

2019 District Five Leadership Conference Agenda

Friday – October 18

9:00-2:00 - District 5 Committee Meetings

1:00-4:00 - Registration

2:00-4:30 - District 5 Board Meeting

Note: District 5 lodge members are welcome to attend the District board meeting as observers, but not as active (speaking) participants. If you wish to attend some or all of the board meeting, please let District president Andrew Johnsen know you will be in attendance.

5:00 PM - Dinner

6:00 - Welcome to the conference - President Andrew Johnsen

6:30 PM - Characteristics of Successful Lodges - Some common elements which make a lodge successful include: having a broad core of engaged leaders working as a team; planning and evaluation; being financially sustainable; having programs which engage members and attract future members; good communication and ongoing recruiting. In this panel discussion, you will get insight into best practices which can help your lodge become the best it can be.

Ron Stubbings, Sons of Norway International President will be joining us for the D5 leadership conference. Stubbings will be a panelist for this session, and will provide some “best-practice” insight from other lodges and districts in SofN.

8:00 PM - “About Me” game

Saturday – October 19

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 - Membership: recruiting, retaining and new ideas! - Membership growth and retention is a key element in the success of Sons of Norway lodges. In this session, some of D5's fastest growing lodges will share their membership development secrets with you. You will learn what Sons of Norway resources are available to help your recruitment efforts. Be prepared to share your ideas and lodge's best practices in a hands-on brainstorming session, which will then be shared throughout the district.

Note: Ron Stubbings will be involved in this session, to talk about things he has seen in other districts. Everyone will be sharing their ideas and best practices by putting post-it notes on large poster size paper.

10:15 - Time for a stretch break, walk or time to visit

10:45 - Choose one of three different breakout sessions:

Strategic planning - Assess your lodge's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, envision your lodge's future and make plans on how to accomplish your goals. Robin Fossum will present.

Community service - Engaging your lodge in community service will enhance your lodge's reputation and give you added visibility. It is also a great way to further involve your membership. Bring your community service stories to share. Darlene Arneson will present.

Sports and recreation - Fitness and fun are part of Nordic culture. Learn ways to offer more to your members via sports and recreation. Participants will share techniques they use to promote sports and recreation, and the SofN sports awards program will be covered.

11:45 – District President's focus - Andrew Johnsen will discuss using prospective member events as a membership growth tool and roll out a new D5 program to assist lodges in non SofN insurance states (MI, IN, TN, OH) to get funding to assist in putting on a recruitment event.

Noon – Lunch

1:00 PM - District and International websites - D5 and SofN websites are rich resources of information. Darlene Arneson will provide an overview of "how to find it." The session will wrap up with a game-format review, where you will work as a team to show off what you have learned.

2:30 - What we learned at the 2018 leadership conference - Takeaways from the 2018 SofN International Convention leadership seminar. This will be a round-robin activity, with three different stations.

3:30 - Stretch break, go for a walk, or time to visit

4:00 – Choose one of three different breakout sessions:

Monthly lodge program ideas - A lodge program committee is a way to insure that you are always offering something new. A lodge will share how her lodge engages newer members in the process and how the lodge plans their program calendar a year in advance. Bring your lodge program ideas to share in this session.

Reaching members of all ages - It is vitally important in retaining lodge members, by reaching your members to get them more involved in your lodge. Engage older seniors through car rides to lodge meetings or daytime winter meetings. Engage youth and families by having active youth programs and through Masse Moro heritage camp. Engage everyone through interesting programs and field trips.

Succession planning and recruiting lodge officers - The most common reasons why lodges stagnate and disband is that no one new will step up to lead the lodge. Kathy Secora, D5 vice president, will share how her lodge tackled this problem and turned the mantle of leadership to others.

5:00 – Dinner

6:30 PM - What can D5 do for me? - District 5's zone directors and specialists (youth, cultural, sports/rec, publicity) will share ways how they have assisted lodges and how they can be a good resource for you. You will also learn about district programs which you can utilize.

Looking ahead to the 2020 conventions - Start thinking about picking your delegates to represent your lodge in the 2020 D5 convention in Madison, Wisconsin. Learn more about activities planned for the convention. In 2020, the International SofN convention is in Norway. Plans for this convention and international delegate eligibility will be discussed.

8:00 – Musical Entertainment

Sunday - October 20

8:00 AM - Breakfast

8:45 –9:45 Choose one of three different breakout sessions:

Cultural skills - Norwegian heritage skills: Cooking, language, carving, textile arts, reading and rosemailing are some of the areas where SofN members build expertise in lifelong hobbies. District cultural director Judy Ghastin discusses how you can build lodge programs to introduce your members to the cultural skill award program. Participants will share how they integrate cultural skills programs into their lodge meetings.

Team building and lodge officer effectiveness - There are four phases of team development (forming, storming, norming and performing) and different leadership styles to use to move any group forward towards becoming a high performing team. Mike Palecek will share techniques you can use to help your lodge officers be highly effective in creating a quality lodge.

It's all about food! - It is said that the way through a person's heart is through their stomach. Food is a great tool to engage members, whether it is by having meals as part of your monthly meeting, or through special programs focusing on food as part of one's Nordic heritage. Cheryl Wille-Schlesser will facilitate this session. Bring your foodie story to tell.

9:45 – We are a "Fraternal" - what does that mean? - The founders of Sons of Norway banded together to pool their money to help each other in times of sickness or death. How is that relevant 100 years later? SofN financial products will be reviewed as part of this session.

10:00 - Wrap-up and what to “take-away” to your lodges

10:15 - Zone meetings - Get together with other members from your zone to share your "takeaways" from the leadership conference, to network further and to plan future events that your lodge can do with other nearby lodges.

11:00 - Departure

12:00 – Working District 5 Board luncheon and resume District 5 Board Meeting

Note: The D5 board meeting will conclude about 3 PM.

❧ Norwegian Table Prayer ❧
I Jesu navn går vi til bords
å spise, drikke på ditt ord.
Deg, Gud til ære, oss til gavn,
❧ Så får vi mat i Jesu navn. ❧
Amen