



## ***Fellesraad Update – January 2017***

Hei alle Lag Officers,

Godt Nytt Aar to all of you! Some exciting things are happening with Fellesraad and Bygdelag.

- As of 4 November 2016, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad of the U.S. and Norsk Slektshistorisk Forening (NSF) of Norway have entered into a partnering agreement (see photo). This is The Norwegian Genealogy Society that is based in Oslo and has members throughout Norway and elsewhere. Rune Nedrud, their Chairman, expressed a great interest in the sharing of each organization's publications, among other activities. Sending our Lag newsletters electronically will save us printing and postage to Norway.
- This partnership movement was unanimously approved by the Fellesraad Board. It is one of the steps we are taking to move our organization into the



21<sup>st</sup> Century.

- You all know that our Annual May Meeting is held the first weekend in May in Minneapolis. This year we will have break-out sessions designed specifically for lag officers, including the Genealogists, Newsletter Editors, and Treasurers. We will also have sessions on Publicity and Social Media and a Stevne Planning Bootcamp.
- Rune Nedrud from NSF in Norway will be attending and presenting several sessions, including the keynote at our May meeting. He will share what they are doing with genealogy in Norway and how he sees our partnership functioning together.
- A more detailed schedule of classes at the annual meeting will be



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forthcoming soon. So, plan to attend the Annual Meeting and those sessions which will be helpful to your Lag. It will be a rejuvenating meeting!

- We are expanding this annual meeting to a day and half – half a day on Friday, May 5 day and a full day on Saturday, May 6. These break-out sessions promise to be extremely helpful to all individuals who are currently lag officers and potential lag officers.
- Another exciting joint effort is taking shape. Bygdelagenes Fellesraad and Norwegians Worldwide (formerly Nordmanns Forbundet) are planning a joint Hurtigruten trip leaving Bergen on 3 September and then returning to Bergen on 15 September 2017. An announcement of the cost and trip details will be out the middle of January. Travelers must be a member of either Norwegians Worldwide or a bygdelag. This is one more avenue and effort to increase our Lag memberships. The challenge comes in retaining the new members who join. [We will address this “challenge” in our May Annual Meeting break-out sessions.]
- Just as a quick side note: We were contacted by the Norwegian American Genealogical Association in St. Paul regarding some of their duplicate books. We sent out a group email to the Lag Genealogists & Presidents. Five genealogists replied, but, unfortunately only the first individual to reply, received the book. NAGA said they would likely have more to share with the Bygdelag. I would like to see this activity continue with other organizations. If your lag has books that are no longer needed, send a list to me or a Fellesraad officer, so we can send it out to all bygdelag.

Tusen takk for your dedication to the Bygdelag. It is a privilege to work with you in preserving our Norwegian heritage!

Med vennlig hilsen,

Elaine