

## **Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Annual Meeting Minutes**

Mindekirken Norwegian Lutheran Church

May 4, 2019

The 103rd Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Minneapolis, MN. Board members present were Elaine Hasleton, Marilyn Sorensen, Robert Torkelson, Mary Gross, EuGene Rodi, Don Teigen, Nancy Pickering, and Jean Knaak. Absent was Marilyn Somdahl.

President Elaine Hasleton called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by singing the American, Canadian, and Norwegian National Anthems accompanied by Sandra Hendrickson. Elaine introduced Fellesraad Executive board members.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Mary Gross read minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting for review. Lynn Nord asked for a correction of delegates from 2018. She was unable to attend so Peg Schellin was the only delegate from RDD Lag. Gene Rodi asked for correction of the lag previously called Lappmark. It is now known as Sami Lag. These corrections will be made to the 2018 minutes. Minutes were then approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Robert Torkelson reviewed his report for the year ending April 30, 2019, which was included in the meeting packet. He reported that total receipts were \$2,845.71 and expenditures were \$1,519.90 with expenses over income of \$1,325.81. Checking Account balance is currently \$6,164.79. Investments balance is currently \$126,959.52. It was brought to his attention that a typo shows the account balance as April 30, 2018. This was changed to 2019. Mary Gross moved to accept the treasurer's report. Motion was seconded and passed.

**President' Report:** Elaine used a power point to report Fellesraad activities for 2018. She recognized the establishment of the new Agder Lag, an updated Fellesraad brochure, Sheila Andorfer as the new Fellesraad Facebook Administrator, the process of 501c3 application for Fellesraad, and reviewed plans for raising funds for the new Norway House Bibliotek as a repository for Bygdelaag historical materials. She explained the new relationship with Norsk Slektshistorisk Forening, which Fellesraad will join for an annual fee of \$65. This will allow all bygdelaag to tap into online collections of over 20,000 books in the library. Bygdelaag are asked to share electronic copies of newsletters with NSF. Elaine continues to encourage bygdelaag to work on visibility in their communities. She has continued to host a Nordic Booth at Roots Tech in Salt Lake City and this has been well received. There was also a "Family Stevne" held during March 2019. Two Family History interns shared in a video their feelings about engaging younger people in the Bygdelaag and Fellesraad. They will be interning at the Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Ottestad, Norway this summer.

The 2019-2020 Fellesraad plans include the following: Continue the visibility —take Fellesraad brochures; Partners with common goals: NSF-Slekt og Data-Norwegians WorldWide-Norwegian Emigrant Museum, our 2025 celebration partner; Ramp up our social media-FaceBook, Instagram, email blasts; 501c3 status; Adapt to 21st Century such as Lags establishing PayPal accounts; Emphasize to turn in Fellesraad/Lag materials to NAHA; Continue to work with Norway House for fund raising and the design of the new facility.

**Vice President's Report:** Marilyn Sorensen reported on Lag Week, which continues to be successful. She encouraged bygdslag members to consider attending in March of 2020.

**Director/Webmaster's Report:** Gene Rodi reported that over 2000 people have checked the Fellesraad Website. He appreciates updates from bygdslag on changes in offices so everything is as up to date as possible.

**Roll Call of Lags:** Secretary Mary Gross led the roll call with the following voting members listed:

Agderlag: Jerry Ugland, Sherry Edwards

Gudbrandsdalslaget: James Olson, Dick Lundgren

Hadeland: Dale Hovland, Anne Sladky

Hallinglag: Diane Magnusson, Kriste Stolen

Hardanger Lag: Don Teigen, Arlene Myrlie

Landingslag: Ann Delano, Eric Gopland

Møre Og Romsdalslag: Lee Brown, Amy Jacobson

Nordfjord Lag: Sharon Rodi

Nordfjord Lag Wisconsin: None Present

Nord Hedmark Og Hedmarken Lag: Joy Shong, Gary Flatgard

Nordhord Lag: Loran Opdahl

Nordlandslag: Shirley Sampson, Linda Molm

Numedalslagen Lag: Sonja Thune, Chet Habbferstad

RDD Lag: Lynn Nord

Rogalandslag: Marie Heskowitz, Bob Torkelson

Romerikslag: Julie Clauson, Mary Gross

Sami Lag: None present

Sigdalslag: Jean Borgerding, Sheila Winstead

Sognalag: Judith Ghastin

Sognefjord Lag: Lucy Ghastin, Kathy Johnson

Solørlag: Mary Martin, Ray Olson

Sunnfjord Lag: Tammy Foster

Sunnhordland Lag: LaRee Opdahl, Sheryl Hove

Telelag: Lila Burmeister, Jeffrey Huseeth

Totenlag: Judy Evenson, George C. Olson, Jr.

Trøndelag: Chuck & Linda McKeen

Valdres Samband: Tom Standal, Ken Svor

Vestlandslag: Blaine Hedberg, Ann Romo

Vosselag: Richard Flisrand

### **Unfinished Business:**

Christina Carlson from Norway House reported on projects and updates from 2018. The Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce is hosting new companies interested in coming to the U.S. and is using space in Norway House. Winter wonderland was a success with over 13,000 people coming to see it. They are now seeing over 40,000 people coming to tour Norway House and Mindekirken. They have 700 household members. Their Young Professional Group continues to be active. The Edvard Grieg Society continues to provide programs. Concordia College language programs continues to run Barnhagen preschool program at Norway House. The Minnesota Peace Initiative is holding forums at Norway House on climate change and other topics.

They continue to share with Ingebretson's Restaurant and store. They're excited about the future expansion of the Bibliotek and working with bygdelag and Fellesraad.

Keith Bartz from Norway House talked about benefits of donating to Norway House and encouraged bygdelag members to consider this.

**New Business:** Director Nancy Pickering presented a power point of Stevner and Data Report from bygdelag. She had photos and information on membership, stevner topics and numbers from lags who responded to her request for information. This information will be placed on the Fellesraad Website.

**Election:** The Nominating Committee, consisting of Bob O'Neil, Dick Lundgren, and Nancy Sand Olson was represented by Nancy Sand Olson. Sadly, Bob O'Neil had been seriously injured and passed away last week. Nancy reported that the committee had contacted board members up for re-election and they had all agreed to serve another term. Nancy asked for nominations from the floor three times. Hearing none, she asked for a vote by hand to accept all nominations. The vote was unanimous.

**Announcements:** The next meeting of the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad is May 1 and 2, 2020.

Elaine Hasleton adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

Mary Gross  
Fellesraad Secretary