

Minutes
Tre Lag Stevne Steering Committee
Saturday, March 14, 2009 - 10:00 A.M.
South St. Paul Hotel & Conference Center, South St. Paul MN

Attending: Jim Olson (G), Dick Lundgren (G), Betty Strand (G), Dixie Hansen (NHoH), John Reindl (NHoH), Joy Shong, (NHoH), Robert Fossum (T), Barry Dahl (T), Nancy Hawkinson (T), Marilyn Sorensen (G), Elaine Smiley
Absent: Ron Helstad (NHoH), Jan Floeter (Gud), Johanna Hocker

South St. Paul Hotel & Conference Center Contact:

Note: Hotel is under new management as of 7 January 2009

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A. Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Joy Shong, 2009 Chairman. The meeting agenda was approved with note that Item 5, Vendors, will be discussed out of order.

B. Secretary's Report – Nancy Hawkinson

Minutes of the November 8, 2008 TLSSC committee meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections noted:

page 3, - change "(where Gubbrandsdal) was founded" to "(where Gudbrandsdal was founded)"

page 4 – correct spelling of Sven Sunngaard to Sven Sundgaard

page 4 – correct spelling of Ann Zempke to Ann Zemke

page 4 – correct spelling of Odd Lovell to Odd Lovoll

page 5 – add Psalmodikan to identify the "one string" musical quartet that performed at the La Crosse Stevne

Page 5 – change "Elaine Smiley of NOH" to "Elaine Smiley of NHoH"

TLSSC minutes are posted online at: <http://www.tronderlag.org/tlssc.htm> and
www.dxhansen.com/trelag.htm

C. Treasurer's Report – Ron Helstad

There was no Treasurer's report.

D. Stevne Plan

Planning to expect a large group again this year.

1. Theme

Consensus that tentative suggestion from November meeting, "Norwegians in the Melting Pot" was not a good metaphor. After discussion the theme "**Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker . . . They were not all farmers**" was adopted.

2. Schedule

i. Opening Ceremonies – 7 p.m., Wednesday, August 5

Call of the Lur: Gene Nelson needs to be contacted

Emcee: Joy Shong will emcee (Gary Olson will be asked to emcee if Joy is not available)

Pianist: Johanna Hocker has not been asked yet but has been willing in the past; a

keyboard will be needed. Joy Shong will co-ordinate with Johanna.
Welcome: Dixie Hansen will contact Norway's Honorary Consulate in Minneapolis.
(Honorary Consuls - Gary Gandrud and Walter Mondale)
Lag Presidents: Dixie Hansen (NHoH); Robert Fossum (Tronderlag); Jim Olson (Gudbrandsal)

ii. Topics and Speakers

There are tentatively 25 spots to fill; some presentations could be presented more than once.
After discussion, following will be contacted for possible presentations:

Joan Buckley, Norwegian-Immigrant Women, Prof. Emeritus of English, Moorhead College.
Marilyn Sorensen will contact.

Byron Nordstrom, has a variety of topics including a humorous "Norwegian Mount Rushmore"; Professor of History and Scandinavian Studies at Gustavus College.
Dick Lundgren will contact.

Sven Sundgaard, Kare11 weather personality, has done talks on Norwegian weather.
A tentative presenter, not being contacted at this time.

Debbie Miller, MHS, Norwegian cooking and cookbooks, has been featured in the *Viking* magazine.
Marilyn Sorensen will contact.

Ron Nowland, retired Lutheran pastor from La Crosse area, has several topics including one on "Outhouses", has spoken at Sigdalslag and Valdres stevnes.
Joy Shong will contact.

Alison Purgiel, MHS librarian, Genealogy Research in Naturalization Records.
Marilyn Sorensen will contact.

Duane Swanson, MHS, government records specialist and librarian at the MHS, Norwegian-American Lutheran church records.
Marilyn Sorensen will contact.

Odd Lovoll, has a new book coming out.
Dick Lundgren will contact.

Dan Karvonen, UM Dept of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, has a presentation on genetic genealogy – how and why to get your DNA tested.
Dick Lundgren will contact.

Göran Stockenström, University of Minnesota, immigrant stories and more.
Dick Lundgren will contact.

Rollie Krogstad, how to write the history of a community.
Tentative, will not be contacted at this time.

Kathleen Stokker, from Decorah, author of "Remedies and Rituals, Folk Medicine in Norway and the New Land".
Tentative, will not be contacted at this time.

Bill Halverson, an Edvard Grieg expert.
Betty Strand will contact.

The **Viking Age Club & Society-Sons of Norway** has a full encampment that can be set up for different types of events. There is the possibility they could set up outside the hotel or provide a speaker.
Dick Lundgren will contact.

Psalmodican, the “one string” musical quartet that performed at the La Crosse Stevne.
Betty Strand will contact.

Genealogy –Beginner’s class by a computer knowledgeable person. No names put forth at this time.

Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, Salt Lake city, professional Scandinavian genealogist, current Tronderlag Vice President, has presented at previous Stevnes.
Tentative, Marilyn Sorensen will be contact.

Dance Class, Polly Johnson, popular at past Stevnes.
Jim Olson will contact.

John Christiansen, an emeritus professor of history at Luther College.
Marilyn Sorensen will contact.

Peggy Larson, “Herd Calling in Norway”
Marilyn Sorensen will contact.

Scott Wolter, who was Keynote speaker at Fergus Falls in 2008, has a follow-up presentation. Dick Lundgren will contact him if he feels it would be a good presentation for us after hearing it presented later this month.

Matt Anderson, MHS, artifacts and other materials pertaining to Norway/Norwegians at MHS.
Dick Lundgren will contact.

Dick Lundgren will contact the **Minnesota Supreme Court’s Historical Society** to see if they would have an applicable presentation.

Eric Dregni, his experience of living for a year in modern Norway.
Tentative, will not be contacted at this time.

Tom Hanson, a former U.S. Foreign Service Officer and Diplomat who served in Norway and elsewhere—could speak on Norway’s role in peace negotiations.
Jim Olson to contact to speak at the Friday evening banquet.

Jam Session/Music – Johanna Hocker has coordinated in past and has suggestions for 2009; recommends jam sessions should not be scheduled late in the evening.
Joy Shong will co-ordinate with Johanna.

As speaker contacts are made, information should be emailed to Dixie Hansen at dxhansen@gmail.com for posting on website: www.dxhansen.com/trelag.htm

iii. Memorial Service – Jim Olson

Jim has talked to Mary Brown to handle the Memorial Service. Her daughter will provide her own keyboard.

iv. Tours – Local coordinator not assigned.

Possibilities include:

The Mill City Museum.

Box lunches or similar a possibility.

Dixie Hansen will contact.

Luther Seminary—Rare Books Room and Old Muskego Church; food is a possibility at a reasonable cost in the Student Union.

Jim Olson will contact.

Minnehaha Park – where Gudbrandsdal was founded and a favorite meeting place for many Norwegian groups.

A possible/theoretical tour could start at the Hotel in South Saint Paul, go to Luther College, then to the Mill City Museum and to Minnehaha Park for a photo op.

v. Lag Photos

Bob Christenson has handled at previous Stevnes. Needs to be contacted.

3. Entertainment & Music

Joy Shong will contact Johanna Hocker to co-ordinate.

4. Meals – Banquet, Luncheon, Tour

Tabled for May 3rd meeting

5. Vendors – Elaine Smiley

Elaine has met with Maxine Sandvig several times, including this morning.

Maxine has been of great assistance with securing vendors and possible options for laying out the vendor space.

Book vendors in the Genealogy Room: Jim Olson, Deb Nelson Gurley and a possible third. Barry and Marilyn will work out the details.

Vendors in the Concord Room: There is space to accommodate four (maybe five) vendors.

Contacted so far:

Ole & Lena, Woodville WI (Figurines, ornaments, etc)

Lois & Ron Mueller, Platteville WI (Rosemaling , jewelry, etc)

Diane Hoven, Baldwin WI (Hardanger)

Elaine would appreciate feedback on other local vendors who might be available. The Scandinavian Marketplace from Hastings was suggested.

Vendor setup will be 7:00-8:30 on Thursday, August 6.

Vendor tables will be open:

8:30 – 5:30 on Thursday

8:00 – 5:30 on Friday

Elaine will have vendor info to Newsletter Editors by May 15. Dixie needs the final vendor info by July 1 for program.

Dixie asked that she be provided vendor email addresses.

6. Genealogy Lab

Marilyn will work on details.

7. Hospitality Room

Julie Bauchle has offered use of her office near the Front Lobby. It has a small restroom.

Joan Skalbeck will offer assistance this year but someone is needed to be “in charge” of the Hospitality Room.

Responsibilities:

- Food Donations (Norwegian)
- Having beverages available (coffee, tea, water, lemonade)
- Cups, plates, napkins, etc
- Someone in room at all times it is open

Newsletter editors will be asked to solicit help from their membership.

Note: Joy Shong has arranged with the Hotel to provide beverages/refreshments for coffee breaks.

8. Publicity – Nancy Hawkinson

Approximately 150 flyers and/or email contacts were made about February 1st with Stevne date and location. These will be followed-up with more information when it is available.

9. Evaluations – Jan Floeter

Jan is on board to handle the evaluation segment of the Tre Lag Stevne but could not be present at this meeting. Discussion on whether it would be helpful to ask what a person would be willing to pay for hotel accommodations to attend Stevne, ie, when would cost become a deterrent to attending. Concern voiced that it might not present an accurate answer.

10. Budget

Tabled for May 3rd meeting when speakers and food have been determined.

11. Other

No other business at this time.

E. Old Business

1. LCD Projector Purchase

Motion by John Reindel to purchase Dixie’s LCD projector at a cost of \$225. Projector is approximately eight years old, cost \$4600 new, is XGA and 1100 lumens. This is less than rental would be. Seconded by Barry Dahl. Motion carried.

2. Advertising Policy in Program

The committee approved allowing Dixie to handle independently. Rate to offset cost of the Program.

3. 2010 Site Selection (August 4-7, 2010)

Concern voiced about accessibility at Stevens Point. John Reindel pointed out there are two venues available in Stevens Point. John, Dixie and Dick will make a site visitation and report by via email within next three weeks.

The hotel in Sioux Falls where we previously held a Stevne is closed and scheduled to be torn down—there may be a new hotel there by 2012.

4. Gudbrandsdalslaget Centennial Celebration – Jim Olson

The Gudbrandsdal committee is meeting Sunday, March 15. Their activities will take

place at the hotel on Saturday afternoon and evening and at Mindekirken on Sunday.

F. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

G. Next Meeting

May 3, 2009 – 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

South St. Paul Hotel & Conference Center, South St. Paul MN

Note: Secretary Nancy Hawkinson will not be able to attend this meeting. .

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hawkinson, TLSSC Secretary