

# BYDGELAGENES FELLESRAAD BULLETIN

NORWEGIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BYGDELAG

[www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com)

Since 1916

March 2009

## VELKOMMEN TIL MINDEKIRKEN – ANNUAL MEETING IS MAY 2

Delegates and guests are invited to the Norwegian Memorial Church, 924 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN, Saturday, May 2, for the annual meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad. The day begins with coffee at 9:15 a.m. (The parking lot is north of the church on East Franklin and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South).

Each lag whose dues have been paid may seat two delegates—often including the lag president—to hear reports and vote in the business meeting, which includes the election of officers. Each of the incumbent officers is willing to stand for re-election for the 2009-2010 term of one year: Marilyn Somdahl, president; Marilyn Sorensen, vice president; Sonia Rache, secretary; R. Lee Brown, treasurer; Eunice Helgeson, director; and EuGene Rodi, director/webmaster.

Since 2004 the advertising fee is to be reviewed annually. In this regard, the Fellesraad Board proposes for ratification:

*that each bygdelag contributes \$15 toward print advertising of the dates and sites of lag stevner by January 15, 2010. The Fellesraad is to pay the greater share of the total cost.*

It should be noted that **ad rates have increased –about 7%--** since the lag began contributing toward the cost in 2004.

The **cultural program** will be scheduled just before lunch, which will be at approximately 11:45 a.m. A number of table topics have been planned for discussion and sharing over lunch. Our speaker will be **Peggy Larson**, a jazz singer, voice teacher and choral director, whose program will include *kulokk* (herding calls) and folk songs. She is knowledgeable about diverse European vocal styles of music.

**Mailed reservations will include payment for the coffee, noon meal and rental of the meeting space. Please note that groups wishing to meet after 1 p.m.-- following the meeting-- should make their own arrangements with the church and pay the appropriate fee.**

The Fellesraad Board urges that you read the minutes of May 3, 2008, which are printed in this issue, in advance of May 2 meeting. Presidents, please check to be certain that your delegates have received this notice.

**Registration will be \$14 per person if postmarked on or before April 19, and \$16 per person if postmarked thereafter.** All registrations need to be in the hands of the treasurer by April 26, which is also the last day for refunds or changes in delegates. **Please indicate which lag you represent along with your name** and send your check to Treasurer R. Lee Brown, 2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422.

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If postmark is on or before April 19, cost is \$14 per person; cost is \$16 per person later.

Delegate/s? Which Lag? \_\_\_\_\_

Guest/s? Which Lag? \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **CELEBRATE YOUR BYGDELAG**

Lag from Gudbrandsdal, Nordland & Voss Reach 100<sup>th</sup> Year

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

### **JUNE**

- 11-14 - Hallinglag**, Albert Lea, MN; Bob Helling, **218-363-3478**  
**13-19 - Sognefjord** trip with *stemne* **June 19**, Balestrand, Norway;  
Kathy Johnson, **608-238-1785**  
**18-19 – Nordlandslag CENTENNIAL & Lappmark**, Granite Falls, MN;  
Christian Skjervold, **763-786-2427**  
**18-20 – Vestlandslag**, Albert Lea, MN; Bob Hanson, **763-441-4463**  
**Vosselag CENTENNIAL, Sognalag, Rogalandslag,**  
**Hardanger, Møre og Romsdal, Nord- Sunnhordland**  
**18-20 -- Sunnfjordlag**, Albert Lea, MN; Tamra Foster, **612-724-1602**  
**19-20 – Valdres Samband**, Plymouth, MN; E. Evenstad, **612-861-4793**  
**25-28 – 7 Lag Stevne**, River Falls, WI; John Haugo, **715-381-1430**,  
Telelag and Coordinator;  
**Landingslag**, Sandra Hendrickson, **952-892-5402**  
**Hadeland**, Jan Huesinkveld, **507-285-9483**;  
**Numedalslågen**, Chet Habberstad, **218-826-6268**;  
**Sigdalslag**, Judy Sosted, **507-645-0499**;  
**Ringerike-Drammen**, Narv Somdahl, **952-831-4409**;  
**Toten**, Marie Brown, **763-588-6666**

### **AUGUST**

- 05-08 – Tre-Lag Stevne**, S. St. Paul, MN; J.Shong, [shongjc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shongjc@sbcglobal.net)  
**09 Gudbrandsdal CENTENNIAL**, Betty Strand, **763-571-1831**;  
**N Hedmark og Hedemarken**, Dixie Hansen, **651-690-0872**;  
**Trønderlag**, Robert M. Fossum, **217-359-4270**

### **SEPTEMBER**

- 12-13 - Opdalslag**, Centerville, SD; Pauline Strait, **605-983-5488**  
**16-19 – Romerikslag & Solør Lag**, Willmar, MN; Joel Botten,  
**507-388-1995**; Doug Johnson, **608-238-1785**  
**20 - Nordfjordlag**, Spicer, MN; Betty Rodi, **320-796-6800**

CONTACT ONE MONTH PRIOR TO EACH 2009 EVENT

*STEVNE classes, entertainment, ethnic food, fun, genealogy, tours*

*More affiliates of **Bygdelagenes Fellesraad** online*

[www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com)

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD  
Minutes of the 92nd Annual Meeting - May 3, 2008

The Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held May 3, 2008, at Mindekirken in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

President Marilyn Somdahl called the meeting to order at 9:40 A.M., and welcomed everyone to the 92nd annual meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad.

The Norwegian and American National Anthems were sung with Sandy Hendrickson at the piano.

**Greetings:** Tom Lanman, President of Mindekirken congregation, brought greetings. He stated Mindekirken was started in 1925 and met in the church basement until 1929 when the church was built. Tom told about various programs offered at Mindekirken.

Consul General Rolf Willy Hansen brought greetings. The (full time) Royal Norwegian Consulate General in Minneapolis will close on August 1, 2008. Thereafter, Minneapolis will have un-salaried and part time officers, headed by Honorary Consul General Walter Mondale and Honorary Consul Gary Gandrud. They accepted appointments made by Norway's Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

**Roll Call:** The roll call for each bygdelag was read, and the delegates answered with the name of their lag newsletter. Delegates (number listed following name) representing Gudbrandsdal (2), Hadeland (2), Hallinglag (2), Hardanger (2), Landingslag (2), Lappmark (0), Møre og Romsdal (1), Nordfjord (2), Nordfjord - WI (0), Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken (1), Nordhordland/Sunnhordland (1), Nordlandslag (2), Numedalslaagen (2), Opdalslag (0), Ringerike Drammen (2), Rogalandslag (2), Romerikslag (1), Sigdalslag (2), Sognalag (2), Sognefjord (2), Solør Lag (1), Sunnfjord Lag (1), Telelag (2), Toten Lag (2), Trønderlag (2), Valdres Samband (2), Vestlandslag (0), and Vosselag (1) Østfold Lag (0), (List of delegates attached).

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made to accept and approve the Secretary's Minutes of May 5, 2007, as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and carried to accept the secretary's Minutes as printed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The audited Treasurer's report for April 30, 2008, was presented by R. Lee Brown, Treasurer, along with the budget for the year 5/1/07 to 4/30/08. The Treasurer's report of April 30, 2008, shows a checking account balance of \$2,069.13 and total assets of \$89,360.10. The audit was prepared by Leland A. Randall. A motion was made to accept the financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded and carried. (Copy of financial reports attached.)

**Elections:** The slate of officers was read by Sonia Rache, Secretary, and placed in nomination for the next year: President, Marilyn Somdahl; Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen; Treasurer, R. Lee Brown; Secretary, Sonia Rache; Webmaster/Director, Eugene Rodi; and Director, Eunice Helgeson.

Vice President Marilyn Sorensen called for nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made to close nominations and accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded and carried, and the officers as listed were elected.

**Reports:** Marilyn Somdahl, President, reported that a new Bygdelag brochure has not been printed. The current brochure is downloadable and available on the website. Marilyn's full President's Report is in the newsletter (attached).

EuGene Rodi, Webmaster, said he would work with any lag to help set up a website for their lag. EuGene reported that there are approximately 5,000 hits per day on the Fellesraad website. Hits come from all over the world. EuGene asked that all lag information get out on the web. Many lags are getting their newsletters out on the web.

Marilyn Sorensen, Vice President, reported on the second genealogy trip to Salt Lake City, Utah. There were 20 participants, representing seven lags at the February 24 to March 1, 2008, week of classes sponsored by the Fellesraad in cooperation with the Family History Center. To date, eight lags have taken advantage of the stipend offered by the Fellesraad. The third trip will be February 22 to 28, 2009.

Eunice Helgeson and Marilyn Sorensen of the Archival Committee reported that storage of precious materials for lags is an ongoing investigation, and no good storage resources have been found yet. They asked for ideas anyone has to use as criteria for storage. Chris Skjervold expressed that it is imperative that all records of Fellesraad and individual lags get out of the individual officers' homes. He said, "Families don't know what all these records are, and upon someone's death, many items get destroyed."

**Old Business:** A motion was made that each lag contribute \$15.00 toward print advertising of the dates and sites of lag stevner by January 15, 2009. The Fellesraad is to pay the greater share of the total cost. The advertising may be the Viking Magazine, Communicator or other publication. The motion was carried with the place of advertising to be decided by the Board. Lee Brown asked that all checks be made payable to the Fellesraad and not to Lee Brown.

**Memorials:** Memorials are sent to Muskego Church Maintenance Fund in memory of departed lag leaders or their family members. A memorial will be sent in honor of the following: Ervin Brunsvold, Annabel Branstad, Ann Somdahl, Juella Peterson, Mel Olsen, Alma Flisrand, Theresa "Tess" Lundby, Betty Rockswold, Steven Ostby, Belvin Heieie, Helen Vinje, Douglas Holter, and Jerry Rosholt. A moment of silence was held, after these names ere read by Marilyn Somdahl.

**Program:** Tom Hanson, a public relations specialist with clients in the US and around the world, spoke. He talked about traditions of Norway, mass migration from Norway to the US in the 19th century and into the early 20th century, Midwest traditions and modern Norway.

**Announcements:** Among the announcements were: Syttende Mai buttons are for sale at \$2 each, and the Syttende Mai banquet will be held May 16, 2008.

Marilyn Somdahl said she has pictures of the two rosemaled plates that were done to present to Telelag and Hallinglag at their 100th anniversary stevner in 2007.

The Doxology was sung before we adjourned for lunch. Eunice Helgeson said there are table topics at four tables - Membership, Planning Trips to Norway, Speakers and Entertainment, and Stevne Site Selection. Other tables are available for general discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at noon, and a delicious lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia H. Rache, Secretary

## Hilsen fra Presidenten:

Easter comes April 12 this year and the Board of Directors join me in this wish: *God Påske!*

Best wishes to lag presidents **Tamra Foster** for Sunnfjordlag and **Doug Johnson** for Solørlag . Editors since the last *Bulletin* are **Glenn Shong**, *Romerikslaget News*, and **John Haugo**, *Tele-News*.

A special invitation arrived yesterday. **Laurann Gilbertson**, textile curator at Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, **will speak on *The Re-invention of Scandinavian Folk Dress in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century***. This presentation is free and open to the public. It takes place **Thursday evening, March 12, at 6 PM at the Goldstein Museum of Design**. The address is 33 McNeal Hall, **1985 Buford Avenue, University of Minnesota**, St. Paul, MN 55108. A reception will follow her talk.

The exhibition itself, open through June 14, draws on the Goldstein's collection of international apparel and presents **a visual expression of shared culture, identity and place**. Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas are represented. The exhibit may be visited before or after the lecture; the gallery remains open until 8 PM. The overall theme is *Expressions of Stability and Change: Ethnic Dress and Folk Costume*. See web site (<http://goldstein.design.umn.edu>)

Laurann Gilbertson has been a marvelous resource for contacting qualified artists for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary bygdelag! **Lois Mueller, Syvilla Tweed Bolson and Betty Johanneson** are the artists doing commissioned work for the 2009 gifts to be presented to each of our three Centennial Bygdelag: **Gudbrandsdalslag, Nordlandslag and Vosselag**.

The Fellesraad salutes these centennial groups, our artists, and all assisting to make 2009 memorable. It's a triumph of longevity for heritage groups, led by v-o-l-u-n-t-e-e-r-s, to reach 100 years.!

**But we need to ask, what happens in the next five or ten years for each of our bygdelag?**

Good leaders, newsletters, and programs have an impact. **So do some longer-range plans.**

Remember the NABC - -The Norwegian American Bygdelag Centennial? Just 10 years ago the Fellesraad invited all lag to three days in Decorah, IA, to celebrate the beginning of the *bygdelag movement in America* and the centennial of Valdres Samband and 1100 came! But sadly, **Agderlag, Gudbrandsdal NW, Mjøsen-Oppland, and Setesdalslag** ceased to hold regular meetings.

"Bygdelag Week-2009" with research and classes in Salt Lake City is complete, as of February 28. This was the third and final year for a lag stipend.

Congratulations on 30 years to **Sognefjord Lag**, meeting in Balestrand, Norway, and 30 for the umbrella lag for Norway's West Coast groups, **Vestlandslag**, meeting in Albert Lea, MN.

Finally, we salute our largest and oldest group, **Valdres Samband, for 110 years**. A September trip to Norway is planned. This lag also consistently plans its *stevner* in plenty of time; **it is usually the first to place its meeting site and dates on the web site calendar!**

Again this year, there is competition! Please check the web listings! There are an abundance of JUNE *stevner*! This brings a word—c-a-u-t-i-o-n—for 2010 as well as a ray of hope. **As a courtesy, June and September dates should be checked out** with other lag planners via e-mail or phone **while you are considering a certain weekend**. This is not rocket science. Better attendance is then possible for all – and for more people at your lag.

**Seven Centennial Bygdelag in 2010** are **Møre og Romsdal and Rogaland**, (June, Vestlandslag); **Hadeland, Landingslag and Toten** (7- Lag in mid-July) and **Nordfjord and Solør Lag** (September). Good Luck! Get dates on the Web early. **Let's build better bygdelag for more new, current, and former** ("rehabilitated") **members!**

*Ha det bra, Marilynn D. Somdahl*

## Agenda - May 2

Coffee and informal visting at 9:15 a.m.

Call to order about 9:40 a.m.

National anthems and Greetings

Roll call of delegates: **What is Your Lag's Current Membership?**

Secretary's Minutes of 2008

Report of Treasurer and auditor

Special order:

Election of 2009-10 Officers

Report of the President

Report of the Webmaster

Report of Vice President & Genealogy

Report on Special Projects

Archival Committee

Old Business: Advertising

\*New Business

Cultural Program – **Peggy Larson**

Table Prayer & Lunch

Table Topics

–Director Eunice Helgeson

Announcements

Adjournment

(\* Items for possible inclusion in the agenda must reach the board by April 19.)

### Celebrate Constitution Day

Celebrate **Sunday, May 17, 2009**, at the Norwegian Memorial Church service at 11 AM. A **traditional parade** follows with treats for purchase in the church parking lot thereafter.

The **Syttende Mai MN banquet** will be May 17 in the evening at the Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington, MN. Call 612-827-3611 for tickets until a week prior.

### GUESTS

Guests are welcome to the annual meeting with the same deadlines, as announced on page 1.

Afternoon board meetings should be arranged on a fee basis directly with Mindekirken.

### IN MEMORY

The Fellesraad remembers deceased lag leaders (and their families) with a memorial gift to the maintenance fund for Muskego Church, now standing on the campus at Luther Seminary. Last year the death of former Landingslag president, **Alf Swenson**, appeared in *St. Olaf* magazine.

**Please notify the president of other deaths of lag leaders or their families prior to the annual meeting.**

### FIRST CLASS MAIL

Fellesraad **BULLETIN**  
5100 W. 102 Street # 209  
Minneapolis, MN 55437

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### Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet

av Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson

Ja, vi elsker dette landet, som det stiger frem,  
Furet, værbit over vannet, med de tusen hjem;  
Elsker, elsker det og tenker, på vår far og mor,  
Og den saganatt som senker, drømmer på vår  
jord,  
Og den saganatt som senker,  
senker drømmer på vår jord.

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### DID YOU KNOW ---

Vesterheim's Nordic Brunch will be at Interlachen Country Club, Minneapolis, April 25 from 9 AM-3 PM. Visit [www.vesterheim.org](http://www.vesterheim.org) for lunch reservation deadline.

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Souvenir Syttende Mai Buttons for 2009 @ \$2 each and limited banquet tickets will be available at the annual meeting.

If you do not have a computer, visit the Fellesraad web site [www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com) at your local library. Periodically, check your lag information—e-mail, post addresses and phone numbers for accuracy.