

Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee
(Gudbrandsdalslaget, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag,
Romerikslaget, Solørlag, Trønderlag)
Zoom Meeting; Thursday, October 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Members Attending (Alpha order by Lag and then last name): Nancy Pickering (Gud), Dixie Hansen (Hed), Joy Shong (Hed), Norma Kjenstad Barnes (Rom), Mike Miller (Rom), LeAnn Hookom (Sol), Kathy Johnson (Sol), Robert Fossum (Tr). **Absent:** Dick Lundgren (Gud), Sam Christenson (Tr)

Call to order & Adoption of Minutes & Adoption of Agenda:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. CDT. Eight members were present via computer using Zoom. Adoption of the minutes of the June 10th meeting were informally approved by general consent, and the same for Adoption of the Agenda.

Committee Reports/ Agenda Discussion Topics

Although committees have not been fully staffed, the following Discussion Topics were discussed.

Logo

Dixie had submitted a preliminary proposal for a Stevne logo for the committee's consideration. The logo will be used on the program booklet cover as well as in other communications. Comments were invited. The discussion which followed discussed the advantages and disadvantages of certain approaches and design elements, although all agreed Dixie's submittal was a good starting point and that it would need refinement. There was consensus approval that Nancy be the designer to make final design suggestions and she said she'd present drawings to the group, preferably more than one to choose from. Robert called the vote, with unanimous "aye" approval for Nancy to proceed.

Vendors

Jeri Johnson was the Vendors Chair for Tre Lag 2021 and will be back for 2022 but would like another committee member to share the responsibilities. Mary Baumgartner will be able to help; is there also a need for a third person as a backup? Duties include helping with setting up the vendor area; must decide where the vendor area will be placed. Discussion of option to use the hallway, near the seminar rooms, which will be very visible to attendees by day and blocked off and made secure overnight. To be sure, we need to see the space to confirm that idea works. Final decision after our next meeting at the venue, sooner rather than later.

Sidebar discussion and decision to hold our **on-site meeting at the Best Western/Empire Conference Center in Rochester on Friday Oct. 22 at 1:30 p.m.** Noted that Joy Shong will contact the 5 lag genealogists before this meeting; they can also be invited to attend but at the very least, Barry Dahl, who lives in Rochester, will be asked to attend to scope the space for the Genealogy Lab.

Theme

Helen Scherer had previously sent an email suggesting that since our location is close to the Mayo Clinic, we tie in a theme of health and wellbeing and/or Scandinavian love of being healthy in the outdoors. It was also mentioned that the Norwegian influence in healthcare has been huge in our geographical area. Dixie mentioned previous stevner in Rochester in 1998 and 2004 had themes with tie-ins to health, she remembered the 1998 theme was "A complete checkup starts with your family history." General positive reaction to a health theme, although too early for further proposals or decisions at this time. Ongoing.

Catering

Whoever heads this committee (no volunteers yet, does this subcommittee need more than one person?) will be in charge of finding/negotiating a menu for at least the Banquet, but the final decision goes to the committee for a vote. Much discussion followed about whether we would include lunches and under what circumstances, such as a New Member luncheon. At this hotel, that may be an issue since the hotel does not have a full restaurant onsite (only a Continental Breakfast room). If we do arrange for additional meals, we could look at the daily schedule and perhaps devote a "Genealogy Day" and rearrange the Tour day as well in order to fit in a luncheon. We'd have to include the cost as part of the pre-paid Stevne Registration. We decided to table the discussion until our next committee meeting, with the suggestion to invite comments of our lag membership in our next newsletters.

Evaluations

Sam Christenson has volunteered to again handle stevne evaluation feedback and tallies. He is almost ready to send out the results from the 2021 Tre Lag Stevne this past August. He had indicated there were some suggestion ideas for a Tour for next year on the 2021 evaluations.

Genealogy Lab

Joy has a meeting coming up with the lag genealogists to discuss their needs; Barry Dahl is the Trønderlag genealogist and lives in Rochester so he will be easily available to tour the hotel at our next meeting for feedback.

Publicity

Norma has volunteered to chair this subcommittee, and reported she had received information (a template) from Joy about how Tre Lag has done this in the past. Jean Berg of Solørlag has done this before and will also be asked to help (her husband Andy was on the Site Selection committee).

Tour

Per Robert, eastern Fillmore County is heavily Norwegian. Tour suggestions:
1) In Rushford (39 miles away; an hour's drive), mentioned in Robert's Zoom meeting invitation, is the Norsland Lefse Factory, 2) Spring Grove (68 miles, over an hour's drive) with the first Norwegian settlement in Minnesota, home to Giants of the Earth Heritage Center. 3) In Lanesboro (40 miles, 45 min drive), the Commonweal Theater is one of many attractions; they became known for regularly producing plays by Henrik Ibsen. There are also several interesting eateries there.

Registration

Dixie has volunteered to take care of this task since she's been the one handling registrations for Tre Lag. It's best (easier to track) if registrations of the lag members of the different lags go through a centralized registration system, and she is already set up and used to doing this. Mike has volunteered to help Dixie at the Registration table.

Format of Stevne

Choosing what to schedule on Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat. It's way too early for now; table this discussion until our next meeting. A reminder to think about for upcoming discussion:

With five lags, we may have to adjust the way we schedule each lag's Annual Meeting, perhaps holding some in the late afternoon or evening rather than all in the mornings, which might impact Movie Night or an evening speaker. Maybe offering some seminars twice to accommodate those who have a lag meeting conflict.

Program

We need to add to the existing committee members of Norma, Joy, and Dick, with two more to be appointed, one from Solør and one from Trønder. LeAnn has volunteered for Solør. Sam is suggested for Trønder. Joy is fine with handling the "mechanicals" for keeping and updating the scheduling spreadsheets and sending confirmation letters and bio sheets to pass along to Dixie and Nancy, as that is her strength, but she's requesting help in finding speakers/entertainers in the first place.

Memorial Service

Discussion of how in the past we have honored those members who've passed away during the preceding year with a slide show gallery with underlying music. We felt that with more lags we should have a shorter presentation; 1 slide per person. It was also suggested the presentation not be at the beginning of our gathering as it's not the best impression for new members; prefer to be more upbeat when we start the stevne program. This topic was tabled for later discussion at our next meeting.

Setup

Rooms and tables are not complicated at most hotels with conference facilities, but it's the getting of a piano that is the biggest challenge. (There is a Schmitt Music store in Rochester). Pianos are getting harder to find and rent and transport, and our piano players prefer real pianos to electronic keyboards. Joy will ask Chris Falteisek if he's willing to play again; he bowed out this year. Two other suggestions emerged: 1) Can music be pre-recorded on a flash drive and played through the conference room's sound system? And 2) if our tour includes a church, then we could do the music program at that church using their organ?

Audio/Video

Yes, both are available and included per our contract. And there isn't a "minimum charge"

Financial

We don't yet have a final report from Tre Lag Stevne because the grant money we will receive for the 2021 stevne affects the way we track and finalize our figures, as well as affecting the scheduling of closing the bank account and opening a new one for Flere Lag Stevne. This is pending.

Audits

How have we done this before? It's been hard to assemble people to help with this. Tabled for now.

Stevne in 2023

LaCrosse Wisconsin was suggested. We've been there before, but with a bigger group the Radisson probably isn't big enough to accommodate the size of our group, and we'll need to find a new venue.

a) Kathy suggested we consider allowing people to register for just one day of the stevne – any one of the 3 days, including walk-ups paying at the door. She also suggested we encourage early registration by imposing a "late fee" which would also apply to anyone registering at the door.

b) No-shows don't get refunds, but those who notify in advance they won't be coming after all can get refunds on their unused registrations.

Next Meeting

Repeated that it will be held at the **Best Western/Empire Conference Center in Rochester on Friday Oct. 22 at 1:30 p.m.**

Robert adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Pickering
Secretary
Submitted 10/8/2021