

# BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAD BULLETIN

Norwegian American National Council of Bygdelaag

[www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com)

SINCE 1916

Since 1916

MARCH 2011

March 2011

## **N-AGA Sells Norsk Farm Maps**

The Norwegian American Genealogical Association has purchased many new, detailed maps, printed by Statens Kartverk of Norway, and specific to local areas of Norway. After adding to the MN Genealogical Society holdings, they have about 300 maps for sale at \$5 each plus postage, (a fraction of the original cost). Postage will depend on the number desired.

To be sure your map is available, send requests to **N-AGA Map Request, 1185 Concord Street, Suite 218, South St Paul, MN 55075-1150**. (Mention the name of the farm and the *fylke* (county) and they may be able to help, if you are not certain which map to buy.

## **Come to Mindekirken May 7 For the National Lag Council's 95th Annual Meeting and Program**

Lag leaders, delegates and guests are invited to the 95th annual meeting and election of officers Saturday, May 7, at Mindekirken, also known as the Norwegian Memorial Church. It has a parking lot at East Franklin Street and 10th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN.

**Hardanger, Rogaland (formerly Stavanger Amt Lag), Sunnhordlandslag and Sigdalslag** are celebrating 100th anniversaries in 2011, and those who are not delegates may be invited as guests to this May meeting at the same cost.

Registration will help cover the expenses -- facility fee, arrival coffee, program and noon lunch. The **cost per person is \$15 before April 15 and \$17 thereafter. Checks may be sent to R. Lee Brown, treasurer, 2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422; all must be received before April 28. Please include the name of the lag.**

**Each lag in good standing may seat two delegates.** (Please ask someone other than Fellesraad officers to represent your lag). Since 2004 we annually review the lag advertising fee (@ \$15 per lag) to share partial costs of print advertising of *stevner* dates and locations, our single most costly expense.

Arrangements for other groups meeting following the Fellesraad meeting at the church should be made with the church directly: [www.mindekirken.org](http://www.mindekirken.org)

Do you or your lag need **local topographic maps** that show farms in your area of Norway? Bob O'Neil, N-AGA president will explain how his group can pass the savings on to you.

**Coffee will be ready at 9 AM. The delegate roll call begins about 9:30, each stating his/her name. One delegate should be prepared to report on how many current members the lag has —and if membership has *increased, decreased or stayed the same* during the past two years.**

Both the minutes of 2010 and an agenda appear elsewhere in the *BULLETIN* for reading before the meeting. Incumbent officers have all agreed to be candidates for the coming one-year term of office.

The Fellesraad Board of Directors met February 16 to plan a 2011-2012 budget and make plans for the coming year.

Planning the program, the board chose **Kari Tauring** to provide the program, telling about her Norwegian TV experiences on the "Alt for Norge" broadcasts. Kari not only has experienced popular culture, but also has researched ancient communications from the distant past.

She describes herself as a *Völva* (staff carrier in Old Norse) who shares her heritage through performance—poetry, songs, dances, **stav** (stick rhythm), and spiritual arts. She has over 20 years of scholarship and the practice of **runes**.

She has studied pre-Christian origins and expresses ancestral North European traditions with a melding of the immigrant era in America. She teaches via workshops, writing and recording, and will be teaching *Völva stav* in Trondheim, Norway, in September this year.

**This notice of the annual meeting and election of officers is being sent to designated delegates (whose current addresses have been sent) from each *bygdelaag* and to lag presidents. Each president must take responsibility to see that lag delegates get this notice.**

# CELEBRATE YOUR BYGDELAG

Hardanger, Rogaland, Sunnhordland & Sigdal Reach 100<sup>th</sup> Year  
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

## JUNE

**09-11 - Valdres Samband**, Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN  
Bob Skogman, **320-684-2078**

**15-18 - Nordlandslag**, Clarion Inn, Rochester, MN  
Delos Olson, **507-212-8328**

**23-25 - Vestlandslag**, Best Western Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND  
Bob Hanson, **763-441-4463** or **H4414463@juno.com**  
**HARDANGER, ROGALAND, SUNNHORDLAND CENTENNIALS,**  
Voss, Sunnfjord, Sogndal, Nordhordland, Møre og Romsdal

**23-26 - Hallinglag**, Vista Inn, Fargo, ND, David Hilde,  
dhilde1932@cableone.net or Jackie Marler, **701-293-5027**

## JULY

**14-17 - 7 Lag Stevne**, Best Western Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND  
[www.7lagstevne.com](http://www.7lagstevne.com)

**17 - SIGDALSLAG CENTENNIAL**, Judy Sosted, **507-645-0499**  
Toten, Marie Brown, **763-588-6666**  
Telelag, John Haugo, **715-381-1430**,  
Ringerike-Drammen, Narv Somdahl, **952-831-4409**;  
Numedalslågen, Chet Habberstad, **218-826-6268**  
Hadeland, Jan Huesinkveld, **507-285-9483**;  
Landingslag, Sandra Hendrickson, **952-892-5402**

## AUGUST

**03-06 - Tre-Lag Stevne**, Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Sioux Falls, SD  
Gudbrandsdal, John F. Peterson, **701-361-7015**  
N. Hedmark og Hedemarken, Dixie Hansen, [dx@dxhansen.com](mailto:dx@dxhansen.com)  
Trønderlag, Robert M. Fossum, [president@tronderlag.org](mailto:president@tronderlag.org)

**11-13 - Sognefjord**, Dubuque, IA, Kathy Johnson, **608-238-1785**

## SEPTEMBER

**15-17 - Romerikslag & Solør Lag**, Holiday Inn, Austin, MN  
Joel Botten, **507-388-1995**; Doug Johnson, **608-238-1785**

**17-18 - Opdalslag**, Scandia Church, Centerville, SD; Pauline Strait,  
[pstrait5488@peoplepc.com](mailto:pstrait5488@peoplepc.com)

**18 - Nordfjordlag**, Green Lake, Spicer, MN; Betty Rodi, **320-796-6800**

CONTACT ONE MONTH PRIOR TO EACH 2011 EVENT

STEVNE classes, entertainment, ethnic food, fun, genealogy, tours  
More affiliates of **Bygdelagenes Fellesraad** online  
[www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com)

## IN MEMORY

### A Memorial Gift for Muskego Church Maintenance Fund

Individual lag activity over many years is our collective legacy. Sympathy goes to families of past and present *bygdelag* leaders who have experienced deaths this year: **Elmer Rodi**, a Nordfjordlag president; **Diane Lerohl**, a Valdres Sambandsecretary; **Craig Haugo**, son of Telelag president John Haugo; **Tillie Overlee**, a NW Gudbrandsdal president, and **Richard Schoenfeld**, spouse of Shirley, NHOH editor. Please notify the board of others, so that they may be named in a memorial gift to Muskego Church.

## 95th Fellesraad Meeting

May 7, 2011

Arrival Coffee—9 AM

### Tentative Agenda

1. Welcome Call to Order
2. National Anthems
3. Introduction of Guests, Officers
4. Greetings & Photo opp for 4 Centennial Lag
5. Roll Call - Delegates (2) per lag
6. Minutes
7. Financial Reports incl. Audit
8. Special Order The Election of 2011-2012 officers
9. In Memory of past officers
10. Officer Reports
11. Business \* (yes/no vote on Print Advertising)

Stand & Stretch Break

## The Cultural Program

By Kari Tauring

LUNCH after the  
Norwegian table prayer:

Gledens Herre,  
Vær vår gjest  
Ved vårt bord idag,  
Gjør  
Vårt måltid til en fest  
Etter ditt behag.  
Amen!

### 12. Final Announcements

- The Board has already met, but if any delegate has a concern for agenda consideration, please write the president before April 1.
- Do you wish to discuss a topic during lunch? E-mail a topic proposal soon to Eunice Helgeson, [Director@fellesraad.com](mailto:Director@fellesraad.com)

Possibly:

- What is the next five year plan in my lag? Or
- 20 lag centennials will be history next year. What might the national council consider as a next 2-3 year project?

## Hilsen fra President Somdahl

Welcome, if you are receiving your first *BULLETIN* by mail. The web edition of the *BULLETIN* is available usually by December with **deadlines** for the coming year.

- **Lag dues are payable January 1-15.** (Include an advertising fee if passed at the previous annual meeting).
- **Print ad deadlines are due before February 1.** Send the president and webmaster the site and **date/s of your stevne** and a person who will answer ad inquiries (by **email or phone**) for the web calendar.
- **Delegates & mail addresses (to president) by March 1.**

Please thank **EuGene Rodi** who works year round as the webmaster for the web site we sponsor for your use. He and I have updated the printable Fellesraad brochure recently. We wish to hear when there are changes, as they occur.

**Congratulations to our 2011 centennial lag!** See pages 1-2. Because my maternal grandparents were born in Norway —Peder Johnson from Karmøy and Ingeborg Endresdatter (b. Finnerud) from Sigdal, your Fellesraad president is a member of two of them!

As in previous years, the Fellesraad is commissioning gifts, and it's a labor of love for me to try to locate American artists who can produce Norwegian items that best represent an art form appropriate for each lag. In most cases, **Laurann Gilbertson**, chief curator of Vesterheim Museum, has most graciously offered her assistance and expertise, and she gets our collective thanks. Three board members discovered an artist at the Nordic Brunch last year!

Last year was a banner year for centennial celebrations! **Seven bygdelag celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries—more than any other year.** Norwegian American artists created special works for Fellesraad gifts and those your president presented were a Bob Paulson weaving to **Møre og Romsdal** at the Vestlandslag stevne in Rochester; carved and decorated wooden plates by Becky Lusk for **Hadeland, Land** and **Toten** at the 7 Lag Stevne in Winona and for **Solør** Lag at Fergus Falls; a Rosemary Roehl weaving for **Nordfjord** Lag at Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN, and a carved wooden plate by Jock Holmen was presented by Vice President Marilyn Sorensen to **Østerdal (now NHOH)** at Stevens Point, WI. **Most are pictured on the fellesrad.com web site.**

Since we have 1916 origins, the Fellesraad observes 95 years in May. Will a photographer or two help record the day? **It is the 112th year since the bygdelag movement in America began with Valdres Samband.** The exchange

of ideas, programs, classes and genealogy in and between groups have kept people interested in their Norwegian ancestors and in present day Norway. Efforts by a few groups to have guests and talent *from* Norway and trips *to* Norway has yielded great results.

Last October I attended the US-Norway Forum in Washington, D.C. which is called by invitation of the Norwegian Ambassador to the US, Wegger Christian Strømmen. Narv and I commuted from National Harbor, MD, by bus and subway. We also visited the National Gallery of Art to take in the *Edvard Munch: Master Prints* exhibit, showing color variations of the same themes, at the National Gallery of Art.

I'm still representing the Fellesraad on the Syttende Mai Minnesota committee. We'll have \$2 buttons for sale at our meeting. Deadline for the May 17 evening banquet tickets is May 13. Tickets (\$50 per person). A reception begins an hour prior to the 6 p.m. meal at Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington, MN. Checks may be sent to **Vice Consul Christina H. Carleton, Norwegian Consulate, 901 Marquette Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55402.**

After an intensely snow-filled winter, we look forward to the re-birth of spring and Easter. **God Påske!** - MDS

## Celebrating Polar Explorers

Norway is celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary for **Fridtjof Nansen** this year and the 100<sup>th</sup> year since **Roald Amundson** and his crew of four were the first to reach the South Pole. Be sure to see exhibits at the Fram Museum if you are going to Oslo this summer.

**Fridtjof Nansen** (1861-1930), was one of his country's greatest men of thought and action. **He was a Norwegian polar explorer, humanitarian, statesman, marine zoologist, and pioneer oceanographer.** Born in Oslo, he collected marine specimens aboard a whaler on his first Arctic cruise in 1882. In **1888** Nansen and five others crossed Greenland from east to west, which experts deemed impossible. He had a ship built to withstand ice floes—the *FRAM*— and he left Norway in it June 24, **1893**. Spending two years onboard, he and Hjalmer Johansen came within 272 miles of reaching the North Pole with kayaks and sleds. In **1896** they reached Franz Josef Land and boarded a British ship back to Norway.

In **1905** Nansen had a prominent role in the separation of Norway from Sweden, and from **1906-1908**, he served as Norwegian minister to Great Britain. (next page)

(Nansen continued)

As a professor in marine zoology, he taught at the University of Christiania and published books on his scientific findings on subsequent ocean voyages.

After World War I, he was a **delegate to the League of Nations**. He devised the **Nansen passport**, an identification certificate for refugees, helping rescue Russian refugees and directing the return of German and Russian prisoners to their homelands. Humanitarian efforts were recognized world wide, and in **1922 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize**.

**Roald Amundsen**, (1872-1928) was an explorer born near Oslo, who **built on his previous expedition experiences and the use of sled dogs to lead the first group to reach the South Pole**. He left Norway in 1910 aboard the *Fram*. He headed to Antarctica. He set up his base camp and three advance bases and was said to have enough food for nine men for two years. Antarctic spring came in October 1911. On **December 14, 1911**, after traveling with four sledges and dogs to pull them, they arrived at the South Pole. The British group with Robert Falcon Scott arrived later to find Amundsen had already been there, but Scott's group perished there. Amundsen can also claim the North Pole record. Read on.

Also a surveyor, Amundsen made his first cruise to Antarctic water in 1897, but the far North attracted him more. He spent from 1903-1906 making scientific observations to help locate the North Pole. He was the **first person to successfully navigate the Northwest Passage**. He sailed north of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Between 1918-1920 he returned to chart the NW Passage, which had been discovered 40 years earlier. In **1926** Admiral Byrd claimed to have flown (via airplane) over the North Pole. **Just days later Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth, an American, crossed the North Pole by dirigible in May.** (Malcolm Brown, *NY Times* reporter, wrote that Byrd admitted, in his own diary, he was NOT first to fly over the North Pole! However, Byrd had "hero" status and took unearned credit routinely, he wrote.) Sun, May 12, 1996(?) *Star Tribune*, p. A22).

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

Marilyn D. Somdahl, Editor  
Fellesraad *BULLETIN*  
5100 W. 102 St., #209  
Minneapolis, MN 55437

### Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet Av Bjørnsterne Bjørnson

Ja, vi elsker dette landet, som det stiger frem,  
Furet, værbit over vannet, med de tusen hjem;  
Elsker, elsker det og tenker, på vår far og mor,  
Og den saga natt som senker, drømmer på vår jord,  
Og den saganatt som senker,  
Senker drømme på vår jord.

- Use [www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com) to contact Fellesraad officers.
- If you do not have a computer, use one at your local library to check the accuracy of information about you and your lag.

**REGISTRATIONS with payment need to be received before April 28 by the Fellesraad treasurer.** April 28 is also the last day for refunds or changes in delegates. Please indicate your lag and send your name, e-mail and check to **Treasurer R. Lee Brown, 2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422.**

### MAY 7 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

**If postmarked before April 15, cost is \$15 per person; later it is \$17.**

Delegate/s Which Lag? \_\_\_\_\_

Guest/s Which Lag? \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_