



Romerikslaget News



Romerikslaget Members at 2023 Flere Lag Stevne!

August 1-4

Moorhead, Minnesota

Front Row: Linda McKeen, Sharon Gunderson, Mary Gross, Norma Kjenstad Barnes,
Carol Olson, Sandy Mohar.

Back Row: Joy Shong, Chuck McKeen, Jan Gunderson, Julie A. Clauson, Ann Romo,
Ray Olson, Joel Botten.

Next stevne: August 6-9, 2024

Willmar Conference Center & Best Western Plus

Willmar, Minnesota

SAVE THE DATES!

Notes from the President

God host!

Good harvest season! Praise God for the earth's bounty.

We're also grateful for the joy of getting together for another wonderful *Flere Lag Stevne* this past August in Moorhead, Minnesota. *Mange takk* to our *Romerikslaget* members, Joy Shong and Mary Baumgartner, for their work on the planning committee to make it successful.

Scheduling changes this year included starting on Tuesday with the Genealogy Lab and Vendor Room. Genealogy Mini-Demos presented by Deb Jarvar, Joy Shong, and Nancy Pickering were popular.

The Wednesday morning Opening Ceremony featured Lawrence Moe, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota, giving the Keynote Address. A dynamic speaker, he expounded on this year's theme "Open Sky, Flat Land" with descriptions by Norwegian settlers of their lives and experiences in the Red River Valley. The *Romerikslaget* Annual Meeting was Wednesday evening.

Thursday night we enjoyed a banquet with lively entertainment by the Fargo Sons of Norway Accordion Band. On Friday morning we went on a self-driving tour to the *Hjemkomst* Center in Moorhead to see the viking ship and *stav* church replicas. Then it was off to the SON Kringen Lodge in Fargo for a lunch of tasty open-face sandwiches and a peek at the Troll Lounge murals and wood carvings. So fun!

Next year: Willmar, Minnesota

Happy Thanksgiving & *God Jul!*

Norma Kjenstad Barnes



Oslo Fylke & the former Akershus Fylke (now part of Viken 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, Kråkstad, Nesodden, Oppegård, Ski, Vestby, Ås

Vestre Akershus - Asker, Bærum

Flere Lag Stevne



“OPEN SKY, FLAT LAND”



Joel Botten sang with the Kringen Lodge Accordion Band



Joy Shong & Deb Jarvar



Hjemkomst Viking Ship

An annual gathering of descendants and friends of the Trøndelag, Gudbrandsdal, Northern Hedmark, Solør and Romerike regions of Norway

1-4 August 2023
Courtyard by Marriott
Moorhead, Minnesota



Hopperstadt

Stavkirke

Bunad Parade - Thursday night Banquet





Chuck & Linda McKeen

Dr. Lawrence Moe, Keynote Speaker



Lars Walker, Author & Speaker



Banquet



Fellesraad Update - Sept 2023
Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, President

It is wonderful that *stevner* were finally in full-force again! There is nothing like in-person gatherings to unite an organization. So, congratulations on all of your diligent work which has paid off!

Haugo Archive & Bibliotek at Norway:

Fellesraad remains busy on many different avenues. Continuous planning and work on sorting books and publications are on-going for the Haugo Archive and *Bibliotek*. The Archive Library Committee is determining which Cataloging software will fit our needs for the Archive.

So far, six *bygdelag* have contributed items from their genealogical collections to the Archive. They are *Gudbrandsdalslag*, *Solørlag*, *Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken*, *Møre og Romsdal*, *Sigdalslag*, and *Sunnhordland*. If a *lag* has duplicate copies of a particular *bygdebok* or publication, then the duplicate is usually placed at Norway House for their use in the Archive. Valuable items are placed in the Haugo Archive with the understanding that the *lag* retains ownership, and these items can be checked out for it's *stevne*.

Bygdebøker are primarily needed, but other helpful publications are accepted, including finding aids, church extracts, census extracts, printed probate records, and periodicals such as history *lag* (*historielagene*) publications. What items does your *lag* have which could be helpful to visitors coming to Norway House? This is your opportunity to shine light on your *lag*, as Archivists/Librarians working in the Archive will highlight specific *lags* for visitors to receive additional assistance.

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(2023 Fellesraad update continued)

2025 Emigration Commemoration:

Work has been on-going regarding *Fellesraad* and *bygdelag* participation in this commemoration. One of the founding members of the 1925 Commemoration was Lars Thorkveen, first *Gudbrandsdalslag* President, so *bygdelag* tie-in is close. The 1925 centennial celebration was initiated by *Stavanger Lag*. However, Lars Thorkveen was one of the important planners to ensure that the event occurred. His importance was recognized by a full-page article about him, even though he passed away before the 1925 event occurred. *Fellesraad* is in the midst of planning our participation. We anticipate that both the 2024 as well as the 2025 *Fellesraad* Annual Meetings will have special presentations focused on the 200th Emigration Commemoration.

Other activities:

As **Fellesraad** is the umbrella organization for the *bygdelag*, it is identifying guidelines and procedures for *lag* mergers and also *lag* financial audits. These items will be shared with all *bygdelag* upon completion.

We say *Tusen Takk* and keep up the good work you are doing with your *lag*.

Vennlig hilsen,

Elaine



Elaine Hasleton, *Fellesraad* President

Velkommen to our new Director, Jean Knaak!

At our Romerikslaget Annual Meeting at the 2023 Flere Lag Stevne in August, Jean Knaak was elected as a Director-at-Large to replace Bill Naseth. Tusen takk to Bill for his years of service! We are so grateful that Jean is now available and willing to serve our lag in this way. She has extensive experience on the Sigdalslag and the Fellesraad Boards.

Here is her self-introduction:

I am Jean Thompson Knaak and am delighted to work with *Romerikslaget*. When time became available 12 years ago, I became more active in Norwegian organizations. I served as President of *Sigdalslag* and on the *Fellesraad* Board. And when we prepared for the *Fellesraad* Centennial I worked with Joel Botten from *Romerikslag*.



All of my great-grandparents emigrated from Norway as young people and married spouses from their home area in Norway. Matilda Mork and Christian Sorenson were both from *Eidsvoll* in *Romerike*. Their *garder* were *Mork* farm and *Sorenstua* which is part of *Baarli Gard*.

They each emigrated along with their entire families, and they met and married at Frontenac, Minnesota. They became pioneers in Milan, Minnesota, and had eight children. My grandmother Sina Melia Sorenson married Edward Thompson, whose family came from *Sigdal* and also settled in Milan. Other relatives are from *Tynset*, *Jelsa*, and *Sirdal*.

I grew up in Ulen, Minnesota. Career-wise, I taught home economics, was an area school administrator, and managed vocational education projects in Zimbabwe, Honduras, and Jamaica. Collectively Bill and I have four children, and daughter Jill Hanson is active in Norwegian organizations.

Lag Officers & Directors

President: Norma Kjenstad Barnes (2021-24)
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Vice President: Chuck McKeen (2024-27)
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Director of Membership: Susan Waldera (2022-25)
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Director of Genealogy: (Vacant Position)

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Past President: Julie Clauson
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BESTEMOR'S NORWEGIAN MEATBALLS

Mix together in large bowl:

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1/4 pound pork sausage
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom

1/2 minced or grated small onion (optional)

Make into small balls and brown in butter or butter and oil in a large skillet. Remove meatballs. Prepare brown gravy in the same skillet (leaving in the meat fat):
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons cream
about 1 1/2 cups beef broth if needed.
Add meatballs back and simmer in the gravy until done, about 15 minutes.

Note: Serve with lingonberries, boiled potatoes, and vegetables.

Newsletter Editor: Norma Kjenstad Barnes

Website: www.fellesraad.com/romerikslaget

Facebook Administrators: Chris Falteisek & Norma Kjenstad Barnes

