

## **Please Save the Date!**

**Sunday April 12, 2026, 6 PM Central Time**

**District-wide Update for Lodge Leaders and Members**



**Welcome Spring!**

Three volunteers ceased service on the District 5 Board recently, and their replacements took oaths of office and will serve until August. Leadership changes are as follows: Foundation and At-Large Director, [Scott Wegner-srweg61@gmail.com](mailto:Scott.Wegner-srweg61@gmail.com), Youth Director, [Lisa Rove Williams-rovewilliams@comcast.net](mailto:Lisa.Rove.Williams-rovewilliams@comcast.net), and Vice President [Connie Kross-conkross@gmail.com](mailto:Connie.Kross-conkross@gmail.com).

The District 5 Board met this past weekend in Rockford, IL. During that time, the board members identified a date to meet with our lodge leaders and members. Finding a common time for seventeen directors to meet was a challenge, but I am happy to say...We did it! Please save the date and join us. Zoom details are forthcoming.

Each board member will provide the latest information from their elected position. Mandt Lodge members will share finalized plans for this summer's D5 Convention. *The convention will be held in Stoughton, WI, August 4-6, 2026. Please note that some individuals may need to report earlier if they are selected to serve on a review committee.*

We discovered that the location of the 2024 convention provided many challenges for members living in the upper Midwest. We hope that many more delegates will report since the site is closer this year. Local lodges should have chosen their delegates by this time, and discussions should clearly identify the level of support that will be provided to each attendee.

One item of grave concern as we look forward is the fact that no lodge has volunteered to host the 2028 biennial gathering. I will be personally reaching out to lodges that are clustered within a geographic region, and I will ask for their assistance. There are several possibilities, but due to costs, I have prioritized locations whose hotels can provide facilities with a reasonable fee structure.

This week, two required reports were due at the international office. The first, the American Fraternal Alliance Survey, details lodge volunteer projects and the number of hours members served. Second, the submission of the D17 Lodge Financial Form was expected. Both items help us to monitor the health of our district lodges. We have noted that there are several lodges amid disbanding procedures.

In our district several lodges are delinquent in these reports. Our at-large directors and officers are reaching out to aid the identified lodges.

**Fraternally,**

*Cheryl*

**Cheryl Wille-Schlesser**

**District 5 President**

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