

Friendly Fifth Friday News May 1, 2020

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

Congratulations Scholarship Winners!

2020 District 5 Book Scholarships

Cyril K. Wittrock Scholarship



Skjold Lodge 5-100, is pleased to announce that two book scholarships were awarded this year in the memory of *Cyril K. Wittrock*.

The first scholarship was awarded to **Emma Olson** of the Valkyrien Lodge, Woodville, Wisconsin. Emma is attending Iowa State University where she is pursuing a career in Industrial Design. **Gratulerer Emma!**

The second Wittrock Scholarship is awarded to **Nathan Elsbernd** also of the Valkyrien Lodge. Nathan is attending Luther College in Decorah, Iowa majoring in music. **Gratulerer Nathan!**



Olav J. Eide Scholarship

Fosselyngen Lodge 5-082, is pleased to announce that **Hannah Berg**, of the Myrmarken Lodge of Marshfield, Wisconsin is this year's recipient of the **Olav J. Eide Scholarship**. Hannah is a senior at Marshfield High School and plans to attend University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee next year to pursue a career in film and directing. **Gratulerer Hannah!**

District 5 Book Scholarship



District 5, is pleased to announce that two book scholarships were awarded this year. The first scholarship was awarded to **Avery Goth**, of the **Vennelag Lodge, Mt. Horeb**. Avery is a senior at **Verona Area High School**. She plans to attend University of Wisconsin- Platteville to pursue a career in criminal justice. **Gratulerer Avery!**

The second **District 5 Book Scholarship** was awarded to **Logan Farrington**, of the Nordlyset Lodge in Racine, Wisconsin. Logan is a senior at Union Grove High School and plans to attend University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee majoring in business



management. **Gratulerer Logan!**

A project we're working on...District Secretary Message

One of the items that came up in several committee reports during the spring board meeting were the Central Lodge and Spirit of the New Century Lodge members. How these members got there, how to better serve them, and how to encourage them to find a lodge near them was covered in the Membership Committee, Zone Alignment and New Lodge Starts committees.

What are they?

Spirit of the New Century- If a person joins Sons of Norway online and doesn't designate a lodge to join, they are put into the Spirit of the New Century Lodge. This is a "holding lodge" and once they join, a notice is sent to the District Vice President. The VP then contacts lodges which are close to where the new members live and encourage them to invite the new member to meetings and events. If interested, the new member can transfer to the local lodge.

Central Lodge- If a member is in the Spirit of the New Century for a year, they are transferred over to the Central Lodge. Others in Central Lodge include members from lodges that disbanded but didn't join another lodge, people who might have bought insurance products but aren't in a lodge, those who asked to transfer from a local lodge to it, and probably other reasons! Some members have chosen to be there because they don't want to be in a local lodge.

Both Central Lodge and Spirit of the New Century Lodges have the rights and ability to elect delegates for the District Lodge Meeting. I send a notice out via email to those members to let them know. These members can use all membership benefits, get *The Viking*, and emails.

Our challenges:

- We don't have a good way to maintain the Central Lodge database. There are probably many members who have moved, changed emails or phone numbers, and who might even have

passed away that are on there. Some of the birthdates can't be accurate or they'd be setting Guinness World Records as some are 120 years old! Uff da

- Giving these members a good experience- By not being part of a local lodge, they are missing on some major benefits of Sons of Norway- social, cultural and networking opportunities with other members.
- Retention- studies show that members who are connected to an organization will maintain their membership.

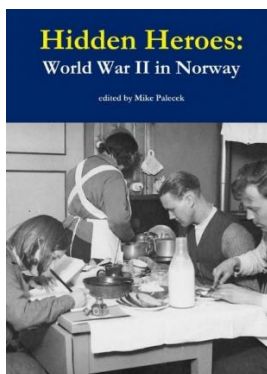
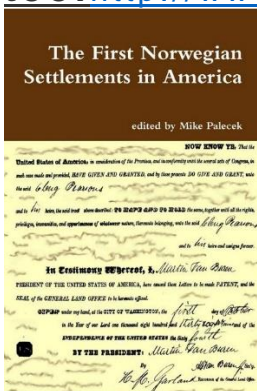
Our plan:

- We hope to continue to use the two lists and share information about those Spirit of the New Century members with local lodges. It is important that we maintain the membership confidentiality. So we won't send out the list in its entirety but can send what info we can.
- To develop a communication about the benefits of being in a local lodge.
- To have the committees work to update the Central Lodge list – especially those that are obviously wrong.
- To work with local lodges and share Central lodge members who live in their area.
- To have the Zone Alignment committee review those areas as they work on a proposal for changes in our zones.
- For the New Lodge Starts committee to use the information to identify areas that there are a lot of Central and Spirit of the New Century members. Can we explore hosting cultural activities there? Could some feelers be put out for new lodge development?

Your ideas and help are always welcomed and needed! It's a team effort with this project and we hope to add members to local lodges and better serve all members!

District 5 Merchandise for sale- just in time for Mothers and Fathers Day! Or check with your zone directors

too!http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/financial/district_5_merchandise.php



125th Anniversary Sports Challenge Progress!

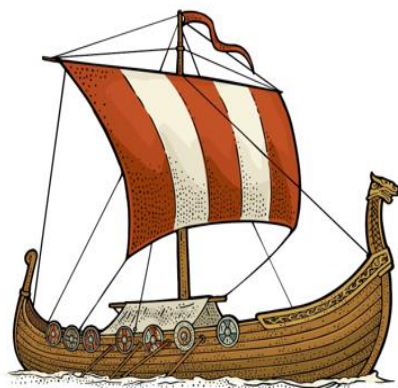
Polar Star Lodge members 5-472, Montgomery, IL, recently stepped ashore in Norway only to find that the country was closed! They turned around following a pause (for lefse and kaffe) and are now somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean on their way back to *The Land of Lincoln*.



Don Danielson, who winters in Jeri Lynn Baker is backpack (ruck) training in both indoors and outdoors. Arizona, is out for his daily stroll.

Currently the members from our lodge who are “walking” to Ringsaker are:

1. Nancy Andersen
2. Jerri Lynn Baker
3. Al Bergh
4. Don Danielson
5. Carol Devito
6. Josie Gehler
7. Tom Harkness
8. Ed Hatteberg
9. Barb Johnson
10. Ken Johnson
11. Frank Krawczyk
12. Karen Oswald
13. Diana Raimond
14. Viola Skogen
15. Jim Van Winkle
16. Carol Vignes
17. Richard Vignes
18. Kelly Welin



Please send your lodge's pictures from the Virtual Walk to Norway to Sports and Recreation Director, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser: rogcher@mhtc.net, for inclusion in a future edition of the FFFNews.

With many members quarantined inside this month, a stroll outdoors might be the lift your spirits need!

Tusen takk!



Nancy Andersen, Polar Star Social Director, leads members on their return home from Norway! Gratulerer til alle for hjelpen oss!



Viola Skogen



Ken Johnson



Barb Johnson

Opening at NAGN&NL- contact danakelly@nagcnl.org for more info

Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library

Position Guide: Senior Researcher

The Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library (NAGC & NL) is seeking a part-time genealogical researcher. The researcher will be responsible for providing professional service to patrons of NAGC & NL in the area of Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogy and family history.

The ideal candidate will have a strong understanding of genealogical research techniques, as well as familiarity with the culture, geography, and history of Norway.

Duties include:

- Manage, develop and promote the genealogy and family history collections.
- Provide research guidance to patrons
- Lead genealogy and family history classes and talks during the year at NAGC and other related organizations
- Develop professional relationships with genealogy and family history groups, including those employed by other libraries.
- Manage indexes and databases, including: i) Familiarity with a variety of information sources available to NAGC and the Naeseth Library, including Online sources of information. ii) Referring patrons to the appropriate information source, even if not available in the Naeseth Library.
- Recruit, educate, and manage research and library volunteers
- Maintain a working knowledge of significant developments and trends in the genealogy field.
- Promote the activities of the organization, its programs and goals by representing the program by outreach to agencies, organizations, and the general public.
- Establish sound working relationships and cooperative arrangements with community groups and organizations of national and international scope.
- Other duties as assigned

Job characteristics relevant to the position:

- Problem solving skills
- Ability to guide staff as needed
- Detailed knowledge of genealogy research best practices
- Familiarity with other local history collections
- Proven computer skills including Microsoft Office products and PastPerfect
- Sound research and analytical skills
- Ability to manage ones' own time and achieve professional standards
- Ability to plan and prioritize workload
- Well-developed communication skills

Wages commensurate with experience. This position has the potential to become a full-time position. Benefits available to NAGC & NL employees include paid time off, health reimbursement, and retirement contributions. All employees of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library are required to observe all Codes of Conduct.

Newsletter Service: Pandemic Supplement

The following articles are provided for distribution in lodge newsletters or other print and digital communications. Please do not revise. You will still receive your scheduled June/July issue of Newsletter Service as usual.

LODGE MEETINGS AND IN-PERSON EVENTS

Sons of Norway has been following the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic closely. In light of the declaration of a national emergency in the United States, and the CDC's recommendation to avoid in-person gatherings, **we strongly recommend that all Sons of Norway lodge meetings and in-person events be postponed through at least May 31.** We will continue to communicate updates as the situation evolves.

We recognize the difficulty this poses to all of us, but it is important that we work together as an organization to respond to this crisis responsibly. *Please continue to follow all state and local guidelines as you make decisions for your lodge.* If we can help in any way, don't hesitate to contact the Fraternal department at fraternal@sofn.com.

VIDEO CONFERENCE OPTIONS FOR MEETINGS

As you look for new ways to stay connected in this time of social distancing, here are a few free or low-cost video conferencing options that you can use to hold lodge meetings and other gatherings.

1. [GoToMeeting](#)
2. [Zoom](#)
3. [Skype](#)
4. [Amazon Chime](#)
5. [Google Hangouts](#)
6. FaceTime (limited to smaller groups; this option requires each participant to use an Apple product such as an iPhone, iPad or Macbook)

Although we are not able to distribute video conferencing software directly to lodges, we encourage you to explore these options for holding virtual meetings and social events. After an initial download, you will be given a quick set of instructions to get connected. It's fairly simple to have several people participate at once.

SONS OF NORWAY REMAINS STRONG

As we enter into this uncertain time in history, I want to assure you that Sons of Norway remains strong and dedicated to its members and insurance policy holders. From the spread of COVID-19 to unforeseen market volatility and natural disasters, we are living through unique times.

The world is changing at an extraordinary pace, and I want you to know Sons of Norway is well prepared for the current economic environment. Established in 1895 by 18 Norwegian immigrants with the mission to protect each other and their families, that mission has never been truer than it is today.

We have enacted our disaster plan to ensure that we can continue our day-to-day operations, provide service to our clients, and keep our employees safe. We have transitioned most of our

employees to work remotely, with limited staff onsite to maintain the day-to-day functions of the home office. We have the systems and safeguards in place to continue to provide you and your families the protection and support you expect from us.

The financial markets have never seen conditions like we are experiencing now, but rest assured your insurance is safe—both life insurance and annuities. We make very conservative long-term investments designed to weather these “perfect storm” conditions. We do not make short-term high-risk bets; as we always have done, we are protecting our members and clients by taking a conservative approach.

Our solvency remains extremely strong, which means our ability to pay claims and annuity income streams remains unchanged amid today’s uncertain circumstances. We want to thank you for being part of Sons of Norway and let you know we remain true to our mission of protecting our members, policy holders and employees.

Fraternally,



Chris Pinkerton, CEO

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions we’ve received as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Why did Sons of Norway postpone the International and District Conventions?

The Charter & Constitution gives the International Board of Directors authority to suspend or postpone the international convention for one meeting in case of a national emergency. Due to the national emergency declared in the United States, and the guidance for group gatherings issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Board of Directors determined that the most responsible course of action was to postpone the international convention until 2022.

How can my lodge take part in the recent food shelf program offer?

To be eligible for this donation-matching program, lodges must notify Sons of Norway headquarters of their plans to participate and send receipts to: Matt Roedel 1455 W. Lake Street Minneapolis, MN 55408. Please include a brief description of the aid given, including donation amount and the name and contact information of the recipient organization.

Is Sons of Norway still selling financial products and recruiting members during this time?

Yes, Sons of Norway remains strong during this time and is continuing to both sell financial products and recruit new members.

What about the event we have planned?

If you have an event planned for the next few weeks, we strongly recommend that you reschedule it. Most importantly, please follow all state and local guidelines as you consider holding in-person gatherings of any kind.

Can I still earn a Cultural Skills pin or work toward a Sports Medal?

Members are encouraged to work toward Cultural Skills pins and Sports Medals during this time. Send completed Cultural Skills reports to culturalskills@sonf.com, or mail hard copies to Sons of Norway headquarters. Sports Directors may order pins for lodge members by e-mailing sportsmedals@sofn.com, calling 612-821-4642, or mailing order forms to headquarters. Medals and pins will be mailed to lodge officers as staff scheduling allows.

Can I still reach people at Sons of Norway Headquarters if I have questions?

Yes. We are still operating during our regular business hours, with most of our employees working from home. Each department is fully operational and able to assist you as needed.

Can I still reach my insurance professional?

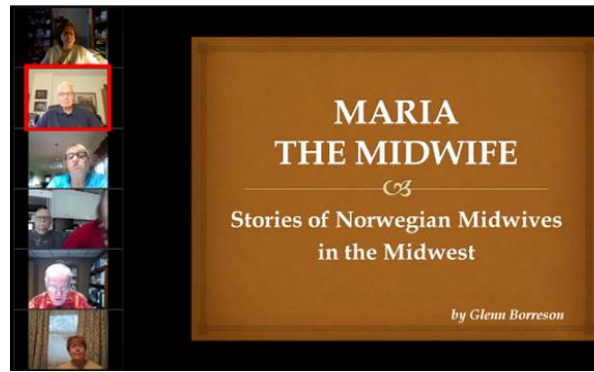
Yes. If you have any questions or if issues arise, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Insurance Professional by phone or email. They will be happy to serve you during this time.

Will I still receive my *Viking* magazine?

Yes! We will continue to print and ship *Viking* magazine though depending on where you live, your delivery may be delayed due to temporary shipping restrictions. We encourage you to [view the digital version of the magazine online](#) if delivery to your area is delayed.



Nordic News



Nordic News' first virtual "radio show" had its debut on Tuesday, April 28 with 30 lodge members throughout District 5 participating. Nordic News goals are to introduce D5 members to experts in Nordic or Nordic-American heritage and as an outreach activity to D5 members during the COVID-19 crisis. Presenter Glenn Borreson, of Wergeland lodge 5-28, did a talk on "Maria the Midwife: Stories of Norwegian Midwives in the Midwest."

Borreson gives a dozen different presentations on Norwegian-American topics. During the Q&A session after his talk, one participant shared that their lodge really enjoyed Borreson's talk on "coffin ships" which focuses on death which some immigrants faced on their way to America. Borreson will be back in May to give this presentation.

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, District 5 Sports and Recreation director also updated us on the "District 5 walk to Ringsaker."

If you missed the Nordic News April 28 presentation, you can view it at:

<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/7ab13de6a5248410f73d372de1aa754c9bf19b9c22a748f3b14894d96caadf49>

The upcoming schedule includes:

Tuesday, May 5: Norwegian-Americans in Michigan (by Norkap lodge in Detroit MI)

Tuesday, May 12: "Project Hermott/Thams Pavillion" (by Cheryl Wille-Schlesser)

Meeting start times are 6:20 PM (CT), 7:20 PM (ET). The session opens 10 minutes early, to give you time to connect. The meeting will be finished about 40 minutes later.

You can participate by: computer at: <https://gotomeet.me/SofN-D5> or telephone at: 646-749-3112 (access code: 509-077-557)

If you want to use an iPad, iPhone, or Android smartphone or tablet, go to the appropriate app store and download the GoToMeeting app. The session name is SofN-D5

If you have a suggestion for a presentation on a Nordic or Nordic-American topic which should be featured on the Nordic News "radio show," please contact Mike Palecek at mikep@sonsofnorwayracine.com. There is a list of Glenn Borreson's presentations on the District 5 website at http://sonsofnorway5.com/programs/speakers_bureau.php. The best way to initially contact Glenn is via email: borresong@yahoo.com.

2020 District 5 and International Calendar and Deadlines

Changes in red!

May 5, 2020

- Nordic News- Norwegian-Americans in Michigan (by Norkap lodge in Detroit MI) at 6:20 PM

May 10, 2020

- Lodge photos are due to the District Publicity Director by the 10th of the month for the 'Viking' Magazine consideration in the edition three months out.

May 12, 2020

- Nordic News- Norwegian-Americans in Michigan (by Norkap lodge in Detroit MI) at 6:20 PM

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

June 10, 2020

- Lodge photos are due to the District Publicity Director by the 10th of the month for the 'Viking' Magazine consideration in the edition three months out.

July 5, 2020

- Deadline for submitting photos for the **District 5 Scandinavian Photo Contest**

July 10, 2020

- Lodge photos are due to the District Publicity Director by the 10th of the month for the 'Viking' Magazine consideration in the edition three months out.

August 10, 2020

- Lodge photos are due to the District Publicity Director by the 10th of the month for the 'Viking' Magazine consideration in the edition three months out.

September 2020

- Lodge liability premium sent to all lodge treasurers. This package includes information regarding the coverage, a certificate of insurance for the lodge and an invoice for the lodge's share of the premium.
- September 10 – Foundation Board of Governors applications due. If you are someone who loves nonprofits, governance and your Nordic values, running for a Foundation board position may be a perfect fit!

September 10, 2020

- Lodge photos are due to the District Publicity Director by the 10th of the month for the 'Viking' Magazine consideration in the edition three months out.

October 2020

- Lodge Officer Update/D63 form and instructions is mailed to lodge secretaries.
- The Sons of Norway Foundation portal is available for lodges and individuals to apply for grants and scholarships.
- Lodge Achievement, Family Lodge of the Year and AFA Year-end report forms and instructions is mailed to lodge secretaries.

- Lodge Baneløpet Coordinators are encouraged to contact Sons of Norway Headquarters to discuss plans for anticipated events.

October is Foundation Month

- Help support our grant and scholarship recipients and share your Nordic values by celebrating Foundation month! Please consider a donation directly to the Foundation or plan a fundraising event through your lodge.
- October 1 Grant applications open – Our lodge grants award amounts go up to \$500-\$1,500 depending on a lodge's project.
- October 1 Scholarship applications open – Scholarship opportunities start at \$1,000 with an average scholarship of \$3,000.

October 10, 2020

- Lodge photos are due to the District Publicity Director by the 10th of the month for the 'Viking' Magazine consideration in the edition three months out.

October 15, 2020

- Lodge liability premium is due to Sons of Norway Headquarters.

November 10, 2020

- Lodge photos are due to the District Publicity Director by the 10th of the month for the 'Viking' Magazine consideration in the edition three months out.

December 2020

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

December 10, 2020

- Lodge photos are due to the District Publicity Director by the 10th of the month for the 'Viking' Magazine consideration in the edition three months out.

December 15, 2020

- **District 5 Sports Challenge ends**

December 16, 2020

- Application deadline for:
 - Community Partnership Grant applications are due to Sons of Norway Foundation.
- 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.)

December 31, 2020

- 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.

DISTRICT FIVE LODGE MEETING

Idun Lodge will host the meeting in 2022 in Madison, Wisconsin. Hotel to be determined.

INTERNATIONAL LODGE MEETING

The International Lodge Meeting will be held in 2022. The location has not been announced.

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.

Time period	Zone with chest
October 2019-April 2020	5
April 2020-October 2020	2
October 2020-April 2021	4
April 2021-October 2021	6
October 2021 – April 2022	1
April 2022 – October 2022	3

Zone Meeting Schedule 2020

Zone	Date	Hosted by	Location
1	Thursday, Feb 20 at 1:15	Zone 1 Directors	Veterans Community Center, Hayward during the volunteer reception after Barnebirkie
2			
3	Sat. January 25	Mandt Lodge	Stoughton, WI
4			
5			
6			

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 25-28 at the Radisson Hotel, Grand Canyon Drive, Madison hosted by Idun Lodge.
- The International Sons of Norway Convention will be August 19-23, 2020 in Ringsaker Norway

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