

## **Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Annual Meeting Minutes Held by Zoom on Saturday, May 7, 2022**

The 104th Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held by zoom on Saturday, May 7, 2022 due to the continuing covid pandemic risks. Board members present were President Elaine Hasleton, Vice President Marilyn Sorensen, Treasurer, Robert Torkelson, Secretary Mary Gross, Director and Webmaster Gene Rodi, Director Jean Knaak, Director Don Teigen, Director Nancy Pickering, and Past President Marilyn Somdahl.

President Hasleton called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. She welcomed all those joining via zoom & reviewed zoom etiquette. The meeting agenda had been emailed to all registrants for review prior to the meeting. Elaine asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Bob Torkelson moved to accept, there was a second and motion passed.

**Roll Call of Voting Delegates:** Secretary Gross called the roll of voting delegates of all bygdslag. These were the delegates present on zoom:

Agderlag: Jerry Ugland & Sheri Edwards

Gudbrandsdalslaget: John F. Peterson & Sid Stivland

Hadeland: Ann Sladky

Hallinglag: none present

Hardanger: Don Teigen & Susan Eckert

Landingslag: Ann Delano & Eric Goplin

Møre og Romsdalslag: none present

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken: Joy Shong & Gary Romsaas

Nordfjordlag: Kevin Hoff & Sandy Hoff

Nordfjordlag Wisconsin: none present

Nordhordland: Warren Eidsness

Nordlandslag: Linda Mohn & Shirley Sampson

Numedalslag: Al Larson

Østfoldlag: none present

Ringerike-Drammen Districts: Peg Schellin & Debra Pritchard

Rogalandslag: Bob Torkelson

Romerikslaget: Norma Barnes & Mary Gross  
Sami Lag: none present

Sigdalslag: Sheila Winstead & Jean Borgerding

Sognalag: Martha Blomberg & Jen Dauer

Sognefjordlag: Lucy Ghastin & Lee Grippen

Solørlag: none present

Sunnfjordlaget: Tamra Foster

Sunnhordland: Denny Kalvig & Sheryl Hove

Telelaget: Jeffrey Huset & Sandra Fjelstad Gilbert

Totenlag: Judy Evenson

Tronderlag: none present

Valdres Samband: Rebecca Wood & Liv Marit Hakenstad

Vestlandslag: Ann Romo & Blaine Hedberg

Vosselag: Ruth Christ & Richard Flisrand

**Presentation of Officer's Slate to be Elected Board Members:** Director Don Teigen introduced the Fellesraad Board, all of whom are up for re-election. All members had agreed to continue if re-elected.

**Election of Officers:** Director Gene Rodi asked for a vote & current officers were re-elected with no nominations from the floor. These officers are President Elaine Hasleton, Vice President Marilyn Sorensen, Secretary Mary Gross, Treasurer Robert Torkelson, Webmaster/Director Gene Rodi, Director Jean Knaak, Director Don Teigen, and Director Nancy Pickering. Gene Rodi moved to accept this slate of officers as elected. Motion was seconded & passed.

**Lag President's Greetings and Lag Reports/Summaries of Accomplishments:** Nancy Pickering developed a Power Point slide show with lag presidents giving a report on their 2021 activities. Most bygdelag contributed to this fine presentation.

**Officer's Reports:**

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting had been emailed to all registrants prior to this meeting. Robert Torkelson moved to accept the minutes as sent. Motion was seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Torkelson reviewed his report for the year ending April 30, 2022. Total assets are currently \$100,596 with \$6752 in our checking account & investments of

\$93,844. Thrivent has \$32,117 at present. There is a loss of \$4000 from last year due to a \$2,000 loss in AT&T Stock & a \$2000 Thrivent Stock loss. Current assets are \$38,869 (checking account \$6,752 and Thrivent \$33,117). He will be paying out \$100 honorariums to our four speakers from the presentations of yesterday's gathering and \$100 memorials each to Norway House in honor of R. Lee Brown and Oscar M. Lund, Jr. This report will be filed. Fellesraad donated \$45,000 to Norway House on December 10, 2020 for the Bibliotek match given by lags and individual lag members.

**Lag Week Activities Report for 2022:** Vice President Marilyn Sorensen reported that activities were held monthly via Zoom during 2021-2022. In 2022 Lag Week was held in person in Salt Lake City March 13-19 with 9 attendees. 2023 Lag Week will follow the week of Roots Tech March 5-11, 2023.

**Webmaster Report:** Gene Rodi reminded bygdelaag members that each lag needs to update current lag officers & other lag information on the Fellesraad website. Last year's Fellesraad Annual Meeting held on Zoom involved 100-130 registrants from 3 different countries and 10 states. Most bygdelaag were represented. He has renewed our Zoom Pro membership & it is available for lags to use for their meetings as well. There have been 181,000 views of our Fellesraad webpage in the last year.

**President's Report:** President Hasleton thanked members of the Fellesraad Board for their work during the last year, especially Marilyn Sorensen, who has shared much of her responsibility due to Elaine's health challenges.

Fellesraad will be donating memorials of \$100 to Norway House in honor of both R. Lee Brown and Oscar M. Lund, Jr., who served as treasurers on the Board for many years.

Gary Erickson's (Møre og Romsdal President & Lag Genealogist) estate donated 90 boxes of Norwegian books, many of which will go to the Haugo Archive at Norway House & others to appropriate places. If anyone is aware of Norwegian archival materials that may be of interest, they should contact Marilyn Sorensen.

Elaine presented a Power Point slide show focusing on the past, present, and future of Fellesraad. The Past involves preservation of our bygdelaag and history. The Present is daily/monthly activities, including virtual meetings, newsletters, and social media. The Future is planning and adapting now so we can continue to be viable.

The Haugo Archives and Bibliotek are in process at Norway House & hoping for completion in mid-November of 2022. Norway House is working with Fellesraad to look at needed partnerships. FamilySearch & Norway House are working towards Library Affiliation. The Discovery Center is in process of determining essential FamilySearch involvement. Other collaborations are with the 2025 Commemoration Committee, the Norwegian Emigrant Museum, and other groups such as NAHA.

Some bygdelaag are finding that loss of members has challenged them. One disbanded and others have joined with other lag for stevner gatherings. On the other hand, there has been a new lag formed within the last few years.

Fellesraad has released a policy statement stating that due to legal constraints, it cannot help individual bygdelaag with specific projects financially or legally. It is dedicated to helping all bygdelaag with shared projects instead.

Plans for Fellesraad's coming year are to continue weekly meetings with Norway House & the design firm, Gagarin, for the Bibliotek. We need to recruit additional lag members to work on the Famous Norwegian-American exhibit in the Discovery Center. We will continue to meet with 2025 Committee and others. We must preserve Bygdelag history, using NAHA resources.

**Presentation by Norway House Joe Grodahl "Haugo Archive and Bibliotek Update"**. Joe gave an update on details about the progress of the Haugo Archive and Bibliotek & answered questions from registrants. The completion date is expected to be mid November of 2022 with a Grand Opening in mid February of 2023.

President Hasleton adjourned the meeting at 12:15 PM. The next Fellesraad Annual Meeting will be May 5 & 6th of 2023.