

Recap of the District 5 Sons of Norway Lodge Meeting and Convention- June 2024- Indianapolis, IN

District 5 Board - 2024-2026

Position	Lodge	Lodge Name	First Name	Last Name
President	513	Vennelag	Cheryl	Wille-Schlesser
Vice President	657	Edvard Grieg	Jim	Herman
Secretary	314	Mandt	Darlene	Arneson
Treasurer	491	Norse Valley	Corey	Olson
Youth	314	Mandt	Robert	Schuck
Publicity	616	Fagernes	LaVonne	Wier
Cultural	74	Idun	Lucy	Ghastin
Sports	100	Skjold	Clara	Solak
At-Lg. Dir/Found.	183	Nordlyset	Connie	Aiello
At-Large	314	Mandt	Scott	Wegner
At-Large	100	Skjold	Lisa	Solak
At-Large	689	Shawnee Skogen	Bill	Bultinck
Int. Director	513	Vennelag	Duane	Kittleson
Webmaster	168	Valhall	Christina	Fairchild

Alternates for District 5 Board Members

Position	First	Last	Lodge
Alternate – Secretary	Janis	Wegner	5-314 Mandt
Alternate- Treasurer	Duane	Kittleson	5-513 Vennelag
Alternate- At Large	Connie	Kross	5-525 Cleng Peerson
Alternate- At Large	Judy	Ghastin	5-491 Norse Valley
Alternate- At Large	Michaela	Decker	5-183 Nordlyset
Alternate- At Large	Laurie	Barrett	5-314 Mandt

Congratulations to the Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year Winners

2022 Small Lodge – Døvre Lodge, Chetek, WI

2022 Large Lodge- Nordkap Lodge, Farmington Hills, MI

2022 Family Small Family Lodge of the Year- Døvre Lodge, Chetek, WI

2022 Family Large Lodge of the Year- Nordkap Lodge, Farmington Hills

2023 Small Lodge – Fagernes Lodge, Blair, WI

2023 Large Lodge- Nordkap Lodge, Farmington Hills, MI

2023 Family Small Family Lodge of the Year- tie between Grønnavik Lodge, Green Bay and Circle City Lodge, Carmel, IN

2023 Family Large Lodge of the Year- Mandt Lodge, Stoughton, WI

Merit Awards Presented at the District Lodge Meeting

Each year, Sons of Norway lodges who score high points on their Lodge Achievement Forms are awarded a Merit Certificate. These Gold, Silver and Bronze awards are based on their total Lodge Achievement scores. They are presented at the biennial District Conventions.

2022

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

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

Family Lodge of the Year was not put into levels but we want to recognize those who applied each year. The top winners in Small and Large Lodges will be awarded at the Saturday banquet.

2022 Family Lodge of the Year Applicants

Wergeland
Valhall
Mandt
Dovre
Nordkap Lodge
Rib Fjell
Sognefjord
H.R. Holand
Fagernes
Vennligfolk
Gronnvik
Gronnvik
Music City Vikings

2023 Family Lodge of the Year Applicants

Mandt
Dovre
Fagernes
Nordkap Lodge
Circle City
Gronnvik
Wergeland
Norse Valley
Scandiana
Sognefjord

Rib Fjell
Vennligfolk

2026 Convention Host

Mandt Lodge 5-314 placed the only bid to host the 2026 District Lodge Meeting and Convention in Stoughton, WI.

Attendance

There were 78 delegates representing lodges at the District Lodge Meeting. There were 110 total registrations for the week’s activities.

Cultural Awards

1st Kathleen Hays- Scandiana Lodge

Bylaw Changes- both proposals passed.

Title of Resolution:	Removal of zone references, incorporating governance changes, and board terms.
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Therefore be it resolved that the following changes be made throughout the document:

ARTICLE III . . . MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATION

.Par. 1 The regular meeting of the District Lodge shall be held once every two years of the even 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.~~

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 *Viking* magazine; and the ~~biannual~~ biennium 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.

Par. 3 The Vice President will serve as the alternate for the President. An alternate for the Secretary and Treasurer shall

be elected. A pool of 4 alternates for the other officer positions and the 4 at-large directors shall also be elected.

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.~~

Article ~~IX~~ VIII. 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~~ IX. . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE ~~XI~~ XIV... CHANGES OF THESE BY-LAWS

Title of Resolution:

Clarifying the Masse Moro Financials

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.

Sons of Norway Resolutions Passed at SN D5 Meeting- June 2024

Sons of Norway Resolutions Worksheet- Resolution 1- Passed

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>
<p>Follow the request for change as a "THEREFORE" statement. This is a statement of the action you wish to happen.</p>	<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 input if the District feels we should consider support of the proposed sculpture.</p>
<p>If there is a known, quantifiable financial impact, state here:</p>	<p>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.</p>

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.

Sons of Norway Resolutions Worksheet- Resolution 2

Title of Resolution:	Masse Moro Task Force
State reasons for making a change	<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</p>

	<p>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.

Sons of Norway Resolutions Worksheet- Resolution 3

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.

Sons of Norway Resolutions Worksheet- Resolution 4

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 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.

Thank You 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.

Final Committee Lists

Committee	Lodge	Name	First	Last
Nominating		District 5 Board	Chair-Wendy Kay	Winkelman
Nominating	314	Mandt	Janis	Wegner
Nominating	100	Skold	Kathy	Secora
Credentials		District 5 Board	Chair-Darlene	Arneson
Credentials		District 5 Board	Lisa	Solak
Credentials		District 5 Board	Sandy	Olson
Laws		District 5 Board	Advisor-William	Bultinck
Laws	074	Idun	Chair-James	Eliason
Laws	028	Wergeland	Carla	Burkhardt
Laws	525	Cleng Peerson	Amanda	Beck
Finance		District 5 Board	Advisor-Corey	Olson
Finance	610	Askeladden	Chair-Curtis	Cleveland
Finance	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	Clark	Brekke
Finance	677	Vikings Of The Smokies	Dee	Bumpers
Finance	314	Mandt	Laurie	Barrett

Reports/Publicity		District 5 Board	LaVonne	Wier
Reports/Publicity	650	Norsemen Of Lakes	Chair-Corlene	Bartels
Reports/Publicity	314	Mandt	John	Arneson
Reports/Publicity	183	Nordlyset	Michaela	Decker
Reports/Publicity	614	Circle City	Glenna	Andersen-Divine
Resolutions		District 5 Board	Advisor-Scott	Wegner
Resolutions	074	Idun	Chair-Jon	Grinde
Resolutions		Vennelag	Duane	Kittleson
Resolutions	472	Polar Star	Kelly	Welin
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

Fundraisers

Silent Auction- The Silent auction raised \$3,400.

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.

Pictures

Pictures have been posted by various members and an album will be on the District Facebook page. We used the hashtag [#snd5indy](#). If you use that hashtag, it will collect all the posts using it. We also will have an album on the District website.