

Sons of Norway District Five Lodge Meeting

June 27-28, 2014

Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI

Friday, June 27, 2014

President Don Hermanson called to order the District Five Lodge Meeting. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS

Appointment of Officers- President Hermanson

Marshal	Sandra Ebert- Viking 625
Assistant Marshal	Scott Kellogg- Elvedal 556
Greeter	Donald Hoffman- Vakkertland 570
Greeter	Steve Aasen- Hafrsfjord 206
Teller 1	Kathryn Hanson- Cleng Peerson 525
Teller 2	Susan Collier- Music City Vikings 681

Introductions

District Five Officers

President – Don Hermanson
Secretary – Darlene Arneson (John)
Treasurer – Duane Kittleson (Nancy)
Recreation Director – Andrew Johnsen
Publicity Director – Gary Melby (Cathy)
Cultural Director – Owen Christianson
Youth Director – Mary Bennett

District Five Directors

Zone 1- David Hermundson (Patricia)
Zone 2 – Thomas Boudreau (Susan)
Zone 4 - Diane Hesseltvan-Dinter
Zone 5 – Thomas Maxson
Zone 6 – Esther Charlton (Robert)

International Director – Raymond Knutson (Sally)

Past Officers and Directors: Jon Grinde - Past International Director and District 5 President; George Sievers, - Past International Director and District 5 Secretary-Treasurer; Eugene Steensma and Jostein Bakken - Past International Director and District 5 President; Susan Boudreau, Lynn Maxson - Past District 5 Directors; Geoffrey Wodell- Past International Director; Mary Zoroufy- Past Cultural Director; Oleif Olsaker- Past District Vice President and Treasurer.

District Secretary Darlene Arneson called the Roll Call of Delegates:

Zone	Lodge	Lodge Name	Delegate Name	Zone	Lodge	Lodge Name	Delegate Name
1	027	Norrøna	Not sending delegates	3	544	Nordland	Catherine Engler
1	029	Løven	Violet Pederson	3	570	Vakkertland	Donald Hoffmann
1	029	Løven	Patricia Hermundson	3	570	Vakkertland	Sarah (Marge) Hoffman
1	029	Løven	Monte Pederson	3	639	Gjemtedal	Disbanding
1	053	Valkyrien	Sandy Olson	3	642	Ostestaden	Marsha Wilhelms
1	053	Valkyrien	Susan Faber	3	642	Ostestaden	Maren Nelson
1	053	Valkyrien	Arllys Mae Olson	3	642	Ostestaden	Jean Busker
1	220	Trygvason	Not sending delegates	3	642	Ostestaden	Bradley Goplen
1	353	Dovre	Robin Fossum	3	650	Norsemen Of Lakes	Carol Anderson
1	353	Dovre	Robert Fossum	3	650	Norsemen Of Lakes	Dennis Westgor
1	620	Nordlandet	Not sending delegates	4	082	Fosselyngen	Nancy Sande
1	625	Viking	Sandra Ebert	4	082	Fosselyngen	Milton Sande
1	625	Viking	Joanne Erickson	4	082	Fosselyngen	Gary Christianson
1	635	Sjoland	Not sending delegates	4	082	Fosselyngen	Sue Berg Roedel
1	670	Ulseth	Not sending delegates	4	082	Fosselyngen	Eleanor Thoresen
2	028	Wergeland	Eugene Johnson	4	183	Nordlyset	Cheryl Miller
2	028	Wergeland	Agnetha Ames	4	183	Nordlyset	Mike Palecek
2	028	Wergeland	Adrian Johnson	4	183	Nordlyset	Diane Palecek
2	028	Wergeland	Ramona Johnson	4	206	Hafrsfjord	Gerry Lachman
2	028	Wergeland	Hazen Ames	4	206	Hafrsfjord	Carolyn Rismoen
2	286	Jotunheimen	Irene Fortney	4	206	Hafrsfjord	Steve Aasen
2	457	Solvang	Ron Iverson	4	491	Norse Valley	Nancy Rezmer
2	457	Solvang	Sandra Iverson	4	491	Norse Valley	David Ostrem
2	496	Rib Fjell	David Berge	4	491	Norse Valley	Judy Ghastin
2	496	Rib Fjell	Robert Palmer	4	549	H R Holand	Lorriane Selvick
2	534	Fossen	Not sending delegates	4	549	H R Holand	Muriel Wallestad
2	556	Elvedal	Susan J Boudreau	4	549	H R Holand	Myrle Welhaven
2	556	Elvedal	Pris Kellogg	4	622	Vennskap	Marjorie Giesen
2	556	Elvedal	Scott Kellogg	4	624	F M Christiansen	Not sending delegates
2	580	Norskeland	Not sending delegates	4	632	Grønnavik	Joy Bashara
2	609	Myrmarken	Dorothy Berg	4	632	Grønnavik	Peggy Schroeder
2	609	Myrmarken	Sherrie Anderson-Framness	4	632	Grønnavik	Marlene Bergum

2	616	Fagernes	Charlotte Dahl	5	097	Leif Erikson	William Covington
2	616	Fagernes	Eileen Trim	5	097	Leif Erikson	Sarah Lopez
2	616	Fagernes	LaVonne Wier	5	097	Leif Erikson	Barbara Drew
2	627	Vennligfolk	Carl Rasmussen	5	100	Skjold	Gregg K Leduc
2	627	Vennligfolk	Arno Morton	5	100	Skjold	Solveig Bender
3	074	Idun	Jon Grinde	5	100	Skjold	Kathy Secora
3	074	Idun	Mary Zoroufy	5	100	Skjold	Jim Secora
3	074	Idun	Lucy Ghastin	5	168	Valhall	Vicki Rudh-Jones
3	314	Mandt	Jane Conner	5	168	Valhall	Christina Fairchild
3	314	Mandt	Scott Wegner	5	168	Valhall	Nancy Mayfield
3	314	Mandt	Susan Slinde	5	417	Trollhaugen	Not sending delegates
3	314	Mandt	John Arneson	5	472	Polar Star	Ken Johnson
3	513	Vennelag	George Sievers	5	472	Polar Star	Frank Krawczyk
3	513	Vennelag	Aldeen Fjelstad	5	472	Polar Star	Phoebe Bergh
3	513	Vennelag	Cheryl Wille-Schlesser	5	525	Cleng Peerson	Betty Todd
3	544	Nordland	William Hendrickson	5	525	Cleng Peerson	Kathryn Hanson
3	544	Nordland	Olga Fast	5	525	Cleng Peerson	Charlene Sevalle
Zone	Lodge	Lodge Name	Delegate Name				
5	593	Elvesund	Gardis Dahle				
5	593	Elvesund	Mary Vann				
6	378	Nordkap	Geir Grønstad				
6	378	Nordkap	Dennis Flessland				
6	473	Samhold	Gene Steensma				
6	473	Samhold	Marie Eickholdt				
6	490	Sonja Henie	Not sending delegates				
6	523	Sognefjord	Merle Hanson				
6	523	Sognefjord	Gordon M Gutowski				
6	568	Christian Radich	Not sending delegates				
6	600	Scandiana	Oleif Olsaker				
6	600	Scandiana	Leo Frederik				
6	610	Askeladden	Curtis Cleveland				
6	610	Askeladden	Christine Sitkins				

6	610	Askeladden	Holly Jensen
6	614	Circle City	Tim Liski
6	614	Circle City	Lindsay Hadley
6	614	Circle City	James Nelson
6	628	Tre Elver	Not sending delegates
6	634	Knute Rockne	Not sending delegates
6	657	Edvard Grieg	Carol Luiso
6	657	Edvard Grieg	Sharon Smythe
6	657	Edvard Grieg	Robert Charlton
6	662	Arctic Circle	Not sending delegates
6	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	Clark Brekke
6	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	Olaf Storaasli
6	681	Music City Vikings	Susan Collier
6	681	Music City Vikings	JoAnn Heinrich
	000	Central	Geoffrey Wodell
	999	Spirit New Century	Not sending delegates
		District Board	Mary Bennett
		District Board	Esther Charlton
		District Board	Darlene Arneson
		District Board	Duane Kittleson
		District Board	David Hermundson
		District Board	Gary Melby
		District Board	Owen Christianson
		District Board	Don Hermanson
		District Board	Diane L Hesselt van Dinter
		District Board	Thomas Boudreau
		District Board	Michaela Decker
		District Board	Thomas Maxson

		District Board	Andrew Johnsen
		International Board Rep	Ray Knutson

Thomas Maxson, Credential Committee Chair, reported that all delegates were in good standing and had been properly elected by their lodges.

The 2014 District Lodge Five meeting rules were presented.

1. The Regular meeting of District Lodge Five shall be one meeting, recessing from session to session within the meeting.
2. Delegate badges and voting materials will be issued at the Registration Desk upon presentation of some form of ID.
3. Delegates shall be seated in their seats at least **FIVE** minutes before the scheduled time. Doors will be closed when each session begins. Persons awaiting admission will be at the direction of the Chair.
4. Any Delegate may speak to any subject before the Lodge. Any Delegate who desires to speak shall address the Chair by going to the microphone, with identification paddle raised, and state name and local lodge.
5. Each speaker will be allowed **THREE MINUTES**. No Delegate shall speak to the motion more than twice, unless allowed by the Chair. No delegate will be allowed to speak the second time until delegates stationed at the microphones have spoken.
6. The right to raise a Point of Order shall be reserved for Delegates **ONLY**; the Chair will decide its validity.
7. If the previous Question is moved and carried, Delegates who are in line at the microphone at the time the motion is passed will be permitted to speak.
8. Only duly authorized seated delegates may vote – **ONE** vote per delegate.
9. Ballots shall be used in cases where there are two or more candidates for any office, otherwise election shall be by acclamation.
10. Any messages to Delegates shall be relayed through Greeters, Marshall or Assistant Marshall.
11. No smoking shall be permitted.
12. Any Lodge bidding to host the next District Convention shall present its bid, in writing, to the District Board of Directors prior to the District Lodge Meeting. The bids shall be referred to the Committee on Reports which shall present all bids received at the first session of the District

Lodge. Representatives of the bidding local lodges or District Lodge shall immediately thereafter be permitted **TEN** minutes to present their proposal. The vote on Convention site selection shall take place at the last session of the District Lodge.

13. Any resolution or by-law which has financial impact must be introduced by 12:00 PM Friday so that such resolution or by-law may be reviewed by the Finance Committee to determine the financial impact. The Finance Committee shall present an impact statement to the Delegates.

There was a motion to approve the 2014 meeting rule. 2nd. Motion passed.

Nominations Committee: Tom Boudreau (Chair), Mary Bennett and Duane Kittleson announced their progress on securing nominees for the District Board. President-Owen Christianson (Zone 2); Vice President-Diane Hesseltvan-Dinter (Zone 4); Secretary-Darlene Arneson; Treasurer- Adrian Johnson (Zone 2); Recreation-Andrew Johnsen (Zone 6); Publicity-Joy Bashara (Zone 4); Cultural-Esther Charlton (Zone 6); Youth-Cheryl Schlessor (Zone 3); This leaves: Zone 1--need one; Zone 2--none; Zone 3--need one; Zone 4--none; Zone 5--need two; Zone 6--none; and International Director-Jon Grinde.

There was discussion about proposed changes in the nominating committee and nomination process. A Question of Parliamentary Inquiry was called for. There was a break when the President conferred with Parliamentarian Royce DeBow. President Hermanson asked for nominations for any of the vacant offices.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

President Hermanson called the meeting back to order. Delegates #47 (Sarah Hoffman- Vakkertland 570) and #78 (Barbara Drew- Leif Erikson 097) are present for a total of 122 delegates.

There were no officer nominations from the floor. The election nominating from the floor was closed.

Finance Committee:

Report of the Finance Committee

Ron Iverson, Chair – Solvang 457
Patricia Hermundson- Løven 29
Marsha Wilhelms- Ostestaden 642
Gary Christianson- Fosselyngen 82
Duane Kittleson, Advisor- District 5 Treasurer

Chairman Iverson recommended that delegates read Treasurer Kittleson's comments on page 21 of the Reports Book. The committee met on June 26 and referred to pages 39-43. We see that when the memberships go down less money is sent to the Lodges from the International Headquarters "District Fraternal Program Fund". We feel it would benefit Lodges to have emphasis on membership drives. We feel one of the biggest concern is on the unreimbursed costs back to the District Lodge. Members are not participating in Fraternal events so encourage members to sign up for Fraternal activities such as bowling, golfing etc. It would benefit the Lodges to promote interest in giving contributions, donations, memorials and private scholarships for Masse Moro and youth scholarships. We feel that District 5 would benefit with some new fund raising ideas. This could help raise the yearly totals which were down \$557.40 from last year.

With concerns for Resolution#1 (Officer Compensation found on page 30). We support the resolution as it would save us approximately \$5,700.00 per year. Looking at the Treasurer' report on page 21 we are already down \$5,010.00.

With concerns to Resolution#2 (Delegates Expense page 30), the committee recommends supporting the resolution as it would save District 5 money.

Report of the Reports/Publicity Committee

Ken Johnson, Chair- Polar Star 472

Robin Fossum- Dovre 353

Joy Bashara- Grønnavik 632

Clarke Brekke- Vikings of the Smokies 677

Gary Melby, Advisor – District 5 Publicity Director

President Hermanson welcomed everyone to our convention which marks the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Norwegian Constitution and also the 100th anniversary of our own district. We are all encouraged to meet as many delegates and district members as possible to share information about lodge activities and recruitment ideas. Everyone is looking forward to the “Bunad” show which is new for this year. It is the hope of President Hermanson that everyone will leave refreshed and re-invigorated about the Sons of Norway.

Vice-President Baldukas wants us all to be concerned with recruitment and retention in our lodges. One major point is that lodges should never combine monthly and board meetings. He also stated that meetings should never be spent arguing about details. He suggested that there are many valuable tips on the District 5 website.

Secretary Arneson feels we all should take more advantage of resources available such as our International Office, Board of Directors and our Financial Benefits Counselors. Secretary Arneson would also like to thank George Sievers for all of his work on our website and to all those board members who are stepping down.

Treasurer Duane Kittleson states that our balance is slightly decreasing, but offers a couple of ways to rectify that situation. An increase in membership would improve our financial position as would new ideas for fundraising.

District Recreation Director Andy Johnson reported that the Barnebirkie was still very popular. The Fifth District Bowling Tournament was also a big hit. He hopes that everyone will participate in the Walk-A-Thon which supports the Masse Moro Youth Camp.

District Publicity Director Gary Melby thanked everyone for sending in their photos and stated that we are saving a lot on printing costs by having Ole Bull News on our website, rather than in print.

Our District Cultural Director Owen Christianson's term will also expire. Owen created several programs during his term that are thriving and hopefully will continue to do so. Changes to the Folk Art Competition and a medalist program are new this year.

District Youth Director Mary Bennett stated that we have a wonderful scholarship program, and the “Shining Star” of District 5 is the Masse Moro Youth Camp. Finally, she wanted to thank Mandt 314, Nordland 544 and Norseman of Lakes 650 for hosting the convention.

More direction and instructions to the convention committees would be helpful. Repeat appointment to the same committee would also be helpful in giving committees guidance and direction.

In conclusion, the committee would like to see in the directors' reports a little better explanation of what has happened over the last 2 years and what we are striving for in the next 2 years. We should strive for the positive aspects of the District 5 and the Sons of Norway and what we have to offer. We wish to thank all of the directors for their reports, and a big 'Thank You' for all of the work they have done!

President Hermanson gave comment and explanation on the convention committees.

Report of the Laws Committee

Michaela Decker, Chair- Nordlyset 183
Sandy Olson- Valkryien 53
Jon Grinde- Idun 74
Mary Vann- Elvesund 593
Thomas Maxson, Advisor- District 5 Director

Committee members Michaela Decker and Jon Grinde reported for the committee.

Bylaw Proposal #1: (By-Law Change- requires a 2/3 vote)

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact: Darlene Arneson

CENTRAL LODGE MEETING

Whereas, Central Lodge meetings require eight members to satisfy a quorum;
Whereas, District Board members are also Central Lodge members and can satisfy a quorum;
Whereas, All Central Lodge members, if otherwise eligible, are welcomed participants in the lodge meeting;
Whereas, Central Lodge members are generally resident throughout far-flung geographic regions;
Whereas, Central Lodge meetings are necessary only during convention years;
Whereas, Election of Central Lodge delegates should be done coincidental with the timing for all other district lodges;
Whereas, Using electronic means for conducting meetings is becoming a more routine method in many large organizations;
Whereas, Electronic meetings need special safeguards to assure participants are eligible to be heard and/or vote;
Whereas, The District Board meets many weeks after Convention Delegates should be selected; and
Whereas, In the interest of both district and member financial restraints; now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the District Board forward to the next District Lodge meeting the following resolution;

Whereas, Central Lodge meetings require eight members to satisfy a quorum;
Whereas, District Board members are also Central Lodge members and can satisfy a quorum;
Whereas, All Central Lodge members, if otherwise eligible, are welcomed participants in the lodge meeting;
Whereas, Central Lodge members are generally resident throughout far-flung geographic regions;

Whereas, Central Lodge meetings are necessary only during convention years;

Whereas, Election of Central Lodge delegates should be done coincidental with the timing for all other district lodges;

Whereas, Using electronic means for conducting meetings is becoming a more routine method in many large organizations;

Whereas, Electronic meetings need special safeguards to assure participants are eligible to be heard and/or vote;

Whereas, The District Board meets many weeks after Convention Delegates should be selected; and

Whereas, In the interest of both district and member financial restraints; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That By-Laws **ARTICLE III...MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATION** be amended as follows:

Par. 3 Members of Central Lodge #50005-000 shall be entitled to two representatives for the lodge, and one representative for every 100 members or major fraction thereof, based on the last Semi-Annual Report prior to the election of delegates. All members in good standing are eligible ~~representation~~as representatives. Members wishing to be candidates as delegates to the District Lodge meeting should notify the District President of their desire no later than February 1 of the convention year. Those so notifying the District President need not be present, though attendance is encouraged, at the Central Lodge meeting held to elect lodge delegates.

Par. 4 The Central Lodge will meet at the call of the District President. Unless the President calls a special meeting, the lodge will meet at the time and place as indicated each convention year in the January issue of *Viking* magazine; and the biannual meeting is for the purpose of electing delegates to attend the District Lodge meeting. The District President has the option to call the meeting with members participating via electronic means, such as telephone or Skype.

Subpar. a The electronic meeting means must accommodate reasonable identification methods, such as available by telephone or Skype. Participation via e-mail is not acceptable.

Subpar. b Those participating by electronic means must identify themselves, upon entering the meeting and when voting, by giving their full name and membership number.

Subpar. c The District Secretary will call roll for attendance and for each vote with all members participating by electronic means using the method in Subpar. b, above, for each response.

Subpar. d The District Board of Directors will approve minutes of the Central Lodge meeting at the next District Board of Directors meeting and include those minutes as part of the District Board of Director meeting minutes.

Par. 4Par. 5 The Board of Directors of District Lodge Five shall determine the duration of the District Lodge meeting.

The committee recommends acceptance of this by-law change. **Motion passed unanimously.**

By-Law Proposal #2: (By-Law Change- requires a 2/3 vote)

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact: Darlene Arneson

BY-LAWS, ZONE DESCRIPTION

Whereas, *Sør-Vest Viskonsin* Lodge (5-629) in Zone 3 merged with *Vennelag* Lodge (5-513); and

Whereas, *Gjemtedal* Lodge (5-639) in Zone 3 and F. Melius Christiansen Lodge (5-624) in Zone 4 are in the process of or have disbanded and may be placed in the 5-8xx-series category until disbanding is complete;

Whereas, the zone descriptions must change when lodges disband;

Whereas, pending completion of disbanding action for *Gjemtedal* Lodge and F. Melius Lodge; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the District Five board forward to the next District Lodge meeting the following resolution:

Whereas, *Sør-Vest Viskonsin* Lodge (5-629) in Zone 3 merged with *Vennelag* Lodge (5-513); and

Whereas, *Gjemtedal* Lodge (5-639) in Zone 3 and F. Melius Christiansen Lodge (5-624) in Zone 4 are in the process of or have disbanded and may be placed in the 5-8xx-series category until disbanding is complete;

Whereas, the zone descriptions must change when lodges disband;

Whereas, upon completion of disbanding action for *Gjemtedal* Lodge and F. Melius Lodge; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That By-Laws **ARTICLE VI...ZONES**, Par. 2 Description of Zones, be amended as follows:

3. (10-7 lodges) Idun 74, Mandt 314, Vennelag 513, Nordland 544, Vakkertland 570, ~~Sør-Vest Viskonsin 629, Gjemtedal 639, Østestaden 642, Norseman of the Lakes 650~~

4. (8-7 lodges) Fosselyngen 82, Nordlyset 183, Hafrsfjord 206, Norse Valley 491, Hjalmer R. Holand 549, Vennskap 622, ~~F. Melius Christiansen 624, Grønnvik 632~~

The committee recommends acceptance of the by-law change. **Motion passed unanimously.**

By-Law Proposal #3: (By-Law Change- requires a 2/3 vote)

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact: Darlene Arneson

CENTRAL LODGE DELEGATES

Whereas, All other District Five lodges elect their District Five Lodge delegates in February of the convention year;

Whereas, Central Lodge members do not meet on a regular basis;

Whereas, Currently, notification of the Central Lodge meeting to elect delegates appears in the convention-year March issue of *Viking* magazine;

Whereas, Central Lodge members need a reasonable time to consider delegate candidacy and prepare and send in advance of the Central Lodge meeting their desire to become a delegate; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the District Board forward to the next District Lodge meeting the following resolution:

Whereas, All other District Five lodges elect their District Five Lodge delegates in February of the convention year;

Whereas, Central Lodge members do not meet on a regular basis;

Whereas, Currently, notification of the Central Lodge meeting to elect delegates appears in the convention-year March issue of *Viking* magazine;

Whereas, Central Lodge members need a reasonable time to consider delegate candidacy and prepare and send in advance of the Central Lodge meeting their desire to become a delegate; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Constitution **CHAPTER VII DISTRICT LODGE MEETINGS** paragraph **H. Central Lodge Delegates** be amended as follows:

H. Central Lodge Delegates: ...notify Central Lodge 50005-000 members of...Meeting via the ~~March~~January issue of....

The committee recommends acceptance of this by-law change. **Motion passed unanimously**

By-law Proposal #4: (By-Law Change- requires a 2/3 vote)

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact: Darlene Arneson

DISTRICT LODGE CORRESPONDENCE

Whereas, The District Five Lodge approved during the 2012 District Lodge meeting using electronic means for correspondence to convention delegates; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the District Board forward to the next District Lodge meeting the following resolution:

Whereas, The District Five Lodge approved during the 2012 District Lodge meeting using electronic means for correspondence to convention delegates; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Convention **CHAPTER VII DISTRICT LODGE MEETINGS**, Paragraph **G. Correspondence to Delegates**, be amended as follows:

G. Correspondence to Delegates: ~~All correspondence to convention Delegates or Alternate Delegates shall be mailed first class mail only.~~ All correspondence, to include report books and the like, to convention Delegates or Alternate Delegates shall be sent via electronic means, such as e-mail, and posted on the District Five Web site. Any convention document posted on the District Web site which contains budget and/or financial reports or information shall be in a protected mode, only accessible by such means as with a password. Access to these financial documents will be limited to elected delegates and others designated by the District President who have a need-to-know. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate makes a specific request to the District Secretary for a hard-copy version of an item, the item shall be sent by first class mail.

The committee recommends acceptance of this by-law change. **Motion passed unanimously**

There was discussion about the electronic communications in regard to the convention materials and resources. The need to educate members about electronic communications, identifying clearly who the emails were from in the subject area, and other challenges coming from the 2014 convention experience.

The meeting recessed for a coffee break.

President Hermanson called the meeting back to order. There was unanimous consent to extend the closing of the Silent Auction to 20 minutes past the closing of today's business session.

Two delegates left to give a delegate count of 120. #114 (Susan Collier-Music City Vikings) and #113 (Olaf Storaasli – Vikings of the Smokies).

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Gene Steensma, Chair- Samhold 473
Dorothy Berg- Myrmarken 609
George Sievers- Vennelag 513
Judy Ghastin- Norse Valley 491
Vicki Rudh-Jones- Valhall 168
David Hermundson, Advisor- District 5 Director

Resolution #1

The Resolutions Committee recommends the following substitute resolution for Resolution #1

Resolved, that District Officer compensation for the 2014-2016 Biennium shall be as follows:

President - \$250.00 per annum;

Secretary - \$750.00 per annum;

Treasurer - \$250.00 per annum.

No other compensation shall be paid to any other members of the District Board.

The motion to substitute passed with a majority vote.

The substituted resolution passed with unanimous vote.

Resolution #2

The Resolutions Committee recommend a "YES" vote on Resolution #2.

The resolution carried with a unanimous vote.

Resolution #3

If there is a problem finding Directors for District 5, we, as a lodge, can and should be talking with our colleagues to learn about the skills possessed that can translate to excellent work on our District Board. As we go through the work of this District Lodge meeting (and any subsequent ones) we can see members who are capable of representing us on the District Board, just as we have for the last 100 years. There is no need to create an additional filter other than our collective "common sense".

While other organizations have nominating committees or not is of no import to Sons of Norway. We do not need to replicate organizations' committees simply because they claim a similar structure to ours. Additionally, the cited organizations function with a significantly smaller fraternal component than Sons of Norway, so the comparison is of little value, unless the goal is to reduce the fraternalism of Sons of Norway.

Whether or not local lodges have nominating committees is not an argument for the District to have one.

Rather than react to something that may or may not occur, especially since there is no idea of what form any potential requirement may take, we, as any well run organization does, act with full knowledge rather than speculation.

Given that District 5 are celebrating our centenary, the Committee believe that we have demonstrated the ability to elect qualified members of the District Board.

The Resolutions Committee recommend a “NO” vote on Resolution #3.

The resolution was defeated. Yes- 51 No- 63

Resolution #4

Amend #4 by substitution with 3.7.7 as follows:

Resolved;

3.7.7 Each District within Sons of Norway, at the discretion of each Biennial District Lodge, may assemble a Nominating Committee for the purpose of identifying eligible candidates for election to the each District Board.

The Resolutions Committee recommend a “NO” vote on Resolution #4. Amendment passed.

The resolution was defeated.

Resolution #5

The Resolutions Committee recommend a “YES” vote on Resolution #5.

The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

Resolution #6

Amend Resolution #6 by substituting:

Resolved;

Each retiring Officer or Director shall coordinate a training session with the incoming Officer or Director to acquaint such Officer or Director with the duties and responsibilities of each position.

The motion to substitute passed with a majority vote.

The substituted resolution passed.

Resolution #7

The Resolutions Committee recommend a “YES” vote on Resolution #7.

The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

Report of the Fraternal Affairs Committee

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Chr. -Vennelag 513
Geir Grønstad-Nordkap 378
Marjorie Giesen-Vennskap 622
Lindsay Hadley-Circle City 614
Mary Bennett-Advisor District Board
Absent: *Jostein Bakken-Skjold 100*
Carl Rasmussen-Vennligfolk 627

As defined by President Hermanson, the fraternal affairs committee discussed many facets of the Sons of Norway organization with the exception of financial and Foundation matters. All lodges reported being engaged in many aspects of Norwegian culture, customs, and traditions, to include: authentic foods, parades, national bunader, trips to cultural sites, establishing electronic communication, and social media pages.

It is the recommendation of the Fraternal Committee that the District 5 Board addresses and expands on the following items to enhance operation, facilitate member meetings, and potentially increase membership within the Fraternal Order.

- Establish a speaker's bureau with names, contact numbers or e-mail addresses, and areas of expertise to improve the quality of programming offered throughout the District.
- Increase zone gatherings from 1 per year to 1 spring and 1 fall event.
- Add a page to the District website which would list events by month and possibly a year in advance.
- Establish a District-wide social networking page by state, including best practice for doing such.
- Promote interactions with other Nordic or northern European nations due to blended families and multiple nationalities within today's family structure.
- Hold a president's meeting once a year for idea exchange and pertinent topic discussion.

Internationally

- Update media through the lending library to include DVD and Blue ray versions of movies, where available. Identify Netflix movies and YouTube videos with content of interest to lodge members.
- Update the member application form to discern what new members are interested in learning and how they spend their free time.
- Create a hard-copy version of materials available for youth, similar to *Viking for Kids*.
- Increase the photo space in the ***Viking*** magazine to showcase more lodge events.

Len Carlson, Director of Agencies, and Tom Kunkel, Financial Benefits Counselor, gave away three SN Foundation ornaments.

The Silent Auction winners will be announced at 8:15 am with payment completed by the 9:00 am start time.

The meeting was recessed until 8:15 am on Saturday, June 28.

Saturday, June 28, 2014

President Hermanson called the meeting back to order.

Ray Knutson gave his International Director's Address:

Officers, Directors, Delegates, Financial Benefits Counselors and Guest Presenters... Welcome to this auspicious occasion. We are here to discuss resolutions, vote on possible bylaw changes, elect District 5 officers, directors and International Delegates... and to nominate an International Director... but we are also here to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of District Lodge 5 SON (The Friendly Fifth) or known as the Ole Bull District in previous years... and observe the bicentenary of the signing of Norway's first Constitution at Eidsvold, Norway on the seventeenth of May, 1814. Thus preserving our heritage, culture and all that is great and good about Norway.

Now for what has transpired on the International Front.

I served on the Cates/Bienhauer Scholarship awards Committee. Selecting the recipients is a time consuming, sometimes tedious selection process of comparing notes with the rest of the committee. All applicants are outstanding and each deserves an award, but the committee must adhere to selection guidelines. I am glad to announce the District Five recipient in 2013 was Mary Bittner and in 2014 the recipient was Conner Rood.

I am chair Committee 3 on Strategic Planning. All committees are studying, researching and hope to have a strategic plan to present to the delegation at the International Lodge Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. Right now the focus of the four committees is: Success Indicators, Leadership Training, Develop Evaluative Criteria for Financial... Fraternal... and Foundation (The 3 F's) and Streamlining the Dues Structure.

The International Board and District Presidents have been working in unison developing the new Nominating Procedure.

State Insurance Regulators are still looking at the structure for nominating and electing the Board of Directors of Not For Profit Insurance Companies. Illinois has already introduced such a bill. (Governance) The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is also drafting procedures for nominating and electing Board Members.

Unclaimed Funds is an additional issue as is Suitability of Annuity Sales.

Investment income is sluggish due to low interest rates. Internal controls on bookkeeping entries were modified. Investment Advisor reports as to market conditions reviewed. (BTC Capital Management) Outside Audit report from Eide Bailly reviewed.

*Local Lodge issues: Liability Insurance
990 and D-17 reports
Lodge Achievement Forms
Lodges Disbanding*

Fraternal Expenses... Some lodges are not receptive to visits by FBC's. Please invite them... there are new benefit products in development.

In 2000 Fraternal Expenses were \$5.75 this has escalated to \$28.35 in 2013. Ten years ago dues covered 60% of the fraternal expenses while in 2013 dues covered only 51%.

Two District Five Lodges received \$1,000.00 Lodge Improvement Grants... Congratulations to:

<i>Mandt 314</i>	<i>Zone 3</i>	<i>Stoughton, Wisconsin</i>
<i>Nordland 544</i>	<i>Zone 3</i>	<i>Janesville, Wisconsin</i>

Anniversary Awards

<i>Myrmarken 609</i>	<i>Zone 2</i>	<i>Marshfield, Wisconsin</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Askeladden 610</i>	<i>Zone 6</i>	<i>Kalamazoo, Michigan</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Samhold 473</i>	<i>Zone 6</i>	<i>Pontiac, Michigan</i>	<i>50 years</i>
<i>Trollhaugen 417</i>	<i>Zone 5</i>	<i>South Holland, Illinois</i>	<i>75 years</i>

In closing I would like to read this poem from District Five Minutes in 1930:

WHAT NOT TO FORGET

*Forget the slander you have heard,
Forget the hasty, unkind word.
Forget the quarrel and the cause,
Forget the whole affair, because
Forgetting is the only way.
Forget the storms of yesterday,
Forget the chap whose sour face...
Forgets to smile in anyplace.
Forget the trials you have had,
Forget the weather if it's bad.
Forget the knocker, he's a freak,
Forget him seven days a week.
Forget you're not a millionaire,
Forget the grey streaks in your hair.
Forget the coffee when it's cold,
Forget the kicks, forget to scold.
Forget the coal man in his weights,
Forget the heat in summer days.
Forget to get the blues,
But don't forget to pay your dues.*

The Prætorian Guard

Awards- Lodge Achievement and Founders for 2012 and 2013 were presented.

[Listing of awards for 2012 and 2013 has been deleted for this online version.](#)

Mary Bennett explained the Tubfrim project and how lodges can participate. She will continue to be the District 5 Tubfrim Coordinator.

There was general discussion on how to track volunteer hours. President Hermanson will send out an email with information to delegates to share with their lodges.

President Hermanson recalled the Finance committee. There was no further business and President Hermanson dismissed the committee.

President Hermanson recalled the Reports/Publicity committee. There was no further business and President Hermanson dismissed the committee.

President Hermanson recalled the Fraternal Affairs committee. There was no further business and President Hermanson dismissed the committee.

Bill Hendrickson, President of Nordland Lodge and convention logo chairman, recognized Deb Jarvar, Løven Lodge, for her logo submission that was selected for the convention. He also recognized Nancy Kittleson, Vennelag, for her submission.

President Hermanson recalled the Laws committee. There was no further business and President Hermanson dismissed the committee.

Andrew Johnsen reported the convention Walk-a-Thon had four walkers for \$30 on Friday. There were 15-20 walkers on Saturday and the total contributions to date have raised over \$300.

Mary Bennett explained the Wisconsin Regional Ski for Light Program and thanked the delegates for their lodges support.

Treasurer Duane Kittleson reported that \$1538 initially was raised by the silent auction. Final figures will be available after all funds are collected.

President Hermanson recognized Thomas Maxson and presented gift for retiring off the board. Thomas will not be attending the evening banquet.

Darlene Arneson reported that the Fundraising committee has items for sale in the Upper Pre-Function area including coffee mugs, cheese slicers, pot holders, eye lens cloths and cookbooks. The committee has considered making an anniversary calendar for 2015 and would appreciate feedback if lodges would be interested.

Ray Knutson explained the handout on the history of the district. Please contact him know of any errors.

Nominations Committee: Tom Boudreau (Chair), Mary Bennett and Duane Kittleson announced their progress on securing nominees for the District Board. President-Owen Christianson (Zone 2); Vice President-Diane Hesseltvan-Dinter (Zone 4); Secretary-Darlene Arneson; Treasurer- Adrian Johnson (Zone 2); Recreation-Andrew Johnsen (Zone 6); Publicity-Joy Bashara (Zone 4); Cultural-Esther Charlton (Zone 6); Youth-Cheryl Schlessner (Zone 3).

The officers were elected by unanimous ballot.

The meeting recessed for lunch and caucus.

President Hermanson called the meeting back to order.

Delegates to the International Lodge Meeting:

District Delegates – the District has two spots. The President fills one spot. Darlene Arneson, District Secretary, was nominated for the second District spot.

At Large Delegates:

Zone 1- David Hermundson (alternate Sandra Olson); Zone 2 Adrian Johnson and Ramona Johnson (alternates Agneta Ames and Hazen Ames); Zone 3- Cheryl Wille Schlessner (alternate John Arneson); Zone 4- Michaela Decker (alternates Judith Ghastin and Joy Bashara); Zone 5- Thomas Maxson (alternate Gary Melby); Esther Charlton and Andrew Johnsen (alternates Merle Hanson and Gene Steensma).

At large nominees: Jon Grinde, Judith Ghastin, Don Hermanson, Duane Kittleson, Motion passed. There was a motion that if all at-large alternates are unable to attend, the zone alternates would be part of the pool. The order would be selected by a random drawing.

Len Carlson and Tom Kunkel gave away two SN Foundation ornaments.

International Director Nomination: Jon Grinde with alternate Owen Christianson. Approved by unanimous vote.

Zone Caucus Reports:

Zone 1-Dave Hermundson was elected and the other Director position is vacant. Alternate- Priority. Joanne Erickson and the second alternate position is vacant.

Zone 2- Alternates- Specific. Ron Iverson is alternate to Adrian Johnson. Tom Boudreau is alternate to Owen Christianson.

Zone 3-Dennis Westgor was elected. Alternates- Specific. Mary Bennett is alternate to Cheryl Wille-Schlessner. Duane Kittleson is alternate to Dennis Westgor.

Zone 4-Alternates- Specific. Michaela Decker is alternate to Diane Hesseltvan Dinter. Judy Ghastin is alternate to Joy Bashara.

Zone 5-Kathleen Secora and Christina Fairchild were elected. Alternates- Specific. Vicki Rudh-Jones is alternate to Christina Fairchild. Ken Johnson is alternate to Kathleen Secora.

Zone 6- Alternates- Priority. Gene Steensma and Merle Hanson were elected alternates.

Sports Director Andrew Johnsen announced a new sports program he will be promoting for the upcoming year.

The Resolutions committee presented Resolution #8:

WHEREAS: Host Lodges Mandt 314, Nordland 544, and Norseman of the Lakes 650 have diligently and effectively planned and executed a fitting and memorable 100th anniversary Sons of Norway District Five Convention with due respect and honor to the 200th Anniversary of Norway's Constitution; and

WHEREAS: The management and staff of Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin for outstanding accommodations, food and service; and

WHEREAS: District President Don Hermanson and Secretary Darlene Arneson and the District Five Board of Directors have provided diligent leadership and oversight during the last biennium; and

WHEREAS: International Director Ray Knutson has shown to be a strong and knowledgeable advocate of District Five on the International Board; and

WHEREAS: The appointed Committees and temporary officers have performed with dignity and dispatch; and

WHEREAS: The appointed Committees and temporary officers have performed with dignity and dispatch; and

WHEREAS: The parliamentarian has guided us with Roberts Rules of Order;

WHEREAS: The International Home Office has been a valuable resource; and

WHEREAS: The Field Staff has provided valuable financial resources to the Lodge through the revenue sharing and product opportunities to members; and

WHEREAS: Resource persons who have made valuable and informative presentations; and

WHEREAS: Delegates, spouses, friends, visitors and vendors have added fraternal charm to the business, social, cultural, and heritage aspects of this gathering; and

WHEREAS: Silent auction donors have contributed to the financial health of the District; and

WHEREAS: Congratulations are in order for individual awards and lodge awards; and

WHEREAS: We offer God Speed and safe travel wishes to Delegates and visitors to the International Convention in Jackson, Florida; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Congratulations to the newly elected District Board and International Director and many thanks to the outgoing District Board members. Also many thanks to the Delegates, Alternates, and visitors who so graciously have of their time and resources to serve their fraternal/benefit society of SONS OF NORWAY; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the incoming District Five Board of Directors extend gratitude and thanks to any person or group inadvertently omitted from this resolution.

The resolution was approved and committee dismissed.

Announcements were made. There were not any bids for the 2016 Convention. The District 5 Board will meet and decide the dates and locations.

President Hermanson adjourned the District 5 Lodge meeting.

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Banquet activities:

John and Darlene Arneson served as emcees. Entertainment by the Edvard Grieg Chorus of Madison, Wisconsin and the Nordlyset Youth Group "200th Anniversary Skit".

The District 5 raffle winners were drawn.

International Director Ray Knutson installed the 2014-16 District 5 Board of Directors. Duane Kittleson and Tom Boudreau were installing marshals and Past District Board 5 members Jon Grinde, Jostein Bakken, Susan Boudreau, Mary Bennett, Duane Kittleson, Mary Zoroufy, Oleif Olsaker, and Lorraine Selvick served as Honorary Marshals.

Owen Christianson announced that the People's Choice Award went to Barb Johnson. He recognized Carol DeVito, Linda Nelson, and Connie Cross for achieving the first three levels of the Rosemaling Cultural Skills Medals for their classwork during the convention.

2012 awards were presented:

- Lodge Achievement Tier 1- Nordlyset
- Lodge Achievement Tier 2- Elvesund
- Family Lodge of the Year- Mandt

2013 awards were presented:

- Lodge Achievement Tier 1- Mandt
- Lodge Achievement Tier 2- Viking
- Family Lodge of the Year- Nordkap