

New President Elected

Bill Hoberg replaces John Haugo as Telelaget President



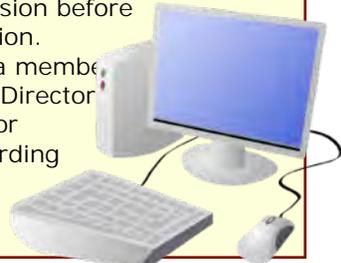
Haugo is presented a plaque from the Telelaget in appreciation for his service as president, while congratulating Hoberg on

Bill Hoberg from Benson, MN replaces John Haugo who

has served as president for the last seven years. During his time on the board Bill has been responsible for auditing our financial transactions, improving financial procedures, and reviewing and recommending changes to our by-laws. As president his primary goals are to increase membership and to continue to expand

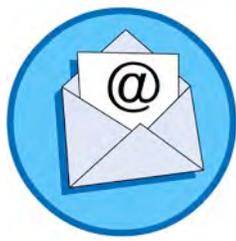
the use of social media for communicating with our

This issue of *TeleNews* is provided in a new format by a new editor, Lila Burmeister, with a new delivery approach. At its September meeting the Board of Directors decided to consolidate the mailing of *TeleNews* with *Telesoga* in order to simplify the mailing process, economize on mailing costs, and eliminate some redundancy in content. *TeleNews* can now be regarded as a supplement to our historical mainstay publication, *Telesoga*. We will also email copies of *TeleNews* to all those with email addresses. You will normally receive the emailed version before the mailed version. Please contact a member of the Board of Directors with questions or comments regarding this revised approach.



2014 - 2015 Board of Directors

The Telelaget of America Board of Directors met on September 13. Pictured are: Back Left: John Haugo and Judy Mathison. Front left: Carol Johnson and Rachel Gorka. Right side: Elaine Nordlie, Lila Burmeister, Jim Oftellie, Neil Johnson and Bill Hoberg, Not pictured: Randy Twito



We Need Your E-mail!

Telelaget of America communicates with its members via email. We send an electronic version of our *TeleNews* newsletter to all members who have provided us with a current email address. If you have not provided us with an email address or have recently changed your email address, please notify our membership chairperson, Judy Mathison. Her email is jmathison@sbcglobal.net. We do not share your address with any other individuals or organizations.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED IN JULY



Randy Twito

Randy Twito, Lila Burmeister and Elaine Nordlie were elected to the Telelaget of America Board of Directors at the annual meeting held in July.

Randy was born in 1954 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Wayne and Margaret Elizabeth (Ehlers) Twito who were both military pilots. Randy is an Orthopedic Surgeon working for HealthPartners specializing in knee arthroscopy and total joint replacement. 2

Randy met his wife, Mary Kay, while in Medical School at the Mayo Clinic. They have three children, Kristi, Andrew, and Nicole. Kristi (31) was married to Andy Gatchell this past July. They live in Chicago where she works for Stryker Spine. Andrew (28) lives in Minneapolis and works for Ryan Companies as a Capitol Market Analyst. Nicole (23) lives in Minneapolis and works for Progression Salon at the Mall of America.

The Twitos were on the most recent TOA trip to Telemark, Norway and were able to visit Berge and Tveito family farms in the area.

Randy's interests include genealogy, single malt scotch, travel, downhill skiing, cross country skiing, and road biking for health and fitness. Upon retirement, he hopes to study and become a deacon in the Greek Orthodox Church that he and his wife attend.

Lila was born and grew up on a farm near Eitzen in SE MN graduating from high school in Lansing, IA. She and her husband, Jerry, met in Winona while attending the vo-tech school there.



Lila Burmeister



Elaine Nordlie

They lived in Rushford MN, later moving to Hector and then Atwater in South Central MN.

Lila has worked as an administrative assistant for a citizens action council, medical clinic and two ELCA churches. She graduated from Northwestern College in St. Paul in 1999 with a degree in Business Administration.

Lila and Jerry have three children, Tracy (Kirk) Dilly, lives in Osakis, Nikki (Brian) Harrison lives in S. St. Paul, and Zach who lives in Fargo. They have three grandchildren, Isaac (5), Emma (3), and Josiah (1) Harrison.

A year ago, Jerry and Lila had a fantastic trip to Norway, visiting the home farms of many of their ancestors including the Apalens, Skrabecks and Fellands in Telemark. In addition to genealogy and traveling, Lila enjoys crocheting, reading, sewing, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Elaine Nordlie, who was first elected to the board in 1999, has ably served Telelaget in a number of capacities: TeleNews editor, Telemark Tour leader in 2002, 2007 and 2012, as vice president and as president from 2002 to 2007. Elaine has been one of Telelaget's most dedicated, talented and passionate leaders.

Because of the board policy whereby a member can only serve two consecutive three-year terms, Elaine did not serve on the board last year, but was again eligible for election to the board this year.

Elaine is a graduate of Peterson, MN High School and of Winona State University with a degree in music education. While living in Oslo as an exchange student she met her husband, Kjell. They lived in Norway for 14 years before moving to Dassel, MN where Elaine was a music teacher for 17 years. Unfortunately, Kjell passed away this past November after a long illness with cancer.

Kjell and Elaine are the parents of three daughters, Catherine (Jon) Young of Dassel, Cecilie (Dan) Sangren of Cokato, and Christine who died in 1991. They have five granddaughters, Gabrielle and Sophie Hoffman, Caitlin and Carlie Young and Sydney Sangren,



Join us on
Facebook

Telelaget of America is a Facebook page created by Joran Olson providing news and pictures related to Telemark and Telelaget. Our associates from Telemark, Thrond Kjellevold from the Telemark County Council and Per Lykke from the Hardangervidda National Park Center, regularly post information and pictures. Over 350 people have accessed the Telelaget of America page.

International Telemark with nearly 500 "likes" was established by the Telemark County Council located in Skien, Norway. It contains news about contemporary Telemark. Telemark Heritage & Genealogy is maintained by Vest-Telemark and provides a variety of information on our heritage and genealogy.

Although not strictly Telemark-related organizations, Norway House, Norwegian-American Lags, Norwegian Genealogy, and Norwaylist Facebook are just a few of the sites of interest to Norwegian-Americans. You can access these sites by entering the name in the search field at the top of your Facebook page.

2014 7-Lag Stevne

The 2014 7-Lag Stevne was held from Thursday, July 17 to Saturday, July 19 at the North Dakota State College of Science campus in Wahpeton, ND. The theme was "The Norway of Your Ancestors". Attendance was down from recent years with only 212 attendees including 36 Telelaget members. Telelag, Numedal, Landings, Hadeland, Ringerike-Drammen, Sigdal, and Toten lags participated.

Great Entertainment was provided by Auntie Kreamsaugen [Darlene Rolle], humorist from Detroit Lakes, MN on Friday. On Saturday night after the banquet and bunad parade, Morten Harangen of Kvelde, Norway gave a presentation entitled, "Through Norway with Steamship and Cariole". He compared old photos taken in 1892 throughout Norway with the same scenes as they look today.

There were four well-attended classes presented including one by Telelaget's John Haugo entitled "Writing a Family History". Even with lower than normal attendance, genealogist Darrel Johnson assisted by Carol Johnson and Elaine Nordlie were busy assisting those interested in researching their Telemark ancestry. Next year's 7-Lag Stevne will be held from July 9 to 12 in LaCrosse, WI with Landingslaget in charge.



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2014 Annual Meeting of Telelaget of America Highlights

ND State College of Science
Wahpeton, ND
July 19, 2014

President John Haugo convened the meeting with Torkel Oftelie's cane, per Telelaget tradition.

Treasurers Report - Increase in membership income due to six lifetime memberships. 2014 revenue was \$11,152; was \$15,318 for 2013. CD balance fell from \$10,738 to \$8,364. Total assets \$24,095

(2013), \$18,331 (2014).

Membership - TOA has 433 member families, 623 individual members; 17 lifetime members
Website - Average of 43 visits/day on the website. Searches average 75/day, pages viewed average 172/day.

Telesoga - Alice commented on the life and times of Torkel Oftelie.

Publications - Inventory numbers shared. Members encouraged to purchase *Telemark To America* available on the website.

Telelaget Goals reviewed. There are five Telemark-related Facebook sites. Reminded it is Telelaget's policy to never circulate membership emails or information.

BOD member nominations - Bios of candidates Lila Burmeister, Randy Twito and Elaine Nordlie read. M/S/C to accept as presented.

James Oftelie, Secretary

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- Thomas & Beatrice Benson - Appleton, MN
- Jeffrey Huset - Minneapolis MN
- Barbara Nelson - Taylors Falls, MN
- Leanne Johnson - Roseau, MN
- Lois & Kenton Finanger - Mankato, MN
- Carletta Rhen-Miodzik - Roseau, MN
- Eileen Ronning (Lifetime) - Hastings, MN
- Susan Anderson - Bloomington
- Rachel Gibson (Lifetime) - Eden Prairie, MN
- Barbara & Wayne Lunsetter - Middle River, MN
- Dagmar (Strand) Runyon - St. Paul, MN
- Marie Storaasli - Durham, NC
- Craig Torbenson - Wichita, KS
- Steve Stansrud
- Pam Aakhus - Jacksonville, FL
- Robert & Krista Hoberg - Benson, MN
- Scott & Margaret Hoberg - Duluth, MN
- Joyce & Brian Kaatz - Sioux Falls, SD



In August, Elaine Nordlie and two of Telelaget's Norwegian liaisons: Ingjerd Stulen and Harold Omnes visited the beautiful new Hardangervidda Nation Park Center in Skinnarbu near Rjukan, Telemark. Earlier this summer John Haugo and his daughter Kristin also visited the Center. Telelaget is planning to include the Center as part of the next Telemark tour. Both visits were hosted by Per Lykke, director of the Center. Shown from the left are Tarjei Gjelstad from Vest Telemark Museum, Elaine Nordlie, Per Lykke, Ingjerd Stulen, Anette Bratsberg from Vita Veritas, Harald Omnes, and Dawn Syvertsen from Telemark fylkeskommune.



Telelaget prides itself in the quality of publications that we have available. The most popular is the three volume *Telelaget to America* series: Volume I – Emigration; Volume II – Settlements; Volume III – Settlements, Biographies, and Telemark Lore. They are available for \$20 each or \$50 for the three volumes. *A Year on Haugo Farm* tells of the life of a girl who lives on a Telemark farm during WWII. It is available for \$20, as is *Telelaget, The First One Hundred Years*. This book is free for a limited time to new members! All of these publications, along with Telesoga CDs and various Telelaget 100th Anniversary Commemorative items can be ordered from our website www.telelaget.com.

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**Telelaget of America
Board of Director's Meeting
13 September, 2014**

Directors present: Neil Johnson, Carol Johnson, Elaine Nordlie, Bill Hoberg, Rachel Gorka, James Oftelie, Judy Mathison, Lila Burmeister Past directors present: Darrel Johnson, John Haugo, Joran Olson

President's Report - Bill Hoberg Stevne went well overall, despite low turnout. There was no evaluation form circulated this year, as is customary.

The NSI meeting this year will be 11 October; Bill will attend.

Bill presented outgoing president, John Haugo, with a certificate of appreciation.

Membership – Joran Olson Judy Mathison will become new membership chair.

60 members have not renewed this year. Currently at 324 members, 22 complimentary members.

1/3 of members want email and paper versions of newsletters sent.

Master list of members will be sent to board members for reference. List is confidential. Domestic and international laws prohibit sharing, even with TOA membership.

Genealogy – Darrel Johnson "Coming Back Home" (CBH) project is back on track. Letter of appreciation will be sent to Warren Gedstad for contribution to project.

Positive effectiveness of TOA's Facebook page discussed. Joran administrates page.

Webmaster - Ann Sladky CBH material on the TOA website. Online payment for merchandise can be processed through Paypal.

Telenews/*Telesoga*Lila will take over as Telenews editor. Fall mailing will contain both Telenews and Telesoga.

Elaine spoke about issues related to Telesoga with Anne Haugen Wagn, Harald Omnes and Ingjerd Stulen, fellow board officers in Norway.

Suggestions given to Alice Kirn are:
-Have 1 book/year vs. the 2 we do currently.

-Merge two publications into one.
-Look at how we mail to Norway to be sure we are using lowest-cost method of distribution.

Motion M/S/C to make TeleNews smaller and combine mailing with Telesoga.

Discussed having one larger annual issue of Telesoga rather than the two issues.

Other Business
Carol will assist Shelley with materials inventory.

La Crosse, WI is location for 2015 stevne, 2016 will be in Austin, MN. We will host 2017 with Jim, Carol and Lila organizing the event.

May 15 is (centennial) Fellesraad meeting in Brooklyn Center, MN. Elaine and possibly Carol will attend meeting for TOA.

Telemark Tour date will be moved to 2016, since we host stevne in 2017. Discussed employing Norwegian travel bureau, special events for young people, visit to Hardanger-vidda Nasjonalparksenter, and West Telemark Museum.

Lila will design new tri-fold brochure for TOA as current one is outdated.

Motion M/S/C to donate \$500 to Norway House (Fellesraad will match this to \$100).

Bill will perform the financial audit of the books, as he did last year.

Bill proposed formation of the TOA Board Advisory Group, to include John, Shelley, Alice, Darrel and Jim Skree. These people do not serve as directors, yet have important roles in the service of TOA.

Next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 25 April, 2015 at Norway House.

Our Goals



1. Participate in 2015 7-Lag Stevne in La Crosse, WI on July 9-12.
2. Increase Telelaget membership by 5% (presently 365 increase by 20 to 385)
3. Plan and conduct annual meeting on July 12, 2015 at La Crosse.
4. Conduct audit/review 2014 Financial records
5. Upgrade website to facilitate payments for membership, registrations and sale items.
6. Increase efficiency publishing and distribution of TeleNews and Telesoga
7. Plan Norway Tour for 2016
8. Participate in Fellesraad Centennial May 5 & 6, 2016
9. Plan for Telelag organization of 2017 Stevne

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**Telemark
Opens Trade
Office at
Norway House**



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The Telemark County Council, Norway, has opened the Telemark Trade Office at Norway House. The opening is the result of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) established between Norway House and Telemark County Council that was signed in Oslo, Norway, in July 2013. More information is available on our website and Facebook page.

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