



September 2016



## Greetings to all you District IV Member of Sons of Norway

We have now entered into the Fall programs in our lives, where life has become quite busy for most everyone. It is a great time when we are involved in many activities that involve our family and friends, plus it is a beautiful time when there are so many colors in the fall foliage.

Again I want to remind members of one of the goals we set as a District Board last spring to have a 4% net gain in membership for our District. I want to encourage all the lodges to be very conscientious of this and help to reach this goal by December 31, 2017. It does take effort on the part of all members to help to attain this goal.

I also want to reiterate the goals set by the International Board. They are:

Attain	375 new insurance members
Achieve	\$5.5 million total life insurance premium
Accomplish	\$20 million total annuity premium
Acquire	3,500 new members
Arrive at	\$200,000 Foundation funds raised

These are important goals for the Sons of Norway and I want to remind you that those lodges reaching their goal will receive a \$200 cash card, exclusive access to a new program for lodge members, newly designed SON banner, certificate of honor, and recruiter recognition pins.

At our recent Board meeting in Devils Lake, North Dakota our International President Jon Tehven was there to talk to us about the dues increase and other pertinent matters that are happening in the Sons of Norway. Of course you all know about the dues increase that will happen beginning January 1, 2018. I have been in touch with some of the lodges and talking to them about the dues increase. I still have quite a few lodges to call. I want them to know how this will work out for their lodge and the benefits that it has for them as a lodge.

I have also been in touch with the lodges in District IV to get ideas for cultural or social events that can be used to help give them some ideas for giving them a boost to their lodge events. There are lots of great ideas that lodges do and I want to be able to share them with the membership of Sons of Norway.

The next District Convention will be held in Bismarck, ND at the Radisson Inn. It will be a time for election of District Officers. If you or you know of someone who would be a good District Board officer – please encourage them to get in touch with your zone director or the District Nominating Committee, which we have listed in the newsletter.

Thanks to for all you do for the Sons of Norway.

Fraternally, **Nordy Riley, President**



### **Sons of Norway's Mission**

*The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage & culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.*

[www.sofn-district4.com](http://www.sofn-district4.com)



10/1/17

Re: International Board Report  
From: Steve Halverson – SON International Board member  
To: District 4 Board meeting – Devils Lake North Dakota

The last semi-annual International Board meeting was held in May of 2017.

For the last year, the leadership staff of the International home office has been consumed with the prospect of and now the project of selling the headquarters real estate. The process was long and complicated but as of this writing, the property has been sold and, after proper approvals, the current home of the International Sons of Norway will be demolished and the entire location will be converted to retail space and hundreds of living units. The International headquarters will move out of the building for a few years, to allow for the demolition and construction. The International headquarters will ultimately be relocated into the new building.

One issue of great concern, to the International Lodge, is the legal status of the real estate owned by various lodges. To be legal and consistent, the ownership of lodge real estate should be designated as 501c3 charitable entities. Currently, real estate ownership is owned and a variety of designations. Top priority has been assigned to project of getting all real estate, owned by lodges, properly designated.

The International Lodge has set numerous goals for the year. Those goals have to do with both overall lodge membership and several insurance sales goals. Each lodge has been informed about how their efforts are needed to accomplish the 2017 goals. As of this writing, we have 66% of the year behind us and most of the goals are sitting near the 50% mark. It has been said that the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year is traditionally a higher volume time for insurance product sales. One area that needs attention is the goal of increased lodge membership.

Steve Halverson  
International Director



## Scholarship, Website, and Zone 4 Tidbits

by Alison Wiigs

Many of our lodges feel the strain of their membership growing smaller and older, and don't know what to do about it. What if we, as individuals, make a gift of Sons of Norway memberships to our adult children and grandchildren? We need to get the next generations more involved. Receiving the Viking magazine is Sons of Norway's "foot in the door." A lodge membership committee that invites new members to come to meetings, join with others in community service, and enjoy lodge social events, may "close the sale."

At the recent District Board meeting in Devils Lake (and tusen takk to Heim lodge for their hospitality) the scholarship committee made the following **change to the Academic Scholarship application.**

Old wording: An applicant must be a paid-up member of Sons of Norway for six months preceding the MARCH 1st deadline (i.e. since September 1st of the previous year) and must be a current member (for the six months prior to the deadline) of District IV, OR have a parent or grandparent who is a member of District IV, in Montana, North Dakota, Alberta or Saskatchewan.

New wording: An applicant must be a current adult or Unge Venner member of a District IV Sons of Norway lodge at the time of applying for an academic scholarship.

The emphasis is on having applicants belong to one of our lodges, without requiring six months' lead time. We hope they will take advantage of the opportunities the lodge offers to get volunteer experience and take on leadership roles.

Unge Venner members (ages 16-23) in the U.S. who share an address with a family S/N member have free membership. Otherwise the regular membership fee applies. Unge Venner in Canada will continue to have dues waived if they are a lineal descendent of a Sons of Norway member. If not, the single rate is about \$30.

## District IV Academic Scholarship Report

Scholarship Committee

Charlotte Anvik-Chairman

Allison Wiigs

Erling Olson

There were four applications for this scholarship

Jordan Baxter-Sidney Lodge 4-489  
– Sidney MT

Robbie Bankes-Valhalla Lodge 4-341  
– Calgary AB

Bronwyn Kay-Kringen Lodge 4-025  
– Fargo ND

Kelly Maire Greenwall-Solglyt 4-143  
– Edmonton AB



Jordan Baxter Robbie Bankes Bronwyn Kay Kelly Maire Greenwall

All were worthy applicants. The committee decided to recommend awarding each one a \$1000 scholarship as there were sufficient funds available. The board approved.

Respectfully submitted

Charlotte Anvik

District IV Academic Scholarship Chairman



## Kalendar

**November 4 ..... Sons of Norway  
Torsk & Meatball Dinner  
Billings MT**

**December 1.. General Heritage & Culture  
Grant-submit online**

**December 15..... Local Lodge Partnership  
Grant-submit online**

**December 15...Helping Hands to Children  
Grant-submit online**

**December 31..... District IV Fraternal  
Funds Grant Applications Due**

**February 1.....Family Lodge of the Year  
to SON Headquarters**

**February 1..American Fraternal Alliance  
Year End Report to SON Headquarters**

**February 1... Lodge Achievement Form to  
SON Headquarters**

**February 10 .....D17 Financial Statement  
due to District President**

**April 7.... 50th Anniversary Mollargutten  
Maddock, ND**

**March 1 ..... Dist IV Academic Scholarship**

**April 1..... Dist IV Cultural Scholarship**

**June 7-10..... Trollfjorden Camp  
Bottineau ND**

**June 14-16, 2018...District IV Convention  
Bismarck, ND**

**August 16-18, 2018 ..... International  
Convention--Bloomington, MN**

## District Secretary's Report

It has been a crazy summer here. Hot and dry through July with rains finally coming in August, but still not enough to break the drought conditions.



Erling has had health problems so many trips to doctors and hospital in the past few months. Consequently we haven't done anything fun or exciting.

So far as secretarial duties, summer is a slow time so other than getting volunteer hours in to the Fraternal Gives and keeping in touch with Board members there hasn't been much activity.

Bismarck Sverdrup Lodge is hosting the 2018 convention so I am involved in the planning for that and we hope all Lodges will be able to have their full amount of delegates in attendance.

Respectfully,

Ruth Olson, District Secretary



New Board Picture after Mae Streich was Installed to Replace Erling Olson as Zone 3 Director



## District IV Nominating Committee

John Trangmoe

Bitterroot Dalen Lodge 4-656

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Hamilton, MT 59840-3178

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406-363-2463

E. Diane Berg

Brubyen Lodge, 4-576

325 Keevil Crescent, Unit 445

Saskatoon, SK S7N-4R8, Canada

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306-373-3156

G. Paul Larson

Gyda Varden Lodge 4-021

2918 Chestnut Street

Grand Forks, ND 58201-7528

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701-772-6003

## District IV Director Culture/Publicity



It has been an interesting summer for me as I have received pictures depicting the fun and cultural activities of the lodges in District IV. I am happy to report that the quality of the photos turned in to me has been much improved in the year since I have been in office.

I have been fortunate to visit lodges in our zone with our Zone 1 director. I am always amazed at the wonderful cultural activities going on in their lodges. Most recently, we were treated to an excellent roast beef dinner and an excellent author who spoke about the Norwegian settlers she had characterized in her books.

As I have gone about my business, I have had my eye open for cultural classes that would be appropriate and interesting for the upcoming convention in Bismarck. I am open to suggestions in this regard.

At the same time, there is room for more experts in the database. Please let me know of any that you can add. If your lodge had a cultural tour this summer, let us know about it. I'm featuring a tour that I was fortunate to be a part of later in this newsletter.

Flo Kallenbach

[flo@designlogic.net](mailto:flo@designlogic.net)

This is the 2018 District IV Nominating Committee. If you would like to run for an office or if you know of anyone who would like to run for an office, contact the committee or your zone director.



## Scandinavian Church Tour By Flo Kallenbach

Ever since I retired from teaching eight years ago, my husband and I have had time to travel a little bit in the winters. It seems that no matter where we go, people want to show us their churches and cathedrals. We have even seen the last cathedral that Pope Francis served in Argentina.

As beautiful and impressive as the cathedrals of the world are, I don't think my eyes and mouth opened as wide in awe as they did last weekend when I was fortunate to participate in the Scandinavian Church Tour put on by the Vaarliv Lodge of Fairdale ND. It would have been amazing to find so many lovely, well-kept churches that close together in the days that they were operational, but these churches have all closed. Still, they look like they are ready for the congregation to step in and celebrate worship.

The tour began just south of Fairdale at the Aadalen Lutheran Church. They celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1986. Maynard Stoa, who was confirmed here, was our host and gave us a history of the church. He said that even after closing their doors, they did a Norwegian service (in English)

annually until they ran out of people.



*Aadalen Lutheran Church*

We made just a quick stop along the road at the Hitterdahl Lutheran Church because it wasn't open for us that day, but Adele (Cudmore-Ingulsrud) Mommerak proudly pointed out the church where she was baptized and confirmed. This was the only church we saw that day that needed a coat of paint, but the lawn was well-manicured.



*Hitterdahl Lutheran Church*



*Aadalen Altar*

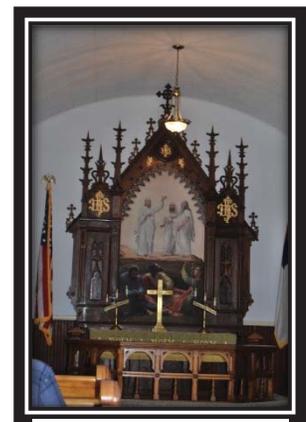
St. Stephens Church near Milton ND Church because so many people Peter Flom built the altar with a pedal from Flom in Norway. Marian Hurtt, who was originally a Flom was our host and told us some history of the church.

is often called the Flom named Flom belonged to it. turning lathe. They all came



*St. Stephens Church*

At each church Joel Hylden gave a quite profound two-minute sermon. Mary Sunde completed the short service by singing or reading something in Norwegian or leading congregational singing. The churches still had their hymnals there so we used them as part of the service.



*St. Stephens Altar*



The Odalen Church near Church by the Lake". They always had on Christmas Day eve and gifts were neighbors and friends. The church the ground in 2007. The people commemorate their precious church of the church with a cement sidewalk cross in the spot where the church had



*The Cross where Odalen Church once stood*

Edinburg ND was called "The their Sunday School program always exchanged with closed in 2000 and burned to wanted to do something to so they outlined the footprint and erected an 80 foot lighted once stood.

The next church we went to was the only Catholic Church on the tour and the nationality was maybe more Czechoslovakian than Norwegian, St. Catherine's Catholic Church near Lawton ND. The area farmers hauled in field stone to build this very beautiful church. Some of the walls are up to three feet thick. This church still has a potluck reunion at the church every year in July. Luther Meberg read us the story of the builder and the building of the church. The grotto is crumbling in places and they feel that they need to take it down for safety reasons.

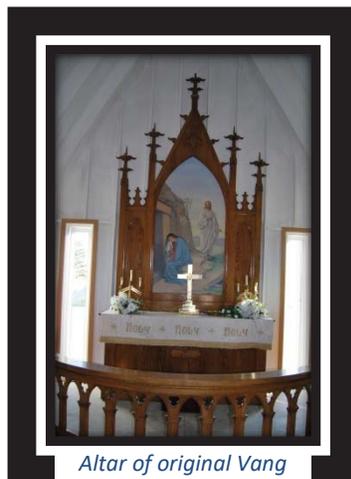


*St. Catherine's Catholic Church*



*Grotto at St. Catherine's*

The final site we visited was that of the former Vang Lutheran Church of rural Fairdale. Up until a year ago, the church had been congregation had disbanded, but contents for people to use if they to church one day, and, well you 2017, the church was torn down frame chapel. The chapel houses pastor's chair and the Confirmation is open for those who want to use footprint of the old church into a lovely host at Vang.



*Altar of original Vang Church now resting in new A-frame chapel.*

there like the others we saw. The the church had been left with its wanted. Then some raccoons came know the rest of the story. In June, and in its place was built a small A-the altar, 2 pews, the piano, pulpit, pictures from the old church and it it. Further plan is to make the garden. Erma Hove Lone was our

Well, that completes the I highly recommend. If you have invite us to, please let us know.

Scandinavian Church Tour. It's one one you'd like to tell about, or Thank you!



# Zone Reports

## Zone 1 Report



Flo Kallenbach and I, along with Mavis Maloney, our local president, attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Heim Lodge in Devils Lake. It was an all-day event, featuring a number of wonderful main stage events, cultural exhibits,

vendors, a silent auction, a banquet, and a premier showing of a Norwegian game show, which I believe was mentioned in the *Viking*.

Fagerlund Lodge invited Norwegian author Candace Simar to have a presentation at a meeting. Cultural Director Flo Kallenbach and I were able to attend the dinner and visit with President Eric and Nancy Bollingberg. There were several visitors at the meeting, and I encouraged the Bollingbergs to talk to them about membership. Candace read several short items and talked about the process of becoming a published writer. She was well-received and answered questions from the audience. Several people purchased books from her.

I visited Mjosen Lodge in Mayville the evening of their membership dinner. Flo accompanied me again and we were both surprised at the number of guests. Another pleasant surprise was seeing that Marilyn Martinson and Elaine Nelson were both at the meeting.

The Astrid G. Cates scholarship recipient is a member of their lodge and was recognized that evening. We are impressed with the leadership of this lodge. They took in 15 new members that evening and expect to get a few more as well. This appears to be a vibrant lodge.

Vaarliv Lodge has planned a cultural tour for October 7. Flo and I, and perhaps some others, will be driving to the Aadahlen Church near Fairview to join them. I believe they plan to stop at four churches, three of which were founded by Norwegian immigrants, and the fourth is a stone

church built by Norwegians for the Catholics. President Gerard Dahl says there will be people at each location to give details and some will be descendants of the original people involved.

At this time, there seems to be only one lodge to have a lot of concern about the dues increase. I presented information at a recent meeting, and it was discussed at length. Mollargutten is planning a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in April, 2018.

Leadership seminars are in the planning stages.

Respectfully,  
Kathy Daeley, Zone 1 Director

## Zone 2 Report

The summer months have been slower for the lodges. But I did put on a Leadership Training Seminar at the Fargo lodge and invited all my Zone 2 lodges to attend. After that I was to the lodges that were unable to attend. I also got the info to all of my lodges regarding the new dues structure for 2018.



Ueland (Cooperstown) are planning their annual Kumla suppers & some meatball suppers as well for fund-raisers. They had an art show open to the public in July and a parade to help get their name out to the community. They are having a bake sale and craft sale on December 2 along with others in town. They are hoping to have another membership dinner, too. Also, they are making plans for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lodge sometime soon, but after Veterans Day. They are waiting to get their entertainment lined up in order to set the date.

Wergeland (Jamestown) had a Norwegian food cooking demo for cultural night and a program on genealogy. They have a dance group of 10-12



ladies who practice Monday nights and perform mainly at nursing homes. Some of them came to the dance workshop in Fargo in March so I got to meet them at that. They are having a bake sale in November. They are thinking of having a membership dinner in the spring, and they are looking at planning for some delegates for the district convention in June.

Hjemdahl (Valley City) They are really off and running with their newly rejuvenated lodge and all the new members. They are planning a welcome event on October 20 for the new members which Elaine Nelson and I plan to attend. They are having a Bake & Eat lesson in November. They are planning to get into the Tasting Bee at the Winter Show in March again, which was a real success last year, and helped get their name out to the public.

Henrik Ibsen (Wahpeton) When I was down there to their meeting in August they made plans for their evening of “food & fun” at a church in September. I was out of town so unable to attend, but I talked with the President and he said they had a good turn out and lots of fun. They had invited the community for Norwegian waffles & bacon with lots of other Norwegian treats as well. This was their fall kick off for the lodge. They also had a program by the president and his brother on their summer trip to Norway with lots of pictures, etc. This was to invite new members and to encourage inactive members to attend. They had several couples possibly interested in joining the lodge! They are hoping to get a group to go to Kringen in Fargo for the Norwegian concert on October 10.

Kringen (Fargo) I had my leadership training seminar at Kringen and really appreciated all the help from other officers in the lodge. I invited all of my zone 2 lodges to attend. They have a youth club which meets on Saturdays and have a new youth director. They are starting their Norwegian language classes and a Hardanger group, as well. They will be having a lodge memorial service in November. They also have Kringen Kor and Accordion Band and a dance group which practice at the lodge several times a month. They are having

a Norwegian concert by a group from Norway on October 10. Their cultural night is the first Tuesday of each month and a book discussion group meets at noon one Monday a month. They have rosemaling practice on Monday afternoons. They will be having their lutefisk dinners starting in November once a month.

Vonnie Anderson

### Zone 3 Report



After consultation with District 4 Secretary, Ruth Olson, and in consideration of my recent health issues, I have concluded it is in the best interest of District 4 that I resign as District 4 Zone 3 Director on 30 September 2017.

It has been a great 30 year run since 1987 when I was first elected to be a Sons of Norway officer at Mollargutten as vice president and then as president. Then moving on to Sverdrup where I served in many officer positions, including that of being lodge president. Last but by no means least, was the opportunity to serve on the District Board as the Zone 3 Director.

My replacement, Mae Streich, Nordlyset president, is extremely well-qualified to take over as Zone 3 director. I will see to it that all Zone 3 materials that I have are given to her.

I extend my thanks to the District Board for the opportunity to work with you. All have had the best interests of the Sons of Norway at heart.

Faternally,

Erling Olson  
Zone 3 Director

A big “thank you” to Erling for his time served and his contributions to our board. We wish him some rest and restoration of good health. We know you “can’t get a good Norwegian down!”



## Zone 4 Report



-Advised lodges of 999 and 000 members in their vicinity. (Got lists off HO site, looked for AB and SK addresses, then used Google map to see which people were reasonably close to a lodge location)

-Medicine Hat lodge closed

-North Battleford (Nisse lodge) wants to initiate closing procedures. Several members do not intend to renew their memberships. They are older, feel that they've done all the cultural activities they want to do, and that there is no benefit in continuing as a lodge. On the other hand, their president likes the idea of some kind of Norwegian organization, and participating in the Zone 4 Sports Weekend. (Nisse membership breakdown: 15 in 61-80 range, 13 in 81-100 range, 3 younger adults, 2 youth).

-Olds lodge has planned events this fall, including a December 3 Christmas party, but also has scheduled a November 20 vote on dissolution as no one wants to be president. The president had been doing much of the work, and no one feels confident to take over from her.

“In the event that our Lodge dissolves, we have some assets such as flags, flag poles, membership pins, gavel, bunting (table skirts), etc. Are these items useful to Valhalla Lodge? Or, do you know of a Lodge that can use some of these items?”

+On the positive side: Edmonton and Grande Prairie have healthy amounts of younger people. Lethbridge is hosting Sports Weekend 2018, and president Betty Lambert asked about possible grants (\$500 US from District). Calgary is sponsoring a film (King's Choice) at the Calgary European Film Festival.

Claresholm lodge has some members in the Crowsnest Pass area, not far from the wildfire in Waterton Park (adjacent to Glacier Park in

Montana). However, none of them lost their houses. The lodge appreciates the District's concern (Nurdy's e-mail) Saskatoon and Edmonton lodge members put in long hours for Folkfest and Heritage Days in their respective cities.

Alison Wiigs, Director

## Zone 6 Report



My wife and I attended the Camp in Red Lodge this summer. We plan to attend next summer. It was a grand time. We need to market this incredible camp maybe with flyers attached to each of their

lodge's newsletters.

I have visited two lodges. Bitterrootdalen in Hamilton and Havedstad in Helena. In both of these the new simplified fee structure was discussed. I provided materials so that members could see in writing what is happening. I provided questions for Helena's members that answered thoughts about different things that might occur with the new schedule. I am scheduled to attend Normanden in Missoula in November. I would like to attend a few more lodges before the end of the year. Please social directors, contact me, John Knudsen ([406-531-6021](tel:406-531-6021)), to schedule a time for me to visit your lodge regarding the new simplified fee schedule or any other thing that your lodge would like to discuss.

John Knudsen, Director



## Adopt A School

At the Fall District IV Board meeting in Devils Lake ND, I was asked/volunteered to be Adopt A School Chairman for our district. This is new territory for me so I looked it up on the website. I liked the last line that I read there the best, “Remember, the goal is to support local youth, but it’s also to have fun!”

I know that some things our lodge has helped with in our school is by assisting with Academic Challenge Meets and providing funds for Hostfest in the Schools and Artist in Residence projects.

I’d really like to hear from you about what you are doing in your schools and I’d also like to hear what I can do to help you with your projects.  
flo@designlogic.net

One word of caution. Our world has come to a time when we need to be sure that anyone who is working with children needs to have passed the proper background checks in order to keep the children safe. One needs to be aware of a school’s hesitation to work with outside groups because of these situations.

We have so much to offer our young people, that we hope we can keep working with our schools to share knowledge of our heritage.

Flo Kallenbach  
Adopt A School Chairman



## Trollfjorden Report October 2017

I am pleased to report that I attended Trollfjorden for the first time this past summer. What a marvelous experience! Lefse at every meal, Norwegian foods and goodies, language learning, dancing, crafts (I chose hardanger), and wonderful people. I am definitely hooked now.

There were 58 campers at the Lake Metigoshe Christian Center from June 8-11, 2017, and the beds were full. Of those, 20 were adults and 22 were youth (15 girls and 7 boys). There were 16 staff, board, and counselors, who were not required to pay.

Both adult and youth registration were raised by \$25 in 2017 for a total amount of \$175 and \$125 respectively.

The current balance in the checking account is \$40. Lodge donations from Zones 1, 2, and 3 totaled \$1400 in 2017, compared to \$2100 in 2016. We didn’t receive support from as many lodges this year. Kringen and Sverdrup each contribute \$500 a year. District 4 support was \$1500. There are no funds available for mileage to board members at this time.

Dates for camp in 2018 are June 7-10. District Convention is June 14-16, so there will not be a conflict there.

The fall board meeting will be in November due to Sonna’s illness and surgery which are coming up.

Respectfully submitted  
Kathy Daeley  
Zone 1 Director