

District Cultural Director's Report to the Lodge

This convention ends my two terms as District Cultural Director. It has been a very fulfilling four years for me.

My focus has been on the Cultural Skills program. We instituted contests for members to earn their cultural skills pins. Our contests were made up in six-month segments, to encourage more people to get involved with developing their cultural skills.

The names of those who participated in the contests are posted at the Cultural Skills table display. For those not familiar with the program, the Cultural Skills program provides a framework for learning about traditional and contemporary Norwegian culture. There are 14 different skills in the program. There are also 5 cultural skills designed for our youth.

One lodge, Polar Star 5-472, has demonstrated an extraordinary effort on involving their lodge members in the program. They will be featured a couple of times during the convention. Barb Johnson, their cultural director, will explain how she structured some of their lodge meetings *especially* to work on cultural skills,

Fraternally, Esther Charlton

District Youth Director's Report to the Lodge

On behalf of the youth in District 5, I extend a hjertilige velkommen to all who are attending the biennial convention. La Crosse and the surrounding coulees and bluffs make for a beautiful venue. It has been said that the La Crosse area is "God's Country", and I am sure you will soon discover the welcoming spirit of Wergeland Lodge and the other diversions that truly make this site particularly unique.

As Youth Director, I have been responsible for overseeing the heritage and grants opportunities for our members. The District By-laws state that two consecutive terms may be served and thus, I will be concluding my four years of service in this capacity. I offer a welcoming handshake to the next member elected to this office.

The District 5 website has many resources available to members, including grant and scholarship opportunities, youth heritage camp, and information on attending Oslo Summer School, which is offered to any member, as well as youth scholarships to Masse Moro. Go to www.sonsofnorway5.com to learn more.

It has been a pleasure to visit numerous Lodges over the last four years and to especially award deserving students with one of the scholarships from the "Friendly Fifth". Few students apply for our offerings, and I would encourage *all delegates* to make families and their lodge members aware of these opportunities.

Visits by the Youth Director can also be made to local lodges. Simply request a visit, and with the assistance of the District President, it can become a reality!

At this time, the 5th District offers the following scholarships:

- ❖ Olav J. Eide Book Scholarship, sponsored by Fosselyngen Lodge, 5-82, in the amount of \$300.00
- ❖ Cyril K. Wittrock Book Scholarship, sponsored by Skjold Lodge, 5-100, in the amount of \$800.00

- ❖ Sarah L. Paulsen Scholarship to Masse Moro, sponsored by Scandiana Lodge, 5-600, 3 scholarships in the amount of \$200.00 each.
- ❖ Two Norwegian Folk High School Scholarships are offered in the amount of \$500.00.
- ❖ One International Summer School Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Camp Masse Moro (Lots of Fun), the 5th District's Heritage Camp, is held each summer near Fall Creek, WI, and it comprises a large portion of this office. Created in 1979, the Camp focuses on sharing the history, art, literature, and rich culture of Norway with young people. Youth have the opportunity to learn more about their family's ancestry at Camp. In addition, classes are taught comprising the natural world, the visual arts, and participants also learn about world affairs that have implications for their lives. Norwegian classes are taught twice each day. Plenty of time remains for sports and other fun interactions. Learn more about Masse Moro by visiting the official website, www.massemoro.org

You can view daily activities when Camp is in session by visiting our Facebook page, Masse Moro. This year's session is July 14th-28th. If you would like to see Camp in action, schedule a visit with the Youth Director to make that a reality. Du er velkommen!

The cost of attending the two week, all-inclusive camp, is \$800.00. Scholarships are available; please apply! I would like to thank the former Naronna Lodge from Superior, WI, for their generous 2018 donation, as well as numerous family foundations and local lodges for their unwavering support. You make a difference! Please note that the deadline for submitting scholarship applications and Lodge Supporting Grants is May 17th each year.

In 2017, the recipient of the 2017 Oslo Summer School Scholarship was Jonathan Grinde. He is a member of Idun Lodge, 5-074, Madison, WI. Jonathan was also awarded the Olav J. Eide Book Scholarship from Fosselyngen Lodge, 5-082, in Milwaukee, WI.

2018 awardees are Morgan Patch from Nordlyset Lodge, 5-183, Racine, WI, who received the Cyril K. Wittrock Scholarship and Maddi Wood from Nordland Lodge, 5-544, Janesville, WI, who was presented with Olav J. Eide Scholarship. Congratulations to Morgan and Maddi on their accomplishments and best wishes for successful studies to come.

Masse Moro Scholarships were given to the following youth campers: Sven Tuznik, Makena Lueck, and Blake Ranslow. For confidentiality purposes, their local lodges are not identified.

In addition to the above responsibilities, the Youth Director worked in tandem with the Sports and Recreation Director at the 2017 and 2018 Barnebirkie Races in Hayward, WI. Registration of child skiers was the main role, but other tasks at the request of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation were fulfilled.

Fraternally,

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
Youth Director

Sons of Norway District Lodge #5 By-Laws- Revised June 2016

ARTICLE I . . . NAME

Par. 1 The name of this District shall be: District Lodge #5, Sons of Norway.

ARTICLE II . . . TERRITORY

Par. 1 The territory of this District shall be the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi

ARTICLE III . . . MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATION

.Par. 1 The regular meeting of the District Lodge shall be held once every two years, but the closing date shall not be less than 45 days prior to the opening date of the International Lodge Meeting of the same year.

Par. 2 Every local lodge in the District shall be entitled to two representatives for the lodge, and one representative for every 100 members or major fraction thereof, based on the last Semi-Annual Report prior to the election of delegates. All members in good standing are eligible representatives. If a lodge has exhausted its list of elected alternates, the Delegate Leader may designate a potential alternate to the credentials committee which may recommend to the District Lodge the seating of the alternate.

Par. 3 Members of Central Lodge #5-000 shall be entitled to two representatives for the lodge, and one representative for every 100 members or major fraction thereof, based on the last Semi-Annual Report prior to the election of delegates. All members in good standing are eligible representatives. Members wishing to be candidates as delegates to the District Lodge meeting should notify the District President of their desire no later than February 1 of the convention year. Those so notifying the District President need not be present, though attendance is encouraged, at the Central Lodge meeting held to elect lodge delegates.

Par. 4 The Central Lodge will meet at the call of the District President. Unless the President calls a special meeting, the lodge will meet at the time and place as indicated each convention year in the January issue of *Viking* magazine; and the biannual meeting is for the purpose of electing delegates to attend the District Lodge meeting. The District President has the option to call the meeting with members participating via electronic means, such as telephone or Skype.

Subpar. a The electronic meeting means must accommodate reasonable identification methods, such as available by telephone or Skype. Participation via e-mail is not acceptable.

Subpar. b Those participating by electronic means must identify themselves, upon entering the meeting and when voting, by giving their full name and membership number.

Subpar. c The District Secretary will call roll for attendance and for each vote with all members participating by electronic means using the method in Subpar. b, above, for each response.

Subpar. d The District Board of Directors will approve minutes of the Central Lodge meeting at the next District Board of Directors meeting and include those minutes as part of the District Board of Director meeting minutes.

Par. 5 The Board of Directors of District Lodge Five shall determine the duration of the District Lodge meeting.

ARTICLE IV . . . CREDENTIALS AND TRAVELING EXPENSE

Par. 1 The Secretary of the District Lodge shall prepare a list of all duly elected delegates and alternates for the use by the convention registration committee and the District Committee on Credentials.

Par. 2 A current Sons of Norway membership card, driver's license or other form of ID may be used as a credential to identify a delegate.

Par. 3 Representatives to a District Lodge Meeting shall receive such per diem and travel allowance as may be determined and paid by their local lodge. Transportation expenses will not be equalized between local lodges.

ARTICLE V . . . BONDING OF OFFICERS

Par. 1 The Secretary and Treasurer shall be bonded in such amounts as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI . . . ZONES

Par. 1 For the purpose of the election of representatives and alternates to the International Lodge, and members to the District Board of Directors, the District shall be divided into Zones by the District Lodge that will provide the most equal representation and provide for reasonable proximity between lodges. A new lodge shall be assigned to a Zone by the District President, subject to confirmation at the next District Lodge Meeting.

The District Board shall make a recommendation to the Lodge after reviewing the District population at the Spring Board Meeting prior to the Convention regarding the make-up of the Zone.

Par. 2 Description of Zones

Zone 1- Norrona 27, Loven 29, Valkyrien 53, Trygvason 220, Nordlandet 620, Viking 625, Ulseth 670, Dovre 353, and Sjoland 635.

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, Hafrsfjord 206, Norse Valley 491, H R Holand 549, Vennskap 622 and Gronnvik 632.

Zone 5- Leif Erikson 97, Skjold 100, Valhall 168, Polar Star 472, Cleng Peerson 525, Trollhaugen 417 and Elvesund 593.

Zone 6- Nordkap 378, Samhold 473, Sonja Henie 490, Sognefjord 523, Christian Radich 568, Scandiana 600 Askeladden 610, Circle City 614, Tre Elver 628, Edvard Grieg 657, Arctic Circle 662, Vikings of the Smokies 677 and Music City Vikings 681.

ARTICLE VII . . . OFFICERS AND SALARIES

Par. 1 The elected Officers of the District shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director, Youth Director and the General Directors provided for in these By-Laws.

Par. 2 The President and Vice President shall be elected from separate Zones.

Par. 3. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director and Youth Director shall be nominated and elected in that order, after which each Zone shall hold an election caucus and nominate the number of Directors and Alternates to which they are entitled as provided for in these By-Laws. These nominations shall be submitted to the District Lodge at the conclusion of the caucus.

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.

Par. 5 A Presidential candidate shall have served on the District Board at least one full term.

Par. 6 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited.

Par. 7 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 Meeting with respect thereto.

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. 9 The President shall assign to each Officer and Director the lodges to be under his or her supervision.

Par. 10 At the opening of each District Lodge Meeting, the President shall appoint from the attending representatives a Marshal and an Assistant Marshal and two greeters to serve during the meetings.

ARTICLE VIII . . . ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES

Par. 1 Prior to the District Lodge Meeting the Secretary shall prepare a notice which allocates to each Zone the number of International Lodge Representatives to which it is entitled in proportion to its membership. (One representative for each 300, balance to the pool.). Central Lodge Delegates: Notify Central Lodge 000 members of the meeting via the January issue of the Viking.

Par. 2 During its election caucus each Zone shall nominate from its insurance members the International Lodge Representatives to which it is entitled. An equal number of Alternates shall then be nominated and shall serve in the order of their election (priority alternate). These nominations shall be submitted for approval to the District Lodge at the conclusion of the caucus.

Par. 3 The Representative and Alternate from each Zone shall be elected separately, one Zone at a time.

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 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.

Par. 5 (a) After election of Representatives and Alternates to the International Lodge Meeting, the District Lodge shall nominate, from among those newly elected Representatives to the International Lodge Meeting, a candidate for each office of International Lodge Director to which the District is entitled. Candidates for each position shall be elected on a separate ballot.

Par 5(b) The District Lodge shall then elect from among its newly elected Representatives to the International Lodge, a candidate for Alternate to the office of each International Lodge Director. Candidates for each position shall be elected on a separate ballot.

Par. 6 In the event neither an elected Representative nor an Alternate from a respective Zone can attend the International Lodge Meeting, the place shall be filled by the Alternates at large in the order of their election.

Par. 7 Representatives to the International Lodge Meeting shall receive an expense allowance decided by the District Lodge Meeting. The Board of Directors shall make a recommendation as to the expense allowance.

Article IX.... Fees and Dues

Par. 1 District lodge dues shall be \$7.75 for primary members and \$5.75 for primary members with financial products.

Par. 2 District lodge dues shall be \$7.75 for Golden members and \$5.75 for Golden members with financial products.

Par. 3. For Unge Venner members not of lineal descent of a member or residing in the same household of a Sons of Norway member, District lodge dues shall be \$4.38 and \$3.38 for Unge Venner with financial products.

ARTICLE X . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT

Par. 1 District Lodge #5 adopts for itself as a Fraternal Project a Norwegian Heritage Camp to be located within the Fifth District. This Fraternal Project shall be as financially self-supporting as possible.

Par. 2 The District Lodge shall have the authority to levy a fraternal fee, not to exceed \$1.00 per member, per year, with the exception of life members, upon lodges within the boundaries of the Fifth District. The fraternal fee must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

Par. 3 The authority to assess said fraternal fee shall remain in effect for a period of two (2) years and then terminate unless renewed by the District Lodge at its biennial meeting.

ARTICLE XI . . . CHANGES OF THESE BY-LAWS

Par. 1 These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the District Lodge #5, provided notice thereof has been given to the District Secretary at least 45 days prior to the date of said meeting by any lodge in the District or has been submitted by the District Board of Directors. Proposed amendments originating in the local lodges, or by the District Board of Directors, must be

submitted to the Chairman of the Laws Committee as soon as possible prior to the date of said meeting. The Laws Committee may recommend changes at the said meeting.

Par. 2 Any change must receive a 2/3 majority of the votes cast to become law.

(Revised June, 1996) , (Revised June, 1998), (Revised June, 2000), (Revised June, 2002),
(Revised June, 2004), (Revised June, 2006), (Revised October, 2008), (Revised June, 2010)
(Revised October 7, 2011)
Revised: June 23, 2012
Revised: June 28, 2014
Revised: June 26, 2016

Approved by Sons of Norway International Board of Directors [REDACTED]

Proofed: June 30 - DK

Resolution #1- International Forms Approved at Spring Meeting

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: Darlene Arneson, District Secretary Contact: Darlene Arneson

Whereas required forms (D17, Building D17, Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year) are due early in the calendar year and local lodge officers are installed early in the calendar year;

Whereas local lodge officers are elected in the fall, installed in the next several months, but the International office does not roll over the officer databases until January-February of the new year, there is continual confusion over who is getting information, who should fill out the forms, and to whom reminders are going;

Whereas in the last several years, there has been updating and replacing forms within two months or less of the deadline or moving up deadline due dates which causes problems for local lodge officers who are required to fill them out;

Whereas Zone Directors are to help local lodges with the forms and remind them of deadlines. The District Board meets in the fall and that would be the time to train the District Board on any changes or how to complete forms so they can better help local lodges complete forms and meet deadlines;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Board shall approve all changes in forms for the D17, Building D17, Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year forms at the spring board meeting. The International staff shall have until September 1 to finalize and post the forms on the website and communicate to the District and local lodges the deadlines, changes and finalized forms.

Resolution #2- Central Lodge Member Involvement

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: Bill Injerd and Gene Steensma, Samhold Lodge Contact: Darlene Arneson

Whereas: the Sons of Norway International website under the section entitled "local lodge directory" listed the names of Central Lodge members for each District, and

Whereas: the number of these members continues to grow, and

Whereas: the increase in local lodge dues to between \$12 and \$14 will make it more difficult to sign members to a local lodge, and

Whereas: It would be beneficial to devise a strategy to draw these members into local lodges to benefit the entire order, and

Therefore be it resolved: the International Board, District Board and Field Staff develop a plan to encourage bringing these members into membership within a local lodge.

Resolution # 3 - 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 2018-2020 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.

Resolution # 4 - 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 Directors per diem and traveling expense allowance for the 2018 - 2020 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 (\$.41/mile) or 75% of the IRS 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.

Resolution #5 – Emblems and Regalia

(Requires a simple majority vote to pass)

Submitted: Mike Palecek, Nordlyset Lodge Contact Darlene Arneson

The Sons of Norway International Board shall develop a local and district level leadership recognition program and provide regalia as recognition.

AFFECTS: 2.2.5.3. ...To prescribe and control all ritualistic work within Sons of Norway and to prescribe for emblems and regalia.

WHEREAS:

A local and district lodge leadership recognition program would have the following benefits to Sons of Norway:

- Providing individual recognition to high-performing lodge and district officers
- Set expectations for excellence in performing officer duties
- Encouraging district and zone-level training for officers to learn best practices of different leadership positions
- Having an "organizational strengthening project" as a requirement, for improving lodges and districts
- Encouraging succession planning in local lodges
- Having timely reporting of SON reports as a requirement for recognition
- Providing mentoring and ideas sharing to improve lodge leadership

Therefore be it resolved, that The Sons of Norway International Board shall develop a local and district level leadership recognition program and provide recognition regalia.

BY-LAW Proposals

Bylaw Proposal #1- To reinstate the Golden Membership Classification

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass)

Submitted: Curtis A. Cleveland, Askeladden Lodge Contact Darlene Arneson

Affects: Section 1.6.1.3c of the Sons of Norway Constitution.

Proposed Change:

Whereas: Prior to January 1, 2018, the International Board of Directors of the Sons of Norway awarded Golden Membership to members who were age 65 or older and who had 30 or more years of good standing as an expression of gratitude for long and faithful service.

Whereas: At the May 2016 International Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved a motion setting dues in the USA at \$60 for individuals and \$95 for families; and that members who had been honored with Life Membership or Special Membership prior to January 1, 2018, would continue to receive a discount in dues. However, after January 1, 2018, the International Sons of Norway would end the practice of recognizing members with the Golden Membership for long and faithful service. (See August 2016 "Viking" issue)

Whereas: At the 2016 International Sons of Norway Convention, Section 1.6.1.3 of the International Sons of Norway Constitution was changed whereby after January 1, 2018, members would no longer be awarded the Golden Membership classification for long and faithful service. (See February 2017 "Viking" issue)

Whereas: At the local lodges, we need to recognize the members who have reached the age of 65 or older and who have 30 or more years of good standing.

Therefore be it resolved, That the International Sons of Norway reinstate the Golden Membership classification to recognize members for long and faithful service, who, after

January 1, 2018, attain the requirements of age (65 or older) and length of good standing (30 or more years).

Bylaw Proposal #2- Fees and Dues

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass)

Submitted: Mike Palecek, District 5 Treasurer Contact Darlene Arneson

Affects:

Article IX.... FEES AND DUES

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Par. 2 District lodge dues shall be \$7.75 for Golden members and \$5.75 for Golden members with financial products.

Par. 3 For Unge Venner members not of lineal descent of a member or residing in the same household of a Sons of Norway member, District lodge dues shall be \$4.38 and \$3.38 for Unge Venner with financial products.

Proposed Change:

A new unified SON dues structure is in place, effective January 1, 2018

BE IT RESOLVED that Article IX shall be changed to:

Article IX... FEES AND DUES

Par. 1 District dues shall be set by the International Lodge, per the Simplified Dues Structure of 2018.

Par. 2 \$1,250 shall be annually earmarked for the purpose of offsetting the cost of hosting a District Lodge Meeting and Convention. \$2,500 will be distributed to the host lodge during the month of January of the convention year as convention startup funds.

Par. 3 - \$3,750 shall be annually earmarked for the purpose of offsetting delegates' expenses to the International Lodge Meeting and Convention, with all delegates getting an equal share. If a husband and wife are both delegates, one of the spouses will receive a half-share. \$1,250 annually shall also be earmarked for international delegate added travel expenses, with delegates receiving a prorated share, based on their percentage of travel mileage to and from the convention. If the international convention is held in District 8, the annual added travel expense earmark shall be \$2,500 annually. At the spring board meeting immediately prior to an International Lodge Meeting and Convention, the District Board can vote to pay out only a portion of the added travel expenses, (if there are minimal travel expenses to the lodge meeting and convention). The District Treasurer shall calculate payments based on an internet-based travel program.

Par. 4 - If the District #5 lodge determines that the amount specified needs to be altered, the Lodge can vote to lower these amounts at any district lodge meeting and pay out lower amounts to the District host lodge and International Lodge meeting delegates.
