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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Please share this information with the members of your organization before July 1.

Attention: Norwegian-Americans!

You are invited to learn more about Norwegian culture and spirit at the **Tre Lag Stevne** (gathering) on August 2-5, 2006 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The event is sponsored by three Norwegian-American organizations: Trønderlag of America, Gudbrandsdalslaget, and Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag. Theme for the stevne, which will be held at The Plaza Hotel & Suites, 1202 West Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI, is "Following the Timber Trail." The event is open to the public. Advance registration for meals and tours is required.

The stevne opens on Wednesday, August 2 with a guided tour to settlement areas of Norwegian emigrants in Trempealeau County. The tour will make three major stops: the 1866 Pigeon Creek Norwegian Church, an Amish community site, and the Elk Creek Norwegian Church where a wonderful 'Lutheran Basement Women Supper' is planned with hot dishes, salads, dessert, and beverages. This will be followed by the Opening Ceremony at 7:00 pm and the start of Genealogy Research.

Genealogy labs will be open 7:30-10:00 pm Aug. 2, 8-4 and 7-10 pm on Aug. 3 and from 10-3 on Aug. 4. Trained genealogists with extensive research materials (bygdebøker, church records, various publications from Norway and U.S.) will assist participants wishing to expand their knowledge of their Norwegian family history. Attendees can also take part in several genealogy classes which are offered on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, including: "Beginning Norwegian Genealogy," "Norwegian Probate Records," "Maps for Genealogical Research," and "The Emigrant Museum, Harmar Statsarkivet, Hedmark Slektshistorielaget and Related Resources."

Thursday seminars include Tim Hirsch who will discuss "Waldemar Agner, Publisher" and John Russell who will speak about "Norwegian Settlement in Dunn County." Later in the afternoon there will be a tour to the Chippewa Valley Museum and Paul Bunyan Logging Camp, along with a Flapjack Supper.

The Friday, August 5 program kicks off with Keynote Speaker, Dick Feeney, local historian, who will discuss "History of the Chippewa Valley." Additional seminars on Friday and Saturday include: "The Selbu Community in Washington State," "Learning to Speak Norwegian,"

"Learning to Sing Norwegian," "Norwegians in Science," "A Sample of Bunads for the Tre Lag Stevne," "The Birkebeiner," and "Reader's Theatre: Three Norwegian Writers from Hedmark: Alf Prøysen, Rolf Jakobsen, and Merete Morken Anderson." In addition, there will be vendor sales and displays of Norwegian items on both Thursday and Friday. New this year: a Silent Auction on Friday.

Each of the sponsoring organizations will hold a short business meeting for members during the stevne. A Kaffe Stue will be available throughout the stevne to provide the opportunity to visit with others who share an interest in their Norwegian heritage. Participants can also enjoy a social hour, followed by the banquet on Friday evening. Bunads are welcome! Entertainment will be provided by the Norske Folke Sangere.

The stevne will conclude on Saturday with a luncheon, entertainment by Lewis Peterson on "Han Ola & Han Per", and the closing ceremony.

Complete program details are available from stevne registrar Dixie Hansen, in the lag newsletters, or on the lag websites listed below.

For Stevne reservations, please contact Dixie Hansen at dx@dxhansen.com, 651-690-0872 (evenings). Information and the registration forms will also be posted on the lag websites: www.nhohlag.org/ and www.tronderlag.org/. Reservations are required for the tour, dinner and banquet by July 15. Walk-in registrations will be permitted if space is available.

Please contact the Plaza Hotel & Suites in Eau Claire directly for room reservations. Phone: (715) 834-3181 or (800) 4U2-STAY. Be sure to ask for the "Tre Lag Stevne rate". Cut-off date for the special stevne room rate is July 15.

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