

Tre Lag Stevne Steering Committee  
Hudson, WI Library  
January 26, 2019  
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Joy Shong, Dixie Hansen, Dick Lundgren, Barry Dahl, Marilyn Sorenson, Robert Fossum, Kathy Pedersen (substitute for Jim Olson), Chris Falteisek, Nancy Pickering. Absent: John Reindl, Sam Christenson. Voting subs: Chris F for John Reindl; Kathy Pederson for Jim Olson.

Notes from beginning of gathering, by Kathy Pederson.

Before the meeting, Art Hawkinson came, bringing some Stevne information from Nancy's computer files. We had a chance to meet with him and catch up.

A. Open meeting – Joy Shong

Before we began official business, we held a moment of silence in remembrance of Nancy Hawkinson.

B. Secretary Replacement – Nancy Pickering had volunteered to take minutes of this meeting, but was late stuck in traffic. Kathy Pedersen agreed to take notes until she arrived.

C. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the October meeting were distributed and reviewed by members.

D. Treasurer's Report

Print version of the treasurer's report was distributed for review by members.

- a. Related to treasurer's business, Joy discussed a proposed change in TLS bylaws to allow for the annual audit to take place at Stevne, when all three lag treasurers are available.

\*The change in bylaws will be reviewed and discussed at the next TLSSC meeting.

\*TLSSC bylaws also state that each committee present a written report at the first meeting following each Stevne. A change was recommended that would allow either a written report or an oral report presented at the meeting and included in the meeting minutes should be acceptable. That bylaw adjustment will also be discussed at the next TLSSC meeting.

Review of TLSSC membership information.

Joy presented her updated list of committee members. Nancy Pickering agreed to take on Nancy Hawkinson's role as TLSSC secretary. (Kathy handoff to Nancy for completing meeting notes).

E. Site Selection Committee Report

- a. Dixie finalized the contract for Stevne 2020 at the Marriott in (Middleton) Madison, WI, and reported there was a good negotiation on the prices. The reason for the lower price was largely due to EPIC's reduction in local training causing increased competition between local hotels, so we also got lower prices for vendor rooms. Discussion of location of Hospitality Room; if there would be alcohol, we'd be asked to use a room on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor; but if not, we can be next to the vendor area. We'd like to get a floor plan.

Dixie reported she applied for a \$1700 grant to offset registration fees, and it was granted. Funds come from area hotel taxes. She also reported various discounts, including 20% for use

of AV equipment and coffee, and \$500 for use of vendor space, waiving \$8 parking fee for guests, and a free room vs. cash against the contract.

- b. Robert reported on his research & contacts in Bemidji for Stevne 2021. He said when he talked to the folks at Sanford Center about 2 years ago, the quote he got was outrageous, so he made a return trip to visit Bemidji, talked again with a rep named Chad Harding at the Hampton Inn, who promised to send a prepared proposal, but Chad was very slow to provide it and it didn't have the required numbers we needed to see. There was a second proposal, which included Saturday all day, but we actually need Saturday morning only, and food wasn't mentioned. Room charges were quoted at \$139 (\$119-\$139 depending on season, but August is high season in Bemidji). An alternative was mentioned, to use the language camp nearby, but we agreed that was probably not a good fit and also at high season.
- c. Duluth was mentioned, but it does not have convention space as part of a hotel. Decorah, IA also mentioned, but even though it has the attraction of Vesterheim, there are really not enough rooms especially since we need seminar rooms
- d. One idea would be to set up a host city not too far from Decorah and then take our tour to Decorah from there. Perhaps La Crosse? Or Rochester? Much discussion of Rochester, as they're expanding accommodations, but their prices could be high at \$140 for rooms, although the speaker mileage is less. Other options included the Quad Cities, Dubuque, Platteville, Mankato, Sioux Falls, Rockford IL, and Stoughton WI. But careful going too far away from Minnesota, as that could lead to a drop in attendance.
- e. Upshot was that if we can't negotiate with Bemidji, we can consider Rochester or Sioux Falls, SD for 2021.

F. Stevne Planning

- a. Vendors – Dixie will handle this portion of the planning, this year. It was noted that there are Scandinavian shops in Alexandria that we could attract,
- b. Theme – After much discussion, we settled on “Close Encounters of the Norwegian Kind.” Discussion of all the ways we could take advantage of the meaning of this theme. For example, the encounters don't have to be in the Midwest, or even in the U.S. (Lindisfarne Monastery in 793 A.D.). It could include Native Americans, Swedes, Germans, etc. Deb Nelson Gourley has a presentation about the “Indian Uprising” affecting immigrant settlers. Maybe, in light of Knute Nelson being from Alexandria, there could be a presentation of “Norwegians who went into politics”?

c. Program Schedule

- i. Standard opening ceremonies
- ii. Topics & Speakers Suggested:
  - “Knute Nelson” actor could be the Banquet Entertainment.
  - Taryn Nelson did a presentation in 2014.
  - Barb Grover?
  - Candice Simar does a presentation of her father's personal experiences.
  - Janet Letnes Martin from Hastings does a very entertaining piece from the “Church Basement Ladies” and could be our Banquet Speaker. Otherwise, maybe an actor monologue if she can't come. Length to be 30-45 minutes.
  - And possibly Deb Nelson Gourley.
  - Marguerite Ragnow has a variety of talks on Norwegian topics, such as the printing press.
  - Linda Schwartz has a “Sharing your Family History” talk that highlights the importance of sharing and has examples of researching.

- How about Organizing and Preserving your records, and what will libraries accept? Should there be a panel discussion?
  - How about a DNA panel discussion? Build on the presentation Dixie did last year – should we do it again? Different point of view? How about ethical dilemmas? And what to do when there are illegitimate or non-parental links?
  - Perhaps John would lead a presentation on how to enter data into genealogical software programs? Marilyn asked if we could do this in the Genealogy Lab?
  - Should we include a talk about the Kensington Runestone, or include it on the tour? Mention the pros and cons of its authenticity, especially in comparison to the Canadian site of L'Anse aux Meadows, which could be part of a topic of Early Encounters (relates to our theme).
  - Is there a professor of Scandinavian Studies to talk about travels of the Vikings, or about early archaeological sites?
  - Glenn Borreson has spoken in the past, should he be invited again?
    - Viking attacks or raids, including the newest sites found in Canada.
      1. Lindisfarne? Later the Vikings settled the land they raided. It was a “9/11 moment – A Viking Attack That Changed the World.”
      2. Midwives topic (Maria the Midwife: Stories of Norwegian Midwives in the Midwest.) Maybe we could have one of these stories this year, and the other next year in Madison?
      3. Rev. Tim Peterson, “Husmann, Stifling the Hauge Movement”
  - Do we have a Native American presenter? Dick may try to contact; the Red Lake embassy is in Minneapolis.
  - Historical Society information? Can we reserve a slot?
- iii. Assignments to contact possible speakers:  
 Nancy P. volunteered to look up her book on Native American Photography, while other resources are the Anderson Library on the west bank of the University of Minnesota, and the perhaps the James Ford Bell library – do we have contacts there?
- iv. Tour:
- Legacy of the Lakes Museum on the list
  - Marilyn says Douglas County Historical Society is very important and has a wonderful library
  - We could do two things on a tour, depending on proximity; the two closest would be the runestone and the historical society – can we fit in a church visit, too?
  - How about lunch (Boxes from the hotel?) Maybe the churches could do this? West Moe is an old country church – how far?
  - Mentioned U of M professor Anatoly Lieberman, who can do a linguistic analysis, but not available for this stevne.
  - Bus Charter Express – for our tour?
  - Is there a Sons of Norway Lodge in Alexandria to ask for information?
  - Or contact convention center staff to help make contacts in Alexandria?

- Elaine can probably help but she's long distance.
- v. Entertainment & Music
- Since Knute Nelson is important, we could have the actor who plays him, too:
  - He'd be an alternative for entertainment or music: perhaps Wednesday evening instead of a movie or Thursday instead of music.
  - Chris and Robyn could do music at a church instead of Thursday night?
- d. Genealogy Lab.  
Room size is 35 x 35, the Courtyard Rooms. First room at far left, has a parquet floor (while the other rooms have carpeting), so the best space for Genealogy is rooms 2 & 3, which are fully carpeted. Rooms 3 and 4 are closer to the doorway for loading. Marilyn mentioned that Gudbrandsdalslaget's transport of books is in jeopardy as we do not have anyone lined up to help transport our books this year.
- e. Publicity  
John has done this, but needs a backup for email, etc. Can Nancy Olson help (If she can do this at home?) Has she been contacted? Marilyn will ask her.
- f. Hospitality  
Kearin's will do this again as long as we help with coffee, in "Isabelle's" space.
- g. Meals  
Banquet.  
Catering regarding breakfast – they can set up a buffet in the restaurant if we request it. This is optional, and prices would be \$7.99 for a semi-full breakfast, or \$12.99 for a full breakfast.  
Other help needed; can Dorothy Zimmerman help? For example, ordering lefse, etc.  
Food on the tour depends on the tour itself.
- h. Evaluations.  
John will do this with Joy as a backup. Be sure to include a mailing address on the form so that if folks forget to turn it in and leave without dropping it off before they go, they can mail it in.
- i. Budget  
Not done yet until the dollar amount of fees is known, to plug it into our spreadsheet. Joy will plug in the numbers.
- G. New Business  
Should Dick contact Sons of Norway in Alexandria? Yes, sure, give it a try, and also ask Elaine.
- H. Next Meeting  
Chris Falteisek volunteered to host our next meeting at his house in Hastings. **March 30 2019 at 10:00am.**
- I. Adjournment at 3:40 pm.

Submitted by Nancy Pickering, Secretary