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# Romerikslaget News

July 2021



## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hurra! Plans for the 2021 Romerikslaget-Solørslag Joint Stevne are rolling full steam ahead! We'll be meeting September 15-18 at the Best Western Plus Conference Center in New Ulm, Minnesota. You will find details elsewhere in this newsletter, along with the stevne registration form. We've planned a terrific event with lots of fun and interesting activities.

Some of the stevne highlights are a Thursday bus tour (broasted chicken lunch included) to the historic Norwegian community of Hanska; presentations on Sharing your Family Stories, Life in Norway, The History of New Ulm, Norwegian Women's Suffrage, The Geology of Brown County, Westward Voyage with the Vikings and The Histories and Mysteries of the Richard Twenty Farm. Was Anna Mary Buried Alive? Entertainment is scheduled on Thursday evening with Chris Falteisek and on Friday evening with Renee Vaughn on nyckelharpa & Adam Kiesling on guitar.

Other activities planned include a silent auction and the genealogy research room open with personal assistance available as usual. Vendors offering Scandinavian items for sale are being lined up. We need volunteers to help with registration, genealogy research, and hospitality. Please indicate your availability on the back of the registration form.

Our Romerikslaget Annual Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17. We will be voting on a constitutional amendment that has been recommended by the Board of Directors.

It would amend Article IV to add the position of Vice President to the Officers. It would also amend Article V to change the titles of Vice President of Genealogy to Director of Genealogy and that of Vice President of Membership to Director of Membership. If the amendment passes, we will elect a Vice President. In addition, the terms of several officers and directors are expiring so we need to hold elections for those positions: President, Treasurer, and two Directors.

I look forward to seeing everyone at stevne in September!

Ha det bra!

*Norma Kjenstad Barnes*

Akershus Fylke  
Ovre Romerike-  
Eidsvoll, Feiring,  
Gjerdrum, Hurdal,  
Nannestad, Nes,  
Ullensaker  
Nedre Romerike -  
Aurskog-Høland,  
Blaker, Enebakk,  
Fet, Hakadal,  
Lørenskog, Nittedal,  
Rælingen, Setskog,  
Skedsmo, Sørum  
Follo - Frogn, Kråk-  
stad, Nesodden,  
Oppegård, Ski,  
Vestby, ås  
Vestre Akershus -  
Asker, Bærum  
Oslo Fylke

# Fellesraad Bygdelag

## Vision for the Future – Navigating the Bygdelag in the 21st Century President’s Message at Fellesraad Annual Meeting 2021 Elaine Hasleton, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad President



Fellesraad and Bygdelag both have a marvelous past in the creation of our Lag organizations. We are doing well at maintaining and adjusting to the present situations. But for the future we need to be planning and adapting now so we will be viable down the road!

In the present we are partnering with several Norwegian and Norwegian-American organizations in accomplishing some of our (and their) goals and objectives. They include the Norwegian Emigrant Museum, the Norwegian Genealogical Society, the 2025 Commemoration Committee, FamilySearch, and Norway House.

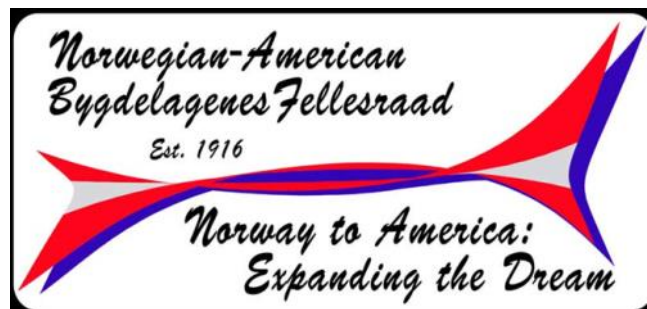
The 2025 Commemoration will consist of events in Norway as well as in North America honoring the first emigration to North America in 1825. It is huge that approximately thirty individuals and organizations are planning now for celebrations five years away.

Working with FamilySearch as a partner will bring great dividends to us. They will share pertinent databases and provide the foundation for some of the stations in the Bibliotek. The Archive will also become a FamilySearch Affiliate Library that will give us access to 350+ million restricted images. The Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Ottestad, Norway wishes to have a discovery center the same as our Bibliotek so they will likewise be providing content.

The new building at Norway House will have the Haugo Archive & Bibliotek. Both of these are relevant to the Bygdelags as the Archive presents the opportunity for the Lags to preserve their materials in a climate-controlled setting. We realize that we need to adapt to the way we share information So, the Bibliotek will have state of the art electronic equipment, touchscreen monitors, stations, and kiosks.

What can we each be doing now? We greatly need additional people to work on the Famous Norwegian-Americans project. Please contact me if you would like to work on this fascinating project ([hasletonee@familysearch.org](mailto:hasletonee@familysearch.org) ). Now is a good time to take an inventory of your Lag genealogical collections. Identify items which you would like to place in the Archive at Norway House. Do you have suggestions of particular bygdebøker or materials that you think would be helpful for visitors who visit Norway House? Do you know of databases which could be used in the Archive and Bibliotek? Please work with your Lag Genealogist if you can assist.

You are the ones who know the immigrants/emigrants from the Romerike area. Preserving this information is important. Partnering with the other organizations mentioned above is also crucial. All of these activities are our passports to continuing success and essential to preserving our future! Isn't it exciting?



# Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2021 Stevne

**September 15-18, 2021**

**Best Western Plus**

**New Ulm Conference Center**

2101 S Broadway St.

New Ulm MN 56073

Phone 507-359-2941—Room rate \$109

**Cut off 8/17/21**



## Stevne Thursday Bus Tour



Local history and bus tour to include: Linden Lutheran Church and cemetery, Thormodson Barn, John Armstrong monument, Nora Unitarian Universalist Church on Mount Pisgah, Norwegian Stabbur in Hanska, 1857 Omsrud-Thordson-Torgrimson log cabin, and an 1863 fort site and Indian Hill burial site. Lunch will be Broasted Chicken at the Last Chance Saloon.



The Omsrud-Thordson-Torgrimson log cabin is located in Lake Hanska County Park. Joel Botten related the history of this family cabin. The following is an excerpt from the history.

The family log cabin on Lake Omsrud was not invaded or destroyed during the Indian war. Thord's wife Kari's, first cousin, Torgrim Torgrimson, had been kind to the Indians, actually saving one from death due to drowning and exposure when he fell through the ice on Omsrud Lake. Torgrim took him in the cabin, warmed him and saved his life.

When the war began, this Indian came and warned the Torgrimsons and Omsruds (Thordsons today) to go east. The Torgrimsons and Thord and his 4 sons went east to the Sorbel farm in Linden where they stayed for some time. It is not known for sure if they went on to South Bend near Mankato where many of the Linden families had fled for safety.

Kari would not leave her cabin. She remained and was not molested.

The story goes that she felt safe due to her relationship with the Indians. She shared her food, but not an item a certain Indian tried to take from her cabin one day. In desperation, she threw her cold, lye, floor-washing water on the Indian's legs and, though cold, it burned. The Indian fled in fear. It is thought the Indians respected her as one who has special powers and one to be respected.

# Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2021 Stevne

## Wednesday

9:00 Registration and Genealogy Research

### 1:30 Elaine Hasleton “Sharing Your Family Stories”

Research confirms that mental and physical health benefits from sharing intergenerational family stories. It provides a larger context for understanding and dealing with life's experiences and challenges. Learn more intriguing elements about sharing our own family stories and its benefits to both young and old.



3:00 LeAnn Hookum “The Histories and Mysteries of the Richard Twenty Farm. Was Anna Mary Buried Alive?” Asked in 2018 to put together a quick substitute presentation about her 3-month adventure in Norway, LeAnn managed to pull it together and had a great time presenting it so when asked to present again for the 2021 stevne, she of course could not resist.



5:00 Lag Board meetings

## Thursday

9:00 Registration, Genealogy Research, Opening Session

### 10:00 Terry Sveine “The History of New Ulm”

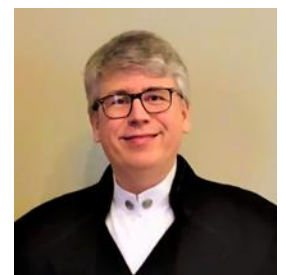
Terry Sveine, a New Ulm, MN native, retired after years as a travel agent and tour manager. In June of 2021 he was appointed as New Ulm’s Mayor. He is a long-time member of the Sons of Norway and of the Norwegian-American Historical Association. He has written a 300-page manuscript on early New Ulmite and Luxembourg emigrant, Francis Baasen.



11:30 Bus Tour (See page 3) or movie “The Last King”

6:30 Light Supper followed by entertainment:

**Chris Falteisek’s Thursday Night Multi-media presentation - Norway: Past and Present.** The PBS series, Atlantic Crossing; Norway’s involvement in WWII; Syttende Mai; The Sami culture; Norwegian music; festdrakts and bunads; and Nordic customs. Interested? Come hear and see Chris’ presentation and learn a little bit about Norway and its history, life and customs.





# Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2021 Stevne

## Friday

9:00 Registration, Genealogy Research, Auction

**Vendors:** Gary Legwold – “The Lefse King”, Karen Mullen – Loppemarked Boutique, Marlys Leiding – rosemaling, Jean Olson – lefse-making, Adrian Olson – wood carving

9:30 **Gary Legwold “Lefse, Lutefisk, and the Importance of Humor”**

The Lefse King, has been an author for more than 20 years, writing books about lefse and lutefisk.

10:45 **Betty Bergland “Norwegian Women’s Suffrage”**

Betty A. Bergland is emerita professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She taught recent U.S. history, including social and intellectual history. Her research centers on migration, foregrounding gendered and ethnic patterns. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, a M.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and B.A. from St. Olaf College.

**Noon:** Joint luncheon for first time attendees.

1:30 and 3:00 Lag Annual Meetings

1:30 and 3:00 **Dr Chad Wittkop “Genealogy of Brown County”**

Chad will present two talks on the geology of Brown County while the lags hold their annual meetings. He teaches Geology courses including Earth History, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy, and Glacial Geology.

4:00 Silent Auction, and Research end.

5:00 Lag photographs

6:30 **Bunad/Sweater Banquet**

Hei venner! My name is **Renee Vaughan** and I play traditional Scandinavian music on the nyckelharpa, an instrument that has been around for over 700 years. The sound is both rustic and ethereal. I’ll share tunes from the Romerike and Solør areas of Norway - a unique style that I love is called a Finnskogpols. Joining me will be **Adam Kiesling** on guitar.

## Saturday

Move to Turner Hall. Address 102 S State St. New Ulm. Transportation on your own. Park in the back of the building on Washington Street & enter in back. There’s an elevator to the lower level restaurant & banquet hall.

9:30 Memorial Service

10:30 **Norma Barnes “Westward Voyage With the Vikings”**

Norma takes you along in pictures on her 2019 North Atlantic cruise following the path of Viking voyages from Norway to North America. Find out what traces are left from the Nordic settlements more than 1000 years ago on Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland.

Noon: Closing lunch



## Membership News

### *In Memoriam*

#### **Earl Wold**

#### **Romerikslaget Charter Member**

Earl Kenneth Wold, age 95, of St. Michael, MN passed away peacefully March 12, 2021. Earl was born March 7, 1926 on the home farm south of Rushford, MN to Knut and Emelia (Johnson) Wold. He married Amazette June 6, 1948. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1959 with a major in agronomy and a minor in soils. He joined the Research Service Dept. at Northup King Seed Co. in 1959 doing research on improving seed quality and conducting yield trials in the mid-west on soybeans and oats. He retired in 1988 after 28 years of service. Genealogy became an interest after retirement. He and his wife Amazette researched and published two family histories. Survived by daughter, Kimberly (Robert) Zwart, and granddaughter Anna Grace, one sister, Arlene (Harold) Jensen. Funeral services were at the Peterson Chapel in St. Michael, MN March 27, 2021. Interment at Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis.



#### **James B Olson**

Pastor James Olson, 81, formerly of Sioux Falls passed away Saturday March 13, 2021 in Grand Island. Private funeral services was March 20, 2021 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Webster. Burial at Fron Lutheran Cemetery near Roslyn.

Jim was born April 29, 1939 in Webster, SD to Norman and Bernice (Peterson) Olson. Jim graduated from Augustana College and Luther Theological Seminary. He became ordained as a pastor of the American Lutheran Church and served many congregations.

Jim traveled to Norway twenty-five times, and was active in Norwegian Genealogy research for more than 30 years in the Gudbrandslaget, an organization of Norwegian-Americans whose ancestors came from Gudbrandsdalen, Oppland, Norway. He served as president from 2003-2010 and 2015-2018. Jim turned his hobby of collecting antiques and books into a small business of selling them upon his retirement. He never lost his interest in collecting antiques and reading books. He often sold his books at stevner.



### **Romerikslaget Historian Needed**

If you like organizing records and taking photographs, this position is for you. Familiarity with computers and the internet is required. We are open to have two people share this position.

As Romerikslaget i Amerika Historian, it is your responsibility to record and preserve the historical events and activities of the lag.

1. To act as custodian for all records and materials pertinent to the history of the lag except those of the Secretary or Treasurer.
2. Archive all lag newsletters in an appropriate binder.
3. Act as official stevne photographer and create a lag photo yearbook after each stevne. These books should include new members as well as all major events and activities that take place during the stevne.
4. Attend board meetings and give an update on the Historian's activities.

If you would like to volunteer for this position, please contact: Norma Kjenstad Barnes, Romerikslag President [nkwbarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:nkwbarnes@yahoo.com)

*An ad policy has been adopted by the Board of Romerikslaget. It reads as follows:* Individuals or companies can submit articles that include contact information but do not include any prices. The lag Board reserves the right to edit or reject any submissions and will suggest to non-members that they join or make a donation to the lag.

# Romerikslaget i Amerika Membership

## Lag Officers and Directors

### President • Norma Kjenstad Barnes (2020-2021)

4902 S. Oxbow Ave. #205, Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
605-496-8632; email nkwbarnes@yahoo.com

### V. P. for Membership • Susan Waldera (2019-2022)

N6062 N Skutley Rd., Taylor, WI 54659  
715-662-2661; email LSWALDERA@centurytel.net

### V. P. for Genealogy • Deb Jarvar (2021-2023)

9405 Murphy Ln., Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-874-6678; email djarvar@wwt.net

### Secretary • Eunice Helgeson (2019-2022)

5541 Woodlawn Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55417  
612-724-7202; email EuniceHelgeson@aol.com

### Treasurer • Mary Gross (2018-2021)

401 S. 1st St. #1822, Minneapolis, MN 55401  
507-640-1417; email maryfrancesgross@gmail.com

### Director • Mary Baumgartner (2021-2023)

433 E. Maple St., River Falls, WI 54022  
715-425-7117; email baumgam@yahoo.com

### Director • Chris Falteisek (2019-2022)

643 35th St. W., Hastings, MN 55033  
715-529-7340; email chrisfalteisek@gmail.com

### Director • William Naseth (2021-2023)

1009 East Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066  
651-388-8230; email wnaseth@gmail.com

### Director • Alberta Rupert (2018-2021)

220 N. Ilwaco Rd., River Falls, WI 54022  
715-425-7069; email Bertlr@hotmail.com

### Director • Michael Miller (2019-2022)

511 Madison St., Apt. 1, Anoka, MN 55303  
763-370-9249; email miclesmil@yahoo.com

### Director • Joel Botten (2021-2023)

1314 Pine Pointe Crv., St. Peter, MN 56028  
507-351-6712; email joelbotten@gmail.com

### Past President • Julie A. Clauson

22 14th Ave. S.W., New Brighton, MN 55112  
651-633-3600; email jollyjac@aol.com

### Newsletter Editor • Dorothy Mehl

2111 E. North Crescent Ave., Spokane, WA 99207  
509-489-3868; email DorothyMehl112@msn.com

### Historian • Julie A. Clauson

Facebook Administrators • Norma Kjenstad Barnes and  
Chris Falteisek

**Past Presidents:** Priscilla Sorknes†, Andreas Jordahl  
Rhude, Cathryn Berntson Huntsman†, Earl Grefsrud†, Ei-  
leen Gulbranson†, Marcia Hamilton†, Joel Botten, Julie A.  
Clauson

## Website:

<http://www.fellesraad.com/romerikslaget/>

Romerikslaget i Amerika - fellesraad.com

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

Join Romerikslaget i Amerika.

Romerikslaget i Amerika is a Norwegian American  
association.

## Romerikslaget i Amerika

To continue membership, or become a new member, complete and mail  
this form.

Name (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Lag ancestral area: \_\_\_\_\_

(from listing on front page of newsletter)

Name (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Lag ancestral area: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Dues:

Individual \$15.00 \_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal

Household (2 person maximum) \$20 \_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal

and outside the USA if newsletters are emailed rather than mailed.

Norway/Canada (if newsletters are mailed) \$20 \_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal

(Payable in US Dollars)

\_\_\_ Please mail \_\_\_ email \_\_\_ me a sample newsletter

\_\_\_ I would like to join. Enclosed is my check.

\_\_\_ I am renewing my membership for 2021. Enclosed is my check.

**Payable to: Romerikslaget**

**Mail form & check to:**

Susan Waldera  
N6062 N Skutley Rd  
Taylor, WI 54659

**Romerikslaget News** is the official publication of Romerikslaget i Amerika  
and is published each March/Jul/Nov. Members receive the newsletter, ste-  
vne registration packet, access to records of Norwegian government and  
church records, Membership Directory and the help of our genealogist.

Romerikslaget i Amerika is a Norwegian American association whose  
members have ancestral roots or present-day ties to the area that nearly  
surrounds Oslo, Norway, called Romerike. The *lag* was founded in Septem-  
ber 1990 to honor the unique culture of Romerike and to strengthen the  
bonds with the parishes of our ancestors.

Postmaster: if undeliverable  
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2111 E North Crescent  
Spokane, WA 99207

**Please note:** the number next to your name on the mailing label is the last year you paid membership dues. Thank you.



**Velkommen to Romerikslaget Facebook Group!**  
**Visit our Romerikslaget Facebook Group!**



Check out our lag Facebook group: “Romerike i America (Romerikslag)” where you can access past newsletters going back to 2015. We invite members to post photos from past stevner, as well as genealogy and cultural and history information about Romerike. To join, you need to have a Facebook account, which is free at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

Your group administrators, Chris Falteisek and Norma Barnes are happy to answer any questions.  
Norma Kjenstad Barnes, [nkwbarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:nkwbarnes@yahoo.com) or Chris [chrisfalteisek@gmail.com](mailto:chrisfalteisek@gmail.com)

***We hope to see you soon on Facebook!***