

The Fabulous Fourth Footnotes

Montana • North Dakota • Alberta • Saskatchewan



SONS of NORWAY

September 2019



Everyone is saying it. *Fall has arrived.*” Where has the summer gone? It did go by fast. Of course, if you are like me I didn’t even get close to completing the plans I had planned last spring. Anyway, here is fall on the horizon and it’s time to get serious about the fall activities in our lodges

I want to encourage you to plan programs for your lodge that are informative, educational and enjoyable. They do not have to be long. Present programs that the members will enjoy and remember. Plus, especially if they have a guest(s) with them it would be an extra item for the visitors to think about joining Sons of Norway.

There are many things coming up that will be of interest to you. One of the items is the District IV Convention to be held in Watford City, ND on June 11 – 13, 2020 We want to see all the lodges have a delegate(s) from every lodge in our District. We have been communicating this information especially to those who have not had delegates at the District Convention for the last two years or more. So please start thinking about wanting to be a delegate to represent your lodge. Also, the International Convention and Leadership Conference will be held in Hamar, Norway in 2020. If you want to be a delegate to the International Convention, you have to be a delegate to the District Convention.

At the District Convention there will be election of officers. Please consider running for a District Office. We would like to have at least two nominees per office. More information on being an officer will be sent out with information in the mailings that will be coming to your lodge and the District Nominating Committee will be in contact with the lodges with information.

Each year lodges are asked to fill out the lodge achievement forms. I am going to include some of the information I received which should be of help to you. There are links to the completely online versions of the LA and FLOY forms. These are not current. They will be updated and ready for use by 09/30/2019. Following is also some more information I received:

PROCEDURE CHANGE FOR 2019: Because many lodges are now downloading the forms online or using the online –only versions, Sons of Norway Membership Services will not automatically mail a packet of these forms to each lodge secretary later this fall. If you want paper forms mailed to you, or PDF’s emailed to you, or if you are having problems with the PDF or online versions, please contact Sherry Gorse at 1-800-945-8851 x4643, 612-821-4643 or fraternal@sofn.com.

I would like to encourage you to work on membership. One way to make Sons of Norway known is to volunteer in your community. Even if you volunteer just for an hour or two once in awhile, it still gets the name of Sons of Norway out there. Be sure and wear a name tag with Sons of Norway on it or a shirt that has Sons of Norway on it. Another idea is to advertise your meetings in your local newspaper. Please contact me if you have any questions, etc. I would be happy to help in any way I can.

Have a great year in your lodge! Thanks for all you do for Sons of Norway.

Fraternally,

Nordy

Nordy Riley, President

District IV Sons of Norway



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



Vice President's Report

I might be repeating a little bit of what Nordy is saying, but great minds think alike, right? Now that we are forced to accept that Fall is here, we may as well enjoy it, and get to work. It is my favorite time of year. I just wasn't ready for it yet.

If you didn't have picnics or outdoor activities that were great for inviting guests and prospective members this summer, I think there are still some fine fall days left to have a fun tailgate party or eple tiden (apple time) and invite the public. Don't forget to let us know what fabulous ideas you have for attracting new members. I'd love to hear about them and would be glad to publish them.

District IV Academic Scholarships

At my first board meeting as Vice President, it was decided that the funds for the District IV Academic Scholarship will be handled through the Foundation. We will still choose our own winners, but the form will change and I believe it will be an online form. It will remain very much the same as it is now, but will adhere to any changes that will apply to the Foundation. A link to the scholarship will be on the District IV website, and I expect it to be ready soon.

All of the Foundation Scholarships open on October 1 so be sure and get those in as well.

I had the opportunity to participate in the membership event at Park River this summer, and enjoyed lunch at the Kringen Lodge one fine day where my husband and I were received warmly and had a nice visit. My goal is to visit more lodges in the upcoming year.

Flo Kallenbach
District IV
Vice President

Kalendar

**September 25-28 Norsk Høstfest
Minot ND**

**October 4-6 Fanatullen Scandinavian
Dancers Workshop--Red Deer AB**

**June 11-13,2020 ...District IV Convention
Watford City, ND**

**December 1 Evaluations for District IV
Cultural Grants from 2019 Due**

**December 15 Community Partnership
Grant-submit online**

**December 31 .Lodge Culture and Heritage
Grant-submit online**

**December 31 ...Helping Hands to Children
Grant-submit online**

**December 31 Lodge Vitality Grant
submit online**

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

**December 31 D63 Officer Update due
submit online or to SON Hdqts**

**February 15Family Lodge of the Year
to SON Headquarters**

**February 15 American Fraternal Alliance
Year End Report to SON Headquarters**

**February 15 . Lodge Achievement Form to
SON Headquarters**

**February 15D17 Financial Statement
due to SON Headquarters**



From the Desk of the District Secretary. . .

Now that Summer is turning to Fall our Lodges are again starting up their activities. One of those activities is the election of officers. This must be done during the first meeting of the Lodge in November. After the election the Lodge Secretary must submit the form D63, the Change of Officers Form. This form must be submitted to the home office by December 31st. If the Lodge Secretary uses the paper form sent out by the Home Office a copy of that form must be sent to the District Secretary. This form can easily be submitted on-line by the Lodge Secretary by going to the Sons of Norway website – Member Profile and then Lodge Officer Update. It is important that Lodges meet these deadlines so that I can complete the District Directory in a timely fashion – especially in a Convention year. Most Lodges elect their officers for two years. If there are no changes in the off-election year, a D63 must be submitted anyway. I am more than happy to help any Lodge secretary with reporting on-line.

Another important election to be considered by the Lodges is the election of delegates to the District Convention. Even though the election of Delegates must take place prior to the month of April, I encourage all members to start considering running for a delegate position to represent their Lodge in Watford City, North Dakota at the 2020 District Convention. The District Board would like to see every Lodge represented at the Convention. Delegates will help review the activities of the last biennium, conduct the business brought forward, and elect officers for the next biennium. All Executive Officer positions are open as are the positions for directors of Zone 1, 5, and 6. Consider getting involved and run for one of these positions. To be an officer one must be a benefit member.

January 16, 2020 is the 125th Birthday of Sons of Norway. We will be celebrating this landmark event at the District Convention. In the meantime Lodges are encouraged to hold their own celebrations. For ideas and suggestions please go to the Sons of Norway website and click on 125year.

Feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Fraternally,
Dan Rude, Secretary dbjrude@msn.com



The mission of District IV Lodge and its officers and directors is to promote the interest of Sons of Norway within District IV and to cooperate with and assist the International lodge and its officers. District IV will assist its local lodges to promote, preserve and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries for people of all ages.

**SEPTEMBER 14TH ZONE
MEETING IN FARGO IS
POSTPONED.**

Please note that we are going to cancel and reschedule the leadership meeting which we had been scheduled for Saturday September 14th at Kringen lodge in Fargo. We will look for another opportunity and keep you informed.



From Martha Elliott

**Cultural/Publicity Director
and Zone 3 Director**

Lodges continue to send me pictures for the Viking. However, many lodges do not send photos and I encourage lodges to send me a photo of an event your lodge has hosted. You can send a photo by email to me or send a printed photo. I send the photos to Minneapolis and they determine the pictures to use.

There are many things lodges host in the community and as cultural director I like to see that also. Heritage is always shown whether it be a lodge social with a cultural program, a community event where a table is set up with cultural items on for a display and always having a membership form at these events.

I am working on the cultural programs for the Saturday of the District Convention next June. Do you have any suggestions on what you would like to attend on the 13th of June?

Zone 3 Director

Lodges in Zone 3 have had lots of fun events this summer. One lodge had a bus trip to Medora. Another lodge hosted a community program and meal where many cultural items were shared. Many picnics, mini-trips, and many other fun filled events.

Thor Lodge in Minot had the opportunity to share Norwegian heritage at the Family Motor Coach Association 100th. anniversary which was held at the State Fair Grounds. About 2,000 coaches were in Minot and that amounted to about 4,000 people. This gathering was the middle of August.

On Thursday of the gathering, Sons of Norway and the other 4 Nordic countries, participated in a bunad style show. This was a women's luncheon and style show and there were over 750 women at the gathering. The ladies truly enjoyed the style show and we enjoyed sharing our heritage and culture.

And during the week many visited the SHA park where they heard about the oldest house in North Dakota, the Sigdal House, saw a stabbo and of course had a tour of the Gol Stave Church. All of these buildings were of interest to the people who were in Minot from around the US and Canada. They learned a lot about Sons of Norway and our heritage.



**Fraternal Funds of District IV Lodges
Martha Elliott**

December 31, 2019 is the deadline for lodges to apply for a district fraternal grant. The form is on the district web site: www.sofn-district4.com, under forms. The cultural programs available are rosemaling, knitting, Hardanger, youth group programs, parades and many others.

When the form is completed send it to your zone director.

If you have any questions, contact your zone director or call me, Martha.



ZONE REPORTS

Zone 1

Vaarliv Lodge in Fairdale celebrated their 50th anniversary this quarter. They had a very nice program put together and the attendance was quite good. The district also sponsored a membership drive for the lodge, which was held in Park River. International officers Steve Halvorsen and Elaine Nelson, and District officers Flo Kallenbach, Kathy Daeley, John Andreason, and Marilyn Martinson, with help from a fraternal representative, presented a very good program. Ten prospective members were there and one new member signed on.

I receive lodge news from Mjosen on a regular basis. This is a vibrant lodge, with strong leadership and a variety of activities going on every month. They recently had a potluck picnic and were learning to play Kubb.

Heim Lodge also seems to be quite a strong lodge which takes part in a number of activities within the community. They sold rommegrot at the Stump Lake threshing bee and are planning a trip to the Runestone Museum in Alexandria, Minnesota.

I have not had any recent communication with Fagerlund lodge, but I did have a conversation with a couple of members.

Mollargutten is quite visible in the community. They had an entry in the 4th of July parade again this year. In addition to regular monthly meetings, they have one cultural event each month. Recent examples: a Syttende Mai event at the local nursing home and a chip-carving class.

I have also failed to communicate with Gyda-Varden lately about things in general, although I did inquire about interest in a proposed leadership seminar. I do believe they are a healthy lodge with strong leadership.

I attended Trollfjorden Camp in June. Once again, this was a very enjoyable experience. Some of the language learning is finally starting to stick with me! I chose to do Hardanger again this year, and maybe I'm actually starting to figure it out! It is always interesting to see the results of the rosemaling, wood carving, chip carving, and knitting classes. Folk dancing gets both young and old moving, laughing, and having fun every evening. And the meals are great! Lots of Norwegian food, including lefse of course.

Kathy Daeley
Director

Here are a few thoughts from Zone 2:

The Wergeland Lodge of Jamestown, ND threw a summer party at the home of John and Deb Gletne under the theme of "Norwegian Luau". Twenty plus members enjoyed the lakeside sunset with a pot-luck supper and three hilarious contests. The "Big Toe Reveal" offered prizes for the longest toe – a tape measure; the hairiest toe – a hair brush, etc. Their guest for the evening, Zone 2 Director, John Andreasen, was drafted as the Judge. We shared many moments of light-hearted laughter and embracing fellowship.

Their next meeting features a road trip to Fargo to visit the Hjemkomst center with the locally built Viking ship, and the authentic replica of the Hopperstad Stavkirke. The trip includes stops at several Norwegian statues and a lunchtime tour of the Kringen Club with its hand-carved Troll Lounge and restaurant. Of special interest is a tour of a local brewery. Some of the cost is being underwritten by a District grant.

Another Zone Director visit to Cooperstown, ND brought me to the home of Martin and Rhoda Ueland. As we visited around the table we discussed ideas to strengthen the Ueland Lodge. When I mentioned that I worked part-time for the Anne Carlsen Center in Jamestown, Martin suggested that their Lodge might be interested in sponsoring a fund-raising event for the Anne Carlsen Center, since they have a Cooperstown



family with a child living at the Anne Carlsen Center in Jamestown. The strategy is that working together could invigorate the Lodge and serve a charitable cause with local impact.

The Kringen Lodge in Fargo opened the fall season with a full slate of activities: Language classes, a book club, the Kringen Choir and Accordion Band. The first Tuesday evening of each month invites members and guests to enjoy Norwegian Waffles with strawberry jam and geitost. The fourth Tuesday offers a Dance Party with Bingo. To raise funds for building upkeep and property improvement, the Kringen Klub is selling raffle tickets with the top prize being a briefcase full of \$1000 dollars. Building on the success of a Prospective Member Dinner in April, the Lodge is hosting another Prospective Member Dinner in October to increase visibility and membership.

John Andreassen

Director Zone 2

Zone 4 Director's Report

While I reflect on what is happening in Zone 4, I can see what is happening and it not much different from most of Sons of Norway lodges. The same is happening in other similar organizations! We are losing members. The solution to this is not easy. If we could wave a magic wand and cut at least 20 years off of our ages, we would likely be able to resolve this problem. I hope that we are able to resolve this problem. If you follow Sons of Norway on the internet, there are a number of emails that do offer potential solutions. Have we tried them? What they offer is not new, but we do have to think very differently to resolve this. Can we do that?

In Zone 4 we had a Sports Weekend in early June in Meota, Saskatchewan (close to North Battleford). About 80 people attended and we had a wonderful time thanks to Nisse Lodge. There were lots of

activities (whist and other card games, golf, walking, etc.) and lots of chances to talk and share with other lodge members. The number of people attending is down compared to previous years. It was a wonderful weekend! I wish we could take that enthusiasm we saw there and transplant it to our other activities. Our membership problems would be lessened greatly! Many of our Zone 4 lodges do not have sufficient officers or members to organize much in the way of sharing within our community. We still are able to have several programs that work for our members, but we are not able to attract the newer and younger members that we need to add the dynamic factor to our lodges. Age is working against as many of our members are no longer willing and able to volunteer their time as much as they have in the past. We need to find a solution for this before it is too late.

Russ Wiigs, Zone Director.

Greetings from the Zone 6 Director

Just a few notes for this Fabulous Four Newsletter. I have not visited any lodge during the summer month. BUT I am going to set up some visits to lodges for this fall and into the winter. I did visit 5 lodges prior to the summer months.

Some 2020 Convention Fees Waived, Wow!

In an effort to encourage Local Lodge to the next Convention in Watford City, North Dakota and also promote attendance at the beautiful Rough Rider Center (<http://www.roughridercenter.com/>), the District IV Board passed a motion that stated the 2020 District Convention in Watford City will be waived for up to two delegates from Lodges who have not attended the **last two** District Conventions.

The exact motion appears on the next page.

The motion passed.

The Zone Directors in your area will contact your lodge if your lodge meets the qualification for the waiver. We really want as many lodges to attend this 2020 Convention in Watford City, North Dakota.

John Knudsen, Zone 6 Director



NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2020

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The District Convention will be held
June 11-13, 2020 at Watford City, ND.
There will be election of District Officers, plus Zone
Directors for Zones 1, 5, 6.
If you feel led to run for any of the District Offices
or you know of someone who would make a
great District Officer, please contact one of the
Nominating Committee who are listed here.

Some 2020 Convention Fees Waived, Wow!

The exact motion reads as follow:

The Finance Committee moved the 2020 District Convention fees are to waived for up to two delegates for Lodges who have not attended to the last two District Conventions.