

# Sons of Norway District 5 - Friendly Fifth Friday News

## September 8, 2023

### Task Force Call- August 26, 2023 Notes

There were 20 on the call. Darlene updated the group on communications since the last call.

We discussed the Pros-Cons survey. It is clear that there are still misunderstandings that something will go away (services, ability to work on joint projects) if zones are changed or go away. We still have members struggling with technology. There wasn't a ringing endorsement for change but also there were ones supporting changing how we communicate. And it was evident that we need a plan coming out of this meeting.

We discussed Mark Agerter's responses to our emails about timelines. Robin Fossum shared that there is no clear consensus on timelines for approving changes but because the governance committee was focused on the new P & P and CCP, they were slower approving lodge or district changes. That should be more streamlined now. District 5 is the pride and joy of SN. Duane Kittleson shared that he felt we can eliminate zones but keep some in-person events and continue our communications. President Schlessler shared that we are lucky to have weekly communications with the FFFN but we need to promote it more as many (including board members) don't utilize it.

The group discussed that a proposal to change district zones really doesn't have a cost to International so that shouldn't be an issue. Some felt we should leave things as they are but discussion then focused on the problems we have in filling positions. Each zone has its unique strengths, weaknesses, and needs. Some of the outlying lodges are really removed from many zone activities. The value of in-person visits and activities allows us to see any struggles lodges might be having. As we discussed before, observation, outreach, and support is needed and that is something that zone directors can continue to do. Sister lodges and mentors would be something that would provide additional support.

On board structure, if we looked at having an officers and at-large directors, the need for alternates would still be needed. Alternates might also be located in other areas and could help with in-person outreach when needed.

The group discussed the current bylaws of the secretary and treasurer not having term limits and decided that should remain as those two positions have very unique skill sets and if we have someone willing to continue, they should be allowed to. There was a lot of discussion about the two consecutive terms and if that should stay. Some thought to continue, some to allow three consecutive terms, and some to remove it. In the end, we will let that remain and if the delegates in 2024 want to address it, they can.

As the group worked out the details in what they felt would be a good proposal, there was a lot of discussion on logistics and details.

There was a motion made: ***That the task force recommends the elimination of zones in District 5 and charges the board to consider various mechanisms for enhancing cohesion and communications between lodges and how we can serve lodge's needs. The new board structure would be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Youth Director, Sports Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director and four at-large Directors. All could serve two***

***consecutive two-year terms with the exception of the District Secretary and Treasurer who would have unlimited terms. All positions would have an alternate elected for each position.***

2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

The next call will be on Saturday, September 23, for all District 5 Board members, Task Force Members, and 2022 Delegates (District 5 Lodge members) to discuss this proposal. Their feedback would then be discussed by the Board on October 13-14 and hopefully the board will approve a proposal that will go to the District 5 Lodge members for approval in November. Our hope is that an approved change could be sent to International by the end of December and that their approval would come in early 2024 so our nominating committee work could begin.

Next meeting: September 23, 9:00 AM CST via ZOOM

Notes by Darlene Arneson, Task Force Chair

## **Viking Magazine updates**

[Viking magazine](#) is exclusively for members of Sons of Norway. Packed with fascinating stories—read about remarkable people and places. PLUS, get authentic recipes, travel tips, insights into historic and modern culture, connect to Norwegian heritage and much more.

Don't miss out on these exciting features in our **July/August 2023** issue:

- A Drive to Remember — Scenic Road Trips
- Famous Norwegians: Edvard Munch
- History of the Orkney Islands

Members can also log in and [explore the Viking online archive](#), with issues going back to 2009.

Are you looking for the **In Loving Memory** pages? They have moved online! You can find them here: [www.sofn.com/inlovingmemory](http://www.sofn.com/inlovingmemory)

You can also view **Happenings Extra** here, to see our lodge members in action: <https://www.sofn.com/happenings>

## **2023 District 5 Lodge New Member Recruitment Contest Continues- one month done and how are you doing?**

Sons of Norway District 5 is pleased to announce the launch of our 2023 recruitment campaign.

Starting August 1, 2023, all lodge members are asked to recruit new members to their local lodge. For every new member (not Heritage Member) recruited, the lodge will receive \$10 for an individual or \$20 for a family membership. This does not include adding adults to an existing Adult Family

membership. The money awarded will be sent to the local lodge of the recruiting member to be used as the lodge would like.

This campaign is an opportunity for all members to get involved and support their local lodge in meeting their membership goals. As well, it helps continue to grow the Sons of Norway organization.

The contest will begin August 1, 2023 and go until October 31, 2023.

Please turn in all paper membership applications to Headquarters by October 31, 2023. This will ensure that they are processed by the deadline. New members who are signed up online via <http://www.sofn.com> should also be entered by October 31, 2023.

If you sign up a new member online, please email District VP, Wendy Winkelman, advising of that new membership ([wendyathadeland@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyathadeland@yahoo.com)).

Contact [wendyathadeland@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyathadeland@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Wendy K Winkelman  
President and Editor  
Shawnee Skogen 5-689

District 5 Vice President

## **Ramping up for Foundation Month!**

### ***Faithful to Our Mission and Members***

At the Sons of Norway Foundation, we are driven by a sense of purpose: to share and preserve Nordic heritage, to positively affect our members' lives, and to make Sons of Norway communities better places to live. Since 1966, staying true to this purpose, we have been supporting our members through scholarships and cultural exchange opportunities, providing disaster relief to members in need, and funding community programs that celebrate Norwegian heritage and culture.

A donation to the Sons of Norway Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is a contribution to the positive impact we make through community, youth, educational, and cultural projects.

**DONATE NOW**

## ***Our Core Values***



1. Building Nordic 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

### **Scholarships**

The Sons of Norway Foundation awards approximately 25 scholarships to promising students each year. These programs promote cultural exchange and support higher education to help students follow their dreams.

[VIEW SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

### **Grants**

The Sons of Norway Foundation offers six categories of grants that provide funding for Norwegian themed programming. Learn more about these opportunities, as well as how we partner with lodges in their community efforts.

[VIEW GRANTS](#)

### **Ways to Give**

When you donate to the Sons of Norway Foundation, you are helping to strengthen our Nordic legacy and keep our vibrant communities thriving for generations to come.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## ***Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada***



The Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada provides scholarships for post secondary education in Canada for Canadian residents. Makes available bursaries and grants for Norwegian heritage activities and cultural exchanges as well as humanitarian causes

[READ MORE](#)

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### **Deadlines and Dates! Changes in red!**

- 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

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### **Who to contact at the home office when you need help**

- You can email [cbs@sofn.com](mailto: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](mailto:cbs@sofn.com)
- For issues with passwords or website use [ithelp@sofn.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.sofn.com)) and District ([www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://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](mailto:arnesonfamily5@gmail.com) or 608-873-7209)

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**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](mailto:inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com)**

With our new arrangement, I actually send the FFFN pdf to our webmaster on Thursday morning before I go to work. So if you have anything you'd like me to consider putting in, please send it by 4 am on Thursday morning. Please do not send pdf's as I have a hard time cutting and pasting them. The Word Document works best for me. Don't forget that lodge events should be submitted to [inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com](mailto:inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com) as I have a hard time keeping track of all lodge activities. I'll put some in but that is more the role of the website event calendar.

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

Darlene Arneson – [arnesonfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:arnesonfamily5@gmail.com)