

Sons of Norway District 5 - Friendly Fifth Friday News

May 17, 2024

A District Weekly Newsletter to Keep Us Up to Date!

April 27, 2024

Hello Members,

Most of the meeting centered on the new dues structure recently approved by the International Board. The presidents shared their frustration at the lack of consultation with District Presidents and the absence of clear justification for the reasons behind such a hefty increase. Several presidents shared the concerns of members living on a fixed income and the difficulty they will have paying for the new amount. Many of our members are older and living on a fixed income.

There is a visible disconnect from the home office and a further move away from the fraternal portion of the Sons of Norway (SofN). The three-legged stool well-known by our members is segueing to a shaky two-legged stool. While this poses problems for all districts, it gives them more autonomy in planning fraternal events, challenges, and opportunities for their SofN members. There is a serious concern for Canadian and Norwegian lodge survival; an estimate is that both districts may be gone in five years.

The key players at the home office staff make salaries in the six-figure range, in addition to traditional benefits. Due to a lack of transparency, it is uncertain what the current status of the company is.

A question was posed about how widely used the monthly membership lists are. An assumption at the home office is that they are not being used. We know this to be false in District 5 as our vice president, Wendy Winkelman, sends reports to our lodge leaders detailing increases and losses from our rolls. What is lacking is a comprehensive membership report from the home office. The last report was received in January 2024. The feeling is that this membership information is purposely being withheld.

The convention structure in each of the districts was shared. There is still some uncertainty about which home office staff will be assigned to specific districts. Know that Amy Tutenhagen, SofN Foundation, and Dan Seyfried, Chief Operating Officer, will attend our convention; each will come prepared with a statement about business operations.

DELEGATES SHOULD COME PREPARED WITH THEIR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DUES STRUCTURE CHANGE or any other questions they want answered. Time will be provided to field your questions. District 5's International Director, Duane Kittleson will be on-site, as will the International Secretary, Robin Fossum.

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

District 5 President

cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com

608-219-4464 (Please leave a voice message.)

Sport Challenge Ends May 19!!

A member sports challenge was approved by the D5 Board at our recent fall board meeting and in advance of the June convention in Indianapolis.

The Board encourages our members to exercise via the mode they prefer. Hike, bike, walk, snowshoe, ski, or swim your way to Indianapolis! Keeping ourselves healthy and strong is the goal. Fight off the winter doldrums and create a new you in 2024! The challenge will run from October 19, 2023, to May 19, 2024. Local sports directors can plan specific outings for their lodge, or individuals can chart their own course. Choose a warm time of the day and simply GO FOR IT! Another perk, members can also earn Sons of Norway sports medals in the process.

If your lodge is planning a friluftsliv event, include the challenge as part of your day! *Keep track of your miles and submit them to your lodge's sports director or give them to your lodge president for recognition.

Participants could be recognized at your Syttende Mai banquet or May lodge meeting. We will also acknowledge members at the 2024 District 5 Convention. Their names will be posted to the D5 webpage, and they will receive a participant **award from their local lodge. A template will be provided.**

The route:

All participants will begin by leaving their residence and heading to our northernmost lodge geographically, Dovre Lodge, in Chetek, WI. They meet at Chetek Lutheran Church. Then They will redirect themselves to our southernmost lodge, Vikings of the Smokies Lodge, in Knoxville, TN. They meet at Faith Lutheran Church. Lastly, participants will head for the finish line in Indy and so calculate the miles to our convention hotel!

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
District 5 President and Interim Sports Director
cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com

How to calculate the distance your lodge's goal:

Distance from where your lodge meets to Chetek Lutheran Church
1419 2nd Street
Chetek WI 54728

_____ miles

+ Distance to Faith Lutheran Church, 39 Jamestowne Road Farragut, TN 37934 (912 miles)

+ Distance to the hotel in Indianapolis (376 miles)

Record the total number of miles at the end of the challenge.

_____ + 912 + 376

= _____ miles (your goal)



**District 5 Sport and Recreation Challenge for the 2024 Convention
Tracking Sheet**
Miles accumulated from October 19, 2023, to May 19, 2024

Name _____ Lodge _____ Phone _____

Address _____, City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Goal (in miles) _____

Date	Miles	Date	Miles	Date	Miles

Total for this sheet _____ If this is the final sheet, your grand total _____ miles.



**Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp
July 14 - 27, 2024**

**** Local Lodge Supporting Grant Endorsement ****

THIS ENDORSEMENT MUST BE POSTMARKED BY: **May 17, 2024.**

Please Note: Local Lodges provide varying amounts of support for their Masse Moro campers.
District 5 will match the Local Lodge Supporting Grant up to **\$250.00** per District 5 camper.
Contact your Lodge's president to determine requirements and Supporting Grant amount. Tusen Takk!

Camper or Sponsor complete this section (please print):

Camper Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Sons of Norway Member/Sponsor Name: _____ Member # _____

Name and address of Lodge of Sponsor Relationship to Camper

E-mail: _____ Phone Number _____

Camper: complete the above information, then send this form to your sponsoring lodge for further processing.

LOCAL LODGE ENDORSEMENT

The members of _____ Lodge, 5-_____, have voted to endorse this applicant for Masse Moro – Sons of Norway District 5 Norwegian Heritage Camp for the 2022 season.

Enclosed is check number _____ in the amount of \$ _____ Date of Application: _____

Print Lodge President or Secretary

Signature

Phone Number of President/Secretary

❖ **Make checks payable to: Nordic Legacy Foundation**

❖ **Please include the camper's name on the memo line of the check.**

❖ **THE ENDORSEMENT MUST BE POSTMARKED BY May 17, 2024.**

❖ **LODGES: Please send this completed form and the accompanying supporting check to:**

Lisa Rove-Williams, District 5 Youth Director
771 W Dresser Rd
DeKalb, IL 60115
E-mail: rovewilliams@comcast.net

Happy Syttende Mai

<https://www.visitnorway.com/typically-norwegian/norways-national-day/>



Viking Photos Due May 20

Photos submitted need to be unedited. The folks at The Viking will do any needed editing. I prefer the photos be submitted through e-mail. Each photo submitted needs to have a Photo Submission Form. https://sonsofnorway5.com/publicity_director_messages/

TIP: To keep this blank form, make a copy of it on your computer. Use the copy to fill in and submit to me, and do that every time. That way, you still have a blank form for the next photo submission, etc. Photos without the submission form will not be sent forward. The people in Minneapolis need to know who, what, where the picture was taken.

When you send a photo, send it in an email to my address, 2nor1rus@gmail.com. Include the copy of the submission form with the photo in the same email.

There has been a slow period lately for photo submissions. I hope the traffic will pick up! I enjoy seeing your photos and sending them forward.

Photos need to be submitted to me by the 20th of each month. That gives me a couple days to get them forwarded by my deadline.

If you have any questions, send me an email. I will try my best to help you with the process. I'm looking forward to seeing more photos come my way!

Fraternally,
LaVonne Wier
District 5 Publicity Director

Calendar of Events, Deadlines, and Other Dates to Note (changes in red)

May 17- Masse Moro Lodge Supporting Grants Due

May 19- District Sports Challenge Ends

May 19- ~~Deadline to reserve rooms under the room block for the District Convention at convention rates~~ **THE HOTEL BLOCK IS FULL**

May 20- Viking photos due to LaVonne Wier

June 19-22- District Five Lodge Meeting and Convention in Indianapolis

June 20- Viking photos due to LaVonne Wier

Who to contact at the home office when you need help

- You can email cbs@sofn.com for any member updates that need to be made.
- For anything fraternal- Connie O'Brien (COBrien@sofn.com) or Amy Tuchenhagen (ATuchenhagen@sofn.com).
- For matter like submitting a death, a change to a members address or other info please email cbs@sofn.com
- For issues with passwords or website use ithelp@sofn.com.
- The 800 number to call in for member support is 800-945-8851
- If you need something related to sales, you can use sales@sofn.com

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 Conventions/Lodge Meetings will be added as those dates are established. Watch for future mailings and the District 5 website.

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 4 am on Thursday morning. 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