

Friendly Fifth Friday News

May 19, 2023

Send all web posting info and calendar dates/events directly to our webmaster at inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com. Feel free to share this with your lodge members!

District 5 Special Task Force Call Notes

Saturday, April 29, 2023

There were 23 participants on the call, and several had two members on the device. So about 25 on the call.

President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser welcomed the group, recapped the first call, and discussed her hopes for future work of the task force.

We did not have anyone volunteer to chair the task force so the Zone Alignment & Lodge Development and Support Committee will continue to chair it.

Duane Kittleson shared information that he obtained to answer questions we had on the first call.

- He has asked to discuss whether any District board member needs a benefit product during the spring International Board meeting.
- Chris Pinkerton explained that the products Central Lodge members are buying are the same ones offered to lodge members. Efforts to have Insurance Professionals (IP's) visit lodges have been met with resistance by many lodges that don't want them coming.
- A new product will be released – maybe by the third quarter.

The group discussed ways that we can promote insurance products and help IP's reach out to lodges. We thought electronic meetings, sharing information in newsletters, having Zone Directors include insurance product information or having IPs at events might help.

International Secretary Robin Fossum shared that there is a committee looking at District restructuring. There isn't a timeline and it is a topic for the spring International Board meeting. That prompted discussion about are the efforts of this task force necessary if we don't know what District lines will be? We determined that we can still explore how the District Board (however it looks and whatever our zones are) can help local lodges.

We had an email from Clarke Brekke asking about the purpose of zones, what zone directors do, and Darlene shared these resources.

District lodge

2.3 Organization and structure

SON lodges exist throughout the USA, Canada, and Norway and are divided into geographical districts, each of which are assigned local lodges. Each of these district lodges is known by its number assignment.

2.3.1 Consists of

A district lodge shall consist of its elected officers and directors, all of whom shall be benefit members, and delegates from each local lodge (who are not required to be benefit members), and the elected international officers and directors from the district. The officers of a district lodge shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers and directors as specified in the district bylaws. The benefit provision for district board members shall not be required for countries, provinces, or states where SON is not authorized to sell SON financial benefit products.

2.3.2 Requirements

District lodges may be established by the IBOD within geographical areas having at least 3,000 members.

2.3.3 Optional division

Each district lodge may be divided into several geographical zones for administrative purposes. The boundaries of the zone shall be fixed by the district lodge and the description thereof shall be stated in the district bylaws.

How does the District Board do its job?

- Board members are assigned by the district president to mentor local lodges in their vicinity (within a ZONE)
 - Visit lodges.
 - Attending lodge events.
 - Be available to help with questions from members.
 - Provide leadership training.
 - Board members serve in officer positions such as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, youth director, publicity director, cultural director and sports & recreation director.
- Currently district 5 has six (6) zones. There are two BOD members assigned to each zone which are referred to as zone directors. The zone directors may also hold an officer position which requires additional duties for the district in general.

Darlene gave an update from the April 14-15 Board meeting: Bylaw Proposal- passed.

101	78	2
Possible	Vote Yes	Vote No

We need to have the Board accept the vote and she has updated the bylaws.

We discussed how to communicate with the District members to get input for the zone changes and discussion. Posting the task force call notes, PowerPoint, FFFN, emails to leadership, and direct presentations to lodges were discussed.

The group discussed how zones were historically created (by population), how we have evolved to geography, and what representation is needed. One thought is if a zone has six or more lodges, they need two directors and if under six, one director. Or one could look at lodge membership as a guideline but sometimes the larger lodges need less help as they are doing okay. It's the smaller, struggling lodges that need more help.

Another discussion was on the call's comments on officer's vs zone directors, should they have to do both, compensation, and other thoughts.

The committee recommends the board discuss the task force call notes and then determine the next step.

The board wants to have the Task Force engaged in getting feedback. A combination of in-person listening sessions and ZOOM meetings might work. Having a template to lead these meetings would give board members consistent talking points and resources.

The timeline we'd like to see:

- April – Hold a call with the Task Force to discuss a timeline and what the board discussed.
- May– July- hold listening sessions in-person and via ZOOM.
- August- have another Task Force Call and see what the feedback is and develop two main proposals to take to lodges for input.
- August – September- get feedback on the two proposals.
- October- have a report to the board.

- October – December- take a bylaw proposal to the District 5 members (delegates in Middleton)
- January – announce results so the Nominating Committee can move forward.

There was a question about whether a lodge can move to another District? Duane explained that he was on an International Committee a number of years ago and there was a procedure to do so.

Discussion included:

- Zones are more administrative and that doesn't mean that if a lodge isn't in the same zone as another, they can't do social or other activities together.
- Zone structure is set up to help lodges.
- Population distribution- perhaps we should focus on that in order to make sure that we have enough potential board members rather than focusing on geography.
- Darlene shared the updated International Charter and Bylaws (Dec 2022) and District Bylaws (March 2022) as resources to use.
- We discussed the role of directors- can we help more electronically and not have the travel/gas/expenses of visiting in-person? Visits are nice but not essential. Distance is certainly an issue in several zones. Online meetings can offer a variety of topics.
- Adult Heritage Camps and the District 5 Convention can both have opportunities for leadership training, help sessions, and administrative support.

Judy Ghastin shared several maps that she worked on. Darlene will get them and scan them for the group.

Going forward:

1. Darlene will compile all the "possible zone alignment" maps as something to show lodges to prompt discussion.
2. She will compile both an online google survey and one that can be printed that task force members can take to lodges in their area to get feedback from. It will also ask questions about the structure of the board. There was a discussion to make sure local lodge officers discuss the survey.
3. Surveys and gaining input will take place in May-July. We are anxious to hear what happens at the International Board meeting so set the next call for Saturday, May 27, at 9:00 AM CST. We will close the online survey before the May 27 meeting so we have some initial feedback from the District but will continue to compile the in-person and other methods of getting input.
4. There was a suggestion to promote our District NLF Grant (up to \$200) that lodges could apply for to help them with technology.

At the end of the call, Cheryl reminded the group that she would like the D17/D18 and 990 confirmations from lodges to ensure that all had reported.

After the call, Jim Herman volunteered to work with potential maps based on population. Darlene referred this to our Vice President to get Jim the membership numbers.

Notes by Darlene Arneson, Chr
Zone Alignment and Lodge Development & Support Committees

Task Force Survey May 2023

Please send your thoughts on zones so the District 5 Task Force and Board can review them. Please email your responses to Darlene Arneson by May 27 for discussion at our next meeting. The online, email and hard copies surveys will close on July 15. The District 5 Task Force will use your responses in their report to the Board. Send them to arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or mail to Darlene Arneson, 2056 Skaalen Road, Stoughton, WI 53589. You can also fill this out online at:

Thank you!

Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary and Chair (Zone Alignments and Lodge Development & Support Committee)

What do you expect from your zone directors as far as visits, contacts, or other help?

- Visit once a year
- Hosting zone meetings or events
- Regular communications via email, virtual platforms, or phone calls
- In-person visits
- Assistance with forms and filings

Other:

Do you feel connected to the other lodges in your zone?

- Yes- we do many things with other lodges.
- We have limited dealings with other lodges.
- We never get together or work with them.
- I'd like to have leadership training provided.
- I'd like to see more social or cultural events.

Other:

Looking at the distance between some lodges and where the zone directors live, what suggestions do you have for addressing communications/visits/outreach in some areas?

- Meeting via a virtual platform (ZOOM, TEAMS) is fine.
- I'd like to have some in-person events.
- I'd like to have some monthly/quarterly opportunities to meet.
- I'd like to have in-person training at least once a year.

Other:

Do you have any suggestions for realignment, changing the number of zones, or other ways that would make the zone assignments equal in numbers, distance and services provided by the District Board.

I've reviewed the maps and think that some look like they'd work well.

I want to leave the zones as they are.

I don't think we need zones at all.

Other:

For the structure of the District Board

I like the structure as it is- 2 zone directors per zone, all officers except Secretary and Treasurer are zone directors.

I don't think any officer should be a zone director.

One zone director is enough.

Elect an Executive Committee and then one zone director per zone.

I think the number of zone directors should be based on the number of lodges.

I think the number of zone directors should be based on the membership in the zone.

Other:

Other thoughts or comments!

Or you can share this or fill it out via Google Survey!

I've invited you to fill out a form:

[SN D5 Task Force May Survey](#)

Please send your thoughts on zones so the District 5 Task Force and Board can review them. Please input your responses by using this survey for discussion at our next meeting. The online, email and hard copies surveys will close on July 15. The District 5 Task Force will use your responses in their report to the Board. Send them to arnesonfamily5@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary and Chair (Zone Alignments and Lodge Development & Support Committee

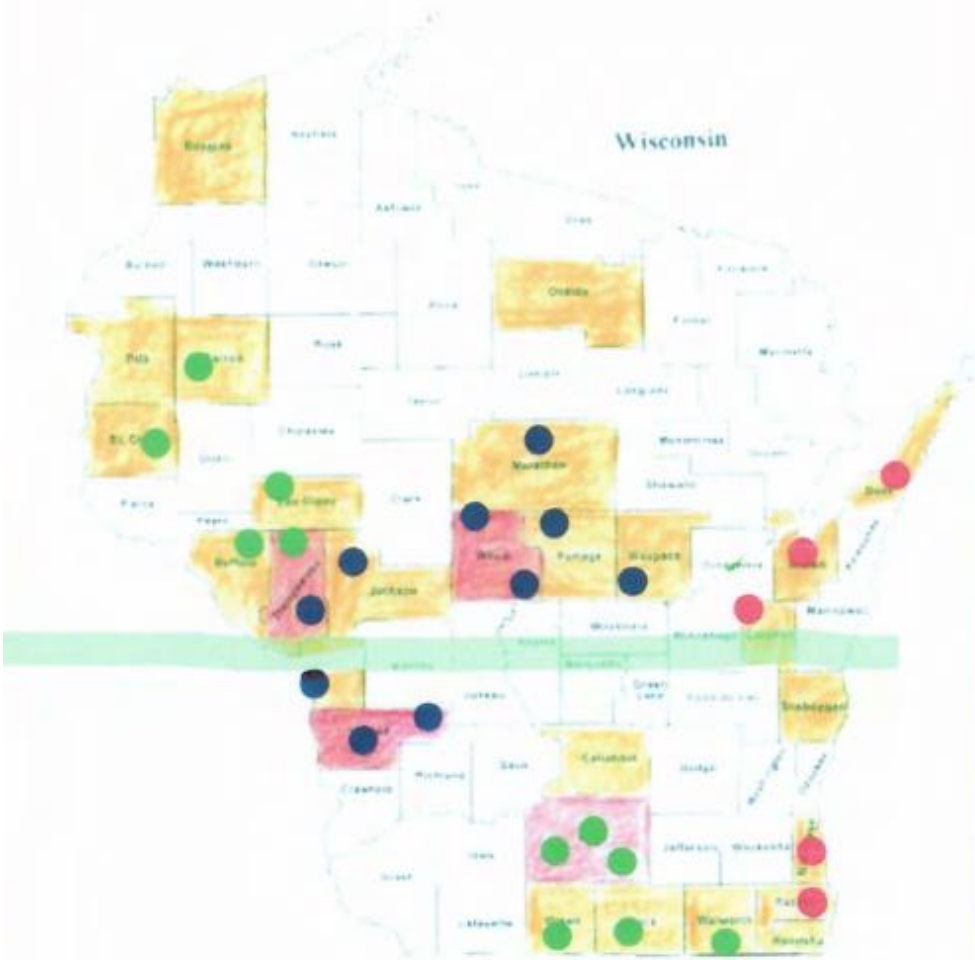
FILL OUT FORM

Task Force Discussion of how zones might look if re-organized! These are just some examples of what realignments could be considered. What do you think? They are labeled on the upper right so you can refer to them during discussion or comments. They are not proposals at this time- just some “what ifs” to consider!

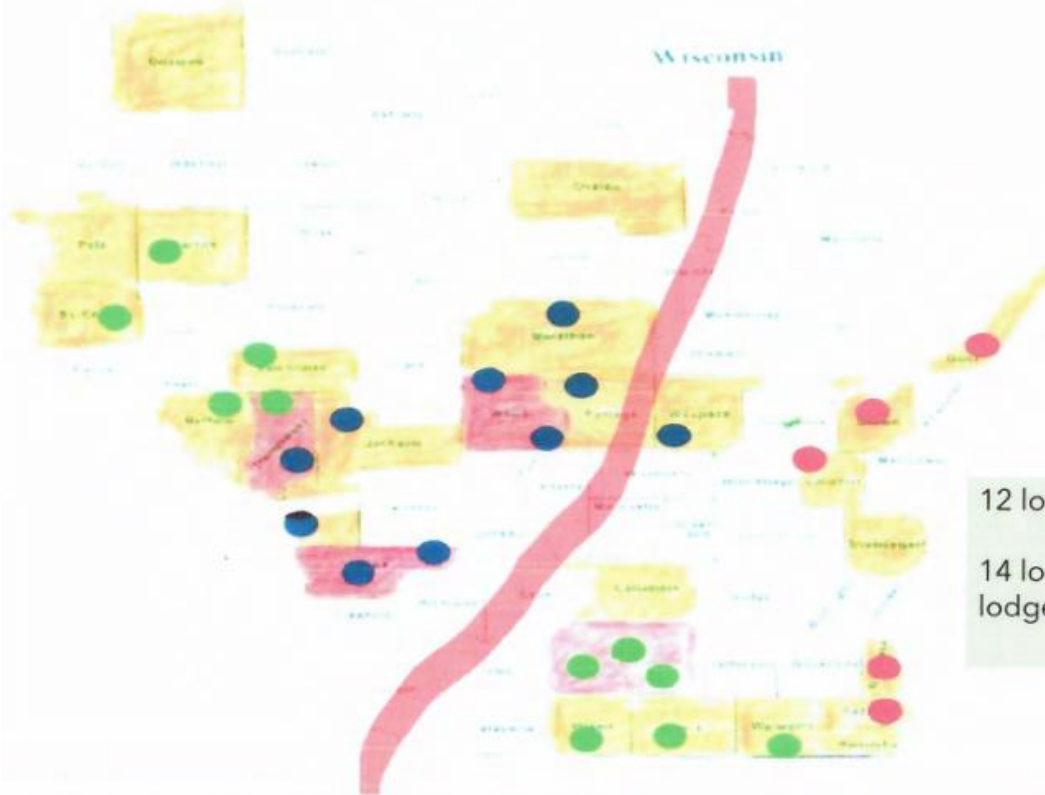
Thank you for your input!



Diane
#1



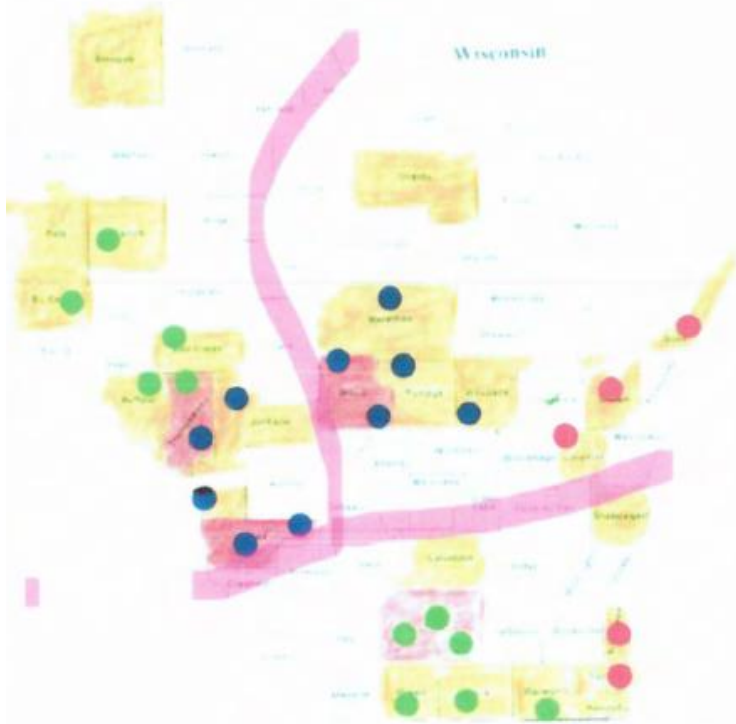
*Done
#2*



12 lodges east side

14 lodges west side (one lodge possible disbanding)

Diana #3

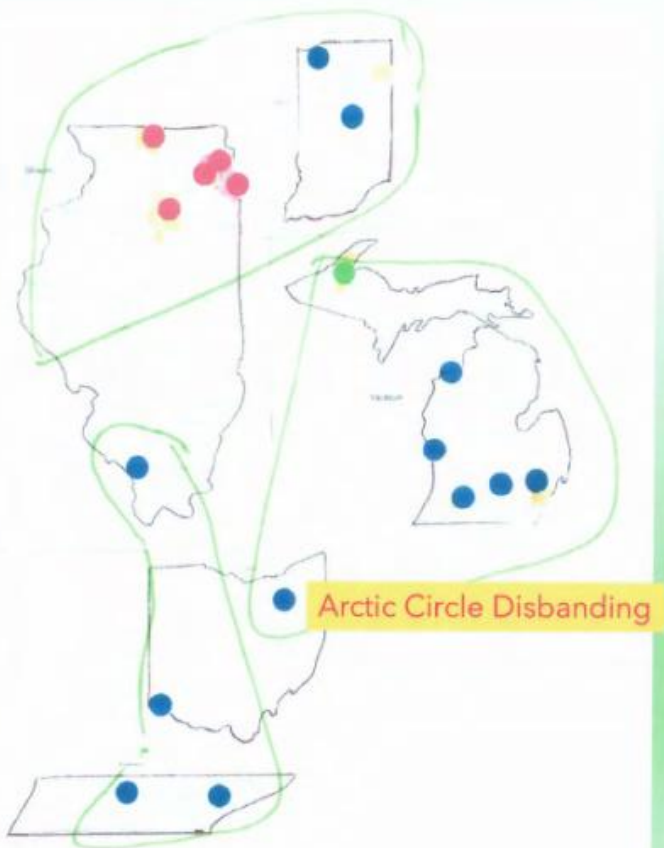


10 lodges in west (one possible disbanding)

8 lodges in northeast

8 lodges in south

Diana #11



North IL & IN - 7 lodges

Michigan - 6 lodges

South IL, Southwest Ohio and Tennessee - 4 lodges

*DMR-
#5*

Board of Directors BOD					
	Number of Zones	Officer with Zone Duties	Officer w/o Zone Duties	Zone Director	Total BOD
Currently*	6	5	3	7	15
Option 1	5	3	5	4	12

* Current assumes bylaw change approved.

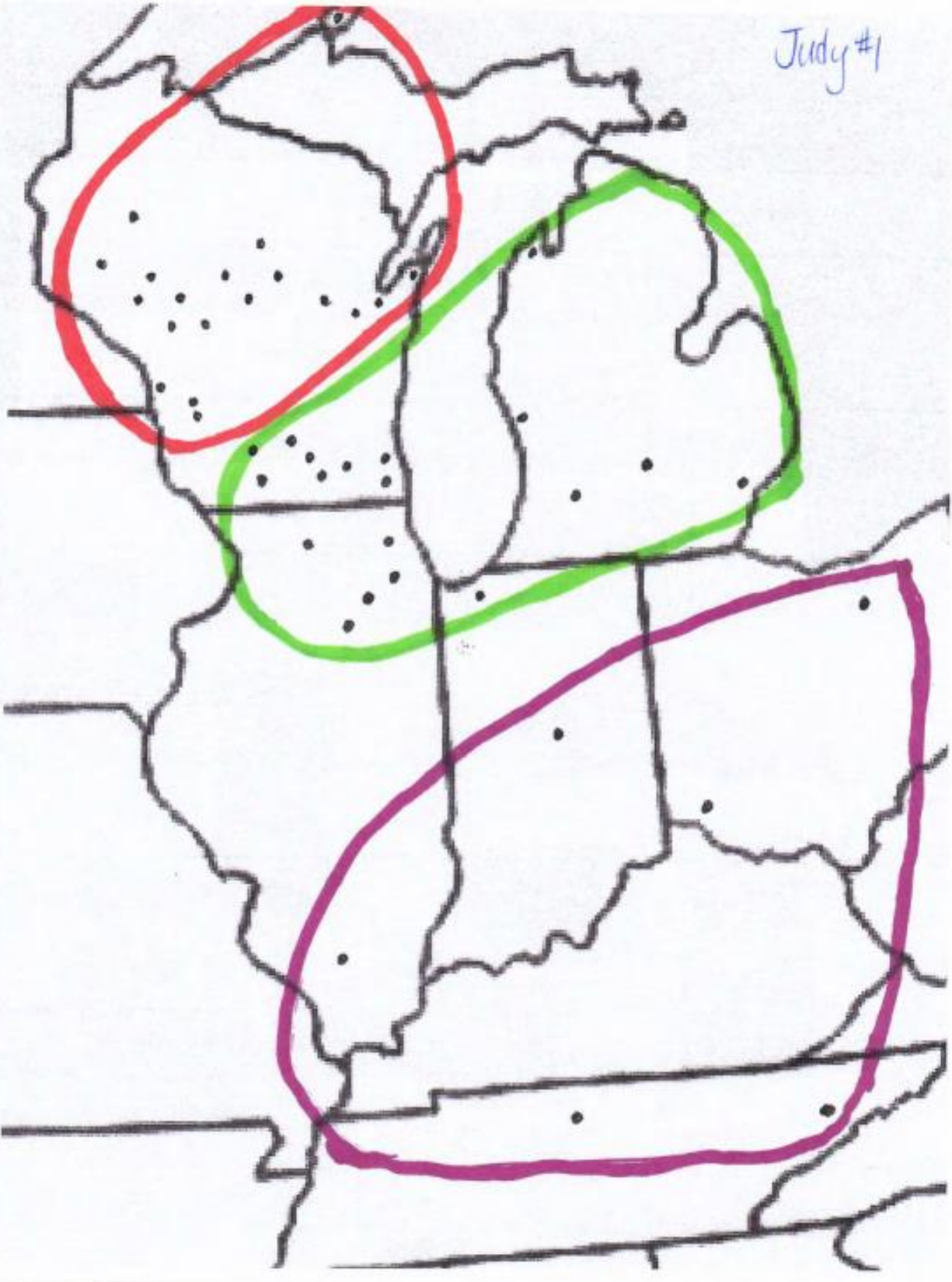
*DMR-
Board
Structure*

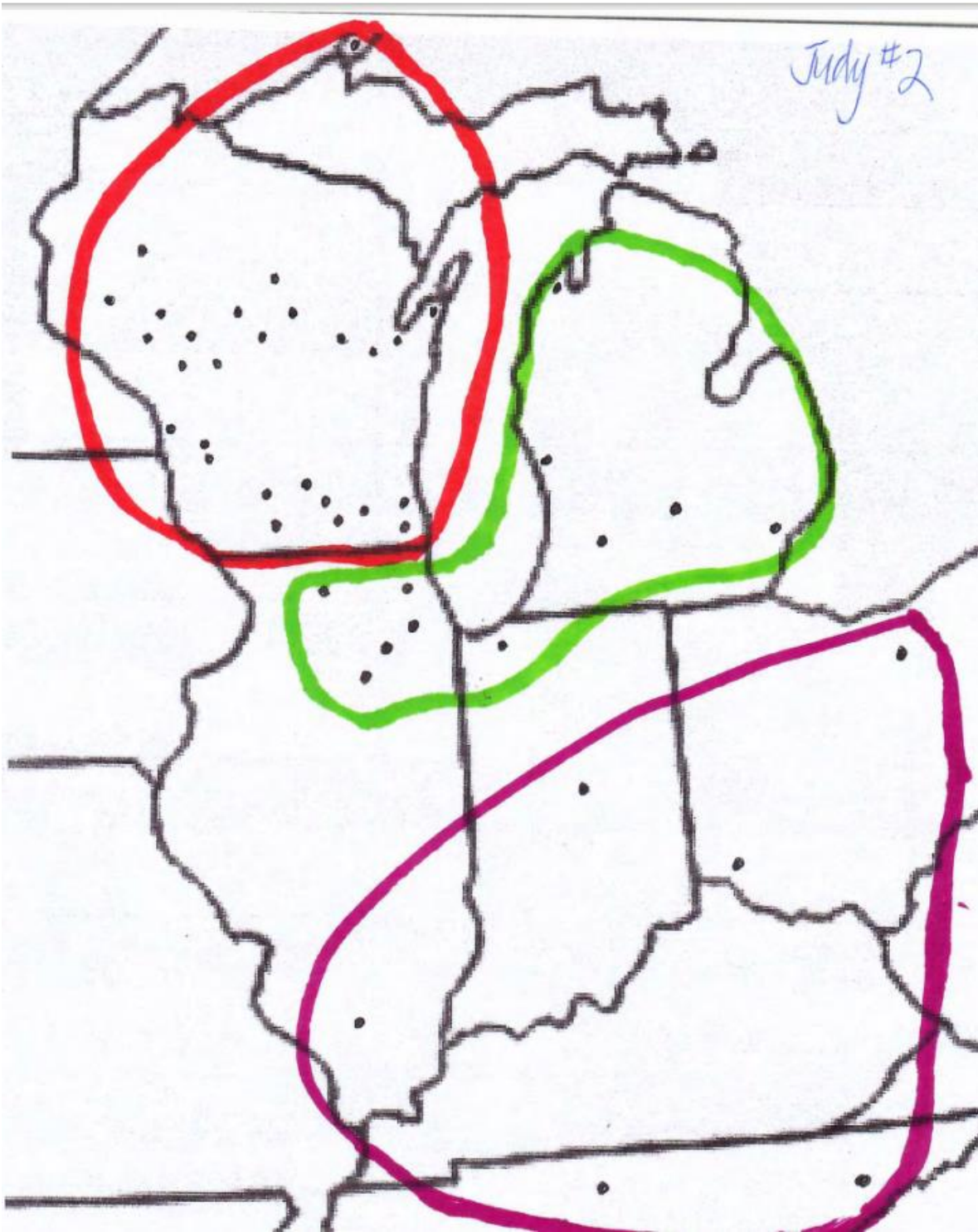
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Zone 1 Director & Alternate
- Zone 2 Director & Alternate
- Zone 3 Director & Alternate
- Youth Director
- Sports Director
- Publicity Director
- Cultural Director

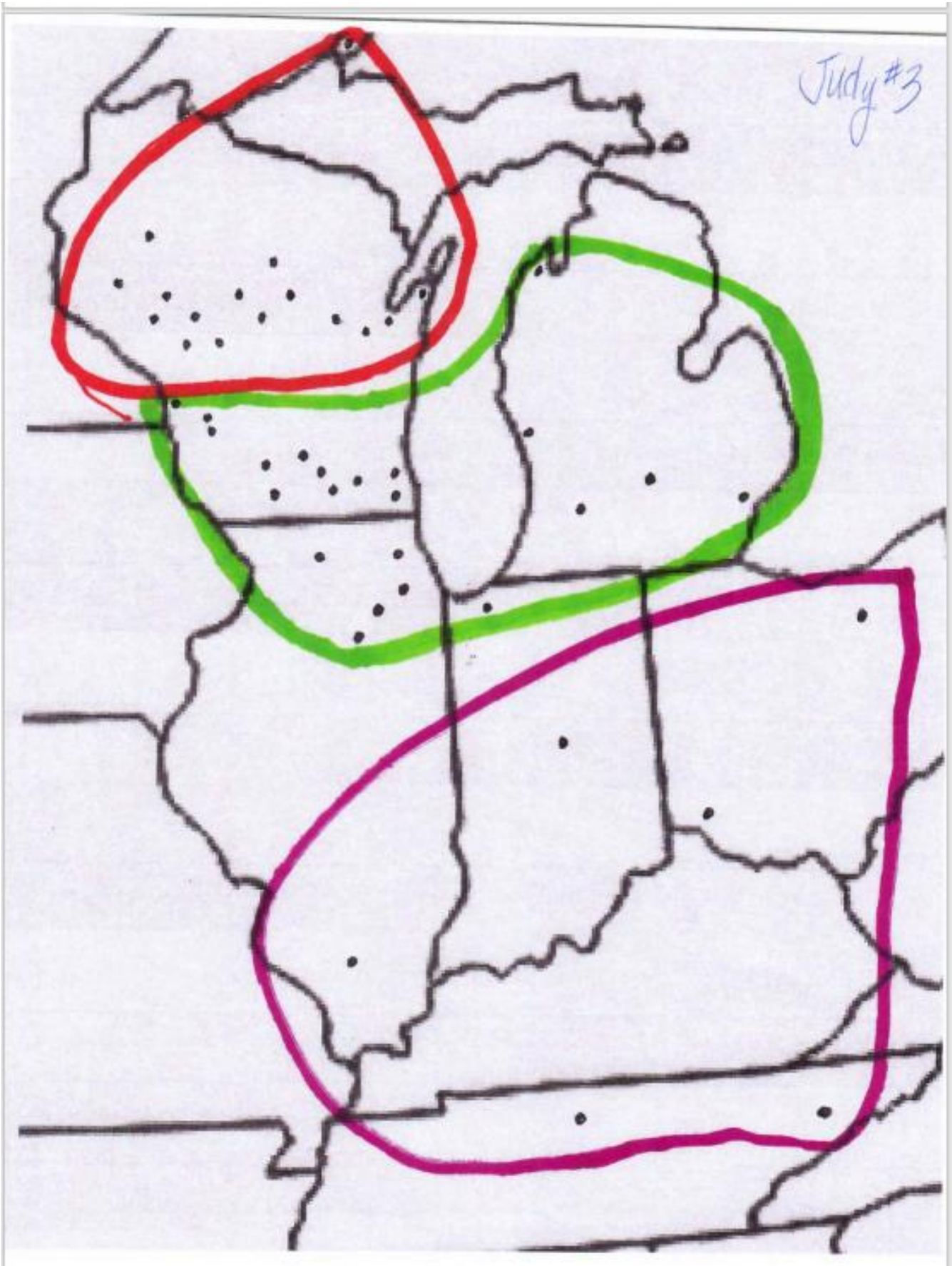
Self-board structure

Alternates considered assistants, work with directors on assigned areas (adds 3 members to board)
 Locate non-board spokespeople in various parts of the zone to act as local reporters to the Board.
 14 Board members

Judy #1







Deadlines and Dates! **Changes in red!**

- June 5- Photo submissions for the Viking to LaVonne Wier at 2nor1rus@gmail.com
- July 5- Photo submissions for the Viking to LaVonne Wier at 2nor1rus@gmail.com
- July 16-21- Masse Moro Camp
- **August 13- Zone 3 picnic at John and Darlene Arneson's farm in Stoughton**
- October 13-14- District 5 Board Meeting in Mt. Horeb, WI
- October 27-29- District 5 Adult Heritage Camp and Destination Stoughton Weekend in Stoughton, WI

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). Sherry Gorse is no longer employed at Sons of Norway.
- 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

Viking Chest / Immigrant Trunk Schedule

Apr 2023 to Oct 2023:

Chest--zone 4 – Contact Connie Aiello and Judy Ghastin to reserve them

Trunk--zone 3 – Contact Scott Wegner and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser to reserve them

Oct 2023 to Apr 2024:

Chest--zone 6

Trunk--zone 5

Apr 2024 to Oct 2024

Chest--zone 2

Trunk--zone 1

Oct 2024 to April 2025

Chest--zone 3

Trunk--zone 4

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.

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@sonsofnorway5.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