

Theme idea for 2017 Stevne

In a nutshell, I started with the words “Boldly Go.” We all know that it’s from the old Star Trek series, and it’s now the 50th anniversary of the old series and even the USPS has commemorative stamps on the Boldly Go theme. Also, on a personal note, my daughter’s high school graduation class party had the Boldly Go theme and issued baseball caps that said Boldly Go on the front and on the back “Gone.” I was a Star Trek fan decades ago and still enjoy finding the reruns, but I never moved to Star Wars etc. However, under duress I saw the new Star Trek movie which in my opinion has no redeeming value unless you are really into special effects and raucous noisy loud background music that includes rap. Still “Boldly Go” accurately describes the experiences of many Norwegians and Norwegian Americans. The quintessential example would be Roald Amundsen in his 1911 quest (successful) to reach the South Pole and beat the British expedition. It also describes Amundsen’s effort (unsuccessful and ending in his death) of a rescue mission attempt. Many immigrant stories also follow the Boldly Go theme with many unknowns to be encountered.

With further thought I added “Boldly Stand.” Some people go and some people stay and stand on their convictions and principles. The quintessential example is Martin Luther who wrote, “Hier stehe ich, ich kann nicht anders, Gott helfe mir, Amen.” I mention this because 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Luther was hardly Norwegian of course, but the Reformation he (and others) launched affected all of Norway. My thinking is that if we don’t connect the 2017 stevne to the 500th quinentennail, , then we’ll have to wait another 500 years. I’m sure there are many other examples of people who stood their ground, sometimes winning and sometimes losing their lives for various causes.

In the end, I added “Against All Odds,” which seems fitting in both cases. So this is my suggestion for the 2017 theme. It will be challenging, but I submit it as my suggestion.

BOLDLY GO, BOLDLY STAND – AGAINST ALL ODDS