

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

President's Message



President Ken recognizes Polar Star 5-472 as
the Sons of Norway International Lodge of the year!!!!

Hilsen Polar Star!

Scandinavian Day at Vasa Park is right around the corner and I hope all of you are baking and planning to work at our Polar Star Bakeri and Loppemarked!! This is our largest fund raiser and we need everyone to participate in this fun event celebrating all things Nordic!! This year everyone attending needs to purchase a day pass bracelet. Please let me know if you will be attending and the lodge will provide you with a bracelet. Entry fee is \$10.00 at the gate.

Your President
Ken Johnson

Coming soon...



Polar Star Bakeri
Scandinavian Day
at Vasa Park

UPCOMING EVENTS

Scandinavian Days

at

Vasa Park

Sunday September 13th

see details on Page 2

October Foundation

“Pumpkin Party “

Month Lodge Event

October 4, 2024

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

1:30

details on page 3

Polar Star Newsletter Deadline
Will be the 14th of every month. Please
submit all articles to Barb Johnson at
barbjohnsonb@aol.com
Follow us on facebook @
Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

Vasa Park Scandinavian Day 2026

Sunday, September 13, 2026
10:00 – 5:30



The Polar Star “Norsk Bakeri and Loppemarked” will showcase our Norwegian heritage at the 46th annual festival of Scandinavian heritage at Vasa Park in South Elgin on Sunday, September 13, 2026. Our booth will feature our homemade traditional baked goods and our “on site” Norwegian Vafler. President Ken has also collected a wide variety of Norwegian “flea market” items that will be sold. Set up will begin at 8:00 a.m and we will work our booth until our baked goods are sold or the last act has performed on the main stage. Please contact Nancy to let her know what baked goods you will be bringing or if you are willing to work in the booth. Call Barb or Kenny if you need to have your baked goods picked up. Bring a lawn chair and plan to enjoy a beautiful day immersed in Scandinavian culture.

This event is our main fund raising event for the year and replaces our September Lodge Meeting. We will be meeting at St. Olaf on **October 4th**.

Polar Star D-5 Culture Challenge Awards presented to..

Jeanne Leifheit

earned Culture Medals in
literature and cooking



Donnie Hirsch

earned a Culture Medal in
Genealogy.



Polar Star OCTOBER LODGE EVENT

SON Foundation Month

Gressjkarfestival

(Pumpkin Festival)

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

October 4th 2026 – 1:30 p.m.



Polar Star Lodge will celebrate 60 years of the Sons of Norway Foundation with a special event. Bring a pumpkin decorated with your favorite medium (ex. Paint, markers, construction paper, etc.) to showcase your love of Norwegian Culture. With a \$5.00 suggested donation, have your pumpkin square off for “Best of Show”, to be voted on by all in attendance. A delicious prize will be awarded to the top three earners. We’re not done yet!! Next, everyone will get a chance to take home their favorite pumpkin when they are auctioned off. All money collected will go to the Sons of Norway Foundation, which strives to celebrate Nordic culture and heritage through scholarships and grants to their members and communities.

The Sons of Norway Foundation supports members through scholarships and cultural exchange opportunities, provides disaster relief to members in need and funding community programs that celebrate Norwegian heritage and cultures.

Editor's note: The Sons of Norway Foundation Community Grant funded our 2025 D-5 Culture Week

SEPTEMBER 13TH 2026



See you at the Polar Star Lodge Bakeri on **September 13th!**

at Vasa Park in South Elgin

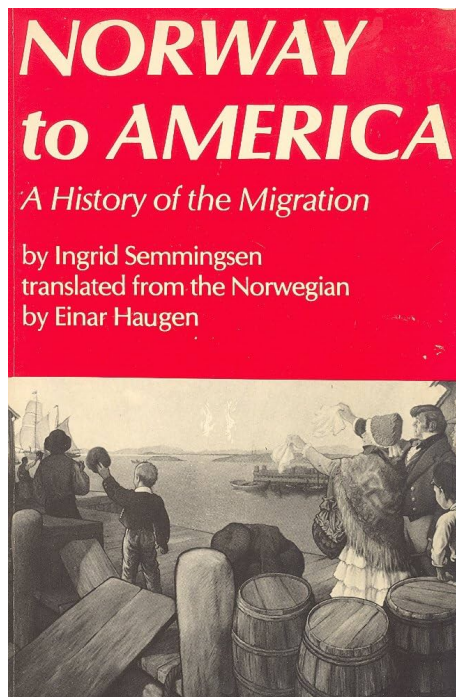
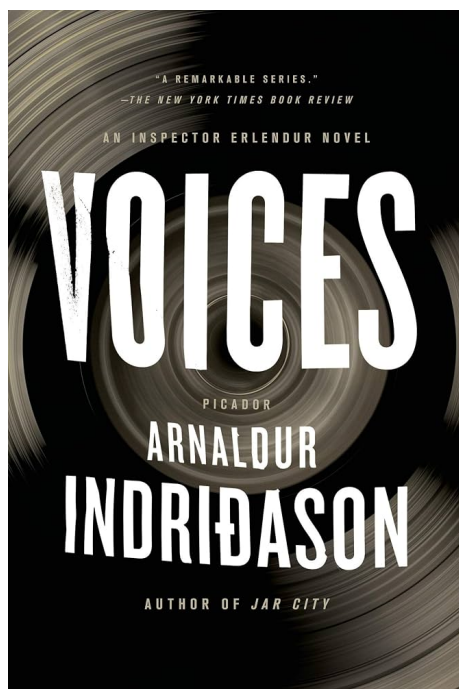
Set up begins at 8:00 a.m.

POLAR STAR CULTURAL CORNER

by
Barb Johnson

Sons of Norway Book Club

September Book Selections



**Mystery Read: Voices by Arnaldur Indridason
(Reykjavik Murder Series #3)**

**Main Read: Norway to America: A History of the Migration
By Ingrid Semmingsen**

To join the Sons of Norway Book Club, please send an email to: Bill Browning
SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com

Zoom Book club meetings are held the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m

Norsk Håndverksklubb August Projekt

Friday August 28, 2026 – 10:00

Esther's Place – Route 30 – Big Rock, IL



Call to register for the class 630-556-9665

Estimated cost: \$30.00

September 20th 2026

**Norway Community Center
Norway, Illinois**

Cleng Peerson Lodge 5-525 presents
CARD MAKING WITH CONNIE



**Come join the fun as you learn how to design your own
greeting cards using Sons of Norway stamps.**

**Lunch served at noon (if attending please bring a snack)
with card making with Connie at 1:00 p.m.**

\$5.00 for Sons of Norway members

\$10.00 for non-members



— NORWAY, Ill. — October 11, 2026 —

Join the Sloopers as they commemorate two remarkable milestones in Norwegian-American history: the 201st anniversary of the first organized Norwegian emigration to America and the 100th anniversary of the Sloopers' annual meetings in Norway, Illinois.

The Sloopers

were led by the father of Norwegian immigration Cleng Peerson.

The celebration will take place Sunday, October 11, 2026, at the Norway Community Building in Norway, Illinois.

The event also honors the historic voyage of the sloop *Restauration*, which departed Stavanger, Norway, on July 4, 1825, carrying 52 Norwegian emigrants to New York. Their journey marked the beginning of organized Norwegian immigration to the United States and inspired generations of Norwegian Americans.

EVENT SCHEDULE



Noon – Annual Business Meeting

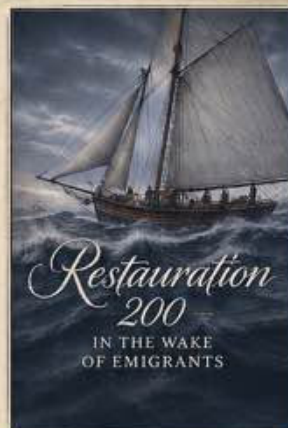


12:30 p.m. – Traditional Norwegian Smorgasbord Lunch



1:00 p.m. – Featured Presentation:
“Restauration 200: In the Wake of Emigrants”
(66 minutes • English subtitles)

This award-winning documentary follows the remarkable recreation of the *Restauration*'s historic Atlantic crossing. Exactly 200 years after the original voyage, a replica of the legendary sloop retraced the emigrants' pioneering journey, bringing history to life for a new generation.



**RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**

Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required.

LUNCH PRICES



Adults: \$20

Children (10 and under): \$10



**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE, TEXT
DAVE JOHNSON AT (815) 343-5070.**

Can't Attend in Person?

The featured documentary, *Restauration 200: In the Wake of Emigrants*, along with more than 90 Norwegian films and documentaries, is available through Films of Norway – Watch Norwegian Movies Online. New titles are added monthly.

Subscriptions are \$4.99 per month. Stream from home at www.filmsofnorway.com (subscription required).



For updates about the celebration and other Norwegian-American heritage events, follow the Sloopers and Norsk Museum on Facebook.



Additional information is available at www.norskmuseum.org



Join us as we honor our past, celebrate our heritage, and inspire future generations.

Polar Star Sports and Activities

by Jerri Lynn Baker



Just a reminder that our Log 250 Fabulous Fox Walk is still going on. Look at the prizes that Barb Johnson earned after completing her 250 miles!!

GRATULERER MED DAGEN POLAR STAR



Happy Birthday!!

15- 31 AUGUST

20 August - Floyd Anderson
23 August - Penny Ray
30 August - Cynthia Ann Olson

1-15 SEPTEMBER

2 September - Frances Berg
4 September - Gardis Dale

Polar Star Membership Anniversaries

August 15-31.

15. 1992 – Harold Broten
16. 2018 – Kelly Welin
18 1984 Gelaine Gallucci
20. 2009– Tristan Meek
21. 2019 – Leif Johnson

September 1-15

10.2007 – Matthew Johnson
11.2002 – Arthur Andersen
11.2002 - Nancy Andersen

POLAR STAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events held at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Montgomery, IL at 1:30 unless otherwise listed

SEPTEMBER 13 - VASA PARK 9:00

Scandinavian Festival

OCTOBER 4 – SON Foundation Pumpkin Party

NOVEMBER 1 - Høstfest begins at 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 6 - JULETREFEST

District 5 Calendar of Events

**August 28 – Needle Felting Pumpkins at Esthers Place
10:00 a.m**

**Septmeber 13 – Scandinavian Day at Vasa Park
Route 31 – South Elgin 10:00-5:00**

**October 11 – Sloopers Annual Meeting and Program at
Norway Community Bldg. – Norway, IL**

Polar Star Piknik 2026







Sons of Norway - Polar Star Lodge 5-472



“Taste of Norway” Høstfest – Fall Festival Sunday, November 1, 2026

St. Olaf Lutheran Church – 1233 Douglas Ave.

Noon - 3:30 p.m.

Montgomery, IL

Taste Traditional Norwegian Food

Shop for Scandinavian gifts

Lefse and Krumkake demonstrations

Norwegian Craft demonstrations

Contact: Polar Star Cultural Director - Barb Johnson
email barbjjohnsonb@aol.com or by phone: 630-632-2329

**Sons of Norway Polar Star Lodge 5-472 Regular Meeting,
August 8, 2026 St.**

Olaf Lutheran Church 1233 Douglas Avenue Montgomery, IL 60538

This meeting was held the second Sunday of the month, because key members were attending the District 5 convention August 2-6 in Stoughton, Wisconsin.

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m., following our 1:30 p.m. potluck luncheon. Hot dogs and baked beans were served, along with delicious salads, side dishes, and desserts. Kitchen hosts were Kelly Welin and her mother Linda Welin.

President Announcements:

- Ken welcomed everyone, including returning member Pat Baughman.
 - The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the United States national anthem.
 - Motion to approve the minutes for our May meeting was made, seconded, and passed.
 - We all need to begin baking for our baked goods booth at the upcoming September 6 Vasa Park Scandinavian festival. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Booth set-up starts at 8 a.m. All workers will need to wear a wrist bracelet to be purchased at the gate. Ken has a limited number of paid bracelets (see him today).
 - In early July, memorial services were held for two beloved Sons of Norway members: long-time Polar Star member Reverend Al Bergh, and dear friend of our lodge, Lynn Sove Maxson. Both were dedicated to preserving Norwegian heritage, culture, and traditions.
 - Scarlett Andersen, who received Polar Star grants to attend Massa Moro Norwegian Heritage camp over several summers, has graduated and will be attending Ball State University this fall.
 - Steve Tanda and Floyd Andersen were honored on a Chicago Honor Flight last month. Floyd shared a few words about the experience.
- Treasurer Report:

Carol read a summary of this month's Treasurer Report (copy attached).

Current checking account balance is \$5,135.02, and our total assets \$20,177.63. Motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and passed.

Sports Director Report:

- In Jerri Lynn's absence, Barb gave an update on Polar Star's "250 miles for U.S. 250th Anniversary". When Barb reached the 250 miles, she received notice to pick up her rewards: a beautiful t-shirt, a large enameled neck medal, and an enameled pin. She reminded that everyone still has until the end of 2026 to complete the 250.

Cultural Director Report:

- Barb announced Polar Star members who completed District 5's 2026 Cultural Challenge: Jeanne Leifheit (cooking, literature), Don Hirsch (genealogy), Richard Vigsnes (Stamps), Michael Ward (stamps, genealogy), JoAnn Ward (genealogy, music).
- Barb displayed two items she made at Esther's Place: felted flowers and felted Norwegian flag fingerless gloves. Several Polar Star and Cleng Peerson members participate in periodic classes and workshops held there. See Barb for information.

District 5 Convention Report:

- Sons of Norway District 5 Conventions are held every two years. The 2024 convention was held in Indianapolis, Indiana. The 2026 convention was held in August 2-6 in Stoughton, Wisconsin (a very Norwegian town – they hold a huge 3-day Syttende Mai weekend every year!).
- The Polar Star delegates to this year's 2026 Convention were Ken Johnson, Ed Hatteberg, and Steve Tanda. They attended many district meetings over those conference days. Many thanks for their hard work!
- Polar Star non-delegates attending this year included Barb Johnson, Diana Raimond, Karen Oswald, and Kelly Welin (and her delightful mom Linda too).
- Several cultural craft classes were held. Barb displayed the wooden veske (bunard purse) that she rosmaled, as well as the wooden Hnefatafl game pieces that she made using power tools. Karen displayed a basswood santa figure that she hand-carved. Kelly and her mom made felted flowers.
- Ken announced three very significant and emotional honors that were awarded to our Polar Star Lodge during the convention banquet. The very successful Norwegian Heritage Weekend we held on October 3-4-5, 2025 was a major contributing factor.t

- 2024 Small Lodge – Lodge Achievement Award
- 2025 Small Lodge - Lodge Achievement Award
- 2025 Small Lodge – International Lodge of the Year Award

“The Sons of Norway International Lodge of the Year Award is a prestigious biennial honor presented to top performing local lodges. It recognizes exceptional cultural outreach, community service, membership growth, and successful fulfillment of organizational goals across hundreds of regional lodges across North America and Norway.”

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.p.m. Due to rain and thunderstorms, our annual Polar Star Kubbe tournament was not held Next Meeting/Event: Sunday, September 6 is the annual Vasa Park Scandinavian Festival, and our Bake Sale/Loppemarked booth.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Oswald, Secretar

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)													
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/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)													
TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS:													

Revised 2024

