

## **Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Annual Meeting Minutes Held by zoom on Saturday, May 1, 2021 9:30 AM**

The 103rd Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held by zoom on Saturday, May 1, 2021. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, there had been no 2020 Annual Meeting. Using zoom allowed us to hold our Annual Meeting this year since the pandemic is still a threat. Board members present were President Elaine Hasleton, Vice President Marilyn Sorensen, Treasurer Robert Torkelson, Secretary Mary Gross, Director & Webmaster Gene Rodi, Director Jean Knaak, Director Don Teigen, Director Nancy Pickering, & Past President Marilyn Somdahl.

President Elaine Hasleton called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. She welcomed all those joining on zoom and reviewed zoom etiquette. The meeting agenda had been emailed to all registered for review prior to the meeting. Elaine asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Bob Torkelson moved to accept and there was a second. Motion passed.

**Roll Call of Delegates:** Secretary Mary Gross called the roll of delegates of all bygdelags. These were the delegates present:

Agderlag: Jerry Ugland & Sheri Edwards

Gudbrandsdalslaget: John F. Peterson & Dick Lundgren

Hadeland: Ann Sladky & Sharon Babcock

Hallinglag: Sandra Nelson

Hardanger: Don Teigen & Sue Eckert

Landingslag: Ann Delano & Eric Goplin

Møre og Romsdalslag: no delegates present

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken: Joy Shong & Julie Glowka

Nordfjordlag: Gene Rodi & Kevin Hoff

Nordfjordlag Wisconsin: no delegates present

Nordhordland: Loren & LaRee Opdahl

Nordlandslag: Linda Mohn & Shirley Sampson

Numedalslag: Chet Habberstad & Al Larson

Opdalslag: no delegates present

Østfoldlag: no delegates present

Ringerike-Drammen: Barbara Gulbrandsen & Lynn Nord

Rogalandslag: Robert Torkelson & Marie Heskowitz

Romerikslag: Mary Gross & Norma Kjenstad Barnes

Sami Lag: no delegates present

Sigdalslag: Sheila Winstead & Karen Olson

Sognalag: Martha Blomberg & Denny Kalvig

Sognefjordlag: Lee Grippen & Marvel Anderson

Solørlag: Doug & Kathy Johnson

Sunnfjordlaget: Tamra Foster

Sunnhordland: LaRee Opdahl & Sheryl Hove

Telelaget: Douglas Frames & Jeff Huset

Totenlag: George C. Olson & Judy Evenson

Tronderlag: Linda & Chuck McKeen

Valdres Samband: Ken Svor & Rebecca Wood

Vestlandslag: Ann Romo

Vosselag: Ruth Christ

### **Lag Presidents' Greetings & Lag Reports/Summary of Accomplishments:**

Nancy Pickering had prepared a summary of Bygdslag reports from presidents & each president reviewed their list. Most had used zoom for board meetings & had continued with regular newsletters to maintain communication with their members despite pandemic constraints. There were lots of good ideas for all lags to consider. This power point can be accessed on the Fellesraad website for review.

## Officer's Reports:

- Secretary's Report: There was no Annual Meeting in 2020 due to Covid 19 but minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting had been emailed to registrants prior to this meeting for review. Bob Torkelson moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and passed.
- Treasurer's Report: Bob Torkelson reviewed his report for the year ending April 30, 2021. Total assets are currently \$99,820 with \$4,969 in the checking account. Bygdeleganes Fellesraad donated \$45,000 to Norway House in December of 2020 to match this amount given by Bygdelag & individuals from lags. Mary Gross moved to accept the report. Motion was seconded and passed.
- Lag Week Activities Report for 2020 & 2021: V.P. Marilyn Sorensen reported on Lag Week & Roots Tech. She presented a power point with a brief history of the beginnings of Lag Week in 1987 & its expansion to 2020, culminating in monthly zoom meetings a virtual week in 2020 due to the pandemic. Because Roots Tech convention and classes were held on zoom, many are still available for anyone registered to see online until 2022 Roots Tech. She encouraged lag members to take advantage of these. ~~and to attend the sessions next year.~~
- Syttende Mai Minnesota 2021: Jean Knaak, who represents Fellesraad on the Syttende Mai Board, reported on plans for Syttende Mai this year. It will be held virtually on Monday, May 17, 2021 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM and is free of charge. Norway's Ambassador to the U.S. Anniken Krutnes will give remarks. The event is sponsored by Norway House & registration is required online.
- Webmaster Report: Gene Rodi thanked everyone for their patience with the zoom meeting arrangements, explaining that he only learned how to manage zoom over the last two weeks. He offered to help Bygdelag if they wish to use Fellesraad's zoom program, which we purchased. He can begin the meeting on zoom for the lag & then hand it over to a lag member who will become "co-host".
- President's Report: Elaine Hasleton thanked members of the Fellesraad Board for filling in for her during her recent illness, especially Vice President Marilyn Sorensen, who has been acting president in planning the Annual Meeting. Elaine presented a power point with her ideas for navigating through the future of Fellesraad. We can accomplish this by partnering with Norway House to develop the Bibliotek & Archive. We can also partner with the Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Norway, the Norse Slektshistorisk Foreign & Historielagene, & use other data bases and projects. We will be developing a 2025 Commemoration Committee to plan for the bicentennial of the first Norwegian emigrants to the U.S, & will begin an affiliation with Family Search Library & take part in the Norway Emerging Homeland project.

**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 Jean Knaak asked for a vote and 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, & Director Nancy Pickering.

**Announcements:** Marilyn Sorensen announced that additional genealogy program information from Family Search ~~would be~~ **is** posted on the Fellesraad website. She explained how to access the Nordic Day registration for the afternoon. She reminded members that You Tube & Roots Tech 2021 info will be online until the next event in 2022. The program by Terje Joranger from yesterday & the Annual Meeting from today will be available from the Fellesraad website.

The meeting was adjourned by President Elaine Hasleton at 12.00 PM.

Mary Gross

Fellesraad Secretary