

**BYGDELAGENES FELLESRÅD  
87TH ANNUAL MEETING  
MAY 3, 2003**

The Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held on May 3, 2003 at the Wyndham Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota.

**Opening** The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Somdahl at 9:00 a.m. The National Anthems of the United States and Norway were sung. Marilyn congratulated Trønderlag, Numedalslaagen Lag and Sognalag on their 95th anniversaries, having been founded in 1908 and Nordhordlandlag on its 90th anniversary, founded in 1913. President Somdahl remarked that "The best work we do, no one knows about." She read the Star Tribune article telling that Christian Skjervold, former President of the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, was awarded the Royal Order of Merit from the King of Norway. She reminded the lag representatives that for the next couple of years the lags will be asked to poll their members to find out what had influenced them to join the lag.

**Roll Call** The roll of Lags was called by Secretary Bruce Boyce. The following Lags had delegates present (number listed following the name) : Gudbrandsdal (2); Hadeland (2); Hardanger (1); Landingslag (2); Møre og Romsdal (2); Nordfjord (2); Nord Hedmark (2); Nordhordland (1); Nordlandslag (2); Ringerike Drammen (2); Rogaland (2); Romerikslag (2); Sigdalslag (2); Sognalag (2); Sognefjord (2); Solør Lag (2); Sunnfjord (1); Telelag (2); Toten (1); Trønderlag (2); Valdres Samband (2); Vestlandslag (2); Vosselag (1). The names of the delegates and guests are listed on an attached page. Many of the lags reported they had gotten new members through the web sites. Word of mouth, stevnes and trips to Norway were also mentioned as sources of new members.

**Elections** The incumbent slate of officers was placed in nomination for the next year:

President	Marilyn Somdahl
Vice President	Marilyn Sorensen
Treasurer	R. Lee Brown
Secretary	Bruce Boyce
Directors	Eugene Rodi Sandra Henrickson

Nominations were opened from the floor by the Vice President. None being offered, it was moved, seconded and carried that nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast an unanimous ballot for the above named officers.

**Minutes** The minutes of the May 4, 2002 meeting were distributed and read by Secretary Bruce Boyce.

**Treasurer's Report** An audited copy of the Treasurer's report was distributed and commented upon by Treasurer R. Lee Brown. He reported receipts of \$2,369.52 and expenditures of \$3,545.61 leaving a checking account balance on April 30, 2003 of \$2,428.78. Total assets at year's end totalled \$54,797.09. Mr. Brown pointed out that we continued to sustain losses during the year because

of market conditions. The only good news, he stated, was that the stock funds had shown some growth in the last couple of months. Treasurer Brown moved the acceptance of the report. It was seconded by Kathy Johnson and carried on a voice vote.

- Web Sites** Webmaster, Eugene Rodi, was called upon for a report. He noted that the Fellesraad site gets 3 to 4,000 hits per month. He again emphasized his willingness to work with any of the lags to develop their website. He also stressed the importance of keeping the information on the websites current.
- Vice President** Marilyn Sorenson reported that half of the lags had responded thus far to the genealogical survey. The 2002 meeting of genealogists did not take place because the expense of computer labs for the workshop is great and probably beyond the means of several lag genealogists without lag support. Such a training session would be desirable but to secure the necessary accommodations is expensive. As a Science Museum of Minnesota docent, Marilyn led one of two tours last evening of 16 delegates and to answer their questions about the Vikings, The North America Saga exhibit. This exhibit, undertaken largely by the Smithsonian, was the cultural part of the Fellesraad annual meeting this year. (Other delegates may attend at the conclusion of this meeting.)
- Business** President Somdahl pointed out the good news of so many people who participate in the lags. She also emphasized the importance of relationships with other ethnic groups. For example, the web site of the Norwegian American Foundation, [www.nor-am.org](http://www.nor-am.org), has 801 Norwegian organizations. Some of these no longer exist especially for entire fylker. She pointed out that keeping the lag sites up to date can't be too strongly emphasized. President Somdahl asked the representatives to take the Fellesraad brochures back to the lags and use them for promotion work.
- Roger Ostby raised the question of a tour to Norway in 2005. A celebration is being planned for this country under the leadership of former Vice President Mondale, but no plans have been disclosed as yet.
- The question was raised as to the possibility of creating a list of suggested entertainment for Stevne events. Getting local people on the Stevne planning committee is one good source of what is available. Sons of Norway and Vesterheim can also steer committees to good programs. Since both Bud Graham and President Somdahl are members of the Syttende Mai Minnesota committee, Bud was asked to speak about the Twin Cities celebration. Bud stressed our involvement in Syttende Mai activities. A 17th of May button will give you free bus transportation to the Science Museum plus a \$2.00 discount for the exhibit. Wear your button at other times, too. It's good advertising.
- Marilyn Somdahl adjourned the meeting by reading a portion of the 16th psalm.

Respectfully submitted

*Bruce Boyse*