

Tre Lag Stevne Steering Committee
At the Pleasant Hill Public Library, Hastings, MN 55033
10:30–3:30, January 11, 2020
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Barry Dahl (T), Chris Falteisek (NH), Dixie Hansen (NH), Ron Helstad (NH), Dick Lundgren (G), Nancy Pickering (G), Joy Shong (NH), Marilyn Sorensen (G). Absent: Robert Fossum (T), John Peterson (G).

- A. Open meeting – Joy Shong. Opened meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- B. Minutes of Last Meeting were reviewed. Informally accepted as read.
- C. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. The current Balance in the Checking Account is \$3,654.61, but one check for \$150.00 is still outstanding.
 - b. Ron Helstad reported a difference of \$0.94 interest on an account, but the big discussion was about finding contact information for Rachel Storlie, our entertainment at the 2017 Stevne. As of August 31, 2019, she still hasn’t cashed her check for \$150, referenced above. We can issue a new check if needed, but if we don’t connect by the end of Stevne 2020, the money will be absorbed and allocated according to our usual divisions at the end of the Stevne. Speaking of finances, Anne Farning’s name is still on the bank account but will be left in place as a backup to Ron.
 - c. There was discussion of the funds for the Hospitality Room, which will be budgeted differently this year because of the Suite location. This discussion was wrapped into the larger report, so M/S by Dixie, Dick to accept the report with the possibility of revisiting later if needed.
 - d. Dixie has been doing some comparative research on the purchase of a new projector. She had criteria in her search; Widescreen with good resolution and Wi-Fi connectivity, (2) HDMI ports, and portable. She said it’s tough to get that combination with good audio and good price. The cost range is probably \$600-\$1000; at the high end is Epson 1795W at \$960 but the sound isn’t as good, even though it can plug into the hotels’ sound system. She suggested waiting until closer to Stevne to get the best deals and the latest technology. The source for this expense will be in Excess Income or Expense, from last year’s budget.
 - e. Follow-up on audit plans. A committee will be formed for this, with Nancy Olson from Gudbrandsdal, but we still need representatives (not lag treasurers) from the other two lags. The audit will take place during Stevne; we’ll find a slot for this activity.
- D. Site Selection Committee Report. Still much discussion about neither Bemidji, Brainerd, or Duluth working for us, and we concentrated on discussing Rochester for next year and the things to do there, and also discussed Apple Valley for 2021. Barry has some follow-up research to do, and Dick will do the same for Apply Valley; there will be communication by email.
- E. Stevne Planning
 - a. Vendors. Jeri Johnson is willing to head up this committee.
 - b. Theme. Many ideas. We seemed to gravitate toward “Move” since we had been discussing the immigration path. Suggestions included Norwegian Leapfrogging, Norwegian Women, Norwegians Making Moves, Norwegian Migration, Norwegians: Going Somewhere, Norwegians: Going My Way, and Norwegians: Going West. The most popular were Norwegians on the Move, Norwegians in Motion, and (saved for the

following year) On the Move: The Sequel. Then it was discovered that “Norwegians on the Move” had been the theme in 2007, so rather than repeat, “Norwegians in Motion” moved up a notch. But Dick volunteered to do some more internet searching with “move” as a search term. We’ll have to make the theme decision later.

c. Program Schedule

- i. Opening Ceremonies, to be handled same as before.
- ii. Topics and Speakers. The Badger Talks, Speakers Bureau, and the WI State Historical Society options are many; Joy prepared a list/grid on her handout. It was repeated that since Middleton will be more expensive at the hotel, we need to find ways to cut costs. It’d be great to find speakers who will speak through the Historical Society or Speaker’s Bureau for free.
 1. Glenn Borreson will be available this year and there are three topic possibilities for him, including his “*Oh Canada! Why Canada?*” talk, but he’s not free.
 2. Robert Fossum is on the schedule with a seminar on the book “Mrs. Muus’ Complaint” (*Fru Muus’ Klage*)
 3. We could also have a panel discussion on DNA testing and tools, especially geared toward health, but perhaps that’s better in Rochester because of the Mayo Clinic link.
 4. Lori Bessler (genealogist) is still a good choice.
 5. So is Matt Blessing (library, archives, museum) and
 6. Lee Grady (archivist at WHS) and
 7. John Hawks, paleoanthropologist studying human evolution. (“First Peoples” on PBS is similar approach).
 8. Troy Reeves was also mentioned
 9. “History 101: History of WI in objects” web page, where the public can submit photos and stories.
 10. Nate Schmidt talks on Scandinavian literature (such as crime novels of today).
 11. One topic suggestion was the “History of Transportation” focusing on waterways, roads, and rail (how far did the railroads go?).
 12. We noted the question of “WI Settlement; why did settlers go to WI, especially if they moved to MN?”
 13. Also was mentioned: the University of WI lecture regarding the burial mounds in the Madison area.
 14. Dick will contact the Native American woman speaker heard recently at Mindekirken for contacts in Wisconsin; especially the tribal chairman, regarding the topic of records of Norwegians marrying Native Americans, and the origin of names.
 15. Generic Themes for these suggested speaker topics were “Human Evolution” (Barry) and “Digging for your Family” (Dick).
 16. Center for the Study of Upper Midwest Culture has a speaker, Anne Rue, suggested by Robert.
 17. Dick mentioned a documentary, “7Up”, a group of folks profiled every 7 years. They are age 63 now.

18. Chris suggested “Genealogy for Newbies” (including grandparents’ activities with grandchildren) – Would Jessica Bunderson be interested in leading something like this?

(Dick and Joy will explore further.)

- iii. Tour. Joy has not received an email response from the contact at Livsreise in Stoughton (Norwegian Heritage Center), but we wanted to know how long it takes to get to Stoughton on a bus, and how long to tour the area? Consensus was that seeing Livsreise was a must, so we’ll continue the research. It was also suggested to tour the Historical Society in Cambridge, or its museum which is next to the State Capitol in Madison, the 3rd floor is especially interesting for our group, although the 2nd floor is about Native Americans. Another possibility is seeing the two churches at Koshkonong. It was felt that combining too many venues in one tour could be a drive that’s way too long. If we are considering touring the beautiful State Capitol, remember that it is downtown, which could be a traffic problem for buses, but we could start there and then go to Stoughton. Joy will check drive times and Dick will call the WI Tourist office.
- iv. Entertainment & Music. Are the Stoughton Dancers available in the summertime? Or can they be added to the tour? Is there a stage at Livsreise? (limit of 67 seats in the auditorium). Chris Falteisek will participate as Music Coordinator as before, as the Memorial Musician and at the Stevne concert.
- d. Genealogy Lab. The new NHOH Genealogist, Dave Lohman, can’t attend this year due to a conflict. We do have many volunteers that help, though. Mostly we discussed the space, using Salons D and E for the Genealogy Lab and the Banquet. We also compared how we pack and that we should use Salon C for temporary storage of genealogy materials when we convert Salons D and E from the Lab to the Banquet space.
- e. Publicity. Anne Farning is not available. Alternate names suggested for the Publicity Chair were Shirley Schoenfeld and Dorothy Zimmerman. We discussed what being Chair entails, and who writes the articles. The person can contact Sons of Norway Lodges, newspapers, and learn about article deadlines for various publications. Nancy will make contact to recruit a Coordinator, starting with Shirley.
- f. Hospitality Room. We need a new Chair. Dianne Clouch’s name was suggested. Nancy knows her husband Dave, and will contact them. *Ed. Note: Diane has accepted, and Joy will contact her further.*
- g. Meals:
- i. Coffee Breaks, Banquet, Tour. This has not been developed much yet, although we did discuss Coffee Breaks and agreed that we always need coffee, even if we cut back on snacks, especially on Friday afternoon prior to the Banquet. We need to review minimum counts for the hotel to qualify for price breaks. We noted the coffee use should be monitored as some people get carried away and want to fill an entire thermos. A meal during the Tour and the Banquet offerings have not yet been discussed.
- h. Evaluations. Sam tallied and summarized a report of last year’s evaluations. Is he available again this year? Joy will ask.
- i. Budget. Joy has a draft so far but it needs filling in, and doesn’t have the numbers to share yet.

- j. Emcee. With the passing of Gary Olson, we need a new Emcee this year. Three names were suggested: John Satrum, Gary Romsaas, and Robin Fossum.
- F. New Business. See the Projector discussion in the Treasurer's section.
Also, a discussion about the use of the various salon spaces, beyond the Genealogy Lab and the Banquet spaces being in Salons D and E. The Opening Ceremony will use Salons A, B, and C combined, but thereafter the seminars will be in 1) a combination of Salons A & B, and 2) a combination of Salons G & F. Salon H will be reserved for the group board meetings in the mornings, but could be used for the Hardanger Klubb in the afternoons. The three city-named rooms across the hall (La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Green Bay) will be combined for our vendors. The Hospitality Room was discussed at the November meeting to be in the suite upstairs on second floor; no competing suggestions were heard for Hospitality. The group photos may be in the Atrium location, if the tables aren't in the way.
- G. Next Meeting. We will meet again in the Pleasant Hill Library in Hastings again. We liked the room and its new technology hookups. It's easy to reserve the room online, and there are several places to get food and coffee nearby. The date is Saturday, March 7, at 10:30 a.m. as before.
- H. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Marriott Madison West (Middleton)

Space	Purpose
Salons A & B Combined	Seminar Rm. 1
Salon C	(Opening Ceremonies with A & B)
Salons D & E Combined	Genealogy Lab/Banquet Room
Salons F & G Combined	Seminar Rm. 2
Salon H	Lag Mtgs/Hardanger Klubb
LaCr, Milw & GrBay Combined	Vendors
Second Floor Suite as Hospitality Room	

