

FALL 2007

Sons Of Norway Polar Star Lodge 5-472 Aurora, Illinois



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Fra Presidenten!

Don Danielson

We hope all our Polar Star members are having a great summer doing interesting things and enjoying some travel whether it be near or far.

Our fall activities begin with our September Meeting. Fourteen new young members have been added to Polar Star Lodge since January 1, 2007. An exciting part of our September meeting will be receiving and installing these young members into Polar Star Lodge. They are the future of Sons of Norway and of Polar Star Lodge. I encourage all our members to help "KICK OFF" our fall program with a record attendance to welcome our new members.

Recruiting new members is an important and on-



going process but also as important is retention; as is participation by as many members as are able. Let us make this a banner year.

Don Danielson



YOUTH DIRECTOR /AND OR/ YOUTH COMMITTEE

With the number of heritage members the Lodge will need to research and develop a program that will be child friendly. We appeal to our "unge venner" members for ideas and for help in this area.

Annual Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa

By Karen Oswald

On the last weekend in July for the last 41 years, the town of Decorah,

Iowa has held its 3-day Nordic Fest <http://www.nordicfest.com> / - acity-wide festival celebrating the area's Scandinavian heritage. It

features delicious food, lively entertainment, traditional crafts, a colorful parade, and a Saturday night torchlight parade and fireworks.

Other activities include street dances, a Bunad show, guided walking tours,

antique and craft shows, Nordic dancer performances, 5/15K Runs, and much

more. This was my first trip to the Nordic Fest. My cousin

drove down from Minnesota, and we really enjoyed the festival.

Next year's dates are July 23,24, and 25, 2008. The festival is always crowded, so, be sure to reserve your hotel room many months in advance

(dorm rooms are also available at Luther College, with a shuttle van

running continuously between the college and downtown Decorah). Two of the

Lutheran Churches in town each offer Norwegian Dinners - they do sell out,

so buy your dinner tickets early in the day. The dinner that I went to was truly delicious!

The Vesterheim Norwegian-American Mu-

seum is also located in Decorah.

Vesterheim, which means "western home," is the nation's most comprehensive

museum dedicated to a single immigrant group. It includes a main complex of

16 historic buildings in downtown Decorah, as well as a farmstead and

country church outside of the city. The museum houses artifacts/exhibits

and preserves living traditions through various educational opportunities

for students and adults, including classes in Norwegian culture and folk

art, such as rosmaling, knifemaking, woodworking, carv-

Continued on page 3



Gratulerer med dagen!

October:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Truman J Eddy | 3 |
| Harriet F Eklund | 4 |
| Louis C Kreppert | 9 |
| Gerald L Rygh | 24 |
| Kathleen J Hatteberg | 27 |
| Karen A Oswald | 30 |

November:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Emilyann F Berg | 7 |
| Gelaine G Gallucci | 9 |
| William C Lindoo | 18 |
| Gene O Reishus | 29 |
| Charles R Shubert | 30 |

December:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Ted S Nelson | 12 |
| Alfred H Sundfor | 14 |
| Viola A Skogen | 14 |
| Gerald A Ronning | 16 |
| Gail L Anderson | 26 |
| Charlotte Nmi Danielson | 27 |
| Astrid A Nerhus | 29 |

"When plans are laid in advance, it is surprising how often the circumstances fit in with them."

Sir William Osler
1849-1919,
Physician

Upcoming Events:

Polar Star Lodge Events:

- Sep 8, 10-3 Leadership Training, St. Olaf Church
- Nov 4, 2pm Høstfest - Entertainment will be by the Grieg Ladies' Singing Society and the Normennenes Singing Society

ing, and textiles.

Additional information is available at www.vesterheim.org or by calling 563-382-9681.

Decorah is about a six hour ride from our area, with very beautiful scenery (big rolling hills and farms) regardless of whether you drive west to

Galena and then north up the west bank of the Mississippi, or whether you drive north past Rockford to Madison Wisconsin and west from there. This second route passes two other great places that I also encourage you to stop and see: Little Norway <http://www.littlenorway.com/> (a Norwegian farm and Stave

Church on the National Register of Historic Places, nestled in a very Norwegian-feeling Nissedahle) and Mt Horeb

<http://www.trollway.com/> (a historic Norwegian immigrant town, complete with trolls and shopping). I have been to both a number of times, and highly recommend them.

Did you know about...



Vennelag
513 Lodge from
Mt. Horeb, WI in
the 17 Mai parade
in Stoughton, WI

Polar Star's Leadership
Training for 2007

Saturday, September 8
at St. Olaf Lutheran
Church from 10:00 am
to 3:00 pm.

Lunch will be provided.
Each participant will
receive hand outs, flip
charts and a workbook
but will need pen or

pencil.

Training Leader will be
Ray Knutson, our zone
director Leadership
training is not only for
current officers but
also for potential lead-
ers and persons inter-
ested in learning more
about management and
organization within

Sons of Norway at lo-
cal, district and inter-
national levels.

An exact number of
participants is need by
Saturday, September 1,
2007. To date there
are 10 registered.

If you are interested
call 630-299-3661.

The troll next to the 17 Mai Headquarter in
Stoughton, WI



"So what do we
do? Anything -
something. So
long as we don't
just sit there. If
we screw it up,
start over. Try
something else. If
we wait until
we've satisfied all
the
uncertainties, it
may be too late."

Lee Iacocca
Former
Chairman of
Chrysler
Corporation

Have you heard about the...

VIKING CAR CLUB

Viking Car Club is
owned and operated by
Mikael & Linda Rasmus-
sen out of Cranbury,
New Jersey.

Both Michael and Linda
are native Scandinavians.

They have begun work-
ing with Sons of Nor-
way Lodges and their
members in car rentals,
setting up tours and lin-
ing up holiday homes in
Scandinavia.

Web Site:

www.vikingcarclub.com

Email:

info@vikingcarclub.com

Phone:

1-800-870-7688

From the Editor/Publisher

Michael Lund

The fall is fast approaching and its time to gear up for a fun and exciting year at our lodge. I would greatly appreciate pictures from meetings, events etc. Tell us about your experience, just a short note to go with the pictures.

Thanks to Karen Oswald who took the time submitting the pictures and information from the Annual Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa..

I recently read Larry Bossidy's book "Execution" and found it interesting. The point I am trying to make is the better we can communicate the likes & dislikes we can better position our lodge for the future and enjoy a continuing growth of members.

The recent Viking magazine shows this is no easy job and that no single person can/should do the tasks alone. Here is something to think about.:

What is execution?

In its most fundamental case, execution is a systematic way of exposing reality and acting on it. Most organizations don't face reality very well, that's the basic reason they can't execute. Realism is the heart of execution, but many organizations are full of people

who are trying to avoid or shade reality. Why? It makes them uncomfortable. People don't want to open Pandora's Box. They want to hide the mistakes, or buy time to figure out a solution rather than admit they don't have an answer at the moment. They want to avoid confrontation. Nobody wants to be the messenger who gets shot or the troublemaker who challenges the authority of his or her superior.

You can not have an execution culture without a robust dialogue, one that brings reality to the surface through openness, candor and informality. Robust dialogue makes an organization effective in gathering information, -then decisions. It fosters creativity – most innovations and inventions are developed through robust dialogue.

Robust dialogue starts when people go in with open minds. They are not trapped by preconception and armed with a private agenda. They want to hear new information and choose the best alternatives, so they listen to all sides of the debate and make their own contributions.

When people speak candidly, they express their real opinions, not those that will please the power players or maintain harmony. Indeed, harmony –

sought by many leaders who wish to offend no one – can be the enemy of truth. It can squelch critical thinking and drive decision making underground. When harmony prevails, here is how things often get settled: after the key players leave the session, they quietly veto decisions they didn't like but did not debate on the spot. A good motto to observe is; "Truth over harmony" Candor helps wipe out the silent lies and pocket vetos, and it prevents the stalled initiatives and reworks that drain energy.

Robust dialogue ends with closure. At the end of the meeting, people agree about what each person has to do and when. They have committed to it in an open forum; they are accountable for the outcomes.

Robust dialogue brings out reality, even when that reality makes people uncomfortable, because it has purpose and meaning. It is open, though, focused and informal. The aim is to invite multiple viewpoints, see the pro and cons of each one, and try honestly and candidly to construct new viewpoints. This is the dynamic that stimulates new questions, new ideas, and new insight rather than wasting energy on defending the old order.

LEARN

NORWEGIAN

ON Son's

WEBSITE

1. Go to

sonsofnorway.com

2. Click on

Norwegian

Culture

3. Drop down to

Learn Norwegian

(There are 37

lessons)

17 mai, 2007 - Drammen, Norway



New Members

July:

No new members

August:

Michael K. Browne

TID-BITS FROM 1500'S

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all

the other sons and men; then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.

Hence the saying: "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock the im-

bibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial.

They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch-marks on the inside

and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (hence the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer"

Get to know a Polar Star member: - Eleanor B. Bates

Please e-mail biographys to: michaellund@comcast.net



Eleanor B. Bates was born at St. Ann Hospital in Chicago, Illinois on January 1, 19__ to Aksel and Martha Lorentsen.

Eleanor has one brother, Wally. who is younger (Wally and Don Danielson were classmates at St. Olaf Col-

lege). Eleanor attended Harriet Beecher Stowe Grammar School and Calvin Park High School both in Chicago.

She married Cecil Bates.

They had one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Reverend Robert Kasperson. Eleanor has three grandchildren:

Justin, Hannah and Jordan.

Eleanor's parents were both born in Norway but did not meet until after they arrived in America. Her father was from the Trondheim area and her mother was from Voss. Norwegian was spoken at home until she was 6 years old. She can understand it now but does not speak it.

Her first contact with Polar Star Lodge was attending a

Torsk Dinner.

She received an invitation to come to a meeting and was encouraged by brother Wally's brother-in-law to talk to Martha Vogen. Martha apparently was a good "talker" because Eleanor has been a most loyal member since and currently serves as Lodge Treasurer.

Eleanor's bunad represents the Hardanger area. Her favorite memories are attending the Syttende Mai Celebrations in Humbolt Park. They have since been moved to Park Ridge.

Her favorite Polar Star event is the Torsk Dinner because it brings the lodge together in the planning, preparation and serving. She likes the comedradie it provides.

Stoughton, WI



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Pictures from the Annual Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa

