



***Bygdelagenes Fellesraad
Activities for
Fiscal Year 2024***

May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

***Presented for the
2025 Annual Meeting***

***Theme:
“Crossings—A 200th Year Celebration”***

Preface

May 2–3, 2025 Fellesraad Annual Meeting

The Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Board welcomes each of you to our Annual Meeting. We applaud you for your time, effort, and work you invest on behalf of your Lags. It is a huge job to keep our Norwegian heritage alive!

We previously have shared relevant Fellesraad and Bygdelag information verbally and have had PowerPoint Presentations. This is the first year that we have compiled the Fellesraad and Lag Reports into a written format. We are creating this document for your use when you report back to your Lags, as well as for historical purposes since it will be placed in the NAHA Archives.

We hope you will enjoy this written record, and we welcome your responses and further suggestions. The Fellesraad and Bygdelag are valuable organizations, which wouldn't exist, except for you! Tusen takk.

Vennlig hilsen,

Elaine Helgeson Hasleton
Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, President
801-718-0379
eehasleton@gmail.com





Contents

Annual Meeting

Preface, p. 2

Annual Meeting Agenda, p. 4

Annual Meeting Secretary's Minutes from May 2024, pp. 5–8

Treasurer's Financial Report as of March 31, 2025, pp. 9–10

Organizational Reports

pp. 11–12

Haugo Bibliotek, Norway House

Norwegian-American Historical Association

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Officer's Summary Reports

pp. 13–15

President, Elaine Hasleton

Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen

Secretary, Ann Romo

Treasurer, Donald Teigen

1st Director, Nancy Pickering

2nd Director/Webmaster, Eugene Rodi

3rd Director, Jeffrey Huset

4th Director, Jean Knaak

Past President, Marilyn Somdahl

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Lag Activity Reports

pp. 16–28

Agderlag

Gudbrandsdalslaget

Hadelandlag

Hallinglag

Hardanger Lag

Landingslag

Møre og Romsdalslag

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

Nordfjordlag National

Nordhordland Lag

Nordlandslaget

Numedalslågen Lag

Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag

Rogalandslag

Romerikslaget

Sami Lag

Sigdalslag

Sognalag

Sognefjordlag

Solørslag of America

Sunnfjord Lag

Sunnhordland Lag

Telelaget of America

Totenlag

Trønderlag

Valdres Samband Lag

Vestlandslag

Vosselag



Meeting Agenda

May 2–3, 2025

Friday , May 2 (Zoom)

- 8:45 – Connect with Zoom
- 9:00 – Meeting begins. Welcome – Elaine Hasleton, President
- 9:15 to 10:00 am – Dr. Lawrence Moe, “New Land, New Life”
- 10:00 – Q & A
- 10:15 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 to 11:45 am – Jeff Svare, Deputy, Chief Genealogical Officer, Family Search, “Indexed Passenger Lists & Migration Records”
- 11:15 Q & A
- 11:30 First day completed.

Saturday, May 3 (Business Meeting, In-Person only at Mindekirken)

Welcome to our Annual Business Meeting of the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad

Annual Meeting agenda: 8:30 am, Doors open, checkin, & coffee

9:15 am Business Meeting

- Welcome and Approve Agenda
- Explanation of Annual Report and Explore Brochure
- Introduction of Fellesraad Officers
- Delegate Roll Call
- Approval of Secretary’s Minutes from May 2024 (mailed previously)
- Treasurer’s Report (Report filed)
- President’s Report
- Explain Officer and Lag Reports
- Family Search Special Database Project
- Nomination Committee Report

10:45 to 11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00 Gracia Grindal – “The Role of Churches in the Immigrant’s Lives”

11:45 Q & A

12 Noon Break

12:15 Lunch at Mindekirken

Afternoon:

1:00 – 1:45 – Session for Webmasters: Instructions to work with PayPal, by Amber Walters

1:00 – 3:00 – To Norway House Bygdelag Collection Room to learn about information available.



Bygdelagenes Fellesraad **Annual Business Meeting Minutes** **Saturday, May 4, 2024** **Reported by Ann Romo,** **Fellesraad Secretary**

The 106th Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held at Mindekirken Norwegian Memorial Church on Saturday, May 4, 2024. 54 people attended on Saturday, 35 on Friday with an additional 39 on Zoom on Friday. Board members present were: President Elaine Hasleton, Vice President Marilyn Sorensen, Secretary Ann Romo, Treasurer Don Teigen, Director and Webmaster Gene Rodi, Director Jean Knaak, Director Nancy Pickering and Past President Marilyn Somdahl.

President Elaine Hasleton called the meeting to order, starting 9:15.
 Ann Romo read off the roll call of delegates, having them stand when called.

Agderlag of America:	Sherie Edwards, Jerry Ugland
Gudbrandsdalslag:	Gary Romsaas, Nancy Olson
Hadelandlag:	Dale Hovland, Anne Sladky
Hallinglag:	Marie Renneke, Kirste Stolen
Hardangerlag:	Susan Ekert, Don Teigen
Landingslag:	Ann Delano, Arthur Paulson
Møre og Romsdals Lag:	
Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag:	
Nordfjordlag National:	Kevin & Kathy Hoff
Nordfjordlag Wisconsin:	
Nordhordlandslag:	Nancy Bikeland, Betty Hagen
Nordlandslag:	Linda Havir, Linda Mohn
Numedalslagen:	
Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag:	Barbara Gulbrandsen
Rogalandslag:	Denny Kalvig
Romerikslaget:	Mary Gross, Linda McKeen
Sami Lag:	
Sigdalslag:	Debra Pritchard, Sheila Winstead
Sognalag:	Martha Blomberg, Jen Dauer
Sognefjordlag:	Lucy Ghastin, Alan Olson
Solørlag of America:	Mary Martin, Ray Olson
Sunnfjordlag:	Tamra Foster
Sunnhordland Lag:	LaRee Opdahl
Telelaget of America:	Naomi Nowland
Totenlag:	
Trondelag:	
Valdres Samband Lag:	Rebecca Wood
Vestlandslag:	Ann Romo, Brit Eddy
Vosselag:	



Motion by Mary Gross, seconded by Sharon Edwards to approve the agenda.

Ann Romo's secretary's report was previously sent out by email to the delegates. Motion by Jeff Huset, seconded by Tamra Foster to accept.

Don Teigen presented the **Treasurer's** report. Don, with Elaine Hasleton's help, arranged with _____ to get monthly and/or quarterly reports. He spent a lot of time doing this. He was thanked for all his work on it. This was also done with our _____ account. The guidelines for "Audit of Lag Financial Records" that he put together was handed out in the packet to each delegate.

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad has given a total of _____ to Norway House over the years.

Assets of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad (as of March 31, 2024) were as follows:

Income and Expense for Year 2023

Income and Expense for 3 months, Jan- March 2024

Specific financial institution names and figures have been blocked out for this online version. If your lag needs this information, contact a Fellesraad Officer.

Presentation of Officer's Slate to be Elected Board members: Mary Gross, on the **Nomination** committee, read the list of officers for coming year. Don Teigen has been acting treasurer since February, so his position of Director needed to be replaced.

President - Elaine Hasleton, Vice president - Marilyn Sorensen, Secretary - Ann Romo, Treasurer - Don Teigen, 1st Director - Nancy Pickering, 2nd Director & Webmaster - Gene Rodi, 3rd Director - Jeff Huset, 4th Director - Jean Knaak. Marilyn Somdahl moved to accept all nominations for officers, seconded by Nancy Pickering.

President's Report by Elaine Hasleton: Past, Present, Future of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad. The past was the establishment of Bygdelags; laying the groundwork of our history. The present is day to day and month to month activities, including virtual meetings, newsletters, social media, Facebook, yearly Stevner. Future is planning and adapting now so we will be viable down the road. The 1929 yearbook purpose statement: To manage cooperative projects for the good of all Bygdelag.

The vision for the future - Navigating in the 21st century includes Partnerships with 2025 Emigration Commemoration with the theme "Crossings", NAHA, Norway House Haugo Bibliotek, and FamilySearch Affiliated Library status with access to 5-6 million restricted images and free resources.

Norway House: Bygdelag Special Collections room & Bibliotek will include Finding Aids, Sources for Genealogical Research, Bygdelag materials, Periodicals, and Special interest areas (Cleng Peerson, Finnskog, Mining and Sami). They also plan an Interactive Learning Center and using the Coltvet room for Research. Other historical things can be donated to NAHA or Mindekirken as listed in the hand-out given at the meeting.



Additional activities Elaine does include Requests for Proposals for Haugo Bibliotek, Librarians committee, working with Don Teigen, our treasurer, Lag newsletters to NAHA, 2025 Commemoration Committee and the FamilySearch Affiliate Library status.

Elaine thanked Marilyn Sorensen and Mary Martin, from Mindekirken for all their time spent going through storage sorting out books for Norway House.

Elaine showed our 2024 brochure for Bygdelagenes Fellesraad which Gene Rodi keeps up to date.

Elaine thanked Nancy Pickering for all her work on the Charter members project.

Marilyn Sorensen reported on the **Lag Week activities**. There were twenty four people registered. There were many volunteers who helped people with their research.

Nancy Pickering showed a power point of Lag **Reports/Summary of Accomplishments in 2023** by individual lags. Many representatives of lags read their reports. Others were read by Nancy.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Romo, Secretary

Specific financial institution names and figures have been blocked out for this online version. If your lag needs this information, contact a Fellesraad Officer.

**Bygdelagenes Fellesraad
End of Year 2024
Treasurer's Report for 2024
Annual Meeting**

**Submitted by Don Teigen,
Fellesraad Treasurer
(this page and next page)**

Specific financial institution names and figures have been blocked out for this online version. If your lag needs this information, contact a Fellesraad Officer.

**End of Fellesraad
Annual Business Meeting Minutes
for Saturday, May 4, 2024
Reported by Ann Romo,
Fellesraad Secretary**



Treasurer's Financial Report

As of March 31, 2025

Specific financial institution names and figures have been blocked out for this online version. If your lag needs this information, contact a Fellesraad Officer.

Note

Note
\$ 20,
Advi
Inter
check

of
50
k

Note
utility
Acco
For o
same

3
Bank
e

Note
gain
the s
divid
Thriv

alized
ing
of all
month

period. See the commemorative medals that were sold on the next page.





Organizational Reports

Haugo Bibliotek

The Haugo Bibliotek is like a wish come true! During a special exploratory meeting Norway House was interested in ideas about the direction they should be heading. All had the opportunity to express needs. In 2013 Marilyn Sorensen from Fellesraad and a bygdelag member and Robert O'Neil from the Norwegian American Genealogical Association and a bygdelag member expressed the reference materials needed a place to make them available year-round with the opportunity to bring them to Stevner. At that time John Haugo was on the Norway House Board. John was also a bygdelag member. He understood the need and was instrumental in opening the door for the development of a center.

After many years of discussion and many new developments in the family history field the unique Haugo Bibliotek is now emerging as a two part center. One part is the Bygdelag Special Collections Room for family history reference material and another part is the Saga Center that is an innovative exhibit that will help people learn about Norwegian culture and the country. The Haugo Bibliotek is scheduled for opening in the Fall of this year. It has been long in coming and will be a great addition to Norway House and our community.

Bygdelag Special Collections Room

The Bygdelag Special Collections Room has been making significant strides preparing for a soft opening for the Fellesraad Annual Meeting in May 2025. This dedicated space, provides archival-grade environmentally-controlled storage, will house an extensive collection of bygdebøker, gazetteers, årbøker, and other invaluable resources that serve as a treasure trove for Norwegian genealogical research. The collection features hundreds of meticulously curated books and publications donated by individuals and organizations (such as the Arne G. Brekke Bygdebøk Collection at the University of North Dakota and individual bygdelags placing their reference material).

Fellesraad and Norway House volunteers have been diligently working to organize these resources, focusing on organizing, cataloging and labeling all materials to ensure that finding the right resource is both quick and accurate. The materials remain accessible to the public for viewing at the Haugo Bibliotek, although they cannot be checked out. Bygdelags retain ownership of their materials and can retrieve them for stevner. The progress made thus far promises to make the Bygdelag Special Collections Room a valuable resource for researchers and enthusiasts alike using sources not easily available elsewhere.

Saga Center

The Saga Center will be a unique exhibit to help visitors learn more about Norway, Norwegian culture and hopefully gain an interest in their family history. Bygdelag and Fellesraad members John Haugo, Elaine Hasleton, and Marilyn Sorensen provided the historical and genealogical expertise needed to make the Saga Center a place of excellence. To accomplish the center purpose, five stations have been carefully planned including a unique tunnel journey that may have a surprise troll visitor.

(continued on next page)



There will be five Station Concepts, each with an expected outcome, namely:

- 1) Trunk Tales:** Introduction to our core theme of connecting America and Norway with a beautifully rendered story—the Haugo family’s journey from Norway to the United States and their descendants’ journey to discover their family history.
- 2) Family History:** Explore three Norwegian-American family history case studies, each with unique emigration and immigration circumstances, to learn about the types of sources that can be used and the fascinating information uncovered in them.
- 3) Explore Norway:** Motion sensor technology is used to explore Norway by moving through its unique natural and urban landscapes
- 4) Connect to Norway:** Floor-to-ceiling interactive wall that creates a personalized experience for exploring specific cultural connections between Norway and Norwegian America.
- 5) Lærdal Tunnel:** The hallway from the Haugo Bibliotek to the main building at Norway House will be transformed into an underground marvel of Norwegian engineering with an innovative troll in this mountain tunnel.

Split Rock Studios in Minneapolis, and Trivium Interactive in Boston are two key partners, along with Duluth-based Salmela Architect, and Monaghan Construction as the general contractor. Trivium Interactive is beginning to weave the input and station research into the interactive stations, integrating stories and visuals into the software that will bring these stories to life. We look forward to exploring these stories with you at the opening of the Haugo Bibliotek!

Norwegian-American Historical Association

The Fellesraad Board voted in March 2025 to formalize a Partnership with the Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA). Fellesraad will match all funds donated by the Bygdelags and Bygdelag members to NAHA up to a total of \$20,000. Details will be sent to all Lag Presidents and their Treasurers. The NAHA Archives has the largest collection of preserved Bygdelag history. Fellesraad has been encouraging all Lags to submit their current historical records to NAHA.





Fellesraad Officer's Summary Reports

President: Elaine Hasleton

I, Elaine Hasleton, President, have been fully engaged for the years 2024 and 2025 on behalf of the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, which includes the following:

- Continued networking on behalf of Fellesraad and Bygdelaag with Norwegian & Norwegian-American and other relevant organizations which included FamilySearch (Affiliate Library); Norway House (Haugo Bibliotek); Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA); Norsk Slektshistorisk Forening in Oslo, Norway; Norsk Skogfinsk Museum in Svullrya, Norway; Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Ottestad, Norway.
- I, along with Marilyn Sorensen, VP, spent innumerable hours on the planning committee for the Haugo Bibliotek. This included weekly one-to-two-hour meetings via Zoom, all-day workshops, document writing assignments, editing documents of team members, providing content for the five stations in the Interactive Learning Center (Saga Center), and librarian and cataloging meetings for the Bygdelaag Special Collections Room.
- I firmly insisted to the Norway House planners that the Bygdelaags who contributed to the Bygdelaag Special Collections Room should be included on a plaque in the Haugo Bibliotek. All facets of the Haugo Bibliotek are making good progress for an estimated October 2025 opening.

Vice President: Marilyn Sorensen

2025 Lag Week enjoyable and successful

Nineteen Bygdelaag members participated in Lag Week this year in Salt Lake City, Utah. Members were from Washington, Montana, California, Arizona, Illinois, Virginia, Minnesota, Utah, Colorado, Canada and Norway. Six attendees were new to the program and helped to make the week successful. Most had success with their research and some brick walls were solved. As usual we stayed at the Plaza Hotel next door to the Family Search Library. Our new contact with the library is Jeff Svare. Jeff reserved classroom space for several classes. Topics were about Family Search changes, Digitalarkiv in Norway, Family Search catalog changes, Nordic community research helps, and early immigration from Norway to Holland including some who moved on to America.

In addition to research success a new genealogist for Gudbrandsdal Lag was found and also a new project launched with Family Search about genealogy databases for various Bygdelaag. Given all that happened, the week was a great success and has been scheduled for March 8–14, 2026.

Special Genealogical Project

As VP for Fellesraad, Gudbrandsdal Lag has become a pilot for Family Search with a special project that could impact all lags with a promise to preserve their databases on a website that is private. Adding data as well as keeping the information specific to one's lag will assure that the lag information is kept. There is a plan to add an organization category such as Fellesraad so all lags would have the opportunity to have their databases as a private tree. So far we have four people working on the database to strengthen the information with documentation. Plans are to offer the opportunity for other lags if interested.



Secretary: Ann Romo

Since the annual meeting in May 2024, we had one Board Meeting in May 2024 and six Board Meetings in 2025. I took minutes and added my formatted Treasurer's report before sending them out to the officers of the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad. I saved the minutes to PDF files and also saved them to a flash drive. There is a three ring binder to save all the printed reports.

Treasurer: Don Teigen

- In my role as Treasurer and Board Member I am able to utilize my life-long interest in Norwegian culture and family history with my experience in accounting and finance.
- Since becoming Treasurer two years ago I have strengthened control over our funds at Wells Fargo and Thrivent Financial, including online access and reporting.
- Also, during the past year I assisted in the sale of our Norwegian medals. Possible plans for using the sale proceeds include funding projects at NAHA and Norway House.
- (Financial Statements for Twelve Months ending 3/31/25 are on pp. 9-10).

1st Director: Nancy Pickering

I was invited to join the Board in 2016, and became a Director. My participation has been attending meetings as a voting member and helping to plan our Annual Meeting Gathering (Convention), particularly the graphic design and layout aspect of the documents we share with our members. I have lent my talents in a variety of ways; I am the Newsletter Editor of my own lag and have provided a list of helpful "Editor's Documents" now posted on the Fellesraad website to share with other Editors. I also help with layout and formatting of "visitor-facing" documentation, both for the Board members and for emailing to our member lags. The most comprehensive yearly effort has been to organize and create a presentation summary of the activities each lag wishes to share with the entire Annual Meeting attendees, in a slide show or handout. In 2024 I organized a project to update a slide show of documentation of lag charter members and descendants, and collected (or improved) each lag's logo, placed on USB drives for each lag to keep.



2nd Director/Webmaster: Eugene Rodi

Over the past year I have been able to establish Donald Teigen as the current owner of the www.fellesraad.com account. (Long story!) We have also added an SSL certificate which moves the web location from “<http://>” to “<https://>”, a secure site accepted by web browsers.

Your use of our Zoom Pro account has increased. Since our last annual meeting, six different lags have held sixteen officer’s meetings using Fellesraad’s Zoom Pro account. This is in addition to many meetings between our own officers and the annual meeting itself. We encourage lag use of our Zoom Pro account for their officers’ meetings. This allows an extended time for your meetings, eliminates the need for lags to buy an account of their own, and makes better use of our purchase. Contact the Fellesraad webmaster to reserve your time. As the account holder I must reserve your time, start your meeting, and establish a meeting host, thereafter I am free to leave.

As always, include me in your list of people to notify when there are changes in your officer’s information, web locations, stevne dates, and any other relevant lag changes. Together we need to keep your information on the web relevant and up to date. This is especially true for those lags who keep their web sites under “[fellesraad.com/lagname](http://www.fellesraad.com/lagname)”. Consider refreshing your web site to keep it fresh, attractive, and relevant to your activities! A stagnant web page gets dropped from Google’s search list!

3rd Director: Jeffrey Huset

Jeff has been working in the Haugo Bibliotek Bygdelag Special Collections Room with Rob Erickson and Marilyn Sorensen regarding the Finding Aids categories—and books in the other sections—getting them ready for labeling with catalog numbers and placing book jackets on those that need them.

4th Director: Jean Knaak

No Report

Past President: Marilyn Somdahl

No Report



Lag Activity Reports

Agderlag of America

Agderlag's two genealogists, Tamra Foster and assistant Sherie Edwards, receive requests for information about members' ancestors. They asked Agderlag members to submit information about relatives who were earliest to come from Agder. They both have frequently gone to Salt Lake City to attend the Norwegian Lag Week at the Family History Library. Sharon DiBrito also attended.

In addition to Sherie Edwards' providing genealogical service, she serves as our Treasurer and Secretary. It is because members are willing to step up that we continue to provide a lag that works for its members.

Director-at-Large, Sharon DiBrito, arranged for an Agderlag Facebook site. This is Agderlag's electronic connection with the public and members. We welcome all to view the site.

Sandra Bestland produces Agderlag's newsletter, Agderlag Avisen. Our newsletters foster a connection to families and to the culture and history of Norway. In this 200th year since mass migration from Norway to other countries, particularly the United States, that information is especially enlightening.

Thanks to our generous members we raised more than \$1,300 online for bygdebøker for Agderlag. Agderlag also sent a donation of \$1,000 to Norway House for their Bygdelag Special Collections Room.

We look forward to cooperating with RDD to host the 7+ Lag Stevne in 2027. We continue to work on a tour of Agder, currently anticipated to be in August, 2026.

Respectfully, Jerry Ugland, President.

Gudbrandsdalslaget

- Memberships: For 2024, our lag now has 185 paid members and 30 unpaid organizations; there are 67 renewals coming up for those who pay multiple years at a time. Total of 252 + 30. Down from last year.
- Newsletter mailings: We mail our *Brev* newsletter in Winter, Spring, and Fall; a total of 283 copies are sent to members as well as to other lags and libraries, and to some groups in Norway.
- Our Facebook group page shows we have 1,191 Facebook members and has grown significantly since the pandemic (our 2018 statistics were less than half that at 504!) Many were inspired to join the lag. Our webmaster reports that our website is getting good traffic, including some from Norway.
- Our Board continues to meet every quarter via Zoom.
- Like other lags, attracting new and younger members is a concern, especially for officer's roles. We have an open Vice President position and with term limits we will need members to step up and fill a number of key roles such as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Marilyn Sorensen has served as Lag Genealogist since 1987 but retired last year and Jeff Svare has agreed to serve in that role; he's an Accredited Genealogist and is Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch.
- Last August **Flere Lag Stevne** met in Willmar, Minnesota. In 2025, we'll meet 5–8 August in La Crosse/Onalaska, Wisconsin.



Hadelandlag

Officers: President Eric Beaström, Vice President Jason Jacobson, Secretary Sharon Peterson, Treasurer Barb Schmitt, 275 Members. The Lag continues to provide financial support to Norway House, the Hadeland Folk Museum, and the Gran, Jevnaker, and Lunner Historical Societies.

Accomplishments during 2024:

- In June the Hadeland Lag had its Norway Tour. The Tour was split into 3 legs. Forty-five members participated on the Oslo leg, 55 members participated on the Hadeland leg, and 32 members participated on an extended tour of Norway which included stops in Lillehammer, Trondheim, Ålesund, Geiranger, and Bergen.
- In October, the Lag held its annual meeting in Stoughton, WI. At the meeting a new President and Vice President were elected. We still have two open Director positions. At the meeting the new Webmaster and Newsletter Editors were introduced. After the meeting we enjoyed a performance by the Stoughton High School Dancers and a Meatball lunch.

Hallinglag

- The 2024 Hallinglag Stevne took place September 5–7 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Minnesota, with 60 attendees.
- Our Membership Chair, Corinne Engstrand, is updating our membership records. As of our last Stevne, we had 363 members. We added 16 new members but lost 29 due to death or non-renewal. Thirty-one organizations receive free memberships. We added a new gift membership option at a special rate on a trial basis.
- Board Members Marie Renneke and Kristi Stolen are updating the lag brochure.
- The Board has also focused on changing our scholarship program to broaden its reach and hopefully to create more interest.
- Our Board has held four Zoom Board Meetings so far this year, and we are working on the program for our 2025 Stevne, scheduled for July 24–26 in Sioux Falls, SD. This will be the first time in our 116-year history that the lag will meet in Sioux Falls.
- We continue to send out our newsletter, the *Hallingen*, four times each year.
- Our archivist, Michael Kelly, is working on a historical pictorial collection of past stevner.
- We are researching sponsoring another trip to Norway in 2026.



Hardangerlag

- Hardangerlag members (at least 14) participated in the Vestlandslag Stevne held at the Urland Church near Cannon Falls, MN, on June 13–15, 2024.
- Lag genealogists and members continue research while resources have increased.
- We are looking forward to the Vestlandslag Stevne to be held in Spicer, MN, June 11–13.

Don Teigen
Hardanger Lag President

Landingslag

- Eric Goplin–President, Rhonda Smerchek–Vice-President, Michelle Connor–Secretary, Ann Delano–Treasurer, Kathleen Johnson, Mary Ritenour, and Joanne Frisk–Directors. Our membership remains steady at approximately 220. Landings have been very busy this spring planning two big events!
- The first event will be the 7th Landingslag-sponsored tour to Land in Norway. There will be an opportunity to meet relatives that have been located for us, to visit farms where our ancestors lived and churches where they were baptized and married. We will spend 4 days in Land, then have the option to join the extended tour of popular destinations in Norway.
- Shortly after our return from Norway, the Landingslag will be hosting the annual 7+ Lag Stevne in Austin, Minnesota, July 9–12, 2025. Our theme is ‘Norwegian Crossings 1825–2025’, which commemorates the anniversary of the first immigrants from Norway to America. The committee has been meeting regularly and have planned a tour, banquet, entertainment and a lineup of interesting speakers has been secured.
- We are fortunate to have members that are efficient with technology making it possible to conduct regular meetings through Google Meet. This keeps our board engaged, informed, and helps diminish the miles that separate all of us!

Møre og Romsdalslag

- After a period where leadership was in flux due to the passing of some long-time members, Møre og Romsdalslag now has a President and Genealogist and we are moving forward.
- We have finally recovered a bank account that belonged to us that was dormant, which is easier said than done.
- Thanks to the generosity of the previous president Gary Erickson and his widow Leslie (Gary passed away in 2021), we have a substantial library of bygdebøker, mostly stored at Norway House, as well as some in possession of the President. We currently have 54 members.



Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

President Joy Shong, VP Chris Falteisek, Secretary Jeri Johnson, Treasurer Julie Glowka, Directors: Linda Domier Lowry, Debra Lee Pritchard, Gary Romsaas; Genealogist Larry West, Past-President Dixie Hansen.

NHOH Statistics – (as of February 2025)

- **Current Membership:** 121 including 7 new in 2024 (down from 134)
 - **Expired memberships** 20 in 2023 dropped; 40 in 2024 (many to renew by 2025 Stevne)
 - **Newsletters:** 3 x yr; 124 mailed/mailed to paid members, free to 30 organizations in Norway and the US
 - **Facebook followers:** 474
- **Outreach:** Facebook, Newsletters, Website, genealogy support
- **Recent activity:** Website moved to a new host because it had not functioned for 2 years; 27 members attended the Flere Lag Stevne in Willmar, MN in August 2024
- **Concerns:** Declining Membership, How to get more people actively involved; Maintaining web site and social media accounts
- **Plans for Coming Year:**
 - Update the web page content with current information and check all hotlinks
 - Flere Lag Stevne in La Crosse, WI August 5-8: Theme: “New Land, New Life 1825-2025”

Nordfjordlag National

Hello from President Kevin Hoff and all Nordfjordlag National members.

Accomplishments of note this year are:

- Delegates for Nordfjordlag are Kevin Hoff and Sandy Hoff.
- 2025 Membership total for Nordfjordlag is 60. Membership is up from 2024 total of 50.
- Nordfjordlag now has 149 Facebook page members. Last year’s total was 105.
- 2024 Stevne was held in September at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN.
- 2025 Stevne will be held on Sunday September 14 at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN.
- The Nordfjordlag Nordfjord Norway Trip is a go June 18–June 27, 2025. Sign-up is still open.
- The Nordfjord History Association has events planned for Nordfjordlag 2025 Norway Trip.
- One Nordfjordlag E-News was sent out promoting the Nordfjord Norway Trip.
- Nordfjordlag helps promote *The History of Nordfjord* book in English by Rolf Melheim from Oslo.



Nordhordland Lag/ Sunnhordland Lag

Representative today is Sheryl Hove of Sunnhordlandslag; Nordhordlandslag not represented in person today.

- New officers: Secretary—Marsha Gunderson; Historian—Alan Olson; Sunnhordland genealogist—Denny Kalvig.
- Membership: Nordhordlandslag—47, Sunnhordlandslag—44
- Genealogy: Sunnhordlandslag stores bygdebøker at Norway House. Both lags donated microfilm catalog listings for parishes to Blaine Hedberg for Westby Area Historical Society and Genealogy Center in Westby, Wisconsin. Sunnhordlandslag also donated 35 microfilms.
- Sunnhordlandslag received 7 bygdebøker of Fusa, Samnager and Strandbarm og Varaldsøy from Solørlag in Hedmark through Elaine Haselton.
- Joint website for Vestlandslag is being worked on.
- Stevne: Vestlandslag in Spicer, MN June 11–13.

Nordlandslaget of America & Canada

- President – Linda Mohn, Vice President – Mike Wick, Secretary – Deb Swanson & Laurel Dikken, Financial Secretary – Judy O’Malley, Membership Chair – Shirley Sampson, Genealogist – Jay Liedman.
- 2024 Stevne was held in Benson, MN on June 17–19 with approximately 20 in attendance.
- 2025 Stevne will be held in Fergus Falls, MN on June 16–18 at the Country Inn & Suites.
- Nord Norge newsletters are published quarterly and mailed or emailed to approximately 80 family units, family, friends and organizations.
- Facebook site is “Norwegian American Nordlands-laget—People with Roots in North Norway”



Numedalslågen Lag

Kevin Hoff is currently Acting President.

Accomplishments of note this year are:

- The Lag membership currently stands at 100 Family Units. The Lag just did a membership drive to get previous members to rejoin the Lag. We had some success.
- The Facebook page for the Numedalslågen lag has grown to 183 members.
- Kevin Hoff the Vice President of Numedalslågen Lag is now Acting President.
- Our lag hosted the 7+ Lag Stevne in Wahpeton, ND July 2024.
- We had a Fall Mini-Stevne in Sacred Heart, MN Oct. 2024.
- More members are signing up for *Nyheter* via email.
- Our Lag looks forward to the 7+ Lag Stevne in July 2025, hosted by Landings Lag.

Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag

President: David Overbye, Vice-President: Debra Pritchard, Treasurer: Barbara Gulbrandson, Director (Webmaster): Matthew Syvertson, Director (At-Large): Marilyn Sorensen

Accomplishments of note this year are:

- Elected a new slate of officers, filling several long-term vacancies
- Redeveloped website to support greater interactivity and e-business functions
- Expanded Facebook presence to encourage increased social media engagement
- Participated in the 7+ Lag Stevne in Wahpeton, ND
- Scanned historical documents and minutes into more secure electronic archives
- Attended Lag Week in Salt Lake City and began preliminary discussions centered around long-term data transfer and storage of genealogical data
- Produced updated Cousins Reports for members



Rogalandslag

Delegates for the Fellesraad Annual Meeting from Rogalandslag are Denny Kalvig and Judy Davis.

Highlights for this year are:

- Election of Jill Hanson as our new Vice President, replacing Marie Heskewitz. All other officers continue from 2023.
- Membership remains around 100, with about 20 attending the annual meeting at the 2024 stevne.
- At the stevne annual meeting, we discussed about a dozen ideas for promoting the bygdelag.
- There wasn't much activity outside the stevne except for our Facebook group, which has 471 members and is functioning much better after switching from Public to Private. Many members are from Norway, so it is a broader discussion about Rogaland than just about the bygdelag. There are a couple of posts per month.

Romerikslaget

President: Norma Kjenstad Barnes; Vice President: Chuck McKeen; Treasurer: Mary Gross; Secretary: Linda McKeen; Director of Membership: Susan Waldera; Directors at Large: Mary Baumgartner; Joel Botten; Chris Falteisek; Jean Knaak; Ray A. Olson; Eunice Helgeson; Barbara J. Nelson.

Accomplishments this past year are:

1. Communications

- a. Published lag newsletter issues three times per year.
- b. Updated lag website: www.fellesraad.com/romerikslaget
- c. Maintained and updated lag Facebook group–164 members.

2. Annual Meeting–August 7, 2024

- a. Approved donation of \$1,000 to Norway House.
- b. Approved decision to store our collection of Romerike bygdebøker at Norway House.

3. Flere Lag Stevne

- a. Members participated in Stevne held August 6–9, 2024, in Willmar, Minnesota.
- b. Lag representatives Norma Kjenstad Barnes and Mary Baumgartner have been working on the Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee to plan the August 5–7 Stevne in Onalaska, Wisconsin.



Sami Lag

President is Chris Pesklo.

- The lag contributes to two lag newsletters:
 - *Árran*, Published by the Sami Siida of North America; this quarterly newsletter is by and for Sami North Americans and friends. Árran headquarters are in Minneapolis, Minnesota
 - *Baiki* (The North American Sami Journal); This journal is a major English-language source of information about Sami arts, literature, history, spirituality, and environmental concerns.

Sigdalslag

- Delegates from Sigdalslag are Jan Johnson, Former Treasurer; and Dale Buisman, Interim Webmaster
- Sigdalslag is part of the 7+ Lag with Stevne planned for July 9–12 at Austin, MN
- Our membership numbers stay at about 250
- Newsletters distributed 3x per year, Facebook presence, and monthly Genealogy Chats since February 2021
- Scholarship Program available
- Current Board positions are President/Karen Olson; VP of Membership/Lila Harp; VP of Culture/Jean Knaak; VP of Social Media/Liz Hanson Roe; Secretary/Sheila Winstead; Treasurer/Linda Mohn; Genealogist/Garth Ulrich; Historian/Kelsie Haakenson; Editor/Lisa Haugen; Book Sales/Rod Pletan; and Interim Webmaster/Dale Buisman
- Thank you, Fellesraad Board, for organizing another great annual meeting!



Sognalag

- Officers are: President: Martha Blomberg, Vice-President: Judy Ghastin, Secretary: Phyllis Maxwell, Treasurer: Lucy Ghastin, Historian/Preservationist: Judy Ghastin, Historian/Photographer: Jen Dauer, (with assistant photographer, Carter Dauer), Genealogist: Denny Kalvig, Jen Dauer, Facebook Page Administrator, Fellesraad Delegates: Jen Dauer and Martha Blomberg.
- Present members: 115, down a little from last year.
- A newly organized “Sogn” Genealogy Chat group will have its first Zoom meeting May 10, 2025, with Denny Kalvig as moderator and Ruth Christ, Zoom host. Sognefjordlag has been invited to join with us. Topics will be determined by interests of those who join.
- With a closed Facebook membership, we have only 29 members. We need more members to use our Facebook page. We are asking our members to go to the Sognalag Facebook Page and share photos of Sogn trips.

Martha Blomberg

Sognefjordlag

President Lucy Ghastin

- Sognefjordlag held their annual “stemne” last summer on August 15–17, 2024 in New Ulm, MN. We enjoyed speakers and a bus trip to the Norwegian town of Hanska, MN.
- This year, Sognefjordlag will have its 2025 stemne (meeting) on August 14, 15, 16 in Albert Lea, MN at Grace Lutheran Church, 918 Garfield Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007.
- We have a block of rooms at Country Inn & Suites, 2214 E. Main St., Albert Lea
- We will be offering a boat trip on the Pelican Breeze on Albert Lea Lake.



Solørslag of America

President Rod Kurth

- The Solørslag of America Facebook page has 1100 members, with about half of them living in Norway. There are currently 133 paid members of Solørslag.
- In 2024, Solørslag participated in Flere Lag Stevne which was held at Willmar, Minn. Numerous individuals used our Solør and Finnskog sources, including the newly-purchased books, in the Genealogy Lab.
- Solørslag has been diligently working on sorting and improving the organization of the Lag's numerous records, indexes, and books in their collection. Shanna Kurth, Solørslag's Research Material Manager, and Elaine Hasleton, Lag Genealogist, have been spearheading this effort.
- Solørslag has been donating a large number of duplicate books in their collection to the Bygdela Special Collections Room at the Haugo Bibliotek in Norway House. They are also assisting the Haugo Bibliotek with Forest Finn (Finnskog) sources.

Sunnfjord Lag

- Sunnfjordlag report by Tamra Foster, President
- We currently have 21 members in our group.
- We meet jointly with Vestlandslag. Our meeting this year will be in Spicer MN June 11–13th.
- We were asked by the Sunnfjord Museum in Førde Norway to provide information on Sunnfjordlaget in America that they could feature alongside with their exhibit of ***Fiddlers and Parishioners: Entertainment in Norwegian America***. The exhibit will run from June 1st to Oct. 17th. The exhibition is created in conjunction with the emigration anniversary 2025, and presents emigration from Sunnfjord, Nordfjord and Sogn to the USA and Canada through stories of Norwegian-American musicians and comedians with a background in the old Sogn og Fjordane county.



Telelaget of America

Hilsen fra Telelaget of America President Marne Olson. Telelaget of America represents descendants of people from Telemark and those members who have an interest in the history, customs, and present-day Telemark.

Accomplishments of the Lag this year are:

- This year three of Telelaget's outstanding members, Board Members Lila Burmeister, Sandy Gilbert, and Ex officio Board Member Elaine Nordlie organized "***The Patchwork Of Our Ancestors' Lives***" Stevne in Spicer, MN, April 24–26, 2025. The Telelaget Stevne celebrates the heritage, culture, and history of those with roots in the Telemark region.
- Conducted the Annual Meeting at the 7+ Lag Stevne in Wahpeton, ND 2024.
- Published 2 issues each of Telesoga (journal), Telenews (newsletter), and Telemail (digital newsletter).
- A new Telelaget of America logo was designed and a now appears on new brochures, business cards, and a new Telelaget of America banner.
- Digital Content Manager, Amber Walters continues to add new features and functions to Telelaget's new website. Amber also has added new attractive merchandise with Telelaget's new logo to be purchased online.
- Telelaget is now in the process of planning and organizing the next 7+ Lag Stevne for 2026.

Totenlag

- Officers: President/Genealogist George Olson, Secretary Judy Evenson, Treasurer/Webmaster Sheila Andorfer, Gary Oistad Editor/Membership Chair, Bob Helgeson, Linda Nelson, Marilyn Klinge and Odd Martin Hesjadalen.
- We have at the present time 137 members: 87 in the U.S., 38 in Norway, 1 in Canada and 11 complimentary members, and we have had 5 new members in the past year.
- Our Delegate is Sheila Andorfer.
- We have a "Genealogy Chat" once a month via Zoom for any member that expresses an interest.
- We have a Facebook page and a website at www.totenlag.org.
- Totenlag is a part of the 7+ Lag Stevne that will be held in Austin, Minnesota July 9–12, 2025.
- That about sums it up! Hilsen fra Totenlag til dere alle!



Trønderlag

Officers: President–Gerald Frisbie; Vice President–Sam Christenson; Secretary–Karen Erickson Mullen; Treasurer/Membership–Jon Satrum; Genealogist–Barry Dahl; Associate Genealogist–Trudy DeKeuster; Directors–Duane Haugen, Joy Haugan Williams; Past President/Editor/Acting Historian–Robert Fossum.

- New lag brochure produced this past year
- We’ve upgraded our lag website
- We increased membership by approximately 20 new members
- Trønderlag looks forward to Flere Lag Stevne, 5-8 August, 2025 in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Snippet from *A Genealogist Lament*, by Barry M. Dahl, 2025: “With Genealogy we all think there will be a conclusion to our work, although we can never include all our forgotten Ancestors. We started an impossible task, as paper trails, records and oral history only go back so far, and the future is always changing, with births and marriages and deaths. I think a Genealogists motto should be “*Never Give Up*”.

Valdres Samband Lag

Valdres Samband, the oldest bygdelag in America, celebrated its 125th anniversary at a June 2024 stevne held at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis. Several speakers, including author and historian Odd Lovoll were on hand to give presentations to the attendees. New officers elected in 2024 included: Mary Hendrickson, President; Judy Weiss, Vice President; Eric Western, Treasurer; Joy Shong, Recording Secretary; LeAnn Velde, Membership Secretary; and Directors Darin Flansburg, Duane Haugen, Mona Gregersen, Lori Conklin and Peter Hestekin.

The past year has been a busy one. We have enjoyed our first year as an official 501(c)(3) organization, moved our webpage to a new web host, donated \$500 to the Valdres Historielag as a thank you gift for their members who have volunteered to serve as farm guides to visiting American Valdres travelers and lastly, started the process of developing a youth stipend program for young people wishing to attend a Norwegian language camp. We share some of the same challenges as other lags: an aging membership, finding stevne sites that encourage greater attendance, getting a group of members to organize that stevne. Our 2025 Stevne will be held June 27–28 at Concordia Lutheran Church in Superior, Wisconsin.

Vestlandslag

- 2024 Stevne at Urland Lutheran Church, rural Cannon Falls, MN. Fifty-four people preregistered, another 10–12 walk-ins.
- Five speakers, entertainment both Thursday and Friday evenings, Thursday afternoon tour to two churches and family residence full of Norwegian antiques.
- Report by Grace Eddy, the recipient of our scholarship.
- 264 newsletters were sent out four times during the year, 21 of them were complimentary; 48 of those were sent out were to couples so total membership is around 300.
- 2025 Stevne will be at Hope Presbyterian Church, Spicer, MN, June 11–13.

Vosselag

Vosselag officers are currently:

David Christ, President; Kirt Johnson, Vice-President; Dick Flisfand, Secretary; Marge Moen, Treasurer; Jean Marthaler, Ruth Christ, Vivian White, Genealogists

- Vosselag, a part of Vestlandslag, is a small lag with about five dozen members. Voss being a municipality (not a fylke) draws on a historically limited population.
- This past year for Vosselag has been one of recovering from the COVID years. Major activities have been rewriting our Constitution to conform to changes at Vestlandslag. We are also embarking on updating and expanding our website www.vosselag.org. As with many other lags we are always working on expanding our membership.
- We are looking forward to helping our members and others with answers to their genealogy questions.

Lag Logos

