



Serving Akershus and Oslo Fylker

# Romerikslaget

## News

March 2018



### Greetings from President Joel Botten



Fergus Falls, Minnesota is your destination Sept. 12-15, 2018 when Solorlag and Romerikslag meet for a joint stevne at the Big Woods Convention Center, 925 Western Ave., Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Phone: 218-736-2533. A registration form will be in your July newsletter.

Fergus Falls lies in Otter Tail County which boasts 1,100 lakes. Fergus Falls had beginnings as early as 1854, but due to the Civil War and Indian Uprising not much developed in the 1860's. In the 1870's river power gave rise to sawmills, flour mills and woolen mills. Land owner Mendenhall offered free business lots which enhanced growth. When the railroad came through in 1879, success was ensured.

Fergus Falls is a community of 14,000, many of whom are of Scandinavian descent. Glacial Lake Agassiz formed the rich farmland to the west and the many lakes to the east of the city. Sites of interest

are: Prairie Woodlands Learning Center, Otter Tail County Museum, Center for the Arts, Historic State Hospital and huge Otto the Otter in Adams Park. You will enjoy Fergus Falls.

Winter days can get long, so I have amused myself by viewing Alt for Norge and Alt for Sverige on You Tube. These are reality shows with usually 12 U.S. persons of Norwegian or Swedish ancestry competing for prize money and the opportunity to meet their present day cousins and to visit ancestral family homes and/or farms. The obstacles and activities they are subjected to are hilarious and very challenging. Wilderness survival, eating sheep heads, skiing, races of all kinds, collecting ethnic jokes, wild Russ partying and wearing their area bunader on the 17th of May, to name a few. You name it, they have to do it. Many contestants are from the Midwest and maybe you have heard Pastor Grant Aaseng from Alexandria present on his experience.

Mindekirken Church (Norwegian Memorial Church) in Minneapolis is a center of Norwegian worship and activities. Norway House is now on site which provides expanded opportunities for exploring Norwegian heritage and culture. Plans are to continue to expand, eventually taking over the entire block. Norway House will be the place for Norwegians to gather for activities and to enjoy displays similar to the Swedish Institute. Google Norway House and consider donating to the capital fund for expansion. Perhaps you would like to include them in your estate planning. Visit 913 E. Franklin Ave. to enjoy the displays, shop or have a cup of coffee and waffles in Ingebretsen's Scandinavian gift and coffee center. Their phone number is: 612-871-2211.

All bygdelag have been invited to support Norway House and our lag has made contributions. Space is being allocated for the storage of important historical lag documents and genealogy research materials.

See you in Fergus Falls.

Hilsen, Joel Botten



Akershus Fylke  
Ovre Romerike-  
Eidsvoll, Feiring,  
Gjerdrum, Hurdal,  
Nannestad, Nes,  
Ullensaker  
Nedre Romerike -  
Aurskog-Høland,  
Blaker, Enebakk, Fet,  
Hakadal, Lørenskog,  
Nittedal, Rælingen,  
Setskog, Skedsmo,  
Sørumsund

Follo - Frogn, Kråkstad, Nesodden, Oppegård, Ski, Vestby, Ås  
Vestre Akershus -  
Asker, Bærum  
Oslo Fylke

# Genealogy

## Genealogy Tips From Deb Jarver

### Ministerial and Klokkerbok

The earliest Norwegian parish records are from 1623 in the parish of Andebu, Vestfold. Although some parishes voluntarily began recording information, it was not uniform. By 1688, a law requiring parishes to keep church books or Ministerial records was passed. In 1812 a Royal decree required a duplicate copy of the church records be kept by the parish clerk or Klokker, but must not "be kept overnight under the same roof." The Klokker was a lay person from a sub-parish who assisted the minister during church services. This duplicate book was known as the Klokkerbok. The Ministerialbok and the Klokkerbok were compared and checked once a year and regular inspections were made by the bishops and deans.

When checking the parish registers of Norway you will often see there is a Ministerialbok and a Klokkerbok. In the Digital Archives they are now referred to as "official" and "copy". You should check both. In a large parish, the minister often traveled around and left his copy of the church book at the rectory. He had to resort to notes to be added to the official book later while the Klokker lived in the local community or

sub-parish and recorded the information directly to his Klokkerbok. Since the Klokker actually lived in the community, he often knew the members of the congregation better than the minister so we can surmise that his records were more accurate. Also, if the penmanship in one record is less than desirable, the other may be better.

By 1820 the Klokker was no longer required to keep a copy of the church book but most parishes chose to continue the practice. It was a safeguard in the event of a fire or other disasters that may have destroyed the Ministerialbok. So, in your research, look for the Klokkerbok or "copy" and compare notes. You may be pleasantly surprised.

Source: "Norwegian Genealogy and Then Some" <<http://martinroe.com/blog/>>

*Deb Jarvar*



## Romerike Defined

Romerikslaget I Amerika covers the areas of Akershus and Oslo fylker (plural form). The district of Romerike lies within Akershus and includes the kommuner (counties) that are listed in the right hand column of the newsletter's cover page. Oslo, follo and Vestre Akershus are all outside of Romerike but are areas that this lag encompasses in addition to Romerike proper. Romerike has no political boundaries; it designates a judicial and parochial (church) area.

The term "Romerike" is derived from the former name for the river Glomma which was called the Rauma. The settlements along the Rauma became known as the Rauma-rike, the kingdom of Rauma. Variant spellings resulted to become what we now call Romerike. It has nothing to do with the Romans of Italy, as many people assume.

*Deb Jarver found this article in a Feb 1994 newsletter and believes it was written by the late Priscilla Sorknes.*



Priscilla Sorknes

## Norwegian-American Genealogical Association

1185 Concord St. N, Suite 218 South Saint Paul, Minnesota 55075-1150

Membership in the Norwegian-American Genealogical Association is open to any person interested in tracing Norwegian family history. Benefits of membership include free monthly membership meetings; 4 issues/year of our newsletter, Avisen; and free access to the MGS library and N-AGA research resources. Founded in 1983, N-AGA is a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) which has an office and library in South Saint Paul, MN. The MGS library houses genealogical resources for a wide range of ethnicities and geographic locations. More information about N-AGA? Contact: Troy Rognrud, President [troy.rognrud@gmail.com](mailto:troy.rognrud@gmail.com) or Jack Bergerson, Membership [jvbergers@gmail.com](mailto:jvbergers@gmail.com) or visit us on Facebook or on our website [www.norwegianamerican.org](http://www.norwegianamerican.org).

# Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2018 Stevne

**September 12-15, 2018**

Big Woods Convention Center  
925 Western Ave.  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
Phone: 218-736-2533  
[www.bigwoodeventcenter.com/](http://www.bigwoodeventcenter.com/)



## ***Plans For Our Stevne in Fergus Falls!***

By Mary Gross

Your Romerikslaget Board is hard at work planning our next stevne, to be held September 12-15, 2018 at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls, MN. Here is a schedule of what's being planned.

We will begin with **registration** on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 with small group sessions in the morning for those wanting to learn more about genealogy in specific areas of Romerikslaget. Research rooms will be open for those doing genealogy.

Wednesday evening both lags will have their **board meetings** at 5:00 pm

Thursday September 13 begins at 8:00 am with registration. The **Silent Auction** will be open. Remember to bring any items you can donate to the Silent Auction! The **Hospitality Room** also opens this day. Please bring some of your Norwegian goodies to share with everyone in the Hospitality Room!

We will have the **Opening Session** at 9:00 am with welcome, anthems, introduction of officers, and **Show & Tell** (remember to bring stories you want to tell or items you want to show at this time).

Thursday at 10:45 am the bus will leave on the **tour of the area**. Plans are currently underway for the tour. If you have any requests for specific locations or ideas please let officers know! Some ideas are the Ottertail County Museum, one of the many Norwegian Lutheran churches in the area, the Battle Lake art colony, the Foss Cabin, or Phelps Mill.

In the evening, we will have a light supper at the hotel followed by **entertainment by Chris Falteisek**. He will give a program about **Nordic Christmas Customs**, including music. He is currently putting together a Christmas CD so we'll be able to hear that music firsthand! We might even be singing some songs!

Friday September 14 begins at 9:00 am with **genealogy**, Silent Auction, and Hospitality rooms opening. **Vendors** will be in the hotel for participants to browse through their merchandise. There will be presentations throughout the day, including **Elaine Hasleton** presenting on **Norwegian settlement of Ottertail County**, possibly Hillcrest students from Norway doing a program, someone talking about the geology of the area, someone from the history center on the history of the lake area, including the Abercrombie Oxcart Trail history. We are also planning on showing the movie **The King's Choice**. It's a wonderful movie about the King of Norway during the Nazi invasion of WWII.

The **Annual Meeting** will be held at 3:00 pm.

The Silent Auction will close at 4:30 pm. We are going to try to have photos taken of all lag participants between this and the **Bunad Banquet**, which begins at 6:30 pm. Remember to bring your bunad for the parade! Or you can wear your **Norwegian sweater**.

Saturday September 15 begins at 9:00 am with a presentation. There will be a lunch available at the hotel and the stevne will close after lunch.



# Fellesraad News



## **Fellesraad and Bygdelaag Partner with Norway House** by Elaine Hasleton, Fellesraad President

Throughout the years, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad and Bygdelaag have worked with groups which have similar backgrounds. Fellesraad, as the umbrella organization over the twenty-nine chapters called Bygdelaag, each based on a separate geographical area of Norway, was founded in 1916. Fellesraad serves as an advisory organization and manages cooperative projects for the good of all Bygdelaag. It stands as a connecting link between Bygdelaag.

Fellesraad and Bygdelaag have now firmly established a partnership with Norway House. We sincerely thank all Bygdelaag for the Lag funds which were contributed by Dec 31, 2017. As you may know, those funds will be matched three times, including by Fellesraad. The combined amount of the Lag donations was \$19,885. Norway House is still accepting individual donations which will be matched twice, so I encourage all of us to contribute.

Perhaps one of the overarching reasons for this partnership is that it will give Fellesraad with Bygdelaag and Norway House more visibility! In this modern age, visibility is key, especially on social media and with the younger generation. Heritage organizations are among those with declining membership. So, visibility for an organization is very important! With our financial contribution, we now qualify for a wall plaque of our bygdelaag at Norway House which again provides visibility for us.

What are other partnering plans? The Fellesraad and Bygdelaag names as partners will be added to Norway House's website and case statement, as well as their brochures. The latest Norway House newsletter was sent out a week ago, and shortly after that web analytics showed that 19 people had clicked on Fellesraad and went to our website. We want this type of visibility to continue and increase.

We look forward to doing joint programs together. Norway House will provide major publicity for these events. We have numerous Lag Genealogists who could teach classes at Norway House with a splitting of the funds taken in at such events.

The Norwegian Research Center/Bibliotek will become a center for genealogy down the road. Previous discussion has laid the groundwork for placing our Lag genealogical collections there. The Lag genealogical materials will contribute to the excellence of the Research Center and the Library.

These are some of the most current reasons we are partnering with Norway House. As we work together, more will evolve. Norway House is here to stay! We want the Fellesraad and Bygdelaag to stay around as well!

### **NAHA Archives & Fellesraad**

The Norwegian-American Historical Association was founded in 1925. Its purpose is to locate, collect, preserve and interpret the Norwegian-American experience with accuracy, integrity, and liveliness. It is an independent organization located in Rolvaag Library at St. Olaf College.

Collection P0465 of the NAHA Archives is Bygdelaagene. Most of the affiliates of the Fellesraad are represented in this collection, although the extent of material varies considerably from lag to lag. Gudbrandsdalslaget, Totenlag, and Trønderlag are especially well represented. Hadeland Lag and Sigdalslag also have extensive material.

The NAHA Archives welcomes additions to this important collection. Of particular interest is material that documents the history of each bygdelaag and of the Fellesraad. These include: Constitution, Organizational records, Membership rosters, Clippings, Event programs, Yearbooks, Newsletters, Photographs including panoramas.

Inclusion of this material in the NAHA Archives will ensure that a record of the Bygdelaag movement is properly preserved in an accessible collection. For further information, see "Donations of Archival Material" under the Archives section of the NAHA site: [naha.stolaf.edu/archives](http://naha.stolaf.edu/archives) To discuss a potential donation, contact: [naha-archivists@stolaf.edu](mailto:naha-archivists@stolaf.edu). The NAHA office is at: 507-786-3221.

# Norway News

## Norway Population Approaching 5.3 Million

<http://www.ssb.no/en> Norway Statistics

Low immigration and fewer births resulted in reduced population growth in 2017. The population increased by 37,300 in 2017, a decline from 44,300 the year before. At the end of the year there were 5,295,600 people in Norway.

The low population growth is a result of a birth surplus of 15,900 and a net immigration of 21,300. These figures and the population growth are at their lowest since 2005.

### Low in-migration and high out-migration

A total of 58,200 people moved to Norway in 2017, while 36,800 people left the country. Net immigration was 21,300. Immigration from Europe was close to 8,000 higher than from the rest of the world. Nevertheless, nationals from countries outside Europe accounted for 90 per cent of net immigration. The reason for this is that very many European citizens emigrated while fewer citizens from outside Europe did the same.

The **low birth surplus** is primarily the result of only 56,600 children being born last year.

### Many Poles

The number of foreign nationals increased by only 8,500 in 2017, compared to 21,000 the previous year. Among the 567,800 foreign nationals who lived in Norway at the turn of the year, the Poles were still the largest group with 103,800. These were followed by Swedes, Lithuanians and Syrians, with 44,000, 43,700 and 26,000 respectively.

At the turn of the year, 61 per cent of the residents in Norway were between 20 and 66 years old and 11 per cent were in the age group 67-79 years. The oldest part of the population, those aged 80 years or more, amounted to 4 per cent of the population. People under the age of 20 were 24 per cent of the population.



## 'We Are Not Super-Human': The Secret to Norway's Olympic Success

Excerpted from AFP/The Local news@thelocal.no



When it comes to sport, Norway creates headlines roughly once every four years, when the nation of 5.2 million makes one hell of a racket at the Winter Olympics. Norway finished top of the Pyeongchang medals table on Sunday, winning a record 39 medals -- 14 of them gold.

"It's amazing to win this many medals and something to be proud of," Norway's chef de mission Tore Øvrebø told AFP in an interview. "But we must keep raising the bar and find new challenges for the future."

A winter superpower, Norway failed to win a single gold or silver medal in Rio two years ago. "Oh, in the summer it's catastrophic," sighed Øvrebø. "We want to improve our system in the summer sport."

But Norway's prowess at winter sports is freakishly impressive. Their success owes much to a quaintly egalitarian approach based on camaraderie and bonhomie -- from grassroots all the way to Olympic level.

**"We are not super-human," insisted Øvrebø. "It is organic. This is about organization, it's about values, it's about hard work."**

Norway's tight-knit philosophy means top Norwegian skiers share hotel rooms to further strengthen team bonding. Many Norwegian athletes have day jobs to support their Olympic dreams. The team has carpenters, plumbers and teachers among its ranks, said Øvrebø. "We are part of the real world -- we are not like a fairytale," he insisted. "It's hard work."

Norway's strength lies in its team spirit. The athletes go to eat tacos together on Friday nights after training, and inflated egos are not tolerated. "No jerks allowed!" said Øvrebø, referencing remarks made by alpine skier Kjetil Jansrud.

"There's no good explanation for why you have to be a jerk to be a good athlete," declared the downhill silver medallist, outlining the team ethos. "We just won't have that kind of thing on our team."

Øvrebø nodded in agreement. "That kind of culture develops true leadership," he said. "We have prima donnas in Norway too. But they're winning medals -- and they're easier to deal with then."

## Membership News

### Welcome Our New Member

Susan Slettehaugh  
5701 Orchard Ave N  
Crystal, MN 55429  
763-535-3616  
Nes

*Susan is the daughter of Bev Slettenhaugh.*



### *Happy 101st Birthday Doris Michelson!*

Doris turned 101 on January 23, 2018.  
Doris Michelson is a charter member of the Romerikslaget.



### Velkommen to Romerikslaget Facebook Group!

Please check out our new lag Facebook group called "Romerike i America (Romerikslag)." We encourage our members to participate as a great means of keeping in touch with each other and sharing information throughout the year! First, you do need to have a Facebook account, which is free and easy to complete at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). Then just sign in to your page and enter "Romerike i America" in the finder box at the top, when the group page appears then click on "Join" and submit your request to join. Members can post photos of their own visits to Romerike, as well as sharing genealogy, cultural and history information about Romerike. At our stevne last fall, Norma Kjenstad Barnes volunteered to create the group and she is the administrator for it. Please join us!



*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 • Joel Botten (2015-2018)

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

### V. P. for Membership • Susan Waldera (2016-2019)

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715-662-2661; e-mail LSWALDERA@centurytel.net

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### Treasurer • Mary Gross (2015-2018)

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507-640-1417; email maryfrancesgross@gmail.com

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### Director and Historian • Julie A. Clauson (2015-2018)

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### Director • Bev Slettehaugh (2017-2020)

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### Director • Mary Baumgartner (2017-2020)

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### Director • Alberta Rupert (2015-2018)

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### Past President • Marcia Hamilton

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### Newsletter Editor • Dorothy Mehl

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**Past Presidents:** Priscilla Sorknes†, Andreas Jordahl Rhude, Cathryn Berntson Huntsman†, Earl Grefsrud†, Eileen Gulbranson†, Marcia Hamilton

## Website:

<http://www.fellesraad.com/romerikslaget/>  
Romerikslaget i Amerika - fellesraad.com

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

**Photos Membership Contact Us Fellesraad Info:  
Celebrate your heritage...**

**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

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 2018. 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, stevne 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 September 1990 to honor the unique culture of Romerike and to strengthen the bonds with the parishes of our ancestors.

Postmaster: if undeliverable

Return to:

2111 E North Crescent

Spokane, WA 99207

**Ja, vi elsker dette landet**

Ja, vi elsker dette landet,  
som det stiger frem,  
furet, værbit over vannet,  
med de tusen hjem,  
elsker, elsker det og tenker  
på vår far og mor  
og den saganatt som senker  
drømmer på vår jord.  
Og den saganatt som senker,  
senker drømmer på vår jord.



**Yes, We Love This Land of Ours**

Norway, thine is our devotion,  
Land of hearth and home,  
Rising storm-scarred from the ocean,  
Where the breakers foam.  
Oft to thee our thoughts are wending,  
Land that gave us birth,  
And to saga nights still sending  
Dreams upon our earth,  
And to saga nights still sending  
Dreams upon us on our earth .

