

Sons of Norway District 5 - Friendly Fifth Friday News

September 1, 2023

2023 August District President's Report

D5 Task Force

It has been a busy summer in the Fifth District! The mandated Task Force whose development sprang from the 2022 district convention has been meeting throughout the summer. At our last meeting, an approach for better serving our local leaders and members was passed. The plan will be shared in its entirety by the committee chair, Darlene Arneson. It will be sent to the district convention delegates for approval. Following action at that level, if passed, the document will be sent to the international board for approval. The timeline is uncertain for the completion of the task force recommendation. It is our hope to have the decision in time for the district's nominating committee to find willing candidates for service on the district board for the 2024-2026 biennium.

I would like to offer my thanks to the many members who served on the task force for their insightful ideas and their willingness to create something new that will better serve the district's needs. District Secretary Darlene Arneson, chair, D5 International Director Duane Kittleson, and International Secretary Robin Fossum provided the structure and guidance needed to bring this task to a close. With a huge geographic region to serve, the use of technology for future training and informative sessions will work to our advantage. While doing so will be a plus, it is worthy to note that nothing can replace the value of face-to-face interactions with our members.

Zone Director Assignments

Our zone directors have also been very busy meeting with their assigned local lodges, attending local meetings, lodge picnics, and planning summer zone activities. In zone 3, my co-zone director Scott Wegner and I have met with our lodges, transferring the immigrant trunk between lodges. The schedule for the remainder of this biennium is as follows:

April 2023 to October 2023

October 2023 to April 2024

April 2024 to October 2024

Chest--Zone 4	Chest--Zone 6	Chest--Zone 2
Trunk--Zone 3	Trunk-- Zone 5	Trunk--Zone 1

We have given special attention to lodges who need bolstering or who are at a critical juncture. Going into the fall, two of our lodges have planned fundraising events whose goal is to fund heritage events in their cities and to raise community awareness of their lodge. Participants in these lodge events also come with the potential of future membership! What plans are in the works for your zone? I have also visited lodges outside of my zone to share news from the district.

Membership Challenge

Vice President Wendy Winkelman has organized a membership campaign for our district. While I have heard of successes in some places, other lodges remain constant. The 5th district will reimburse your lodge \$20.00 per new family membership and \$10.00 per adult membership. The drive does not include adding an adult to an existing membership or adding heritage members. The campaign runs

from August 1st to October 31st. Re-energizing your lodge in the fall is a great time to invite the community to your events. Provide the necessary hard copies for registration at the event or use a computer to complete the registration electronically!

Has your lodge planned for its membership committee to meet? What are its goals? Lodges are reminded that their membership committee should be meeting *three times per year*.

Mandt Lodge in Stoughton, WI is offering an incentive to their top recruiters. A gift card to a local establishment may pique the interest of some of your members!

Masse Moro

The new youth director, Lisa Rove-Williams spent much time in conversations with Beaver Creek staff, assisted in many areas where needed, shopped for groceries, documented materials, and helped to plan the end of camp program. She was assisted this summer by former youth director Sandy Olson who also provided a pair of eager hands and past knowledge.

The operation of our youth camp presented many challenges this year. Our camp census was down; thirty-three campers reported. It was necessary to replace our cook at the eleventh hour. In addition, the camp experienced failures of kitchen appliances, improperly working shower facilities, the overbooking of the space by multiple clients, and lack of assistance from the Beaver Creek director.

Our two new administrators stepped in to fill the gap in the kitchen. While not an ideal situation, it provided them with valuable knowledge for future years. We were fortunate to have the expertise and assistance of Corlene Bartels, President of Norsemen of the Lakes Lodge, Elkhorn, WI. She was skilled at handling many of the culinary tasks and was instrumental in providing nutritious snacks and meals for our campers.

I visited the camp both weeks, providing help in the kitchen where needed and teaching a baking class on sandbakkels. In addition, Connie Aiello, Zone 4 director, was at camp to provide workshops on Nordic stamping.

Due to the many downsides of Beaver Creek this year, the youth director, the two administrators, and the former youth director toured other neighboring facilities. No decision has been made on the location of the 2024 camp. We are all cognizant that increasing the number of campers will be a determining factor in whether we can offer a camping session next season.

Fraternal Give

A new reporting system is being developed by the home office to replace the *Fraternal Give* system. It was found that the previous method was cumbersome to use and much of the reporting was not needed for our purposes. The district secretaries reviewed the new system in a recent call with the Director of Fraternal, Foundation, and Marketing, Connie O'Brien. Input was shared and the document continues to be a work in progress. Upon final review, the information will be shared with all lodges.

Nominating Committees

September is the month for establishing local lodge nominating committees. Although basic descriptions of leader responsibilities can be found on the international website, each lodge should provide their nominating committee members with local leadership duties.

District 5 Convention, June 19-22, 2024

Judy Ghastin, D5 Cultural Director has been busily working on many facets of our upcoming district convention. Follow updates in FFFNews. Much information will follow the D5 fall board meeting.

D5 Sports and Recreation Position

Earlier this year Robert Fossum resigned from the position of D5 sports and recreation director. I will be assuming that role for the remainder of the biennium. At the fall board meeting this committee will identify activities for our members during the fall, winter, and spring seasons. We would like to use the district convention locale as a springboard. This committee will be meeting shortly to plan activities. If you have any suggestions for engaging events, please send me your ideas.

The 2024 Barnebirkie will be held in Hayward, WI, February 22nd. Shortly into the new calendar year I will be sharing further information.

News Release Sons of Norway Foundation Mission Statement, Core Values

At its July 19, 2023 Foundation Board of Governors (FBG) meeting, the FBG voted to revise the Foundation mission statement from: "The mission of the Sons of Norway Foundation is to share and preserve Nordic heritage, to positively affect our members' lives, and to make Sons of Norway communities better places to live" to "The mission of the Sons of Norway Foundation is to celebrate our Nordic culture and heritage through scholarships and grants to our members and communities."

The rationale for this change was to communicate the purpose of the Foundation more clearly: grants and scholarships to our members and communities.

At the same meeting, the Foundation Core Values were revised from: 1. Building the heritage of the future 2. Sustaining the link to contemporary Norway 3. Committing to life-long learning and service 4. Demonstrating compassion for those in need 5. Funding innovative individuals and opportunities 6. Fostering a cohesive community of generosity to 1. Building our culture and heritage for the future 2. Committing to life-long learning and service 3. Demonstrating compassion for our members in need 4. Sustaining the link to contemporary Norway 5. Fostering a community of generosity "Celebrating Nordic Legacy-Empowering Lives" The Tag Line was approved by the Board on August 22. The appropriate changes will be made on the SON Foundation website.

Together We Are the Future

The Together We Are the Future campaign will begin October 1 and run through January 15, 2024. The goal for 2023 is to add \$185,000 to the SON Foundation for scholarships and grants. The campaign will be featured in the September/October Viking Magazine.

This summer I have been representing the 5th District at Foundation meetings. Director Sandy Olson will resume this position later this fall.

Reaching Out

We are stronger together; if there is something that the district 5 board members can do for you, please contact them directly, or make me aware of how I may be of service.

Thank you and enjoy the holiday weekend,

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
D5 President
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Deadlines and Dates! Changes in red!

- September 5- Viking photo submissions due to LaVonne Wier
- October 5- Viking photo submissions due to LaVonne Wier
- October 7- Zone 2 Meeting in Blair
- October 13-14- District 5 Board Meeting in Mt. Horeb, WI
- October 27-29- District 5 Adult Heritage Camp and Destination Stoughton Weekend in Stoughton, WI
- November 5- Viking photo submissions due to LaVonne Wier
- December 5- Viking photo submissions 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.
- For anything fraternal- Connie O'Brien (COBrien@sofn.com) or Amy Tuchenhagen (ATuchenhagen@sofn.com). Sherry Gorse is no longer employed at Sons of Norway.
- For matter like submitting a death, a change to a members address or other info please email cbs@sofn.com
- For issues with passwords or website use ithelp@sofn.com.
- The 800 number to call in for member support is 800-945-8851
- If you need something related to sales, you can use sales@sofn.com

Viking Chest / Immigrant Trunk Schedule

Apr 2023 to Oct 2023:

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

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

Oct 2023 to Apr 2024:

Chest--zone 6

Trunk--zone 5

Apr 2024 to Oct 2024

Chest--zone 2

Trunk--zone 1

Oct 2024 to April 2025

Chest--zone 3

Trunk--zone 4

Note:

- Check correspondence from the International and District and the International (www.sofn.com) and District (www.sonsofnorway5.com) websites for any updates and changes.
- Additional deadlines for the District 5 and International Conventions/Lodge Meetings will be added as those dates are established. Watch for future mailings and the District 5 website.

Compiled by Darlene Arneson, SN District 5 Secretary (arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or 608-873-7209)

FFFN Basics

In an attempt to help our lodge leaders become more familiar with resources, changes, deadlines and other information, I will compile a weekly "Friendly Fifth Friday News" email to our leadership. Some of the information you might already have, but hopefully it will be a good reminder for all of us (me included) of all the great resources that Sons of Norway has to offer. **Please feel free to cut and paste any of this information for your lodge's use!**

Send all web posting info and calendar dates/events directly to our webmaster at inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com

With our new arrangement, I actually send the FFFN pdf to our webmaster on Thursday morning before I go to work. So if you have anything you'd like me to consider putting in, please send it by 4 am on Thursday morning. Please do not send pdf's as I have a hard time cutting and pasting them. The Word Document works best for me. Don't forget that lodge events should be submitted to inputd5@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.

Darlene Arneson – arnesonfamily5@gmail.com