

Sons of Norway District 5 - Friendly Fifth Friday News
April 19, 2024
A District Weekly Newsletter to Keep Us Up to Date!

LINING UP & COUNTING DOWN!

Only 12 days before the convention registration deadline!

Only 4 weeks until the hotel reservation deadline!

Only 2 months until the District 5 Sons of Norway convention!

If your lodge still needs delegates, check your schedule and volunteer to help. All the lodges that have not yet found delegates have members in an age range that should be able to drive to Indy to take care of District 5 business.

Any member whose dues are paid can be a delegate even if not insured by SofN. Those seeking office on the D5 Board need to have a financial product.

If your lodge's delegates did not receive registration materials last week by email, please have them contact me at judy62ghastin@gmail.com with their correct email address.

Remember to reserve your room at the Indianapolis Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel before May 19. If you are not given the group rate of \$129 for Tuesday through Saturday nights, call the person listed on the hotel information page of the delegate package.

So far there are enough students to support some of the classes offered. Delegates from the past requested classes and speakers at times they could attend. That is being offered, so please take advantage of the offerings. Also, remind others coming with you as non-delegates that they may take classes.

Judy Ghastin
D5 Convention Chair

It's time for photos!

ANYWAY, a great option was given to me! BESIDES sending the pictures to the Viking, I can send them ALSO to the District 5 webmaster. Even if they don't make it to the pages of the magazine, they could show up on the website. See? That way you can STILL share your great pictures of people and activities with all of us in District 5!

The requirement for the Photo Submission Form still stands. It is much more interesting to know the participants and facts about a photo than to just admire it with no idea what was going on.

Here's the Photo Submission Form- https://sonsofnorway5.com/publicity_director_messages/
. Please send your wonderful pictures to me by the 20th.

Fraternally, LaVonne Wier, D5 Publicity

From President Cheryl-

Alle sammen,

District 5 will be holding a silent auction to raise money for the District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation at our convention in June. I spotted the handiwork of Nordkap member Mary Morehead online and asked whether she would like to participate in the silent auction.

In the past, some lodge members joined together to create baskets of items representative of the city where the lodge meetings are held. Another consideration is to include items from your home state. Join in the fun! Bid high and bid often, knowing that your contribution will help to build our foundation.

We have previously included gently used items such as Norwegian sweaters, antique pieces, jewelry-sølje, and artwork. I look forward to seeing the many items that will make the silent auction a great success.

Tusen takk,

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

D 5 President

cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com

608-219-4464



FOR SALE

WOMAN'S BUNAD from Norddal district of Sunnmøre in Møre og Romsdal Fylke. The skirt and bodice of the black wool bunad are richly embroidered. The blouse is linen with whitework around the collar and cuffs of the sleeves. The cape has red trim and a pewter clasp. Size is currently 14, but can be altered from size 12 to size 16.

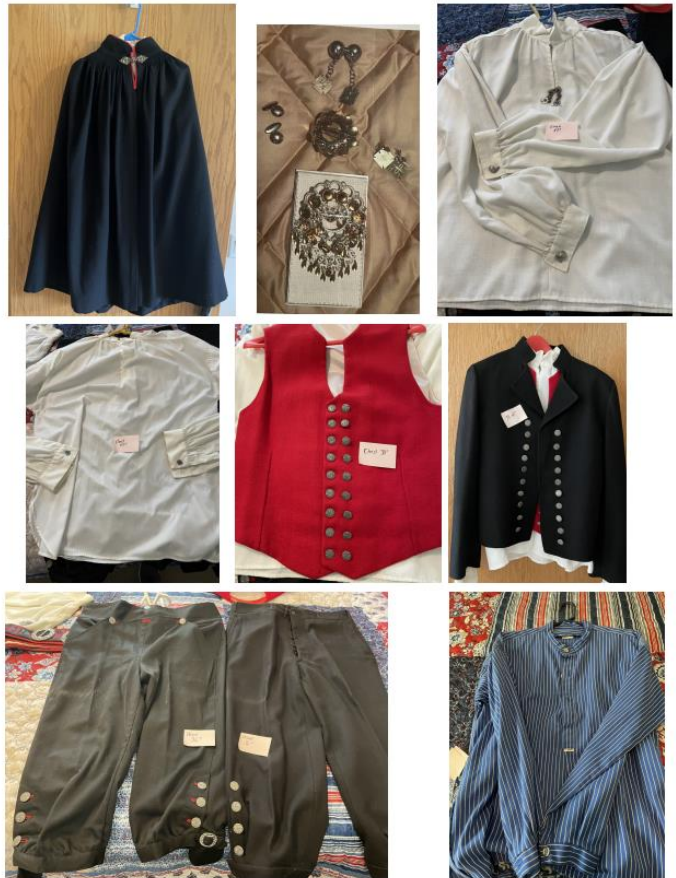
\$3500 price Includes: Hand embroidered black wool bunad, black wool cape, black wool Kolle hat, solje, embroidered black wool purse trimmed in pewter, 2 white cotton blouses & 1 white cotton petticoat.

MAN'S BUNAD from Norddal district of Sunnmøre in Møre og Romsdal Fylke.

\$2500 price includes: 2 pair wool pants (36" waist), red wool vest with 2 rows silver buttons (chest 38"), wool jacket with 2 rows silver buttons (38-40" chest), 2 white linen shirts (47" chest), 1 blue striped shirt (47" chest), stockings, 1 pair black leather shoes with pewter buckles (size 10.5), suspenders & solje.

For more information, contact Mary Paulson

Cell: 608-577-5610 or email: maryapaulson@yahoo.com



Updates from International- April 17, 2024

Deadlines! D-18 and 990 Filing is due **May 15, 2024.**

Important Message from Ron Stubbings

Dear District Leaders,

Thank you for your membership with Sons of Norway. The mission of Sons of Norway is to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members, promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, and celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries.

We are able to continue this work because of members like you. Thank you.

Like any other business, Sons of Norway has felt the impact of rising costs. Districts and lodges have also felt the impact of rising costs. To meet the increases in inflation, headquarters in all areas of operations has streamlined processes and services. These changes have been made

to reflect best practices in both fraternal and insurance operations. The International Board together with the home office is always looking for ways to operate cost efficiently in both fraternal and insurance operations, to sustain the organization's finances and ensure the longevity of our organization.

We all work to contain costs by reducing expenses to the extent possible. However, as you know, you can only cut so much. Recognizing that, it was necessary to examine the current dues structure from both an organizational perspective and a district/lodge/member perspective.

In November 2023, an international board committee was assigned to evaluate dues as we continue to look at the overall budget.

Member dues have not increased since 2018, while inflation has increased 21%. Inflation and the rising cost of doing business have not been reflected in the dues. After numerous meetings and data evaluation, the committee recommended a dues increase which was approved by the International Board of Directors.

- Single member dues will increase by \$2 per month for a total annual increase of \$24. Effective July 1, 2024 single member annual dues will be \$84. One dollar of the annual increase will be given to the local lodge and the district. The district lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$14 per individual member to \$15 per individual member. The local lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$14 per individual member to \$15 per individual member.
- Family membership will increase by \$4 per month for a total annual increase of \$48. Effective July 1, 2024, the family member dues will be \$144. The district portion of the annual dues increase for family membership will increase from \$25 per family membership to \$27 per family membership. The local lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$28 to \$30 per family membership.
- Dues for members in Canada and Norway will increase based on the percentage increase for US members. (40% increase for single members, 19% increase for family members)

The dues increase will be effective on July 1, 2024, therefore renewals from that date forward will be at the new rate. If the member's dues were due before July 1, 2024 and payment is received after that date they will still be under the old structure. Likewise, if a renewal is due after July 1 and the member paid it early in June it should be at the new increased rate. A message will be added to the invoices regarding the dues increase starting with the July 2024 invoices.

We encourage you to remind the members in your districts of the values of a Sons of Norway membership:

- A magazine focused on their interests that is delivered 6 times per year
- Membership and participation in local lodge and district activities
- Access to a website and customer service personnel
- Funding of lodges and districts with a portion of their dues

- The lodges and districts get the benefit of the International Lodge collecting and distributing their portion of lodge and district dues, fraternal programs administered, reporting, administration, a governance structure

Future increases and how you can help

Like most other membership/subscription fees, dues could increase annually depending on a variety of factors (e.g. fraternal membership, insurance sales and retention). You can help to hold down future increases. Please keep in mind that:

- Dues do not cover fraternal expenses
- Insurance could over time help mitigate any future dues increases but only 30% of social members currently own insurance
- Dues are embedded in certain insurance products, meaning if a member purchases insurance, there is no additional dues invoice. Membership continues as long as the policy remains in force
- District and lodge operations can help reduce costs at headquarters by being timely in submitting documents such as D63, D17 & D18, LAF and 990's to the IRS
- Purchasing a financial product helps support Sons of Norway
- Encourage members to pay dues monthly similar to a Netflix or similar subscription

Thank you for your leadership in Sons of Norway.

Fraternally,

Ron Stubbings
International Chair

D-17

If you haven't yet completed your 2023 D-17, please do so ASAP!

Lodges that have not completed this required compliance task will have their dues withheld beginning May 1. Please reach out for help: fraternal@sofn.com.

Lodge Achievement Form & Family Lodge of the Year - These surveys have closed, and late entries cannot be accepted.

American Fraternal Alliance (AFA)

This survey has closed.

D-18

Lodges with property must complete a D-18 by May 15. These are available through the profile page for officers. Please reach out to taxinfo@sofn.com with questions or if you need assistance.

990

All US lodges must complete a 990 form by **May 15**. Please send a copy of your confirmation to taxinfo@sofn.com.

Please go to the IRS website to view the user guide: [IRS Form 990-N Userguide \(irs.gov\)](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/irs-form-990-n-userguide).

You can also call **877-829-5500** to contact the IRS regarding non-profit organizations and speak to someone.

Foundation

Tusen takk! Thank you to the members, lodges and districts for their support of the Together We Are the Future fundraising campaign. With your help, we reached our fundraising goal, which helps carry out the mission of the Sons of Norway Foundation with grants and scholarships.

The grants and scholarships are in process now, so stay tuned for the announcement of awards!

The Sons of Norway Foundation will attend the upcoming District Conventions. Please stop by to say hello!

For more information about the foundation, visit our website: [Foundation | Sons of Norway](#).

Membership Cards

Great news! You can now access and print your membership card from your profile. [Log in and take a look!](#)

Paying for Membership – Credit Cards

Just a reminder that while we can't accept a credit card number over the phone or written on an application/renewal - to prevent identity theft, you can use your credit card when you renew online. Just know that it will NOT automatically renew yearly, so when you get your invoice notice, make sure to go back in to pay.

Family Membership

Reminder that members included in a family membership must reside at the same single-family residence and share a mailing address. This includes college students that still use their home address as their permanent address while not in school. If other family and friends you know want to join Sons of Norway, encourage them to fill out an application so they can enjoy the full member experience.

Leader Training Series

Available trainings:

- ***Intro to Sons of Norway-*** [Intro to Sons of Norway Training](#)
 - ***Sons of Norway Foundation-*** [Sons of Norway Foundation Training](#)
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How to Contact Us

Wondering who to reach out to with your questions?

Foundation, Scholarships & Grants

Amy Tuchenhagen

foundation@sofn.com

atuchenhagen@sofn.com

(612) 821-4655

Fraternal & Membership

Connie O'Brien and Kirsten Lehman

fraternal@sofn.com

(612) 821-4643

Culture, Viking & Language:

Jana Velo

jvelo@sofn.com

Insurance Sales:

Michael Godbout

sonsofnorwaysales@sofn.com

(833) 707-0012 – option 2

If you have questions about any of the topics in this issue, or if you would like to share a programming/recruitment tool that your lodge uses, contact us at sonsofnorway@sofn.com.

Fraternally,

Sons of Norway

Calendar of Events, Deadlines, and Other Dates to Note (changes in red)

April 20- Viking photos due to LaVonne Wier

May 1

- Deadlines for convention vendor applications, sponsorships, Well Wishers, and ads.

May 15

- D18 property association financial form is due from the lodges to Sons of Norway Headquarters.

- IRS filing deadline for tax form 990. Lodge treasurer needs to notify Sons of Norway Headquarters when 990 has been submitted.

*Insurance membership with Sons of Norway required

**Membership with Sons of Norway required (social or insurance)

May 17- Masse Moro Lodge Supporting Grants Due

May 19- District Sports Challenge Ends

May 19- Deadline to reserve rooms under the room block for the District Convention at convention rates

May 20- Viking photos due to LaVonne Wier

June 19-22- District Five Lodge Meeting and Convention in Indianapolis

June 20- Viking photos due to LaVonne Wier

Who to contact at the home office when you need help

- You can email cbs@sofn.com for any member updates that need to be made.
- For anything fraternal- Connie O'Brien (COBrien@sofn.com) or Amy Tuchenhagen (ATuchenhagen@sofn.com).
- For matter like submitting a death, a change to a members address or other info please email cbs@sofn.com
- For issues with passwords or website use ithelp@sofn.com.
- The 800 number to call in for member support is 800-945-8851
- If you need something related to sales, you can use sales@sofn.com

Viking Chest / Immigrant Trunk Schedule

Apr 2024 to Oct 2024

Chest--zone 2

Trunk--zone 1

Oct 2024 to April 2025

Chest--zone 3

Trunk--zone 4

Note:

- Check correspondence from the International and District and the International (www.sofn.com) and District (www.sonsofnorway5.com) websites for any updates and changes.
- Additional deadlines for the District 5 and International Conventions/Lodge Meetings will be added as those dates are established. Watch for future mailings and the District 5 website.

FFFN Basics

In an attempt to help our lodge leaders become more familiar with resources, changes, deadlines and other information, I will compile a weekly "Friendly Fifth Friday News" email to our leadership. Some of the information you might already have, but hopefully it will be a good reminder for all of us (me included) of all the great resources that Sons of Norway has to offer. **Please feel free to cut and paste any of this information for your lodge's use!**

Send all web posting info and calendar dates/events directly to our webmaster at inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com

With our new arrangement, I actually send the FFFN pdf to our webmaster on Thursday morning before I go to work. So if you have anything you'd like me to consider putting in, please send it by 4 am on Thursday morning. Please do not send pdf's as I have a hard time cutting and pasting them. The Word Document works best for me. Don't forget that lodge events should be submitted to inputd5@sonsofnorway.com as I have a hard time keeping track of all lodge activities. I'll put some in but that is more the role of the website event calendar.

If you would like to get the MS Word document, just shoot me an email and I'll add you to the list. I send it out right after I send the email to the large group.

Darlene Arneson – arnesonfamily5@gmail.com