

Sons of Norway – District Lodge 5 – “The Friendly Fifth”

Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary

www.sonsofnorway5.com

Delegate Election Information!!

January 25, 2026

Dear District 5 Lodge Presidents and Secretaries:

The District 5 Lodge Meeting and Convention are being hosted by Sons of Norway- Mandt Lodge 5-314 on August 2-6, 2026 in Stoughton, Wisconsin. This convention is testing a few new alternatives that we discussed with the delegates in Indy. It will be a Sunday-Thursday convention to help with reduce hotel rates which go up on the weekend. It is later as we don't have to be within a timeline since there no longer are International Conventions. And because Stoughton doesn't have a hotel with a convention center, the meetings and activities will be in various parts of Stoughton. Delegates must be there for the District Lodge Meeting on Wednesday-Thursday, August 5-6. If asked to be on a convention committee, they need to be there on Tuesday, August 4.

The hotel block is with Tru Hilton in Stoughton and the overflow is with their partner hotels in Madison. The block of guest rooms for the Sons of Norway Convention links will be available soon. The convention rate of \$125 is in effect for Sunday-Thursday for a standard King or queen room.

The delegate fee is \$90 and covers two lunches (Friday and Saturday), goodie bag, access to speakers and classes, and beverages (coffee, water, lemonade) during coffee breaks.

We will be populating the District 5 website with information: <https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/> We also have information on ads, sponsorships, well-wishers, registration and other items for your delegates and members to review and take part in. **Please share the sponsorship and advertising opportunities with groups and businesses in your area and have your lodge consider them as well as it becomes available!**

The Sons of Norway District 5 By-Laws, Article 111, Paragraph 2 states: *Every local lodge in the District shall be entitled to two representatives for the lodge, and one representative for every 100 members or major fraction thereof, based on the last Semi-Annual Report prior to the election of delegates. All members in good standing are eligible representatives.*

Delegates should be elected using the formula above based on December 31, 2025 membership figures. You should also elect a corresponding number of alternates, on a priority basis, that will serve should any of your delegates be unable to attend. These elections should take place so you can report ideally by March 5, 2026. A Report of Election included with this letter, **which is to be completed and returned to the District Secretary immediately following the election**. These will be emailed to both the lodge president and secretary and hard copy mailed to the president. The Sons of Norway Constitution reads: “The Secretary of the Local Lodge shall prepare a report of election giving names and addresses of the duly elected Delegates and Alternates. This report shall be signed by the Local Lodge President and Local Lodge Secretary and forwarded to the District Secretary no later than five days after the election.” Please be sure the names are written plainly and spelled correctly! I am asking that you include their membership number, address, city, state, zip, phone and email address on the form and return it to me postmarked **preferably by March 5, 2026**. Please send it to me at: Darlene Arneson, 2056 Skaalen Rd, Stoughton, WI 53589 or email a

scanned copy to arnesonfamily5@gmail.com. **I have set up an electronic reporting method which I hope is easier for both you and me!** <https://forms.gle/6XCZMXFZT3P6vjuU6>

Keep in mind as you elect delegates that they are the only ones that can be candidates for the District Board or alternates to the Board. You do NOT have to be a benefit member to be a delegate to the District Lodge Meeting, but in order to run for any of these positions just mentioned, the delegate must be a benefit member or buy product at the convention.

Your lodge may wish to propose resolutions or by-law changes to be considered at the District Lodge Meeting. These resolutions, along with any proposed changes to the District 5 By-Laws, must be submitted to the District Secretary no later than March 10, 2026. **Please note that we are using the template approved and recommended by the International Board. Find it at** https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/convention_forms.php

If your lodge is interested in hosting the 2028 District Lodge Meeting, you are asked to send a written notice of your intention to the District Secretary prior to March 15, 2026. Should your lodge wish to present a bid, we ask that you make arrangements for a "walk through" of the facilities by a District 5 Board Member. This should be done prior to the June convention in order to identify proposal merits as well as needed additions or changes.

We will use email and the website as much as we can to post documents and keep everyone updated. Hard copies of the Reports Book will be sent to the delegates. **Your 2024 delegates have received a copy of the approved 2024 District Lodge Meeting minutes.** Once I get the Delegate Election Forms back, then I give the lists to the Convention Committee and they will send out information to the delegates about registration and other convention news. I also give a list to President Wille-Schlesser who will appoint convention committees. Members who serve on committees will be notified and given the specifics of their tasks.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance. You should be electing the number of people listed in the highlighted column that is titled "Elect Del. and Alt." For example, Mandt Lodge has a number 5 in that column so we need to elect 5 delegates and 5 alternates. Thank you for your prompt attention to this convention call! My home email is arnesonfamily5@gmail.com and cell number is 608-514-4951 if you need to contact me!

Fraternally,



Darlene Arneson, District Secretary