

## Friendly Fifth Friday News July 28, 2017

In an attempt to help our lodge leaders become more familiar with resources, changes, deadlines and other information, I will compile a weekly "Friendly Fifth Friday News" email to our leadership. Some of the information you might already have, but hopefully it will be a good reminder for all of us (me included) of all the great resources that Sons of Norway has to offer. **Please feel free to cut and paste any of this information for your lodge's use!**

Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary

**Send all web posting info to [inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com](mailto:inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com)**

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### Update on Sons of Norway's Simplified Dues Structure

You should send your questions to [2018dues@sofn.com](mailto:2018dues@sofn.com) as the International Office can better answer specific questions!

Please read this update (on the International website along with the articles in the most recent Viking)!

*July 2017*

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

We will continue to communicate with members about this change in dues structure as we get closer to the Jan. 1, 2018 implementation date.



# Membership Charts and Dues Information

## 2018 Dues

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

### United States

				Total Dues	
	Intl.	Dist.	Local	Annual	Mthly
<b>Individual</b>					
Regular	\$32.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$60.00	\$5.00
Golden	\$16.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$42.00	\$3.50
Lifetime	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Family</b>					
Regular	\$42.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$95.00	\$8.00
Both Golden	\$21.00	\$25.00	\$14.00	\$60.00	\$5.00
One Golden/One Regular	\$32.00	\$25.00	\$21.00	\$78.00	\$6.50
One Golden/One Lifetime	\$16.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$42.00	\$3.50
Both Lifetime	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

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

### Canada & Norway

	Canada (CA\$)		Norway (NOK)	
	Primary	Spouse	Primary	Spouse

Regular Member	40.00	31.00	270	210
Unge Venner (if dues not waived)	20.00	12.50	135	90
Golden Member	20.00	15.50	135	90
Life Member	0.00	0.00	0	0
Central lodge dues are set by the International Board.				
Central Lodge; 000 & 999 (includes district dues)	57.00	48.00	425	350

### Payment of Dues

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

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

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

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

### Local Lodge Bylaws

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

### Member Communications

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



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. How were the dues changes determined?**

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

### **Q. Do current Golden and Life members lose their special dues rates?**

A. No. Life members will continue to be free; Golden members who qualify before 2018 will have reduced rates.

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

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

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

A. Heritage members are always free.

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

A. Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Q. What is an Affiliate membership?**

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

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

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

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

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

## Q & A: Golden and Life Members

**What is Life Membership?**

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

**What is Golden Membership?**

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

**How are Life members affected by the new dues structure?**

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

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

The awarding of new Golden Memberships will discontinue in the United States as of Jan. 1, 2018. Current Golden members, including those who attain the status by Dec. 31, 2017, will retain that designation and continue to pay a reduced dues rate. Individual Golden members will pay \$42.00 a year or \$3.50 a month. A couple, both of whom are Golden, will pay \$60.00 for a year at the family rate or \$5.00 a month. See the 2018

Dues Structure Chart for more details.

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

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

### **Can a Life Membership or Golden Membership be purchased?**

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



## History

### 2014 Resolution

*Investigating and pursuing a simplified dues structure was voted on and approved by the delegates to the 2014 International Lodge Meeting. Delegates overwhelmingly supported the following resolution forwarded for consideration by District Five:*

WHEREAS the current dues structure and membership categories are complicated and very hard to explain to prospective members AND for current members to understand; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a committee be established by the International Lodge President to present a resolution in 2016 to the International Lodge which will simplify the current membership classifications to include Insurance/Social and Individual/Family and make total dues for each lodge consistent within each country.

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### 2016 Resolution

*In August 2016 at the International Lodge Meeting in Tacoma, a new dues structure was voted in by a strong delegate majority vote (121-32). This resolution applies to dues within the United States only.*

#### **Simplified Dues Resolution**

WHEREAS the current dues structure and membership categories are complicated and very hard to explain to prospective members AND for current members to understand; and,

WHEREAS the 2014 meeting of the International Lodge passed a resolution for a committee to present a resolution in 2016 to simplify the current membership classifications to include Insurance/Social and Individual/Family and to make total dues for each lodge consistent within each country;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following law changes will be made to accommodate a more simple dues structure. As it states in the Constitution, the International Board of Directors will set dues annually at the Spring meeting. Effective January 1, 2018, the U.S. dues will be \$60 for an individual and \$95 for a family. The breakdown will be allotted as follows:

<b>\$60 Individual Dues</b>	INTERNATIONAL	\$32 <i>(no change)</i>
	DISTRICT	\$14
	LOCAL	\$14
<b>\$95 FAMILY DUES</b>	INTERNATIONAL	\$42 <i>(reduction)</i>
	DISTRICT	\$25
	LOCAL	\$28

**2016-2018 Biennium District 5 Lodge Calendar and Other Deadlines (new this week in red)**

July 2017

- July 16-29 - **Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp** - Beaver Creek Reserve - Eau Claire, WI

September 2017

- September 30- **Lodge liability premium due** to International SN office

October 2017

- October 20-21- District 5 Local Lodge President's Conference and District 5 Board Meeting
- Nominating Committee report due to Lodge

November 2017

- Elect Lodge Officers for coming year (unless you have two-year officer terms)

December 2017

- December 1 – SN Foundation **General Heritage and Culture** grants due
- December 15 –SN Foundation **Local Lodge Partnership and Helping Hands to Children** grants
- December 15- **D-63 Report of Elections** due. Send one copy to International Headquarters and one to District Secretary.

**Note:**

- **Check correspondence from the International and District and the International ([www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com)) and District ([www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com)) websites for any updates and changes**Additional deadlines for the District 5 and International Conventions/Lodge Meetings will be added as those dates are established. Watch for future mailings and the District 5 website.
- The District 5 Convention will be June 27-July 1, 2018 at Hotel Radisson in La Crosse, Wisconsin.
- The International Sons of Norway Convention will be August 16-18, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN.

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