

Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee
(Gudbrandsdalslaget, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag,
Romerikslaget i Amerika, Solørlag of America, Trønderlag of America)
Online via Zoom; Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, 4:30 p.m.

Members Attending (Alpha order by Lag and then last name):, Dick Lundgren (Gud), 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: none

Courtesy Recipient: Robert Fossum (Tr)

Call to Order/Open Meeting

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm. CDT via Zoom.

Chairperson Norma Barnes sent ahead an Agenda; Secretary Nancy sent ahead minutes from our last meeting in May, Treasurer Joy sent ahead a committee membership list, as well as 2024 Stevne and Treasurer Reports, and Sam sent ahead a file with 2024 Stevne Evaluation Results. Additionally, Norma sent ahead a document with a 2025 theme and speaker suggestion.

Reports

1. **Secretary**, Nancy. Minutes of the May 16, 2024 Meeting were distributed; there were no suggested edits and Norma declared them accepted at 4:36 pm.
2. **Treasurer**, Joy. Review of 2024 Stevne income & expenses, including our current bank balance, in the categories of Program, Banquet, and the Tour&Meal. Statistics mentioned:
 - a. 49 people on the tour; we came out \$320 ahead on the tour cost.
 - b. Coffee use and costs were calculated; in future we'll budget for 10 gallons.
 - c. We made money overall; \$2,400. There are still some uncashed checks. The Silent auction brought in \$1,302, and there was a \$1,602 balance in savings. However, since then we've paid the deposit for the 2026 venue at Stoney Creek, leaving a balance of \$320.
 - d. Annual Audit: Joy will contact the Treasurers of Solørlag and Gudbrandsdalslaget to perform the audit in January as they did for 2023.
3. Reports of 2024 stevne presented
 - a. Dixie sent ahead her Registration Summary; total of 140 participants, but not all registered for all activities. Total meals was 112, and gross receipts including registrations, meals, and tours came to \$11,604 after reconciliations.
 - b. Sam presented his report on the 2024 stevne evaluations. Much positive feedback. Some oft-repeated comments: many don't like having to choose between two speakers in the same slot when they'd rather hear both; lag photos got ahead of schedule and some missed being in their photos. Much discussion pro and con about the stevne being in early August and whether we should consider September dates. Several were open to September but the earliest would be 2026. Decision may depend on site selection. Also discussed Tues–Fri. schedule vs. Wed–Sat. Moved by Dixie to honor set dates for 2025 but to plan September dates for 2026. Motion carried. Later discussed again under New Business.

A. Unfinished Business: 2025 Stevne Planning: Tuesday, August 5–Friday, August 8, 2025, Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center. La Crosse, Wisconsin; Room rate: \$120 per night.

(comment from Nancy; The May 16 Minutes reflected a guest room price of \$95-\$96 per night. What changed?)

1. **Theme:** Norma had sent ahead news that she had received a note from one of our favorite speakers, Dr. Lawrence Moe, approaching us about giving a presentation titled “New Land, New Life: 1825-2025” which ties in to the Bicentennial of organized immigration from Norway to America, and she proposed he be our Keynote Speaker. Discussion was positive. A formal vote was taken. Andy Berg moved to

adopt "New Land, New Life 1825-2025" as the 2025 stevne theme contingent upon Dr. Moe permitting us to use it. Motion passed.

2. **Volunteers to chair subcommittees:** Discussion about committees for organizing Speakers, Vendors, Tour, Publicity, Genealogy, etc. Those who headed those committees previously appear to be willing to do so again for 2025, with the exception that Norma declined to chair the Vendor and Publicity subcommittees for 2025. She will check with Jeri Jonson and Jean Berg about continuing with those and asked lag representatives to contact members in the La Crosse area to help. Some specific feedback regarding those categories:
 - a. Speakers. Mary Baumgartner will take the lead on this again and is already in communication with several potential speakers. We learned Rev. Glenn Borreson would be interested in speaking; he has presented at Tre Lag several times in the past and was well liked.
 - b. Tour: There was initial consensus that the tour should be at the end of stevne on Friday. The American Queen paddlewheeler was suggested for the tour but Norma said they've gone out of business. Norskedalen in Coon Valley was suggested, perhaps with the involvement of Blaine Hedberg, who does genealogical client research and volunteers at the Westby Area Historical Society Museum and Archives. If Norskedalen is chosen, we might want to have the tour instead on Wednesday, August 6, to take advantage of their late afternoon/early evening music concert. The consensus was we will consider having the tour on Wednesday to include that, instead of Friday morning, pending further information. Bus (coach) cost could be an estimated \$715.
 - c. Genealogy Lab: Needs a coordinator and Joy will contact the current lag genealogists to see if the same persons are available and how they would organize/participate this year. Romerike noted they have "co-genealogists." Note: Marilyn Sorensen has retired as head genealogist for Gudbrandsdalslaget and this will now be handled by committee within that lag.
 - d. Publicity, Vendors: still open for volunteers to head these subcommittees.

B. New Business:

1. Election of Officers for 2025. After soliciting willingness of current officers to serve again, and either securing positive responses and/or nomination, votes were taken and the following will be our 2025 officers:
 - a. Chair–Norma Kjenstad Barnes
 - b. Vice Chair–Rod Kurth
 - c. Secretary–Nancy Pickering
 - d. Treasurer–Joy Shong
2. Site selection committee for 2026 Stevne: Sam Christenson and Gerry Frisbie have volunteered to serve on this committee.
3. Stevne dates for 2026 were approved to shift from August to September. The first full week of September would be September 8-11; but it comes right after Labor Day on the 7th. To avoid holiday overlap, and to repeat our preference for Tuesday through Friday, Stevne 2026 will be held September 15–18, 2026.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 4:30 pm CDT.

Adjournment

Adjournment at 5:45 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Pickering, Secretary