



Update: Luncheon Cancellations Continue

The board of directors met on Feb. 10 via Zoom teleconference to discuss the future meetings. Although the pandemic in Illinois is trending the right way and the vaccine is starting to be distributed, we are not yet at the point we were before we initially canceled the luncheons last year. Perhaps by September?

As such, we will not meet until September 2021 at best. The **luncheons for March, April and May are canceled.**

We'll publish this letter this month with news to this affect, and other notes since we published in November. The next letter will not be until August, announcing plans for the September meeting.

There are no dues for the 2020-2021 season, we'll discuss that in the fall.

We have noted that the NNL is still moving forward with plans for the 17th of May parade. We'll give you news on that if and when it happens, but it doesn't seem too absurd that we could march in that, separated if necessary. We would invite members and their guests to march, socially separated if that is still needed by then. Watch the NNL news at nonleague.org for parade decisions.

We received news that our Program Chairman, Thor Jondahl is starting to plan a move to Virginia and will be stepping down in the future. He will continue to serve in this role, but we will solicit from our board and all membership for a new Program Chairman. Send a note to the boss if interested.

We discussed whether the membership of the Torske Klub would be interested in a general Zoom video conference to chat and say hello to old friends. We think that many of our members are resistant to this, but maybe not. To some, a Zoom session sounds intimidating and requiring a computer, but be advised that you have the option to just call in with your phone and listen/speak to the organized mob we would assemble. Send a note to secretary@torskeklub.org if there is interest and let us know best times: evenings, Saturdays, certain days (or days to avoid).

We hope all are safe and comfortable. It seems appropriate these days to end with the blessing from the book of Numbers, verse 6: May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



Covid Cases in Illinois 2/12/21
Johns Hopkins University

Torske Klub Luncheon - March, April, May ***CANCELED***

Your Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors has elected to **cancel the remaining luncheons** for the season in respect for the virus situation. We currently plan the next luncheon to be September 2021.

Our health and safety will always precede our urge for torsk and fellowship. We will look forward to seeing you at future events. Watch the website or Facebook for updates also.

We'll use this space to celebrate the birthdays of our good members for January through May, since we have the space and the time.

January: Ralph Gilbertsen, Gregg LeDuc, Daniel Betz, Tom Maxson, Jon Knudsen, Norman Roland, Rick Nelson, Gary Skoien, and board member Larry Ekstrom (welcome to Medicare!)

February: Perry Straw, Jim Beylis, Fred Durler, Cedric Syrdahl, Phil Waters, David Svendsen, Ed Ekstrom, charter member Ray Newgard, Neil Andersen, our Program Chairman and new octogenarian Thor Jondahl, our recording secretary Tom Peterson

March: Ray Syverson, Rodney Lee, Eric Skoien, Hugo Lanneskog, Roald Harr, & David Bensen Sr.

April: Lars Ohrstrom, Bob Fisk, new septuagenarian Richard Elmer, Carl Graf Jr., newly minted nonagenarian David Hardy, Doug Conte, Richard Nelson Jr., John Eisemann, Chris Gruner (21 this month!, see below), Fred Olk.

May: Nels Nelson, past treasurer Ken Nordan, Board member Pastor David Langseth, & new septuagenarian Joseph Arnold.

Since we cannot raise our glass for a skål with you, we would suggest raising a glass with those around you every month; look them in the eye and yell "Skål !" and take a sip for each birthday that month. Choose your partners carefully. Ken Larson tried this, but isn't allowed at Binny's anymore. We know the birth months of 95% of our members, so if you are not listed, send a note or email to the secretary and we'll update that. Also, if your mailing address has changed, be sure to let us know. The post office gets tired of forwarding mail after awhile.

Since our last letter, we were informed of the passing of three of our good members:

Oystein Borsheim of Park Ridge, IL passed away on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2020. He was a member of Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church and Bjornson Male Chorus. Member of the Carpenter's Union. He was 91.

Rich Wielock of Glenview passed away on December 27, 2020 after watching the Bears win. Rich had suffered a brain aneurism in his 34th year, but survived and helped raise his family after. He had celebrated 60 years of marriage with his wife Grace last June.

Thor Fjell passed away on January 20, 2021. He was immersed in the Norwegian community, his obituary mentions: Normennenes Singing Society, "Minnekirken", Scandinavian American Cultural Society, Norwegian Singers Association of America, Director for 3 Norway concert tours, "Sangerfests", Naperville Men's Glee Club Charter Member, Norwood Park Nursing Home Board Member, Chicago Torske Club, Chicago Swedish Glee Club, Sons of Norway Polar Star Lodge, Norwegian National League (NNL) Past Treasurer, Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce Past Treasurer, delegate to NNL, Scandinavian Park delegate for NNL. Thor was 76.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Finally, we offer our thanks to Spec. Chris Gruner, who is serving in the Illinois National Guard. He was called for the next three months to assist with the distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines in Illinois, following calls during the recent election disruptions and last summer's Mississippi flooding. On top of it, he has to celebrate his 21st birthday abstinent on duty. Chris is Ken Larson's grandson.



Rich Wielock

Thor Fjell

Oystein Borsheim

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