

Created for Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Annual Meeting May 4, 2019

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## 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.

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## 2018 Membership & Stevner Statistics

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agder Lag (newly formed)</li> <li>Hallinglag (Stevne with Sognefjord Lag)</li> <li>Sognefjord Lag (Stevne with Hallinglag)</li> <li>Nordfjordlag</li> <li>Nordlandslag av Amerika og Kanada</li> <li>Opdalslag</li> <li>Romerickslag</li> <li>Solørlag</li> <li>Seven Lag (Hadeland Lag, Landingslaget i Amerika, Numedalslågen Lag, Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag, Sigdalslag, Telelaget, Toten Lag)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tre Lag (Gudbrandsdalslaget, Trønderlag &amp; Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken)</li> <li>Valdres Samband (Stevne with Vestlandslag)</li> <li>Vestlandslag               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hardangerlag</li> <li>Møre og Romsdalslag</li> <li>Nordhordlandslag/Sunnhordlandslag</li> <li>Rogalandslag</li> <li>Sognalag</li> <li>Sunnfjordlag</li> <li>Vosselag</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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# 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

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# Hallinglag of America



New Lag Banner



Antique ID by  
Laurann Gilbertson



Stevne Group Photo



Bunad Parade

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## Sognefjordlag

- Stemne Held: Decorah, IA, 9–11 August, 2018. Stevne with Hallinglag.
- 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.

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## Sognefjordlag



New Officers



Retirement Gift Presentation



Presentation at Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove, MN

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## Nordfjordlaget i Amerika

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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## 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



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# Nordlandslaget av Amerika og Kanada

**Stevne held during Fargo's "Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival" to take advantage of local celebration.**

## Stevne Program Included:



Genealogist Jay Liedman Presentation



Lynn Kalmrast  
Crew member of Hjem Komst



Perry Straw  
Hand-Carved Knife Collection

# Nordlandslaget av Amerika og Kanada

## Nordlandslag Banquet Offerings!



Celebration Cake!



Verlyn Anderson—Speaker

Friends Gathering  
Makes Stevne Special!



Kilie Schroeder—Music



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

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## 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

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## Opdalslag Stevne



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

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## Opdalslag Stevne



2018 Opdalslag members

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## 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

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## Romerikslag

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



Bunad Parade



Regular Visiting Couple  
from Norway



At Civil War Museum



Norwegian Sweaters!



Lag Board

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

- Stevne Held: Best Western Plus Conference Center, Willmar MN, 12–15 July 2018.
- 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.

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## 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

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## 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  
13 via Webinar on 10/20
  - 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"

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## Landingslag i Amerika (Seven Lag)

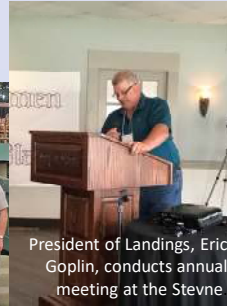
- Total Membership: Family: 51, Individual: 179
  - Gained 7 new members, lost 20
  - Stevne attendance: 50



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



Lag Group Photo at The Oaks, Willmar



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



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.

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## 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.



R-DD Group  
Photo at  
Stevne



"Kirsten and the  
Norwegian Dancers"



Lag Logo

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## 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

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## 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!




Doing some genealogy research at the Houston County MN courthouse.



Telelaget Board



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



Outgoing Treasurer & President, Deanna Zentgraf & Jim Oftelie

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## 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.

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## Totenlag (Seven Lag)



Stevne Group Photo for Totenlag





Registration, Top  
Genealogy, Middle  
Stevne Postcard, Bottom

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

Bunad Parade



Next Generation!





AASTA HANSTEEN  
WORLD'S LARGEST  
SPAR HULL PLATFORM

Theme of "Norway Evolving"  
included a presentation on  
Norway's oil industry



Genealogy Display

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## 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

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

**Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken (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)

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



Stevne Group Photo for Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken

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## 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.



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**Trønderlag of America (continued)**

- Website: [www.tronderlag.org](http://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.



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Stevne Group Photo for Trønderlag

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## 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

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




Stevne Group Photo for Gudbrandsdal Lag

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## Vestlandslag (Hardangerlag, Møre og Romsdalslag, Nordhordlandslag /Sunnhordlandslag, Rogalandslag, Sognalag, Sunnfjordlag, Vosselag) & Valdres Samband



Big Ole statue in Alexandria

- 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

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## Vestlandslag & Valdres Samband (Joint Stevne)

Swedish Nyckleharpa



Call of the Lur



Genealogy Lab



Bunad Parade




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## Vestlandslag & Valdres Samband

Stevne Group Shots by Lag



Hardangerlag, 85 members  
24 attended Annual Meeting



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



Møre og Romsdalslag, 90 members



Rogalandslag, 126 members  
24 attended stevne

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## Vestlandslag & Valdres Samband

Stevne Group Shots by Lag



Sognalag, 181 members



Vosselag, 109 members



Sunnfjordlag, 31 members



Valdres Samband, 648 members

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## Hardangerlag (Vestlandslag Stevne)

Lag Meeting Attendees

- 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

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## Møre og Romsdalslag (Vestlandslag Stevne)



- Total Membership: 90 members

Group photo of some of our lag members attending stevne

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## 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.

Genealogy Table at Stevne

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## Sognalag (Vestlandslag Stevne)

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

Anniversary Treats Table



100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weaving



Lag Meeting at Stevne, Alexandria



Memorabilia Display Table



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## 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



Christ family in bunader

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## Valdres Samband (Joint Stevne with Vestlandslag)

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



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## (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%)

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