

# Sons of Norway District 5 Board Meeting Minutes- April 14, 2018

Stoughton, WI

Approved

President Andrew Johnsen opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and silence observed for departed members.

## **Roll Call:**

Andrew Johnsen, Joy Bashara, Geoff Wodell, David Hermundson, Darlene Arneson, Christina Fairchild, Kathy Secora, Lucy Ghastin, Cheryl Wille-Schlessler, Michaela Decker, Mike Palecek, Esther Charlton, Ron Iverson. Guests: International Director Jon Grinde

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted. A moment of silence was held for departed members.

Darlene presented the minutes and asked that all board mem There was a motion to approve the October 20-22 minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

## **District Five President's Report**

Last October the Fifth District held its first District President's Conference that coincided with the Fall Board meeting. Due to the efforts of the Board and other Fifth District members this was a meaningful, instructive, and enjoyable event for all the attendees. We were fortunate to have in attendance Sons of Norway President Jon Tehven and the Sons of Norway Fraternal Director Linda Pederson. With the success of the District President's Conference the Board should look into the possibility of having a second conference in the fall of 2019.

On February 25<sup>th</sup> of this year at the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation's Volunteer Dinner in Hayward, Wisconsin the Fifth District was presented with the, "Shellie Milford Spirit of the Birkie Award". This prestigious award is given to either an individual or a group that contributes to the success of the Birkie week ski events through their volunteerism. The Fifth District has been providing thousands of cookies and hundreds of volunteers to the Barnebirkie children's race over the past 30 years. Every Sons of Norway member in the District should be proud of this award.

I am sure that you are all aware of the current Sons of Norway membership drive, "Growing to 2020". As the leaders of the district what can do to help achieve the goals of "Growing to 2020"? I propose that we make a sincere effort to improve every local lodge in the District. If a lodge has more to offer their members they will attract new members, and retain their current members. All lodges must have at least one membership function each year. All lodges must be made aware of the fact that if their lodge has a membership luncheon or dinner their FBC will sponsor the event with funding up to \$400.00. "Be All You Can Be As A Lodge" makes sense. We have to consider that the local lodge is a product that we are selling to our members and prospective members.

In closing I think that the District is doing well and is on the right path. Through the efforts of our Treasurer, Mike Palecek, the District is on a sound financial footing. The district fund-raising projects have gone exceptionally well and the establishment of the Fifth District Nordic Legacy Foundation will help to alleviate the financial pressure of our Masse Moro youth camp. Every Board member should be proud of what we have accomplished during the current biennium.

## **Treasurer's Report/Budget and Finance Report**

Overall, D5 is in excellent financial health in 2018, and costs are under control.

The finance committee supported the treasurer's recommendations:

- 1.) A portion the international delegates payment should be based on travel distance. This will be discussed further on Saturday, during the by-laws discussion.
- 2.) The "host lodge convention assistance fee" for startup costs for the D5 convention, should be a fixed line item cost. As membership declines, this fund gets smaller. This will also be discussed as a by-law on Saturday.
- 3.) Reinstate the D5 secretary stipend from \$750 to \$1500 annually, and the D5 president from \$350 to \$700 annually. This was changed in 2016, due to D5 financial issues. The D5 secretary, in particular, does a tremendous amount of work for the district. This will be addressed as a by-laws change.

Additional recommended expenditures to strengthen local lodges, spend a total of \$10,000 in each of the next two years (July 2018-June 2020) on these local lodge priorities:

- 4.) Use D5 funds to assist local lodges in running Prospective Member Events. Provide up to \$400 for Prospective Member Funds, for D5 lodges in states where SON insurance is not represented. Also, provide lodges with less than 50 members or less than \$3000 total assets (per D-17) with additional financial help with a Prospective Member event, for publicity costs.

In our meeting, it was discussed that Indiana, and possibly Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee lodges do not have Financial Benefit Counselors, so they cannot receive Prospective Member Funds from the Sons of Norway, based on current rules. This was also discussed last fall by participants at the President's Leadership Conference.

In the finance committee meeting, there was a lot of concern expressed for some lodges which have financial challenges and what we could do to help them.

- 5.) Use funds to insure that Zone 1, 2 and 6 have annual zone meetings for officer development, and use funds if necessary to provide a gas card to lodges to attend. Bring in zone directors from other zones to help with zone meetings.

We were running out of time, but everyone was supportive, on these points:

- 6.) Have an extra day at the Fall 2018 D5 board meeting to train zone directors, and to have dialog on expectations for all district officers.
- 7.) Help fund two D5 leadership conferences in 2019, one located at each end of the district, to make it more convenient for key lodge officers to attend, vs. one centrally located conference.

After factoring the increase in revenue from D5 share of the 2018 unified dues, these seven items are estimated to be a \$10,000 total investment from our reserve account and would be a good attempt to strengthen lodges and the district for the future.

## **District 5 financials by Mike Palecek**

Past D5 treasurer Duane Kittleson left a legacy by computerizing D5's accounting system and writing a treasurer's manual.

D5's financials are best analyzed in a two-year cycle, because district and international conventions occur every two years, are major district expenses. Those two events, plus Masse Moro and district board meetings are D5's largest costs. Most convention costs are budgeted for, based on provisions in D5 bylaws and policy manual. Because D5 hosted the 2016 convention, about \$9,500 in profit was earned.

Fraternal Funds increased in 2017, due to a \$1,500 grant from the SON Foundation which was used for the D5 President's Leadership Conference in September, with 43 attendees throughout the district.

Masse Moro (heritage youth camp) has become more financially sustainable in 2016-17, due to \$5,000 in donations, increasing tuition in 2017 by \$150, which brought in \$7,500 additional tuition without a significant attendance drop. A special thanks to Masse Moro donations, including these lodges: Norronna, Hafrsfjord, Skjold, Valkryien, Nordlandet, Ostestaden, and Tre Elver. Three individuals donated \$1,000 each, and there were many smaller donations.

MM administration, working with D5 Youth Director and Treasurer, have contained costs, in part by the creation of a 501(c)(3) foundation and changing background check vendors. In 2017, some Masse Moro income and expenses have been transferred to the D5 Nordic Legacy Foundation, the 501(c)(3). In 2018, all Masse Moro income and expenses may be moved over to the Nordic Legacy Foundation to simplify accounting.

MM administrators also secured a \$1,500 grant from the Sons of Norway Foundation and \$500 from District 1's Nordic Heritage Fund for Masse Moro programming.

Membership Dues in 2017 were higher than in 2016, showing a membership increase in D5. The 2018 unified dues structure has provided financial benefits and uncertainties to D5. On the plus side, the D5 portion of dues has increased from \$9.50 to \$14.00 for individual members, about a 50% increase. To date, D5's dues revenue is up 37% in January, and 22% in February, over 2017 and is conservatively forecasted to provide \$9,000 higher income in 2018.

With family dues being paid on the later date of family member's dues renewal date, this will probably provide even higher income. It is premature to calculate any negative trends in membership until a full year of the new dues structure has been in place.

We have seen some lodges disband in 2017, and an increase in dues "might" have been a factor in one lodge disbanding. D5 received over \$4000 in donations from disbanding lodges in 2017, as they distributed some of their funds to D5.

Other income - D5 held a district leadership conference in fall 2017, designed to strengthen lodge leadership, with 43 participants, including the International SON President and membership staffer. D5 used a \$1,500 grant from the Sons of Norway Foundation and used the \$1,000 lodge revitalization grant to help keep the conference affordable. D5's Nordic Legacy Foundation refunded the district \$1,062 in conference startup costs, because a camp deposit needed to be paid before the 501(c)(3) was created.

A D5 fundraiser, the Hidden Heroes book, brought in \$5,500 in profit in 2017-18. District 2 and 6 also sold some books and received \$836 for their efforts.

Miscellaneous income included the lodge revitalization grant and \$1,000 from Sons of Norway Foundation for a 50th anniversary celebration.

Expenses - Nordic Legacy Foundation expenses were our largest extraordinary expense (\$20,250) in 2017. \$13,000 of that went to pay Beaver Creek for Masse Moro use, \$2,500 for other MM expenses (insurance, background checks, Ingebretzen supplies) and \$4,000 was used for the President's Leadership Conference. The district board meeting was held at the same time, so those expenses were transferred to the PLC. By doing so, D5 saved over \$1,500 in state sales tax, by having the 501(c)(3) make the purchases.

District Board food and lodging costs appear to be lower in 2017, but this is due to the fall board meeting being held as part of the 2017 PLC, and those costs were transferred to the Nordic Legacy Foundation.

Overall, D5 is in excellent financial health in 2018, and costs are under control. A financial snapshot at the end of March is a good indicator. At this time, most Masse Moro tuition has not come in, and district convention expenses haven't happened. In the past two years, our assets have increased over \$24,000 to \$99,241. A normal \$40,000 reduction is expected by August, due to the district and international conventions, D5's match to lodge contributions to Masse Moro tuition and MM administrator salaries, but expect \$25,800 in membership dues and other SON payments.

In addition, the D5 Nordic Legacy Foundation has \$5,308.

## **D5 Financial Recommendations**

Because D5 is much more financially solvent, has approximately \$50,000 in reserves at "low watermark times," and is getting a significant income increase due to 2018 unified dues, perhaps now is a time to invest some D5 funds to address some D5 issues:

- 1.) A portion of dues is allocated for international delegates, to offset convention and travel costs. In 2014, the International lodge increased the number of delegates each district could send to the convention. Between declining membership and more delegates, the funds per delegate goes down every convention year. In 2018, the convention is in Minneapolis, which for some delegates is a low cost travel trip. I've submitted a by-laws change to address international delegate funding.
- 2.) A small portion of dues (\$0.25 per dues paying member) is allocated as a "host lodge convention assistance fee" for startup costs for the D5 convention. As membership declines, this fund gets smaller. I've submitted a by-laws change to address this issue.
- 3.) Reinstate the D5 secretary stipend from \$750 to \$1500 annually, and the D5 president from \$350 to \$700 annually. This was changed in 2016, due to D5 financial issues. The D5 secretary does a tremendous amount of work for the district. A by-laws changes is needed to do this.

Additional recommended expenditures to strengthen local lodges, spend a total of \$10,000-\$15,000 in each of the next two years (July 2018-June 2020) on these local lodge priorities:

- 4.) Use D5 funds to assist local lodges in running Prospective Member Events. Provide up to \$400 in funding, for D5 lodges in states where SON insurance cannot be sold. Also, provide lodges with less than 50 members or less than \$3000 total assets (per D-17) with additional financial help with a Prospective Member event, for publicity costs.

**Statement of allowable expenses** for District Lodge Meeting: Travel \$.41/mile, hotel are \$111 and \$135, Meals are \$30/day with receipts.

There was a motion to accept the Treasure's Report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

### **Zone 1 Report**

Zone 1 is becoming a snowbird zone with several lodges cancelling meetings various winter months. As our lodge members age, this may be an increasing reality that needs to be taken into consideration when forms and obligations occur during these months. Even though lodges are well informed of these requirements they tend to go unheeded when people head for the sun. Yours truly falls into this category.

Most of my communications with Zone 1 lodges has been by phone and electronically through email and texts. I have visited Tryggvason, Viking, Dovre, and Loven. I have been in frequent conversations with President Doug Warner from the Amery Sjoland Lodge. As I have reported to the board previously, this is becoming a Norwegian social club. They have cancelled meetings through March and I will resume meetings in April. I will visit them when I return from Phoenix in early May. This is an isolated group with little interaction with Sons of Norway, Zone 1, or other lodges.

Ulseth is similar to Sjoland Lodge in Amery. I meet with a few of their members at Barnebirkie. It is difficult to contact officers as they do not return phone calls and cancel meetings unpredictably. They do an impressive Barneløpet every year and get nice press coverage for this event.

Zone 1 is a zone in need of revitalization. Zone representatives chose not to have a Spring zone meeting. There are good things happening here and some lodges are growing, but others are stuck in tradition and are on the road to ageing out. Help!

### **Publicity Committee**

Christina Fairchild (Chair), Cheryl Wille Schlessler, Darlene Arneson, Michaela Decker joined in, Richard Fairchild (via teleconference)

The Publicity committee began the conversation by reviewing our Short Term and Long Term Publicity goals set at the fall board meeting in October 2017. From there, we laid out project goals.

Note: Most of these goals involve the District 5 website.

- 1) We added a text display function and arrow tabs to the Banner images Home page of the District 5 website so that we are able to highlight important events. We create custom banners with hyperlinks to direct members to other pages to view additional information.
- 2) We added a leadership workshop tab under "Programs" on the District website. to promote Zone meetings, the President Leadership workshops, etc.
- 3) We have created a new "Convention and Lodge Meeting" tab on the D5 website. We have entered a great deal of convention information already. We would like to ask the Wergeland convention and lodge meeting committee to create a press release to help publicize the convention. We plan to do a follow up feature after the convention and lodge meeting on the banner contest, lodge of year awards, new board members, etc.
- 4) We have created a "Lodge Banner" contest flyer with the dimensions and implementation method to maintain a standard for lodge banners. We would like to encourage each lodge to

create a lodge banner to display for publicity purposes during – Lodge events, Conventions, etc. We are encouraging lodges to display their lodge banners in the meeting room at the 2018 convention and lodge meeting where they will be voted on by the delegates by the end of the first cookie break on Saturday. We would like to request a budget of \$200.00 for a \$100.00 People's Choice prize and (2) \$50.00 prizes. Darlene will take care of the delegate tickets and voting cards.

- 5) Christina and Richard Fairchild will create a Scavenger hunt contest on how to navigate the website for the delegates to be used as an activity during the convention. Delegates who return the information will have their names submitted for a drawing and prize at the 2018 Convention and lodge meeting.
- 6) We are asking lodges to continue to encourage delegates to become benefit members prior to the convention and lodge meeting and to utilize their websites and Facebook pages to share lodge information and events.
- 7) We have added information to the Photo Gallery page detailing the Photo submission requirements for the website and the Viking magazine. We have added the current updated downloadable form "Viking Magazine & District Photo Guideline" in the District 5 Documents on the website. We need to encourage all lodges to send in photos. We see many great pictures on lodge Facebook pages and will contact the lodge to submit a photo.
- 8) We have updated the newly elected lodge Presidents contact information to the website. We plan to update the lodge Publicity Directors list.
- 9) We are in the process of writing a work instruction on the duties of a Publicity Director and how to use the Website administrator program.
- 10) We are in the process of creating a template that members will use to submit information for the website. Arriving E-mails will have the content topic listed in the subject line to help us better sort messages. Viking Photo submission, General questions, Calendar events, etc.
- 11) We still need to fix the website contact problem. The webmaster is receiving too many personal lodge emails requesting information.
- 12) We encourage board members and lodges to send information to the publicity director to help publicize membership dinners, zone meetings, lodge anniversaries, lodge events, lutefisk dinners, etc. We are actively entering events in the calendar, but we are continuing to prompt lodges to send in that information or read the Newsletters to locate event calendar information. We'd like to thank those who have actively sent in newsletters and calendar events. A reminder the cut of date is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to submit photos and calendar events.
- 13) Lodges need to encourage their members to check their emails, address and phone numbers are up to date on the International membership master list.
- 14) We are currently changing the format of the "Speakers Bureau" list to the D5 website. We would like all lodges to help expand this list with their speakers and contact information. We would like to thank the lodges who have sent in names and programs to add to the list.
- 15) We continue to have 13 lodges with no history on the District 5 website. Darlene will post the list of lodges in the FFFN for the Zone Directors. Christina will also send a letter to the 13

lodges. We had 2 lodges send in an updated history for their lodge.

16) We are continuing to inactivate documents on the website that are over two years.

17) We are continuing to learn how to use and interpret the basic google analytics. We are researching a more advanced analytics.

There was a motion to approve the \$200 for the banner contest. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. There was a motion to have the Publicity Committee review the banner specifications and send the information out to the lodges. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

See Power Point Addendum for website traffic.

The motion to accept the committee report passed.

### **Audit Committee Report**

Tom Boudreau (chair), Christina Fairchild, Joy Bashara and

We audited the books from Oct. 7, 2017 to April 7, 2018 and found them to be in good order. Could not find the invoices for the following check numbers. 5849, 5850, and 5852 (all for zone 3 meeting). Mike is working to improve the debt card transaction reporting. This was a recommendation from the fall board meeting audit.

The motion to accept the committee report passed.

There was a coffee break and David Hermundson departed the meeting.

### **Finance and Budget**

There was a motion to approve District Treasurer's recommendation from his report-  
4.) Use D5 funds to assist local lodges in running Prospective Member Events. Provide up to \$400 in funding, for D5 lodges in states where SON insurance cannot be sold. Also, provide lodges with less than 50 members or less than \$3000 total assets (per D-17) with additional financial help with a Prospective Member event, for publicity costs.

The motion died for a lack of a second.

There was discussion about the recommendations in regard to zone meeting support. The transition between zone director to new zone director and from officer positions was discussed.

There was a motion to excise #6 – Have an extra day at the fall 2018 D5 Board Meeting to train zone directors, and to have dialog on expectations for all district officers. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

The report was approved.

There was a motion to amend #6 to read by striking "Have an extra day at the fall 2018 D5 Board Meeting" and replacing it with "To approve additional funding for Board Training". 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

### **Joy Bashara:**

Joy referred to an email in regard to University of Wisconsin- Green Bay and the long house they moved from Owen and Elspeth Christianson's home. They are reaching out to Sons of Norway to help with awareness of their new resource, possible commitments, and possible meeting places.

Joy Bashara departed the meeting. **The Heads and Tails profits at the District 5 Convention will be given to the Viking House at UW-Green Bay.**

### **Fundraising Committee Report**

Mike Palecek (chair), Joy Bashara, Lucy Ghastin and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

#### Fundraising committee report

- 1.) We all support a cruise trip project which was presented the full board at lunch, with the district making \$100 per participant, upon receipt of a contract from the travel agent, review of liability issues, and SON legal review. We recommend that the trip be scheduled for January 2019, so as to not conflict with the Birkebirner. We are in favor of taking out a 1/6th page color ad in the September issue of Viking magazine, at a cost of about \$443, to promote the trip, and to also test Viking magazine advertising for other potential District 5 future promotions. The ad placement would need to occur in early July.
- 2.) We called Ann Kathan to discuss fundraising at the district convention. Wergeland lodge is doing a raffle, so they asked that we not do a competing raffle. Our committee recommended that we do a "heads-and-tails" fundraiser at the Friday noon luncheon, with the profits going to the Nordic Legacy Foundation, to support a heritage event. We anticipate profits of about \$500, and recommend that these earnings be used to work with the Viking House in Green Bay, to hold a heritage event open to all members of District 5 and the public. Cheryl Wille-Schlesser volunteered to facilitate the "heads-and-tails" game at the Friday noon luncheon, to excite delegates and others to play, and to announce that the Nordic Legacy Foundation is interested in hearing about other heritage projects which it might sponsor. We felt that there was not a need to do any additional fundraising activity at the convention, because we didn't want delegates to feel "nickled-and-dimed" constantly.
- 3.) Mike Palecek is working on "Hidden Heroes 2" and it will be available at the convention.
- 4.) We recommend that the Nordic Legacy Foundation offers for sale "crossed Norway-US Flag" pins for \$4 (cost is about \$1) and also offer other Scandinavian-US Flag pins, too. If approved, we would provide each interested board member with 25 Norway-US Flag pins and 2 or 3 of others (Swedish, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Greenland) on consignment, and have them turn in the money at each future board meeting.
- 5.) We also recommend that board members collectively put together a basket from the board for the Wergeland host lodge.
- 6.) We recommend that each board member consider donating one item to District 5 for our silent auction fundraiser at the District Convention and that we solicit item donations from lodges.

There was a motion in reference to #1: Before placing an ad in The Viking and the June Board Meeting, that an agreement be obtained from the travel agent to support a cruise trip project (not just a Caribbean) that is reviewed by SN legal counsel before we move forward. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

The committee report was approved.

### **Executive Committee**

Andrew Johnsen (chair), Mike Palecek, Kathy Secora and Darlene Arneson

Andy reviewed the committee report from Fall 2017 committee meeting. Andy affirmed his support of

the two-year strategic plan which also follows the District Board member terms. It is helpful to have a manual for the various officer positions. There is a manual for the Treasurer's position and Darlene has started a manual for convention. The committee isn't aware of any other comprehensive manuals that have been developed.

The committee discussed board officer transition and wondered if it would be helpful to have time on Sunday or in a reasonable time after the convention for them to meet. The committee recommends and asks that all board members develop a transitional document and procedures manual for their position (both officer and zone director positions) by the June convention. There was also discussion about having funding for the outgoing and incoming officer to meet. Could there also be an extra day be added to the first fall board meeting following the convention.

The Thursday workshops were discussed and a decision was made that we offer two-30 minute workshops from 2:30-3:30 PM on Thursday. Mike Palecek will lead one on "All Things Money-Financial Reports 101" and Andy will ask Esther Charlton and Michaela Decker to lead one on the Cultural and Sports Medal Programs. There was discussion about the last convention planning meeting report. There have not been any bids for the 2020 convention. There is a list of items on the Saturday agenda that needs to be discussed.

The report was approved as presented.

### **Cultural and Viking Chest**

Esther Charlton, Chr., Lucy Ghastin, Tom Boudreau and Geoff Wodell

Two years ago District 5 agreed to encourage lodges to do cultural skills by instituting the Cultural Skills Contest. One rule was that any district lodge could only be a one time winner.

We discussed changing the rules for the awarding of cultural skills to various lodges for the next biennium.

This committee proposed having a member of Polar Star 5-472 give a short presentation at the District 5 Convention in La Crosse on how they encourage cultural medals programming in their lodge. They are successful in getting lodge members to complete cultural skills.

Esther will have a display table of cultural skills items at the District 5 convention. Polar Star will be featured. She will ask to publicly mention the Cultural Skills Contest winners at the Convention.

### **Viking Chest Rotation**

- The rotation will begin again with this rotation.
- The zone directors are responsible for keeping track of the whereabouts and letting their lodges know that the chest is in their zone for that time period.
- The chest should be brought back to the District Board Meeting to be given to the next zone.

<b>Time period</b>	<b>Zone with chest</b>
October 2016-April 2017	5
April 2017- October 2017	2
October 2017-April 2018	4
April 2018-October 2018	6
October 2018-April 2019	1
April 2019-October 2019	3

The report was approved as presented.

### **Sports and Recreation Report**

Michaela Decker (chair), David Hermundson, Ron Iverson, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, and Tom Boudreau

The bowling tournament and chili cook-off are continuing until the end of April.

We are in contact with the convention committee regarding the walk-a-thon. We propose that any money collected during the walk-a-thon be earmarked for the **Masse Moro**.

### **2018 Barnebirke Report**

The February 22, 2018 Barnebirke was a wonderful experience. The district lodges sent 898 dozen cookies to Hayward and these cookies were enjoyed by approximately 800 children. \$395 in donations were also sent to the district by several lodges. Coffee sales at the Sons of Norway booth at the Ski Expo netted \$205.70 after replacing a broken coffee pot. A wonderful volunteer luncheon was provided by the district for Sons of Norway and Ski Patrol volunteers.

A special thanks to all the volunteers: Andy Johnsen; Robin and Robert Fossum, Dennis and Florence Weise, Bill Bosak and other members of Dovre Lodge along with Dave and Pat Hermundson for volunteering to run the cookie tent at the finish line; Cheryl Wille-Schlesser for registration; Judy Ghastin, Lucy Ghastin, Hild Petre and Sharon Anderson for the volunteer luncheon; Mary Bennet and Asta for manning the Sons of Norway Booth at the Ski Expo.

At the annual Volunteer awards banquet held on Sunday Feb. 25, District 5 was honored with "The Shellie Milford Spirit of the Birkie Award" for many years of volunteer service to the Barnebirke. Mange takk to District 5 and its lodges for making the 2018 Barnebirke a great success!

There was a motion to approve the report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Christina Fairchild, Ron Iverson departed the meeting during the lunch break.

### **Membership Committee Report**

Kathy Secora (chair), Ron Iverson, Geoff Wodell, Christina Fairchild, Michaela Decker, Darlene Arneson

**Background:** Sons of Norway International lost 1,095 adult members (2.8%) in 2017. We are down 383 members so far this year. There were 596 new members. 743 members who declined renewal and 236 deaths.

District 5 had a net loss of 96 members (71 adult members or -1.6%) in 2017. There were 419 members joining, 379 quitting, and 136 deaths.

We can't control the deaths, **but**, we have more members joining than quitting.

Review our goals from 10-22-17

1. One FBC recruitment meal per zone per year: So far one lodge in Zone 3 and one in Zone 5 have sponsored a meal. At least that is who asked for the Om Meg game reward.(Zone 4 has one in the works.)

2. 47 new insurance members and 437 new lodge members. (See above for 2017 totals.) So far this year we have 41 new members. We need to contact Len Carlsen to see about insurance member numbers.
3. Lose no more than 130 members (including by death). So far this year we've lost 39 to death and 96 declined to renew for a total loss of 135.

What have we been doing?

Does anybody read the Monday Membership Tips that have been posted on the D5 Facebook Page?

I have been sending Vps bimonthly encouragement emails.

A few weblinks to check.

For reports : [https://members.sofn.com/reports/page/showPage?pageName=Membership\\_Reports](https://members.sofn.com/reports/page/showPage?pageName=Membership_Reports)

On the Sons of Norway website there are several training and presentations which can be used for membership recruitment and retention. The link is [https://www.sofn.com/member\\_resources/lodge\\_leadership\\_resources/administrative\\_resources/training\\_and\\_presentation\\_resources/](https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/lodge_leadership_resources/administrative_resources/training_and_presentation_resources/)

Also, don't forget that \$1000 in revitalization money is available per district per year. In 2017 we used it for the October President's Seminar.

## **Congratulations!**

Lodges with a net increase in membership for 2017. Those in red have received a recruitment award.

Should district get the award for the lodges in green?

- Zone 1 5-220 Trygvason, Osseo, WI +2.9%
- Zone 2 5-286 Jotunheimen, Viroqua, WI +10.5%
- 5-609 Myrmarken, Marshfield, WI +3.4%
- 5-616 Fagernes, Blair, WI +13.7%
- 5-627 Vennligfolk, Stevens Point, WI +13%
- Zone 3 5-513 Vennelag, Mt. Horeb, WI +16.4%
- Zone 4
- Zone 5 5-100 Skjold, Palatine, IL +23.6%
- 5-168 Valhall, Rockford, IL +9.8%
- 5-472 Polar Star, Montgomery, IL +32.8%
- 5-593 Elvesund, La Grange Park, IL +4.2%
- Zone 6 5-600 Scandiana, Chesterton, IN +2.9%
- 5-657 Edvard Grieg, Cincinnati, OH +10.8%
- 5-000 Central Lodge 15.4%
- 5-999 Spirit of the New Century 510%

Other concerns and plans: We will continue with the Monday membership tips. I will include more membership information in my bimonthly emails to vice-presidents.

Askeladden's proposed motion to reinstate Golden Member status. The committee wholeheartedly supports this.

Samhold's proposed motion to ask International to give financial encouragement to Central Lodge members to join local lodges. Sounds good. We would like more details.

Other concerns about Central Lodge.

1. Is Central Lodge a separate Zone? If so, do they deserve their own zone director?
2. What can we do to encourage central lodge members to participate in district functions . . . convention, the proposed cruise, etc.?

Some concern that the new member application had too many (unnecessary) pages.

Please call International SON if you have questions about membership, dues, etc.

For our Monday membership tips, the immediate schedule is:

- May-Darlene
- June-Michaela
- July-Andy (please)
- August-Kathy

Note: If you are uncomfortable with Facebook, send to our webmaster and have him put it on.

Another hint: It is possible to write all your hints at one time and schedule their release on Facebook.

The report was approved as presented.

### **International Lodge Director and Nominating Committee Reports**

Report from the District Five 2018 Nominating Committee

Jon M. Grinde  
Sue Roedel  
Diane Overby

The members of the District Five 2018 Nominating Committee wish to thank the District Five Board of Directors for electing us to serve the District in this biennium.

As was the case in the previous biennium, the Committed has been tasked with “sifting and winnowing” through the District Five Local Lodge Delegate List for those who are Sons of Norway Benefit Members; for those who are willing, motivated, and interested in serving the District for the next biennium; or for those who can be persuaded to serve, whether or not they possess the necessary qualifications from the get go. We have been successful, we believe, in securing candidates from both groups. Of the 118 Delegates on the Delegate List, 56 are Sons of Norway Benefit members.

The Committee believes our work is ongoing right up to the time of the Election of the District Board and Election of the District Five Nominee to the International Board, both held on Saturday at the District Lodge Meeting in La Crosse in June. So, the Nominee List is incomplete, but we are confident that it will be full and complete by the time of the elections.

The following is our List of Nominees, as it now stands:

District President	Andrew Johnson	Zone 6
Vice President	Kathy Secora	Zone 5
Secretary	Darlene Arneson	At Large
Treasurer	Michael Palecek	At Large
Sports & Recreation Director	Cheryl Wille-Schlesser	Zone 3
Publicity Director		
Cultural Director	Geraldine Lachman	Zone 4
Youth Director		

Director Zone 1	Sandra Olson	Zone 1
Director Zone 1	David Fischer	Zone 1
Director Zone 2	LaVonne Wier	Zone 2

LaVonne has submitted a CLA, but has not committed to serving.

Director Zone 2	
Director Zone 3	Lucy Ghastin
Director Zone 3	Karen Eberhardt has also submitted a CLA
Director Zone 3	(see above-Cheryl Wille-Schlesser)
Director Zone 4	Joy Bashara
Director Zone 4	(see above- Geraldine Lachman)
Director Zone 5	(see above- Kathy Secora)
Director Zone 5	
Director Zone 6	Dee Bumpers
Director Zone 6	(see above- Andrew Johnsen)

International Director Nominee    Robin Fossum

Jon also reported on the status of the International Home Office and they will be back on Lake Street in 2020 celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary then. There was discussion about the financial products that SN has to offer and the lack of FBC's in some states where we have lodges. The company is financially stable even withstanding the impact of one particular stock decline. He referenced the COO Chris Pinkerton and his role along with Eivind's role.

### **Zone Alignment Committee Report**

Committee: Darlene Arneson, Chair, Lucy Ghastin, Esther Charlton and Geoff Wodell. International Director Jon Grinde also attended.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the last committee meeting and the continual challenge of getting lodges connected to their zone, zone meetings, and increase visitation reports. Darlene has been getting copies of zone visitation reports and noticed that not all board members send them in. Is this due to not visiting them? Not filling out the report? Or a combination of the two?

Jon Grinde reported on the status of the nominating committee and interest in zone director positions.

Darlene will submit a by-law proposal to change the zone listing as some have disbanded since the last District Lodge meeting.

There was discussion about the current zone structure and what works, what doesn't and possible changes. Geoff Wodell shared several ideas and has written both a by-law and resolution for a complete change in the structure. He will present these at the board meeting on Saturday.

The committee discussed the name of the committee and recognizes that more time is spent on zone support than on alignment. The committee is asking to change the name of the committee from "Zone Alignment" to "Zone Support and Organization".

The report was approved as presented.

## **Heritage and Grants**

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser (Chair), Kathy Secora, Mike Palecek, David Hermundson, and Michaela Decker

### **HERITAGE CAMP-MASSE MORO REPORT**

The Masse Moro team consisting of: Kaia Ellis, Co-Administrator, Sarah Barnes, Co-Administrator, and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, District 5 Youth Director, are working on schedules and activities for the 2018 camping season. An incentive program that was anonymously funded in 2017 remains available to campers. The incentive gives any current camper who recruits a new individual a \$25.00 incentive for doing so, and in turn, the recruit would also receive a \$25.00 reduction in their overall camping fees for 2018. This option has been reposted on the Masse Moro Facebook page. Monies remain to fund 9 campers and their recruit.

Our cook from the 2017 season has agreed to return in 2018, provided that she has adult help in the kitchen with meal preparation. Campers also help on occasion, but the cook relies on the help of older members to ensure that meals are ready to serve our 60 campers and the counseling staff on time. Local lodges in the Eau Claire area have stepped forward to assist, as well as individual members from other locales. David Hermundson and members of Løven Lodge will be our first line of defense, bolstered by the area's retired teachers group. David will coordinate these efforts. A warming oven has been purchased by Løven Lodge for use in the Masse Moro kitchen. David will contact the cook with the news of this purchase. Kaia Ellis will forward the phone number to David.

In regard to 2018 staffing, a former camper will fill the health aide role; her name is Paige Mosby. She is a certified nursing assistant, and has the credentials and experience required to do the job. She is familiar with Camp and has been a staff person before. We are very excited to have her step into this role! She has worked in a nursing home passing medications, so she is very well qualified for the position. In addition, she has had the necessary training to respond to illness and injuries on the spot.

Abby Marose is returning as the Masse Moro Camp Director. Zach Garner is returning for a one-week woodworking workshop - similar to the arrangement with the rosemaling instructor. He will help with orientation, lead two classes a day, and support in the cabins, and throughout the day at meals, and programming. Zach is a former senior counselor. Additional returning staff members include: Keegan Cook and Keir Kristiansen, two outstanding male senior staff. We have advertised our counseling positions that remain open. At this juncture, the compensation for all staff remains intact with a stipend being given to staff for travel expenses.

I requested a Camp insurance quote from the West Bend Company, our past insurer. This quote has been forwarded to Michael Palecek, District Treasurer, for his consideration. I would estimate that our costs will be similar, in the range of \$1,000.00 for our two week session. This insurance is a liability policy covering our staff. Camp attendees use their family's insurance for any off-site treatment at area clinics or hospitals.

### **Recommended Actions:**

*1) It has been requested that Kaia Ellis be the contact for the Twin Cities area lodges and that she make personal contact with the leadership about our Camp offerings. A presence at Lodge meetings could make the difference in the recruitment of campers.*

*2) It has also been suggested that picture postcards be sent to all youth in District 5 containing information about Masse Moro.*

*3) In District 1, an open letter should be sent to all Lodge presidents, as the count of campers coming*

from that District is on the decline.

### BARNEBIRKIE REPORT

The 2018 Barnebirkie was held as scheduled this year. There was plenty of snow and many grinning faces approached the registration tables on the day of the race. As Youth Director, I assisted District 5's Sports and Recreation Director, Michaela Decker with her responsibilities.

Following the race, Michaela and I transferred the remaining cookies to Hayward High School where the annual Ski Expo was held. This year's American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation's event was especially great, as our District was honored with the Shellie Milford "Spirit of the Birkie" Award.

### 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

There were *three* applications for the Cyril K. Wittrock Book Scholarship, funded by Skjold Lodge, 5-100, and the Olav J. Eide Book Scholarship, funded by Fosselyngen Lodge, 5-082, in the amounts of \$800.00 and \$300.00 respectively.

Morgan Patch-Nordlyset Lodge 5-183, was awarded the Skjold Lodge Cyril K. Wittrock Book Scholarship. Maddison Wood-Nordland Lodge 5-544, was selected for the Olav J. Eide Book Scholarship.

No other applications were received.

The report was approved as presented.

### New Lodge Development Report

Committee: Darlene Arneson, Chair, Esther Charlton, Lucy Ghastin, Geoff Wodell and Jon Grinde

### Update from Wendy Winkelman on southern Illinois prospective lodge

- 1) We have a Facebook page. "Sons of Norway Southern Illinois"
- 2) We currently have 10 potential / interested members.
- 3) We have 8 additional people who have "liked" the Facebook page. (we need to reach out to them)
- 4) I have emailed several people with email addresses on the District 5 membership roster that was sent to me.
- 5) I am hoping to get a membership roster from District 1 from zip codes near Southern IL (from St. Louis down to Cape Girardeau)
- 6) I am currently looking for a venue to have a "Recruitment/Membership" booth this summer. I have requested brochures and recruitment materials from SON Mpls. Once I find a location, Bill and I will "man" the booth. Perhaps Bonnie could help us as well.

Check us out:

<http://www.sofn6.com> <http://www.sofn.com> <http://twitter.com/sonsofnorway> <http://sonsofnorwayblog.blogspot.com>

Active workers:

- Wendy Kay Winkelman [wendyathadeland@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyathadeland@yahoo.com)
- Bonnie Juul [bonniejuul@gmail.com](mailto:bonniejuul@gmail.com)
- Bill Bultinck [billb763@msn.com](mailto:billb763@msn.com)

### Update from Sherry Gorse on Lodges Disbanding in District 5- April 11 report

#### Norrna 5-027

We have all their paperwork: Notice of Lodge Dissolution, D17 Form and Asset Distribution. I don't

think we have the charter, but the charter for a lodge this old is likely to have been been lost at some point. We might have it and it might have been stored away when we moved. Looks like our main contact is Carol Skamser. I will send out letters to all their members about transferring and a letter to the lodge contact approving their distribution plan. These will go out on Friday of this week.

### **Nordlandet 5-620**

We have a check for all the money that remained in their account, and a report from their bank. I don't have copies of the official paperwork: Notice of Lodge Dissolution, D17 Form and Asset Distribution Form. Though it appears that they are donating all their money to Sons of Norway Headquarters or Foundation (I must contact them). We don't have a charter, but again it might have been packed away during the move. Don't have a primary contact currently

### **Vennskap 5-622**

We have a long letter and a Notice of Lodge Dissolution. We have their charter. We are missing the D17 and Asset Distribution Form. Signe Jorgenson, the secretary, is our main contact

### **Sjoland 5-635**

We don't have any paperwork for them that I can find.

**Tre Elver** is completely disbanded, so nothing left for them to mail in etc.

**Wendy's new lodge start** is the only one I'm aware of in District 5, and in the whole organization at this point.

The committee recommends for supporting the prospective southern Illinois lodge:

- The board approve \$250 to support two people to attend the 2018 District 5 Convention. This would cover for two people the \$25 registration fee, \$23 Friday lunch, and \$150 towards the hotel room for one night.
- That the Zone 6 Directors (Esther Charlton and District President Andrew Johnsen) and International Director Jon Grinde make a special effort to contact the key organizers and offer support to them. Jon will check on the New Lodge Start Funds and how to access them.

Darlene has the Tre Elver items that Esther brought in October including song books, flags and other items and has recently received flags, banners and some tubs of items to go through from Vennskap.

The report was approved as presented.

There was a motion that after discussion on the proposed bylaws and resolutions today, they be referred to the Executive Committee and Geoff Wodell to be gone through for grammar and accuracy, then sent to the board for review, and then placed in the

## **2018 Convention Steering Committee Planning Report**

### **1. Status Summary:**

Greetings Fifth District Board! The Convention Steering Committee and Wergeland Lodge are pleased to present to you a Convention status report. We are very excited for the Convention.

We are busy putting the finishing touches on the Convention. The big “to do” items are all completed.

The Convention Steering Committee meets on a regular monthly basis to carry out Convention planning. We meet at the Radisson and have enjoyed a wonderful working relationship with the Radisson staff. They, like us, are committed to making the Convention the very best. The Committee’s Subcommittees meet outside of the monthly meeting as needed. The Co-chairs meet regularly. In May, we will meet more frequently as the Convention approaches.

## **2. Convention Information Publication and Registration Packets:**

The theme for the 2018 Convention is “Bridging Our Heritage.” The Convention logo (above) designed by our President David Glomstad features a Viking sailing a Viking ship on the Mississippi River with the iconic blue LaCrosse bridge and bluffs in the background. The Fifth District’s home page prominently features the Convention logo in an eye-catching banner. Thank you.

Comprehensive Convention information and registration materials are posted and downloadable on the Fifth District’s website at <http://www.sonsofnorway5.com>. The Webmaster Richard Fairchild has expertly incorporated the materials into the website and arranged them for easy access. We very much appreciate all of Richard’s invaluable help.

On March 27, 2018, we sent comprehensive Convention registration packets, via email, to all Delegates, Lodge Presidents, Financial Advisors, Fifth District Board members, and SON leadership. We also sent hard copy packets via regular mail to all Lodge Presidents as a “belt and suspenders” approach in ensuring that every Lodge has the information.

It cost more than \$200.00 to send the hard copy packets to the Lodge Presidents, so it is evident that sending hard copy packets to every Delegate and possible attendee is not financially feasible, nor is it recommended given the ease and efficiency of email communication.

We have received only a handful of questions/concerns about the electronic delivery of the Convention materials. The majority of these questions/concerns stem from the recipients’ failures to read the email or technical issues on the recipient’s end.

## **3. Rooms and Room Rates:**

The Radisson is full service convention venue and all Convention events will be held at the Radisson (with the exception of the Norskedalen and LaCrosse Queen outings).

The Radisson is holding a block of hotel rooms for our Convention beginning on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at discounted rates for SON convention attendees. Three styles of rooms are available. The rates are, not including applicable taxes, with standard occupancy:

**Standard 1 king:** \$125.00 (these rooms have a view of historic down town  
LaCrosse)

**Standard 2 queens:** \$135.00 (these rooms have a view of the Mississippi River)

**Pool-side:** \$125.00 (two double beds)

Detailed instructions for making room reservations were posted on the Fifth District’s website and emailed to every Delegate, Lodge President, Financial Advisor, Board Member, and SON Leadership. The instructions were also sent by hard copy mail to all Lodge Presidents. It is important to follow the reservation protocol in order to receive the SON block discount.

#### **4. Information we need from the Fifth District:**

An item that needs to be quickly communicated to us is the Fifth District's workshop schedule. We need to know what workshops are being scheduled in order to finalize the omnibus Convention schedule and to assign the workshops to specific rooms.

Second, we are compiling a master list of all AV equipment needed for the Fifth District business meeting, cultural events, and speakers so that we can reserve AV equipment from the Radisson and ensure that all AV needs are met. What AV equipment, if any, will be needed in the Fifth District workshops? What specific equipment is needed in the business meeting?

Third, we need a complete schedule of the Fifth District business meeting and all events Delegates may be engaged in. We have received a number of questions from Delegates inquiring what their schedule looks like and business meeting time commitments. It will be helpful to post this schedule on the web site. And, we need this information to complete the Convention program (along with the workshop information).

Fourth, President Andrew Johnson requested that a piano be in the business meeting space. We have reserved the Radisson's piano for the entirety of the business meeting (and it will be tuned). We have been attempting to secure a musician for the business meeting, but without any luck yet. Does the Fifth District have any leads for a volunteer musician?

Fifth, are we or the Fifth District responsible for finding an emcee for the closing banquet?

We have made arrangements that the business meeting will open with a flag ceremony and a welcome speech by Tim Kabat, the Mayor of LaCrosse.

#### **5. Food**

All meals that are part of the Convention have been scheduled and menus solidified. We will soon begin asking local Lodges to supply treats for the cookie breaks and solicit volunteers to help with the breaks.

#### **6. Cultural Exhibits and Events**

**Cultural classes and speakers:** Wergeland Lodge shall be in charge of all cultural exhibits and cultural events. We are offering a variety of cultural classes which include: knitting, hardanger, genealogy, and bracelet making. We have also scheduled various speakers to present during the Convention on cultural topics.

**Artwork exhibit:** Wergeland Lodge has invited local and SON artists to display their Nordic/Scandinavian artwork and crafts at the Convention. We included a "call out" to artists in our Convention omnibus packets.

This exhibit shall be curated by Wergeland Lodge in a secure area that will be fully staffed when the exhibit is open. Artists are welcome to offer items for sale as well on a commission basis. We will hold a "People's choice" award where attendees of the exhibit can vote for their favorite art piece using a bean counting system. The winners of the People's Choice awards will be announced at the social hour immediately prior to the Saturday banquet. We felt that given past Convention history and planning considerations, it made sense to have a simplistic and fun art award approach.

**Vendors:** Vendors with Convention appropriate wares for sale shall be located in the Radisson lobby, which will provide maximum exposure for the vendors and easy access to the vendors by all Convention attendees. To date, we have commitments from nine vendors, which represents a full contingency of vendors. There are no duplicate wares amongst the vendors who have committed.

We were asked to provide four tables for SON displays; we have secured those tables.

## **7. Entertainment**

Wergeland Lodge will provide various entertainment and outings for convention attendees throughout the convention. A bus tour to Norskedalen is scheduled for Thursday, June 28, 2018. Norskedalen, located in a beautiful wooded coulee in Coon Valley, Wisconsin, is a nature center and a Scandinavian cultural center with a working historic Norwegian homestead farm.

There will be a fish fry dinner on Friday (June 29, 2018). After dinner, attendees can then enjoy an evening out on the Mississippi River on the LaCrosse Queen (registration required for the boat due to limited capacity).

The Committee voted unanimously to hold a cash bar social hour immediately before the closing banquet on Saturday, June 30, 2018. Therefore, we will be holding a cash bar social hour prior to the banquet at which attendees can mingle. The winners of the "People's Choice" art awards will be announced at the social hour.

The Foot-Notes, a renowned Scandinavian folk music group from Decorah, Iowa, will perform at the closing banquet capping off the Convention. Their music is fun, lively, and very danceable.

A bunad style show will be held at the closing banquet during The Foot-Notes' intermission with an emcee (Frieda Nowland) introducing and describing each bunad. In May, we will make a call out to attendees to participate in the bunad show.

Summer is a vibrant time in LaCrosse and in addition to all of the entertainment the Convention will offer to attendees, the attendees will have a multitude of events to partake in outside of the Convention including many within walking distance of the Radisson.

## **8. On-going:**

Wergeland Lodge continues to sell raffle tickets for prizes to be awarded at the Convention.

The first order of our t-shirts are in and selling briskly. They are beautiful and comfortable with a soft fabric. We will be restocking soon as more orders come in. Pins with the Convention logo are for sale as well.

A "shout-out" to artists who focus on Nordic/Scandinavian art was made in the registration omnibus packet for the cultural skills exhibit.

We are seeking volunteers for the Convention and assigning them to specific tasks. We anticipate having a full slate of volunteers.

We are creating the layout of the lobby with vendor and SON tables. A vendor agreement was drafted and presented to each vendor.

We are receiving advertisements and well wishes. We are working on the content and the layout of the Convention program.

Shirley Schoenfeld is processing Convention registrations as they come in.

We continue to send out Convention registration packets to delegates and alternates as the list of attendees evolves (Darlene Arneson is communicating these evolutions to Ann Kathan).

It is a pleasure to host the Convention. We look forward to seeing you in June. Please let us know if you have any questions. The Convention Co-Chair Ann Kathan will be available by phone at (202) 365-0199 during your Board meeting to answer any questions that may arise.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Wergeland Lodge 2018 Convention Steering Committee*

### **Zone Reports**

#### **Zone 1- David Hermundson and Geoff Wodell**

See Dave Hermundson's report earlier in the meeting

#### **Zone 2- Tom Boudreau and Ron Iverson**

No report

#### **Zone 3 – Cheryl Wille-Schlesser and Lucy Ghastin**

The Zone 3 officer training that was held at Nordland Lodge, 5-544, in Janesville, WI, on January 27<sup>th</sup> was well attended. One Lodge chose to not attend due to distance. Assisting the Zone 3 Directors Lucy Ghastin and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser with presentations were: District 5 President Andrew Johnsen, along with Board Secretary, Darlene Arneson, Board Treasurer, Mike Palecek, and Financial Investment Counselor Greg Ragan. Darlene spoke about the procedure for delegate selection, as well as best practices for all lodges. Breakout sessions provided information on various parts of the Sons of Norway website, information pertinent to incoming Lodge treasurers, as well as other leadership roles. The new dues structure was covered and multiple resources were available for attendees to take home. Information on scholarships for students, as well as the District's heritage camp was shared. Door prizes were provided. The luncheon was prepared by the women of Nordland Lodge. The event was especially meaningful for newly seated Lodge officers who were recently installed.

Upcoming Zone 3 events of interest to Norwegian Americans are: Stoughton's Syttende Mai activities in May and Vennelag's Kaffe Stue, the third Saturday of July. Both events attract hundreds of attendees.

Plans for the summer include Zone 3's Picnic which will be held at the home of John and Darlene Arneson on August 26th. The Directors will be providing prizes for a raffle which will benefit the District 5 Scholarship Fund.

#### **Zone 4- Michaela Decker and Joy Bashara**

Norse Valley, Fosselyngen, Hafrsfjord and Nordlyset updates:

- Fosselyngen is still attempting to sell their building. They have had upwards of 50 people at their meetings and did have wonderful programs when I visited.
- Norse Valley has dynamic leadership and new members that have stepped up in key

positions within the lodge. This lodge is working hard to build up membership. They have a wonderful, welcoming feeling for all guests.

- Hafrsfjord's President, Bob Mulder, passed away in March. Gerry Lachman has moved from Vice President to President. This is an aging lodge that is making efforts to bring in some younger people (i.e. family members and friends).
- Nordlyset is holding a perspective member luncheon next week and did receive a monetary award from International for Zone insteeting their recruitment quota for 2017. This lodge is very welcoming and has 30-40 members at regular meetings.
- Members of Gronnvik Lodge have become more involved in District activities and attended the Zone meeting, HR Holland sent their Treasurer to the Zone meeting.

The visits to the four lodges in the northern section of Zone 4 have included installations, Christmas Parties and negotiations with lodges seeking input from the District. A zone meeting was held in Port Washington on March 17, 2018.

#### **Zone 5- Kathy Secora and Christina Fairchild**

There was a zone meeting on March 3 which went very well. Kathy visited Trollhaugen which is small but they have some good activities.

#### **Zone 6- Andrew Johnson and Esther Charlton**

Esther has visited Circle City and hoped to get to Vikings of the Smokies but due to an injury. She is concerned about several of the lodges in her zone. Andy has also kept in touch with his lodges.

There was a motion to accept the zone reports. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

#### **Other items of business**

The next board meeting will be Thursday, June 28, at 8 am.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting was adjourned.