

Tre Lag Stevne Steering Committee

At the Madison Marriott West, 1313 John Q. Hammonds Dr., Middleton, WI 53562

Middleton Room, 11:00-5:00, November 2, 2019

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Barry Dahl (T-v), Robert Fossum (T-v), Dixie Hansen (NH-v), Dick Lundgren (G-v), Kathy Pederson (substitute for John Peterson) (T-v), Nancy Pickering (G-v), Joy Shong (NH-v), Marilyn Sorenson (G-v). With eight members attending and some duplicate lag memberships allowing for rearrangement, we were able for all attendees to be voting members. (*Codes: T for Trønder, G for Gudbrandsdal, and NH for Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken. "v" = voting member for the meeting*)

- A. Open meeting – Joy Shong. Opened meeting at 11:00 a.m. Introductions and Review Current Committee Membership List. Identified voting members for each lag (see above).
- B. Review and Adoption of Agenda. Approved.
- C. Election of Officers and Specific Committee Assignments. Joy is willing to serve as Chairwoman for another year, as are the others attending. M/S by Dick, Nancy, and carried to accept. Joy updated the Committee list of names/contact info and assignments. Other assignments and officer discussion:
 - a. Sam Christianson had been added to the Site Selection subcommittee for Bemidji; we agreed to keep his name on the list for this activity as he had valuable input.
 - b. Jeri Johnson has been approached and approved as the Vendor Coordinator.
 - c. We need to find persons to lead Publicity and also Hospitality. Possibility of asking Anne Farning (Marilyn will contact) or Linda George or perhaps Diane Jorgenson Clouch?
 - d. Discussion of Activities: For the Tour, Robert saw a presentation of crafts last spring by Livsreise, the Norwegian Heritage Center in Stoughton. Contact person there is Marg, Robert will learn who the presenters were last spring. Also, having a “Poster Session” to learn how to make a large family tree poster (such as the one Gary Romsaas created) was suggested. (Move these suggestions to the seminar section for next meeting).
- D. Minutes of Last Meeting
Minutes of the March 23, 2019 meeting were reviewed by members. Because of email, there was a general agreement no further discussion was necessary. Approved.
- E. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. Ron Helstad’s final report from last year’s stevne had been forwarded to the committee via email and it was reviewed for expenses, income, and excess funds. The balance at August 31 is \$3,503.67, which includes \$1,830.00 in a “Seed Money” account. Dixie proposed that we purchase a new projector. There was much discussion about how to allocate the seed money fairly to each lag (\$600 to each + \$30 elsewhere?) and how to reflect those funds in the Treasurer’s Report, especially after purchases (such as the proposed projector) which benefit all three lags. Several approaches to the accounting were discussed. Before deciding, it was suggested to send an email to each President to discuss with their Boards. (Who will send the email?)
 - b. The committee also felt that the Hospitality Expense vs. Income should be more clearly separated for next year in the Report.
 - c. An audit was not done last year, so this year we need to plan ahead for this. It was suggested to send a notice to each President to do this or appoint a representative to sit with Ron to go over figures. Nancy Sand Olson’s name was suggested for Gudbrandsdal because of her banking background.

- F. Date/Location for 2nd TLSSC meeting. Set for Saturday, January 11, 2020. Hudson Wisconsin was suggested, but we settled on the Pleasant Hill (main) library in Hastings, MN (1490 S. Frontage Rd, Hastings, MN 55033). Backup dates would be Feb. 1 or 8; other dates have too many conflicts. (Has someone been assigned to contact the library to reserve the space?)

LUNCH BREAK

G. Review of Previous Stevne

- a. Evaluations – Joy had compiled the evaluation results from Sam Christianson (61 evaluations, with A=10 and B=9, the most frequent score averaged in the mid-to-high 9 range, roughly equivalent to A-/B+) and there was a lot of material. She looked for recurring comments, and requests for handouts at seminars was often mentioned. Out of three pages of written comments, the ones we discussed most came in the categories of Genealogy Lab (incorporated in Reports, below) and Topic Suggestions for Future Seminars. Later it was suggested our newsletter editors write articles about the way suggestions are submitted and analyzed to encourage interest. Additional: 1) It would be nice to study which areas of Norway the upper Midwest immigrants came from, and perhaps have tours of areas where the lags concentrate. 2) Future Location suggestions included North and South Dakota, perhaps Grand Forks in 2-3 years?
- b. Reports
 - i. Publicity – some information had been inherited from Nancy Hawkinson and John Reindl, but otherwise we don't have a report.
 - ii. Genealogy – Went very well, it was busy. Some didn't take turns, perhaps some of that could be addressed next year by providing an information sheet about where things are, or better signage. Barry suggested perhaps assigning one volunteer with a computer to handle questions about farm histories or pointing folks to the Family Search Norway page on their web site to help beginners. There was also a separate discussion about considering a 2-3 day seminar about Norwegian Genealogy to be held by a historical society or NAHA in Northfield, or at a big bydebøker collection such as Grand Forks or Salt Lake City. This idea should be passed along to Fellesraad.
 - iii. Hospitality – Dixie brought food, Joy brought utensils, Dick helped – so many did pitch in, including Jeri Johnson. Joy kept a chart of food and bowls for signups. It was suggested we approve money for bowls and trays for stevne (create a "stock supply") rather than people bringing their personal property. Alternatively, we can ask contributors to bring food with a disposable container. Joy made a note to talk to David Lohman.
 - iv. Registration – Dixie reported that this went well.
 - v. Vendors – This went well, too. The vendors were happy with their space, and approved of being close to the Hospitality space since that may have attracted more business.
 - vi. Tour – Fine except for the sandwich labels on the box lunches on the tour; and the divided tour groups made timing tricky.
 - vii. Program (Opening Ceremony & Memorial; Speakers/Topics): The setup and sequence went well. Could improve the timing/endings so next seminars begin on time. Affected by lag business meeting.

H. Stevne Site Selection Committee –

- a. Next year: It appears that Bemidji will not work for 2021. Sam’s report summarized that the combination of expensive hotel and far away meeting space take it out of the running. But Rochester had been suggested before and we discussed returning to that idea, a year earlier than originally considered. The city (and the Mayo Clinic) has been expanding, including hotels. We noted that the venue previously known as Best Western/Apache is now the Kahler Apache hotel, and it is better than the Doubletree, but with new construction we need to do more research.
- b. Following Year(s): We do like to “rotate” through the upper Midwest states, so Minnesota is scheduled for 2021, or perhaps North Dakota? How about Eau Claire in the future? Other possibilities might be Willmar (Holiday Inn? Tour ideas?), Worthington (off of I-90 but not many hotel choices or conference spaces), and Apple Valley where there is a new LaGrand Conference Center at the Grand Stay Hotel (Dick will check for facilities and prices).
- c. (Robert and Barry will do more research for some or all of these)

I. Stevne Planning

- a. Assignments and Responsibilities – Joy edited the Steering Committee Master List on her laptop as we updated this list; it will be distributed to all members.
- b. Program Schedule.
 - i. Budget Considerations, since this venue is more expensive than some in the past. Joy will create a sheet based on last year, and find places to cut costs. Suggestions: 1) cut the snacks (but keep the coffee) on Friday afternoon, because the Banquet is that night? 2) Registration fee adjustment? 3) Tour might not include a box lunch, which reduces the tour price, and also offsets the higher room rates. 4) Not quite as many speakers (or ones that have repeat sessions), so that we don’t double up and have fewer speakers to pay. 5) Choose speakers from Badger Talks, which are free.
 - ii. Tour suggestions included Livsreise, and going to Koshkonong to see the church, which might serve us coffee? We could consider scheduling the tour for Saturday if we wanted to save Wednesday afternoon for Genealogy Beginner’s classes, but we do like keeping the tour on Wednesday.
 - iii. Same general schedule as last year. It was suggested that the afternoon coffee breaks could be downstairs instead of the Hospitality Room upstairs (easier for coming and going and seminar schedules starting on time).
- c. Theme Suggestions/Topics (Joy sent a multi-page Word file via email for Themes, Topic and Tour suggestions, and we followed along).
 - i. Something tied to immigration (about 25% returned to Norway – what were the influences? Why did some go to Canada, either first, or after the U.S.? Why the variety of routes? – “Norwegian Leapfrogging” (Marilyn/Dixie)
 - ii. Cleng Peerson (pen name for Klein Pedersen) – first group of Norwegian immigrants to America in 1825.
 - iii. History of Norwegian Settlements.
 - iv. Andrew A. Veblin – founder of Valdres Samband, the oldest Bygdelag in America. “Veblen was born in Wisconsin, attended Carleton College in Northfield, MN and was a professor in science and physics at Johns Hopkins

University, Luther College, and the State University of Iowa before retiring to Washington County, MN where he owned and operated a farm.”

- v. Noted that ministers were leaders in the lags when they were first formed.
 - vi. Norwegian Women (Marilyn)
 - vii. “Dirty Rats and Goldiggers” (Dick)
- d. Speaker suggestions
- i. Badger Talks has several resources, and we looked at a few. One advantage is that they are free – we should deliberately try for as many slots as possible.
 - ii. Do we want to focus on Genealogy Topics and try hard to tie to our theme? Especially for beginners?
 - iii. One of the evaluation suggestions was for a talk on bunads.
 - iv. John Hawks, a paleoanthropologist studying human evolution. He is a professor of Anthropology at UW-Madison. Dick mentioned a connection to the PBS “First Peoples” series.
 - v. Robert suggested a seminar on the book “Mrs. Muus’ Complaint” (*Fru Muus’ Klage*)
- e. Tour(s)
- i. Not addressed beyond previous discussion of Stoughton (first choice, Livsreise and then Koshkonong).
- f. Special Event(s)
- i. Not discussed
- g. Entertainment
- i. Not discussed
- h. Other – Projector Purchase
- i. Discussion of looking at the membership rolls of the three lags to see member locations – those that live nearby to Madison would be more likely to attend, and we may be able to ask them for help at Stevne, assuming they plan on attending. Joy will look at the NHOH list. Others?
 - ii. Robert moved we purchase a new projector with Dixie in charge. Marilyn seconded, and the motion carried.

J. Adjournment at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Pickering, Secretary

Note the next page, where the floor plan is included. When we have decided which space to use for which purpose, I can edit this drawing and include it in our Program Event Booklet.

Space	Dimension	Area	Class Seating	Purpose
Salon A	35 23	805	75	
Salon B	35 24	840	75	
Salons A & B Combined	35 47	1645	150	Seminar Rm. 1
Salon C	35 23	805	75	
Salon D	70 35	2450		G. Lab fit in only D or E?
Salon E	70 35	2450		
Salons D & E Combined	70 70	4900		Genealogy Lab/Banquet
Salon F	35 23	805	75	
Salon G	35 24	840	75	
Salons F & G Combined	35 47	1645	150	Seminar Rm. 2
Salon H	35 23	805	75	
LaCrosse	26 21	546	45	Hospitality Option
Milwaukee	26 22	572	45	
Green Bay	26 21	546	45	
Milw & GrBay Combined	26 43	1118		Vendors
Middleton Board Rm	26 24	624	45	Lag Member Mtgs.
Greenway	39 32	1248	100	Other?
Second Floor Suite as Hospitality Room?				

Marriott Madison West (Middleton)

