



SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA
REPORT TO THE 2010 DISTRICT 4 MEETING

President Sharon, International President Dan, District Officers & Directors, International Officers, delegates and guests:

On behalf of our President Tore Petterson, the Board of Directors and members of the **SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA** I bring you greetings and best wishes for a productive Convention.

Thank you for the space given in the Convention booklet for the report provided by our President, I hope you have had or will have an opportunity to read it. I will endeavor to touch on a few different areas than mentioned in the booklet report.

First I want to take the opportunity to introduce to you to two esteemed gentlemen who have become Life Members of the **SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA** since our last convention. They are International President Dan Rude and International Headquarters Chief Executive Officer Eivind Heiberg. I'm pleased that you are now members of the **FOUNDATION IN CANADA**, welcome!

The **SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA** operates very simply to receive financial contributions, hopefully invest them wisely for growth and then have the distinct pleasure to disburse the funds to very worthy individuals and groups.

In our Post Secondary Scholarship program we have been providing 12 scholarships of \$600.00 each per year. It is truly amazing to look back in our record books and see how many students we have assisted since 1974 and the many and varied career choices that have been pursued. Here are some examples of vocations of those we have assisted in the last few years - Accounting, Addictions Counseling, Archaeology, Biology, Cooking, Engineering, Forensic Pathology, Geology, Law, Nursing, Media Arts, Music, Medicine, Pharmacy, Political Science, Plumbing & Teaching. Knowing that individuals in a wide spectrum of professions in our communities have been aided by our organization is truly rewarding.

Our support to individuals also includes students to Oslo International Summer School, a student who attended last year provided us with pictures and wrote " In the short time I was at Oslo ISS I learned so much and made so many friends, it's a time in my life I will always treasure. I plan to attend Heritage Camp at Hatzic this summer and share some of my knowledge and experiences with the young

people". And she proudly went on to say that their class photo was chosen for the cover of the 2010 ISS Catalogue.

We also support individuals who will be attending Folkehøgskule in Norway, these schools generally run for an eight or nine month term. This year we are assisting a young gentleman from a small Alberta community who will be attending Valdres Folkehøgskule. We can only imagine the wonderful, once in a lifetime, cultural experience he will have in the beautiful Jotunheimen mountain setting living communally with approximately 100 other students.

As you know we do get snow in Canada and so we enjoy it with winter activities. We support Ski for Light Canada, this year the competition was held in Kananaskis, Alberta and was attended by skiers from across Canada, the USA and from Norway. We also provide financial grants to Lodges and groups for a variety of events. In British Columbia they have a function called Snø Days and in Zone 4 we have a winter Sports Week-End, both of these functions promote Norwegian sports, be they out door - as in skiing or walking or in door as in curling or maybe Norwegian Whist, but whatever the sport or games these gatherings of Lodge members also provide an excellent opportunity for socializing, renewing friendships and making new friends, as well as networking to gain new ideas for Lodge fundraising, programming or membership growth or maybe just validation that what we are doing is right and good.

The thank you we recently received following a grant to a Folkdance group included these comments "The Foundation's gift is always greatly appreciated, as it assists us in promoting the folk dance and folk music heritage of Norway. We enjoy reaching out and performing in communities. It's a privilege to be cultural ambassadors. This season we enjoyed profiling Norway's heritage at the *Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival*, receiving special adjudication awards to be permanently displayed at our Lodge. We also participated in two large outdoor community events and at a Multiple Sclerosis fundraiser".

I believe one of the best investments we can make to foster Norwegian culture and heritage in our communities is to support our children's Heritage camps. We at, the Foundation, provide financial grants to two camps in British Columbia, two in Saskatchewan and one in Alberta. These camps combined will see approximately 300 to 400 or more children and adults attending every year. The hands on learning opportunities they provide for our young people is immeasurable. In the follow-up reports I read about ethnic cooking, orienteering, chip carving, folk dancing,

Hardanger, knitting, Norwegian language and much more all being taught by willing volunteers. I know from personal experience at Trollhaugen camp, in Alberta, children who attended camp 15 years ago when I was Camp Director, they are now adults and are coming back to teach and share with the next generation. I would like to read to you what the Nisse Lodge Cultural Director had to say in his report last year, their camp has been going for almost 30 years - he said "Most exciting is that while many of the original organizers are still active, the 2nd and 3rd generations are now leaders, and new members are enthused workers - the fellowship grows stronger and the fun continues".

Thank you to all the Lodges and individuals who support the Foundation, with your gifts we can continue assisting others in the promotion and study of Norwegian culture and heritage in our communities.

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells the world what kind of life you have lived!

Helen Evjen, Secretary
SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA

June 18, 2010