

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD
Minutes of the 92nd Annual Meeting - May 3, 2008

The Annual Meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was held May 3, 2008, at Mindekirken in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

President Marilyn Somdahl called the meeting to order at 9:40 A.M., and welcomed everyone to the 92nd annual meeting of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad.

The Norwegian and American National Anthems were sung with Sandy Hendrickson at the piano.

Greetings: Tom Lanman, President of Mindekirken congregation, brought greetings. He stated Mindekirken was started in 1925 and met in the church basement until 1929 when the church was built. Tom told about various programs offered at Mindekirken.

Consul General Rolf Willy Hansen brought greetings. The (full time) Royal Norwegian Consulate General in Minneapolis will close on August 1, 2008. Thereafter, Minneapolis will have un-salaried and part time officers, headed by Honorary Consul General Walter Mondale and Honorary Consul Gary Gandrud. They accepted appointments made by Norway's Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

Roll Call: The roll call for each bygdelag was read, and the delegates answered with the name of their lag newsletter. Delegates (number listed following name) representing Gudbrandsdal (2), Hadeland (2), Hallinglag (2), Hardanger (2), Landingslag (2), Lappmark (0), Møre og Romsdal (1), Nordfjord (2), Nordfjord - WI (0), Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken (1), Nordhordland/Sunnhordland (1), Nordlandslag (2), Numedalslaagen (2), Opdalslag (0), Ringerike Drammen (2), Rogalandslag (2), Romerikslag (1), Sigdalslag (2), Sognalag (2), Sognefjord (2), Solør Lag (1), Sunnfjord Lag (1), Telelag (2), Toten Lag (2), Trønderlag (2), Valdres Samband (2), Vestlandslag (0), and Vosselag (1) Østfold Lag (0). (List of delegates attached).

Secretary's Report: A motion was made to accept and approve the Secretary's Minutes of May 5, 2007, as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and carried to accept the secretary's Minutes as printed.

Treasurer's Report: The audited Treasurer's report for April 30, 2008, was presented by R. Lee Brown, Treasurer, along with the budget for the year 5/1/07 to 4/30/08. The Treasurer's report of April 30, 2008, shows a checking account balance of \$2,069.13 and total assets of \$89,360.10. The audit was prepared by Leland A. Randall. A motion was made to accept the financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded and carried. (Copy of financial reports attached.)

Elections: The 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; Webmaster/Director, Eugene Rodi; and Director, Eunice Helgeson.

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, and the officers as listed were elected.

Reports: Marilyn Somdahl, President, reported that a new Bygdelag brochure has not been printed. The current brochure is downloadable and available on the website. Marilyn's full President's Report is in the newsletter (attached).

Eugene Rodi, Webmaster, said he would work with any lag to help set up a website for their lag. Eugene reported that there are approximately 5,000 hits per day on the Fellesraad website. Hits come from all over the world. Eugene asked that all lag information get out on the web. Many lags are getting their newsletters out on the web.

Marilyn Sorensen, Vice President, reported on the second genealogy trip to Salt Lake City, Utah. There were 20 participants, representing seven lags at the February 24 to March 1, 2008, week of classes sponsored by the Fellesraad in cooperation with the Family History Center. To date, eight lags have taken advantage of the stipend offered by the Fellesraad. The third trip will be February 22 to 28, 2009.

Eunice Helgeson and Marilyn Sorensen of the Archival Committee reported that storage of precious materials for lags is an ongoing investigation, and no good storage resources have been found yet. They asked for ideas anyone has to use as criteria for storage. Chris Skjervold expressed that it is imperative that all records of Fellesraad and individual lags get out of the individual officers' homes. He said, "Families don't know what all these records are, and upon someone's death, many items get destroyed."

Old Business: A motion was made that each lag contribute \$15.00 toward print advertising of the dates and sites of lag stevner by January 15, 2009. The Fellesraad is to pay the greater share of the total cost. The advertising may be the Viking Magazine, Communicator or other publication. The motion was carried with the place of advertising to be decided by the Board. Lee Brown asked that all checks be made payable to the Fellesraad and not to Lee Brown.

Memorials: Memorials are sent to Muskego Church Maintenance Fund in memory of departed lag leaders or their family members. A memorial will be sent in honor of the following: Ervin Brunsvold, Annabel Branstad, Ann Somdahl, Juella Peterson, Mel Olsen, Alma Flisrand, Theresa "Tess" Lundby, Betty Rockswold, Steven Ostby, Belvin Heieie, Helen Vinje, Douglas Holter, and Jerry Rosholt. A moment of silence was held, after these names were read by Marilyn Somdahl.

Program: Tom Hanson, a public relations specialist with clients in the US and around the world, spoke. He talked about traditions of Norway, mass migration from Norway to the US in the 19th century and into the early 20th century, Midwest traditions and modern Norway.

Announcements: Among the announcements were: Syttende Mai buttons are for sale at \$2 each, and the Syttende Mai banquet will be held May 16, 2008.

Marilyn Somdahl said she has pictures of the two rosemaled plates that were done to present to Telelag and Hallinglag at their 100th anniversary stevner in 2007.

The Doxology was sung before we adjourned for lunch. Eunice Helgeson said there are table topics at four tables - Membership, Planning Trips to Norway, Speakers and Entertainment, and Stevne Site Selection. Other tables are available for general discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at noon, and a delicious lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia H. Rache, Secretary