

# NORWEGIAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL CENTER, INC.

## 2007 Annual Report

### MISSION STATEMENT ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2007

The Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library is an educational non-profit research center with national and international scope. The Center collects, preserves, shares, and interprets resources for the study of Norwegian heritage. To carry out this mission, the Center provides:

- the Naeseth Library, located in Madison, Wisconsin, where resources devoted to Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogy are collected, preserved, shared, and interpreted;
- assistance, interpretation, education, and research by trained staff to members, patrons, and correspondents;
- continuing education and outreach for genealogists and the public worldwide through cooperative information exchanges, publications, tours, displays, seminars, resource lending programs, and merchandise sales.

Through its collections, research, outreach, and publications, the Center strives to maintain and enhance its role as the most comprehensive source for information about the history of Norwegian immigration.

### GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My board colleagues join me in offering our gratitude to all of the NAGC constituency who have contributed so generously in 2007. This outpouring of time, talent, and treasure has insured the future of the Center as an independent entity. We are supported by a large network of dedicated volunteers, donors, staff, board members, and others across the country, all of whom are determined to help secure a bright future for the Center.

Every donation, whether large or small, has been most welcome; and, taken together, these gifts demonstrate the solid base of support upon which the Center is built. Special thanks go to board vice chairman David Hardy, whose invaluable work was essential to our independence. The board of directors also offers its thanks and admiration to executive director Blaine Hedberg and the fine staff of the NAGC. Their impressive efforts during this historic year were vital. This first annual report is one small way to thank you for your support and to acknowledge the large NAGC community. In coming years, with planned growth, increasing services, and further outreach, we look forward to sharing continued news of a thriving Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library.

Dan F. Huebner  
Chairman

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to share with you this report on the operations of the NAGC during 2007. As a genealogical research institution, we have been in operation for thirty-three years, and truly 2007 was a year of accomplishments to remember! Last January, we saw the completion of the process to establish total organizational independence for the Center. Each of our fifteen members of the new NAGC board of directors is a leader in the Norwegian-American community. These dedicated individuals met every month for the past year and one half to ensure the success of the NAGC. Last September, we gained the endorsement from the I.R.S. as an approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. With sound fiscal management and many generous donations, we were able to end the year on a solid financial basis. These accomplishments could not have been achieved without the hard work and support of the board, staff, volunteers, and each of you.

Last April, we brought together two hundred members and friends for a Madison-area inaugural dinner. The event was an all volunteer effort, and I want to give special recognition to board Secretary Michael Bovre and his helpful Madison Friends Committee, especially board members Audrey and Phil Dybdahl and Olive and Eugene Nordby, who helped make the evening a wonderful success. We are all most grateful to Thompson Investment Management, Inc., and John W. Thompson, who generously sponsored the event, helping raise nearly \$10,000 to support the Center.

Then Norwegian Ambassador to the U.S., Knut Vollebaek, spoke at the event and said:

*For a Norwegian Ambassador, it is a great experience to travel the country and meet with people who come up to me and proudly tell that they are "Norwegians". It may be that just one of their great-grandparents came from Norway, but still they claim the heritage. What a joy to represent a country that people are happy to associate with.*

It has been a similar joy for the NAGC board and staff to represent an organization with which people across the country are happy to associate. NAGC visitors have noticed major changes in the arrangement of the research collection and a noticeable improvement in ease of access. The staff and board have represented this institution at outreach events in both the Midwest and the west coast. The success of this work has increased our 2007 charter membership by nearly twelve percent, to a current total of almost 2,000 members, residing in every state of the union and in several foreign countries. Similar outreach events are being planned throughout the country in 2008, and we hope to meet many of you during the year.

Several special funds were created this year to help support daily operations and library acquisitions. We are especially grateful to board chairman Dan Huebner for his important gift for operations; to board vice-chairman David Hardy for the establishment of the Hardy Endowment for operations; to A. Elizabeth Sande and Robert L. Sande for donating the Gilbertson-Aaker Fund for operations; and to an anonymous foundation and to the Gerhard and Milma Naeseth Charitable Foundation for their donations in support of NAGC operations. Generous support for operations was also provided by the Center's board, with special gifts from Don Hoganson, Ann and Dean Gesme, and Ann Leon. Heartfelt thanks

also go to Madison members Carl and Jane Loper, who have established the Loper Fund for acquisitions, the interest from which is used to purchase Norwegian local histories from northern Norway; and to Madisonian William Helgeson, who established the Helgeson Fund for acquisitions, helping the NAGC to build its collection of Norwegian local histories and *bygdebøker*.

I am deeply indebted to the NAGC staff members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping make the Center run so efficiently. We are all grateful to the devoted NAGC volunteers who have now indexed more than 500,000 entries from Norwegian-American cemetery records and other early vital records. I also add my thanks to the many donors of gifts-in-kind. With their support, we have added hundreds of volumes to the research library. I encourage anyone who learns about the availability of newly-published Norwegian local histories (*bygdebøker*) or comes across an older, used volume to contact us. Special collections have been added to the Naeseth Library this year, including a large collection of Norwegian farm and local histories. In a very special purchase made possible by the generous bequest from long-time member Harriet M. Hustvedt, all the available microfilmed Norwegian-American Lutheran Church records have been acquired. These microfilms vastly broaden the NAGC's research capabilities, allowing a glimpse into our ancestors' lives through this ecclesiastical research collection. Watch for the complete listing of these microfilmed resources in the 2008 issues of *Norwegian Tracks*. We have been busy cataloging books this past year; our library catalog now includes more than 6,100 titles. More are added and updated on a daily basis. Volunteers are working to scan images of books and title-pages into the catalog; eventually, you may search online and learn if the NAGC collection has an item to assist in your research.

In December, a year-end appeal letter was sent to our members. The response has been phenomenal: nearly eleven percent of our membership made a year-end gift to the Center. Many of these donations were given in tribute or memory of a loved one or special ancestor, a most appropriate way of giving to an organization that helps honor and remember ancestors and family histories. Our current efforts include building our membership by reaching out to our extensive network of friends, urging each of you to invite your family, friends, and colleagues to become members of an organization endeavoring to preserve Norwegian-American heritage. We thank each of you for your past encouragement and many contributions to the well-being of the NAGC. I hope that through this report you will gain an understanding of the scope of our activities during the past year and will be encouraged to continue your support in 2008 and beyond.

Blaine Hedberg  
Executive Director & Naeseth Chair

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan F. Huebner, Decorah, Iowa, *Chairman*  
David J. Hardy, Palatine, Illinois, *Vice Chairman*  
Robert W. Anderson, Verona, Wisconsin, *Treasurer*  
Michael J. Bovre, Madison, Wisconsin, *Secretary*  
Blaine Hedberg, Reedsburg, Wisconsin, *Executive Director & Naeseth Chair*  
Audrey Dybdahl, Madison, Wisconsin  
Philip Dybdahl, Madison, Wisconsin  
Ella Ager Fossum, Racine, Wisconsin  
Ann Urness Gesme, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Dean H. Gesme, Sr., Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Doris Hayes, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin  
Donald C. Hoganson, Wheaton, Illinois  
Ann Leon, Madison, Wisconsin  
Eugene J. Nordby, M.D., Madison, Wisconsin  
Ellen S. Aa. Vollebaek, The Hague, The Netherlands

## STAFF

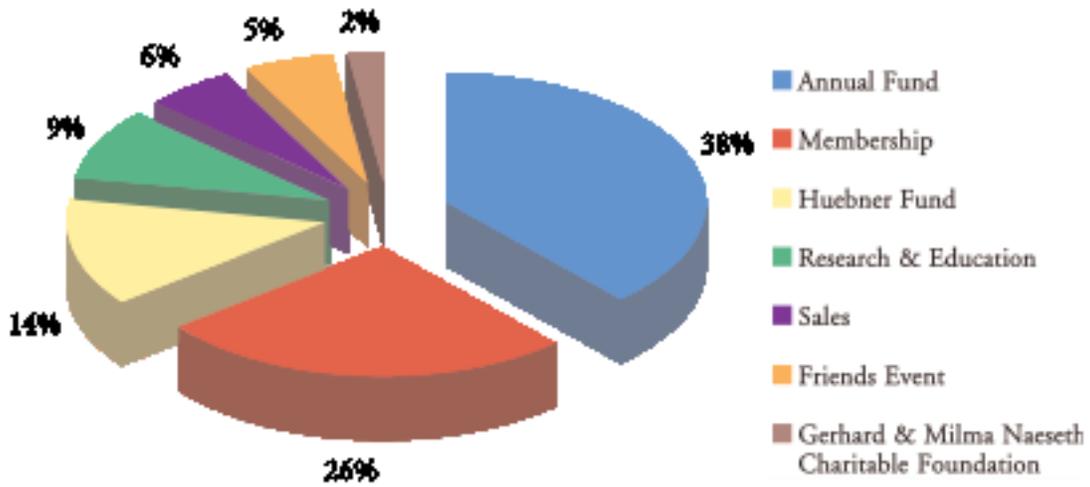
Blaine Hedberg, *Executive Director & Naeseth Chair*  
Solveig A. Quinney, *Director of Member Relations*  
Jerry Paulson, *Director of Research*  
Jane Grimstad, *Genealogical Research*  
(from June 2007)  
Lorraine Hawkinson, *Library Services Specialist*  
(through January 2007)  
Muriel Gunderson, *Library Services Specialist*  
(through June 2007)  
David W. Wright, Jr., *Development Consultant*  
Jeanne L. Wright, *Consultant for Administration & Membership*

## VOLUNTEERS

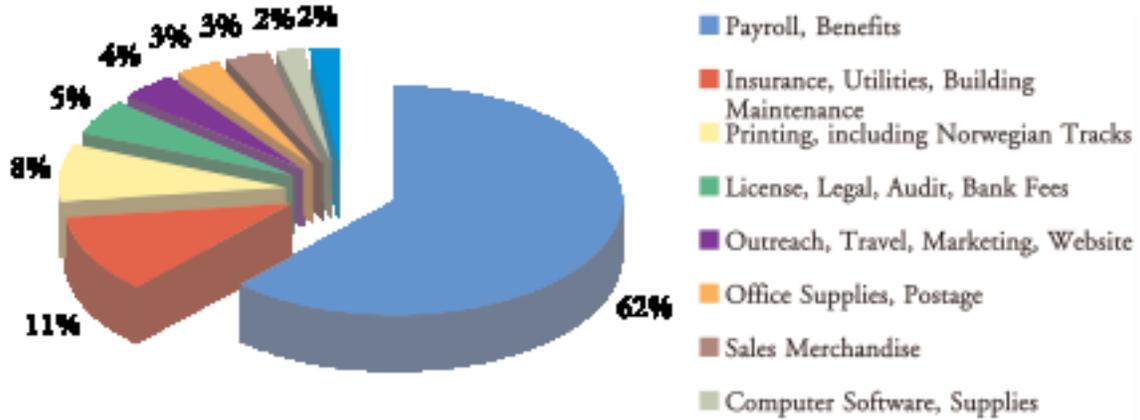
Marian Aaker	Joanne Harris	Mary Paulson
Bjarne Breilid	Doris Hayes	LaMirth Geving Peterson
Karl Brekke	Barbara Horn	Irene Rath
Laurel Dikken	Natalie McNally	Don Ross
Lois Drews	Gene Nelson	Cheryl Schlessler
Joyce Erickson	Richard Nelson	John Skillrud
Avis E. Fisher	Eric Nemece	Ann Walser
Arne Gausmann	Kathleen Olson	
Lorraine Hawkinson	Lee Rokke	

## 2007 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Income for Operations



### Expenses



### Endowments

