

JULY 2008

President:

Donald D. Danielson
(630) 299-3661
ddlcdan@aol.com

Vice president:

Raymond O. Nerhus
(630) 369-4134
ronerhus@sbcglobal.net

Sec & Assist. Editor

Harriet F. Eklund
(630) 690-8699
heklund@isp.com

Treasurer:

Eleanor B. Bates
(630) 393-3693

Financial Secretary:

Leona N. Olson
(630) 584-9239
leenolson@aol.com

Editor/Publisher:

Michael Lund
(815) 483 3017
michaellund@comcast.net

Sons Of Norway

Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Aurora, Illinois



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

Fra Presidenten!

Don Danielson

In 1989 a booklet was compiled that documented the 75 years of history for Sons of Norway Fifth District. This booklet also contained brief histories of each lodge. At our convention copies of those histories were distributed to the individual lodges. District is now seeking to update that history and asking all lodges to update their respective history and submit it by 17 May 2009. Polar Star history from 1989 can be read at website www.sonsofnorway5.com. It will also be printed along with further details in the August Newsletter

Being in need of a specific picture for this issue that I could not find I resorted to looking through a box of pictures, newspaper clippings, documents, program booklets, etc. in our storage room. What a treasury of his-



torical information about Polar Star Lodge. In view of the above we need to go through all our resources and convert all the bits and pieces into a meaningful historical narrative. This is a call for three or four history minded persons to volunteer for this project.

District Youth Director Sheryl Hall is encouraging every lodge within District Five to set a goal of sending at least one camper to Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp in 2009. Polar Star Lodge has not had a camper in recent years. The mission of Masse Moro is to pro-

mote and preserve a lasting appreciation of Norwegian heritage and culture for youth ages 9 to 15. We have a number of eligible campers among our Polar Star families. Discuss this with your children and grandchildren and consider the possibility of their applying for the two-week camp in 2009. Campers from District Five may receive a Lodge/District match for half of the cost. The Masse Moro website is www.massemoro.com. For further information contact Cultural Director Al Bergh at (630) 585-8422 or myself at (630) 299 3661

Also emphasized were the Sports Medal Program, the Cultural Skills Program plus the District and International Scholarships available.

Ha det bra,

Donald D. Danielson

Upcoming Events:

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

- Aug 3 Cultural Program -Al Bergh
Serving Committee:
Vi & Tom Skogen, Truman Eddy, Thor Fjell
- Nov 2 Høst Fest
- Dec 7 Christmas Party
Serving Committee:
Harriet Eklund, Lee Olson, Kimberly Farinelli

Other Events:

- Jul 23-25 Annual Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa
- 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

Gratulerer med dagen!

August:

Seth Olson	9
Martin E. Olson	11
Harlan O. Dahlstrom	12
Rev. Robert B. Kaspersen	12
Floyd G. Anderson	20
Dorothy L. Coe	25
Michael J. Lund	25
Ruth E. Roosa	27
Burt E. Severson	31

September:

Frances Berg	4
Yvette B. Shubert	9
Harold M. Michalsen	12
Kari M. Schussler	12
Jean Scott	20
Lois E. Ronning	21
Arnold L. Roosa	27



POLAR STAR LODGE SONS of NORWAY

2008 SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA AND OTHER INFORMATION

For 2008, Polar Star Lodge is offering three \$350 educational scholarships. Recipients must meet the General and Specific Criteria for these scholarships. The scholarships are intended to be used for tuition, fees, books and related expenses. Each year, the award amount is dependent upon available funds for that year. There is no guarantee of scholarships being awarded in a particular year.

Applicants for scholarships awarded through Polar Star Lodge must meet the criteria below.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

- ✍ Be a member, a daughter or son of a member, or a relative of a member of Polar Star Lodge for at least 6 months
- ✍ Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- ✍ Be officially admitted or returning to a college, university, or technical school
- ✍ Enroll in a minimum of six(6) credit hours each semester
- ✍ Submit official transcript from previously attended institution
- ✍ Only one scholarship awarded per family in any calendar year
- ✍ Not eligible to receive an award two consecutive years

SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

- ✍ Attend or planning to attend a college, university, or technical school
- ✍ Be in good standing at that institution
- ✍ Have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 or above
- ✍ Submit two references covering academic, extra-curricular, leadership, personality and character
- ✍ Write a short paragraph on “What My Norwegian Heritage or the Norwegian Culture Means to Me”
- ✍ Contribute to Polar Star Lodge enrichment (for example, a short presentation about your studies or Norwegian culture/history, help with a lodge fundraiser, youth program idea suggestions)

SELECTION PROCESS

Preferences for awarding scholarships

Scholarships will be awarded in consideration of the following priority:

- ✍ Pursuing Scandinavian studies (for example, language camps, formal classes, college studies in Scandinavia)
- ✍ Be a member of Polar Star Lodge
- ✍ Be a daughter or son of a member of Polar Star Lodge
- ✍ Be a grandchild of a member of Polar Star Lodge
- ✍ Be a relative of a member of Polar Star Lodge

OTHER INFORMATION

- ✍ Applications are due by September 1, 2008 and must be complete in order to be considered
- ✍ All applicants will be informed of their status by the selection chair by October 1st
- ✍ A check will be sent to the winner(s).
- ✍ Winners are expected to report to the Lodge at the end of the academic year on their progress during the preceding term(s). This may be in writing or presented at a Lodge meeting, at the recipient’s option.

POLAR STAR LODGE SONS of NORWAY

2008 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must be a current 12th grade student, high school graduate, or continuing college, university, or technical school student, and must have a minimum 2.5 GPA. The applicant must either show proof of acceptance to a college, university, or technical school, or the ability to continue if already attending. In addition, the applicant must meet the General and Specific Scholarship Criteria.

The application, GPA (official high school or college transcript), college acceptance proof, and references must be received by September 1, 2008 to be considered.

Send to:	Scholarships	OR	Scholarships
	Ray Nerhus		Karen Oswald
	1669 Estate Circle		1860 Fair Oak Road
	Naperville, IL 60565		Naperville, IL, 60565
Or e-mail to:	ronerhuse@sbcglobal.net		ahlsen@aol.com

Applicant should have references mailed or e-mailed to one of the above addresses.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **e-mail** _____

If you are not a Polar Star Lodge member, name of the relative who is currently a member:

School of acceptance: _____

Briefly tell us what your Norwegian Heritage or the Norwegian Culture means to you:

Please describe how you plan to contribute to Polar Star Lodge (see Specific Scholarship Criteria):

Applicant Signature and Date:

From the Secretary.

Harriet Eklund

Our picnic turned out great. Due to the fact our President has a membership at Leisure Lake, we were treated to a great spot. Paddle boating, boating, games and a swimming pool, where all the young folk spent their time. There were out door decks and picnic tables available, but due to a strong wind, we decided to have our lunch inside, in a very spacious, air conditioned great room. We could not ask for anything more. I am sure everyone came away with the feeling, that this is the best yet.

And as you know, our President, Don Danielson, Lee Olson and myself just returned from the 49th Biennial Convention held at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, WI.

I love conventions, really through the several years that I have been attending. I have met some very wonderful people, and I look forward each time to seeing them once again. The hotel was awesome, good food, and the Idun Lodge were great hosts, of course there were walkers, bowlers, and golfers tournaments.

Carol Culbertson, portrayed "An Immigrant Trunk", the story of her great grandmothers trip to America. Incidentally, I would say that each one of us, took more per person for a four day stay, than each immigrant brought with them to America.

Friday night, we were taken by bus to downtown Madison, across from the capital, to the Wisconsin Historical Museum, where we were treated to a pig roast, could explore the museum and were entertained by the Edvard Grieg chorus.

There were workstops, where each of us took a different workshop, Myself I went to the "Adopt a School" one, And the Massa Mora Heritage Camp". Don and Lee each had theirs, and I am sure we will each have a brief report at the next meeting. I also felt honored to have been appointed to the "Committee on Laws". It is nice to be able to say I was involved in some of the laws that were amended that day. It is also good to say that we were there for the changing of the guard, we now have a new president, Mary Jane Bennett,

our former secretary is now our President. Burt Bittner, is the new Vice President, Darlene Arneson is the new secretary. Ray Knutson is once again the treasurer. Dave Hermundson, the new Recreation Director, Dwayne Kittleson, the Publicity Director. Aurdrey Walsh the Cultural Director. Sheryl Hall is the Youth Director, and Diane Overby is the Viking Correspondent.

And OH !!!! We even walked away with the silver and bronze certificates for our lodge, for our editor Michael Lund, and special recognition for Harold Michalsen for his painting.

And what is a convention without Lena and Ole Jokes??????Of which there were many. We even learned that it has been so darn cold in Northern Minnesota, that the Politicians, keep their hands in their own pockets.

Ja ! It was a great convention.

Your Secretary,

Arendal - Norway - (www.arendal.com)

Polar Star
Member Total
as of June 2008:

127

Meeting attendance in 2008:

Jan 6, 2008

Members: 35
Visitors: 2

Feb 3, 2008

Members: 35
Visitors: 3

Mar 2, 2008

Members: 25
Visitors: 10

April 6, 2008

Members: ?
Visitors: ?

May 4, 2008

Members: 29
Visitors: 4



This month's newsletter was made in Norway. We spent some time in Arendal on the coast of Norway. See more pictures on our website.

Thanks Michael Lund.

Arendal is a small town on the south coast of Norway. After the geographical boundaries were extended to include four surrounding communities in 1992, the town now is the tenth largest in Norway in terms of population, but still contains only about 40,000 inhabitants in total.

It was originally called the Venice of Scandinavia because the town is built on seven islands, with a network of canals surrounding it. Most of these have later been filled in, but plans are afoot to reopen some again.

The most glorious period of the town's history was during the sailing ships era, in the 18th and 19th century. It was at one time one of the largest and most important towns in Norway. Its wealth was based on shipping, with the surrounding iron ore mining, iron works and timber providing the most important trade. It had connections to all important trading centres of the world, and had better contact with Europe than with the country's capital of Christiania (or Oslo, as it was later to be called).

The introduction of steam ships gradually reduced the town's importance, but the old traditions have been retained, for example in the atmosphere of the Tyholmen area, where the collection of wooden buildings is reckoned to be among the most picturesque and best preserved of its kind, and in 1992 was awarded the much-coveted Europa-Nostra prize.

The town has a number of tourist attractions to offer. Apart from the town itself, which is well worth a leisurely guided walk, the main attraction in summer is the sea and

Continues on page 7

Get to know a Polar Star member: - Burt E. Severson



Burt E. Severson was born at Forest City, Iowa August 31, 1930 to Ben and Bertha Rose-land Severson. He was one of 14 children. He graduated from Forest City High School; attended Waldorf College and the University of Iowa. He served in the Army/Air Force with duty in Korea as Company Supply Sergeant. In November 1955 he married Barbara Syre in Chicago. They were blessed with three children: Marcy, who lives with husband Steph Cronenberg and children Katie and Adam

in Mesa, Arizona; Robert, living in London, England with wife Maria and daughter Sofia; Laurie, with husband Glenn DeMarr and children Ben and Hannah in Phoenix, Arizona. Of the 14 siblings in his family only four are still living including Burt, Stan in Minnesota, Ken in Vermont and Ruth in Minnesota.

Burt began his work career with Teletype Corporation but eventually found himself in the Bicycle and Sporting Goods business for 25 years retiring in 1984. He operated four different Schwinn Stores in the Chicago area. He was CEO of Severson Schwinn, Inc.

His stores won several awards for top five and top ten in sales of Schwinn bicycles.

Other activities included being a lieutenant in the Bensenville Volunteer Fire Department;

being an election judge in DuPage County for years and being treasurer of the Bensenville Chamber of Commerce.

Burt's father, Ben, and his brother Jacob came from Haugesund, Norway in March of 1901. They homesteaded in North Dakota, but also reportedly had spent two years whaling in Iceland. Burt still has a number of relatives in Norway and mentions a second cousin, Admiral Grimsvedt, who reported monthly to the King. The family name in Norway was Sandvik.

Burt joined Sons of Norway on December 3, 1972. He is a Golden Member. He has earned many sport medals including an Enamel Medal for walking 2335 miles and one for cycling 1206 miles in 1997. He has served as Social Director, Vice President and President. He enjoys the Viking Magazine and all the benefits provided by Sons of Norway. He is an ardent Cubs fan and has had season tickets for many years. He loves music and has a significant collection of records, tapes and CD's. He likes to travel and finds much satisfaction in helping others.

the skerries landscape. The harbour area "Pollen" teems with boats and life in the summer, and idyllic swimming beaches or skerry rocks are within easy access.

The inland area with forests, mountains, rivers and lakes

offers its own attractions. There are museums, art galleries, historical buildings and landmarks, metal and mineral mines, old iron works and a number of other attractions to visit. There is even a golf course only about 20 km (13

miles) away, for those who are thus inclined. Sailing, riding, canoeing, fishing and other sports are also available. The famous Norwegian writers Ibsen and Hamsun both had strong connections to the nearby area.

Return To:
Donald D. Danielson
3130 Cambria Ct
Aurora , IL 60503



Norwegian Road Signs!

Which is more effective?

“Click It or Ticket “ or one of these 6 feet x 4 feet road signs.

