

**The Norwegian-American  
Historical Association**

Northfield, Minnesota



*From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members*

NUMBER 96

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

SEPTEMBER 1996

## **General Meeting — October 26, 1996**

The Twenty-fourth Triennial Meeting of the Norwegian-American Historical Association will be called to order on Saturday, October 26, 3:30 p.m. at The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, 410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis. The Club provides on-site free parking.

The events of the day are as follows: 1:00 p.m., Executive Board meeting, Alice Winter Room; 3:30 p.m., general meeting, Garden Room, followed by a meeting of the newly-elected board for the purpose of electing the officers for the coming triennium; 5:30 p.m., social hour with cash bar, Main Lounge; and, 6:30 p.m., dinner in the Ballroom. Events have been scheduled so close to each other that one can attend the general meeting and the following banquet with little or no interruption.

President Lawrence O. Hauge will preside over the general meeting which will consist of reports from the officers who care for the different functions of the NAHA: publications, archives, membership and finance. The main item of business will be the election of a new executive board. The Nominating Committee, made up of Nancy Gossell (chair), John Christianson and Lois Rand, will present a slate of candidates. Nominations from the floor are also in order. Orm Øverland, author of *The Western Home* (see elsewhere in this Newsletter), will speak about our most recent publication. David Mauk, who enters as a central figure in plans to publish a history of Norwegian settlement and life in Minneapolis, will talk about a future project.

### **Reservation and Proxy**

Travel distance rules out attendance for many members. Those who cannot attend are urged to forward their proxy to the secretary's office. In fact, proxies are essential for establishing a legal meeting. A proxy form is attached to this *Newsletter* and a self-addressed envelope is enclosed. Also attached to the *Newsletter* is a dinner reservation form. The dinner is not exclusively for members — guests are cordially invited. Such acts of hospitality win new friends for the NAHA. The attached reservation form provides additional details.

### **Speaker**

Our Editor, Odd S. Lovoll, will be our banquet speaker, telling about the Norwegian-American Contemporary History Project, which he heads. The project, now into its second year, has involved visits to 30 states, around 1,000 in-depth interviews and 10,000 responses to questionnaires. The research phase of the project is essentially over and the coming year will be devoted to writing and to processing the collected data. According to plans, a manuscript should be ready for publication by September, 1997.

Lovoll says that he plans to talk more about his experiences during the course of his wide-spread visits with Norwegian Americans from all sectors of our society, rather than speculate prematurely on conclusions that may be forthcoming in his study. He did give one word of warning: "We must not use modernization of Norway as a standard to measure Norwegian Americans."

The Contemporary Norwegian-American History project has met with enthusiastic support everywhere. Nothing quite like this has happened before. Lovoll has tales to tell about Norwegian America that merit your attention. Attention you can give only if you attend the dinner on October 26.

*Continued next page.*

Music will be provided by a father and son team. William Wangensteen, an attorney, plays the piano, and Kjell, a high school senior, plays the violin. Odd Mølster, Cultural Attaché, Royal Norwegian Embassy, will represent Norway and extend greetings.

## A Good Book by a Good Man

Not everything that can be regarded as Norwegian-American history is published by the NAHA. A case in point is Sidney A. Rand's memoirs, *In Pleasant Places*, a book of 308 pages, published this past May by St. Olaf College Press, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield MN 55057. \$9.95 plus \$4 postage/handling. Minnesota residents add \$.65 sales tax.

Rand, now 80, served the church and more specifically its educational institutions. His career included teaching at Concordia College (1945-1951); president of Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa (1951-1956); administrative offices with both the ALC and ELC (1956-1963); and, president of St. Olaf College from 1963 to 1979.

Rand was appointed the United States ambassador to Norway in 1979, a fortunate choice not only for the nation but for Norwegian America as well. In the course of their duties, which we have heard were done with grace and efficiency, Rand and his wife Lois developed lasting friendships with Norwegian citizens and officials alike, not least with the late King Olav V and the present King and Queen, Harald and Sonja.

While the appointment itself had to come to an end, the Rands' usefulness as diplomats did not. Arley Bjella called upon the Rands when Lutheran Brotherhood (Bjella was president) funded and established the Norway-American Heritage Award in 1985. Later the Rands planned and managed the 1995 Norwegian Royal Visit to the Midwest.

In addition, Rand has served as interim president of Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota (twice), and of Suomi College, Hancock, Michigan. Lois Rand has been an indispensable member of the NAHA Executive Board. If you once get to know her, as we hope you all will, you will be inclined to do whatever she suggests, to the greater benefit of the NAHA. Such are her ways.

## The Western Home

Even as you read this, we may be packing your copy of Orm Øverland's book *The Western Home: A Literary History of Norwegian America*, a book that will retail for \$45. When our book bags are prepared with stamps and addresses, we stuff and mail on an average of two to three hundred books per day. We anticipate this mailing to be completed by October 1.

If you have had a change of address, be sure to notify the secretary. Books, fourth class mail, are not forwarded and postage is doubled when a book is returned. Should you not have received your copy by October 31, inform the secretary.

## Random News

- Received from David Plette papers related to Gilbert Guttersen Sebbe (Telemark) and his wife Alma (born Pettersen). Of particular interest is a 48-page autobiography entitled *Alma* written by the above-mentioned Alma but with the help of her daughter Gyda Plette. Pioneer hardship is here related with rare realism and self-examination. "I rode rough-shod over any obstacles or objections I encountered," she wrote late in life with some regrets. Alma died in 1966 more than 100 years old.

- Received from Paul and Frances Borton their *Ephraim's Founding Father: The Story of Reverend A.M. Iverson*, Stonehill Publishing, P.O. Box 250, Ephraim, WI 54211, 1996, hardcover, 237 pages.

The Bortons present a compelling story about Andreas Iverson, a Moravian minister who established a congregation in Ephraim, Door county, Wisconsin, which he served from 1853 to 1864. Later he did mission work in Illinois, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. His career was marked by personal tragedy, internal congregational strife and rejection by the more dominant protestant denominations.

- Received from Betty J. Wolden her *From Norway Fjords to Iowa Prairies, the Sande Genealogy: Primarily of Balestrand, Vik i Sogn and Leikanger*. Typescript reproduction, maps, photos, charts and genealogical tables, spiral-bound, 510 pages.

- Received from Per Overrein *The Family of Ane and Peter Følling* by Peder Kvarving and Per Overrein and translated by Gretchen Faber. Staple-bound booklet of 103 pages. Genealogical charts mixed with brief biographical sketches for the more prominent members of the family. We received a copy of the original Norwegian version in 1995.

## Call for Papers

NAHA-Norway announces its sixth seminar on Norwegian-American Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, June 23-26, 1997, as part of Trondheim's Thousand-year Jubilee. The seminar theme, "Norwegian Americans in a Multicultural America," emphasizes the vital need to view Norwegian-American Studies in context with international migration and an investigation of ethnicity generally.

Papers on Norwegian, Scandinavian or related migration to the United States and Canada and on inter-ethnic relations with a bearing on Norwegian- or Scandinavian-American ethnicity, are appropriate. Presentations may be in English or Norwegian. No previously published work, please.

A selection of papers may later appear in *Norwegian-American Essays*. Speakers interested in such publication should use the NAHA's *Guidelines for the Preparation of Manuscripts* (Northfield, MN, 1981) as their stylesheet. Allotted time for most papers will be 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

Presenters must be members of NAHA. In exceptional circumstances funds for partial payment of travel and housing costs may be available, but all participants (especially those from abroad) should apply for funding from their home institutions or agencies.

Please submit your proposal/abstract and a one-page CV to Ingeborg R. Kongslien, chairperson, Vindernveien 20, N-0373 Oslo, Norway. for further information contact Dr. Kongslien or Dr. David Mauk, English Dept., NTNU, N-7055 Dragvoll, Norway, telephone 73 591670; davmau@alfa.avh.unit.no.

Those who wish to attend the seminar without giving a paper should notify the committee at the above address in order to be put on the mailing list. They will receive additional information on the program, accommodations, costs, etc., together with a registration form prior to the seminar.

*Please turn page for proxy to vote and dinner reservation forms.*

**NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Proxy To Vote**

Members who cannot attend the Twenty-fourth Triennial meeting are requested to send their proxies to the secretary. If you cannot name a fellow NAHA member as your proxy, you may wish to appoint a member of the Executive Board. Some of the officers who will be attending are listed below.

John Christianson	Lawrence O. Hauge
Ruth Hanold Crane	Lloyd Hustvedt
Robert Firing	Odd S. Lovoll
E. T. Fjelde	Todd Nichol
Nancy Gossell	Lois Rand

I \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_

in the state of \_\_\_\_\_ appoint \_\_\_\_\_  
with full power of substitution, to be my substitute and proxy, to vote at the meeting of the members of the Norwegian-American Historical Association to be held in Minneapolis, October 26, 1996.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Return to : Norwegian-American Historical Association. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

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**BANQUET RESERVATION**  
**\$25.00 per plate**

My payment for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_  
reservations for the Twenty-fourth Triennial Banquet for members and friends of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, on Saturday, October 26, 1996, at The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, 410 Oak Grove, Minneapolis (612/870-8001). Social hour and cash bar 5:30, Dinner 6:30.

Your banquet tickets will consist of a ready-made name tag.

Please return reservations to the secretary's office (see enclosed envelope) by October 16, 1996. Telephone 507/646-3221.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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