

Sons of Norway District 5 Lodge Meeting Minutes

June 21-22, 2024- Indianapolis, IN

Approved on November 8, 2024

The Opening Ceremonies highlighted the Indy 500 and District 5 Convention and the District Board came in wearing race cars that they made or bought.

The District 5 Lodge Meeting was called to order. The colors were posted and the three National Anthems were sung. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. President Schlessler welcomed the delegates and visitors to the convention. She introduced Robert Schuck, Mandt Lodge, who will serve as Parliamentarian. His role is to advise the President as we move through the agenda.

President Wille-Schlessler appointed the following officers and tellers.

Teller 1	NORSE VALLEY 491	MITCH OLE	VESAAS
Teller 2	VENNELAG 513	TIFFANY	SCHWOERER
Teller 3	VALHALL 168	RICHARD	WANG
Teller 4	GRØNNVIK 632	PEGGY	SCHROEDER

Marshall	NORDKAP 378	MARY MOREHEAD
Assistant Marshall	CIRCLE CITY 614	BEN OLSEN III
Greeter	CIRCLE CITY 614	THOR HENDRICKSON
Greeter	SKJOLD 100	CLARA SOLAK

President Wille-Schlessler introduced District Five Officers and Directors, past board members, and visitors.

District Five Officers

President and Interim Sports Director– Cheryl Wille-Schlessler
 Vice President – Wendy Winkelman
 Secretary – Darlene Arneson
 Treasurer – Corey Olson
 Publicity Director – LaVonne Wier
 Cultural Director – Judy Ghastin
 Youth Director – Lisa Rove-Williams

District Five Directors

Sandra Olson
 Scott Wegner
 Connie Aiello
 Connie Kross
 Lisa Solak
 Bill Bultinck

International Director- Duane Kittleson
International Secretary- Robin Fossum

Past Officers and Director

Past International Director and District 5 President – Jon Grinde

Past District 5 Directors and Officers- Audrey Severson, Lucy Ghastin, Michaela Decker, Peggy Schroeder, and Dee Bumpers.

Guests and Visitors- SN CEO Daniel Seyfried, SN Foundation Director Amy Tuchenhagen

Secretary Arneson read the roll call of officers.

LODGE	Lodge Name	# Del coming	Paddle	First	Last	Alt	First	Last
000	Central	0		Not sending delegates				
028	Wergeland	1	1	Carla	Burkhardt			
028	Wergeland	1	3	Evonne	Kundert			
029	Løven	0		Not sending delegates				
053	Valkyrien	1	4	Audrey	Severson			
074	Idun	1	5	Lucy	Ghastin	A	Jane	Grinde
074	Idun	1	6	Jon	Grinde	A	Dee	Grimsrud
074	Idun	1	7	James	Eliason			
082	Fosselyngen	1	8	Susan	Roedel	A	Jayne	Murnane
082	Fosselyngen	1	9	Arlette	Johnson			
082	Fosselyngen	1	10	Gretchen	Bjork			
082	Fosselyngen	1	11	Mary	Taylor			
100	Skjold	1	12	Laura	Askey			
100	Skjold	1	13	Clara	Solak			
168	Valhall	1	14	Richard	Wang			
183	Nordlyset	1	15	Jill	Jensen	A	Thad	Jensen
183	Nordlyset	1	16	Cheryl	Green	A	Cheryl	Miller
183	Nordlyset	1	17	Michaela	Decker			
220	Trygvason	0	61	Not sending delegates				
286	Jotunheimen	0	80	Not sending delegates				
314	Mandt	1	18	Laurie	Barrett	A	John	Arneson
314	Mandt	1	19	Janis	Wegner	A	Diane	Maurer
314	Mandt	1	20	Natasha	Amundson	A	Vicky	Goplen
314	Mandt	1	21	Rich	Hagen	A	Sara	Tupper
314	Mandt	1	22	Robert	Schuck	A	Lori	Teigen
353	Dovre	1	23	Judy	Keilholtz	A	Karen	Schaaf
353	Dovre	1	24	Robin	Fossum			
378	Nordkap	1	25	Eli	Steyskal	A	Haley	Vingsness
378	Nordkap	1	26	Mary	Morehead	A	Jan	Flessland
378	Nordkap	1	27	Dennis	Flessland	A	Mike	Jarasz
378	Nordkap	1	28	Phylis	Skora	A	Carol	Jehle
457	Solvang	0		Not sending delegates				
472	Polar Star	1	29	Floyd	Anderson	A	Ken	Johnson
472	Polar Star	1	30	Stephan	Tanda	A	Barb	Johnson
472	Polar Star	1	31	Kelly	Welin			
490	Sonja Henie	0		Not sending delegates				
491	Norse Valley	1	32	Pamela	Ulness			
491	Norse Valley	1	33	Mitch Ole	Vesaas			
496	Rib Fjell	1	61	William	Schruba			

496	Rib Fjell	1	2	Tryphine	Olson-Schruba			
513	Vennelag	1	34	Lynn	Schwoerer			
513	Vennelag	1	35	Tiffany	Schwoerer			
513	Vennelag	1	36	Nancy	Kittleson			
513	Vennelag	1	37	Aldean	Fjelstad			
523	Sognefjord	1	38	Merle	Hanson	A	Lawrence	Bringedahl
523	Sognefjord	1	39	Gail	Taggart	A	Dean	Hanson
525	Cleng Peerson	1	40	Dawn	Gunderson			
525	Cleng Peerson	1	41	Amanda	Beck			
544	Nordland	1	42	Marge	Harris			
544	Nordland	1	43	Linda	Nelson			
556	Elvedal	0		Not sending delegates				
568	Christian Radich	0		Not sending delegates				
580	Norskeland			Not sending delegates				
600	Scandiana	1	44	David	Hirschey	A	C.Sue	Strohkirch
600	Scandiana	1	45	James	Nelson	A	Irene	Nelson
609	Myrmarken	0		Not sending delegates				
610	Askeladden	1	46	Curtis	Cleveland	A	Holly	Jensen
610	Askeladden	1	47	Karen	Hare	A	Joan	O'Bryan
614	Circle City	1	48	Ben	Olsen III	A	Mary Jane	Henrickson
614	Circle City	1	49	Glenna	Andersen-Divine	A	Susan	Alden
614	Circle City	1	50	Thor	Henrickson	A	Jewell	Morow
616	Fagernes	1	51	Leland	Wier			
616	Fagernes	1	52	Dawn	Volkman			
625	Viking	0		Not sending delegates				
627	Vennligfolk	0		Not sending delegates				
632	Grønnavik	1	53	Peggy	Schroeder			
642	Ostestaden	0		Not sending delegates				
650	Norsemen Of Lakes	1	54	Corlene	Bartels			
650	Norsemen Of Lakes	1	55	Kathy	Norquist			
657	Edvard Grieg	1	56	Liv	Ramstad			
657	Edvard Grieg	1	57	Jim	Herman			
657	Edvard Grieg	1	58	Susan	Herman			
670	Ulseth	0		Not sending delegates				
677	Vikings Of The Smokies	1	59	Paul	Abelquist	A	Clark	Brekke
677	Vikings Of The Smokies	1	60	Dee	Bumpers			
681	Music City Vikings	1	62	Art	Lensgraf			
681	Music City Vikings	1	63	Karen	Kennedy			
689	Shawnee Skogen	1	64	Mike	Charman			
689	Shawnee Skogen	1	65	Jeannell	Charman			
999	Spirit New Century	0		Not sending delegates				
	District 5 Board	1	66	Darlene	Arneson			
	District 5 Board	1	67	Wendy Kay	Winkelman			
	District 5 Board	1	68	William	Bultinck			
	District 5 Board	1	69	LaVonne	Wier			

	District 5 Board	1	70	Scott	Wegner
	District 5 Board	1	71	Judy	Ghastin
	District 5 Board	1	72	Corey	Olson
	District 5 Board	1	73	Connie	Kross
	District 5 Board	1	74	Lisa	Solak
	District 5 Board	1	75	Sandy	Olson
	District 5 Board	1	76	Lisa	Rove-Williams
	District 5 Board	1	77	Connie	Aiello
	District 5 Board	1	78	Cheryl	Wille-Schlesser
	International Director	1	79	Duane	Kittleson
		79			

Darlene Arneson:	<u>Madam Mr.</u> President, by direction of the Credentials Committee, I move that the roll of delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting delegates for the Sons of Norway District Five Lodge Meeting.
Cheryl	Thank you to all who served on the Credentials Committee.

Secretary Arneson presented the credentials report.

The committee members were Darlene Arneson- chair, and fellow board members Sandy Olson and Lisa Solak. Darlene reviewed the delegates when the Delegate Election Reports were submitted. The delegate names were reviewed to insure they are delegates of that lodge, that their dues were current, and a check of who is a benefit member if the delegate should be interested in a District Board or alternate to the Board. This year we had more work as more delegates pay monthly but it doesn't indicate on the membership report what type of payment they make. So we were in correspondence with the office in Minneapolis following up on these. The committee reviewed the status of any delegates who had a renewal date between the time of the election reports and the convention. This time, we had three that had renewal dates of the week of convention who were not on monthly renewals. We appreciated the help of the home office in letting us know if payments came in. This morning, we cross check to make sure that all delegates who were intending to come have registered and should be present this morning. Thank you to Sandy and Lisa for their help in checking memberships, time on calls, and for their work.

The question is on the adoption of the credentials report. The motion to accept the report was approved.

Darlene Arneson reported that the minutes of June 2022 Lodge meeting were approved on October 29, 2022 by the District 5 Board. They were sent to all District 5 Lodge Members who served in Middleton and have been posted on the District website since that time.

The rules for the 2024 District Lodge Meeting were presented.

**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT LODGE FIVE DELEGATES
YEAR 2024 DISTRICT LODGE FIVE MEETING RULES**

1. The regular meeting of District Lodge Five shall be one meeting, recessing from session to session within the meeting.
2. Delegate badges and voting materials will be issued at the registration desk upon presentation of some form of ID.

3. Delegates shall be seated in their seats at least **FIVE** minutes before the scheduled time. Doors will be closed when each session begins. People awaiting admission will be at the direction of the chair.
4. Any delegate may speak to any subject before the lodge. Any delegate who desires to speak shall address the chair by going to the microphone, with identification paddle raised, and state name and local lodge.
5. Each speaker will be allowed **TWO MINUTES**. No delegate shall speak to the motion more than twice, unless allowed by the chair. No delegate will be allowed to speak the second time until delegates stationed at the microphones have spoken.
6. The right to raise a point of order shall be reserved for delegates **ONLY**; the chair will decide its validity.
7. If the previous question is moved and carried, delegates who are in line at the microphone at the time the motion is passed will be permitted to speak.
8. Only duly authorized seated delegates may vote – **ONE** vote per delegate.
9. Ballots shall be used in cases where there are two or more candidates for any office, otherwise election shall be by acclamation.
10. Any messages to delegates shall be relayed through greeters, marshal or assistant marshal.
11. Smoking shall not be permitted.
12. Any lodge bidding to host the next district Convention shall present its bid, in writing, to the district board of directors prior to the district lodge meeting. The bids shall be referred to the Committee on Reports which shall present all bids received at the first session of the district lodge. Representatives of the bidding local lodges or district lodge shall immediately thereafter be permitted **TEN** minutes to present their proposal. The vote on convention site selection shall take place at the last session of the district lodge.
13. Any resolution or by-law which has financial impact must be introduced by 12:00 PM Friday so such resolution or by-law may be reviewed by the finance committee to determine the financial impact. The finance committee shall present an impact statement to the delegates.

There was a motion to approve the rules, 2nd, and the motion passed.

District Treasurer Corey Olson explained the fundraisers that are taking place during the convention. The silent auction will close at 4:30 PM today. Corey thanked all who brought items to the convention. The Flip of the Coin fundraiser will be held at the noon luncheon. He also shared that we have new Masse Moro t-shirts for sale along with District sweatshirts, books, pins, and flags. Cleng Peerson Lodge has Slooper t-shirts for the 200th Slooper immigration.

District Publicity Director LaVonne Wier thanked the delegation for bringing so many wonderful banners and picture boards. She was very pleased with the response and reminded the lodges to submit photos for the Viking and that the “also ran” are found on the website.

District Cultural Director Judy Ghastin and Convention Chair shared information about the Folk Art Display and how people can vote for the People’s Choice Award. She also thanked Scott and Janis Wegner and their family for baking all the cookies in Mandt Lodge’s commercial kitchen. She also thanked Titan and Aurora Malouf, Wegner’s grandchildren and Masse Moro campers, who will be serving

the cookies during the coffee break.

President Wille-Schlesser asked that the delegates hold questions about International programs, services, and membership until all four International presentations have been given. Today SN Foundation Director Amy Tuchenhagen will present and CEO Dan Seyfried will present in the afternoon. International Director Duane Kittleson and International Secretary Robin Fossum will present Saturday morning and then we will have a Question & Answer session.

President Wille-Schlesser introduced SN Foundation Director Amy Tuchenhagen who have a report on the SN Foundation. She shared the mission, vision and activities related to the Foundation and thanked District Foundation Director Sandy Olson and recognized Kathy Secora who has reviewed applications. She also recognized Robin Fossum for serving on the Foundation Board of Governors and International Director Duane Kittleson. She shared stories of Foundation grant recipients, announced District 5 youth earning scholarships, and went through other grant and scholarship areas. She shared fundraising efforts including how to give to the Foundation, Together We Are the Future Campaign, and shared the benefits of giving.

Task Force Chair Darlene Arneson gave a report on the Task Force that was created at the 2022 District Lodge Meeting.

The delegates to the District 5 Lodge Meeting held in Middleton, WI in June 2022 passed a resolution instructing the District 5 President appoint a Special Committee (Task Force) to offer solutions to the difficulty the District Nomination Committee has in finding willing and qualified candidates to serve on the District 5 Board of Directors from the current zone alignment. Since that time, a group of over 70 people agreed to serve on the task force. The Task Force met via ZOOM with an average of 15-35 on calls. We have had numerous conference calls over 18 months, held surveys, numerous emails, Zone meeting discussion, and had three sub-committees that organized to focus on specific areas. We posted documents and resources throughout the process on the District Five Website:

https://sonsofnorway5.com/board_of_directors/directors_messages.php and posted in the Friendly Fifth Friday News (FFFN) on a regular basis. All meeting notices, minutes, and other outreach was shared in the FFFN.

Three task force sub-committees met to discuss priority issues. The first, **Population and membership**, used maps and membership lists to get a geographical and membership numbers view of our District. The second, **Role of the Board- Board Structure**, looked at what do board members do, what can be done virtual vs. in-person, and the role of the various board members and officers. The third, **Current ways to support lodges**, discussed what can we do in the meantime to support lodges?

Two survey options, a hard copy and a google survey, were distributed and available to all members in the District to complete. There were 49 responses to the survey.

The Task Force met via ZOOM to discuss the committee reports and survey results. It started to narrow down some options that were shared via the FFFN. It also presented information for the District Board and its committees to discuss at the Fall 2023 Board meeting. The Task Force realized that many changes would need to be made to completely update the bylaws and recommended to the District Board that we prioritize making the major change to our structure first, and then have the 2024 delegates finish the "clean up" of other needed changes. A bylaw proposal was approved to send out to the District Five Lodge Members (those who served as delegates in Middleton in June 2022).

The amended bylaws included:

ARTICLE VI . . . ZONES

Par. 1- That District 5 will not have divisions called zones.

ARTICLE VII . . . OFFICERS AND SALARIES

Par. 1 The elected Officers of the District shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer,

Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director, Youth Director and the four At-Large Directors provided for in these By-Laws.

Par. 2. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director and Youth Director shall be nominated and elected in that order, after which the four At-Large Directors would be elected.

Par. 3 An alternate for the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected. A pool of 4 alternates for the 4 at-large directors shall also be elected.

Par. 4 A Presidential candidate shall have served on the District Board at least one full term.

Par. 5 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited. In the event a caucus cannot find a willing nominee to serve as an Officer or At-Large-Director and the current Officer or At-Large Director has completed two consecutive terms, the Officer or At-Large Director can complete a third term.

Par. 6 The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director, and Youth Director shall receive such compensation as determined by the District Lodge. The Board of Directors shall make recommendations to each District Lodge Meeting with respect thereto.

Par. 7 At the first meeting of the Board of Directors after a District Lodge Meeting, the Board shall determine the per diem and traveling expense allowance for members of the Board for the next biennium.

Par. 8 The President shall assign to each Officer and Director the lodges to be under his or her supervision.

Par. 9 At the opening of each District Lodge Meeting, the President shall appoint from the attending representatives a Marshal and an Assistant Marshal and two greeters to serve during the meetings.

It passed with 68 voting in favor, 5 opposed, and 5 abstained. The updated Bylaws, along with the additional bylaws that International has added for all Districts, were submitted in February 2024 to the International Office, and we received notification on May 21, 2024 from Luella Grangaard, International Director, and Chair Corporate Matters and Governance Committee, that the bylaws were approved.

The Task Force felt their work was done with the proposal to the Board and the passage of the bylaw change. It turned the responsibility of the other "clean up" bylaw review and proposal to the Board. The delegates in Indianapolis will have the opportunity to discuss and act on them.

Thank you to all who served on the Task Force, to those who participated in the calls, meetings, and completed surveys. The input and discussion helped us move our District into a position of positive change.

Darlene Arneson, Chair

The delegates viewed a video on how to log in to the Sons of Norway Members Only section that was produced by Amy Tuchenhagen.

The meeting recessed for a coffee break.

President Wille-Schlesser called the meeting back to order.

Secretary Arneson reported a change in Paddle 22 for Mandt Lodge. John Arneson will replace Robert Schuck as a delegate. Also Alternate Haley Vingsness should be a Nordkap alternate and not a Dovre Lodge delegate.

President Wille-Schlesser recognized the Laws Committee to give their report.

Laws		District 5 Board	Advisor-William	Bultinck
Laws	074	Idun	Chair-James	Eliason
Laws	028	Wergeland	Carla	Burkhardt
Laws	525	Cleng Peerson	Amanda	Beck

Bylaw Proposal 1- Continued District Structure Updates

Title of Resolution:	Removal of zone references, incorporating governance changes, and board terms.
CURRENT STATE:	<p><u>ARTICLE III . . . MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>.Par. 1 The regular meeting of the District Lodge shall be held once every two years, but the closing date shall not be less than 45 days prior to the opening date of the International Lodge Meeting of the same year.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Par. 4 The Central Lodge will meet at the call of the District President. Unless the President calls a special meeting, the lodge will meet at the time and place as indicated each convention year in the January issue of <i>Viking</i> magazine; and the biannual meeting is for the purpose of electing delegates to attend the District Lodge meeting.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Par. 3 An alternate for the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected. A pool of 4 alternates for the 4 at-large directors shall also be elected.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Par. 5 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited. In the event a caucus cannot find a willing nominee to serve as an Officer or At-Large Director and the current Officer or At-Large Director has completed two consecutive terms, the Officer or At-Large Director can complete a third term.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><u>ARTICLE VIII . . . ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES</u></p> <p>Par. 1 Prior to the District Lodge Meeting the Secretary shall prepare a notice which allocates to each Zone the number of</p>

International Lodge Representatives to which it is entitled in proportion to its membership. (One representative for each 300, balance to the pool.). Central Lodge Delegates: Notify Central Lodge 000 members of the meeting via the January issue of the Viking.

Par. 2 During its election caucus each Zone shall nominate from its insurance members the International Lodge Representatives to which it is entitled. An equal number of Alternates shall then be nominated and shall serve in the order of their election (priority alternate). These nominations shall be submitted for approval to the District Lodge at the conclusion of the caucus.

Par. 3 The Representative and Alternate from each Zone shall be elected separately, one Zone at a time.

Par. 4. In addition to the two Representatives for the District provided for by the International Lodge Constitution, one of whom shall be the District President, the remaining fraction of 300 members in each of the various Zones shall be pooled, and representatives elected at large in accordance with the number of members of which the pool consists. Also a corresponding number of Alternates shall be elected at large. Delegates and Alternates at large shall be nominated from the floor of the District Lodge.

Par. 5 (a) After election of Representatives and Alternates to the International Lodge Meeting, the District Lodge shall nominate, from among those newly elected Representatives to the International Lodge Meeting, a candidate for each office of International Lodge Director to which the District is entitled. Candidates for each position shall be elected on a separate ballot.

Par 5(b) The District Lodge shall then elect from among its newly elected Representatives to the International Lodge, a candidate for Alternate to the office of each International Lodge Director. Candidates for each position shall be elected on a separate ballot.

Par. 6 In the event neither an elected Representative nor an Alternate from a respective Zone can attend the International Lodge Meeting, the place shall be filled by the Alternates at large in the order of their election.

Par. 7 Representatives to the International Lodge Meeting shall receive an expense allowance decided by the District Lodge Meeting. The Board of Directors shall make a recommendation as to the expense allowance.

Article IX.... Fees and Dues

Par. 1 District dues shall be set by the International Lodge, per the Simplified Dues Structure of 2018.

Par. 2 Funds shall be annually earmarked for the purpose of offsetting the cost of hosting a District Lodge Meeting and Convention and will be distributed to the host lodge during the month of January of the convention year.

Par. 3 Funds shall be annually earmarked for the purpose of offsetting delegates' expenses to the International Lodge Meeting and Convention, with all delegates getting an equal share. If a husband and wife are both delegates, one of the spouses will receive a full share and the other spouse will receive a half-share.

ARTICLE X . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT

Par. 1 The District Lodge #5 adopts for itself as a Fraternal Project a Norwegian Heritage Camp to be located within the Fifth District. This Fraternal Project shall be as financially self-supporting as possible. District Lodge #5 will pay Masse Moro administrators to operate the heritage camp and will match scholarships provided to campers by their local lodges up to an amount to be determined by the District Lodge #5 Board.

Par. 2 The District Lodge shall have the authority to levy a fraternal fee, not to exceed \$1.00 per member, per year, with the exception of life members, upon lodges within the boundaries of the Fifth District. The fraternal fee must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

Par. 3 The authority to assess said fraternal fee shall remain in effect for a period of two (2) years and then terminate unless renewed by the District Lodge at its biennial meeting.

ARTICLE XI . . . CHANGES OF THESE BY-LAWS

Par. 1 These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the District Lodge #5, provided notice thereof has been given to the District Secretary at least 45 days prior to the date of said meeting by any lodge in the District or has been submitted by the District Board of Directors. Proposed amendments originating in the local lodges, or by the District Board of Directors, must be submitted to the Chairman of the Laws Committee as soon as possible prior to the date of said meeting. The Laws Committee may recommend changes at the said meeting.

Par. 2 Any change must receive a 2/3 majority of the votes cast to become law.

Article XII...Compliance (From International January 9, 2024)

Par.1. The district must operate in full compliance with all governmental laws, regulations and applicable requirements and maintain in force all licenses, permits and approvals required for its operation within the country in which the lodge is organized.

Par. 2. The district must operate in full compliance with all laws, regulations and applicable requirements as outlined in the latest edition of the Charter, Bylaws, Policy, & Procedures (CBPP) of Sons of Norway, and as otherwise communicated to the district by the International Headquarters of Sons of Norway. These include,

but are not limited to, the timely annual filing of IRS 990 forms for lodges in the United States, the D63 and D17 reports for lodges, the D64 and D18 reports for building corporations, if applicable, and the timely payment of the annual liability insurance assessment.

Par. 3. The district must adhere to the SON Social Media and Conflict of Interest/Ethics policies, and all district policies and procedures adopted by their district.

Article XIII. Dissolution and Distribution of Assets (From International January 9, 2024)

Par. 1. Dissolution, either voluntary or involuntary, shall be made only in accordance with the procedures as set forth in the Sons of Norway CBPP.

Par. 2. In the event of dissolution of the lodge corporation(s), both district and building association, if applicable, it is recommended that the corporation's remaining assets shall be distributed to the Sons of Norway Foundation [a 501(c)(3) organization] or the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada [a charitable corporation in Canada], if in existence when the distribution occurs or, if not, to a similarly designated and purposed entity or entities within the country in which the district is organized.

Par. 3. Upon dissolution of the district, district assets may not be transferred to individual members for personal benefit.

Par. 4. The plan to distribute district assets must be approved in advance by Sons of Norway Headquarters. However, Headquarters shall not oppose any plan of distribution that complies with relevant state and federal laws and regulations.

Article XIV-Audits (From International January 9, 2024)

Par. 1. The district shall elect, appoint, or employ competent auditors to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis. If elected or appointed the audit team shall be composed of two (2) or more district members, and in situations where additional financial and audit experience is needed, the district shall have the option to employ one (1) or more independent auditor(s) to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis.

Par. 2. At least once each year the auditor(s) shall submit a written report of each audit to the district board.

Article XV- Dispute Resolution (From International January 9, 2024)

Par. 1. Any grievance, complaint or dispute arising out of or in connection with SON business, at any level, if not settled to the satisfaction of the parties involved, shall only be resolved using the provisions contained in Bylaws Chapter 17 and Policies and Procedures Chapter 25 entitled Conduct and appeal process. The sections contained in these chapters prescribe the sole means to present and resolve grievances, complaints or disputes.

<p>State reasons for making a change</p>	<p>Whereas the International Sons of Norway’s governance change eliminated the International Convention and a District’s need to elect representation; and</p> <p>Whereas the District’s Task Force recommended the elimination of zone and a new Board structure and not all references to zones were done during the January 2024 proposal; and</p> <p>Whereas there were some grammatical errors in the current bylaws; and</p> <p>Whereas the challenge of filling a slate of prospective Board members and alternates led to discussion to extend the number of terms that can be served along with a change in alternates; and</p> <p>Whereas the desire to renumber and shift the order of some of the Articles of the Bylaws to make them more user-friendly;</p>
<p>Follow the request for change as a “THEREFORE” statement.</p>	<p>Therefore, the District is changing the reference to the International Convention, eliminating any reference to International representation and elections of District delegates and alternates, eliminating any reference to zones, extending the number of terms for board members (except Secretary and Treasurer) to three terms, changing the number of alternates, and renumbering Articles and moving the mandated items to a spot before the “making changes” article.</p>
<p>DESIRED STATE:</p>	<p>Therefore be it resolved that the following changes be made throughout the document:</p> <p><u>ARTICLE III . . . MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>.Par. 1 The regular meeting of the District Lodge shall be held once every two years <u>of the even years</u>. but the closing date shall not be less than 45 days prior to the opening date of the International Lodge Meeting of the same year.</p> <p>Par. 4 The Central Lodge will meet at the call of the District President. Unless the President calls a special meeting, the lodge will meet at the time and place as indicated each convention year in the January issue of <i>Viking</i> magazine; and the biannual <u>biennium</u> meeting is for the purpose of electing delegates to attend the District Lodge meeting. The District President has the option to call the meeting with members participating via electronic means, such as telephone or Skype.</p> <p>Par. 3 <u>The Vice President will serve as the alternate for the President.</u> An alternate for the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected. A pool of 4 alternates for the <u>other officer positions and the 4 at-large directors</u> shall also be elected.</p>

Par. 5 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than ~~two~~ three consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited. ~~In the event a caucus the District cannot find a willing nominee to serve as an Officer or At-Large Director and the current Officer or At-Large Director has completed two consecutive terms, the Officer or At-Large Director can complete a third term.~~

ARTICLE VIII . . . ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES

~~Par. 1 Prior to the District Lodge Meeting the Secretary shall prepare a notice which allocates to each Zone the number of International Lodge Representatives to which it is entitled in proportion to its membership. (One representative for each 300, balance to the pool.). Central Lodge Delegates: Notify Central Lodge 000 members of the meeting via the January issue of the Viking.~~

~~Par. 2 During its election caucus each Zone shall nominate from its insurance members the International Lodge Representatives to which it is entitled. An equal number of Alternates shall then be nominated and shall serve in the order of their election (priority alternate). These nominations shall be submitted for approval to the District Lodge at the conclusion of the caucus.~~

~~Par. 3 The Representative and Alternate from each Zone shall be elected separately, one Zone at a time.~~

~~Par. 4 In addition to the two Representatives for the District provided for by the International Lodge Constitution, one of whom shall be the District President, the remaining fraction of 300 members in each of the various Zones shall be pooled, and representatives elected at large in accordance with the number of members of which the pool consists. Also a corresponding number of Alternates shall be elected at large. Delegates and Alternates at large shall be nominated from the floor of the District Lodge.~~

~~Par. 5 (a) After election of Representatives and Alternates to the International Lodge Meeting, the District Lodge shall nominate, from among those newly elected Representatives to the International Lodge Meeting, a candidate for each office of International Lodge Director to which the District is entitled. Candidates for each position shall be elected on a separate ballot.~~

~~Par 5(b) The District Lodge shall then elect from among its newly elected Representatives to the International Lodge, a candidate for Alternate to the office of each International Lodge Director. Candidates for each position shall be elected on a separate ballot.~~

~~Par. 6 In the event neither an elected Representative nor an Alternate from a respective Zone can attend the International Lodge Meeting, the place shall be filled by the Alternates at large in the order of their election.~~

~~Par. 7 Representatives to the International Lodge Meeting shall receive an expense allowance decided by the District Lodge Meeting. The Board of Directors shall make a recommendation as to the expense allowance.~~

	<p>Article IX VIII. Fees and Dues</p> <p>Par. 1 District dues shall be set by the International Lodge, per the Simplified Dues Structure of 2018.</p> <p>Par. 2 Funds shall be annually earmarked for the purpose of offsetting the cost of hosting a District Lodge Meeting and Convention and will be distributed to the host lodge during the month of January of the convention year.</p> <p>Par. 3 Funds shall be annually earmarked for the purpose of offsetting delegates' expenses to the International Lodge Meeting and Convention, with all delegates getting an equal share. If a husband and wife are both delegates, one of the spouses will receive a full share and the other spouse will receive a half share.</p> <p><u>ARTICLE X IX. . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT</u></p> <p><u>Article XII X. ...Compliance</u> (From International January 9, 2024)</p> <p><u>Article XIII XI. Dissolution and Distribution of Assets</u> (From International January 9, 2024)</p> <p><u>Article XIV XII. -Audits</u> (From International January 9, 2024)</p> <p><u>Article XV XIII. - Dispute Resolution</u> (From International January 9, 2024)</p> <p><u>ARTICLE XI XIV. . . . CHANGES OF THESE BY-LAWS</u></p>
If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact , state it here:	

Bylaw Proposal #1 was presented and approved by 2/3 vote of the delegates.

Bylaw Proposal 2- Masse Moro Financials

Title of Resolution:	Clarifying the Masse Moro Financials
CURRENT STATE: State specific chapter, sub-chapter and paragraph numbers as applicable.	<p><u>ARTICLE X . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT</u></p> <p>Par. 1 The District Lodge #5 adopts for itself as a Fraternal Project a Norwegian Heritage Camp to be located within the Fifth District. This Fraternal Project shall be as financially self-supporting as possible. District Lodge #5 will pay Masse Moro administrators to operate the heritage camp and will match scholarships provided to</p>

Write out current language of the law or policy.	campers by their local lodges up to an amount to be determined by the District Lodge #5 Board.
State reasons for making a change from present policies and written directives, or for creating a new policy or procedure, in one or more "WHEREAS" statements.	<p>WHEREAS, District 5 formed the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation (NFL) to help secure donations and grants to support educational, youth, and leadership activities in the District, and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the finances for Masse Moro are now received and dispersed in the NLF, and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the wording of the current bylaws indicates that District 5 pays the administrators, and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the District will still pay the NLF for matching funds for qualified campers;</p>
Follow the request for change as a "THEREFORE" statement. This is a statement of the action you wish to happen.	<p>THEREFORE, be it resolved to amend the current bylaws by striking the words "will pay Masse Moro administrators to operate the heritage camp" and add the sentence "All Masse Moro income and expenses, except for matching funds, will be handled by the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation. "</p> <p><u>ARTICLE X . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT</u></p> <p>Par. 1 District Lodge #5 will pay Masse Moro administrators to operate the heritage camp and will match scholarships provided to campers by their local lodges up to an amount to be determined by the District Lodge #5 Board. All Masse Moro income and expenses, except for matching funds, will be handled by the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation".</p>
DESIRED STATE: Follow with the actual proposed change:	<p><u>ARTICLE X . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT</u></p> <p>Par. 1 District Lodge #5 will match scholarships provided to campers by their local lodges up to an amount to be determined by the District Lodge #5 Board. All Masse Moro income and expenses, except for matching funds, will be handled by the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation.</p>
If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact , state it here:	No financial impact- just a clarification that the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation handles the Masse Moro financials.

Bylaw Proposal #2 was presented and approved by a 2/3 vote of the delegates.

President Wille-Schlesser called the Nominating Committee to give their report.

Position	First	Last	Lodge
President	Cheryl	Wille-Schlesser	5-513
Vice President	James	Herman	5-567

Secretary	Darlene	Arneson	5-314
Treasurer	Corey	Olson	5-491
Recreation Director/Sports	Clara	Solak	5-100
Publicity Director	LaVonne	Wier	5-616
Cultural Director	Lucy	Ghastin	5-074
Youth Director	Robert	Schuck	5-314
At Large Director	Connie	Aiello	5-183
At Large Director	Scott	Wegner	5-314
At Large Director	Bill	Bultinck	5-689
At Large Director	Lisa	Solak	5-100
Alternate – Secretary	Open		
Alternate- Treasurer	Duane	Kittleson	5-513
Alternate- At Large	Connie	Kross	5-525
Alternate- At Large	Judy	Ghastin	5-491
Alternate- At Large	Michaela	Decker	5-183
Alternate- At Large	Laurie	Barrett	5-314

There were no nominations from the floor for the Assistant Secretary.

President Wille-Schlesser called the Finance committee to report.

Finance		District 5 Board	Advisor-Corey	Olson
Finance	610	Askeladden	Chair-Curtis	Cleveland
Finance	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	Clark	Brekke
Finance	314	Mandt	Laurie	Barrett

We, Laurie Barrett, Dee Bumpers, and I, Curtis Cleveland are members of the Finance Committee. Corey Olson, the District 5 Treasurer, is the board advisor.

For the record, Clark Brekke, initially assigned to the committee, but unable to attend, was replaced by Dee Bumpers.

We met via Zoom on Monday, June 10th; and in-person on Thursday, June 20th. Besides these two meeting, we have

communicated with each other via emails.

Before we make specific comments and statements, we want to express thanks and confidence to Corey Olson, who has been the District Five Treasurer since January 1, 2023.

Looking back, we commend Corey for the following:

- 1) Using budgets for better management of the District 5.
- 2) Discontinuing the use of a CPA firm for check writing services, thereby saving the District 5 expenses of \$30,000 annually.
- 3) Negotiating with IRS officials thereby reducing the \$19,626 in penalties, which were assessed against the District 5 for late filings of Form 990.

Going forward, we recommend the following:

- 1) That the District 5 Board of Directors publish a financial statement in the FFFN showing the balance sheet as of the end of the year and the revenue and expense statement for the year. This shows transparency. The District 5 members have the right to this information. Currently, The District 5 publishes a two-year financial statement in the District 5 Reports Book for convention delegates.
- 2) That the District 5 Board of Directors change it's investment policy. Currently, the District 5 has around \$240,000 deposited with the Sons of Norway headquarters in Minneapolis earning about 2.2% rate of return (S/N Lodge Deposit Account). We recommend the board transfer these funds, or a portion of them, to a financial firm that would enable the District 5 to cost effectively trade in mutual funds and equities, thereby providing an opportunity to earn a higher rate of return, realizing there will be a fee for this service and there is no guaranteed rate of return.

Finally, we are honored to be part of the Sons of Norway and to participate in the District 5 Convention. Again, we thank Corey and the members of the Board of Directors for their dedication and expertise. We have confidence in Corey and the board going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis Cleveland, Chair
Laurie Barrett
Dee Bumpers

President Wille-Schlesser thanked the committee.

President Wille-Schlesser called the Reports and Publicity Committee to report.

Reports/Publicity		District 5 Board	LaVonne	Wier
Reports/Publicity	650	Norsemen Of Lakes	Chair-Corlene	Bartels
Reports/Publicity	314	Mandt	John	Arneson
Reports/Publicity	614	Circle City	Glenna	Andersen-Divine
Reports/Publicity	183	Nordlyset	Michaela	Decker

The Reports and Publicity Committee met on Thursday, June 19, 2024, and reviewed the written reports of the District 5 officers, as published in the Reports Book.

The following members were present: Corlene Bartels, chair; LaVonne Wier, adviser; John Arneson, Michaela Decker, Glenna Anderson Divine.

OUR CONCLUSION:

We accept the officer reports as printed in the Reports Book.

We appreciate the devotion of the officers as they performed their duties during the past biennium.

We appreciate the quality of the reports that the officers have written.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS:

Reports Summary. All delegates are encouraged to thoroughly read all written reports. Details of District 5 activities are highlighted by the Officers and Chairpersons,

PRESIDENT REPORT - CHERYL WILLE-SCHLESSER. District leadership resignations highlighted difficulty in locating replacements, plus a number of family loss and illness for board members. Another reason for the problem acquiring replacements, was that SON does not have a wide variety of products for persons in all age demographics.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Cheryl Wille-Schlesser for her excellent leadership during this challenging biennium.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - WENDY KAY WINKELMAN. District goals to increase recruitment and membership were established with some success. Identifying members of the Central and New Spirit Century and linking them to a local or area lodge is a positive way to gain active members.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Wendy Kay Winkelman for her efforts to keep our members and increase membership,

SECRETARY REPORT - DARLENE ARNESON. Numerous challenges throughout this past biennium, such as organizational structure, governance issues, on-line reporting and International and District staffing issues continue to occur. On local lodge levels, there are challenges with recruitment and retention.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Darlene Arneson for her diligent work to keep everyone aware of news and information we all need.

TREASURERS REPORT - COREY OLSON. District treasurer staffing has had some extreme challenges over the past years, due to personnel transitions and significant accounting reporting and IRS issues. A **HUGE THANK YOU** goes out to Duane Kittleson and Corey Olson for their professional efforts in correcting this situation. Our District 5 is now on solid financial footing, but future financial decisions regarding Masse Moro and Barnebirke will greatly affect future outcomes.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Corey Olson and Duane Kittleson for their outstanding work dealing with D5 finances.

SPORTS DIRECTOR - CHERYL WILLE-SCHLESSER. With the early resignation of the District 5 Sports Director, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser stepped up and assumed this leadership responsibility. Numerous sports challenges and competitions, such as Kubb and Pickleball, were encouraged throughout the District. The Barnebirke was a challenging event WITHOUT SNOW, but was completed by throngs of youngsters, despite the existing conditions.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Cheryl Wille-Schlesser for her willingness to step in as sports director and keep the programs going.

PUBLICITY DIRECTORS REPORT - LAVONNE WIER. A critical part of communication in every lodge is efficient and effective publicity. All lodges are encouraged to have newsletters, local newspaper articles, local radio or TV spots, Facebook page, websites or any form of positive publicity.

Viking photo submissions are greatly reduced since it is not published monthly...but keep submitting pictures. Members should check out the "Happenings" section on the www.sofn.com to see pictures that didn't make it into the Viking.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks LaVonne Wier for her work as Publicity Director.

CULTURAL DIRECTOR REPORT - JUDY GHASTIN. Scandinavian Cultural activities continue to be a vital part of our District with numerous rosemalers, wood carvers, Sami artwork and our own Cultural Trunk displays. Local lodges can obtain D5 Grants to get reimbursement for Cultural Arts Pins shipping costs.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Judy Ghastin her enthusiastic promotion of cultural arts and programs.

YOUTH DIRECTOR REPORT - LISA ROVE-WILLIAMS. Scholarship applications were received by our committee for future educational opportunities, and four were granted.

This year will be the 45th anniversary of our Youth Camp Masse Moro. Each year is it challenging to fill up the camp with staff, volunteers and campers. The future financial viability of Masse Moro is critical to our District, so we encourage every Lodge to seek out youth participants.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Lisa Rove-Williams for stepping in as Youth Director and dealing with the challenges of the past biennium.

FOUNDATION DIRECTOR REPORT - SANDRA OLSON. Then Sons of Norway Foundation is comprised by two separate entities - The International Sons of Norway Foundation and the District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation (NLF). Each offers the opportunities to celebrate our Nordic culture and heritage through scholarships and grants to our members and communities. The financial giving and contributions are a vital part of our organization.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Sandra Olson for her work with the foundations.

DISTRICT WEBMASTER REPORT - CHRISTINA FAIRCHILD. Critical information is provided to all Sons of Norway members and Lodges through our District Website. The posting of up-to-date events, activities and personnel allows all of us to remain interactive as a group. We hope to be expanding into more active video data to share with all Lodges.

The Reports and Publicity Committee thanks Christina Fairchild for her work in bringing us a user-friendly and interesting website.

Respectfully submitted,

THE REPORTS AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

President Wille-Schlesser thanked the committee for their report.

President Wille-Schlesser introduced Sons of Norway CEO Dan Seyfried to give a presentation on the Sons of Norway's Headquarters Team.

Fraternal Update – We learned about the exciting work our Fraternal Team is doing to build the Sons of Norway community and connection to the Norwegian community. He shared examples of how information is disseminated, details on our upcoming International Board of Directors vote, and exciting cultural programming produced recently.

Our HQ Team – Dan shared information regarding who supports us back at the home office. He shared the members of our team and what activities they perform to keep Sons of Norway moving forward. Administering an international member-based insurance company selling in 38 states takes a lot of dedication from some very caring employees. Sons of Norway sells products in 38 states.

President Wille-Schlesser called the Resolutions Committee to report.

Resolutions		District 5 Board	Advisor-Scott	Wegner
Resolutions	074	Idun	Chair-Jon	Grinde
Resolutions		Vennelag	Duane	Kittleson
Resolutions	472	Polar Star	Kelly	Welin

Sons of Norway Resolutions Worksheet- Resolution 1

Title of Resolution:	Advisory Resolution: District 5 Barnebirkie and Birkebeiner Support
State reasons for making a change from present policies and written directives, or for creating a new policy or procedure, in one or more “WHEREAS” statements	<p>Sons of Norway District 5 has supported Barnebirkie, the children’s race during Birkebeiner week, by supplying homemade and store-bought cookies, monetary support for supplies, and limited compensation for volunteers and the Sports & Recreation Director’s expenses.</p> <p>Traditionally, we had several lodges in the Hayward area who supplied volunteers, so travel, lodging and other expenses weren’t an issue. Now that those lodges have closed, many of our volunteers are traveling further to assist with the week.</p> <p>District 5 has continued our support of Barnebirkie as we have felt it’s an opportunity to market Sons of Norway, to promote Masse Moro to the hundreds of youth, and a way to share our passion for Norwegian’s love of skiing.</p> <p>Birkebeiner Foundation is also revitalizing the old Telemark Lodge area with the building of Mount Telemark Village. An effort is being made to increase the history of the Birkebeiner with possibly putting up a statue of the ski scene rescue of Prince Haakon.</p> <p>WHEREAS the District’s expenses for supplying cookies, supplies and volunteers have grown with the closure of nearby lodges; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the District does not see a profit from the donations for the coffee and cookies at the Expo; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the District has been approached to support the concept (financially or in other ways) of the Birkebeiner ski scene sculpture; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the Board struggles with the amount that should be budgeted for Barnebirkie and Expo presences;</p>
Follow the request for change as a “THEREFORE” statement. This is a statement of the action you wish to happen.	<p>THEREFORE, be it resolved that the District 5 Board is seeking input from the District Lodge on the continued support and involvement in Barnebirkie and Birkebeiner. The Board welcomes discussion on how we can represent Sons of Norway, provide cookies and promotion of Masse Moro, and how much we should budget for that work. We also ask for</p>

	input if the District feels we should consider support of the proposed sculpture.
If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact , state here:	Currently: The District reimburses up to 4 people mileage/car + up to \$100/person for people from outside 50 mile radius. Separately a gift card of \$25 for those closer + full reimbursement for Sports Director according to current policy.

The Resolutions Committee recommends the following three-part response as a primer for discussion, but is fully in favor of continued District Five support for the Barnebirkie event:

- 1) We recommend there be a \$1500.00 cap on reimbursed expenses for those representing District Five who travel to the Barnebirkie site on an annual basis. The District Board Finance Committee can determine how this expense money is apportioned.
- 2) Regarding the request for District Five support for construction of a Barnebirkie statue, the Resolutions Committee recommends that the entity requesting the support be more explicitly identified and that the details of the project be more fully shared, all of which shall be sifted and winnowed by the District Five Board of Directors, more specifically by a collaborative effort of the District Board Cultural and Sports Committees. Once considered, we recommend that the District Board decide if the project is worthy of District Five support. Should the District Board want further District Five delegate input, Response #3 should be utilized.
- 3) The District Board, once satisfied with the transparent information presented to it about the statue project, should share that information with the 2024-2026 voting delegates, and if the Board's desire is for more district-wide input, we recommend the use of electronic voting asking the delegates for support or non-support of the project, including the District Board's recommended financial impact.

The committee recommends support for their recommendations. The motion passed.

The chair recessed the meeting for lunch.

The meeting was called back to order.

Appointment of Officers for afternoon session – President Wille-Schlesser

Friday afternoon	Marshall	FOSSELYNGEN 082	GRETCHEN BJORK
Friday afternoon	Assistant Marshall	POLAR STAR 472	FLOYD ANDERSON
Friday afternoon	Greeter	SCANDIANA 100	JAMES NELSON
Friday afternoon	Greeter	NORDKAP 378	DENNIS FLESSLAND

The winner of the Heads n Tails at lunch, Sandy Olson, donated the majority of her winnings to the SN District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation earmarked for Masse Moro and part to the SN Foundation.

Mandt Lodge 5-314 presented a bid to host the 2026 Lodge Meeting and Convention in Stoughton, WI.

The Resolutions committee was called back to report.

Before presenting Resolution 2, Jon Grinde gave a short history of Masse Moro.

Sons of Norway Resolutions Worksheet- Resolution 2

<p>Title of Resolution:</p>	<p>Masse Moro Task Force</p>
<p>State reasons for making a change</p>	<p>Masse Moro is the District 5 Youth Heritage Camp and has been in existence since 1979 and has been located in Eau Claire County. Article X Par. 1 of the District 5 Bylaws charges the Board with conducting camp each year.</p> <p><u>ARTICLE X . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT</u></p> <p>Par. 1 The District Lodge #5 adopts for itself as a Fraternal Project a Norwegian Heritage Camp to be located within the Fifth District. This Fraternal Project shall be as financially self-supporting as possible. District Lodge #5 will pay Masse Moro administrators to operate the heritage camp and will match scholarships provided to campers by their local lodges up to an amount to be determined by the District Lodge #5 Board.</p> <p>In recent years, there has been a downward trend in the number of campers attending Masse Moro, therefore making budgeting a challenge along with staffing of camp. Efforts have been made to address the finances of camp, donations and bequests have been given to support Masse Moro, and yet the camp is the largest expense for the District – impacting a small number of youth each year. The District has also been challenged with finding staff, counselors and volunteers to conduct the camp.</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Board understands the importance and historical significance of Masse Moro and the life-long friendships that have been made at camp; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Board understands it has a duty to offer camp according to our Bylaws; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Board is challenged with promotion of the camp to lodges as we have lodges close or have declining membership; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the District has offered the matching funds (up to \$250) to help support lodge support campers; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, we have been fortunate to have bequests given to the SN District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation by estates, families and lodges, the District still has a deficit in Masse Moro budgeting;</p>
<p>Follow the request for change as a “THEREFORE” statement.</p>	<p>THEREFORE, be it resolved that the District 5 Board is asking the District Lodge to form a Task Force to review Masse Moro operations, promotion, recruitment, and staffing. The Task Force might also consider the wording in the Bylaws and consider giving the District Board options in how often, the length of camp, and other details related to camp. The Task Force would work with the District Youth Director, Heritage & Grants Committee, and the Board in their work and report to the District in June 2026 (or before) with recommendations.</p>

	<p>Amendment from the committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the District President shall appoint the members of the Task Force as soon as possible and that the work of the Task Force be ready for a preliminary report to the District Five Board no later than its Spring 2025 Board Meeting or sooner if possible, and 2) Therefore, be it resolved that an attempt be made to compile a directory of Masse Moro campers from throughout its history and that these Masse Moro Alumni be solicited for ongoing support of Masse Moro through donations of time, talent, and treasure.
<p>If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact, state here:</p>	

The Resolutions Committee’s response to the resolution is in four parts:

- 3) The Resolutions Committee generally supports Resolution #2 establishing a Masse Moro Task Force.
- 4) The Resolutions Committee recommends continued District Five support of Masse Moro as a cultural extension and outreach from the Greater Sons of Norway organization within District Five and does not see the program from the perspective of a quid pro quo.
- 5) The Resolutions Committee recommends the Resolution’s “Therefore , be it resolved,” to read at the end: the District President shall appoint the members of the Task Force as soon as possible and that the work of the Task Force be ready for a preliminary report to the District Five Board no later than its Spring 2025 Board Meeting or sooner if possible, and
- 6) Therefore, be it resolved that an attempt be made to compile a directory of Masse Moro campers from throughout its history and that these Masse Moro Alumni be solicited for ongoing support of Masse Moro through donations of time, talent, and treasure.

Resolution #2, as amended, passed.

Resolution #3: District Officer Compensation

WHEREAS District 5 Bylaws Article VII, Par 6 states that the: The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director and Youth Director shall receive such compensation as determined by the District Lodge. The Board of Directors shall make recommendations to each District Lodge with respect thereto.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: As per the 2024 Finance Committee recommendation regarding the District Officer Compensation the 2024 Resolutions Committee Recommends compensation for District Officers as follows:

President \$1000 per annum

Secretary \$2000 per annum

Treasurer \$1000 per annum

Vice President \$250 per annum

Publicity Director \$250 per annum

Cultural Director \$250 per annum

Youth Director \$500 per annum

Recreation Director \$250 per annum

REASONING: Recognizes and acknowledges District Officers for their work in their respective positions.

Resolution #3 was adopted.

Resolution #4: Fraternal Project Support

WHEREAS as of July 1, 2024 the District will be receiving an additional dues allocation.

Therefore be it resolved the District designate \$1.00 of the additional dues allocated to the District, *be contributed to the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation for Masse Moro.* ~~“as the fraternal project fee”~~

REASONING: 1. We recognize the importance of the Norwegian Heritage Camp and want to continue to support it.

There was a motion to strike the words “as the fraternal project fee”. 2nd. A point of order was presented and was well taken.

The committee recommended changing the title.

The meeting was recessed for a coffee break.

The meeting was reconvened.

Corey Olson explained how the silent auction and other sales items will be handled at the end of today’s session.

Mandt Lodge members and Masse Moro Campers, Titan and Aurora Malouf, presented \$150 to the SN District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation for Masse Moro.

The amendment to Resolution 4 was changed. Then the resolution, as amended, was approved.

The final amended resolution was passed:

WHEREAS as of July 1, 2024 the District will be receiving an additional dues allocation, therefore be it resolved the District designate \$1.00 of the additional dues allocated to the District, be contributed to the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation for Masse Moro.

Report of the Fraternal Affairs Committee	The chair calls on chair Susan Herman and the Fraternal Affairs Committee as they approach the committee table.
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Fraternal Affairs		District 5 Board	Advisor-Sandy	Olson
Fraternal Affairs	657	Edvard Grieg	Chair- Susan	Herman
Fraternal Affairs	053	Valkryien	Audrey	Severson
Fraternal Affairs	616	Fagernes	Leland	Wier

Masse Moro

We support Resolution 2 (p.36) for the Masse Moro Task Force and encourage members of fraternal committee to be on the task force. Masse Moro is an important activity that our District should continue supporting.

We support Resolution 4, as amended, as a support for Masse Moro.

We support marketing the camp as Norwegian Heritage Camp-Masse Moro to focus on the Norwegian aspect, and encourage increasing our marketing to help bring up our camp enrollment.

Barnebirkie

We support Resolution 1 (p.35) and the continuation of support for Barnebirkie. We encourage marketing Norwegian Heritage Camp-Masse Moro at Barnebirkie to bring awareness of the camp, and attract interest for future enrollment.

We encourage lodges in District 5 to help supply the cookies needed, or a monetary donation to purchase cookies.

Viking Magazine

We encourage International to continue the Viking Magazine.

Suggestions for district lodges would be to highlight an article from the latest or past Viking issue at your meeting, present 5 minutes of News from Norway, or take 5-10 minutes to mention insurance. Also remember to continue submitting lodge activities and photographs, articles, or news.

Sons of Norway Cultural Skills and Sports Medals

Lodges are encouraged to now make requests to the Cultural Director for the Norwegian cultural/immigration chests.

Continue meeting in person, or use Zoom, for activities or workshops to promote cultural and sports activities.

Have baking workshops. This is a great way to teach, have fun, and continue Norwegian skills. Use the Sports Medal Programs that are online on the Sons of Norway website. Perhaps challenge your lodge members to check out the Sons of Norway website Virtual Pilgrimage's (Sets A thru I) online. There are

lots of links and things to see and experience from Norway.

New Programs and Ideas

For lodges who are having Zoom workshops, we encourage you to advertise and open up your workshop to the whole of District 5 so anyone can attend. This promotes what you are doing and allows others to take it back to their own lodges.

Some ideas beyond regular meetings would be to hold Zoom or in-person meetings such as a Cooking/Baking group, or a Book Club or Readers group. Hold an event to play Kubb and teach how to play it and have fun at the same time (children, youth, and/or adults). Perhaps have an event with another lodge (like Summer Solstice) and play. Invite other lodges around you to your lodge activities or coordinate a program together. Use the Information Bank for ideas and/or resources.

The committee was dismissed.

The Merit Awards for 2022 and 2023 were distributed.

2022 Lodge Achievement Recipients

Gold Recipients

Nordkap, Wergeland, Løven, Valkyrien, Fosselyngen, Valhall, Mandt, Dovre, Polar Star, Norse Valley, Vennelag, Myrmarken, Askeladden, Fagernes, Ostestaden, Edvard Grieg, Vikings of the Smokies, Music City Vikings, Grønnavik

Silver Recipients

Sognefjord, H.R. Holand, Circle City, Viking

Bronze Recipients

Vennligfolk, Norsemen of the Lakes

2023 Lodge Achievement Recipients

Gold Recipients

Nordkap, Wergeland, Mandt, Dovre, Polar Star, Skjold, Grønnavik, Scandiana, Valkyrien, Fagernes, Askeladden, Edvard Grieg, Fosselyngen, Myrmarken, Ostestaden, Norse Valley, Sognefjord, Vikings of the Smokies

Silver Recipients

Viking, Circle City

Bronze Recipients

Music City Vikings

2022 Family Lodge of the Year Applicants

Wergeland, Valhall, Mandt, Dovre, Nordkap, Rib Fjell, Sognefjord, H.R. Holand, Fagernes, Vennligfolk, Grønnavik, and Music City Vikings

2023 Family Lodge of the Year Applicants

Mandt, Dovre, Fagernes, Nordkap, Circle City, Grønnavik, Wergeland, Norse Valley, Scandiana, Sognefjord, Rib Fjell, and Vennlig

District Interim Sports Director Cheryl Wille-Schlesser asked lodges to report on their progress with the District

Sports Challenge. Many lodges reported on a number of lodges that have walked, swam, skied, bowled, and a number of activities.

Connie Aiello gave a presentation on the stamping set project that benefits the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation.

District Youth Director Lisa Rove Williams gave a presentation on Masse Moro.

There were announcements about the silent auction pick up, evening activities, and preparation for Saturday's activities.

The meeting was recessed until Saturday morning.

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President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser called the meeting back to order.

Judy Ghastin made announcements about vendors, Folk Art Display, and reminded people to fill out the surveys.

Appointment of Officers for the morning session- President Wille-Schlesser

Saturday morning	Marshall	SCANDIANA 600	DAVID HIRSCHEY
Saturday morning	Assistant Marshall	ASKELADDEN 610	KAREN HARE
Saturday morning	Greeter	VENNELAG 513	ALDEEN FJELSTAD
Saturday morning	Greeter	SOGNEFJORD 523	GAIL TAGGERT

Secretary Arneson took the roll call of delegates and reported that 76 were present.

International Director Duane Kittleson share his portion of the State of the Union. Duane shared the recent history of Sons of Norway, product sales, membership numbers, and how the organization has grown in the past seven years. He shared the cost saving decisions on board expenses, office staff, operations, and other places throughout the organization. He share that LegacySure and MYGA (a member only product), staff reduction from 50 to 29, and cut expenses in half. Membership dues were increased for the first time in seven years. Only 1/3 of Sons of Norway members own products unlike other fraternal that require all members to own product. 6.8% social members own a product, 27.4% social members only (no product), and 65.8% own a product but have no connection with the local lodges. The dues increase will start on July 1.

International Secretary Robin Fossum shared the Fraternal Update on behalf of Connie O'Brien. She thanked the home office staff for their work. The Charter & Bylaws was updated in January 2024 and Policies and Procedures in April 2024. She shared the process of electing the International Board this fall. She shared that the website continues to be updated and designed to offer more resources, that there will be a new rosemalar for the ornament, and that virtual content (videos) are popular if food based. The virtual cookie series brought over 5,000 hits for the website. New virtual content includes "Songs of Earth" with intergenerational topics. There will be virtual steamer trunks that can be used in lodge presentations. Cultural programs for Syttende Mai included a focus on bunads, flag etiquette, and recipes.

CEO Dan Seyfried reviewed what the terms mean on the financial statements. Dan answered questions about the home office location which is a 15-year lease.

There was a Question-and-Answer Session with CEO Daniel Seyfried, SN Foundation Director Amy Tuchenhagen, International Secretary Robin Fossum, and International Director Duane Kittleson about International questions, concerns, and other information.

Corey Olson announced that the Silent auction raised \$3,400.

The meeting recessed for a coffee break.

The meeting was called back to order.

The Finance Committee was recalled. Seeing that there was no further business, the committee was dismissed.

The Reports and Publicity Committee was recalled. Seeing that there was no further business, the committee was dismissed.

The Fraternal Affairs Committee was recalled. Seeing that there was no further business, the committee was dismissed.

The Laws Committee was recalled. Seeing that there was no further business, the committee was dismissed.

There were no other bids to host the 2026 convention, so Chair Wille-Schlesser declared the bid from Mandt Lodge adopted by acclamation.

Nomination chair Wendy Kay Winkelman asked for a candidate to fill the last spot for Alternate to the District Secretary. The candidates all introduced themselves.

Position	First	Last	Lodge
President	Cheryl	Wille-Schlesser	5-513
Vice President	James	Herman	5-567
Secretary	Darlene	Arneson	5-314
Treasurer	Corey	Olson	5-491
Recreation Director/Sports	Clara	Solak	5-100
Publicity Director	LaVonne	Wier	5-616
Cultural Director	Lucy	Ghastin	5-074
Youth Director	Robert	Schuck	5-314
At Large Director	Connie	Aiello	5-183
At Large Director	Scott	Wegner	5-314
At Large Director	Bill	Bultinck	5-689
At Large Director	Lisa	Solak	5-100
Alternate – Secretary	Janis	Wegner	5-314
Alternate- Treasurer	Duane	Kittleson	5-513

Alternate- At Large	Connie	Kross	5-525
Alternate- At Large	Judy	Ghastin	5-491
Alternate- At Large	Michaela	Decker	5-183
Alternate- At Large	Laurie	Barrett	5-314

The 2024-2026 District Board was elected by a majority vote.

The Memorial Service was held.

International Secretary Robin Fossum shared further comments about her role and duties.

The Nominations Committee was recalled. Seeing that there was no further business, the committee was dismissed.

The Resolutions Committee was recalled. They offered Resolution #5.

Whereas: The 56th Biennial District Five Lodge Meeting and Convention is coming to a successful conclusion; and

Whereas: District President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser conducted the meeting and her biennial duties with professional dispatch; and

Whereas: District Secretary Darlene Arneson has administered her office smoothly, with diligence, timeliness, and with boundless energy; and

Whereas: The District Board has performed its duties and obligations in an efficient manner; and

Whereas: International Secretary Robin Fossum and International Director Duane Kittleson have represented our District on the International Board with distinction; and

Whereas: Our Home Office Staff of International Sons of Norway CEO Daniel Seyfriend and International Sons of Norway Foundation Director Amy Tuchenhagen have updated us and were integral contributors to this biennial meeting; and

Whereas: The class presenters and Cultural Arts Display participants added much to the richness and variety of this convention; and

Whereas: The District Five Board and its Biennial Convention Committee, being host to this fine assembly, carried out their duties with diligent planning and skill; and

Whereas: The Parliamentarian Robert Schuck handled his duties with professional excellence; and

Whereas: The management and staff of the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport Hotel provided excellent service and accommodations; and

Whereas: The outgoing and current District Board members deserve our gratitude for their service over the last two years; and

Whereas: those who donated gifts to the Silent Auction are to be commended and thanked, as well as the many buyers of those auction items; and

Whereas: Thanks is due to the appointed Biennial District Lodge Meeting committee members and temporary officers; and

Whereas: Delegates, Alternates, and Visitors have given much of their time, talents, and treasures to attend and participate in this lodge meeting and convocation and much appreciation is due them, as well; and

Now therefore be it resolved: The incoming District Board of Directors is asked to extend our gratitude and thanks to any person or group inadvertently omitted from this resolution.

The resolution passed with a majority vote.

The Resolution Committee was dismissed.

Announcements and Remarks for the Good of the Order were made.

President Wille-Schlesser declared the meeting adjourned.