

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD
86TH ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 4, 2002

The Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held on May 4, 2002 at Den Norske Lutherske Mindekirke in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Opening The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Somdahl at 9:00 a.m. The National Anthems of the United States and Norway were sung.

Roll Call The roll of Lags was called by Secretary Lee Brown. The following Lags had delegates present (number listed following the name) : Gudbrandsdal (2); Hadeland (2); Hardanger (2); Landingslag (2); Møre og Romsdal (2); Nordfjord (2); Nord Hedmark (2); Numedalslågen (1); Nordhordland (1); Nordlandslag (2); Ringerike Drammen (2); Rogaland (2); Romerikslag (2); Sigdalslag (2); Sognalag (2); Sognefjord (2); Solør Lag (2); Sunnfjord (1); Sunnhordland (1); Telemag (2); Tolen (1); Trønderlag (2); Valdres Samband (1); Vestlandslag (2); Vosselag (2). The names of the delegates and guests are listed on an attached page.

Elections The following people were placed in nomination for officers for the next year:

President	Marilyn Somdahl
Vice President	Marilyn Sorensen
Treasurer	R. Lee Brown
Secretary	Bruce Boyce
Directors	EuGene Rodi
	Sandra Henrickson

Nominations were opened from the floor by the Vice President. None being offered, it was moved, seconded and carried that nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast an unanimous ballot for the above named officers.

Minutes The minutes of the May 5, 2001 meeting were distributed and read by Secretary R. Lee Brown. It was noted that Vosselag had two delegates instead of the one listed. The minutes were approved with this change.

Treasurer's Report The Treasurer's report was distributed and commented upon by Treasurer R. Lee Brown. He reported receipts of \$3,797.70 and expenditures of \$2,033.25 leaving a checking account balance on April 30, 2002 of \$3,604.87. Total assets at year's end totalled \$72,091.31. Mr. Brown pointed out that we had sustained a large loss during the year because of market conditions.

The auditor, Betty Strand, reported that the Treasurer's books had been inspected and were found to be in good order.

The question was raised as to why the organization has so much money. Is there a purpose for which it could be used? The origin of the funds goes back to the 1925 Centennial. The balance from that meeting was invested. It is now in Xcel Energy and Reliant Energy stock. To that has been added investments in Lutheran Brotherhood funds. Traditionally, only the earnings from these investments have been spent. Between \$2,000 and \$4,000 have been used each year to promote stevner attendance, better use of lag newsletters and genealogical research. Publishing the brochure and mailing it, along with print advertising of annual events and maintaining a

web site are building pride in our heritage and knowledge of Norway. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.

- Geneology** Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen, distributed a genealogy survey. Each of the lags is to fill out and return the survey this summer. A desire has been expressed for a genealogical session on the effective use of the Internet to access Norwegian resources. However, it proved too costly to rent a computer lab for a short time.
- Web Sites** EuGene Rodi reported on the Fellesraad website. He encouraged each lag to have its own site and to keep the information on them updated.
- Business** President Somdahl encouraged everyone to advertize events such as Norway Day and to support NAHA, NAGA and Vesterheim Museum. She also asked for volunteers to help clean the Ole Bull statue on June 15, 16. President Somdahl then introduced Consul General Thor Johansen and his wife, Kerstin. Consul Johansen brought a greeting from Norway. He spoke highly of the new Norwegian American Foundation and its goal to locate and list all of the Norwegian American organizations in America and to serve as a co-ordinator of information and help among them. The focus now is on 2005 and the celebration of Norwegian independence. A gift to Norway from Americans is being planned. Former Vice President Walter Mondale heads the fund raising committee for this gift.

RECESS

- Program** Bill Allen from the Science Museum of Minnesota spoke about the display, "Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga," which will be featured at the Science Museum November 23, 2002 to May 18, 2003. A lot of work went into getting this display which was not originally scheduled for the Twin Cities. It is a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to see these materials from many different museums organized in one display. It tells the story of the Vikings who were not only raiders and plunderers but explorers and settlers.
- Annouce-ments** Spring Grove, Minnesota is celebrating "Ola and Per Coming Home to Stay" on Saturday, May 18.
Louis Janus, director of the Norwegian American Foundation and website spoke about the need to share ideas and resources among the 801 Norwegian American organizations.
Pastor Jens Arne Dale, newly installed pastor of Mindekirken, welcomed everyone and led us in the table prayer. A typical Norwegian lunch was served by the ladies of the church.

Respectfully submitted



Bruce Boyce
Secretary, Pro tem