

JULY 2010

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Sons Of Norway

Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Aurora, Illinois

WWW.POLARSTARLODGE.COM



Fra Presidenten!

Don Danielson

I am writing this in the Base Lodge at Marine Corps Base; Kaneohe Bay Hawaii. The Newsletter may be delayed some because I will be going to Minnesota and Michael is in Norway

Congratulations to Skjold Lodge on their Centennial Celebration. A number of Polar Star members enjoyed being a part of the festive occasion. It was a most joyful evening.

The District Five Convention was held in Waukesha, Wisconsin June 9-12, 2010. Delegates from Polar Star Lodge were Don Danielson, Carol Devito and Ken Johnson. Non-delegates attending were Al & Phoebe Bergh and Frank Krawczyk. These conventions are a great forum for meeting members of other lodges throughout the District, exchanging information and sharing matters of concern. Representa-

tives from the International Office in Minneapolis bring us up to date on Sons of Norway. This year we were fortunate to have President Dan Rude Polar Star Lodge participated in the Syttende Mai parade in Park Ridge. Carrying the Lodge Banner were Colin Kutrovatz and Brianna Duran. Riding with Roald Berg in his antique Chevrolet Convertible were Eleanor Bates, Harriet Eklund and Don Danielson.

I am now finishing this back home.

Polar Star Lodge will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in November of 2011. Planning and preparing needs to begin now. There will be need for many committees and sub-committees. We are requesting all members to participate and to support the lodge in some way in making it a success. Roald Berg has volunteered to be



the General Chairman on a temporary basis. Preliminary committee information is found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Please note that our August meeting will be on August 8 rather than August 1. In July I attended a Seven Lag Stevne in Winona, Minnesota and in August I may be attending a Tre Lag Stevne in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. What a summer for Norwegians!

Charlotte's ashes were interred with full military honors in Fort Snelling National Cemetery July 12, 2010.

I hope everyone has had a good summer so far.

Don Danielson

Polar Star Delegates attend the “Friendly 5th” District Convention.

PLEASE NOTE!

Our August meeting will be the second Sunday, August 8, instead of the regular first Sunday because of St. Olaf Church Vacation Bible School.

Kitchen Committee for August meeting:
Tom and Vi Skogen
Louis and Nilslee
Kreppert

Add your Polar Star pictures to our new page on Facebook

Sons of Norway delegates gathered from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and Colorado to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 5th District and to vote on issues that affect the future of our lodges.

Polar Star sent three delegates, President Don Danielson and first-time delegates Ken Johnson and Carol Devito. Other Polar Star members attending meetings and social events were Barb Johnson, Frank Devito, Al Bergh and Phoebe Bergh.

The convention was very informative and “friendly”. One of the highlights of the convention was a session called “Generational Differences: Consideration As You Seek Out New Members” presented by Melissa Commisso.

Melissa has a masters degree in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and has studied service organizations. She reported on the generational differences in Sons of Norway and made suggestions to the delegates on how to improve membership and attract younger members. Some of her suggestions include:

- 1) Plan family friendly meetings with less business and more fun.
- 2) Update and keep our websites current – with action photos of our youngest members and an up-to-date calendar.
- 3) Get current members on Face Book, MySpace and Twitter all linked to our website. She even suggested we have a “blogging” section on our website.
- 4) Update and expand our clothing and jewelry to attract younger people and get our logo out to the public.
- 5) Change the location of our meetings to Starbucks type coffeehouses on a Saturday morning.
- 6) Attend sporting events together
- 7) Advertise meetings in college
- 8) Set goals for our group and plan to attain those goals.
- 9) Update our Sons of Norway merchandise to include hooded sweat shirts, less expensive jewelry and re-usable grocery bags to keep our name and logo more visible in the community.

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**HØSTFEST SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010 1:00-5:00 P.M.
St. Olaf Church – Douglas Rd. – Montgomery, Il.**

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR HØSTFEST :

- Taste traditional Norwegian Food
- Learn traditional Norwegian Folk Dances taught by Roo Lester at 1:30p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- Shop for Norwegian gifts and crafts
- Children’s Craft Corner
- Lefsa and Krumkake demonstrations
- Norwegian Craft demonstrations
- Rosemaling
- Wood Carving
- Hardanger
- Knitting

“Gratulerer med dagen” will continue in the Nov issue.



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Polar Star
Member Total as of
May, 2010:

119

Next Newsletter
target print date:

September 12

Content due:
September 2

More than 2648
visits on our
Polar Star Website.

Thank you,
Frank Krawczyk
for taking pictures at our
meetings and events.

All of the Polar Star representatives also had the opportunity to visit the Fosseynggen Lodge for a fish fry for an evening meal. They have a beautiful lodge and we were treated to a wonderful meal.

The organizers of the convention included break out sessions on a variety of topics that included membership, web-design, Norwegian culture and Folklore in addition to the general business meetings that were devoted to debate and discussion on by-law and policy changes.

We were all entertained, fed with traditional Norwegian treats at all of the coffee breaks, educated, and inspired to come back to Polar Star Lodge with new ideas and enthusiasm. We all intend to do just that!

Polar Star Lodge 50th Anniversary

General Chair
Roald Berg

Program
Committee
Chair:
Barb Johnson

Venue
Committee
Chair:
Al Bergh

Publicity
Committee
Chair:

Speaker and/or
entertainment
Committee
Chair:

Food & Decoration
Committee
Chair:
Jim Van Winkle

Tickets
Committee
Chair:
Co Chair
Carol Devito and
Frank Krawczyk

Raffle

POLAR STAR MEMBERS

Please sign up early to help with our Høstfest November 8th. We are in need of the following donations and workers:

Food:

If everyone would bring 2 dozen sandwiches and a dessert item we should be in pretty good shape. Here is a list of the dessert items that have been donated in the past:

Fruit Soup, Norwegian Waffles and Jelly, Lefse, Julekake, Kringla, Sandbakelse, Kranskake, Spritz

Please contact Barb Johnson by phone 630-553-7389 or e-mail barbjjohnsonb@aol.com to let her know what you will be bringing so we won't have to make so many phone calls.

Workers needed: Please sign up for at least one work shift.

Set Up:	Saturday night Sunday 12:00 noon
Kitchen:	Sunday 1:00-3:00 Sunday 3:00-5:00
Serving:	Sunday 1:00-3:00 Sunday 3:00-5:00
Clean Up:	5:00-6:00 (hopefully no later)



POLAR STAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

For every new paying member recruited between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 there will be an incentive reward. A free one day pass for four people to Leisure Lake Member Resort will be presented to both the recruiting member and the newly recruited member. The resort is located at Joliet (Shorewood), Illinois. This is a great opportunity for recruiting other family members and having a party. It's a bargain even for new non-family members.

Our goal is one new member for each year of our Anniversdary. That goal is not so unreasonable if each Polar Star household recruits just one new member. Just ONE !

NORWEGIAN WEDDING - Part 2 of 6

Prepared by Liv Nordem Lyons.



POLAR STAR LODGE
NOW ON
FACEBOOK.

Check on events,
share pictures and
discussions.

Under "groups" in
Facebook locate
Sons Of Norway
Polar Star Lodge.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hotel key cards and cell
phones cannot be kept
together.

Cell phones deactivate
the keycards.

The Betrothal

After the ætts involved had come to an agreement about the marriage contract, the betrothal ceremony took place. A betrothal formula was recited and the couple joined hands. The bride's father—or, if he was dead, her closest kinsman—placed his hand on theirs and so did witnesses. After Norway was Christianized, the betrothal ceremony was kept very much the same, but the vicar was present to recite the betrothal formula, which was changed to resemble the words spoken at the actual wedding. When the betrothal ceremony was over, the event was celebrated with a fest. We don't know much about how it was celebrated, except that its name, "festarøl" indicated that there was drinking involved. (øl=ale). And since this was the case, it is necessary to say something about drinking as a part of festive events to avoid judging the old Norse by modern standards: As the date for a wedding drew near, a feverish activity was observed in the households involved. Ever since the wedding date was set, the bride's and groom's families prepared for the coming event by taking every opportunity to provide things needed for the wedding—food suited for storage, like flatbread or salted meat and fish, items for the bride's dowry, etc. Wedding invitations were sent by word of mouth, well in time for relatives living in other townships to prepare and travel. Often a special person was designated to invite the guests. A family member might bring the news to relatives living far away, while local invitations to relatives, neighbors and friends usually were handled by a person in the township who served as inviter for all local weddings, christenings, and funerals: the bedarmann (BEH'dahr'mahn) ("inviting-man"). A bedarmann usually recited his invitation in an old-fashioned style of eloquent cordiality. (Some of the old-time bedarmann formulas are written down as examples of oral "period pieces." To modern people they are undeniably stuffy and equally amusing, to the extent that when a Norwegian today is accused of speaking in a bedarmann manner, he should think about trying to appear less pompous and assumedly pious.)

The wedding festivities took place in the bride's home unless the groom was the oldest son and thus the heir of the family farm in accordance with the old laws. Then his family would be hosting the wedding. The household which had the major responsibility for the event, buzzed with activity. Fresh meat, fish and game had to be procured and prepared. Likewise fresh milk products and other foods which were unsuited for storage had to be prepared right before the big day. Cleaning and decorating the various houses and rooms to be used took time. Floors were swept, scoured and sometimes strewn with juniper twigs for a festive look and a fresh scent.

Upcoming 2010 Events:

AUGUST:

Find the Viking In You! Family Viking Kubb

Kitchen Committee: Nilslee Kreppert Tom and Viola Skogen

SEPTEMBERS:

Norwegian Bingo with Jim VanVinkle

Kitchen Committee: Eleanor Bates , Al and Phoebe Bergh

OCTOBER:

Leif Erickson and Norwegian Culture presented by Carol Devito and Frank Krawczyk

Kitchen Committee: Astrid and Ray Nerhus, Barb and Ken Johnson, Joni Koehler

NOVEMBER:

Polar Star Høstfest 1:00-5:00 p.m.

DECEMBER:

Family JuleFest 1:00 p.m.

Games, Songs, Crafts, Fun for everyone!

NORWEGIAN WEDDING - continued from page 6

Tapestries were brought out from chests and hung on venerable lumber walls. Elaborately decorated cushions were placed on the seats destined for the most honored guests. Plates, cups and other "dinnerware" were borrowed from neighbors and friends along with extra tables, benches, or chairs. Beds were prepared for overnight guests and arrangements for other overnight guests to stay with neighbors were made. Eagle-eyed hosts inspected the entire farm property and the many farm buildings to prevent wedding guests from finding flaws in the management of the household. The bridal bed-chamber was decorated with extra care. Most farms had a building which served this purpose and otherwise served as a guest house or a store house for valuables. The walls were hung with tapestries and fine skin blankets, and the bed was made with the finest bedding the household could procure.

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WHAT AND WHERE IS THIS?

