

Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee
(Gudbrandsdalslaget, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag,
Romerikslaget i Amerika, Solørlag of America, Trønderlag of America)
Online via Zoom; Thursday, June 19, 2025, 4:30 p.m. CDT

Members Attending (Alpha order by Lag and then last name): Nancy Pickering (Gud), Joy Shong (Hed), Norma Kjenstad Barnes (Rom), Mary Baumgartner (Rom), Andy Berg (Solør), Gerry Frisbie (Tr)

Absent: Dick Lundgren (Gud), John Peterson (Gud), Dixie Hansen (Hed), Rod Kurth (Solør), Sam Christenson (Tr)

Courtesy Recipient: Robert Fossum (Tr)

Call to Order/Open Meeting

On May 29, Secretary Nancy sent ahead the revised Minutes from the May 22 meeting.

On June 16, Secretary Nancy sent ahead a written progress report; Dixie Hansen sent ahead a Registration Summary, and Joy Shong and Nancy Pickering sent ahead diagrams of the Genealogy Lab.

President Norma Barnes called the meeting to order on June 19 at 4:30 pm. CDT via Zoom.

Reports

1. **Secretary**, Nancy. Minutes of our May 22 meeting were accepted as written in “Revision 1.”
2. **Treasurer**, Joy reported we have a Savings Acct Balance of \$1108.55. The Checking Acct balance of \$3044.69 is now at \$4,152.24; the next deposit is “in transit.” She reminded us that in July we’ll have to pay the balance of the rental fees at the hotel, and could get a discount if enough meal money comes in.

A. Unfinished Business:

2025 Stevne “New Land, New Life 1825-2025” Tues., Aug. 5Fri. am, Aug. 8, at the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center. La Crosse, Wisconsin; Room rate: \$120 per night.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. Registration: Dixie had sent a request for lag membership lists for making her stevne registration lists, and she sent out her June 16 Registration Summary Report file; total registration as of that date is 36.
2. Stevne Program Booklet: Nancy gave a report on the progress of this, which is ahead of schedule, and needs only a few more details from vendors and for the schedule grid as well as identifying a few folks in casual shots; it’s about 90% done.
3. Tour: Mary gave an update on the Tour arrangements; total signups so far are higher this early, and Mary/Joy were thanked for being alert about the need for seat cushion or chairs at the concert, suggesting we should send reminders to our own lags. To do so, they need an email list of registered tour attendees from Dixie; Joy will ask Dixie, who could not attend.

Another related topic: if **more than** 52 people sign up for taking the tour and want to ride the bus, which is too many, what then? Can some drive themselves? Gerry suggested asking for volunteers to drive.

4. Facilities Update: Primarily a discussion of the arrangement of the Northwoods Conference Center spaces A, B, and C for both the Genealogy Lab & Speakers rooms, and then the configuration for the Banquet.

The measurements of the three spaces are not consistent, and we’re not sure where the electrical outlets are (G’Lag & Trønder areas for the lab?), and some tables may be narrower than the ones earlier mentioned, or may have to be rearranged. The stage end of A is the best place for lag group photos just before the banquet, and the dance floor there is also good for the dancers who will entertain, so we can’t put banquet tables on the dance floor. For the banners, Joy had suggested placing them on the stage, but Norma said there were too many for that location and she prefers they be placed around the perimeter of the Registration area. We will wait and determine where they will fit after we arrive. Joy has also requested sign stands to direct people to the rooms where the Nordic Vendor Fair and Silent Auction will be held.

We’ll need a podium and American flag, plus a lavalier microphone.

Food: Banquet beverages are not yet ordered, clarity is needed for what is included regarding water and coffee; we agreed we should not choose to go without either. The consensus was we must have coffee available, preferably in carafes at each table. Joy will find out what the pricing is for carafes vs. urns. She’ll

also check about whether the brownies for dessert will be on the buffet or on the dining tables. (We also noted the Hearth Room/Hospitality Room may have a large coffee urn at \$50).

Also other spaces discussed: For the box lunch on Wednesday, where should seating be? There may be additional choices and/or rooms for seating.

Norma asked about the layout of tables in the Vendor Room, the tables are 6 ft. long x either 18 inches or 36 inches wide, to be arranged as 2 tables per vendor arranged in L shapes.

And even though the **Livsreise** Norwegian Heritage Center of Stoughton, WI (history museum), will not be vendors/selling, or bringing their well-known dancers to our stevne this year, they would like to have a display table in the pre-function area. (See www.livsreise.org/)

5. Other Updates:

- a. **Publicity:** Norma has contacted the La Crosse Tribune (daily newspaper) to request our stevne be added to their online events calendar. That calendar represents 40 regional event calendars.
- b. The manager of Livreise Norwegian Heritage Center in Stoughton, Wisconsin, saw our stevne posted online and contacted Norma about having an information table. Norma suggested that a table in the registration area would be the best location.
- c. Norma mentioned being contacted by a lady who plays the Hardanger fiddle in this area of Wisconsin. The woman had seen our stevne posted online and sent information about her availability to perform for us at a cost of \$350 plus mileage. Norma responded that we had already booked our entertainment for this year's stevne, but may consider her for the future.
- d. Mary has been in contact with ***Dregne's Scandinavian Gifts*** in Westby. Although they won't be a vendor at stevne, (they are currently having a "Retirement Sale" and closing after 50 years), they would like to have us display their brochure and business cards at stevne; maybe in Dixie's registration area or in the back of the speaker room? Nancy will also include an ad for them in the vendor section of our Program Book; Mary sent several logos/business cards from them we could use for an ad; Nancy found a larger logo version through TripAdvisor.

B. New Business:

1. 2026 Stevne (September 1518) Site Option presentations
 - a. Gerry Frisbee reported he tried further contact/follow-up regarding the idea of holding next year's stevne at Fox River Valley, Illinois Montcler Hotel (Sandwich, IL), with a tour at the Sloop Museum & Cleng Peerson farm. But he hadn't heard any new information and they didn't respond well to his queries; he said this idea doesn't look promising after all. So the group agreed to drop this option for 2026.
 - b. That moves us to "Plan B", which is the Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls, SD. Norma sent a conference proposal in advance of the meeting. After much discussion, Norma felt there was a consensus that the Audio/Visual costs would need to be negotiated to accommodate our budget in order to consider this site.
 - c. Alternate suggestions should be entertained, especially since our dates for 2026 will now be in September and may be less expensive after the summer high season. Austin and Mankato and Bemidji should all get a second look in light of our new dates. Cities in Iowa (such as Ames) could also be considered.
 - d. Since we don't have a location for 2026 firmed up yet, our literature and stevne announcements should announce dates only, since a venue is not decided.

Next Meeting

We decided there was no need for another formal meeting. We're close to having arrangements finalized and so any further last-minute questions up to the actual stevne dates may be answered via group emails.

Adjournment

Adjournment at 5:26 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pickering, Secretary