

## Sons of Norway District 5 - Friendly Fifth Friday News December 1, 2023



### Need a canopy for your events?

Scandiana Lodge has a canopy they would like to relocate to another lodge! Oleif Olsaker contacted about a canopy with rosemaled panels he wants to share with any lodge or group who could use them. Scandiana Lodge in Indiana no longer needs them. The panels were painted by Nancy Tuznik. Please contact Darlene Henderson for details- her phone is a land line 219-221-6641 or email her at [carvindar@comcast.net](mailto:carvindar@comcast.net).



### *District 5*

Greetings from the Fifth District Board,

Recently, our International Director, Duane Kittleson, and I attended meetings with the Sons of Norway home office staff. As we look to the next biennium, the district presidents have been asked to submit a list of member names who would be willing to assist with the task of screening the applications for the next International Board.

Requirements for the position are as follows: the willing member must be over the age of 21 and be an owner of a Sons of Norway product. If the SofN database is accurate, you qualify as a potential screener. I am contacting you because I know you are genuinely concerned about the overall success of our organization and the security of your investment. When the insurance side of the business flourishes, so do its other divisions. Selecting a member from the Fifth District to serve on the committee would provide us with direct input on any potential candidates.

If you are interested in assisting the Friendly Fifth in this way, please send me a note indicating your willingness to participate. The district presidents will be meeting this coming Saturday, December 2nd, via Zoom, to share our member lists. From that group of submitted names, we will be choosing two members from across the Order to serve in this capacity.

Tusen takk for all you do to keep our heritage alive and flourishing,

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser  
District 5 President  
[cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com](mailto:cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com), 608-219-4464

## **Calendar Updates from International**

Thank you to Curtis Cleveland for catching that the International's Calendar of Important Deadlines was not accurate. They have it corrected now so I have updated the dates at the end of the FFFN too! Thanks Curtis for your attention to detail!

### **December 16**

- New member enrollment forms MUST be into Sons of Norway Headquarters by December 16 to be counted for year-end totals and the Recruitment Contest.

### **December 31**

- Lodge Officer Update/D63 information is due to Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters.
- Any new members joining online must sign-up to be included in year end totals.
- Application deadline for:
  - Lodge Helping Hands to Children Grant
  - Lodge Culture and Heritage Grant
  - Lodge Vitality Grant

### **January 15**

Deadline — International travel scholarship applications due to Sons of Norway Foundation:

- Douglas Warne – Rolf & Wenche Eng Scholarship
- Helen Tronvold Folk High School Scholarship
- Lund Fund Scholarship
- Oslo International Summer School Scholarship

### **February 15**

Deadline — Domestic scholarship applications due to Sons of Norway Foundation:

- Astrid G. Cates Scholarship
- Bernt Anker Scholarship
- Dan and Betty Rude Scholarship
- King Olav V Norwegian-American Heritage Scholarship
- Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship
- Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship
- Orel and Marie Winjum Memorial Scholarship
- Elaine Nelson Scholarship
- District 4 Scholarship
- Nordkap Lodge 3-215 Scholarship
- Sissel and Roger Espeland Memorial Scholarship Fund

### **March 15**

- D17 financial form is due from the lodges and districts to Sons of Norway Headquarters.
- Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year forms are due to Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters.
- Community and Fraternal activities and hour totals, using AFA Year-end report form or online reporting at [Fraternalgive.org](http://Fraternalgive.org), are due to Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters.
- D64 Lodge Property Officer forms are due to Sons of Norway Headquarters.
- Deadlines for Lodge Achievement, Family Lodge of the Year and AFA Reporting.

## **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.



## **An Update to the Membership from the District Presidents' Advisory Council**

Recently, the district presidents from the 8 divisions of the Sons of Norway (SofN) met with staff members from the home office in Minneapolis. Many topics were discussed, new staff members were introduced, and updates were made available. A summation of the key points is listed below.

**Cheryl Wille-Schlesser**

**District 5 President**

**608-219-4464**

**[cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com](mailto:cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com)**

- ❖ Information was shared on disbanding/merging a lodge via a slide presentation from Kristen Lehman, Fraternal Membership Engagement Manager.
- ❖ Lodge liability insurance-several lodges in the Friendly Fifth need to submit payment for their coverage to the home office.
- ❖ A request has been made to get an updated list of staff members working at the home office due to changes over the course of the last year. Making contacts at the home office has become cumbersome for some lodges.

- ❖ Information over the use of the SofN website was shared. The search tool is not helpful in many instances and links cannot be found without specific wording.
- ❖ When contacting the home office-Questions about membership should be sent to [membership@sofn.com](mailto:membership@sofn.com). Questions regarding lodge content should be sent to [fraternal@sofn.com](mailto:fraternal@sofn.com). Numerous people monitor these links, and it is a better way to have your questions answered rather than relying on one person who could be away from the office or no longer employed by SofN.
- ❖ Membership lists are not being maintained at the home office. Please ask your member families to submit the names of deceased members to help the home office maintain a more accurate representation of active lodge members.
- ❖ The new system for submitting D17s has raised concerns. Once filed electronically, a lodge is given a *pending approval* message. The issue of contention centers on the person(s) charged with monitoring these submissions. Recommendations were made for future submissions to include the district presidents. The district presidents would also like to be notified when D63 are fully submitted. Our district is fortunate to have Darlene Arneson, District Secretary, in charge of tracking these items.
- ❖ Questions from each of the districts were raised with the International Board of Directors (IBOD).
  - 1) A common concern in many districts is the lack of fraternal engagement coming from the home office. Costs are now shifted to districts.
  - 2) The new template for lodge Bylaws
  - 3) Lack of a membership campaign (VP Wendy Winkelman organized ours this fall.)
  - 4) Transparency is lacking about the IBOD's plans and actions.
  - 5) All districts are now required to have background checks in place for youth camp staff and volunteers (District 5 has been doing so for several years).
  - 6) Queries were made about where the Foundation's funds are invested.
  - 7) The IBOD was asked about the cost of maintaining the home office on Lake Street. No specifics were shared but know that a long-term lease is in place.
  - 8) A way to promote the SofN begun by the DPAC was halted by Connie O'Brien in favor of another. We have yet to learn about it twelve months later.
  - 9) One important note, if your lodge is holding a special event outside of normal lodge meetings and activities, i.e., a lodge trip or heritage event, it is advised that the lodge purchase an additional insurance rider to cover any unforeseen liabilities.
  - 10) With the myriad of changes, what specifically, are members getting for their membership dollars from the international office?
- ❖ The SofN has been working to roll out new products that will have a wider appeal and will hopefully increase insurance sales. While products are in the pipeline, no specifics were given. The DPAC members were asked to sign a confidentiality agreement.

- ❖ The DPAC was advised to share, “When the insurance side of the business flourishes, the same can be said of our local lodges.” To strengthen our fraternal organization, more participation is needed from its members.
- ❖ Currently SofN has 2400 independent agents capable of selling its products.

## **Deadlines and Dates! Changes in red!**

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**March 20- Viking photos due to LaVonne Wier**

**April 20- Viking photos due to LaVonne Wier**

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**May 1**

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

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\*Insurance membership with Sons of Norway required

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

**May 19- District Sports Challenge Ends**

**May 20- Viking photos due to LaVonne Wier**

**June 20- Viking photos due to LaVonne Wier**

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**Who to contact at the home office when you need help**

- You can email [cbs@sofn.com](mailto:cbs@sofn.com) for any member updates that need to be made.
- For anything fraternal- Connie O'Brien (COBrien@sofn.com) or Amy Tuchenhausen (ATuchenhausen@sofn.com). Sherry Gorse is no longer employed at Sons of Norway.
- For matter like submitting a death, a change to a members address or other info please email [cbs@sofn.com](mailto:cbs@sofn.com)
- For issues with passwords or website use [ithelp@sofn.com](mailto: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](mailto:sales@sofn.com)

**Viking Chest / Immigrant Trunk Schedule**

Oct 2023 to Apr 2024:

Chest--zone 6

Trunk--zone 5

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](http://www.sofn.com)) and District ([www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://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.

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

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**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](mailto: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@sonsofnorway5.com](mailto:inputd5@sonsofnorway5.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](mailto:arnesonfamily5@gmail.com)