

Sons of Norway District 5 Convention June 2024 Report to the Board

The District 5 Board hosted the 2024 D5 Lodge meeting and convention at the Indianapolis Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel from June 19 to June 22, 2024.

Seventy-seven delegates and thirty non-delegates registered for the convention.

The festivities began with a reception and folk-dance program Wednesday evening attended by more than 40 people.

Classes were offered which were available for delegates two days before the business meeting. Enrollment was:

Needle Felting: 6

Rosemaling: 8

Sami-inspired bracelet: 13

Classes for carving, Hardanger embroidery, Hardanger fiddle, stamping and Nordic knitting were cancelled for lack of students.

Speakers on various topics gave morning and afternoon presentations for non-delegates during the business meeting and for everyone on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Special guests from Norway were Jorn and AnneGrete Langseth. Jorn shared information, pictures and physical samples of his art in the Sami tradition in daytime and evening presentations. He met with interested people before the convention and non-delegates during the business meeting for less formal discussions. AnneGrete spoke about the Sami culture in the Norwegian church. Their travel to the U.S. and appearance at the D5 convention was sponsored by District 5 and a community grant from the SofN Foundation.

Two vendors offered their wares.

A few local businesses were contacted by phone but were not interested in being vendors.

The Wegner family generously donated home-made Scandinavian treats for Friday and Saturday coffee breaks. Youth members Aurora and Titan served the treats with Barb Johnson, advisor.

Saturday evening Banquet entertainment was music played by the Norwegian-Swedish duo, Lynx Lynx.

Evaluations of the event were positive. Most respondents enjoyed the food, especially lunches and having breakfast included with the cost of the room. Most had good experiences with their rooms. Several people had air conditioning problems during the heat wave we experienced, but most respondents had comfortable rooms.

Several attendees commented in person that they were impressed with the efficient running of the business meeting and the friendly atmosphere.

The staff at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel were friendly and helpful. Our hotel representative, Lois, checked in frequently and was supportive in many ways.

Submitted by Convention Chair, Judy Ghastin