

NORWEGIAN AMERICAN
GENEALOGICAL CENTER
& NAESETH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Norwegian American Genealogical Center, Inc.

2008 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, NAGC 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, NAGC 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

The members of the Board of Directors and I are pleased to present the 2008 Annual Report to the NAGC & NL membership and friends. The accomplishments of 2008 are significant and would not have been possible without the support of our membership. Whether your support has been to send information about your Norwegian ancestors; a monetary donation; or telling a friend, neighbor, or colleague about NAGC & NL membership or services; each act of support and encouragement has moved the organization forward and helped us achieve the success we enjoy today. You, as members and friends, are the heart and soul of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library. Without you there would be no organization.

The listing of 2008 accomplishments is long and varied. Two of the major achievements are the completion of volume 5 of the *Norwegian Immigrants to the United States* series, and the launch of the newly-designed website. The conclusion of the final volume in the Norwegian immigrant series marked the end of the project begun by Gerhard Naeseth and concluded by Blaine Hedberg. It also is the beginning of a new era in the life of NAGC & NL. At the same time volume 5 was being delivered for printing, the new era began with the launching of a new website. If you have not visited our new cyberspace home, please take a moment to do so at www.nagcni.org. You will find information about the organization, as well as a secure e-store where you can renew your membership, make a donation, purchase the Norwegian immigrant volumes or a number of useful genealogical books. In the months ahead, I encourage you to visit our library in Madison to work on your family history or visit us informally on the internet to keep abreast of all the exciting developments at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library.

Dan F. Huebner
Board Chairman

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the 2008 Annual Report of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library. This past year saw the realization of a dream born over 50 years ago and spanning two generations. While the culmination of such a monumental project may take center stage during 2008, NAGC & NL fulfilled many other accomplishments throughout the year, large and small. The achievements we realized in 2008 were made possible because of support from dedicated members and friends who gave freely of their time, talent, and treasure.

On a very cold day in December, 2008, volume 5 of *Norwegian Immigrants to the United States* was delivered to Anundsen Publishing Company in Decorah, Iowa, for printing and binding. This simple act marked the completion of the series and brought Gerhard Naeseth's dream to fruition. Dan Huebner, NAGC & NL Board Chair, marked the occasion with me, a day of celebration and poignancy, filled with remembrance, reflection, and renewal. As I recounted the story of Gerhard's dream of an accounting of all the Norwegian immigrants through 1850, I was struck again by the magnitude of such a task, which was now complete. I reflected on promises made and kept to complete this work, one Gerhard did not live to see finished, and the singular focus this orphaned dream brought to my career and my life. Reflection also gave way to renewal, of great things yet to come in the days ahead, building on all that has been accomplished. It was with a sense of great joy and also a sense of loss that I turned the last page and closed the cover on volume 5 of the Norwegian immigrant series, knowing that Gerhard would be immensely pleased.

Early in 2008, our newsletter, *Norwegian Tracks*, received a facelift. Prior to beginning the re-design process, it was determined we needed to have an identifiable "brand," including not only our logo, but also themes and motifs that would be carried across all of our materials and products. The predominant color for all types of materials and products is green, symbolizing the way in which family history and genealogy are the living history of our collective lives. The tree logo designed by Olive Nordby continues to represent the trademark for NAGC & NL. It further signifies the living nature of all that we do as genealogists and family historians.

We have had our own website since we became an independent organization in 2007. From the beginning, it was our goal to have an e-store and offer online member services. We realized it would be necessary to move to a new developer to achieve the functionality desired for today and in the future. A website task force, comprised of Board member Ann Leon, staff member Jane Grimstad, and I, interviewed several local website developers, making a recommendation to the full Board in the fall of last year. The local design firm, Clotho Business Solutions, was selected to develop a new website. Many of the elements developed during the re-design of *Norwegian Tracks* were used on the new website, which was launched in late December 2008. I hope you have had a chance to visit the new website at <http://www.nagcnl.org>.

August and September 2008 found NAGC & NL Board Chair Dan Huebner, Vice-Chair David Hardy, and me on a study tour to Norway. Board Member Ellen Vollebæk worked diligently to arrange meetings with genealogists and representatives of genealogical groups throughout Norway, and also traveled with us as our guide. Each day was filled with meetings and events that helped strengthen our bond with our Norwegian counterparts. In addition, we were able to purchase over 200 *bygdebøker* using the Helgeson Fund for Acquisitions. With the addition of these books to the collection, the Naeseth Library is now a leading resource for these research volumes in the United States.

The Madison-Area Friends of NAGC & NL held a successful friend-and fund-raising dinner in April 2008 at the Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wisconsin. Volunteers, consultants, and staff worked tirelessly to make the evening enjoyable. Members and friends were brought together by mutual heritage and spirit of gen-

erosity as we shared our support of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library. We are grateful to Olive and Gene Nordby for generously acting as sponsors for the 2008 dinner. Without their steadfast and loyal support for this event and for NAGC & NL over the years, we would have miles yet to travel to achieve the success we enjoy today.

This past year also saw the first-ever meeting of our Advisory Council, spearheaded by David Hardy, Board Vice-Chair. The Advisory Council met prior to the Madison Friends dinner in April 2008. Members were given their initial charge as Advisory Council members. In October 2008, Council members were convened for an all day meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. Many of the ideas generated from this meeting have been implemented or are under development. The Advisory Council is an integral part of our operations, functioning as a sounding board for ideas, as well as serving as a group in which ideas are generated and promoted.

An important activity of NAGC & NL during the past year was conducting and attending outreach events. It is at these events that the staff and I are able to spread the message about our work that we carry out on a daily basis. A sampling of the events or groups we visited this past year include the Scandinavian Club of Albuquerque; *Skogfjorden* Genealogy Seminar in Bemidji, Minnesota; Norway Day in San Francisco; *Syttende Mai* in Stoughton, Wisconsin; and Sons of Norway Washington Lodge in Washington, D.C.

Our staff continues to go above and beyond in all they do for the organization and its members and friends. The staff has grown to five during the past year; despite the addition of two staff members there continues to be abundant work in all areas. The staff works tirelessly to ensure books are cataloged, research and translations are completed, membership cards are mailed.

NAGC & NL enjoys the support of many volunteers as well. This dedicated group of volunteers located around the country gives of its time and talent for the good of the organization and its members. Indexing records, filing census information, mowing the grass, and entering data into new databases...all of this and more is done by the unseen cadre of NAGC & NL volunteers. All of us owe each of our volunteers a debt of gratitude.

I extend my thanks and gratitude to the NAGC & NL Board of Directors for their continued loyalty and support of both the organization and of me. Their belief in NAGC & NL is not easily described. It is because of their confidence, conviction, and certainty in an independent Norwegian American genealogical center in Madison, Wisconsin, that we exist today. This group of men and women support me as the executive director of this organization. Each day I walk in the door of the building that we affectionately call "the Center," I am struck by the commitment this group of people made to their heritage, to future generations, and to me. There are neither words to speak nor words to write that fully and completely express the humility I hold in my heart for what each and every one of these men and women have done for NAGC & NL and for me...and, most importantly, for each and every member of "the Center."

Finally, thank you to all the members and friends who have supported NAGC & NL by giving of your time, talent, and treasure during 2008. I am deeply grateful to all of you for everything you have done to support and encourage the growth and development of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library.

Blaine Hedberg
Executive Director and Naeseth Chair

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David Kalshoven	Madison-Area Friends of NAGC & NL

Sons of Norway: Norse Valley Lodge #491, Appleton, Wisconsin
Gronnvik Lodge, # 632, Green Bay, Wisconsin

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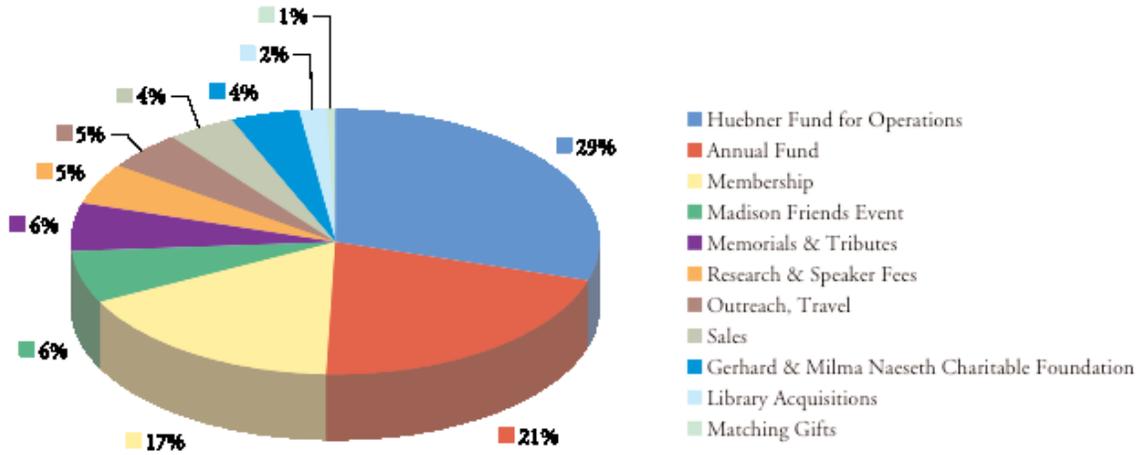
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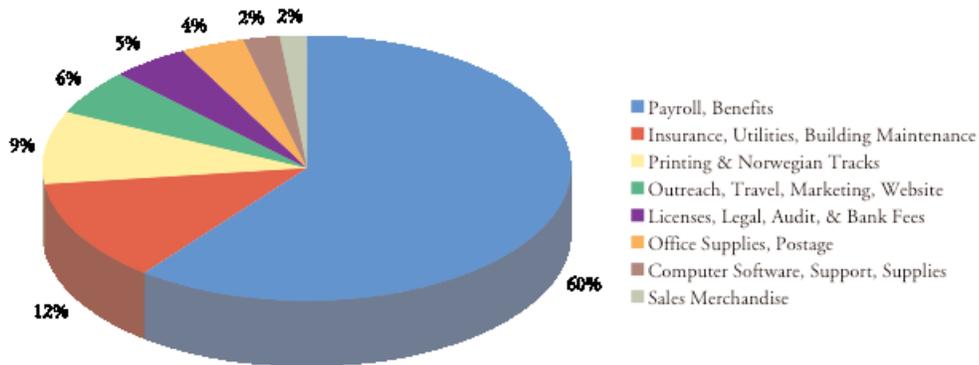


2008 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

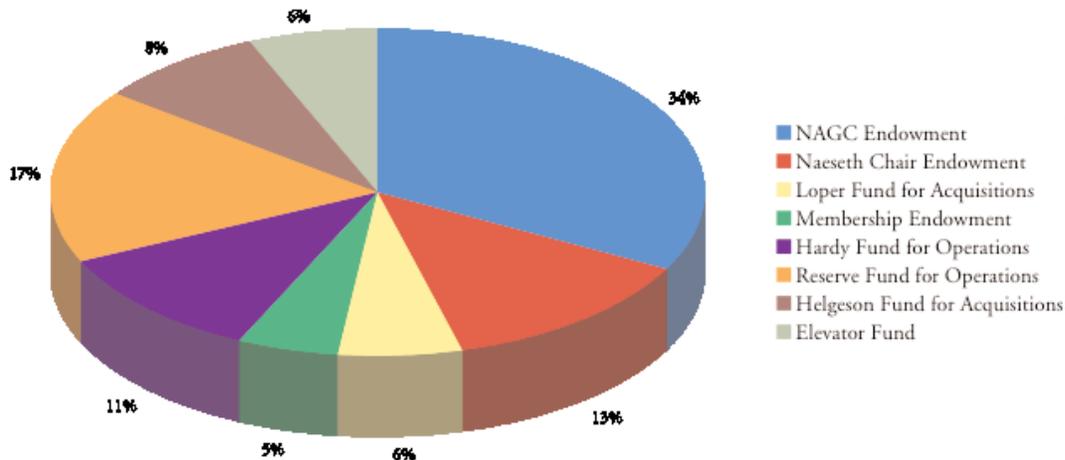
INCOME FOR OPERATIONS



EXPENSES FOR OPERATIONS



ENDOWED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS





NORWEGIAN AMERICAN
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