

EVALUATION TABULATION

'TELLING OUR STORY'

TRE LAG STEVNE - AUGUST 3-6, 2011 – SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

98 Evaluations / 164 Registrants = 59.8 % return of evaluations.

Genealogy Lab: 64 Evaluators [65.3%] used the lab.

1. When was lab used..

When	Participants	%	When	Participants	%
Thurs AM	18	28	Fri Am	27	42
Thurs PM	40	63	Fri PM	32	50
Thurs Eve	24	38	Sat AM	16	25

How often did they visit?.

1 time	2 times	3 times	4 times	5 times	6 times
18 = 28%	19 = 30%	10 = 16%	7 = 11%	5 = 8%	3 = 5%

2. How helpful were volunteers in genlab in assisting you?

E = 53 A = 4.28 R = 2-5

"Pretty much occupied with others."

"I was a volunteer so didn't ask for any help. But all volunteers and genealogists were very helpful."

"Many not even present Friday morning."

"None available."

3. How sufficient were the materials in the genlab in meeting your needs?

E = 57 A = 4.16 R = 2-5

"Limited books"

"Hard to locate information."

"Could not find what I needed."

"Need more Hedmark resources."

4. What did you find most helpful or least helpful in the genealogy lab?

PROS:

12 = *Appreciate access to materials and bygdeboks.*

3 = *"Computer research/ internet access" "Well organized – plenty of space." "Books Jim had"*

2 = *"Marilyn was unbelievable. Jim was very helpful." "Barry!" "Genealogists" "Copy machine"*

"Most in-depth research materials."

"Ringabu ministerial books." [PRO? or CON?]

"Opportunity to ask questions / get help in using materials."

"One on one assistance & persistence."

"Like the idea of a bibliography so we know what materials are available ahead of time."

CONS:

"Broken printer"

"Could have used more. Lack of enough genealogy experts."

"More available Norwegian/English dictionaries would be helpful"

"More detailed Norwegian maps."

"Lighting is poor - Task lighting is needed."

"Hotel setting not conducive to genealogy work – smaller room, separation of lag material & helpers might help.

One lag per room."

"Research materials – but wish there were more, like last year – but I understand hauling issues."

"No Tronder ship / passenger records."

5. How helpful were the extended hours on Saturday in helping you balance your time in the lab with competing seminars and other activities?

E = 34 A = 3.91 R = 1-5

Comments:

4 = *"Very good idea to run the lab the way we did it this year."*

"I would have gone on tour regardless but Saturday hours were nice."

"This would be a draw for working people so they can use the gen lab too."

"Long Sat. hours were not well attended and made it hard to pack up all the materials."

Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speaker, Seminars, Craft Displays and Movies.

Opening Ceremony: Attended = 84 [85.7% of returned evaluations]

6. The opening ceremony is designed to welcome lag members and guests in a dignified, Norwegian- American manner. How successful was it in maintaining this goal? E = 77 A = 4.52 R = 3-5

Comments:

- 3 = *"Did not appreciate the Pledge of Allegiance, the Stevne is not about patriotism."*
- "Boring"*
- "Few enough to have them give their names and area & main genealogy names they seek."*
- "Miss official welcome by Mayor."*
- "Needs more up-beat info."*

Keynote Speaker: Attended = 62 [63.3% of returned evaluations]

7. How successful was Dag Rossman's keynote, "Learning from our Past: Insights from Norse Myths & Legends" in gaining insight and understanding the values of our Viking-Age ancestors? E = 58 A = 3.67 R = 1-5

Comments: [I moved all keynote speaker comments here]

- "Not interested in trolls, myths."*
- 2 = *"Good speaker, voice, we enjoyed the topic."*
- "Poor"*
- "Excellent"*
- "Did not interest me at all."*
- "Keynote after lunch is difficult – need 'spark' to hold interest."*
- "Didn't enjoy"*
- "Would be helpful to have variety of media, as in Charles Berdahl – video, music etc. to keep interest."*
- "Almost walked out on keynote. Wish I hadn't attended."*
- "Very interesting"*
- "Spent so long telling one long myth, he fell a little short of his goal."*
- "Topic for keynote speaker wasn't well liked."*

Seminars:

8. Please check the seminar(s) you attended and rank how helpful they were.

WEDNESDAY		# Eval	Avg	Range
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Barry Dahl "Beginning Genealogy" <i>"Handouts before you talk would be helpful. Great content – but look at your audience."</i> <i>"He is great – a wealth of information."</i>	32	4.28	2-5
	Jon Satrum " 1881 Norwegians in Hawaii" <i>"Very interesting" "Could not hear."</i>	20	4.35	3-5
THURSDAY				
9:00 AM	Virginia Nelson & Hardangersom Klubb <i>"Excellent" "Hope she continues to do it."</i> 2 = <i>"Too large a group of 2 levels. Break this down."</i>	11	4.09	1-5
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Dan Brosz "Scandinavian Artifacts in SD State HS Collection" <i>"Nicely done. Many new insights about museums and curation. This is a good type of session to continue."</i> <i>"Had little actual Norwegian artifacts in collection. He did a good job of telling stories about the objects and how they were selected and preserved."</i>	13	3.38	2-5
	Marv Lang "Norwegians in Science"	17	4.47	1-5
	Ken Domier "No 'telling' What you will find in Statsarkivet & 1910" <i>"Tremendous – I learned a lot."</i>	32	4.69	3-5
10:45-11:45 AM	Marilyn Sorenson "Emigration & Immigration Records"	32	4.44	3-5
	Curtis Dahlin "How to make Lefse" 2 = <i>"Heating element problem." "Poor recipe."</i>	19	3.84	1-5
	Pam VanZee "Eros – Who we are"	15	4.40	3-5

	Deb Nelson Gourley “..Ulvestad, How & Why..” “Very knowledgeable presenter. Should have been an hour – had genealogy resources not available elsewhere. Have next year.” “Excellent explanation of M.U. work, life and passion to write.”	9	4.55	4-5
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Rick Meyer “FamilySearch.org” 2 -“The first 30 minutes was devoted to background. I’m interested in learning how better to use the site. Overall image I received was that the ‘New Family Search’ can’t be accessed unless you are Mormon with no time frame for non Mormon access. Presentation did not meet my expectations.” “Needed Internet access.”	33	3.61	1-5
	Curtis Dahlen “Dakota Uprising”	19	4.21	3-5
	Lois Mueller - Rosemaling demonstration	9	4.56	3-5
2:45 - 3:45 PM	Ken Domier “No ‘telling’ What you will find in Statsarkivet & 1910” “Very good handouts.”	14	4.79	4-5
	Gary Romsaas “CIA & DDS Technology for Genealogy” “Have him again.”	26	4.85	4-5
	Dag Rossman “Voices from Viking Age: Tales of Thor”	9	4.67	4-5
7:00 - 8:00 PM	Polly Johnson – Norwegian Dancing	4	4.00	3-5
7:00 – 8:30 PM	Movie: The Real Dirt on Farmer John “Excellent” “Show movies twice.”	30	4.30	1-5
FRIDAY				
9:00 AM	Virginia Nelson & Hardangersom Klubb “Ran out of beginner kits but still gave me something to work on.”	11	4.64	3-5
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Gary Olson “Migration Patterns of Norwegians in US . . .” “Good information” 2 - “Good information but hard to hear/too quiet.”	33	4.39	3-5
	Gary Romsaas “CIA & DDS Technology for Genealogy”	17	4.94	4-5
	Marv Lang “Norwegians in Science”	11	4.91	4-5
10:45-11:45 AM	Gary Olson “Per Hanse on Phillips Avenue” “Boring delivery of interesting information.” “Gary needs to emote. Good info but takes energy to listen.” “Dry – too many statistics, not enough about people.” “Mike problem?”	16	3.50	1-5
	Charles Berdahl “Letters From America” & “The Rest of the Story” “A misnomer presentation for then I expected samples of letters.” “Excellent.” “Very relevant to this area. Well done.” “Excellent! Good keynote speaker??”	33	4.70	3-5
	Jon Satrum “ 1881 Norwegians in Hawaii”	3	4.67	4-5
1:15 – 2:15 PM	KEYNOTE Dag Rossman :”Learning from our Past.....”	52	3.65	1-5
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Robin Fossum “Hardingfele/Hardanger Violin – History & music...”	12	4.83	4-5
	Dixie Hansen “A Story Well Told: The Berdahl Brothers Chr....” “Very good” “Topic relevant for our need to write our stories.” “Dixie does a very thorough job always.”	36	4.61	1-5
SATURDAY				
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Jim Olson “Norwegians in South Dakota” “Great”	25	4.68	4-5
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Robin Fossum “Hardingfele/Hardanger Violin – History & music...”	18	4.72	3-5

9. How sufficient was this year's craft offering, Hardanger Embroidery and Rosemaling, in meeting your need to learn more about craft or folk art?

E = 32 A = 4.28 R = 1-5

Comments or craft demonstrations you would like to see in the future:

4 = "More Hardanger Klubb"

3 = "Hope both will be offered next year." "Woodcarving" "Maybe the vendor who was carving"

"Violet – the calendar vendor. How they make calendars and show scenes of Norway."

"Quilts?" "Straw Art" "Lois Mueller seminar"

"A few more craft offerings might have provided something I could have bought for my wife."

"Appreciate having it offered but didn't attend."

"Interested more in craft history, design, etc."

"Horrible scheduling, during 11 programs. Other times fewer programs and could have been at that time."

"Nelson on Hardanger – well done and complete packets, patient instruction."

Overall Stevne Program:

10. The seminars, craft demonstrations and displays were designed to expand our knowledge of Norway and Norwegians in North America. How successful was the program in achieving these goals? E = 91 A = 4.42 R = 2-5

Comments:

3 = "Thanks for repeating sessions." "Great Stevne!" "Great - All except keynote"

"Does this include Canadians? We are North Americans not Americans." [Evaluation changed for next year!]

"Need sessions that cover a larger area – not just MN, ND, SD."

"Could have more genealogy slant probably."

"I was a newbie and was very impressed with how well organized and well done the Stevne was. Everyone

I met was friendly and helpful. Thank you all for these enjoyable days and all that I learned. Judy Mathison."

"This was one of the best conferences that I've attended! Keep up the good work!"

11. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the program?

E = 83 A = 4.52 R = 3-5

Comments on Opening ceremony, keynote speaker, seminars, or craft displays:

4 - "Excellent assortment of seminars available."

"I had a great time and will try to attend next year."

"Enjoyed all of it

"Nothing on Norwegians in Wisconsin."

"MC not very dignifying – forgot and seemingly not knowing what to do."

"Opening ceremony needs pizzazz – music is best part. Disappointed in music/singing for rest of Stevne."

"I enjoyed everything I attended. I did not attend the keynote speech."

"Overall very good – I would have liked to have attended more seminars, but was volunteering in Gen lab."

"Although there were some excellent presentations, the overall quality was lower than prior years."

"First year attendee and I found everything & everyone very helpful and friendly."

"I appreciate the handouts at seminars since arthritis in my hands makes taking notes difficult."

"Can we offer everyone the option to receive a handout from each presentation? These could be [1] bound and available for pre-order for a fee, or [2] available on the NHOH web site after the Stevne. I hated to miss workshops due to a time conflict. Sometimes I couldn't write down all the good info that I wanted to."

Hospitality Room: Attended = 85 [86.7% of returned evaluations]

12. How successful is the Stevne Hospitality Room in meeting your need for a break from activities to enjoy a cup of coffee, maybe a snack and/or visit with fellow members? E = 81 A = 4.52 R = 1-5

Comments on Hospitality Room

11 = "Great treats, variety, well staffed, great waffle treats, the best ever."

2 = "A bit out of the way – maybe needed more announcements about it." "Kept up nice – well planned."

2 = "Wish there was a better area to sit & visit." "Needed more chairs"

"Sorry to hear local SON wouldn't help out. We [volunteers] wanted to attend more sessions. Hope problem is resolved in future Stevne" "Volunteers from outside group since us members want to see seminars."

"Give lead person more instructions as what to expect and times when hotel will/will not be providing things."

"Volunteers should be scheduled before the Stevne. Pass info on to next Stevne."

"Not much for a celiac problem person." "Too many sweets. Would prefer breakfast room to hospitality room."

"Crowded" "Went back later and not open."

"I brought something to share and they were appreciated – and I got my own container back with no mix-up."

"Very important – my wife helped twice." "Very convenient location."

"Rather than asking for more volunteers, reduce the hours. Most attendees didn't seem to need more food."

"Mediocre Thursday offerings, outstanding Norwegian baked goods on Friday."

Friday Evening Hospitality Hour, Banquet and Program: Attended = 85 [86.7% of returned evaluations]

13. The hospitality hour was intended to provide time for lag members and guests to interact with one another.

How successful was it in achieving this goal?

E = 83 A = 4.54 R = 1-5

Comments:

2 = *"Nice to have music during this time."* 2 = *"No pop or even water for those not going to the bar."*

"Hospitality = Nice chance to socialize." "Nice venue for mixing/meeting new & old friends."

"More seating – older people can't stand that long."

14. How successful was the banquet in meeting your culinary needs?

E = 82 A = 4.43 R = 1-5

Comments:

3 = *"No lefse at our table."* 2 = *"Garlic mashed potatoes, uffda."*

"Not very traditional Norsk menu." "Nearly uncooked veggie." "Potatoes too salty."

"Hotel breakfast was excellent, Lunch buffet as tops, Banquet was excellent." "Food could have been warmer."

15. How successful was "The Sweet Adelines" in meeting your entertainment needs?

E = 79 A = 4.19 R = 1-5

Comments:

"Why from Bismark, so far away, why not the Norwegian Men's Chorus?" "Wonderful" "Too long"

"Not enough Norwegian songs."

16. Did you find the preview of the 2012 Stevne in Fargo ND useful? **Yes = 34, No = 9, No Opinion = 26**

Comments:

2 = *"There was none."* 2 = *"A Fargo tourism DVD presentation would have helped more."*

2 = *"John was not prepared – he could have made the introduction to Fargo more appealing and Interesting."*

"I expected that 2012 would have been marketed much better than it was."

"Will not attend Fargo – was just there with 7 Lag. Great Western Hotel was poor on A/C all days, rooms crowded for sessions. I do not recommend it."

Comments: Hospitality hour, banquet and program.

3 = *"It would be great if the words to the songs, even just a couple sheets per table, would have been nice."*

3 = *"Eliminate pre dinner singer, pre dinner prayer too long, everyone was hungry."*

3 = *"NO J. SHAGER SONGS!!"*

3 = *MC Marv Lang is a great & keeps things moving. Ask him again."*

2 = *Waiter spilled coffee on guest and didn't bring towels to clean up. Dessert was bland."*

2 = *MC – don't say we're going to end at 9 and then extend it – or let those leave who want to, gracefully."*

2 = *"Loud music detracted from bunad parade."*

2 = *"Tre Lag musicians really added to the banquet."*

"I enjoyed it, husband didn't. I especially liked the opening singer – she was excellent."

"Need Norwegian entertainment."

"I don't drink so bar was not necessary. Chicken dry, coffee not refilled"

"Slow meal service – many were done while others were still waiting." "Fun"

USGS EROS & East Nidaros/ West Nidaros Church tour: Attended = 52 [53% of returned evaluations]

17. The tour of EROS [Earth Resources Observation and Science Center] was to provide insight into the gathering and use of information provided by Landsat Satellites. If you have used GoogleEarth, you have used EROS. How successful was the tour in achieving this goal?

E = 51 A = 4.69 R = 3-5

Comments:

2 = *"Loved this tour, Thanks"*

18. The tour of the Nidaros Churches was to highlight the importance of the church to early Norwegian settlers in Minnehaha County. How successful was the tour in achieving this goal?

E = 48 A = 4.56 R = 3-5

Comments:

"Wanted more time to tour E. Nidaros Cemetery."

"Visiting a cemetery is not necessary as part of a tour or at any other time during Stevne."

"Excellent – Beautiful churches."

19. How was the dinner provided at East Nidaros?

E = 49 A = 4.39 R = 1-5

Comments:

3 = *"Nice effort by the church women. Jello was expected! Kudos"*

"Poor"

"Should have served something hot – poor menu."

20. The Tre Lag Stevne tour has usually been held on Wednesday afternoon. Do you have a preference as to the day the tour is scheduled? Check the answer that best fits your needs.

Wednesday PM	Saturday AM	Doesn't Matter	Other: Thur AM = 4	Friday AM = 1
24	3	40	Thurs PM = 3	Sat Am = 1

Comments:

2 = *"It seemed a big draw early in the Stevne and nearly filled two buses. I would keep it on Wed. if possible."*

2 = *"Depends on driving distance whether we attend tour."*

2 = *"Would have preferred on Thursday or Friday afternoon."*

"Some attendees came towards the end of the week – maybe a Saturday tour could have included them."

"Hard to get there in time by Wed 1 pm."

Vendors:

21. How well did the mix of vendors meet your expectations?

E = 94 A = 3.64 R = 1-5

"Much was 'stuff'."

22. Did you purchase anything? YES = 58 NO = 37

3 = *"Too much"*

"Hardanger booth was great. Her work was so nice."

Comments:

3 = *"Good variety of vendors at the Stevne."*

"Very nice group."

"Sheryl does a thorough and thoughtful job of planning!"

"It's OK to have used items and store close-outs, but I missed up-to-date NEW items. Maybe next year?"

"Vendor area did not seem well attended. Do we need different vendors from year to year?"

"How do other vendors feel about having the Luppen??? [flea market] in vendor room???"

"Tre Lag has a black eye for the way Deb was treated. Why is one book vendor in genealogy and Deb in the vendor area. Deb has valuable genealogy information. There were time slots available that she could have been given an hour. Either she should have been in the genealogy lab or both in the vendor area. Why is she discriminated against?"

Future Vendor Ideas:

2 = *"Need more books on Norway, all parts."*

"Archival safe products."

"Maybe try vendor – 'Fun stuff for Genealogists'."

"Windsocks, Decorative flags, Norwegian Music tapes."

"More craft vendors."

"Vendors of genealogic helps [books, maps, aids etc.] should be located in Genealogy Lab."

"I was disappointed the Norwex vendor didn't show."

"Perhaps a genealogical books vendor."

"Books for sale on various states."

23. The Stevne publicity committee attempted to reach as many people as possible. (Circle all that apply)

Lag Newsletter = 76 [81%]

Lag Website = 35 [36%]

Other: Friend / Relative / word of mouth = 12 [12%]

Genealogical Societies = [1] Ottertail MN, [1] Sioux Valley, [1] unnamed. Norskedalen Bulletin Board = 1

LDS Family History Center = [1] Billings Montana History Center SON = 1 @ Edmonton, La Crosse, 3 unnamed.

Newspaper = [1] Fergus Falls Journal Historical Society = [1] Ottertail History Museum

Mail List or Message Board = 0 Library = 0 Local Church = 0

Help us improve the Stevne experience - share your ideas:

[I tried to group into broad categories]

Reaction to 2011:

3 - *"Great job overall"*

2 - *"As a first timer, I have no idea how it can be improved. Looking forward to next year in Fargo!"*

"All three lags have different cousin-finding approaches but all 3 work well, a real benefit for lag membership."

"Stevne committee did a super job." "Always enjoy Tre Lag, everyone is friendly! Keep it up, it is a big plus."

“Compared to the many conferences I have attended, this rated among the best.”

“Possibly more advertising: Norwegian American Newsletter & SON newsletter.”

“Trying to talk to Joy is impossible.”

“Visiting a cemetery is not necessary as part of a tour or at any other time during stevne.”

“I came to learn more about my Norwegian roots, not to hear about local attractions and other diversions. I thought this year’s program fell short of my expectations, and the speakers were weak. In the past I have found speakers from Norway have been most helpful.”

“Don’t change what’s not broke! Well organized, solid program, variety, mix of sessions and social opportunities. Good balance.”

“We really enjoyed the Stevne. By Friday afternoon our heads were full of new information. There were so many good presentation topics it was difficult to find time to do research. But, I don’t think I would change this because we chose times when the topics weren’t appealing to us to do research. It worked fine. The keynote speaker was the only disappointing presentation. We are looking forward to Fargo.”

“What is the relationship between SON and the various lags? Supportive or no? In my 2 years in the Milwaukee SON, I have seen nothing about lag activities or even the existence of the lags. I’ll ask them if they would like a newsletter article from me.” [Judy Mathison]

“What happened to Memorial Service? That should not have been part of banquet. That was a downer at start of what should have been festive experience. Johanna’s opening ‘song’ – too long. How come we didn’t get to sing beyond table prayer? Marv is good MC, have him do it again. Program in newsletter didn’t match what was here exactly.”

“As a recovering alcoholic, I think the bars are open too early and stay open too long. They should be monitored more closely.”

“Had hoped the frukost would be more authentic – gjetost?” “Thanks for the frokost.” [ed...I’m lost here, it translates to ‘breakfast’. Google does not find this a cheese, which I suspect both commenter’s meant.]

2011 Stevne Guide booklet and future booklets:

4 = “Enjoyed program booklet format, color map and showing previous year’s Stevne photos.

2 = “Identify persons in photos.” [program brochure]

“Did not like the green binding.”

“A small map including restaurants close to hotel would be helpful.”

‘Telling Our Story’ wall:

2 = “Excellent idea to promote story writing and submission.”

2 = “Continue ‘Telling Our Story’ project – would it help to have broad categories?”

“The stories were put up too high on the wall.”

“The story telling was a good idea.”

“Have story authors tell about their story [during program after banquet.]”

“I enjoyed the story wall.”

Hotel facilities:

2 - “Seminar rooms were cold.”

2 - “The hotel was a very good location, one of the best in recent years. Nice rooms, reasonable food at reasonable prices and Stevne rooms were the best.”

“Beautiful hotel facilities – enjoyed amphitheatre classrooms.”

“We tried to make reservations plenty early; they wouldn’t give us the Lag rate and said we had to pay \$199 a night. We stayed in another hotel.”

“Make sure extra time is given to conference attendees to check out on Sat. Maybe extend until 12 noon.”

“Probably don’t need treats served by both hotel and Hospitality room.”

“Book hotels with guest computer rooms.” “Book hotels with breakfast included in room price.”

Future classes/seminars:

“Would like a ‘How to sing Norwegian’ class – perhaps sing a song for banquet?”

“Have a class on singing traditional songs.

“More on traditional foods.”

2 = “Movie – Sweet Land based on short story by Will Weaver.”

“Histories of Lutheran Church bodies and individual Congregations.

“In Fargo = maybe the Hjemkomst ship?

“Have presenter give email address on handouts – too hard to copy correctly during class.”

“70 min. SDPB program ‘The Stavig Letters’”. “Clips from the ‘Alt for Norge’ reality show.”

“Introduce area history early in Stevne programs.”

Future Stevne:

“Recruit baby boomers into membership with races, spa treatments, exercise rooms etc.”

“Have taped Norwegian music playing softly in different areas.

“How about a big map of Norway with lag members names tied [by a line or string] to the place(s) of their ancestral homes.”