

Sons of Norway District 5 - Friendly Fifth Friday News
May 9, 2025
A District Weekly Newsletter to Keep Us Up to Date!

Only one week to go!

May 15

- IRS filing deadline for tax form 990. Lodge treasurer needs to notify Sons of Norway Headquarters when 990 has been submitted.

May 17- Masse Moro Lodge Supporting Grants Due

May 17- Masse Moro Registrations Due

990

All US lodges must complete a 990 form by May 15. Send verification copy to taxinfo@sofn.com once it has been submitted. Questions about the 990 are best answered through the IRS website. It should not cost anything to file the 990. Refer to their website for more information: [Annual electronic notice \(Form 990-N\) for small organizations FAQs: How to file | Internal Revenue Service](#)

Activity Report

Lodges often reach out to us with questions about their monthly activity report. We are aware of issues with this report, where information gets duplicated under multiple categories. While we look for a solution, we recommend that lodges cross check their activity report with their membership list. Member information updates are quickly reflected in that sheet. We encourage leaders to become familiar and comfortable with the Excel version of the membership list, as it

lists the most information and can be sorted and filtered to reflect specific data you may be looking for.

Excel Resources

If you are not comfortable using Excel, you are encouraged to go online and find some training videos. Typing in “Excel for beginners” will bring up many helpful websites and videos to help you get started.

Sons of Norway Foundation News – Grant Announcements

The Sons of Norway Foundation is proud to announce the Board of Governors has approved the grants for the 2024-25 cycle. There were 76 applications requesting \$200,000 in grant funding and the Foundation was able to fully or partially fund 90% of those requests.

The Board also approved two Helping Hands for Members grant applications. A reminder these grants are offered on a rolling basis throughout the year, so we can be there for our members in a time of need.

Applicants will be notified shortly if they received full or partial funding, or no funding this cycle. Checks are expected to be sent out by May 31. After that, announcements will be shared with our Sons of Norway community.

The Sons of Norway Foundation is pleased to be able to support our lodges, our districts, our members and the communities we live in.

Sons of Norway Foundation – Celebrating Nordic Legacy, Empowering Lives

Scholarship Announcements

Scholarship applications are still under review by judges for the 2024-25 cycle. Applicants can expect to receive an email in May if they were awarded a scholarship.

There were many excellent applications. Our community is fortunate to have such bright, hard-working, passionate people in our collective community.

Sons of Norway Foundation Board of Governors

The Sons of Norway Foundation is pleased to announce the new Board of Governors for 2025. This group of volunteers helps guide the Foundation toward the philanthropic mission to celebrate Nordic culture and heritage through grants and scholarships for our members and communities. A 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation serves all districts, all lodges. The members are:

- Robin Fossum, Chair
- Elaine Nelson, Vice Chair
- Marci Larson, Secretary
- Darrin Lee, Treasurer
- Luella Grangaard, International Chair
- Claudia Berg
- Eivind Gjetmundsen
- Fred Hymans
- Non-voting members:
 - Dan Seyfried, CEO
 - Amy Tuchenhausen, Director

For information about the Foundation, please visit the Foundation page on sofn.com, call 612-821-4655 or email foundation@sofn.com

Culture

If you haven't done so already, check out our newly created gallery all about our International Presidents and Chairs. Click here to learn more about those that have shaped our organization: [Sons of Norway's International Presidents and Chairs](https://www.sofn.com/past-presidents/). <https://www.sofn.com/past-presidents/>

Looking for a quick and valuable lesson in Norwegian manners? Join our Fraternal Manager, Jana Velo as she explains ways to show gratitude – the Norwegian way!

YouTube-The Magic Word - https://youtu.be/67oB9_97rGI?si=hxLzyoFeyKs4adFZ

Echoes of Our Ancestors

Currently, this resource is available for lodge use. Access to it will be expanded and available to all members starting in May.

Echoes of Our Ancestors-
https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/cultural_programming/echoes-of-our-ancestors/

Puzzles

We've added a new resource to our Idea Bank. Sign in and use this link to find crossword, word search, and word scramble puzzles on the website: [Idea Bank](https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/cultural_programming/idea_bank/) -

https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/cultural_programming/idea_bank/

Leader Training

Take a few minutes to review resources for lodge leaders here: [Leader Training Series](https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/lodge_leadership_resources/administrative_resources/leader-training-series/)-
https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/lodge_leadership_resources/administrative_resources/leader-training-series/

AmeriCorps Opportunities

If your lodge has a building or property and needs some support for a special project, this could be a great opportunity!

From AmeriCorps:

Could you all use a group of volunteers for an extended period of time this fall or next year? I'm with the AmeriCorps NCCC, a team-based service program for 18-26 year olds. We deploy groups of 8-12 members for weeks at a time to serve with different nonprofit and government organizations. There is no fee for service. We are currently accepting concept forms for projects that would fall between September 12 and November 10. I've attached our Concept Form and the instructions. CFs are due April 29.

Teams serve to address a wide variety of issue areas including affordable housing, income tax filing, environmental conservation, neighborhood beautification, blight reduction, in-school and after school tutoring, disaster recovery and more. I encourage you to share this email and resources with others in the chance that they may benefit from a team whether it's this year or in the future. Thank you in advance for helping spread the word.

Additional information about our program can be found below. I've included three attachments, the Project Concept Form and Instructions, as well as our request for proposal. Completed Concept Forms should be submitted to Audra Piotti at this email address: apiotti@AmeriCorps.gov.

For more information and the application: <https://americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/americorps-nccc-traditional>

Paperless Options & Online Documents

Please remind and encourage lodge members that they can access and print a number of documents straight from the website including their membership cards, renewal notices, and policy related documents.

Paperless Options & Online Documents

If renewing your family membership online, please know that the primary account holder needs to sign in to complete the transaction. Otherwise, you will receive an error message that the account is already paid.

Also, if your membership lapses, you will not be able to renew online and will receive an error message. Please reach out to customer service if you experience this so they can adjust the account, enabling you to pay online.

Lastly, please remember that if your membership lapses, it could affect your subscription to Viking magazine, as the mailing timeline for that can vary.

Missed Something?

You can reference previous Leadership Resources on the website: [Leadership Resource Archive](#)

How to Contact Us



Wondering who to reach out to with your questions?

Foundation, Scholarships & Grants

Amy Tuchenhagen

foundation@sofn.com
atuchenhagen@sofn.com
(612) 821-4655

Fraternal & Membership
Connie O'Brien and Kirsten Lehman
fraternal@sofn.com
(612) 821-4643


Culture, *Viking* & Language:
Jana Velo
jvelo@sofn.com

Customer Service:
cbs@sofn.com
(800) 945-8851


Check out these fun summer/fall opportunities!


<https://hostfest.com/entertainment/concerts/the-great-hall-of-the-vikings/>

2025 Tickets on SALE – May 17th




HOMEABOUT US▼ENTERTAINMENT▼NORDIC MARKETPLACE▼PLAN YOUR VISIT▼GET INVOLVED▼STORECONTACT US






THE 2025 CONCERT
LINE-UP IS HERE!
TICKETS ON SALE MAY 17TH!



THE ULTIMATE NORDIC
ABBACADABRA



SCANDINAVIAN MUSIC LEGEND
BJØRO HÅLAND

ANNOUNCING THE 2025 CONCERT LINEUP

Gather around as we celebrate the vibrant return of the Great Hall of the Vikings, a cornerstone of the Norsk Høstfest experience that brings together the spirit of Nordic culture and community. This year, we're thrilled to announce an impressive lineup of acts that will ignite your passion for music and heritage, ensuring unforgettable memories for all who attend. From the soul-stirring melodies of our featured artists to the lively atmosphere that fills the hall, the Great Hall of the Vikings promises to be a highlight of the festival, offering a unique opportunity to connect with fellow festival-goers and immerse yourself in a truly Nordic celebration. Join us in the revelry as we honor our ancestry through the power of music and community spirit like never before.

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Arts & Culture

Arts & culture abound at Nordic Fest. Visit **Vesterheim** to learn about Norwegian arts and culture, attend the **Bunad Show**—and check out various venues where you can **observe artists at work** and purchase items to take home.

Highlights

Please check schedule for complete listings.

Arts & Crafts Center

A main event of Nordic Fest since 1974, the Arts & Craft Center is bustling with activity with 30+ artisans from the region. Here you'll find Scandinavian themed wooden figurines, ceramic, fabric and wood gnomes, Hardanger



Adult Leadership Camp Weekend (remember you can register for just one day!)

https://sonsofnorway5.com/programs/leadership_workshop.php

Leadership Workshop

Sons of Norway District 5 Adult Norwegian Cultural Weekend

October 3-5, 2025

“Celebrating Norwegian Immigration – The Sloopers 200th Anniversary”

A three-day weekend of Norwegian Culture fun featuring Sloopers and Fox Valley Settlement pioneer history, traditional Norwegian culture and craft programs and classes, Norwegian games and movie night, “Sluppen” fun walk, Norwegian barn dance with Norwegian folk music and food, traditional Norwegian worship service, and a chance to meet descendants of the first Norwegian-American immigrants at their Sloopers Society annual meeting.

This is a Sons of Norway District 5 Adult Norwegian Cultural Weekend event in Norway, Illinois, sponsored by Polar Star and Cleng Peerson Sons of Norway lodges, the Norsk Museum, and the Sloopers Society of America.

Weekend pre-registration is required.

Download the PDF files on the right for the full weekend schedule information and registration forms:

Fun Walk Registration Form for “Sluppen” Around Norway, Illinois pdf

2025 D5 Adult Weekend Registration Form pdf

2025 District 5 Adult Norwegian Cultural Weekend Schedule pdf

2025 Calendar

May 15

- D18 property association financial form is due from the lodges 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.

May 17- Masse Moro Lodge Supporting Grants Due

May 17- Masse Moro Registrations Due

May 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

June 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

June 30- SN District 5 NLF Project Grants Cycle 2 application deadline **June 30**; Grants awarded by mid-July

July 13-26- Masse Moro- Youth Heritage Camp in Fall Creek, WI

July 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

August 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

September 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

October 3-5- Adult Camp Heritage Weekend in Norway, IL

October 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

November 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

December 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

December 31- SN District 5 NLF Project Grants Cycle 1 application deadline **December 31** ; Grants awarded by mid-January

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.
- **Foundation, Scholarships & Grants-** Amy Tuchenhagen
foundation@sofn.com, atuchenhagen@sofn.com, (612) 821-4655
- **Fraternal & Membership-** Connie O'Brien and Kirsten Lehman
fraternal@sofn.com, (612) 821-4643
- **Culture, Viking & Language:** Jana Velo
jvelo@sofn.com
- **Insurance Sales:**
SonsofNorwaySales@sofn.com, (833) 707-0012 – option 2
- 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

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@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.