

# *Dynamic 2*

*Volume 30*

*Sons of Norway District 2*

*Fall 2020*



# Contents

- President’s Message - Jerry Erickson ..... 3
- Vice President’s Message- Joanne Gray ..... 4
- Secretary’s Message – Jane Bueing ..... 5
- Counselor’s Message - Sally Dwyer..... 5
- Cultural/Foundation Director’s message - Ron Rolla ..... 6
- Youth Director and Historian’s message - Doug Quammen..... 6
- Sports Director’s message - Laurie Berg ..... 7
- Publicity and Social Director’s Message – Robert Kodalen ..... 8
  - Zone 1 - Regina Agerter..... 9
  - Zone 2 - Norma Jean Sands..... 10
  - Zone 3 - Andrea Torland ..... 11
  - Zone 4 - Joanne Gray ..... 13
  - Zone 5 - Darrin Lee ..... 15
  - Zone 6 -Christie Ericson..... 15
- International Director’s message – Chris Hicks ..... 18
- International Vice President’s message – Mark Agerter..... 19
- District 2 Youth Camps ..... 21
- Trollhaugen..... 22
- Tubfrim..... 23
- District 2 Board Members, June 2018 – June 2022..... 24

## President's Message - Jerry Erickson



I have been pondering for a while as to what to say in my Fall 2020 message to the District. This will be a year to remember and one our children will tell their grandchildren about. District 2 has worked its way through this time with Zoom meetings, teleconferences and a few face to face meetings, with mask and social distancing. Our Lodges have used a number of these tools to meet and stay in touch with their members. To say the least, this time has been a tough time for all of us. On a positive note, using these tools we have been able to meet, have programs and even have meals that keeps us connected and our spirit alive. I have been able to remotely attend a number of Lodge events over the past few months and enjoy seeing members that I haven't seen for some time. We continue to use Zoom for our Board meetings and it's a great tool that is free to use for short meetings and events.

This was supposed to be a Convention year and we should have been in Portland the end of May and Norway in August. Of course, none of that happened and we now wait until 2022 for our next Conventions. Officers are remaining in place for another two years and we look forward to getting together in 2022 for a great Convention. Convention years also produce resolutions to be voted on at both District and International level. That is not happening currently except at the International level where there have been resolutions to change bylaws that impact all of Sons of Norway.

Electronic voting has been approved for International and District level resolutions and recently we voted to allow this at the local Lodge. This was passed and instructions have gone out on how to use this tool. This will allow local Lodges to elect new officers by electronic means when you cannot meet in person.

An important event that takes place during our Conventions is the awarding of District 2 Lodge of the year for the past two years. The following Lodges won for 2018; Large Lodge: Leif Erikson Lodge 2-001, Small Lodge: Cascade Lodge 2-087 and Family Lodge: Fjeldheim Lodge 2-047. For 2019 the following Lodges won; Large Lodge: Edmonds Lodge 2-039, Small Lodge: Roald Lodge 2-039 and Family Lodge: Bothell Lodge 2-106. I hope that we can make proper presentations of these awards to the winning Lodges as soon as possible. Congratulations to all these Lodges for a job well done.

We have had to cancel other District events this year that we look forward to holding next year. Plans were made and things looked great to hold the Steak Fry, Golf Tournament, and the Adult Heritage weekend, but unfortunately, they didn't take place. I hope that by February we can hold the District Ski Race at Trollhaugen.

I want to thank you all for your continued work for the District. It's a difficult time we are in and I think we all try hard to keep a positive attitude. Keeping in touch with each other and our members is very important, now more than ever. I look forward to seeing you soon.

## Vice President's Message- Joanne Gray



What a difference eight months can make in our lives!

With the onset of COVID-19 many activities have been cancelled or postponed. Our District and International Conventions were postponed for two years. These postponements were disappointing in so many ways, as preparations had to be put on hold or cancelled. Many lodges had special activities planned that had to be rescheduled or cancelled. Masks and social distancing have become normal it seems.

Impressively, many of our lodges have put their creative minds to work and have come up with ways to keep the lines of communication open. Zoom meetings and events have become the “New Norm”. Drive thru breakfasts or dinners have enjoyed much success. Meals in Styrofoam are really quite good.

Sadly, the summer Youth Camps had to be cancelled. The Camp Committee proactively stepped up and devised a substitute. They sent out tee shirts and several packets containing activities for the campers to enjoy. Hopefully, the campers will be able attend next year.

Other victims of COVID were our Steak Fry at Trollhaugen, our Horseshoe Tournament and Golf Tournament. We will look forward with eager anticipation for the return of these events next year.

In May and again in August, I participated in the District Vice Presidents’ conference call and served as recording secretary. It was very interesting and informative to learn what other Districts are experiencing and how they are coping. It was impressive to hear how innovative the lodges can be when the need arises. The common thread among most of the lodges was the concern over declining membership and how to keep their members interested and involved.

I sent a greeting email to all the District 2 Lodge Vice Presidents discussing membership information and other topics of current interest, including attention to Foundation month in October. I encouraged the use of the Sons of Norway website as a valuable resource.

In the near future we will begin preparing for the District 2 Zone Seminars. Our seminars will be tentatively scheduled for the Spring months. We are giving thought to holding one seminar in Petersburg, AK, and will be seeking other locations within the six zones to host the meetings.

## Secretary's Message - Jane Bueing



I need to be sure all lodges know that my email address is [waldo1jane@aol.com](mailto:waldo1jane@aol.com) The email has been listed in the Viking Magazine as [janebueing1@gmail.com](mailto:janebueing1@gmail.com) so I am going to correct for my Sons of Norway District information.

The last several months have been interesting but not much has happened. I have been on several Zoom meetings with the District, and the District Secretaries, as well as, my lodge. Zoom meetings have been fun and at least a GREAT way to keep in contact.

It will be important for District Officers to keep in contact with lodges, let lodges know what is also available on the International site. We need to make sure everyone is aware that we are here for them to ask questions or vent.

I am here to answer questions and help you out if needed. Keep our lodges active with communication and hopefully soon we can all meet in person.

## Counselor's Message - Sally Dwyer



Not much to report Counselor-wise since our lodges seem to have a grip on what they need to do during the COVID pandemic. I am still using the same opening line as I feel a little like the Westinghouse repair guy, problems seem to take care of themselves-at least I don't receive them!

I was really looking forward to the Memorial service at the Portland convention this year. It is one of my favorite parts of our celebration gathering every other year. Missed seeing old friends, hearing stories, seeing new rosemal and knitting projects and helping in a small way to make our District stronger and more inviting to the members and potential members.

As not many lodges are meeting now, it is the time for creative minds to get busy. My lodge is doing a couple of raffles with cool prizes, selling mugs with a painting of the lodge, ship and dancers and doing maintenance and upgrades to our 108-year-old building built on pilings over water. I know Bothell held a drive thru Pancake Breakfast that was hugely successful and very creative. Be bold and go forth!!

Another great idea for everyone are the programs from the Sons website for the Cultural Skills and Sports medals. Not only will you learn a lot, but it can be done virtually in groups of friends sharing info as they proceed down the path of Norske enlightenment. Oh, man, I better close as the words are getting a little out there!

Have a wonderful weekend wherever you are and a safe fall and winter.

## Cultural/Foundation Director's message - Ron Rolla



This has been a once in a lifetime experience for all of us. Many of us have discovered new interests and renewed old interests. For myself, I have joined with some members of my lodge and we are helping each other learn to read, write and speak Norwegian. We started meeting at the library and then after the COVID-19 struck and the library closed, we decided to get together at our homes, social distancing, wearing masks, and sitting outside on the lawns. We enjoy that companionship and fellowship. Each meeting has a theme that we talk about. I've been keeping aware of other members who share what they are doing with their cultural skills in their lodge newsletters as well as their postings on the social media sites.

I want to encourage everyone to be able to log onto the Sons of Norway website and explore all of the programming that is available to you, as a member.

[www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com) is the link that will take you there. If this is your first time, you just have to know your membership number (found on your card) and then establish a password.

This next month is Foundation month with Sons of Norway. There is currently a drive to collect \$50,000. We have achieved \$34,358 of that goal.



Because of all of the wildfires affecting our district, I just wanted to remind you of the Helping Hands to Members grants available for members. They recently changed the grants so that it does not need to be a FEMA-approved natural disaster and the maximum award amount is \$5,000.

## Youth Director and Historian's message - Doug Quammen



What a long, strange year it has been. We are all, what would be best described as unsettled, at best. We all yearn for what we used to have, hoping to get some of it back some day. In the meantime, we've been living this life in the shadow of the virus for many months now. We've got it figured out. Masking, Social Distance and SMALL Groups. It's what we can do on our own, to ensure that we are still here when a vaccine is developed and distributed.

This year's camps were cancelled. The image that comes to mind for camp is Allsang, with all the campers, in a tight group, singing, sharing the same air. Perfect conditions for viral super-spreader event. As painful as it is to do without camp, if camp cannot be run safely, it will not be run.

In the meantime, Seth and some of the staffers put together a YouTube video channel to give a little "camp life" to those campers who had signed up for the camp that wasn't. Dave Taylor

organized a small work party for Nidaros this spring. We got the jump on a bunch of aggressive, non-native species impinging on our space. Much more civilized now. Well, maybe a little.

It felt strange, having no camp this year. So much so that it doesn't seem like a real 'year'. Next year, 2021, will necessarily be unlike any camps in the past. We'll have to incorporate new procedures and precautions that are still being formulated. It will be a learning experience for both the campers and the staff. We're all in this together. Dates for future camps are:

Year	Trollhaugen	Nidaros	Normanna
2021	6-27/7-10	7-11/7-24	7-25/8-7
2022	6-26/7-9	7-10/7-23	7-24/8-6

Regarding scholarships, the recipient of the Carl M. Saltveit Scholarship for 2020, Karissa Stevens, will be heading to Oslo this summer. Of course, we'll be selecting another candidate for 2021. For the Sofie/Olson Scholarship, since we had no campers, those awards were folded back into the fund. This scholarship lives off its interest.

### Sports Director's message - Laurie Berg



This past February we had our annual district two ski race at Trollhaugen lodge. Many lodges participated and the rain stopped just barely in the nick of time for a clear race! A big thank you to Norden for providing such a delicious lunch.

The annual district two horseshoe/kubb tournament was to be held in conjunction with the annual Trollhaugen Steak Fry on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Due to COVID and the safety of all involved, the Trollhaugen board canceled this event. The annual district two Golf Tournament was set to be back in Leavenworth this year in August at the Leavenworth Golf Course. Due to COVID and the safety of all involved, this tournament was canceled.

The first sports event of 2021 is going to be the annual district two ski race on February 6th at Trollhaugen Lodge. We're looking for a sponsor lodge to prepare and serve lunch.

I'm sure that many of us are going stir-crazy in our homes. The next time you feel the need to get out of the house, remember that Sons of Norway has a terrific sports medal program. You can earn medals for just about anything from skiing, biking, and swimming to walking, bowling, gardening and so much more. We've also added two more medals you can earn. The first new medal is the Idrettshelt and is the 5th level within any of the sports medal categories. You must have completed the bronze, silver, gold, and enamel pins in a sports category prior to starting on the Idrettshelt. Earning double the points or mileage value of the enamel level qualifies you to earn the Idrettshelt pin. The second new medal is the Hederspris and is for members that have earned the bronze, silver, gold, and enamel medals in each of any three sports medal categories.

If you need assistance, please give me a call. I am available by phone, email, or even personal invite to your lodge if planned in advance. Remember: Exercise is the key not only to physical health but to peace of mind. - Nelson Mandela.

## Publicity and Social Director's Message – Robert Kodalen



Hallo from your Publicity / Social Director! This will be my fifth Dynamic 2 publication. I hope you are enjoying what you are seeing. We have tried to make this informative and fun during this COVID-19 epidemic. I welcome feedback of any kind.

I enjoy working with our District 2 Lodges as well as International in pulling together pictures, special events and member profiles that go into the Viking Magazine. My goal is to equally showcase all our lodges.

Unfortunately, that is not possible as I only receive input from a fraction of the lodges in our district. In this time of COVID-19 with social distancing, face masks, zoom meetings and other social gathering complications it can be difficult to select a photo to send to me.

What I monthly submit to the Viking Magazine will show in a publication three months later. For example, what I submitted in September will be in the December publication. So, this month I tried to focus on Christmas themed photos.

I want you all to know that I keep all the emails and pictures received. If they are of the right criteria for use (pixel count, subject matter and provide the data required) they will get used if possible. When I submit my selection via email to International, I include those lodges I am profiling as well as the District president. In this way the lodge can look forward to the publication.

I now have been asked to submit photos of 2 meg size. In most cases your cell phone can produce that clarity. Please remember when you email me the picture to send it at its largest size and to identify the lodge, event, and everyone in the photo. Also, I welcome old photos of lodge events if they haven't been published already.

My lodge, Poulsbo now uses Zoom for our lodge and Board meetings. It is proven to be a great tool that is free to use. Our lodge has used this time to clean up or modernize with help of many volunteers. Our bar the "Trolls Den" has a new look and has reopened following the COVID rules. We have restarted our Friday night dinners and have added the option of "take out". Something new is you can now order a "to go" drink with their meal. To place an order, members simply go to the lodge website and order their dinner for curbside pickup.

I thank you all for helping me succeed as your social director. It is a difficult time but if we all work together, we will make it through. I look forward to seeing your photos soon.



## Zone Director messages

### Zone 1 - Regina Agerter



I reached out to the Zone 1 lodges to check in to see how the lodges are continuing to handle our not-so-new normal.

#### Grieg Lodge #15 – Portland

All activities have been cancelled.

#### Nidaros Lodge #16 – Astoria

I spoke with Nancy Lane and she confirmed that they had a lodge meeting on September 20. The board agreed to keep the lodge closed.

Nancy also confirmed that they had a short listening session by Janet Bowler of the Astoria Nordic Heritage park committee prior to their meeting. The Astoria Nordic Heritage Park will be located on the Astoria Riverwalk by the Columbia River at the entrance to downtown Astoria. Construction will start in Spring 2021 if fundraising goals are met.

#### Sonja Lodge #38 – Eugene

A special meeting was called to discuss whether to open the lodge this summer. If so, what steps would be needed to meet the safety concerns. Safety issues included the importance of social distancing, mask requirements, sanitizing options, restroom monitoring and limiting number of participants in activities.

We had board meetings on June 17, August 10 and September 17 using Zoom but we decided not to have any events or activities at this time. However, we have a butikk in the lodge and members are able to schedule an appointment with the butikk manager to do some shopping.

#### Thor Lodge #42 – Salem

Tom Grindelund, President, confirmed that they are not having any meetings but they are providing a newsletter so the members can keep in touch.

#### Fjeldheim Lodge #47 – Bend

I spoke with President Kristie Redmond and Vice President Ingimar Thorgeirsson. They confirmed that their lodge is opening up a little. They are renting space for children's groups (ex., Camp Fire Girls) and their Board meeting is next week.

#### Columbia Lodge #58 – Vancouver, WA

The lodge chose to postpone or cancel the usual public events listed on their website.

## Zone 2 – Norma Jean Sands



It has been a hard year with the Pandemic, all the social distancing, and the cancellations of social gatherings. Social gatherings are the mainstay of SON Lodge meetings and they are sorely missed. Meetings were cancelled in the spring, hoping we could get together in the summer with outdoor gathering. But these were also cancelled one after the other. In Zone 2, we have 6 lodges, 4 of which have their own buildings: Normanna #3, Fritjov #17, Abel #29, and Whidbey #164. This has caused additional hardships, trying to maintain the buildings while having lost all rental income that helps support the lodges. All four lodges have had varying levels of maintenance work Parties.

Whidbey and Normanna have been having Zoom Book Club discussions throughout this period. Normanna, Whidbey, and Edmonds (#130) have been producing newsletters to keep contact with their membership. Many of the Lodges have been having Board meetings by conference call or Zoom throughout the year. We are now trying to learn the New Normal of Zoom Lodge meetings for this fall.

Wergeland (#131) has not met since March because of COVID and the age of their members. They have been keeping in contact off and on through emails. This COVID has pretty much put a halt to our gatherings, unfortunately, they told me.

Fritjov has been sharing e-mail, conducted some call-in executive meetings, and has had a few building maintenance parties.

Abel has been doing newsletters and held some work parties for the building; but not much in the way of meetings yet.

Whidbey Island Nordic Lodge had a test Zoom meeting in August followed by a regular meeting by Zoom, September 19th. They are also exploring the possibility of reviving their Soup and Cinema program by showing a movie on either Zoom or on a special Netflix program. And maybe their annual January lutefisk dinner will have to be take-out.

Edmonds Lodge had their first Lodge meeting of this fall September 9. It was only about an hour long but there was a very short meeting followed by a PowerPoint presentation by Dave Ellingson – Norwegian Immigrants Journey on Erie Canal. We had some attendance from SON members from other Lodges and had a chance to share ideas on Zoom meetings.

**Novel ideas to keep spirits and contact up:** Steve Landro, former Normanna Lodge president, referees high school and college basketball. . . . has decided to not cut his hair until he referees a college basketball game this year, or the next. Steve has been a member of Normanna for many decades, since he was young. And this lodge means to world to him, just ask him! (*from Normanna's September newsletter*)

Maybe we should have a contest with Zone 3 Cascade Lodge – Ted Fosberg for best grown out hair!

## Zone 3 – Andrea Torland



Hi Everyone!! Fall is already here and we are slowly coming back to life through virtual meetings and limited event activities. I have certainly missed seeing all of you at the Lodge meetings and events. I am glad to report that most of you are keeping that positive attitude and finding new and creative ways of doing things ! Please remember to send me your newsletters and include me in your ZOOM meetings! Let me know if you have questions or if I can help your Lodge in any way.

We are all here for each other ! Following are the reports from Zone 3 Lodges. Fraternal blessings from Andrea

**Vesterdalen Lodge** in the heart of South King County is doing its best in the current crisis.

Vesterdalen Lodge #131 is “Zooming” along.

We held our September general membership meeting as is usual on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of September. With over 25 members online we gathered around our computer screens and heard a very informative presentation about the Sons of Norway Foundation.

Foundation Board Member, Allison Foreman of Eppledalen Lodge in Wenatchee joined with a video presentation about the Foundation and its many activities.

In honor of October being Foundation Month, a member of Vesterdalen has pledged to match up \$1,000 in financial gifts to the Foundation. The Lodge has decided to contribute the \$500, and members are encouraged to make individual donations so we raise another \$500 and make a total gift of \$2,000.

We have lost one member to the deadly COVID Virus. We mourn his passing but are thankful there are no other reported cases among our membership.

Fraternally, Tom Heavey, Acting President Vesterdalen Auburn Lodge

**Leif Erikson Lodge:** Here at Leif Erikson Lodge we have been limited in our ability to meet in person, so we have continued to use Zoom for our Board meetings, members meetings, and various committee meetings. We have also continued to hold some fun online events for members, including our "crafternoon" every Monday and online trivia once a month. Both of those will continue on through the fall and indefinitely until we are able to meet in person again. The big thing coming up this month for us is our annual Bazaar, and this year we are trying our hand at a virtual event. This will include an online auction and Norwegian food to go!

The online auction starts on Friday, Leif Erikson Day, October 9, and goes until Saturday, October 24, until 4PM. There are hundreds of items to bid on with something for everyone. You can choose to "buy it now" or bid against others and see if you come out on top. Please visit <https://www.biddingowl.com/LeifEriksonLodgeBazaar>. You can check it out now and start dreaming of your top items or wait until the auction goes live on October 9th.

As for the food, that can be ordered at the same website, and that will be open for ordering from October 9th - October 18th. Enjoy six of Larry's delicious meatballs (two ounces each) and gravy, yellow pea soup with rolls from Byen Bakeri, and two slices of almond cake for dessert for just \$20! There is also an amazing special lingonberry lemonade from Skål. You can even order a pint of creamy and rich rømmegrøt. Can't have gluten? A delicious six-ring kransekake is available for just you and a friend or a small gathering! Gluten-free krumkake in bags of two or four cones are also available!

As we move further into the fall, we will be trying to come up with new ideas for our members meetings and other online events. Normally as we look towards the holidays a large focus is on

music and food, so we will see what we can come up with to celebrate Nordic Culture from a distance.

Seth Maristuen, President, Leif Erikson Lodge

**Bothell Lodge:** Hilse fra the Bothell Lodge!

President's Best Wishes as Bothell Sons of Norway finds ways that work in these Changing times! With the 2020 Challenges, our Bothell SoN Lodge is continually "finding a way" to keep vibrant with activities while safely managing the challenges. In September we had a very successful Swedish pancake breakfast with over 250 served by members from Bothell, Edmonds and Everett ("The BEE Team") - THANK YOU EVERYONE!! (As members from Edmonds and Everett serve and support, we share the profits with Edmonds and Everett, so people from Edmonds and Everett help their lodges by buying Bothell SoN drive thru pancakes!); it took only a minute from paying to driving away with breakfast! By popular demand, we will do this again on Oct 10, and Nov. 14 so drive thru for breakfast or brunch or lunch or all three!! The Bothell Lodge is creatively working to continue our traditional activities like the Bazaar and Lutefisk dinner adjusted to the times of 2020. Monthly dinners are now "Drive thru" on one Sunday a month (Meatballs for October, Turkey for Nov) while the monthly general meeting remains on the third Thursday now starting at 7PM with attendance only via ZOOM (ZOOM is an internet meeting tool; Please make reservations for Dinner so we have enough food). Also, there are new activities or new ways for us to socialize and celebrate our Nordic heritage. Please read our October Nyheter newsletter, review its calendar of events and participate in the events. Other Lodges are also using the Internet for their meetings, you are encouraged to attend those. Note the need to make reservations at events (e.g., events that have food). Please visit our Website for full information, our newsletter and calendar will be updated for October soon at <https://bothellsonsofnorway.org/Calendar.html>

All our activities are subject to the situations and follow the guidance and directions of our government and health leaders. The Virus statistics for our area are IMPROVING! We salute YOU! WE THANK YOU!!! Support those that provide services so the rest of us are safe. Keep social distancing and wear masks! For updates on all upcoming events, call 425-485-9085; as the answering machine's message is playing, press 268\*1; the machine will tell you what is happening this month and maybe the next month. Vi elske deg, President Bob  
Bob Steed, President Bothell Lodge

**Cascade Lodge:**

Until we can meet again in person, Cascade Lodge will be having ZOOM meetings beginning with our October 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting!!! The meeting will be from 7 to 8 pm. Beforehand, we have an expert facilitator onboard for coaching in setting up your computer/laptop for ZOOM meetings and, at the time of the meeting, to make it run smoothly. If you need coaching in setting up ZOOM on your computer, please contact me and I will put you in touch with our expert facilitator.

Our program for the evening will be "100 Degrees Below Zero: Our Life in Antarctica". Max Peters and Hannah McAllister will discuss their experience working for the United States Antarctic Program. This discussion will cover their work lives, station culture, living conditions, ongoing research, and the extreme environment experienced at the South Pole. They will share photos and stories about the six months of complete darkness, walking outside under the Southern Lights, and interacting with the same 45 people under confined conditions for more than 8 months. Mark your calendar for an interesting and rewarding experience on October 27<sup>th</sup>!!!

These are very trying times for us, our friends and neighbors. Please make contact whenever you can, knowing that your outreach will be welcome and uplifting to those you are providing words of encouragement. We are all in this together! Med vennlig hilsen,  
Ted Fosberg, Cascade Lodge Newsletter Editor, 206-242-2560, [fosberg@msn.com](mailto:fosberg@msn.com)

## Zone 4 - Joanne Gray



Norden No. 2 - Norden Lodge celebrated its 116<sup>th</sup> lodge anniversary with a virtual Zoom picnic. They had about 15 lodge members attending and enjoyed four games of bingo, complete with prizes. Emphasis has been placed on the Cultural Skills and Sports Medal programs and several members have already achieved their sports medals.

Cliff Magnussen writes their newsletter called "Wazzup" which is quite informative about lodge activities and upcoming events.

Grays Harbor No. 4 - Grays Harbor Lodge has also felt the effects of COVID. Their scheduled Salmon dinner was cancelled; however, they were able to sell all the salmon they had ordered. Also, their bazaar for October remains undecided at this time. It is usually very well attended and is very profitable. They are interested in having a presentation on the Sons of Norway Cultural Skills program.

Breidablik No. 27 - Breidablik Lodge is celebrating its 90-year anniversary in October. They are zooming board meetings, calling members to check on them and pretty much staying at home. They are making plans for when they do open again (hopefully in September) and planning to have masks available at the lodge for folks that do not come prepared and to get a process for cleaning the facility. They have had to turn away many folks wanting to rent the facility along with a church group on Sundays. They are not making Lefse or cookies this year and will most likely cancel their yearly November Boutique and Luncheon.

Helgeland No. 30 - It has been a quite few months for Helgeland Lodge. They will have their first meeting since the pandemic started this month. They have adequate room in their lodge to allow for social distancing and anticipate a moderate attendance. As a courtesy to their members and the community, they offer their lodge building at no cost for funerals. However, they gratefully accept donations for using the facilities.

Oslo Lodge No. 35 - August 22, 1935, 85 years ago, Oslo Lodge was instituted. Congratulations Oslo Lodge!

On July 1st many of Golden Member, Anna Marie Cole's friends gathered together to celebrate her 100th birthday. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic well-wishers were on the outside of her residence and she was on the inside. It was still a PARTY! They spoke to her via cell phone and of course they sang Happy Birthday. This well-loved World War II Navy Nurse has been a member of Oslo Lodge #2-35 for 44 years! It is no surprise that she received 82 birthday cards!!!

Greg Wheeler, Bremerton City Mayor wrote the following: "The City of Bremerton recognizes this historic day and the impact you have made on those around you and during your service in World War II. Happy 100th Birthday!"

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors has been meeting via teleconference these past months and will continue to do so until it is safe again to meet in person.

Anna Mershon, one of the Golden Members, has taken it upon herself to preserve all their history albums by scanning them onto disks and updating the albums into a more archival format.

Olympic Lodge No. 37 - Congratulations Olympic Lodge – 65 years and going strong. At this time, all lodge activities have been cancelled until further notice. In the meantime, the lodge has been recently renovated following a water damage experience. Members and the community have been very supportive in assisting with financing the repairs, they are completed, and the lodge is in good repair.

Poulsbo Lodge No. 44 - Thanks to the generous volunteering of members and the social media expertise available among their members, the lodge is now able to offer both in house and curbside Tuesday and Friday dinners with COVID 19 rules in place! Member can even order a "to go" drink with their meal. To place an order, members simply go to the lodge website and order their dinner for curbside pickup.

Hovedstad Lodge No. 94 - The lodge has been quiet for the past several months. Their annual Norway Day was cancelled and that was a big disappointment for their members and for the community. They are planning their first Zoom membership meeting later this month. Their board has developed a loyalty program based upon member participation for the past year. Member loyalty and retention is a main focus for the lodge, and it felt that acknowledging the loyalty of their members was an important aspect of retaining their membership. Several of their members have opted to keep in contact with members who are more susceptible and insuring all their needs are being met.

## Zone 5 – Darrin Lee

Elastisitet! (Resilience)-The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.



The Lodges and its members in Zone 5, like others across the Sons of Norway, are a resilient bunch! Zone 5 geographically is diverse and spread across 2 states (Central and Eastern Washington and Northern and Southern Idaho), and each in a different county having achieved different levels of stages and restrictions approved by the government for Coronavirus. Many of the Lodges and its members have also endured the the smoke from the wildfires in the month of September!

In order to protect our members and its communities all of the Lodges have done their part and have been responsible by following the Coronavirus County government guidelines and related restrictions. However many are finding creative ways of getting together from home to continue some activities now and postpone others to the Spring. Many are utilizing technology to enable getting together for Lodge Meetings, Lodge Board Meetings and Culture Activities through various conference calls services. In the spirit of our Sons of Norway Mission, many of the Lodges have reached out to its members and their community asking “how can we help”. From running errands, delivering food, to helping to fix things that can’t wait.

While all of the regularly held Fall Lutefisk Dinners have been cancelled, many have postponed for now until the Spring of 2021! Some examples of how the lodges have been getting together:

- Tordenskjold Lodge No. 5, Spokane, WA: The board has been getting together monthly via free conference services.
- Harald Haarfager Lodge No. 11 Coeur d’Alene, ID: The lodge has been getting together in person for its Business Meetings with adhering to social distancing and safety practices
- Sol-Land Lodge No. 86, Kennewick, WA: A few members of the lodge have gotten together for language and cultural activity while adhering to social distancing and safety practices.
- 6. Epledalen Lodge No. 96, Wenatchee, WA: The lodge had their September lodge meeting via Zoom!

While this continues to be an unprecedented time for all of us, I’m still reminded of this simple but meaningful quote: *“ Uansett hvor mye faller på oss, fortsetter vi å pløye fremover. Det er den eneste måten å holde veiene klare på” (“No matter how much falls on us, we keep plowing ahead. That’s the only way to keep the roads clear.”)*

— **Greg Kincaid**

## Zone 6 -Christie Ericson



What a year! Like most lodges throughout Sons of Norway, the Alaska lodges have had to cancel dinners and other activities due to the pandemic. Those lodges that own buildings have seen a great loss of rental income. They are hanging in there financially, but just barely. Some of the lodges have had outdoor meetings and get-togethers during the summer months, but those plans will change as the weather gets colder. Other lodges are trying out creative ways to raise funds for their lodges and are continuing to look for alternative ideas to stay in contact with their members.

In October 2019, I was invited to visit Island Viking Lodge 2-145 in Kodiak. This was my first official visit to a Zone 6 lodge (other than my own), and I enjoyed meeting the lodge members. Unfortunately, the lodge is struggling, and they are considering disbanding. Many of their long-time officers have had to resign for various reasons and they are having trouble finding members to run for office. They are facing the same problems that other lodges are having—aging members and decreasing membership. We discussed some alternatives to disbanding, but unfortunately everything is on hold now due to the pandemic. If you know anyone in the Kodiak area who might be interested in learning more about their Norwegian heritage, encourage them to get involved with the lodge! It's also a great opportunity for young people to gain leadership skills.

The majority of my contact with the lodges has been via email, and I try to send out information on a regular basis. In March 2020, several individuals in Nome contacted Sons of Norway requesting information about establishing a lodge. The timing of this inquiry was unfortunate, as pretty much everything in the state shut down shortly after that. We hope they will continue to pursue their plans to establish a lodge in the future. In July 2020 I reached out to all of the Island Viking Lodge members in Kodiak after an earthquake hit southwest Alaska. The earthquake triggered a tsunami warning and residents had to evacuate to higher ground. Luckily there was no damage, but members told me they appreciated my email.

### Zone 6 Lodge Updates/News:

#### Arctic Viking Lodge 2-117 (Fairbanks)

- May 17: Hike along the Chena River carrying banners and flags, leading to an outdoor ceremony downtown for Syttende mai
- Monthly picnics over the summer with an anniversary celebration for two members
- September: Outdoor potluck gathering on regularly scheduled meeting night
- October 9: Lodge meeting with possible cultural program. Colder temps will make indoor meetings necessary, but members have expressed reservations about gathering inside
- January: The annual Lutefisk Dinner has been cancelled

#### Svalbard Lodge 2-33 (Juneau)

- No in-person meetings since March; had two business meetings (August and September) to discuss possible lodge programming online and/or outdoor activities this winter
- Knitting group continues to meet weekly over Zoom



- The lodge has made a number of charitable donations during the pandemic to the local food bank and other non-profits supporting families
- Interest in hearing what other lodges are doing to keep up with their membership and stay connected this year

#### Island Viking Lodge 2-145 (Kodiak)

- Have not met during pandemic; members stay in touch via telephone
- Earthquake and tsunami warning (evacuation to higher ground) in July

#### Fedrelandet Lodge 2-23 (Petersburg)

- Still not meeting at the lodge or hosting bingo
- Lost over 100 rentals this summer and are just above water financially
- Received two \$5000.00 grants from local foundation
- Lodge fundraisers include selling bumper stickers, 125th anniversary mugs, cookbooks, and lodge ornaments. Also hosting raffle (prizes include two rosemaled side tables)
- Encouraging members to work on Cultural Skills and Sports medals

#### Bernt Balchen Lodge 2-46 (Anchorage)

- Monthly lodge meetings via Zoom (except for July meeting—held in person, socially distanced, to say goodbye to President Tom Falskow)
- September 19: Faar-i-Kaal dinner to-go
- September 25-27 & October 2-4: Lefse making
- October 10: Scandinavian Bazaar/Nordic Market (indoor/outdoor, food to go only)
- Language class starting Oct 11 via Zoom (might transition to socially distanced in-person if advisable)
- November 14: Exploring ideas for Lutefisk Dinner (kits to go?)
- Past lodge President Steinar Hansen passed away in September. He was an integral part of the lodge and will be deeply missed.



## International Director's message – Chris Hicks



Greetings all, this past year we can honestly say we have seen many changes that we were not expecting. I do have some fun things to report.

Last November I was still traveling for my job and while I was in Nashville, I was able to meet the President and members of Lodge #5-681 Music Vikings in Nashville TN. I also attended a concert with them of Ottar “Big Hand” Johansen who is a Country & western singer and composer originally from Sulithjelma, Norway. Moved to Bodø and later to Oslo where he lives now but often tours in the Southern US. It was an experience I will remember.

OK Down to business. The International board has been busy with some new governance processes. We have sent a number of referendums out to the 2018 International delegates to review and approve.

One referendum aligned the Charter and Constitutions with the Nominating Committee Guidelines approved in June 2019. We found these proposals to be purely “housekeeping” in nature. Other referendums allow the District Boards to conduct business with their district delegates between district lodge meetings. This is by using electronic communications during the biennium for referendums. Lodges may also use electronic communications while they are unable to meet in person. This allows them to handle their business affairs in a timely and efficient manner during this unprecedented time.

### **Required Annual Lodge forms**

All lodge leadership should be familiar with the Lodge D-17 and 990 forms as these are finance forms that need to be filled out soon after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. The 990 is an IRS form that is required to be filed, then verification of that filing needs to be sent to the home office. Failing to file these forms could result in loss of nonprofit status. For lodges that own a building there is also a D-18 that needs to be filed for the building association.

This year has been a struggle, but we finally have all the Lodge D-17's turned in. There are still a couple outstanding 990 forms for the IRS, and D-18 forms for Building Associations. Thank you to those that have helped make this happen, we are on the downhill side.

### **Foundation updates**

In January 2020, the Sons of Norway Foundation announced Anne Olson as its new director. Anne graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and has worked in the nonprofit field since 2012, primarily in fundraising and marketing, and most recently as the Development and Public Relations Director at COA Youth & Family Centers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which focuses on early child and youth development, as well as direct services and partnerships throughout the community.

Our Youth camps committee was able to get a grant to help with mail sent to those that have signed up as campers this year. We have heard back that the campers have enjoyed getting snail mail and all the activities.

The Sons of Norway Foundation Board of Governors (BOG) felt the Foundation could offer even greater care through the Humanitarian Fund, and now it has. The Helping Hands for Members section now has a revised Disaster Relief Assistance grant and added a new Medical Relief Assistance grant.

The changes were prompted in response to members who suffered unusual property loss, not covered under previous Foundation Humanitarian Fund guidelines, and those who had incurred expenses for extreme medical illness or injury that went unreimbursed. Sons of Norway members now have increased access to financial assistance through grants for land and property damage caused by natural disasters. No longer must the president have issued a formal declaration of a natural disaster, nor is FEMA registration required. Furthermore, applicants may be eligible for up to \$5,000 in aid, rather than the previous limit of \$1,000. To find out more about the revised and new grants under the Humanitarian Fund, go to [sofn.com/foundation/grants](http://sofn.com/foundation/grants) or call 612-827-3611 or 800-945-8851. Applications are expected to be available Sept. 1, 2020.

## **International Vice President's message – Mark Agerter**



Kjære Medlemmer (Dear Members): Below you will find activity highlights since my last article in the Spring Dynamic Two.

**Membership** – D2 membership is up for the first time in several months by 5 members! Not much, but a big improvement compared to the losses we have sustained during the last couple of months. We are now the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest district – 11,296 total members compared to 11,465 in D1. Still the lowest financial/insurance participation rate at 20%, but this number did edge up slightly this month and is a good sign.

### **Current Legislation Update:**

As chair of the Corporate Matters and Governance Committee I want to report that we have been very busy for the past couple of months. Our primary emphasis has been on enacting new policies that will allow our local lodges to transact business during these difficult times.

Passed so far are:

1 - The referendum to Constitution Chapter 10 paragraph 4.10.3., that will allow local lodges to hold referendums on important issues that their members may want to take up, has passed. When you discuss this with your members please be sure to emphasize that *“any bylaw amendments created with this process and passed by referendum, or any other means, may not be put into effect until approval is secured as outlined in the Policy & Procedures (P&P) Section 4, Local Lodge, Chapter 10, paragraph 4.10.1.”*

2 – A second resolution passed that amended the P&P to allow local lodges “to hold meetings (P&P par. 4.9.2.) and elections (P&P par. 4.11.5.) utilizing mail, electronic communications, teleconferences, other methods of electronic or internet-based communication or any combination thereof” when they are not able to meet in person. Specific procedures will need to be followed and will be outlined in the official notification to all lodges that should be out by the time you read this.

3 – Our next goal, currently under review, is a resolution that will amend the P&P to require background checks for any leaders, such as youth directors, group leaders and camp staff, that will

have direct access to children. This will be organization-wide and loosely patterned after the background check requirements as implemented by D2 for camp-related staff and visitors.

4 – Additionally, we have created an updated bylaws template that should be available for lodge use soon. Two significant changes are the addition of compliance and dissolution clauses. It is recommended that all lodges make sure that these two clauses are in their bylaws or update as needed.

If you have items that need addressing, relating to the Constitution or Policy & Procedures, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the CMGC and bring it to our attention.

Lastly, I would like to mention that the turnout for the latest referendum was far less than it should have been. I am sure that there is a bit of what I call “referendum fatigue”, but there is ongoing business that needs to be transacted and we do not have the luxury of waiting until the 2022 International Convention. All delegates need to be well aware of the fact that, as a delegate, you are required to remain active, as needed, until the next delegates and alternates are elected in 2022. See C&C 2.6.3. Normally this would be for a two-year period, but this time around, due to COVID, it is a 4-year commitment. There is nothing we can do about this extended service requirement. Those delegates that did not participate in the referendum or have opted out or unsubscribed need to be reminded of this requirement and the extent of their ongoing obligation.

#### **Home office news:**

- As of the time of this writing we now have in excess of 1300 agents selling our financial products. This is a huge milestone and far above the goal of 750 set for the biennium.
- Recent educational webinars have been held with over 160 sales agents in attendance. The home office is currently in the contracting process with many more potential new agents. More agents translates directly into more sales of our financial products and increased financial health for the entire organization.
- New sales and marketing materials are being developed. Look for “Who are Sons of Norway”, “Longevity Risk”, “Pre-retirement Checklist” and “Leaving a Legacy”. These publications will help with the recruitment of new members, provide information about us, and help assist members with difficult financial decisions.
- There is focus on making sure that all lodges have access to an Insurance Professional, formerly FBCs. If your lodge has not been covered in the past, please contact the head office to request that an agent is assigned to assist your members.
- The move into the new headquarters building went very well with no major disruptions.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions most employees are back in the office in shifts for roughly 50% of the week. The balance of time is spent working from home.
- The \$200 new member dinner funds have been received and donated to local food banks and organizations by 30 lodges so far. If your lodge has not participated in this program, please contact the home office for details.
- For those lodges that own property, the D64 form, in editable PDF format, is now available online. This new form is used to report the officers of your building associations and is a different form from the D63 that is used to report officers of the lodge each year.

Well that is it for now. I wish you all the best as our lodges are hopefully able to reopen sometime in the unpredictable future and we are able to resume some sense of normalcy. Stay healthy!

## District 2 Youth Camps

This has been a very interesting year. There were no camps held this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. To help make sure that there was something camp related going on, 4 packets were created and sent to all the campers that were registered. Copies of these packets can be requested for your own lodge to use by contacting Seth Tufteland ([sofnseth@yahoo.com](mailto:sofnseth@yahoo.com)). A vintage camp T-shirt as well as a pillowcase was sent to each camper.

A YouTube channel was created to provide an avenue for sharing cultural videos. Currently there are several cooking demos and a wool processing video uploaded. The plan is to continue to upload videos. If anyone would like to contribute video demonstrations of cultural activities such as Rosemaling, carving, etc, please contact Seth Tufteland.

The dates for the 2021 Youth Camps are;

**Camp Trollhaugen- June 27 - July 10**

**Camp Nidaros- July 11 - July 24**

**Camp Normanna- July 25 - August 7**

To help facilitate better planning and scheduling, the Youth Camp Committee is now planning camp dates for 3 years in advance. This is to help with advanced scheduling of the camp sites as well as having the ability to announce the next year's camp dates at the final programs of each camp.

The Camp Director(s) for 2021 are;

**Camp Trollhaugen- Matt and Ashley Huff**

**Camp Nidaros- Andrew Agerter**

**Camp Normanna- Seth Tufteland and Melissa Rude**

The camps are continually looking for ways to fundraise for both the camps and the Sofie Olson scholarships. We continue supporting the Sofie Olson Scholarship Fund by selling the Norwegian flag state stickers and camp T-shirt design decals.

All of the Camp Committee members have been extended for 2 years as well as the Committee Officers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Seth Tufteland

Youth Camp Committee Chair

# Trollhaugen



I would like to introduce our new managers Quintin Ridge and Angel Hildreth. They arrived September 13. Quintin will start right away, and Angel will be starting in November.

We started a Go Fund Me account and have collected over \$5,000.00. Some of the checks were sent right to the board members.

Our beloved sno-cats (Ole, Sven & Freya) will be getting ready for the snow season.

Work parties/board meetings – we are currently holding off on work parties, however the board is tentatively planning on meeting at Trollhaugen for the meeting and instructing Quintin on the operations of Trollhaugen.

We will be keeping the website up to date with the Lodge closure and reopening at [www.trollhaugensofn.com](http://www.trollhaugensofn.com).



Thank you for your continued support of your recreational facility. This year has been a challenge and a chance for us to look at things in new ways with new ideas. This year will be one for the record books.

Erick A. Balstad



## Tubfrim



**TUBFRIM**  
NO-3540 NESBYEN - NORGE



Thank you to all the lodges that collected stamps for Tubfrim, one of Norway's Special Projects that sells used postage stamps using the proceeds to help provide financial aid to help improve the quality of life for handicapped children and youth.

Two weeks ago, we shipped off 160 pounds of used postage stamps. We collected 118 pounds of last year and even with COVID 19 were able to add 42 more pounds of stamps collected this year. We probably have at least 30 more pounds of stamps to be processed.

**What can your lodge do?** Got Scissors? Got Time? Lodge members can clip the stamps off of envelopes or packages received in the mail, being careful to leave a ½ inch margin to protect the stamps. When they get a pound of stamps, they need to write their name, address, phone number, lodge and lodge number on a 3" by 5" card and place it with the stamps into a zip lock bag. Forever Stamps are acceptable. Please don't send stamps with damaged perforation, edges, etc. They will be thrown away. The cards are sent to the International Sons of Norway Office in Minneapolis and entered into a drawing for a trip to Norway. The stamps will need to be shipped or delivered to Laurie Beach at Bothell Lodge, PO Box 492, Bothell, WA 98041. Laurie and Jane Bueing, Edmonds Lodge, are the Tubfrim coordinators for District Two and will arrange to have them shipped to Norway with no cost to the district except for boxing materials. Please call Laurie Beach at 425-736-0555 or email at [beachlaurie@comcast.net](mailto:beachlaurie@comcast.net) or Jane Bueing at 425-268-9627 if you have any questions.

This is a simple and easy way to contribute to one of Sons of Norway charitable projects.

## District 2 Board Members, June 2018 – June 2022

### **President**

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### **Secretary**

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### **Treasurer**

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### **Counselor**

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### **Sports Director**

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### **Social/Publicity Director**

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### **Historian**

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### **International Vice President**

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### **Framtid (Adopt-A-School) Coordinator**

David Champion  
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Email: [norseherodotus@hotmail.com](mailto:norseherodotus@hotmail.com)

### **District 2 Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/53491219856/>

### **District 2 Camp Website**

<http://www.sofncamps.com/>

### **District 2 Web Site**

<http://www.sonsofnorway2.com/>

### **District 2 Flickr page**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/130888324@N06/collections/>

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