**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**

**Activities for Your Lodge’s Consideration**

***ROBIN FOSSUM***

**\*Prepare a Lodge Directory for your members, and use it to send electronic messages on upcoming programs, events, or speakers. Use this for emergency notifications, too.**

**\*Sponsor a concert series that appeals to youth and invite them to attend.**

**\*Participate in Project Framtid, formerly the Adopt a School Program.**

**\*Choose a grade level, such as fourth, whose curriculum may involve immigration. Plan high interest activities for the class on Norwegian culture. Organize hands-on activities that work best or those that incorporate movement for increased success.**

**\*Participate in any local cultural fair or organize your own. Today’s communities contain residents whose ancestry can be traced to many different countries. Communicate with or join other Scandinavian groups who share your interests.**

**Remember your older members by visiting with them at home or in their care facility. Take a small token: a flower in a bud vase, freshly made lefse or Norsk cookies, or bring an interesting magazine or a book on tape to enjoy later.**

**\*Place a high priority on youth in your lodge. Select one person to work with them while the business meeting is in progress.**

**\*Schedule a random lunch at an interesting venue. Ask all who are available to participate. Provide transport for those who need it.**

**\*Organize a field trip! Choose an interesting place with Norwegian ties.**

**\*Celebrate Syttende Mai with a dinner, membership awards, music, and food! These activities allow a lodge to provide interaction with members of extreme ages.**

**\*Hold your own cultural competition or exhibit. Provide acknowledgement such as a ribbon or a pin.**

***CONNIE KROSS***

**\*Troop your Norwegian colors in a local parade; fill your ship with young children to aged adults- Wave flags, call out to little ones who are watching. Distribute a treat,if allowed. Sing or dance!**

**\*Conduct a frokost fundraiser.**

**\*Ask area musical groups to entertain.  
  
\*Plan a summer camp for area children ages 6 through 10. You could entitle it, “How to be a Viking.”**

**\*Volunteer at a Norwegian museum, historical society, or cultural center. Share what you know with guests! If interested, invite them to your events. Network!**

***MARK QUADE***

**\*Place a high priority on children and provide activities for them while the adults are in the business meeting.**

**\*Ask your talented youth to perform for your lodge. Invite middle school choirs or orchestra to perform.**

**\*Encourage high school students to hold an office in your lodge. Welcome their technology talents.**

**\*Plan a special dinner at a Norwegian restaurant, Drugan’s or Borgen’s in the La Crosse area. Another option would be to attend a neighboring lodge’s meal with traditional foods.**

**\*Ask your town to make a proclamation of Syttende Mai and raise the Norwegian flag at City Hall.**

**\*Incorporate outdoor activities into your lodge events; Kubb and Bean bag toss games are popular now.**

**\*Enjoy the outdoors!**

**\*Make connections with local museums, especially those with Norwegian connections. These places often have a list of speakers who can perform outreach classes or presentations for your members.**

**CHERYL WILLE-SCHLESSER**

**\*Start your lodge year with a membership interest inventory or satisfaction survey. Use it to drive planning on the social and cultural aspects of your programming. Ask your cultural director to plan activities that will help your members earn their cultural skills pins.**

**\*While holding the District’s annual Chili Cook-off, add a cookie competition. After the judging, send the remaining cookies to the Barnebirkie in Hayward, WI. If you need help with cookie transport, please notify me (608-219-4464)!**

**\*Send members of your lodge to help at the Barnebirkie. Bring your skis or snowshoes!**

**\*Work in tandem with your local historical society to sponsor presentations and speakers. Arrange classes of interest to members in both groups.**

**\*Maintain an activity box at your local library for little ones: finger puppets, stories, books on tape, poems, coloring pages, and art materials could be included.**

**\*Instead of holding a membership breakfast, consider a lunch! Choose a place popular in your community and ask for reservations. A neutral site could work to your advantage!**

**\*Sponsor a youth sports team: hockey, skiing, or skating, etc.**

**\*If your local community encourages volunteerism with its graduating seniors, ask them to assist at**

**your large events.**

**\*Adopt a highway, or local bike or walking trail through the Department of Natural Resources. Maintain the area wearing your lodge or Sons of Norway gear. It provides great public relations and helps Sons of Norway to gain more respect.**

**\*Ask your sports and recreation director to set local fitness goals for your lodge. Use the tracking information provided at the Sons of Norway website:** [**www.sofn.com**](http://www.sofn.com) **Work as a lodge to achieve sports medals. Encourage members to work together on their goals. The lodge that plays together-stays together!**

**\*Plan a summer luncheon in conjunction with another community event. Advertise, hang flying banners in your community, and place flyers in popular businesses. Ask your members to do word of mouth advertising for your event.**

**\*Provide a yearly scholarship to a deserving high school student.**

**\*Work with the high school staff to plan activities of a cultural, scientific, or historical nature, i.e. the Norwegian Resistance in WWII, the Oslo Peace Institute, or the International Seed Bank.**

**\*Establish a Sister City relationship between your community and a city in Norway.**

**\*Establish a student exchange between the two cities.**

**\*Hold a summer picnic for your Zone or Lodge.**

**\*Ask your local Chamber of Commerce for a booth at a business expo or farmer’s market. Share information about your lodge-focus on activities for young families, as that is the demographic we all seek.**

**\*Plan a holiday event such as shopping for children. Use donated items from your members to keep the cost in the one dollar range per item. Invite the community to enjoy Breakfast with Santa. At the event, provide a craft table for the little ones, a family photo booth, and a table to decorate holiday cookies. A Norwegian holiday tree could be incorporated into dancing.**

**\*Plan a winter activity for community children such as the hobby horse races detailed in Viking Magazine. A barnelopet is another idea.**

**\*Sponsor children in a community festival event.**

**\*Prepare a community dinner for the seniors in your city. Ask your members to supply desserts with**

**a Norwegian flair.**

**\*Ask a writer in your lodge to submit articles to your local newspaper about the importance of keeping cultural traditions alive.**