



From the Viking and Julia Williams collection, circa 1900.

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to locating, collecting, preserving, and interpreting the Norwegian-American experience

2020

IN REVIEW

ARCHIVES

In 2020, we demonstrated our adaptability. Despite closing our doors to the public in March, the archives continued to actively collect materials related to the Norwegian-American experience, to assist researchers, and to expand our digital repositories. Some significant additions to the archives included the Rev. Parelus Rognlie Papers, the Odd Lovoll Papers, and the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation records.



Images from the Parelus Rognlie Papers and the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, left.

NAHA BY THE NUMBERS

28

Donations added to our archives

100+

Research and material requests

\$87,000

grant received from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to digitize the Ole E. Rølvaag Collection

8

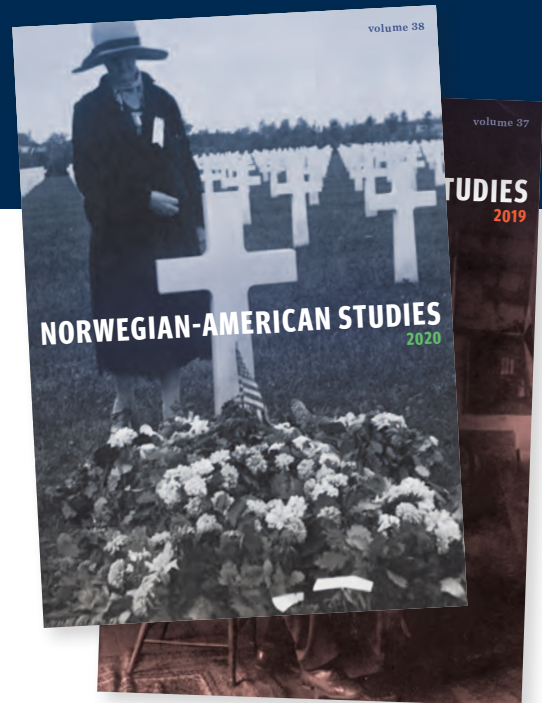
Student internships

348

Event registrants

PUBLICATIONS

In the fall of 2020, NAHA released Volume 38 of our scholarly journal *Norwegian-American Studies*, published in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Press. The journal is dedicated to showcasing the best work being done in the field of Norwegian-American studies, including the related disciplines of history, literature, religion, art, and cultural studies. In addition to our print edition, digital access to the journal and its back issues is available free of charge to NAHA members via JSTOR digital library.



EVENTS

While the pandemic caused us to put a hold on in-person events, we moved our programming online, enabling us to increase attendance and better connect with our members across the nation and abroad.



Terje Joranger, director of the Norwegian Emigrant Museum, was the featured speaker for the 2020 Spring Member Meetup. Joranger presented “New Directions in Migration Research.”



Erika Jackson, associate professor of history from Colorado University Mesa, gave the keynote for our 2020 Biennial Member Meeting. Jackson’s topic was “Becoming White: The Case of Scandinavians in Chicago.”



**SPECIAL
THANKS**
TO LONGTIME
VOLUNTEERS
DALE HAALAND AND
DALE HOVLAND.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I recently connected with the consultant who helped us develop our current strategic plan. “How’s that working out?” she asked. She wondered how the association had fared during 2020, under circumstances that no one could have foreseen when the NAHA board approved our plan in January of 2020 — right before the world changed for all of us. I told

her that the simplicity and flexibility of the plan was serving us well. But her question also caused me to think about the past year and some of the big takeaways for 2020.

Virtual has its advantages. While the association had experimented with some online presentations in the past, 2020 forced us to embrace the concept. And to my surprise, I began to appreciate it. Online committee meetings are an efficient way for board members from across North America to take care of business. And while online interactions are no replacement for face-to-face conversations, it has been exciting to connect with members coast to coast and abroad during NAHA events. One distant member wrote to me after attending our May online event. He had been a member for 60 years and had never attended a single NAHA event. What dedication! Which brings me to my next takeaway...

Members are our lifeblood. Despite the emotional and financial stresses of 2020, our members remained committed to our mission. They renewed memberships, attended events, and stayed in touch. And in a year of so many critical needs in our communities, our members remembered the association with financial gifts as well. We are grateful for this show of support.

Our endowment ensures that our work continues. The founders of NAHA used excellent foresight when they began building the association’s endowed funds. They understood that there would be good times and hard times, and that a healthy endowment would ensure that our work would continue despite economic challenges. As we approach our association’s centennial in 2025, we will keep the importance of building our endowment in mind, so that our work can continue no matter what challenges the next century may bring.

Preserving stories is important. The pandemic reminded many of us of the importance of family: past, present, and future. In addition to missing those family members we normally spend time with, it gave us time to think about those who came before us and the challenges they faced. Some of you used your extra time at home to sort through and even donate family collections, ensuring they would be available for generations to come.

In a changing world, our work is also evolving. Our publications committee recently identified new research criteria that help put the story of Norwegian migration in a larger context. We will encourage scholarship that looks to the “second century” of Norwegian immigration and to regions across North America and around the world. The study of cross-cultural encounters and newer theoretical models will help us better understand the role of Norwegian migration within American and world history.

We are making history every day, and this past year was surely a reminder of this. To everyone who is a part of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, I want to say thank you. I’m eager to see what the future brings for our work together.



IN GRATITUDE,

Amy Boxrud

FINANCIALS

FUNDING FOR OPERATIONS

Distribution from Investments	\$100,353	49%
Donations	\$59,407	29%
Membership fees	\$28,459	14%
Transfer from past operating surplus	\$12,801	6%
Other sources	\$2,034	1%
Book sales and royalties	\$1,303	1%
TOTAL INCOME	\$204,357	100%

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

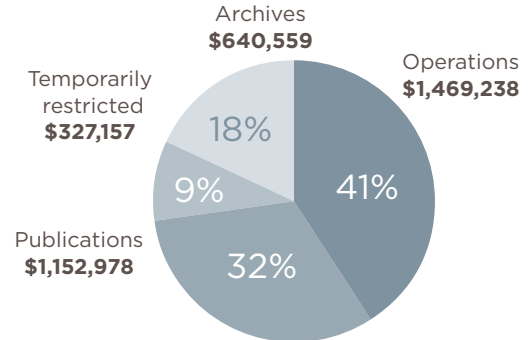
Salaries and benefits	\$123,602	60%
Administrative and supplies	\$41,320	20%
Contract labor	\$20,294	10%
Publications	\$10,667	5%
Development initiatives	\$7,000	3%
NAHA meetings and events	\$1,474	1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$204,357	100%

INVESTED FUND BALANCES

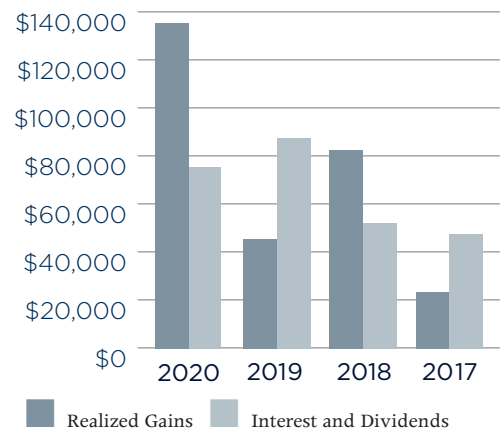
Market value as of December 31, 2020

O. E. Rølvaag Memorial Fund	\$1,266,662
Other Operations	\$202,575
Blegen Bjork Publications Fund	\$1,056,457
Other Publications	\$96,521
Fosholt Hydle Archives Fund	\$343,919
Nathan and Denise Lindgren Endowed Fund for the NAHA Archives	\$20,000
Other Archives	\$276,640
Sigvald Quale Norwegian Society Fund	\$300,992
Other Temporarily Restricted	\$26,165
TOTAL	\$3,589,931

ENDOWED FUNDS BY PURPOSE



INVESTMENT INCOME



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Doug Bratland, design and communications
Luther College, office space and supplies
St. Olaf College, space and support
Ryleigh Beers, Claire Drewes, Zoe Golden, Audrey Hoehner, Chloe Joy, Erin Magoon, Alyssa Moore, Ohlmacher, Julia Walter, public history interns

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

Kristin Garey, in honor of Paul Rolvaag
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WITH SPECIAL THANKS

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**Gifts have been received by December 31, 2020 and do not include membership or event or tour fees.

Our **Legacy Circle** honors those who have included NAHA in their estate planning.



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We want to recognize you! If you have included the association in your estate plans, or if you believe you should be included in our Leadership Circle, please let us know. For more information on our Legacy and Leadership Circles, contact Amy Boxrud at naha@stolaf.edu.

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