

Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee
(Gudbrandsdalslaget, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag,
Romerikslaget i Amerika, Solørlag of America, Trønderlag of America)
Online via Zoom; Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, 4:30 p.m. CST

Members Attending (Alpha order by Lag and then last name):, John Peterson (Gud), Nancy Pickering (Gud), Dixie Hansen (Hed), Joy Shong (Hed), Norma Kjenstad Barnes (Rom), Mary Baumgartner (Rom), Andy Berg (Solør), Rod Kurth (Solør), Sam Christenson (Tr), Gerry Frisbie (Tr) **Absent:** Dick Lundgren (Gud)
Courtesy Recipient: Robert Fossum (Tr)

Call to Order/Open Meeting

Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm. CST via Zoom.

Chairperson Norma Barnes sent ahead an Agenda; Secretary Nancy sent ahead minutes from our last meeting in October, Treasurer Joy sent ahead a draft Program Grid spreadsheet, and Mary sent ahead a tentative Speaker and Entertainment report.

Reports

1. **Secretary**, Nancy. Minutes of the Oct. 17, 2024 meeting were distributed; there were no suggested edits and they were declared accepted at 4:33 pm.
2. Until Joy arrived for the Treasurer's Report, we moved on to Unfinished Business, with Mary's discussion of **Speakers**. **Mary** presented a list tentative speakers. This year there will be only one (not two) speakers in any time slot. Room for 7-8 speakers. Room assignments/time slots not yet finalized.
 - a. Dr. Lawrence Moe is confirmed as our Keynote speaker; his presentation is titled "New Land, New Life: 1825-2025," which will also be our theme for 2025.
 - b. Glenn Borreson, "Coffin Ships" – any day is good – is also confirmed.
 - c. Heidi Eger – "Skinnfell" ("sheepskin") is confirmed, and she is also a vendor.
 - d. Leslee Hoyum – for "Church Ships" for Wednesday or Thursday. Tie-in to the model ship *Restauration* now hanging in Mindekirken.
 - e. For those listed as possibilities but not confirmed:
 - i. Dennis Haarsager (he attended last year's stevne and was recommended), "How Customs and Practices in the Rural Norwegian Parishes Impacted Marriages and Out-of-Wedlock Births in the 1800s" – from Maine - no honorarium.
 - ii. same for Sandra Bestland and Candace Simar who each had multiple seminar topic ideas.
 - f. Rod suggested a speaker: Laila Christiansen, a genealogist from Norway and a member of Romerikslaget. It was mentioned that she is the genealogist for a Norwegian TV show.
3. **Treasurer**, Joy. Confirmed \$242.69 currently in the checking account after hotel reservation downpayment of \$1606.99. Will owe \$1849.68, which is more than we currently have to cover the balance due in July, but by then we will have some reservations sent in.
 - a. The Annual Audit Report is on hold due to Joy's out-of-town schedule, but she'll be back home in 6 weeks, so March is the probable time to do the audit. This will also involve the Treasurers of Solørlag (Doug Johnson) and Gudbrandsdalslaget (Martha Balfanz).

A. Unfinished Business:

Confirming the theme of the 2025 Stevne: “*New Land, New Life 1825-2025*”, Tuesday, August 5 Friday a.m. – August 8, at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, Onalaska/ La Crosse, Wisconsin; Room rate: \$120 per night.

Norma announced that we have received permission through Jean Knaak to borrow and display 12 pull-up standing banners owned by the Sons of Norway lodge in St. Paul. They illustrate our stevne theme of “New Land, New Life 1825-2025” telling the story of Norwegian immigration to America. Chuck and Linda McKeen of Romerikslaget have agreed to pick them up and bring to stevne. It was suggested to set them up in the registration area.

1. **Tour:** Bus to Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center, Coon Valley, WI, on Wednesday, August 6. We leave our hotel at 3:00, arrive about 35 minutes later at Norskedalen. This is an afternoon & evening activity, rather than a morning/afternoon tour. The tour is first, followed by a light meal at 4:30, served by Borgen’s Café from Westby, and then we attend a music festival there called “Music in the Valley” from 5:30-7:30. Return to the hotel around 8:15.
2. **Vendors:** Jeri Johnson will again chair this subcommittee. Norma reported that Jeri is recruiting vendors from our previous stevner, as well as those from other lag stevner. She will also contact the La Crosse Sons of Norway for information on potential vendors. Karen Mullen (Loppemarked Butikk) and Lois & Ron Mueller (Nordic Designs) will be there, and Dregne’s Scandinavian Gifts from Westby, WI is also interested.

Discussion of two possible issues:

- a. The location of vendors; the floor plan layout shows the Timberlands Room for vendors is on the second floor rather than the ground floor; they and the Silent Auction in the Pines Room are the only two rooms we’ll use on the second floor. It will be important to have good signage.
 - b. Our Tour schedule this year is Wednesday not Friday, so if vendors come to set up on Tuesday as has been done previously, all day Wednesday will have fewer customers, and folks may or may not shop in the evening when they return from the tour and music concert.
 - c. **Additional Floor Plan Information:** Registration will be in front of the two restrooms on the first floor, near the “Reception Area”, buffet meals will be at “Lumberjacks Saloon” on the lower level, breakfast is in “The Galley,” hotel guest rooms are at the “left” looking at the map of the main floor. The elevators are centrally located.
3. **Banquet & Other Meals:** Entertainment suggestions: Rachel Storlie, and Norwegian Dancers (“Wergeland Dancers” of SON of La Crosse, wearing bunads, with live accordion accompaniment, explanation for each dance; teach others to dance; no honorarium) were both suggested. After a discussion of stage layout and sightlines for the dancers, the consensus was to authorize Mary to contact the Wergeland Dancers as our banquet entertainment. Meals to be discussed. Will Sid Stivland be Master of Ceremonies again?
Other meals during stevne to be researched & discussed at our next planning meeting.
 4. **Silent Auction:** Headed by Joy Shong and Kathy Johnson. Joy says they will have the same approach as last year with colored slips of paper to indicate lag; will want to adjust closing time to give more lead time for lag photos, so will close at 3:00. **Photographer:** Doug Johnson again?
 5. **Publicity:** Jean Berg agreed to chair this year, assisted by Norma. She will be reaching out to Solørlag members from southwest Wisconsin for contacts with Sons of Norway and other organizations.
 6. **Registration:** Dixie will again lead this, but she has announced this will be her last year doing so during the summer, although she can still sit at the Registration table at Stevne.
 7. **Genealogy:** Will discuss at next meeting. The space set aside will be Salons A & B. Joy will contact lag genealogists. Room layout to be determined.
 8. **Hospitality:** Diane Clouch and Mary Martin will lead as in previous years; same assistants?

9. (added) **Program Booklet Cover Design:** Nancy mentioned her progress in coming up with artwork to use for the program cover and logo. She has collected several art ideas but many are copies of the logos for the *Restauration* already in use (and perhaps copyrighted) by others. She welcomes suggestions. She also forwarded a more detailed hotel floor plan to others before the meeting ended.

B. New Business:

2026 Stevne (September 15-18) Site Selection Committee: Sam Christenson & Gerry Frisbee.

Ideas included

1. Central Iowa/Storey County (close to Des Moines by 30 min.), Ames area;
2. Ankeny (a man wrote 3 books on immigration to that area around 1855);
3. The Fox Valley Settlement of Cleng Peerson and the Sloopers is in Norway, Illinois. The Norsk Museum in nearby Sheridan is all about the history of that settlement. Rod Kurth said hotels in the southwest Chicago suburbs are about 30 minutes away. He lives in the region and volunteered to check into it. (See NorskMuseum.org). Much depends on whether the location is near a hotel and transportation hubs.
4. Norma suggested Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as a possible site for 2026 or 2027. She and Gerry both live there and will do some research.

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 4:30 pm CST.

Adjournment

Adjournment at 5:58 pm CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pickering, Secretary