

◆ VESTLANDET ◆

Volume 176 Hardangerlag ♦ Møre og Romsdalslag ♦ Nordhordland/Sunnhordlandslag ♦ Rogalandslag ♦ Sognalag ♦ Sunnfjordlag ♦ Vosselag Summer 2024

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From your President

Hi to all of you. I thought things would slow down after the stevne, but I had been putting things off till it was over. So, I have been busy.

I finished my obituary project. There were 1006 obituaries in the 3 scrapbooks that I had gotten that covered 1897-1934. In the three-ring binder for dates 1988-1999 there were 433. I ended up scanning several to add to my Family Tree Maker database, which has over 37,00 people. I also printed out several to give to friends who are descendants.

I plan to attend a couple more stevner in August. The Flere Lag Stevne is August 6-9 in Willmar, and my friend Judy Davis (Trønderlag) will go with me. Sognefjordlag is August 15 -17 in New Ulm. Martha Blomberg and I plan to attend. Lucy and Judy Ghastin have both been busy planning that stevne. Both stevner have interesting programs that I look forward to hearing. Then August 19-21, I am attending the Sons of Norway District 1 Convention in Lake Elmo along with 3 others from Rochester Kristiania Chapter 47. I have been to several conventions before, but this one is being planned by Jean Knaak and friends from St. Paul. Jean is on the Fellesraad board with me. There are many classes that I plan to attend besides the District meeting. The Seven+ lag stevne was held July 11-13 in North Dakota. Hallinglag will meet September 5-7 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria and Nordfjordlag meets in Spicer, MN at Green Lake Bible Camp Sept 15th. Look at the Fellesraad Website under 'Calendar' and/or the 'About' page for more information.

This is not the season for sewing, but I have started sewing tops for quilts. My friend, Judy volunteers at the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge. They are having a fund raiser gala in October. I am making two quilts to donate for their silent auction, due September 1st. I assemble the different layers and pin them together in my garage on top of the ping pong table. But the garage is not air-conditioned, so I have to find a cooler time of the day to work out there. A fan helps!

We sure had lots of rain earlier, in May or so, but the lawn is drying out now. I planted some new Day Lilies, so I have been watering them daily for a while.

We are planning to have our 2025 stevne in Willmar so I will be checking out a couple of churches while I'm there next week, one in town and another in the country.

Hilsen fra Ann Romo



President Ann Romo

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Stevne 2024

June 13-15,
2024

Urland Church, 6940 County 9 Blvd
Cannon Falls, MN

Rogalandslag



Front Row from left: Denny Kalvig, Sue Eckert, Marsha Gunderson, Randi Lundell, Judy Davis. Back Row: Jean Knaak, Robert Torkelson, Jill Hanson, Rhonda Smercheck, LaRee Opdahl, Ramona Roller, Sheryl Hove, Jennifer Mayo. Not in picture: Martha Blomberg.

Rogalandslag Annual Business Meeting June 13, 2024

Fourteen Rogalendings were present for the June 13, 2024 business meeting, called to order by President Denny Kalvig. Jennifer Mayo and Ramona Roller are two new members expected to join.

Vestlandslag is working on a procedure where their Treasurer would handle the accounts of each of the eight lags. Details should be available at next year's Stevne.

Membership: The list from Vestlandslag shows Rogaland has 73 members. There are 19 who have not renewed as yet.

Fellesraad: They are working on the 200th Anniversary of Emigration from Norway. They would like to find the founding members of each lag. One of the main ways to attract people to our lag is through Facebook. Denny is now listed as co-owner of the website and will work to include pictures of activities, etc. that might attract viewers. If anyone is

making a trip to Norway, please let Denny know. He will work with Brit Eddy to raise visibility for Rogaland.

We decided to remove James Oakland as Co-Genealogist, since he is no longer able to perform in that capacity. We thank him for his many years of providing knowledge to many members of our lag.

The following officers were re-elected:

President – Denny Kalvig

Vice President – Jill Hanson

Secretary – LaRee Opdahl

Treasurer- Julie Clauson

Genealogist – Sue Eckert

Historian – Janis Johnson

Delegates to Fellesraad – Denny Kalvig and Jill Hanson

*Respectfully submitted,
LaRee Opdahl*

Members in attendance: Denny Kalvig, LaRee Opdahl, Jill Hanson, Sue Eckert, Jean Knaak, Sheryl Hove, Jennifer Mayo, Ramona Roller, Rhonda Smerchek, Martha Blomberg, Judy Davis, Robert Torkelson, Randi Lundell, and Marsha Gunderson

Nordhordlandslag & Sunnhordlandslag



Front Row seated from left: Denny Kalvig (S), Ruth Birkeland (N), Nancy Birkeland (N), Pat Kimble (S), Loren Opdahl (S). Standing in back from left: Grace Eddy (S), Rhonda Smerchek (S), Debra Lee Pritchard (N), Alan Olson (N&S), Sheryl Hove (S), LaRee Opdahl (S), Betty Hagen (N), Judy Davis (N). Not pictured: Peter and Kim Lee. N & S indicate membership in Nordhordlandslag and Sunnhordlandslag, respectively.

Annual Meeting Minutes Saturday, June 15, 2024 (abbreviated)

The Meeting was called to order at 9:46 am by Pres-

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ident Betty Hagen with 11 members in attendance. Members introduced themselves and told about their connections to Norway.

The Secretary's Report was provided for reading by Sheryl Hove in the Genealogy Room and at the Meeting. A motion was made by Nancy Birkeland and seconded by LaRee Opdahl to accept the Minutes as printed, with the addition that a door prize was won by Alan Olson. The motion passed with a voice vote.

The Treasurer's Report was provided by LaRee Opdahl in the absence of Robert Hanson. The balance as of June 15, 2024 is \$2,980.21. A motion was made to accept the Report by Sheryl Hove and seconded by Deb Prichard. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Membership Report: The Membership List from Vestlandslag Membership Chair Peter Lee shows: **Nordhordlandslag:** 48 with 12 couples **Sunnhordlandslag:** 44 with 9 couples. There were 13 members in the Lag group photo, with Peter Lee and Marsha Gunderson absent.

Publicity: Vestlandslag President Ann Romo asked members to take home extra copies of the *Vestlandet* newsletters to use for recruitment. The *Vestlandet* is sent on-line to Lag Presidents, but having all issues freely available to the public may discourage potential members from paying registration fees, although the on-line Spring issue with Stevne information and registration could attract new members. The new Fellesraad maps can be distributed to museums, Sons of Norway lodges and other organizations. Members can encourage young children to become interested in their family trees and lead to parents looking for Lag genealogy. DNA relatives can be encouraged to join the Lags.

Website Report: Peter Lee reported that we currently do not have a Website and he asked for assistance to pursue options. We do not have a Facebook page.

Old Business:

Duties: Betty Hagen and Sheryl Hove will compile officers' duties.

Constitution: A separate Lag Constitution is not necessary because of the Vestlandslag Constitution. From the 2023 meeting: "We will abide with the Vestlandslag Constitution." Their Constitution will need to be changed in 2025 regarding the Treasury. Denny Kalvig is Treasurer, replacing Don Teigen, and Bremer Bank grandfathered in the current procedures for banking; but federal requirements indicate that Vestlandslag may need to oversee all of the treasuries of the subsidiary lags.

The Vestlandslag Membership dues cover all 8 Lags.

Vestlandet: Submissions are encouraged to the *Vestlandet* editor, Brit Eddy, and to Betty Hagen.

New Business:

The 2024 Fellesraad Annual Meeting: Delegate Betty Hagen reported that the meetings were held Friday, May 3rd virtually and in person and Saturday, May 4th in person. Saturday focused on the Bicentennial Celebration of the first organized emigration of Norwegians on the *Restauration* sloop in 1825. Lags were encouraged to have celebrations. Lags were given flash drives with information on Charter Members and Nordhordland had a few but Sunnhordland had none. Lags were encouraged to research Charter members and locate and give visibility to descendants on Family Search Wiki Tree. Betty researched old newspapers and records yesterday and found 6 members and Nancy Birkeland recorded them. NAHA (Norwegian-American Historical Association), obituaries and *Find-A-Grave* may have information. Members were asked to give names to Betty.

The 2025 Fellesraad Annual Meeting will be held the first weekend of May. It will focus on the 200th Anniversary of Emigration.

"Fellesraad" is the national council over the umbrella organization of "Vestlandslag" that is over Nordhordlandslag and Sunnhordlandslag

Genealogists' Reports:

Denny Kalvig noted that Hordaland had been divided into Nord-, Midt-, and Sunn-Hordaland, then was divided into 2 areas, Nord- and Sunn-. Now the border that divides them is by "Judicial Districts".

Nordhordland Genealogist: Betty Hagen reported that 4 researchers used many maps and bygdebøker. On June 13, Betty donated the 3-Ring Binder Catalog listing the Microfilms for Nordhordland Parishes to Blaine Hedberg for the Westby Area Historical Society and Genealogy Center at Westby, WI. [See contact information below.]

Sunnhordland Genealogist: Sheryl Hove reported that 7 researchers used many maps and bygdebøker. At the Fellesraad Genealogist networking table, Denny Kalvig agreed to be nominated for Genealogist. He is Genealogist for Sogalag, so our 3 Lags shared the Genealogy Room. He assisted many researchers during the stevne.

On Wednesday, Sheryl went to the Norway House Haugo Bibliotek to pick up the Sunnhordlandslag Bygdebøker. Denny Kalvig is returning the genealogy material to Norway House.

In 2021 Sheryl had purchased a foldable 3-shelf bookshelf to display genealogy books. This year it was decided to purchase it for the lag library. Solørlag in Hedmark donated 7 bygdebøker: *Fusa I, II, III, IV; Samnanger I, II; and Strandebarm og Var-*

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aldsøy I. Elaine Hasleton had given them to Denny Kalvig.

On June 13, Sheryl donated the 3-Ring Binder Catalog listing the Microfilms for Sunnhordland Parishes and the box of 35 Sunnhordland Microfilms to Blaine Hedberg for the Westby Area Historical Society and Genealogy Center at Westby, WI . [See contact information below.]

The Lag Banners: LaRee Opdahl will give both of the Lag Banners to Betty Hagen to store until 2025 when Peter Lee will take them.

Election of 2024 Officers:

President: Betty Hagen

Vice President: Denny Kalvig

Secretary: Marsha Gunderson

Treasurer: Robert Hanson, with Past-President LaRee Opdahl

Nordhordlandslag Genealogist: Betty Hagen

Sunnhordlandslag Genealogist: Denny Kalvig

Nordhordlandslag Fellesraad Delegates: Betty Hagen and Nancy Birkeland

Sunnhordlandslag Fellesraad Delegates: LaRee Opdahl and Sheryl Hove

Nordhordlandslag and Sunnhordlandslag

Historian: Alan Olson

Vestlandslag Board Delegates: President Betty Hagen, Judy Davis

Webmaster: Peter Lee

A motion was made by Nancy Birkeland, seconded by LaRee Opdahl. The Slate of Officers was elected by a unanimous vote.

Treasury Addendum: Past President LaRee Opdahl also has access to the Lag Bank Account to deal with lag business.

Donations Collection for the combined Treasury was \$160.00.

Door Prizes were won by Ruth Birkeland, Judy Davis and Deb Pritchard. They were donated by LaRee Opdahl and Sheryl Hove.

President Betty Hagen adjourned the meeting at 10:58 am.

Treasury Addendum:

Reimbursement for Genealogy Library Display for foldable Bookcase:

Reimbursements for Fellesraad Delegates, confirmed by Ann Romo at the Vestlandslag Annual Meeting that Lags will reimburse fees for the Fellesraad Annual Meetings.

Genealogy Addendum:

Contact Information for Microfilms: Westby Area Historical Society and Genealogy Center, 111 Bekkedal Ave., P.O. Box 42, Westby, WI 54667, 608-634-4478, www.westbywihistory.com .

*Respectfully submitted by:
Sheryl Hove, Secretary*

Vosselag



Front Row seated from left: Richard Flisrand, Ruth & David Christ. Back Row: Mark Ashley, Ann Romo.

Vosselag Annual Meeting

6/15/2024

Urland Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls, MN

Present: Ann Romo, David Christ, Ruth Christ, Richard Flisrand

Richard Flisrand called the meeting to order at 9:50 a. m. President Jean Marthaler was unable to attend.

The president and the treasurer's reports were read. The current bank account balance is \$3,258.89.

Denny Kalvig, Vestlandslag treasurer, has recommended to the Vestlandslag board that a change be made in how individual lags handle finances. Rather than each lag treasurer having to go through a procedure of updating the bank account when there is a change of the treasurer (getting prohibitively problematic), the Vestlandslag treasurer would keep all funds in one account and maintain each lag balance in a master spreadsheet. Lags would continue to have control of funds.

After discussion, it was moved by Ann Romo, seconded by David Christ to make this change when/if this procedure is finalized by Vestlandslag, and that the current Vosselag Constitution be amended as needed to support this change.

The Vosselag president will make appropriate changes to the constitution and share this work with board members for comments/changes.

Our current Vosselag web page was discussed. As there are people who visit the current page and request services, the web page should be continued. There will not be a major redesign of the page, but

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changes needed to keep content up-to-date will be made by Ruth & David Christ.

Jean Marthaler will continue to support the Vosselag Facebook page which currently has 274 members. The Vestlandslag membership chairman reports 61 Vestlandslag members check the Voss interest box on the membership form.

New officers elected are David Christ, President; Kirt Johnson, VP; Marge Moen, Treasurer; Richard Flisrand, Secretary; Genealogy team: Ruth Christ, Jean Marthaler and Vivian Gullickson White. Fellesraad delegates are David Christ & Richard Flisrand.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by:
Richard Flisrand, Secretary*

Sognalag



Front Row seated from left: Denny Kalvig, Martha Blomberg, Kay Slindee, Ruth Christ, Lucy Ghastin, Millie Ohnstad. Standing from left: Brit Eddy, Grace Eddy, Ann Margrith Eddy, Robert Torkelson, Sonja Cotton, Malcolm Maxwell, Phyllis Maxwell, Alan Olson, Sheryl Hove, Karen Weiberg, Duane and Sue Haugen (behind), Lee Grip- pen, Ann Romo, Judy Ghastin. Not pictured with the group, but member of Sognalag: Ginny Blood.

Sognalag Annual Meeting

Cannon Falls, MN—June 15, 2024

President Martha Blomberg called the meeting to order with eighteen members present.

The secretary's report was read and approved with one correction. Sonja Cotton was already a member at the time of the last meeting.

Treasurer, Lucy Ghastin, reports a balance of \$269.68, after "passing the hat" that totaled \$207, to help cover the annual fee to maintain our website

and domain names.

In 2025, Fellesraad is planning a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Sloopers' arrival in the U.S.A. Lags are encouraged to invite speakers to address this topic at their stevner. Jean Knaack has a list of possible presenters to ask to speak. Each lag was given a thumb drive, at Fellesraad in May, that contains previous research of their charter members. Adding this information of our lag charter members, in Family Search and Wiki Tree, for example, could be helpful to those doing research on their family members, learning they were active in a lag in the early days of their immigration. Denny Kalvig and Martha will work on that.

There was discussion about putting all lags under the Vestlandslag umbrella for finances. Each lag would still retain full control of their funds. The reason is some non-profits are having issues when changing treasurers and updating their bank account information. This is under discussion and may be voted on in 2025, after more research and planning.

Genealogist Denny Kalvig saw higher participation of those researching in the Sogn area, this stevne. There was a discussion concerning the sale of duplicate materials to generate income to purchase more books. Denny will sell duplicate books at \$20 each. There has, also, been a request that the lag purchase books from the Sogndal area.

Farm Name Project: There is some existing research data that Martha has given Denny to include in a newly designed database. Denny would like to keep this database limited to members only. He will email out a request form to all Sognalag/Sognfjordlag members to complete, in a fillable PDF form, that they email back or print and mail back to Denny. (Email preferred) The information from these returned forms will be added to the new database that will be available by request to Denny, as a LOOK/SEE ONLY. Any new information will be added to the database by Denny, as it is received. This will become another resource in looking for every immigrant family from the Sogn region of Norway.

Zoom meeting report: The first meeting was a good start in working toward a Genealogy Chat Room for Sognalag and Sognfjordlag members. We hope to have our first Zoom meeting this Fall and will notify the date to our members by email. We will utilize Zoom through Fellesraad Webmaster, Gene Rodi, who will arrange the setup for each meeting. Ginny Blood and Martha are discussing ways to make this work, the format, etc.

Facebook Page: Jen Dauer explained that the Sognalag page is up, she is concerned about allow-

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ing non-members to participate. Denny shared that Rogalandslag has many non-members, and it is a very active group with no problems, so far. Discussion was held concerning ways to screen participants. All officers agreed to remain for the next year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30

*Respectfully Submitted,
Phyllis Maxwell, Secretary*

Møre og Romsdalslag



Front Row seated from left: Karen Weiberg, Sandy Johnson, Donald Teigen, David Christ. Back Row: Darrell Johnson, Ruth Christ. Not pictured: Peter and Kim Lee.

Møre og Romsdalslag Meeting Notes

Attendees: Peter Lee (President), David Christ, Don Teigen

Banking - Peter will work to get the account, currently in Lee Brown's Name (Lee has passed away, statements still be sent to Lee's widow Marie in Golden Valley) transferred. Discussed the benefit of transferring to an umbrella account under Vestlandslag as described by Denny Kalvig, and this was agreed upon.

Peter has continued to try to find good home for the many books received when becoming president, many books etc. have been donated to the Stevne silent auction both 2023 and 2024.

Discussed the case of the missing Bygdebøker. Very little detail can be remembered with 100% certainty. A former genealogist did not return books. Peter feels knowing as much about this is important in case anything comes up in the future about it.

Mary Hand was approved as new genealogist for Møre og Romsdal lag. Discussed moving approximately 10 Bygdebøker to

Norway House for safekeeping. This was to be investigated and permission to move forward if the situation was deemed appropriate.

Similar discussion to Bygdebøker regarding family histories donated to Møre og Romsdal lag. If we can find a good home for these, that would be best. They can be catalogued and that could be kept for easy lookups. Scan if possible.

Discussed V flag kept by Peter, did anyone know the background of this flag, was it created for Vestlandslag? David thought it may have been a V Victory Effort Support World War II Flag Banner, and perhaps someone thought that it fit well because V is also for Vestlandslag.

Hardangerlag

Front Row seated from left: Sue Eckert, Sue Nelson, Don Teigen, Janet Brandt, Kay Slinde. Back Row: Bree Mon-



son, Kyle Monson, Shae Monson, Jill Monson, Mark Ashley, Sheryl Hove, Sonja Cotton, Carolyn Bondhus, Alan Olson. (No lag report available)

Sunnfjordlag



From left: Peter Thompson, Sue Thompson, Tamra Foster. (No lag report available).

Vestlandslag Board Meeting

June 12, 2024

Urland Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls, MN

President Ann Romo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were distributed to board members prior to the meeting. There was one spelling correction and an addition to the silent auction volunteers. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Denny Kalvig gave his report via Zoom. It was approved as presented.

A discussion of audits for individual lags as presented by Don Teigen at the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad followed. The possibility of lags dispensing with the treasurer position and charging the Vestlandslag treasurer with the task of holding the funds of individual lags and distributing them when requested by a lag was proposed by Kalvig. Transferring accounts to lag members assuming a treasurer position has become more difficult and regulated. Dick Flisrand spoke in favor of Kalvig's proposal. President Romo recommended the lags discuss the proposal at their annual meetings during the stevne. Kalvig will write up his proposal with the reasoning behind it and a suggestion for making the change. This will be distributed to lag presidents to bring to their annual meetings.

Speakers for the stevne: President Romo made a motion to pay each speaker \$100. Seconded by Blomberg. Passed.

Tours: There was a discussion of the \$5.00 fee for the tours. This money goes to the tour locations. President Romo and Martha Blomberg will provide bars, water and lemonade at the site of the Nystuen home. There will be a film for attendees who do not go on the tour to watch. The film is "The Twelfth Man."

Thursday evening entertainment is storyteller Pati Kachel.

Banquet: Estimated 64 will be attending. The music entertainment will be the blue grass group 'Down Home.'

Food: The Urland Church ladies will be providing the food, including the banquet.

Also, a couple weeks ago they did a thorough cleaning of the entire church.

Genealogy: Ann noted that she has some hand held scanners available.

Silent Auction: The silent auction will be Friday from 9-3.

Opening ceremony: Tamra is in charge of the memorial service. We will also sing the national anthems of Norway, Canada, and the United States.

Dick Flisrand will lead us in a sing-a-long of some Norwegian favorites.

Hospitality: Upstairs lobby/fellowship area will be the location for hospitality.

There will be no children's program this year. We have one child that we know will be attending, Carter Dauer. He has been asked to take photos; he has done this for us in the past.

Web site: Vestlandslag would very much like to have a website and a web master, to facilitate acquiring new members and keep current members up to date. President Romo has sent Gene Rodi, web master for the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, photos, the Vestlandslag registration form, and past newsletters to post on the BF site. Gene Rodi is going to be presenting a session via Zoom about the possibility of bygdelags using the Fellesraad website.

New banner: No report.

Stevne 2025: Lucy reported that Bethany Lutheran Church in Willmar, Minnesota is being considered for the 2025 stevne. We should set up a committee to help her plan.

Future stevne locations: The board is open to suggestions for locations within approximately 100 miles of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

There was an informal impromptu discussion regarding genealogy books and materials and how lags identify and safeguard their collections.

A thank you is due to Elaine Hasleton and Marilyn Sorenson for sharing materials.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Janet Brandt, Secretary*

Vestlandslag Annual Meeting

June 15, 2024

Urland Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls, MN

President Ann Romo called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Secretary's report: Janet Brandt read the minutes of the last annual meeting. They were approved as read. Motion by Susan Nelson, second by Martha Blomberg.

Treasurer's report: Approved as presented by Denny Kalvig.

Membership report: Peter Lee reported that we are still losing more members than we are gaining each year. We gain about 10 members per year and lose about 30. Judy Ghastin, who handled registration duties during the past few days, reported that there were some new members received during the stevne. Ann encouraged lags to place phone calls to those who haven't renewed.

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Stevne report: Most of the stevne expenses for this year have been paid.

Lag reports: The president or a representative of each lag reported on the numbers attending their meeting and what business they discussed.

Old business: Lucy Ghastin, Martha Blomberg, Tamra Foster comprise the committee to recommend whether old materials should go to NAHA (Norwegian American Historical Association) or Norway House. This is an ongoing project.

New business: Elections. Susan Nelson moved to approve the slate of officers as they stand. Second by Tamra Foster. Passed.

Articles are needed for the newsletter. Send them to newsletter editor Brit Eddy or contact her with questions.

2025 Stevne: The stevne will be held June 11-14 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar, which has agreed to host. We may need to cater meals. Next year the focus for speakers and presentations will be on immigration, as it is the bicentennial year (1825) of the sloop *Restaurasjonen*. The space requirements for our group are: space for speaker sessions (50-75 people), 4 genealogy rooms with 14-18 tables), vendor tables (optional) 10-12 tables, silent auction (2-3 tables), and sit down space for up to 75 people to eat.

Contact President Romo for sheets with info on what we need for space at a stevne. David Christ recommend that lodging should not be more than a 20-minute drive from the stevne venue.

Janet Brandt reported that the silent auction brought in \$496.

*Respectfully submitted,
Janet Brandt, Secretary*

2024 STEVNE HIGHLIGHTS

The traditional Thursday Tour took us to two Norwegian Lutheran Churches in the area; the Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Aspelund and Holden Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Both churches had guides or historians that gave us the history of their churches.

The first immigrants to Wanamingo arrived in 1854 and by 1859 a church group was formed by Reverend Boyum of the Hauge synod. It was formally organized as the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Wanamingo in 1862 and land purchased the same year for a building and a cemetery. The name was changed to Emmanuel Menighed

(=congregation) to Town[ship] of Wanamingo in 1875.



Inside Emmanuel Lutheran Church

The Holden Church was the earliest Norwegian Synod church in Goodhue county, established in 1856, named after the Holden village in Telemark, Norway. This church served as the mother church for many other churches in the area. The first minister was Rev. Brandt. The



Reverend Bernt Julius Muus came in 1859, serving the Holden congregation for 40 years. Muus served up to 28 congregations in the early years of his ministry, he baptized 9377 children, confirmed 5288, married 1218 couples, and officiated at 3909 funerals!

Muus was one of five founders of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. In 1869, he started an academy (for high school) in the Holden parsonage. He then moved it to Northfield in 1874. The name was changed to St. Olaf School and eventually to St. Olaf College.

Muus returned to Norway and is buried at the Nidaros Cathedral Cemetery in Trondheim.

The third and final stop on the tour was the Nystuen home with an optional stop at a local peony farm.

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Both Thursday and Friday night offered entertainment. Thursday night storyteller Pati Kachel held us captive with tales in the voice of her ancestors, mostly her grandmothers. Friday night offered an hour of music by the Down Home Bluegrass Band.

It has been a tradition to start the Friday night banquet with a parade of Norwegian bunads and Norwegian sweaters. This year was no exception. But, what do you do if you have a bunad, but can no longer wear it? You ask someone to wear it for you!

Grace Eddy was asked by a lady to wear her bunad. This was quite an honor for Grace. You are never as well dressed as when you are wearing a Norwegian bunad!



Grace Eddy with the owner of the bunad

Grace Eddy was the recipient of the language scholarship in 2023 and gave a presentation on her year at Sunnhordland Folkehøgskule, Norway.

The genealogists were kept busy during the stevne.

Several of the genealogists reported back in the annual lag meetings. See the lag minutes. In addition to manning the Soglag genealogy table, Denny Kalvig (below) also gave a lecture on creative ways of researching your family history.

During one of the breaks, I had a chance to visit with Carter Dauer. He is 11 1/2 years old, but a 10-year veteran of coming to the stevnes. He has been coming with his mother since he was 18 months. I asked him what he liked the best. The talks! What was your favorite?

Welcome to new members:

Nordhordland:

Debra Lee Pritchard - Minneapolis, MN

Sunnhordland:

Marsha Gunderson - Bellevue, NE

Ron and Martha Rossing - Bloomington, MN

Pat Kimble - Pine Island, MN

Grace Eddy - Lakeville, MN

Rogaland:

Marsha Gunderson - Bellevue, NE

Gary Oistad - Rapid City, SD

Jennifer Mayo - Newnan, GA

Caleb Mayo - Newnan, GA

Winter Mayo - Newnan, GA

Ramona Roller - Newnan, GA

Mariana Roller - Newnan, GA

Maya Roller - Newnan GA

Sogn:

Karen Olness Torjesen - Kenyon, MN

Randy Nelson & Stacie Berg-Nelson - Estherville, IA

Grace Eddy - Lakeville, MN

Hardanger:

Craig Johnson - Bella Vista, AR

Voss:

Randy Nelson & Stacie Berg-Nelson - Estherville, IA

Troll Hunting

In need of adventure? Go troll hunting in Detroit Lakes, MN. The Danish artist, Thomas Damby, has created 5 new huge trolls and a Golden Rabbit in the Detroit Lakes area. Check out the website by searching for "Detroit Lakes Trolls" or "Project 412" and you will get the info you need.



Individual Lag Officers

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

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LaRee Opdahl (assistant)

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Genealogist for Sunnhordland: Denny Kalvig (above)

Historians for Nordhordland & Sunnhordland
Alan Olson

Fellesraad Delegates for Nordhordland
Betty Hagen (above)
Nancy Birkeland

Fellesraad Delegates for Sunnhordland
LaRee Opdahl (above) and Sheryl Hove

Vestlandslag Board Delegate: LaRee Opdahl (above) & Judy Davis

Webmaster Peter Lee

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Historian Janis Johnson

Delegate to Fellesraadet Denny Kalvig & Jill Hanson (see above)

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Delegate to Vestlandslaget

Delegates to Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Lee Brown (above) Amy Louise Jacobson (above)
Amy Louise Jacobson— alternate (above)

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Fellesraad Delegates David Christ & Richard Flisrand

From the Editor:

This newsletter is dedicated to news from the June stevne. We will bring articles and other information in the fall newsletter. If you have article to share, please submit it to me.

I am a note taker and I like to record information I want to refer to later. Here are some book recommendations from the stevne:

From Jen Dauer's presentation on creative ways to display your family keepsakes:

- Caring for Your Family Treasures: Heritage Preservation (2000) by Jane S. Long and Richard W. Long.
- Saving Stuff: How to Care for and Preserve Your Collectibles, Heirlooms, and Other Prized Possessions (2005) by Don Williams.

The life story of Hakon Torjesen:

- We Signed Away Our Lives: How One Family Gave Everything for the Gospel (2004) by Kari Torjesen Malcolm.

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

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3 years for a couple	\$30.00	_____

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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

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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/>

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Vestlandslag, Hardangerlag, Rogalandslag, Sognalag,
and Vosselag

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Send to:
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213 E 7th Street, Cresco, IA 52136

Deadlines:

January 15

March 15

July 15

October 15

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Attention!

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

Stevne 2025

TBD
Wilmar Area