



# Valhall Nyheter

Sons of Norway Lodge # 5-168 August, September 2022



## Kalender



### 2022 Lodge Officers

President:  
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Acting Sports Director:  
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Greeters:  
Lee Ann Harp

Trustee / Auditors  
Ray Pederson  
Gary Melby  
Bill Brod

Librarian / Historian  
Rev. Dr. Richard Wang

<http://sonsofnorway5.com>

<http://www.sofn.com/>

**Saturday, August 13, 2022 - Begins at 10:00 AM**

**Stockholm Inn  
2420 Charles St.  
Rockford, IL 6110**

Members and guests may order from the menu (Dutch treat). We eat breakfast first with the program to follow. Valhall member Jon McGinty, will be the speaker with a PowerPoint presentation on "Norway in WWII". Jon is a retired elementary school teacher and currently a writer and photographer for Northwest Quarterly Magazine

**RSVP by August 10th.** Valhall Social Director: Lee Ann Harp - Email vrjpt52@gmail.com or call (815) 282-2374 or cell (909) 806-0825

**Saturday, September 10 - Lodge Day Trip**

**Norsk Museum -  
3656 E 2831<sup>st</sup> St.  
Sheridan, IL 60551**

**Group Tour at 10am -** More information to follow.

**Please RSVP if you are planning on attending by September 5<sup>th</sup> ...**

**RSVP** Lee Ann Harp 815-282-2374, text 909-806-0825 or email vrjpt52@gmail.com

### District 5 Convention Overview



The District 5 convention of 2022 is now in the books, and we have a new president in Cheryl Wille-Schlesser. She has worked hard in promoting the Sons of Norway as the Vice-President, and I know she will be a very good leader in these next years.

Darlene Arneson- D5 Secretary

## **Meet your 2022-2024 Board!**

### **District President- Cheryl Wille-Schlesser - Vennelag Lodge- Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin**

A member of the Sons of Norway since 1999, Wille-Schlesser has served her local lodge, Vennelag 5- 513, in many officer positions. She is currently the lodge counselor and the newsletter editor. She is a retired middle school science teacher and works part-time positions at the University of Wisconsin and for Bergey Jewelry in Mt. Horeb, WI her hometown.

### **District Vice President and Zone 6 Director- Wendy Kay Winkelman Shawnee Skogen Lodge- Cobden, Illinois**

Lodge Editor, Secretary, and now President of Shawnee Skogen 5-689 in southern Illinois - District 5's newest lodge! At the District Level, I have been District Public Relations Officer, District Secretary, and now District Vice President.

### **District Secretary- Darlene Arneson Mandt Lodge- Stoughton, Wisconsin**

I have served as the Sons of Norway Mandt Lodge 5-314 President since 2002. I have served as the District Secretary since 2008.

### **District Treasurer- Nathan Nutter Shawnee Skogen Lodge- Troy, Illinois**

Nathan Nutter is an experienced data and software engineer currently working for the St. Louis Cardinals. Bringing in-depth personal experience with financial record keeping, budgeting, and forecasting as well as a strong work ethic he is honored to serve as treasurer for Sons of Norway District 5 and the Nordic Legacy Foundation. He attends Shawnee Skogen, lodge 5-689, out of Carbondale, IL but lives in Troy, IL in the Greater St. Louis area.

### **Publicity Director and Zone 2 Director- LaVonne Wier Fagernes Lodge- Galesville, Wisconsin**

I belong to Fagernes Lodge 5-616 in Blair WI, and hold the offices of Secretary, Publicity and Adopt-a-School coordinator.

### **Cultural Director and Zone 4 Director- Judy Ghastin Norse Valley Lodge- Appleton, Wisconsin**

Judy has been an active Sons of Norway member since the late 1970s serving Norse Valley Lodge as Cultural Director, Social Director, and President. She was elected to the office of Cultural Director in the spring of 2019 and has served in that capacity for four years due to the extension of terms of office during the pandemic.

### **Sports & Recreation Director and Zone 1 Director- Robert Fossum Døvre Lodge- Chetek, Wisconsin**

Robert Merle Fossum He attended St. Olaf College and then earned a PhD in mathematics from the University of Michigan.

### **Youth Director- Elle Taylor Grønnvik Lodge- Green Bay, Wisconsin**

My name is Elle Taylor, and I am honored to be the new Youth & Zone 4 Director! My love for Scandinavian culture grew into a love for travel and learning about all cultures around the world, eventually causing me to leave the world of Human Resources and become a travel agent.

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**Zone 2 Director- Tom Boudreau Elvedal Lodge- Nekoosa, Wisconsin**

He has been a Sons of Norway member since 1989. He and Susan have served on the board in a variety of roles since 1996! They are snowbirds and enjoy traveling to Orange Beach, Alabama in January, and February!

**Zone 3 Director- Scott Wegner Mandt Lodge- Stoughton, WI**

Scott has been an active member of Sons of Norway Mandt Lodge for about 14 years

**Zone 5 Director- Lisa Solak Skjold Lodge- Crystal Lake, Illinois**

I serve as President of Skjold Lodge. I am an archivist and currently employed as part of the Archives team with the National Archives and Records Administration.

**Zone 5 Director- Connie Benson Kross—Cleng Peerson Lodge- Sandwich, Illinois**

I am a member of Cleng Peerson Lodge in Norway, Illinois, and attend many meetings of my sisters' Polar Star Lodge, too.

**Zone 6 Director Bill Bultinck Shawnee Skogen Lodge- Cobden, Illinois**

I have been a SON member for 16 years. I was elected District 5 Zone 6 Director in 2022.

**International Director – Robin Fossum Døvre Lodge- Chetek, Wisconsin**

Robin Fossum, Dovre Lodge 5-353, Chetek Wisconsin, is the District 5 International Director. She is also serving as a Governor of the Sons of Norway Foundation, and for the past 10 years as president of Dovre Lodge.

**Valhall Lodge 2022 D5 Convnetion Delegates and Volunteer**



**Delegates:**  
**Vicki Rudh-Jones and**  
**Lee Ann Harp**

**Volunteer-**  
**Isabel LaPonsie** showing how  
to create a card using the District  
5 Nordic Stamps  
(purchase them on the D5  
website  
[https://sonsofnorway5.com/gifts/  
stamps.php](https://sonsofnorway5.com/gifts/stamps.php)



## **The following is to address the 2022 District 5 Delegates , June 18, 2022**

MIN VENNER-MY FRIENDS,

We sit poised on a precipice. Our choices are to lean over the rock face's edge and spiral downward or to look up and soar with the eagles. In my opinion, the Fifth District needs to SOAR upward! The outgoing District 5 Board has done everything in its power to keep the district moving forward despite the many challenges. They served for an extended number of years. BUT-WE PERSEVERED!

- District officers organized Zone training in virtual formats.
- Other districts from across the Order called for information so they could offer this experience to their members.
- Virtual meetings became the norm, and local lodge leaders received updates.
- The Masse Moro staff presented activities to our campers in unprecedented ways. ➤ Scholarships were awarded to our youth.
- Cultural classes were offered to our members via Zoom. The Viking chests continued their rounds.
- District officers wrote new grants to offset the costs for cultural, sports, and membership pins.
- The district's playing card photo contest engaged members and raised several thousand dollars.
- Local lodge Foundation fundraising continued.
- The Nordic News Show began using much talent from our members.
- A walking challenge had over 100 participants from all six zones.
- The Barnebirkie continued with changes, and cookies returned in 2022!
- The publicity director sent photos to the Viking magazine.
- The webmaster posted district events and celebrations on the D5 website.
- Our Zone Directors continued their visits to local lodges, installed officers, and made presentations.
- The district's business was addressed, challenges were faced, and solutions were found.
- Since the governance structure of the Sons of Norway (SofN) has changed, our International Director is writing new language items for SofN.
- She was integral in creating the Together We Are the Future campaign, helping raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the SofN Foundation.
- Many members of the district board attended special lodge anniversaries.

### **LOCAL LODGES CARRIED THE BANNER OF FRATERNITY**

- Members maintained connections with others via phone calls, postcards, email, and videoconferencing.
- Small items of appreciation were delivered to older or shut-in members.
- Lodge meetings and activities came back to the delight of many, beginning in 2021.
- New members joined our ranks.
- Syttende Mai revelry occurred despite the pandemic.
- Floats were brought out of storage to the delight of parade attendees.
- Retention ideas have kept the flame of Sons of Norway alive! Our imaginations only limit us. So join me in making the 2022-2024 biennium one for the record books.

Tusen takk!  
Cheryl Wille-Schlesser  
District 5 President

## Upcoming District & International Events:

No bids were received for hosting the 2024 convention, so the location is TBD.

### International Convention

Anyone interested in joining is welcome! The convention is being held virtually, so no travel is required (other than venturing to the kitchen to refill your coffee & cookies).

The dates of the International Convention are

**Wednesday, August 31, 2022**, 10 a.m. – 2:45 pm CST, and  
**September 1, 2022**, 10 a.m. – 2:30 pm CST.

**Thursday,**

There is a \$75.00 non-delegate fee to join. Details online at Sons of Norway website [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com).

### Adult Heritage Weekend

Adult Heritage Weekend will be held in Spring Grove, MN on October 7-9, 2022. It will be held in conjunction with Uff-Da Fest.

Weekend highlights include Robin Fossum playing Hardanger fiddle and violin along with other performers in the Norwegian Revy (variety show); Genealogy tips from Ancestor Genealogy Research to DNA in Genealogy & Public Health; Vesterheim gold medalist, Rebecca Hanna presenting on woodcarving: acanthus, ale bowls, chip & figure carving; Krumkake Baking and Mailing; The history of Spring Grove and its importance to immigration in the Upper Midwest; Learn how to make and present Norwegian Open-face sandwiches.

Details for Registration and the full schedule of events can be found on the D5 website <https://sonsofnorway5.com/events/details/766-District5-Adult-Heritage-Weekend-Letter-Pdf>

Registration starts at \$35.00 per person (*catered meal options and hotel are additional*).

### Scandinavian Days

September 11, 2022 – Vasa Park 35W217 Route 31, South Elgin, Illinois 60177

**Additional Information:** <http://www.scandinaviandayil.com/location.asp>

### Mandt Lodge Beginning Sami Bracelet Class.

A One Day Class is offered on **August 6, 2022 (Saturday)** Time: 9:00 AM – 4 PM  
Sons of Norway Mandt Lodge - 317 Page Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin 53589

Class Fees: \$65.00 Sons of Norway Members and Seniors (age 55 & over) and \$80.00 for Non-members  
**Registration form and payment due: July 15, 2022** (Class fee covers instruction, documents and use of the tools needed to complete your bracelet. *The class fee does not include the kit needed to assemble the bracelet.*)

Details for Registration are found on the D5 website

<https://sonsofnorway5.com/events/details/776-Mand-Lodge-Beginning-Sami-Bracelet-class>





*Velkommen*

### Share the Spirit of VELKOMMEN

Please reach out this month to someone in our community who might enjoy the fun times and friendly folks at our Sons of Norway lodge. Remember, daughters, sons and anyone with an interest in Nordic culture and heritage are welcome to join Sons of Norway. Let's make our community welcoming to all!

### TUBFRIM

Save used stamps and expired or used phone cards for Tubfrim to help disabled children and youth in Norway.

**Trim stamps so that you have at least at least 1/4 inch but not more than 1/2 inch around the edge of stamp.**

**Visit**

<http://www.tubfrim.no>

## Gratulere Med Dagen (Happy Birthday)

### July

Kimbal Higgins 7/1  
Susan Brocker 7/6  
Grace Calhoun 7/11  
Sophia Martino 7/19  
Patty Klawitter 7/22

### August

Sally Knutson 8/2  
Margaret Van Dan 8/2  
Jacqueline Jewell 8/3  
Mike Lunde 8/3  
Rev. Richard Wang 8/3  
Robert Schober 8/4  
Adam Knutson 8/23

### September

Anders Dahlgren 9/3  
Evelyn Langsholt 9/5  
Natalia Martino 9/10  
Linda Petersen 9/20

### Stoughton High School Norwegian Dancers are going to Norway! And you can join them!

*I am super excited to announce that the Stoughton High School Norwegian Dancers are going to Norway in June of next year! I am in the midst of planning and need to begin putting together the Companion Tour. I would like to take anyone who is interested in coming to Norway with the Dancers. You will have nicer accommodations than the Dancers and I J You'll have the opportunity to watch every performance if you would like, but you wouldn't have to. There will be plenty of sightseeing in fantastic places, all with your own personal tour guide for the entire 11 days. The dates of the trip will be **June 16th – June 27th, 2023**. Cities visited will include Oslo, Tinn, Rjukan, Gjøvik, Lillehammer, Lom, Geiranger and Trondheim.*

**If you think you might be interested**, please email myself as soon as possible to get on the list. As soon as I have the itinerary and cost, I will email it to everyone on the list and then you can either commit or decide not to go. *Getting on this initial list is not committing you to going. This is just the "I might be interested list".*

**Email heimstaci@gmail.com by mid August to get on the list.**

Please forward this to anyone and everyone you know who might be interested. I really appreciate your help in getting the word out to all who might be interested.

Many, many thanks!  
Staci Heimsoth  
Norwegian Dancer Director



Sons of Norway Rockford  
Valhall Lodge 5-168  
Christina Fairchild-Editor  
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Rockton, IL 61072

**Would you like to receive a paperless copy of your newsletter?**  
Contact your newsletter editor at [cfairc56@gmail.com](mailto:cfairc56@gmail.com) with Newsletter in the subject line

If you know of a member that is ill at home, in the hospital, lost a family member, fell on some hard times, needs some encouragement or passed away –

**Sunshine Person: Lee Ann Harp – [leeannaharp@yahoo.com](mailto:leeannaharp@yahoo.com) – 909-806-0825**

The Valhall Lodge Newsletter is published every three months. Submit items of interest you would like to post in our newsletter to the Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. When attending a Norwegian event that would be of interest to your fellow lodge members, please add your editor's name & address to their mailing list. Also, please notify the editor of a member passing so they may be acknowledged in our newsletter.

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