

Tre Lag Stevne Steering Committee

Via ZOOM video conference
10:00-12:00, November 7, 2020

Meeting Notes

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

The Meeting was called to order by Joy Shong at 10:02 a.m.

- A. Romerike/Solørslag Proposal – Discussion of the Email notification sent out about the request from these two lags to join the Tre Lag Stevne. Chris mentioned these lags are small, with declining numbers of members and attendance, and that adding these two lags would be a way to expand (and defray costs). Discussion about how to proceed with this idea; NHOH has already begun a discussion at their last Board meeting. All three lags (including lag Presidents and their Boards; full lag membership voting not required) need to approve talks to move forward, and early on would require a review of our by-laws, as well as decisions deciding if/how to sync our various versions of Stevne activities (vendors, hospitality, auction, genealogy lab, etc.), as well as choosing future dates and locations (August? September? Advantages/disadvantages of each), and review of space needs.
 - a. First 5-lag Stevne would be in 2022. Might also consider including a sixth, Østfold, as they would otherwise be “orphaned” for southern Norwegian lag Stevne combinations.
 - b. Next step is for the 3 lag Boards to meet individually, discuss, and vote whether to move forward. The next Gudbrandsdalslag Board meeting is Nov. 15 via ZOOM, and the next Trønderlag Board meeting will be held via email sometime during November.
 - c. If approved, then there can be joint meetings for planning of sharing/managing space for various activities. Chris will make contact with contacts from those two lags: LeAnn Hookum and Kathy Johnson from Solør, and Norma Kjenstad Barnes from Romerike.
 - d. If approved, it was suggested a new Stevne name (& logo) will probably be necessary.
 - e. It was noted that we might have to revise our choice of host cities for 2022 and beyond.
 - f. Also noted as an aside that 7-Lag 2121 will be a “virtual” Stevne.
- B. Officers and Roles for 2021. All attendees agreed to remain in their current offices; no voting necessary. Moved/Seconded/Carried (Robert/Dixie)
- C. Minutes of March Meeting. Distributed by email in advance. Had been previously distributed 3/11/20; no changes requested.
- D. Treasurer’s Report – Ron reported only one update: We earned \$3.90 in interest since our last report, so the current balance in our checkbook is \$3,507.57 (to be split 3 ways, but Joy/Dixie also reminded us about the need to purchase a new projector, and those funds were earmarked for that eventual purchase).
- E. Review Stevne Plan and Updates Needed.
 - a. Dixie reminded us that our 2121 contract at the Marriott West in Middleton had been updated with new wording that protects us if we have to cancel due to CDC recommendations, but that it would be a good idea to contact them again to voice our concerns and confirm.
 - b. Dixie also reminded us that the grant check from local businesses we received for 2020 (and sent back when we cancelled) can be reapplied for in January for the 2021 Stevne.
 - c. Program Schedule
 - i. Topics and Speakers: Our current Stevne theme title is “Norwegians in Motion.” Joy will re-contact those previous confirmations for 2020 to confirm their availability for 2021. Many speakers are listed from the WI State Historical Society in Madison, so we should re-check availability. Speakers from their staff are no charge, but there’s a charge for others through them. The Badger Talks are no charge but limited to two speakers. We can also save money by having lag members be speakers, too. We should consider expanding speaker topics to at least one vaccinations/pandemic subject, such as the Black Plague or 1918 Flu. Perhaps a speaker about the

differences between the Norwegian and Swedish responses to the current pandemic? Perhaps that choice would influence a new chosen theme?

- We might also consider long-distance speakers via ZOOM? Badger Talks has been doing this. How about someone from Norway House presenting the facility and upcoming building plans? Or we could perhaps have a speaker from Norway giving their perspective? (11:00 a.m. our time would be 6:00 p.m. their time; John has a couple of ideas of who to contact.)
 - Other Approaches: 7-Lag will be holding several “mini-meetings” online, scattered over several months this year, each meeting for about 1.5 hours, rather than a traditional Stevne. It’s possible they will pick up attendees who never attend in person. This idea might expose more/new people to a Stevne. We can think about that for the future.
- ii. Tour: Our ideas were previously defined pretty well: Old School Museum in Cambridge, Livsreise in Stoughton, food at Mandt lodge. But we need to follow up for 2021, and we’ll need new quotes from the bus company.
 - iii. Banquet Entertainment – need ideas. Maybe Jan Hanson will be available in 2021? He doesn’t sing or entertain, but perhaps give a presentation? John Peterson will be looking at a list of contacts. The follow-up for this is after the first of the year.
- d. Meals: Update menu choices and prices from hotel. They will probably change. Joy will contact them again in the February-March timeframe.
- F. Other items. (Due to time available, many of these can be left to the next meeting.)
But remember to invite & include Jeri Johnson to our next meeting, so she can be involved in contacting vendors.
- a. Vendors
 - b. Publicity — we still don’t have anyone volunteering for this.
 - c. Hospitality Room
 - d. Genealogy Lab
 - e. Evaluations
 - f. Budget
- G. Site Selection Committee Report.
- a. Rochester, Willmar? *Noted that Willmar was a recent site for one of the Romerike and Solør lags.
 - b. We should look again at future sites. Is Rochester still a good option for 2022? Especially if we add 2-3 lags to our Stevne?
 - c. Bemidji was discussed. Sam discussed both Rutgers Birchmont Lodge and the Concordia Language Village. The biggest issue with Bemidji is that Tre Lag usually meets the first weekend in August, at the height of their summer resort season, so facilities are scarce and pricey. (Also noted was that access from lodging and event activities wouldn’t be in the same building and would require a 5-minute drive. Perhaps work something out with both Concordia and Rutgers?). We could change to September, but many of our attendees are tied into the school year and couldn’t attend. Dixie suggested each lag canvas our members for feedback about whether September in Bemidji would work for members? Note that the Romerike and Solør lags may prefer September.
 - d. There was consensus that we’d continue to look into Bemidji, but our focus would be on Rochester for 2022.
 - e. Barry reported that we were quoted a price of \$1500 for 4 days and that the Empire Event Center in Rochester is currently closed.
 - f. Rochester might be a problem if we choose the venue to be in downtown, as there are traffic problems in downtown Rochester.
 - g. Other ideas: Fargo? (or maybe Moorhead?) Maybe La Crosse again?
 - h. Reminder that Barry, Dick, Robert, and Dixie are on the Site Selection committee.
- H. Next Meeting. The next TLSSC meeting was set for Saturday, January 16, at 10:00 a.m., via ZOOM.—However, we also have a need for the “President’s Meeting” to further discuss the proposal of adding the two other lags (perhaps three including Østfold?) to our future stevner, and John will take the lead on getting that set up, using

his Zoom account, and he'll also involve Chris as the contact for them. That'll also involve making an agenda and looking closely at the by-laws.

I. Adjournment. Dixie moved to adjourn, John seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.