

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 63

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

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NAHA in 1981

Steady progress earmarked 1981. Membership closed out the year at a total of 1,270. Book sales dropped some over former years, but this is due to the fact that many popular titles are now out of print. The archives are in constant use and correspondence requesting information continues to increase in volume. Two publications were produced and distributed to the members: *Pathfinder for Norwegian Emigrants*, translated by Frank G. Nelson, and *Ethnicity Challenged: The Upper Midwest Norwegian-American Experience in World War I*, by Carl Chrislock. The combined retail value of these books amounts to \$22. Hence, the members received full value for their dues. As of December 31, the Kenneth O. Bjork Chair in Immigration History fund campaign was ahead of schedule, leaving \$10,000 to be raised rather than the projected \$20,000 in 1982, the third and final year of the fund drive.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the NAHA has increased by 214 over the past ten years; 112 new members were added in 1981, but there were also 104 cancellations, leaving a net increase of eight. All of the higher membership categories gained in number, with life memberships leading the way.

	January 1, 1981	December 31, 1981	Gain or Loss
Associate	705	683	- 22
Sustaining	158	160	+ 2
Patron	42	43	+ 1
Life	357	384	+ 27
	<u>1262</u>	<u>1270</u>	<u>+ 8</u>
Deceased Life	94	99	+ 5
	<u>1356</u>	<u>1369</u>	<u>+ 13</u>

BOOKS AND SALES

A total of 558 books (\$4,772.26) were sold in 1981. *Pathfinder* and *Ethnicity Challenged* constituted about one-half of the sales. The remainder was divided rather evenly among the available publications.

Out of a total of 66 publications, 44 are still in print. Members interested in securing earlier publications might wish to know that the following twelve titles have an inventory of less than fifty: Volumes 1, 8, 16, 24, 25 of *Studies*; *Sailors in American Waters: Civil War Letters of Colonel Heg*; *Chronicle of Old Muskego*; *Immigrant Takes His Stand: West of the Great Divide*; *A Folk Epic: The Bygdelag in America*; and *A Voice of Protest*. We anticipate that many of these will be out of print before the end of the coming year. Volumes 4, 5, 6, 19 and 23 of *Studies*; *Pioneer Churchman*; and *Kristofer Janson* have inventories that fall between 50 and 100. The NAHA has a total of 8,093 unsold books, representing a sales potential of \$40,000 or more.

FINANCIAL REPORT — CONDENSED FORM, UNAUDITED

Thanks to interest income from the current, Rolvaag, and Sigvald Quale funds, the financial picture shows income exceeding expenses. It should be

noted that total income from dues and book sales alone fall below current expenses. Of special interest is the "Chair Fund" and its remarkable progress. The figure cited below (see Fund Balances) includes the interest this fund has accrued, approximately \$12,000.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1981

<i>Income</i>	<i>Current</i>
Life membership dues	\$ 4,350.00
Associate, Sustaining, Patron dues	14,275.71
Book sales (includes carry-over from 1980)	5,445.73
Gifts	25.00
Interest on Investments	19,962.72
Miscellaneous	440.47
	Total
	\$44,499.63
 <i>Expense</i>	
Publication:	
Printing and binding	\$16,711.05
Editorial, typing, proof reading	1,761.00
Author research	23.25
Newsletter	577.45
Archives	238.00
	\$19,310.75
Secretary's office expenses	
Packaging and mailing	\$ 2,321.06
Membership, clerical and general	10,593.00
Advertising	32.50
Miscellaneous	999.50
	\$13,946.06
	Total expenses
	33,256.81
	Net income
	\$11,242.82

FUND BALANCES

	<i>December 31, 1980</i>	<i>December 31, 1981</i>
Chair in Immigration History	\$ 53,367.49	\$ 89,065.72
Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship Fund	45,181.09	50,891.76
Ole Edvart Rolvaag Permanent Fund	52,024.41	56,399.41
Current Fund	67,891.63	70,914.85
Sigvald Quale (Norwegian Society)	5,000.00	5,000.00
	Total	
	\$223,464.623	\$272,271.74

News in Brief

- Received from Vivian and Corinne Iverson, *Minnesota Farmer: Iver O. Iverson*, 298 pages, typescript, Anundsen Publishing Co., Decorah, Iowa, 1981. The work is mainly a family history, but one of great interest because Iverson wrote regularly for *Nordland Avis* from 1914 to 1920, signing them "A Minnesota Farmer." Fifteen of his articles (translated) are included. They treat farming, economic conditions, festivals, *bygdslag* meetings, and views on politics. Born in 1875 in Nordland, Norway, Iverson migrated in 1892.

- Received from Luther College Library *Decorah Newspapers Index: Alphabetical List of Obituaries*. This is a computer print-out of 399 pages.
- Excerpts from *Frontier Mother: The Letters of Gro Svendsen* (NAHA, 1950) have been used for a radio documentary entitled "These Are Our Mothers: The Story of Immigrant Women in America." The series of half-hour programs, researched by Dr. Ione M. Deren, were produced by The Feminist Radio Network.

(Continued on last page)

Kenneth O. Bjork Chair in Immigration History

Members of the NAHA may rightly congratulate themselves. Speaking in round numbers the fund now stands at \$90,000, far ahead of the projected schedule. Accrued interest since the inception of the fund was added at the turn of the year, lifting the amount by \$12,000. An average gift of \$10 per member in 1982 will more than win the day.

Listed below are those who have made contributions or pledges from August 1, 1981, to January 30, 1982. An asterisk follows the names of persons who have made earlier contributions.

Name	Gifts and Pledges		
Anonymous	\$5,000.00	Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kilde	25.00
Harriet M. Hustvedt	2,000.00	A. K. Larssen*	25.00
Lawrence O. Hauge	500.00	W. O. Lyders	25.00
Ingrid Semmingsen*	200.00	Comdr. Carl M. Moe	25.00
Gladys Weseth Nelson*	150.00	Gerhard Naeseth*	25.00
Harold Larson*	105.00	Ardis Nier	25.00
John Akslen	100.00	E. J. Nordby*	25.00
Ray O. Bjork*	100.00	John L. Ostby	25.00
Mary Louise Branson*	100.00	David W. Preus	25.00
Reidar Dittmann	100.00	Martin W. Reinhart	25.00
Sigurd Gimnes*	100.00	O. J. Skawden	25.00
R. M. Granum	100.00	Stavangeren*	25.00
L. R. Hafstad*	100.00	Orlando Tweet*	25.00
Einar and Eva Haugen*	100.00	Olav Wallo	25.00
W. N. Heggoy	100.00	Mrs. Harvey T. Bonser*	20.00
R. I. Jacobson*	100.00	Ben Eggan*	20.00
Sivert Klefstad*	100.00	Robert M. Listeid*	20.00
Norma Knutson*	100.00	Norman E. Midthun	20.00
Marie M. Meyer	100.00	Ansgar Sovik	20.00
E. J. Nordby*	100.00	Mrs. Einar Schmidkunz	18.00
Mrs. Nils O. Seim*	100.00	Kenneth D. Hage	15.00
Joel Stavlo	100.00	Robert A. L. Mortvedt	15.00
C. J. Wahle	100.00	John S. Thompson	15.00
Harry J. Williams*	100.00	Jan H. Andersen	10.00
Grace Weseth*	85.00	Mrs. Arthur K. Anderson	10.00
Harry H. Anderson*	75.00	Marilyn B. Anderson	10.00
Pacific Mutual*	75.00	Kenneth M. Bergo	10.00
Robert C. Steen*	75.00	Mrs. G. C. Boardman	10.00
Audrey Ihme Bacon	50.00	Mrs. Tordis J. Bornholdt	10.00
Karen Davidson	50.00	Dr. Lowell E. Boyum	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Fox*	50.00	Mrs. Harold Campbell	10.00
Sigvald Holden*	50.00	Eyvind J. Evans	10.00
Thelma J. Huebscher	50.00	Leif E. Hansen	10.00
Lloyd Hustvedt	50.00	Walter Jacobson	10.00
Dr. P. A. Munch*	50.00	Mrs. Osborne Knapp	10.00
David T. Nelson	50.00	Harold T. Lingard	10.00
M. W. Peterson*	50.00	Stanley T. F. Moen	10.00
Progressive Literary Club*	50.00	Alice C. Nelson*	10.00
L. H. Roed	50.00	Orpha Neseth	10.00
Richard E. Solheim*	50.00	Norine Odland	10.00
Fred and Judy Stoutland	50.00	Capt. Gunnar Olsborg	10.00
LeRoy A. Swanson	50.00	Michael L. Olsen	10.00
Rolf Syrdal	50.00	Irene M. Olson	10.00
Ronald Flugum*	40.00	Joseph E. Refsnes	10.00
George Joa	37.00	Mildred M. Sebo	10.00
C. A. Christopherson*	35.00	Alice Serkland	10.00
Ernest O. Hanson	35.00	Vernon C. Severson	10.00
Prof. and Mrs. Samuel Abrahamsen	30.00	Christian K. Skjervold	10.00
Mrs. T. W. Cutshall	30.00	S/N Bjornson Lodge No. 14	10.00
Sivert Nerheim	30.00	Ansgar Svane	10.00
Dr. Arne Brekke*	25.00	Pastor T. J. Weltzin	10.00
Mrs. A. O. Davidson	25.00	Marie J. Barry*	5.00
Rune Engebretsen	25.00	Arne Bjorndal	5.00
John and Darlene Erickson*	25.00	Hagbarth Bue	5.00
Dr. Patricia L. Falcone*	25.00	Camilla Johnson	5.00
Per Asbjorn Foss	25.00	H. S. Langland	5.00
J. S. Fitcher	25.00	Mrs. Paul W. Niemann	5.00
N. W. Glendingen*	25.00	Brian D. Rude	5.00
Mrs. Thomas P. Helmey*	25.00	Ervin E. Thorson	5.00
Wilma Johnson*	25.00	Kenneth Torvik	5.00

NEW OFFICERS

Lawrence O. Hauge, prominent Minneapolis banker and business man was elected president of the NAHA at the Triennial meeting held in Minneapolis, September 26. He succeeds Roy N. Thorshov, who filled that office after the death of A. O. Davidson. Larry Hauge presents a long record of dedicated service to many causes, among them Vesterheim, the Memorial Church in Minneapolis, *Bergenslaget*, and to the 17th of May festivities in Minneapolis, which in recent years have become impressive affairs under his leadership. He brings to this office not only ability, but also gentleness, infinite charm, and good humor.

Laurel Neidig, Wilmette, Illinois, and Samuel Abrahamsen, New York, were elected to the Executive Board. Laurel Neidig, Kentucky born and raised, thinks of herself as musician, photographer and journalist. She was editor of *Vinland* (Chicago) from 1977 to 1981. She is currently president of Det Litteraere Samfund, a Fellow of Vesterheim, serves on the Viking Ship Restoration Committee and is an officer in the Chicago chapter of Nordmanns Forbundet. Her husband, Kenneth, is editor of *The Instrumentalist*, one of our nation's largest music journals.

Samuel Abrahamsen, teacher and author, is a native of Norway and a graduate of the University of Oslo.

He later earned a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations in this country. Since the early 1950s he has been a leader in the development of Scandinavian interests and Judaic studies in New York. He currently holds a professorship in the Department of Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College, City University of New York. His work has been recognized by many awards and honors.

News in Brief (*continued*)

- When on a research mission in Seattle, Washington, Dr. Odd Lovoll had the opportunity to meet members and friends of the NAHA in that region at a reception hosted by Professor and Mrs. Terje Leiren. Terje Leiren is a member of our Publication Board and teaches at the University of Washington.

- Received from Gerd Nyquist a copy of her *Bataljon 99*, Aschehoug, Oslo, 1981, 214 pages, a history of the World War II battalion made up of 931 (at full strength) Norwegian Americans. The book is generously illustrated. A quotation from Pvt. Marvin Skogrand merits citing: "When I was drafted, they asked me if I knew a foreign language. I said no — because I never considered Norwegian a foreign language."

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