Flere Lag Stevne



"OPEN SKY, FLAT LAND"



An annual gathering of descendants and friends of the Trøndelag, Gudbrandsdal, Northern Hedmark, Solør and Romerike regions of Norway

1–4 August 2023 Courtyard by Marriott Moorhead, Minnesota







Velkommen til Steune 2023!

Welcome to the second Flere Lag Stevne. We are returning to the Red River Valley (of the north) to which many Norwegians immigrated in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. My own maternal grandparents came to Norman County Minnesota in the 1890s. I remember fondly visiting them in Shelly MN each summer after WWII. My uncle Clarence Gaudland ran a fuel delivery business and when I visited I often rode shotgun in his 300 gal tank truck while delivering gas to local farmers. Most all of his business was conducted in Norwegian. So even 75 years ago I knew my Norwegian heritage.

The Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee has planned an exciting and meaningful meeting that explores and reveals the depths of the Norwegian-American influence on this part of North America. As the Red River runs from Fargo to Winnipeg, a distance of 221 miles, the elevation changes by 122 feet. That's a bit more than 6 inches per mile. That is flat.

Today we celebrate the contributions our forefathers (one could write ancestors) have made to this wonderful part of the continent. Ha det!

Robert Fossum, Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee Chair.



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Robert Fossum President, Trønderlag of America



Joy Shong, President, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag



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/ Acting Historian

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Website: nhohlag.org

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Website: www.solorlag.com

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Jean Berg Publicity
Andy Berg, Julie Clauson, Directors at Large

Shanna Kurth, Mary Martin

Shanna Kurth Research Materials Manager

Til Minne Om

Remembering Lag Members and Associates Who Have Recently Passed Away

Steven Ask • 1959–2023 (age 63) • Apple Valley, MN • R

Marlis C. (Fernelius) Chesness • 1940–2022 (age 82) • Hawick, MN • S

James Richard Daines • 1935–2022 (age 86) • Menomonie, WI • G

Donna Jean Engen • 1934–2021 (age 87) • Delaware, OH • T

Roland "Boots" Froyen • 1937–2023 (age 85) • Minnetonka, MN • S

Ronald O. Helstad • 1931–2022 (age 91) • La Crescent, MN • N

John Edwards Kittelson • 1936–2022 (age 85) • Sioux Falls, SD • G, N

Gladys June (Jacobson) Shelley • 1928–2022 (age 93) • Cambridge, MN • G

Gerald Strizic • 1942–2022 (age 79) • Chippewa Falls, WI • G

Brian K. Teller • 1930-2022 (age 91) • Portland, OR • N

Lawrence LaVyrn Thompson • 1936–2021 (age 85) • Bismarck, ND • T

Tusen takk to those many volunteers who step up during the Stevne and say "How can I help?" You can and do... and everyone benefits. Hospitality? Registration? Hanging signs? AV Assistance? Introducing speakers? Running errands? Genealogy mentoring? Thank You! Many thanks to several lag photographers who contributed photos (over 500!) for this booklet:
Norma Barnes, Paul Falde, Chris Falteisek,
Linda Sutton Folk, Dixie Hansen,
LaVonne Hookom, LeAnn Hookom,
Doug Johnson, Jeri Johnson, Gary Romsaas

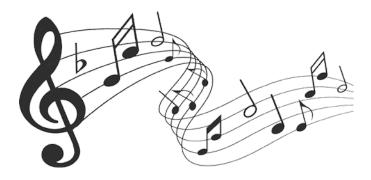


Silent Auction

Hallway next to to Salons A, B, and C; begins Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. Items of cultural interest welcome; indicate the lag to which the proceeds will be donated by filling out a form and attaching a color-coded tag. Bids will be accepted until 3:45 pm on Thursday; Winners at 4:00; pickup of items and payment (cash or checks only) after 4:15.

Tuesday, 1 August

Time		Event	Location
12:00 PM -	8:00 PM	Registration Desk Open	Registration Area
1:00 PM -	9:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open Expert help available for each lag or just dig in to the myriad of resources on your own!	Genealogy Lab (Salons G + A + D)
		Lag Genealogists at Stevne:Larry West (NHOH)Marilyn Sorensen (Gudbrandsdalslag)Deb Jarvar (Romerikslag)	
		Rod & Shanna Kurth (<i>Solørlag</i>) Barry Dahl (<i>Trønderlag</i>), And additional volunteers from the participant lags!	
1:00 PM	9:00 PM	Silent Auction (drop-off & label items for the auction)	Hallway outside Salons A, B, & C
1:00 PM	9:00 PM	Vendor Displays Open	Red River Meeting Room
1:30 PM -	4:45 PM	Genealogy Research Mini-Demos (every hour on the half hour) 1:30: Dictate in Word, Presented by Joy Shong 2:30: Family Search Wiki, Presented by Joy Shong 3:30: Tips for the Digital Archive, Presented by Deb Jarvar 4:30: Advanced Google Translate, Presented by Nancy Pickering	Salons E + F
3:00 PM -	8:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open (OK to drop off items starting at 2 PM) Take a break between session and enjoy the goodies!	Great Plains Room
5:00 PM -	6:30 PM	Light Dinner Onsite (elective; see registration form to reserve)	Salons B + C
7:00 PM -	7:15 PM	Genealogy Research Mini-Demo Find a Grave, Presented by Joy Shong	Salons E + F
7:00 PM -	8:00 PM	Solørlag Board Meeting	Salons B + C



An Evening Concert of Nordic Music

In Concert: Robin Fossum, et al, ... along with the dulcet sounds of the sing-along audience!

Wednesday Night—7:00 PM, Salon E+F

Wednesday AM, 2 August

Time		Event	Location
7:45 AM <i>-</i>	8:45 AM	Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Annual Business Meeting	Salons B+C
8:00 AM -	4:00 PM	Registration Desk Open	Registration Area
8:00 AM -	5:00 PM	Vendor Displays Open A wide selection of items of interest to Norwegian Americans—books, clothing, jewelry, rosemaling, crafts, etc. The public is welcome.	Red River Room (See pages 12–13 for a list of the 2022 Flere Lag vendors)
8:30 AM -	9:00 PM	Silent Auction Open for Bidding	Hallway
9:15 AM -	9:45 AM	Opening Ceremony	Salons D + E + F
9:45 AM — 1	10:45 AM	Keynote: Valley Voices: Open Sky, Flat Land, and Norwegians Too! —Lawrence Moe Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota, PhD in Medieval literature and language; Scandinavian Studies The beautiful Red River Valley is a geologically distinct region of rich soil, intense climate, wide open sky, and profoundly flat land. Its European settlement came in a single pioneer generation that included large numbers of Norwegians. Professor Moe has collected thousands of Valley poems (mostly from 1900–1940) that capture clear images of life on this once-remote prairie. Dr. Moe will discuss these Valley writers (mostly everyday folks), and bring their meaningful voices to life!	Salons D + E + F
10:45 AM -	9:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open	Genealogy Lab Salons G + A + D
11:00 AM —	12:00 PM	Seminar: Encounter on the Great Plains—Karen Hansen, Phd., Professor of Sociology at Brandeis University, with appointments in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and History (joining us via Zoom) The lure of land brought Norwegian migrants to the North American heartland. But the land was not free, nor was it "empty." In the early 20th century, those who took advantage of a homesteading opportunity came face-to-face with Spirit Lake Dakota Indians as they settled on their reservation. Access to productive property on the reservation, made possible by the US government, turned Norwegians into the neighbors of Dakotas. Ownership enabled Norwegians—men and women alike—to cultivate land to support their families and make a western home. It also entangled them in complicated relationships that challenged them morally and practically, and endured throughout the century.	Salons D + E + F
12:00 PM -	1:30 PM	Lunch (on your own)	
12:30 PM -	5:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open	Great Plains Room



Wednesday PM, 2 August

Time	Event	Location
1:30 PM - 2:30 F	M Concurrent Seminars	
	Seminar A: Beowulf: Heroes, Monsters, Treasure, and a Dragon—Lawrence Moe Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota, PhD in Medieval literature and language; Scandinavian Studies Dr. Moe wrote his PhD dissertation on the Old English poem Beowulf. This remarkable epic takes place in early medieval Nordic settings, and appeals to those interested in Norse myth and legend—or to anyone interested in The Lord of the Rings (which Professor Tolkien drew in part from the world of Beowulf). Dr. Moe will overview the plot of Beowulf, and discuss its timeless themes.	Salons E + F
	Seminar B: Advanced techniques for Ancestry.com— Shanna Kurth Research Materials Manager, Solørlag of America Advanced techniques for finding your family in databases on ancestry.com. Many of these strategies also apply to search engines built into other genealogy websites.	Salons B + C
2:30 PM - 3:00 F	M Break-Visit Hospitality Suite and Vendor Displays	Great Plains and Red River Rooms
3:00 PM - 4:00 F	M Concurrent Seminars	
	Seminar A: Photo Organization—Joy Shong President, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag Presentation includes advice on things to consider when organizating family photos and includes how to transfer slides using a cell phone.	Salons E + F
	Seminar B: Toils on Soils: How Regional Geology Impacted Euro-American Settlement in the Fargo- Moorhead Region — Donald Schwert Geologist, North Dakota State University in Fargo The last Ice Age left a legacy of sediments in the Red River Valley region of North Dakota and Minnesota which are today some of the world's richest soils. These same soils, however, can be extremely problematic due to their extraordinary weakness. Covered in this presentation are the post- glacial history of what is today the Fargo-Moorhead region, a brief history of Lake Agassiz, the inception of the Red River of the North, and the challenges/benefits during Euro-American settlement associated with the soils that underlie this region. Several remarkable case examples will be covered.	Salons B + C

(continued at top of next page)

4:15 PM -	5:15 PM	Solørlag Annual Business Meeting	Salons E + F
5:15 PM -	6:15 PM	Romerikslaget Annual Business Meeting	Salons E + F
5:30 PM -	7:00 PM	Box Meal (for those who have pre-registered)	Salons B + C
7:00 PM	8:00 PM	An Evening Concert of Nordic Music presented by the Flere Lag Stevne Musicians	Salons B + C

Thursday AM, 3 August

Time	Event	Location
7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Trønderlag Annual Business Meeting	Salon B + C
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration Desk Open	Registration Area
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Vendor Displays Open	Red River Room
8:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Silent Auction Open for Bidding	Hallway
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open	Salons G + A + D
9:00 AM - 2:45 PM	Hospitality Suite Open	Great Plains Room
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Concurrent Seminars	
	Seminar A: Founding Clay County—Markus Krueger Programming Director for the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Moorhead, MN In 1871, the Northern Pacific Railway came through the Red River Valley, bringing farmers and creating towns. This is the complicated and often funny story of founding Clay County, Minnesota. Who lived here first and what treaties allowed US settlement here? Who were the first pioneers? Why are there so many Norwegians around here? What's the Homestead Act all about? Who are our towns named for? How does a train to nowhere sell tickets? And how did a Wild West saloon gunfight create our government? Seminar B: Oh No! Where Did it Go?—Claudia Berg	Salons E + F Salons B + C
	Director Emeritus of the State Historical Society of North Dakota Family stories are precious things often saved in photographs, documents, and objects. How can these materials be cared for and preserved before they deteriorate or are damaged beyond use. Whether you have family photos, home movies, or a Norwegian Bible, work with an organization that has a variety of collections such as newspapers, documents, spinning wheels and bunads, best practices in the care and preservation of these materials are important. We will look at how damage occurs over time, preservation care of different types of materials, funding resources to accomplish preservation projects and successful examples to promote support for and awareness of your organization.	
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Break–Visit Hospitality Suite and Vendor Displays	Great Plains and Red River Rooms

(continued on next page)

Thursday PM, 3 August

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	Concurrent Seminars	
	Seminar A: Jubilee of the Battle of Hafrsfjord —Lars Walker, MLIS. Translator and Viking Reenactor During June of 2022, I traveled to Norway to participate in the 1,150 th anniversary jubilee of the Battle of Hafrsfjord in 872. Hafrsfjord is traditionally considered the decisive victory in King Harald Fairhair's campaign to unify Norway under a single ruler. While there I participated as a Viking reenactor, and also got to visit a number of other historic sites in western Norway. My presentation features photos and highlights of the sites I saw, and I'll put it all in historical context.	Salons E + F
	Seminar B: Who the Heck? Identifying Mystery DNA Matches —Dennis Haarsager, NPR (retired), serving in broadcasting and public media The Brits use a common phrase, "Bob's your uncle," to mean, "and there you have it," used to express a conclusion that's somewhat obvious. But what if you've had your DNA tested and you're staring at names on your results pages you don't recognize, especially those with larger DNA matches. How does this unknown match named Bob Rackafratz fit into what you know about your family? A missing uncle, perhaps? The answer usually isn't even somewhat obvious. One of the first things one learns doing genealogy is that facts sometimes conflict with what you've heard or even with each other, even for biological parentage. In this talk, we will cover techniques and sources for teasing out where in your tree do your DNA matches fit.	Salons B + C
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open	
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Lunch (on your own)	
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	Concurrent Seminars	
	Seminar A: The Arts and Crafts of Ancient Scandinavia —Sven Lindauer, historical painter & sculptor for National Geographic TV; U.S. Marshal Service Museum My presentations are about the 7-year journey to research, create all paintings, (all the Scandinavian folks who modeled for each painting, their life stories), and the publishing of this first book in my series of five of them.	Salons E + F
	Seminar B: Free Land!—Mark Peihl Archivist for the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Moorhead, MN In the 19th century, the US government dispossessed Native peoples from their ancestral lands in the upper Midwest. Soon after came a flood of settlers, many immigrants from Norway, seeking farms. The federal government created a series of programs designed to dispose of this land and get the west settled. This presentation will look at some of the ways the US government disposed of this land and how settlers exploited these opportunities.	Salons B + C

Thursday PM, 3 August, continued

2:15 PM -	2:45 PM	Break—Visit Hospitality Suite and Vendor Displays	Great Plains and Red River Rooms
3:00 PM -	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Concurrent Seminars		
		Seminar A: Under Prairie Skies—Solveig Kitchell	Salons E + F
		Director, Norman County Historical Society's Prairie Village in Ada, MN The question has been asked, why Minnesota? More specifically, why Norman County in Minnesota? I've used the resources of our society to try to help us understand the answers to these two questions.	
		The Homestead Act of 1862 was prime motivation for poor Norwegians who had little or no chance to inherit a farm in their home country. Land officers and the railroad advertised the land of promise and adventurous souls answered the call.	
		Follow the paths of two pioneer families in Norman County to understand how life evolved for them and their descendants.	
		Red River Girl—Mark Peihl Archivist for the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Moorhead, MN In 2020, the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County and the West Telemark Museum in Eidsborg, Norway collaborated on a bi-lingual exhibit and book about the art and writings of a remarkable daughter of immigrants from Telemark, Orabel Thortvedt. A trained artist, amateur local historian and talented writer, Orabel wrote a manuscript describing her family's journey from Telemark to the United States in 1861 and their subsequent move to Clay County. When they settled along the Buffalo River northwest of Glyndon, MN in 1870, there were no towns, no schools, no churches or even a railroad. It was the raw edge of the frontier. Orabel's tale is one of great adventure. She kept revising the story for fifty years, never satisfied with it. The two museums published the most complete version of her saga illustrated with her own drawings and paintings and created an accompanying exhibit.	Salons B + C
4:00 PM -	4:30 PM	1 , 0	Hallway
5:00 PM -	6:00 PM	Social Hour with Cash Bar	Pre-Function Hall
5:15 PM -	6:00 PM	Flere Lag Group Photos: Important: be on time for your lag's photo shoot!	
	5:15 PM	Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag	Grand Ballroom
	5:25 PM	Romerikslaget i Amerika	(Salon G)
	5:35 PM	Solørlag of America	
	5:45 PM	Trønderlag of America	
	5:55 PM	Gudbrandsdals Lag National	
6:00 PM	8:45 PM	Stevne Banquet Emcee: Sid Stivland Entertainment: Sons of Norway Kringen Lodge Accordion Band, Fargo, ND Bunad Parade	Grand Ballroom (Salon G)

Friday AM, 4 August

Time	Event	Location	
7:45 AM – 8:45 AM	Gudbrandsdalslag Annual Business Meeting	Red River Room	
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Tour: Hjemkomst Center (registration required)— Includes a chance to explore the Clay County Museum, the Hjemkomst Vil Hopperstad Stave Church replica. (Hjemkomst is a 10-minute self-drive from the hotel or carpool with other Directions from the Marriott to the Hjemkomst (and the Sons of Norway Kringen Lodge)	ers)	
	Sons of Norway Kringen Lodge 2nd Ave N 1st Ave N Main Ave Hjemkomst Center 202 1st Ave. N Moorhead, MN Sons of Norway Kringen Lodge 722 2nd Ave. N Fargo, ND Fargo, ND Courtyan By Marri 94	24th Ave S rd	
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch at the Sons of Norway Lodge (registration required) One mile from the Hjemkomst Center		
1:00 PM	Head on home! We hope to see you in Willmar, MN for next year's Flere Lag Stevne, Auguat the Willmar Conference Center and Best Western Plus.	ıst 6–9, 2024,	
Safe Travels! See you next year!			

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2023 Flere Lag Iteune

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Linda K. Engelun Norsk Heritage Workshop Lake Nebagamon, WI lengelun@century.tel.net *Unique*, colorful rosemaling on clothing: *T-shirts, sweatshirts, cardigans, jumpers, vests,* aprons, denim/twill shirts & more, for both adults & children.



Thursday Only



Freddy's Lefse

176 Main Ave E, Ste E, West Fargo, ND 58078-1243 www.freddyslefse.com Lefse, baking mixes, aprons, hats, t-shirts (Banquet lefse supplier)



Sven Lindauer

www.lindauerart.com Author/artist Original art prints & posters. Book: The Arts and Crafts of Ancient Scandinavia (Speaker on Thursday)



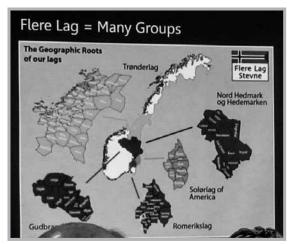
Lars Walker

www.larswalker.com

Books: Historical fantasies of the Viking age. (Speaker on Thursdsay)



2022 Flere Lag Stevne, Rochester, MN **Casual Photos**



First Flere Lag Map for the five lags



Some of the Genealogy Lab Research Materials



Joy Shong and Dixie Hansen having fun imitating Edvard Munch's painting The Scream



Hospitality Suite coordinators Mary Martin and Diane Clounch



Brent & Kristie Fingerson with Scania Kicksleds

"Touchless Pancake Maker" at breakfast!





Theme of "friluftsliv" explained by speaker Jenna Coughlin



Back row are Mary Martin, Raymond M. Olson, Bob Gjengdahl. Middle Row are Bob & Elaine Victorine Left in front is Dick Lundgren



Don Teigen, Ginny Wegenast, Marilyn Sorenesen



On our Bus Tour: Giants of the Earth Heritage Center Spring Grove, MN

Wall Mural painted by Sigmund Aarseth at Giants of the Earth



Bunad Parade 2022



Canadians Greg Hunter and Linda Domier Lowry from Ontario

Left, John Peterson & Robin Fossum (and her Hardanger fiddle, above)



Kathy Pedersen and Karen Grimm



Jack Peterson, Dixie Hansen, Dick Lundgren

Lag Group Photos



Romerikslaget i Amerika—Rochester, MN—2022

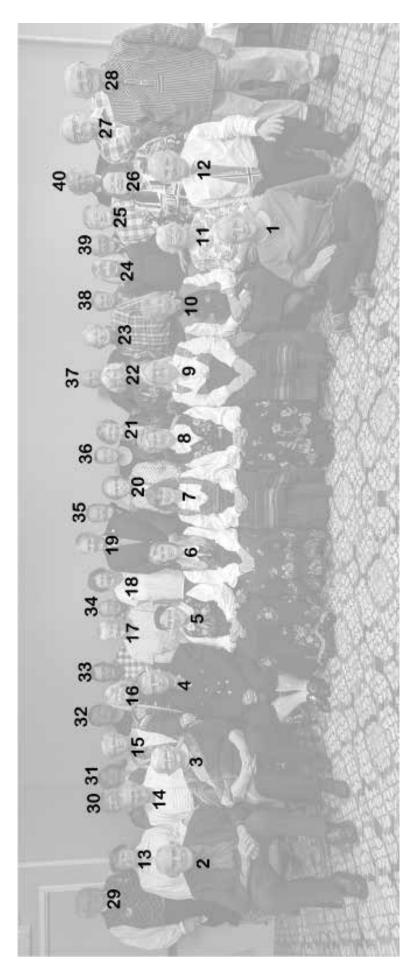


Barbara Nelson, (8) Linda McKeen, (9) Julie A. Clauson, (10) Ann Romo, (11) Chuck McKeen, (12) Kirsten Bornus, (13) David Bornus, (14) Carol Olson, (15) Ray Olson (1) Chris Falteisek, (2) Sylvia Falteisek, (3) Deb Jarvar, (4) Norma Kjenstad Barnes, (5) Joel Botten, (6) Jean Berg, (7)



Gudbrandsdalslaget—Rochester, MN—2022



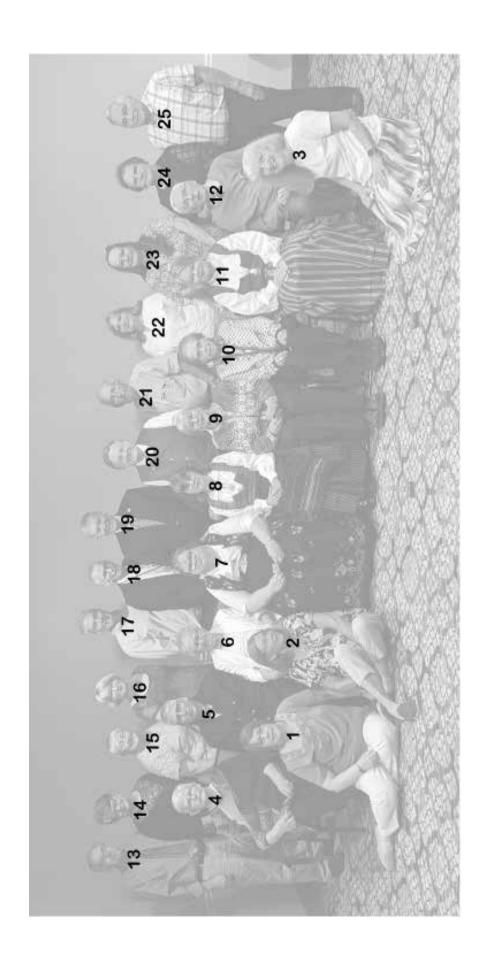


(24) Diane Clounch, (25) David Clounch, (26) Nancy Sand Olson, (27) Robert Gjendahl, (28) Richard Lundgren, (29) Joel Botten, (30) Gerri Lovehaug, (31) Kathy (1) Joy Haugan Williams, (2) John "Jack" Pederson, (3) Shirely Lokstad Schoenfeld, (4) Chris Falteisek, (5) Judy Stevens, (6) Nancy Pickering, (7) Linda Lowry, (8) Martha Balfanz, (9) Cindy Dahl, (10) Elaine Victorine, (11) Anne Haugan, (12) John F. Peterson, (13) Elaine Hasleton, (14) Sylvia Falteisek, (15) Karen Grimm, (16) Linda Folk, (17) Marilyn Silbaugh, (18) Gail Winger, (19) Gary Romsaas, (20) Marilyn Sorensen, (21) Virginia Wegenast, (22) Peg Schellin, (23) Steven Schellin, Ward, (32) Jerry Saude, (33) Gerald Hanson, (34) Bob Victorine, (35) Roderick Anderson, (36) Kathy Pedersen, (37) Peter Lee, (38) Barbara Nelson, (39) Doug Johnson, (40) Sid Stivland



Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken—Rochester, MN—2022



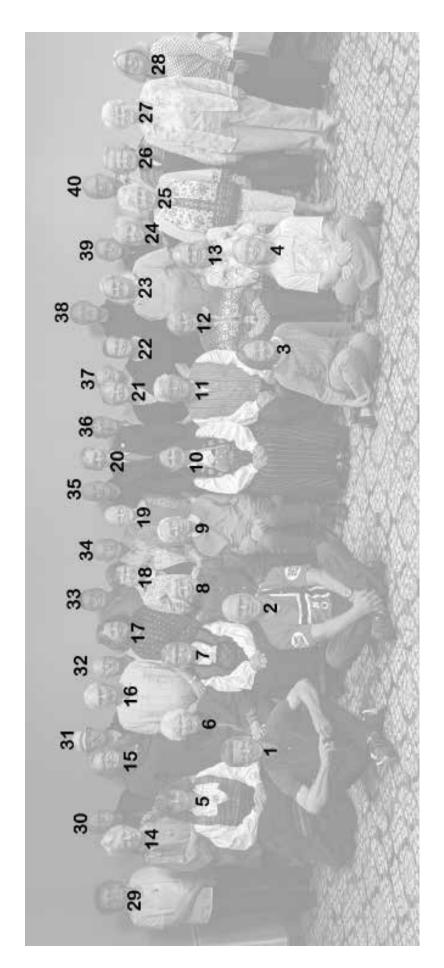


(15) Marilyn Silbaugh, (16) Pat Skaiem, (17) Peter Helstad, (18) Ron Helstad, (19) Gary Romsaas, (20) Don Teigen, (21) Dennis Ingvaldson, (22) Kathy Ward, (23) Debra Lee Pritchard, (24) Lois Laehn, (25) Chuck Laehn Lowry, (9) Joy Haugan Williams, (10) Marilyn Sorensen, (11) Norma Kjenstad Barnes, (12) Raymond Olson, (13) Ken Lundblad, (14) Gloria Lundblad, (1) Joy Shong, (2) Jeri Johnson, (3) Dixie Hansen, (4) Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld, (5) Chris Falteisek, (6) Sylvia Falteisek, (7) Barb Lewison, (8) Linda



Trønderlag of America—Rochester, MN—2022



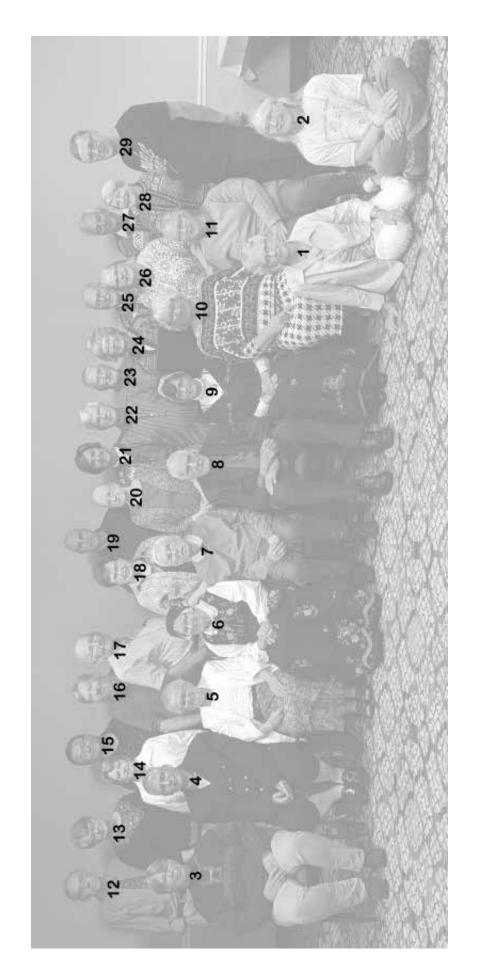


Dahl, (31) Matt Dahl, (32) Jerry Ugland, (33) Dave Grindberg, (34) Dennis Ingvaldson, (35) Peter Lee, (36) Chuck McKeen, (37) Karen Mullen, (38) (1) Paul Falde, (2) Gerald Frisbie, (3) Linda McKeen, (4) Julie A. Clauson, (5) Linda Lowry, (6) Ardis Danger, (7) Marcia Petree, (8) Gerri Lovehaug, (9) Raymond Olson, (10) Robin Fossum, (11) Robert Fossum, (12) Joy Haugan Williams, (13) Barbara Chase, (14) Sue Eckert, (15) Sharon Frisbie, Glowka, (24) Linda Bjerkaas, (25) Darlene Johson, (26) LaVonne Hookom, (27) Carolyn Satrum, (28) Kathryn Larson, (29) Sue Dahl, (30) Barry (16) Gene Danger, (17) Kim Falde, (18) Joanne Sorbel, (19) Mary Martin, (20) Gary Romsaas, (21) Ann Romo, (22) Kathy Pedersen, (23) Julie Carlton Bjerkaas, (39) Jon Satrum, (40) Brad Larson,



Solør Lag of America—Rochester, MN—2022





(1) Sharon Gunderson, (2) Julie A. Clauson, (3) LeAnn Hookom, (4) Chris Falteisek, (5) Syvia Falteisek, (6) Judy Stevens, (7) Raymond Olson, (8) John "Jack" Pederson, (9) Jean Berg, (10) Kathy Johnson, (11) Shanna Kurth, (12) Ken Lundblad, (13) Gloria Lundblad, (14) Elaine Hasleton, (15) Jerry Saude, (16) Denny Kalvig, (17) Dennis Ingvaldson, (18) Joanne Sorbel, (19) Peter Lee, (20) Mary Martin, (21) Jeanne Anderson, (22) Andy Berg, (23) Jan Gunderson, (24) LaVonne Hookom, (25) Doug Johnson, (26) Karen Weiberg, (27) Raymond Embertson, (28) Linda Embertson,

