

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Annual Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2017

The 101st annual meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Mindekirken Norwegian Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. Ballots were distributed to bygdelag delegates as they entered. Board members present were Elaine Hasleton, Marilyn Sorensen, Robert Torkelson, Mary Gross, EuGene Rodi, Eunice Helgeson, Don Teigen, and Jean Knaak.

President Elaine Hasleton called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Eunice Helgeson led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by the singing of the anthems from America, Canada, and Norway. Elaine then introduced Fellesraad executive board members.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from last year's annual meeting were in member's packets for review prior to the meeting. Elaine asked for corrections or additions to the minutes. None being given the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The annual financial report and budget for the year ending April 30, 2017 was included in member's packets for review. The Fellesraad Centennial was more successful than anticipated with minimal expenses of \$292.00 over income. Treasurer, Robert Torkelson, asked for corrections or additions. None being given the report was approved.

President's Report: Elaine used a power point to identify her ongoing goals for next year. She stressed using ads, social media, & publicity to make bygdelag and Fellesraad more visible. Accomplishments for the previous year were the successful Fellesraad Centennial; having charter members and descendants of charter members attend the centennial to be honored & identified; attendance at all stevner except for three; Fellesraad partnership with Norse Slekshistorisk Forening; and obtaining a Sons of Norway grant to provide training sessions as part of this annual meeting. She encouraged improvement of communication not only within each bygdelag but among all bygdelag officers, newsletter editors, stevne planners, genealogists, and others. She and the Board will create a short-range and long-range plan for the Fellesraad and Bygdelag.

Vice President's Report: Marilyn Sorensen had a power point for her report. She has been working on developing an Agder Lag and now has twenty people interested. She encouraged others to become involved in assisting the new lag as it attempts to form. It's hoped that other lags could act as mentors to Agder initially. She worked with Norwegians Worldwide and Brekke Travel to plan a Fellesraad Hurtegruten trip scheduled for September 3-15, 2017. Members are encouraged to consider going on the tour. She planned the workshop for lag genealogists held yesterday. She has planned and participated in Norwegian Lag Week in Salt Lake City each year along with several lag genealogists who have attended often. She also attends Roots Tech the week after Lag Week. These programs have been popular and have been found to be extremely well-done and helpful.

Director/Webmaster's Report: EuGene Rodi reported that he has a goal of updating the Fellesraad website to make it more responsive, which will allow it to reconfigure according to

whatever media is being used to access the website, whether desktop, laptop, or cell phone. Most of his time last year was taken up by planning for the centennial. He also offered to assist any bygdelag having difficulty setting up websites. He would help set them up as subsets of the Fellesraad pages. He's aware that many smaller lags don't have the ability to do this for themselves. Lags may contact him via email. He will generate a site on the Fellesraad webpage.

Director/Centennial Report: Jean Knaak reported on the successful Fellesraad Centennial held May 2016, which she chaired. The executive board had set aside \$40,000 to plan the centennial event, but due to the wonderful response and careful planning, the amount spent totaled \$292. She thanked everyone for their role in making it such a success.

Roll Call of Lags: Mary Gross led the roll call which follows:

Gudbrandsdalslaget: Delegates Anne Marie Farnery and Jim Olson

Hadeland: Delegate Dale Hovland

Hallinglag: Delegates Gene Brandvold and Megan Forsmark

Hardanger Lag: Delegates Don Teigen and Jim Oakland

Landingslag: Delegates Sandra Hendrickson and Art Paulson

Møre og Romsdalslag: Delegates Lee Brown and Amy Jacobson

Nordfjord Lag: Delegates Bob O'Neil and Bob Swanson

Nordfjord Lag Wisconsin: none present

Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken Lag: Delegate John Reindl

Nordhordland Lag: Delegate Warren Eidsness

Nordlandslag: Delegates Linda Haver and Shirley Sampson

Numedalslagen Lag: Delegates Sharold Hipfner and Laurel Dikken

Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag: Delegates Peg Schellin and Lynn Nord

Rogalandslag: Delegate Robert Torkelson

Romerikslag: Delegates Joel Botten and Julie Clauson

Lappmark Lag: none present

Sigdalslag: Delegates Jean Borgerding and Sheila Winstead

Sognalag: Delegates Martha Blomberg and Blaine Hedberg

Sognefjord Lag: Delegate Kathy Johnson

Solørslag: Delegate Doug Johnson

Sunnfjord Lag: Delegate Tammy Foster

Sunnhordland Lag: Delegates Sheryl Hove and LaRee Opdahl

Telelag: Delegates Jim Oftelie and Leila Burmeister

Totenlag: Delegates George Olson, Jr and Marie Brown

Trønderlag: Delegate Nancy Hawkinson

Valdres Samband: Delegate Tom Standal

Vestlandslag: Delegates Ann Romo and Lucy Ghastin

Vosselag: Ruth Christ

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none

Election: Nominating Committee member Bob O'Neil introduced Nancy Pickering, candidate for director position to replace Eunice Helgeson. Delegates had received ballots prior to the meeting with a written bio for Nancy. Bob announced that all other executive board members listed on the ballot had agreed to continue in their positions. He asked for nominations from the floor for all board positions. None being given he asked for agreement to do a voice vote to accept the nominees as listed on the ballot. Voice vote was positive. Elected for another term were Elaine Hasleton, President, Marilyn Sorensen, Vice President, Mary Gross, Secretary, Robert Torkelson, Treasurer, Webmaster/Director 1 EuGene Rodi, Director 2 Don Teigen, Director 3 Jean Knaak, and Director 4 Nancy Pickering.

Stevne Reports: Bygdelag Presidents or stevne leaders were asked to give a report on their stevner from last year. The reports follow:

Nordlandslag: Shirley Sampson reported that her lag had lost their 501C3 status and are in the process of trying to have it renewed. Their 2016 stevne was held in Minneapolis prior to the Fellesraad Centennial. Their 2017 stevne will be in Superior, WI. Mike Wick encouraged all lags to develop a Facebook account and to take advantage of EuGene Rodi's offer to help set up websites for their lags.

Vestlandslag & Valdres Samband: Ann Romo gave a detailed power point report on the finances and planning for their last stevne. She would appreciate a list of speakers and entertainers that could be accessed by lags for ideas.

Seven Lag Stevne: Lynn Nord had a power point about their last stevne which was in Austin. They will be in Decorah IA this summer. She said Austin is a great venue.

Tre Lag: Dick Lundgren: Dick encouraged stevne planners to take risks and ask speakers you might think wouldn't consider coming to your stevne. Sometimes the risk is worth it. They have

a Norwegian movie each year. He had a power point and great ideas for speakers. They will be in LaCrosse this summer.

Hallinglag: Gene Brandvold reported on their last stevne held in Alexandria. This year they will be in Grand Forks in August.

Sognefjord Lag: Kathy Johnson said her lag had their annual meeting during the Fellesraad Centennial. This year they will be in Stoughton at the Heritage Center in August. She recommended that as a good venue.

Solørlag & Romerikslag: Doug Johnson from Solør explained that his lag chose to have a Solør Genealogy Weekend in Hudson WI in September since Romerikslag chose to have their meeting at the centennial with no stevne. This worked well for them. Joel Botten from Romerikslag said that the annual meeting worked well at the centennial. This year their shared stevne will be in Hudson WI in September.

Nordfjordlag: Bob Swanson said that his lag holds a one-day stevne at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN each year in September and this works for them. They own a beautiful Norwegian wedding crown and use that each year in a ceremony.

Thanking Eunice Helgeson: Eunice expressed her satisfaction with what has been accomplished by Fellesraad in the last year and feels she's met many of her goals, allowing her to leave the board in good hands. Elaine thanked Eunice for her years of service to the board and gave her a certificate of gratitude.

Announcements: Next year's annual meeting will be held May 4 and 5th, 2018, with training sessions offered again. Attendees expressed their satisfaction with this year's annual meeting and training sessions.

Adjournment: Elaine adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Mary Gross
Fellesraad Secretary

Following the Fellesraad Annual Meeting the guest speaker, Christina Carleton, Executive Director of Norway House, presented "Discover the Spirit of Norway House: Engaging/Connecting/Preparing". This was followed by the Norwegian table prayer and luncheon.