

Friendly Fifth Friday News August 25, 2017

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!**

Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary

Send all web posting info to inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com

Questions on the new dues structure? 2018dues@sofn.com

Do You Have Two-fers in Your Lodge? Encourage Family Membership

posted on Wed, Aug 9 2017 3:45 pm by Sons of Norway

Two-fers are spouses of members. They do not pay dues, yet enjoy all the benefits of membership and are treated like members. These tag-alongs do a disservice to your lodge. The lodge does not receive its portion of the dues for that person to whom they're extending hospitality for events, education, entertainment and refreshments. The district is denied much needed funds to oversee regional programs. These individuals are also not taken into consideration for representation for district and international conventions.

The Simplified Dues Structure, taking effect on Jan 1, 2018 for U.S. districts and lodges, offers a solution that may help convince those tag-alongs to become members.

The new Family Membership category in the U.S. may be the incentive to convert the non-member spouses to membership. For just \$95 per year, all individuals who share the same address can be members of Sons of Norway under the Family Membership category. All members age 16+ in a household are included in the official membership count for the lodge. In addition, the lodge will have more people to draw on to hold office and volunteer at events and activities. What's more, the lodge will receive \$28 for each Family Membership initiated or renewed after Jan 1, 2018.

Do you think that the \$95 dues rate might discourage individuals, especially those on a fixed income, from taking advantage of this new category? An added feature of the Simplified Dues Structure is that members will have the option to pay dues either annually by check or credit/debit card or monthly by an automatic withdrawal from a bank account. For only \$8/month an entire family (those residing at the same address) can now be members. (As a note, young adults who are away at college can qualify if they use the family address as their permanent address in the Sons of Norway database.)

What can be done?

- Encourage Family Membership for your primary members, their non-member spouses and young adults, ages 16+ who live in the family residence.
- Ask non-member spouses and frequent visitors to join! Point out that they already enjoy many of the benefits that our members do without fully supporting the organization. Their membership would not only help the lodge and organization by boosting numbers, but create a solid foundation for our fraternity by becoming a true member in Sons of Norway.
- Charge non-members for all lodge events (dinners, presentations, meetings, classes, etc). If members are already charged for some activities, charge non-members more. Make it financially worthwhile for spouses and frequent visitors to join.

Find additional information on the Simplified Dues Structure, [here](#). Have questions? Please send an email to 2018dues@sofn.com.

For ideas on how to recruit and retain members, contact Joe Eggers, Membership Coordinator, jeggers@sofn.com, (800) 945-8851 ext. 697 or (612) 821-4697.

Update: Central Lodge Dues Now Included in Online Chart

Please note that if you're getting inquiries about Central Lodge dues for individuals or families, with or without insurance, you may refer to this [updated dues chart](#).

Should related questions arise, please send an email to 2018dues@sofn.com.

United States

				Total Dues	
	Intl.	Dist.	Local	Annual	Mthly
Individual					
Regular	\$32.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$60.00	\$5.00
Golden	\$16.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$42.00	\$3.50
Lifetime	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Family					
Regular	\$42.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$95.00	\$8.00
Both Golden	\$21.00	\$25.00	\$14.00	\$60.00	\$5.00

One Golden/One Regular	\$32.00	\$25.00	\$21.00	\$78.00	\$6.50
One Golden/One Lifetime	\$16.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$42.00	\$3.50
One Regular/One Lifetime	\$32.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$60.00	\$5.00
Both Lifetime	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Central Lodge					
Individual Without Insurance	\$32.00	\$28.00*	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$5.00
Individual With Insurance	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$0.00	\$24.00	\$2.00
Family Without Insurance	\$42.00	\$53.00*	\$0.00	\$95.00	\$8.00
Family With Insurance	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$36.00	\$3.00

Simplified Dues Structure

Impact on Lodge Bylaws

When a member pays their dues, the money is shared among Sons of Norway International, the district and the local lodge. Until Dec 31, 2017, all lodges have been able to establish their own local dues amounts, which range from \$0 to \$20. Through a vote of the membership, the local dues amount became part of the lodge bylaws.

Starting Jan. 1, 2018, local dues rates in all US lodges will be \$14 for each individual member, \$12 for each Golden member and \$28 for each family membership. (For additional dues information, please consult the [dues chart](#) in the Simplified Dues information on the Sons of Norway website.) These new standardized dues rates are set in the Sons of Norway International Bylaws.

Because the International bylaws supersede the local bylaws, lodges do not need to change their bylaws to comply with the new Simplified Dues Structure.

Please contact Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters

[\(612-821-4643\)](tel:612-821-4643) or 2018dues@sofn.com) with any questions.

2016-2018 Biennium District 5 Lodge Calendar and Other Deadlines (new this week in red)

September 2017

- September 30- **Lodge liability premium due** to International SN office

October 2017

- October 20-21- District 5 Local Lodge President's Conference and District 5 Board Meeting
- Nominating Committee report due to Lodge

November 2017

- Elect Lodge Officers for coming year (unless you have two-year officer terms)

December 2017

- December 1 – SN Foundation **General Heritage and Culture** grants due
- December 15 –SN Foundation **Local Lodge Partnership and Helping Hands to Children** grants
- December 15- **D-63 Report of Elections** due. Send one copy to International Headquarters and one to District Secretary.

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.
- The District 5 Convention will be June 27-July 1, 2018 at Hotel Radisson in La Crosse, Wisconsin.
- The International Sons of Norway Convention will be August 16-18, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN.

Compiled by Darlene Arneson, SN District 5 Secretary (arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or 608-873-7209)