

Fellesraad Annual Meeting 4 & 5 May 2018

The Fellesraad Annual Meeting the first weekend in May will be an event not to be missed! We will have a motivational keynote speaker, Curt Witcher! There will also be sessions pertinent to all Lag officers and members.

Curt Witcher, Manager of The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana (see bio below), will address issues that are pertinent not only for us as Bygdelag but for all non-profit heritage organizations. Topics addressed include recruiting and maintaining members (especially the younger generation), publicity, and genealogy and library issues.

Other sessions will include how to prepare and apply for 501c3 non-profit status. We have recently done this with the Fellesraad, so our Fellesraad Treasurer, Bob Torkelson, and Fellesraad Board Member, Don Teigen, will address this complex issue. It is most important that we file this for our Lags, as it also affects what we as individuals can claim on our taxes.

Another session will concentrate on the preservation of our Lag records, genealogical records, and individual records. If we do not preserve our Lag histories, they will be lost. Especially as Lag Officers, we have the preservation privilege and responsibility. How do we prepare these special records to be submitted to NAHA or other repositories? Details will be explained and shared.

The genealogy session will address databases and viable software for use in genealogy and web pages. We will also discuss the opportunity we, as Fellesraad and Bygdelag, can participate in the development of the Norwegian Research Center and Bibliotek at Norway House.

The price for this two-day event will be:

- \$25 for two days if register before 1 April 2018
- \$30 for two days if register before 15 April 2018
- \$35 for two days after 15 April 2018
- \$15 for one day – either Friday or Saturday

More details will be forthcoming! All Lag officers and members are invited!

Elaine

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Curt B. WITCHER

Curt B. Witcher is the Senior Manager for Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN where he manages The Genealogy Center, serves as general curator for that institution's Rare and Fine Book Collection as well as the institutional archives, and is the Supervisor for the new Lincoln Financial Foundation's Lincoln Library Collection. Curt is the project lead on the library's digitization initiatives – initiatives that include partnerships with the Internet Archive, ProQuest, Footnote, and WeRelate as well as growing a site of free, searchable data files at GenealogyCenter.org and the library's Community Album.

Curt is a member of the Genealogy Committee of the American Library Association, a past chair of the association's History Section, and convener of the Genealogy and Local History Discussion Group of that organization. He is a former president of both the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society, and the founding president of the Indiana Genealogical Society. He is currently the co-chair of the Genealogy Publications Committee of the Indiana Historical Society and a member of Indiana's State Historical Records Advisory Board.