

Friendly Fifth Friday News November 13, 2015

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

Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary

Your input is really needed!

I am going to rerun the articles that I put in about the challenges that we have with our zone size and lodge representation. I really hope to gain some input from the lodges as the Board works on proposals for our April Board meeting and for the lodges to consider at the 2016 District Lodge meeting. Please discuss the various options at your lodges and send back your input, suggestions, or ideas!

Thank you- Darlene Arneson, Zoning Committee Chair

Zones and Lodge Assignments and what you need for help?!

Currently these are the zones and lodge assignments for District 5.

District 5 Lodge Assignments 2014-16 Updated: May 10, 2015

Zone 1	
David Hermundson	
Loven 29 Trygvason 220 Nordlandet 620 Viking 625 Ulseth 670	Norrøna 27 Valkyrien 53 Dovre 353 Sjoland 635
Zone 2	
Ron Iverson Wergeland 28 Jotunheimen 286 Solvang 457 Fossen 534 Fagernes 616	Owen Christianson Rib Fjell 496 Elvedal 556 Norskeland 580 Myrmarken 609 Vennligfolk 627
Zone 3	
Duane Kittleson Nordland 544 Vakkertland 570 Norsemen of the Lakes 650	Cheryl Wille-Schlesser Mandt 314 Vennelag 513 Idun 74 Ostestaden 642
Zone 4	
Diane Hesseltvan Dinter	Joy Bashara

Fosselyngen 82 Norse Valley 491 Nordlyset 183 Hafrsfjord 206	H R Holand 549 Vennskap 622 Gronnvik 632
Zone 5	
Christina Fairchild	Kathy Secora
Valhall 168 Polar Star 472 Cleng Peerson 525	Leif Erikson 97 Skjold 100 Trollhaugen 417 Elvesund 593
Zone 6	
Andrew Johnsen	Esther Charlton
Nordkap 378 Samhold 473 Sonja Henie 490 Sognefjord 523 Christian Radich 568 Scandiana 600 Askeladden 610	Circle City 614 Tre Elver 628 Knut Rockne 634 Edvard Grieg 657 Arctic Circle 662 Vikings of the Smokies 677 Music City Vikings 681

As you can see, there is quite a range of number of lodges per zone and the responsibility placed on the board member/zone director assigned to serve them.

At the 2015 spring board meeting, the board discussed reviewing the zones and seeing what is best for the lodges, the District, and our members. This includes lodge visits, reviewing LA and FLOY award forms, helping with any needs or issues, providing information, and many other items. Like many things, the needs vary from zone-to-zone and lodge-to-lodge. A committee was established to review this: Darlene Arneson (chair), Andrew Johnsen, and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser.

So as the chair of this committee, my questions to you is:

- ***What do you expect from your zone directors as far as visits, contacts or other help?***
- ***Do you feel connected to the other lodges in your zone?***
- ***Do you and other members participate in zone activities- i.e. meetings, picnics, events, trips?***
- ***Looking at the distance between some lodges and where the zone directors live, what suggestions do you have for addressing the communications/visits/outreach in some areas?***
- ***Do you have any suggestions for realignment, changing the number of zones, or other ways that would make the zone assignments equal in numbers, distance and services provided by the District Board.***

Zoning Committee Report- October 2, 2015

Committee members: Chr. Darlene Arneson, Cheryl Schlesser, and Andrew Johnsen. Others: Ray Knutson and Esther Charlton

The zoning issue is more than a mileage and logistics issue. Darlene had prepared a map of where lodges are located and there are geographic concerns as well as the number of lodges each board member is responsible for. The committee discussed the current relationship between the District and lodges, zone directors and lodges, and feedback zone directors get or don't get. There is concern about lodges that are discussing disbanding and their disconnect to the District. There is frustration by the zone directors that solicit responses but don't get any feedback as well as lodges that express frustration in not being contacted by zone directors.

Some options to consider:

1. Involve the alternates- in each zone you would have four people available for lodge support but just the two that would be official board members.
2. Restructure the board- Have a 14 person board electing a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director, Youth Director, Sports Director, and Cultural Director along with one at-large representative from each state: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Tennessee and Ohio.
3. Add a third director to Zone 6.
4. Keep the current zone structure but focus on better board training so the outreach could be made by the board members that would improve the relationship with the lodges.
5. Address the disconnect that lodges have with the District- not feeling a part of the District, increase attendance at the District Lodge Meeting (14 lodges didn't attend in 2014), completion of required reports and activities, and other areas that need improvement.

If any major changes are proposed, how will this affect the 2016 convention? Specific areas would include the nominating committee's work, the sequence of making zone changes and then board elections, the process of electing delegates to the International Convention, and the financial impact of any changes.

The committee recommends that these options be presented to lodges encouraging feedback and other ideas. The board can then make a specific proposal at the spring 2016 board meeting that would be a bylaw change for the District Lodge Meeting.

Don't forget the District 5 Cultural Skills Contest

District 5 has initiated skills contest. For the time period of July 1 - December 31, 2015, the lodge with the most members that receive cultural pins will receive a prize. The member in District 5 that receives the most cultural pins in the same time period will also receive a prize. If several people all get the same number of pins, then a name will be drawn from this group of people. The next contest period will be January 1 - May 31, 2016. The awards will be handled in the same manner. All awards will be presented at the 2016 District 5 Convention, June 25, 2016. The awards will be a one-time prize. If you have any questions you may contact Esther Charlton at esthersofn@aol.com.

The District 5 Secretary Challenge!

If all of our lodges submit their D63 reports to both the International Lodge and to me by December 15, I personally will give \$100 towards Masse Moro for 2016. I will keep you posted as to the progress. This includes having the hard copies postmarked by December 15 and online updates must be done so that I get the email on December 15.

For your Lutefisk fix this weekend and next!

November 14- Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner- Bazaar, Raffle, and Bake Sale

Christ Lutheran Church

220 S. Main Street, DeForest, WI 53532 Office: **608-846-4718**

11:00am - 5:30pm

Reservations accepted thru Noon on Friday, November 13th- 608-846-4718

Walk-ins are Welcome! Walk-in tickets available at 10:00 am, November 14

Adults \$16 4-12 yrs. \$8 Under 4 yrs. Free

BAKE SALE & BAZAAR Starting at 9:00 am - Close

Cleng Peerson Lodge- 525

November 21, 2015 from 4-6:30 PM

Norway Community Center, Norway IL

Contact 815-792-8506 for ticket and meal information.

Please update your contact information! And ask your members to do so as well!

We use the membership lists from the International Office's membership database for so many things. Each week, I get bounce backs on emails that have evidently changed but have not been updated on the individual members membership profile. I can't make those changes- the members must do that. They can either go online to this section or they can fill out a form and send it in. I would encourage you to have all members and especially officers make sure that they are checking their profiles and updating their information!

Thank you so much- I can't begin to tell you how much this will help!

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://members.sofn.com/sp/memberProfile>. The page header features the 'SONS OF NORWAY' logo and navigation links: 'About Us', 'Financial Products', 'Member Benefits', 'Norwegian Culture', 'Foundation', and 'Blog'. A search bar labeled 'MEMBER RESOURCES' is also present. The main content area is titled 'Member Profile' and includes a welcome message, a list of navigation links (HOME, LOG OUT), and a sidebar menu with options like 'Lodge Activity', 'Lodge Officer Updates', 'Membership Lists', 'Lodge Achievement Form', 'Foundation Board of Governors', 'International Board', and 'Language Lessons'. The profile details for Darlene L. Arneson are displayed, including contact information, home address, and household members.