

JAN 2008

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# Sons Of Norway

## Polar Star Lodge 5-472

### Aurora, Illinois



[HTTP://WWW.POLARSTARLODGE.COM](http://www.polarstarlodge.com)

## Fra Presidenten!

Don Danielson

GODT NYTT ÅR  
2007 was a good year for Polar Star Lodge. We hope it was a good year for our individual members. We share in the sorrow of those who suffered a family loss and rejoice with those who welcomed a new life into their family circle. As we reflect on 2007 and move into 2008 let us commit and re-commit ourselves to the mission of Sons of Norway to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway in our generation and the generation that follows.

Our lodge gained 24 new members in 2007. Two more did not make the December 31 deadline and will be our first two new members in 2008. One more application is currently forthcoming. Out of 124 listed members we have 20 heritage members (age 0-15) and 7 unge

venner members (age 16-23). This is a great opportunity to intro-



duce and expose our younger generation to their Norwegian heritage and culture. I am sure there still are more potential heritage and unge venner members in our lodge households. We encourage you to sign them up. These memberships are free through age 23. Children 0-15 need heritage applications. Unge venner age 16-23 need to use regular adult applications. Contact Ray Nerhus at (630) 369-4134 or ronerhus@sbcglobal.net.

New members will be installed at our February meeting. There is still time to sign up your potential new members for that.

A suggested project for each member this year is to familiarize yourself with the particular fylke or kommune your ancestors came from. See websites found on page 5 in Newsletter.

Don Danielson



### VOLUNTEER HOURS

Members are reminded that all who have volunteer hours to report need to bring the report to the February meeting or mail them to Harriet Eklund (1732 Harrow Ct. Apt.D Wheaton, IL 60187 by that time. It is important to the lodge that all possible hours be reported. For questions call Harriet at (630) 690-8699.

### STAMPS

Flag stamps are now acceptable again for our stamp collection

## From the Secretary

Harriet Eklund

Recap of 2007:

Ja 2007 was a good year!!!

Our first meeting on January 7, 2007. We had Vera Littlejohn as our speaker, she presented a very interesting history lesson on the Vikings. Things we didn't know.

February, brought our Penny Social, our fun social of the year. We made cookies to contribute to the Barnebirke, and Harriet and Ray made the trip to the Barnebirke.

March had us planning the years events.

And, April brought our Torsk Dinner. Where each year we say, "Is it Worth It??" And each year finds us making it all happen again.

May, Some of us

joined Cleng Peerson Lodge and went to Stoughten to attend the Syttende Mae festivities there, some of course went to Park Ridge.

June, We had our annual picnic at Harris Woods, and the summer months found everyone enjoying their summer outings. The President and his family went to Norway, also Ray Nilsen went back home to visit his folks in Norway.

August, Roald Berg gave a presentation on the restoration of the Viking Ship, at once an anonymous donor made a pledge of Matching Funds up to the amount of \$500.00, which by the end of November was more than matched. Our Lodge made a contribution of \$1500.00. One of the largest contributions of any lodge.

September, found everyone getting back into full season by visiting other lodges and events, and of course Vasa Park.

October, brought the sudden death of one of our members, Margaret Knutson.

Also in October, Ray Nilsen and I attended the Host Fest in Minot, North Dakota, where Ray is now a member of the Host Fest Accordion Club, consisting of 200 members.

November, We had our fourth annual Host Fest, with the Greig Ladies, and the Normennes Mens Chorus, and of course, Our Taste of Norway, which is surpassed by none.

We wrapped the

**Cont on page 4**

## Upcoming Events:

### Polar Star Lodge Events: - See more events on our website

- Feb 3      Board Meeting - 12:15  
 Penny Social  
 Serving Committee:  
 Karen Oswald, Gelaine Galluci, Norm and Betsy Olson
- Mar 2      Book Report by Karen Oswald on Sigrid Undseth Series  
 Library Update by Jim Van Winkle  
  
 Serving Committee:  
 Al and Phoebe Bergh, Harold and Lois Michalsen and Kari Schussler
- Apr 6      Impressions of Norway-The Benson Family  
 Serving Committee:  
 Frances & Roald Berg, Barbara Brungart
- Apr 26     Annual Torsk Dinner at the Beecher Building in Yorkville.

## Other Events:

In preparing your 2008 calendar please include the following Park sponsored events and plan to join with us in celebration.

- Mar 1      "Scandinavian Spring" Dinner Dance -- Des Plaines Elks Club
- Apr 26     Valborg Day Spring Clean Up & Luncheon for Volunteers -- Vasa Park, South Elgin
- June 21    Midsommar Festival & Picnic -- Vasa Park, South Elgin
- Aug 9      Cray Fish Sampling & Steak Fry -- Vasa Park, South Elgin
- Sep 7      Scandinavian Day Festival -- Vasa Park, South Elgin
- Oct 12     Fish Boil/Harvest Festival -- Vasa Park, South Elgin
- Oct ???    Annual Meeting -- Location TBD
- Nov 1      End of Season Clean Up & Luncheon for Volunteers -- Vasa Park, South Elgin

Next Newsletter  
print date:

**Mar 17, 08**

Content due:

**Mar 7, 08**

"You can achieve anything you want in life if you have the courage to dream it, the intelligence to make a realistic plan, and the will to see that plan through to the end."

Sidney A. Friedman

## From the Secretary cont. from page 2

year up with our Christmas Party on December 2, 2007. Good food, good entertainment, good times, and new members.

We lost another long time member, Stewart Thompson, passed away on December 11. Our hearts go out to Myrtle.

On the bright side, thanks to our Web Site, LeRoy and Jean Iverson of Decorah, Iowa found us and got in touch. They were former members of Polar Star and send Greetings to Everyone. So far no one has ever matched Jean's Flat-brod. She made the best.

In all of this, our Lodge has grown, I believe, about two dozen members.

Ja, You Betcha,  
We Had A Good Year,

Your secretary,  
Harriet Eklund

## What is a Penny Social? - Feb Meeting!

This is a type of auction. Members are asked to bring a few novel items or items of interest that are placed on tables with a small paper lunch sack taped by each item.

Individuals buy tickets and place a ticket or tickets in the bag of an item they would like.

When all tickets are in the bags a ticket is drawn from each bag and the winner gets the item. It is really a fun event.



## Polar Star Family of the year:

The Polar Star Lodge Family of the Year for 2007 is Tom and Vi Skogen.

They are members of St. Olaf Lutheran Church and their contributions as our liaison with the church have been invaluable to the lodge.

## Did you know... **The Sons of Norway Website has two Norwegian Language Resources.**

1. Access Sons of Norway Website
2. Do Members Log In
3. Click on Member Resources
  - A. Norwegian in 5 Minutes a Month  
37 Lessons of Simple Phrases
  - B. Norwegian for Reading Comprehensions  
Introduction and 9 units of grammar

Good websites to learn about your ancestral fylker and kommunes; (flags, coat of arms, history, etc.)  
[http://flagspot.net/flags/no\(.html](http://flagspot.net/flags/no(.html)  
 Clickable map of Norway, County Flags, Norway Links

[http://www.norway-guide.com/Fylker/](http://www.norway-guide.com/Fylker/FramesFylker.html)  
 FramesFylker.html  
 Norway Fylker and Kommunes

The following website is also good:

<http://norskklassen.ce-service.biz/uttale.htm>  
 Norwegian Pronunciation Guide

<http://www.ngw.nl/int/nor/provinces.htm>  
 International Civil Heraldry-Norway

## Gratulerer med dagen!

### January:

Eleanor B Bates	1
Brittany N. Chaussey	6
Ashley L Farinelli	8
Ralph B Kristensen	8
Michael J. Skogen	8
Mrs .Edward (Nell) Evans	18
Dorothy M Beallis	22
Wayne H O'Brien	24
Ralph Ervin	27
Wayne D Funk	27
Elsie H Sorensen	29
Jacob B. Arcilla	31

### February:

Brianna A. Meek	1
Alvin J Bergh	6
Robert N Ronning	8
Jeremy Olson	8
Karen S Anderson	8
Julianna Olson	18
Philip S Nelson	22
Larry V Rogers	24
Mae Frankenhauser	27
Bruno Bartoszek	27
Richard J Larson	29

### March:

Sara K. Meek	1
Louise Judd	3
Betty Landorf	4
Chase Austin	6
Shirley C Herberts	9
Margaret W Knutson	13
Stacy S. Shepardson	18
Thomas W Skogen	19
Joni Benson Koehler	19
Linda M Brorson	21
Ronald A Vann	21
Jon D Brorson	22
Carol J. Devito	22
Isabel Austin	24
Stephan B Solberg	25
Roger D Light	28
Matthew C. Chaussey	30

Polar Star  
Member Total  
as of Jan 2008:

124

Meeting attendance  
in 2008:

Jan 6, 2008

Members: 35  
Visitors: 2

Calling all  
photographers...

any one with a digital  
camera...hello...  
hello...I need some  
pictures...HELP...HELP.

Help me help our  
members with some  
pictures from meet-  
ings, events or trip.

Thank you, Thank you.

## New Members:

### December:

Genevieve Frykkman  
Ellen J. Jensen  
Richard A. Jensen  
Michael J. Skogen  
Todd W. Skogen  
Sharen Somerville

### January:

Mike Seidel  
Charlie Ray

## Who is who at Polar Star:

President	Don Danielson
Vice President	Ray Nerhus
Counselor	Roald Berg
Secretary	Harriet Eklund
Assistant Secretary	Lois Michalsen
Financial Secretary	Lee Olson
Treasurer	Eleanor Bates
Social Director	Phoebe Bergh
Assistant Social Director	Harriet Eklund
Cultural Director	Alvin Bergh
Marshall	Harold Michalsen
Junior Marshall	Matthew Chaussey
Junior Marshall	Jeremy Olson
Greeter	Astrid Nerhus
Greeter	Yvette Shubert
Trustee	Ralph Ervin
Trustee	Bill Lindoo
Trustee	Jeff Anderson
Librarian	James Van Winkle
Musician	Ray Nilsen
Historian	Charles Shubert
Foundation Director	Carol Devito
Sports Director	Bill Lindoo
Language Teacher	Kari Schussler
Sunshine Person	Georgene Anderson

## Get to know a Polar Star member: - Kari M Schussler



Kari M. Schussler was born, Kari M. Øksnevad, September 12, 1934 in Sandnes, Norway to Karl and Malena Øksnevad. She has one sister, Målfrid. She attended primary and high school in Sandnes. Among other courses she took sewing classes in high school and does much sewing and knitting. In 1952 she spent a year doing housekeeping for a family in Oslo. In 1953 and 1954 she took Nurse's Training in Oslo.

In 1961 Kari emigrated to America. She sailed out of Stavanger and into New York City. From New York she travelled by Greyhound bus to Chicago and by Blue Bird bus from Chicago to Aurora. She was met by her mother's brother, Erik, who had emigrated earlier. Two months later she began working at Copley Hospital. There she worked in the Operating Room for 40 years. Just three weeks after arriving in Aurora Kari met a young man by the name of Fred Schussler. In 1962 Fred and Kari went back to Norway to get married and in November they were married in the church Kari was baptized and confirmed in. They remained in Norway for three months before returning

to Aurora. They have two sons. Jim manages a Mac-Donald franchise in Oswego and John is a teacher in Chicago working on his third Master's Degree in Education.

Kari joined Sons of Norway and Polar Star Lodge March 14 1993. Since then she has been a very active member and has served as our Norwegian Language Teacher. Her knitting has been displayed at our District Five Convention Craft Exhibits as well as being included among vendors at some of our lodge events.

She appreciates the social aspects and fellowship enjoyed through her lodge participation.

## From the editor/webmaster - Michael Lund

Happy New Year!

Our website has created more than 500 "hits" since Oct 14, 2007. A "hit" meaning someone looked at the website. Every time someone looks at the website a "hit" is created even though it's the same person who might have looked at the website 10

times. (Not 500 different people) I would really like for you to visit the guestbook and write your comments, questions and concerns. We want to hear what you think of our programs, newsletter, website. Feedback is the only way for us to make any changes. Don't have a com-

puter???? - Next time you visit your children, grand children, friend or neighbor go online to our website and let us know what you think. You can do this anonymously, no names required.

Your time is appreciated.

Michael Lund

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## Kid's Culture: Color the Norwegian flag!

