



The Norden Club of Lincoln

www.nordenclub.com

Our 68th Year

March 2015

- Next Meeting: 6:30
March 16 at First Lutheran Church
- Call for Reservation by
Wednesday, March 11

Dorothy Ekblad 402-488-6313

Leona Bellinger 402-484-7123

2015 Board of Directors

I am pleased to announce the names for the new board of directors for 2015.

At the March meeting the Norden Club of Lincoln will conduct election of new officers for the Board of Directors. The New Officers include: Sandy Hanson, to serve as Secretary and Ray Friesen, to serve as Treasurer.

Sandy Hanson and her husband Dave joined the Norden Club in 2014 after attending the Swedish Smorgasbord. They both share Swedish heritage and have been married 42 years

Ray Friesen and his wife Mary have been members of The Norden

Club for 8 - 10 years. Both are lifelong residents of Nebraska. Mary grew up in the Swedish Capital of Nebraska, Stromsburg, and Ray in York County. Mary is of Norwegian descent and Ray is of German descent. Please join me in thanking Ingrid Hansen and Karen Zins for their years of service to the Norden Club of Lincoln Board of Directors. As Secretary and Treasurer for the club they kept everything organized and running smoothly.

Ingrid Hansen has graciously agreed to serve as our Courtesy Secretary as Charlene Johnson completes her service to the organization in that capacity.

Terms of office are two years. The club officers and directors and current terms of office include:

President: Phyllis Ericson, 2014-2015.

V President: Neal Simley, 2014-2015.

Secretary: Donna Hanson, 2015-2016

Treasurer: Ray Friesen, 2015-2016

Membership Director: Ron Johnson 2014-2015

Newsletter Editor: Len Nelson, 2014-2015

Courtesy Secretary: Ingrid Hansen. 2015-2016

Historian & Librarian; Dorothy Ekblad, 2014-2016

<i>Norden Club Officers</i>	
<i>President</i>	Phyllis Ericson
<i>Vice President</i>	Neil Simley
<i>Secretary</i>	Ingrid Hansen
<i>Treasurer</i>	Karen Zins
<i>Membership</i>	Ron Johnson Mary Contreras
<i>Courtesy</i>	Charlene Johnson
<i>Historian</i>	Dorothy Ekblad
<i>Newsletter</i>	Len Nelson
<i>Song Leader</i>	Ozzie Gilbertson
<i>Pianist</i>	Janet Harms
<i>Librarian</i>	Dorothy Ekblad
<i>Web Master</i>	Len Nelson

Courtesy Report

Cards sent: Eileen Rudd on death of husband Dr. Eugene Rudd, Family of Marvene Fredstrom on her death, and Family of Ginger Anderson on her death. Get Well to Deanna Hageman, Ron Johnson, Quentin Johnson, Carl Strom, and Karen Zins. If you know someone that is ill, had surgery, recuperating from an illness or a death of a member or a family member, be sure to pass this information on to Charlene so we can get the appropriate card mailed on behalf The Norden Club.

Charlene Johnson, Courtesy Chairperson

March Program

Our March program will be presented by Ozzie and Kay Gilbertson. The title of their talk is "FROM DOVER, ENGLAND TO MURMANSK, RUSSIA, VIA THE NORWEGIAN NORTH CAPE." They

will be showing slides and explaining their 2013 trip to Norway.

Ozzie is a retired professor from the University of Nebraska. His claim to Norwegian heritage

comes from his hometown which was first Norwegian community in Minnesota which still celebrates Norwegian Independence Day.

Presidents Corner

Dear Norden Club Friends –

I have completed one year as your president. I want to give you an update regarding the health of the Norden Club of Lincoln. Organized in 1947, the Club will be 68 years ago this March. It has gone through many transformations, from a men's discussion group organized by a few university professors into a family organization. Despite all the changes, our purpose has stayed the same.

Our purpose is to promote fellowship among Scandinavian Americans and their descendants and to help preserve for the benefit of the United States the

2014 – WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

Last year the board of directors and I focused on 3 goals for the club:

Increasing Norden Club membership.

Improving connections with our members.

Providing memorable programs.

To achieve those goals we recognized 20 members as "Life Members" for their membership participation, achievements, support and longevity in the Club. Thanks for the planning and organ-

At our last board meeting it was reported we only have about half of our members that have paid their dues for 2015. We cannot continue to meet our financial obligations such as programming, developing quality newsletters, postage and supplies, based on half of our members paying their dues. We do a mailing of 200 homes prior to each meeting. Some of those people have not paid their dues for a couple of years. As a result some of those will be eliminated if we do not hear from them. I know that lot of us, such as myself, do not make a note of it to remind ourselves that at the beginning of

izational work of Ron Johnson. The Norden Club hosted a grand 5-day Scandinavian bus tour for sixteen people from Lincoln & Omaha who explored their heritage as they visited heritage sites in Iowa and Minnesota.

The Norden Club held four dinner meetings in 2014. An average of 100 members enjoyed dinner meetings & programs in March, May and September and 194 attended the Danish Smorgasbord. Norden members also energetically supported our Norden Club Foundation in its annual fundraising efforts. We congratulate the Foundation on its success in adding over \$2000 to the Foundation through the combined efforts of the Youngers Community Day Event and the Silent Auction.

2015 – WHERE WE ARE GOING

Currently the major concern for the board is that we cannot sustain the dinners and programs with the existing fees. Last year we raised the cost of dinner to \$16 per person. This barely covers costs of a delivered, catered dinner. The membership fees have not increased in over 20 years. There is now no way to continue to cover

the costs of speaker fees, meals, and mileage, newsletter printing and postage costs, facility costs, and miscellaneous costs of dinner supplies, name tags and membership payment reminders on the existing membership fees.

For 2013, the club had a deficit of (\$917), 2014 closed with a deficit of (\$1,105) and we project a deficit of approximately (\$2,500) for 2015.

Therefore, the board will be voting to raise membership fees. In the meantime, we have requested the return of the \$5000 seed money which was extended to the Norden Club Foundation with its creation in 1999. This will retain over \$40,000 in the Foundation investments.

In other board discussion, we are taking suggestions for dinner caterer, and location of Smorgasbord dinner in December. The board would like to hear from you. You can also share your ideas or comments with me at Phyllis.ericson@gmail.com or 402-499-6594.

We feel very fortunate that we have been able to maintain costs for so many years.

Phyllis Ericson, President

MEMBERSHIP

the year The Norden Club dues are due. Many people usually pay their dues at the December Smorgasbord, however that involves less than half of our membership. Could you do me a favor and make out a check for \$18.00 if it's a couple or \$10.00 for a single pay and pay it at the March meeting or better yet make the check out and send it to:

Ron Johnson
Membership Chair
7100 Old Post Rd. #1
Lincoln, 68506
Phone # – 402 488-3137

Let's keep The Norden Club

strong. It has been very exciting to see the progress made during the last couple of years and we need to keep igniting that excitement through the development of interesting programs and serving better meals. It's also very important that we get feed back from our members to help us in developing a stronger and more informative club. If you have questions, suggestions or concerns about The Norden Club would you please call me or our president, Phyllis Ericson so that we may be able to address them. The board is certainly open to all suggestions! Phyllis's # is 402 499-6594.

Foundation News

The totals are in! Last year-2014, was our best year yet for fundraising. The Younkers Community Days Event, November 2014 brought in an enormous \$1,635.00. This is a dramatic increase from years past. That figure also includes a wonderful bonus from Younkers. A well-deserved, big thank you goes to David Glenn. He graciously took on the responsibility of chairing this project for the first time. With persistence, David learned and accomplished so much! I want to thank all of our Foundation board members who also sold booklets at our dinner meeting and at Younkers doors. True dedication! And to our

Norden members, our fundraising started with you at our September dinner meeting. Thanks again to those who purchased booklets. We put a lot of hours into this project and it certainly paid off!

Our December Smorgasbord was fun. Thanks to all of those who planned and prepared for our festive holiday evening. The Foundation Silent Auction displayed a nice array of donated Scandinavian items. Your purchases brought in \$875.00. Thanks to all of you who thoughtfully donated some of your "one-of-kind" cherished items. It's always appreciated.

As spring approaches, our scholarship application mailing is in process. We will have application packets available at our Norden March dinner meeting, for those who are interested in our Foundation scholarship program. Thanks again for your numerous and varied donations this past year. I look forward with great enthusiasm to this New Year. We are always encouraged by your interest and support for the Norden Club and the Norden Foundation.

Norden Foundation President
Joan Tomlinson White

Danish Smorgasbord—A Night to Remember

I want to thank all of those who worked to make December's Smorgasbord a memorable event. The traditional music by Greenblatt and Seay certainly set the tone for



the enjoyable evening. The Smorgasbord buffet offered traditional Danish food and the Job's Daughters did a wonderful job assisting with the serving and clean-up of



the dinner. "Stories of Hans Christian Andersen" were delightfully retold by our Nebraska Humanities speaker, Lis Kramme. The Danish Nisser gnomes, poinsettia giveaway and our a Capella singing rounded out a joyful evening.

Please join me in thanking those who planned and made the evening a success: Leona Bellinger, Mary

Brass, Dorothy Ekblad, Donna Hansen, Ingrid Hansen, Terri Heckman, Ron Johnson, Phil Sorensen and Karen Zins.

Phyllis Ericson



Remember to check out our web site at WWW.NordenClub.com. The newsletter archives, club information, scholarship applications, and other information are located there.

THE NORDEN CLUB OF LINCOLN MEMBERSHIP FORM—2015

Annual dues \$10 individual – \$18 for Couples
Mail checks to Ron Johnson, Membership Chair
7100 Old Post Rd, #1 Lincoln, NE 68506

Members Name (1) _____

1st Applicant's heritage: ___ Danish ___ Finnish ___ Norwegian ___ Swedish

Members Name (2) _____

2nd Applicant's heritage: ___ Danish ___ Finnish ___ Norwegian ___ Swedish

Mail address _____

E-Mail address _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

Greetings from The Norden Club of Lincoln to all prospective members!

As we are entering the new year of programing for The Norden Club we are certainly interested in NEW MEMBERS. Since you have expressed an interested in The Norden Club or have attended one of our past meetings we hope you have that continued interest. We are including this registration form as part of the Norden Club Newsletter. It is imperative that we get to know you and your Scandinavian background. It is our intent to develop meaningful and interesting programs as ways of preserving and passing on our Scandinavian heritage.

New members as well as past members please use the membership form listed above and send it as soon as possible or bring it to the March meeting. For the members, if you don't know if you have paid your dues for 2015, please call Ron Johnson at 402 488-3137

Your Membership Committee.

Norwegian Joke: Uffdah!

A road crew supervisor hired Ole to assist with painting the yellow line down the middle of the road. He was skeptical about hiring him, but he appeared enthusiastic and told him that he really needed the job. At least his wife Lena told him so.

He explained to Ole that his work day would be to complete 2 miles of line on the road, and he was set up with brushes and paint and got him started. After the first day, the supervisor was pleased to find that he did an excellent job and was able to paint 4 miles of road in his 8 hour shift. He told him that he did an excellent job and how pleased he was with his progress.

On the second day, Ole completed painting 2 miles of road. His supervisor was surprised that on the first day, he had completed twice as much work, but did not say anything, as 2 miles of road was the amount that the job required anyway. He decided to just accept it, and to look forward to the next day when he was sure that he would pick up his speed again.

On day 3, the supervisor was shocked to learn that in his 8 hour shift, Ole only completed painting 1 mile of road. He was called the supervisor's office and asked what was the problem ..

"On your first day, you completed 4 miles of road, on your second day, 2 miles of road, and now on day 3, you were only able to complete 1 mile of road. Can I ask you, what is the problem?"

"Vell," Ole replied, "I'll tell you vhat, but I tought you vould know. Every day I vas getting farder and farder away from da paint can."

March 2015

The Norden Club promotes fellowship among
Scandinavian-Americans and their descendants and helps preserve
for the benefit of the United States the best in the cultural heritage
of Scandinavia.

The countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden
make up Scandinavia.



The **Norden Club**

of Lincoln
Since 1947

7100 Old Post Road
Lincoln, NE 68506

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1359
LINCOLN, NE

We hope to see you on March 16

The meeting is at First Lutheran Church. The program "FROM DOVER, ENGLAND TO MURMANSK, RUSSIA, VIA THE NORWEGIAN NORTH CAPE" will be presented by Ozzie and Kay Gilbertson. The meal is catered by Leon's and the cost is \$16.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there.

Call for reservations by Wednesday, March 11

Dorothy Ekblad—402-488-6313

Leona Bellinger—402-484-7123

Cancellations need to be made by noon Wednesday, March 11. Norden Club is charged for all dinners that are reserved. We appreciate you calling early if you know you can or can not attend.