

NORWEGIAN AMERICAN

GENEALOGICAL CENTER & NAESETH LIBRARY



Annual Report 2012

Norwegian American Genealogical Center, Inc.

2012 Annual Report

GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are delighted to share our annual report for the 2012 calendar year with all the many members, volunteers, and patrons of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library. On behalf of my colleagues on the NAGC & NL Board, we send you special thanks for your continuing interest in and support of the Center's important role as a leading resource for Norwegian-American family history and heritage. In many ways, 2012 was a milestone year for the Center. The end of December marked our sixth full year of independent existence and confirmed our leadership in the fields of ethnic genealogy and immigrant history.

The year began with two wonderful gifts, each generous in its own way. At the end of 2011, Civil War historian Scott Cantwell Meeker donated his impressive research, including website and archival notes and records, concerning the history and accomplishments of Wisconsin's 15th Infantry Regiment and its charismatic leader, Col. Hans C. Heg. Mr. Meeker's definitive research collection is now housed at NAGC & NL where our staff and volunteers are working to process its electronic files, images, and archival materials in order to share the information on this valiant all-Scandinavian regiment. In late March, we received a legacy donation from Pearl M. Cramer, a Californian who has long been interested in the Center. Mrs. Cramer's gift is among the most generous donations received here in recent years, and the majority of her donation is invested as the Cramer Legacy Fund for operational reserves. We are all indebted to Mrs. Cramer and Mr. Meeker for their important contributions.

April witnessed another successful benefit dinner, organized by the Madison-area Friends of NAGC. The event's speaker was Scott Meeker, who presented a poignant program about the Wisconsin 15th Infantry Regiment in observance of the 150th anniversary of the Regiment's engagement in the Civil War. The entire event was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Naomi and Owen Bekkum.

During this year of busy outreach events and classes, one collaborative effort stands out. Stoughton's Sons of Norway Mandt Lodge #5-314 helped us pilot a special adult education program. The all-day seminar was limited to fifteen Mandt Lodge members and provided genealogical assistance to researchers at all levels. We are indebted to Mandt Lodge President Darlene Arneson for her help and advice.

The busy summer included visits from Rasmus Sunde and his lively group of thirty Norwegians, as well as the annual work day donated to NAGC by the helpful members of the Sons of Norway Norse Valley Lodge #491 from Appleton, Wisconsin. In mid-August, my board colleagues Anne Veslemøy Lindblom and JoAnn Six hosted and sponsored a special gathering in honor of Svein Ludvigsen, Governor of Troms, Norway.

In October, Blaine Hedberg, Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research and Publication, announced his resignation, which he wished to take effect in mid-November. With his over thirty-year association here, Blaine continues his connection through his continuing service on our Board of Directors. Among the projects that Blaine contributed to before his departure was the launch on our website of an online library catalogue, a special new resource for our growing audience via the Internet worldwide.

During 2012, we are grateful for leadership donations from the Gerhard and Milma Naeseth Charitable Foundation; the John A. Johnson Foundation, a component fund of the Madison Community Foundation; Dan F. Huebner; Susan and David Johansen; Irene O'Connor Navarre; Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Nordby; A. Elizabeth and Robert Sande; JoAnn Six; and Frank A. Tysver. Hundreds of other donors and members boosted our efforts with increased membership, gifts-in-kind, volunteer hours, and record donations to our annual fund. We offer sincere thanks for this outpouring of wonderful support. The Board is also particularly grateful to the staff and volunteers working each day at the Naeseth Library and at outreach events around the country. Their contributions are among the most important.

Toward the end of the year, an exciting new outreach opportunity appeared. Working in conjunction with The Edwin E. and Janet L. Bryant Foundation, Inc., we began an ongoing connection to The Bryant Foundation and its plans underway for a new Norwegian-American heritage center in Stoughton, Wisconsin. In late October, The Bryant Foundation made an important grant to NAGC to initiate this new collaborative relationship and to recognize the shared interests and missions of our two organizations. We thank the trustees of The Bryant Foundation for this important vote of confidence, and we look forward to working with them to serve the growing audience for Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogy.

Lowell E. Olberg
Chairman, Board of Directors

GREETING FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Staff of NAGC & NL, we offer sincere thanks to the members, volunteers, donors, and board members who helped make 2012 a successful year. We are pleased to report that the Center enjoys financial stability, with an expanding membership, growing endowments, and an increase in visitors and research requests. During the year, our Staff outreach efforts included appearances across the country, including locations as various as Stoughton, Wisconsin; Houston, Texas; and San Francisco, California. With these connections, we reconfirm the Center's basis as an organization of national and international scope.

NAGC's Staff, Board, and Volunteers continue to collaborate on important projects. During 2012, a Board Committee for review of our online and website outreach has made fine progress in efforts to improve our Internet connections and services to the growing, worldwide audience for Norwegian-American genealogical research. Board member Paul Larson heads up this active group that includes Board, Staff, and Volunteer representatives.

We find an increasing awareness of our services by Norwegian researchers. 2012 included visits to the Naeseth Library by groups of Norwegian visitors; by Svein Ludvigsen, Governor of Troms; and by Gunnar Nerheim from the University of Stavanger. A wonderful article about our organization was featured in the *Aftenposten Innsikt-Magasiner*, a monthly current affairs magazine with large circulation in Norway.

We invite you all to visit the Naeseth Library during your next trip to Madison, and to follow our news through our website and Facebook pages. Thank you again for your thoughtful contributions of all types for NAGC & NL during 2012.

Jeanne L. Wright
Executive Director

NAGC & NL 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.

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

Mange tusen takk to all 2012 donors.

Your annual support allows us to continue our mission to discover, preserve, and share Norwegian-American history and heritage.

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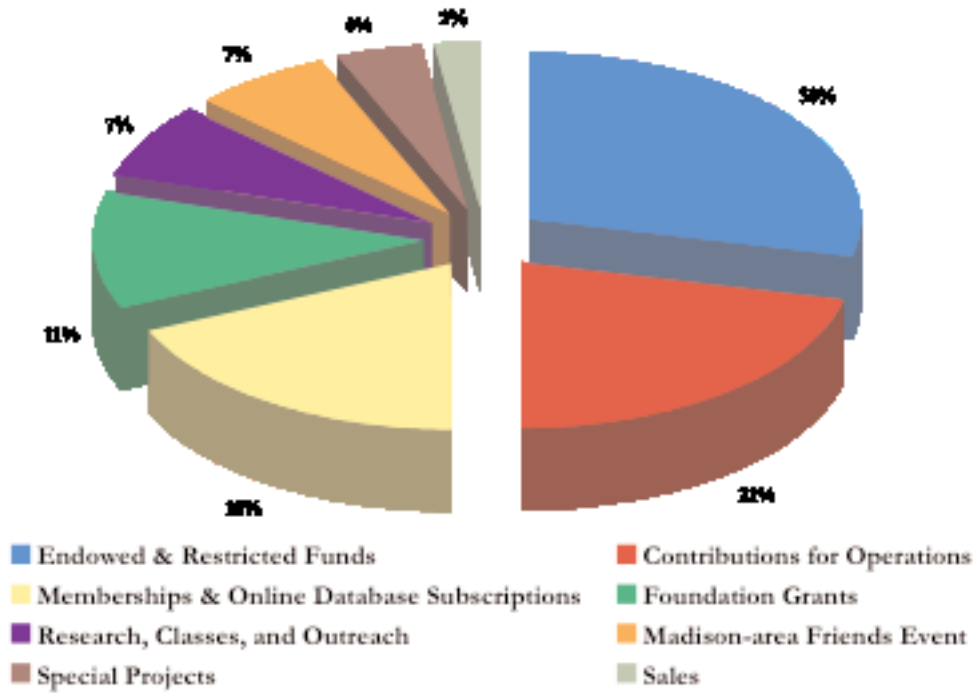
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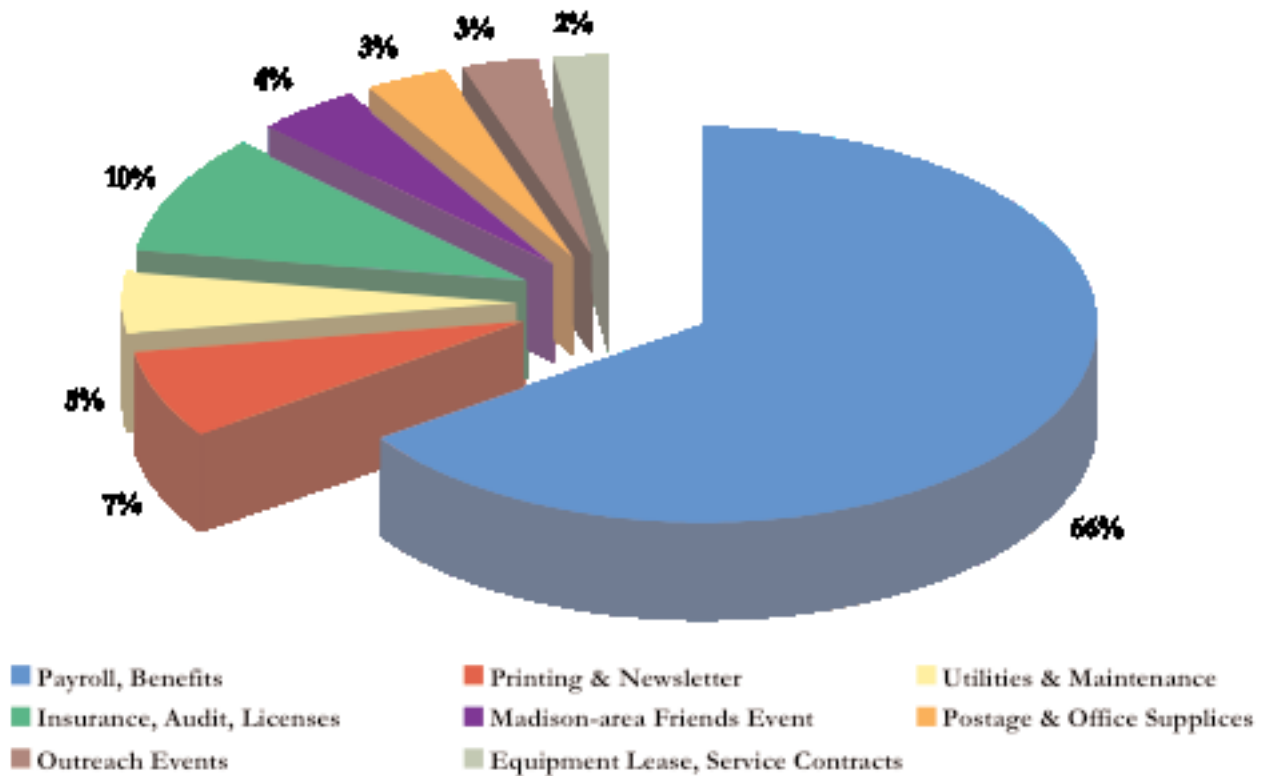
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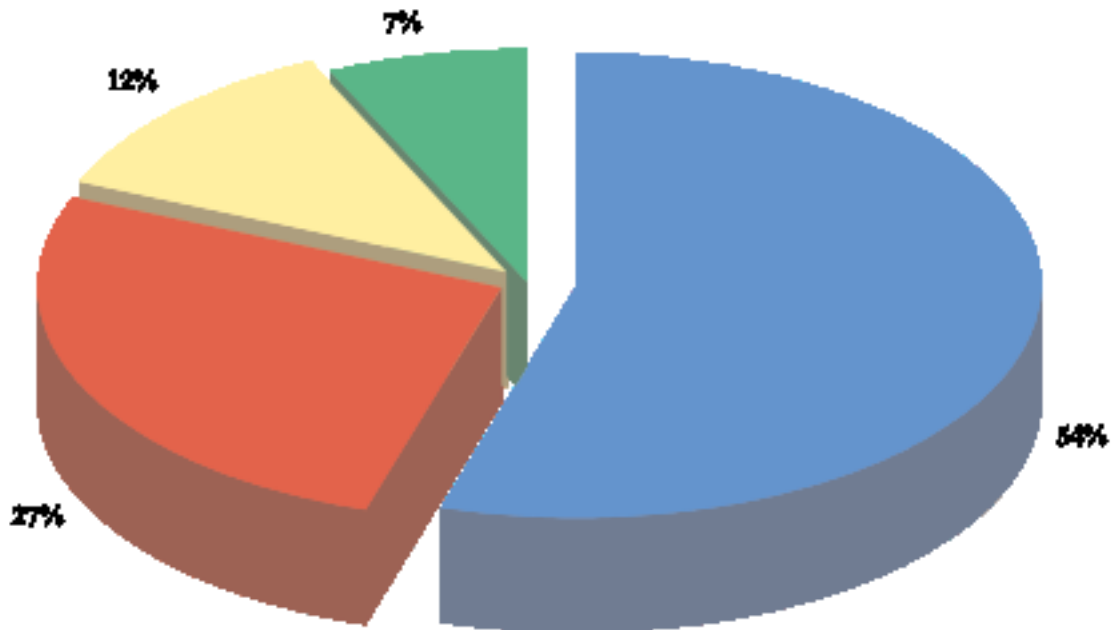
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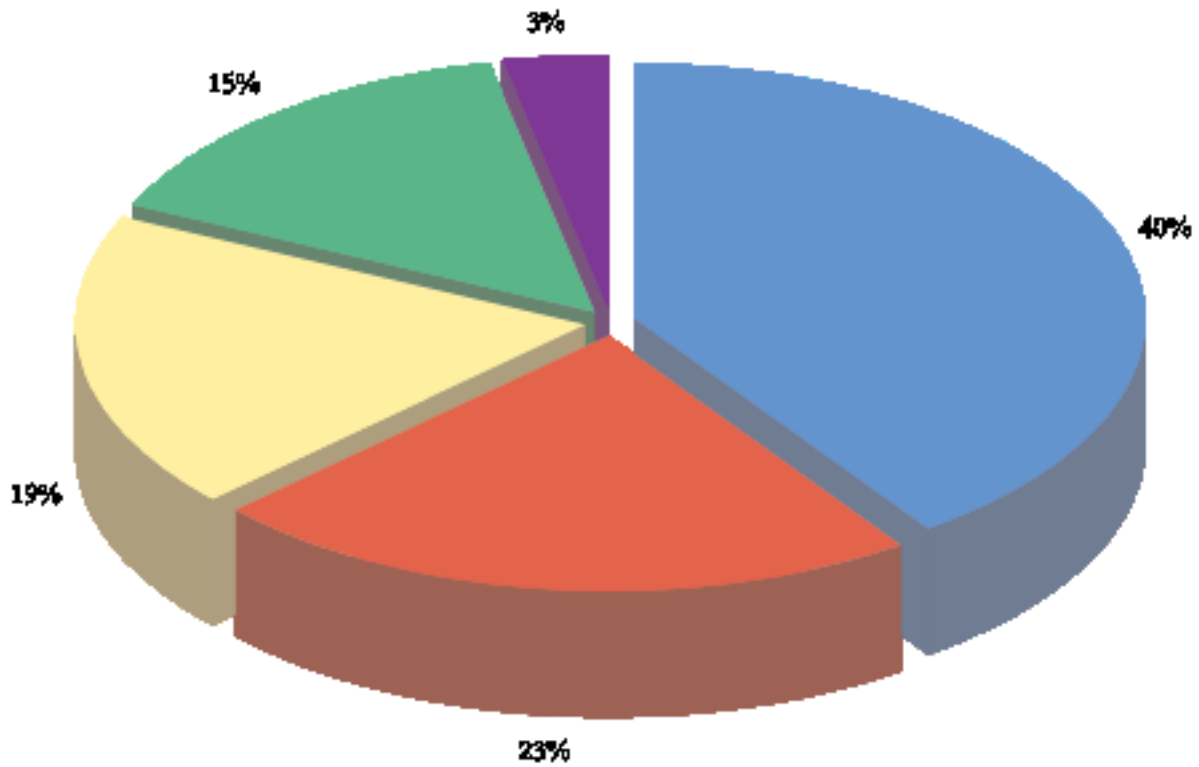


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THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL CENTER & NAESETH LIBRARY record with heartfelt gratitude the names of the following contributors during the year 2012. Every effort has been made to acknowledge the many wonderful gifts received during this year, but we ask you to notify NAGC & NL of any corrections. Please remember that this list reflects contributions made in the 2012 calendar year only.

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