

Reports to Sons of Norway District Lodge 5 1914 – 2026



**SONS OF
NORWAY**

District 5

**57th Biennial Convention and Lodge Meeting
Stoughton, Wisconsin
August 2-6, 2026
#SND5Stoughton2026**

Compiled by Darlene Arneson, District Secretary

DISTRICT LODGE NO. 5

Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan,
Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin

ORGANIZED SEPTEMBER 7, 1914

PRESIDENTS

Finn Mohn	1914-1916	Clarence S. Marzolf	1970-1974
O. G. Kinney	1916-1918	Richard Haugsness	1974-1978
R. N. Qualley	1918-1924	Eugene Steensma	1978-1980
Elif Gythfeldt	1924-1932	Cyril Wittrock	1980-1982
John Jevnaker	(1932 - Nov. 1 - 1933)	Clifford Feggstad	1982-1986
Chr. Ludvigsen	(Nov. 1, 1933-1934)	Jim Holms	1986-1988
Elif Gythfeldt	1934-1938	Clare Almquist	1988-1992
Carl C. Knudsen	1938-1944	Jon Grinde	1992-1996
Sam Walker	1944-1946	Jostein O. Bakken	1996-2000
Harold E. Pedersen	1946-1948	Raymond P. Knutson	2000-2004
Einar O. Hammer	1948-1954	Harland Anderson	2004-2008
Bernard Jacobson	1954-1958	Mary J. Bennett	2008-2012
Chris Johansen	1958-1962	Don Hermanson	2012-2014
Olav Eide	1962-1968	Owen Christianson	2014-2016
Andrew Vedvik	1968-1970	Andrew Johnsen	2016-2022
		Cheryl Wille-Schlesser	2022-present

SECRETARIES

O. T. Ullsvik	1914-1918	Ruth Nelson	1964-1974
Chr. Lusvigsen	1918-1924	Geraldine Connell	(1974-Dec. 31-1978)
R. N. Qualley	1924-1932	Clare Almquist	(Dec. 31-1978-1986)
Alf Kjeverud	1932-1941	George Sievers	1986-1990
O. T. Ullsvik	1941-1942	Mary Beth Haugen	1990-2000
Conrad Garmager	1942-1956	Mary J. Bennett	2000-2008
Arthur Gunderson	1956-1964	Darlene Arneson	2008-present

+++++

“The Friendly Fifth”

District 5 Board of Directors

Position	Lodge	Lodge Name	First Name	Last Name	City, State, Zip
President	513	Vennelag	Cheryl	Wille-Schlesser	Mt. Horeb, WI 53572
Vice President	525	Cleung Peerson	Connie	Kross	Sandwich, IL 60548
Secretary	314	Mandt	Darlene	Arneson	Stoughton, WI 53589
Treasurer	491	Norse Valley	Corey	Olson	Appleton, WI 54915
Youth	168	Valhall	Lisa	Rove-Williams	Dekalb, IL 60115
Publicity	616	Fagernes	LaVonne	Wier	Galesville, WI 54630
Cultural	74	Idun	Lucy	Ghastin	Middleton, WI 53562
Sports	100	Skjold	Clara	Solak	Crystal Lake, IL 60014
At-Large	314	Mandt	Laurie	Barrett	Stoughton, WI 53589
At-Large/Foun. Director	314	Mandt	Scott	Wegner	Stoughton, WI 53589
At-Large	100	Skjold	Lisa	Solak	Crystal Lake, IL 60014
At-Large	689	Shawnee Skogen	Bill	Bultinck	Cobden, IL 62920
Int. Director	513	Vennelag	Duane	Kittleson	Madison, WI 53705
Webmaster	168	Valhall	Christina	Fairchild	Rockton, IL 61072

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT LODGE FIVE DELEGATES YEAR 2026 DISTRICT LODGE FIVE MEETING RULES

1. The regular meeting of District Lodge Five shall be one meeting, recessing from session to session within the meeting.
2. Delegate badges and voting materials will be issued at the registration desk upon presentation of some form of ID.
3. Delegates shall be seated in their seats at least **FIVE** minutes before the scheduled time. Doors will be closed when each session begins. People awaiting admission will be at the direction of the chair.
4. Any delegate may speak to any subject before the lodge. Any delegate who desires to speak shall address the chair by going to the microphone, with identification paddle raised, and state name and local lodge.

5. Each speaker will be allowed **TWO MINUTES**. No delegate shall speak to the motion more than twice, unless allowed by the chair. No delegate will be allowed to speak the second time until delegates stationed at the microphones have spoken.
6. The right to raise a point of order shall be reserved for delegates **ONLY**; the chair will decide its validity.
7. If the previous question is moved and carried, delegates who are in line at the microphone at the time the motion is passed will be permitted to speak.
8. Only duly authorized seated delegates may vote – **ONE** vote per delegate.
9. Ballots shall be used in cases where there are two or more candidates for any office, otherwise election shall be by acclamation.
10. Any messages to delegates shall be relayed through greeters, marshal or assistant marshal.
11. Smoking shall not be permitted.
12. Any lodge bidding to host the next district Convention shall present its bid, in writing, to the district board of directors prior to the district lodge meeting. The bids shall be referred to the Committee on Reports which shall present all bids received at the first session of the district lodge. Representatives of the bidding local lodges or district lodge shall immediately thereafter be permitted **TEN** minutes to present their proposal. The vote on convention site selection shall take place at the last session of the district lodge.
13. Any resolution or by-law which has financial impact must be introduced by 12:00 PM Wednesday so such resolution or by-law may be reviewed by the finance committee to determine the financial impact. The finance committee shall present an impact statement to the delegates.

Sons of Norway – District Lodge 5 – “The Friendly Fifth”

www.SonsofNorway5.com

DISTRICT CONVENTION DUTIES DESCRIPTIONS 2026

ALL COMMITTEES Chair will prepare a written report and deliver it to the convention delegates as per the convention schedule. At the initial call for the committee, all members will assemble at the committee reports table in the convention room. Members will introduce themselves to the delegates by stating their name and home lodge, hand microphone to the next member. At subsequent calls for the committee, chair and members will again assemble at the committee reports table as per instructions from the convention presiding officer. District president requests all committee members, individually or collectively, report to the district president observations regarding committee operations. Desired topics include: committee instructions; time and location allotted for committee work; was having an advisor helpful; schedule during district lodge business meeting adequate for committee presentation; and any other items on which members wish to comment. These items will help assure future committee actions are refined, as necessary, for better committee results.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Following the International Nominating Committee Guidelines, seek out qualified members, among those delegates attending the district lodge meeting, as candidates for: district board officer and director positions, including alternates for all zone directors; and International Director and alternate (as needed). Review all nomination applications for completeness and determination of the applicant's qualifications for the position in question. The committee will also review the applications for all nominations made from the floor of the district lodge meeting. The committee must complete its work and prepare the report, which will include the names of all qualified nominees, by position, the committee recommends, before the election of officers.

Nominating	Duane Kittleson
Nominating	Janis Wegner
Nominating	Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

In conjunction with the registration committee, confirm the list of attending delegates and alternates by determining they are duly elected and have qualified credentials. Committee will render its initial report as the first order of business of the district lodge meeting, with subsequent reports if there are changes to the delegates and alternates in attendance. Committee will monitor registration to assure all registered delegates and alternates receive the correct badge as they are entitled. Report will contain the list of qualified and registered delegates and alternatives (though the chair will not read the names) and the chair will announce the total number of delegates and alternatives qualified to vote, as of the hour the list is compiled.

Credentials	District 5 Board- Chr.	Darlene	Arneson
Credentials	District 5 Board	Scott	Wegner
Credentials	District 5 Board	Lucy	Ghastin

LAWS COMMITTEE

Screen all motions (a.k.a. resolutions) dealing with any changes to the Sons of Norway or District Five constitutions or by-laws. Committee report will include the committee's recommendation for each of these resolutions. If the committee so votes, it may offer a resolution as with: "no recommendation"; or a recommendation to reject. The committee may not change any resolution, but will include in its committee report any suggested changes.

Laws	SN D5 Bd Advisor	William	Bultinck
Laws	Idun	Jon	Grinde (Chr)
Laws	Skjold	James	Secora
Laws	Wergeland	David	Hendrickson
Laws	Ostestaden	Bradley	Goplen

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Screen all motions (a.k.a. resolutions) having an impact on district finances scheduled to come before the district lodge delegates. Committee report will include the committee's recommendation for each of these resolutions. If the committee so votes, it may offer a resolution as with: "no recommendation"; or a recommendation to reject. The committee may

not change any resolution, but will include in its committee report any suggested changes. Committee will review all financial reports, generally included in the convention reports book, and include a recommendation in their committee report.

Finance	SN D5 Bd Advisor	Corey	Olson
Finance	Nordkap	Haley	Jarasz (Chr)
Finance	Dovre	Robin	Fossum
Finance	Polar Star	Ken	Johnson

REPORTS/PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Review all officer reports as they appear in the convention reports book. Committee report will include significant points and/or corrections to each of the officer reports.

Reports/Publicity	SN D5 Bd Advisor	LaVonne	Wier
Reports/Publicity	Grønnavik	Peggy	Schroeder (Chr)
Reports/Publicity	Sognefjord	Gail	Taggart
Reports/Publicity	Cleng Peerson	Dawn	Gunderson
Reports/Publicity	Idum	Mary	Bennett

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Screen all motions (a.k.a. resolutions), not assigned to other convention committees, coming before the district lodge delegates. Put all resolutions into correct form, eliminate duplicate resolutions and assure resolutions are offered to the district lodge delegates in a logical sequence. Except for those duplicate resolutions, the committee will offer all resolutions to the district lodge delegates. If the committee so votes, it may offer a resolution as with: “no recommendation”; or a recommendation to reject. The committee may not change any resolution, but will include in its committee report any suggested changes. The committee will draft and present to the district lodge delegates all courtesy resolutions including a thank you resolution at the end of the District Lodge Meeting.

Resolutions	SN D5 Bd Advisor	Scott	Wegner
Resolutions	Circle City	Paul	Brakke (Chr)
Resolutions	Mandt	Don	Amundson
Resolutions	Fosselyngen	Susan	Roedel

FRATERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Review all district activities associated with fraternal matters as described by the Sons of Norway Fraternal Department. Committee report will include comments or recommendations relating to current or future activities the district, zones and/or local lodges may conduct or contemplate by each fraternal activity.

Fraternal Affairs	SN D5 Bd Advisor	Lucy	Ghastin
Fraternal Affairs	Solvang	Judy	Gates (Chr)

Fraternal Affairs	Askeladden	Jeff	Andert
Fraternal Affairs	Valhall	Richard	Wang
Fraternal Affairs	Music City Vikings	Lina	Sheahan

MARSHALS

Position is at entrance to business hall for duration of session at direction of presiding chair. Duties include monitoring those entering and leaving the hall during the business session and delivering messages to delegates. Will act as escort for any dignitaries as prescribed by the presiding chair. Directing delegates and non-delegates to appropriate seating areas for them. The Marshals sit near the back of the room (or by entrance doors) during the session.

Wednesday morning	Marshall	Nordkap	Mary Morehead
Wednesday morning	Assistant Marshall	Fagernes	Dawn Volkman
Wednesday afternoon	Marshall	Edvard Grieg	Esther Charlton
Wednesday afternoon	Assistant Marshall	Vennligfolk	Sally Prideaux
Thursday morning	Marshall	Idun	James Eliason
Thursday morning	Assistant Marshall	Mandt	Jason Jacobson
Thursday afternoon	Marshall	Valkyrien	Karen Krumm
Thursday afternoon	Assistant Marshall	Nordlyset	Beth Caylor
Banquet- Installation	Marshall	Music City Vikings	Meghan Purdue
Banquet- Installation	Assistant Marshall	Løven	Barb Hardy

GREETERS

Come to the meeting hall 15 minutes before the session begins and position is at entrance to business hall for duration of session at direction of presiding chair. Duties include welcoming guests (non-delegates) entering the hall for the business session and delivering messages to delegates. Directing delegates and non-delegates to appropriate seating areas for them. The greeters may sit with their lodge delegation during the session.

Wednesday morning	Greeter	Idun	Mary	Bennett
Wednesday morning	Greeter	Nordlyset	Beth	Nelson
Wednesday afternoon	Greeter	Edvard Grieg	Shirley	Hodek
Wednesday afternoon	Greeter	Skjold	Kathy	Secora
Thursday morning	Greeter	Norsemen of the Lakes	Dennis	Westgor
Thursday morning	Greeter	Cleng Peerson	Dawn	Gunderson
Thursday afternoon	Greeter	Wergeland	Evonne	Kundert
Thursday afternoon	Greeter	Nordkap	Sandra	Miller
Banquet- Installation	Greeter	Polar Star	Stephan	Tanda
Banquet- Installation	Greeter	Vennelag	Mary	Gullickson-Krantz

TELLERS

Unless called on by the presiding chair, position is normal location in the business hall as a local lodge delegate. Duty extends through all sessions and days of the business meeting. When called, duty is to distribute, as necessary, and collect delegate ballots, when used. Collectively, tellers will then retire to a remote location to sort and count ballots. Tellers will separate any ballot determined not qualified or illegal, such as blank ballots or those with indeterminable selection or double marking, and so on. Tellers will carefully protect all ballots until their disposition is determined. Upon completion of the counting and preparing a written report (signed by Teller 1), tellers will return to their normal locations in the business hall. Teller 1, on

behalf of the teller group, will proceed to the designated committee reporting position to read the ballot report. Teller 1 will present the report and all ballots to the district secretary after reading the report.

Tellers will serve the entire 2026 District Lodge Meeting

Teller 1	Mandt	Jane	Connor
Teller 2	Vennelag	Rita	Schraepfer-Derke
Teller 3	Løven	Jeanne	Anderson
Teller 4	Valkyrien	Konnie	Jerabek

**Sons of Norway District Five Lodge Meeting
August 2-6, 2026
Stoughton, Wisconsin**

AGENDUM

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

- 9:00 - 11:30 am District Five Board of Director's Meeting – Sons of Norway- Mandt Lodge
(District Five Board of Directors only; no Delegates)
- 11:45 AM Luncheon – Sons of Norway – Mandt Lodge
(District Committees, District Board and Convention Committee only)
- 1:00 PM Room available for District Committee Meetings at Sons of Norway- Mandt Lodge
(Only Delegates serving on a committee must attend)
- Nomination Committee
Reports & Publicity Committee
Finance Committee
Fraternal Affairs Committee
Laws Committee
Resolutions Committee
Credentials Committee
- 12:15- 5:00 pm District Workshops- American Legion- 803 N. Page Street, Stoughton
(Legion will have food available)
- 1:00- SN Foundation Grant Writing- Amy Tuchenhagen
 - 1:50- District 5 Roundtable- Your questions and needs!
 - 2:30- Youth Activities and Masse Moro

- 3:10- Dana Kelly and NAGC & NL
- 4:10- James Nelson on Yukon Relief Expedition

+ + + + +

Business Meeting agenda- Please note that the Business Meetings and Wednesday and Thursday lunches are at the Stoughton Area School District (SASD) Administrative Building- 320 North Street

Time for any specific presentations, meals, coffee breaks and other items are noted with bold and underlined times. All other items of business will follow the order of the agenda and may run faster/shorter than we anticipated. We will attempt to handle all items as indicated (by day and session) using this schedule as our guideline.

We will have presentations by the following sometime during the two-day meetings- times to be determined depending on their schedules:

- Amy Tuchenhausen presentation
- Masse Moro Task Force Presentation
- Duane Kittleson presentation
- Dan Seyfried presentation
- BetterLife presentation
- Connie O'Brien presentation

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

8:00 am Registration, auction items/banners/newsletter display boards brought in- Coffee available!

9:30 am Opening Ceremony- Ballrooms A & B

Call to Order of Lodge Meeting- President Wille-Schlesser
(*All Delegates must be present*). *Silent Auction bidding may begin!*

Anthems and Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome and greetings by President Wille-Schlesser

Introduction of Parliamentarian

Appointment of Officers- President Wille-Schlesser

Tellers will serve the entire District Lodge Meeting

Teller 1	Mandt	Jane	Connor
Teller 2	Vennelag	Rita	Schraepfer-Derke
Teller 3	Løven	Jeanne	Anderson

Teller 4	Valkyrien	Konnie	Jerabek
----------	-----------	--------	---------

Appointment of Officers for morning session

Marshall	Nordkap	Mary Morehead
Assistant Marshall	Fagernes	Dawn Volkman
Greeter	Idun	Mary Bennett
Greeter	Nordlyset	Beth Nelson

Introductions: District Five Officers, District Five Directors, and International Board Members

District Five Officers

President– Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
Vice President – Connie Kross
Secretary – Darlene Arneson
Treasurer – Corey Olson
Publicity Director – LaVonne Wier
Sports Director- Clara Solak
Cultural Director – Lucy Ghastin
Youth Director – Lisa Rove-Williams

District Five Directors

Laurie Barrett
Scott Wegner
Lisa Solak
Bill Bultinck

Webmasters- Richard and Christina Fairchild

International Director- Duane Kittleson

Past Officers and Directors

Past International Director and District 5 President – Jon Grinde

Past International Director and Secretary, Foundation Chair- Robin Fossum

Past District President- Mary Bennett

Past District 5 Directors and Officers- Judy Ghastin, Peggy Schroeder, Karen Broadhead, Kathy Secora, Connie Aiello, Esther Charlton, Wendy Winkelman, and Tom Boudreau.

Guests and Visitors- SN CEO Daniel Seyfried, SN Vice President of Fraternal & Foundation Development Connie O'Brien, SN Foundation Director Amy Tuchenhausen, BetterLife Representative (to be announced)

Roll Call of Delegates - Darlene Arneson, District Secretary

Report of Credentials Committee

Credentials	D5	Darlene	Arneson (Chr)
Credentials	D5	Scott	Wegner
Credentials	D5	Lucy	Ghastin

Seating of Delegates

Report of approval of District Lodge Meeting Minutes- Secretary Arneson

Review and Approval of Rules for 2026 District Lodge Meeting

Overview of activities-

Silent Auction and Foundation Night Fundraiser Report - Corey Olson

Newsletter Displays- LaVonne Wier

Cultural Arts Display- Lucy Ghastin

Updates from Convention Chair- Darlene Arneson

Presentation by Amy Tuchenhausen- SN Foundation Director

Masse Moro Task Force Report- Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

Report of the Laws Committee

Laws	SN D5 Bd Advisor	William	Bultinck
Laws	Idun	Jon	Grinde (Chr)
Laws	Skjold	James	Secora
Laws	Wergeland	David	Hendrickson
Laws	Ostestaden	Bradley	Goplen

Report of the Nominating Committee

Nominating	Int'l	Duane	Kittleson (Chr)
Nominating	D5	Cheryl	Wille-Schlesser
Nominating	Mandt	Janis	Wegner

Nominations from the Floor and process to fill any available needs

11:30 am – 12:30 pm- Lunch will be served- We will break at that time regardless of where we are on the agenda!

After the luncheon- Appointment of Officers for afternoon session – President Wille-Schlesser

Wednesday afternoon	Marshall	Edvard Grieg	Esther Charlton
Wednesday afternoon	Assistant Marshall	Vennligfolk	Sally Prideaux
Wednesday afternoon	Greeter	Edvard Grieg	Shirley Hodek
Wednesday afternoon	Greeter	Skjold	Kathy Secora

Report of the Finance Committee

Finance	SN D5 Bd Advisor	Corey	Olson
Finance	Nordkap	Haley	Jarasz (Chr)
Finance	Dovre	Robin	Fossum
Finance	Polar Star	Ken	Johnson

Report of the Reports/Publicity Committee

Reports/Publicity	SN D5 Bd Advisor	LaVonne	Wier
Reports/Publicity	Grønnavik	Peggy	Schroeder (Chr)
Reports/Publicity	Sognefjord	Gail	Taggart
Reports/Publicity	Cleng Peerson	Dawn	Gunderson
Reports/Publicity	Idum	Mary	Bennett

Presentation by International Director- Duane Kittleson

2028 Convention bid presentations

2:00 - 2:45 pm **Coffee break**

2:45 pm **Business meeting resumes**

Recall Nominations Committee

Election- District Officers and Directors

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Recreation Director
- Publicity Director
- Cultural Director
- Youth Director
- 4 At-Large Directors

- Alternates
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - At-Large
 - At-Large
 - At-Large
 - At-Large

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Resolutions	District 5 Board Advisor	Scott	Wegner
Resolutions	Circle City	Paul	Brakke
Resolutions	Mandt	Don	Amundson
Resolutions	Fosselyngen	Sue	Roedel

Report of the Fraternal Affairs Committee

Fraternal Affairs	District 5 Board Advisor	Lucy	Ghastin
Fraternal Affairs	Solvang	Judy	Gates
Fraternal Affairs	Askeladden	Jeff	Andert
Fraternal Affairs	Valhall	Richard	Wang
Fraternal Affairs	Music City Vikings	Lina	Sheahan

Sports Challenge Report– Clara Solak

4:00 pm Recess Lodge Meeting

5:00 pm Banquet at VFW- 200 Veterans Road, Stoughton

Appointment of Officers for the banquet- President Wille-Schlesser

Banquet- Installation	Marshall	Music City Vikings	Meghan Purdue
Banquet- Installation	Assistant Marshall	Løven	Barb Hardy
Banquet- Installation	Greeter	Polar Star	Stephan Tanda
Banquet- Installation	Greeter	Vennelag	Mary Gullickson-Krantz

+ + + + +

Thursday, August 6, 2026- Please note that the Business Meetings and Thursday lunch are at the Stoughton Area School District (SASD) Administrative Building- 320 North Street

Fifth District Business meeting schedule—all Delegates must attend.

9:00 am **Call to Order to Resume Business Meeting- Chair appoints 2024-2026 President Wille-Schlesser as the presiding officer for the day's business.**

Appointment of Officers for the morning session- Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

Thursday morning	Marshall	Idun	James Eliason
Thursday morning	Assistant Marshall	Mandt	Jason Jacobson
Thursday morning	Greeter	Norsemen of the Lakes	Dennis Westgor

Thursday morning	Greeter	Cleng Peerson	Dawn Gunderson
------------------	---------	---------------	----------------

Roll Call of Delegates- Secretary Arneson

Recall Committees

Finance

Reports/Publicity

Fraternal Affairs

Laws

Presentation by Dan Seyfried-President & Chief Executive Officer

Presentation by BetterLife Representative

10:00 - 10:30 am **Coffee Break and Silent Auction ends at 10:30 (end of coffee break)**

10:30 am **Business meeting resumes in Ballrooms A & B**

Presentation- Connie O'Brien- SN Vice President of Fraternal & Foundation Development

Vote on 2028 Convention Bids

Memorial Service

11:30 am- 12:30 pm **Lunch and pick up of Silent Auction Items**

12:30 pm **Business Meeting Resumes**

Appointment of Officers for the afternoon session- President Wille-Schlesser

Thursday afternoon	Marshall	Valkyrien	Karen Krumm
Thursday afternoon	Assistant Marshall	Nordlyset	Beth Caylor
Thursday afternoon	Greeter	Wergeland	Evonne Kundert
Thursday afternoon	Greeter	Nordkap	Sandra Miller

Memorial Service

Presentation of Awards

Recall Resolutions Committee

Appreciation Resolution

Final Lodge Meeting Actions

Announcements

Adjournment

+ + + + + + +

After Business Meeting Adjourns- District Five Board of Director's Gathering- New and out-going board members- Sons of Norway- Mandt Lodge

Year End Membership Numbers- December 31, 2025

Lodge Number	Lodge Name	Insurance Members	Social Members	Total Adult Members	Juvenile Members	Total Adult +Juv	Active Ins NonMbr	Total Membership	Heritage Members
5-000	Central	1,631	533	2,164	39	2,203	938	3,141	70
5-028	Wergeland	35	123	158	4	162		162	11
5-029	Løven	9	55	64	6	70		70	14
5-053	Valkyrien	6	42	48	1	49		49	6
5-074	Idun	19	64	83	3	86		86	2
5-082	Fosselyngen	13	124	137	5	142		142	7
5-100	Skjold	14	84	98	6	104		104	2
5-168	Valhall	16	53	69	2	71		71	11
5-183	Nordlyset	9	48	57	5	62		62	6
5-220	Trygvason	4	11	15		15		15	1
5-286	Jotunheimen		4	4		4		4	
5-314	Mandt	24	227	251	2	253		253	36
5-353	Dovre	9	59	68	9	77		77	12
5-378	Nordkap	4	128	132		132		132	9
5-417	Trollhaugen Disbanded	1		1		1		1	
5-457	Solvang	6	90	96	3	99		99	5
5-472	Polar Star	11	56	67	2	69		69	6
5-491	Norse Valley	5	60	65	3	68		68	7
5-496	Rib Fjell	2	26	28		28		28	

5-513	Vennelag	13	132	145	8	153		153	12
5-523	Sognefjord	3	49	52		52		52	2
5-525	Clengpeerson	9	40	49	1	50		50	
5-544	Nordland	4	21	25	1	26		26	
5-568	Christian Radich	1	26	27		27		27	
5-580	Norskeland	1	25	26		26		26	
5-600	Scandiana	4	36	40		40		40	
5-610	Askeladden	5	82	87	2	89		89	19
5-614	Circle City	8	87	95	2	97		97	12
5-616	Fagernes	6	33	39	2	41		41	8
5-625	Viking	6	12	18		18		18	4
5-627	Vennligfolk	13	71	84	2	86		86	
5-632	Grønnavik	9	60	69	5	74		74	9
5-642	Ostestaden	8	21	29		29		29	7
5-650	Norsemen Of Lakes	10	15	25	2	27		27	
5-657	Edvard Grieg	4	84	88		88		88	5
5-670	Ulseth	1	17	18		18		18	
5-677	Vikings Of The Smokies	5	49	54		54		54	15
5-681	Music City Vikings	1	41	42		42		42	1
5-689	Shawnee Skogen	2	14	16		16		16	7
5-999	Spirit New Century	12	344	356	1	357		357	16
	Total	1943	3046	4989	116	5105	938	6043	322

2026 District 5 Delegates

LODGE	Lodge Name	Count	Paddle	Delegate		Alternate	
000	Central	0		Not sending delegates			
028	Wergeland	1	1	David	Hendrickson	Heather	Jacobson
028	Wergeland	1	2	Evonne	Kundert	Carla	Burkhardt
028	Wergeland	1	3	Karen	Broadhead		
028	Wergeland	1	4	Karen	Saegrove		
029	Løven	1	5	Jeanne	Anderson		
029	Løven	1	6	Barb	Hardy		
053	Valkyrien	1	7	Konnie	Jerabek	Brian	Hanson
053	Valkyrien	1	8	Karen	Krumm	Mary Ann	Hanson
074	Idun	1	9	Mary	Bennett	Jane	Ginde

074	Idun	1	10	Jon	Grinde	Shirley	Scriver
074	Idun	1	11	James	Eliason	Carolyn	Lyle
082	Fosselyngen	1	12	Susan	Roedel	Kathy	Holmes
082	Fosselyngen	1	13	Arlette	Johnson	Susan	Van ith
082	Fosselyngen	1	14	Karen	Smeiska	Daryl	Wunrow
100	Skjold	1	15	James	Secora	Irene	Gastfield
100	Skjold	1	16	Kathy	Secora	Bill	Borndahl
100	Skjold	1	17	Laura	Askey	Karen	Pedone
168	Valhall	1	18	Richard	Wang	LeeAnn	Harp
168	Valhall	1	19	Christina	Fairchild		
183	Nordlyset	1	20	Connie	Aiello		
183	Nordlyset	1	21	Beth	Caylor		
183	Nordlyset	1	22	Beth	Nelson		
220	Trygvason	0		Not sending delegates			
314	Mandt	1	23	Andrea	Malouf	Diane	Maurer
314	Mandt	1	24	Don	Amundson	Vicky	Goplen
314	Mandt	1	25	Jane	Conner	Janis	Wegner
314	Mandt	1	26	Jason	Jacobson	John	Arneson
314	Mandt	1	27	Kristian	Lee	Vonnie	Meichtry
353	Dovre	1	28	Robin	Fossum		
353	Dovre	1	29	Elizabeth	Thompson		
378	Nordkap	1	30	Haley	Jarasz	Dennis	Flessland
378	Nordkap	1	31	Mary	Morehead	Colin	Miller
378	Nordkap	1	32	Eli	Steyskal		
457	Solvang	1	33	Judy	Gates	Diane	Piper
457	Solvang	1	34	Danika	Wehling		
472	Polar Star	1	35	Ken	Johnson	Barb	Johnson
472	Polar Star	1	36	Stephan	Tanda	Karen	Oswald
472	Polar Star	1	37	Ed	Hatteberg	Diana	Raimond
491	Norse Valley	1	38	Lois	Gruetzmacher		
491	Norse Valley	1	39	Mitch Ole	Versaas		
491	Norse Valley	1	40	LeAnn	Knoeck		
496	Rib Fjell	0		Not sending delegates			
513	Vennelag	1	41	Nancy	Kittleson	Tiffany	Schwoerer
513	Vennelag	1	42	Rita	Schraepfer- Derke	Harley	Skjerven
513	Vennelag	1	43	Mary	Gullickson- Krantz		
523	Sognefjord	1	44	Gail	Taggart		
525	Cleng Peerson	1	45	Dawn	Gunderson		
525	Cleng Peerson	1	46	Amanda	Beck		
544	Nordland	0		Disbanded- not sending delegates			
568	Christian Radich	0		Not sending delegates			
580	Norskeland	1	47	Marjorie	Krogwold		
600	Scandiana	1	48	David	Hirshy	Mark	Zimmerman
600	Scandiana	1	49	James	Nelson	Carolyn	Strohkirsch
610	Askeladden	1	50	Jeff	Andert	Karen	Hare
610	Askeladden	1	51	Diane	Andert	Elizabeth	Santas- Kraatz
614	Circle City	1	52	Paul	Brakke	Katherine	Brakke
614	Circle City	1	53	Sarah	Goodrich	Jerry	Rud
614	Circle City	1	54	Berit Marie	Skaare	Nancy	Andersen

616	Fagernes	1	55	Nettie	Weihrouch	Leland	Wier
616	Fagernes	1	56	Dawn	Volkman	Tristan	Weihrouch
625	Viking	0		Not sending delegates			
627	Vennligfolk	1	57	Tom	Boudreau	Kathy	Clucas
627	Vennligfolk	1	58	Sally	Prideaux	Arno	Morton
627	Vennligfolk	1	59	Patricia	Rous	Susan	Morton
632	Grønnvik	1	60	Peggy	Schroeder		
642	Ostestaden	1	61	Paul	Nelson	Jean	Busker
642	Ostestaden	1	62	Bradley	Goplen	Marsha	Wilhelms
650	Norsemen Of Lakes	1	63	Dennis	Westgor	Kathy	Norquist
650	Norsemen Of Lakes	1	64	Carol	Anderson		
657	Edvard Grieg	1	65	Esther	Charlton		
657	Edvard Grieg	1	66	Shirley	Hodek		
670	Ulseth	0		Disbanding-not sending delegates			
677	Vikings Of The Smokies	0		Not sending delegates			
681	Music City Vikings	1	67	Lina	Sheahan	Susan	Perdue
681	Music City Vikings	1	68	Meghan	Perdue	Grete	Terjesen
689	Shawnee Skogen	0		Disbanded - Not sending delegates			
999	Spirit New Century	0		Not sending delegates			
	District 5 Board	1	69	Darlene	Arneson		
	District 5 Board	1	70	Laurie	Barrett		
	District 5 Board	1	71	William	Bultinck		
	District 5 Board	1	72	LaVonne	Wier		
	District 5 Board	1	73	Scott	Wegner		
	District 5 Board	1	74	Clara	Solak		
	District 5 Board	1	75	Corey	Olson		
	District 5 Board	1	76	Connie	Kross		
	District 5 Board	1	77	Lisa	Solak		
	District 5 Board	1	78	Lisa	Rove-Williams		
	District 5 Board	1	79	Lucy	Ghastin		
	District 5 Board	1	80	Cheryl	Wille-Schlesser		
	International Director	1	81	Duane	Kittleson		
	Possible Delegates						
		81					

Sons of Norway District Lodge #5 By-Laws- Revised June 2024

ARTICLE I . . . NAME

Par. I 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 of the even years.

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 biennium 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 call 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 VI . . . ZONES

Par. 1- That District 5 will not have divisions called zones.

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 four At-Large Directors provided for in these By-Laws.

Par. 2. 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 the four At-Large Directors would be elected.

Par. 3 The Vice President will serve as the alternate for the President. An alternate for the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected. A pool of 4 alternates for the other officer positions and the 4 at-large directors shall also be elected.

Par. 4 A Presidential candidate shall have served on the District Board at least one full term.

Par. 5 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than three consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited.

Par. 6 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. 7 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. 8 The President shall assign to each Officer and Director the lodges to be under his or her supervision.

Par. 9 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 Fees and Dues

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

Par. 2 Funds shall be annually earmarked for the purpose of offsetting the cost of hosting a District Lodge Meeting and Convention and will be distributed to the host lodge during the month of January of the convention year.

ARTICLE IX . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT

Par. 1 District Lodge #5 will match scholarships provided to campers by their local lodges up to an amount to be determined by the District Lodge #5 Board. All Masse Moro income and expenses, except for matching funds, will be handled by the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation.

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 X...Compliance (From International January 9, 2024)

Par.1. The district must operate in full compliance with all governmental laws, regulations and applicable requirements and maintain in force all licenses, permits and approvals required for its operation within the country in which the lodge is organized.

Par. 2. The district must operate in full compliance with all laws, regulations and applicable requirements as outlined in the latest edition of the Charter, Bylaws, Policy, & Procedures (CBPP) of Sons of Norway, and as otherwise communicated to the district by the International Headquarters of Sons of Norway. These include, but are not limited to, the timely annual filing of IRS 990 forms for lodges in the United States, the D63 and D17 reports for lodges, the D64 and D18 reports for building corporations, if applicable, and the timely payment of the annual liability insurance assessment.

Par. 3. The district must adhere to the SON Social Media and Conflict of Interest/Ethics policies, and all district policies and procedures adopted by their district.

Article XI. Dissolution and Distribution of Assets (From International January 9, 2024)

Par. 1. Dissolution, either voluntary or involuntary, shall be made only in accordance with the procedures as set forth in the Sons of Norway CBPP.

Par. 2. In the event of dissolution of the lodge corporation(s), both district and building association, if applicable, it is recommended that the corporation's remaining assets shall be distributed to the Sons of Norway Foundation [a 501(c)(3) organization] or the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada [a charitable corporation in Canada], if in existence when the distribution

occurs or, if not, to a similarly designated and purposed entity or entities within the country in which the district is organized.

Par. 3. Upon dissolution of the district, district assets may not be transferred to individual members for personal benefit.

Par. 4. The plan to distribute district assets must be approved in advance by Sons of Norway Headquarters. However, Headquarters shall not oppose any plan of distribution that complies with relevant state and federal laws and regulations.

Article XII-Audits (From International January 9, 2024)

Par. 1. The district shall elect, appoint, or employ competent auditors to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis. If elected or appointed the audit team shall be composed of two (2) or more district members, and in situations where additional financial and audit experience is needed, the district shall have the option to employ one (1) or more independent auditor(s) to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis.

Par. 2. At least once each year the auditor(s) shall submit a written report of each audit to the district board.

Article XIII- Dispute Resolution (From International January 9, 2024)

Par. 1. Any grievance, complaint or dispute arising out of or in connection with SON business, at any level, if not settled to the satisfaction of the parties involved, shall only be resolved using the provisions contained in Bylaws Chapter 17 and Policies and Procedures Chapter 25 entitled Conduct and appeal process. The sections contained in these chapters prescribe the sole means to present and resolve grievances, complaints or disputes.

ARTICLE XIV . . . 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, Revised: June 28-29, 2018, Revised: January 13, 2021 by postcard ballot of 2018 Delegates; Revised June 17, 2022; Revised March 10, 2023 by postcard ballot of 2022 Delegates; Revised January 2024 by postcard ballot and mandated articles from International. Revised June 21, 2024

Officer and Other Reports

District President's Report to the Lodge

We have had a bustling biennium that brought changes in a variety of forms. The term limit of officers was changed. Zone directors were eliminated in favor of at-large directors who could serve a lodge anywhere in the district. The initial hope was that the District 5 (D5) Board could seat more district officers, not being tied to recruiting in a specific zone assignment.

Duane Kittleson was asked to return as the district's international director following the departure of an International Board of Directors member.

Some district trainings went virtual; others were held locally. Information sessions aided lodges with their elections, general procedures, explained how to complete administrative paperwork, and provided updates on district events.

One of our biggest challenges in the Friendly Fifth is filling leadership positions. We had three resignations from the district board earlier this year but were able to fill the positions by reassigning some of our at-large directors and asking our alternates for help. We also sought assistance from former board members.

Requiring a financial product purchase as a prerequisite for service complicates the situation. Although we have approached the International Board of Directors with this concern, it is felt that product ownership is necessary. Thus, we are unable to seat interested members whose fabulous ideas and leadership skills lie fallow, halting productivity, and the growth of the Sons of Norway.

District five's heritage camp Masse Moro was evaluated at the request of the 2024 delegate assembly. The camp is widely appreciated by our youth and their families who wish it to remain as originally designed and delivered. The concept of offering a one week camp and a family camp were turned down by the administrative team. This summer's enrollment was thirty-nine campers. Past director Lisa Rove-Williams assumed the youth director position following the resignation of Robert Schuck in January.

Lisa also oversees the district scholarships. She noted that few applications were received this year. How is your lodge promoting scholarship offerings? Check the District 5 webpage to see a complete list www.sonsofnorway5.com.

Operating a specialty camp has its challenges, but donations from individuals and foundations made camp a reality. Sons of Norway membership is not required for attendance. You can assist D5 by sending the youth you know to camp and by directing memorials to the *District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation* earmarked for Masse Moro. One can also make contributions through an investment's required yearly minimum distribution (RMD), or via estate bequests. Zeffy, a free fundraising platform, can be found on the Masse Moro homepage: www.massemoro.org making it painless to assist our efforts.

Past Vice President Jim Herman asked that our at-large directors contact all our local lodges during the biennium. Most lodges have had either a virtual or in-person visit from district leadership. Those without a visit must be prioritized for the next two-year cycle.

Jim also designed a survey to determine lodge health. Those presidents who returned the survey indicated that their lodge was actively engaged. The D5 Board knows there are lodges who are struggling, but they have not contacted the district for assistance. Some of our lodges wait until the 11th hour when it is too late to reverse a concern. The District 5 Board is the first responder when it comes to lodge assistance.

Par for the course, membership recruitment and retention remain high priorities. Following Jim's departure, past D5 director Connie Kross assumed this position. She receives a monthly membership report from the home office and contacts those members whose name appears.

The Barnebirkie and the Adult Heritage Weekend (AHW) events were well received, and they allowed members to highlight the offerings of the Fifth District. Opportunities were made to enroll new members and much advertising about the Sons of Norway was distributed. Attendees enjoyed many breakout sessions at the AHW. The story of the Restauration's US arrival in 1825 was well told by Barb Johnson and Connie Kross who had family members aboard the ship. District 5 Publicity Director La Vonne Wier has tried to keep critical issues in front of the membership. She has also sent lodge pictures for publication in Viking magazine.

The district's cultural trunks have been moved around the district per requests. Cultural director Lucy Ghastin is working to create a virtual program of the trunk contents. With lodges leaving the southern portion of our district, transportation is becoming more of a concern. She also has plans to promote cultural skills projects at the 2026 convention. Grants are available to district lodges for special needs or projects.

Connie Aiello resigned her position as Foundation Director when her Sons of Norway policy lapsed. Scott Wegner replaced her. Lodges have been asked to contribute more monies to the Foundation, and a suggestion was received to use the monthly lodge membership stipends for this purpose.

Have you received a copy of the Friendly Fifth Friday News (FFFN)? It is a weekly publication originating at the desk the district secretary Darlene Arneson. The newsletter provides updates to our district each week. All are welcome to contribute news "for the good of the order." Remember that our district has a website with further information for you to consider, www.sonsofnorway5.com. Submissions about your lodge events are welcome! Contact our webmaster, Christina Fairchild. inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com The International webpage also has a page for posting upcoming events, www.sofn.com.

Following a decade of service in a variety of district positions, I have chosen to relinquish my presidential role. It has been a great honor to serve the many members of the Fifth District. I enjoyed attending many great lodge offerings, and I extend a heartfelt thanks to the many lodges who welcomed me into their midst. Attending anniversary celebrations and other festive events were especially enjoyable. I would also like to thank the entire District 5 Board for their devotion, expertise, and guidance. Connie Aiello is to be commended for her metropolitan driving skills that ensured that district directors arrived safely where they were requested. I wish the 5th District much continued success as they work to keep all lodges vibrant and growing. As your lodge plans its membership recruitment opportunities, please share your ideas. We are stronger together.

Fraternally,
Cheryl

District Vice President's Report to the Lodge

Greetings from Vice President Connie Kross!

As an alternate to the Board, I was asked to step into the Vice President's position after Jim Herman resigned from the board. So, my experience has just been since March, and I will share some thoughts about membership as that is the focus of this position.

Thank you to Jim Herman who served as the Vice President, on the Executive Committee, and on the SN District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation board for most of this biennium. Jim's experience with finances and management gave the board a new perspective as it addressed challenges and opportunities for programs and activities. He was instrumental in setting up a tracking system for the board which encouraged them to visit or have contact with each of the lodges in our District. He also led the membership tracking and kept the board aware of challenges that lodges were experiencing. Jim's humor, perspective, and knowledge was welcomed by the board. We want to thank him for his service.

As I entered this role, I am aware of the many challenges that lodges are facing. We have had a number of lodges close this past biennium due to declining membership, advancing age of core members, and challenges of attracting new members. The board has tried to help as it could by offering ZOOM calls and training, visits with boards or the lodge, and other support it could give. We have partnered with International staff when we needed their help and support.

But on a positive, we have had two inquiries about starting new lodges or to at least explore the potential! One is to resurrect the Birkebeiner Lodge in Hayward, WI and we just had a request from a member who moved to the Euclid, Ohio area. So, we will work with them and the International office to assist however we can!

I wish there was a magic box filled with the answers or tools to address how to attract new members, how to fill officer positions, how to increase attendance at meetings and other common challenges. In the meantime, we work together to use the resources that the International and District offer and how they can be used with the local lodge. We are all learning about the new partnership with BetterLife and the opportunities that it has for us. We also encourage lodges to "think outside the box" when looking at lodge operations, partnering with other groups, and asking members what they want, and how to invite their friends and family to get involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Connie Kross

District Secretary Report to the Lodge

Welcome to Stoughton and thank you for representing your lodges and taking time to attend the District Lodge Meeting and Convention. We are excited to have you here with us as we conduct the business of the District, showcase lodges and members, learn and grow, and have a lot of fun!

This biennium has had its share of accomplishments, challenges, and changes. I think when we are involved in membership organizations for some time, we experience all of those things as every organization will grow, change and move ahead. I know some of these things have

caused stress on local lodges as they face membership challenges, filling officer positions, attracting people to their events, and just burning out. We don't have a magic pill to give lodges but what we do have, is people willing to help!

Each lodge is unique in its location, how far people have to travel to meetings and activities, the age range of its members, and its financial situation. If COVID taught us anything, it was how to use virtual platforms to connect people and I'm a firm believer in offering assistance that way as I'm still working and traveling to a lodge in person is a challenge for me. But I encourage the lodges to utilize what the International and District's offer for training, programs, and assistance that way. And to also consider using technology to reach out to our members. We saw a number of lodges disband this biennium but also have two members who have reached out interested in starting lodges! So that is exciting. We can work off the excitement of Norway in the FIFA World Cup and capture all the U.S. members new awareness and enthusiasm of Norway! Maybe they might now have an interest in their family connections which could lead to interest in Sons of Norway.

We have great board members, and this was my first experience with many transitions on board. We thank the board members who left during the biennium for their service, time and dedication. We also welcomed new members who stepped up and stepped into roles for a pretty fast learning curve. I know at the time of this going to print, the Nominations Committee is struggling to fill positions for the 2026-28 biennium, and I hope that if you are eligible, you consider this opportunity to serve.

We have exciting times now with the BetterLife partnership. We have much to learn about the details and what changes, improvements, and benefits it offers. I am hopeful that our members will look at their products that would benefit you and also qualify more of our members as benefit members.

Thank you again for your trust in me as your District Secretary. I enjoy my interactions with all of you, with our board, and with our International Staff and Board. I have been blessed to be a part of this great organization for over 40 years and look forward to more fun and learning!

Fraternally, Darlene Arneson

District Treasurer's Report to the Lodge

Welcome District Board Officers, Directors and Delegates to the District Lodge meeting in Stoughton, Wisconsin. Host Mandt Lodge and The District Board have planned a great agenda and the venues look to furnish a very productive and fun time for everyone.

I was elected as Alternate Treasurer at the 2022 District 5 convention, took over as Treasurer effective January 1, 2023 after the resignation the Treasurer elected during the 2022 convention, and was re-elected as Treasurer at the 2024 convention.

A little background on myself. My career has been in accounting. I have worked in large national public accounting firms twice in my career and the remainder has been as an accounting professional at a large multi-national consumer products manufacturer where I am currently employed as the State Income Tax Reporting Manager. I also have been actively involved in volunteering during my career on church boards, a parochial school board and a local high

school booster club board with most of my positions being Treasurer. I am currently Treasurer of my church, my local Sons of Norway Lodge in addition to being the District 5 Treasurer.

The period of time being reported on is January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. During this period, we had net income of \$25,587 in the District 5 Lodge (D5) entity and net income of \$20,568 in the Nordic Legacy Foundation entity (NLF). The net income for NLF over the two year span is mostly due to strong undesignated donations. D5 activity is focused on the business of managing the District such as twice a year Board of Director meetings, local Lodge leadership support/training, and in 2024 planning and running the convention. NLF is a 501 c(3) entity which accepts donations that qualify as charitable donations to the donor. The primary activities of the NLF have been fundraising to support grants to local Lodges, support and run the Norwegian heritage camp-Masse Moro each summer, and support the Barnebirkie event in Hayward, Wisconsin by providing cookies and information on SoN and Masse Moro.

The regulatory filings for 2024 and 2025 have all been timely filed for both D5 and NLF. These include the D17 to International SON, Form 990-EZ, D5 Illinois Not for Profit Report, NLF Wisconsin Annual Domestic Non-Stock Report, Wisconsin Sales Tax Report, and 1099's for Masse Moro contracted camp staff and D5 BOD stipends.

I meet with the D5 Audit committee, which currently consists of Chair Bill Bultinck and LaVonne Wier, after the year-end financials are prepared for them to review the financial reports prior to me completing and filing the D17 and 990-EZ. I also meet with them prior to the Spring and Fall D5 BOD meeting. I also meet with the D5 Finance and Budget Committee which currently consists of Curtis Cleveland with me presiding as Chair. I meet with them after the Audit Committee meeting so any questions/issues raised are resolved prior to the Finance and Budget Committee meeting. I would like to thank Bill, LaVonne, and Curtis for their efforts on these committees.

Have a great convention and respectfully submitted,
Corey Olson, Treasurer

District Sports Director Report to the Lodge

Following my installment in 2024, I had a lot to learn about this role and what it brings as Sports Director. Darlene Arneson and Lucy Ghaslin were part of the sports committee. With help from Lisa Solak, we both came up with the throwing Challenge. I brought up the idea to Darlene and Lucy, and they enjoyed the idea greatly.

We made a paper you can download online so you can log the activity, minutes, and if it was a lodge activity or individual. Once you logged all you wanted to, you would then send it to me and would receive a prize.

American Birkebeiner's Barnebirkie or children's annual ski race these last 2 years has been an experience. A very good one to say the least. The first year I shadowed Cheryl to see how it works. I learned a lot that first year how the cookie tent worked and how the expo recruitment worked as well. It was a lot of fun and I had a great time with the volunteers! The next year for Barnebirke, it was my time to fly solo! I spent the first day setting up the cookie tent and handing out cookies to all the kids who competed. The kids were super excited to see the cookie tent! After Barnebirke I took the leftover cookies to the Expo to give to Judy and Lucy so they can hand them out while talking about Sons of Norway District 5.

Now, for Barnebirke 2027, I will NOT be in attendance for barnebirke. I will be in college going to University of Illinois Springfield. It will be too long of a drive and I will be missing classes if I attend. I have a hotel room saved for anyone who wishes to go and help transport cookies and help with the cookies. PLEASE, let me know when you can.

Even though I will be away at college I will still serve as sports director for another term. I hope you all enjoyed the throwing challenge and the next challenge will be announced soon!

Clara Solak

District Publicity Director's Report to the Lodge

Ah, Publicity. That's a job like washing dishes...it is never completely finished.

Since the cutback of the Viking issues to 6 per year, there has been a definite decline in the number of photos submitted to me. Sometimes my quirky requests for more participation were successful, and other times, not so much. I hope people are enjoying seeing their submitted photos in Happenings Extra, District 5 on the Sons of Norway website, and on the District 5 Photo Gallery. It is great to see all the neat activities the lodges have going on. Unfortunately, many lodges still do not participate by submitting their cool photos.

Advertising and posting of events can make people aware of your lodge's happenings. "Posting" can take several forms. There are the local newspaper ads; radio ads; TV ads; Facebook ads; Twitter; paper flyers, and other newer venues I probably haven't heard of. Coordination with the people who run those programs can be an advantage. In my lodge, a local radio station advertises our events as a community service at no charge. The local TV station has also agreed to post our announcements/events without charging us. It just took **direct communication** with them to get their cooperation.

Getting with the newer technology, I made up a business card for our lodge with a QR code. The idea came from Connie Aiello. We can hand a prospective member the card; they click on the QR code; and are brought to the Sons of Norway website. We used a QR code on a flyer at the Barnebirke. Many parents "clicked" on it, and we didn't need paper information sheets. The person can read the information at their leisure. It worked really well!

It isn't the old days anymore, when there were limited choices. As we all are aware, there are OODLES of activities, events and groups that vie for our attention and participation. Creating interest in Sons of Norway has to compete with so many other things. Parents and grandparents have many more kinds of school sports games to attend; children have classes and groups outside of school hours that require time and attendance. I've heard individuals say that they can "only do so much", and the children's activities get the priority. I feel another factor is the myriad of choices for watching shows and movies through a television, and games people entertain themselves with using the computer or cell phone. You don't have to leave home anymore to be entertained!

Another factor that is obvious is the number of generations since the ancestors emigrated from Scandinavia. Many of us are of "blended" ancestry. In some cases, the traditions and food of the grandparents was not taught to the young ones. They don't feel an affinity for the history of the past. When I did a Reading Program at a school recently, I asked a question. I asked if the

children if they knew their ancestry. Only a very few knew anything about it, as they hadn't been told.

Within the lodge, the members should be kept informed and encouraged to participate in meetings, programs, activities, etc. Emails, phone calls, Facebook posts, etc. can remind members of events. With so many other things to attend, (including doctor appointments!) a reminder can be a welcome memory jog for some folks. Schedules can be in the newsletter and in the program booklet for the year, and still be missed. A good reminder is a list of most "doings" on one sheet that could be posted on the refrigerator or where it will be easily viewed.

Another factor in attracting and retaining members falls to your Program Committee. Are the programs and events of interest to the members? Does the Committee work and seek to bring speakers and events that are fun and interesting? It is hard to attract new people if what is advertised is boring.

For the convention, all lodges are invited to bring their lodge banners for display. There isn't a contest, but we love to see all the beautiful banners.

I encourage all lodges to bring a board with samples of your newsletters. At first I was going to have you bring just the front page, but now I would like to see the entire newsletters. Your great ideas might give another lodge ideas to bring to their own newsletter!

LaVonne Wier

Cultural Director's Report to the Lodge

Thank you to Cultural Committee members LaVonne Wier and Scott Wegner for their work over the last two years.

Over the past two years, our committee has received requests from several District 5 lodges for reimbursement of the \$13 shipping fee for orders of cultural and sports awards. Approved requests were sent to the treasurer for reimbursement. Our committee was pleased with the lodge responses to this District 5 program to help lodges promote cultural projects and sports events.

The committee also processed several grants for small projects, and 3-4 matching funds grants were awarded to lodges for large projects ranging from expenses to create a memorable Adult Retreat Weekend last October in Norway, Illinois (Polar Star and Cleng Person) to a wood-carving project to create a replacement statue in a local park and later a new wood sign (Scandiana). Matching funds were also granted to bring a Norwegian artist who creates woven tapestries to Eau Claire (Loven).

When Rivojen Jørn Magnus attended the 2024 D5 Sons of Norway Convention in Indianapolis, he presented District 5 with one of his carved Sami bowls for us to use as a fund raiser to help support Masse Moro, our District Youth Heritage Camp. This bowl will be put in an online auction from mid-July to the end of July in 2026. The winner of this bowl can collect it at our 2026 District 5 Convention in Stoughton, WI.

The third trunk for our cultural arts collection of artifacts received its rosemaling decorations by Lois Mueller during this biennium. This trunk is a scale size copy of a family immigrant trunk. Now we have two trunks and one chest with cultural items that can travel to lodges for a

program. The new trunk system depends on D5 Board members and lodges to schedule and move the trunks or chest from lodge to lodge. Under this plan lodges will request the date and trunk they hope to use. Our committee only received one trunk request, which was handled via a transfer from a Board member to that lodge.

Our committee created a challenge for 2025-26: asking members to try a new cultural skill they had never done before. The responses to this project were amazing—the first lodge submission had 6 participating members, and the last one we received had 5 lodge members doing cultural skills.

Lucy Ghastin
D5 Cultural Director

Youth Director's Report to the Lodge

Committee Members: Lisa Rove-Williams, Chair; LaVonne Weir and Scott Wegner

Masse Moro:

This report is being written before Masse Moro has taken place, so it sets forth the status of camp as of two days before staff arrive and four days before campers arrive.

The Heritage & Grants Committee has had several virtual meetings with the Masse Moro leadership staff over the last several months to make sure that everything was moving forward in a timely manner. The committee feels confident that camp leadership is organized and ready for camp, which will take place July 12 – July 25.

Returning co-administrators Keir Kristiansen and Zach Garner, along with new co-directors Lily Mentzer and Abby Olson, have demonstrated strong organizational skills and careful attention to detail. They have met on a regular basis with the undersigned youth director since the beginning of the year and seem quite prepared for camp.

The goal was to have forty campers this year. That goal was originally reached, but two registered campers have had to back out, one due to the parents thinking she wasn't ready for a stay-over camp at age eight, and the other because the parents had financial hardship and were unable to pay for the tuition. The remaining thirty-eight campers who are expected to attend will come from all over the country.

The advertising for camp was a bit different this year from last year. An advertisement appeared in the District 3 Convention Journal, another appeared in the Norwegian National League's 17th of May celebration booklet, and a third appeared in the March/April issue of Viking Magazine.

Tuition remains at \$1,200. Many District 5 and some District 1 lodges have provided financial support for their members' children or grandchildren. District 5 is again matching lodge supporting grants from this district up to \$250. Opportunities for tuition discounts have been given for early bird registration, first-time campers, referring a friend to camp, and families sending more than one child to camp.

Camp leadership created an Amazon wish-list for camp, and many items were purchased by donors and will be used at camp. In addition, several monetary donations were received for camp by both lodges and individuals, the amounts of which ranged from \$10 - \$1,000.

Activity specialists are returning to camp for rosemaling and woodcarving instruction.

The health aide position will be split by two returning registered nurses for one week apiece.

In the past, there has often been a problem with head cooks who exceeded the budgeted amount for food, who did not offer typical Norwegian dishes, and who purchased expensive, unhealthy processed foods. To alleviate these problems, not only this year, but into the future, as well, the youth director and the camp's longtime baker, "Jakob," have created a menu for Masse Moro cooks to follow; it is a combination of Norwegian samplings along with typical American fare appealing to children. (The menu follows this report.) Jakob has also worked with the new head cook to place a well-thought-out order from Sysco. In addition, Jakob is going to take the head cook shopping before camp begins for foods which are best purchased from small local vendors.

Although there isn't a native Norwegian counselor on staff like last year, the \$1,500 travel expense which was saved has allowed for the hiring of three junior counselors at \$500 each.

Scholarships:

The Heritage & Grants Committee received only three applications for the four available scholarships, so each applicant was able to receive an award. Brady Berg received the \$1,500 Cyril K. Wittrock Scholarship funded by Skjold Lodge. His sister Tessa Berg received the \$1,500 Olav J. Eide Scholarship funded by Fosselyngen Lodge. Brady will be a freshman at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, and his sister will be a senior there. They are the grandchildren of Dorothy Berg from Vennligfolk Lodge. Board member Clara Solak received a \$500 District 5 Scholarship. She is the daughter of board member Lisa Solak. Clara will be transferring from junior college to the University of Illinois – Springfield.

Note:

The youth director will provide an updated report post-camp at the August board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rove-Williams
Youth Director

Menu for Masse Moro 2026

Friday: Dinner (staff only) – ordering pizza, plus green salad from kitchen

Saturday: Breakfast (staff only) – cold cereal, yogurt, muffins, fruit
Lunch (staff only) – BLT sandwiches, chips, veggie tray
Dinner (staff only) – eating at restaurant

Sunday: Breakfast (staff only) – French toast, hashbrown potatoes, sausage, fruit
Lunch (staff only) – deli sandwiches, chips
Dinner (staff to grill) – hot dogs, sweet corn, baked beans, chips, melon

Monday: Breakfast – Norwegian *
Lunch – chili, cornbread, salad
Dinner – baked chicken breasts w/brown gravy, wild rice, green beans

Tuesday: Breakfast – breakfast burritos
Lunch – grilled cheese sandwiches, tomato soup, fruit
Dinner – baked ham, cheesy potatoes, salad

Wednesday: Breakfast – Norwegian *
Lunch – Karbonader, potato pancakes, cucumber salad
Dinner – Italian pasta dish, salad, garlic bread

Thursday: Breakfast – banana pancakes, bacon, fruit
Lunch – chicken & wild rice casserole, salad
Dinner – baked turkey w/brown gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli

Friday: Breakfast – Norwegian *
Lunch – vegetable soup, bread, fruit
Dinner – (Taco Fridag) tacos, Mexican rice, chips & salsa, assorted melon

Saturday: Breakfast – scrambled eggs, hashbrown potatoes, bacon, fruit
Lunch – Floytegrot, flatbread, sliced ham
Banquet ** – Norwegian meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, lingonberries

Sunday: Brunch – Norwegian * and Risengrynsgrøt
Dinner (staff to grill) – barbecued chicken tenders, mac & cheese, salad

Monday: Breakfast – French toast, sausage, fruit
Lunch – leftovers
Dinner – Lapskaus, flat bread, lingonberries

Tuesday: Breakfast – Norwegian *
Lunch – chicken noodle soup, fruit, bread
Dinner – pizza, salad

Wednesday: Breakfast – egg bake, fruit, muffins
Lunch – Smorrebrod, fruit salad
Dinner – ham-filled Klubb, cauliflower, lingonberries

Thursday: Breakfast – Norwegian *
Lunch – pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, potato salad
Dinner – creamed chicken over biscuits, green beans

Friday: Breakfast – scrambled eggs, bacon, hashbrown potatoes
Lunch – leftovers
Banquet ** – Norwegian ribs, roasted potatoes, cucumber salad

Saturday: Breakfast – Norwegian * w/ added pastries

* The Norwegian breakfast includes breads, muffins, jams, sliced meats, Jarlsberg and brown cheeses, herring, sardines, cucumbers, tomatoes, fruits, hard-cooked egg slices, granola, and fruit soup.

** The two banquets feature Norwegian dishes and are fancier than regular dinners.

Note: Not listed here are items for the mid-morning snack, which can be determined according to items on hand. Typical items include cinnamon rolls, veggies & dip, string cheese, sliced fruit, etc.

Also not listed here are desserts, which can range from brownies and cookies to Norwegian cakes and rice pudding.

Sons of Norway District Foundation Director's Report to the Lodge

Hello 2026 Delegates,

Here is my foundation report. Since I am so new to the position, I have taken some information from Connie Aiello's 2025 report to the board and pasted in where District 5 Lodges have benefited from the foundation.

In 2025, the Foundation received 1,357 individual donations and 233 lodge contributions, totaling \$292,000. The *Together We Are the Future* campaign successfully met its goal. This year, the Foundation received 75 grant applications requesting \$200,000 and 300 scholarship applications, all of which are currently under review. Grant recipients will be announced in April, with scholarship awards to follow in May.

At the most recent District Directors meeting, the Foundation was asked to develop a brief in-house video to assist lodges with grant writing and to consider offering this content as a breakout session at conventions when feasible.

The Sons of Norway Foundation will begin celebrating its 60th Anniversary this summer in conjunction with district conventions. Districts are encouraged to recognize this milestone at their conventions and throughout the year by honoring members who have supported the Foundation over the past six decades. District Presidents and District Foundation Directors are asked to coordinate with the Foundation to ensure honorary members are invited and recognized appropriately.

2024 Sons of Norway Foundation Annual Report

The 2024 Annual Report is now available on the Sons of Norway website. The Foundation remains committed to responsible fiscal stewardship, with scholarship and grant distributions determined by a percentage of total assets approved by the Board of Governors. As of December 31, 2024, the Foundation's net fund value was \$12.4 million.

In 2024, the Foundation awarded \$218,155 in support of fraternal communities, including camperships, cultural and humanitarian grants, and scholarships.D5 Sons of Norway Foundation Report March 2026

Foundation Director Presentations done by Connie Aiello

Since the last District 5 Board meeting, I delivered two Foundation presentations (Nordlyset and Music City Vikings) highlighting the Sons of Norway Foundation and the District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation. These discussions indicated that some members may not fully understand the similarities, differences, and respective roles of the two foundations. I recommend that the Foundation Director and the District 5 Board provide additional education for members on both foundations and the various grant opportunities available to support lodge growth and sustainability.

Members have also raised concerns regarding the most recent dues increase; clear communication about how both foundations provide value to individual members and to lodges may be helpful. I am scheduled to present at Scandiana in April 2026. This will be my final Foundation presentation. This presentation has been in development since last fall, and I would like to honor my commitment. Scott Wegner will be assuming the role of Foundation Director. It has been a pleasure to serve on the District 5 Board, develop lasting relationships, and strengthen connections with lodges throughout the District.

Fraternaly yours,
Connie Aiello

District 5 Lodges that have benefitted from the following grants are:

Community Partnership Grants:

Polar Star Lodge 5-472 | “Celebrating Norwegian Immigration” Culture Weekend

Lodge Vitality Grants:

Norse Valley Lodge, 5-491 | Parade Banner and Poles

Vennelag Lodge 5-513 | Meeting Hall Exterior Painting

Music City Vikings Lodge 5-681 | Celebrate Nashville Heritage Festival Participation

In 2025, the Sons of Norway Foundation distributed over \$273,000 in awards.

- \$148,00 in Scholarships
- \$110,000 in Grants and Heritage for Norwegian Culture
- \$15,000 in camperships for kids

From Scott Wegner, D-5 Foundation Director.

For 2026:

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Sons of Norway Foundation, this year we have seen increased participation and meaningful contributions that directly support more grants and Scholarships. This year, the Foundation awarded 60 grants and because of the 60th anniversary we are issuing a challenge to all the lodges to please consider contributing \$60 in honor of the Foundations 60 years of impact. Please bring your lodges check to present during the coffee hour at the District 5 convention in Stoughton.

At the D-5 spring board meeting 2026, I was able raise over \$300 by conducting a Cheese Tasting Challenge and basket raffle for the Nordic Legacy Foundation and International Foundation.

We look forward to the successes of the International Foundation, the Legacy Foundation and all D-5 Lodges during the next biennium.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Wegner / 2026 Foundation Director

District Webmaster's Report to the Lodge

These are the tasks that we have performed during the past few months:

- We have uploaded twenty-eight newsletters from thirteen lodges:
 - Askeladden, Circle City, Gronnvik, Idun, Loven, Music City Viking, Nordkap, Norse Valley, Polar Star, Valhall, Vennelag, Vennligfolk, Wergeland
- Worked with Darlene on posting the Friday Friendly Fifth News and updating website documents.
- We continued to work with the District Five Board members and lodges to update their D5 website information.
- We continue to receive events of interest from lodges and post them to the calendar as they come in.
- We continue to update the District 5 Convention information as needed.
- Created a banner to bring attention to Norway playing in the World Cup and posted further information under NewsFlash.
- We continue to remove old, outdated information.
- We continue to work with our web hosts, Jeremy and Pat.
- Answering emails as needed

Future Website changes:

- Continue to keep the website updated and remove outdated information.
- Create more lodge photo banners to help promote the lodge by featuring the lodges on our front page.
(This can be done through the monthly lodge Viking magazine photo submissions) some of the photos we are receiving are too grainy due to low resolution.
- If your lodge has a favorite Norwegian recipe (a video of you making it or the recipe), has a cultural class, or a program that would be of interest to others, send us the information and we will post it on the website.
- We would like the lodges to review their lodge page to verify their information is up to date and send the webmaster any changes to lodge meeting locations, current president, and contact information, such as phone numbers and emails.

Vision for the future:

Continue making the D5 website a central hub of District Five communication.

Note: We have started the process of creating instructions on how to modify the website.

Report Summary:

There were many changes to the website in the last four months. We are continuously looking for ways to update and create a user-friendly website.

Fraternally,

Christina Fairchild – Webmaster

Richard Fairchild – Assistant Webmaster

Active users▼ by Country



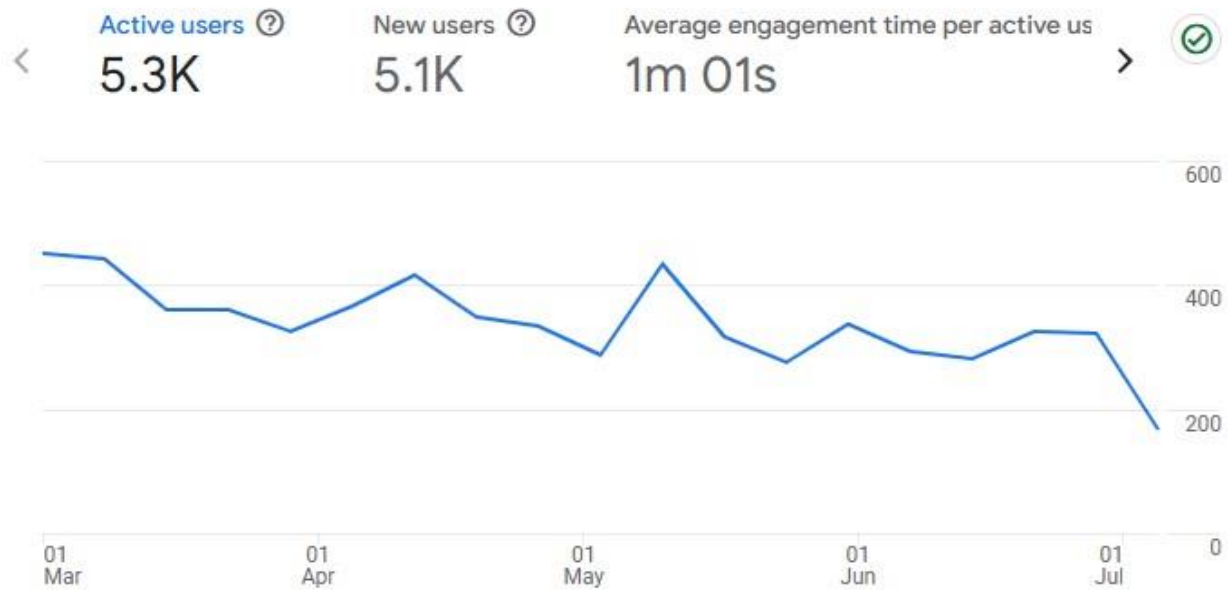
COUNTRY	ACTIVE USERS
United States	3.3K
Singapore	1.4K
China	229
Norway	80
Germany	53
Thailand	39
Canada	32

Top countries accessing the D5 website.

Views by Page title and screen class

PAGE TITLE AND SCREEN ...	VIEWS
Sons of Norway District 5	2.2K
Friendly Fifth Friday Sons o...	1.9K
Lodge Directory Sons of No...	829
Upcoming Events Sons of ...	682
Convention Schedule and Ev...	523
District Conventions Sons o...	514
Mandt 314 Stoughton Wisco...	469

Most active pages of the D5 website.



This is the number of users accessing the website (broken into weekly periods)

Sessions by Session primary channel

SESSION PRIMARY ...	SESSIONS
Direct	4.3K
Organic Search	3.2K
Referral	150
Unassigned	57
Organic Social	43
AI Assistant	7

Source of the internet searches leading to the D5 website.

Masse Moro Task Force Report to the District Lodge

The delegates to the District 5 Lodge Meeting held in Indianapolis in June 2024 passed a resolution directing the district president to conduct a review of the Masse Moro (the district's youth camp) operations. The district president called for participation from members across the district's geographic region.

Masse Moro Task Force- Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

The work of the (MMTF) has concluded. The report of the Task Force from Robert Schuck follows.

Report of the Sons of Norway Fifth District Norwegian Heritage Camp Masse Moro Task Force

To: Sons of Norway Fifth District Board of Directors

From: Masse Moro Task Force

Date: April 25, 2025

Subject: Review and Recommendations Regarding Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp

Executive Summary:

The Masse Moro Task Force was convened to review current operations, promotion, recruitment, and staffing of the Sons of Norway Fifth District Norwegian Heritage Camp, Masse Moro. Furthermore, the task force was tasked with reviewing and exploring potential options for the District Board regarding camp scheduling, duration, and other operational details.

Following a thorough review, the task force recommends maintaining the current program and schedule for Masse Moro, with considerations for improvement detailed below.

Current Program and Schedule:

Masse Moro provides a valuable opportunity for youth to connect with their Norwegian heritage through language, culture, and traditional activities. The current program effectively balances educational components with engaging recreational activities, fostering a positive and enriching experience for campers. The existing schedule of a two-week-long camp during the summer in the month of July has proven successful in attracting and accommodating campers and staff.

Review of Operations:

The task force found the current camp operations with two camp co-administrators to be well-managed. Masse Moro benefits from resolute staff and volunteers who are enthusiastic about sharing Norwegian heritage.

Review of Promotion and Recruitment:

While Masse Moro has a dedicated core of returning campers, the task force believes that outreach efforts can be enhanced to attract a broader audience.

Recommendations include:

- Targeted Marketing: Utilizing social media, local community events like the American Birkebeiner ski race, Hayward, WI, and Scandinavian Day Festival in South Elgin Illinois. Partnerships with schools and cultural organizations also promote the camp. Continued communication and outreach to current and past campers occur throughout the year. Outreach and marketing to all lodges, especially in District 1 and District 5, occur throughout the year.

- Alumni Network: Developing an alumni network to encourage past campers to return as staff or volunteers and to promote the camp within their communities is in progress.
- Scholarship Opportunities: Continuing to support funding and offering scholarships and matching grants with the local lodges to make camp more accessible to families with financial constraints.

Review of Staffing:

Masse Moro's success hinges on its dedicated staff. The task force recommends the camp co-administrators continue to mentor and encourage the counselors as they move along the path from junior counselors to counselors and then up to senior staff.

Recommendations:

1. Maintain Current Program and Schedule: The task force recommends retaining the present two-week program and summer schedule for Masse Moro, recognizing its proven success.
2. Enhance Promotion and Recruitment: A targeted marketing strategy, development of an alumni network, and continuing District Five Lodge support and funding of scholarships and matching grants with local lodges are recommended to broaden camp participation.
3. Strengthen Staffing: Continuing to encourage volunteer recruitment, and competitive compensation for staff to ensure the continued quality of the camp experience.

Conclusion:

The Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp plays a vital role in preserving and promoting Norwegian heritage and culture for children within and beyond the Sons of Norway Fifth District.

By implementing the recommendations outlined in this report, the camp can continue to thrive and provide enriching experiences for future generations. The task force commends the dedication of the current camp staff and volunteers and believes that these recommendations will further enhance the camp's success.

District Financial Report

2024 - 2025 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS			
	2024	2025	
BALANCE SHEET			
Assets			
D5 Checking Account	\$ 63,692	\$ 61,492	
NLF Checking Account	\$ 33,048	\$ 48,113	
D5 SofN Investment Account	\$ 200,405	\$ 206,417	
NLF SofN Investment Account	\$ 45,570	\$ 51,980	
Total	\$ 342,715	\$ 368,002	
Liabilities and Net Worth			
Liabilities	\$ 2,430	\$ 46	
Net Worth	\$ 340,285	\$ 367,956	
Total	\$ 342,715	\$ 368,002	
INCOME STATEMENT			
Income			
District 5			
Membership Dues	\$ 37,393	\$ 40,004	
Convention	\$ 25,600	\$ -	
Other D5 Income	\$ 6,237	\$ -	
D5 Income	\$ 69,230	\$ 40,004	
Nordic Legacy Foundation			
Masse Moro	\$ 49,442	\$ 49,700	
Other NLF Income	\$ 14,504	\$ 15,409	
NLF Income	\$ 63,947	\$ 65,109	
Income from Investment Accounts			
D5	\$ 4,887	\$ 6,012	
NLF	\$ 981	\$ 1,409	
Investment Account Income	\$ 5,868	\$ 7,421	
Total Combined Income	\$ 139,044	\$ 112,534	
Expenses			
District 5			
D5 Board meetings	\$ (36,060)	\$ (18,837)	
D5 Convention	\$ (25,588)	\$ -	
Other D5 Expenses	\$ (4,146)	\$ (9,915)	
D5 Expenses	\$ (65,794)	\$ (28,752)	
Nordic Legacy Foundation			
Masse Moro	\$ (47,827)	\$ (49,414)	
Other NLF Expenses	\$ (6,938)	\$ (6,698)	
NLF Expenses	\$ (54,765)	\$ (56,112)	
Total Combined Expenses	\$ (120,559)	\$ (84,864)	
Combined Income/(Loss)	\$ 18,485	\$ 27,670	

NLF Designated Cash		
	2024	2025
Masse Moro	\$ 13,369	\$ 21,058
Barnebirkie	\$ 5,960	\$ 7,061
Adult Heritage	\$ 5,048	\$ 4,557
Undesignated	\$ 54,241	\$ 67,417
Total	\$ 78,618	\$ 100,093

Net Inc / (Loss) by Entity		
	2024	2025
D5 Income	\$ 74,117	\$ 46,016
D5 Expenses	\$ (65,794)	\$ (28,752)
Net Inc/(Loss)	\$ 8,323	\$ 17,264
NLF Income	\$ 64,927	\$ 66,518
NLF Expenses	\$ (54,765)	\$ (56,112)
Net Inc/(Loss)	\$ 10,162	\$ 10,406
Total	\$ 18,485	\$ 27,670

NLF Inc / (Loss) by Activity		
	2024	2025
Masse Moro Inc	\$ 49,442	\$ 49,700
Masse Moro Exp	\$ (47,827)	\$ (49,414)
Net Inc/(Loss)	\$ 1,615	\$ 286
Barnebirkie Inc	\$ 2,295	\$ 2,407
Barnebirkie Exp	\$ (1,840)	\$ (1,306)
Net Inc/(Loss)	\$ 455	\$ 1,101
Other NLF Inc	\$ 13,190	\$ 14,411
Other NLF Exp	\$ (5,098)	\$ (5,392)
Net Inc/(Loss)	\$ 8,092	\$ 9,019
Total NLF Inc/(Loss)	\$ 10,162	\$ 10,406

Bylaw 1- Youth Director Terms

Title of Resolution:	Bylaw 1- Youth Director Terms
Submitted by:	District 5 Board
Date approved by the above entity:	Date: March 14, 2026 Lodge Officer Signatures: Darlene Arneson, District Secretary
Resolution falls into this category (<i>document you wish to change</i>):	☒ District Bylaws ☐ District Policies & Procedures
CURRENT STATE: State specific chapter, sub-chapter and paragraph numbers as applicable. Write out current language of the law or policy.	ARTICLE VII . . . OFFICERS AND SALARIES, Par. 5 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than three consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited.

State reasons for making a change from present policies and written directives, or for creating a new policy or procedure, in one or more “WHEREAS” statements.	Whereas, it is difficult to find Youth Directors as the amount of time, energy, and management of Masse Moro needed can be overwhelming for a Youth Director without any Masse Moro experience; and Whereas, when the District has found Youth Directors who are willing to dedicate time to Masse Moro, the scholarship program, and other duties and has a good understanding of programs, their term is up and a new member must be recruited; and Whereas, consistency with policies, ordering, relationship with Beaver Creek, and other duties is needed as one works with staff, the facility, and the District; and so
Follow the request for change as a “THEREFORE” statement. This is a statement of the action you wish to happen.	Therefore, be it resolved that we add the position of Youth Director to the list of officers with unlimited terms in Par. 5 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than three consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited; so that there is continuity for the District, staff, and the facility.

DESIRED STATE: Follow with the actual proposed change:	Par. 5 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than three consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary, <u>Youth Director</u> , and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited; so that there is continuity for the District, staff, and the facility.
If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact , state it here:	No financial impact

Bylaw 2- Politics and Religion

Title of Resolution:	Bylaw 2 – Politics and Religion
Submitted by:	District 5 Board
Date approved by the above entity: <i>(If from a lodge, need 2 lodge officer signatures – Pres, VP, Secretary, Treasurer)</i>	Date: March 14, 2026 Lodge Officer Signatures: Darlene Arneson, District Secretary
Resolution falls into this category <i>(document you wish to change):</i>	☒ District Bylaws ☐ District Policies & Procedures
CURRENT STATE: State specific chapter, sub-chapter and paragraph numbers as applicable. Write out current language of the law or policy.	<u>Article X...Compliance</u> (From International January 9, 2024) Par.1. The district must operate in full compliance with all governmental laws, regulations and applicable requirements and maintain in force all licenses, permits and approvals required for its operation within the country in which the lodge is organized. Par. 2. The district must operate in full compliance with all laws, regulations and applicable requirements as outlined in the latest edition of the Charter, Bylaws, Policy, & Procedures (CBPP) of Sons of Norway, and as otherwise communicated to the district by the International Headquarters of Sons of Norway. These include, but are not limited to, the timely annual filing of IRS 990 forms for lodges in the United States, the D63 and D17 reports for lodges, the D64 and D18 reports for building corporations, if applicable, and the timely payment of the annual liability insurance assessment. Par. 3. The district must adhere to the SON Social Media and Conflict of Interest/Ethics policies, and all district policies and procedures adopted by their district.

State reasons for making a change from present policies and written directives, or for creating a new policy or procedure, in one or more “WHEREAS” statements.	Whereas, Governance of Sons of Norway and changes in Bylaws, Policies and Procedure on the International and District levels have led to a number of changes in our operating documents over the past years, and in doing so, language has been lost in the process; and Whereas we ask in Installation Ceremonies and our Counselors ask for “peace and harmony in our lodges” but we don’t have specific language as to how; and Whereas politics and religion have no bearing on the Mission or purpose of Sons of Norway and can be quite divisive when discussed during meetings, social media, and other communications; and Whereas Sons of Norway uses social media to share our activities and meetings, posting of political or religious matters may indicate to viewers that it is the opinion of the entire organization; and Whereas we want to be welcoming to all at our meetings and events and not have politics or religious discussion involved with the cultural and heritage activities we are doing; and so
Follow the request for change as a “THEREFORE” statement. This is a statement of the action you wish to happen.	Therefore, be it resolved that we add: Par. 4 To avoid disputes and conversations at meetings and social media, topics of religion and politics that are dominating and sparking division should be avoided. The leaders of the meeting or activity are encouraged to share that our focus is on heritage and culture. Sharing of political activities, memes, and other messages on social media on any of the levels- International, District or Lodge should be avoided or removed.
DESIRED STATE: Follow with the actual proposed change: additions.	Article X...Compliance (From International January 9, 2024) Par.1. The district must operate in full compliance with all governmental laws, regulations and applicable requirements and maintain in force all licenses, permits and approvals required for its operation within the country in which the lodge is organized. Par. 2. The district must operate in full compliance with all laws, regulations and applicable requirements as outlined in the latest edition of the Charter, Bylaws, Policy, & Procedures (CBPP) of Sons of Norway, and as otherwise communicated to the district by the International Headquarters of Sons of Norway. These include, but are not limited to, the timely annual filing of IRS 990 forms for lodges in the United States, the D63 and D17 reports for lodges, the D64 and D18 reports for building corporations, if applicable, and the timely payment of the annual liability insurance assessment. Par. 3. The district must adhere to the SON Social Media and Conflict of Interest/Ethics policies, and all district policies and procedures adopted by their district.

	<i>Par. 4 To avoid disputes and conversations at meetings and social media, topics of religion and politics that are dominating and sparking division should be avoided. The leaders of the meeting or activity are encouraged to share that our focus is on heritage and culture. Sharing of political activities, memes, and other messages on social media on any of the levels- International, District or Lodge should be avoided or removed.</i>
If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact, state it here:	No financial impact

Bylaw 3- Youth Director Title and Duties

Title of Resolution:	Bylaw 3: Youth Director Title and Duties
Submitted by:	District 5 Board
Date approved by the above entity: <i>(If from a lodge, need 2 lodge officer signatures – Pres, VP, Secretary, Treasurer)</i>	Date: March 14, 2026 Lodge Officer Signatures: Darlene Arneson, District Secretary
Resolution falls into this category <i>(document you wish to change):</i>	☒ District Bylaws ☐ District Policies & Procedures
CURRENT STATE: State specific chapter, sub-chapter and paragraph numbers as applicable. Write out current language of the law or policy.	<u>ARTICLE VII . . . OFFICERS AND SALARIES</u> 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 four At-Large Directors provided for in these By-Laws. Par. 6 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.
State reasons for making a change from present policies and written directives, or for creating a new policy or procedure, in one or more “WHEREAS” statements.	Whereas, the Youth Director focuses 95% of their time on Masse Moro and 5% of their time on scholarships and other activities; and Whereas, the Youth Director has duties that require them to work with the administrators, other staff, and volunteers throughout the year to make sure things are in place with critical planning time from

	late fall to mid-spring for advertising, securing funding and supplies, and staffing; and Whereas, the scholarships are part of the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation and can be separated from the Youth Director's duties; and Whereas, the Heritage and Grants Committee could be merged into the Cultural Committee which already handles the Shipping Grants and Small/Large Grant Projects; and so
Follow the request for change as a "THEREFORE" statement. This is a statement of the action you wish to happen.	Therefore, be it resolved to change the name of the Youth Director to <u>District Masse Moro Director</u> and if so, all references to that position in the Bylaws would be changed.
DESIRED STATE: Follow with the actual proposed change:	<u>ARTICLE VII . . . OFFICERS AND SALARIES</u> Par. 1 The elected Officers of the District shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director, Youth Director <i>District Masse Moro Director</i> and the four At-Large Directors provided for in these By-Laws. Par. 6 The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director, and Youth Director <i>District Masse Moro Director</i> 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.
If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact, state it here:	No financial impact

Resolution 1 - District Scholarship Benefit Member Requirement

Title of Resolution:	Resolution 1: District Scholarship Benefit Member Requirement
Submitted by:	District 5 Board
Date approved by the above entity: <i>(If from a lodge, need 2 lodge officer signatures – Pres, VP, Secretary, Treasurer)</i>	Date: March 14, 2026 Lodge Officer Signatures: Darlene Arneson, District Secretary

State reasons for making a change from present policies and written directives, or for creating a new policy or procedure, in one or more “WHEREAS” statements	Whereas, the number of applications for the three District 5 Scholarships have been very low the past years; and Whereas, we have qualified members or family members who would benefit from the scholarships, but they aren’t benefit members; and Whereas only 7% of Sons of Norway members are benefit members making the available pool of candidates that much smaller from the start; and Whereas we would like to encourage our social members to continue their membership and this would be a benefit that might help; and so
Follow the request for change as a “THEREFORE” statement. This is a statement of the action you wish to happen.	Therefore be it resolved that we drop the benefit member requirement for the District 5 Scholarships.
If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact, state here:	We hope it would allow us to grant all the scholarships each year which we don’t do every year due to lack of candidates.

Resolution 2 – Officer Compensation

Title of Resolution:	Resolution 2: Officer Compensation
Submitted by:	District 5 Board
Date approved by the above entity: <i>(If from a lodge, need 2 lodge officer signatures – Pres, VP, Secretary, Treasurer)</i>	Date: March 14, 2026 Lodge Officer Signatures: _____ _____
State reasons for making a change from present policies and written directives, or for creating a new policy or procedure, in one or more “WHEREAS” statements	WHEREAS District 5 Bylaws Article VII, Par 6 states that the: 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 with respect

	thereto. REASONING: Recognizes and acknowledges District Officers for their work in their respective positions.
Follow the request for change as a “THEREFORE” statement. This is a statement of the action you wish to happen.	The District Board recommends to the District Lodge and its committees to consider this compensation for District Officers: President \$1,500 per annum Secretary \$2,000 per annum Treasurer \$2,000 per annum Vice President \$500 per annum Publicity Director \$500 per annum Cultural Director \$500per annum Youth Director \$1,500 per annum Recreation Director \$500 per annum
If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact, state here:	Increase of \$3,500 from the 2024-2026 biennium

Resolution 3 – Barnebirkie Support

Title of Resolution:	Resolution 3: Barnebirkie Support
Submitted by:	District 5 Board
Date approved by the above entity: <i>(If from a lodge, need 2 lodge officer signatures – Pres, VP, Secretary, Treasurer)</i>	Date: March 14, 2026 Lodge Officer Signatures: Darlene Arneson, District Secretary
State reasons for making a change from present policies and written directives, or for creating a new policy or procedure, in one or more “WHEREAS” statements	WHEREAS the District Lodge in 2024 recommended there be a \$1500.00 cap on reimbursed expenses for those representing District Five who travel to the Barnebirkie site on an annual basis. The District Board Finance Committee can determine how this allocation is apportioned; and Whereas, the expenses of going to Barnebirkie have been going up as hotel rates and gas costs have risen; and

	Whereas, volunteers are needed to staff the cookie tent and Expo and without them we wouldn't be able to participate; and so
Follow the request for change as a "THEREFORE" statement. This is a statement of the action you wish to happen.	Therefore, the Board asks that we change our policy that the cumulative amount be \$2,500 allocated for the Barnebirkie volunteers. The Sports Director (or their proxy) already receives full amount.
If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact , state here:	Increase of \$1,000

Who to contact at the home office when you need help

Foundation, Scholarships & Grants

Amy Tuchenhausen - foundation@sofn.com
atuchenhausen@sofn.com - (612) 821-4655

Fraternal & Membership

Connie O'Brien and Kirsten Lehman
fraternal@sofn.com - (612) 821-4643

Culture, Viking & Language:

Jana Velo - jvelo@sofn.com

Customer Service:

cbs@sofn.com - (800) 945-8851

Technical Issues/Website:

webmaster@sofn.com

If you have questions about any of the topics in this issue, or if you would like to share a programming/recruitment tool that your lodge uses, contact us at sonsofnorway@sofn.com.

Check correspondence from the International and District and the International (www.sofn.com) and District (www.sonsofnorway5.com) websites for any updates and changes. The District Facebook page is Sons of Norway District 5.

Friendly Fifth Friday News (FFFN) Basics

In an attempt to help our lodge leaders become more familiar with resources, changes, deadlines and other information, Darlene Arneson will compile a weekly "Friendly Fifth Friday News" email to our leadership. Some of the information you might already have, but hopefully it will be a good reminder for all of us (me included) of all the great resources that Sons of Norway has to offer. **Please feel free to cut and paste any of this information for your lodge's use!**

Send all web posting info and calendar dates/events directly to our webmaster at inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com. Darlene actually sends the FFFN pdf to our webmaster on Thursday morning before she goes to work. So if you have anything you'd like her to consider putting in, please send it by 4 am on Thursday morning. Please do not send pdf's as she has a hard time cutting and pasting them. The Word Document works best. Don't forget that lodge events should be submitted to inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com as we have a hard time keeping track of all lodge activities. I'll put some in but that is more the role of the website event calendar. If you would like to get the MS Word document, just shoot Darlene an email and she will add you to the list. She sends it out right after she sends the email to the large group.

Songs

Canada

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The true north strong and free;
From far and wide, O Canada
We stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada we stand on guard for thee.

Ja, vi elsker dette landet

Ja, vi elsker dette landet, som det stiger frem
Furet, vaerbitt over vannet med det tusen hjem,
Elsker, elsker det og tenker på vår far og mor
Og den sagnatt som senker drømme på vår jord
Og den sagnatt some senker, senker dromme på vår jord.

JA, VI ELSKER DETTE LANDET

(Norwegian National Anthem)

Ja, vi elsker dette landet
(Ya, vee el-scare det-teh lahn-det)

Som det stiger frem
(Sum deh stee-ger frem)

Furet værbitt over vannet
(Foo-ret vehr-bit oh-vehr von-net)

Med de tusen hjem.
(Meh dee too-sen yem).

Elsker, elsker det og tenke
(El-scare, el-scare deh oh tenk-eh)

På vår far og mor
(Poh vor far oh moor)

Og den saganatt som senker
(Oh den sah-ga-not sum senk-air)

Drømme på vår jord.
(Drem-meh poh vor yohr).

Og den saganatt som senker
(Oh den sah-ga-not sum senk-air)

Senker drømme på vår jord.
(Senk-air drem-meh poh vor yohr).

The Star Spangled Banner

O! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming,
And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Nidelven

REFRAIN:

Nidelven, stille og vakker du er,
Her hvor jeg går og drømmer.
Drømmer om henne jeg hadde så kjaer,
Nu er det bare minner.
Den gamle bybro er lykkens portal,
Sammen ve seiler I stjerners koral.
Nidelven, stille og vakker du er,
Her hvor jeg går of drommer.

Langt I det fjærne,
Bak fjellene blå,
Ligger et sted jeg har kjær.
Dit mine tanker
Og drømmer vil gå,
Altid du er meg sa nær.

Hils fra mig der hjemme

I den store tause natt
Star jeg her ved skibets ratt,
Under himlens stjernevell,
ene og forlatt.
Under himlens høye tak,
Høres fjerne vingeslag;
Fugletrekket atter går mot nord, mot lyse vår.

Hils fra meg der hjemme, hils min far og mor,
Hils den grønne lier og den blanke fjord.
Hvis jeg hadde vinger fløy jeg hjem med dig,
Til de lyse netter.
Hils dem! Hils fra mig!

La oss leve for hverandre

Det hender ofte at livet gir
Sma slag og mot gange some kanskje svir.
Det finns en mening med alt some skjer
Men hårde ord de bare ødelegger mer.

Refrain: La oss leve for hverandre
Og ta vare på den tid vi har.
La oss leve for hverandre
Livet selv kan gi det rette svar.

Hvem kan forklare og gi et svar
På alle spørsmål vi ofte har.
Hvis man kan glemme å være steil
Går det an å lære av hverandres feil.

Notes...