



Norwegian-American
Bygdelagenes Fellesraad
Est. 1916
Norway to America:
Expanding the Dream

President's Report 2022-2023

Elaine Helgeson Hasleton
Fellesraad President



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Bygdelagenes Fellesraad President's Report 2022-2023


Past - Present - Future

- ❖ **Past:** Establishment of Bygdelags; preservation of our history
- ❖ **Present:** Day to day and month to month activities, including virtual meetings, newsletters, social media, yearly Stevner
- ❖ **Future:** Planning & adapting now so we will be viable down the road

- ❖ **1929 yearbook purpose statement:** To manage cooperative projects for the good of all Bygdelag




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Bygdelagenes Fellesraad President's Report 2022-2023

Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century

- ❖ **Norway House: Haugo Archive + Bibliotek**
 - ❖ Archive: Research sources, Bygdelag materials, donated Bygdebøker & others
 - ❖ Bibliotek: Interactive learning center experience with fun activities
- ❖ **Partnerships:**
 - ❖ *FamilySearch* Affiliate Library status
 - ❖ Access to 400+ million restricted images & free resources
 - ❖ 2025 Commemoration Committee
 - ❖ Norwegian Emigrant Museum
 - ❖ Norsk Slekthistorisk Forening & Historielagene
 - ❖ Slegt og Data



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Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century

- ❖ **Norway House: Haugo Archive + Bibliotek**
 - ❖ Archive: Research sources, Bygdelag materials, donated Bygdebøker
 - ❖ Bibliotek: Learning center experience with engaging activities
 - ❖ Plaque giving credit to the Fellesraad & Bygdelags
- ❖ Donated materials guidelines
 - ❖ Prefer Bygdebøker
 - ❖ Currently have 300 books and 80 titles
 - ❖ Lag history publications
 - ❖ Contact Marilyn Sorensen the.vp@fellesraad.com



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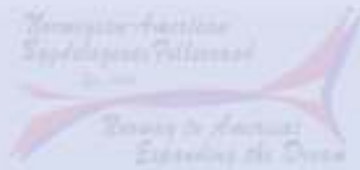
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Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century

- ❖ **Norway House: Haugo Archive + Bibliotek**
 - ❖ **Four areas of emphasis:**
 - ❖ Finnskog
 - ❖ Sami
 - ❖ Mining
 - ❖ Cleng Peersen
 - ❖ Reference books
 - ❖ Databases
 - ❖ Rack cards with suggestions how to proceed with their research and/or finding additional information on their desired topic



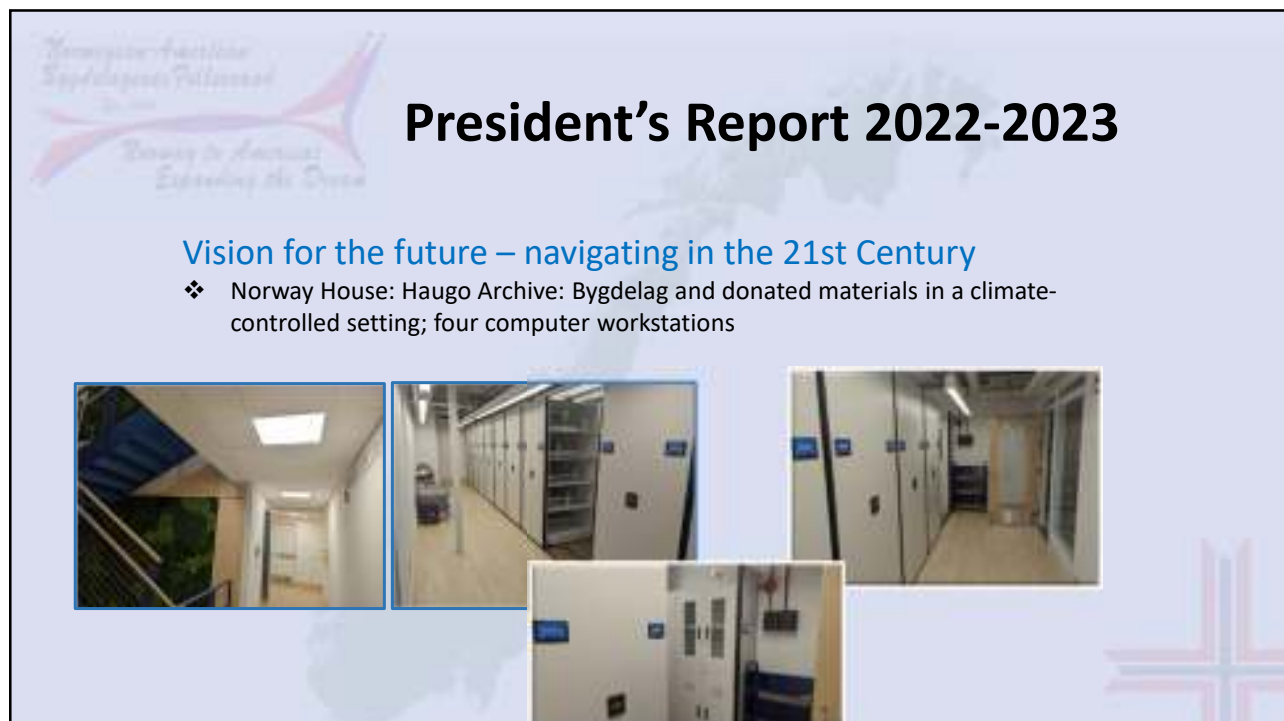
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Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century

- ❖ Norway House: Haugo Archive: Bygdelag and donated materials in a climate-controlled setting; four computer workstations

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*Norwegian American
Society of the Pacific
1914*
*Revisy to Ancestry
Expanding the Circle*

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Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century

- ❖ Norway House: Haugo Archive: Bygdelag and donated materials in a climate-controlled setting; four computer workstations




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- ❖ Norway House: Haugo Archive - Bygdelag and donated materials in a climate-controlled setting; four computer workstations
 - ❖ Archive collection space parameters - 20" deep, 90" high, 16" between shelves; dividers to hold soft bound materials, such as periodicals.



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Bygdelaenes Fellestrand
Est. 1916
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Continued in 2023-2024

Navigating in the 21st Century

Gagarin design firm



1. Follow the Immigrants



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Continued in 2023-2024

Navigating in the 21st Century

Zones in Bibliotek



1. Follow the Immigrants



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Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century

- ❖ Partnerships:
 - Slekt og Data member benefits for Genealogists
 - [Start searching for your Norwegian ancestors](#)
 - Join meetings and courses (in Norway): [Our calendar](#) .
 - Ask genealogy questions in our community: [Slekt og Datas Slektsfourm](#)
 - Join our genealogy support Facebook-group: "[Få hjelp med slektsforskningen din](#)".
 - Read our [magazine](#). (Norwegian)
 - [Search for gravestones and church yards in our database Gravminner](#)
 - [Join our webinars](#)

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Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century

- ❖ Publicity/Visibility:
 - ❖ Board Members active in other Norwegian & Norwegian-American organizations & activities
 - ❖ Norway House, Mindekirken, Sons of Norway, Syttende Mai activities, Mindekirken, Daughters of Norway, NAHA, NAGC, NAGA, Vesterheim.
 - ❖ Virtual and in-person
 - ❖ Queen's visit to Minnesota – Oct 2023
 - ❖ Survey Participation: Research team at the U of Wisconsin-Madison was conducting a study about language, identity, and culture among Norwegian heritage populations in North America called "Continued connections: Linguistic and cultural identity among North Americans with Norwegian heritage."

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Vision for the future – Queen's Visit






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Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century

❖ Publicity/Visibility: Solørlog Facebook – Forest Finns in America page



Forest Finns in America

Private group · 304 members



Disney's first Nordic Original Series To Cook a Bear to be produced...
 Norway Film & TV Fund is a non-profit fund whose objective is to promote the Nordic media.



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❖ Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century





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❖ Publicity/Visibility: April 2023 version of our *Explore* brochure is here!!





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Norway to America:
Expanding the Dream

2025:

- 200th anniversary of the 1st emigration from Norway to North America
- Created a consortium of 30+ **Norwegian and Norwegian-American organizations**
- **Commemorations** in the United States, Canada, and Norway
- **Key Homeland activities**
 - Norwegian Emigrant Museum – Ottestad, Norway
 - Collection being digitized
 - Seeking Norwegian Discovery experience



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 **FamilySearch** – Content creation for 5 in 1 discovery experiences

- *Record My Story* (prompts specific for Norway)
- *Discovery: All About Me* (discovery data)
- *Picture My Heritage* (male & female images where user puts face into an image of someone wearing traditional clothing)
- *Famous Relatives in the FamilySearch Family Tree* (spreadsheet & directions)
- *Profile Images* for IP clearance (listing & guidelines)
- *Memories*: Norwegian historical events in Timeline
- *Help*: Updated *FamilySearch Wiki* (5,000 links corrected)
- *Marketing*: Input on Norway Memes (process created) and blog articles
- *Technology*: *FamilySearch* site translation into Norwegian
- *Indexing* increased for key records of that country

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*Norwegian-American
Sjøløysenes Pallmål*
2019
*Bringing to America!
Expanding the Circle*

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 **FamilySearch** – Project Leader of Famous Norwegians and Famous Norwegian-Americans– **Kathy Ward** km1ward@yahoo.com

Famous Norwegians in the Family Tree - 460 people; 500 Famous Norwegian-Americans!

Roald Amundsen, explorer 2Z3Y-5XQ
 Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, poet 932M-814
 Edvard Grieg, composer & pianist LWV3-9BK
 Thor Heyerdahl, adventurer & scientist LH3H-KBY
 Knute Rockne, football player LKJ1-4SK
 Christian Norberg-Schultz, architect GFMZ-DHW
 Kirsten Sinding-Larsen, author L8RD-254
 Marie Wexelsen, children's author LC6R-D3D

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*Norwegian-American
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 **FamilySearch Wiki - 5,000 links for Norway!**

Farm Books [\[edit \]](#) [\[edit source \]](#)

Land Records [\[edit \]](#) [\[edit source \]](#)
 1886 and 1838 land registers are found at The Farm included.

Grue prestekontor
 Parish register (official)

Parish register (official) no. 1	Grue parish	Brandvål local parish, Grue local parish	1712 - 1748	SI	[edit] [edit source] Isak Dragotnegron til Holstern
Parish register (official) no. 2	Grue parish	Brandvål local parish, Grue local parish	1749 - 1774	SI	[edit] [edit source]
Parish register (official) no. 3	Grue parish	Brandvål local parish, Grue local parish	1774 - 1782	SI, NS	[edit] [edit source] Isak Fogdøen 30-10-1844-187

Probate Records [\[edit \]](#) [\[edit source \]](#)

- Digitized probate records for Hedmark County#
- **1640-1903** - Norway, Probate Index Cards, 164-
- **1695-1777** - Probate register for Clenical Probate
- **1695-1777** - distrikten prosti, probate records

Probate Jurisdictions [\[edit \]](#) [\[edit source \]](#)

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This coming year 2023-2024

Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century


Fellesraad Policy Statement:

Fellesraad receives numerous requests from individual Lags for financial assistance. Fellesraad is dedicated to helping all Lags with shared projects; it cannot help individual Lags with specific projects or legal assistance.

Bygdelaenes Fellesraad Board Declaration




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This coming year 2023-2024

Vision for the future – navigating in the 21st Century

- **501c3 Statement:**
- **From two Minnesota-based Attorneys:**
 - *If a Bygdelag is to use the Fellesraad Tax ID number, then the Fellesraad takes on their financial commitments*
 - *Fellesraad would then need to form an Audit Committee to do a yearly audit of each Lag's financial books.*
 - *The Fellesraad Board has voted against this commitment.*
- **Suggestion:**
 - *The Stevne Umbrellas such as FSI for 7+Lag, Flere Lag, and Vestlandslag could encompass all their Lags under their own umbrella, including the finances.*
 - *Or each Lag could pursue their own 501c3.*



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Continued in 2023-2024

Navigating in the 21st Century

- Emphasis on Haugo Archive + Bibliotek in Norway House
- Continued weekly meetings with Norway House re: Archive + Bibliotek content and coordination
- Work with the design firm, *Gargarin*, for Bibliotek design
- Survey participation
- Participation with other Norwegian-American organizations
- Continued meetings with 2025 committee
- Urgency to preserve Bygdela history – at NAHA
- Visibility & participation is our passport to continuing success!!

Continued efforts by you!



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Vision for the future – see the [big picture](#) as we're navigating in the 21st Century



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Past - Present - Future







"The greatest use of a life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."

*-William James
American Philosopher*

Vision for the future – see the [big picture](#) as we're navigating in the 21st Century



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<p>President:</p> <p>Klene Hestler 552 East 1200 Cedarville, UT 84614 801-738-0378 President:</p> 	<p>1st Director:</p> <p>Nancy A. Pickering 201 Westminster Ave. NW Waberton MN 55388 952-955-3035 Director:</p> 
<p>Vice President:</p> <p>Marilyn Gervason 7930 York Ave South #638 Bloomington, MN 55431 Vice-President:</p> 	<p>2nd Director / Webmaster:</p> <p>Eugene Rod 2600 East 43rd Street Minneapolis, MN 55406 612-722-3324 2nd.Director (web master):</p> 
<p>Secretary:</p> <p>Rene Gross 401 S. 5th Street # 1822 Minneapolis, MN 55401 612-640-1417 Secretary:</p> 	<p>3rd Director:</p> <p>Donald Twigen 7250 Lewis Ridge Parkway # 217 Edina, MN 55539-1940 952-922-6282 3rd.Director:</p> 
<p>Treasurer:</p> <p>Robert Fickler 4727 Riverdale Road Bloomington, MN 55121 652-470-6733 Cell 952-487-3854 Treasurer:</p> 	<p>4th Director:</p> <p>Jean Knaak 2455 Arkwright Street, St. Paul, MN 55117 651-483-9255 fourth.Director:</p> 
	<p>Past President:</p> <p>Marilyn Somdahl 5100 West 102 St #209 Mpls., MN 55437 952-831-4409 Past President:</p> 

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