

Tre Lag Stevne Steering Committee Minutes
October 15, 2017, 12:30-5:00
Holiday Inn Austin, MN

- I. Introduction and housekeeping items
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Dick Lundgren at 12:35.
 - b. Joy Shong volunteered to take minutes.
 - c. Dixie pointed out that all Tre Lag Stevne documents have been moved from her personal web page to the NHOHlag.org page, under the Stevne heading.
 - d. Dixie passed around a get-well card to sign for secretary Nancy Hawkinson, who was in the hospital.
- II. The Steering Committee member roster was updated
 - a. Changes will be available when the updated list is distributed.
- III. Election of new officers
The current officers were unanimously reelected: Dick Lundgren, President, Dixie Hansen, VP, Nancy Hawkinson, Secretary, and Ron Helstad Treasurer.
- IV. Secretary's minutes from last meeting were approved with no changes after an online review.
- V. Treasurer's report (Current financial status)
 - a. Ron Helstad had submitted the financial statement from August 31, 2017.
 - b. After all stevne expenses were paid, refunds based on lag paid registrants were allocated to each lag: Gudbrandsdalslag: 40.46% - \$612.65; NHOH Lag: 29.07% - \$440.18; Tronderlag: 30.47% - \$461.37. The committee voted to approve payment to the lags
 - c. Statement Balance of \$3344.20. After log payouts the balance will be \$1830
 - d. The Kearin's will be asked to provide the cost of supplies for hospitality, for budgeting.
- VI. Continuing Business/Committee reports
 - A. Evaluations results
 - a. Trudy will do the evaluations for one more year. John Reindl volunteered to take on the evaluations beginning in 2019.
 - b. A brief discussion of the potential use of Survey Monkey which can automatically compile results ended with the thought that we would get fewer responses.
 - c. The summary was reviewed with specific interest in suggestions for speakers, topics, and improvements. These will be referred to, and considered, when planning the program. Example: Introduce genealogists early in the program; genealogy topics that teach people how to use the lab.
 - d. Committee agreed that the evaluation summary is in an excellent, easily read and understood format.
 - e. Suggested improvement: add the name of the topic along with the speaker name in the speaker evaluation section.
 - B. Site selection committee
 - a. 2018: Dixie, Barry and Dick will negotiate the contract with the hotel.
 - i. Dick will find out how many rooms to block at the Holiday Inn.
 - ii. The cost of the conference space (\$600) does not depend on hotel rooms booked. Attendees can stay at any local hotel. Holiday Inn is more expensive (\$124/night but that includes a voucher for full breakfast.) Hotel next door is \$77/night and has typical continental breakfast.
 - b. 2019: Dick, Dixie and Robert will be on the committee. Previously, Rochester was going to be the site for 2019, but now other sites are also being considered. The team will begin looking at the top list of other locations suggested for consideration – (Robert) Bemidji; (Dick) Alexandria, Wilmer, Fergus Falls.
- VII. New Business – Planning for 2018 Stevne – August 8-11**
 - A. Robert Fossum requested that a meeting of the Steering Committee be scheduled during the stevne, which is defined in the Tre Lag Bylaws.

- B. Facility Information and Tour
 - a. Genealogy – Use Salon 5 and Salon 4 which will provide an ‘L’ shaped layout.
 - b. Vendors can be put in registration foyer and in Salon 3
 - c. Regency Board room may work for hospitality; no water.
 - d. Harvest Room: could work for hospitality, demonstration, or speaker.
 - e. Meeting rooms have projectors in ceilings; do not know if they are free to use.
- C. Program Structure will be the same as last year with only minor changes
 - a. **Opening ceremony:**
 - i. Dick will ask current Mayor Tom Stiehm for a brief greeting;
 - ii. greetings also from lag presidents and Fellesraad president.
 - iii. Memorial service: Dixie asked for suggestions for changes/improvements
 - b. **Movie night:** a movie has already been proposed; Dixie will locate title.
 - c. **Concert:** Will need to rent a piano
 - d. Have only one speaker per time slot on Thursday, and two per slot on Friday
 - e. **Saturday change:** Maybe replace two speaker slots with tour of Spam Museum if it does not fit in the tour schedule.
- D. Theme: Norway Evolving
 Modernization; dual citizenship to be allowed; other advances; are we falling behind?
 Changing map: reduction in number of fylke and kommune – how will this effect genealogy research?
- E. Publicity – John Reindl
 - a. Chart of counties and cities by population. John wants to know how far out from Austin to focus local publicity such as newspapers, organizations, etc. - Include the Twin Cities in promotions
 - b. Suggestions to contact: local Sons of Norway, Norwegian American Weekly (biweekly), Vesterheim for their newsletter, Norway House, Facebook pages of any Norwegian sites in MN;
 - c. Provide Wording to other lags and organization Facebook pages: why stevne is good; what will people get from it; keep messages short. Send reminders periodically, and increase frequency as registration deadline approaches
- F. Hospitality – Dick will contact local Son of Norway to seek assistance
- G. Vendors:
 - a. There is no Tre-Lag vendor coordinator. Judy Glowka from NHOH Lag was suggested to be asked. (Dixie)

Ken Thon, (507-567-2355 kentrom@smig.net), our local contact in Austin presented ideas for the tour and speaker. His suggestions are included in the following sections, along with ideas from committee members

- H. Tour – Suggestions
 - a. St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, founded by Rev. Clausen
 - i. Nels Goldberg, 515-713-4905
 - ii. Pastor Paul Weeg: 641-713-2852, or C 641-381-0675
 - b. Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church
 - c. 1st Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie
 - d. Westfield Lutheran Church – active from 1917-1-50's; restoration in 1990's
 - i. Ken has contact information for all churches
 - e. Vesterheim Museum in Decorah (about 1.5 hours to get there; impractical)
 - f. Spam Museum
 - g. JC Hormel Nature Center
 - h. Hormel Home
 - i. Albert Lee: 1st settlers house; statue of a Norwegian family (south of town)
 - j. Historical Society buildings are located at the fairgrounds. They will be open during the fair which takes place while Tre-lag is in town.
 - k. Veterans Pavilion – good picnic location; \$125 rental fee
 - l. Elam House – Frank Lloyd Wright design
- I. Entertainment – based on evaluations: keep it lite, music, comedy, etc

- a. "We got talent" – Hallinglag does this to get members to present; similar to our concert
 - b. Party Bus – Kevin Findley
 - c. Spamites
 - d. Berry will check in the Rochester area
- J. Speaker and Topic suggestions.
- Contacts for possible topics and speakers
- a. Bonnie Reitz, former mayor, originally from Devils Lake ND
 - b. Mower Co. Historical Society, Austin – Sue Doocy(?)
 - c. Freeborn co. Historical Society, Albert Lee
 - d. Sons of Norway: Ramona Swenson
 - e. Kenneth Magnuson, from Zumbrota; Rosemaling teacher
- Topic suggestions
- f. Pastor Clausen
 - g. Compare old agriculture techniques and tools with modern; any Norwegian links
 - h. Samuel Heins, Ambassador to Norway 2016-17– possible keynote to speak on topic related to 'modern Norway'
 - i. Helen Scherer: weaving (she offered)
 - j. Head of Faribault Woolen Mills (Dick can contact)
 - k. Curtis Dahlin: Dakota Uprising (we have had him speak in the past)
 - l. 1862 Mankato massacre
 - m. Viking Sword
 - n. Vikings
 - o. Christian Carlson: Norway House – modern Norway
 - p. Dual Citizenship and other changes
 - q. David Jones: historical presentations; has topics such as Prohibition that relate to experience of ancestors
 - r. Deb Gourley: what research has she done?
 - s. Reformation: anything more on this topic?
 - t. Centennial of Finland (2017)
 - i. Finskog area research – Elain Hasleton has a presentation
 - u. Locust plague in 1870's (to include the religious implications)
 - v. Craft demonstrations or workshops: carving, rosemaling (Lois Mueller), cooking, sewing
 - w. Stevne Session Ideas from evals (others listed in the genealogy section):
 - i. Learn a simple Norwegian dance
 - ii. Traveling in Norway
 - iii. Current Norwegian culture
 - iv. Bokmal & Nynorsk differences and why?
 - v. Preserving original documents & photos
 - x. Genealogy
 - i. Round table
 - ii. How to get started
 - iii. Workshop on how to find and use the books in Genealogy Lab.
 - iv. Using Bygdebok 101
 - v. DNA – individual consultation, Pros & cons of various DNA services / what you get from each / how useful is 14 pages of potential 4/5/6th cousins?
 - vi. Snippets: 15-30 minute quick topics
 - vii. Free webinars online
 - viii. Workshop with hands-on Genealogy Site help
 - ix. Using new Digital Archives
 - x. How to use Facebook/ the cloud

VIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: January 21, 2018 12:30 Holiday Inn, Austin, MN