

**Sons of Norway District Five Lodge Meeting Minutes**  
**June 22-26, 2016**  
**Hotel Marshfield, Marshfield, Wisconsin**

**Friday, June 23, 2016**

Call to Order of Lodge Meeting- Grand Ballroom- President Christianson

Colors were presented by Diane Hesseltvan Dinter, Judy Ghastin and a local Marshfield veteran. Owen Christianson led the Pledge of Allegiance. International Director Jon Grinde led the singing of the national anthems. Dorothy Berg explained what "Hub City" meant and why it was the name of the room for informational sessions.

Welcome and greetings by President Christianson, Marshfield Mayor Chris Meyer, State Representative Robert Kulp, and Director of Convention & Visitor's Bureau Matt McLean.

Introduction of: International CEO Eivind Heiberg, Foundation Director Corrie Knudson, Len Carlson and FBC's, and Parliamentarian Tim Heeg.

Appointment of Officers- President Christianson

Marshal	Carol Culbertson- Mandt
Assistant Marshal	Kathleen Krueger- Circle City
Greeter	Evonne Hurst- Fosselyngen
Greeter	Mike Palecek- Nordlyset
Teller 1	Mary Jo Felsch- Fagernes
Teller 2	Bernard Krause- Trygvason
Teller 3	Nancy Kittleson- Vennelag
Teller 4	Phyllis Benson- Cleng Peerson

Introductions

**District Five Officers**

President – Owen Christianson  
Vice President – Diane Hesseltvan Dinter  
Secretary – Darlene Arneson  
Treasurer – Duane Kittleson (Nancy)  
Recreation Director – Andrew Johnsen  
Publicity Director – Joy Bashara (Frank Ingram)  
Cultural Director – Esther Charlton (Robert)  
Youth Director – Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

**District Five Directors**

Zone 1- David Hermundson (Patricia)

Zone 2 – Ron Iverson (Sandy)  
 Zone 5 – Kathleen Secora (Jim)  
 Zone 5 – Christina Fairchild (Richard)

**International Treasurer – Raymond Knutson (Sally)**  
 International Director- Jon Grinde (Jane)

**Past Officers and Directors:** Eugene Steensma - Past International Director and District 5 President; Susan Boudreau, Thomas Maxson, Thomas Boudreau, Dennis Westgor- Past District 5 Directors; Geoffrey Wodell- Past International Director; Oleif Olsaker- Past District Vice President and Treasurer; Diane Overby – Past Viking Correspondent.

**Roll Call of Delegates – Darlene Arneson, District Secretary**

Lodge	Lodge Name	First Name	Last Name
027	Norrona	Didn't send delegates	
028	Wergeland	Ann	Kathan
028	Wergeland	Bev	Nelson
028	Wergeland	Ramona	Johnson
028	Wergeland	Shirley	Schoenfeld
028	Wergeland	David	Glomstad
029	Løven	Patricia	Hermundson
053	Valkyrien	Judy	Johnson
053	Valkyrien	Jerry	Johnson
053	Valkyrien	Audrey	Severson
074	Idun	Lucy	Ghastin
074	Idun	Dee	Grimrud
074	Idun	Gage	Trader
082	Fosselyngen	Eleanor	Thoresen
082	Fosselyngen	Susan	VanLith
082	Fosselyngen	Sue Berg	Roedel
082	Fosselyngen	Evonne	Hurst
082	Fosselyngen	Ronald	Hurst
097	Leif Erikson	Julie	Lea
097	Leif Erikson	Lee	Hardison
097	Leif Erikson	Barbara	Drew
100	Skjold	Gregg	Leduc
100	Skjold	Lisa	Solak
100	Skjold	Jim	Secora
168	Valhall	Vicki	Rudh-Jones
168	Valhall	Arlene	Pederson
168	Valhall	Ray	Pederson
183	Nordlyset	Mike	Palecek
183	Nordlyset	Michaela	Decker
183	Nordlyset	Diane	Palacek

206	Hafrsfjord	Gerry	Lachman
206	Hafrsfjord	Carolyn	Rismoen
206	Hafrsfjord	Frieda	Mathson
220	Trygvason	Bernard	Krause
220	Trygvason	Sally	Krause
286	Jotunheimen	Irene	Fortney
314	Mandt	Sandy	Fleming
314	Mandt	Scott	Wegner
314	Mandt	Laurie	Barrett
314	Mandt	Carol	Culbertson
353	Dovre	Robin	Fossum
353	Dovre	Robert	Fossum
378	Nordkap	Louise	Giles
378	Nordkap	Geir	Grønstad
378	Nordkap	Dennis	Flessland
417	Trollhaugen	<b>Didn't send delegates</b>	
457	Solvang	Dick	Iverson
457	Solvang	Sandra	Iverson
472	Polar Star	Ken	Johnson
472	Polar Star	Frank	Krawczyk
472	Polar Star	Steve	Tanda
473	Samhold	Gene	Steensma
490	Sonja Henie	James	Ellickson
490	Sonja Henie	Mary Ann	Ellickson
491	Norse Valley	Sharon	Roeske
491	Norse Valley	Robert	Duxstad
491	Norse Valley	Judy	Ghastin
496	Rib Fjell	David	Berge
496	Rib Fjell	Mary	Henkelman
513	Vennelag	JoDon	Anderson
513	Vennelag	Nancy	Kittleson
513	Vennelag	Ann	Walser
523	Sognefjord	Eloise	Cihos
523	Sognefjord	Jan	Mjovig
525	Cleng Peerson	Phyllis	Benson
525	Cleng Peerson	Connie	Kross
525	Cleng Peerson	Charleen	Seville
534	Fossen	<b>Didn't send delegates</b>	
544	Nordland	Bill	Hendrickson
544	Nordland	Doug	Mahlum
544	Nordland	Pat	Mahlum
549	H R Holand	Lorraine	Selvick
549	H R Holand	Don	Overby
549	H R Holand	Diane	Overby
556	Elvedal	Tom	Boudreau
556	Elvedal	Diane	Lieber

568	Christian Radich	William	Wollenweber
568	Christian Radich	Suzanne	Wollenweber
570	Vakkertland	Lorna	Pederson
570	Vakkertland	Sharon	Barnharst
580	Norskeland	Dale	Thompson
580	Norskeland	Debra	Thompson
593	Elvesund	Thomas	Maxson
593	Elvesund	Nancy	Robinson
600	Scandiana	James	Nelson
600	Scandiana	Oleif	Olsaker
609	Myrmarken	Donald	Berg
609	Myrmarken	Doug	Framness
610	Askeladden	Curtis	Cleveland
614	Circle City	Jerome	Rud
614	Circle City	Kathleen	Krueger
614	Circle City	Nancy	Andersen
616	Fagernes	Todd	Fetsch
616	Fagernes	Mary Jo	Fetsch
616	Fagernes	Mary	Herness
620	Nordlandet		<b>Didn't send delegates</b>
622	Vennskap	Don	Shawhan
622	Vennskap	Carolyn	Johnson
622	Vennskap	Laurie	Shawhan
625	Viking		<b>Didn't send delegates</b>
627	Vennligfolk	Joyce	Polson
627	Vennligfolk	Susan	Morton
628	Tre Elver		<b>Didn't send delegates</b>
632	Grønnavik	Carol	Dost
632	Grønnavik	Peggy	Schroeder
632	Grønnavik	Marlene	Bergum
634	Knute Rockne		<b>No delegates</b>
635	Sjoland		<b>Didn't send delegates</b>
642	Ostestaden	Bill	Bethke
642	Ostestaden	Jean	Busker
642	Ostestaden	Elaine	Bethke
650	Norsemen Of Lakes	Carol	Anderson
650	Norsemen Of Lakes	Dennis	Westgor
650	Norsemen Of Lakes	Marra	Andreas
657	Edvard Grieg	Susan	Herman
657	Edvard Grieg	Robert	Charlton
662	Arctic Circle		<b>Didn't send delegates</b>
670	Ulseth		<b>Didn't send delegates</b>
677	Vikings Of The Smokies	Clark	Brekke

677	Vikings Of The Smokies	Dee	Bumpers
681	Music City Vikings		<b>Didn't send delegates</b>
000	Central	Geoff	Wodell
999	Spirit New Century		<b>Didn't send delegates</b>
	International Treasurer	Ray	Knutson
	International Board Member	Jon	Grinde
	District Board	Owen	Christianson
	District Board	Diane	Hesselt van Dinter
	District Board	Darlene	Arneson
	District Board	Duane	Kittleson
	District Board	David	Hermundson
	District Board	Cheryl	Wille-Schlesser
	District Board	Ron	Iverson
	District Board	Joy	Bashara
	District Board	Christina	Fairchild
	District Board	Kathy	Secora
	District Board	Esther	Charlton
	District Board	Andrew	Johnsen

#### Report of Credentials Committee – Darlene Arneson – Chair

Darlene Arneson reviewed the delegates when the Delegate Election Reports were submitted. The delegate names were reviewed to insure they are delegates of that lodge, that their dues were current, and a check of who is a benefit member if the delegate should be interested in a District Board, alternate to the Board or International Delegate or alternate position. The committee members were myself as chair, Christina Fairchild, and Diane Hesseltvan Dinter.

Seating of Delegates- Owen led the delegates in a pledge to serve as members of the District 5 lodge until the 2018 District Lodge Meeting.

Darlene Arneson reported that the 2014 District Lodge Meeting Minutes were approved by the Board of Directors on October 4, 2014 and sent to all the 2014 delegates.

#### Approval of Rules for 2016 District Lodge Meeting

1. The regular meeting of District Lodge Five shall be one meeting, recessing from session to session within the meeting.
2. Delegate badges and voting materials will be issued at the registration desk upon presentation of some form of ID.
3. Delegates shall be seated in their seats at least **FIVE** minutes before the scheduled time. Doors will be closed when each session begins. Persons awaiting admission will be at the direction of the chair.

4. Any delegate may speak to any subject before the lodge. Any delegate who desires to speak shall address the chair by going to the microphone, with identification paddle raised, and state name and local lodge.
5. Each speaker will be allowed **TWO MINUTES**. No delegate shall speak to the motion more than twice, unless allowed by the chair. No delegate will be allowed to speak the second time until delegates stationed at the microphones have spoken.
6. The right to raise a point of order shall be reserved for delegates **ONLY**; the chair will decide its validity.
7. If the previous question is moved and carried, delegates who are in line at the microphone at the time the motion is passed will be permitted to speak.
8. Only duly authorized seated delegates may vote – **ONE** vote per delegate.
9. Ballots shall be used in cases where there are two or more candidates for any office, otherwise election shall be by acclamation.
10. Any messages to delegates shall be relayed through greeters, marshall or assistant marshall.
11. No smoking shall be permitted.
12. Any lodge bidding to host the next district Convention shall present its bid, in writing, to the district board of directors prior to the district lodge meeting. The bids shall be referred to the Committee on Reports which shall present all bids received at the first session of the district lodge. Representatives of the bidding local lodges or district lodge shall immediately thereafter be permitted **TEN** minutes to present their proposal. The vote on convention site selection shall take place at the last session of the district lodge.
13. Any resolution or by-law which has financial impact must be introduced by 12:00 PM Friday so such resolution or by-law may be reviewed by the finance committee to determine the financial impact. The finance committee shall present an impact statement to the delegates.

Owen also explained the Nominating Committee process and reported that the Board had passed a motion that the nominations be closed after the Nominating Committee reports on Friday afternoon.

There was a motion to approve the use of Robert's Rules of Order, Rules for the District Lodge Meeting, and the Nominating Committee process. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Presentations by Eivind Heiberg and Len Carlson on answering the questions of what Sons of Norway is, a video that was produced by the Fraternal Congress, and a new promotional video about Sons of Norway.

*Insurance laws require that the state of Minnesota conduct a comprehensive examination of Sons of Norway's insurance operations on a periodic basis. The scope of the most recent examination covered a period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2014 with the report issued by the state on March 7, 2016. With respect to corporate governance structure relative to the International Lodge and overall tiered lodge structure, benefit requirement for representation, terms of directors and officers, background and expertise of board members, etc.*

*The following are some governance conclusions and recommendations offered by the state:*

- *Quote from the examination report: "While the structure of SONS board may have been well suited for the Society's needs at the time of the formation, the competitive, economic and regulatory landscape of insurers has changed significantly over the years and regulators are looking to insurance company boards to provide a more significant level of governance.*
- *Further enhance the quality of the board. They propose SONS should do this by identifying the necessary characteristics and qualifications of board members and populating the board with members that possess those traits. They also recommend that the board include at least one "financial expert" (such as a CPA) that is experienced in accounting matters, financial statements and the role of the Audit Committee. Finally, the examiners cite other pertinent areas of expertise in insurance and/or financial services industries and experience in executive leadership of a medium to large business.*
- *Enhance active board oversight in financial, operational and strategic governance. One recommendation is to increase the frequency of board meetings.*

*While regulators are asking for more governance and oversight, Sons of Norway has recently improved its governance in the following areas:*

- *Board training and continuing education*
- *Board self-assessment and evaluation*
- *Enhanced lodge oversight related to financial reporting and real estate*
- *Candidate applications including the identification of various skills and experience*
- *Implementation of a nominating committee process designed to identify interested and qualified candidates for leadership roles*
- *Proper review and analysis of candidate background and qualifications*
- *Limit nominations from the floor which precludes a timely analysis of a candidate's qualification and interest in the position*

*Corporate Governance Legislation – The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) has adopted the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Model Act (CGAD) which requires insurers to provide an annual governance report. The model regulation is largely in response to the financial crisis relative to the industry's governance and risk management practices. Some states have already enacted the regulation with reporting starting in June 2016. Currently, Minnesota has not yet adopted the legislation but all states are expected to enact the legislation in the near future. It is also possible that Sons of Norway will be required to file in other*

*states where we are licensed. The annual disclosure reporting requires detailed governance narratives and related documentation in the areas of: corporate governance framework, board and committee compensation, senior management practices and oversight of critical risk areas.*

*Below are a few items expected to require a narrative response:*

- *General corporate governance framework*
- *Outline of the board, committees, and related levels of oversight*
- *Rationale for current board size and structure*
- *How the qualifications, expertise and experience of each board member meet the needs of the insurer*
- *The number of meetings the board and committee have held in the prior reporting year and information on director attendance*
- *How the insurer identifies, nominates and elects members to the board and committees*
- *The processes and practices to determine whether officers and key persons in control have the appropriate expertise*
- *Insurer's code of business conduct, conflicts of interest, and ethics*
- *How critical risk areas are reported to and reviewed by senior management and the board*

Len gave a PowerPoint presentation on marketing and SN products. He introduced Greg Ragan, Tom Kunckel, and Helge Vestnes (coming later). He shared that the insurance part of Sons of Norway transferred \$1,300,000 to the fraternal department in 2015 thereby supporting many of the “fun” activities of Sons of Norway. Bill Perkins is also joining as a FBC for part of the District 5.

Corrie Maki Knudson, new Sons of Norway Foundation Director, introduced herself and shared a new video with information about the Sons of Norway Foundation. The SN Foundation is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. To date, the Foundation has given out over \$2 million in support. District 5 members received 4 scholarships in 2016. All applications will be open on October 1 and the new grant deadlines will be December 1 and 31- watch for the specific information. January 15 will be the new deadline for any of the international scholarships. Corrie explained how members and lodges can support the Foundation. A campaign to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary called “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Give Together” - to raise \$50,000 from lodges which is 10% of the fundraising campaign for the year. It is a type of peer-to-peer fundraising. There is a new four-year scholarship for students that do not have parents (member or not). Sons of Norway is also going to be a choice on “Amazon Smile” so shoppers can give to the Foundation that way. There will be a reception tonight at the convention as a part of Owen Christianson's President's Reception.

The morning coffee Break was hosted by Vennelag and Elvedal Lodges.

There was a presentation on the new District 5 Website presentation by Duane Kittleson and Christina Fairchild.

Andrew Johnsen encouraged people to walk in the morning at 6 am again on Saturday. So far \$201 has been raised for Masse Moro. The Silent Auction closes today at 4 pm.



Wergeland Lodge President David Glomstad and a representative of the Radisson in LaCrosse gave a presentation to host the 2018 District Lodge meeting. The dates proposed are June 27- July 1, 2018.

Darlene Arneson, Fundraising chair, explained the fundraisers that the District Board is conducting during the convention. They include the "Heads and Tails" fundraiser at the Friday luncheon, 50-50 raffle Friday night, there are potholders and cheese slicers for sale, and the Silent Auction will end on Friday night.

There was a break for lunch- with music by Blair Norwegian Singers. The District conducted the Heads and Tails fundraiser which netted \$252.

The meeting resumed at 1:30 PM. Sons of Norway CEO Eivind Heiberg gave an update on governance, the State of Minnesota's regulators review and report on Sons of Norway leadership on International Board of Directors, and how that relates to the District. He pointed out that without the support of the insurance part to the fraternal part of the organization, individual dues would increase \$34.44 per member.

#### Appointment of Officers- President Christianson

Marshal	Robert Fossum- Dovre
Assistant Marshal	Mary Ann Ellickson- Sonja Henie
Greeter	Steve Tarda- Polar Star
Greeter	Debra Thompson- Norskeland
Teller 1	Judy Ghastin- Norse Valley
Teller 2	Dick Iverson- Solvang
Teller 3	Doug Framness- Myrmarken
Teller 4	Carol Dost- Gronnvik

#### Report of the Nominating Committee

Jon Grinde, Chair- International Director  
Mary Bennett, Idun 74 (not present)  
Thomas Boudreau, Elvedal 556

The D5 Nominating Committee has put much time into this new process, and we hope the results are met with some appreciation. The difficulty our District had over several biennia attracting eligible candidates who are willing to serve has been brought home to the Nominating Committee members. We believe this new process will aid in developing, encouraging, and generating new leadership for the future. The committee members have well over 100 years of Sons of Norway membership and over 60 years of Sons of Norway leadership experience. We have seen firsthand the problems created when members are not willing or able to serve. We believe this "new process" will be very beneficial for Sons of Norway for years to come.

The following slate of candidates for officer and director positions is hereby presented:

President: Andrew Johnsen  
Vice President: Kathy Secora  
Secretary: Darlene Arneson  
Treasurer: Geoff Wodell and Mike Palecek  
Publicity Director: Christina Fairchild  
Sports Director: Michaela Decker  
Cultural Director: Esther Charlton  
Youth Director: Cheryl Wille-Schlesser  
Zone 1 Director:  
Zone 1 Director:  
Zone 2 Director: Tom Boudreau  
Zone 2 Director: Ron Iverson  
Zone 3 Director: Lucy Ghastin  
Zone 4 Director: Joy Bashara

We as the D5 Nominating Committee are disappointed that we have not been able to fill in the blanks for Zone 1! The lack of qualified candidates (Benefit Members) is a serious concern. In like manner, we as the D5 Nominating Committee are resolved in our vision that we have a responsibility to, as we mentioned earlier, develop, encourage, and generate candidates for officer and director positions. We will always attempt to slate as many candidates as possible. Our goal is to have at least two candidates nominated for each officer and director position!

President Christianson asked for nominations from the floor. Dave Hermundson was nominated for President. He declined.

#### Report of the Finance Committee

Duane Kittleson, Chair- District Treasurer  
Patricia Hermundson, Loven 29  
Frank Krawczyk, Polar Star 472  
Thomas Maxson, Elvesund 593  
Kathy Secora, District Board  
Ray Knutson, International Treasurer

Thomas Maxson was asked to serve as the interim Finance Chair.

We would like to thank and complement our treasurer Duane Kittleson on his reports.

The committee recommends that delegates read Treasurer Kittleson's comments on page 22 of the reports book. The committee met on June 23 and referred to pages 39-43 of the reports book. Declining membership is an important cause of declining finances to the district. Masse Moro is an important program for the district. Increasing fees and closely watching expenses can help. Lodges should be encouraged to promote more campers and to make donations to the camp. District

fundraising can be a challenge. Merchandise sales have not been very successful. Distribution of raffle tickets is difficult.

Concerning Resolution # 7, the memorial: We support the resolution but any financial support would come from local lodges or individuals. FIY, the district makes a \$100 memorial to the SON Foundation for each present or past board member.

Concerning resolution #8, p. 34, regarding officer compensation: We recommend approval. We feel it's reasonable.

Concerning resolution #9, district board travel: We recommend approval.

Concerning resolution # 11: We feel this is fiscally responsible and we support it.

Concerning by-law #2, district board travel: Moving the decision from district board to district lodge, we support.

Concerning by-law #3, adding another board position: This could potentially cost the district \$2,000 per biennium.

Concerning by-law #4, number of delegates to International convention: This will either reduce the allowance per delegate or increase the cost to the district. With 17 delegates, we estimate the reimbursement per delegate at \$605.

We compliment the whole board on being fiscally responsible these past 2 years. We thank all members for serving on this committee.

#### Report of the Reports/Publicity Committee

Clark Brekke, Chair- Vikings of the Smokies 677

Joy Bashara, District Publicity Director

Susan Morton, Vennligfolk 627

Scott Wegner, Mandt 314

Lucy Ghastin, Idun 74

First, the Committee would like to thank all Directors submitting reports for the thoroughness, review of progress over the past biennium and suggested future programming of their responsible areas within District 5 governance. We found them to be very useful in performing our review and report of their activities and proposals.

President Christianson expressed that he was honored to serve District 5 as President the past two years, and summarized some of the issues the Board and officers have dealt with. Insurance coverage for both campers and counselors at camp Masse Moro has been improved and updated. The Viking Chest is successful, with many lodges participating. A better method for scheduling is needed, and our committee suggests consideration of a District master (shared) calendar of scheduled district events. Putting information on the Viking Chest program in the

Friendly Fifth Friday News, including who to contact for scheduling, should be considered, as well as asking Owen to provide information on how to initially set it up. Owen discussed communication problems within the district, and an *ad hoc* committee continues to work to address and solve these, including establishment of a District Newsletter.

Vice President Diane Hesseltvan Dinter's report dealt with membership. She stressed that member recruitment and retentions is, to a large extent, the responsibility of all members of the District, and not solely the responsibility of the Vice President. A major role of the District Treasurer is to serve as a liaison between individual lodges and International. She emphasized the importance of mentoring new members, making them feel welcome and needed, and using their input whenever possible. The Vice President reminded members and lodges that there are many ideas to increase membership on the District and International websites.

Secretary Darlene Arneson reported that this biennium has provided several issues and changes that have needed to be addressed on local, District and International levels. She has wonderfully kept all in the District apprised of issues, developments and upcoming business through the Friendly Fifth Friday News, and our committee notes, appreciates and commends her in this effort. Darlene has agreed to serve another 2-year term as District Secretary, and we are pleased that she will continue her and the District's efforts to reach our geographically distant lodges, taking a limited budget and making the best use of members' funds to do the work of the District, and how to work to meet lodges' needs. One of her most compelling roles is to keep our leaders connected to each other, to the District, and to the International organization.

District Treasurer Duane Kittleson reported that District expenses for 2015 were the lowest in the last seven years, and the Fundraising Committee is continuing to seek ways to replenish cash reserves. He also pointed out that camp tuition is the only income available to pay Masse Moro Language and Heritage Camp expenses, with the camp operating at a loss each year. Additional sources of income and/or increased tuition rates, especially for non-District 5 youth, should be considered. Treasurer Kittleson should be commended for serving as both webmaster and treasurer after the loss of George Sievers; he has shown himself to be a valuable fiduciary resource person.

Andy Johnsen, District Recreation Director, reported success of the District's Bowling Tournaments, which will continue as a recreation event for 2017. Proceeds from the Tournament help to support the Fifth District Scholarship Fund. Our committee suggests consideration of expanding the Bowling Tournament program to be Zone-wide as well as District-wide. Also, thought should be given as to the role of the Recreation Director, asking what role do we want this position to play-- advisor, idea person, cheerleader, motivator, etc.?

The Publicity Director, Joy Bashara, stressed that publicity today relates to mass media to the largest extent, and those charged with publicity must learn to maximize use of these technologies. She outlined the tasks of publicity, as well as listing accomplishments in the past biennium such as an increase in lodge communication, an increase in receiving photos for consideration for publication, a workshop of and for lodge publishing folks at this year's

convention and a proposal for a new webmaster. Joy also posed questions for study and action to be addressed by an *ad hoc* committee.

District Cultural Director Esther Charlton reported on a newly-instituted contest which awards a District member who earns the most cultural skills pins and an award to the lodge with the most members who earned pins. Our committee suggests consideration of these contests at the zone level as well as the District. Esther pointed out that participation in various cultural activities not only enriches lives, it also enriches the lives of future Sons of Norway members. Our committee noted that the key to having strong cultural programs in a lodge is to have strong leadership in motivating members and programming. Cultural leaders need to be both teachers and cheerleaders, and programs should reflect that. Our committee also recommends a study of SoN's cultural programming that would permit and encourage development in new/different cultural areas and activities. For example, if stamp collecting is recognized as a cultural path, why not coin collecting of Nordic country coins, since coin collecting may now be as or more popular than stamp collecting.

The Youth Director, currently Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, is responsible for youth activities and is chair of the Heritage and Grants Committee. A large part of her activities is directed toward administration, support and encouragement of camp Masse Moro. Cheryl reported that publicity for the camp was accomplished by posting photos on the camp's Facebook page. Our committee recommends periodic use of photos on the District 5 part of the photo section of Viking Magazine. She also noted that concerns have been expressed concerning retaining quality staff and cost of operating the camp. Our committee recommends that the District needs to address these issues, especially means to overcome these problems. A suggestion is that lodges, in their fund-raising efforts, devote a portion of the raised funds to support the District-connected camp. A road rally scavenger hunt is scheduled for this District 5 convention.

President Christianson also instructed our Reports and Publicity Committee to specifically address whether District 5 needs a District newsletter, including considering the communication void created by discontinuance of Ole Bull, and review how the Reports Book is distributed. He also asked the committee to review and comment on the new District website and Facebook page:

Our Committee recommends that the website be the vehicle to use for communication within the District, encouraging the use of photos, graphics and the like. The proposed District Newsletter would be available on the website, as would the material the Ole Bull previously used for communication by District and lodge officers would be included. The District Secretary's Friendly Fifth Friday News material would be included as well. All of this information would be available via clicking on a menu bar. The website should be very intuitive, interesting, and contain contact information.

Facebook should also be utilized, since it is used by younger folk as a mode of communication, positioning SoN to attract new, younger members, so it could serve as a vehicle for recruiting. It must be informative. A key is selecting willing and interested administrators/managers of the page.



**The motion passed by a 2/3 vote.**

By-law #2: We recommend not supporting this by-law change. Past practice has been for the District Board to determine per diem and travelling allowance at the 1st Board of Directors meeting following the Convention and there have been no known problems with the procedure.

**There was a motion to approve the By-Law proposal #2. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**By-law Proposal # 2 District Board of Directors Traveling Expenses**

*(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.*

**The proposal was defeated.**

By-law #3 We are not recommending support of the amended By-Law change. The Charter and Constitutions 2014-2016 states "only voting members of the District Lodge who are also benefit members shall be eligible to hold elected District Lodge offices" (Chapter 11, 3.11.1). Central lodge 5 is a part of District 5 and each Central Lodge member has the same rights and responsibilities as any member of any other lodge. Therefore to deny a member their right to run for an office would be impugning their rights as a benefit member of Sons of Norway.

We do support the original By-Law proposal #3.

**There was a motion to approve the By-Law proposal #3. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**By-law Proposal # 3 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 shall also be elected.**

**The motion passed with a 2/3 vote.**

**There was a motion to approve the By-Law proposal #4. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**By-law #4 International Lodge Delegates**

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass)

Submitted: International SN Contact: Darlene Arneson

**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 in 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.

**The motion passed with a 2/3 vote.**



Owen Christianson presented the inaugural Spirit of the Viking awards to Ray Knutson, Darlene Arneson and Marv Lang were the recipients.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Gene Steensma, Chair- Samhold 473

Geoff Wodell, Central 000

Vicki Rudh-Jones, Valhall 168

Shirley Schoenfeld, Wergeland 28

Curtis Cleveland, Askeladden 610

David Hermundson, District Board

**The Committees comments on each of the resolutions:**

**Resolution # 1 Zone Alignment and Distribution**

Resolution Committee recommended a NO vote for the following reasons:

- District Board could not resolve because they could not come up with satisfactory solutions.
- Alternatives to visitations are Skype, Conference calls, E-Mails and Phone Calls, seminars.

**Resolution #2 Nominating Committee for International Director**

The Resolution Committee recommends a NO vote for the following reason:

The word "lodge was scratched from the original by-law there-by allowing any District member to be appointed to this Nominating Committee. It was felt that the candidate should be from the District Lodge.

**Resolution #3 Nominating Committee for International Director**

Resolution Committee recommends a YES vote for the following reasons:

Recommended by the Fraternal Congress. The final draft of this resolution and others from other Districts dealing with the nominating process will be finalized at the International Convention in Tacoma, Washington.

**Resolution # 4 Nominating Committee and Elections**

Resolution Committee recommended a NO vote for the following reason: 30 day time is too short. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

**Resolution #5 Nominating and Elections**

Resolutions Committee recommends a YES vote for the following reasons: A procedure for filling vacancy or vacancies is needed. The vacancy must be filled by a District Lodge member.

**Resolution #6 International Delegates and Alternates**

Resolution recommends a YES vote for the following reasons: This would take effect for the 2018 International Convention. This would require a by-law change.

**Resolution #7 Fifth District Memorial**

Resolution Committee recommends Yes vote for the following reasons: This project would only be supported by "fund raisers" and not the District General Fund. A piece of land has been donated to this Troll Mountain project in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. This project was the vision of the late George Sievers.

**Resolution # 8 Officer Compensation**

Resolution Committee recommends a YES vote for the following reasons: Compensation for these District Officers is minimal. Finance Committee approves this Resolution.

**Resolution #9 District Board Travel**

Finance Committee approves. Resolution Committee recommended approval

**Resolution #10 Central Lodge Representation**

Resolution Committee recommends approval of amended motion.

**Resolution #11 International Delegate Expense**

Resolution Committee recommended approval of amended motion. Original resolution was for \$800 but amended to \$900. with 50% for spouse room allowance. "Bare-bones" estimate was for \$1100 cost not figuring airport parking, higher airline fares for some and misc. costs.

**Action on the resolutions:**

**Resolution #1 – 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.

The committee does not recommend approval.

There was a motion to approve resolution #1. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion defeated.







There was a motion for approval. 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was an motion to amend the motion by striking the word “may” instead of “shall”. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The amendment passed.

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

Motion passed.

### **Resolution # 8 - 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 approve. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Motion passed.

### **Resolution # 9 - 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 Director’s 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.

The committee recommends passage.

There was a motion to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Motion passed.

**Resolution # 10 - Central Lodge Representation**

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: Geoffrey Wodell

Resolution for Central Lodge representation

WHEREAS, Central Lodge has 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 it 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 actual costs of any Central Lodge members) and shall only be for travel as directed by the District Board.

The committee recommends passage.

There was a motion to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The question was called. There was an objection. To call the question passed with a 2/3 vote.

The motion passed.

## **Resolution #11 – International Delegate Expense**

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: District 5 Board                      Contact: Darlene Arneson

WHEREAS: Article VIII, Par. 7 of the District Lodge 5 By-Laws requires the District Lodge to provide an expense allowance, decided by the District Lodge, to Representatives to the International Lodge Meeting, and

WHEREAS: The District must also act with fiscal responsibility and must determine that the expense allowance will not be a detriment to the continued financial health of the District treasury, and

WHEREAS: The District membership dues includes an amount of one-dollar (\$1.00) per member, per year designated for support of the International Delegate Expense Allowance, and

WHEREAS: The amount of the membership dues collected for this purpose during the past biennium is \$10,280, now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That delegates to the 2016 International Convention and Lodge Meeting to be held in Tacoma, WA shall receive an expense allowance of \$10,280 divided by the number of International Delegates elected. If a husband and wife are both delegates, one spouse would receive full delegate expense allowance and the other receives 50%

The committee moved the resolution's passage. 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was a motion to amend the last paragraph to \$15,300 and change from 75% to 50%. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The amendment passed.

***Resolved***, That delegates to the 2016 International Convention and Lodge Meeting to be held in Tacoma, WA shall receive an expense allowance of \$15,300 divided by the number of International Delegates elected. If a husband and wife are both delegates, one spouse would receive full delegate expense allowance and the other receives 50%.

The amended motion passed.

Announcements were made. There was a motion to recess. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.



## Saturday, June 25, 2016

Jon Grinde and Jim Nelson led the group in singing.

The meeting was called to order.

Appointment of Officers- President Christianson

Marshal	Oleif Olsaker- Scandiana
Assistant Marshal	Kathleen Kreuger- Circle City
Greeter	Don Shawhan- Vennskap
Greeter	Mike Palecek- Nordlyset
Teller 1	Greg Leduc- Skjold
Teller 2	Julie Lea- Leif Erikson
Teller 3	Arlene Pederson- Valhall
Teller 4	Irene Fortney- Jotunheim

Roll Call of Delegates- Secretary Arneson

Report of the Fraternal Affairs Committee

Cheryl Wille-Schlessner, Chair-District Youth Director  
Jerald Trzebiatow, Vennligfolk 627  
Jerome Rud, Circle City 614  
Robin Fossum, Dovre 353  
Geir Gronstad, Nordkap 378  
Bill Hendrickson, Nordland 544

The Fraternal Affairs Committee discussed many projects their lodges are promoting to make their communities aware of their contributions, including: festivals, parades, food events, Norwegian cultural offerings, and holiday celebrations. All facets of the Sons of Norway organization with the exception of the Financial and Foundation arms are classified as Fraternal business. Since the 2014, Convention, most lodges have established electronic communication with their members, by regularly posting events on: the District 5 website, through the Sons of Norway events page, or on individual lodge webpages. Some lodges also report the establishment of multiple social media connections such as Facebook or Instagram.

A caution with social media postings that some members shared is the bombardment of trivial postings that have no direct correlation to the operation of a site. Lodges should consider linking a chat room on specific topics, such as Norwegian forest cats, to ensure that posts are meaningful. By overposting irrelevant material, the website or page runs the risk of losing readership. Administrators of webpages need to monitor the postings more closely.

It is the recommendation of the Fraternal Affairs Committee that the District 5 Board address and

expand on the following items to enhance operations, facilitate member communication, encourage more participation in the financial side of Sons of Norway (SofN) and thus potentially increasing membership within the Order.

Establish a speaker's bureau with names, contact numbers or e-mail addresses, and areas of expertise to improve the quality of programming offered throughout the District. The list of speakers should be posted to the District 5 webpage, and made user-friendly, so that others could also submit ideas of interest. This could be handled through the new webmaster and hosting site.

Each Zone Director needs to make available to the membership a method through which information-sharing can occur. In some zones, distances are great, making face to face meetings a challenge. Suggestions for holding a Zone meeting could include, but are not limited to: Skype, Go to Meeting, posting a webinar, or through the use of a conference call. If local Zone Directors cannot accomplish this task, the training should be provided by the District 5 Board.

More news, entertainment, and activities should be developed for youth. Today's youth are tech saavy. How are we sharing our mission with them through electronic means?

Minimize graphic art in the the Lodge section of *The Viking* magazine and increase the photo space showcasing more lodge events.

The International Office needs to take a serious look at the benefit options offered to members and design new products that would encourage more participation, ultimately making more individuals available for holding office at the District and International levels.

Remarks by International Treasurer Ray Knutson - Ray thanked Owen Christianson for the special recognition "Spirit of the Viking" that he was awarded the night before. He thanked the delegates for their service. He quoted Presidents John F. Kennedy, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. He noted that "listen" and "silence" use the same number of letters. He wished the group safe travels as they report back to their local lodges.

Remarks by International Director Jon Grinde- He shared some history of the District's convention sites noting that Mandt Lodge in Stoughton hosted the District Convention in 1970 in their hall. He asked how many had learned something new about Sons of Norway and that the organization is greater than we knew. He will be running for International Vice President in Tacoma. He encouraged the members to understand and promote the benefit programs and insurance products the organization has to offer- it is part of who we are- a fraternal benefit society.

Remarks by International President Jon Tehven  
Good morning. Thank you, President Owen.

*I bring you greetings from the Sons of Norway International Board, CEO Eivind Heiberg and headquarters staff, and all our sister and brother members in Norway, Canada, and the USA.*

*I like to begin this way: The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the culture and heritage of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.*

*How many of you are first-time delegates?*

*President Owen has asked that I visit with you about how Sons of Norway is structured.*

*First, I will describe our Lodge system and how we work together. Second, a few words about the International Board and Headquarters operations. Third, how the financial, fraternal, and foundation work together for our benefit.*

*OK, our Lodge system. Sons of Norway is a Fraternal Benefit Society - an insurance company. It was started in 1895 by small group of Norwegians who saw the need for protecting their families in the event of death or sickness. This became a community common-bond and groups of Norwegians came together to form what we call lodges. A community group. The first lodge was Nidaros in Minneapolis, which continues today.*

*You know about your local lodge and how that operates. You are here today as a delegate to the District Lodge. All lodges within the boundaries of District 6 are entitled to have delegates here today. You are here to conduct the business of the District as outlined in this Reports Book.*

*Two appointed committees have been working on the financial reports and the resolutions. The Finance Committee is reviewing the District and Rec Center Financial statements.*

*The Reports/Resolutions Committee is reviewing the reports and during the business meeting, will present the resolutions beginning on page 30. They will have studied them and will make recommendations to approve or reject. All delegates will have the opportunity to speak in support or against any resolution or to make amendments to them. However, it is you, the delegates that have the final vote. Your rules are on pages 1 and 2.*

*Resolutions which you pass, concerning the bylaws of Sons of Norway, will be forwarded to the International Lodge for discussion and vote.*

*You have a booklet, the 2014-2016 Charter and Constitutions. [Hold Up] Here you will find the details of the governance of Sons of Norway. There are Policies and Procedures; however, they are found on the SON website. You will elect District officers for the next biennium.*

*You also remain members of the District Lodge until the next biennial convention. Why? Because an*

event may occur requiring action and a vote. Thus, you continue your responsibilities for 2 more years.

There are 8 Sons of Norway Districts: Canada (British Columbia), Norway, and 5 in the USA. Each has, is, or will have a District Lodge meeting. Each District has a Director on the International Board of Directors. The District 6 Director was Lyle Berge who has passed away. His alternate, Roger Espeland, now holds that office. More about the International Board later.

Now, the International Lodge. Some of you will be elected as delegates to attend the International Lodge meeting in August in Tacoma. To attend this meeting, you must be a benefit member. That is, you must own an insurance or annuity product from Sons of Norway. Why is this so? Sons of Norway is an insurance company, and only the stakeholders - benefit members - can vote on financial and governance matters.

At the International Lodge meeting, we will do many of the same things you are doing here. We will have the committees on finance, reports, and resolutions.

Delegates to the International Lodge will remain members of the International Lodge until the next biennial convention. Why? Because an event may occur requiring action and a vote. Thus, they continue their responsibilities for 2 more years.

We will elect an International President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They serve 2-year terms and can be re-elected for another 2 year term. We will also elect the International Directors, as put forward from their District. 4 Directors will be elected this year to a 4 year term.

All candidates for office have filed a Candidate Application and have been vetted and interviewed by the International Nominating Committee.

I want to comment about the our Nominating Committees. Resolutions were passed at the 2014 International Lodge meeting, establishing Nominating Committees for District and International Offices. The rationale was that we had nominating committees for our Lodges, but not the District or International Boards.

Also, we must remember that Sons of Norway is first and foremost an insurance company. As such, we are under regulations from state Insurance Departments in every state where we sell insurance. Sons of Norway is a \$360 million enterprise. This money backs our insurance business and is really the money of our certificate holders. We also have about \$14 million in surplus to cover claims.

Within the past 2 - 3 years, regulations have been passed and legislation and Insurance Departments are now asking about the qualifications of its Board of Directors. We were asked by the State of Minnesota at our recent audit.

So, the goal on the International level is a Board of diverse experiences and qualifications: legal, accounting, business leadership, education, insurance, as well as fraternal experience. Not all the same, diversity and quality.

*Now the International Board, which includes ex-officio members CEO Eivind Heiberg and Legal Consol David Ness. It is a board of 12: currently 8 male and 4 females.*

*What is our responsibility? Our primary responsibility is to establish policy and procedure and, in general, to determine directives for management as outlined in the Constitution of the International Lodge [Hold up book]. We do what boards of directors do all the time: hear/read reports, such as our Investment Advisor, Auditors, CEO, Headquarters staff.*

*We also train ourselves. With the transition of new board members this fall, we will have a 2-day orientation, which all board members are now asked to attend.*

*We have these duties:*

- *The duty of care: that we act in good faith and care as any prudent person would.*
- *The duty to supervise: the International Board has one employee: our CEO. It is our duty to supervise, and we do not micro-manage.*
- *The duty of loyalty: that is the duty of undivided and unqualified loyalty of SON.*
- *The duty of confidentiality: as transparent as we want to be, there are times when sensitive information cannot be revealed, especially as it relates to members or employees.*

*Now, to our third topic: Financial, Fraternal, and Foundation. Visualize a 3-legged stool. What happens when one leg is removed?*

*All three: Financial, Fraternal, and Foundation must succeed if we are to live out our mission to promote, preserve, and protect.*

*Let's start with Financial.*

- *We have great life insurance and annuity products.*
- *If you haven't had an FBC do a complimentary financial analysis, please do so for the well-being of you family.*
- *Financial support for your membership events. He asked Len Carlson to come forward to explain the membership dinner support.*
- *Our Financial division is the engine that drives Fraternal, with over \$1 million transferred to support culture and heritage.*

*Now fraternal:*

- *Viking magazine: award winner*
- *Cultural Skills/Sports Medal*
- *Adopt A School*
- *Materials for Lodge meetings*
  - *Visit our website*
- *Newsletter assistance/articles*
- *Beautiful Christmas ornament*

*Now foundation*

- *The Sons of Norway Foundation is dedicated to funding activities that preserve and promote Norwegian heritage, positively affect members, and make Sons of Norway communities a more vibrant place to live.*
- *\$6.5 million strong*
- *Scholarships*
- *Grants*
- *Disaster relief*
- *Since 1984 given 4,890 scholarships for \$1,417,774*
- *Since 1990 given 1,077 grants for over \$500,000*
- *And thousands in humanitarian aid. - Minot, ND flood*
- *You'll hear more from her later this morning, and she has some exciting news!*

*So, were does that leave us? It leaves us living out our mission and improving the quality of life for ourselves and the communities in which we live.*

*Have a great Convention.*

President Christianson recalled the committees:

- Finance
- Reports/Publicity
- Fraternal Affairs
- Laws

The four committee chairs reported that their work has been completed. Owen dismissed the four committees.

Jim Nelson led the group in song.

Duane Kittleson reported the Walk-a-Thon raised \$463 , \$55 cheese slicers and pot holders, \$8 for fun, and silent auction \$1026.50.

There was a motion to move the approval of the 2018 convention bid. 2<sup>nd</sup>. President Dave Glomstad reported \$125 and \$135/per room, the dates will be June 27- July 1, 2018 and held at the Radisson in LaCrosse, WI.

The motion passed.

The vendors donated door prizes and Diane Hesseltvan Dinter announced the winners. Announcements were made.

The coffee break was hosted by Wergeland and Rib Fjell.

Jim Nelson led the group in singing.

Jim Nelson and Geir Grønstad led group sang Happy Birthday in Norwegian to those celebrating birthdays this month:

**Hurra for deg som fyller ditt år!**

(Norwegian)

Hurra for deg som fyller ditt år!

Ja, deg vil vi gratulere!

Alle i ring omkring deg vi står,

og se, nå vil vi marsjere,

bukke, nikke, neie, snu oss omkring,

danse så for deg med hopp og sprett og spring,

ønske deg av hjertet alle gode ting

og si meg så, hva vil du mere? Gratulere!

Høyt våre flagg vi svinger. Hurra!

Ja, nå vil vi riktig feste!

Dagen er din, og dagen er bra,

men du er den aller beste!

Se deg om i ringen hvem du vil ta!

Dans en liten dans med den du helst vil ha!

Vi vil alle sammen svinge oss så gla'

og en av oss skal bli den neste – til å feste!

President Christianson recalled the Nominations Committee who presented the slate of officers:

President: Andrew Johnsen

Vice President: Kathy Secora

Secretary: Darlene Arneson

Treasurer: Mike Palecek

Publicity Director: Christina Fairchild

Sports Director: Michaela Decker

Cultural Director: Esther Charlton

Youth Director: Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

The committee reported that Geoff Wodell has withdrawn his name as nominee for treasurer and recommends that Zone 1 recommend to the Board a person for general director. Geoff Wodell has expressed interest.

Alternate to the Secretary: Nancy Kittleson from Vennelag  
Alternate to the Treasurer: Geoff Wodell from Central Lodge

Zone 1 Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone 1 Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone 2 Director: Tom Boudreau  
Zone 2 Director: Ron Iverson  
Zone 3 Director: Lucy Ghastin  
Zone 4 Director: Joy Bashara

There was a motion to suspend the rules to allow the alternates names be added to the ballot.  
2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

The following were elected by acclamation:

President: Andrew Johnsen  
Vice President: Kathy Secora  
Secretary: Darlene Arneson  
Treasurer: Mike Palecek  
Publicity Director: Christina Fairchild  
Sports Director: Michaela Decker  
Cultural Director: Esther Charlton  
Youth Director: Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

Alternate to the Secretary: Nancy Kittleson from Vennelag  
Alternate to the Treasurer: Geoff Wodell from Central Lodge

The committee was excused.

Secretary Arneson instructed the election needs going into caucus for each of the zones.

Jon Grinde asked that newly elected District President and District Secretary be the two at-large delegates to the International Lodge Meeting be nominated by acclamation.

**Noon**

Lunch and Zone Caucus- Award presentations in caucus  
Zone 1 and Central Lodge - Central Ballroom 1  
Zone 2- Central Ballroom 2  
Zone 3 - Grand Ballroom 1  
Zone 4- Grand Ballroom 3  
Zone 5- Marshfield Room  
Zone 6- Entrance "E" Atrium



During the caucus, the zone directors presented Founders Awards and Merit Awards to their respective lodges:

**2015 Founders Awards:**

5	490	Sonja Henie	MI	Small
5	627	Vennligfolk	WI	Small
5	053	Valkyrien	WI	Large
5	314	Mandt	WI	Large
5	457	Solvang	WI	Large
5	513	Vennelag	WI	Large
5	568	Christian Radich	MI	Small
5	610	Askeladden	MI	Large

**2014 Merit Winners**

		<b>LODGE NAME</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>LOY Score</b>
5	053	Valkyrien	WI	62
5	314	Mandt	WI	66
5	378	Nordkap	MI	63
5	513	Vennelag	WI	62
5	028	Wergeland	WI	55
5	029	Løven	WI	55
5	074	Idun	WI	49
5	082	Fosselyngen	WI	49
5	183	Nordlyset	WI	52
5	206	Hafrsfjord	WI	49
5	457	Solvang	WI	49
5	472	Polar Star	IL	56
5	525	Cleng Peerson	IL	51
5	549	H R Holand	WI	53
5	556	Elvedal	WI	52
5	593	Elvesund	IL	49
5	610	Askeladden	MI	55
5	616	Fagernes	WI	55
5	632	Grønnvik	WI	50
5	642	Ostestaden	WI	55
5	097	Leif Erikson	IL	42
5	100	Skjold	IL	46
5	168	Valhall	IL	45
5	220	Trygvason	WI	40
5	353	Dovre	WI	44

5	473	Samhold	MI	47
5	491	Norse Valley	WI	42
5	491	Norse Valley	WI	42
5	534	Fossen	WI	36
5	544	Nordland	WI	42
5	600	Scandiana	IN	40
5	609	Myrmarken	WI	43
5	614	Circle City	IN	40
5	622	Vennskap	WI	38
5	625	Viking	WI	39
5	627	Vennligfolk	WI	36
5	628	Tre Elver	IN	37
5	657	Edvard Grieg	OH	40
5	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	TN	41

Gold = 59 - 72 points

Silver = -48- 58 points

Bronze = 36 - 47 points

"Certificates" were made for lodges who completed the report, but didn't score high

## 2015 Merit

District	Lodge	Name	Score
5	28	Wergeland	60
5	53	Valkyrien	71
5	183	Nordlyset	59
5	314	Mandt	69
5	457	Solvang	64
5	472	Polar Star	59
5	513	Vennelag	60
5	29	Løven	53
5	82	Fosselyngen	52
5	100	Skjold	55
5	168	Valhall	54
5	353	Dovre	47
5	378	Nordkap	57
5	473	Samhold	51
5	525	Cleng Peerson	50
5	549	H R Holand	49
5	556	Elvedal	52
5	600	Scandiana	51
5	609	Myrmarken	48

5	610	Askeladden	56
5	616	Fagernes	51
5	642	Ostestaden	51
5	74	Idun	42
5	97	Leif Erikson	42
5	206	Hafrsfjord	46
5	220	Trygvason	39
5	490	Sonja Henie	39
5	491	Norse Valley	42
5	534	Fossen	41
5	544	Nordland	39
5	568	Christian Radich	41
5	593	Elvesund	44
5	614	Circle City	43
5	622	Vennskap	45
5	625	Viking	36
5	632	Grønnvik	43
5	650	Norsemen Of Lakes	38
5	657	Edvard Grieg	39
5	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	40
5	681	Music City Vikings	36

Memorial Service- Darlene Arneson read the Memorial service and zone directors David Hermundson, Ron Iverson, Cheryl Schlessner, Joy Bashara, Christina Fairchild, and Esther Charlton and International Director Jon Grinde participating.

The zone directors reported on their caucus meetings.

Zone Directors:

President & Zone 6	Andrew Johnsen
Vice President & Zone 5	Kathy Secora
Sports & Rec & Zone 4	Michaela Decker
Publicity & Zone 5	Christina Fairchild
Cultural & Zone 6	Esther Charlton
Youth & Zone 3	Cheryl Wille-
Zone 1	David Hermundson
Zone 1	Recommendation to District Board to appoint Geoffrey Wodell
Zone 2	Ron Iverson
Zone 2	Tom Boudreau
Zone 3	Lucy Ghastin
Zone 4	Joy Bashara

Alternates:

<b>Zone 1</b>	Patricia Hermundson
<b>PRIORITY</b>	
<b>Zone 2</b>	Dick Iverson
<b>PRIORITY</b>	
<b>Zone 2</b>	Owen Christianson
<b>PRIORITY</b>	
<b>Zone 3</b>	Bill Hendrickson
<b>SPECIFIC TO LUCY GHASTIN</b>	
<b>Zone 3</b>	Carol Culbertson
<b>SPECIFIC TO CHERYL WILLE-SCHLESSER</b>	
<b>Zone 4</b>	Gerry Lachman
<b>SPECIFIC TO JOY BASHARA</b>	
<b>Zone 4</b>	Sue Berg Roedel
<b>SPECIFIC TO MICHAELA DECKER</b>	
<b>Zone 5</b>	Vicki Rudh-Jones
<b>SPECIFIC TO CHRISTINA FAIRCHILD</b>	
<b>Zone 5</b>	Lisa Solak
<b>SPECIFIC TO KATHY SECORA</b>	
<b>Zone 6</b>	Gene Steensma
<b>SPECIFIC TO ANDREW JOHNSEN</b>	
<b>Zone 6</b>	Nancy Andersen
<b>SPECIFIC TO ESTHER CHARLTON</b>	

Nominations were taken from the floor for International Delegates: Susan Berg Roedel, Geoff Wodell, Cheryl Wille-Schlessler, Carol Culbertson and Pat Hermundson were nominated. 2<sup>nd</sup> Nominations were closed and a unanimous consent.

Names for alternates were nominated: The names are Connie Kross, Nancy Andersen, Mike Palecek and Oleif Olsaker. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed and the ranking is in that order.

Resume Lodge Meeting- Grand Ballroom- President Christianson

Marshal	Dee Grimrud- Idun
Assistant Marshal	Bill Bethke- Ostestaden
Greeter	Ann Kathan- Wergeland
Greeter	Ken Johnson- Polar Star
Teller 1	Judy Johnson- Valkryien
Teller 2	Gerry Lachman- Hafrsfjord
Teller 3	Eloise Cihos-Sognefjord
Teller 4	Lorna Pederson- Vakkertland
Elections	International Delegates at Large International Delegates and Alternates by Zone International Delegates and Alternates from Pool

President Owen Christianson recalled the Nominations committee.

The Nominating Committee submitted Duane Kittleson for the International Director alternate. The delegates voted in favor.

Recall Resolutions Committee

The committee moved to accept Resolution #12. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Whereas: The 53<sup>rd</sup> Biennial District Five Assembly is coming to a successful conclusion; and

Whereas: District President Owen Christiansen has conducted the meeting with professional dispatch; and

Whereas: District Secretary Darlene Arneson has managed her office with gracious diligence; and

Whereas: The District Board has performed its duties and obligations in a timely manner including being host to this fine assembly; and

Whereas: International Treasurer Ray Knutson and International Director Jon Grinde have represented our District on the International Board with distinction; and

Whereas: Our Home Office Staff and Field Staff have been well represented and an integral part of this biennial meeting; and

Whereas: The various seminar presenters were well received and did a fine job; and

Whereas: The Fagernes Lodge performed to the delight of all; and

Whereas: The Parliamentarian Tim Heeg handled his duties professionally; and

Whereas: The Marshfield Hotel management and staff provided excellent service and accommodations; and

Whereas: The outgoing and current District Board members deserve our gratitude for their service; and

Whereas: those who participated in the Walk-a-thons and donated gifts to the fund-raising auction are to be commended; and

Whereas: Thanks to the appointed District Convention committees and temporary officers is due; and

Whereas: Delegates, Alternates, and Visitors have given much of their time and talents to attend this convocation and much appreciation is due them; and

Whereas: We extended safe travel wishes to the Delegates to the International Convention in Tacoma, Washington in August; and

Now therefore be it resolved: The incoming District Board of Directors extend our gratitude and thanks to any person or group inadvertently omitted from this resolution.

The committee moved for its adoption. 2<sup>nd</sup> . Passed.

There was not any final lodge meeting business to conduct. There was a motion to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Announcements were made and the Installation of the District 5 Board was conducted by International President Jon Tehven with Marshals Jon Grinde and Ray Knutson assisting.

**Sons of Norway- District Five Saturday Banquet  
Saturday, June 25, 2016**

Invocation – Jim Nelson lead us in singing the Norwegian table prayer.

I Jesu navn går vi til bords  
å spise, drikke på ditt ord.  
Deg, Gud til ære, oss til gavn,  
Så får vi mat i Jesu navn.  
Amen.

Introductions of:

- International President Jon Tehven
- International CEO Eivind Heiberg
- Sons of Norway Director of Agencies- Len Carlson

**District Five Officers and Directors for 2014-2016**

President: Andrew Johnsen  
Vice President: Kathy Secora  
Treasurer: Mike Palecek  
Publicity Director: Christina Fairchild  
Sports Director: Michaela Decker  
Cultural Director: Esther Charlton  
Youth Director: Cheryl Wille-Schlesser  
Zone 1 Director: David Hermundson  
Zone 2 Director: Tom Boudreau  
Zone 2 Director: Ron Iverson  
Zone 3 Director: Lucy Ghastin  
Zone 4 Director: Joy Bashara

International Director – Jon Grinde  
International Treasurer- Ray Knutson

**Esther Charlton presented the Cultural Awards and the Folk Art Awards and People's Choice:**

**Cultural Skills**

July –December 2015      Lodge- Polar Star  
   Individual- Jeri Lynn Baker

January - June

Lodge = Vennligfolk  
Winners tie Nancy Mayfield and Carolyn Johnson

## **Folk Art Exhibit**

Hardanger-

1<sup>st</sup>- Ginny Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Nancy Kittleson, 3<sup>rd</sup>- Ginny Nelson

Rosemaling

1<sup>st</sup>- Loretta Paulman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy Odalen, 3<sup>rd</sup>- Loretta Paulman

Best of Show: tie between Nancy Odalen and Carol Culbertson

## **Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year Awards:**

2014 Tier 1 Lodge LA: Mandt

2014 Tier 2 Lodge LA: Fagernes

2015 Tier 1 Lodge LA: Valkryien

2015 Tier 2 Lodge LA: Elvedal

2014 Family Lodge of the Year: Nordkap

2015 Family Lodge of the Year: Nordlyset

President Johnsen introduced Owen Christianson for comments. Andy presented Owen with plaque and gift.

Andrew: Present departing board member gifts to Owen Christianson, Diane Hesselvan Dinter, and Duane Kittleson.

Recognition of 2016 Convention planning committee

- Diane Hesselvan Dinter
- Judy Ghastin
- Dorothy Berg
- Sherrie Framness
- Owen Christianson

## **Convention fundraising results: Reported by Duane Kittleson**

Convention Fundraiser - Head and tails	\$642. (Net of \$100 prize paid.)
Convention Silent Auction	\$1,102.50
Masse Moro general donation	\$100
Masse Moro Fundraising walk-a-thon	\$859. (plus 2 - \$1,000 pledges)
Fundraising products sold (potholder, etc)	\$151.66 (Net of sales tax payable)

Also collected at the convention was \$66 towards the Troll Mountain memorial which is in designated funds account.