**Committee of Fraternal Affairs Report to the District 5 Convention, June 28, 2018**

**Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Chair, Vennelag 513**

**Robin Fossum, Dovre, 353**

**Lucy Ghastin, Idun, 074**

**Connie Kross, Cleng Peerson, 525**

**Mark Quade, Wergeland, 028**

**The Fraternal Affairs Committee voted to accept the District 5 Directors reports: sports and recreation, cultural, heritage and grants-youth, as written.**

**Local activities, events, and outreach programs were presented. Members reviewed the recommendations from the 2016 Biennial Convention Fraternal Affairs Committee. Lastly, the members of the committee made recommendations for further action to the District 5 Board.**

**One recommendation from the 2016 District 5 Convention that was implemented was the creation of an on-line speakers’ bureau which would be easily accessible to all members. This was accomplished with the assistance of Richard Fairchild, District 5 webmaster, who formatted the information for posting.**

**To use the information posted, visit the District 5 website:** [**www.sonsofnorway5.com**](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com)**. From the ribbon at the top of the page, select Programs. A dropdown menu will appear. Choose Speakers’ Bureau. A listing of possible speakers and program topics are given, providing contact information and costs associated with each option. A wide variety of programming is available. This resource will become more powerful, as all District 5 Lodges contribute information for posting. If speaker costs are prohibitive, lodges could consider joining together to share the cost of speaker fees.**

**Later, members explained how their lodges are volunteering at numerous community events outside of The Order. One key part to this volunteerism is to identify your group as members of the Sons of Norway. One will recall that community involvement is also stressed on the End of the Year Lodge Report which is filed with the International Office annually. It is through volunteer efforts that Sons of Norway International is able to retain its 501C3 tax exempt status. It is imperative that all lodges document their events, as well as the number of hours served.**

**The Committee makes the following recommendations for future District 5 Conventions:**

1. **To institute a cultural activity for all attendees. It has been suggested that a project such as a simple rosemaled pin, (a clay troll, or a small nisse, etc.) be part of the convention registration. Not only would these items serve as talking points, but they would provide an idea for local lodges to implement. They could be used at the convention and implemented at the local level, as conversation starters or ice breakers. The idea could be further used by Youth Directors and Zone directors.**
2. **Time should be provided on future convention agendas for idea exchange. The ideas could be gathered from each delegate table, compiled, and later shared on the District 5 webpage or in another manner such as at a Zone training, the Friendly Friday Fifth Update, or the District President’s biennial seminar.**
3. **Access to classes and fieldtrips should be available to all attendees, and may need to be offered one day before the scheduled convention begins. This could follow a similar format to the Leadership Conference which is held before each International Convention.**