



1916

# NABF Centennial Celebration 2016

## Norwegian American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad

5100 West 102<sup>nd</sup> Street, Unit 209, Bloomington, MN 55437  
May 2, 2015

Dear Lag members:

You are invited to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national council of *bygdelag* known as *Bygdelagenes Fellesraad* in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, May 5-8, 2016. The sights and sounds of this party will be festive and fun, informative and historic, and require many lag volunteers --who are likely to be helpful in your future lag activities. Dr. Jean Knaak is the event coordinator who is dedicated to keeping it interesting and on time!

This centennial will challenge you to enlarge your own lag membership and encourage people to attend your *stevner*. It will honor your Norwegian immigrant ancestors (and make you still prouder of them). Events will be reasonably priced in packages to suit many lag families as the Fellesraad is subsidizing costs. The Fellesraad deliberately chose larger venues to accommodate everyone who wishes to experience a memorable jump-start into the coming decades of building a 21<sup>st</sup> century heritage.

Since 21 *bygdelag* have celebrated their own 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, we expect excellent lag exhibits to show off the accomplishments of your part of Norway. A skit is being written, so each lag is asked to supply some bit of information to be written into that "tapestry". And before the banquet, individuals who wear a Norwegian *bunad* will process with others from the same area.

Renowned people are being invited to entertain, speak, dance, exhibit, display, and perform. Renewed interest in *bygdelag* will be expected. Therefore, promotions in lag newsletters and at summer *stevner* will help enlist others to come and celebrate next May. It is the collective effort that's inviting! The centennial for Valdres Samband, the first lag, as well as the beginning of the *bygdelag movement in America* drew almost 1100 participants to that celebration at Decorah, IA, during July 1999.

Hilsen,

Marilyn D. Somdahl, Fellesraad President

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