

## Friendly Fifth Friday News May 5, 2023

Send all web posting info and calendar dates/events directly to our webmaster at [inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com](mailto:inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com). Feel free to share this with your lodge members!

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### ***Due Date Reminders-*** ***[https://www.sofn.com/resource\\_blog/due-date-reminders-2023/](https://www.sofn.com/resource_blog/due-date-reminders-2023/)***

#### **May 15**

##### **D18 Building Association Financial Statements due to Sons of Norway Headquarters**

The year-end financial report for a lodge property association must be electronically submitted to Headquarters on or before May 15, 2023. The D18 form can be accessed from the Building Association Treasurer's profile page.

1. Go to your profile page and select the D18 from the column on the left.
2. Click on the blue button/box that says "Enter a New Income Statement".
3. Proceed with entering the contents of the financial statement.
4. Any questions can go to [fraternal@sofn.com](mailto:fraternal@sofn.com).

##### **990 Form (US Lodges only)**

The IRS Form 990 (this includes the 990, the 990-EZ and the 990-N) must be filed by May 15 according to IRS requirements. Most lodges can complete the 990-N postcard online on the IRS website, [irs.gov](https://irs.gov). Lodges with an average income of \$50,000 or more will need to complete a 990E or 990 form. Once complete, please email Headquarters at [taxinfo@sofn.com](mailto:taxinfo@sofn.com) with either a scan of the form or simply the lodge number and completion date. This IRS requirement helps keep your lodge's non-profit status intact.

### **Viking Photos Due Friday!**

Happy Sunday! Oh dear. The weatherman has been predicting that snow word yet for this weekend. Not the April I would prefer, but May is coming! Please send your photos to me by May 5th, and don't forget the photo submission form. I'm not trying to be ornery. I can't send photos forward without the accompanying form.

Maybe in May the snow shovels can be put away! LaVonne Wier, District 5 Publicity

## Sons of Norway Content & Photo Submission Form

This form is provided to help you share information about your members, past and upcoming lodge events and district happenings via Viking magazine and other organization communications.

The event or photo caption will be based on information you provide so please check spelling of lodges, member names and location information. Send your member profile photographs and this form to your lodge publicity director who in turn should forward it to the district publicity director. If your lodge does not have a lodge publicity director, please send submissions, including this form, directly to your district publicity director.

***By submitting this photo submission form, I grant permission and consent to Sons of Norway and the Sons of Norway Foundation for the use of the following photograph(s) as identified below to promote the organization(s). Use may include but is not limited to print publication, publicity, advertising, and digital or online content.***

### Submitter's Contact Information

**\*\* Highlighted fields are required. Place cursor after highlighted word and type your response.**

**Name:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Lodge Name:**

**District/Lodge Number:**

**Location:**

**Are you providing a High-Resolution photo (Yes or No):**

(Not sure? Here is a [link](#) explaining what a high-resolution photo is)

**File name if providing a photo:**

Please fill in the appropriate information for the content categories noted below. Please keep in mind that Viking magazine content is prepared two months ahead of issue.

### **1. Past Events and Member Activities**

Includes recognition of current members, lodge celebrations, community service projects and other past activities. Please include event purpose and location. Individual member names of these shown in photo may be included, however we are limited in caption length to 1 or 2 lines per photo.

**Description:**

## **2. Member Profiles**

This content features members who with an interesting story that will inspire other members. It could include outstanding long-term or young members in your lodge and district, other members who celebrate their heritage in unique ways. Please include the member contact information, along with a brief description explaining why you believe they should be featured.

### **Description:**

## **3. Upcoming Events and Member Activities**

Includes upcoming lodge and district events that are open to all members, as well as public events. We will feature in-person and remote events such as district wide fundraising initiatives, festivals, community events where the lodge/district will be represented, and upcoming cultural activities or youth camps. A photo is not required. Your description should include dates and location of the upcoming event and a contact name and email/phone number that will be published.

### **Description:**

## **District 5 Special Task Force Call Notes Saturday, April 29, 2023**

There were 23 participants on the call, and several had two members on the device. So about 25 on the call.

President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser welcomed the group, recapped the first call, and discussed her hopes for future work of the task force.

We did not have anyone volunteer to chair the task force so the Zone Alignment & Lodge Development and Support Committee will continue to chair it.

Duane Kittleson shared information that he obtained to answer questions we had on the first call.

- He has asked to discuss whether any District board member needs a benefit product during the spring International Board meeting.
- Chris Pinkerton explained that the products Central Lodge members are buying are the same ones offered to lodge members. Efforts to have Insurance Professionals (IP's) visit lodges have been met with resistance by many lodges that don't want them coming.
- A new product will be released – maybe by the third quarter.

The group discussed ways that we can promote insurance products and help IP's reach out to lodges. We thought electronic meetings, sharing information in newsletters, having Zone Directors include insurance product information or having IPs at events might help.

International Secretary Robin Fossum shared that there is a committee looking at District restructuring. There isn't a timeline and it is a topic for the spring International Board meeting. That prompted discussion about are the efforts of this task force necessary if we don't know what District lines will be? We determined that we can still explore how the District Board (however it looks and whatever our zones are) can help local lodges.

We had an email from Clarke Brekke asking about the purpose of zones, what zone directors do, and Darlene shared these resources.

## **District lodge**

### **2.3 Organization and structure**

SON lodges exist throughout the USA, Canada, and Norway and are divided into geographical districts, each of which are assigned local lodges. Each of these district lodges is known by its number assignment.

#### **2.3.1 Consists of**

A district lodge shall consist of its elected officers and directors, all of whom shall be benefit members, and delegates from each local lodge (who are not required to be benefit members), and the elected international officers and directors from the district. The officers of a district lodge shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers and directors as specified in the district bylaws. The benefit provision for district board members shall not be required for countries, provinces, or states where SON is not authorized to sell SON financial benefit products.

#### **2.3.2 Requirements**

District lodges may be established by the IBOD within geographical areas having at least 3,000 members.

#### **2.3.3 Optional division**

Each district lodge may be divided into several geographical zones for administrative purposes. The boundaries of the zone shall be fixed by the district lodge and the description thereof shall be stated in the district bylaws.

## **How does the District Board do its job?**

- Board members are assigned by the district president to mentor local lodges in their vicinity (within a ZONE)
  - Visit lodges.
  - Attending lodge events.
  - Be available to help with questions from members.
  - Provide leadership training.
  - Board members serve in officer positions such as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, youth director, publicity director, cultural director and sports & recreation director.
- Currently district 5 has six (6) zones. There are two BOD members assigned to each zone which are referred to as zone directors. The zone directors may also hold an officer position which requires additional duties for the district in general.

**Darlene gave an update from the April 14-15 Board meeting:**  
**Bylaw Proposal**- passed.

101	78	2
Possible	Vote Yes	Vote No

We need to have the Board accept the vote and she has updated the bylaws.

We discussed how to communicate with the District members to get input for the zone changes and discussion. Posting the task force call notes, PowerPoint, FFFN, emails to leadership, and direct presentations to lodges were discussed.

The group discussed how zones were historically created (by population), how we have evolved to geography, and what representation is needed. One thought is if a zone has six or more lodges, they need two directors and if under six, one director. Or one could look at lodge membership as a guideline but sometimes the larger lodges need less help as they are doing okay. It's the smaller, struggling lodges that need more help.

Another discussion was on the call's comments on officer's vs zone directors, should they have to do both, compensation, and other thoughts.

The committee recommends the board discuss the task force call notes and then determine the next step.

The board wants to have the Task Force engaged in getting feedback. A combination of in-person listening sessions and ZOOM meetings might work. Having a template to lead these meetings would give board members consistent talking points and resources.

The timeline we'd like to see:

- April – Hold a call with the Task Force to discuss a timeline and what the board discussed.
- May– July- hold listening sessions in-person and via ZOOM.
- August- have another Task Force Call and see what the feedback is and develop two main proposals to take to lodges for input.
- August – September- get feedback on the two proposals.
- October- have a report to the board.
- October – December- take a bylaw proposal to the District 5 members (delegates in Middleton)
- January – announce results so the Nominating Committee can move forward.

There was a question about whether a lodge can move to another District? Duane explained that he was on an International Committee a number of years ago and there was a procedure to do so.

Discussion included:

- Zones are more administrative and that doesn't mean that if a lodge isn't in the same zone as another, they can't do social or other activities together.
- Zone structure is set up to help lodges.
- Population distribution- perhaps we should focus on that in order to make sure that we have enough potential board members rather than focusing on geography.
- Darlene shared the updated International Charter and Bylaws (Dec 2022) and District Bylaws (March 2022) as resources to use.
- We discussed the role of directors- can we help more electronically and not have the travel/gas/expenses of visiting in-person? Visits are nice but not essential. Distance is certainly an issue in several zones. Online meetings can offer a variety of topics.
- Adult Heritage Camps and the District 5 Convention can both have opportunities for leadership training, help sessions, and administrative support.

Judy Ghastin shared several maps that she worked on. Darlene will get them and scan them for the group.

Going forward:

1. Darlene will compile all the "possible zone alignment" maps as something to show lodges to prompt discussion.

2. She will compile both an online google survey and one that can be printed that task force members can take to lodges in their area to get feedback from. It will also ask questions about the structure of the board. There was a discussion to make sure local lodge officers discuss the survey.
3. Surveys and gaining input will take place in May-July. We are anxious to hear what happens at the International Board meeting so set the next call for Saturday, May 27, at 9:00 AM CST. We will close the online survey before the May 27 meeting so we have some initial feedback from the District but will continue to compile the in-person and other methods of getting input.
4. There was a suggestion to promote our District NLF Grant (up to \$200) that lodges could apply for to help them with technology.

At the end of the call, Cheryl reminded the group that she would like the D17/D18 and 990 confirmations from lodges to ensure that all had reported.


After the call, Jim Herman volunteered to work with potential maps based on population. Darlene referred this to our Vice President to get Jim the membership numbers.

Notes by Darlene Arneson, Chr  
Zone Alignment and Lodge Development & Support Committees

## **Don't forget to send your D17/D18 and 990 Filing Confirmations in to Cheryl!**

A reminder that District President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser has asked that you send a copy of your D17 form (D18 if you own a building) and the confirmation that you filed your 990 reports to her. She wants to be pro-active on not having lodges fall behind on these and getting into trouble with the home office (D17/D18) and IRS (990's).

Her address: Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, 200 Beth Circle, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572.


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### VIKING MAGAZINE

**Viking magazine** is exclusively for members of Sons of Norway. Packed with fascinating stories—read about remarkable people and places. PLUS, get authentic recipes, travel tips, insights into historic and modern culture, connect to Norwegian heritage and much more.

Don't miss out on these exciting features in our **March/April 2023** issue:


- John, the Last Cowboy — Learn the inspiring Norwegian-American legacy
- Celebrate 100 Years of Påskekrim — A century of Easter crime fiction
- Norway's Sister Cities — A few examples of Norway's sister cities in the United States

Members can also log in and [explore the Viking online archive](#), with issues going back to 2009.

Are you looking for the **In Loving Memory** pages? They have moved online! You can find them here: [www.sofn.com/inlovingmemory](https://www.sofn.com/inlovingmemory)

You can also view **Happenings Extra** here, to see our lodge members in action: <https://www.sofn.com/happenings>

[LEARN ABOUT VIKING MAGAZINE](#)



FOR THE MEMBERS OF SONS OF NORWAY  
**VIKING**  
MAGAZINE

LEARN THE INSPIRING NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN LEGACY  
**John, the Last Cowboy**

Celebrate 100 years of påskekrim • Norway's sister cities  
PLUS Cultural trivia and weather watch for kids





**UPDATE:** Gulfstream Lodge's Viking Boat is up for sale again! We are located in Jensen Beach, Florida and this boat has been used in many wonderful Viking Regattas in the state of Florida since we were established in 1971.

Everything is the same except there was a mistake in one of the dimensions. There is a **16 foot varnished wood mast, not a 40 foot mast.** Falken has been maintained for the past 10 years by Frank Hammen,

who is a mechanical engineer. It has been sitting in our yard the whole time, and it has always been on blocks and a tarp has been over it to shield it from wind and rain. It is sea-worthy also. There is nothing that needs to be fixed or replaced.

### **DIMENSIONS:**

- 24-foot fiberglass Viking Ship. This ship is a copy of a wood Ottering boat.
- It has a **16-foot** varnished wood mast and a 10-foot cross bar for sailing.
- Benches setup for 8 rowers and a tillerman.
- There is a carved wood 5-foot dragonhead and a 5-foot wood tail. (Frank Hammen made these)
- The fiberglass rudder is detachable with a wood handle.
- There is a tub with 3 sails (well used and many ropes and hardware).
- It comes with 10 life preservers in a carry bag.
- 12 wood oars 9 feet long with a 3/8" x 5 1/4" x 30" blade.
- 6 new oars of ash (cost \$1,200.00), the other 6 we still use.
- There are 8 Viking shields 22" – very ornate, with boat clamps.
- It comes with a tub filled with metal Viking helmets and plastic swords and axes.
- It is covered by a 24 x 16-foot tarp tied over PVC hoops that Frank Hammen made.
- The trailer is continental galvanized steel with lights.
- It has a jack stand on tongue, cable winch and rollers.
- 14" steel belted radial tires – leaf springs – fenders.
- We also licensed the trailer to tow to the regattas.
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Here are a few pictures of our boat – if you would like to see our boat, please contact Frank or Ingrid Hammen at [gulfstreamlodge3@comcast.net](mailto:gulfstreamlodge3@comcast.net)  
- Price is \$3,000.00.



April 29, 2023

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## Deadlines and Dates! **Changes in red!**

- May 5- Photo submissions for the Viking to LaVonne Wier at [2nor1rus@gmail.com](mailto:2nor1rus@gmail.com)
- May 15-
  - **D18 Lodge Property Association** forms are due to Sons of Norway Headquarters. They can be entered electronically via the lodge treasurer's profile page. A PDF can be downloaded from [sofn.com](http://sofn.com).
  - **990** The 990 tax forms are due to the IRS by 5/15/2023. Lodges who fail to file a 990 three years in a row will lose their not-for-profit status and cease being a Sons of Norway lodge.
- June 5- Photo submissions for the Viking to LaVonne Wier at [2nor1rus@gmail.com](mailto:2nor1rus@gmail.com)
- July 5- Photo submissions for the Viking to LaVonne Wier at [2nor1rus@gmail.com](mailto:2nor1rus@gmail.com)
- July 16-21- Masse Moro Camp
- October 13-14- District 5 Board Meeting in Mt. Horeb, WI
- October 27-29- District 5 Adult Heritage Camp and Destination Stoughton Weekend in Stoughton, WI

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## **Who to contact at the home office when you need help**

- You can email [cbs@sofn.com](mailto:cbs@sofn.com) for any member updates that need to be made.
- For anything fraternal- Connie O'Brien (COBrien@sofn.com) or Amy Tuchenhausen (ATuchenhausen@sofn.com). Sherry Gorse is no longer employed at Sons of Norway.
- For matter like submitting a death, a change to a members address or other info please email [cbs@sofn.com](mailto:cbs@sofn.com)
- For issues with passwords or website use [ithelp@sofn.com](mailto:ithelp@sofn.com).
- The 800 number to call in for member support is 800-945-8851
- If you need something related to sales, you can use [sales@sofn.com](mailto:sales@sofn.com)

## **Viking Chest / Immigrant Trunk Schedule**

Apr 2023 to Oct 2023:

Chest--zone 4 – Contact Connie Aiello and Judy Ghastin to reserve them

Trunk--zone 3 – Contact Scott Wegner and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser to reserve them

Oct 2023 to Apr 2024:

Chest--zone 6

Trunk--zone 5

Apr 2024 to Oct 2024

Chest--zone 2

Trunk--zone 1

Oct 2024 to April 2025

Chest--zone 3

Trunk--zone 4



**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.

Compiled by Darlene Arneson, SN District 5 Secretary ([arnesonfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:arnesonfamily5@gmail.com) or 608-873-7209)

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**FFFN Basics**

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!**

**Send all web posting info and calendar dates/events directly to our webmaster at [inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com](mailto:inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com)**

With our new arrangement, I actually send the FFFN pdf to our webmaster on Thursday morning before I go to work. So if you have anything you'd like me to consider putting in, please send it by 4 am on Thursday morning. Please do not send pdf's as I have a hard time cutting and pasting them. The Word Document works best for me. Don't forget that lodge events should be submitted to [inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com](mailto:inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com) as I have a hard time keeping track of all lodge activities. I'll put some in but that is more the role of the website event calendar.

If you would like to get the MS Word document, just shoot me an email and I'll add you to the list. I send it out right after I send the email to the large group.

Darlene Arneson – [arnesonfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:arnesonfamily5@gmail.com)