



Newsletter

January Luncheon- Sweater Day in Illinois

The luncheon in January has been dedicated as sweater day; abandoning the coat and tie for the traditional *Dale* sweater or the last gasp of the ugly holiday sweater if you are so provisioned.



Prof. Gary Midkiff

Our speaker this month is Gary Midkiff. Gary is a college professor who teaches MBA students, undergraduate business students and gifted high school students for Chicago area colleges including North Park University. Besides teaching American history, Gary is a published author and speaker. Gary has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Chicago and a Master's Degree in Finance from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University

In honor of the Illinois Bicentennial (Dec. 3, 2018), Professor Gary Midkiff has compiled a list of the 10 most important events in the history of our state (plus a few more that deserve attention). He will cover events from all corners of the state and connect many of those Illinois events to national history. Chicago will contribute a few stories (e.g. the Great Chicago Fire of 1871) but so will East St. Louis (the race riots of 1917) and the towns of Alton, Charleston, Freeport, Galesburg, Jonesboro, Ottawa and Quincy (sites of the 1858 Lincoln – Douglas debates).

December Luncheon

We celebrated Christmas as we have for years with good fellowship, song and cheer led by David Langseth and his helpers and with Milt Gustafson as torskemaster. Thanks to all for *god jul*.



Torske Klub Luncheon - January 12, 2019

The luncheon will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847)824-1556 for directions that day). Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS rings the bell to seat us for dinner. Make your regular dinner reservation by the evening of January 7 for the luncheon. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you. The fish order is called in after the deadline. \$5 surcharge for late reservations

Call **(847)886-4841** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. We have reservations from the following members: **3, 38, 42A, 47, 51, 55, 84, 97, 98, 115, 120, 149**. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call or pre-range to cancel or add guest to the count. If you are not a member and wish to attend, call the same number and leave your name according to the principle "Once a guest, twice a friend, three times a member!" If you prefer email reservations, please send to reservations@torskekclub.com (not .org) with your total number of reservations, including yourself and guests. We will respond with a confirmation email. ****TIP** – Don't know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name. **FREE Raffle Ticket** to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2018/2019 season, excluding father/son/daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

Luncheon Reservation Phone: **(847)886-4841**

**Reservations
by
January 7**

With everything else going on at the end of 2018, we seemed to have forgotten the bicentennial that occurred on Dec.3, 2018 as the State of Illinois saw it's 200th year as a state. Our speakers this month and next will remedy that somewhat.

Things could have been a lot different for our state, and even the name. The early French fur traders named the territory by their mispronunciation of *Illini-wek*, the native people that occupied the place. That mispronunciation continues today as non-residents of Illinois describe us as Ell-e-noise.

Few of us realize that we were claimed and purchased as a part of the *Illinois-Wabash Company* in 1773. They were denied the claim to native American purchased land by the British, and later by the new nation of the United States. The company faded away as Col. George Rogers Clark claimed the land for Virginia. Virginia created the "County of Illinois" in November 1779.



We could have remained a part of Virginia, but the Illinois Territory was formed in 1809 with capital in Kaskaskia. Statehood soon followed in 1818.

One more hurdle could have pushed most of us, including Chicago, into *Ouisconsin* (later Wisconsin). The northern border was almost set at the southern tip of Lake Michigan. For football alone, the implications boggle the mind.

So... Happy Birthday, Illinois.

Norge Ski Jump—January 26,27

The Norge Ski Club has once again extended an invitation to the members of Chicago Torske Klub to attend the meet. The details of this invite and a form to reserve a button for each paid attendance will be distributed in a later email or at the luncheon. This usually involves a discount and access to VIP area. Stay tuned.

Birthdays and News

This month we celebrate the new year's birthdays of Ralph Gilbertsen, John Rose, Gregg LeDuc, Ron Hoppe Jr., newly minted teen Dan Betz, newly minted octogenarian Rich Wielock, Tom Maxson, Jon Knudsen, Norman Roland, Howard Skoien, Rick Nelson, Gary Skoien, and board member Larry Eckstrom.

Members who paid dues by 12/31/18 should have their coveted Chicago Torske Klub membership card enclosed. If not, contact our treasurer or secretary and we'll clear it up.

A note from Ralph Gilbertsen: "*I wanted to pass along that my father Fred Gilbertsen passed away peacefully on December 28 at the age of 90. He was a member of the Torske Klub for 20+ years and a former member of the Sons of Norway, Skol Lodge. He is survived by his 3 children, 7 grandchildren and one great grandson.*" Our thoughts and prayers are with the Gilbertsen family.



Fred Gilbertsen poses with Barney in 2004

Future Events for 2019

- ◊ **Jan. 12, 2019**—Sweater Day
- ◊ **Jan. 19**—9am -Board meeting
- ◊ **Jan 26,27**—Ski Yumping
- ◊ **Feb. 9**—Ladies Day—Nancy McCully—IL Bicentennial
- ◊ **Mar. 9**—Father/son/Daughter Day
- ◊ **April 13**—Luncheon
- ◊ **May 11**—Anniversary Day

See <http://www.torskeklub.org> for more info

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