Norwegian-American
Bygdelagenes Fellesraad
2019 Annual Meeting Presentation of
Bygdelag Activities & Membership Statistics

The following slides are a compilation of statistics for each bygdelag concerning membership, newsletter distribution, Norway tours, website/Facebook traffic, etc. Included are many group photos and pictures of stevner activities. This information was submitted by bygdelag officers.

Assembled for the purpose of a promotional slide presentation to highlight the benefits of Fellesraad membership, the content is informal and lighthearted. Some statistics, therefore, may differ slightly from formal reporting figures sent separately to the Fellesraad organization.

2018 Membership & Stevner Statistics

Agder Lag (newly formed)
Hallinglag (Stevne with Sognfjord Lag)
Sognfjord Lag (Stevne with Hallinglag)
Nordfjordlag
Nordlandslag av Amerika og Kanada
Opdalslag
Romerickslag
Solørlag
Seven Lag (Hadeland Lag, Landingslaget i Amerika, Numedalslågen Lag, Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag, Sigdalslag, Telelaget, Toten Lag)

Tre Lag (Gudbrandsdalslaget, Trønderlag & Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken)
Valdres Samband (Stevne with Vestlandslag)
Vestlandslag
   Hardangerlag
   Møre og Romsdalslag
   Nordhordlandslag/Sunnhordlandslag
   Rogalandslag
   Sognalag
   Sunnfjordlag
   Vosselag
Hallinglag of America

- **Stevne Held**: Decorah, IA, 9–11 August, 2018, with 78 lag attendees. Our 2019 Stevne to be held in New Ulm MN, 1–3 August. Stevne with Sognefjordlag.
- **Total Membership**: Total of 390 membership units representing both singles and families, located in the United States, Canada and Norway.
  - 38 added (singles & families) March 2018–Feb 2019; we lost 69 during the same period, for a net loss.
  - Total of 32 additional free memberships to libraries, museums, and Norwegian dignitaries, which includes a free copy of our quarterly magazine, *Hallingen*.
- **Group Facebook page** with just over 400 members.
- **A Hallinglag Group Tour** is planned for August 8–18, 2020.
Sognefjordlag

- Stemne Attendance: 16
- Total Membership April 2018: 146, which is down from the 153 in September 2018
- Newsletters mailed to: 146-150
- Activities in Decorah:
  - Sognefjordlag met with Hallinglag and enjoyed their speakers. All traveled to Spring Grove, MN for an afternoon visit to the Giants of the Earth Heritage Center and to enjoy a meal and Luren Singers concert at a local church there. Back in Decorah there was time for both groups to visit the Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum.
Nordfjordlaget i Amerika

- 3rd Sunday of Sept. at Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN
- Total Membership: 94 individual
  - 2 lost since last year
- Stevne Attendance: 53 (Significant number had conflicts)
- Morning service in stave church with bridal parade.
  (Recreating Bridal Bunad received in 1933.)
- Afternoon programs and banquet.

Photos and membership statistics are from 2017-2018

Nordlandslaget av Amerika og Kanada

- Stevne Held: Fargo, ND, 20–22 June 2018
- Stevne Attendance: 28 members
- Total Membership About 106 families & individuals.
- 130 quarterly newsletter paper copies mailed to members who don’t have email accounts or prefer ‘hard’ copies, NAHA, and contacts and descendants of charter members identified during Centennial.
- Newsletter emailed to members, SON Lodges, Fellesraad Officers, family, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Colleges, Nordlandslaget Fembøringen, NAGC & Naeseth Library
- Facebook page, managed by Mike Wick, gets a lot of likes
Nordlandslaget av Amerika og Kanada

Stevne Program Included:

Genealogist Jay Liedman
Presentation

Lynn Kalmrast
Crew member of Hjem Komst

Perry Straw
Hand-Carved Knife Collection

Nordlandslag Banquet Offerings!

Verlyn Anderson—Speaker

Kilie Schroeder—Music

Perry Straw from Oregon, IL and Randy Valdok from Seattle, WA

Celebration Cake!

Friends Gathering Makes Stevne Special!
Opdalslag

• Stevne Held: Scandia Lutheran Church, 8–9 September, 2018
• Total Membership: 42, but only 18-20 are active
• This lag was reorganized in 2002.
• Variety of speakers and presentations at each stevne
• Published an Opdalslag Cook Book
• Created a Yearbook each year

Opdalslag Stevne

2018 Opdalslag meeting sharing memories and family treasures with one another. A small group but much enthusiasm for our heritage.
Opdalslag Stevne

2018 Opdalslag members

Romerikslag, Solørlag, Agderlag

- Stevne Held: Fergus Falls, MN, 12–15 September, 2018
- This year we included prospective members from the newly-forming Agderlag.
- Stevne Attendance: 83 for the three lags together

Solørlag

- Stevne Attendance: 47 for our lag
- Total Membership: 157
Romerikslag

- Stevne Attendance: 31 for our lag, also 15 potential Agder members
- Total Membership: 113 as of April 2019.

Seven Lag (Hadeland Lag, Landingslaget i Amerika, Numedalslågen Lag, Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag, Sigdalslag, Telelaget, Toten Lag)

- Stevne Attendance: 262 total all 7 lags for a multi-lag stevne plus guests.
- Photos and Individual Lag Membership numbers follow
- Note: Our 2019 Stevne will be hosted by Totenlag at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND, where the new Agder Lag will be our guests, 10–13 July.
Seven Lag Stevne

Andrew Brevig, President
Jean Knaak and Torbjørn Greipsland, author of “To the Ends of the Earth”

Wedding Procession

Norwegian-American Food Fest

Hadeland Lag (Seven Lag)

- Total Membership: 534 households
  - 445 US, 84 Norway, 4 Canada, 1 Australia
  - Facebook page has 183 members
- Activities:
  - 7-Lag Stevne: 40 members attended
  - Høst Samling 19–20 October, 2018: 32 members attended
  - Norway Tour: June 16–July 3, 2019: 61 members participating
  - 2018 Yearbook published

2018 Board of Directors

“First Night at the Stevne” Lag Dinner

2018 Høst Samling in Alexandria MN “Centennial of WWI”
Landingslag i Amerika (Seven Lag)

- Total Membership: Family: 51, Individual: 179
- Gained 7 new members, lost 20
- Stevne attendance: 50

President of Landings, Eric Goplin, conducts annual meeting at the Stevne.

Ray & Carol Olson receiving certificates for 35 years of continued membership from Paul Anderson.

Kathy Johnson, Mary Ritenour, Lyn McCoy, Michelle Conner, and their newly found relatives, Tony Johnson, Jeri Longfellow, Gary Johnson.

Numedalslågen (Seven Lag)

- Total Membership: 190 family units, up from 182 last year

Stevne Group Photo

Minnesota State Capital, Fall Mini-Stevne in October.
Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag  
(Seven Lag)

- Total Membership: 129  
  - Two added since last year, five lost  
  - Newsletter mailed to all members  
  - Lag database: 68 members are linked into the R-DD database and all but 6 are connected to at least one other member.

Sigdalslag (Seven Lag)

- Stevne Attendance: 60 for our lag within a multi-lag stevne  
- Total Membership: 364 households  
  - 23 new added in 2018  
- Facebook page has 237 members  
- Newsletter emailed to 309 members and contacts  
  - Paper copies sent out: 85 to libraries, NAHA, SON Lodges & Directors, Fellesraad Officers, including 75 to USA, 8 Norway, 2 Canada  
- Activities:  
  - Planned and executed the 7-Lag stevne  
  - Continued work on the cousin project
Sigdalslag (Seven Lag)

- Total Membership: 364 households

Stevne Group Photo

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Telelaget (Seven Lag)

Total Membership: 346

Participants in our 2016 Norway tour—plans are underway for the 2020 tour

Telegat Board

Doing some genealogy research at the Houston County MN courthouse.

Genealogy Room

Photo Credit: Erica Dischino, West Central Tribune, Willmar, MN

Outgoing Treasurer & President, Deanna Zentgraf & Jim Oftelie
Totenlag (Seven Lag)

- Lag Stevne Attendance: 36 Adults from Totenlag.
- Total Membership: 202, including 170 members in the U.S., 10 Associate Members, 3 Canadian members and 19 Norwegian members.
- We’ll be hosting 7-Lag in 2019 in Fargo, ND, with the newly formed Agder Lag as guests.
**Tre Lag** (Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken, Trønderlag, and Gudbrandsdal Lag)

- Stevne Held: Austin, MN, 8–11 August, 2018
- Stevne Attendance: 150 total for a three-lag stevne

**Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken**
- Stevne Attendance: 32 for our lag
- Total Membership (NHOH): 190 paid members; no distinction between family or individual & doesn’t count newsletters sent to organizations and libraries.
  - 17 added, 24 subtracted since last year
Tre Lag (Nord Hedmark og Hedemorden, Trønderlag, and Gudbrandsdal Lag)

Nord Hedmark og Hedemorden (continued)
• We’ve attracted new members by: Web page and Facebook
• Activities:
  • New books for genealogy lab
  • Ringsaker database creation
  • 2020 Norway tour planning
  • Promoting scholarship program
  • Enhancing our web page
  • Defining records retention policies and making plan for where to store records
  • Storing lag business documents in the cloud (using Dropbox)
Tre Lag (Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken, Trønderlag, and Gudbrandsdal Lag)

Trønderlag of America
• Stevne Attendance: 43 for our lag

Total Membership
• Total Membership: 485 members (321 families)
• 18 “life members”
• 36 of our members live in Norway
• 8 members living in Canada
• 1 member lives in London, UK
• 31 new members added in 2018
• 22 lapsed members deleted in 2019
• 16 new members added as of April 17, 2019
• Some members join after visiting web site and getting assistance from Genealogist (and/or make donation to our genealogy fund). Some become members as a gift from existing member. Our membership form allows for this option.

Tre Lag (Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken, Trønderlag, and Gudbrandsdal Lag)

Trønderlag of America (continued)
• Website: www.tronderlag.org
• Newsletter: Printed newsletter mailed: 397 U.S., 38 (Norway, Canada, UK)
• Activities:
  • Full Aarbook sets donated to over 15 historical societies/research libraries
  • Expand research library. 10 books recently added. We provide active book “wish list” for people travelling to Norway to buy and bring back.
  • 2019 Norway Heritage Tour (14 people have made deposit – April, 2019) Open to non-members for the first time.
  • Norway House Donations (3 so far)
  • Assisted Norwegian tour groups traveling in the Midwest (donations, attendance at activities, speaking at meetings, helping with arrangements). We will visit those groups in Norway during our 2019 Heritage Tour.
Tre Lag (Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken, Trønderlag, and Gudbrandsdal Lag)

**Gudbrandsdal Lag**
- Stevne Attendance: 50 for our lag

**Total Membership**
- Total Membership: 230 members
  - Fall 2018 newsletter mailing = 280, including 29 newsletters also sent out to other lags and libraries, as well as 7 copies for Historian. There were 35 expired members.
  - Facebook group members are currently at 504; most traffic came from our web site, at [www.gudbrandlag.org](http://www.gudbrandlag.org).
- Activities:
  - Completed slide show to document the churches in the valley.
  - Norway Tour, 18–31 August 2019
Tre Lag (Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken, Trønderlag, and Gudbrandsdal Lag)

Stevne Group Photo for Gudbrandsdal Lag

Vestlandslag (Hardangerlag, Møre og Romsdalslag, Nordhordlandslag /Sunnhordlandslag, Rogalandslag, Sognalag, Sunnfjordlag, Vosselag)

& Valdres Samband

- Joint Stevne Held: Alexandria, MN, 20–23 June, 2018
- Stevne Attendance: 188 for a multi-lag stevne
- Vestlandslag membership is 462. Added 24 new members but 40 members have not renewed.
- Vestlandet newsletter went out to 439 members.
- Photos and Individual Lag Membership numbers follow, as does Valdres Samband photo and numbers
Vestlandslag & Valdres Samband
(Joint Stevne)

Swedish Nyckleharpa

Call of the Lur

Genealogy Lab

Bunad Parade

Hardangerlag, 85 members
24 attended Annual Meeting

Møre og Romsdalslag, 90 members

Nordhordland (84)/Sunnhordlandslag (70)
Stevne attendance: 14 & 12

Rogalandslag, 126 members
24 attended stevne
Vestlandslag & Valdres Samband

Sognalag, 181 members

Sunnfjordlag, 31 members

Vosselag, 109 members

Valdres Samband, 648 members

Hardangerlag
(Vestlandslag Stevne)

- Total Lag Membership: 85
- Stevne Lag Meeting Attendance: 14 members

Spinning Wheel at Knute Nelson home

Kensington Runestone

Sisters Susan Nelson & Janet Brandt in bunader

Genealogy with Jim, Johannes, Sue & Laurel
Møre og Romsdalslag (Vestlandslag Stevne)

- Total Membership: 90 members

Nordhordland/Sunnhordland (Vestlandslag Stevne)

- Total Lag Memberships:
  - Norhordlandslag = 84
  - Sunnhordlandslag = 70
- Stevne Attendance: 14 and 12, respectively
  - Attendance at combined Annual Meeting = 13
  - Genealogy: Sheryl Hove, Sunnhordland Genealogist.
  - Nordhordland Genealogist Warren Eidsness displayed his three family trees that were handwritten by his father many years ago. Johannes Risnes, a Stevne guest from Norway, assisted with some queries. Several people used the Norway map books.
Sognalag (Vestlandslag Stevne)

- Stevne Attendance: 26 members
- Total Membership: 181 members

Vosselag (Vestlandslag Stevne)

- Total Membership: 109 members
- Stevne Attendance: 7 attended the morning Vosselag Board Meeting.
  - More people at Stevne with Voss connections but not all stayed for the meeting.
  - We discussed various ways we promote Vosselag and ways that people can purchase the items we have for sale with Vosselag genealogy information.
- Total Facebook Membership: 231
Valdres Samband
(Joint Stevne with Vestlandslag)

- Stevne Held with Vestlandslag
- Total Membership = 648
- 2017 Stevne attendance = 81 for our lag

(Composite Statistics)
(using numbers from this presentation)

- Total Stevner Held: 8 (some are multi-lag stevner)
- Total Number of Lags Participating: 27
- Total Stevne attendance: 2,158
- Total Lag Membership: 5,834 (often international, U.S, Canada, Norway)
- Total Newsletters sent out (often to Norway, too): 2,446 (as listed)
- Total Facebook Lag Group members mentioned: 1,318
- Total Heritage Trips to Norway planned for 2019/2020: 6 (20%)