

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRÅD
Minutes of the 95th Annual Meeting
May 7, 2011

The 95th Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held May 7, 2011, 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 at the piano.

GREETINGS: The Honorary Consul General Gary Gandrud brought greetings.

ROLL CALL: The roll call for each Bygdelaag was read by Sonia Rache, and the delegates answered with their names and the number of members in their laag. The number of delegates is listed following the laag's name:

Gudbrandsdalslaag (2); Hadeland Laag (2); Hallinglaag (2); Hardanger Laag (2); Landingslaag (2); More og Romsdal Laag (2); Nordfjordlaag (2); N. Hedmark og Hedemarken Laag (2); Nordhordland/Sunnhordlang Laag (1); Nordlandslaag (2); Ringerike Drammen Dist. Laag (2); Rogaland Laag (1); Romerikslaag (2); Sigdalslaag (2); Sognalaag (2); Sognefjord Laag (1); Solor Laag (2); Sunnfjord Laag (1); Telegaag (1); Toten (2); Tronderlaag (2); Valdres Samband (2); Vestlandslaag (1); and Vosselaag (1).

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Secretary's Minutes of May 1, 2010, as printed in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report for April 30, 2011, along with the budget for the year ending April 30, 2011, were presented by R. Lee Brown, Treasurer. The books, records and ledgers for the period May 1, 2010, through April 30, 2011, were audited by Leland A. Randall.

A question was raised if we should raise the annual dues from each laag to offset the deficit. It was brought up that the 100th anniversary gifts to lags caused the deficit, and after this year, we will not have so many anniversaries. No action was taken.

The investments we hold first came from the Norse-American Centennial held in Minneapolis in 1925 at the Fair Grounds. Calvin Coolege was President of the U. S., and he came and delivered a speech. In 1926, the profits from the festival were given to Bygdelagenes Fellesraad after the council was incorporated in the State of Minnesota.

A question was raised as to who governs the funds and is there a document that covers this. It was stated that this is not really an endowment fund, but an investment fund created by

the dividends and interest on our investments and governed by the elected Fellesraad Board.
provid ongoing operational funds for B. Fellestad,

A motion was made to accept the financial statements and audit as presented. The motion was seconded and carried. (Copy of the financial reports is attached.)

ELECTIONS: The slate of officers was read by President Marilyn Somdahl, 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. Marilyn Somdahl 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.

MEMORIALS: Old Muskego Church's Maintenance Fund will receive a gift in memory of lag leaders or their families whose deaths were reported this past year. Besides names listed in the newsletter, Edith Esterby, mother of Vestland president; Ray Bonnebeau, Toten; Thomas Wolfe, Sognalag; Helen Berg, mother of Solor president; Carlo Thompson and Dale Sorbel, Solor lag; Gene Schoenfeld; Beata Hawley, mother of Hadeland president; Arvid Sandaker, Norway; and Else Lovoll, wife of author Odd Lovoll, will be added to the list. *+ 2 more*

REPORTS: President Marilyn Somdahl's report was printed in the newsletter. Marilyn would like to receive copies of all newsletters from lags so she can receive information on deaths, events and articles.

Webmaster EuGene Rodi said the web is growing. He encouraged everyone to check to see that their information is correct. He is happy to help any lag with their site.

Vice President Marilyn Sorensen's report was given by Eunice Helgeson. Eighteen people attended the Norwegian Lag Week at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, in February. Next year Norwegian Lag Week will be February 5-11, 2012.

OLD BUSINESS: Advertising. A motion was made, seconded and carried to have each lag continue to contribute \$15.00 toward print advertising of the dates and sites of lag stevnes for 2012 in the Viking Magazine.

NEW BUSINESS: Marilyn Somdahl stated the registration fee included lunch and rental of Mindekirken. An additional unexpected expense of \$90.00 was incurred, and the board may investigate a change in place or fees for the coming year.

One lag expressed interest in help to transition a new treasurer in to office and procedures to follow to make the transition smooth. They wondered if there were any established procedures in place to follow.

Bob O'Neil, NAGA President, and Jack Bergerson had farm maps of Norway available for sale at \$5.00 each. They also invited everyone to the Norwegian American Genealogical Assn. on July 30 for a tour of the library from 9 A.M. to noon. People will also be available to give help on genealogy research. NAGA is located at 1185 Concord Street, Suite 218, South St. Paul, MN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Marilyn Somdahl said the Mindekirken Communicator is available to pick up. You can sign up to be put on their mailing list. The Communicator gives all events coming up each month.

The Syttende Mai Banquet is being held May 17 at Minnesota Valley Country Club. Sign up forms are available.

The Norwegian American Weekly newspaper will accept advertising and articles you may want to have printed. Gary Erickson (More og Romsdal president) is a reporter.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 A.M. We enjoyed a program by Kari Tauring telling about her Norwegian TV experiences. We then enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Respectfully submitted,



Sonia H. Rache, Secretary