

Sons of Norway District 5 - Friendly Fifth Friday News November 15, 2024

A District Weekly Newsletter to Keep Us Up to Date!

Sons of Norway Fifth District Board Meeting Highlights Friday and Saturday, November 8-9, 2024 Chicago Marriott Northwest, 4800 Hoffman Boulevard, Hoffman Estates, IL

Present: Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Jim Herman, Darlene Arneson, Corey Olson, Lucy Ghastin, La Vonne Wier, Connie Aiello, Robert Schuck (Friday only), Clara Solak, Lisa Solak, Scott Wegner, Bill Bultinck; Visitors Christina and Richard Fairchild (Saturday only), International Director Duane Kittleson, Janis Wegner

The District 5 Lodge Meeting minutes from the Indianapolis convention were presented and approved.

Heritage Youth Camp - Masse Moro:

The website for the Norwegian Heritage Youth Camp Masse Moro is updated and we are ready to accept and receive registrations for the 2025 summer session. Camp will be starting for campers on Sunday the 13th of July and running through Saturday the 26th of July, 2025. The tuition for 2025 is \$1,200 and is the same as this year's tuition. We are using Zeffy to fundraise and to accept registration payments online. Zeffy is the only 100% free fundraising software for nonprofits - they even cover the transactions fees. It's incredibly easy to use, offers a full suite of fundraising tools, and they provide unlimited customer support—all for free.

Leif Williams and Keir Kristiansen indicated to this Youth Director that they are willing to serve again as co-camp administrators. As far as other staffing positions, co-camp directors have been contacted, co-health aides have been contacted, as well as a possible head cook.

There was a motion that the *Invite a Friend Scholarship* be capped at the total cost of tuition less any Lodge Support Funds, the District Match, and Draxten Funds. 2nd. Motion passed.

Masse Moro Task Force- Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

The task force has met once and is scheduling a second meeting for the first week in December. They did introductions and shared their connections to camp. They focused on marketing and discussed the possibility of hiring someone to do marketing.

Executive Committee Report – Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

Corey shared that the District had \$762.33 in income from the convention.

District Training and Leadership opportunities our District has offered or plans to...

- 10 members on the Sept 15 call on district restructuring and membership concerns
- Lodge Secretary call scheduled for October 27
- Cheryl and Connie are going to Nordkap for presentations and stamping class
- Will schedule a call on Filling Officer Positions
- Encouraged Connie to schedule a Foundation Director's call
- Asked International for a list of all District Level Officers and Boards so we can have calls with other counterparts.

- October 3-5, 2025- Adult Heritage Weekend in Norway, IL
- Lodge Development and Support discussed
 - District wide full day event via ZOOM in January or February
 - Will ask board to host officer trainings for lodges
 - Virtual trainings on District activities: Masse Mor

Nordic Legacy Foundation

We reviewed the various grants that were set up in 2021 under Judy Ghastin's leadership.

- Cultural and Sports Pins Shipping Grant award limit \$30 per District 5 Lodge per year.
- Small Project Grants award limit up to \$200 per Grant (up to 5 awarded semi-annually)
- Matching Funds Grant award limit up to \$500 (up to 3 awarded semi-annually)
- Approved raising the amount of the Folk School scholarship to \$1,000 and offering one instead of two.
- Approved a Printing Grant of \$100 for lodges and allow them to get up to two per calendar year (not to exceed \$100) as International isn't offering printed materials anymore.

International Director Report- Duane Kittleson

Lori Gubash- Was hired as the Sons of Norway Sales Director. Lori has held previous sales leadership roles in the insurance field and with fraternal. She has a deep understanding of selling within a Fraternal organization.

He reviewed the new online member profile and they are getting very positive feedback on the portal. They are starting to encourage online documents.

He covered the new MYGA (Multi Year Guarantee Annuity) and shared that they are moving more life products to the new online app. They are currently repricing term and home life including single premium whole life. They are also moving WL and SPWL to the new e-app when the product launches early next year.

He shared the results of the International Board elections. Dean Stiller was recently diagnosed with colon cancer and hopes to continue on the board.

He shared that the Policy and Procedure was updated in Sections 11 (deleted 11.3, 11.8, 11.9) and Section 17.19.6 that the local lodge treasurer is the same language as the District Treasurer which requires checks to be co-signed by another officer. The Charter and Bylaws has a change in Section 15.2.

Sports and Recreation

We discussed the district wide sports challenge tentatively called "Throwing Things in 2025" from axes to cards - many activities will qualify! Details are being hammered out, but we believe it will be fun for all members of any ability.

We are planning Barnebirkie marketing materials for the event including an informational banner. The date is February 20, 2025. We will be contacting lodges for cookie donations. We are also planning to send messages to Lodge Sports Directors to promote medals and the District 5 Cultural and Sports pin shipping grant. We also hope to have a Sports Medal feature once a month on FFFN.

Lodge Development & Support

We have two lodges that have shared that they want to proceed with disbanding and another who shared that they have issues.

The question of where do we have areas for possible new lodges? The key with that is finding the key people who will reach out to find local people. Collegiate chapters were also discussed and perhaps the lodges in/near college towns might reach out to the campus to connect with those students.

Foundation Update-Connie Aiello

The 2025 Sons of Norway Foundation “Together We Are the Future” campaign launched on October 1, 2024. The campaign runs through January 15, 2025. The Foundation’s campaign goal is \$150,000. The Annual Foundation goal is set at \$350,000.

Marketing information began the week of September 20th in the Friday Friendly Fifth News (FFFN) with a direct link to the campaign page on the Sons of Norway website. A banner header currently appears on the Sons of Norway District 5 website with a link to our Foundation page where members can find information about the campaign. A direct link to the Sons of Norway website Foundation campaign page can be found as well.

In September, we saw donation envelope attached inside the Sept/Oct Viking magazine. Last week, a direct mailer was sent to all previous Foundation donors. The Foundation is making individual calls to large donors. A third page ad will appear in the Nov/Dec issue of the Viking magazine with a QR code. As of last week, the campaign has reached \$22, 255 of its goal of \$150,000. The average gift donation for the month of September was \$112.40. The largest part in the form of annual gifting, with online gifting and magazine envelopes being equal. There is still a long way to achieve the 2025 foundation goal(s). Lodges are encouraged to promote the campaign and conduct foundation raising activities to help reach the goal.

In 2024, the Sons of Norway awarded \$147,000 to 33 scholarships and \$154,000 to 55 grants. District 5 received the third largest portion of the monies distributed; 4 scholarships totaling \$33,000 and 9 grants totaling \$16,850. Annual amounts distributed are not awarded evenly amongst the districts and vary from year to year. Some factors are the number of scholarship applications, scholarship type and parameters, and grants submitted by lodges and districts. The largest portion was the grant money received in our district was for the 2024 District 5 Convention in Indianapolis.

2025 Grant deadline is December 31, 2024. Lodges are encouraged to submit grants for cultural programming, activities, events, and operational needs. 2025 Scholarship deadlines vary but are usually before March 2025.

We ask that lodges are to remind members to use the donation envelope located Sept/Oct Viking or the links provided on the website. Any individual or family interested in creating an endowment, stock gifts, in-honor, or in-memoriam gifts, are asked to call Amy Tuchenhagen at 612-821-4655, Sons of Norway Foundation office.

Going forward, the Foundation Committee will continue posts in the FFFN about current “Together We Are the Future” campaign, along with information and status of reaching the Foundations year-long fundraising goal. Posts have been created for the District 5 Facebook page with time releases. Information about lodge fundraising ideas will be in the FFFN, on Facebook, and sent in an email to lodge Foundation Directors, Presidents, VPs, and Directors.

We are considering scheduling virtual sessions (i.e. Zoom meetings) with topics such as: Applying for scholarships- open Q&A; Grants – ideas and successful grant writing; Foundation 101 – What is the Sons of Norway Foundation? about, mission, and funding; Sons of Norway Foundation: endowments, stock gifts, in-honor and in-memoriam gifting.

Our goal is to work directly to Lodge Foundation Directors, Presidents, Vice Presidents, Newsletter Editors, Cultural Programming Chairs, and Youth Directors and anyone else to promote foundation efforts.

We plan to create and send timed email blasts and/or social media posts, or mailings. Much of the promotional is already out there in the form of news releases, articles, flyers, links, websites, FFFN, and social media posts. Encouraging lodges to share with members.

An email will be sent out in November with information regarding where to find assistance with scholarship applications or grant writing. Highlighting past scholarship and grant recipients, as means to encourage individuals and lodges to apply.

Notification reminders of scholarship and grant deadlines will appear in the FFFN and D5 Facebook page.

Cultural

The three cultural containers were discussed—Viking Chest, Immigrant Trunk and Mini Family Immigrant Trunk. Owen Christianson has completed the third container, and it is with the rosemaier, Lois Mueller, waiting its turn to have rosemaied decoration on it. Lucy will contact Lois to find out when the family trunk will be finished and will divide up the current trunk contents from two into three containers. The current Viking Chest and Immigrant Trunk have received recent lodge contributions, making them overcrowded.

Darlene Arneson suggested creating a PowerPoint slide show or maybe video of each “trunk’s” contents (after the redistribution is finished). The Cultural Committee discussed how this project could help lodges preview trunk contents and/or be used in lieu of the physical trunk/container when it isn’t possible to get receipt of it for a lodge program.

Publicity

It appears some lodges are already doing more with the Sunshine person. Ideas were sending cards for birthdays, and flowers for special birthdays (70, 80, etc.) A paper copy of these messages should go to people without email. We can’t forget about those who are not online. Having a booth at an event is a great idea. Finding people to WORK the booth can be a challenge for some lodges. The event doesn’t have to be Scandinavian. Flyers and posts on Facebook, etc., are good, but they don’t have the power of a real person talking about Sons of Norway to the public.

Christina was enthusiastic about helping out through several means. Special congratulations can be posted on the D5 website for milestones and accomplishments. A real great idea from Christina was for me to send all the submitted photos each month to her to post on the website. With that addition, the other lodges in the district can enjoy seeing the photos. Darlene can add photos and events to the FFFN and to the district Facebook page. We just have to get the information to her.

The publicity and cooperation between the lodge and the chamber can be very advantageous. Lodges should consider partnering with the chamber in their town(s).

Website

Sons of Norway D5 Website activities for the last six months:

We have continued to maintain and update the D5 website by answering the contact information emails, posting Calendar Events, the Friday Friendly Fifth News, Lodge newsletters, photos, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Directors, and International Director messages.

We uploaded sixty-four newsletters from eighteen lodges from the prior 6-month period. Lodges who have submitted newsletters are: Askeladden Lodge, Circle City Lodge, Fagernes Lodge, Fosselyngen Lodge, Gronnvik Lodge, Idun Lodge, Mandt Lodge, Music City Vikings Lodge, Mymarken Lodge, Nordkap Lodge, Norse Valley Lodge, Polar Star Lodge, Rib Fjell, Shawnee Skogen Lodge, Valhall Lodge, Vennelag Lodge, Vennligfolk Lodge, and Wergeland Lodge.

- We continue to work with Darlene and the District 5 Board on posting the Friday Friendly Fifth News and updating website documents and information.
- We have posted photos from the 2024 Convention
- We continue to receive events of interest from lodges and post them to the calendar as they come in. We posted 18 Lutefisk / Norwegian Dinners on our calendar of events.
- Our website hosts Jeremy and Pat continue to work with us on website requests.
- We have added the link to access the Sons of Norway Cultural Solitaire game to make it easier to find.
- We are continuing to update and remove outdated information.
- We continue to add helpful videos to the website as they become available.
- We have created new banners to flag events as needed.

Future Website changes:

- We would like to receive more youth programs from the lodges.
- We would like to see more lodges send in their calendar events. Many of the events that are posted come from the lodge newsletters we receive.
- We would like the individual lodges to review their information on the website and notify us when there needs to be a change for meetings, meeting locations and time, change of presidents, and contact information to help keep their lodge information current.

Matching SN D5 Nordic Legacy Foundation Donations during the 4th Quarter

The board approved a SN D5 NLF fundraising campaign to match up to \$10,000 donation from lodges during October, November and December. The District would match the funds from the District Treasury, and these would be matches for donations (i.e. not Masse Moro matching). 2nd. Motion passed.

The bowl that was donated by Jorn Langseth could be auctioned off. He wants the minimum bid to be \$700. We could publicize the auction and then run an online auction. Darlene could run the 32auction for it.

Goals for the biennium

- To encourage lodges to increase their membership by 5%.
- To increase the number of campers attending Masse Moro to 45.
- To encourage lodges to donate to the SN D5 NLF so the District can match the full \$10,000 during the fall campaign.
- To have 101 members participate in the 2025 Sports Throwing Challenge.
- To have at least 900 dozen cookies donated for Barnebirkie.
- During the next biennium, 100% of the lodges are visited in-person or virtually for a meeting or lodge event, by at least one member of the District Board.

International Director Duane Kittleson thanked the board for allowing him to attend and participate in the board meetings.

The next meeting will be on April 25-26, 2025 at the Chicago Marriott Northwest, 4800 Hoffman Boulevard, Hoffman Estates, IL.

Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation Pins/Medals, Cultural and Sports Grants 2025

Purpose:

To promote and celebrate the culture of Norway and Nordic countries, grants are offered to District 5 Lodges to:

- increase and maintain membership
- expand programs to include all age groups
- reach out to members who can no longer attend meetings
- encourage participation in the cultural arts and sports programs

Categories:

1. **Cultural, Membership and Sports Pins/Medals Shipping Grant** award limit \$30 per District 5 Lodge per calendar year.
2. **Small Project Grants** award limit up to \$200 per Grant (up to 5 awarded semi-annually)
3. **Matching Funds Grant** award limit up to \$500 (up to 3 awarded semi-annually)

Guidelines:

- Grants are offered **only to Sons of Norway District 5 Lodges semi-annually.**
- Lodges may apply for a Shipping Grant and either the Small Project or Matching Fund Grant in the same year.
- Awards are dependent on available funds.
- Grants are judged by members of the District 5 Board; including members of the Cultural & Sports Committees.
- Checks will be payable to the lodge making the application.
- **Applications and required paperwork must be submitted to the District 5 Cultural Director.**

Application Deadlines and Awarding of Grants:

- Cycle 1 application deadline **December 31** ; Grants awarded by mid-January
- Cycle 2 application deadline **June 30**; Grants awarded by mid-July
- Grants should be used in the calendar year they are issued.

Cultural, Membership and Sports Pins Shipping Grant Description

- Grant is awarded to District 5 Lodges to help with the shipping cost of cultural, membership and/or sports pins/medals
- Up to \$30 per year per lodge can be awarded for the Shipping Grant.
- A copy of the shipping receipt (shipping cost circled) must be submitted with the application.
- Lodges may receive a Shipping Grant and apply for one of the other grants within the same year.

Small Projects Grant Description

- Up to \$200 each may be awarded to assist with Cultural, Membership or Sports projects.
- Lodges must submit a budget and detailed description of the project.
- Projects must take place during the time period described in the application.
- A follow-up report is due upon completion of the project, within a month of completion:
 - a. describe the outcome of the project,
 - b. include pictures and include receipts

Matching Funds Grant Description

- Up to \$500 in matching funds may be granted for assistance with large Cultural, Membership, or Sports projects.
- Lodges must submit a budget and detailed description of the project.
- Projects must take place during the time period described in the application.
- A follow-up report is due upon completion of the project, within a month of completion:
 - a. describe the outcome of the project,
 - b. include pictures and include receipts showing how funds were matched

Grants will be judged by members of the Sons of Norway District 5 Board or their committees.

Sons of Norway District 5 Cultural and Sports Grants Application Form - Small Projects & Matching Funds

Lodge Name and Number: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Contact Address: _____

Grant Request: Small Projects Grant _____ Matching Funds Grant _____

Title of Project: _____ Dates of Project: _____

Matching Funds Grant only:

Name of Matching Fund Source: _____

Contact: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Description and Budget:

- Attach a detailed description of the project written in less than 500 words.
- Include the budget for the project
- Explain how this grant will help promote Nordic culture, especially Norwegian culture.

Report: Upon completion of your project, you must send a report describing the outcome of the project. Include pictures which may be posted and receipts to show how the grant was spent and/or matched. If there are youth in pictures, please make sure a photo release has been signed. Captions for the photos will be appreciated.

Submit applications and reports to:

**Lucy Ghastin, Sons of Norway District 5 Cultural Director
7130 Century Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562**



**PINS AND MEDALS SHIPPING GRANT
FOR ALL DISTRICT 5 LODGES**

On October 9, 2021, the District 5 Board of Directors approved a shipping grant for any lodges that had ordered membership pins for their members. This grant will continue to be in effect for successive years until revoked. The board has added cultural and sports medals as well.

A total of \$30 will be reimbursed per lodge each calendar year. The number of requests is limited to two and the total reimbursement may not exceed \$30 in one calendar year.

Please fill out the form below and submit it via standard U.S. Mail or by Email.
Attach the receipt for the pin order, which shows the shipping fee circled.

Send this form and receipt to Lucy Ghastin, 7130 Century Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

Name of Lodge: _____

Lodge Number 5-_____

Name of the lodge officer requesting reimbursement.

Please indicate the position held in your lodge.

Provide the name and address of the Lodge Treasurer who will receive the reimbursement check.

Name of the Lodge Treasurer _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Type of pins/medals you purchased: _____ Membership _____ Sports _____ Cultural

The District 5 Board thanks you for acknowledging your members in this way. The success of a lodge is directly proportionate to the longevity of its members and their willingness to serve the greater good.

Thank you,

Lucy Ghastin
District 5 Cultural Director

DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH YOUR RECEIPTS!



**Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation
Printing Grant**

With the changes of SN International not providing many of the printed materials they have in the past, the District 5 Board and the SN D5 NLF would like to help lodges with their printing needs. This grant will continue to be in effect for successive years until revoked. Lodges can use this to print brochures, membership forms, insurance product promotional materials, and other items related to the mission of Sons of Norway and the operations of the local lodge. The funds should not be used to print fundraising items (i.e. Christmas cards).

A total of \$100 will be reimbursed per lodge each calendar year. We prefer that the number of requests be limited to two requests but the sum of the two requests cannot exceed \$100 in reimbursement.

Please fill out the form below and submit it via standard U.S. Mail or by Email.
Attach the receipt for your printing expenses with this form.
Send this form and receipt to Darlene Arneson, 2056 Skaalen Road, Stoughton, WI 53589

Name of Lodge: _____

Lodge Number 5-_____

Name of the lodge officer requesting reimbursement.

Please indicate the position held in your lodge.

Provide the name and address of the Lodge Treasurer who will receive the reimbursement check.

Name of the Lodge Treasurer _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please explain how you are using the printing funds:

The District 5 Board thanks you for acknowledging your members in this way.

Thank you,

Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary

Lodge Officer Election Roundtable- November 24 at 7 PM CST

District Secretary Darlene Arneson will host a call for anyone wanting to discuss local lodge officer elections. It's a roundtable discussion so we'll cover some of the basics and then open it up to share ideas of what works, what doesn't, where to find resources and assistance, completing the D63 and more! Anyone is welcome to join the discussion!

Agenda-Lodge Officer Election Roundtable (and others interested) Sunday, November 24, 2024 7:00 PM CST

Review what's in our CCPP on officer elections and minimum officers needed

How is everyone doing?

- How do you recruit and use your nominating committee?
- When are elections held and when are officers installed?
- One or two year officer terms?
- Training and transition- what happens at your lodge
- How do your officer meetings work?
- What else do you want to cover?

International website-

- Guide to Leadership
- Where to find information, run reports, download lists
- Where trainings are

Installation of officers – how we can assist!

How to complete the D63 Officer Election process

Other discussion and questions

Darlene Arneson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SN D5 Lodge Officer Election Roundtable
Time: Nov 24, 2024 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89913930775>

Meeting ID: 899 1393 0775

One tap mobile
+16469313860,,89913930775# US
+13017158592,,89913930775# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location
• +1 646 931 3860 US
• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
• +1 305 224 1968 US
• +1 309 205 3325 US
• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 899 1393 0775

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kenDSt2FBi>

Sons of Norway Membership Benefits you should try!

There are many membership benefits that most of us either aren't aware of, don't take advantage of, or don't know where to find them. Having time at meetings to show them **how to log-in** is a big first step as that opens up so many resources for members! Here is the video on how to do that:

<https://youtu.be/4q-7Mxuww5Q?si=BNgdhKdlv2V687DT>

20. E-Post digital newsletter keeps you in touch with Norwegian culture and customs. This monthly quick take on news, events and fun facts is automatically sent to your inbox. We also email you special updates and announcements. Customize them to fit your preferences, keeping up-to-date on the latest news from our Sons of Norway family.

The Sons of Norway Foundation “Together We Are the Future” campaign runs from October 1, 2024 through January 15, 2025. There is still time for your lodge to donate, if you haven't already. The campaign may end January 15, but Foundation fundraising can be done anytime of the year. Attached is a list of fundraising ideas that your lodge can do to raise money for the Sons of Norway Foundation.

Just a reminder Applications are now open for both Sons of Norway Foundation grants and scholarships.

Deadline for grants remains 12/31/24.

Deadlines for [scholarships](#) vary, so please check the description for each fund, but they are generally in early 2025.

Questions can be directed to foundation@sofn.com.

Foundation Fundraising Ideas

Noisy Offering or Pass the Piggy – Ask lodge members to bring any loose change to contribute to the collection basket or piggy.

Bingo – Host a themed bingo night. Bingo boards can be purchased and picked up/mailed or use an online site for bingo boards. Cost of admission is a donation to the Foundation, and you can gather fun prizes from members or the community! Note: You may need to purchase a license to conduct BINGO. Check your state ordinances.

Trivia – Norwegian themed or lodge themed trivia, members can contribute to the Foundation to participate. Contact District 5 Sons of Norway Foundation Director for trivia ideas.

Jeopardy – Host an evening of playing the Jeopardy game. Teams pay a donation to the Foundation to play. Be sure to have prizes for the winners. Contact you District 5 Foundation Director for an electronic version of the game. The Director can create a Jeopardy board for you.

One-Pound Auction – Each person is to bring a wrapped gift weighing **exactly** one pound. The gift should be wrapped securely. Players will be able to pick up, shake, and turn over the gifts. The more the gift rustles, clacks, rings, clatters, or rattles, the higher the bids. Some gift ideas: coins, pound of butter, pasta, canned goods, office supplies, coffee, soap, gift card, nuts, candy, poker chips, Legos. Be creative. Have someone be the auctioneer. Let the bidding begin at \$5. Have someone record the names and highest bidders. Once all gifts have been bid and handed out, have the players open their gift(s) all at once.

Make Your Own *Insert Nordic Food Here* Kits – Whether its lefse, krumkake or any other Nordic delicacy, with a donation to the Foundation your members will get a kit with a recipe and the ingredients needed to make the food. Make it extra fun and engaging with a virtual cooking class!

Host a Live Music Performance – Invite a local musician or group to perform live your lodge meeting location or free event area. A donation to the Foundation the cost of admission.

Silent Auction — The silent auction gathers donations received from members or local businesses and they are auctioned off by using bidding sheets. It takes a team to gather, inventory and label the goods as well as print up bidding sheets. The committee will also have to gather the sheets and announce the highest bidders and collect the money onsite. This could be incorporated with a new member dinner, Foundation Month, Julebord, Tyvende dag jul (St. Knud's Day), St. Hans Fest, etc.

Golf Outing – Compete against your fellow lodge members and raise money for the Foundation. Participants must give a donation to the Foundation to play. Seek out local businesses for hole sponsorship, monies going to the Foundation. Make it interesting with additional donations for the twosome or foursome you think will win!

“Good News” – At the start of every lodge meeting, have lodge members pay \$1 to the Foundation for each good news they share with the lodge. Share a news about marriage, birth, graduation, retirement, new house, recent travel, meeting new relatives, awards, achieving a goal, etc.

Make a Pledge toward my Kid/Grandkid - Many members have children or grandchildren that run in races, kayak, canoes, mountain climb, repel, row, and more. Individuals could ask for pledges toward the child competing in the race and donate to the Foundation in hon, or of their child or grandchild.

Birthday Celebration — Ask friends on Facebook to donate to the Foundation online to celebrate a special birthday. In Norway they are always celebrating the “0” birthdays — 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100.

Treasure/Scavenger Hunt — If you can get a larger prize donated or pool resources for a cash prize, then you could create a fun treasure hunt. Each team of two would pay to enter and get their first clue. Teams then follow a trail of clues that take them all over the city until they make it to the end and claim the grand prize.

Movie Night — If you have a large room and a big screen, having a movie night can be a fun way to get your supporters together and raise some money for the Foundation. Charge an admission price – maybe \$15 (more or less) – and then sell snacks like popcorn, candy and beverages. You could also incorporate a raffle or silent auction to generate additional revenue.

Community Garage Sale — Garage sales are lots of fun and everyone always has stuff lying around their house that they don’t want. Ask them to donate the good items, then have a large garage sale (inside maybe if it’s cold). Sell hotdogs and other treats at the sale to generate additional revenue. All proceeds, minus expenses, go to the Foundation.

Matching Fund Challenge — Get one member to challenge other members to donate “x” amount of dollars to the Foundation and he/she will match the amount up to a certain amount. For example, a person says I will donate \$200, \$500, \$1000 to the Sons of Norway Foundation if the lodge or event reaches a specific goal.

Selling customized T-shirts — This is a unique fundraising idea for a lodge and also a great marketing strategy for your local lodge. Customize the shirt to showcase the lodge or event. Design the T-shirt to show off the brand identity, or to commemorate an event! People will buy the shirts to remember the lodge or event. Does require an initial investment. A portion of the proceeds would go back to the Foundation.

Host a 5K Race — Host a 5K race the whole family can enjoy. Set up a 5K race in your community. 5K races are an easy way to locally fundraise. Require a registration fee for runners. Other than that, all runners need to participate is a good pair of shoes! Partner with local companies to sponsor the 5K event. Businesses may gain traction by featuring their name on race-day T-shirts or by providing swag to runners.

Raffle Night — They enable lodges to support local businesses while fundraising in a unique way! Contact local businesses who may want to donate something to the raffle. This is a great opportunity for local restaurants and shops to spread their brand name to the community. Plus, it helps the lodge secure affordable prizes for the event! Encourage the community to buy raffle tickets.

Chili Cook off or Soup Contest — Invite members to show off their recipe! People pride themselves on fantastic recipes. Challenge members to a cook off to find out who has the best. To determine the winners,

volunteer judges. Require a registration fee for those who wish to enter the competition and/or charge an entrance fee for people to taste. Don't forget to provide a prize for the winner.

Board Game Tournament — Bring out board games and hold a unique tournament fundraising competition. If you're not a board game person, ask volunteers to bring in their favorite board game. Whether it's Monopoly, Battleship or Checkers, people will have a blast reminiscing over their old favorites! Have people play against one another throughout the night so the overall board game champion may be determined to receive a prize. Require a small fee to register for the game night.

Gala — If you're looking for an event for generous donors, host a classic gala! Galas allow people with similar passions and interests to get together over good food and a common cause. Combine this gala with your silent auction or raffle to spark some friendly fundraising competition in your attendees. Try a themed gala to turn this classic idea into a unique fundraising affair for everyone. It can be a classic costume ball, a Halloween costume party, or even themed to a popular movie series.

Potluck Dinner — Potluck dinners are a super easy way to bring together people for a night of great food and conversation. Invite people to bring their favorite dish to the dinner. People love showing off family recipes to their community. Charge a donation fee at the door.

Used Book Sale — Hosting a used book sale is a simple and easy fundraising idea that anyone can do. Work with local businesses or churches to serve as collection depots. or at your own meeting location. Then sell the books at a used book sale. You could limit the books donated to those that are Nordic-inspired, whether, travel, novels, coffee table books, history, etc. — or not.

Walkathons/Skiathons/Bikeathons/Row-a-thons — “-athons” are effective, whether you have five people or 500. People who are participating in the event gather, collect and submit pledges to the folks in charge. Always be willing to accept donations on-site and be sure to try to involve the whole community.

Bowl-a-Thons — And speaking of “Athons,” this is another event in which the whole family can participate. Participants register to play in the bowling tournament. Then they call on their friends and family to make donations to the fundraising event in their name. Before the event, work with the local bowling alley to hold your challenge, some will donate lanes, some will ask for rent to guarantee the lanes. Participant bowlers play against one another in a good-natured competition. Don't forget a trophy for the winner. Don't feel shy about accepting gifts from spectators.

Paint and Sip —At a paint and sip fundraising event, your group works with an “art studio” at either its studio or at your meeting hall to teach attendees how to paint a painting. Not only that, but you provide wine for those 21+. Tickets can be sold to cover expenses and raise money.

Donate Your Hobby — Everyone has some type of talent, so why not use it to raise money? Participants donate a service to the campaign, such as piano lessons, making a kransekake or several dozen Norwegian cookies, carpentry, cooking, knitting, crocheting, pottery making, writing, genealogy research, computer skills, etc.

People make monetary gifts to have access to the talented givers. On a first-come-first-served basis, donors get to pick the service they wish to have. You may also run the event as a silent auction with the service going to the highest bidder.

Battle of the Bands — Music is a surefire way to create a memorable fundraising event. Hosting a battle of the local bands takes some organization but can be fun and profitable. Reach out to local schools, colleges and universities and music schools and ask if there are any up-and-coming performers that may wish to participate. It allows young people to express their creative sides as well as get them involved in giving back through your lodge to the Foundation. You can have the battle inside or out and charge for tickets. At the event, you can also fundraise by selling concessions or holding a raffle. Voting on which act is the best is usually done through applause. Don't forget to give the winning act some sort of prize. Best to get the media there to give the winning act well-deserved publicity.

Guessing Game — For a quick, cheap fundraising idea, set up a guessing game. You can do it at a lodge event and/or get local merchants to participate, too. Fill a jar with jellybeans, peanuts, M&Ms, peas, buttons, or whatever and encourage people to guess how many are in the jar. When individuals make their guess, they'll pay a small fee to enter the contest. Be sure to have a great prize for the winner! People may guess more than once, if they wish — but, of course, they must pay the fee each time.

Straw Draws — Straw Draws is so simple. Participants enter the drawing by purchasing a ticket to the straw draw, which is the donation to the Foundation. On the bottom of the straw, print a number in indelible ink and it will correspond to a gift that has been donated. They can be large or small. They can be donated by members or local merchants — anything from a free soda to a gift card to a Norwegian dinner prepared by a member. The cost to the lodge is pretty much just a box of straws.

Front Row Seats — Whether it's a great concert coming into town or the latest play, there's bound to be a popular event of some kind that's tough to get into. This makes tickets to these shows a hot commodity, and an even hotter fundraising incentive. So, for your fundraiser, consider offering front row tickets to a popular show as a prize. To make this kind of incentive work, you'll need to have team members ready to purchase the sought-after tickets as soon as they go online. Then, once you have the tickets ready, start promoting the fundraiser through the lodge and the general community. You can do the fund raising as a raffle or an auction bid. If a raffle, make sure that the ticket price is high enough so that you not only cover the cost of the show tickets, but have plenty left for a Foundation donation.

Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social or Pie Social — Everybody loves ice cream! Ice cream socials work well because they take little planning but yield great fundraising results. All you need to do is purchase a variety of flavors and toppings to get started. (For an added fundraising boost, call on a local ice cream shop to sponsor the event and provide free ice cream supplies.) Invite lodge members, their families and friends to the event and charge a moderate ticket price for admittance.

Other Dates to Note (changes in red)

November 15- Lodge Liability Payment Due

November 24- Local Lodge Officer Elections Roundtable ZOOM call at 7 PM CST

November 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

December 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

December 31- D63 Officer Election Reports Due

2025 Calendar

January 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

February 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier
February 20- Barnebirkie Race in Hayward, WI
March 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier
April 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier
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
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 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier
November 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier
December 20- Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

Who to contact at the home office when you need help

- You can email cbs@sofn.com for any member updates that need to be made.
- **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: Lori Gubash**
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@sonsofnorway.com as I have a hard time keeping track of all lodge activities. I'll put some in but that is more the role of the website event calendar.

If you would like to get the MS Word document, just shoot me an email and I'll add you to the list. I send it out right after I send the email to the large group.