

Norwegian American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad

Between 1899 and 1914 over 20 national groups were founded based on a Norwegian bygd or community of origin. In 1916 a council called Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was set up allowing all affiliated lag to share common goals.

In 1926 it incorporated in Minnesota to collect profits from the huge 1925 celebration in which lag leaders, along with many others, actively led fundraising.

Summer meetings in small Midwestern towns drew 500 to over 8000. Death, wars and a depression disturbed continuity. Eventually, descendants of immigrants met again to trace family genealogy.

There are 26 bygdelag active in Fellesraad's Centennial Year.