

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD - Minutes of May 4, 2013 Annual Meeting

The 97th Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held May 4, 2013, at Mindekirken in Minneapolis, Minnesota. President Marilyn Somdahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and welcomed delegates and guests. She called for a special order to the agenda for ratification of an amendment to Article V of the Articles of Incorporation and it was accepted.

The Norwegian, Canadian and American National Anthems were sung with Sandy Hendrickson, President of Landingslag, at the piano. The President introduced the members of the Executive Board. Congratulations were extended to Nordhordlandslag which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year.

Pastor Kristin Sundt brought greetings from Mindekirken, and Vice Consul Britt DeLange Ardakani 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 individual members or family units in their laag. The number of delegates is listed following the laags name:

Gudbrandsdalslag (2), Hadeland Lag (2), Hallinglag (2), Hardanger Lag (1), Landingslag (2), More og Romsdal Lag (1), Nordfjordlag (2), Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken Lag (1), Nordhordland/Sunnhordland Lag (1), Nordlandslag (2), Numedalslaagen Lag (2), Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag (2), Rogaland Lag (2), Romerikslag (2), Sigdalslag (2), Sognalag (2), Sognefjord Lag (2), Solør Lag (1), Sunnfjord Lag (1), Telelag (2), Toten (2), Trønderlag (0), Valdres Samband (2), Vestlandslag (1), and Vosselag (1).

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made to accept the Secretary's Minutes of May 5, 2012, as printed in the newsletter. A motion was made to amend the minutes by adding that there has been a good email exchange of genealogy and contacts between laags since last year. The motion was passed for the addition and the motion as amended was seconded and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report for April 30, 2013, along with the budget for the year ending April 30, 2013, was presented by R. Lee Brown, Treasurer. The books, records and ledgers for the period May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013, were audited and found in order by Robert O'Neil.

The budget item for Norway House included \$2,500 for a named gift from the Fellesraad; however, a motion was made from the floor to increase the Norway House donation to \$5,000.00. After a second there was discussion of support. The motion carried. The executive board will take up the authorization question for the spending of unbudgeted funds at its next meeting.

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

A motion was made to ratify the first paragraph of Article V of the Articles of Incorporation to modify or change the wording "and two Directors" to read "two to four Directors". The delegates voted to approve the change.

ELECTIONS: The slate of officers was read by Secretary, Sonia Rache, and placed in nomination for next year. President, Marilyn Somdahl; Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen; Treasurer, R. Lee Brown; Secretary, Mary Gross; Webmaster/Director, EuGene Rodi; Director, Eunice Helgeson; and Director, Don Teigen. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close nominations. A motion to accept the slate as presented was seconded and carried.

REPORTS: President Marilyn Somdahl's report was printed in the newsletter.

Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen, reported that 16 people attended the Norwegian Lag Week at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, this year. Roots Tech also met. Roots Tech combines state-of-the-art technology and genealogy. Next year Roots Tech is scheduled for February 6-8, 2014, and Norwegian Lag Week is scheduled for February 9-15, 2014, in Salt Lake City.

A 2014 Genealogy Seminar in Norway for Norwegian-Americans, currently in the planning stages, is to be sponsored by Dis Norge, Fellesraad and possibly one or two more sponsors. This will be held October 18 to November 2, 2014, and will be another way to find ancestors in Norway.

WEBMASTER: EuGene Rodi reported there have been problems with hackers into the system. If something looks suspicious – just delete it.

NEW BUSINESS: Eunice Helgeson reported on the Fellesraad Centennial Plans for 2016. Tentatively plans are to hold the event on May 7, 2016, in conjunction with the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held in the morning followed by lunch, activities in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening. The focus will be on where we have been – a history of Fellesraad – and looking ahead. Jean Knaak will lead the planning. Eunice asked for helpers on this committee.

John Reindl, genealogist of Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken, had sets of books, given gratis to several bygdelaag from the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library, 415 W. Main Street, Madison, WI 53703. They share the title, *Norwegian Immigrants to the United States: A Biographical Directory, 1825-1850*. Volume 1 is 1825-1843; Vol 2, 1844-1846; Vol 3, 1847-48; Vol 4, 1849 and Vol 5, 1850. The first three volumes were by Gerhard B. Naeseth, Vol 4 by Naeseth and Blaine Hedberg and Vol 5 by Blaine Hedberg and Naeseth.

Several lags would like to be able to exchange newsletters. Contact the lag with which you propose an exchange. If the lag is willing, it was suggested that the newsletter be put on the website and a link be sent so other lags can pick up. Fellesraad website has the lag newsletter editor listed. All the contact people for each lag are also on the Fellesraad website in addition to genealogist and newsletter editor.

Sandra Hendrickson sent around two inspirational cards for delegates to sign for Narv Somdahl, the RDD president who is absent this year due to stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

PROGRAM: Lawrence Moe, Professor of English and Director Master of Liberal Studies at Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, MN, presented a program on one of his favorite topics "Carl Ben Eielson, the Norwegian-American Lindbergh".

Announcements were made for Syttende Mai buttons and activities and for Norway Day.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia H. Rache, Secretary