

# Consider being a delegate to the 2026 District 5 Lodge Meeting and Convention!

All across District 5, elections will be held in January, February, and early-mid March as lodges elect their delegates and alternates for the District 5 Lodge Meeting and Convention. Some of your members may be sharing their experiences as delegates at your meetings so members are more aware of what happens at conventions, what their role is, and the experience they have had. To help new members and those without experience, here are some things to consider and share with your membership:

## Who can be a delegate or alternate?

- You **do NOT** have to be a benefit member to serve as a delegate to the District Lodge Meeting and Convention.
- Current District 5 Board members cannot serve as delegates for their local lodges. They are automatically delegates as they serve on the board. District alternates to the board (that were elected in Indianapolis) do need to be elected by their local lodge if they wish to be a 2026 delegate.
- The members must be in good standing and listed on your roster. That means their dues are paid and they aren't on the past due membership lists!

## Why two names?

- District Lodge Meeting- that is the business part of the convention week. It includes the board meeting, District convention committees, and the two-day business session.
- District Convention- the "fun" part of the convention! The workshops, classes, field trips, banquet, social times, silent auction, Cultural Arts Display and other activities.

## Time Requirements and when do they need to be there!

- The District 5 Convention is August 2-6, 2026 in Stoughton, Wisconsin. But read the materials as you don't have to be there the first few days unless you want to participate in those activities or have a role that requires you to be there by Tuesday.
- There will be classes, President's Reception, Day on the Prairie trip, and other activities on Sunday (starting in the afternoon) and Monday for those wanting to participate.
- Your delegates may be asked by the District President to serve on a committee. This would require them to attend committee meetings on Tuesday afternoon (or until committee work is done and the committee is dismissed). Many committees will meet virtually prior to coming to the convention so their in-person meeting time has been reduced.
- **The first official business and seating of the delegates is Wednesday morning, and all delegates need to be in all sessions Wednesday and Thursday.**
- As times and schedules are finalized, watch the District 5 website ([www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com)) and future mailings for schedules and timelines.

## What does a delegate do?

- Represents and speaks on behalf of your lodge on District business, resolutions, proposed changes
- Votes in the business session
- Review and act on the 2028 Convention Host Bids
- Might get asked to serve as marshals, greeters or in other roles during the meeting
- Accepts your lodge's recognition and awards

- Attends all delegate sessions and votes on behalf of your lodge
- May serve on a committee if asked to by the District President
- A delegate is the only member (along with current District 5 Board Members) that can run for the District Board (if a benefit member or if they purchase a benefit product at the convention).
- Learn about Sons of Norway by attending workshops, visiting displays and visiting with other members
- Bring back many ideas, activities and enthusiasm that will benefit your lodge
- Report to your lodge about what they learned, business conducted and report on elections held at the convention
- Have a wonderful time and go home ready to carry out the mission of Sons of Norway!
- They also serve throughout the biennium until the next group is seated in 2028.

**What is a Benefit Member?** Someone who owns a Sons of Norway insurance certificate. You can see if a member is a benefit member by looking at the membership list.

**How do you pay for delegates?** Each lodge handles this differently. Many will help the delegates with convention costs, registration, travel and hotel costs in varying amounts, paying it in full, or a portion. Some lodges will have a special fundraiser or event to raise money for delegate expenses.

Thank you for electing delegates and alternates and your consideration to serve as one! If you have further questions, contact your lodge president, past delegates or a District Board member!