

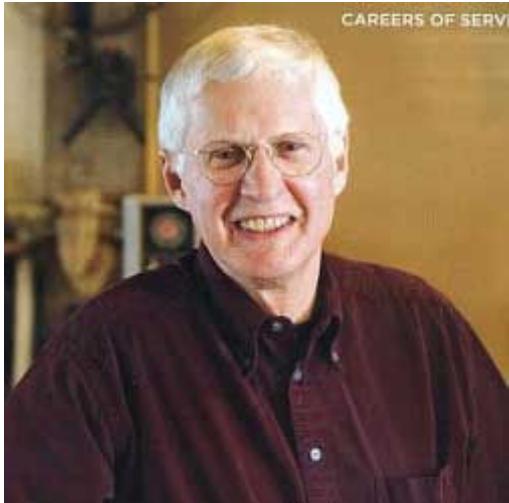
BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD BULLETIN

NORWEGIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BYGDELAG

www.fellesraad.com

Since 1916

March 2014



Guest speaker, Dr. **Byron Nordstrom**, is *Professor Emeritus* at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter, where he was a faculty member from 1974 to his retirement in 2009.

NORDSTROM PRESENTS PROGRAM

Besides teaching European history, Nordstrom's extensive writing and editing experiences have had a major research emphasis. It won't surprise you that history is one of his favorite hobbies.

He currently edits *The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*. As an author, his most recent book is *The Culture and Customs of Sweden* (2010). Others are *The History of Sweden* (2002) and *Scandinavia Since 1500* (1976), along with articles and chapters for other publications.

"Destined to Fail? One King, Two Peoples, Two Constitutions: The No Norwegian-Swedish Union in 1814" is the title he selected for his illustrated talk in the context of the Union's formation. He asks, "Was the dual monarchy fatally flawed from the outset?"

You are in for a treat this year to hear the background story not only of the Norwegian Constitution but also of the Swedish Constitution of 1809. Consider bringing a guest! Norwegians are celebrating the 200th *grunnlovsdag* or Constitution Day this May 17!

Hobbies include boat building and woodworking, and recent research is about maintaining cultural identities in Swedish America, especially in the 1920s & 1930s.

His degrees are from Lawrence University, BA, 1965, and the University of Minnesota, MA, 1968, and PhD, 1971.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE MAY 3 ANNUAL MEETING AT MINDEKIRKEN

Delegates and guests are invited to register early for the 98th Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad to be held May 3 at the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, 924 East 21st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404-2952. The meeting will be called to order at 9:30 AM, following coffee upon arrival in the lower level at 9 AM.

The fee is \$17 per person (for delegates or guests) when the registration **is received by the treasurer before April 22** and the fee is \$20 per person thereafter. It includes arrival coffee, lunch following the business meeting, and the program. Treasurer Lee Brown's address appears on p. 7.

Two delegates may be seated for each *bygdelag* in good standing; dues are \$5 per lag.

Roll call this year will include 1) **names of willing volunteers for the 2016 Centennial committee** and 2) **the interest so far of your lag in support of Norway House**.

Special order of business: the annual election of officers and ongoing discussion concerning Norway House fundraising by individual lag and by Fellesraad, who gave a gift last year.

Incumbent officers are nominees for the coming year and there is a **vacancy for a director** to serve on the board. All positions are for one year. Please check with the person you wish as a nominee so that this person will be able to attend several board meetings in the Twin Cities, if elected.

Please forward the full name and e-mail of your willing candidate for Director to Secretary Mary Gross by **April 15** for placement on the ballot.

Lunch follows the program at 12 noon. Adjournment may be delayed if a recess is needed to complete business. Pictures may be taken to in-

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
CELEBRATE YOUR BYGDELAG
And the Bicentenary of the Norwegian Constitution of 1814

JUNE

- 19-21 Valdres Samband**, AmericInn, Albert Lea, MN
Bruce Weaver II, dakota3h@triad.rr.com
- 19-21 Vestlandslag**, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI
Bob Hanson, [763.441.4463](tel:763.441.4463) or H4414463@juno.com
- Hardanger, Møre og Romsdal, Nordhordland, Rogaland, Sogn
nlag, Sunnfjord, Sunnhordland, and Voss
- 24-26 Nordlandslag**, GuestHouse TownHouse Hotel, Grand Forks, ND
Devon Jokstad, DevonJokstad@msn.com

JULY

- 17-19 7 Lag Stevne**, ND State College of Science, Wahpeton, ND
www.7lagstevne.com; habbstad@prtel.com
- Numedalslag (hosts), Chet Habberstad, **218.826.6268**
Hadeland Anne Sladky, president@hadelandlag.org
Landingslag, Eric Goplin, eig@triwest.net
Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag, Lynn Nord, lynn8487@gmail.com
Sigdalslag, Jean Knaak, **651.357.6139**
Telelag, John Haugo, **715.381.1430**
Toten, Helen Buche, president@totenlag.org

AUGUST

- 06-09 Tre-Lag Stevne**, Best Western & Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN
Gudbrandsdal, Jim Olson, jimolson@midco.net
N. Hedmark og Hedemarken, Joy Shong, nhohpres@gmail.com
Trønderlag, Linda Schwartz, president@tronderlag.org
- 07-09 Sognefjord**, Eau Claire & Mondovi, WI, Kathy Johnson, **608.238.1785**
- 21-24 Hallinglag**, Holiday Inn, Austin, MN; T E Lanman, telanman@comcast.net

SEPTEMBER

- 10-13 Romerikslag & Solør Lag**, Courtyard Marriott, Mankato, MN
Joel Botten, **507.388.1995**; Marie Thompson, **641.423.0487**
- 13-14 Opdalslag**, Scandia Lutheran Church, Centerville, SD
Pauline Strait, phstrait@gmail.com
- 21 Nordfjordlag**, Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN,
Betty Rodi, **320.796.6800**; Gene Rodi, **612.722.3324**

CONTACT ONE MONTH PRIOR TO EACH 2014 EVENT
STEVNE classes, entertainment, ethnic food, fun, genealogy, tours
More data about *Bygdelagenes Fellesraad* and its affiliates online

REMEMBERING PREVIOUS LEADERS

Please send President Somdahl a written notice of the deaths of lag leaders or someone in their family and the office they held in your lag.

Since 2004 we have read their names and sent a memorial toward maintenance of old Muskego Church at Luther Seminary. 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 3

Arrival Coffee at 9:00 AM.
Greet Others
Call to order about 9:30
National Anthems, accompanied by Elaine Nordlie
United States
Canada
Norway

Introductions of Officers
Greetings
CG Gary Gandrud, Honorary Norwegian Consulate General

ROLL CALL of delegates:
1) Centennial volunteers
2) your lag's interest in Norway House?

Secretary's 2013 Minutes
Report of Audit and
Treasurer's report

Special order:
Election for 2014-15
Norway House Plans
Report of the President
Vice President
Webmaster

****New Business:**
BF Centennial
Jean Knaak, Chr & Director,
Eunice Helgeson

Cultural Program:
Dr. Byron Nordstrom

Table Prayer: *I Jesu Navn*
LUNCH

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

www.fellesraad.com

Hilsen fra President Somdahl:

This has been a year of many adjustments and 'firsts' for me. My husband of almost 55 years and the great joy of my life passed away quite suddenly last May 13. My volunteer activities continue as before, but grief also intrudes and makes its own demands. I deeply appreciate your cards, flowers, memorials, and other condolences as well as the lag friends who came to the Pentecost evening visitation or the Monday service, May 20.

Many others also grieve, and the board has again voted a memorial gift to the Muskego Church Maintenance Fund to recognize the lives of elected or appointive past officers and their families. *Bygdelag* groups are indebted to its leaders who helped a lag to thrive.

Because of its historical significance, Muskego Church, built in 1843 by Norwegians in Wisconsin with Wisconsin timber, was moved many years ago to Luther Seminary's St. Paul campus. A Syttende Mai service is held there at 3 PM each year. Lefse is served outdoors afterward.

His Excellency Kåre Aas, Norway's Ambassador to the United States, will be the guest speaker Saturday evening, May 17, at Minnesota Valley Country Club, 6300 Auto Club Road, Bloomington, MN 55438. Space is limited; reserve early. First come, first served. The cost is \$50 per person with a **5 PM reception and dinner at 6:15 PM**. The event is planned by Syttende Mai MN annually.

To pay by check, send an e-mail to 17maicommittee@gmail.com. Include the name of each guest and a dinner selection, (salmon or beef). **Mail the check** to Syttende Mai Minnesota, c/o Honorary Norwegian Consulate General, 901 Marquette Ave, Suite 2750, Minneapolis, MN 55402. Funds must be received before 5 PM May 7. For credit cards, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-syttende-mai-minnesota-banquet-tickets-10516640555>.

About 50 other groups are planning metro area events for May 17 weekend as well. View them on Facebook—<https://www.facebook.com/#!/MNNoriske>. **Brochures and commemorative buttons will be available at the May 3 meeting.** Buttons have an official logo from Norway and editors of lag newsletters are encouraged to use and share it with their readers. It celebrates the 200th year of Norway's Constitution.

Congratulations to newly elected lag presidents: **Jim Olson**, Gubrandsdalslag, **Tom Lanman**, Hallinglag; **Eric Goplin**, Landingslag; **Lynn Nord**, Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag; and **Linda Schwartz**, Tron-

derlag. Olson and Schwartz served previously.

Lag Officers may wish to file these deadlines:

- **Annual DUES of \$5 are payable January 1**
- City and date/s of annual stevne plus a named Contact Person with phone or e-mail **for print advertising is due January 15**.
- **Lag delegate names and addresses —both e-mail and regular mail—are due February 15.** Usually, presidents serve as delegates and ask one other person.

Who reads the online BF Bulletin? The November-December 2013 edition was e-mailed to presidents and also is online for everyone to read. You need especially to inform lag treasurers! Most of them will not pay a nickel unless given a green light from their lag president. You might have been surprised to find no fee for print advertising this year! Please look at it now. **Other new information was to be found there, so that your board could have time to meet and consider what will be discussed at this coming annual meeting.**

Each lag must update its own information on the Fellesraad web site, www.fellesraad.com When the Fellesraad president last visited the online **BF Brochure**, she found several names that no longer belonged there! **Please update your e-mails, phone numbers and new contact person when changes occur on both lag sites and for the brochure.** The brochure is **downloadable** in booklet format on legal paper or four sheets of 8.5x11" paper. Plan to view or print this to get current information.

Two years and counting --

Announcement for the 2016 Fellesraad Centennial for the first weekend in May 2016 was made last year after the board considered lag responses.

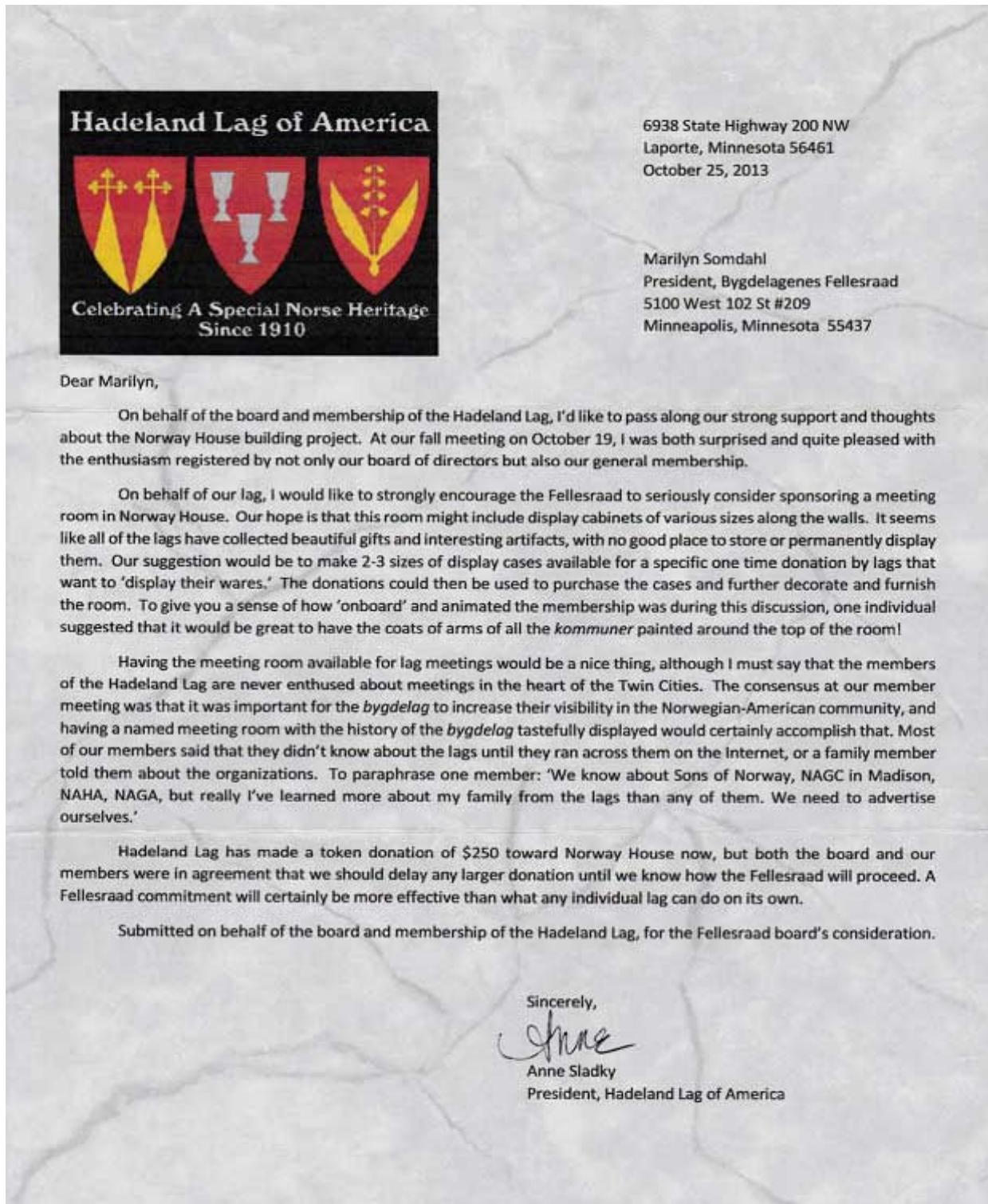
It will include everything that can be packed in the time allowed with many special people and festive activities, including those for families and children, as well as the 100th annual meeting.

Jean Knaak has agreed to chair the event. Plans beyond that are being determined as sub-committes get organized. What can you "brag" about for your lag? How should families be involved? See web site: fellesraad/centennial.

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 *bygdelag*. Exhibits and brief histories from each lag have been suggested.

We have reserved the best place to accommodate us; with

This letter becomes the basis of a proposed discussion to be entertained by individual *bygdelag* boards, if possible, before coming to the May 3, 2014, annual *Fellesraad* meeting. Some lag may not have had the discussion at a *stevne*, but several lag have already given gifts or pledges (over time) to Norway House. Perhaps a plan for a unified approach might be welcomed by both affiliated *bygdelag* and Norway House, as recipient.



Please read before May 3

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD

Minutes of May 4, 2013, Annual Meeting

The 97th Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held May 4, 2013, at Mindekirken in Minneapolis, Minnesota. President Marilyn Somdahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and welcomed delegates and guests. She called for a special order to the agenda for ratification of an amendment to Article V of the Articles of Incorporation and it was accepted.

The Norwegian, Canadian and American National Anthems were sung with Sandy Hendrickson, President of Landingslag, at the piano. The President introduced the members of the Executive Board. Congratulations were extended to Nordhordlandsdag which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year.

Pastor Kristin Sundt brought greetings from Mindekirken, and Vice Consul Britt DeLange Ardarkani brought greetings.

ROLL CALL: The roll call for each Bygdelag was read by Sonia Rache, and the delegates answered with their names and the number of individual members or family units in their lag. The number of delegates is listed following the lag's name: Gudbrandsdalslag (2), Hadeland Lag (2), Hallinglag (2), Hardanger Lag (1), Landingslag (2), More og Romsdal Lag (1), Nordfjordlag (2), Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken Lag (1), Nordhordland/Sunnhordland Lag (1), Nordlandsdag (2), Numedalslaagen Lag (2), Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag (2), Rogaland Lag (2), Romerikslag (2), Sigmarslag (2), Sognalag (2), Sognefjord Lag (2), Solør Lag (1), Sunnfjord Lag (1), Telemark (2), Toten (2), Trønderlag (0), Valdres Samband (2), Vestlandslag (1), and Vosselag (1).

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made to accept the Secretary's Minutes of May 5, 2012, as printed in the newsletter. A motion was made to amend the minutes by adding that there has been a good email exchange of genealogy and contacts between lags since last year. The motion was passed for the addition and the motion as amended was seconded and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report for April 30, 2013, along with the budget for the year ending April 30, 2013, was presented by R.

Lee Brown, Treasurer. The books, records and ledgers for the period May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013, were audited and found in order by Robert O'Neil.

The budget item for Norway House included \$2,500 for a named gift from the Fellesraad; however, a motion was made from the floor to increase the Norway House donation to \$5,000.00. After a second there was discussion of support. The motion carried. The executive board will take up the authorization question for the spending of unbudgeted funds at its next meeting.

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

SPECIAL ORDER: A motion was made to ratify the first paragraph of Article V of the Articles of Incorporation to modify or change the wording "and two Directors" to read "two to four Directors". The delegates voted to approve the change.

ELECTIONS: The slate of officers was read by Secretary, Sonia Rache, and placed in nomination for next year. President, Marilyn Somdahl; Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen; Treasurer, R. Lee Brown; Secretary, Mary Gross; Webmaster/ Director, EuGene Rodi; Director, Eunice Helgeson; and Director, Don Teigen. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close nominations. A motion to accept the slate as presented was seconded and carried.

REPORTS: President Marilyn Somdahl's report was printed in the newsletter.

Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen, reported that 16 people attended the Norwegian Lag Week at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, this year. Roots Tech also met. Roots Tech combines state-of-the-art technology and genealogy. Next year Roots Tech is scheduled for February 6-8, 2014, and Norwegian Lag Week is scheduled for February 9-15, 2014, in Salt Lake City. A 2014 Genealogy Seminar in Norway for Norwegian-Americans, currently in the planning stages, is to be sponsored by Dis Norge, Fellesraad and possibly one or two more sponsors. This will be held October 18 to November 2, 2014, and will be another way to find ancestors in Norway.

WEBMASTER: EuGene Rodi reported there have been problems with hackers into the system. If something looks suspicious – just delete it.

(continued on the next page)

Annual Meeting Minutes (continued)
May 4, 2013

NEW BUSINESS: Eunice Helgeson reported on the Fellesraad Centennial Plans for 2016. Tentatively plans are to hold the event on May 7, 2016, in conjunction with the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held in the morning followed by lunch, activities in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening. The focus will be on where we have been – a history of Fellesraad – and looking ahead. Jean Knaak will lead the planning. Eunice asked for helpers on this committee.

John Reindl, genealogist of Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken, had sets of books, given gratis to several bygdelag from the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library, 415 W. Main Street, Madison, WI 53703. They share the title, *Norwegian Immigrants to the United States: Biographical Directory, 1825-1850*. Volume 1 is 1825-1843; Vol 2, 1844-1846; Vol 3, 1847-48; Vol 4, 1849 and Vol 5, 1850. The first three volumes were by Gerhard B. Naeseth, Vol 4 by Naeseth and Blaine Hedberg and Vol 5 by Blaine Hedberg and Naeseth.

Several lags would like to be able to exchange newsletters. Contact the lag with which you propose an exchange. If the lag is willing, it was suggested that the newsletter be put on the website and a link be sent so other lags can pick up.

Fellesraad website has the lag newsletter editor listed. All the contact people for each lag are also on the Fellesraad website in addition to genealogist and newsletter editor.

Sandra Hendrickson sent around two inspirational cards for delegates to sign for Narv Sondahl, the RDD president who is absent this year due to stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

PROGRAM: Lawrence Moe, Professor of English and Director Master of Liberal Studies at Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, MN, presented a program on one of his favorite topics "Carl Ben Eielson, the Norwegian-American Lindbergh".

Announcements were made for Syttende Mai buttons and activities and for Norway Day.

The meeting was adjourned at noon, and we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Sonia H. Rache, Secretary

SPRING EVENTS

APRIL 12: Twin Cities Friends of Vesterheim Museum will hold a Nordic Marketplace with a choice of either lunch or dinner at the **Minneapolis Marriott Southwest Hotel**.

The Fellesraad will share an information table at the Marketplace to meet people who want lag information. Eunice Helgeson will be calling each lag to obtain a dozen lag brochures.

The lunch or dinner is \$60 with required reservations received (by March 7, 2014) and other guests may purchase a ticket of \$10 at the door for the Marketplace. Hours for each are Noon to 2 PM for lunch; 2-5:30 for the marketplace; and a gala dinner at 6 PM.

A similar "friends" luncheon event is being held in the Chicago area **April 5 at Park Ridge Country Club, Park Ridge, IL**.

For more information call Stephanie Johnson, 563-382-9681, ext. 103 or e-mail snjohnson@vesterheim.org

Send reservation checks payable to Vesterheim Museum, Twin Cities Friends Event, PO Box 379, Decorah, IA 52101-0379

The Commonwealth Theatre, Lanesboro, MN offers a Henrik Ibsen play every year. This year the play is *Brand*, and if you go to the web site calendar you can see it from April 4 to June 13, except Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Curtain time is 7:30 PM or Sunday matinees at 1:30 PM. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for students or 5 plays for \$99 in a season pass.

Other plays are Arsenic and Old Lace, May 9-Sept 6; Around the World in 80 Days, from June 20 to Oct 27; Arcadia, September 12-November 9; and Every Christmas Story Ever Told. November 14-December 21.

See commonwealththeatre.org and check on good bed & breakfast places for overnights.

enthusiastic volunteers, we plan to have a great festival.

May 3 Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Come to Mindekirken for coffee, business, program and lunch

Postmarked before April 22, cost is \$17 per person; thereafter, cost is \$20 per person

Delegate? Which Lag? _____

Our lag has _____ individual members or
_____ family units

Guest names? Which Lag?

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAIL with check by April 22 — 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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Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Officers

Marilyn D. Somdahl, President, 952-831-4409
the.president@fellesraad.com
5100 West 102 Street, Unit 209,
Bloomington, MN 55437

Marilyn Sorenson, Vice President, 651-633-1329
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5541 Woodland Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Don Teigen, Director, 952-922-6282
7250 Lewis Ridge Pkwy #217
Edina, MN 55439

Our web site
www.fellesraad.com

- If you are a lag president, **you are responsible to see that your delegates get this notice**; others may also wish to hear our program. If I have not gotten current addresses, you will get a pdf to forward 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.

Bygdelag Week at the Family History Center at Salt Lake City, Utah, has just concluded for this year. Thanks to VP Marilyn Sorenson for assisting with planning and helping others with genealogy.

Information and dates can be found on our web site, if you plan to go next year. Norwegian resource people there are very helpful.

Sponsors are the Fellesraad, DIS-Norge and the Family History Center in Utah.

Bygdelagesnes Fellesraad Bulletin
Marilyn D. Somdahl, President & Editor
5100 W. 102 Street, #209
Minneapolis, MN 55437

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Thoughts About Bygdelag and Norway House

About 10 years ago your president was among the first leaders invited by Consul General Thor Johansen of the Royal Norwegian Consulate General at Minneapolis to explore an idea for a Norway House.

Some of you will remember him because he came to our annual meeting once or twice and spoke about the work of an advisory committee in pursuing this idea. Your president attended many meetings, served on the advisory committee for four years, and supported Norway House financially when an official board was elected and fundraising began.

The initial plans gave way to successive plans and now a building has been secured and given definition to a more unified location and a plan (with a shared parking lot behind the Norwegian Memorial Church) at 913 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. The proximity to the church will enhance the Norwegian presence in a neighborhood ready for redevelopment.

Nearing the end of last year a goal of \$300,000 was not only successful, but it was over-subscribed in gifts and pledges. The former Wings Financial building will be renovated and many people have shared their ideas with

the Norway House board at information meetings attended by its gifted architect, Dewey Thorbeck.

Last year the Fellesraad gave one gift and there is money in the 2014-2015 proposed budget for another gift from the Fellesraad.

Several *bygdelag* have already given gifts or pledged them to arrive over time. These were undertaken on their own initiative.

Please review the Hadeland letter which is included with the consent of Anne Sladky, lag president. Her board would like to build on a *bygdelag* presence over time and offer fellow Norwegians some of the expertise in areas of resources and research that are not duplicated in other places. This will be a part of the discussion at the May 3 meeting.

Also the Fellesraad board met very recently—after two postponements, (one weather related). It is among the reasons you will be getting a PDF via email this year — that you presidents can share with your delegates, officers, editors, genealogists and guests.

The Fellesraad board took action for offering an incentive for **future** lag gifts to Norway House that come in between May 3, 2014, and