

Letter from the President – September, 2025
Hallinglag of America
Marie Renneke

As I type this, summer is coming to an end and fall is coming. The stevner are all done for the year and planning has commenced for next year's big events. Our stevne in Sioux Falls, SD was a fun and informative three days. We even gained a few new members, including one that was recruited while on the hotel elevator with one of our members. One should never pass up an opportunity to spread the word of who and what we represent.



One of the things we changed at this last stevne, was that we added Norwegian sweaters to our bunad parade before our banquet. People that have bunads are getting fewer and fewer, but many people have a Norwegian sweater. We had so many, that you would have thought you were at a lutefisk dinner. They all had stories as to where they got their sweaters including a thrift store in Oslo. It was a fun evening.

As it is the year of the 200th anniversary of the first organized immigrant group of Norwegians to America, a replica of that first ship, the Restauration, left Stavanger, Norway on July 4th, 2025 and will arrive in New York City on October 9, 2025. Between 1825 and 1920, over 800,000 Norwegians made the decision to leave their homes and everything they knew, and go to a new land. The majority of them ended up in the upper Midwest. They came for various reasons, including land and opportunities they did not have in Norway. When they arrived in the US, they joined others that had come before them and thus, many enclaves of Norwegians exist yet today in these areas.

Many of them kept the traditions from where they came, to keep memories of their homeland and those left behind alive. That is where the bydelags come in. A lag is a group of descendants of immigrants from a specific area in Norway. We are proud of where our ancestors came from and want to promote some of those traditions and stories. Our genealogist can help you trace your Norwegian origins to find out what lag (or lags) you might be part of. Hallinglag represents people from Hallingdal, which is a valley comprised of six parishes in the western part of Buskerud fylke (similar to our counties). They are Hol, Ål (Aal), Hemsdal, Gol, Nes, and Flå. If you have relatives that came from any of these parishes, we would love for you to consider joining the Hallinglag of America. We are a fun group and we may even be related.