

# BYDGELAGENES FELLESRAAD BULLETIN

NORWEGIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BYGDELAG

[www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com)

Since 1916

March 2008

## VELKOMMEN TIL MINDEKIRKEN - ANNUAL MEETING IS MAY 3

Delegates and guests are invited to the Norwegian Memorial Church, 924 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN, Saturday, May 3, for the annual meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad. The day begins with coffee at 9:15 a.m. (The parking lot is north of the church on East Franklin and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South).

Each lag whose dues have been paid may seat two delegates—often including the lag president—to hear reports and vote in the business meeting, which includes the election of officers. Each of the incumbent officers is willing to stand for re-election for the 2008-2009 term of one year: Marilyn Somdahl, president; Marilyn Sorensen, vice president; Sonia Rache, secretary; R. Lee Brown, treasurer; Eunice Helgeson, director; and Eugene Rodi, director/webmaster.

Since 2004 the advertising fee is to be reviewed annually. In this regard, the Fellesraad Board proposes for ratification:

*that each bygdelag contributes \$15 toward print advertising of the dates and sites of lag stevner by January 15, 2009. The Fellesraad is to pay the greater share of the total cost.*

It should be noted that **ad rates have increased approximately 5% this year** over 2007.

The **cultural** portion of the morning will be scheduled just before lunch, which will be at approximately 11:45 a.m. A number of table topics have been planned for discussion and sharing over lunch. Our speaker will be **Tom Hansen**, a public relations specialist, who deals with clients in the US and elsewhere. Since we have both a cultural and diplomatic relationship with Norway, he will give his experience and insight about how that matters in today's world.

**Mailed reservations will include payment for the coffee, noon meal and rental of the meeting space. Please note that groups wishing to meet after 1 p.m.-- following the meeting-- should make their own arrangements with the church and pay the appropriate fee.**

The Fellesraad Board urges that you read the minutes of May 5, 2007, which are printed in this issue, in advance of May 3 meeting. Presidents, please check to be certain that your delegates have received this notice.

**Registration will be \$14 per person if postmarked on or before April 15, and \$16 per person if postmarked thereafter.** All registrations need to be in the hands of the treasurer by April 26, which is also the last day for refunds or changes in delegates. **Please indicate which lag you represent along with your name** and send your check to Treasurer R. Lee Brown, 2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422.

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If postmark is on or before April 15, cost is \$14 per person; cost is \$16 per person later.

Delegate/s? Which Lag? \_\_\_\_\_

Guest/s? Which Lag? \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **CELEBRATE YOUR BYGDELAG**

**Numedalslågen, Sognalag & Trønderlag Reach 100<sup>th</sup> Year**  
CONTACT ONE MONTH PRIOR TO EACH 2008 EVENT

### **JUNE**

- 19-21** – Vestlandslag, Forest City, IA; Bob Hanson, **763-441-4463**  
Hardanger, Møre og Romsdal, Nord- /Sunnhordland,  
Rogaland, Sognalag CENTENNIAL, Vosselag
- 19-22** – Hallinglag, Minot, ND; Bob Helling, **218-363-3478**
- 26-28** – Valdres Samband, Austin, MN; Earl Evenstad, **612-861-4793**
- 27-28** – Sunnfjordlag, Grand Forks, ND, Dick Rem, **608-873-9332**
- 27-29** – Nordlandslag & Lappmark Lag, Bemidji, MN,  
Christian Skjervold, **763-786-2427**

### **JULY**

- 16-19** – 7 Lag Stevne, Stevens Point, WI; Sandra Hendrickson,  
**952-892-5402**, Landingslag, Chuck Hauke, **320-846-0088**;  
Hadeland, Jan Huesinkveld, **507-285-9483**;  
Numedalslågen CENTENNIAL, Chet Habberstad, **218-826-6268**;  
Sigdalslag, Judy Sosted, **507-645-0499**;  
Telelag, John Haugo, **715-381-1430**;  
Ringerike-Drammen, Narv Somdahl, **952-831-4409**;  
Toten, Marie Brown, **763-588-6666**

### **AUGUST**

- 06-09** - Tre Lag Stevne, Fergus Falls, MN; Trønderlag CENTENNIAL  
Linda Schwartz, **847-516-0085**;  
Gudbrandsdal, Betty Strand, **763-571-1831**;  
N Hedmark og Hedemarken, Dixie Hansen, **651-690-0872**;
- 07-09** – Sognefjord, Albert Lea, MN; Kathy Johnson, **608-238-1785**

### **SEPTEMBER**

- 06** - Opdalslag, Centerville, SD; Pauline Strait, **605-983-5488**
- 10-13** – Solør Lag, Grand Rapids, MN; Homer Saetre, **218-864-5287**
- 21** - Nordfjordlag, Spicer, MN; Betty Rodi, **320-796-6800**
- 25-27** – Romerikslag, Decorah, IA; Joel Botten, **507-388-1995**

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED**

*STEVNE classes, entertainment, ethnic food, fun, genealogy, tours*

*More affiliates of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad online*

[www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com)

## Hilsen fra President Somdahl

God Påske / Happy Easter! This is one of the earliest dates Easter can occur. In Norway it is observed two days, Sunday and Easter Monday. Did you know that the påskelilje or Easter lily there is what we call the daffodil here?

It is time to look forward to the annual summer *stevner*. **Each and every lag is hereby challenged to register more members and visitors for their annual stevne!** That is when you "bond" with others and have some time for fun and fellowship over meals besides the learning opportunities. Many of you have great knock-out-good programs and great genealogy, tours sometimes, and festive banquets. Some years ago your Fellesraad president tried to collect statistics on **how many attended your largest event at stevne**, but the responses were mixed so it has not been done in recent years. But someone in your lag should be doing this! Is attendance up or down from last year or 2 or 5 years ago? The site will make a difference, too.

As always, if you are listed on the **2009 or 2010 stevner roster on the web site** with certain dates (or planning probable dates), it is wise to make a few phone calls so that the next event scheduled will not use those same dates. **Sharing the same dates at different sites does NOT help attendance at your lag nor the other group's stevne.** You will find some date duplications this year. Two September-meeting lag expect to share the same site and date in 2009, so that frees up another weekend.

**Here's a congratulatory toast for good attendance--** especially for three bygdelag who have been in existence 100 years, **Numedalslågen Lag, Sognalag, and Trønderlag!** All have planned something special for these centennials and so has the Fellesraad. **All will be recipients of gifts that have been commissioned by the Fellesraad to honor each of these wonderful occasions.** Each gift reflects an art form that is significant in their own lag area in Norway. The artists are **Syvilla Tweed Bolson, Decorah, IA, and Betty Johanneson, South Bend, IN,** both of whom have taught classes at Vesterheim Museum.

Monetary investments are generally treated as endowment funds. **Operating funds** come from lag **dues** @\$5 each, checking account **interest** and **stock dividends**. (A couple of years ago the 1916

dues of \$5 would amount to the equivalent of about \$100 today; however, dues remain unchanged. Annual meeting receipts and expenditures are treated as "in and out" funds.

Also since 2004 the large magazine ad has been a joint and cooperative venture by each individual lag and the Fellesraad with each lag contributing \$15 annually, less than the cost of *one* registration at most *stevner*. Please check advertising rates in your local paper and see how many words or how much space \$15 will buy. (It will be more on a Sunday).

Practically all spending deals with lag promotion and support. Centennial gifts and stipends to the genealogy workshops are above and beyond the usual operating expenditures. These have board approval for one-time use. A new archival investigative committee also exists.

The Fellesraad now sponsors (pays for) or supports:  
the **web site** with current individual lag information, an **online brochure** which can be printed in either standard page or legal page format, a reduced number of **mailed, printed brochures**; the **BULLETIN newsletters**; both time commitments or limited financial **support of other Norwegian community events** – such as Syttende Mai Minnesota, Leif Eriksson International Festival, and Norway Day; and **commissioned gifts of art to five Centennial bygdelag**; and finally, **gifts in memory of departed lag leaders** or family members they mourn to historic Muskego Church for upkeep and repair. Muskego was the first Norwegian Lutheran Church in mid-America, moved from Wisconsin to the campus of Luther Seminary, St. Paul.

**Two years ago a special project for genealogy began in honor of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.** It benefits lag genealogists in particular and other lag members interested in the Norwegian Seminar at Salt Lake City, UT. The Fellesraad offers each lag **one** \$100 stipend over the course of three years with the person getting approval from the lag president. **The third and final year of this research and class week in Salt Lake City will be held Feb 22-28, 2009.** To date stipends have been claimed by eight *bygdelag*. A report will tell you more at the annual meeting. Save the date on your year-end calendar.

*Ha det bra,* Marilyn D. Somdahl

## Agenda - May 3

Coffee and informal visiting at 9:15 a.m.  
Call to order about 9:40 a.m.  
National anthems and Greetings  
Roll call of delegates  
Secretary's Minutes of 2007  
Report of Treasurer and auditor  
Special order:  
    Election of 2008-09 Officers  
Report of the President  
Report of the Webmaster  
Report of Special Projects  
    Genealogy - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year  
    Archival Committee  
    - Vice President  
Old Business  
    Advertising  
New Business  
Cultural Program - Tom Hanson  
Table Prayer & Lunch  
    Table Topics  
    -Director Eunice Helgeson  
Announcements  
Adjournment

## IN MEMORY

The Fellesraad Board sends its sympathy to several families and lag members, whose loved ones' names were not previously sent with a memorial to the maintenance fund for Muskego Church.

(2007) **Ervin Brunsvold**, Numedalslagen lag 1st president; **Annabel Branstad**, Vestlandslag president Marilyn Cornell's mom; **Ann Somdahl**, mother of RDD president Narv Somdahl; **Juella Peterson** and **Mel Olsen**, Nordlandslag treasurer and editor, respectively.

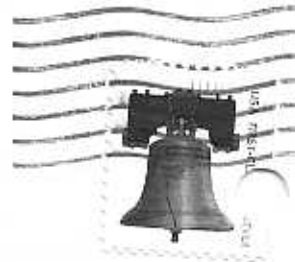
(2008) **Alma Flisrand**, mother of Richard Flisrand, Vosselag president; **Theresa "Tess" Lundby**, Hallingen editor; **Betty Rockswold**, Valdres Samband genealogist; **Steven** son of former Vestlandslag president, Roger and Hannah Ostby.

(A December Bulletin listed former lag presidents, **Belvin Heieic**, Hallinglag, and **Helen Vinje**, Landingslag, and Numedal editors, Dick and Carmen Holter's son, **Douglas**.)



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Fellesraad *BULLETIN*  
5100 W. 102 Street # 209  
Minneapolis, MN 55437



## Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet

av Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson

Ja, vi elsker dette landet, som det stiger frem,  
Furet, værbitt over vannet, med de tusen hjem;  
Elsker, elsker det og tenker, på vår far og jord,  
Og den saganatt som senker, drømmer på vår jord,  
Og den saganatt som senker,  
senker drømmer på vår jord.

### Did You Know - - -

Vesterheim's Nordic Brunch will be at Interlachen Country Club April 26 from 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Visit [www.vesterheim.org](http://www.vesterheim.org) for reservation deadline.

Syttende Mai evening banquet will be May 16 at Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington, MN.

If you do not have a computer, visit the Fellesraad web site [www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com) at your local library. Check your lag information—e-mail, post addresses and phone numbers for accuracy.

### VOLUNTEER FOR EVENTS

Sunday, **May 18**, at **Mindekirken's parking lot**. Food and fun for all. Lee and Marie Brown will be dancing during the afternoon program which follows **the neighborhood parade**. Wear you *bunad* and bring a Norwegian flag.

An invitation also exists to man a booth in **Mankato, MN, June 12- Saturday, June 14.**