



January 2026 Update to the District as you elect delegates

Tentative Schedule of Events

Sunday, August 2

- Afternoon- Possible Farm/Agriculture tours
- Afternoon- Possible Classes
- President's reception/gathering at Arneson's Farm Shed- late afternoon/evening

Monday, August 3

- Cultural Classes
- ***Day on the Prairie*** – a full day of touring the Koshkonong venues via a charter bus (all day- limit of 55 people) or drive on your own for part of the day. Schedule is being finalized.

Tuesday, August 4- If asked to serve on a District Convention Committee, the delegate needs to be there on Tuesday mid-morning. The District 5 Board Members must be there for a morning meeting.

- Cultural Classes and workshops
- **District 5 Board meeting-** morning
- Downtown Stoughton activities
- **District Convention Committee meetings-** mid-morning (if asked to serve by President Cheryl). Some committees may complete most of their work virtually before the convention.
- District sponsored lunch at Sons of Norway- Mandt Lodge (invited guests only)
- Evening social gathering/meal

Wednesday, August 5- DELEGATES REQUIRED TO BE AT DISTRICT LODGE MEETING

- Classes and downtown Stoughton activities for non-delegates
- **District Lodge Meeting for delegates-** catered lunch
- Banquet in evening

Thursday, August 6- DELEGATES REQUIRED TO BE AT DISTRICT LODGE MEETING

- **District Lodge Meeting for delegates-** catered lunch
- Board installation
- Board re-organizational meeting after conclusion of the District Lodge Meeting
- Afternoon tour/activity activities for non-delegates

The hotel block is through the Tru Hilton in Stoughton. If we fill their hotel, then we have a convention rate at their partner hotels in Madison. Rooms must be booked by July 4. **The direct links will be sent out in future emails so DON'T CALL THE HOTELS YET! We will send out the links soon as well as addresses and other details.**

- Tru Hilton in Stoughton- \$125/night for Sunday through Thursday. All rates are net, non-commissionable, and do not include any applicable taxes unless otherwise noted and agreed upon.
- Courtyard East in Madison- \$125/night for Sunday through Thursday. All rates are net, non-commissionable, and do not include any applicable taxes unless otherwise noted and agreed upon.
- Fairfield Inn & Suites- Madison East- \$125/night for Sunday through Thursday. All rates are net, non-commissionable, and do not include any applicable taxes unless otherwise noted and agreed upon.
- Hampton Inn Madison East- \$125/night for Sunday through Thursday. All rates are net, non-commissionable, and do not include any applicable taxes unless otherwise noted and agreed upon.

Our area has other options for lodging (not a block- on your own)!

Quality Inn and Suites (in Stoughton)- <https://www.choicehotels.com/wisconsin/stoughton/quality-inn-hotels/wi075>

Air BnB's- we have a number of properties in the area- <https://www.airbnb.com/>

Sleep Inn and Suites- Oregon, WI (8 miles away)-
<https://www.choicehotels.com/wisconsin/oregon/sleep-inn-hotels/wi288>

Comfort Inn and Suites- Monona- (12 miles away)
<https://www.choicehotels.com/wisconsin/madison/comfort-inn-hotels/wi205>

Quality Inn- Edgerton (Newville – 13 miles) -
<https://www.choicehotels.com/wisconsin/edgerton/quality-inn-hotels/wi072>

Delegate Fee- \$90 (lunch on Wednesday and Thursday, coffee breaks, and convention registration bag).

There will be a non-delegate fee as well as other options for the various classes, events and tours.

Theme: Wagons Forward

This reflects the Mandt Wagon Factory owned by T.G. Mandt – who our lodge was named after. It also highlights Stoughton Trailers who is the largest employer in Stoughton producing Dry Vans, Refrigerated Trailers, Grain Trailers, and Intermodal Chassis.

Timelines as of now!

- March 5 – ideally the deadline for lodges to elect delegates and alternates and report to Secretary Darlene Arneson. We definitely need this to be completed in March!
- March 10- District By-Law and Resolutions should be submitted by the lodges
- March 15- Bids for hosting the 2028 Convention should be sent in
- April 1- President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser will identify delegates to be invited to serve on convention committees
- May 1- Darlene's goal to send the Report's Books to the delegates
- July 1- Convention registrations are due (meals, registrations, classes, trips...)
- July 1- Ads, sponsorships, and well-wishers are due
- July 4- Hotel block rates end

A few unique things about this District Convention and Lodge Meeting

- When we made our bid in Indianapolis, we discussed with the delegates that Stoughton doesn't have a convention hotel with meeting spaces. So they knew that we'd get a hotel block and then there are other area hotels members will be at. So you can't walk down the hall to meetings!
- Because the International no longer has the International Conventions, the timelines for the District Conventions were extended. Mandt has a huge Syttende Mai weekend and going to August gives us time to recuperate and prepare. We also have a stevne using our lodge in July so we had to coordinate between hotel availability, our lodge calendar and meeting space.
- The business meetings on Wednesday and Thursday will be held at the Stoughton Area School District's Administration Building. The silent auction, meetings, and lunches will be there. Sons of Norway Lodge Building- we will have registration, banner displays, Cultural displays, the Tuesday board meeting and convention committee's meetings and lunches. There might be more there as well. Monday there will be some cultural classes in Stoughton. And the highlight will be exploring the Koshkonong Prairie as we have a full day of stops, presentations, meals and will have one charter bus for the first 55 signing up- the rest can drive. Some cultural/workshop classes will be at the venue's business. We won't have a vendor area since we have a downtown area full of shops and businesses. We are developing activities for you to get to meet them!
- This is a test to see how this kind of convention might work as it would allow opportunities for lodges who also might not have convention space close to them to consider hosting the convention.

Thank you!

Darlene Arneson, SN Mandt Lodge President and District 5 Secretary