

◆ VESTLANDET ◆

Volume 175 Hardangerlag ♦ Møre og Romsdalslag ♦ Nordhordland/Sunnhordlandslag ♦ Rogalandslag ♦ Sognalag ♦ Sunnfjordlag ♦ Vosselag Spring 2024

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From your President

Hi to all of you. We had a really mild winter till the last week of March. I hire someone to do the heavy stuff so I'm good with that.

We are ready for our stevne. All the arrangements have been made. We have five speakers talking about Norwegian things of various natures. I believe they will all be very interesting. We have entertainment planned for both dinner nights. Pati Kachel will entertain us with "Ya Sure, I'm a Norvegin Luteran" and on Friday night, we have the "Down Home Blue Grass Band" entertaining us. Both will be so enjoyable.

My cousin, Millie Ohnstad, who will be 98 in August is downsizing and gave me a 3-ring binder full of obituaries 1980-2000. I am going through them and adding them to my Family Tree maker program if they are related to someone in my files. I can find a lot of people on ancestry.com, but obituaries also have marriage dates and children's names. I have been also copying and pasting the obituaries from on-line into the note field and putting photos in too. I was looking for obituaries on line just over the weekend and up came my cousin, Bruce Benson's obituary. He had passed away February 27 and his celebration of life was Sat, March 24. I had just missed it. I called a couple of cousins and they hadn't found out about it either. He was the oldest of my cousins on my mother's side.

Millie also had three scrap books of obituaries that were in good condition. None of the obituaries were unstuck. The oldest obituary was 1898. They were about people from Kenyon, Wanamingo, Zumbrota and Cannon Falls areas. I found one of the sixteen year old boy who had lived on my husband, Lars' farm. His family was so distraught, they moved away the same year. Lars said he fell down from the haymow, about 20-25 feet. The obit said he died April 2, 1929, after having a brain abscess January 31, 1929. Lars's parents bought the farm in August, just a couple months before the Stock market

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President Ann Romo

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 crashed October 28, 1929.

We need a WEB Master. Gene Rodi will give a session about the WEB site that the Fellesraad has. We can use that site, if we can't afford to pay a monthly fee for our own site. I hope someone who has more knowledge than I do will come forward and volunteer their services. I would send them files to put into the WEB site about the stevne, etc. Pictures of places in Norway and our stevne would be great to put on the site. Think about it. We will bring it up at our annual meeting in June at the stevne.

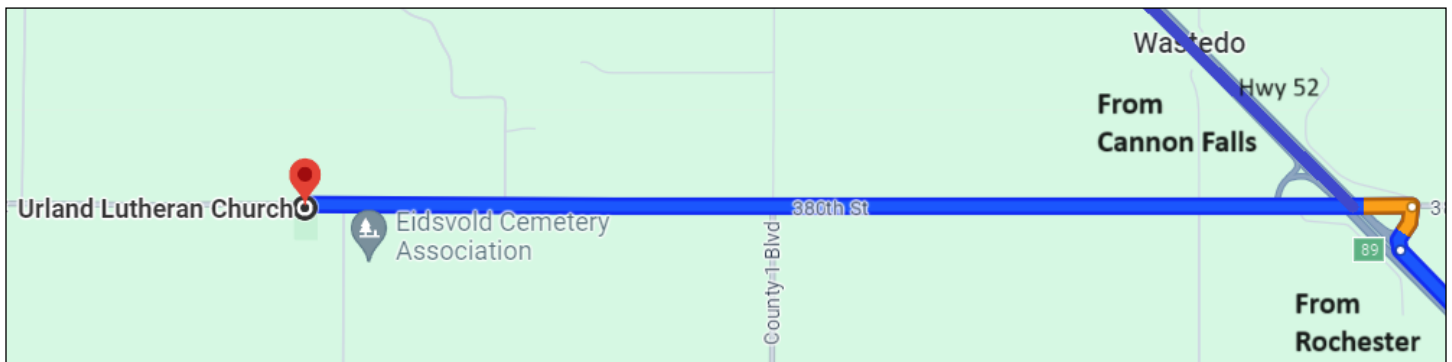
Hope to see you all in June at Urland Church for the stevne.

Hilse Ann Remo



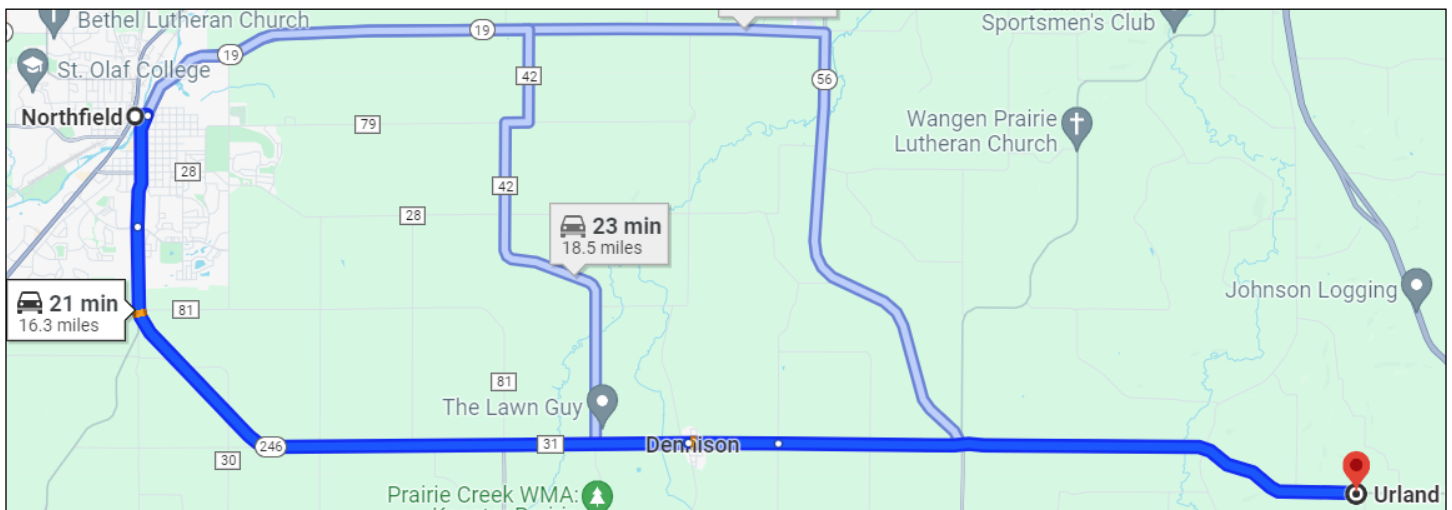
Urland Church, Cannon Falls, MN

Driving Directions to Urland Church



From Rochester, drive north on 52. From Cannon Falls, drive south on 52. Take exit 89 for County 9 Blvd toward Goodhue/Dennison. Turn right onto 380th St/County 9 Blvd. The Urland Church will be on the left.

From Northfield, drive south and east on 246, continuing on County 9 Blvd through Dennison. Continue east to Urland Church.



Stevne 2024

June 13-15, 2024

Urland Church, 6940 County 9 Blvd
Cannon Falls, MN

All Speaker Sessions are in the Sanctuary

Thursday, June 13, 2024

8—11:30am: **Registration**

9am—9 pm: **Genealogy** (Wi-Fi) in classroom wing

9:15am: **Jen Dauer**

“Beyond Names and Dates: Creative ways to display family keepsakes”

10:15—10:30am: Coffee Break

10:30am: **Sandra Bestland**

“SPEDALSKHED: Leprosy in 19th-Century Norway”

11:30am—12:30pm: **Lunch** in Fellowship Hall
(downstairs)

12:45—5:30pm: Carpool to places on the tour
Maps available

6:00pm: Dinner in Fellowship Hall

7:00pm: **Pati Kachel** (story teller)

“Ya Sure, I’m a Norvegin Luteran”

8:00pm: **Rogalandslag Meeting & Group Photo**
(In Sanctuary)

Friday, June 14, 2024

8am—noon: **Registration**

8am—4pm: **Genealogy** (Wi-Fi) in classroom wing

9am: **Silent Auction starts**

9am: **Denny Kalvig**

“Genealogy and Norwegian Digitalarkivet”

10:15—10:30am: Coffee Break

10:30—11:45am: **Opening Ceremonies**
Memorial Service—Tamra Foster

Sing-a-Long led by Richard Flisrand

Karla Brown:

“My Great Aunt’s Trip to Norway in 1908”

12noon—1pm: **Lunch** in Fellowship Hall

1:30—2:30 pm: **Hakon Torjesen** -

“A Norwegian Refugee from China”

2:30—2:45pm: Coffee Break

2:45pm: **Grace Eddy**

“A Year at a Norwegian Folkshøgskule”

3:30pm: Silent Auction ends

5:00pm: Lag group photos in Sanctuary

6:00pm: **Bunad Show & Norwegian**
Sweater Show in Fellowship Hall

6:20pm: **Stevne Banquet**

7:30 pm: **“Down Home Bluegrass Band”**
Performance in Sanctuary

Saturday, June 15, 2024

8:00—9:15am: Individual Lag Meetings
Session A

Sognalag/Sognefjordlag—Board Room

Møre og Romsdalslag

—1st Sunday School Room

Sunnfjordlag—Nursery Room

9:15—9:30am: Coffee Break

9:30—10:45am: Individual Lag Meetings
Session B

Vosselag—1st Sunday School Room

Hardangerlag—Nursery Room

Nordhordlandslag/Sunnhordlandslag
—Board Room

(Rogalandslag met Thursday Evening)

11am—12 noon: **Vestlandslag Annual Meeting**
In Sanctuary

12 noon—1pm: **Lunch** in Fellowship Hall

12 noon—1pm: Vestlandslag Officers’ Meeting

Hotels w/stevne deals:

Caravan Motel Cannon Falls, MN
31913 64th Ave, Cannon Falls, MN
507-263-4777—8 miles
\$120/ night,

America's Best Value Inn- Zumbrota
1435 Northstar Dr, Zumbrota
507-732-7852—13 miles
1 queen \$70/night or 2 queens \$88/night
Held till day used
Continental breakfast available

Coratel Inn & Suites By Jasper
1420 Riverview Dr, Northfield, MN 55057
507-663-0371—16 miles
Double or King \$80/night
Held till 4/12/2024
Continental breakfast available

To get the above stevne deals, mention that your are with the Vestlandslag.

Other hotels in area:

Grand Stay Cannon Falls
507-479-2834
Available only Wednesday /Thursday
\$135+/night
AAA, AMAC, AARP may have discounts

Americinn by Wyndham
1320 Bollenbacher Dr, Northfield
507-645-7767
\$130 - \$175/night
AAA, AMAC, AARP may have discounts

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson
300 Hwy 3 South, Northfield
507-645-2286
\$160 - \$250/night
AAA, AMAC, AARP may have discounts

Hospitality Room

Please remember to bring treats for the Hospitality Room at the Stevne. Coffee (regular and decaf) will be provided.

Stevne 2024 Speaker & Entertainer Bios

Jen Dauer

"Beyond Names and Dates: Creative ways to display family keepsakes"



Jen Dauer is the daughter of Barb (Jordahl) Olson, who is a longtime member of the Sognalag and has paid for memberships for all three of her grown children. Jen attended her first stevne at St. Olaf College in Northfield and got her first bunad before first grade. She learned as her mother collected information

on microfilm, by mail, and visited cemeteries. Jen's two sons, Hunter (15) and Carter (11) are on the same track: they attended their first stevne at the ages of five and 18 months, are currently members of the Sognefjordlag and do genealogy projects for 4-H.

Their ancestors hail from the Balestrand and Vik areas on the Sognefjord. Three of Barb's grandparents emigrated from Norway in the mid to late 1800's, and the fourth grandparent's parents came from Norway and only spoke Norwegian. Barb has long written to her dad's cousin from Leikanger on the Sognefjord, who still lives in Sogndal. Barb and her husband, as well as her three children and their families (including Jen) attend a Fjærland Reunion every year for those descended from immigrants from Bøyum/Fjærlandsfjord. She also has many beautiful and meaningful displays of her family heritage in her home.

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Jen graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls with BAs in English, journalism and secondary education, and a minor in Norwegian. She also spent a summer studying Norwegian and Norwegian culture at Universitetet i Oslo Sommerskolen (the University of Oslo Summer School), has taken two other trips to Norway and spent two summers as a counselor at Skogfjorden, the Concordia Language Village for Norwegian near Bemidji, Minn. Jen was a section editor at the Journal of New Ulm, a daily newspaper, for three years, and taught middle school and high school English for a handful of years. Jen is also the editor of the Sognefjordlag newsletter, Bladet.

Jen currently lives in New Ulm and is coping with being surrounded by people of German heritage, including her husband.

Down Home Bluegrass Band Friday Night Banquet Entertainment

Down Home is a Bluegrass and Gospel group of musician friends from the Zumbrota, Kenyon, and Cannon Falls area. On their Facebook page they give themselves this description:

"We are a bunch of like-minded musicians who share a love of Bluegrass and Gospel music. We have been playing together long enough to know what each of us is capable of but not long enough to develop a "style" yet. Maybe our style could be playing without making too many mistakes. We have done numerous venues including church services, nursing homes, birthday and retirement parties, weddings, funerals, county fairs, fundraisers and we even appeared on TV in January of 2013 as part of the Eagles Cancer Telethon. We welcome new challenges and adventures on this musical journey of ours."

Down Home started to play together as a group of friends jamming in 2008. A year or so later is when a smaller group got together and decided to start up a band. Then, after a bit more time a member came up with the name Down Home. They have played at many churches, private parties, retirement livings and many others.

The lead singer and a beautiful mandolin player, Jane Froehlich, passed away almost two years ago now. She is missed, but the band continues on. There are several others (Randy Hinzmann, Stephanie Edel, Paul Peterson, Kristi Jacobson, Carol Shiell) still in the band who love to share the music and the group looks forward to playing for you.



Silent Auction

We will again have a silent auction Friday during the stevne. If you have items that would be of interest to your fellow Vestlendings and would be willing to donate to the Silent Auction, please bring the items to the stevne by Thursday evening or make arrangements with Janet Brandt. The proceeds will go to the scholarship fund.

We are looking for items with Scandinavian features but will accept any item that would be of interest to our members. These include books, clothing, collectibles, home goods such as linens, dishes, etc. Appreciated, but not required, is an email to Janet Brandt, janetbskadi90@gmail.com, with what items you are bringing and suggested starting bid.

Vestlandslag Board Meeting

Monday, October 30, 2023 via Zoom
7:00 pm

Present: Ann Romo, Brit Eddy, Janet Brandt, Tamra Foster, Don Teigen, Denny Kalvig, Martha Blomberg, Lucy Ghastin, Betty Hagen.

President Romo called the meeting to order.

Secretary's report: The annual meeting has already been printed. Other minutes were from Wednesday (June 7) before the stevne and a meeting the last day of the stevne. Secretary's report was approved. Don Teigen moved to accept, Martha Blomberg second. Treasurer's report: This coming Saturday there will be an audit. After the audit, Don will contact Denny and they will meet at Bremer Bank. Ann has been sent a report. Balance in the bank is \$16,452. Martha Blomberg made a motion to approve. It was seconded. Motion carried.

2024 Stevne

Speakers: Ann reviewed the speakers as listed on the agenda. Denny said he would speak on genealogy.

Tours: Tours as listed on the agenda were discussed which included 2 churches (Holden and Aspelund), possible home tour, and a peony farm.

Optional activities for Thursday would be movies.

Bluegrass group from the area is a possibility for banquet entertainment. We can bring in a cake for dessert. Ann will check with Peter to see if he can get a cake.

Food: Menus for each day were discussed as listed on the agenda. The ladies from Urland Church seem to be receptive to the idea of catering. Consensus was last year in Austin the food was very good. The church staff there did a great job. Ann will share the menus from last year with the Urland church and ask them to go from there.

Memorial service: Tamra will handle this again at the opening ceremony.

Silent auction: Board agreed we should do it again. We need better information regarding when it is. Only Friday or only Saturday. People will need to bring things in on Thursday and the auction will be Friday. We will need 2 or 3 tables. Janet will make up a sign regarding the day and times for the auction that will be posted in the silent auction area at the stevne.

Vendors: will need to check on tables. Ann would like someone to take over contacting vendors.

Children's program: Last year there were two children attending – Hunter and Carter Dauer, who took photographs for us.

Registration rates: We will keep rates the same. Hotels: rooms are reserved in Zumbrota and Northfield as listed in the agenda.

Old business: Labeling of books and materials owned by lags was discussed.

'Property of ___ lag. Contact [lag president] or genealogist or <http://www.fellesraad.com/>.

Sunnhordlandslag has put their collection in Norway House, and so has Rogalandslag. Six lags have donated.

Future stevne locations for 2025:

One suggestion was Willmar. Using a community center might be cost effective as opposed to a hotel. Lucy asked for more suggestions within a 100-mile radius of the Twin Cities. She will do some checking on a location in Eau Claire.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

*Respectively submitted,
Janet Brandt, Secretary*



Sample Label for Genealogy Books:



Norway News

The royal health have been in the news lately. Norway's King Harald V, age 87 and the oldest monarch in Europe, had a health scare in February. King Harald and Queen Sonja went on a private vacation to Malaysia. While there King Harald developed an infection and was hospitalized at the Sultanah Mahiha Hospital in Langkawi.

Together with Norwegian health personnel, the hospital did everything they could to ensure the king would recover. To stabilize the king and to enable him to fly back to Norway, the king received a temporary pacemaker. The Armed Forces flew him home to Norway, where he was admitted to Rikshospitalet in Oslo. Once well enough, he received a permanent pacemaker.

While the king is on sick leave, his son, Crown Prince Haakon Magnus, serves as regent. The king will remain on sick leave at least till after Easter. However, the Royal Family is reporting that the king is consistently getting better.

Tunnel Fun Facts

If you have visited Norway lately, you cannot miss driving through tunnels and tunnels in the plural.

Norway has over 1000 road tunnels with total length exceeding 750 kilometers.

The longest tunnel is the Lærdal tunnel which is 24.5 kilometer (15.23 miles) long in the municipalities of Lærdal and Aurland in Vestland. The building of this tunnel was started in 1995 and the tunnel was opened in 2000. It allows travel between Oslo and Bergen with no ferry connections and no dangerous mountain crossing. It is the longest road tunnel followed by the Swiss Gotthard Road Tunnel which is "only" 16.9 kilometer or 10.5 miles long. It takes about 18-20 minutes to drive through the Lærdal tunnel, provided you keep to the speed limit of 80 km/hr.

The Ryfylketunnel was begun in 2012 and opened

December 2019. It is the longest subsea road tunnel. The length is 14.4 kilometer (8.9 miles) and 292 meter (950 feet) depth at lowest point. This tunnel is located in Rogaland (Ryfylke is an older name for Rogaland). This is a toll road and the cost for cars is NOK 140 or about \$14-\$15, depending on the exchange rate.

You will find roundabouts inside the tunnels. The 8.9 kilometer long Karmøy tunnel (Rogaland fylke) connects the island of Karmøy with the European Route E39 in Tysvær and a 9.8 kilometer road section which heads north from a roundabout in the tunnel to Haugesund. The roundabout is 60 meters under sea level.

Why so many tunnels? Tunnels replace ferries, they allow residents of islands and remote peninsulas to access regional centers where water crossings are too long for bridges. Tunnels go through mountains, eliminating dangerous mountain crossings during the winter.

The tunnels have state-of-the-art ventilation systems, strategically placed emergency exits, ensuring the safety of the tunnels.

So what is next in tunnel building? As I search, I found this idea: a concrete tube submerged in the waters of a fjord. It is still only an idea and it may remain only an idea. There are many considerations such as wind, waves, currents, not causing driving discomfort, etc.



Stevne Lag Group Photos

Thursday:

8:00 pm—Rogalandslag (during annual meeting in Sanctuary)

Friday:

(photos will be taken in Sanctuary)

5:00 pm—Sognalag/Sognefjordlag

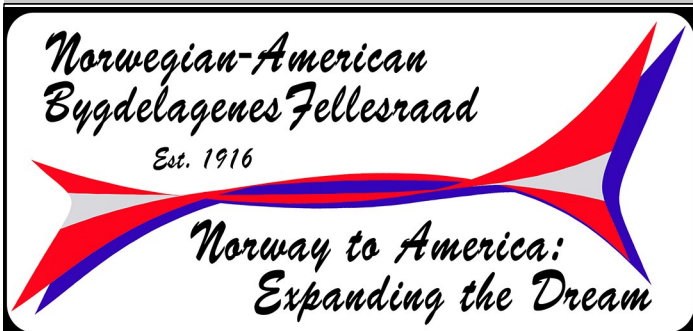
5:10 pm—Sunnhordland-Nordhordlandslag

5:20 pm—Sunnfjordlag

5:25 pm—Møre og Romsdalslag

5:30 pm—Vosselag

5:40 pm—Hardangerlag



Fellesraad Annual Meeting May 3-4, 2024

Mindekirken
924 E. 21st Street
Minneapolis, MN

Crossings will be the theme of the Fellesraad Annual Meeting which will be held at Mindekirken in Minneapolis on May 3rd & 4th, 2024. This theme coordinates with the 2025 International Celebration commemorating 200 years since the first organized migration from Norway to North America.

Friday, May 3rd will be a hybrid-day, so you may attend either in person or via Zoom. The classes on Friday morning will include Amy Boxrud of the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) talking about their Bygdelag Collection and their 2025 holdings.

We will feature a virtual class taught about *FamilySearch* and their new features.

The Friday afternoon sessions will revolve around 2025 ideas for Lags to use at their Stevner. This will include bicentennial education, speaker topics, and pertinent websites. We will have a professional storyteller, sharing her family immigration story and perhaps an additional speaker example.

Saturday, May 4th will be an in-person event only for the Fellesraad Annual Business Meeting, including Election of Board Members, Officers' Reports, and individual Lag Reports of 2023 Highlights.

Our guest speaker will be Fredrik Larsen from the Norwegian newspaper, *Aftenposten*. He will speak on 2025 plans in Norway and other related topics.

There will be lunches (Friday and Saturday) which will cost \$35.00 total. If you attend only on Friday or Saturday, the lunch cost will be \$20 each. How-

ever, registration is necessary if you plan to attend virtually on Friday, as we have a limit of 100 connections on the Zoom meeting.

Please check the Fellesraad website for more details and registration form.

<http://www.fellesraad.com/>

We look forward to seeing you!

New Members

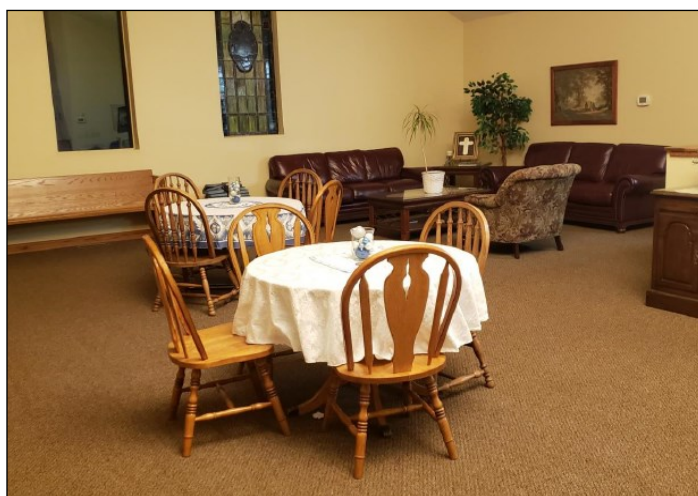
We are happy to welcome three new members to the Vestlandslag:

Alfred Fleckenstein of Portland Oregon joined the Rogalandslag.

Duane and Susan Haugen from Roseville, Minnesota joined the Sogndalag.

Is Your Membership up to Date?

Check the address label on the back page. If it says "Paid through 2024" your membership is current. If not, we would love to have you renew your membership. See page 10 for the membership form.



Let's get together for a cup of coffee, visit, and renew old friendships at the stevne.

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The Norwegian-American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Web Site • www.fellesraad.com

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 Jean Marthaler (above)
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 Delegates Jean Marthaler & Richard Flisrand (above)

From the Editor:

I am looking for spring, but I am very happy to have a little precipitation, even if it came as snow. Since the last issue, I spent two weeks in Norway during my granddaughter's winter break from school. They had pretty much the same weather as here. The big news while there was the king falling ill in Malaysia and getting him back to Norway. See page 7.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the stevne. My granddaughter is already thinking about

and planning her presentation for the stevne. We, as a family, are looking forward to having her home again.

The newsletter won't reach you before Easter, but let's learn some Norwegian. To wish someone a happy Easter in Norwegian, you say

God Påske!

*Beste hilsen
Brit Eddy*

VESTLANDSLAGET - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Type of Membership (check as appropriate) New Renewal Change of Address

How did you learn about Vestlandslag? Personal Contact Webpage Norwegian Organization
We do not share or sell our mailing list. Brochure Other _____

Norwegian district(s) of interest: Hardanger Nordhordland Rogaland Møre og Romsdal
 Sogn Sunnfjord Sunnhordland Voss

Membership Fee Schedule:

1 year for an individual	\$11.00	_____
3 years for an individual	\$30.00	_____
1 year for a couple	\$12.00	_____
3 years for a couple	\$30.00	_____

Outside the USA: Outside the USA: (e-mail version same price as USA)

1 year, Canada	\$12.00	_____
3 years, Canada	\$30.00	_____
1 year, Norway	\$16.00	_____
3 years, Norway	\$45.00	_____

Under 50 Promotion 3 years (electronic newsletter only) - FREE (Email address required)

Annual dues run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. New members joining at a stevne will receive 2 years first-time membership.

Note: Checking multiple lags will not increase your membership fee.

Make checks payable to **VESTLANDSLAGET**
and send to:

Peter Lee
839 Cornwallis Cr
Eagan, MN 55123
Email: vestlandslagmembership@gmail.com

For electronic Payment available via PayPal, Venmo, or Zelle, please email vestlandslagmembership@gmail.com for an invoice and instructions. Add \$1 to cover PayPal fee.

Vestlandslag Stevne
Registration Form June 13, 14, 15, 2024
 Urland Lutheran Church, 6940 County 9 Blvd, Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Name (1) _____ Lag names(s) _____
 Name (2) _____ Lag names(s) _____
 Address _____ E-mail _____
 City, State, ZIP _____ Phone _____

Registration Rates	Price x number of persons	Total
Thursday, Friday, OR Saturday, – June 13, 14, 15 (1 day)	\$ 18 x	
Thursday THRU Saturday June 13 – 15	\$ 35 x	
Early Bird Discount 3-Day Registration (if mailed by May 7)	\$ 30 x	
Child Registration (entire stevne)	free	
Thurs. June 13 – Carpooling – Emmanuel Church, Holden Church, Nystuen home	\$ 5 x	
Thursday June 13, Tour – Child	free	
Thursday, June 13 Lunch – Croissant, Sliced Meats, Potato Salad, Baby Carrots	\$ 11 x	
Thursday, June 13 Dinner – Baked Ziti w/Sausage, Salad, Garlic Bread	\$ 17 x	
Thursday, June 13 Dinner – Child (same food as adult)	\$ 11 x	
Friday, June 14 Lunch – Wild Rice Soup, Vegetable Barley Soup, Crackers/Bread, Fruit	\$ 11 x	
Fri, June 14 – Bunad Banquet – Meatballs w/Gravy, Baby Potatoes, Asparagus/ Green Beans, Salad, Rolls	\$ 17 x	
Banquet, June 14 – Child (same food as adult)	\$ 11 x	
Saturday, June 15 – Lunch – Sloppy Joes/Buns, Chips, Frog Eye Salad, Pickles	\$ 11 x	

Accommodations:
 Caravan Motel, Cannon Falls—507-263-4777

 America’s Best Value Inn, Zumbrota
 507-732-7852

 Coratel Inn & Suites By Jasper, Northfield
 507-663-0371

 To get stevne deals, mention “Vestlandslag.”
 Grand Stay, Cannon Falls—507-479-2834

 Americinn by Wyndham, Northfield
 507-645-7767

 Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Northfield
 507-645-2286

See page 4 for more details on each hotel.

Total to Vestlandslag \$ _____
 Registration and check payable to Vestlandslag should be sent on or before **May 7th** to:

 Peter Lee
 839 Cornwallis Cr.
 Eagan, MN 55123
 651-994-9630
 vestlandslagmembership@gmail.com

 For **electronic payment** available via PayPal, Venmo, or Zelle, please email vestlandslagmembership@gmail.com for an invoice and instructions. Add \$3 to cover credit card fee.
 Special Needs:

VESTLANDET

Peter Lee
839 Cornwallis Cr
Eagan, MN 55123

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Return Service Requested

Membership Renewal: Check your address label. If 2023 or earlier, it is time to renew.

Find us on the Web:

Vestlandslag.org is currently under construction and unavailable. We are hoping to have it up and running again in the near future.

<http://fellesraad.com/hardanger/index.htm>

<http://www.moreogromsdallag.org/>

<http://sognalag.org>

<http://www.vosselag.org/>

<http://fellesraad.com/sunnfjord/index.htm>

<http://fellesraad.com/>

Find us on FaceBook:

Vestlandslag, Hardangerlag, Rogalandslag, Sognalag,
and Vosselag

News Submissions

Send to:
Brit Eddy at briteddy77@gmail.com
213 E 7th Street, Cresco, IA 52136

Deadlines:

January 15

March 15

July 15

October 15

VESTLANDET is a quarterly publication by Vestlandslaget, a non-profit organization and the umbrella organization for 8 lags with roots to the west coast of Norway. Membership in the Vestlandslag includes the subscription to the Vestlandet Newsletter.

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Attention!

Check your mailing label for your current paid through date. Is it time to renew?

Stevne

June 13-15, 2024
Urland Church
6940 County 9 Blvd
Cannon Falls, MN

2024