

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD BULLETIN

NORWEGIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BYGDELAG
www.fellesraad.com

Since 1916

March 2016

YOU'RE INVITED

To attend the 100th year Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 7 At Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, MN

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, the national council of *bygdelag*, holds its **Centennial Annual Meeting Saturday, May 7, at 8 AM** at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6115 Earl Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430. This follows the centennial events of May 5-6 at the nearby convention hotel, Doubletree by Hilton, also in Brooklyn Center. There is no charge for parking.

Delegates should arrive 15-20 minutes before the appointed hour to pick up registration materials and badges and to find reserved seating.

A special order of business will be the report of Robert O'Neil for the nominating committee (which includes Sandra Hendrickson and incumbent board members) for the election of officers for one year terms for 2016-2017. The president and the treasurer declined candidacy. (Any nominations made from the floor must have the prior consent of the nominee.)

Two delegates may be seated for each lag whose annual lag dues of \$5 have been paid. These dues are **payable each January 1.**

Registration for Saturday's **B Conference package is \$90 for adults and \$60 for youth age 18 and under.** This includes the hotel reception the previous evening, all **coffee** breaks, great seminars and programs, exhibits, **lunch** and the evening **banquet** and bunad parade, beginning at 5:30 PM. Check other options online at www.fellesraad.com/centennial or get registration forms from the lag president. Everyone will have a badge and everyone will register.

Prices are valid *before* April 15, but are likely to be raised thereafter.

Many will register for the **A complete conference** package at \$150. Banquet seating will be determined by date of payment (by mail or online). **Guests of registered members** should register with the member.

Lag displays and lag banners need to be in place before 7:40 AM since opening sessions begin at 8 AM promptly. Earle Brown Center opens early for vendors and others with assigned tasks.

Ann Romo suggests lag displays should be ready to be assembled easily and quickly; if they are well planned, a 7 AM arrival should be adequate. The area will be secure. Early arrival also pertains to the placement of lag banners.

Jean Knaak, 2016 Centennial Celebration chair, has kept tabs on the various sub-committees to implement plans to make the May 5-8 centennial celebration a truly memorable one! **Thank you to every volunteer** without whose assistance the festive events could not take place. Some have been at tasks for months and others for the actual celebratory days! Those who volunteer at the event will meet for orientation prior to the day.

Remember that the Norwegian Day Camp for school age children is only held Saturday.

Since it is an historic occasion, various recognitions will be part of the weekend experience. Congratulations to Ringerike Drammens District Lag which celebrates 100 years since its founding at the 7 Lag Stevne at Austin, MN, in July. Others include:

- ◆ Representatives of Norwegian organizations participating in the Centennial will be recognized at the 8 AM opening session Saturday.
- ◆ Current lag members who are direct descendants of charter members from all bygdelag will be recognized at lunch Saturday.
- ◆ Notable Norwegian Americans who have made contributions to their lag, state or country will be recognized Friday evening at the DoubleTree Hotel in Brooklyn Center.

Names of official delegates and the lag they represent appear on page 7.

Norway to America: Memories & Dreams



1916 - 2016

Fellesraad Centennial Celebration

Centennial registration info: www.fellesraad.com/centennial
All interested in ethnic heritage are invited to register and attend.

May

- 05-06 Centennial Events, Doubletree by Hilton,**
2200 Freeway Blvd, Brooklyn Center, MN
- 05-06 **Nordlandslaget av Amerika og Canada** meets at BF Centennial
Shirley Sampson, booklady@runestone.net or 320.986.2861
- Romerikslag** meets at BF Centennial
Joel Botten, 507.351.6712,
- 06 **Sognefjordlag** meets at BF Centennial
Kathy Johnson, kjohnson44@ameritech.net or 608.238.1785
- 07 **100th Year Jubilee Day,** 6115 Earle Brown Drive,
Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, MN
- 08 Centennial Day to visit **Mindekirken** and **Norway House**
www.mindekirken.org - 913 East Franklin, Minneapolis

June

- 16-18 Valdres Samband & Vestlandslag, Willmar, MN**
Hardanger, Møre og Romsdal, Nordhordland/Sunnhordland, Rogaland, Sognalag,
Sunnfjord & Voss Bob Hanson, H4414463@juno.com or 763.441.4463
Tom Standal, tjstandal@gmail.com

July

- 13-16 7 Lag Stevne,** Holiday Inn Convention Center, **Austin, MN**
Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag Centennial. Register with one lag.
Lynn Nord coordinator (lynn8487@gmail.com); Land (ejg@trivest.net);
Hadeland (president@hadelandlag.org); Numedal (sah4664@msn.com)
Sigdal (knaak002@gmail.com); Telelag (jsoftelie@msn.com); Toten
(olekaren@paulbunyan.net) **More information** www.7lagstevne.com

August

- 03-06 Tre-Lag Stevne:** Trønderlag, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag,
Gudbrandsdalslag -- **St. Paul, MN**
Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com or 952.922.9587
- 18-20 Hallinglag, Alexandria, MN**
Tom Lanman, telanman@comcast.net or 651.731.5402

September

- 03 Nordfjord - WI,** Sugar Creek Bible Camp, **Ferryville, WI**
Jacob Vedvik, 608-734-3192 or Ruth Ann Messling, 608-734-325
- 10-11 Opdalslag,** Scandia Lutheran Church, **Centerville, SD**
Pauline Strait, phstrait@gmail.com
- 16-17 Solør Lag, Hudson, WI**
Marie Thompson, 641.423.0487
- 18 Nordfjordlag (National),** Green Lake Bible Camp, **Spicer, MN**
Connie Olson, 763.972.7266; Gene Rodi, 612.722.3324

CONTACT EACH LAG ONE MONTH PRIOR TO EACH STEVNE.

Abbreviated Agenda - May 7

7:30 AM Arrival - pick up
badges & find reserved seats
Greet Others

8 AM Call to Order

Officer Introductions

ROLL CALL by secretary
delegates stand

Special order:

Nominating Committee Report
and Election of Officers
for 2016-2017

Printed in this **BULLETIN**
for your reading before the
meeting::

Secretary's 2015 Minutes
Treasurer's Preliminary
Report & Budget

Officer Report
by the President

Greetings From
From the Honorary Norwegian
Consulate General

Representatives
of Norwegian American organ-
izations registered to partici-
pate in the Centennial.
will be recognized.

VOLUNTEERS

If you have not registered,
please do not wait.

Assignments and training
need to take place
in an orderly manner.

Contact Jean Knaak to make-
known your willingness
to help make people welcome
at our 100th year party!

knaak002@gmail.com

Hilsen fra President Somdahl:

Presidents, please share this BULLETIN with lag treasurers, genealogists, editors and board members. Also check to see that your delegate has a copy. (Not everyone sent me e-mail addresses). Periodic BULLETINS are also found on the web site under Documents.

Congratulations to all newly elected lag officers! **Sandra Nelson, Hallinglag, and Jim Oftelie, Telelag,** are serving new terms as lag presidents. Last year six lag had new presidents.

Cheers to BF's Board of Directors and the Centennial Committee, ably chaired by Dr. Jean Knaak! Their dedicated work makes the celebration envisioned a couple of years ago a reality this May. After all, turning 100 only happens once!

Thankfully, Earle Brown Center can accommodate all wishing to register. A smaller place for the Saturday activities would have limited attendance. Talent of a high caliber has been sought to complement the program theme, "**Norway to America: Memories & Dreams,**" (proposed by and with thanks to Tom Gross).

A certain pride comes with this occasion. A predicted demise of the *bygdelag* was generally expected a few decades back. Each is autonomous. The Fellesraad is a coordinating and advisory organization.

Luckily, successive generations of Norwegian Americans are seeking information about their immigrant ancestors and the *bygdelag* continued to meet. One lag has over 100 members in Norway, working together in genealogical pursuits. Furthermore, the enthusiasm grew, helping to re-activate or launch new organizations in the past 20-27 years.

One challenge remains. Some members have NOT attended even ONE annual *stevne*. If people do come, they will often be favorably impressed and come again. Some like the newsletters or another facet of the lag, such as trips to Norway. Others belong to multiple lag so time and expense factor in. Practice hospitality and plan good programs!

Changes are constant—especially in the last 30 years. Earlier, *bygdelag* were dependent on businessmen, doctors, pastors or professors as leaders. Having served three years as vice president, I was elected Fellesraad president at the 1990 annual Fellesraad meeting and Axel Valla pronounced me the first woman to hold the office. Though absent because of a family death, Marilyn Sorensen was then elected vice

president. She has supported family history concerns and recommended programs, including Fellesraad sponsorship of Norwegian Lag Week at Salt Lake City for the past 11 years. I have represented the Fellesraad at various gatherings and on several committees, including gatherings for other presidents when the Norwegian Ambassador to the US hosted the US-Norway Forum from 1997-2010.

Hugs of special thanks to R. Lee Brown and to Eugene Rodi, webmaster. Both appear in the Fellesraad board picture prior to the Valdres Samband Centennial at Decorah, IA, July 29-31, 1999. Lee was then secretary, but he will be retiring as treasurer this May, as will your president.

Because interest and dividends provide the council's major income, Fellesraad funds are typically treated as endowment monies. Therefore, the philanthropic standing in the Norwegian community has largely been for small to moderate gifts. Skogfjorden, NAHA, genealogical entities, Syttende Mai Minnesota, Norway Day, Leif Eriksson International Festival, and memorials for the upkeep at Muskego Church at Luther Seminary have received gifts according to the annual budget.

The Fellesraad's largest gift of \$10,000 has been given to Norway House. Check out the 100 word BF wall plaque there. **Many individual lag have given both small and large gifts as well.**

Several thousand Fellesraad dollars supported the publishing of the 1975 book, *A Folk Epic: the Bygdelag in America*, by Dr. Odd S. Lovoll. A close runner-up in spending was increased publishing (the *BULLETIN* and the Fellesraad Brochure) along with fieldwork in re-establishing inactive *bygdelag*. **These expenditures were also investments of time spent by the late Morgan Olson, a former Fellesraad president, who persuaded Norwegians who had once been lag members and others to begin lag meetings again, as he had done bringing Hadeland Lag back to activity in the late 1970s.**

Board activity increased in recent years, and projects sought to benefit every lag, whether big or small in membership. The web site, newsletter improvement grants, genealogy stipends—one per lag, and volunteers shared the "**Explore Your Roots**" brochures with interested people at dinners or festivals. At one time 20,000 brochures were printed for Høstfest at Minot, ND. **Maps** helped people locate their special places in Norway, and each lag was to send a copy of a lag newsletter. Those were soon out-of-date, but current information is the reward for **downloading** this brochure from the website—and **in two formats.**

(Continued on page 7)

Unaudited Financial Summary of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, Inc

May 1, 2015– March 14, 2016

Note: Fiscal year ends April 30, 2016

RECEIPTS:	Checking Account Balance, 5/1/15		\$2,465.57
	Dividends	\$1,751.84	
	Other	<u>325.00</u>	
			\$ 2,076.84
	Centennial:		
	Registrations	30,363.15	
	Program book ad fees	2,445.00	
	Mutual Funds	<u>5,000.00</u>	
			<u>39,884.99</u>
	TOTAL RECEIPTS and starting balance		42,350.56
EXPENDITURES:			
	Non-Centennial	2,000.34	
	*Centennial	<u>6,411.79</u>	
	Total Expenditures		8,412.13
			<u>8,412.13</u>
	Checking Account Balance 3/14/16		\$33,938.43
	* Includes \$5,475 payment to Earle Brown Center		

= = = = = Budget Section 2 = = = = =

	<u>Budget</u> <u>Yr end 4/30/16</u>	Actual above	<u>Budget</u> <u>Yr end 4/30/17</u>	
RECEIPTS				
Annual meeting				
Registrations	800.	0	\$800	
LAG DUES	140	125	140	
Other		200		
Dividends (estimated)		1,666.09		
Xcel Common	700		700	
Center Point Energy	320		300	
AT&T, Inc	625		600	
Transfer from				
Investment Funds	<u>42,055.</u>	_____	<u>3,428</u> 4,960	
EXPENSES:				
actual to date		(2,000.34)		
Annual Meeting			800	
Safe Deposit Box Rental	40.		35	
Office Expense	75		200	
Ads & Promotion	1500		1200	
Brochures/ Bulletins	200		300	
Web site Fees	125		125	
Gifts and Contributions *	1500	922.00	2000	
CENTENNIAL Account				
Loan	40,000		0	Loan to be re-paid 1st to BF -- if
Lag 100th Anniversaries	150		150	Centennial makes a profit after
Programs	150.	0	<u>150</u> 4,960	expenses

*2014 N H gift= 2,500

*2015 N H gift =7,500

\$10,000

Delegates please look over both sections. Questions? Email Lee Brown before April 1.

DELEGATES: A very short business meeting is planned. Please look over page 4 for the budget proposal and the spending to date for the fiscal year ending April 30. Careful reading of the minutes before the meeting will also be helpful.

Who was to bring your lag banner? Your Centennial gifts should be pictured if they cannot be displayed.

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES May 2, 2015

The 99th annual meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held May 2, 2015, at Mindekirken in Minneapolis, MN.

President Marilyn Somdahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed delegates & eight guests. Pastor Kristin Sundt welcomed everyone to Mindekirken.

The Norwegian, Canadian, and American national anthems were sung with Sandra Hendrickson accompanying on the piano.

Honorary Norwegian Consul General Gary Gandrud brought greetings from Norway. He reminded everyone how important *Bygdelag* is to Norwegians. He said either he or his Vice Consuls are available to come to *stevner* not only to bring greetings, but to speak on a topic.

Marilyn Somdahl introduced the members of the Executive Board.

ROLL CALL: The roll call was read by Secretary Mary Gross. Forty-two delegates answered with their names & a report of where their banners are stored. Most will discuss 2016 lag displays at upcoming board meetings and at *stevner*.

GUDBRANDSDAL: Jim Olson, Pres., Dick Lundgren. Archivist Bob Olson has the banner.

HALLINGLAG: Gene Brandvold, Tom Lanman, Pres. Tom has the banner..

HADELAND: Jan Heusinkveld, Anne Sladky, Pres. Barb Schmitt has the banner. (558 members)

HARDANGER: Arlene Myrlie, Don Teigen, Pres. Don has the banner. (67 individuals)

LANDINGLAG: Sandra Hendrickson. President Eric Goplin has the banner.

MØRE OG ROMSDAL: Lee Brown, Gary Erickson, Pres. Gary has the banner

NORDFJORD: Bob O'Neil, Connie Olson. Gene Rodi has the banner.

NORD HEDMARK og HEDMARKEN: no delegate (178 family units)

NORDHORDLAND/SUNNHORDLAND: LaRee Opdahl, Pres; Loren Opdahl. Warren Eidsness has the banner.

NORDLANDSLAG: Linda Havir, Barb Moe. President Shirley Sampson has the banner.

NUMEDALSLAAGEN: Chet Habberstad, Laurel Dikken. Chet has the banner.

OPDALSLAG: no delegate

RINGERIKE DRAMMEN: Jackie Anderson, Derwyn Anderson. Pres. Lynn Nord has the banner.

ROGALANDSLAG: no delegate. (LaRee Opdahl is not sure where the banner is).

ROMERIKSLAG: Mel & Bev Slettehaugh. President Joel Botten has banner. (145 individuals)

SIGDALSLAG: Jean Borgerding, Jean Knaak, Pres. Jean K. has banner.

SOGNALAG: Sheryl Hove, Judy Ghastin. Judy has the banner.

SOGNEFJORD: Doug & Kathy Johnson. Kathy has the banner. (200 individuals).

SOLØR LAG: Tulla Froyen, Marie Thompson, Pres. The banner is in their library trailer. (233 members).

SUNNFJORD: Tamra Foster, Pres. Their secretary has their banner.

TELELAG: Elaine Nordlie. Bill Hoberg, Pres, has the banner.

TOTENLAG: Mary Bonnabeau, Helen Buche, Pres. Lee Brown has the banner. (225 units).

TRØNDERLAG: Elaine Hasleton, Nancy Hawkinson. The President has banner. (379 individuals).

VALDRES SAMBAND: Earl Evenstad, Mary Hendrickson. Earl has the banner

VESTLANDSLAG: Blaine Hedberg, Ann Romo, Pres. Bob Hamir has the banner.

VOSELG: Dick Flisrand. He has the banner.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The annual report of April 30, 2015, and the budget for the year ending April 30, 2016, was presented by Treasurer R. Lee Brown. The books, records, and ledgers for the period May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015 were audited and found in order by Robert O'Neil. Treasurer Lee moved to accept the financial statements and the audit as presented. The motion was seconded and carried (copy of the financial reports and audit is attached in the secretary's book).

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Copies of minutes from the last annual meeting of May 3, 2014 were distributed to those members who hadn't had the opportunity to review them in the March 2015 Fellesraad *BULLETIN*. Marie Thompson moved to accept the minutes as printed. Motion was seconded and passed.

(BF Minutes of May 2, 2015—continued)

SPECIAL ORDER- ELECTIONS: Ballots were distributed with board recommendations for election for one year terms as follows:

President **Marilyn Somdahl**, Vice President **Marilyn Sorensen**, Treasurer **R. Lee Brown**, Secretary **Mary Gross**, Webmaster/Director **EuGene Rodi**, Director **Eunice Helgeson**, Director **Jean Knaak** and Director **Don Teigen**. Nominations for president were called for three times; none were offered. Nominations for other offices were requested, and when none were offered a Motion to close nominations was made, seconded, and passed.

Judy Ghastin moved to accept the slate as presented and the motion was seconded and carried.

SPECIAL ORDER: Dr. Jean Knaak, Chair of the 2016 Fellesraad Centennial Celebration, presented the packet of materials distributed to delegates at registration today. This is a summary of materials discussed:

Lag Information for Centennial Celebration:

1. List of objectives for the celebration May 5-8, 2016.
2. Invitation from Marilyn Somdahl to lag presidents and delegates to centennial events.
3. Registration form explained by Webmaster Gene Rodi.
4. Schedule for the two days of conferences/ programs. Marilyn Sorensen reviewed the May 6, 2016, Friday Seminars, & Jean Knaak the May 7, 2016, Saturday schedule.
5. Lag Displays. Ann Romo, committee chair, explained details of how lags can choose to set up display tables at the celebration. She had an example for display. Will require volunteers to provide security for display tables at all times during the day. Vendors will pay \$25 for a table. Maps of the conference center will be put on the Fellesraad website. Books can be sold at the lag tables. Ann will need to know if a lag wishes to get one or two tables by April 1, 2016.
6. Lag ads in conference program. Jean Borgerding explained what will be available for lags to place ads in the centennial booklet. A sheet with sizes & prices is included in packet.
7. Jean Knaak emphasized the need for volunteers during both days of the conferences/celebration. There are opportunities for many people with multiple needs. Volunteer sign-up sheets are set up for today & delegates/presidents of lags are asked to work on getting members of their lags to volunteer at their meetings and upcoming stevner.

8. Financial Management. R. Lee Brown, Fellesraad treasurer, will oversee all financial management. However, any purchases have to be channeled through Chair Jean Knaak to prevent unnecessary confusion.

9. Publicity. Gene Rodi & Jean Borgerding will work on this. Elaine Hasleton suggested setting up a Facebook account for the centennial and doing a video for You Tube.

10. Website Updating. Gene Rodi, webmaster, will continue to update the website with information about the centennial celebration as plans continue to evolve. He also stressed that not all treasurers have email listed, so they do not get timely reminders. A reminder that the 990 forms be renewed by May 15 was made.

REPORTS: President Marilyn announced that she and R. Lee Brown will not seek terms after this year. She asked for two volunteers in addition to board members for a Nominating Committee to choose a new president and treasurer. Bob O'Neil and Sandy Hendrickson will represent the delegates on this committee.

MEMORIALS: President Marilyn read names of lag officers or their family members who have died in the last year. Memorials will be sent to the Muskego Church Maintenance Fund in their honor.

CULTURAL PROGRAM: Carolyn Bliss played Norwegian songs on the piano and we sang along to end our morning, ending with the Norwegian table prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at noon, and we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the women of Mindekirken.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gross. Secretary

In Memory

Please send President Somdahl a written notice of the deaths of lag officers or someone in their family. Tell which office they held in your lag.

Since 2004 we have shared their names and sent a memorial toward maintenance of a pioneer place of worship, the old Muskego Church at Luther Seminary.

Please **check the spellings** of the names before submitting them. They no doubt have appeared in your lag newsletter or the daily paper in your community.

Hilsen (continued)

It's a great improvement! Notify the BF webmaster promptly with changes of any kind to keep data current. Only then is it useful. Expect coming editions to be handsome. A decade ago a series of lag articles ran in the *Viking* magazine which also ran our full brochure in one issue.

A web calendar and April print advertising nationally tells about summer meetings.

Artistic gifts have been commissioned and were/will be awarded by the Fellesraad for 21 lag centennials. We thank Vesterheim's Laurann Gilbertson for assisting in suggesting a number of artists.

Group emigration began just over **190 years ago** when **the Sloopers left from Stavanger, Norway.** People of Valdres began gathering **117 years ago** come July. World wars and the Great Depression made meetings difficult and unpatriotic in certain years. **After 100 years,** the future of the Fellesraad and of affiliating bygdelag will be determined by new members and leaders with new pursuits and interests. Some values and traditions will be preserved; others modified. **What legacy will your family or your bygdelag leave for the next generations of Norwegian Americans?**

Insights about heritage are reasons to learn and to enjoy the Fellesraad Centennial Celebration May 5-8, 2016. Invite your friends!

Ha det bra, *Marilyn D. Somdahl*

Have a question? Try the website:
www.fellesraad.com

2015-2016 Fellesraad Board

Pres. Marilyn Dahlen Somdahl, 952-831-4409
the.president@fellesraad.com
5100 West 102 Street, Unit 209, Bloomington, MN 55437

Vice Pres. Marilyn Sorensen, 651-633-1329
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Sec. Mary Gross, 507-640-1417
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Webmaster/Director Eugene A. Rodi, 612-722-3324
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Director Eunice Helgeson, 612-724-7202
5541 Woodlawn Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Director Jean Knaak, 651-483-9261
knaak002@gmail.com
2456 Arkwright St, St Paul, MN 55117

Director Don Teigen, 952-922-6282
7250 Lewis Ridge Pkwy #217
Edina, MN 55439

Delegate Roll Call - May 7, 2016

Gudbrandsdalslag - Jim Olson and Dick Lundgren
Hadeland Lag - Anne Sladky and Lenore Jesness
Hallinglag - Sandra Nelson and Bob Helling
Hardangerlag - Don Teigen and James Oakland
Landingslag - Eric Goplin and Larissa Reutgen
Møre og Romsdalslag - Gary Erickson and R. Lee Brown
Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag - Joy Shong
Nordfjord Wisconsin - National Nordfjordslag - Dennis Sorheim and Bob O'Neil
Nordhordland/Sunnhordlandslag - LaRee Opdal and Sheryl Hove
Nordlandslag - Shirley Sampson and Linda Havir
Numdedalslagen Lag - Sharold Hipfner and Laurel Dikken
Opdalslag - no delegate
Ringerike Drammen District Lag - Lynn Nord and Peg Schellin
Rogalandslag - Susan Eckert
Romerikslag - Joel Botten and Mary Gross
Sami Lag - Sigdalslag - Jean Knaak and Jean Borgerding
Sognalag - Martha Blomberg and Evelyn Daley
Sognefjord Lag - Lee Grippen and Ann Walser
Solør Lag - Ray Olson and Mary Martin
Sunnfjord Lag - Tamra Foster
Telelag - Jim Oftelie and Elaine Nordlie
Totenlag - George Olson and Marie Brown
Trønderlag - Linda Schwartz and Elaine Hasleton
Valdres Samband - Earl Evenstad and Russ Elmore
Vestlandslag - Ann Romo
Vosselag - Richard Flisrand

Bygdelagesnes Fellesraad Bulletin
Marilyn D. Søndahl, President/Editor
5100 W. 102 Street, #209
Minneapolis, MN 55437

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Let's pitch in to volunteer and enjoy the 2016 Fellesraad Party of the Century!

FROM THE BF WEBMASTER

Fellesraad.com currently supports 157 unique pages of web information on its web site, covering the needs of the organization and that of the every lag it supports. In addition, there are

518 images

100 documents

15 web support files, plus others—for a total of 1944 files that need to be maintained to keep the site functioning properly. We consume

522 mb of online space and transmit an average 472 mb of data per months to our users.

Last year **almost 14,000 unique visitors** came to our pages, **viewing nearly 92,000 pages** during their stay. With this amount of web traffic, do you see why it is imperative to keep lag information up to date?

Matching Funds Project

A Fellesraad matching fund for Norway House gifts has already been used by most bygdelag: **Individual lag (who have not previously given) have until April 30, 2016, to have the first \$100 matched by \$100 from the Fellesraad, but you must send your lag's check payable to Norway House to R. Lee Brown and he will present it to Norway House with the match from the Fellesraad.**

NORWEGIAN LAG WEEK

Held for the 11th year in Salt Lake City, the 2016 report and picture can be seen on the Fellesraad web site. The 2017 February dates are set and you can request a flyer.

ANNUAL DEADLINES FOR LAG OFFICERS

- ◆ **January 1** - Annual lag dues of \$5 are payable to Fellesraad's treasurer. (State which lag)
- ◆ **January 15** - Send the city and date/s of an annual stevne —plus a contact person with phone and email for print ads to BF president and webmaster.
- ◆ **February 15** - Send names and addresses of Lag delegates to both president and BF treasurer— E-mail or regular mail.

DID YOU KNOW?

Minnesotan **Sam Heins** was confirmed as the Ambassador to Norway by the US Senate after a wait of 869 days!

Vesterheim Museum, Decorah, IA, has again exhibited older, retired' lag banners. They qualify as works of art. Most of the **original lag banners** were gifts from home districts in Norway. The banner keeper was a revered position in several lag— sometimes more important than an elected office!

Celebrate May 17 in Minneapolis on that day. This is Norway's Constitution Day and the Sytende Mai MN committee invites you to a banquet at MN Valley Country Club in Bloomington. Meals feature **dual entrees**. Ticket deadline is May 9. A reception starts at 5:30 pm. See Marilyn Søndahl or Earl Evenstad for more info. Buttons are \$2 and Earl will bring some to sell at the Centennial.