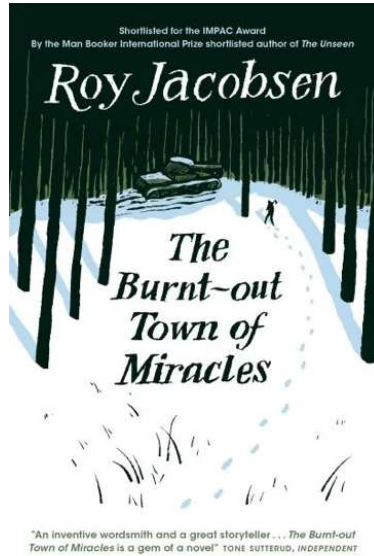
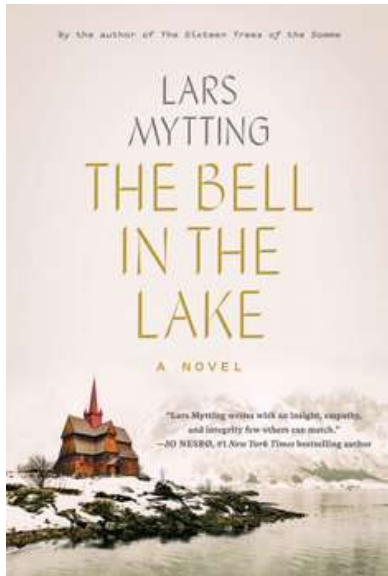
**Workshop location: 201 Galena St, Big Rock Illinois  
at Esther's Place in Big Rock Illinois**



## **Sons of Norway Book Club**

**To join the Sons of Norway Book Club, send an email with your name, lodge name and contact information to [SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com](mailto:SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com).**

**May 2026 Zoom Book Club Selections  
June 2026 Book Selections**



Read 1: "The Bell in the Lake" by Lars Mytting

Read 2: "The Burned Out Town of Miracles" by Roy Jacobsen

The Book Club Zoom meeting is held...

- 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month May 28<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 central time

- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month 27<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m. Central Time

**Editor's note: Both of these books were fantastic!!  
I highly recommend that you read all three books in the Lars Mytting series.**



**Five Reasons to Join the Sons of Norway Book Club**

- **Monthly Zoom meetings to discuss fiction and non-fiction book selections from Norwegian and Nordic neighbor authors.**
- **Easy way to earn all three levels of the Sons of Norway Literature Culture medal**
  - **Monday evening live “Author Talks” on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month**
  - **Periodic newsletter with the latest book reviews and literary events**
- **A chance to meet and interact with Sons of Norway members from other parts of the United States**

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**Polar Star Sports and Activities  
by Sports Director, Jerri Lynn Baker**

**Polar Star Sports and Activities**

**by**

**Jerri Lynn Baker**

**The 2026 Polar Star Sports Challenge is under way but it’s not too late to join the fun!**

Sign up on-line (link below), show me proof that you have signed up and proof that you have completed the challenge. Contact me at [lovingmom.com](http://lovingmom.com) if you



have any questions.

## Fabulous Fox National Water Trail

Step into History—One Mile at a Time

The Log 250 Challenge isn't just a race—it's a movement. A celebration. A chance to honor America's past while exploring your own path forward. Sign up, start logging your miles, and make 2026 a year you'll never forget.

- 40 miles of river and shoreline trails
- 400+ miles of interconnected land-based trails
- Convenient access to riverside communities filled with local restaurants, historic sites, and cultural attractions

Beyond Kane County, the entire 158-mile water trail flows through charming towns and iconic Midwestern landscapes—prairies, forests, rolling farms, scenic bluffs, and peaceful natural areas. With 27+ public access points, it's easy to choose your own adventure, whether you're paddling a few miles today, or walking a few next week, they all add up in this patriotic challenge. [#log250](https://log250.com)

<https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/KaneCounty/Log250>

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# Polar Star 5-472 - 2026 Events and Programs

## “FUN AND GAMES IN 2026”

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

<b>MAY 3</b>	<b>CELEBRATING NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY</b>
<b>SAT. JUNE 6</b>	<b>NORWAY MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE AND BREAKFAST</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>POLAR STAR FAMILY MONTH – NO EVENT SCHEDULED</b>
<b>AUGUST 9</b>	<b>KUBB TOURNAMENT AND PIKNIK</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 6</b>	<b>VASA PARK 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>OCTOBER 4</b>	<b>SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 1</b>	<b>Høstfest begins at 11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>DECEMBER 6</b>	<b>JULETFEST</b>

### 2026 POLAR STAR KITCHEN COMMITTEE

<b>May 3</b>	<b>Jeanne and Craig Leifheit Carol and Don Hirsch</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>Norsk Museum Opening all members</b>
<b>Aug 9</b>	<b>Kelly Welin Barb and Kenny Johnson</b>
<b>Sept 13</b>	<b>Vasa Park Event All members</b>
<b>Oct 4</b>	
<b>Nov 1</b>	<b>Høstfest – all members</b>
<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>Juletfest – Board Members</b>



**Thanks  
Jeanne and MaryAnn!!!**



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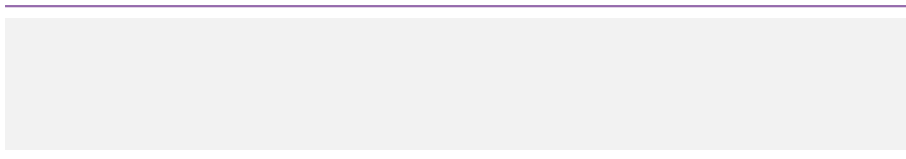
### Polar Star Birthdays

#### APRIL 15-31

19	Phoebe Bergh
23	Jerri Lynn Baker
30	Diana Raimond

#### MAY1-14

7	Ken Norton
12	Regan Gryder
17	Paul Robert Thomason



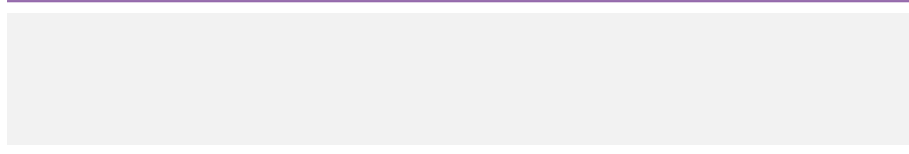
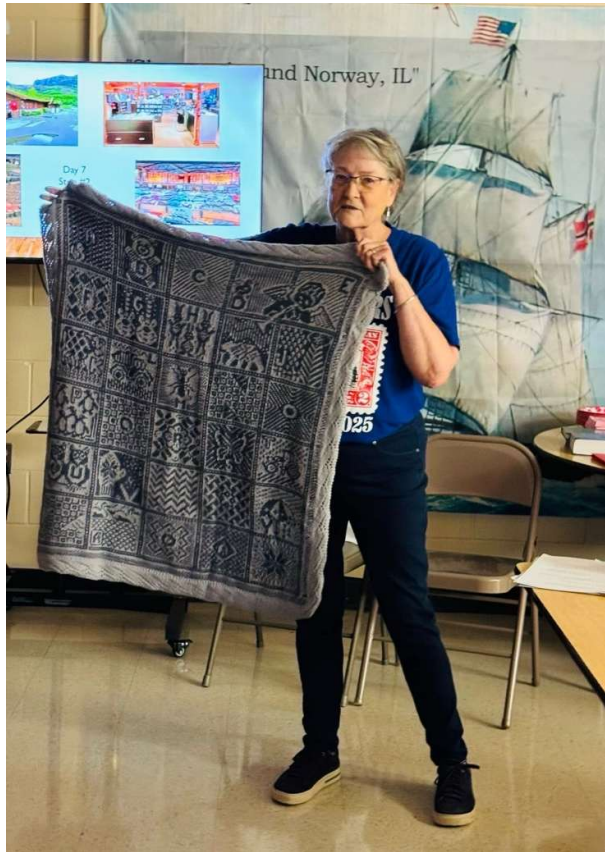
## Polar Star Membership Anniversaries

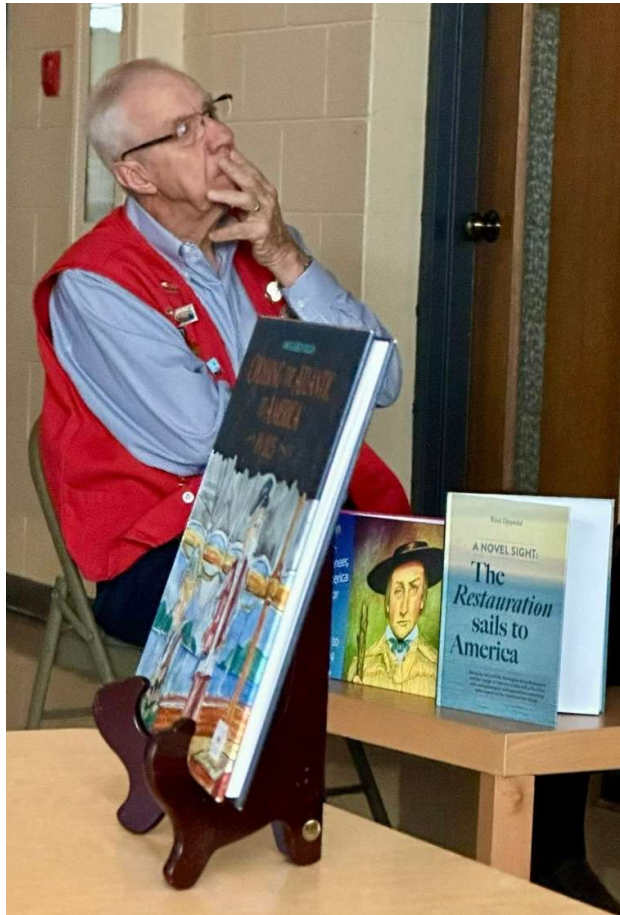
4-21-15	Brooke Johnson	11 yrs	5-6-84	Vi Skogen	42 yrs
4-21-15	Nels Johnson	11 yrs	5-8-14	Sasha Baker	12 yrs
s4-24-99	Betty Landorf	27 yrs	5-20-01	Ken Norton	25 yrs
4-26-08	Ed Hatteberg	18 yrs	5-21-07	Marian Mickelsen	19 yrs
5-1-62	Floyd Anderson	64 yrs	5-21-07	Joyce Marie Kauke	19 yrs
5-2-93	Phillip Nelson	33 yrs	5-22-90	Ralph Kristensen	36 yrs
5-4-21	Erika Robeck	5 yrs	5-22-91	Donna Kristensen	35 yrs

## POLAR STAR CROSSING 200 REVISITED







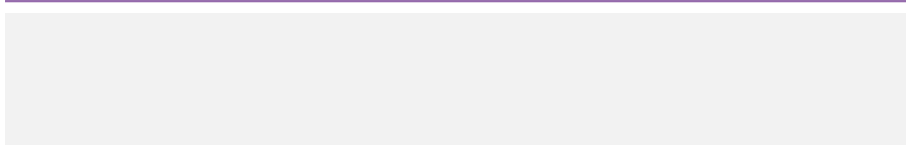








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l • May 15-17, 2026 •



Stoughton's Syttende Mai Festival is a weekend-long celebration of Norwegian heritage featuring fun activities and cultural experiences for the whole family. Come join us for three days of amazing food and drink, arts and music, athletic competitions, kids' activities, and even a parade steeped in centuries of Norwegian culture.



# Syttende Mai Festival

Stoughton's Syttende Mai Festival is a weekend-long celebration of Norwegian heritage featuring fun activities and cultural experiences for the whole family ...



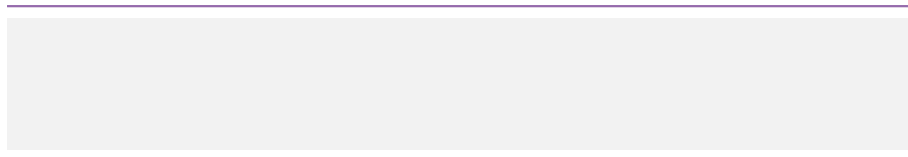
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**Sons of Norway Polar Star Lodge 5-472 Regular Meeting,**

**April 12, 2026**

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

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m., following a delicious potluck luncheon. Stuffed cabbage rolls were served, along with salads, side dishes, and desserts. Kitchen hosts were Mary Ann Doetschman, and Jeannie and Craig Leifheit. President Announcements: • Ken

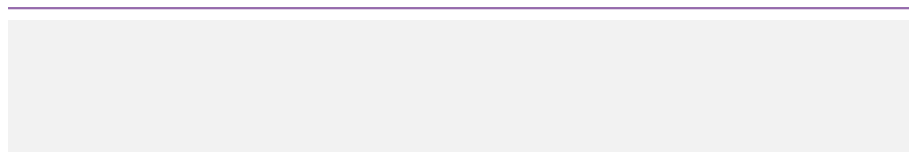


welcomed everyone, and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the United States national anthem. • Motion to approve the minutes for our February meeting was made, seconded, and passed. • We plan to participate in the May 17th Park Ridge Syttende Mai parade. • We will also participate in the June 28th Geneva's Swedish Days parade on June 28th. Originally announced as cancelled, the annual parade is being revived by Geneva's local merchants. • However, there will still be a parade on Father's Day at the Swedish Midsummer Festival in Good Templar Park, along with the annual May pole, music, food, games and Viking ship tours. Treasurer Report: • Carol read a summary of the monthly Treasurer's report (copy attached). Current checking account balance is \$7,787.29, and our total assets \$22,746.73. Motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and passed. • Following up on Al Bergh's suggestion at last month's meeting, we will be considering and deciding on donations to several charitable organizations recommended by members during today's meeting: St Olaf Food Pantry, St Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, York Township Food Pantry, Catholic Charities, Outreach, World Central Kitchen, Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry, Loaves & Fishes Community Services Food Pantry, and Wayside Cross Ministries. Cultural Director Report: • August meeting will be the second Sunday – August 9, because key members will be attending the District 5 convention August 2-6. • October meeting will still be the first Sunday, October 4, as usual. However, Polar Star members may decide to also attend the Slooper Annual Meeting in Norway Illinois on the following Sunday, October 11. • Barb reminded about the Sons of Norway Virtual Book Club, and announced that the movie "Hole" starring Norway's most famous fictional detective, Harry Hole, is currently streaming on Netflix. • Barb asked us to each sign a release that she can submit whenever she sends pictures to District 5. Social Director Report: • Nancy reminded us about this year's Norwegian National League Syttende Mai Luncheon to be held at the Park Ridge Country Club on Saturday, May 16. • She also reminded us the Polar Star will be marching in the annual Syttende Main parade the next day on the actual holiday, Sunday May 17, and passed out parade announcements that we can post. Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm, followed by a very entertaining 3-part show with lots of great pictures, presented by our Cultural Director, Barb Johnson. • Part 1: Touring Stavanger and southern Norway; seeing Restauration replica leaving Norway, July 2025. • Part 2: Our cultural weekend " Celebrating Norwegian Immigration Crossing 200", October 3-4-5, 2025 • Part 3: Tour of Norwegian Heritage New York; seeing Restauration replica arriving in New York City, October 2025

Next Meeting: May 3. The program will be "Celebrating Syttende Mai".

Respectfully submitted, Karen Oswald, Secretary

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# NORSK MUSEUM

## Saturday, June 6, 2026

Help Support the  
Norsk Museum Opening Day &



**Taste of Norway  
Breakfast**

Sat., June 6 2026 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

After Breakfast, join us  
at the Norsk Museum  
[9am to 2pm]

- ◇ Demonstrations in
- ◇ Rosemaling
- ◇ Hardanger
- ◇ Krumkake
- ◇ Cultural
- ◇ Norwegian Food Sales

Right in Norway — 3656 E 2631st Rd Sheridan, IL 60551

Enjoy delicious home cooked  
Norwegian Frokost (Breakfast)  
at the Norway Community  
Building. Serving fried Kumla,  
ham, scrambled eggs with  
chives, fruit cups and coffee!



**No Advance Tickets  
Donations ONLY**  
Support Norway Temperance Hall

Phone (815) 343-5070 (text)



See all the new exhibits  
Visit Norsk Museum  
[www.NorskMuseum.org](http://www.NorskMuseum.org)

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# SAVE *the* DATE

DISTRICT 5 CONVENTION  
AUGUST 2 - 6, 2026  
MOUND LODGE 5-314  
STOUGHTON, WI



**Check the website for updates**

**Non-delegate fun is now available online!!**

- **Website:**[https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/convention\\_events.php](https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/convention_events.php)

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**Please log your volunteer hours for 2026**

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### 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/at/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)													
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP HOURS:</b>													

- **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/manage/maintain)													
Norsk Museum Fundraisers breakfast/smorgasbord/etc (prep/food/work)													
Sloopers													
Syttende Mai Parade/Banquet (prep/food/work)													
Norwegian National League (plan/prepare/lead)													
Viking Ship (docent/manage/maintain)													
MSI Christmas Tree													
Barnebirke/Norge Ski													
SOFN Book Club													
Tubfrim													
Schools/Libraries													
Support Other Lodge													
Other (describe)													
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS:</b>													

