

Sons of Norway District Five Lodge Meeting Minutes
June 15-19, 2022 in Middleton, Wisconsin
Approved on October 29, 2022 by the District 5 Board of Directors

President Andrew Johnsen called the 55th Biennial District 5 Lodge Meeting to order. The flags were posted, anthems sang, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. President Johnsen welcomed the group.

President Johnsen introduced Parliamentarian Robert Schuck. Robert is a member of Nordlyset Lodge but lives in northern Wisconsin where he operates a family gift shop. He is also President of the Wisconsin Association of Parliamentarians. His role here is to advise me, as the Presiding Officer, and the delegates as we move through the business meeting.

Appointment of Officers was made by President Johnsen

Tellers will serve the entire District Lodge Meeting

Teller #1	Robert Fossum	Dovre
Teller #2	William Schrubba	Rib Fjell
Teller #3	Dana Diedrich	Idun
Teller #4	Susan Berg-Roedel	Fosselyngen

Appointment of Officers for morning session

Marshall	David Cox	Central
Asst. Marshall	Merlee Jensen	Valkryien
Greeter	Arno Morton	Vennligfolk
Greeter	Jeanette Thompson	Viking

Introductions District Five Officers and Directors

District Five Officers

President – Andrew Johnsen
Vice President – Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
Secretary – Darlene Arneson
Treasurer – Duane Kittleson
Sports & Recreation Director – Audrey Severson
Publicity Director – Karen Eberhardt
Cultural Director – Judy Ghastin
Youth Director – Sandra Olson

District Five Directors

Zone 2- Tom Boudreau
Zone 2 – Karen Broadhead
Zone 4 – Peggy Schroeder
Zone 5- Connie Kross
Zone 5- Lisa Solak (alternate for Thomas Maxson who is in Norway)
Zone 6- Dee Bumpers

International Director- Robin Fossum

Past Officers and Directors:

Past International Director and District 5 President – Jon Grinde

Past District Presidents- Mary Bennett and Owen Christianson

Past District 5 Directors and Officers- Susan Boudreau, Dennis Westgor, Mary Zoroufy, Adrien Johnson, Kathy Secora

District Secretary, Darlene Arneson to take the Roll Call of Delegates.

#	Lodge	Zone	# Del.	Paddle	First	Last
	Central Lodge		0	Not sending Delegates		
999	Spirit of the New Century			Not sending delegates		
353	Dovre	1	1	3	Robert	Fossum
353	Dovre	1				
029	Løven	1	1	4	Christine	Gutsch
029	Løven	1	1	5	Julie	Carr
053	Valkyrien	1	1	6	Ila	Gillis
053	Valkyrien	1	1	7	Merlee	Jensen
625	Viking	1	1	8	Elaine	Ness
625	Viking	1	1	9	Jeanette	Thompson
220	Trygvason			Not sending delegates		
670	Ulseth			Not sending delegates		
			7	Total Zone 1 Delegates		
556	Elvedal	2	1	10	Susan	Boudreau
616	Fagernes	2	1	11	Leland	Wier
616	Fagernes	2	1	12	LaVonne	Wier
286	Jotunheimen	2	1	13	Marlo	Volden
286	Jotunheimen	2	1	14	Irene	Fortney
496	Rib Fjell	2	1	15	William	Schruba
496	Rib Fjell	2	1	16	Tryphine	Schruba
457	Solvang	2	1	17	David	Amundson
457	Solvang	2	1	18	Ruth	Amundson
627	Vennligfolk	2	1	19	Susan	Morton
627	Vennligfolk	2	1	20	Arno	Morton
627	Vennligfolk	2	1	21	Tom	Johnson
028	Wergeland	2	1	22	Carol	Pestel
028	Wergeland	2	1	23	Adrian	Johnson
028	Wergeland	2	1	24	Ramona	Johnson
028	Wergeland	2	1	25	Kathi	Beane
534	Fossen			Not sending delegates		
609	Myrmarken			Not sending delegates		
580	Norskeland			Not sending delegates		
			16	Total Zone 2 Delegates		

074	Idun	3	1	26	Dana	Diedrich
074	Idun	3	1	27	Shirley	Scriver
074	Idun	3	1	28	Jon	Grinde
314	Mandt	3	1	29	Vonnie	Meichtry
314	Mandt	3	1	30	John	Arneson
314	Mandt	3	1	31	Carol	Culbertson
314	Mandt	3	1	32	Scott	Wegner
544	Nordland	3	1	33	Marjorie	Harris
544	Nordland	3	1	34	Georgia	Kestol
650	Norsemen Of Lakes	3	1	35	Carol	Anderson
650	Norsemen Of Lakes	3	1	36	Dennis	Westgor
642	Ostestaden	3	1	37	Joan	Holm
642	Ostestaden	3	1	38	Jean	Busker
513	Vennelag	3	1	39	Steve	Frame
513	Vennelag	3	1	40	Allen	Watrud
513	Vennelag	3	1	41	Donna	Corcoran
513	Vennelag	3	1	42	Nancy	Kittleson
			17	Total Zone 3 Delegates		
082	Fosselyngen	4	1	43	Gretchen	Bjork
082	Fosselyngen	4	1	44	Mary	Taylor
082	Fosselyngen	4	1	45	Susan	Berg-Roedel
632	Grønnavik	4	1	47	Danielle	Taylor
632	Grønnavik	4				
183	Nordlyset	4	1	48	Beth Ann	Nelson
183	Nordlyset	4	1	49	Jill L.	Jensen
183	Nordlyset	4	1	50	Barbara	Earnest
491	Norse Valley	4		54	Canceled	
491	Norse Valley	4		52	Canceled	
491	Norse Valley	4	1	53	Corey	Olson
549	H R Holand			Not sending delegates		
			8	Total Zone 4 Delegates		
525	Cleng Peerson	5	1	54	Dawn	Gunderson
525	Cleng Peerson	5	1	55	Sheila	Gunderson
525	Cleng Peerson	5	1	56	Richard	Gunderson
593	Elvesund	5	1	57	Nancy	Robinson
593	Elvesund	5	1	58	Phil	Robinson
472	Polar Star	5	1	59	Ed	Hatteberg
472	Polar Star	5	1	60	Steve	Tanda
472	Polar Star	5	1	61	Kelly	Welin
100	Skjold	5	1	62	Laura	Askey
100	Skjold	5	1	63	James	Secora
100	Skjold	5	1	64	Kathy	Secora

168	Valhall	5	1	65	Lee Ann	Harp
168	Valhall	5	1	66	Vicki	Rudh-Jones
168	Valhall	5				
168	Valhall	5				
			13	Total Zone 5 Delegates		
610	Askeladden	6	1	67	Gail	Thompson-Hadley
610	Askeladden	6	1	68	Karen	Hare
610	Askeladden	6	1	69	Curtis	Cleveland
614	Circle City	6	1	70	Nancy	Andersen
614	Circle City	6	1	71	Berit	Skaare
614	Circle City	6	1	72	Alice	Voris
657	Edvard Grieg	6	1	73	Jim	Herman
657	Edvard Grieg	6	1	74	Kathy	Skinner
657	Edvard Grieg	6	1	75	Susan	Herman
681	Music City Vikings	6	1	76	Oscar	Krosnes
681	Music City Vikings	6	1	77	Eric	Krosnes
378	Nordkap	6	1	78	Dennis	Flessland
378	Nordkap	6	1	79	Karen	Herche
378	Nordkap	6	1	80	Phyllis	Skora
378	Nordkap	6	1	81	Jan	Flessland
600	Scandiana	6	1	82	Jim	Nelson
600	Scandiana	6	1	83	David	Hirschey
689	Shawnee Skogen	6	1	84	Nathaniel	Nutter
689	Shawnee Skogen	6	1	85	William	Bultinck
523	Sognefjord	6	1	86	Gail	Taggart
523	Sognefjord	6	1	87	Merle	Hanson
677	Vikings Of The Smokies	6	1	88	Clark	Brekke
677	Vikings Of The Smokies	6	1	89	Paul	Abelquist
677	Vikings Of The Smokies	6	1	90	Ev	Engstrom
662	Arctic Circle			Not sending delegates		
568	Christian Radich			Not sending delegates		
490	Sonja Henie			Not sending delegates		
			24	Total Zone 6 Delegates		
	District 5 Board		1	91	Darlene	Arneson
	District 5 Board		1	92	Tom	Boudreau
	District 5 Board		1	93	Karen	Broadhead
	District 5 Board		1	94	Dee	Bumpers
	District 5 Board		1	95	Karen	Eberhardt
	District 5 Board		1	96	Judy	Ghastin
	District 5 Board		1	97	Andrew	Johnsen
	District 5 Board		1	98	Connie	Kross
	District 5 Board		1	99	Lisa	Solak

	District 5 Board		1	100	Sandy	Olson
	District 5 Board		1	101	Duane	Kittleson
	District 5 Board		1	102	Peggy	Schroeder
	District 5 Board		1	103	Audrey	Severson
	District 5 Board		1	104	Cheryl	Wille-Schlesser
	International Director		1	105	Robin	Fossum

15 Total Not Assigned to Zones

100 Total Delegates

Credentials Committee Report

Committee	Lodge	First	Last
Credentials	District 5 Board- Chr.	Darlene	Arneson
Credentials	Idun	Dana	Diedrich
Credentials	Idun	Shirley	Scriver

The committee members were myself as chair, Dana Diedrich and Shirley Scriver of Idun Lodge. Darlene 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. This year, two that were submitted were not District 5 members that required follow-up. The committee also reviewed the status of any delegates who had a renewal date between the time of the election reports and the convention. All are current and in good standing. The Idun Lodge members on the committee checked that all had registered here at convention.

The Credentials Committee report was approved as presented.

2018 District 5 Lodge Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved by the District Board on October 20, 2018 and were sent to all the District Lodge members and posted on the District website.

2022 Meeting Rules

There was a motion to adopt of the Meeting Rules as printed on page #3 of the Reports Book. 2nd. Motion passed.

2024 Convention Bids

There were not any bids submitted. Unless a lodge comes forward, the District Board will host the convention.

There was a review of activities happening during the convention:

- Duane Kittleson explained the Silent Auction and Flip of the Coin. We are able to take credit cards, cash or checks for the items. We also have fundraising merchandise for sale during the convention.
- Karen Eberhardt explained the how to vote on the banner displays and encouraged members to view the newsletters
- Judy Ghastin- Cultural Arts Display
- Lucy Ghastin- Updates from Convention Committee
- Cheryl Wille-Schlesser- Adult Heritage Camp

- Rich Gunderson- - Norway Museum and Cleng Peerson Lodge
- Owen Christianson- Past District 5 President gave greetings from District 3

Barnebirkie Report

Sports & Recreation Director Audrey Severson shared a report about Barnebirkie and thanked everyone for the over 8,000 cookies that were donated! She also recognized the over 30 years of volunteer service given by Idun Lodge members Asta Blanchar and Mary Bennett. They were presented with appreciation gifts.

Darlene Arneson gave a presentation on the TUBFRIM program.

Lucy Ghastin have an update on convention activities including today's bus tour for non-delegates, Sangerfest activities, and music tonight. She encouraged members to visit the vendors, enjoy the displays, the H.R. Holand sales table, and Owen & Elspeth will give a re-enactment at 7 PM in the Greenway Room.

Robin Fossum and the Nominating Committee presented their initial report. The committee included Chair Robin Fossum, Tom Boudreau, and Andrew Johnsen from the District Board.

In Spring of 2021, Sons of Norway International Board President Ron Stubbing appointed the International Nominating Committee: Gloria Benazic (D7), Ken Johnson (D3), and Jon Tehven (D1) as chair. Chair Tehven contacted all District Presidents to appoint their District Nominating Committees.

When the District Nominating Committees were established, the International Nominating and the District Nominating Committee chairs began monthly zoom meetings. The first meeting was in July 2021. The members of the District 5 Nominating Committee are: Chair Robin Fossum (Dovre 353); Tom Boudreau (Elvedal 556); and Andrew Johnsen (Scandiana 600). (The Committee was first appointed in 2018 to prepare for the original 2020 Convention which was cancelled due to the national pandemic.)

The duties and responsibilities of the nominating committee are as follows: 1.11.4. NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Charter & Constitutions 2018) Nominating committees have been established and are required to be used at all levels of Sons of Norway. The nominating committees shall identify, review, and recommend eligible candidates for the election of all officers and directors throughout the organization.

The following documents were sent to each District Nominating Chair, each was reviewed by Chair Tehven with the District Chairs: 1. Roster of International Board members to be elected in 2022 2. District Nominating Committee Qualifications 3. Guidelines for Nominating Committees 4. Candidate Vetting/background checks 5. International Board Agreement 6. International Board Candidate Application 7. District Board Candidate Application 8. Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure (CGAD)

The D5 Nominating Committee met monthly via Zoom with an Agenda and reviewed potential candidates for board positions. The Committee kept meeting Minutes and shared candidate applications with the Executive Committee. When the convention delegate list was received from the Secretary, the Committee started meeting weekly to continue the search for candidates. Chair Fossum continued to meet monthly via Zoom with the International Nominating Committee to report candidates and share updates.

Applications received for District President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and International Board Candidates were forwarded to the International Nominating Committee. The International Nominating Committee then forwarded their information (district, name, office, phone number, email address) to SON Headquarters for vetting/background checks.

All candidates for the district offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer were

interviewed by the District Nominating Committee. All candidates for the International Board of Directors and alternates were interviewed by the International Nominating Committee.

The D5 Nominating Committee wishes to report the following District 5 candidates are vetted and approved for election:

DISTRICT PRESIDENT: Cheryl Wille-Schlesser (Vennelag 513)

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT:

DISTRICT SECRETARY: Darlene Arneson (Mandt 314)

DISTRICT TREASURER:

INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: Duane Kittleson (Vennelag 513)

In addition, the following District 5 Directors are nominated for election:

YOUTH DIRECTOR:

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

SPORTS DIRECTOR: Robert Fossum (Dovre 353)

CULTURAL DIRECTOR: Judy Ghastin (Norse Valley 491)

ZONE 1 DIRECTOR: Robert Fossum (Dovre 353)

ZONE 2 DIRECTOR: LaVonne Wier (Fagerness 616)

ZONE 3 DIRECTOR: Scott Wegner (Mandt 314) Cheryl Wille-Schlesser (Vennelag 513)

ZONE 4 DIRECTOR: Judy Ghastin (Norse Valley 491)

ZONE 5 DIRECTOR: Connie Kross (Cleng Peerson 525) Lisa Solak (Skjold 100)

ZONE 6 DIRECTOR: Bill Bultinck (Shawnee Skogen 689)

In closing, I want to thank Ton Boudreau and Andrew Johnsen for their work on the committee. I would also like to thank the candidates for election and the members of District 5 for their dedication, loyalty, and support of Sons of Norway.

The group sang happy birthday and happy anniversary to the members celebrating this week. It was also announced that today is Princess Ingrid Alexander's 18 years birthday

President Johnsen asked for any nominations from the floor for any of the vacancies.

There was a nomination for Nathaniel Nutter for Zone 6 Zone Director.

There was a nomination for Danielle (Elle) Taylor for Zone 4 Zone Director and Youth Director.

There was a nomination for LaVonne Wier for Publicity Director (and Zone 2 Director).

Finance Committee

Finance	District 5 Board Advisor	Duane	Kittleson
Finance	Sognefjord	Chr. Gail	Taggert
Finance	Sognefjord	Merle	Hanson
Finance	Norse Valley	Corey	Olson

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

The committee reviewed the financial reports on pages 40-49 of the Reports Book and note the following:

- The amount of \$950 is missing on page 41 for "Website Expenses" but the totals at the bottom of the columns are correct.
- No budget has been presented or approved for the last six years but a budget for FY 2022 has been presented to the Board by the Treasurer. This budget has not yet been discussed or approved.
- The new dues structure has allowed the District to have better financial health and the District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation allows for a more robust financial structure for Mase Morro.

The Finance committee met over Zoom prior to meeting in person and have discussed potential positions descriptions and responsibilities which we can make available to the Board for their consideration. We further suggest the Board appoint a finance committee after the convention to assist the Treasurer in working with the CPA firm and the Board. Due to the substantial expense in utilizing the CPA firm we recommend that the Board develop a plan to reduce the CPA firm's involvement to where they are only assisting with the preparation of governmental reporting.

Resolution #3 was discussed, and our recommendations presented to the Resolutions Committee as follows:

President \$500 per annum
Secretary \$1500 per annum
Treasurer \$500 per annum
Vice President \$250 per annum
Publicity Director \$250 per annum
Cultural Director \$250 per annum
Youth Director \$500 per annum
Recreation Director \$250 per annum

The Chairman would like to thank the Finance Committee for an excellent job done.

Reports and Publicity Committee

Reports and Publicity	District 5 Board Advisor	Dee	Bumpers
Reports and Publicity	Askeladden	Gail	Thompson-Hadley
Reports and Publicity	Askeladden	Chr. Curtis	Cleveland
Reports and Publicity	Mandt	John	Arneson

The Reports and Publicity Committee met on Thursday, June 16, 2022, and reviewed the written reports of the District 5 officers as published in the Reports Book.

The following members were present: Curtis Cleveland, Chair; Gail Thompson-Hadley; John Arneson; and Dee Bumpers, District 5 Board Advisor.

OUR CONCLUSION:

We accept the eight officer reports as printed in the Reports Book.

We appreciate the devotion of the officers as they performed their duties during the past four years.

We appreciate the quality of the reports that the officers have written.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS:

President's Report. President Andrew Johnsen announced his retirement from District 5 government after serving six years as the District President. During these six years, the district has added 500 new members and created the Nordic Legacy Foundation.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Andrew Johnsen for his many years of service to the Sons of Norway.

Vice President's Report. Vice President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser listed the many measures she has done to increase the membership during the past four years.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Cheryl Wille-Schlesser for her leadership, responsible for the membership increase.

Secretary's Report. Secretary Darlene Arneson thanked her co-workers on the board who have helped during the past years. She wrote about the importance of communications.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Darlene Arneson for her past, current, and future work on the District 5 Board.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Duane Kittleson explained the change of personnel on the Board of Directors. He reported that the financial position of the District 5 is excellent. In the future, an accounting firm will perform many of the clerical duties, which in the past was done by the Treasurer.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Duane Kittleson for assuming the position of District 5 Treasurer.

Sports and Recreation Director's Report. Sports and Recreation Director Audrey Severson reported on the Virtual Walk to Norway Challenge in 2020 and the District 5 cookie tent at the 2022 Haywood Barnebirkie.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Audrey Severson for her services on the District 5 Board.

Publicity Director's Report. Publicity Director Karen Eberhardt explained in detail how the photos printed in the "Viking" magazine are selected, including the recent revision of the "Happenings" section, resulting in fewer photos.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Karen Eberhardt for her work as the Publicity Director.

Cultural Director's Report. Cultural Director Judy Ghastin led the District during the past four years in the following activities: Dr. Owen Christianson building an Immigrant Trunk to hold items alongside the Viking Chest; writing a catalog for the items in the Viking Chest and the Immigrant Trunk; conducting virtual cultural classes; and developing a grant program to assist local lodges with cultural and sports programs.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Judy Ghastin and the other board members who have emphasized the cultural programs during the past four years.

Youth Director's Report. Youth Director Sandra Olson in 2019 assumed the duties of the Masse Moro Co-Administrators when the individuals holding those positions retired and replacements could not be found. This youth camp continues to be the great gift of the District 5 to the community. During the past four years, the scholarship program has increased.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Sandra Olson for the work she has done with Masse Moro during the last three years.

Membership Presentation

Connie O'Brien, Director of Fraternal & Foundation Development, gave a presentation on membership recruitment, retention, and ideas entitled "The Wizard of Us".

Announcement

There had been a question about the income raised by the photo card project. Duane Kittleson reported there was \$19,114 of income and \$3,831 of expenses for a net profit of \$12,957.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:56 AM.

The meeting was called back to order at 1:35 PM.

Appointment of Officers for afternoon session – President Johnsen

Marshall	Marlo Volden	Jotunheimen
Asst. Marshall	William Bultinck	Shawnee Skogen
Greeter	Tryphine Schrubba	Rib Fjell
Greeter	Susan Morton	Vennligfolk

Vennelag alternate, Ann Walser, replaced paddle #42, Nancy Kittleson.

Governance and Fraternal Changes Presentation

Connie O'Brien, Director of Fraternal & Foundation Development, gave a presentation on the changes in governance for Sons of Norway, changes in the Fraternal Department and programs, and other updates from the home office.

"The business funds the mission" was the theme of her speech as she explained rapid growth of Insurance Professionals (IP's), premium growth, and sales the past three years. We are regulated by the Minnesota Department of Commerce. She explained the governance structure from a Convention/Assembly structure to a Direct Election/Board structure. It was filed with the Minnesota Department of Commerce on October 29, 2021 and deemed effective on January 6, 2022.

The new Charter, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures were filed on June 6, 2022, and should be effective on August 6, 2022. Connie reviewed the key changes in the governance program.

Treasurer Duane Kittleson announced the Heads n Tails fundraiser raised \$285 at the noon luncheon.

Connie's second presentation was on the Fraternal programs including an update on the 2022 International Convention and Lodge Meeting which will be virtual on August 31-September 1. She also covered changes in the Viking Magazine, Viking for Kids, internal supply to an outside vendor, new

volunteer pins, leadership videos, and Lodge Resource email that has an open rate of 80% which is far above industry averages. The new website Lodge Directory should be relaunched in June with a new format. Connie also reviewed digital content, membership recruitment, and social media outreach.

Laws Committee

Laws	District 5 Board Advisor	Tom	Boudreau
Laws	Cleng Peerson	Richard	Gunderson
Laws	Elvedal	Susan	Boudreau
Laws	Fosselyngen	Susan	Berg-Roedel
Laws	Idun	Chr-Jon	Ginde

The Laws Committee, made up of appointed members Richard Gunderson, Cleng Peerson Lodge; Susan Boudreau, Elvedal Lodge; Susan Berg-Roedel, Fosselyngen Lodge; and Jon Ginde, Chairperson, Idun Lodge. The committee was provided with expert advice from Tom Boudreau, District 5 Board Advisor. We met in the Marriott Hotel Middleton Greenway Room.

As is the case with Sons of Norway members, discussions and conversations encompassed many items.

The Laws Committee was responsible for considering District 5 By-Law Proposal 1. - Zone Descriptions, as presented on Pages 31 & 32 of the District Lodge Meeting Reports book.

With the disbanding of Trollhaugen Lodge #5-417 and Vakkertland Lodge #5-570, the amended District 5 Sons of Norway Zone Descriptions are accepted by the Laws Committee.

The Laws Committee moves for acceptance of District 5 By-Law Proposal 1.

The Laws Committee Members are thankful for the opportunity to serve District 5, and for Tom Boudreau for his advice to the committee.

District 5 By-law Proposal 1. - Zone Descriptions

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass)

Zone Descriptions
<input type="checkbox"/> Lodge (name _____) X District 5 <input type="checkbox"/> International Board
Date: April 23, 2022 Lodge Officer Signatures: Darlene Arneson Cheryl Wille- Schlesser
<input type="checkbox"/> International Charter & Constitution <input type="checkbox"/> International Policies & Procedures X District Bylaws <input type="checkbox"/> District Policies & Procedures

ARTICLE VI . . . ZONES

Par. 2 Description of Zones

Zone 1- Loven 29, Valkyrien 53, Trygvason 220, Viking 625, Ulseth 670, and Dovre 353.

Zone 2- Wergeland 28, Jotunheimen 286, Solvang 457, Fossen 534, Fagernes 616, Rib Fjell 496, Elvedal 556, Norskeland 580, Myrmarken 609 and Vennligfolk 627.

Zone 3- Idun 74, Mandt 314, Vennelag 513, Nordland 544, Vakkertland 570, Ostestaden 642. and Norsemen of the Lakes 650.

Zone 4- Fosselyngen 82, Nordlyset 183, Norse Valley 491, H R Holand 549, and Gronnvik 632.

Zone 5- Skjold 100, Valhall 168, Polar Star 472, Cleng Peerson 525, Trollhaugen 417 and Elvesund 593.

Zone 6- Nordkap 378, Sonja Henie 490, Sognefjord 523, Christian Radich 568, Scandiana 600 Askeladden 610, Circle City 614, Edvard Grieg 657, Arctic Circle 662, Vikings of the Smokies 677, Music City Vikings 681, and Shawnee Skogen 689

Whereas, Vakkertland (5-570), and Trollhaugen (5-417), have disbanded during this past biennium;

Whereas, the zone descriptions must change when lodges disband;

Therefore, be it Resolved, That By-Laws **ARTICLE VI...ZONES**, Par. 2 Description of Zones, be amended as follows:

ARTICLE VI . . . ZONES

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The proposal passed with a 2/3 vote.

Merit Awards

Each year, Sons of Norway lodges who score high points on their Lodge Achievement Forms are awarded a Merit Certificate. These Gold, Silver and Bronze awards are based on their total Lodge Achievement scores. They are presented at the biennial District Conventions.

The highest score a lodge can achieve is 100 points. In 2018 and 2019, lodges scoring 80 points or higher earned a Gold Merit Award, lodges scoring 65 to 79 received Silver and lodges hitting 50 to 64 points were awarded Bronze. The thresholds for 2020 and 2021 were adjusted due to the pandemic. In 2020 and 2021, lodges needed to score 65 or more to be Golden, 50 to 64 to be Silver and 35 to 49 for Bronze.

D	L	Name	LA	Year	Zone
5	28	Wergeland	92	2018	2
5	314	Mandt	93	2018	3
5	353	Dovre	82	2018	1
5	378	Nordkap	92	2018	6
5	457	Solvang	80	2018	2
5	472	Polar Star	86	2018	5
5	513	Vennelag	98	2018	3
5	610	Askeladden	92	2018	6
5	632	Grønnvik	84	2018	4
5	642	Ostestaden	87	2018	3
5	29	Løven	66	2018	1
5	53	Valkyrien	68	2018	1
5	74	Idun	70	2018	3
5	82	Fosselyngen	75	2018	4
5	100	Skjold	79	2018	5
5	168	Valhall	72	2018	5
5	525	Cleng Peerson	70	2018	5
5	549	H R Holand	68	2018	4
5	556	Elvedal	72	2018	2
5	614	Circle City	66	2018	6
5	616	Fagernes	67	2018	2
5	657	Edvard Grieg	72	2018	6
5	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	68	2018	6
5	534	Fossen	50	2018	2
5	593	Elvesund	56	2018	5
5	625	Viking	59	2018	1
5	681	Music City Vikings	52	2018	6

Merit Levels for 2018/2019

Gold	80
Silver	65
Bronze	50

Merit Levels for 2020/2021

Gold	65
Silver	50
Bronze	35
(adjusted for pandemic)	

D	L	Name	LA	Year	Zone
5	28	Wergeland	88	2019	2
5	74	Idun	86	2019	3
5	82	Fosselyngen	81	2019	4

5	314	Mandt	93	2019	3
5	353	Dovre	87	2019	1
5	378	Nordkap	96	2019	6
5	472	Polar Star	92	2019	5
5	513	Vennelag	94	2019	3
5	525	Clengpeerson	94	2019	5
5	556	Elvedal	94	2019	2
5	600	Scandiana	93	2019	6
5	610	Askeladden	88	2019	6
5	642	Ostestaden	88	2019	3
5	657	Edvard Grieg	81	2019	6
5	29	Løven	68	2019	1
5	53	Valkyrien	73	2019	1
5	100	Skjold	66	2019	5
5	168	Valhall	77	2019	5
5	183	Nordlyset	79	2019	4
5	549	H R Holand	76	2019	4
5	609	Myrmarken	68	2019	2
5	616	Fagernes	69	2019	2
5	632	Grønnavik	77	2019	4
5	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	71	2019	6
5	491	Norse Valley	61	2019	4
5	523	Sognefjord	62	2019	6
5	534	Fossen	51	2019	2
5	593	Elvesund	58	2019	5
5	681	Music City Vikings	53	2019	6
5	689	Shawnee Skogen	56	2019	5

D	L	Name	LA	Year	Zone
5	28	Wergeland	67	2020	2
5	314	Mandt	90	2020	3
5	353	Dovre	72	2020	1
5	378	Nordkap	74	2020	6
5	472	Polar Star	71	2020	5
5	609	Myrmarken	68	2020	2
5	610	Askeladden	68	2020	6
5	632	Grønnavik	65	2020	4
5	681	Music City Vikings	68	2020	6
5	74	Idun	54	2020	3
5	82	Fosselyngen	61	2020	4
5	513	Vennelag	58	2020	3
5	523	Sognefjord	50	2020	6
5	642	Ostestaden	57	2020	3
5	29	Løven	48	2020	1
5	53	Valkyrien	49	2020	1

5	490	Sonja Henie	43	2020	6
5	549	H R Holand	41	2020	4
5	556	Elvedal	41	2020	2
5	616	Fagernes	45	2020	2
5	625	Viking	39	2020	1
5	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	46	2020	6

D	L	Name	LA	Year	Zone
5	53	Valkyrien	70	2021	1
5	74	Idun	74	2021	3
5	82	Fosselyngen	73	2021	4
5	314	Mandt	100	2021	3
5	378	Nordkap	98	2021	6
5	472	Polar Star	84	2021	5
5	609	Myrmarken	66	2021	2
5	616	Fagernes	65	2021	2
5	632	Gronvik	80	2021	4
5	642	Ostestaden	65	2021	3
5	657	Edvard Grieg	76	2021	6
5	28	Wergeland	63	2021	2
5	29	Løven	53	2021	1
5	491	Norse Valley	50	2021	4
5	523	Sognefjord	50	2021	6
5	556	Elvedal	56	2021	2
5	677	Vikings of the Smokies	52	2021	6
5	681	Music City Vikings	63	2021	6
5	689	Shawnee Skogen	60	2021	5
5	549	H R Holand	40	2021	4

The meeting recessed for the day and the silent auction winners claimed their items.

Saturday, June 17

President Johnsen called the meeting back to order.

Appointment of Officers for the morning session- President Johnsen

Marshall	Tom Johnson	Vennligfolk
Asst. Marshall	Adrian Johnson	Wergeland
Greeter	Shirley Scriver	Idun
Greeter	John Arneson	Mandt

Secretary took the roll call of members. Vennelag Delegate (paddle #42), Nancy Kittleson, returned to the meeting. Ken Johnson, alternate for District Board member Connie Kross, replaced her (paddle #98). Shawnee Skogan alternate, Wendy Kay Winkelman, replaced Bill Bultinck (paddle #85).

Resolutions Committee

Resolutions	District 5 Board Advisor	Darlene	Arneson
Resolutions	Edvard Grieg	Jim	Herman
Resolutions	Mandt	Scott	Wegner
Resolutions	Vikings Of The Smokies	Clark	Brekke

RESOLUTION # 1 VIKING HELMET INACCURACIES.

Title of Resolution: Viking Helmet Inaccuracies.

WHEREAS, the Sons of Norway mission is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and some lodges are promoting an inaccuracy by members wearing “Viking Helmets with horns” in parades, dramatic presentations, and pictures; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Nix, an Associate Professor of history at the University of Baltimore wrote for [history.com](https://www.history.com) that historic “depictions of people from the Viking era show warriors either bareheaded or in simple leather or iron helmets” and the only complete helmet from the Viking era excavated in an archaeological dig (Gjermuindbu farm) has a rounded or slightly peaked cap made of four iron plates, a guard around the eyes and nose and no horns; and

WHEREAS, the stereotypical helmet with horns started showing up after the costume designer Carl Emil Doepler, used it in clothing Viking characters in the 1870’s Wagner mythical opera series “Der Ring des Nibelungen;”

THEREFORE, be it resolved that District 5 Sons of Norway members will discontinue the wearing of helmets with horns in all Lodge activities to stop the promotion of something that is inaccurate.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommendation to Reject

REASONING:

1. Even though the use of horned helmets is known to not be historically accurate it is believed that members and non- members do associate horned helmets with Vikings or Nordic characters.
2. There are no provisions of penalty for the use of horned helmets at any Lodge events.
3. Policing or enforcing any use of horned helmets at events would be difficult to enforce. And may actually deter individuals or families from learning more about Norwegian culture.

The committee’s motion to reject resolution 1 was approved. The resolution failed.

RESOLUTION # 2- ZONE TASK FORCE

Title of Resolution: Zone Task Force

WHEREAS: The Nominating Committee has a difficult time in obtaining willing and qualified candidates for the District Board and;

WHEREAS the current Zone representation regulations limit where candidates may be selected from;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the 2022-2024 District President shall appoint a Special Committee consisting of but not limited to current District Board members, past District Board members and District Members at large. The committee shall meet during the next biennium and present a recommendation of proposed solutions at the District Lodge meeting in June 2024. The Task Force should include

diversification of selected appointees to include past, present, younger, older, different genders and from distant geographical areas that includes a more all-inclusive demographic appointee (s)

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Resolution #2 with potential recommended changes to the resolution that would include diversification of selected appointees to include past, present, younger, older, different genders and from distant geographical areas that includes a more all-inclusive demographic appointee (s)

REASONING:

To provide a wider pool of potential appointees with different backgrounds and perspectives on how to find candidates interested in serving on the District Board.

The resolution passed with the language change.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the 2022-2024 District President shall appoint a Special Committee consisting of but not limited to current District Board members, past District Board members and District Members at large. The committee shall meet during the next biennium and present a recommendation of proposed solutions at the District Lodge meeting in June 2024. The Task Force should include diversification of selected appointees to include past, present, younger, older, different genders and from distant geographical areas that includes a more all-inclusive demographic appointee (s).

RESOLUTION # 3 DISTRICT OFFICER COMPENSATION

Title of resolution: District Officer Compensation

WHEREAS District 5 Bylaws Article VII, Par 7 states that the: The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director and Youth Director shall receive such compensation as determined by the District Lodge. The Board of Directors shall make recommendations to each District Lodge with respect thereto:

WHEREAS at the 2018 District meeting, the delegates approved only providing compensation for District President, Secretary and Treasurer due to budget concerns.

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

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: As per the 2022 Finance Committee recommendation regarding the District Officer Compensation the 2022 Resolutions committee RECOMMENDS compensation for District Officers as follows:

President \$500 per annum

Secretary \$1,500 per annum

Treasurer \$500 per annum

Vice President \$250 per annum

Publicity Director \$250 per annum

Cultural Director \$250 per annum

Youth Director \$500 per annum

Recreation Director \$250 per annum

REASONING:

1. Recognizes and acknowledges District Officers for their work in their respective positions.
2. Restores compensation to District Officers to levels prior to 2018 that were changed or reduced due to budget concerns at that time.

There was a motion to amend the President, Secretary, and Treasurer by \$500. 2nd.
President \$1,000 per annum

Secretary \$2,000 per annum

Treasurer \$1,000 per annum

Vice President \$250 per annum

Publicity Director \$250 per annum

Cultural Director \$250 per annum

Youth Director \$500 per annum

Recreation Director \$250 per annum

Motion passed.

Fraternal Affairs

Fraternal Affairs	District 5 Board Advisor	Connie	Kross
Fraternal Affairs	Solvang	Ruth	Amundson
Fraternal Affairs	Nordkap	Chr. Dennis	Flessland
Fraternal Affairs	Scandiana	Jim	Nelson
Fraternal Affairs	Solvang	David	Amundson

The Fraternal Affairs Committee met and had a wide-ranging discussion on a variety of topics, which included:

Sons of Norway Cultural Skills and Sports Medals.

There were good marks for these programs. Many lodges participated in different activities, but most reported the best success with group activities, cooking classes, language classes, and working in groups. As with so many things, leadership and motivation were key and doing things together helped in this regard. Some of the programs proceeded virtually, especially successful were “virtual walks” using a “Passport” to record virtual destinations that were visited.

Masse Moro and Barnebirkie

Two 5th District signature cultural events are the Masse Moro Camp for young people and the Barnebirkie cross country ski race. Both programs continue and are well received and supported by local lodges. However, the cost of the camp continues to increase and many lodges offer scholarships for

youth to attend. More details about these programs are available elsewhere so the committee's focus was on how local lodges responded and interacted.

Response to Covid, You can't stop a Norwegian

Local Lodges, the District and International used Zoom and other online resources to keep members connected through the pandemic. Virtual 17th of May celebrations, online seminars, conducting board meetings and business sessions via Zoom, Nordic News Radio and other programs kept the Norwegian Spirit going through the shut downs, quarantines, closures, mask mandates and other obstacles the virus created. Some lodges moved outdoors and replaced meetings with socially distanced picnics and other outdoor events. On the other hand, programs on Zoom allowed experts with specific knowledge to share their expertise with a broader audience that would be impossible at dozens of individual lodge meetings. For example, a Zoom presentation on Immigration incorporated experts from various areas who could never all appear at one lodge meeting in person. Several groups had virtual book clubs that kept members involved.

Viking Magazine

The new Viking Magazine format did not receive a favorable review. Eliminating the District Photo page was not well received and there was some discussion that the layout and type style and size made the magazine more difficult to read. Some of the reasons for the changes were explained which included trying to create a more national focus, reduce the number of old people drinking coffee pictures (that is the author's characterization, not Sons of Norway International's description) and that some districts did not provide relevant photos consistently. Maybe a page focusing on a different district each issue, rotating through the districts, would satisfy everyone's concerns.

New Programs and Ideas

One intriguing program discussed was the members of one lodge who bring a program into the schools dealing with immigration and local history. They work with the local social studies teachers and present sections on immigration. Less extensive programs dealing with immigration, Vikings, the westward expansion and life on the prairie or dozens of other topics could be developed and offered to local schools if the talent and interest was available. There was also a suggestion Sons of Norway establish a running or jogging sports medal to specifically recognize accomplishments in that sport. It is always stunning to see the energy, passion and expertise displayed by our members. Knowledge of Norwegian children's songs, language learning games and devices and other cultural expressions and customs were all discussed and can now be developed and shared online in ways that never could before.

The Resolutions committee had no further business and was dismissed.

The Finance committee had no further business, they are dismissed.

The Reports & Publicity committee had no further business, they are dismissed.

The Laws committee had no further business, they are dismissed.

Emily Stark Presentation

Emily Stark, SN Foundation Manager, gave a presentation on the Sons of Norway Foundation. She reviewed the mission of the Foundation, grants distributed totaling \$57,349.

She reviewed District 5's participation:

Grants- \$9,500 to District 5

Lodge Vitality Grant:

\$1,500 to Dovre Lodge 5-353 for their Viking Float Facelift

\$1,500 to Norsemen of the Lakes Lodge 5-650 for Lodge Vitality Advertising

Community Partnership Grant:

\$1,000 to The Barron County Historical Society for the Mid Sommer's Eve program

\$1,000 to the Woodville, WI Lion's club for Syttende Mi and Sesquicentennial of Woodville

Lodge Heritage and Culture Grant:

\$1,500 to Dovre Lodge 5-353 for Heritage program enrichment

\$1,000 to Wergeland Lodge 5-028 for Norwegian carved tolls in the La Crosse Friendship garden

\$1,500 to Vennelag Lodge 5-513 for the event "We Can't Have a Kaffe Stue Without You-a!"

\$1,500 to Idun Lodge 5-074 for Cultural Demonstrations at the convention

Scholarships (\$8,500 to District 5)**Douglas Warne-Rolf & Wenche Eng Scholarhsip:**

\$3,500 to Asher Wertheimer, Lodge 5-490, attending Pasvik Folkhøgskole

King Olav V Norwegian- American Heritage Scholarship:

\$3,000 to Sofia Stutesman, Lodge 5-28

Orel & Marie Winjum Memorial Scholarship:

\$2,000 to Natalie Brunner, Lodge 5-362, attending Luther College

A new campaign is being finalized. The "Heritage for the Future" Naming Campaign is a one-time opportunity to name a space in our new home office. It is open to individuals and groups and pricing ranges from \$15,000-\$100,000. Donations can be made to any EXISTING fund and they can't be used to start new funds.

She thanked Robin Fossum who serves on the Board of Governors.

The Foundation did receive the King's Patronage which was really nice.

International Director Presentation

International Director Robin Fossum reported on her activities as the International Director, Foundation Board of Governors, and other meetings. She serves on the Corporate Matters, Governance and Nominating Committee. She thanked Darlene Arneson for serving as the District 5 Foundation Director.

The meeting recessed for a coffee break.

The meeting was called to order.

There weren't any bids for the 2024 Convention so the District Board will host the convention unless a lodge expresses interest.

Sandra Olson presented two of the District Scholarship winners. From Idun Lodge, Mathea Diedrich who received the Cy Wittrock Scholarship and Kaia Diedrich who attended Folk High School in Norway. Masse Moro campers Titan and Aurora Malouf, from Mandt Lodge, in Stoughton also gave students. Sandra presented a PowerPoint presentation on Masse Moro.

An adult Camp Presentation was given by Rachel Storlie of Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove, MN who is coordinating the weekend with Vice President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser.

Nominations Committee

The nominations committee reported that they have almost filled the District Board list thanks to delegates who stepped forward with an interest to serve.

Candidates for the 2022-2024 Board of Directors

DISTRICT PRESIDENT: Cheryl Wille-Schlessner (Vennelag 513)

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT: Wendy Winkelman (Shawnee Skogen 689)

DISTRICT SECRETARY: Darlene Arneson (Mandt 314)

DISTRICT TREASURER: Nathaniel Nutter (Shawnee Skogen 689)

SPORTS & RECREATION DIRECTOR: Robert Fossum (Dovre 353)

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR: LaVonne Wier (Fagerness 616)

CULTURAL DIRECTOR: Judy Ghastin (Norse Valley 491)

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Danielle "Elle" Taylor (Grønnevik 632)

DISTRICT SECRETARY ALTERNATE: Kathy Secora (Skjold 100)

DISTRICT TREASURER ALTERNATE: Corey Olson (Norse Valley 491)

The motion to approve the slate of nominees was approved by acclamation.

Darlene Arneson gave instructions for the caucuses.

The meeting recessed for District caucuses and lunch.

President Johnsen called the meeting to order.

The caucus actions were reported by the Zone Directors:

ZONE 1 DIRECTOR: Robert Fossum (Dovre 353) and _____(Vacant)

ZONE 2 DIRECTOR: LaVonne Wier (Fagerness 616) and Tom Boudreau (Elevedal 556)

ZONE 3 DIRECTOR: Scott Wegner (Mandt 314) and Cheryl Wille-Schlessner (Vennelag 513)

ZONE 4 DIRECTOR: Judy Ghastin (Norse Valley 491) and Danielle "Elle" Taylor (Grønnevik 632)

ZONE 5 DIRECTOR: Connie Kross (Cleng Peerson 525) and Lisa Solak (Skjold 100)

ZONE 6 DIRECTOR: Bill Bultinck (Shawnee Skogen 689) and Wendy Winkelman (Shawnee Skogen 689)

INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: Duane Kittleson (Vennelag 513)

Appointment of Officers for the afternoon session- President Johnsen

Marshall	Scott Wegner	Mandt
Asst. Marshall	Jean Busker	Ostestaden
Greeter	Dawn Gunderson	Cleng Peerson
Greeter	Steve Tanda	Polar Star

Memorial Service

President Johnsen led the Memorial Service. The following zone directors represented departed members from their zone:

Zone #1 Sandra Olson
Zone #2 Tom Boudreau
Zone #3 Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
Zone #4 Peggy Schroeder
Zone #5 Lisa Solak
Zone #6 Dee Bumpers

International Director Robin Fossum represented those members in lodges outside our six zones and those who also served in positions at the District and International levels.

The International Delegate reports were compiled from the caucuses.

1. Karen Broadhead
2. Duane Kittleson
3. Karen Eberhardt
4. Elle Taylor
5. Connie Kross
6. Dee Bumpers
7. Jim Herman
8. Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
9. Darlene Arneson

Nominations were taken from the floor.

1. Lavonne Wier
2. Jean Busker
3. Donna Corcoran
4. Phyllis Skora
5. Carol Anderson
6. Sandra Olson
7. Nancy Andersen
8. Peggy Schroeder
9. Curtis Cleveland
10. Ev Engstrom

The nominees were approved via acclamation.

The nominating committee forwarded candidate Duane Kittleson as International Director Alternate. He was elected by acclamation.

The Resolutions Committee was recalled, and they presented the Thank You Resolution # 4.

Whereas: The 55th Biennial District Five Assembly is coming to a successful conclusion; and

Whereas: District President Andrew Johnson 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; and

Whereas: International Director Robin Fossum has represented our District on the International Board with distinction; and

Whereas: Our Home Office Staff, Connie O'Brien and Emily Stark have updated us and was an integral part of this biennial meeting; and

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

Whereas: The Idun Lodge, being host to this fine assembly carried out their duties with diligent planning and skill; and

Whereas: The Parliamentarian Robert Schuck handled his duties professionally; and

Whereas: The management and staff of Marriott Hotel and Convention Center provided excellent service and accommodations; and

Whereas: The outgoing and current District Board members deserve our gratitude for their service over the last 4 years; 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 and participate in this convocation and much appreciation is due them; and

Whereas: We extended best wishes to the Delegates to the Virtual International Convention from Minneapolis 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.

Karen Eberhardt presented the Banner Awards

Best of Show- Fagernes

Best homemade- Løven

Best homemade runner up-Mandt Lodge

Judy Ghastin presented the Cultural Awards

1st Carol DeVito

2nd Carol Culbertson

3rd Barb Johnson

The announcements included returning name badges to the containers, encouraging the members to stay for the installation of the new District Board, and to leave their paddles on their tables.

There was a motion to adjourn. 2nd. Motion passed and President Johnsen declared the meeting adjourned.