

*Norwegian-American
Bygdelagenes Fellesraad
Est. 1916*

*Norway to America:
Expanding the Dream*

Norwegian-American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad 2021 Annual Meeting Presentation of Bygdelag Activities & Membership Statistics

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2020/21 Membership & Stevner Statistics

Agder Lag

Gudbrandsdalslaget

Hadeland

Hallinglag

Hardanger

Landingslag

Møre og Romsdalslag

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken

Nordfjord National

Nordfjord Wisconsin

Nordhordland

Nordlandslaget

Numedalslågen Lag

Opdalslag

Ringerike-Drammen Districts

Rogalandslag

Romerikslag

Sami Lag

Sigdalslag

Sognalag

Sognefjord Lag

Solørlag of America

Sunnfjord

Sunnhordland

Telelaget of America

Totenlag

Trønderlag

Valdres Samband

Vestlandslag

Vosselag

Østfold

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Hallinglag

- Greetings from the Hallinglag. This is Sandra Nelson, President of the Hallinglag. Our second delegate is Diane Magnusson, Editor of our magazine Hallingen.
- We currently have 450 member units. We did not hold a Lag Stevne in 2020 due to the pandemic.
- Our Group Facebook page hosts 609 persons, both members of the Lag and non-members.
- Our Board decided to err on the side of caution again in 2021 and we have cancelled this year's Stevne.
- We continue to publish our quarterly 36-page magazine, Hallingen. Our group trip to Norway is scheduled for August 2021 but doubtful due to Norway's travel restrictions.
- We have high hopes for 2022.

Nordfjord National

- Greetings from the Nordfjordlag!
 - The sad news for this year is that our President Dennis Sorheim died this spring.
 - I am Gene Rodi, Vice-President, and have momentarily taken on that role.
- At the last stevne (2019) we had 46 members attend.
 - Next stevne 9/19/21 will meet in Spicer, MN at Green Lake Bible Camp.
- There was no meeting of any kind held in 2020.
- For the first time since the 1970's we have created a newsletter, "Nordfjordlag E-News"; there have been 3 issues to date.
- At our next officer's meeting we hope to decide on what kind of meeting we will have in September, Zoom or in person.

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Nordlandslaget

Linda Mohn sent these statistics regarding memberships and newsletters:

- Approximately 200 family units who receive quarterly newsletters by email & mail. Approximately another 100 emails to organizations, friends & family
- Outreach: 4 quarterly newsletters
- Facebook & websites: “Norwegian-American Nordlands laget–People with roots in North Norway.”
- No face-to-face meetings planned.
- Upcoming activity–planning for June 2022 stevne in Detroit Lakes, MN

Romerikslag

- *God dag* from Romerikslaget i Amerika from Norma Kjenstad Barnes, President
- Membership/Newsletter statistics:
 - 2021 paid memberships: 122
 - Romerikslaget page link on Fellesraad website.
 - Facebook group: Romerike i America—90 members.
 - Quarterly newsletter printed & mailed to members.
 - Monthly email mini-newsletter began last summer.
- Board of Directors: 5 Zoom meetings since last summer.
- November 2020 mail-in election: expired Directors positions & remaining year of vacated President's term.
- 2020 joint stevne with Solørlag cancelled.
 - 2021 stevne planned for September 15–18, New Ulm, Minnesota.
 - 2022 merged stevne with Tre Lag Stevne planned by steering committee from the five lags.

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Seven Lag+ (Lag Combination)

Lag Presentations for:

1. Agder
2. Hadeland
3. Landingslag
4. Numedalslågen Lag
5. Ringerike-Drammen Districts
6. Sigdalslag
7. Telelaget
8. Totenlag

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Agder Lag

On behalf of Agderlag I am Jerry Ugland, President.

Our fylker lines were changed to include Aust Agder and Vest Agder. The fylke is now just Agder.

- We have 60 members. The newsletter also goes to members, Norwegian organizations, other lags, and prospective members.
- We have a Facebook page and a web site, both of which are still in development.
- Last year we had a Zoom membership meeting on July 11 where we had our second election of officers.
- In March we had a Zoom meeting with a presentation by Olav Holen about Setesdal and emigration from there, which was mostly to the U.S. Olav's presentation about the area around Bykle was particularly interesting from the standpoint of understanding the economy of the area before and after a hydroelectric dam was built. Olav wrote several small books about the subjects he presented. In the afternoon two young singers, Vetle Hoslemo and Eldbjørg Rysstad sang local folk songs on a very professionally produced video, which I understand that you saw yesterday. It was arranged and videoed by Vetle's mother, Bjørg-Sissel Tveiten, and Harold Knutsen. It is available on YouTube under the title, "*Hilsing til The Agderlag*".
- In addition to participating in five Seven Lag Zoom meetings this summer, Agderlag will have a membership meeting, yet to be scheduled. The first Seven Lag+ meeting will be on May 15 with a presentation by Terje Joranger on the history of Syttende Mai. In the afternoon we will have videos of Syttende Mai celebrations in small Norwegian communities.

We are progressing and the epidemic did not stop us.

Hadeland

- Greetings from Hadeland President Anne Sladky
- Membership households are:
 - United States 396
 - Norway 91
 - Canada 5
 - England 1
- 2020 Activities
 - 7+ Lag Stevne was cancelled.
 - Virtual annual meeting in October with program from Hadeland Folkemuseum.
 - Annual meeting and board meetings held via Zoom.
- 2021 Plans
 - Virtual 7+ Lag Stevne
 - Session at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. third Saturday of the month, May–August
 - In-Person Annual Meeting and St. Croix river cruise in October

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Landingslag

Hello, my name is Eric Goplin and I am the president of Landings Lag!

- Current Membership—236 members, and we mail 212 newsletters, and send 17 electronically.

Our outreach for the last year included plenty of:

- Emails, texts, phone calls, and virtual board meetings
- We hosted a New Year's Eve Zoom Happy Hour, inviting participants from the past two Stevner
- Members continue active participation in submitting interesting articles to our wonderful newsletter.

Current work includes:

- Our ongoing Letter Project with Land's Museum in Norway. It continues with more translating of letters contributed by our members from their ancestors. The response has exceeded all of our expectations!
- Our Norway Trip, after being delayed twice, is being planned for 2022. We are hoping the third time is the charm!

Enjoy the meeting, and I wish you good health!

Numedalslågen Lag



- *Jeg heter* Chet Habberstad. I am the formannen of Numedalslågen Lag. The slide shown here is a picture of our beautiful banner on the grounds of the Uvdal Stav Kirke in Numedal, Norway. We brought it with us on our centennial tour of Numedal in 2008 and displayed it many times on our tour.
- We currently have 175 family memberships. We have a very informative web page maintained by our webmaster Sharon Custer. We also have a very active Facebook page.
- We publish a newsletter called “The Nyheter” that comes out three times a year with Sharold Hipfner as our editor and he does an amazing job.
- We have not met as a lag group since the fall of 2019 when we held our Fall Mini Stevne in Detroit Lakes, MN. We hopefully plan on having a two-day Mini Stevne of just our lag this fall sometime if the covid pandemic is under control enough to allow it.
- We hope to see you 7 + Lag members in Duluth in 2022.

Ringerike-Drammen Districts

- Greetings from RDD to fellow lag members. We are part of the 7+ Stevne group.
- RDD is represented by Treasurer, Barbara Gulbrandsen and President, Lynn Nord.
- Currently the lag has 92 members
- RDD Facebook page has 132 members and is managed by Deb Pritchard. Virtual gatherings are becoming more frequent and enjoyable, while we wait for assembling together in person, once again.
- Genealogist, Derwyn Anderson is very active helping members with their lineage. There are 90 members in the database linking to other members. It is exciting to learn how we are related to each other.
- Several members have been working to consolidate the reference materials in one storage place. Also the digitized materials are being collected in one place as well.
- Lag is struggling with continuing existence as we need people interested in officer positions. Currently we have an active treasurer, newsletter editor and genealogist. Replacements are needed for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Membership Chair.

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Sigdalslag

- Greetings from Sigdalslag President Karen Olson
- Thanks to Fellesraad
- Membership currently at 248; includes 5 lifetime and 4 youth
- Newsletter published 3 times per year
- Annual meeting and board meetings held via Zoom
- Activity highlights sent to members via email
- Genealogy chat group
- Scanning project
- Norway trip 2022

Telelaget of America

Hilsen fra Telelaget of America! We represent the descendants of people from beautiful Telemark and all who have an interest in the customs and history of Telemark. Speaker: Jeffrey Huset, president of Telelaget of America.

➤ What the lag did this year

- Conducted all lag meetings via Zoom, including the 2021 annual meeting
- Increased membership (from 332 to 342!)
- Planned, scheduled, but then postponed *Visions of Norway* tour
- Participated in planning the *7+ Lag Virtual Stevne*
- Published 2 issues each of the *Telesoga* (journal), *TeleNews* (newsletter), and *TeleMail* (digital newsletter)
- Participated in Norway House's *Famous Norwegians* project
- Helped with the distribution of the new book *Red River Girl—The Art of Orabel Thortvedt*, in cooperation with the West-Telemark Museum at Eidsborg, Norway and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Minnesota

➤ Brief plans for next year

- *7+ Lag Virtual Stevne*, including the presentation *Hymns of My Great-Grandfather* by Telelaget Board member Sandy Gilbert
- Planning for the next tour to Norway in summer 2022.
- Assisting our members with their family history research.

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Totenlag

- Greetings from Totenlag
- George Olson, President of Totenlag
- 191 Members, 36 of which are in Norway
- 17 of the 36 are new members
- 166 Newsletters via email & 25 Paper Copies of Newsletter
- Facebook page “Totenlaget in America”
- Website to be Updated
- Had Member Meeting via Zoom
- Hope to have another Zoom members meeting

Sognefjord Lag

- Greetings to all members of Sognefjordlag from your president, Lucy Ghastin, and Vice President Lee Grippen. I trust everyone has stayed safe this past year.
 - Sognefjordlag membership is 158.
- In 2020 Sognefjordlag had planned a trip to Norway that was postponed for summer of 2021. However, that plan had to be cancelled due to the uncertainty of foreign travel.
 - We did not do any Zoom meetings in 2020.
- August 13–14, 2021 Sognefjordlag is planning an in-person annual meeting (stemne) in Westby, WI. If Covid-19 regulations affect this, we will notify attendees of any changes.

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Solørlag of America



- Because of Covid 19 precautions, Solørlag postponed their 2020 stevne and plans are set for our 2021 stevne to take place in New Ulm, MN September 15–18th.
- We have continued to have our board meetings via Zoom which works out well since we have board members in many different states.
- Our Facebook page remains our best method of reaching out to people with Solør roots and interests.
- The Solørlag has mailings of 100 and email mailings of 120, some of which are two members at each household. We continue to have more members, some of whom are in Norway.
- We also have our website.

Our biggest accomplishment this year is that we and Romerikslag have joined Tre Lag (Trøndelag, Gudbrandsdalslag & Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag) for upcoming stevner starting in 2022. A steering committee has been formed and officers have been elected. At this point, we are working on a name for the combined group.

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Tre Lag (Lag Combination)

Lag Presentations for:

1. Gudbrandsdalslaget
2. Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken
3. Trønderlag

Gudbrandsdalslaget

I'm John Peterson, President of Gudbrandsdalslag.

- The past year with COVID we have not had any in-person events but our Board has met regularly via Zoom.
- We have 260 paid members (including 5 in Canada and 4 in Norway), and 25 organizations. We had 67 renewals and 22 new members. We mail 280 copies of our Brev newsletter 3 times/year.
- Our Facebook page saw a significant increase in activity the past two years. We have 818 members. Facebook has allowed us to connect with our members and nonmembers, which in turn has resulted in many new members.
- We are looking forward to our still-scheduled (as of this writing) Tre Lag Stevne. And in 2022, Tre Lag will be adding two additional Lags with a new name soon to be announced.

I'm saddened to report the passing of two of our long-time board members. Jim Olson, long time President, passed away March 13th. Jim served on our Board and then as our President for 12 years and led many Lag trips to Norway. Two weeks later we lost Betty Strand who served on the Board in a number of different roles for nearly 25 years. Both Jim and Betty were fixtures at the Tre Lag Stevne.

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken

- Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag—Joy Shong, President
 - Membership numbers: 175
 - Approximately 200 newsletters are sent 3 times a year by mail and email to all paid members; 29 free to libraries and Norwegian historielags.
- What the lag did this year
 - Board began meeting via Zoom.
 - Inventoried book collection—working on the list for items to house/donate at Norway House.
- Outreach: Facebook page, Website, Newsletter, Genealogist support to members.
- Brief plans for coming year
 - Tre Lag Stevne is being tentatively planned for August 11 to 14 at the Madison West Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Middleton, WI—(It may be cancelled due to hotel restrictions for large meetings.)
 - The Tre Lag Stevne group, including NHOH Lag, Gudbrandsdalslag and Trønderlag, will be forming a new combined stevne with Romerikslag and Solørlag beginning with the 2022 Stevne.

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Trønderlag

Healthful and hopeful greetings from the Trønders,

- Membership: Trønderlag has 513 members which makes up 314 families.
- We print 400 newsletters for each issue. 40 go to officers for distribution to prospective members (or other). 15 are complimentary to museums and archives.
- Outreach: There were few inquiries this year regarding genealogy. Facebook membership is at 813.
- Plans: Our annual Tre Lag Stevne is planned for Middleton (near Madison), Wisconsin August 11–14. We are hopeful this can take place. The three lags of Trønder, Gudbrandsdal, Nord Hedmark and Hedemarken will join Romerikslag and Solørlag for the stevne in 2022. Details are being planned by the boards.

Respectfully,
Linda and Chuck Mckeen

Valdres Samband

I am Rebecca Wood, President of the Valdres Samband.

- We have 739 members.
- We canceled the 2020 and 2021 in-person Stevner.
- Since last summer we have held numerous presentations via Zoom. A few of the topics:
 - Six separate presentations, one for each of the six Kommunes in Valdres.
 - Two presentations on understanding DNA genealogy
 - Using the *Digitalarkivet*
 - Using our Valdres Genealogy database
 - Bunads
- We are updating our website. We have an active Facebook group. We have recently opened accounts on Instagram and Twitter to communicate with members plus outreach to potential members.
- Our board meetings have switched from teleconferences to Zoom.
- For 2021 we will continue to have Zoom presentations and meetings. In 2022 we plan to return to an in-person Stevne. Possibly in the Twin Cities metro area.

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Vestlandslag (Lag Combination)

Lag Presentations for:

1. Hardanger
2. Møre og Romsdalslag
3. Nordhordland * (with Sunnhordland)
4. Rogalandslag
5. Sognalag
6. Sunnfjord
7. Sunnhordland
8. Vosselag

Vestlandslag

- Greetings to all other lags. We have postponed our stevne till June 9–11, 2022 at the Holiday Inn City Centre, Sioux Falls, SD.
- We have a Web site through the Fellesraad site, and Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Vestlandslag/>
- Membership
 - Vestlandslag (overall)–297
 - Hardanger–57
 - Møre og Romsdal–61 (no separate presentation)
 - Nordhordland–45
 - Rogaland–94
 - Sogn–109
 - Sunnhordland–40
 - Sunnfjord–24
 - Voss–65

We have been sending out our Vestlandet newsletter quarterly the past year. Our membership is down slightly and the individual lag presidents hope to send out reminders to people to renew membership.

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Hardanger

- Hardanger Lag (currently with 57 members) has not meet due to the pandemic.
- Sue Eckert has issued several Hilsen Newsletters. Lag Genealogists have answered a few inquiries.

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Møre og Romsdalslag

No additional information received.

Nordhordland/Sunnhordland

- Greetings from Sunnhordland/Nordhordland lags. This is LaRee Opdahl, President of the lags.
- Since we did not have any stevne last year or this year, we have not had a meeting since Decorah, IA in 2019. Our Annual Meeting is always held at the stevnes. The membership numbers reported are as follow:
 - Nordhordland: 45
 - Sunnhordland: 40
 - I understand that Peter counts family memberships as 1 unit, so it may be more accurate to add about 15 to each lag.

Rogalandslag

- Rogalandslag is glad to be able to join you for the Fellesraad Annual Meeting by Zoom this year. I am Robert C. Torkelson, President of Rogalandslag.
- Rogalandslag memberships number is currently 111. This is down some from 2020. We have 2 new members and 1 person who has recently inquired about membership.
- Our lag has not had any meetings during this year of Covid-19. We have our annual Business Meeting in conjunction with Vestlandslag's Annual Stevne which was postponed in 2020 and also 2021.
- Rogalandslag has a Facebook Page where we have a number of people posting information and questions.
- Rogalandslag does not have any meetings planned for 2021 at this point. I plan to send out an email to our lost members encouraging them to renew their membership. I also plan to send 1 or 2 emails to our members with current information.



Sognalag

Martha Blomberg of Sognalag will speak.





Sunnfjord

Tamra Foster of Sunnfjord will speak.



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Vosselag

From Jean Marthaler, President:

- We have 64 members on our membership list.
- We have 259 followers on our Vosselag Facebook page.
- We haven't had any Zoom meetings.
- We have had about 6 requests for genealogy research items
- And we've had a number of requests from individuals wanting to purchase our last genealogy items that we have for sale.