

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD BULLETIN

NORWEGIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BYGDELAG
www.fellesraad.com

Since 1916

March 2013

Fellesraad Invites Delegates & Guests To Mindekirken Saturday, May 4

Each bygdelag whose 2013 dues and ad fee are paid may seat two delegates at the Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad May 4, beginning with coffee at 9 AM at Mindekirken, 924 East 21st Street, Minneapolis, with parking off East Franklin Avenue. The Call to Order will be at 9:30 AM. Guests are welcome at the same registration rate as delegates. Please share this information with others in your lag who may be interested.

The annual meeting is set by our Constitution for the first Saturday in May in Minneapolis with annual dues of \$5 per lag. The fee for print advertising remains at \$15 for each lag's portion.

Registration will be \$16 per person for mail post-marked on or before April 15 and \$18 per person thereafter. All checks need to be in the hands of the treasurer by April 24, and no cancellations or refunds will be made after that date. **Send the name of your lag, names of delegates, names of guests and the appropriate fees to Treasurer R. Lee Brown, 2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422.**

In preparation for the meeting please read the minutes from 2012 before you come. They are found elsewhere in this issue. Items for possible inclusion in the agenda should also be communicated to a board member prior to April 15. **Lag meetings intended to follow Fellesraad's meeting should call Mindekirken, 612-874-0716, and pay any additional hourly fee.**

The primary reason for the meeting is the annual election of officers and the hearing of reports. At the conclusion of business, the cultural program will feature a guest speaker and then the table prayer and lunch will follow. A brief time for announcements will be about 1 PM before adjournment.



Lawrence Moe Presents the Program

Moe, a man of many interests, and a Professor of English and Director Master of Liberal Studies at Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, MN, will present the program May 4. One of his favorite topics is “**Carl Ben Eielson, the Norwegian-American Lindbergh.**”

How many of you know about this giant of early aviators? The flight that brought recognition and fame to this native North Dakotan was the **first non-stop transpolar intercontinental flight from Alaska to Spitsbergen, Norway.** He was a contemporary of some famous pilots, and he was known as the Father of the Bush Pilots. He was along in exploring both poles and he had met Roald Amundson. He died attempting a daring rescue mission in 1929 which caused profound mourning in his home state.

Dr. Moe's ancestors came from Norway and they settled generally in northeastern ND. He has a reputation as an engaging presenter and we welcome him this year.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
CELEBRATE YOUR BYGDELAG

Centennial congratulations to NORDHORDLANDSLAG, 1913-2013

JUNE

- 20-22 Valdres Samband**, Holiday Inn, **Willmar, MN**,
Bruce Weaver II, dakota3h@triad.rr.com
- 20-22 Vestlandslag**, Bigwood Convention Center, **Fergus Falls, MN**
Bob Hanson, **763.441.4463** or H4414463@juno.com
NORDHORDLAND CENTENNIAL, Hardanger, Møre og Romsdal,
Rogaland, Sognalag, Sunnfjord, Sunnhordland, and Voss
- 25-27 Nordlandslag**, Archer House, **Northfield, MN**,
Jackie Henry, **507.786.3221**; Mike Wick, **651.452.7217**

JULY

- 11-13 7 Lag Stevne**, Holiday Inn, **St. Cloud, MN**; www.7lagstevne.com
Hadeland (hosts), Anne Sladky, **218.547.1156**, president@hadelandlag.org
Landingslag, Sandra Hendrickson, **952.892.5402**
Numedalslågen, Chet Habberstad, **218.826.6268**
Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag, Narv Somdahl, **952.831.4409**
Sigdalslag, Jean Knaak, **651.357.6139**
Telelag, John Haugo, **715.381.1430**
Toten, Helen Buche, **651.224.3246**

AUGUST

- TBA Sognefjord** meets during Norway trip, Kathy Johnson, **608.238.1785**
- 15-18 Tre-Lag Stevne**, Olympia Resort Conference Ctr, **Oconomowoc, WI**
Gudbrandsdal, John F. Peterson, **701.361.7015**
N. Hedmark og Hedemarken, Joy Shong, nhohpres@gmail.com
Trønderlag, Robert M. Fossum, president@tronderlag.org
- 22-26 Hallinglag**, Seattle Pacific U, **Seattle, WA**, Bob Helling, **218.556.7090**

SEPTEMBER

- 11-14 Romerikslag & Solør Lag**, Plaza Suites & Hotel, **Eau Claire, WI**
Joel Botten, **507.388.1995**; Marie Thompson, **641.423.0487**
- 14-15 Opdalslag**, Scandia Lutheran Church, **Centerville, SD**
Pauline Strait, phstrait@gmail.com
- 15 Nordfjordlag**, Green Lake Bible Camp, **Spicer, MN**,
Betty Rodi, **320.796.6800**; Gene Rodi, **612.722.3324**

CONTACT ONE MONTH PRIOR TO EACH 2013 EVENT
STEVNE classes, entertainment, ethnic food, fun, genealogy, tours
More data about **Bygdelagenes Fellesraad** and its affiliates online
www.fellesraad.com

REMEMBERING PREVIOUS LEADERS

For about a decade the Fellesraad has recognized the lives of departed lag leaders, as well as deaths in their families during the last year. **Please send President Somdahl a written notice of the deaths of leaders, the office they held in your lag, or relationship of their family member.** To date I have nine names. Last year there were 25. Also, please **check the spellings** of the names before submitting them. They no doubt have appeared in your lag newsletter or the daily paper in your community.

Agenda - May 4

Arrival Coffee at 9:15 a.m.
Greet Others
Call to order about 9:30
National Anthems, accompanied

By Sandy Hendrickson
United States
Canada
Norway

Introductions
Congratulations
& Greetings

Roll Call of delegates

Secretary's 2012 Minutes
Report of Audit and
Treasurer's report

Special order:
Election for 2013-14
Report of the President
Vice President
Webmaster

Old Business:
**New Business:
Eunice Helgeson,
Director

As time permits:
Suggest project for matched
funds
Membership Initiatives

Cultural Program:
DR. LAWRENCE MOE

Table Prayer: Doxology
LUNCH

CLOSING ANNOUNCE-
MENTS

* *Items for possible inclusion
in the agenda must reach the
board by April 15.

Hilsen fra President Somdahl:

There is news for the 2016 Fellesraad Centennial.

Lag responses following *stevner* last summe were taken into consideration, and the board voted to hold the event during our regular meeting time—**the first weekend in May 2016**. It will include the 100th annual meeting. The scope and shape it takes beyond that is yet to be determined. Think about what you would like to “brag” about for your lag on that occasion, and how to involve families.

Plans for the big occasion in 2016 may be historical, fun, feature good food and prepare for a future lag legacy—especially for more recently organized bygdslag. Exhibits and brief histories from each lag have been suggested.

In case you are counting, we had 43 delegates representing **25 bygdslag at the annual meeting last year**. Valdres Samband, our oldest and largest lag, is 114 years old this year. Our younger lag are in the 20-25 year old category.

Congratulations go to just one centennial lag this year--Nordhordlandslag! It meets in June with Vestlandslag at Bigwood Convention Center, Fergus Falls, MN. It will be the 22nd to receive this achievement.

Board members have had a busy 2013 to date. One of us has had a total knee replacement and another is having rotator cuff/shoulder surgery. Needless to say, the physical therapy involved takes time and by the annual meeting we will hopefully be on the road to continued fitness.

Congratulations if you have been elected to office in your lag. **If you are new to office**, as a president, secretary or treasurer, you may wish to file this information. Fellesraad dues (and previously agreed upon fees) are payable **January 1**. Contact person with phone and e-mail for print advertising are due **January 15**, and names and addresses of delegates are asked by **February 15**. Usually, presidents serve as delegates and ask one other person.

Please check the web site to be sure your data is current. Prior to the update of the January

2013 brochure were three names of recently deceased people that the Fellesraad president removed! The brochure is **downloadable** in booklet format on legal paper or four sheets of 8.5x11” paper. Plan to use this to get current info.

The board has again voted a memorial gift to the Muskego Church maintenance fund to recognize the lives of elected or appointive past officers or their families. Last year 25 names were memorialized. Muskego, built in 1843 by Norwegians with Wisconsin timber, was moved to Luther Seminary’s St. Paul campus. **A May 17th service is held there at 3 PM each year.** Lefse is served outdoors afterward.

Your president represents the Fellesraad on the Minneapolis Syttende Mai Minnesota Committee which meets January-June. **Brochures and \$2 buttons will be available at the May 4 meeting.** All are invited to the May 17 evening banquet (\$50 per person) at Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington, MN. The speaker will be flown in from Norway. He is Mr. **Knut Brakstad, the private secretary to His Majesty, King Harald V.** (Seating capacity of 300 was sold-out last year, so seats may no longer be available if you wait to decide. Email me for a brochure soon).

Lag newsletter editors may wish to know the following: Do not use “the” preceding Bygdslagenes Fellesraad. The ending of the first word has it built in, meaning “all of the” bygdslag. You may write “the” Fellesraad. It should also be noted that **the word, lag, is both singular and plural**, like sheep or deer in English, i.e. one lag; three lag; many lag. (Usage in many publications are now using the English “s” to form the plural, but it is not necessary.)

Bygdslag Week at the Family History Center at Salt Lake City, Utah, has continued after the Fellesraad incentives some years ago. It happens early in the year and information about it is found on the www.fellesraad.com web site. It continues to be an efficient and economical way to attend classes with special attention to Norwegian resource people. This year sponsors also included DIS-Norge and the Family History Center in Utah. VP Marilyn Sorensen assisted with the planning.

God Paske

Easter will be early this year, arriving on March 31. Like the other high holidays of the church—Christmas and Pentecost, Easter gets two days of celebration in Norway. Many take advantage of the school break for Holy Week to go skiing and attend services in the mountains. The Norway Easter flower is the jonquil instead of the white lily used in the U.S.

More Newsbits

An order was placed with the MN Secretary of State for the 749-NP original file of our corporation and amendments of its articles this February. Since they are filed apart from the March 3, 1925 file, they have reference numbers to assist in getting them.

Amendments were filed and certified in 1955, 1956, and 2000.

It should be of interest to a person raising the question at a previous meeting that **Article VIII** provides “that the duration of this corporation shall be perpetual and the time of commencement shall be the twentieth day of March nineteen hundred and twenty six (1926).” Filed 9/19/55 and certified 9/21/55. Ref: Q-14, 35

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Marian Viney, marketing specialist for the Wisconsin Historical Society informs us that Jerry Paulson of the NAGC & Naeseth Library in Madison will hold a genealogical workshop from 9 AM til noon at the Memorial Library, Room 126 in **Madison, WI, Saturday, March 16. Fee: \$40 for non-members; members less. www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/**

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Minnesota History Center, **St. Paul, MN**, has an exhibit, “**Minnesota and the Civil War.**” www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/exhibits. Opens March 2 and continues to Sept 1.

Twin Cities Friends of Vesterheim Museum will hold a Nordic Marketplace April 20 from 3-6 PM and a **6 PM gala dinner at \$40 per person for their 40th annual celebration.** The Scandinavian band Foot-Notes will provide music for dancing. **Mpls. Marriott Southwest. Email snjohnson@vesterheim.org** Send reservation checks payable to Vesterheim Museum, Twin Cities Friends Event, PO Box 379, Decorah, IA 52101

Recommended Non-fiction

Alt for Norway: The Resistance Movement in Norway during World War II, by Christian Klebo Skjervold II, published by Birchpoint Press, 2012, 117 pages.

Christian sought to explore the main lines of the resistance to the Nazi occupation — especially in Nord Norge, and to show the strong will of the people of Norway during this period. Originally, the text was written as a Ph.D. dissertation in Norway while the author was on a Fulbright-Hayes scholarship in 1966-67. He did not live to see the published copy since he died November 3, 2011.

Christian taught in the Minneapolis Public High Schools and did presentations for several bygdelag, Mindekirken’s Tuesday Open House, and other groups.. He was Nordlandslag’s longtime president and had served the Fellesraad as president for a total of four years.

Recommended Fiction

You may be interested in Norwegian characters of yesteryear in American novels.

Try ***The Lighthouse Road*** by Minneapolis author Peter Geye, published by Unbridled Books, 2012, 293 pages..

It is his second novel and it considers the hardships of an immigrant woman who is not yet well-schooled in the English language and what a hazard that is while she works in a lumber camp. Good storytelling and beautiful descriptions of Northern Minnesota and the Great Lakes also figure in his first novel, ***Safe from the Sea***, 2010, about the reunion of a father and son from the same publisher.

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRÅD

Minutes of the 96th Annual Meeting
May 5, 2012

The 96th Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held May 5, 2012, at Mindelkirken in Minneapolis, Minnesota. President Marilyn Somdahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and welcomed delegates and guests. She then introduced the Fellesraad Officers.

The Norwegian, Canadian and American National Anthems were sung with Sandy Hendrickson at the piano.

GREETINGS: The Honorary Consul General Gary Gandrud brought greetings. Tamra Foster, President of Sunnfjord, had her picture taken with the Honorary Consul General. Sunnfjord lag is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. And they are the 21st lag to do so.

ROLL CALL: The roll call for each Bygdelaag was read by Sonia Rache, and the delegates answered with their names and the number of members in their lag. They also told about members who had participated in any of the October (2011) activities during the visit of the Norwegian Monarchs. The number of delegates is listed following the lag's name:

Gudbrandsdalslag (2); Hadeland Lag (2); Hallinglag (2); Hardanger Lag (1); Landingslag (2); Møre og Romsdal Lag (2); Nordfjordlag (2); Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag (1); Nordhordland/Sunnhordland Lag (1); Nordlandslag (2); Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag (2); Rogaland Lag (2); Romerikslag (2); Sigdalslag (2); Sognalag (2); Sognefjord Lag (1); Solør Lag (2); Sunnfjord Lag (1); Telelag (2); Toten (2); Tronderlag (2); Valdres Samband (2); Vestlandslag (2); and Vosselag (2).

Memorials: Old Muskego Church's maintenance Fund will receive a gift in memory of lag leaders or their families whose deaths were reported this year. Lorraine Sloan, Gudbrands-

dalslag; George Hawley and Delos C. Olson, Hadeland; Amanda Tuft, Hallinglag; Everette Herness, Landingslag; Christian K. Skjervold II, Nordlandslag & Fellesraad; Elaine Smiley, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken; Lena Homme, Ruth Roosa, Lucille Tunheim and Gladys Zeller, Numedalslaagen; John Kuecker, Opdalslag; Marion Hoff and Alice Gronseth, Sigdalslag; Lorinda J. Grefsrud, Romerikslag/Solør Lag; Andrew & Fern Wulff, Sognalag, Robert Christensen, Marv Bergland, John Kirn, Audrey Overland and Charlotte Sersland, Telelag; Alice Brask, Trønderlag; Corella Hamre, Valdres Samband; Jean Legried, Vestlandslag.

Muskego Church will have a service at 3 P.M. May 17 and will serve lefse on the lawn after the service.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Secretary's Minutes of May 7, 2011, as printed in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report for April 30, 2012, along with the budget for the year ending April 30, 2013, were presented by R. Lee Brown, Treasurer. The books, records and ledgers for the period May 1, 2011, through April 30, 2012, were audited and found in order by Robert O'Neil.

A motion was made to accept the financial statements and audit as presented. The motion was seconded and carried. (Copy of the financial reports is attached).

ELECTIONS: The slate of officers was read by Secretary, Sonia Rache, and placed in nomination for the next year: President, Marilyn Somdahl; Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen; Treasurer, R. Lee Brown; Secretary, Sonia Rache; Webmaster/Director, Eugene Rodi; and Director, Eunice Helgeson. Marilyn Sorensen called for nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made to close nominations and to accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded and carried with one opposing (voice) vote.

REPORTS: President Marilyn Somdahl's report was printed in the newsletter. Some requests were outlined in the newsletter so that all delegates get the same information.

Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen, reported that since 2006 we have had a program in conjunction with the Norwegian Lag Week at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, which she has attended and helped set up. Next year Norwegian Lag Week will be March 13-19, 2013. An average of 15 people attend each year.

BROCHURES: Webmaster Eugene Rodi stated that each lag can print out current brochures in two formats--legal size or 8.5 x 11" paper--from the web site, and send the bill to Fellesraad.

OLD BUSINESS: Lags have contributed to print advertising in the Viking Magazine since 2004. A motion was made and seconded to have each lag continue to contribute \$15.00 toward print advertising of the dates and sites of lag stevner for 2013 in the Viking Magazine. A motion was made and seconded to amend the motion to zero dollars per lag contribution, and have the Fellesraad pay the entire sum. Delegates voted for the amendment by standing with 14 votes in favor and 27 votes opposed. The amendment failed. The vote on the original motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Eunice Helgeson reported that 2016 is the 100th Anniversary of the Fellesraad. The Board has begun planning a two-day celebration in July or August of 2016. The two-day event would feature history on Friday, and look forward to the future of our lags and focus on the younger generation on Saturday. Each lag can be a part of the future plans. Eunice asked delegates to volunteer and define the area of their strongest skills and interest on a sign-up sheet.

PROGRAM: Jackie Henry, the administrative director of NAHA, Northfield, MN, spoke. Her topic was "Using the Norwegian-American Historical Association as a Bygdelag Archive".

TRIPS and BOOKS: Halling Lag has a July 28 - August 11, 2012, trip to Norway. Sigdalslag has an August 30 - September 10, 2012, trip to Norway and a book in production. Gudbrandsdalslag and Telelag are also planning Norway trips. Both have several books available. Hadeland Lag and Solør Lag have centennial books. Landingslag now has their book on immigrants available in Wisconsin and Minnesota on inter-library loan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Syttende Mai Banquet is being held May 17 at Minnesota Valley Country Club. Brochures are available with a choice of activities.

Gracia Grindal has a new book, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs from The North*, available for about \$32.00.

Marilyn Somdahl reported that the Fellesraad had helped finance the publication of Odd Lovoll's book, *A Folk Epic: The Bygdelag in America*, that Jackie Henry had with her.

The Doxology was sung. The meeting was adjourned at noon. We then enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia H. Rache, Secretary

Note to All Bygdelag

If you have up-to-date lag brochures for your own lag, please consider sending your Fellesraad president 25-30 for a display table by April 15. If we have enough positive responses, we may get a table, but the reserve deadline is March 8.

Your email response (yes or no) ASAP or by March 3 will decide if we do this.

May 4 Annual Meeting Reservation Form
Come to Mindekirken for coffee, business, program and lunch

Postmarked before April 15, cost is \$16 per person; thereafter, cost is \$18 per person

Delegate? Which Lag? _____
Our lag has _____ individual members **or**
_____ family units

Guest names? Which Lag?

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAIL with check by April 24 — also last day for refunds or changes in delegates—

To Treasurer R. Lee Brown, 2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422

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- If you are a lag president, **you are responsible to see that your delegates get this notice**; others may wish to hear our program. If I have not gotten current addresses, you will get extra copies to mail to delegates.
- **If your lag plans to hold a planning meeting following lunch at Mindekirken**, please call the church office (612-874-0716) to make arrangements and pay the appropriate fees or your portion of it.

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Officers

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VELKOMMEN, PRESIDENTS!

Congratulations to the new lag presidents
elected in 2012:

Hadeland Lag
Anne Sladky, Laporte, MN

Solør Lag
Martha Thompson, Mason City, IA

Valdres Samband
Bruce Weaver, Greensboro, NC

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www.fellesraad.com

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**NORWAY CELEBRATES WOMEN
FOR 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE**

What is newsworthy about Norway in 2013?

In the event you were not aware of it, June 11, 2013, will mark the 100th anniversary of the introduction of universal suffrage in Norway. **In fact, Norway was the first independent country in the world to allow the right to vote for both men and women!**

Other areas had given the right to vote earlier—New Zealand in 1893, Australia in 1902, and Finland in 1906; however, these countries were not independent and the women could not be elected to political positions. Therefore, Norway was the first sovereign state in the world to introduce universal suffrage for both sexes. Once women had the right to vote, the formal foundation was in place for them to participate in democratic bodies on an equal footing with men.

Dag Terje Andersen, president of the Storting (Parliament), said in his Nobel (Peace Prize) banquet speech, December 10, 2011: **“When foreigners ask me about the reasons for Norway’s relatively strong economy, I say that it’s not because of our oil; it’s because of our women.”**

In Norway the struggle for women’s right to vote began in the 1880s. Among traditionalists there was fear that home life would be destroyed. The opposing side wished to spare women from “one of the most difficult dilemmas in life”; indeed, they “did not wish to place this burden on women.”

In Norway the first woman prime minister was Gro Harlem Brundtland, a pediatrician by training, who assumed office in 1981. By 2006 it became law that 40% of company board members must be women. This is also reflected in government (political) positions.

During the centenary, the Norwegian government intends to foster engagement in and support for important aspects of its democracy, such as the right to vote, equal opportunities, participation and representation. It will also look to expanding democracy in such areas as low representation or low voter turnout, especially of young people and immigrants.

An International Women’s Day was first celebrated in Norway in 1915. Even then, the focus was on peace and development of gender equality. It became an annual event on March 8.

In the United States, amendments giving the vote to women were introduced in Congress for more than 40 years before Amendment 19 was proposed June 4, 1919. It was proclaimed (effective) August 26, 1920.

Section 1 : The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2 : Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment 26 gives the vote to citizens 18 years of age.

Sources: www.norway.org; www.emb-norway.ca/News; *World Book encyclopedia*