

Sons of Norway – District Lodge 5 – “The Friendly Fifth”

Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary

www.sonsofnorway5.com

Delegate Election Information!!

January 31, 2024

Dear District 5 Lodge Presidents and Secretaries:

Because we didn't have any bids from lodges, the District Board is hosting the District 5 Lodge Meeting and Convention. The dates are June 19-22, 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Wednesday is for those attending classes, Thursday will begin District Convention Committee work and other classes and workshops, and delegates are required to be there on Friday and Saturday. Sunday is only for D5 Board members (new members & retiring ones).

The convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel, 2501 S High School Rd, Indianapolis, Indiana 46241. The block of guest rooms for the Sons of Norway Convention is now open. The convention rate of \$129 is in effect for Tuesday, June 18 through Saturday, June 22. This special base rate is for either a king or double queen room. Additionally, a hot, fresh-cooked breakfast for two people is included with each room. You can reserve your room by calling 317-244-6861 and asking for reservations. The group code is “SNY.” Be sure to mention the Sons of Norway District 5 Convention and verify that the base rate is \$129. If you have any problems reserving your room, you may contact Dawn Huth, Housing Manager at the hotel, 317-243-1030. This opportunity is limited, so reserve your room as early as possible. The deadline is May 19, 2024. It is important to **RESERVE EARLY** to be sure to get this rate and breakfast deal. When our block of rooms closes, the special deal will no longer be available. Do not hesitate! **Reserve as soon as you can before May 19, 2024!**

The delegate fee is \$125 and non-delegate fee \$40. The delegate fee covers two lunches (Friday and Saturday), goodie bag, access to speakers and classes, and beverages (coffee, water, lemonade) during breaks on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

We will be populating the District 5 website with information: <https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/> We also have information on ads, sponsorships, well wishes, registration and other items for your delegates and members to review and take part in. **Please share the sponsorship and advertising opportunities with groups and businesses in your area and have your lodge consider them as well!**

The Sons of Norway District 5 By-Laws, Article 111, Paragraph 2 states: *Every local lodge in the District 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 representatives.*

Delegates should be elected using the formula above based on December 31, 2023 membership figures. You should also elect a corresponding number of alternates, on a priority basis, that will serve should any of your delegates be unable to attend. These elections must take place so you can report by March 5, 2024. A Report of Election included with this letter, **which is to be completed and returned to the District Secretary immediately following the election.** These will be emailed to both the lodge president and secretary and hard copy mailed to the president. The Sons of Norway Constitution reads: “The Secretary of the Local Lodge shall prepare a report of election giving names

and addresses of the duly elected Delegates and Alternates. This report shall be signed by the Local Lodge President and Local Lodge Secretary and forwarded to the District Secretary no later than five days after the election." Please be sure the names are written plainly and spelled correctly! I am asking that you include their membership number, address, city, state, zip, phone and email address on the form and return it to me postmarked no later than March 5, 2024. Please send it to me at: Darlene Arneson, 2056 Skaalen Rd, Stoughton, WI 53589 or email a scanned copy to arnesonfamily5@gmail.com

Keep in mind as you elect delegates that they are the only ones that can be candidates for the District Board or alternates to the Board. You do NOT have to be a benefit member to be a delegate to the District Lodge Meeting, but in order to run for any of these positions just mentioned, the delegate must be a benefit member or buy product at the convention.

Your lodge may wish to propose resolutions or by-law changes to be considered at the District Lodge Meeting. These resolutions, along with any proposed changes to the District 5 By-Laws, must be submitted to the District Secretary no later than April 1, 2024. **Please note that we are using the template approved and recommended by the International Board.** Find it at https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/convention_forms.php

If your lodge is interested in hosting the 2026 District Lodge Meeting, you are asked to send a written notice of your intention to the District Secretary prior to April 1, 2024. Should your lodge wish to present a bid, we ask that you make arrangements for a "walk through" of the facilities by a District 5 Board Member. This should be done prior to the June convention in order to identify proposal merits as well as needed additions or changes.

We will use email and the website as much as we can to post documents and keep everyone updated. Hard copies of the Reports Book will be sent to the delegates. **Your 2022 delegates have received a copy of the approved 2022 District Lodge Meeting minutes.** Once I get the Delegate Election Forms back, then I give the lists to the Convention Committee and they will send out information to the delegates about registration and other convention news. I also give a list to President Wille-Schlesser who will appoint convention committees. Members who serve on committees will be notified and given the specifics of their tasks.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance. You should be electing the number of people listed in the highlighted column that is titled "Elect Del. and Alt." For example, Mandt Lodge has a number 5 in that column so we need to elect 5 delegates and 5 alternates. Thank you for your prompt attention to this convention call! My home email is arnesonfamily5@gmail.com and cell number is 608-514-4951 if you need to contact me!

Fraternally,



Darlene Arneson, District Secretary