

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRÅD

MINUTES OF THE 93RD ANNUAL MEETING – MAY 2, 2009

The 93rd Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held May 2, 2009, at Mindekirken in Minneapolis, Minnesota. President Marilyn Somdahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M., and welcomed delegates and guests.

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

The current Fellesraad Officers and Board members were introduced.

Greetings: Honorary Consul Gary Gandrud brought greetings from Norway. Consul Gandrud posed with the three presidents of lags celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. They were Dick Flisrand, **Vosselag**; Jim Olson, **Gudbrandsdalslag**; and Christian Skjervold, **Nordlandslag**. Sognefjord and Vestlandslag are observing 30th anniversaries this year.

Darlene Nordos, President of Mindekirken congregation, brought greetings. She invited everyone to attend various programs at Mindekirken.

Delegate Anne Janda told about a book, "Celebrating Our Norwegian-Minnesotan Heritage 1858-2008", by the Norwegian Statehood Pioneer Project. This book, compiled by Ann Sladky, was published marking the 150th anniversary of statehood.

Roll Call: The roll call for each bygdelag present was read by Sonia Rache, and the delegates answered with the number of members in their lag. **Six lag did not** send a delegate or report. The number of delegates is listed following the lag's name: Gudbrandsdalslag (2), **350** members; Hadeland Lag (2), **493** members; Hallinglag (1), **840** members; Hardanger Lag (2), **64** members; Landingslag (2), **210 family units**; Møre og Romsdal Lag (2), **41** members; Nordfjord Lag (2), **100** members; N. Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag (1), **100-200** members; Nordhordland (52)/Sunnhordland Lag (72)(1), **124** members; Nordlandslag (2), 60 active, but **250 newsletters** are mailed; Numedalslågen Lag (1), **415** members; Ringerike Drammen Dist. Lag (2), **160 family units**; Rogaland Lag (2), **131** members; Romerikslag (2), **170** members; Sigdalslag (1), **270 family units**; Sognalag (2), **166** members; Sognefjord Lag (1), **248** members; Solør Lag (2), **370** members; Sunnfjord Lag (2), 50 active, but **100 newsletters** mailed; Telelag (1), 440 family units or **750** members; Toten (2), **212 family units**; Valdres Samband (2), **1,398** members; and Vosselag (1), **112** members. (List of delegates attached, 18 of which are currently lag presidents.)

Secretary's Report: A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Secretary's Minutes of May 3, 2008, as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: The audited Treasurer's report for April 30, 2009, was presented by R. Lee Brown, Treasurer, along with the budget for the year ending 4/30/10. The Treasurer's report of April 30, 2009, shows a checking account balance of \$2,424.03, and total assets of \$64,498.29. The audit was prepared by Leland A. Randall. A motion was made to accept the financial statements 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 to accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

Reports: Marilyn Sorensen reported on genealogy. Salt Lake City has all the Norwegian church records on microfilm. She gave a power point presentation, illustrating the number of Norwegian church microfilms (over 700) she ordered in the 1990s for many of the bygdslag from Salt Lake City and the permission and policies under which they were given permanent loan status. Due to internet technology, these films are used less now by the lags. A copy of the 1996 policy letter will again be sent to all lag presidents and genealogists. She also spoke of the success of Bygdslag Week at Family History Library the last four years. Norwegian Bygdslag Week at the Family History Library will continue the last week of February each year.

Webmaster Eugene Rodi said he needs all changes and special requests so he can keep the website current. He will update the information within a few days of receipt. He will also help individual lags with their web pages. He said the Fellesraad Board has decided to reject all advertising requests on the Fellesraad website, as it causes too much distraction.

The President's report was printed in the newsletter.

Advertising: After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to have each lag contribute \$15.00 toward print advertising of the dates and sites of lag stevner for 2010. Each lag is to pay the \$15.00 advertising plus \$5.00 annual dues by January 15, 2010. A suggestion was made that we advertise in the Høstfest Magazine, or some other publications, instead of the Viking Magazine to reach new or younger readers.

New Business: Bob O'Neil, President of Norwegian American Genealogy Association (N-AGA) is having a difficult time finding a place to store genealogy books at a reasonable rate. They are looking for a central, easily-accessible location. Because investigated places did not have space, the Fellesraad committee did not give a report.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Program: Peggy Larson, a multi-talented vocal artist, teacher and researcher of European folk music, presented a program of *Kulokk* (herding calls) and folk songs, including some participation from her audience.

The table prayer was sung before lunch. Eunice Helgeson presented table topics at two tables and said other tables were available for general discussion. A delicious lunch followed.

In the final announcements, the President stated that a gift would be sent to Old Muskego Church's Maintenance Fund in memory of Alf Swenson, former Landingslag president; Dr. Lawrence Opsahl, former president and editor for Toten Lag; Frederick H. Voigt, once vice president of Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag; and Jane Fenno, a board member of Landingslag.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia H. Rache, Secretary