

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD BULLETIN

NORWEGIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BYGDELAG

www.fellesraad.com

Since 1916

April 2006

Lag presidents, Fellesraad delegates, treasurers, genealogists, editors, and others – may download/print the *BULLETIN* and the BF brochure from our web site. Please update brochure changes to the webmaster and president by mid-month

Celebrate the Fellesraad's 90th Year at Mindekirken May 6

Meeting in accord with its constitution, the Fellesraad will meet the first Saturday of May, which is May 6 this year, at the Norwegian Memorial Church, 924 E. 21st Street in Minneapolis. (Lot parking is north of the church on E. Franklin and 10th Avenue South.)

MAIL THIS FORM WITH A CHECK TO
Treasurer R. Lee Brown,
2210 Spruce Trail,
Golden Valley, MN 55422

The event starts with coffee at 9:15 a.m. so that people have a chance to greet one another.

Greetings and national anthems will begin about 9:35 a.m. followed by the business meeting.

-----clip or photocopy -----

MAY 6TH REGISTRATION Fellesraad Annual Meeting

Guest name/s

Delegate

For

Lag

If postmarked by April 19, the cost is \$13 per person and \$15 per person thereafter.

All registrations to be received by April 25.

TOTAL CHECK

Enclosed is \$ _____

Special guests will be introduced as we celebrate the activities and the recent history of the Fellesraad. A sense of our collective heritage will be included in the program portion of the meeting prior to lunch at noon.

Former Fellesraad board members are being invited to share something about the times in which they served as part of our cultural program. Pictures will be taken.

Early registration assists planning and saves you money.

A delegate should represent one lag and indicate which one on the registration form (left). Non-delegates attending register as "guests" and they may list one or more lag in which they hold membership.

Each group in good standing may seat two delegates. This condition means that annual lag dues of \$5 and any other projects agreed upon at the previous meeting have been paid. (more, p. 2)

Mainly, delegates hear reports and vote in the business meeting, which includes the annual election of officers.

Proposed agenda items should be sent to the president by April 15.

Nominations for one open position on the board may be mailed to Secretary Sonia Rache by April 15. Each candidate must have been asked if they are willing to serve (if elected) **before** placing their name in nomination, giving the lag/s in which they hold membership. **Terms of office are one year.** Besides the

Celebrating Ibsen and 90 Years As A National Lag Council

Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen is being celebrated worldwide especially this year because his plays introduced social problems and dared to speak about them. They are still pertinent today, 100 years after his death. The Commonwealth Theatre, Lanesboro, does an Ibsen play each year. "Ghosts" was a Theatre-in-the-Round production earlier in 2006.

Founded in 1916, the Fellesraad will hold its 90th annual meeting May 6.

Much has happened since the 1899 Valdres meeting. In 2007 the Teleglag and the Hallinglag will also have 100th anniversaries.

In seeking to promote each of the *bygdelag*, we do what we can to link Americans to a lag or lags where they have ancestry. It is fantastic to learn about the local and regional variations in food and language and dressing traditions. And superb when we find connecting relatives and the churches and landscape known to our ancestors.

Congratualtions this year to our 95th anniversary lag: Hardanger, Sigdal, and Sunnhordland, now a part of Nordhordland which organized in 1913. Ringerike Drammen's origins began 90 years ago.

Last year we celebrated Norway's 1905 centennial as an independent nation.

annual meeting, the board may meet 4-5 times during the year in Minneapolis.

Costs for coffee, lunch and meeting space this year will be \$13 per person if received by the treasurer before April 19, and \$15 per person thereafter. All of the reservations need to be received by **April 25**, which is also the last day for refunds or changes in delegates.

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In 1914 the Norway celebrated the centennial of its Constitution Day, May 17, 1814. Many people in North America wanted to send gifts, even if some crossed the Atlantic by ship to attend in person. This held true for many *bygdelag* who had organized by then. Prominent members in various states had raised funds for use in their home *bygd* or district.

In 1916 the organization of a "lag for all of the lag" became a reality. It became acceptable after the multiple presentations of many gifts to Norwegian *kommuner* or *fylker* (local or county/state government units) from America. And the artistry of many lag banners as reciprocal gifts from Norway continues to be enjoyed.

Earlier attempts for a council of *bygdelag* groups had been debated and approved, but no action had taken place.

Because Stavangerlag observed the 1825-1925 anniversary of the arrival of the "Sloopers", its leadership invited every *bygdelag* and church college bands and choirs and other organizations to celebrate in Minneapolis. It became a great showcase of the success Norwegian immigrants and their children had attained in the "new country."

When the event was over, the profits were given to Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, provided that the group be incorporated in the state of Minnesota. It was incorporated in 1926. It is why the investments held by the Fellesraad are treated as endowment funds.

The board and its treasurer plan an annual budget and the board does its best to live within its income-- dues from member groups, dividends and interest.

Based on communications received now and then, the president would like everyone to re-read the purposes of our organization ---page 1 of the web site, www.fellesraad.com

Please check the dates for 2007 Lag Stevner now on the web. It should help others planning—but only if read.

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad MINUTES 89th Annual Meeting May 7, 2005

The Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held May 7, 2005 at Mindekirken in Minneapolis, Minnesota. President Marilyn Somdahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed everyone to the 89th Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad.

The National Anthems of both the United States and Norway were sung, accompanied by Diane Lerohl.

Pastor Jens Dale of Mindekirken welcomed everyone to the church. He stated that Mindekirken is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Pastor Dale also said his family is returning to Norway this summer after three years in Minnesota. He invited everyone to attend the worship service June 7, 2005 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Norway's independence from Sweden. He also invited everyone to attend various concerts coming to Mindekirken in May and June.

Roll Call - Secretary Sonia Rache called the roll for each bygdelag. The following lags had delegates: **Gudbrandsdal (2), Hadeland (2), Hallinglag (2), Hardander (1), Landingslag (2), Møre og Romsdal (1), Nordfjord (2), North Hedmark og Hedemarken (2), Nordhordland (1),**

Nordlandslag (2), Ringerike-Drammen (2), Rogaland (2), Romerikslag (2), Sigdalslag (2), Sognalag (2), Solør Lag (1), Sunnfjord (2), Sunnhordland (1), Telelag (2), Toten (1), Trønderlag (2), Valdres Samband (2), and Vestlandslag (1).

The delegates were asked to introduce themselves and tell of any special anniversary plans or planned trips to Norway. (List attached)

Secretary's Report - A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Secretary's report of the May 1, 2004, meeting as printed in Bygdelagenes Fellesraad's *BULLETIN*.

Treasurer's Report - The audited Treasurer's report for April 30, 2005, was presented by R. Lee Brown, treasurer, along with a copy of the budget for the year 5/1/04 to 4/30/05. The Treasurer's report of April 30, 2005, shows a checking account balance of \$ 3, 067.45 and total (paper) assets of \$71, 305.31. The audit was prepared by Leland Pandall.

A **motion** was made to accept the financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded and carried. (Copy of financial report, budget and audit are attached).

Elections - The following slate of officers was read by Sonia Rache, secretary, and placed in nomination for the next year:

**President, Marilyn Somdahl,
Vice President, Marilyn Sorensen,
Treasurer, R. Lee Brown,
Secretary, Sonia Rache,
Director, Bruce Boyce,
Webmaster/Director, EuGene Rodi**

Vice President Marilyn Sorensen called for nominations from the floor. There being none, a **motion** was made to close nominations and accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

Reports - Webmaster Gene Rodi reported the web site has new features. A PDF file is now available. **He stated that the most recent brochure is downloadable online.**

(Reports, continued)- There are also other forms available for use online. He requested that all information and changes to sites be sent to him so the sites can be kept up to date. **You can get to all other lag sites from the www.fellesraad.com site.**

Vice President Marilyn Sorensen spoke briefly on genealogy. She stated that genealogy really keeps us connected to Norway. **She asked delegates to check with their lag genealogists to see if they would like to get together to discuss needs, training or other Fellesraad assistance.** If so, please contact Marilyn Sorensen.

Marilyn Somdahl, president, said her report was printed in the April 2005 newsletter, which was sent to all lags. Marilyn reminded everyone to let her know if lag officers (past or present) pass away during the year so we can send the family a memorial.

Norway House continues to raise money from ~~large contributors~~ for a proposed house in Minneapolis. She also said *Norway: Portrait of a Nation*, which retails for \$129 plus tax, is available to each *byggdelag* and delegates for \$99 plus tax (\$103.95).

She reminded each lag to keep the Fellesraad president informed of activities and contacts so the brochure and advertising information can be kept up to date.

New Business - A review of the ad in Viking Magazine was conducted. The **negatives** were misspellings in the headings, but they multiply when the ad is copied. Also, is the ad cost productive? The **positives** are that the **ad is copied and used by other groups.** It may also be good for small lags to get their names out that don't have a big marketing budget. **All lag information was correct.**

A **motion** was made to proceed with the same ad for next year and charge \$15.00 per lag. January 15th is the date for information to be submitted. The motion was seconded and carried.

It was recommended that all lags poll their membership to see if they think the Sons of Norway ad is productive.

There was no further business.

Announcements - Bob O'Neil, president of the Norwegian American Genealogy Association, invited everyone to attend their meetings the last Wednesday evening of each month at their Golden Valley location.

Mary Jo Thorsheim invited everyone to view the 1905 posters she has on display.

Lag Anniversaries and Trips Hadeland, Land, Møre og Romsdal, Rogaland, Solør and Toten are celebrating their 95th anniversaries this year.

Romerikslag and North Hedmark og Hedemarken are each **celebrating 10th anniversaries.**

Gudbrandsdal, Hadeland, Land, Nordfjord and Nordfjord-WI, Trønderlag, Voss and Sognefjord are planning **2005 trips** to Norway.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11 AM.

Program

Marilyn Somdahl read a poem, "Is There a Woman," to introduce the speaker. **Trude Dale, wife of Pastor Jens Dale, presented** the cultural program. She is a career Norwegian journalist and presented **a program entitled, "Reflections on Three Years in Minnesota," using visual aids and slides.**

A delicious lunch was served at noon by several Mindekirken women.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia H. Rache, Secretary

May 7, 2005

Syttende Mai MN Events

May 13 - Loring Park Sat noon-4 pm
Music, parade, vendors, food. Bring the family. **Wear a \$2 button and ride light rail and city buses FREE.**

Banquet with Social Hour at 6 pm, Minnesota Valley Country Club, 6300 Auto Club Road, Bloomington, \$50 pp

May 14 - www.Mindekirken.org

11 am Norwegian church services with children's parade afterward.

May 21- Nordic Brunch (benefits Vesterheim) **See www.vesterheim.org**

Norway House events & current news

See www.norwayhouse.org

2005-2006 FELLESRAAD OFFICERS

PRES. MARILYN D. SOMDAHL, 952-831-4409
10129 Goodrich Circle, Minneapolis, MN 55437

VICE PRES. MARILYN SORENSEN,
4468 Arden View Court, St. Paul, MN 55112

SECRETARY, SONIA RACHE, 952-888-8094
10736 Toledo Court, Bloomington, MN 55437

TREAS. R. LEE BROWN, 763-588-6666
treasurer@fellesraad.com
2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422

DIRECTOR EUGENE A. RODI
Webmaster@fellesraad.com
2600 E. 43rd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406

DIRECTOR BRUCE BOYCE
4739 Sharon Lane, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

PAST PRES. CHRISTIAN SKJERVOLD,
7389 Memory Lane, Fridley, MN 55432

PURPOSES

- To stand as a connecting link between bygdslag
- To create a forum for the member groups, where questions of mutual interest and meaning could be drafted by lag representatives

2006 Calendar of Stevner

JUNE

08-11 HALLINGLAG, Fergus Falls, MN;
Robert Helling, 218.363.3478

08-10 VESTLANDSLAG, Decorah, IA; Warren
Eidsness, Registrar, 952.890.5466;
Nordhordland & Sunnhordland, Hardanger,
Møre og Romsdal, Rogaland, Sogn, Voss

16-17 LAPPMARK & NORDLANDSLAG, Isle, MN;
Sue Lybeck-Dahl, 320.676.3949

22-24 VALDRES SAMBAND, Northfield, MN;
Diane Lerohl 952.935.4467

29-July 1 SUNNFJORD, Decorah, IA;
Dar & Dick Rem, 608.873.9332

JULY

12-15 7-LAG STEVNE, Sioux Falls, SD; Delores
Cleveland, Hadeland Lag, 605.332.6652
Landingslag, Charles L. Hauck, 320.846.0088
Numedalslågen Lag, Chet Habberstad,
218.826.6268; Ringerike Drammens Districts
Lag, Narv Somdahl, 952.831.4409
Sigdalslag, Earl O. Knutson, 320.222.1613
Telelag, Elaine Nordlie, 320.275.2286
Toten Lag, Marie Brown, 763.588.6666

AUGUST

02-05 TRE-LAG STEVNE, Eau Claire, WI;

Dixie Hansen, Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken,
651.690.0872

Gudbrandsdal, 371.1831

Trønderlag, Linda Schwartz, 734.769.2877

04-05 SOGNEFJORD, Westby/Coon Valley, WI;
Kathy Johnson, 608.238.1785

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

09-10 OPDALSLAG, Centerville, SD;
Gil Gjere, 605.766.1095

13-16 SOLØRLAG, Fargo, ND;
Homer Saetre, 218.864.5287

17 NORDFJORD, Spicer, MN;
Betty Rodi, 320.796.6800

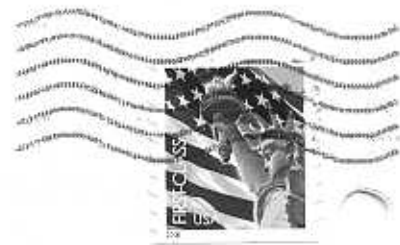
21-23 ROMERIKSLAG, Rochester, MN;
Marcia Hamilton, 763.535.2642

10/07 NORDFJORD-WI, Ferryville, WI;
Arvalene Vedvik, 608.734.3192

- To be an advisory organization, to support and guide development of the lag movement, and to influence its cultural activities
- To manage cooperative projects for the good of all bygdslag

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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**BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD
CELEBRATES ITS 90TH YEAR;
JOIN US AT A 2006 STEVNE**

□ IOWA

Vestlandslag, June 8-10, Decorah
HARDANGER, MØRE og ROMSDAL,
NORDHORDLAND/SUNNHORDLAND,
ROGALAND, SOGN, VOSS
Warren Eidsness, 952.890.5466

Sunnfjord, June 29-July 1, Decorah
Dick Rem, 608.873.9332

□ MINNESOTA

Hallinglag, June 8-11, Fergus Falls
Bob Helling, 218.363.3478

Nordland/Lappmark, June 16-17, Isle
Sue Lybeck-Dahl, 320.676.3949

Valdres Samband, June 22-24, Northfield
Diane Lerohl, 952.935.4467

Nordfjord, September 16, Spicer
Betty Rodi, 320.796.6800

Romerikslag, September 21-23, Rochester
Marcia Hamilton, 763.535.2642

□ NORTH DAKOTA

Solør Lag, September 13-16, Fargo
Homer Sætre, 218.864.5287

□ SOUTH DAKOTA

Seven Lag Stevne, July 12-15, Sioux Falls

HADELAND, D. Cleveland, 605.332.6652
LAND, 320.846.0088; SIGDAL, 320.222.1613
NUMEDALSLÅGEN, 218.826.6268

RINGERIKE DRAMMEN, 952.831.4409
TELELAG, 320.275.2286; TØTEN, 763.588.6666

Opdalslag, September 9-10, Centerville
Gil Gjere, 605.766.1095

□ WISCONSIN

Tre Lag Stevne, August 2-5, Eau Claire
NORD HEDMARK og HEDEMARKEN, 651.690.0872
GUDBRANDSDALSLAG, 763.571.1831
TRØNDERLAG, 734.769.2877

Sognefjord, August 4-5, Westby/Coon Valley
Kathy Johnson, 608.238.1785

Nordfjord-WI, October 7, Ferryville
Arvalene Vedvik, 608.734.3192

□ CALL 3 WEEKS PRIOR

WEB SITE : www.fellesraad.com