



Romerikslaget News



Romerikslaget at 2025 *Flere Lag Stevne!*

August 5-7

Onalaska, Wisconsin

Front row: Joel Botten, Joy Shong, Eunice Helgeson, Norma Kjenstad Barnes, Mary Baumgartner, Sandra Mohar. Middle row: Jean Knaak, Ann Romo, Linda McKeen, Jill Hanson. Back Row: Jim Michelson, Elizabeth Rusch, David Williamson, Eric Buck, Chuck McKeen, Barbara J. Nelson, Mary Gross.

Next *stevne*: September 15-17, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton

Austin, Minnesota

SAVE THE DATES!

Notes from the President

Hilsen!

How wonderful it was to gather for another terrific *Flere Lag Stevne* in August, this year in Onalaska, Wisconsin. Again, *Romerikslaget* members, Joy Shong and Mary Baumgartner worked on the planning committee to create a successful event. *Tusen takk!*

Co-Genealogists Linda McKeen and Barbara Nelson set up and staffed the *Romerike* section of the Genealogy Lab, providing expert assistance to attendees. Many thanks!

At our *Romerikslaget* Annual Meeting, we reelected several officers to new terms, and Mary Gross stepped in to fill a second job as Director of Membership in addition to serving as Treasurer. We're so grateful, Mary! *Tusen takk* to Susan Waldera for many years of service to our lag as Membership Director. Linda and Chuck McKeen reported that our lag *bygdebok* collection was successfully moved to Norway House in Minneapolis. They now pick up the books there and bring to *stevne*.

This year's *stevne* theme: "New Life, New Land: 1825-2025" honored 200 years of emigration from Norway to America. We displayed 20 banners outlining that history, borrowed from the St. Paul Sons of Norway. And Dr. Lawrence Moe gave keynote speech on that theme. We had perfect weather for our Wednesday evening bus tour to Norskedalen, where we checked out the historic buildings and the visitor center, an outdoor dinner, and a live musical duo. Our two days included interesting seminars, yummy treats in the Hospitality Room, browsing goods offered by vendors, bidding for items in the Silent Auction, and most of all, enjoying the camaraderie!

Hope to see you next year in Austin, Minnesota!

Happy Thanksgiving
& *God Jul!*

Norma Kjenstad Barnes



***Romerikslag
includes Oslo &
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, Kråkstad,
Nesodden,
Oppegård, Ski,
Vestby, Ås***

***Vestre Akershus -
Asker, Bærum***



Crown Prince Haakon Visit to Norway House 7 Oct 2025

By Elaine Hasleton, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, President

Crown Prince Haakon visited the *Haugo Bibliotek* in Norway House on Tuesday, October 7th. He cut the ribbon officially opening the Saga Center there.

John Haugo, for whom the *Bibliotek* is named and whose family history is illustrated in the Saga Center, shared his family story. John had discovered that he and the Crown Prince were seventh cousins. His Royal Highness was intrigued and pleased to take that information with him.

The Crown Prince visited each of the four stations in the Saga Center, including the Family History Station, where I was privileged to share information about three Norwegian-American case studies, including my husband's *Finnskog* ancestry. In the *Bygdelag* Special Collections Room, Marilyn Sorensen shared information on the resources available there.

The Crown Prince was very cordial and interested in the many facets of Norwegian-America which were illustrated in the *Haugo Bibliotek*. It was a great experience for us as *Bygdelag* members to share our Norwegian-American legacy!

Flere Lag Stevne New Land, New Life 1825-2025



Keynote Speaker
Dr. Lawrence Moe
expounded on 200 years
of emigration from
Norway to America.

Musical entertainment on
the beautiful grounds of
Norskedalen for our tour
Wednesday evening.



August 5-7, 2025
Onalaska/La Crosse, Wisconsin



Bunad Parade - Thursday night Banquet

Chuck McKeen, the *Flere Lag* moose &
Dixie Hansen





Romerikslaget research area in the Genealogy Lab.



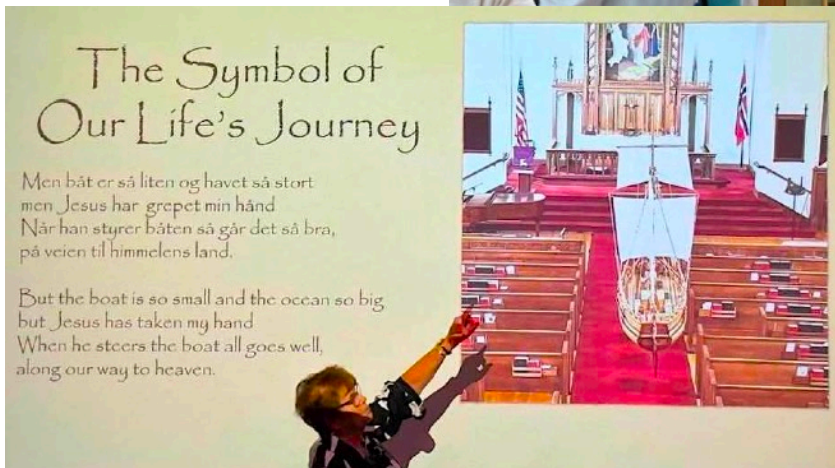
Heidi Eger demonstrated the Nordic folk art of *skinnfell*, sheepskins ink-stamped with traditional designs.



Wergeland Dancers, La Crosse Sons of Norway



Mary Gross, Barbara Nelson, & Mary Baumgartner at the Norskedalen Heritage Center.



Leslee Hoyum, a founding member of Norway House, enlightened us with the history of model ships hanging in Norwegian churches.

Romerikslaget i Amerika
35th Annual Meeting 5 August 2025
Stoney Creek Conference Center in Onalaska, Wisconsin

Call to Order President Norma Kjenstad Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:03

Roll Call 13 Members were present

Reports:

Secretary's Report The 2024 Annual meeting minutes were approved as written.

Treasure's Report Mary Gross reported the current balance on 31 December 2024 was \$13,436.84

Audit Report Director Jean Knaak served as auditor and reported the lag financial records to be in good order.

Membership Susan Waldera was absent. One new member has joined since last year.

Publicity There are now 170 Facebook members
Norma has updated and posted to the Fellesraad website.

Unfinished Business

A discussion on Family Histories resulted in the following actions:
An appointment with Kristina Warner at NAHA will be made by Linda to discuss donation of lag books we no longer use and to understand the organization of their card catalog.
Emails will be sent to current members offering to return, scan and return, scan and/or place the remaining Family Histories with NAHA.

New Business

The following members accepted nominations for positions:
Mary Gross a 3 year term as Director of Membership
Linda McKeen a 3 year term as Secretary
Eunice Helgesen a 3 year term as Director at large
Chris Falteisek a 3 year term as Director at large
Voting for all candidates was unanimous and all were approved

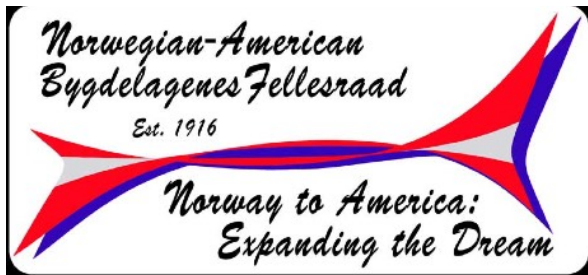
Next Meeting

The 2026 annual meeting and stevne location have yet to be decided.
The tentatives dates are September 15-17 2026.

Adjournment

7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda McKeen, Secretary



Fellesraad/Bygdelag Match with NAHA

By Elaine Hasleton, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, President

The *Fellesraad* Board formalized a partnership with the Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) toward their Archives Campaign. *Fellesraad* will match all funds donated by the *Bygdelags* and *Bygdelag* members to the NAHA Campaign up to a total of \$20,000. **The Centennial Campaign ends on December 31st, 2025 so all donations should be**

submitted to NAHA by then. Mail checks to 1510 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057 or submit on-line at <https://naha.charityproud.org/Donate>

Please note in the check memo field that it is a *Fellesraad* match. Also, please inform *Fellesraad* Treasurer, Don Teigen, of the amount so the matching donation can be sent in by December 31st. The NAHA Archives has the largest collection of preserved *Bygdelag* history. It is one of the largest ethnic historical organizations in the country. For the past ten years *Fellesraad* has been encouraging all Lags to submit historical records to NAHA, to be preserved for the future. We feel honored to work with NAHA on their Centennial Campaign match.

Romerikslag Family Histories to have a new home at NAHA

By Linda McKeen

Before we place the histories with the Norwegian- American Historical Association at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., we are requesting your help in locating the original authors or their descendants. These histories can be returned to them or will be donated to NAHA. They can also be scanned and preserved for Romerike genealogical use. Please email: lindamckeen49@gmail.com

An Arrow in time - Theodora Anderson Nappan

Ancestors of Rolf Martin Kristoffersen (no author)

The Ancestry of Kristoffer Jakobsen Döli / Mari Larsdtr Elton i Holter-Truman Carlson

Civil War Diaries of Hans Olson Grinder - Albert Grender

Duum Family - -James Dunnum

Erickson - Hanson Family of Hakedalen - Norman Wayne Hjelmeland

Families of Ahless / Stigersand - Bjorn Bolstad

Five Centuries of Pioneering, Sandness Family

Glotta/Gudmundson - Roots / Branches - Becky / Jan Gudmundson

Hans / Olina Halvorson Ancestors - Garth Ulrich, Connie McConechy, Terry Seriven

Ingeborg / Christian Bjerke - Gladys Thompson Beril

Martin / Gurine Jacobson - Elaine Anderson

Ole and Mary Anfinso Dwayne Pederson

The Skjeggerud Sisters a Genealogy

Skeleton Finsbraten - Jen Arne Sandholdbraten

Slekten Orbak - Ola Ljödäl

Slekts - Bok Ave Siogurd Stenslet

The Beck Family - Ola Lokeberg / Jewel Beck Lansing

NOVEMBER 2025

ROMERIKSLAGET I AMERIKA

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Lag Officers & Directors

President: Norma Kjenstad Barnes (2025-28)

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

Vice President: Chuck McKeen (2024-27)

4894 Iten Ave. SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349
612-803-7844 * email: chuck.mckeen@gmail.com

Director of Membership: Mary Gross (2026-29)

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

Director of Genealogy: (Vacant Position)

Co-Genealogists: Barbara J. Nelson & Linda McKeen

Secretary: Linda McKeen (2026-29)

4894 Iten Ave. SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349
612-770-8517 * email: lindamckeen49@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mary Gross (2025-28)

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

Director: Mary Baumgartner (2024-27)

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

Director: Joel Botten (2025-28)

1314 Pine Pointe Curve, St. Peter, MN 56028
507-351-6712 * email: joelbotten@gmail.com

Director: Chris Falteisek (2026-29)

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

Director: Jean Knaak (2024-27)

2456 Arkwright St, St. Paul, MN 55117
651-357-6139 * email:knaak002@gmail.com

Director: Ray A. Olson (2025-28)

706 Beckham Ln. #206, Rock Hill, SC 29732
218-442-4458 * email: ray.olson1946@gmail.com

Director: Eunice Helgeson (2026-29)

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

Director: Barbara J. Nelson (2024-27)

475 Cedar Court., Taylors Falls, MN 55084
651-465-0309 * email: bjnelso@midco.net

Past President: Julie Clauson

22 14th Ave. SW, New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-3600 * email: jollyjac@aol.com

Jill Hanson: Melrose, Minnesota

Romerike Ancestral Area: *Eidsvoll*

Jill is the daughter of our *Romerikslaget* member Jean Knaak. They attended the most recent *Flere Lag Stevne* together in August, and Jill decided to join at that time. Some of you may have met her there.

Kathy Roat: Des Moines, Iowa

Romerike Ancestral Area: *Hurdal*

Kathy joined us thanks to Linda McKeen, who has been helping her with genealogy research.

In Memoriam



Carol Nygaard Olson 1945-2025

Carol, 79, passed away on Nov. 10 in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She was a volunteer genealogist with *Romerikslag* and other organizations. Carol is survived by her husband, Ray A. Olson.

www.greenefuneralhome.net/obituary/carol-a-olson/

Newsletter Editor: Norma Kjenstad Barnes

Website: www.fellesraad.com/romerikslaget

Facebook Administrators: Chris Falteisek & Norma Kjenstad Barnes

