

Friendly Fifth Friday News December 27, 2019

Send all web posting info and calendar dates/events directly to our webmaster at inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com

Om Meg (About Me) game By Mike Palecek

The “Om Meg” (About Me) game is now available as a fun lodge program activity. This “icebreaker” game was originally developed for the 2017 District Five leadership conference and offered last year to lodges as a reward for holding membership recruitment events.

Based on feedback from lodges using the Om Meg game at zone or lodge meetings, the D5 board voted at the fall board meeting to make the Om Meg available to all District 5 lodges. Not only is the Om Meg game fun to play, it lets lodge members get to know each other better.

The game board features a map of Norway in the center. As players spin the dice, they land on squares to learn more about 21 heritage sites in Norway. Many times, players share stories about their travels to these places or where their ancestors came from.

On each turn, the player picks a question card from either the green or blue deck. Green cards are designed for all lodge members to use. Blue cards are often used for at the district leadership conference, zone meetings, or lodge board meetings, but can also be used for a regular lodge meeting. Green cards focus on personal heritage, such as “How does your family celebrate your Norwegian heritage at Christmas?” and “What is your favorite Norwegian or Norwegian-American book (or music)?” Blue cards focus on lodge activities and leadership, such as “Tell about a fun thing you did while earning a SON cultural or sports pin?” and “What is a special personal skill which makes you well suited for your lodge officer position?” and “If there was one trait that would make you a better lodge officer, what would that be?”

A great way to introduce the Om Meg game to your lodge is to first play it with your lodge officers at a board meeting. In this way, you will have a group of people who can split up among your lodge members, to keep the game running smoothly. Spend an hour playing the game... 30 minutes with just green cards, then 30 minutes with blue cards (or mix them with the green cards). The best group size is six people per game board... if there are more, it's too long until it is your turn again.

As a leader in your lodge, one of the benefits of this game is for you to listen to members' responses to the questions. It gives you a better idea of what members want for lodge programming and events, and might give you insight into members who might have interest in getting more involved in lodge leadership. After playing the game, be sure to recap with other lodge board members who were facilitating the game at their table, to share insight they gained through the game about members' interests.

How to get the Om Meg game: call your zone director. She or he has three game boards and card sets for you. Need more game boards? You can get three more sets by holding a lodge membership recruitment event. These games cannot be purchased.

If you have any questions, comments about the Om Meg game, or stories to share about using this game in your lodge, please reach out to me at mikep@sonsofnorwayracine.com

2019-20 District 5 and International Calendar and Deadlines

(Updated 11-28-2019- changes in red)

December 2019

- D17 and D18 forms, instructions and timeline sent to lodge treasurers.

December 31, 2019

- Lodge Officer Update/D63 information is due to Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters.
- Last day to enter new membership applications into the database for delegate calculations and 2019 recruitment challenge recognition. (**Paper applications should be received at headquarters by December 15** to ensure adequate time for processing.)
- Application deadline for:
 - - Lodge Helping Hands to Children Grant*
 - Lodge Culture and Heritage Grant*
 - Lodge Vitality Grant*
- Deadline to order Barneløpet supplies.

January 1, 2020

- New dues structure takes effect in Norway and Canada

Note that all your new members must be processed by December 31 to be in your membership total for the delegate count!

December 16 is the date that new member applications (paper forms) must be **received** at HQ to ensure processing in time for end-of-year delegate calculation and recruitment challenge recognition. (Online applications may be submitted through December 31.)

If you haven't done it yet, submitting 2020 Officers

Every lodge has to- even if you don't elect officers this year!
Check with your secretary to see if your lodge has submitted your officers yet! Due December 31!

 Online: **Your Lodge Officer Roster and lodge meeting information can be updated instantly online at www.sonsofnorway.com.** More detailed instructions are on the reverse of this sheet.

If you update your officers online, you do not need to fill out the paper form. Both Sons of Norway Headquarters and your district secretary are able to get your information from the website.

 **Mail/Fax:** If you do not have internet access, please fill out the D63 'Lodge Officer Update' form and mail or fax it to:

Sons of Norway Headquarters

Membership Services

1455 West Lake Street

Minneapolis, MN 55408 FAX: 1-612-827-0658

 **No Changes for 2020:** Please still visit the Officer Update section on our website or check the 'no' box near the top of the form and mail it in to Sons of Norway Headquarters.

 **Deadline - December 31st:** Timely reporting of this information to Membership Services assures that your lodge's information will be correct in the Sons of Norway Headquarters database on the online directory. Also, lodges meeting this deadline will score points towards the Lodge of the Year and Gold/Silver/Bronze Merit awards for 2020.

If the deadline is approaching and your lodge hasn't completed the election process, please submit the information you have and/or contact Membership Services. Changes made after the 12/31 deadline should still be reported, though these updates may not be reflected in the new district directories.

 **Questions:** Contact Sherry Gorse at Membership Services, Sons of Norway Headquarters by phone at 1-800-945-8851 x643 or email at fraternal@sofn.com.

 **Officer Updates Online**

Signing On: Go to www.sonsofnorway.com. Click on the red LOG IN button in the top right-hand side of the screen. Enter your username and password. If you don't have a username and password yet, click on one of the 'click here' links to be guided through the set-up process. The username and password are both case sensitive.

Once you sign on, the first page you see should be your Member Profile page. If not, to access this page, click the word 'profile' to the left of the Member Resources button, then choose Member Profile. The option to change your officers is on the left side of the screen, Lodge Officer Updates. Click on this link to get to the updates screen.

Officer Updates: Click on the gray "Officers" button that appears before your lodge name on the "Lodge Section" page. A list of your current officers will appear.

Step 1: Add any new officer titles. If you are adding any new office titles in 2019 or are expanding a particular office (having more than one social director, for example), click the gray "Add a new position" button. Click on the field after "select a title" to make a selection. Enter the member number of the 2019 officer in the space below. Click on the gray 'submit' button. The next screen will show you the new officer you chose. If the information is correct, click on "Save the changes". You will be back to the officer listing screen.

Step 2: Changing the member in office: If a different member will be serving in a particular office in 2019, click in the 'member number' field to the right of the office and type in the member number for the new officer. Note: the name of the new officer will NOT appear on the screen at this point. The name will appear after you've saved all your changes.

If the member who held an office in 2019 is continuing in 2020, you do not need to make any modifications to that listing.

Step 3: Deleting office titles: If an office that was filled in 2019 will be vacant in 2019, check the "Remove this position" box under the officer title.

Step 4: Saving changes: **Do not hit the "Save the Changes" button until after you have made all your changes.** When you are finished, click the gray "submit changes" button. A list of the changes will

appear. If they are correct, click "Save the Changes". You will be sent back to the list of officers. Your changes should appear on the screen.

Meeting Updates: On the "Lodge Selection" page, click on the gray "Change Meeting Information" button. Click into any fields that you need to change and type in the new information. When finished, click "save." You will be directed back to the "Lodge Selection" screen.

Officer Contact Information Updates: If any of your 2020 officers has a new email address, mailing address or phone number, please email these changes to fraternal@sofn.com.

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January 1, 2020

- New dues structure takes effect in Norway and Canada

January 15, 2020

- Deadline — International travel scholarship applications due to Sons of Norway Foundation:
 - Douglas Warne – Rolf & Wenche Eng Scholarship
 - Helen Tronvold Adult Learner Scholarship*

- Helen Tronvold Folk High School Scholarship**
- King Olav V Norwegian-American Heritage Scholarship
- Lund Fund Scholarship**
- Oslo International Summer School Scholarship**

February 15, 2020

- D17 financial form is due from the lodges to District Presidents.
- Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year forms are due to Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters.
- Community and Fraternal activities and hour totals, using AFA Year-end report form or online reporting at Fraternalgive.org, are due to Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters.

March 2020

- Fraternal Funds packet is sent to the district treasurers.

March 1, 2020

- Deadline — Domestic scholarship applications due to Sons of Norway Foundation:
 - Astrid G. Cates Scholarship**
 - Bernt Anker Scholarship
 - Dan and Betty Rude Scholarship
 - Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship**
 - Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship**
 - Orel and Marie Winjum Memorial Scholarship

May 15, 2020

- Fraternal Funds Report due to Sons of Norway Headquarters
- IRS filing deadline for tax form 990. Lodge treasurer needs to notify Sons of Norway Headquarters when 990 has been submitted.
- D17 & 990 filing deadline for lodges that own property

*Insurance membership with Sons of Norway required

**Membership with Sons of Norway required (social or insurance)

DISTRICT FIVE LODGE MEETING

June 24-28, 2020 at the Radisson Hotel, Grand Canyon Drive, Madison

INTERNATIONAL LODGE MEETING

August 16-23, 2020 in Hamar Norway

Viking Chest Rotation

- The rotation will begin again with this rotation.
- The zone directors are responsible for keeping track of the whereabouts and letting their lodges know that the chest is in their zone for that time period.
- The chest should be brought back to the District Board Meeting to be given to the next zone.

Rotation for sharing the Viking Chest will continue as follows:

Zone 5 Oct. 2019 - Apr. 2020
Zone 2 Apr. 2020 - Oct. 2020
Zone 4 Oct. 2020 - Apr. 2021
Zone 6 Apr. 2021 - Oct. 2021
Zone 1 Oct. 2021 - Apr. 2022
Zone 3 Apr. 2022 - Oct. 2022

Note:

- Check correspondence from the International and District and the International (www.sofn.com) and District (www.sonsofnorway5.com) websites for any updates and changes.
- Additional deadlines for the District 5 and International Conventions/Lodge Meetings will be added as those dates are established. Watch for future mailings and the District 5 website.
- The District 5 Convention will be June 24-28 at the Radisson Hotel, Grand Canyon Drive, Madison hosted by Idun Lodge.
- The International Sons of Norway Convention will be August 16-23, 2020 in Hamar Norway

Compiled by Darlene Arneson, SN District 5 Secretary (arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or 608-873-7209)

FFFN Basics

In an attempt to help our lodge leaders become more familiar with resources, changes, deadlines and other information, I 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 With our new arrangement, I actually send the FFFN pdf to our

webmaster on Thursday morning before I go to work. So if you have anything you'd like me to consider putting in, please send it by Wednesday night. Please do not send pdf's as I have a hard time cutting and pasting them. The Word Document works best for me. Don't forget that lodge events should be submitted to inputd5@sonsofnorway.com as I 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 me an email and I'll add you to the list. I send it out right after I send the email to the large group.

Darlene Arneson – arnesonfamily5@gmail.com