

Minutes

Tre Lag Stevne Steering Committee

Saturday, November 8, 2008 - 10:00 A.M.

South St. Paul Hotel & Conference Center, South St. Paul MN

Attending:

Jim Olson (G), Dick Lundgren (G), Betty Strand (G), Dixie Hansen (NoH), John Reindl (NHoH), Joy Shong (NHoH), Ron Helstad (NHoH), Robert Fossum (T), Barry Dahl (T), Nancy Hawkinson (T);

Absent: Marilyn Sorensen (represented by Betty Strand)

Introductions, Agenda, Election of Officers:

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by 2008 Vice Chairman Jim Olson. Following Introductions and an approval of the Agenda, the election of officers for the 2009 TLSSC was held.

Chair:	Joy Shong
Vice Chair:	Jim Olson
Treasurer:	Ron Helstad
Secretary:	Nancy Hawkinson

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the May 2008 TLSSC committee meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve. Approved.

TLSSC minutes are posted online at: <http://www.tronderlag.org/tlssc.htm>

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Ron Helstad reported net Stevne revenue of \$4,513.69 for distribution to be divided among the three lags, based on the number of members who registered for the Stevne.

Gudbrandsdalag –	28.03%	=	\$1,265.19
NHoH Lag –	17.70%	=	\$ 798.92
Tronderlag –	54.27%	=	<u>\$2,449.58</u>
			\$4,513.69

Checks in these amounts were distributed to the lag presidents or their representatives at the meeting. There is \$1800.00 in "seed money" in the Tre Lag account which represents a \$600 deposit from each lag. Ron explained audits are done annually at the Stevne by the three lag treasurers. Ron reported the receipt of a \$360 check from the Fergus Falls Convention Bureau which represents a \$1 per night rebate for registries at the Stevne. Since the 2008 Stevne books were closed as of 31 Aug 2008 this will be applied towards the 2009 Stevne. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and recommendation for disbursement of funds. Approved.

Old Business

A. Review/Evaluation of the 2008 Stevne

Overall comments were positive. The biggest negative had to do with the handicap accessibility of the venue for the Emigrant play on Thursday evening over which we had no control.

Genealogy lab received many compliments, complaints were lack of wireless internet access and not enough time for genealogy. Vendors were satisfied with security provided (Tre Lag hired overnight security). Several comments that the Hospitality Room was located "out of the way" (it could not be located in Convention Center).

B. Review of Stevne Expenses

Each area of the Stevne showed a profit; 2008 committee did an excellent job of planning.

C. Should TLSSC purchase a LCD Projector?

Need has been to have three available for speakers; in the past we have relied on people to bring theirs; rental fees can be as high as \$200-\$250 per day. Any projector purchased would be owned jointly by the three lags and if any lag split off from the group, they would be reimbursed one-third of the depreciated value of the projector.

Follow-up: Committee members to bring proposals to the next meeting, purchasing new vs. used (with older technology), etc.

D. 2010 Site Selection Committee (Aug 4-7, 2010)

Areas to consider:

1. Northern Iowa. Jim Olson has done some preliminary research and didn't find a suitable site north of Des Moines which has a Stoney Creek Inn, larger than the La Crosse facility.
2. Brookings SD has a Day's Inn with a large Conference center suitable for a genealogy lab and vendors but only two small rooms which could be used for speakers. These are also used as overflow for their restaurant.
3. Madison WI was suggested as likely having necessary accommodations.
4. Stevens Point WI has a Ramada Conference Center that could easily accommodate Stevne needs. John Reindl will check on availability.
5. Rochester, Mankato, Cedar Rapids IA and Rockford IL were also suggested.

Committee:

Dixie Hansen (NoH), Joy Shong (NoH), Jim Olson (G), Richard Lundgren (G), John Reindl (NoH), Robert Fossum (T).

Further Discussion:

Recommendation that if the 2010 Stevne is held in Wisconsin we need to try to find a facility further west for 2011.

New Business

Date of 2009 Stevne: Aug 5-8, 2009

Hotel/Conference Center Contact:

Nancy Alex, Assistant General Manager, South St. Paul Hotel & Conference Center.
Hotel: 651-455-3600. Direct Line for Nancy: 651-256-4300. Fax: 651-455-0282.
Address: 701 South Concord Street South, South St. Paul, MN 55075.

Note: CHENG-HENG INC, owner of the South St. Paul Hotel and Conference Center, filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on October 21, 2008.

1. Tour of Facility:

Rivers Ballroom (consisting of the St. Croix Room and the Mississippi Room)
3,525 sq. feet (43x82)
Can be used for genealogy lab, Keynote speaker, Banquet
Has wireless internet
Has a speaker system

North Kaposia

1,825 sq. feet (25x73)

South Kaposia

1,190 sq. feet (29x41)

Wakota Room

936 sq. feet (39x24)

Concord Room

504 sq. feet (21x24)

Possible vendor room (would accommodate 4 or possibly 5 vendors)

There are two additional portable speaker systems with handheld wireless mikes (a third could be rented if needed); three in-house projector screens; wireless internet available throughout facility.

Breakfast is served in the Concord Bar & Grill area. This is a public restaurant which would be open to the public during the Stevne. Restaurant hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; the bar remains open until 2 a.m.

TLSSC has reserved a block of 85 rooms for the Stevne at a rate of \$79.00 per night.

2. Possible Theme: “Norwegians in the Melting Pot”**3. Tour Suggestions:**

- a. Mindekirken with possible light lunch.
Follow-up: Dick Lundgren will work with Marilyn Sorensen and Betty Strand.
- b. Minnehaha Park (where Gudbrandsdal) was founded with possible picnic supper; because of availability of transportation was a stopping place for many of our ancestors. Need to reserve ASAP.
Follow-up: Betty Strand will check.
- c. Olson Fish Factory – a must!
- d. Original church at Luther College
- e. Minnetonka Trolley Car
- f. Jackson Street Roundhouse (tourist attraction but not necessarily Norwegian)
- g. MHS – Artifacts and other materials pertaining to Norway/Norwegians.
Follow-up: Joy
- h. Need to use charter busses; private transportation would be difficult.

4. Publicity: Nancy Hawkinson volunteered.**5. Suggestions for Speakers/Entertainment**

Joan Buckley, Norwegian-Immigrant Women, Prof. Emeritus of English, Moorhead College.

Gracia Grindal, Norwegian Immigrant Stories, co-editor with Marvin Slind of “Linka’s Diary: A Norwegian Immigrant Story”.

Byron Nordstrom, has a variety of topics including a humorous “Norwegian Mount Rushmore”; Professor of History and Scandinavian Studies at Gustavus College.

Walter Mondale, Norway’s current Honorary Consul General in Minneapolis; perhaps could give a 5 to 15 minute greeting at the banquet.

Sven Sunngaard, Kare11 weather personality, has done talks on Norwegian weather.

Debbie Miller, Norwegian cooking and cookbooks, has been featured in the *Viking* magazine.

Ron Nowland, retired Lutheran pastor from La Crosse area, has several topics including one on “Outhouses”, has spoken at Sigdalslag and Valdres stevnes.

Alison Purgiel, MHS librarian, Genealogy Research in Naturalization Records.

Duane Swanson, government records specialist and librarian at the MHS, Norwegian-American Lutheran church records.

Todd Nichol, teaches Scandinavian–American Studies at St. Olaf College and is a professor in Church History at Luther Seminary.

Ann Zempke, offers program on the Orphan Train using a special quilt she made in memory of her grandmother, an orphan train rider.

Odd Lovell, doesn’t drive at night and might require a ride.

Dan Karvonen, UM Dept of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, has a presentation on genetic genealogy – how and why to get your DNA tested.

Göran Stockenström, UM, immigrant stories and more.

Roger Hellesvig, aka Ole Oleson, has been sharing his story about 19th Century Norwegian Immigration for the past 15 years. Join the adventure as Ole leaves his Norwegian homeland and travels to America. The audience will help Ole decide what to pack in his trunk as he shares about his Norwegian traditions.

Rollie Krogstad

Kathleen Stokker, author of “Remedies and Rituals, Folk Medicine in Norway and the New Land”.

Bill Halverson, an Edvard Grieg expert.

Barry suggested having someone present on the **15th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry (the Scandinavian Regiment)**

The **Viking Age Club & Society-Sons of Norway** has a full encampment that can be sent up for different types of events.

The “**one string**” musical quartet that performed at the La Crosse Stevne.

Genealogy

Dance Class

Jam Session/Music – Johanna Hocker has coordinated in past and has suggestions for 2009.

7. Vendors:

Elaine Smiley of NOH might be willing to be vendor chair. Little vendor space available; limit to four or possibly five vendors, one table per vendor. Jim Olson will have his historic books area in the genealogy lab; possible another book vendor could set up in there also.

Follow-up: Joy will follow-up with Elaine Smiley.

8. Genealogy Lab:

Marilyn Sorensen, Gudbrandsdal Genealogist, is 2009 chair.

9. Hospitality Room:

Joan Skalbeck from Sacred Heart was chair in 2008 and did an excellent job.

Follow-up: Joy will contact her for 2009.

10. Evaluation:

Jan Floeter of Gudbrandsdal has handled for the past several stevnes.

Follow-up: Joy will contact for 2009.

11. Memorial Service:

Jim Olson has coordinated in past, collected obituaries, etc, and agreed to do so again this year. Suggestions for pastors for the Memorial Service are Lawrence Thompson, retired ELCA pastor from Bismarck ND, or Mary Brown.

Follow-up: Jim Olson

12. Other:

Dixie will handle the Gudbrandsdal Centennial registration but suggests monies for both registrations be sent to her.

Gudbrandsdal will have their genealogy lab open on Saturday morning and will use North Kaposia and South Kaposia for their Centennial on Saturday. They will attend church services at Mindekirken on Sunday morning.

Next Meeting: 14 March 2009, South St. Paul Hotel & Conference Center, 10 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hawkinson, TLSSC Secretary