

Friendly Fifth Friday News

December 29, 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

Deadlines from the International

December 31, 2017

- Active members listed for each lodge at the end of the year will be used to determine delegate count for district and international conventions. Please submit any membership applications as early as possible (recommended receipt date is December 15, 2017) to make certain that they are entered into the database prior to the end of the year.
- **Tubfrim cards should be postmarked by December 31, 2017 to be entered into a drawing to win a plane ticket to Norway (up to \$1,000 toward a ticket purchase).**

For every pound you collect, send an official **postcard** (available by contacting supply@sofn.com or (800) 945-8851) to **Sons of Norway, Attn: Mary Bennett, 1455 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408**. All postcards must be received by December 31st. to be eligible for a drawing to win a ticket to Norway (up to \$1,000 value).

Year-end Reports

A packet of year-end forms were mailed to lodge secretaries at the beginning of November. The packet included:

Lodge Achievement Form

This form, with yes and no questions about lodge programming and activities done during 2017, can be completed online or by returning the completed paper form to Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters.



Sons of Norway D5 bowling tournament starts soon!

From January thru April you can help the Sons of Norway Foundation by bowling and having fun!

Rules: A \$5 donation (per person) to the Foundation is required. Bowl, record your scores, send in results and have fun!!



Categories include: youth 12 and under, youth 12-17, adult females, adult males and WII bowlers.

Please send in your score sheets and checks (made out to Sons of Norway District 5) to:

Michaela Decker

1247 Center St Racine, Wi 53403

Phone # 262-498-2085



It's time for the 2nd annual chili cook-off in District 5!

Do you make a great chili? Is it a recipe handed down for generations? Or have you created a chili that will make others weep in joy? Please share it with your lodge!

Who in your lodge will win "bragging rights" for 2018? Who will win a blue ribbon and certificate?

The chili cook-off will go from January thru April. Send in your pictures and get them put on the D5 website.

michaeladecker@wi.rr.com

Update on Sons of Norway's Simplified Dues Structure

From the International Website- December 28, 2017

The Simplified Dues Structure will take effect on Jan. 1, 2018, for lodges in the U.S.

Sons of Norway International delegates voted at the 2014 and 2016 International Lodge Meetings to proceed with a simplified dues structure for U.S. members only, effective Jan. 1, 2018. The vote to implement the Simplified Dues Resolution sets the rule for the entire organization, and will put into effect the will of the International Lodge, your elected representatives.

Membership Charts and Dues Information

2018 Dues

This chart lists the membership dues starting Jan. 1, 2018, for all membership classes. The total dues amount is shown for members in United States lodges.

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
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**The district receives the local lodge portion of the dues, since they are the officers of the central lodge.*

For lodges in Canada and Norway, only the international lodge portion of dues is shown. Canadian and Norwegian districts and lodges will continue to set their portion of the dues. This includes the Canadian lodges in District 4.

Payment of Dues

United States – Effective with their 2018 dues renewal, members in United States lodges will have the option to pay their dues by automatic monthly withdrawal from their United States bank account. Annual payment of dues by check or credit card will continue to be available.

Canada and Norway – Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, the international dues in Canada and Norway are in the local currency (Canadian dollars or Norwegian Kroner). Sons of Norway will not adjust dues based on the exchange rate. Dues paid by credit card from a non-US bank may be subject to an exchange rate and/or servicing fee set by the bank and/or credit card processor.

Billing Date for Family Membership *(U.S. lodges only)*

In a number of households the Primary and Spouse members have different billing dates for their membership. Under the new structure they will be assigned a billing date as a family, using the “paid to date” of the member (primary or spouse) that is the latest in the year. This will delay payment of dues for these members by up to six months, but will still be paid in 2018.

Local Lodge Bylaws

Currently local lodge bylaws include the local lodge dues. With the change in dues effective Jan. 1, 2018, these bylaws will no longer apply. Since the International Charter and Constitution overrides the local bylaws, the local lodge does not need to pass new bylaws in order to remove the local lodge dues.

Member Communications

Informative articles will be featured in our communication channels, and online information will be supplemented on an as-needed basis. You may also send your questions to 2018dues@sofn.com.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How were the dues changes determined?

A. The dues figures were settled on after reviewing the full range of amounts paid across the organization. The goal was to ensure that this change would not financially penalize lodges.

Q. Do Unge Venners in the U.S. need to share an address with a family member to be free?

A. Yes, that is the case for the U.S. However, Unge Venners in Canada and Norway will continue to have dues waived if they are a lineal descendent of a Sons of Norway member.

Q. Do Heritage members need to share an address with a family member to be free?

A. Heritage members are always free.

Q. What are the shared address requirements for a Family Membership under the simplified dues structure?

A. Those members included in the Family Membership category must reside in the same household, at the same address and belong to the same lodge (an exception would be membership in an affiliate lodge). If your family includes a multi-generational member who lives at the same address (such as a grandparent, for example), he or she may be included under the Family Membership category at \$95 per year.

Family members who do not live in the same household/same address as the primary member are not eligible to be included in the Family Membership category. Family members who live in separate residences such as apartment buildings, where each unit has its own address, are not eligible for inclusion under a family membership that originates at a different address, since they do not live in the same household. Nursing home rooms and assisted living quarters also fall into this category.

Q. Will the dues still be discounted for central lodge members with an insurance product?

A. Yes. Please refer to the 2018 Dues Chart for details.

Q. If a lodge doesn't need to collect the \$14 local fee, may it be refunded to members?

A. Those lodges that have little to no dues at present may use the additional funds to increase programming, charitable giving and/or community support, or they may refund the dues income to their members.

Q. How will the simplified dues structure be of benefit to members?

A. Simplifying the dues structure to maintain consistency throughout the U.S. will make it easier for lodges to sign up new members and to discuss the dues with others outside of their lodges and districts. For example, a person interested in joining who lives in Missoula could have his/her dues questions answered by his/her relative living in Dallas.

Q. Will Sons of Norway adjust dues based on the exchange rate for Canadian and Norwegian memberships?

A. No. Beginning January 1, International dues for Canadian and Norwegian memberships are based on the local currency (Canadian dollars or Norwegian kroner), and hence will no longer be subject to exchange rate fluctuations. Dues paid by credit card from a non-U.S. bank may be subject to an exchange rate and/or service fee set by the bank and/or credit card processor.

Q. Will the convenience of automatic monthly payments be available when the new dues structure begins?

A. Yes. Although not currently available, beginning with their 2018 renewal, members in U.S. lodges will have the option to pay their dues by automatic monthly withdrawal from their U.S. banks. Annual payment by check or credit card will continue to be available.

Q. What is an Affiliate membership?

A. In addition to their primary lodge, some members may wish to join another local lodge which would be considered an Affiliate membership. For each additional lodge joined, the member will be charged only the local lodge portion of dues (\$14 in the U.S.).

Q. My spouse and I began our memberships at different times. Will the new dues structure affect when our payments are due?

A. Yes, for Family Memberships in U.S. lodges only, those households in which the spouses have different billing dates for their memberships will be assigned a new billing date that will reflect the renewal date that occurs latest in the year.

Q. Where can I learn more about this change in dues structure for Sons of Norway members?

A. You can check out what lead up to the decision by the Sons of Norway International Board by clicking on the History button below. An overview of the dues structure changes are outlined above in the Membership Charts and Dues Information section. In addition, informative articles will be featured in our communication channels, and online information will be supplemented on an as-needed basis. You may also send your questions to 2018dues@sofn.com.

Q & A: Golden and Life Members

What is Life Membership?

Life members are members who were 65 years old or older and who had been members for 30 years or more before the end of 1998. As of Jan. 1, 1999, Sons of Norway stopped awarding Life Membership.

What is Golden Membership?

On Jan. 1, 1999, Life Membership was replaced with Golden Membership. People who were already Life members retained that status, but going forward people who met those same qualifications (65 years of age and older and 30 years of membership) became Golden members. Golden members pay a reduced dues rate.

How are Life members affected by the new dues structure?

Life members will continue to have their dues waived under the new dues structure.

How are Golden members in the U.S. affected by the new dues structure?

The awarding of new Golden Memberships will discontinue in the United States as of Jan. 1, 2018. Current Golden members, including those who attain the status by Dec. 31, 2017, will retain that designation and

continue to pay a reduced dues rate. Individual Golden members will pay \$42.00 a year or \$3.50 a month. A couple, both of whom are Golden, will pay \$60.00 for a year at the family rate or \$5.00 a month. See the 2018 Dues Structure Chart for more details.

How are Golden members in Canada and Norway affected by the new dues structure?

Members in Canada and Norway will still qualify for Golden Membership after Dec. 31, 2017, and will be charged a reduced dues rate.

Can a Life Membership or Golden Membership be purchased?

Membership in these categories cannot be purchased. They are based on the age of a member and their longevity with Sons of Norway.

Affiliate Members

posted on Mon, Dec 18 2017 2:05 pm by Sons of Norway

[0 COMMENTS](#)



Winter may bring snowbirds to your lodge. At the same time as they are enjoying the sunshine and warmth of their temporary location, they may wish to continue experiencing the fellowship of a lodge. Consider inviting these temporary residents to become affiliate members of your lodge.

What is an affiliate membership?

Affiliate membership allows an individual to belong to two or more lodges at the same time.

What is the application process to become an affiliate member?

1) The membership or financial secretary of the affiliate lodge provides the member with an [Application for Affiliate Membership](#) (#3028) to complete. The member should fill out the top part of the form and return it to

the lodge. The form can also be obtained by contacting the Sons of Norway Supply Department at supply@sofn.com or (800) 945-8851 ext. 645.

2) The membership or financial secretary then fills out the Affiliate Membership Card, which is the bottom half of the form.

3) The card is separated from the top part and given to the affiliate member. The top part of the form is kept for lodge records.

4) The lodge should collect affiliate dues (\$14.00) from the member at this point.

When are affiliate dues paid?

Dues are paid when a member becomes an affiliate member, and then annually going forward.

How are affiliate member dues collected after the initial payment?

If the lodge would like Sons of Norway Headquarters to bill the affiliate member annually for the affiliate dues in the future, the membership or financial secretary should contact either Membership or Sons of Norway's Accounting Department.

If the lodge wants to collect dues from the affiliate member themselves, they should make a note to bill the member annually on the anniversary of when they became an affiliate member.

What are the rights of an affiliate member?

Affiliate members have all the rights of other lodge members with the exception of voting or becoming delegates to the district convention. A lodge may be more restrictive on the rights of the affiliate members in their lodge, such as restricting them from holding officer positions, and/or from voting in elections or on certain lodge matters. These discretionary changes need to be reflected in the local lodge bylaws.

Do affiliate members appear on membership lists and labels?

No, affiliate members are not included on membership lists or labels provided by Sons of Norway Headquarters. Their contact information for directories, membership lists and labels should be maintained by the lodge.

Who should be contacted for additional information or for questions about affiliate memberships?

Contact Membership Services at fraternal@sofn.com or (800) 945-8851 ext. 643, for any questions about affiliate membership.

Important dates and deadlines on the International website!

These are found at www.sofn.com

https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/lodge_leadership_resources/administrative_resources/important_deadlines/

Please note dates are subject to change.

December 31, 2017

- Active members listed for each lodge at the end of the year will be used to determine delegate count for district and international conventions. Please submit any membership applications as early as possible (recommended receipt date is December 15, 2017) to make certain that they are entered into the database prior to the end of the year.
- Tubfrim cards should be postmarked by December 31, 2017 to be entered into a drawing to win a plane ticket to Norway (up to \$1,000 toward a ticket purchase).

January 1, 2018

- Simplified dues structure takes effect for U.S. lodges.

January 2018

- D17 financial form and 990 filing instructions will be mailed to lodge presidents and treasurers.

January 15, 2018

- Scholarship applications for educational opportunities that involve international travel are due to Sons of Norway Foundation:
 - Douglas Warne – Rolf & Wenche Eng Scholarship
 - Helen Tronvold Adult Learner Scholarship**
 - Helen Tronvold Folk High School Scholarship*
 - King Olav V Norwegian-American Heritage Scholarship
 - Lund Fund Scholarship*
 - Oslo International Summer School Scholarship*

February 1, 2018

- 2018 officers will be listed in the online lodge directory.
- 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, are due to Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters.

February 15, 2018

- D17 financial form is due from the lodges to their district president.

March 1, 2018

- D17 financial form is due to Sons of Norway Headquarters from the district presidents.
- Scholarship applications for study in the United States are due to the Sons of Norway Foundation:

- Astrid G. Cates/Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship*
- Orel and Marie Winjum Memorial Scholarship
- Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship*

May 15, 2018

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

*Social membership with Sons of Norway required.

**Insurance membership with Sons of Norway required.



Christmas in Norge, God Jul!

- ♣ Norwegian homes have trees decorated with julekurver-woven heart baskets and streamers of Norwegian flags.
- ♣ Gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve.
- ♣ Children believe the Julenissen (Santa) or another helpful nisse delivers the gifts.
- ♣ A sheaf of wheat called a julenek is often left outside for the birds to eat.
- ♣ Rice porridge is left for the nisse whose job it is to guard the farm animals.
- ♣ Candles are lit on Christmas Eve and can be seen burning until New Year's Day.
- ♣ Christmas celebrations began in Norway between the years of 1000 to 1100 AD when Christianity arrived in Norway.
- ♣ Previously homage was paid to the old Scandinavian gods. The people celebrated jul in the middle of winter-a celebration of the past harvest and a time to look forward to spring.
- ♣ Much juleøl (beer) was brewed and enjoyed. Nisseøl is made at home, most often sans alcohol.

- ♠ Each year a huge Norwegian pine is sent to the UK to honor the British for their help during WWII. The tree stands in London at Trafalgar Square.
- ♠ One baking tradition is to make "sju slag" seven different types of cakes.
- ♠ A special rice porridge (risgrøtkrem) is eaten on Christmas Eve either as a meal at lunchtime or at dinner. The person who finds a whole almond in the porridge wins a special prize—a pink or white marzipan pig! SOURCE: *WhyChristmas.com*

 A little holiday humor...

WHAT DOES SANTA SUFFER FROM WHEN HE GETS STUCK IN THE CHIMNEY?
Claustrophobia

WHAT DO REINDEER HANG ON THEIR CHRISTMAS TREES?
Hornaments

WHY ARE CHRISTMAS TREES SUCH BAD SEWERS?
The always drop their needles!

WHICH OF SANTA'S REINDEER NEEDS TO BE REMINDED OF HIS MANNERS
Rude-olf!

WHAT DO SHEEP SAY AT CHRISTMASTIME?
Wool-tide bleatings or Merry Christmas to ewe!

Countdown to January 1, 2018, for U.S. Lodges

posted on Mon, Dec 11 2017 1:49 pm by Sons of Norway

Reminders about the new Simplified Dues Structure

The Simplified Dues Structure will take effect on Jan. 1, 2018, for lodges in the U.S. Here are some key features:

Application Forms

A new application form will be used beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Do not distribute the old form to prospective members after Dec. 31, 2017.

Membership Categories & Dues Rates

Individual membership will be \$60 and family memberships (all members who reside at the same mailing address in a single family residence) will be available for \$95.00 for the household.

The Unge Venner membership category will no longer exist. Former Unge Venners will pay either \$60 for an individual membership or fall under the family membership umbrella (\$95 for all members at the same mailing address).

Heritage memberships (youth ages 0 to 15) will continue to be free.

Golden memberships earned before Jan. 1, 2018, will continue to receive a reduced dues rate.

No Golden memberships (30 years of membership and age 65+) will be awarded after Dec. 31, 2017 (U.S. only).

Renewal dates

Renewal notices going out now, for a renewal date after Dec. 31, 2017, reflect the new dues rates and provide instruction on payment options.

All those in a household (Family membership) will have the same renewal date, which will be the latest date in the year for members who reside at the same address.

Renewal notices for individual memberships will continue throughout the year on the same schedule (same month and day as the 2017 renewal). Individual memberships will not be switched to a January 1 renewal date.

Questions on the new Simplified Dues Structure? Send an email to 2018dues@sofn.com.

Year-end Report Reminder

posted on Thu, Dec 21 2017 2:24 pm by Sons of Norway

[0 COMMENTS](#)

A packet of year-end forms were mailed to lodge secretaries at the beginning of November. The packet included a Lodge Achievement Form, a Family Lodge of the Year Form and an American Fraternal Alliance Year End Report.

The Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year forms are due to Sons of Norway Headquarters by Feb. 1, 2018. Do not mail the forms to the District President or Zone Director.

The American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) Year End Report form is also due Feb. 1, 2018. However, lodges who reported their events and volunteer hours throughout 2017 using FraternalGive.org do NOT need to send in this form. Their data will be extracted directly from the website by Sons of Norway Headquarters. Please be sure all your entries for 2017 on FraternalGive.org are completed by February 1.

In order to qualify for Lodge Achievement and Merit Awards, lodges MUST either send in a completed AFA Year End Report form or have recorded their 2017 data through FraternalGive.org.

All forms can be found on the [Lodge Form](#) page, in the administrative section of the website.

Announcement of Winners

District Lodge of the Year, Merit Awards and Family Lodge of the Year plaques and certificates will be awarded at district conventions during the spring of 2018. International Lodge of the Year for 2016 and 2017 will be awarded at the Sons of Norway International Convention in August of 2018.

