

Tre Lag Stevne Steering Committee Minutes
January 21, 2018 12:00-4:00
Holiday Inn Austin, MN

- I. Introduction and review of current membership list
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Dick Lundgren at 12:10.
 - b. Joy Shong volunteered to take minutes.
 - c. The updated steering committee list was not available for viewing due to the lack of a projector. The list was put on the NHOH Lag Stevne page for all to access.

- II. Minutes from the October 2017 meeting were approved with the following corrections: (Dixie Hansen moved for approval of the minutes; seconded by Nancy Pickering)
 - a. Start Time – 12:30 not 12:00
 - b. Page 1 Site Selection B-b: spelling Willmar correction
 - c. Page 1 VII-A: Replace “defined” with “required” in reference to the bylaws
 - d. Page 2 Entertainment – add “s” to Son
 - e. Page 2 Tour ‘l’ – spelling Lee to Lea
 - f. Page 2 Entertainment – spelling Spamettes not Spamites
 - g. Page 3 topic ‘o’: spelling Christina, not Christian
 - h. Page 3 topic ‘t’: spelling Finland, Finnskog and Elaine corrections
 - i. Page 3 topic ‘w’: use Norwegian spelling – Bokmål

- III. Treasurer’s report (Current financial status)
 - a. Ron Helstad had submitted the financial update to Dick Lundgren. Copies were not available, but Dick will forward it to Dixie to put on the steering committee web page.

- IV. Continuing Business/Committee reports
 - A. Evaluations results
 - a. Trudy will do the evaluations for one more year. John Reindl had previously volunteered to take on the evaluations beginning in 2019.
 - B. Site selection committee

Robert Fossum visited sites in Bemidji, MN and Alexandria, MN

 - a. Bemidji – Sandford Center and Country Inn Hotel
 - i. Quotes was very expensive
 - ii. Other hotels in area may be less expensive
 - iii. Is distance/location an issue: 218 miles from Twin Cities
 - iv. Need to see if there is a Sons of Norway lodge in the area
 - v. Robert will research additional hotels and options in the area
 - b. Alexandria – Holiday Inn on I94
 - i. Hotel offers more services at no cost
 - ii. Robert had a poor experience with the contact, but still felt it was a viable location
 - c. Robert moved to select Alexandria for the 2019 stevne subject to the condition to modify the program; and to consider Bemidji for 2021. Second by Dixie Hansen. Motion passed.

- V. **New Business – Planning for 2018 Stevne**

The Discover new Austin MN tourism book for 2018 has the stevne listed in the August events.

 - A. Program Structure will be the same as last year with only minor changes. See previous minutes for outline.
 - 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: long and short versions may be created depending on the number of people; long version can play in lobby and short version for the opening ceremony.

 - B. **Theme:** Norway Evolving
 - a. Suggestion to have someone speak on StatOil

- b. Cover/Logo: Nancy Pickering requested more information about the meaning of the theme and how to illustrate it. The concept is to emphasize the historical changes from the past to modern times; progression over time; rural (farming) to urban; architecture > world
- C. Publicity – John Reindl
- a. John identified 19 newspapers and 48 radio stations in counties around Austin
 - b. Wants advice on how far out from Austin to focus local publicity. Is northern Iowa too far?. Suggested to include larger cities within a certain radius of Austin. Jackson, Pipestone, Worthington counties are close.
 - c. Working on press release for Sons of Norway, and places with LDS Family Research Centers
- D. Hospitality – Coffee will be purchased from the hotel for the two days so the Kearin's will not need to make coffee since the designated room does not have water.
- E. Vendors:
- a. Dixie asked Nancy Hawkinson if she would coordinate vendors but had no reply yet. Judy Glowka from NHOH Lag will be asked if Nancy cannot do it. (Dixie)
- F. Tour – Suggestions
- a. Eliminate: Spam Museum, Vesterheim, 1st Lutheran Church
 - b. Include:
 - i. St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, founded by Rev. Klausen
 - ii. Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church
 - iii. Hormel Home
 - iv. Albert Lee: 1st settlers house; statue of a Norwegian family (south of town)
 - v. Places mentioned but eliminated due to distance and time were the Spring Grove cultural center, and Giants of the Earth center.
 - c. Barry will research the "Hormel Legacy Tour", other local tour options, and places of historical interest with the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- G. Entertainment – based on evaluations: keep it lite, music, comedy, etc
- a. Rochester Area Accordion Band will be in town the Friday of the banquet for a 1:00 p.m. concert. Chris will be asked (by Dixie) to contact them to see if they would be available for an evening concert opportunity.
 - b. Nyckelharpa duo is option two.
- H. **Speaker and Topic suggestions.**
- Topic suggestions
- a. **Dick** will try to get a speaker from the **Snohette** architectural firm.
 - b. **Dick** also suggested a talk by Dennis Gimmistast on **bridges** and by Norwegian architects
 - c. Helen Scherer suggested to **Dick** contacting Christina Carlson of Norway house to find a speaker on the history of StatOil.
 - d. Helen Scherer: will give talk on weaving
 - e. Dixie volunteered to give a presentation on DNA matches on Ancestry.com.
 - f. **Dick** will try to find a speaker on **Pastor Clausen** from Vesterheim, or Paul Daniels from Luther Seminary
 - g. **Dick** will try to find a speaker on **agricultural evolution** of farm machinery from a local school or agricultural museum. (Compare old agriculture techniques and tools with modern; any Norwegian links)
 - h. **Dick** will contact **Samuel Heins**, Ambassador to Norway 2016-17 and ask him to speak on a topic related to 'modern Norway'
 - i. **Joy** will contact the **Mower Co. Historical Society or Mower Co. Genealogical Society** to find a speaker on local history
 - j. Dick will contact David Jones: to request a talk on Prohibition and/or Volstad
 - k. Genealogy Topics to pursue:
 - i. How to get started: Workshop materials available in Genealogy Lab and how to access and use them, to be presented by the genealogists
 - ii. Using new Digital Archives – John Reindl
 - iii. Consider now or in future (?) - Preserving original documents and photos: webinars on Family Search; Roots Tech; Legacy

iv. Robert sent an email after the meeting to suggest having a presentation on the new political boundary changes planned in Norway

- I. Bygdelagenes Fellesraad has a stevne preparation page in Google Drive listing speakers and topics from various lags' stevner. Can be used as a resource.

Next Meeting: March 24, 2018 10:30 Library in Hudson