

Sons of Norway District 5 Board Meeting Minutes- April 23, 2016

Westby Wisconsin

For board approval-2nd

President Owen Christianson opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and silence observed for departed members. He explained some basic rules and guidelines for the meeting.

Roll Call:Owen Christianson, Diane Hesseltvan Dinter, Ron Iverson, Andrew Johnsen, Joy Bashara, Esther Charlton, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Christina Fairchild, David Hermundson, Darlene Arneson, Duane Kittleson, Kathy Secora. Guests: International SN Treasurer Ray Knutson, International Director Jon Grinde, and International President Jon Tehven. (note: Darlene Arneson, Jon Grinde and John Tehven arrived later in the meeting)

Owen's opening remarks regarding president's box of official items and silence for departed members.

Kathy Secora took minutes for Darlene Arneson who would be late due to a work commitment.

Communications

Secretary Arneson distributed a thank you note from the SN International Foundation for a past District Board member memorial.

Secretary's Report

Motion to approve Minutes for October 3. Seconded and passed.

Motion to approve minutes from board conference call on March 21. Seconded and passed.

Motion to approve Central Lodge meeting minutes. Seconded, discussed, and approved

Statement of allowable expenses

Travel \$.52/mile plus tolls; Meals \$25 per day with receipts; Lodging \$63.30 (plus tax) with receipts; and the banquet ticket for \$22 for the Solvang Lodge 100th anniversary banquet. There was a question about hotel rates.

Bills against the District N/A

Treasurer's Report

Finance Committee: Duane Kittleson, Ron Iverson, Kathy Secora. Discussion. Moved, seconded, and approved.

- Members of the Finance Committee: Kathy Secora, Ron Iverson and Duane Kittleson, Treasurer and Committee Chair.
- The financial reports were prepared and emailed to each officer and director.
- The committee's work was completed using a series of email messages over the period of two days.

- The committee’s goal was to establish a separate account for the scholarship funds. The account was set up and has been in use beginning in 2015.
- Treasurer Kittleson produced some historical data and statistics expressed as percentages which the committee used to reflect on trends for the District. Using the years of 2009 through 2015 the following information was studied:
 - The number of lodges has dropped from 61 to 53 – a (13%) decrease.
 - Adult membership has declined from 5,864 to 4,546 – a (22%) decrease.
 - Change in total income is lower by only (1%.) Fundraising has had some influence but more likely the increase in Masse Moro tuition and campers has been the larger contributing factor.
 - One additional positive note the total expenses for 2015 as compared to 2009 show a 4% decrease which is actually a promising sign.
 - The accumulated gain(loss) in the seven-year period shows an average loss of (\$3,341.)
 - Total cash and deposits has declined by an average of (\$3,675) for the seven-year period.
- One agenda item of the first District Board Meeting after the District Lodge Meeting is to establish the travel allowance for officers and directors. This item could be easily handled during the District Lodge Meeting. A resolution to change the By-laws is proposed.
- Each year fraternal funds are received by our district to be spent on activities which support **Cultural, Youth, Sports and Lodge Leadership**. Annually a report is prepared to show how the funds were used. Because of the heavy reliance on District Five support for Masse Moro Heritage Camp, our district offers little to no cultural support. The Barnebirkie is self-supporting and fits both youth and sports categories. It would very beneficial under the Lodge Leadership classification to offer District wide membership incentives. We must take a serious look at how we market and price our excellent heritage language camp so there are fraternal funds to allocate toward other programs. Here is another way to look at some of the 2015 expenses.

Membership count as of 12/31/2015 = 4,546			
	2015	Cost	Per Member
Masse Moro	\$	8,187	\$ 1.80
DBoard Expenses	\$	12,903	\$ 2.84
Cultural Support	\$	-	\$ -
Membership Incentives	\$	-	\$ -
Scholarships	\$	-	\$ -

Webmaster & website	\$	511	\$	0.11
District Liability Insur.	\$	444	\$	0.10
Zone Events Support	\$	875	\$	0.19
Totals	\$	22,921	\$	5.04

- At the June District Lodge meeting delegates to the International Lodge Meeting in Tacoma will be elected. District Five is authorized 17 delegates which is three more than in previous years because of a By-Law change in 2014. Our district dues received each year includes a one-dollar per member assessment to help cover the delegate package costs and associated travel. Each District Lodge Meeting the amount of the delegate stipend resolution sets the amount greater than the amount of dues collected for this purpose. This should be the year the policy is established to only allow a stipend in the amount of the total collected in the previous biennium divided by the number of delegates elected. For the year 2016 that would be approximately \$650.

President's Report- Owen Christianson

Discussion of reimbursement for lodge visits. Owen reported expense reports should be sent to Treasurer and visitation reports should be sent to President.

There was a motion to accept the report. 2nd. Motion passed.

International Board Meeting and Presidents' Council.

Change in Lodge of Year Reports next year (coming in Nov). (Hopefully) simplified. Duane asked if the lodges could be notified more timely so they know what the lodge is going to be judged on.

Maybe make the new format effective with January 2017.

Building Bridges: Theme of Board and Convention

Cultural

Esther Charlton (chr) and Andrew Johnsen

Problems with logistics of Viking Chest. The chest will be taken home by Cheryl for use in Zone 3.

Cultural Skills Pins

District 5 Members

July 1 – December 31, 2015

Lodge # 082 – Fosselyngen

Bernard Albers – Language 2

Lodge #168 - Valhall

Barbara Palm - Knitting 1 – 2 – 3

Lodge #314 – Mandt

Sandra Fleming – Literature 1

Rodger Hansen – Literature 1

Lodge #472 – Polar Star

Arthur Andersen – Stamps 1 – 2 – 3

Jerri Lynn Baker – Music 2 - 3, Cooking 3 Genealogy 1 – 2 – 3, Stamps 3

Barbara Johnson Genealogy 1, Stamps 2 – 3
Brooke Johnson Cooking 1, genealogy 1
Ken Johnson Stamps 1 – 2
Norm Olson Stamps 1
Kari Schussler – Knitting 3

Lodge #513 – Vennelag

Karen Goth – Rosemaling 1
Martha Phillips – Rosemaling 1
Tiffany Schwoerer – Rosemaling 1
Kari Ann Waterbury – Rosemaling 1

Lodge #614 – Circle City

Jenny Svendsen – Rosemaling 1 – 2 – 3

Lodge #632 – Gronnvik

Peggy Schroeder – Literature 3

Lodge #677 – Viking of the Smokies

Joan Schrader Knitting 1 - 2

Moved and 2nd to the report. Motion passed.

Spirit of the New Vikings

Joy Bashara (Chr) and Owen Christianson

Pins are in and will be awarded at convention- Owen passed around the 3 coins he will award.

There was a 2nd to the report. Motion passed.

Youth/Heritage and Grants

From: Cheryl Wille-Schlessler, District 5 Youth Director

It is my responsibility to report that the proposed Norwegian-ancestry focused trip for middle school youth to Washington, D.C. has been canceled due to lack of interest. Competing local trips were cited as one reason for lack of response.

On February 19, 2016, I joined the Sports Director, Andrew Johnson, at the Barnebirkie held in Hayward, WI. Volunteers from across District 5 performed a variety of tasks at this event. As Youth Director, my responsibility was to register young children, typically ages 2-11, for the Barnebirkie Ski Race. Following this activity I also worked at the Expo site where cookies from Sons of Norway Lodges were distributed and coffee was sold.

Thursday, March 3, 2016, I attended the Wergeland Lodge, 5-28, meeting held in La Crosse, WI. I prepared a Masse Moro Power Point slide show, which I shared with the members. I also prepared a display board which was left with Wergeland to use with their youth group.

Mandt Lodge, 5-314, in Stoughton, WI held its third grade event on April 5, 2016. My role at the event was to share information about our heritage camp and to have an interactive activity which engaged the children. I prepared an activity on Viking runes or puzzles.

At this writing, I am in the process of organizing participant materials for the 2016 Masse Moro camping session. To date, 39 children are registered, 28 from District 5 and 11 from District 1. A slight change has occurred with our administrative team. This year, the camp will have co-administrators. Veteran administrator, Kaia Ellis will be assisted this year by Sarah (Listug) Barnes. Sarah has worked for Masse Moro previously. The former co-administrator, Jackie Twiss, has chosen to step away from the position this year, but she has not completely severed her ties with Masse Moro.

In preparation for the District 5 Convention to be held in Marshfield, June 22-25, 2016, I have been given the task by President Owen Christianson to prepare a sectional for delegates which encompasses the various components of "heritage and grants". Sarah Barnes will be at the 2016 District 5 Convention to make a presentation on Masse Moro.

My task is to inform delegates about the scholarships available to members and their families. A Power Point presentation will be shared, and I will use the Sons of Norway International website to show delegates where the information on scholarships can be found. We will also investigate the District 5 website where additional information and participation forms can be located.

For youth groups or families attending the District 5 Convention, I have prepared a photographic scavenger hunt and road rally for them to enjoy on Friday evening, June 24th. Youth groups or families who complete the activity will have their name entered into a drawing on Saturday evening June 25th.

Based on applications submitted, the Heritage and Grants Committee recommends Jonathan Grinde for the Cyril Wittrock Book Scholarship in the amount of \$300.00.

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser (Chr) and David Hermundson, Kathy Secora.

Adjunct.Member: Mary Bennett, presence not requested.

Jonathan Grinde recommended for Cyril Wittrock scholarship. Seconded, discussion, carried.

There was a 2nd to approve the Committee report. Motion passed.

Publicity

The following Email was sent to the committee on April 16, 2016:

Dear Committee Members and Owen,

I think that we can handle everything via email and then meet to clarify for the full meeting in Westby. Friday evening should be enough time to get everyone up to speed.

Publicity ongoing issues:

1. The webmaster of the future. Recommendations have been made. Please take the time to look at this email. Facebook's value.
2. The District Newsletter - Ole Bull - Should it be restarted? Changed in some way? Not restarted? Consider the value to the lodges. Is there something different that can be done with the new webmaster?
3. Seminar for the Convention in June. Newsletter editors have been invited to meet and brainstorm with each other. Certificates will be awarded to lodges with newsletters. Ideas?
4. Meeting at convention with publicity directors of all lodges present to share the successes and

challenges.

Ideas?

5. Are there any ideas that occur to you about making our communications with members and the public better?

Thanks for the feedback in advance! NO FEEDBACK PRIOR TO MEETING

Results of the Publicity Committee Meeting on April 22, 2016:

Publicity Director Bashara gave the following report regarding publicity.

- 37 lodges list that they have newsletters; many are on the district website
- 21 lodges have webpages
- Approximately 20% of the lodges have other methods of publicizing
- Proposal for Pat Sternitzky (USAgNet LLC) was shared – Website Project
- Chapter X – District Publicity was shared with an alternate item C(from Duane) this listed alternate duties in fulfilling Ole Bull with a new format
- I shared that I have been contacting “editors” about doing a sharing session at convention in order to enhance what is already being done. People have been responding positively. Emails have been sent to all lodges with email information. I have called those without email. Certificates for newsletters – I have a friend graphic designer for free.

Committee members made the following responses:

- Some people would like the Ole Bull back, but in electronic form; in a data base; sent to the presidents along with the board
- Contact Gary (past publicity) about his Ole Bull news which was mentioned as the last publicity director who did Ole Bull

In Summary: I do not believe that I am the right person to do this job because I believe there are many others who could do the technical work better. The organization deserves someone who can do the job. I would be happy to do something else more suited to my skill set.
Sincerely, Joy Bashara

Chr- Joy Bashara. Committee Members: Andrew Johnsen, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser.

A lot of discussion about Ole Bull, policies and procedures, alternatives, etc.

There was a motion to approve the committee report. 2nd. Motion passed.

A motion was made to reserve the name **Ole Bull** for District 5 communications and to refer this to publicity committee to determine how. (How should the district communicate with the local lodges.)
Seconded. Discussion. Motioned defeated.

Sports

Chairperson: Andrew Johnsen

Committee Members: Esther Charlton, David Hermundson, and adjunct committeeman Ron Iverson

2016 Barnebirkie

A total of 850 children participated in this year’s Barnebirkie. A summary of event is presented in the 2016 Barnebirkie Report

2015 Fifth District Bowling Tournament

The Bowling Tournament is being conducted from January 1 to April 30. To date four lodges have participated in the tournament. \$215.00 in entry fees have been received by the District from the four lodges. There is still one lodge (Nordkap) that has not submitted their forms and fees. There are currently five bowling categories: youth ages children ages 11 and under, youth 12 to 17, adult men, adult women, and WII bowlers. Proceeds from the bowling tournament go to the Fifth District

Scholarship Fund. The winners of each category will receive a Sons of Norway Fifth District Bowling Certificate.

2016 Fifth District Convention

Three sporting events are proposed for the 2016 Fifth District Convention: a Walk-a-thon, a Golf Tournament, and a Kubb Tournament.

The Walk-a-thon will take place on Friday and Saturday morning. The walking course has been set up. The fee will be \$5.00. A Walk-a-thon sign-up sheet should be placed in all the delegates convention packets. Proceeds will go to the Masse Moro fund.

The Golf Tournament course venue has been set by President Owen Christianson. It was suggested to contact the main office and request a number of Sons of Norway golf towels for the Golf Tournament.

There is a concern about where to hold a Kubb Tournament at the convention. If the district holds a Kubb Tournament at the convention a tournament coordinator needs to be found who knows the rules of the game.

Manga takk to committee member Esther Charlton ,David Hermundson, and adjunct committeeman Ron Iverson for their contributions to the committee.

Submitted by: Andrew Johnsen

Andrew Johnsen (Chr), David Hermundson, and Esther Charlton and adjunct committee Ron Iverson. There was a second to approve the report as amended. Motion passed.

2016 Barnebirkie Report

Twenty six Fifth District lodges participated in this year's Barnebirkie ski event that was held in Hayward, Wisconsin on Friday, February 19, 2016. A total of 850 children participated in this year's event. A delicious and luncheon including many Norwegian delicacies was provided by the District at the Veteran's Community Center in Hayward after Barnebirkie. The luncheon was prepared and served by four Fifth District volunteers. There were a total of 22 District volunteers; 1,179 dozen cookies donated; and a total of \$305.00 in donations that were received. Coffee sales at the Sons of Norway Fifth District information booth at the Ski Expo totaled \$380.88 before expenses. On the evening before the Barnebirkie a volunteer meeting was held at the Steakhouse and Lodge Restaurant in Hayward. Volunteer badges were handed out, and questions were answered concerning volunteer assignments. The volunteers worked at four separate areas during and after the event: registration, cookie tent, volunteer reception luncheon, and the Fifth District Sons of Norway information table at the Ski Expo at the High School. Group leaders were assigned to each of the four areas. I would like to thank group leaders Mary Bennett, Judy Ghastin, David Hermundson, and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser and all of the other volunteers who graciously gave of their time and energy. Also a, "Tusen Takk", to all the Fifth District lodges who provided volunteers, cookies, and cash donation in order to make the 2016 Barnebirkie a successful event.

Barnebirkie 2016

Lodge	Dozen Cookies	Volunteers	Donations
Askeladden 5-610			
Circle City 5-614			\$50.00
Cleng Peerson 5-525	94		
Dovre 5-353	51	3	
Edvard Grieg 5-657			
Elvedal 5-556	7		
Fagernes 5-616			\$50.00
Fosselyngen 5-82			
Gronnvik 5-632	44.5		
HR Holand 5-549	31	2	
Harfrsfjord 5-206	34.5		
Idun 5-074	128.75	5	
Jotunheimen 5-286			
Lief Erikson 5-097			\$100.00
Loven 5-029	100	1	
Mandt 5-314	31		
Myrmarken 5-609			\$50.00
Nordkap 5-378			\$30.00
Norse Valley 5-491	37	1	
Norskeland 5-580	69		
Ostestaden 5-642			\$25.00
Polar Star 5-472	122		
Scandiana 5-600	22.5	1	
Solvang 5-457	50		
Trygvasson 5-220	10		
Ulseth 5-670	18		
Vakkertland 5-570	30		
Valkyrien 5-053	203.5	4	
Valhall 5-168	24.5	1	
Vennelag 5-513	42.75	2	
Viking 5-625	44		
Wergeland 5-28	54	2	
Totals	1229	22	\$305.

A total of 26 Fifth District lodges participated with volunteers, cookies, or cash donations.

A total of 850 children ages 3 to 13 skied the Barnebirkie.

Gross from coffee sales: \$380.88

Membership

Membership Committee – Diane Hesselvan Dinter, Joy Bashara, Christina Fairchild

The objectives that were established by the Membership Committee were not really measurable in terms of success. The new member names were sent out, but there was no way of determining if the Zone Directors had followed through. The same thing is true of the Spirit Century Lodge names. So was this a successful way to make contact and encourage new members to participate in local lodges?

Recommendation: Although no objective was discussed about how to address this deficiency by this committee the new Membership Committee should look at how the Board can determine if this has been successful goal and if it should be continued. (See objective 1 below for additional information.)

The main objective that was completed was giving the report on how to use Facebook. However, we did not send it out to lodges to help them.

Recommendation: Send the two documents prepared by Christina Fairchild to the lodges and provided copies for delegates at the convention.

Discussion of the meeting centered on objectives for the coming two years based on continuing and updating the current objectives and expanding the objectives to include retention.

Objectives:

1. Create a letter for Zone Directors to use when they contact people who have joined the Sons of Norway on the internet. These contacts are sent to the Vice President who has been distributing them to all Zone Directors. The letter should include a welcome and a description of the part the District plays in the structure of the Sons of Norway. It was suggested that a copy of the letter be sent to Lodge Presidents for follow up to be sure that the people have been contacted and welcomed to the Lodge. (Note: Even if we cannot follow the success of this letter the District at least has an opportunity to provide new members with information about the District which has never been done before.)
2. Develop a procedure for contacting potential members who have made contact with the District through the new web page or future development of social media.
3. Identified how the district can promote a happy informed membership. Including understanding of the importance of the District Board, and the District Lodge, (Note: objective 1 above only pertains to people who have joined via the internet. This objective includes current member who may not have any information about the complex structure of the Sons of Norway.)
4. Continue distributing the names of the members of the Spirit of the Century Lodge once it is determined how valuable the list is.
5. Identify how the District can encourage the use of mentors for new members.

Observation:

The zone directors are widely varied in their effectiveness. Can we identify what makes an effective Zone Director? It is something that the lodges in each zone as well as the zone director need to share. Perhaps we need to think about establishing a different model for success in zone work.

Diane Hesseltvan Dinter (chr), Joy Bashara and Christina Fairchild

(Darlene Arneson arrived at the meeting and assumed the role of recording the minutes.)

There was a 2nd to the report. Motion passed.

Audit

Diane Hesseltvan Dinter (Chr), Christina Fairchild, and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser.

No problems were found.

There was a 2nd to the report. Motion passed.

Fundraising

Darlene Arneson (Chr.) Owen Christianson, and Duane Kittleson.

We had a conference call on April 17 with Chr. Darlene Arneson, Owen Christianson, and Duane Kittleson. There are 45 potholders and 29 cheese slicers left in inventory.

The committee discussed fundraisers for the 2016 convention and recommend:

- “Heads and Tails” fundraiser at the Friday noon luncheon. Expected revenue: On each table, place an envelope marked “Heads and Tables”. Anyone interested in participating in the activity places \$5 in the envelope before the activity starts. District Board members collect the envelopes. The leader asks everyone participating to stand up. At the signal, people put their hands on their head or butt – a coin is tossed and if it lands on heads, the people with their hands on their heads continue but the ones with their hands on their butts sit down and are out. This continues until you have 6 people left. They are called up to the front and then continue until one person remains. The winner gets \$50 and the District keeps the rest of the money collected. A minimum of 10 people will cash flow the activity. **Expected income:** If we have 75 people participate, \$375 collected and \$50 prize money to net \$325.
- 50-50 Raffle: During the Friday night social activity, sell double sided raffle tickets for a 50-50 raffle. 6 for \$5, 15 for \$10 or an “arms-length” for \$20 (my arms-length is 36 tickets so guys would be longer giving members more incentive to buy \$20). Selling during the social time which starts at 6:00 PM. Do the drawing at 7:30 PM. The District keeps half and the winner gets the other half. **Expected income:** Would hope to net \$200-300

The committee recommends that we conduct a ticketed raffle (for cash) that can be started at the District Convention and end at the closing of Masse Moro (Saturday, July 30) at 9:30 am closing program. This would allow us to distribute tickets to lodges without mailing them (except to the few

that aren't attending). We can send more tickets with the lodges to sell and not just 2 packets or the like. We can explain the importance of supporting the District. If we did the drawing at the closing, then we could also have Masse Moro attendees support the fundraiser as MM is a major expense for the District. Prizes: \$400, \$200, \$100 with ticket prices: \$5 each. Need to sell 140 tickets to break even. Ask each lodge and District Board member to take a minimum of 20 tickets to sell. $67 \times 20 = \$1340$ gross - \$700 = **\$640 expected net**. In 2014, the raffle netted about \$800.

The committee discussed a trivia contest that could be conducted at a convention as a fundraising event. To build interest in it, resources to conduct local lodge trivia nights and zone trivia events could be assembled. This could not only educate people about Sons of Norway as they study, but also provide a fundraising and social activity.

The committee discussed a "book swap" that Mandt Lodge had conducted and felt it might be a good zone meeting fundraiser. For \$10, people can bring up to 15 books that are in good condition and at least half that are hard cover. During the first 30 minutes, the books are collected and then organized by topic. At the ring of the bell, the participants can pick out the same number of books that they brought (i.e. if they brought 11 books, they pick out 11 books) and check out. No input costs, low work and all profit.

There was a motion to conduct a Heads n Tails Fundraiser. 2nd. Motion passed. There was a motion to accept the report but to remove the ticketed raffle. 2nd. Motion defeated with 6 in favor, 2 opposed and one abstain.

The board voted on the rest of the committee report which includes the 50-50 raffle and the ticketed raffle. 2nd. The motion was defeated. There was a motion to reconsider the motion on 50-50 raffle. 2nd. Motion passed. There was discussion on the 50-50 raffle. Motion passed.

The committee proposes a resolution for the District Board to host conventions

- Not a bylaw change. The bidding process is in our Policies & Practices book.
- Wergeland has a bid for 2018. Have this one effective 2020.

Resolution – Hosting District Lodge Meeting and Convention

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact: Darlene Arneson

WHEREAS: The District 5 Policies and Practices book outlines the process for lodges to submit bids to host the District Lodge Meeting and Convention, and

WHEREAS: There has been very little interest in bidding from the lodges to submit a bid to host the biennial meetings but there have been offers to assist the Board with planning and volunteer needs, and

WHEREAS: The District is very limited in its ability to fundraise and interest in products, donations, and contributions of past fundraising attempts has not been effective, and

WHEREAS: The District Lodge Meeting and Convention can generate additional funds through registrations, special meals and activities, and event fundraisers, be it

Resolved, That beginning with the 2020 District Lodge Meeting and Convention, the District 5 Board is responsible for planning the District Lodge Meetings and Conventions each biennium. Local lodges close to the site will be asked to assist with volunteers, cookie breaks, and other assistance, in planning and executing the convention. After the convention, the District will retain 80% of the profits made and the local lodge(s) will be given 20%. A convention policy will outline volunteer needs and District Board responsibilities. The District 5 Convention Planning Committee will consist of the District 5 Board Executive Committee, District Cultural Director, District Sports Director, and two representatives of the local lodge(s).

There was discussion about having the District Lodge set a precedent of allowing delegates to make decisions that were previously found in the Policies & Practices Book.

There was a motion to approve the resolution and move it to the District Resolutions Committee. 2nd to approve the report. The motion was defeated.

Executive Committee

Owen Christianson (Chr), Diane Hesseltvan Dinter, Darlene Arneson, and Duane Kittleson.

Committee members: Owen Christianson, Diane Hesseltvan Dinter, Darlene Arneson, and Duane Kittleson. The committee met in Marshfield after the 2016 Convention planning meeting. They discussed the plans for the spring board meeting, needing to get an update from the nominating committee, the many resolutions and bylaw changes from International and the District President's Council on nominations and International Lodge Meeting delegates, and other topics. Owen and Darlene have scheduling issues with work for the April meeting. Duane will help coordinate the Friday events and if needed, Diane will chair the Saturday board meeting until Owen arrives. Kathy Secora is taking minutes for Darlene until she arrives on Saturday. Duane is working on the website transfer to Wisconsin Ag Connection. They discussed departing board gifts and having a set amount for each gift.

There was a 2nd to the report. Motion passed.

International Redistricting Committee

Duane Kittleson is serving on the task force and displayed the current lodge distribution and one option that was presented. Vikings of the Smokies has made a request to District 3 to move to that District. There was discussion about what process should there be for lodge that request being moved.

Zone Alignment Committee

Chr. Darlene Arneson, Cheryl Schlessner, and Andrew Johnsen. Others: Ray Knutson and Esther Charlton

The committee met via conference call on April 17. On the call were Andrew Johnsen, Cheryl

Schlesser, Esther Charlton and Darlene Arneson (chairman). The committee appreciated the maps from Duane Kittleson showing the current distribution of lodges in zones. The committee reviewed how zones are covered in our bylaws and Policies & Practices books. The committee discussed feedback we have received from lodges, comments and observations from the International's task force on District changes, and reactions they've had from lodges in discussions. It was decided to offer a resolution for the convention, have a handout for the caucuses to lead a discussion about zones/expectations/needs, and to find some type of map/display that would allow members to look at how new zones could be organized.

The committee proposes:

Resolution – Zone alignment and distribution of lodges

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact: Darlene Arneson

WHEREAS: District 5 zones are not equal in number of lodges zone directors represent, geographical proximity, and number of members served, and

WHEREAS: The International has initiated a task force that also looks at District alignment and make-up, how lodges that are distant from each other are served, and other related issues, and

WHEREAS: The District can use the next biennium to study what lodges expect for service and representation, how the zones can be realigned, and what the task force and research recommends, and

Resolved, That the District Board have a zone realignment plan by December 31, 2017, that can be sent to lodges for review and input; that the Nominating committee use the proposed plan as they secure nominations for the 2018-2020 biennium, and that a by-law change be submitted for the 2018 District Lodge meeting that would take immediate effect.

There was a 2nd to the report. Motion passed.

Zone Activities

Owen reported that he has not heard anything about the International offering officer training. There are three workshops scheduled during the convention. New Lodge Committee- Duane Kittleson, Esther Charlton, Darlene Arneson and Ray Knutson were appointed to serve on the committee. Darlene contacted Sherry Gorse to get the contact information for the inquiries the board was told of in 2015. There had been interest in the Carbondale, IL area to begin a lodge. There still might be interest in the DeKalb, IL area as well. Sycamore: Mary Jane Lindaas, ___ Kishwaukee Drive, Sycamore, IL 60178. Carbondale contact: Dr. Bonnie Juul, 808 N. Almond St, Carbondale, IL 62901. Email : bonniejuul@gmail.com. Sherry sent her information about starting a lodge in September of 2015. Darlene will contact both people and offer help. Ray had taken down information to the Sycamore contact but she doesn't have a computer and doesn't communicate well.

2016 Convention

Judy Ghaslin, Diane Hesseltvan Dinter, Owen Christianson and Dorothy Berg are serving the convention planning committee..

Declarations and Nominating Committee Report

President Christianson asked for declarations from the Board. The Nominating Committee (Jon Grinde (Chr), Mary Bennett and Tom Boudreau) will use this information.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Declaration- Oct 2015</u>	<u>Declarations- April 2016</u>
Owen Christianson	Not sure	no
Diane Hesseltvan Dinter	No	No
Darlene Arneson	yes	yes
Andrew Johnsen	yes	Staying on the board. Finished 2 nd term as sports.
Duane Kittleson	No	no
Joy Bashara	Not sure	Not with publicity
Esther Charlton	yes	Stay on the board. May have another interested in culture.
Cheryl Wille-Schlesser	yes	yes
David Hermundson	Not planning on running	no
Ron Iverson	Not sure	no
Kathleen Secora	yes	yes
Christina Fairchild	(no response- had left meeting)	yes
Jon Grinde	Has two years remaining on his 4 year term	Need to elect an alternate for Jon (2 year)
Ray Knutson	Eligible to run again for International Treasurer	

There was a question about separating zone director duties and Youth Director. That could be done by having an alternate visit some of the lodges, propose a resolution to the District Lodge, or to step down as an officer.

District Lodge Meeting Business

Compiled Resolutions and Bylaw Proposals for April 2016 Board Meeting

International Charter and Constitutions Proposals

Proposal No. 1

RE: NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, all districts have Nominating Committees to identify, review and recommend eligible candidates for International Director as set forth in Charter and Constitutions section 3.7.7; and, WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the organization to have a large number of members eligible to serve on this Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the current Charter and Constitutions limits the Committee to members of the District Lodge:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter and Constitutions section 3.7.7 be amended to read as follows:

The District Board of Directors shall elect a Nominating Committee of no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) members of the District. Lodge.

There was a motion to move it forward. 2nd . Passed.

Proposal No. 2

RE: NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, the Laws Committee delivered a report at the International Convention in Jacksonville, Florida in August of 2014, in which Law Proposals from several districts were rewritten for clarity; and WHEREAS, an omission from the original proposals was made inadvertently by the committee; and, WHEREAS, this omission was not corrected during the discussion period regarding the proposal; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of all districts to seek out as many qualified candidates from as wide a pool of members and from as many sources as possible; and,

WHEREAS, this is the same language that already appears in Section 3.11.5.1 Nominating Committee for District Officers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charter and Constitutions, section 3.7.7, be amended to read as follows:

3.7.7 The District Board of Directors shall elect a Nominating Committee of no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) members of the District Lodge. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to identify, review, and recommend eligible candidates for the election of International Director. The Nominating Committee shall elect the Committee Chair from the elected committee members. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be a candidate for election as International Director.

Members of the District Lodge may submit candidates to the Nominating Committee as determined by the District Lodge. Candidates for nomination to the International Board of Directors shall be benefit members and must meet all eligibility criteria as set forth by the International Board. The Nominating Committee shall review the qualifications of the candidates and present them to the Lodge and place the candidates on the ballot.

Other procedures and deadlines for the nomination of candidates for International Director shall be determined by the District Lodge or District Board. (8/14)

There was a motion to move it forward. 2nd . Passed.

Proposal No. 3

RE: NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the current Charter and Constitutions section 3.11.5.1 establishes a Nominating Committee for the purpose of identifying, reviewing and recommending eligible candidates for District offices; and,

WHEREAS, eligibility criteria to hold a district office includes being a Sons of Norway member, being a benefit member and may include proper vetting and background checks, if required by a District Lodge or Board; and,

WHEREAS, some offices may also require specific skill sets such as computer usage, knowledge of accounting and finance, management, leadership, vision and strategy; and,

WHEREAS, a reasonable amount of time must be allowed to complete the review and recommendation process to insure that the criteria are met and the required skill sets are in place:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charter and Constitutions be amended to add new section, 3.11.5.1.1 to read as follows:

3.11.5.1.1 Candidate applications for District Officers must be submitted to the Nominating Committee for vetting no later than 30 days prior to the start of the District Lodge meeting.

There was a motion to move it forward. 2nd . Passed.

Proposal No. 4

RE: NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the possibility exists where there may be no candidate for an elected District office; and, WHEREAS, there must be a mechanism for filling that office in the event there is no one ready or willing to run at the District Lodge Meeting:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charter and Constitutions be amended to add section 3.11.5.4 to read as follows:

3.11.5.4 In the event that there is no candidate for a district office(s), the District Board of Directors shall fill the office(s) from among the members of the District Lodge.

There was a motion to move it forward. 2nd . Passed.

(International Sons of Norway President Jon Tehven arrived at the meeting)

International Delegate resolution

INTERNATIONAL LODGE DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

WHEREAS, The Charter and Constitutions paragraph 2.6.1 was amended at the August 2014 International Lodge Meeting; and

WHEREAS, District By-Laws THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that By-law ARTICLE VIII. .

.ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES, Par. 1 be amended to read as follows:

Par. 1 Prior to the District Lodge Meeting the Secretary shall prepare a notice which allocates to each Zone the number of International Representatives to which it is entitled to proportion to its membership. (One representative for each 400 300 – balance to the pool.)

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED , Par. 4 be amended to read as follows:

Par. 4. In addition to the two Representatives for the District provided for by the International Lodge Constitution, one of whom shall be the District President, the remaining fraction of 400-300 members in each of the various Zones shall be pooled, and representatives elected at large in accordance with the number of members of which the pool consists. Also a corresponding number of Alternates shall be elected at large. Delegates and Alternates at large shall be nominated from the floor of the District Lodge.

There was a motion to move it forward. 2nd . Passed.

Resolution – Zone alignment and distribution of lodges

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact: Darlene Arneson

WHEREAS: District 5 zones are not equal in number of lodges zone directors represent, geographical proximity, and number of members served, and

WHEREAS: The International has initiated a task force that also looks at District alignment and make-up, how lodges that are distant from each other are served, and other related issues, and

WHEREAS: The District can use the next biennium to study what lodges expect for service and representation, how the zones can be realigned, and what the task force and research recommends, and

Resolved, That the District Board have a zone realignment plan by December 31, 2017, that can be sent to lodges for review and input; that the Nominating committee use the proposed plan as they secure nominations for the 2018-2020 biennium, and that a by-law change be submitted for the 2018 District Lodge meeting that would take immediate effect.

There was a motion to move it forward. 2nd. Passed.

Resolution from Geoff Wodell

Whereas, Brother George Sievers served SoN for all of his adult life at local, District and International levels, and

Whereas, before his recent passing he asked that any memorial be directed toward a specific site development, and

Whereas, the logo for the 2016 D-5 Convention and Lodge Meeting is a troll heading toward Marshfield, and

Whereas, the memorial discussed by George and Janice Sievers is a “home” for trolls, Troll Mountain, and

Whereas, after trolls have finished the kitchen work, or tending to animals, or helping Julenisse, or delivering documents to this Lodge Meeting they must have a place of rest, such as Troll Mountain, now

Therefore, be it resolved, that District Five Lodge shall support and promote the creation of Troll Mountain and encourage others to support it.

It was moved to remove the word “financial”. 2nd. Passed. There was a motion to alter the last sentence to: “that District Five Lodge shall support and promote the creation of Troll Mountain and encourage others to support it.” 2nd. Motion passed.

BY-LAW Proposals

ZONE DESCRIPTION

ARTICLE VI . . . ZONES

Whereas, Knute Rockne (5-634) has disbanded in 2015,

Whereas, the zone descriptions must change when lodges disband;

Whereas, upon completion of disbanding action for Knute Rockne Lodge; now, therefore, be it Resolved, That By-Laws **ARTICLE VI...ZONES**, Par. 2 Description of Zones, be amended as follows:

Par. 2 Description of Zones

Zone 6- Nordkap 378, Samhold 473, Sonja Henie 490, Sognefjord 523, Christian Radich 568, Scandiana 600 and Askeladden 610, Circle City 614, Tre Elver 628, ~~Knute Rockne 634~~, Edvard Grieg 657, Arctic Circle 662, Vikings of the Smokies 677 and Music City Vikings 681.

By-law Proposal # _____ (By-Law Change – requires a 2/3 vote)

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact Darlene Arneson

RE: DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TRAVELING EXPENSES

WHEREAS, all Officers and General Directors of the District are expected to communicate and be in contact with the local lodges within District Five; and

WHEREAS, most Officers and General Directors have Zone and local lodge assignments which involve travel for zone or lodge events and visits; and

WHEREAS, the District Lodge wishes to reimburse these travel expenses appropriately; and

WHEREAS, the current By-laws provide for establishment of the mileage rate and other travel expenses by the Board of Directors at their first meeting following the District Lodge Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the District Lodge should determine the mileage and other travel expenses for the Board members for the next biennium with a resolution similar in manner to the method used to set the officer's compensation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that By-law ARTICLE VII. . . OFFICERS AND SALARIES, Par. 8 be amended to read as follows:

~~Par. 8 At the first meeting of the Board of Directors after a District Lodge Meeting, the Board shall determine the per diem and traveling expense allowance for members of the Board for the next biennium.~~

Par. 8 The Board of Directors shall receive per diem and traveling expense allowance for the next biennium as determined by the District Lodge. The Board of Directors shall make a recommendation to each District Lodge Meeting with respect thereto.

(International Director Jon Grinde arrived at the meeting.)

There was discussion. Question was called. Passed.

Resolution # _____ - Officer Compensation

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact Darlene Arneson

WHEREAS, By-Laws Article VII, Par. 7 of the District 5 requires the District Lodge to determine compensation for the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Culture Director and Youth Director; and

WHEREAS, during the past biennium the District 5 Board has been diligent in their use of District funds within their control,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The following officer salaries be set for the 2016-2018 biennium:

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.

There was a motion to move it forward. 2nd. Passed

Resolution # _____ - District Board of Directors Travel

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board Contact Darlene Arneson

WHEREAS, By-Laws Article VII, Par. 8 of the District 5 requires the District Lodge to establish the Directors per diem and traveling expense allowance for the 2016 - 2018 biennium,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Officers and Directors may request reimbursement for authorized travel in the following amounts:

Personal vehicle mileage rate be set at the International Board of Directors' rate;

Food allowance of up to \$30.00 per day (must include receipts);

Toll road charges as needed (no receipt needed);

Reasonable lodging costs as needed.

There was a motion to amend the original proposal. 2nd. Passed. The motion to move the resolution forward. 2nd. Motion passed.

Resolution # _____ - Central Lodge Representation

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: Geoffrey Woddel

Resolution for Central Lodge representation

WHEREAS, Central Lodge have historically been one of the largest Lodges in the District, and

WHEREAS, District 5 had led the way in Sons of Norway to encourage Central Lodge participation, and

WHEREAS, representation on the District Board is an important element of District participation, and

WHEREAS, travel extra costs for Central Lodge members could prove an economic hardship for the District, now

THEREFORE, be in resolved any travel reimbursement to Central Lodge representatives on the District Board shall be at the lesser of actual travel expenses or the average travel reimbursement to members of the District Board (excluding the costs reimbursed for the District President) and shall only be for travel as directed by the District Board.

There was a motion to approve the resolution forward. 2nd . Motion passed.

Jon Grinde gave the Nominating Committee Report

Jon distributed a handout that outlined their contacts, challenges, and communications in trying to fill the needs of the District. The largest challenge is not having enough delegates that are Benefit members.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Declaration- Oct 2015</u>	<u>Declarations- April 2016</u>
Owen Christianson	Not sure	no
Diane Hesseltvan Dinter	No	No
Darlene Arneson	yes	yes
Andrew Johnsen	yes	Staying on the board. Finished 2 nd term as sports.
Duane Kittleson	No	no
Joy Bashara	Not sure	Not with publicity
Esther Charlton	yes	Stay on the board. May have another interested in culture.
Cheryl Wille-Schlesser	yes	yes
David Hermundson	Not planning on running	no
Ron Iverson	Not sure	no
Kathleen Secora	yes	yes
Christina Fairchild	(no response- had left meeting)	yes
Jon Grinde	Has two years remaining on his 4 year term	Need to elect an alternate for Jon (2 year)
Ray Knutson	Eligible to run again for International Treasurer	

ARTICLE VII . . . OFFICERS AND SALARIES

Whereas, the Treasurer's duties have expanded with the additional legal, IRS and reporting duties, and

Whereas, the District 5 Secretary does not have an alternate as does the other District Board

members and circumstances may be that the Secretary cannot attend a meeting or fulfill his/her duties for any reason, therefore

Be it resolved that

ARTICLE VII . . . OFFICERS AND SALARIES

Article VII, Par. 4 All Zones shall be entitled to exactly (2) representatives on the Board. The Secretary **and Treasurer** shall not be counted as a representative against a Zone. **An alternate for the Secretary and Treasurer should also be elected.**

2016 convention update

Diane Hesseltvan Dinter gave an update on the 2016 convention. Most of the discussion on the details of the convention occurred on Friday.

2018 convention bid update

Ron and Sandy Iverson met with the Radisson on LaCrosse with a committee from Wergeland lodge.

There was a motion to move the proposal to the delegates. 2nd. Motion passed.

International Reports

Jon Grinde shared that the focus of the International Board on governance and following the rules.

Ray Knutson agreed with Jon Grinde's comments. He serves on several scholarship, audit and other committees. He also reviewed a number of required reports.

News from the International Board.

Governance is still a priority on NAIC and state regulators agenda's. The reason SON is changing the nominating/election procedure.

I will be chairing the Cates/Beinhauer Scholarship Awards again this year. Have not received any applications as of yet.

Son International Audit; April 14, 2016

Elaine Nelson

Gloria Benazic

Odd Harald Olson

Ray Knutson, Chair

Son Foundation Audit; April 14, 2016

Tom Heavy

Elaine Nelson

Ray Knutson, Chair

Items discussed...

State of Minnesota audit

NAIC regulations

Accounting practices

Reviewed the financial statements

Reviewed Code of Ethics

Reviewed Complaint procedure

Review the audit report and refer to the International Board and Board of Governor's for approval.

Recommend retaining current auditors to the International Board and Board of Governor's for approval.

Review the actuary report.

The Foundation and SON Audit Committees met at separate times as some of those in attendance were not members of both committees.

Welcome to Corrie Maki Knudson the new Foundation Director. Corrie replaces Cindy Olson who retired after many years of dedicated service.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Excited about the new video that will be available for the District Conventions.

District Nominating Committees:

Some Districts are having problems obtaining nominees. There are differences of opinion. The nominating committees are only to review the nominee's qualifications (vetting) and have submitted proper credentials. There is the issue of what to do when there are lack of or no nominees. There will be resolutions forthcoming for the District and International Conventions.

Oversite Committee:

Compliance with filing Officer election reports, D-17 reports and federal 990 tax returns has been great this year. Most lodges that own real property have filed for and been granted 501c3 not for profit status. A few are pending approval.

Jon Tehven reported on an excellent financial year with many increases in product sales, memberships and the average age of Sons of Norway members dropping to 59 years of age. There are four new SN Foundation Directors coming on board next week. He also shared the importance of nominating committees and our status as a leader in the fraternal world.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, June 23, at 8 AM, in Marshfield.

Remarks for the Good of the Order

Joy Bashara shared the price discrepancy on the hotel pricing. Ron Iverson gave directions to Solvang's anniversary event. Darlene explained the www.fraternalgives.org reporting system and the information she needs from the Board.

There was a motion to adjourn. 2nd. Motion passed.

Submitted by Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary