



Triennial Meeting Highlights

The sixteenth triennial meeting, held at the Minneapolis Athletic Club on May 20, will be long remembered by those who attended, for the day was characterized by a spirit of enthusiasm, vitality, and generosity. Some of the active participants and speakers that day were hardly youngsters, but the notes they uniformly struck were youthful. They looked forward to what might be, and how it could be done.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board, with Dr. Gunnar Gundersen presiding, met in the forenoon. Norman Olson's Treasurer's Report in abbreviated form is located elsewhere in this newsletter. The essentials of the Secretary's report were carried in the newsletter of last March (No. 45).

Dr. Richard Giere, chairman of the Fiftieth Anniversary Fund Committee, reported on the past deliberations of that committee. The salient points in Dr. Giere's "prescription" for progress are as follows:

First, Dr. Giere pointed to the objectives for which the funds should be raised:

1. A salaried director.
2. An endowed chair in immigration studies.
3. An expanded publication program.

Second, he believed that three objectives might be achieved in the following ways:

1. By enlarging our membership base through selective recruitment.
2. By interviewing individuals vitally interested in the work of the Associa-

tion and capable of making substantial contributions.

3. By publicizing the achievements and needs of the Association as it enters its second half-century of activity.

Third, on behalf of his committee Dr. Giere recommended that the following actions be considered:

1. The appointment in each major metropolitan area or district of a person or persons charged with the responsibility of a vigorous recruitment of members.

2. The appointment in each major metropolitan area or district of a person or persons charged with the responsibility of soliciting contributions to the Anniversary Fund.

3. The creation of a group within the Association committed to contributing \$100 or more annually.

4. Challenging potential contributors by means of matching grants. (For example, a member volunteers to contribute \$25,000 if others agree to raise a total of \$75,000).

5. A renewed and many-sided effort to publicize the work, past and present, of the Association, and to awaken members and potential members to the great opportunities for the future.

6. The publication of an anniversary volume accurately reviewing the history of the Association and projecting a program for the next half-century.

7. Utilizing fully and selectively the membership list of organizations with goals similar to our own as a means of recruiting members.

Continued on page two

TRIENNIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page one

8. Publication of a concise brochure to be circulated widely.

9. Emphasizing the need to provide bequests in wills at an early date.

The above report also served as a basis for an exciting speech given by Dr. Giere at the banquet held in the evening of the same day.

Other high moments of that meeting can be mentioned. President Gunnar Gundersen announced that he would match all future contributions to the Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship Fund. This matching would prevail, he said, until the established goal of \$30,000 is reached. He did, however, express the hope that this goal might be reached within the forthcoming year so that this matter might be closed in the interest of clearing the way for new objectives.

When the Board allocated \$2000 for the financing of the research and writing of a history of the NAHA on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, board member Arthur Davidson, president of Wagner College, New York, pledged \$1000 as a matching gift toward financing this publication. Board member Norman O. Wigeland, Chicago, who was unable to attend the meeting, forwarded to the Board a gift of \$2,500 for the Association. The gift was allocated to the Blegen Fellowship Fund. There was one follow-up gift for \$1000 from a Board member who has requested anonymity, at least for the present.

THE GENERAL MEETING

The general meeting was attended by thirty-three members. President Gunnar Gundersen briefed the assembly on the action taken by the Executive Board at its morning meeting. Each of the officers presented reports which surveyed the activities of the Association for the past three years.

The following were elected to serve on the Board for the coming triennium:

Oscar A. Anderson, President, Augsburg College, Minneapolis

Leonard W. Arentsen, Arthur Andersen & Co., Chicago

Sverre Arestad, Professor, University of Washington, Seattle

Kenneth O. Bjork, Professor, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

Henning C. Boe, Editor and Publisher of *Western Viking*, Seattle

John Christianson, Professor, Luther College

Arthur Davidson, President, Wagner College, New York

Reidar Dittmann, Professor, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

Richard W. Giere, M.D., Minneapolis

Gunnar Gundersen, M.D., LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Lloyd Hustvedt, Professor, St. Olaf College

J. Bernard Jacobsen, President, U. S. Manufacturing Co., Chicago

Derwood Johnson, Judge, Waco, Texas

Andrew Kindem, Vice President and Treasurer, Andrew Kindem & Sons, Inc. (Millwork), Minneapolis

Norma (Mrs. Kent) Knutson, Minneapolis

Ole G. Landsverk, Landsverk Electrometer Co., Glendale, California

Norman O. Olson, Arthur Andersen & Co., Chicago

Rolf A. Syrdal, Minister, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Roy N. Thorshov, Architect, Minneapolis

Norman Wigeland, Evanston, Illinois

Harry J. Williams, Farm Real Estate, Investments, Kenilworth, Illinois

KENNETH O. BJORK ELECTED PRESIDENT

Professor Kenneth O. Bjork currently holds two positions in the Association, those of Editor and President. None of the officers now living has been for so long so immediately involved in the varied activities of the NAHA as he. The background and perspective he brings to the office because of his thirty-five years of continuous service, together with his visions for the future of the NAHA, made it clear to the Board that he should lead the Association into its Fiftieth Anniversary. Lead it he will. It will be up to all of us to give him the encouragement he deserves, by promoting and supporting the ambitious objectives noted earlier.

Continued on page four

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1971

(abbreviated version)

FUND BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 1971	\$18,026.80
INCOME:	
Dues, associate and sustaining members	\$ 6,634.50
Book sales	1,777.57
Interest on investments	1,935.92
Miscellaneous income	144.98
Total Income	\$10,492.97
EXPENDITURES:	
Publication expenses—	
Printing and binding	\$3,087.45
Editorial, typing, etc.	1,494.91
Newsletter expenses	189.62
Archives expense	144.87
Packaging, mailing, etc.	75.87
	\$ 4,992.72
General membership expenses including stenographic, membership records, postage, office supplies and new members' campaign	4,069.07
Total Expenditures	\$ 9,061.79
CURRENT INCOME OVER CURRENT EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,431.18
Transfer from bank in Norway	780.21
FUND BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 1971	\$20,238.19
ASSETS:	
Cash in banks—	
Chicago, Illinois	\$ 3,678.73
Northfield, Minnesota	500.00
	\$ 4,178.73
Investments	38,573.83
Office equipment	1.00
	\$42,753.56
Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship Fund—	
Cash	\$ 1,731.37
Investments	13,125.14
	\$14,856.51
	\$57,610.07
FUND BALANCES:	
Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship Fund	\$14,856.51
Ole Edvart Rølvaag Permanent Fund	21,075.37
Institutional 25-year Life Membership Fund	1,440.00
Current Fund	20,238.19
	\$57,610.07

TRIENNIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page two

Leonard Arentsen, Chicago, replaced Norman O. Olson as Treasurer. Lloyd Hustvedt continues as Secretary. Roy N. Thorshov, Minneapolis, was elected Vice-President and will also serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee. Professor Clarence A. Glasrud of Moorhead State College, Minnesota, was elected to serve on the Publications Board. His election marks an addition to this board.

THE BANQUET

President Gundersen presided over the evening banquet, attended by sixty-five members and friends of the Association. The four speakers for the evening fortified the vigorous and determined tone set earlier in the day. O. I. Hertsgaard, president of the *Bygdela-genes Fellesråd*, infected everyone with his enthusiasm, and, if they existed at all, he wakened any drowsy or lagging spirits. Magne Smedvig, general manager of Sons of Norway, placed a series of challenges before the Association regarding publication policies and how it might serve and reach a larger public. As has been mentioned earlier, Dr. Rich-W. Giere built his address largely on the report he presented to the Board. Dr. Kenneth O. Bjork, the final speaker, surveyed past publications and commented on those currently in the making. He concluded by stressing the urgency for long-range planning, at least in the area of personnel. The day will come, he noted, when the present officers, especially the Editor and Secretary, will have to be replaced. Times and attitudes have changed and it would be unrealistic to believe that the future of the NAHA is secure by relying solely on donated talents from the dedicated. He pointed to Dr. Richard Giere's committee report, which called for a chair in immigration studies and for a salaried director. These objectives, he stressed, were more than gaining added conveniences. They have risen naturally out of the work already accomplished. In fact, the future prosperity of the NAHA, if not its long-range survival, depends on the successful attainment of these goals.

BLEGEN FUND

Since March, 1972, donations from the membership at large to the Theodore C. Blegen Memorial Fellowship Fund have amounted to \$449.00. Members who have contributed \$10 or more are listed below:

Gladys Weseth Nelson, \$100; Clarence Clausen, \$65; Chicago Norwegian Technical Society, \$60; Johannes A. Watness, \$15. Bergthor F. Endresen, Rolf H. Erickson, Laurits W. Kreftring, Harald Larson, J. Irving Oberstad, Ethel J. Odegard, Olander Suldahl, and Rolf Syrdal all made contributions ranging from \$10 to \$15. One person giving \$100 requested anonymity.

The Blegen Fund at this moment approaches \$20,000. Approximately \$15,000 represents larger contributions from members of the Executive Board. The balance has been raised through smaller contributions from members and through interest which has accrued since the fund was started.

\$100-OR-MORE MEMBERSHIP CLUB

Dr. R. W. Giere of our Executive Board has contributed \$1000 to start a special \$100-or-More Membership Club in the Association. We think the idea is excellent and urge that members consider very seriously the matter of joining the Club. As we approach our Fiftieth Anniversary and the Sesquicentennial of the arrival of *Restaurationen* in 1975, we are made keenly aware of our needs in the next half-century of activity. A thousand thanks to "Rich" Giere!

MATCHING FUNDS

In light of the matching gifts pledged by Dr. Gundersen and President Davidson mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, a special solicitation will be made from the membership at large. Please bear in mind, whatever gift a member might send, or induce another to make, twice that amount is accrued to the Association. The solicitation letter will be mailed to all members in October.

NEWS IN BRIEF

• Through the efforts of Henning Boe, publisher and editor of the *Western Viking*, Seattle, our newspaper collection has been increased to include a complete bound collection of *Washington Posten* for the years 1889 to 1964. Because this newspaper is one of the very few voices that speak for the Northwest, this addition is of unusual importance. Henning Boe is a member of our Executive Board.

• The University of North Dakota's new Law School addition, presently under construction, will be dedicated to Olaf H. Thormodsgard, who retired in 1962 after serving as Law School dean since 1933.

• Worth quoting: "I am eighty-six years old. Should like to pay for life membership in this Association. Please let me know the cost. Yours truly, Hans Larson, Kalispell, Montana." Mr. Larson has become a life member.

• Thank you! After reviewing Volume 25 of *Studies* in the July issue of *The Viking* (Sons of Norway), Editor Bent Vanberg urges that Sons of Norway members should also become members of the NAHA.

• Correction! Our reference to the series entitled *Makers of America* in our last *Newsletter* failed to mention that Wayne F. Moquin is the editor of that series and was also the author of the dedication statement to Theodore C. Blegen. Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, who were mentioned, are general editors only.

• Gunnar E. Gunderson, 78, a member of the NAHA Board, died in May. He was former board chairman of Brad Foote Gear Works, Inc., Cicero, Illinois. He was also a former president of the Norwegian-American Hospital, the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce, and the Norske Club, all in Chicago.

• Worth quoting: "Thank you very much for all the material you sent us for our report on Norwegian Immigra-

tion. . . We received an 'A' on our report, so you can see how helpful the books were." Julie Ross, Bonnie Meyer, Melanie Lyng, Fergus Falls High School.

* * *

• NAHA book sales for 1972 as of September 1 stood at \$3,065. This exceeds the earlier record of \$2,525 set in 1963.

NEW MEMBERS—1972

A warm welcome to the thirty-six new members:

LIFE

Hans Larson, Kalispell, Montana (from Sustaining to Life)

PATRON

Mary Jo Thorsheim, Rochester, Minnesota

SUSTAINING

Mrs. Jean Skogerboe Hansen, Chicago
S. T. Lillehaugen, Minneapolis
Herbert N. Lockrem, Minneapolis
Edward L. Sekjeskog, Minneapolis
Sverre E. Svendsen, Minneapolis

ASSOCIATE

Mrs. Alvilda Albertson, Northfield, Mn.
Thomas D. Andersen, Oneonta, N. Y.
Orville Bakken, Northwood, N. D.
Mrs. Herman I. Berg, Fort Worth, Texas
Professor Jan H. Brunvand, Salt Lake City, Utah
Jean Ducat, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Mr. and Mrs. Kennet Ducat, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Arthur H. Eide, Nelson, B. C., Canada
F. W. Gaasedelen, Edina, Mn.
N. Gaasedelen, Edina, Mn.
Mrs. H. J. Groggaard, Baltimore, Md.
Mrs. Rolf Gundersen, Seattle
Marlin L. Heise, Minneapolis
Eivind Horvik, Fargo, N. D.
Ann Larson, Franklin, Mn.
Harold T. Lingard, Arlington, Va.
Earl M. Milde, Maddock, N. D.
Dr. Kenneth J. Northcott, Chicago
Sigurd Ode, St. Paul, Mn.
Kristoffer Oftedal, Minneapolis
Adam Ristad, Boulder, Colorado
Leo P. Ronan, Decorah, Iowa
Dean Lloyd A. Svendsbye, Northfield, Mn.
William Tronson, North Hollywood, Cal.
Allard Kassenborg Tvedten, Crookston, Mn.
Stanley A. Uggen, St. Paul, Mn.
Mrs. Jacob (Arvalene) Vedvik, Jr., Ferryville, Wisc.
Melvin Voxland, Rochester, Mn.
Julienne L. Wood, Madison, Wisc.

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