



The Fabulous Fourth Footnotes

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District IV President Notes

Sharon Tandberg · Missoula, MT

It is once again springtime and we are all planning our Syttende Mai celebrations. This is a great opportunity to celebrate our shared heritage, introduce prospective members to Sons of Norway and educate the public about the traditions of Norway.

Another way to perpetuate our traditions and culture is to attend a language and cultural camps this summer. This District sponsors camps in North Dakota in June and another in Montana in July. There is also the Trollhaugen camp in Alberta in August and several camps hosted by local lodges throughout the summer. These are camps for all ages and are a great way to share our culture and heritage. Please check them out!

In June I look forward to seeing many of you in Missoula for the District IV Convention. Normanden and Bitterrootdalen lodges have been busy for the last two years preparing for your visit and they are looking forward to showing you a great time. With a free night on Friday, you will be able to experience downtown Missoula and attend the hospitality events. Summer along the banks of the Clark Fork River is a memorable experience.

Attending our convention will be the new CEO of Sons of Norway, Eivind Heiberg and International President Dan Rude. They will participate in

a question and answer session open to all delegates on Friday afternoon.

The officers currently holding the positions of president, vice president, cultural/publicity director, and zone directors for zones 2, 3, and 4 are term limited this year and are up for election, as are the offices of secretary and treasurer. While there are declared candidates for all but the cultural/publicity director, any delegate can be nominated during the convention and run for these offices. All delegates will receive a description of the officer duties in a packet later in May.

I just returned from the District President's Council meeting in Minneapolis and am excited about the activities of the Fraternal Department. In July you will see a big change in the layout of the Viking Magazine to reflect a more modern Norwegian appearance. I have seen the proposed changes and this is an exciting updating of our magazine which will appeal to members of all ages.

The Cultural Skills Program has been updated and is just about ready to be published. The program has changed some and the guidelines have been updated and clarified. This program is a great tool for retaining members and I hope that lodges will encourage their members to participate in the



Sharon Tandberg

updated program.

There will also be new and updated guidelines for the Adopt-A-School program to make it easier for lodges to participate without having to actually go into a school building. Keep an eye out for these new guidelines and plan on participating again, or for the first time, in this program in the fall.

Selected members will be receiving a letter this month encouraging them to ask their adult children to join Sons of Norway. This is the start of a Legacy Membership Campaign which will focus on asking our family members to become members. There will be ads in the Viking Magazine and additional mailings to members. This campaign is a direct result of surveys that have been conducted in the last couple of years.

That is all for now, looking forward to seeing many of you in Missoula!!

Vice President's Report

Russ Wiigs • Calgary, AB

The District IV Convention in Missoula is fast approaching. Elections for the next biennium will take place. Decisions on finances, resolutions and general operation of our district will be made. Delegates travel many miles (kilometers for us Canadians) to attend. The delegates will share learning time together at the sessions and at other events over just a few days. It would have been wonderful to have delegates from every lodge in attendance. The goal for each delegate should be to learn as much as possible about their organization in those few days and share as much as possible with other delegates. At the end of the convention we should all be able and willing to go back to our lodges and share with our lodges all that

we learned. See you there!

Membership is critical to our organization. Lodges activities tend to slow down for the summer. Most of our lodges cannot afford to lose any more members. Please work with your lodges to ensure you have recruitment plans continuing throughout the year. This is critical to our organization. Have you checked out the recruitment resources available from www.sofn.com. You will be sure to find something that could work for your lodge!

Change is difficult for us to accept. Especially when we have been members for many years and the things we take for granted are changing! You have seen a number of changes to Sons of Norway in the recent past and there will be more

changes to come. Some we will be able to adjust to immediately and some will take time to accept. The reality is that we need to make changes in order for growth to happen in our lodges. We have to get out of the comfortable chair and sit for a while in the uncomfortable chair to learn new ways of doing the business of Sons of Norway. One of our goals for Sons of Norway should be to accept change so that we can truly grow in a challenging world.

Think Teamwork! Teamwork means the team will always be more successful with their goals as the strongest member of that team. That is an awesome thought—working as a team produces better results than working alone!

Zone 2 Director's Report

Carrol T. Juven • Fargo, ND

I remember District Four as a small organization with 1,700 members in 1966. It was a privilege to serve as Sons of Norway Regional Manager from 1966 to 1975.

We witness exceptional growth to about 20,000 members. We organized charter flights to Norway. Organized new Lodges and rebuilt old Lodges with new Officers and Leaders.

Our field staff in District Four was as high as twenty-two field representatives.

Now, after forty-four years, I'm stepping down to allow new Leaders, new innovative ideas, new exciting and fun programs to flourish within Sons of Norway and District Four.

I wish you the very best in the future! Thank you for forty-four years of pleasant experiences and memories.

Zone 3 Director's Report

Vicki Anderson • Scranton, ND

Soon it will be time for the District 4 Convention in Missoula MT. Congratulations to all the delegates who have been elected from their lodges. Being a delegate is an interesting position. You are responsible for representing your lodge and Sons of Norway. You are attending to learn more about the inner workings and have a part in making decisions, yet you are there to meet new people, see old friends and have a good time...the Sons of Norway way.

I am so grateful to the Zone 3 members and delegates who have allowed me to be their Zone 3 Director for the past six years. I have been places I had only heard about and met so many wonderful people. I will miss you and hope our paths cross at other times.

I am pleased to have three

delegates running for the Zone 3 Director position at convention. When they announce their candidacy please vote for the candidate of your choice. This will be done at the zone caucus.

Please send your *Tubfrim stamps* with your delegates or if your lodge does not have delegates attending, please make sure your stamps are given to another lodge's delegates. Have your stamps weighed and send in your own post cards.

Have a safe trip and I will see you in Missoula Montana!

The following people have indicated their intent to run for a District Office:

President - Russell Wiigs, Calgary
Vice President - Martha Elliott, Minot
Secretary - Nordy Riley, Missoula
Treasurer - Karen Huck, Helena

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

Secretary Report

Nordy Riley · Missoula, MT

The District IV Convention is only a couple of months away. Missoula, Normanden 4-424 and Hamilton, Bitterroot Dalen 4-656 are very busy getting ready for it. It takes many hours of planning to get the convention organized to be a success. I feel we have a wonderful convention committee working on it with great leadership. I am looking forward to seeing all my fellow Sons of Norway friends and making new ones.

I have been busy working on the delegation list. So far we have 20 lodges who will not be sending delegates for various reasons; i.e.; to far away, not enough funds, no one is interested in coming, just to name a few of the things I have heard. I have called all those lodges to encourage them to still elect delegate(s) so their lodge can be represented at the convention. As one president asked me "Is it mandatory we send someone." No of course not but it is beneficial for your lodge. So if any of those lodges would still like to send a delegate(s) you can still do that. Any delegates elected now will have

to have their election reviewed by the Credentials Committee (all Zone Directors). They will verify that they were officially elected by the lodge. Then recommend that the delegates be seated. The delegation as a whole will then vote on whether to seat them or not. We had several of these at the last convention and all were seated. But the possibility does exist that they would not receive the 2/3 vote necessary and not be seated. I have included the by-law that relates to how this is accomplished at the convention. It is as follows:

4.7 DELEGATE ELECTION PROCESS

4.7.1. Election of delegates and alternates

Election of delegates must take place prior to the month of March before a District Lodge Meeting, at the same time, an equal or greater number of alternates shall be elected to fill the places of duly elected delegates prevented from attending the meeting. The first duly elected alternate filling the first vacancy, the second next vacancy, etc. Exceptions to the above time limit may be recommended by the

Credentials Committee and may be approved by a two-thirds majority of seated delegates. (8/98).

Also, seven lodges have not sent their D-17 reports to me. This is not an option whether you should or should not send it in, it is required.

Lodges who will be celebrating anniversaries this year are; 4-499, Jotenheimen, Billings, Montana will be celebrating 40 years in May, 4-275, Fremgang, Antelope, Montana will be celebrating 85 years in May, and 4-107, Sverdrup, Bismarck, North Dakota will be celebrating 100 years as a lodge this year. I would encourage you as a lodge or individual to send them a card of congratulations. There are also, others who will be celebrating lodge anniversaries this year, so will keep you updated on who they are.

Congratulations to Joan Varty, Minot, Deborah Wilson, Bismarck and Hildegard Krumm, Helena, and Joyce Harris, Helena, who received District Cultural Scholarship to attend a rosemaking and language class. Classes are in Bemidji and Sioux Falls that they attended.

Hilsen fra International Director

Elaine Nelson · Rugby, ND

In the Midwest this year we are enjoying nice weather. I have not received any information from members that were in the flood disaster that is good news.

I have just returned from our Spring International Board meeting which was held at the Sons of Norway Headquarters. I serve on the Astrid Cates/Beinhauer Scholarship Committee. We had several applications to review. We have two applicants from District Four that will receive a scholarship from International.

Sara Anderson who is a member of Kringen Lodge 4-025 of

Fargo will receive \$1000 from Cates Scholarship. Kristen Haas who is a member of Gyda Varden Lodge 4-021 of Grand Forks will receive \$3000 from Beinhauer Scholarship.

Tusen Takk to all those who applied. Congratulations to the winners!

Remember having your children or grand-children apply for these scholarships is one of your membership benefits!! Let's have more applicants next year!

District Convention is just weeks away. I look forward to visiting with delegates and visitors from different

lodges coming together to transact the business of our district. I would encourage delegates to become International Delegates and attend the International Convention. You need to be a delegate at District and also have Sons of Norway insurance. These delegates will be elected at your zone meetings. Hurrah for Syttende Mai celebrations! Let us be proud to be Norwegian. Raise the Norwegian Flag.

Enjoy the Summer - Come to the Conventions! Let us recruit and retain members!



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