

## District 2 Spring 2023 Board Meeting



- On Screen:            Jerry Erickson  
Back Row:            Cynthia McManus, Seth Tufteland, Mark Agerter, Duane Esperum, Nancy Holter, Erick Balstad  
Front Row:           James Wraalstad, Darrin Lee, Ernie Foss, Vernene Scheurer, Roberta Morrow, Joanne Gray, Chris Hicks, Judy Moxley, Rob Kodalen  
Not Pictured:        Laurie Berg, Hanna Persson and Alisha Anunson



Zone 6 Meeting in Fairbanks Alaska

## Contents

President’s Message - Jerry Erickson.....	3
Vice President’s Message- Joanne Gray .....	4
Secretary’s Message – James Wraalstad.....	5
Cultural Director’s Message – Nancy Holter .....	6
Foundation Director’s Message – Darrin Lee .....	7
Youth Director’s Message - Seth Tufteland.....	10
Sports Director’s Message - Laurie Berg.....	11
Publicity Director’s Message – Robert Kodalen .....	15
Zone Directors’ Messages .....	16
Zone 1 – Duane Esperum.....	16
Zone 2 – Roberta Morrow .....	17
Zone 3 – Vernene Scheurer .....	18
Zone 4 – Alisha Anunson .....	20
Zone 5 – Cindy McManus .....	20
Zone 6 - Hanna Persson .....	23
International Board Director’s Message – Chris Hicks.....	24
International Board Vice Chair’s Message – Mark Agerter .....	25
Tubfrim .....	28
District 2 Youth Camp – Chris Hicks.....	29
District 2 Scholarship Report – Seth Tufteland .....	30
Scandinavian Hour Radio Program .....	31
Ski For Light - Puget Sound .....	32
Trollhaugen.....	33
District 2 Convention 2024 – “Better Together” .....	34
Border Festival.....	35
District 2 Board Members, June 2022 – June 2023 .....	37

## President's Message - Jerry Erickson



This year started out with a number of activities within our District. January began with Lodge installations and I had the privilege of installing the officers at Poulsbo Lodge, Leif Erikson Lodge, Abel Lodge and Oslo Lodge. Right after that was the District Ski Race at Trollhaugen which was held in person for the first time in three years. We had a very good turnout and it was a fun day. Thanks to Laurie Berg for organizing the event and to the Trollhaugen Board for hosting those who stayed overnight and providing transportation from the parking area. Also, thanks to Leif Erikson Lodge for hosting the luncheon.

At the Fall Board Meeting the Board was able to share their reports and thoughts about where we are today and look forward to the coming months and years, I want us to keep a positive frame of mind. We face many challenges with the change of governance and helping our Lodges grow and provide events and programs that will enhance their capability to inspire their membership to keep going and also attract new members. We also must do our best to take advantage of what Sons of Norway offers in Financial Products. They are hard to beat in the competitive market. Provide support to our Insurance Professionals and give them a platform to promote our products.

Being an off-Convention year, we again began holding our Zone Seminars in March. Abel Lodge in Conway Washington hosted the Zone 2 Seminar and did a wonderful job even without heat in the building. It was well attended and we a great start for our follow-on Seminars. A week later we were in Poulsbo for Zone 3 and 4 Seminar and it too went very well. Next, we flew to Fairbanks Alaska for the Zone 6 Seminar hosted by Arctic Viking Lodge. It was great to visit a Lodge and members who we don't normally get to see. They too did a wonderful job of hosting. We have two Seminars to go in Zone 5 at Sol-Land Lodge in Kennewick Washington and Zone 1 At Sonja Lodge in Eugene Oregon. A big thanks to our District VP Joanne Gray for organizing the Seminars and to our Zone Directors for working with the host Lodges and making sure everything is ready to go for the Seminars.

Our Youth Camps are back in operation this summer and we hope that all of our camps are able to be conducted. I think we have built the interest and enthusiasm for a full Youth Camp season this year. A big thank you to the District Youth Camp Committee and the camp staffs.

The Trollhaugen Board continues to do an outstanding job of keeping the Lodge open and maintained. They have been able to hire caretakers. In the meantime, activities continue and we had a wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in July.

I look forward to getting around to a number of local Lodge events in the coming months along with Border Festival July 8<sup>th</sup>, the Trollhaugen Steak Fry July 15<sup>th</sup> and the Golf Tournament August 19<sup>th</sup> in Leavenworth Washington.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as District 2 President for the past five years and I'm excited for our future in the coming years for a time of fellowship, growth and enthusiasm for the Sons of Norway and District 2.

Jerry Erickson  
President

## **Vice President's Message- Joanne Gray**



We started off the new year planning for the Zone Seminars which are held during off-convention years. My duties included arranging for speakers and ensuring that each location has adequate accommodations for the programs. Our zone directors are tasked with contacting lodge presidents and determining which lodge in each zone is willing to host the seminars. Working together we have completed three seminars thus far, Abel Lodge in Conway, WA; Poulsbo Lodge in Poulsbo; and Arctic Viking Lodge in Fairbanks. Each of the host lodges have been exceptional with their hospitality and assistance. The host lodge provides lunch for the group and is, in turn, reimbursed for their expenses. We still have three more seminars coming up. April 29<sup>th</sup> we will be in Kennewick, WA at the Sol Land Lodge; May 6<sup>th</sup> we will be at Sonja Lodge in Eugene, OR. Our sixth seminar to be at Fedrelandet Lodge in Petersburg, AK in September.

Looking forward, we are excited about the Border Fest July 8<sup>th</sup>, the Trollhaugen Steak Fry and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary July 15<sup>th</sup> and the Golf Tournament August 19<sup>th</sup> in Leavenworth, WA.

On a different note, membership numbers reflect a slow but steady increase in membership. Most lodges in the district have noticed a small increase in membership while a few have lost members. We have a way to go to build back our membership post COVID, and we need to think of creative ways. Creative ideas have come out of our zone seminars and networking between the lodges has been very valuable. It is impressive to note that there are so many good ideas at the lodge level and sharing them is an important part of our success.

Joanne Gray  
District 2 Vice President

## Secretary's Message – James Wraalstad



Greetings to the District 2 of the Sons of Norway.

This has been a long dark winter for me. I am finally feeling like I am past Covid and a Staph infection and I am delighted to be able to look forward to a wonderful weekend in Kennewick participating in a Zone Seminar. Joanne Gray has done a wonderful job putting all these events together and I am glad to be able to support the good work.

The directories are the big project during the Winter months. I had 350 printed. We might have 5 left after distribution. These little booklets are so popular. I am always acutely aware of how sensitive everyone is to any error that might pop up when it affects them personally. No matter how hard I try, there are always errors. I do have wonderful volunteers who proofread the document and many errors are caught. I want to thank all the lodges that assisted with the distribution of the directories this year. Looking ahead to next year, I will not have the luxury of waiting until March to publish. I am very excited about the convention in Coeur d' Alene so that means I will have to publish the directories at the end of January. I will be sending out reminders, but the lodges need to get their officers updated by the end of the year as that is what will go into the directory. The letters to the lodges soliciting their delegates will soon follow along with the new 2024 directories in mid-February.

The District Website. At long last, I have transferred ownership and control of the domains that the district has for its website. This is the "sonsofnorway2.com" and the "sofn2.com" domains. I do have a full backup of the original website running in case anything goes bang. Joan Wraalstad agreed at last fall's district board meeting to assume responsibility for design and maintenance of a new web site. The new website is now live at [www.sonsofnorwayd2.org](http://www.sonsofnorwayd2.org). The previous links have been directed to the new site.

The changes to the District 2 Bylaws made at last year's convention are close to final approval with the International Board with the final document being delivered to Mark Agerter at the conclusion of the Spring District 2 Board meeting. Mark Agerter, who is the International Board Vice Chair, tells me that a new template for Districts is being worked on now that the lodge bylaw template has been completed.

I hope all of you have been safe and healthy in this very challenging time. I hope to see many of you at Trollhaugen for the Steak fry.

Fraternally Yours,  
James Wraalstad  
District 2 Secretary

## Cultural Director's Message – Nancy Holter



District 2 has been holding Zone meetings this spring. This is an opportunity to get to know the officers and members from the lodges around the District. I did not make it to the Zone 6 meeting, but attended the other meetings. My part of the program was to remind members of the Cultural Skills program and to encourage the exchange of ideas for successful program and fund-raising ideas. We collected the ideas and will be sending a report on them out to the lodges shortly.

The Cultural Director's job is to encourage lodges and members to learn about their Scandinavian heritage, and to facilitate that learning by offering exciting programs and excellent resources. The best way to do that is to harvest ideas from the lodges themselves; to find out what has worked and what has not; what resources were useful; what human resources might be available, etc.

As the resources from International have dwindled, getting ideas and information from the lodges has become even more important. I send out ideas, links, and articles to the lodges' cultural chairs, or their substitutes, and request their input in return. I also have maintained contact with the Cultural Directors of the other Districts, who have been most accommodating in sharing ideas, etc.

There are 39 lodges in District 2, I have received responses from 8 lodges, and I get newsletters from 9 lodges (this includes my own lodge). I am certain that the other lodges have successful programs, have classes, have fund raisers, have people willing to pass on their skills. But no one knows about it unless you tell someone.

Most people who join Sons of Norway do it because they are interested in their heritage – the culture, the traditions, the crafts, the music, the food, etc. If we want them to stay in our organization, we need to provide those things and the best way to do that is to share our knowledge and resources. If we can involve members in the teaching and learning, we can keep them active.

A heartfelt thank you to all of you who have contributed to our bank of knowledge. If we keep working together, we WILL see dividends.

Nancy Holter

## **Foundation Director’s Message – Darrin Lee**



The Sons of Norway Foundation is dedicated to funding activities that preserve and promote our Nordic heritage, positively affect members, and make Sons of Norway communities a more vibrant place to live. You can learn more here:

<https://www.sofn.com/foundation/>



Hallo! I’m Darrin Lee and I’m proud to be your District 2 Foundation Director as well as a Governor and Treasurer of the Foundation. On behalf of the Sons of Norway Foundation Board of Governors, I want to thank our District 2 lodges and members for their financial support during the 'Together We Are The Future' fundraiser. You will recall that our first 'Together We Are The Future' fundraiser was in 2020 and the goal was to raise \$100,000 for the Foundation between October 2020 (Foundation Month) and January 15, 2021. The total donated by our lodges and members was \$137,000. Our 2021 goal was to raise \$150,000. Again, our lodges and members exceeded the goal by donating \$158,276. And our 2022 goal was to raise \$175,000. Our lodges and members responded by donating an amazing \$198,867!

- A total of 136 lodges in Districts 1 through 6 donated \$93,009 in 2022.
- In District 2, 12 lodges, including the District 2 lodge donated \$12,626.

Tusen takk to all who joined in making the 2022 'Together We Are The Future' campaign another success!

### **Congratulations to the following District 2 Lodges that were recently awarded Grants in 2023:**

<b>Lodge</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Columbia 2-058	Lodge Vitality	Install Attic Insulation	\$1,500
Breidablik 2-027	Lodge Vitality	Breidablik Library: Preserving Norwegian Cultural Heritage Materials	\$ 625
Evedalen 2-129	Helping Hands to Children	Holiday Help for Food – Insecure Children	\$1,250
Harald Haarfager 2-011	Helping Hands to Children	Norwegian Heritage and Culture Summer Kids Camp	\$1,500
Vesterdalen 2-131	Helping Hands to Children	Little League Baseball Team	\$ 500

Homer Council on the Arts	Community Partnership	Hardanger and Nordic Dance tour to Kachemak Bay	\$1,000
Seattle Lilla Spelmanslag	Community Partnership	Norway Tour 2023	\$1,875

Scholarship applications are currently being reviewed and will be announced in June 2023.

Please check out the Humanitarian Fund Grants for Disaster and Medical Relief. These grants are up to \$5,000 for members who have experienced financial loss due to property loss as a result of natural disasters or due to extreme illness or injury. Again, check out the website to learn more <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/> The recent Grant and Scholarship applications are currently being reviewed and hope to share at the upcoming District 2 Convention in June 2024.

We ask members to help us celebrate and support the services that the Sons of Norway Foundation provides to members. The Foundation is here for our members in 3 ways!

<p><b>1) GRANTS</b>  <i>We provide grants to our lodges and other partners to advance our core values.</i></p>	<p><b>2) SCHOLARSHIPS</b>  <i>We provide scholarships to members and their children and grandchildren for post-secondary education and cross-cultural exchanges. One scholarship makes many many years of membership well worth it!</i></p>	<p><b>3) PHILANTHROPIC GOALS</b>  <i>We provide the opportunity to leave a legacy based on your interests and passions.</i></p>
--	---	---

**GRANTS Opportunities:**

~\$20,000 - \$50,000 given out annually depending on applications. All due December 31st – please apply!

- Lodge Vitality Grant: Operational or small capital support for lodges, up to \$1,000
- Lodge Culture and Heritage: Focusing on Norwegian heritage and culture, lodges only, up to \$1,500
- Community Partnership: Norwegian heritage and culture, non-members only, up to \$1,000
- Helping Hands to Children: Lodges that run programs or partner with local orgs for kids, up to \$1,000
- Helping Hands to Members: Helps members affected by natural disasters or severe illness/injury, up to \$5,000

Learn more online here: <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/grants/>

**SCHOLARSHIP Opportunities:**

Applications always open in October. Start planning and encourage students and members in your lodge to apply! With the rising cost of higher education, the Sons of Norway Foundation is here to



help with 15 different scholarship opportunities. For many recipients, these awards are a life changing opportunity to explore educational passions here in the US or in Norway. Over \$100,000 awarded annually to students of all types! Learn more online here:

<https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/> You can also contact the Foundation with specific scholarship questions.

### How to Apply for a Grant or Scholarship?

- Online only: [www.SonsofNorway.com/Foundation](http://www.SonsofNorway.com/Foundation).
- Grant and Scholarship Portal Opens: Every year in October
- Deadlines vary by opportunity – be sure to check the website often.

### Camperships

The Foundation provides over \$10,000 annually for youth to attend Norwegian camps through the Draxten Fund & Evenson Fund. The Foundation sends funds to each District, the District makes the awards. Camps are available everywhere:

- Skogfjorden (Concordia Language Village) – In District 1
- Camps Trollhaugen, Nidaros and Normanna – In District 2
- Land of the Vikings – In District 3
- Trollfjorden, Bjørnetann and Trollhaugen - In District 4
- Masse Moro – In District 5
- Camp Norge – In District 6

### How Can I Give?



Visit <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/>. By contributing to the Sons of Norway Foundation, you are supporting programs that benefit your lodge, your community, and the young Sons of Norway members who will keep our Nordic legacy strong for future generations. The Sons of Norway Foundation is a 501c3 organization. Gifts are tax deductible in accordance with state and federal law.

### How Else Can I Get Involved?

<p><b>4) Become a District or Lodge Foundation Director</b>  <i>Be an ambassador for the Foundation’s grant and scholarship recipients, help raise funds, promote the Foundation’s values</i></p>	<p><b>5) Apply for the Board of Governors</b>  <i>Take on a leadership role that is passionate about serving others and sharing our Nordic values</i></p>	<p><b>6) Become a scholarship or grant reviewer:</b>  <i>Help the foundation make funding decisions by providing your expertise and time</i></p>
---	---	--

### Contact the Foundation today!

Darrin Lee  
 Foundation Director-District 2  
 425-241-2392  
 Email: [Sofn.d2.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:Sofn.d2.foundation@gmail.com)

## Youth Director's Message - Seth Tufteland



The Youth Camps are gearing up and we are hoping to have all 3 camps going. Learn more about the camps by reading the report of the Youth Camp Committee. About half of the kids that go to the Youth Camps are not active in Sons of Norway. Getting these kids involved in activities at your local lodges is also a great way to get new families into your lodges.

The Unge Venner program is for ages 16 – 23. There has been a hiatus of an organized group, but it is my goal to get one restarted. Quite a few of the Unge Venner are also behind the scenes working as the staff for the 3 Youth Camps.

I have been on staff at the Youth Camps for over 20 years now and I believe it is a great environment for teaching kids about the culture and heritage of Norway and other Scandinavian countries. District 2 is fortunate to have 3 camps during the summer. Camp Trollhaugen on Stampede Pass for 13-15 year olds, Camp Nidaros in Gearhart, Oregon for 9-12 year olds, and Camp Normanna in Arlington, WA for 9-12 year olds.

I am working on making a Youth Camp PowerPoint program/video available for all lodges to use as a recruiting tool in their lodges. Please continue to support youth programming. There is only one way for the Sons of Norway to continue in the future, and that is to get younger people involved.

I am happy to provide ideas on programs you can start and use at your lodge. Just send me an email.

Fraternally,

Seth Tufteland

District 2 Youth/Unge Venner Director

[sofnseth@yahoo.com](mailto:sofnseth@yahoo.com)

## Sports Director's Message - Laurie Berg



The annual district 2 Golf Tournament will be on August 19, 2023, in Leavenworth WA. You do not need any experience. This is an event for all ages. Registration and flyer are out. This year's tournament is hosted by Bothell Golfers.

The annual district two horseshoe/kubb tournament will be held in conjunction with the annual Steak Fry at Trollhaugen on July 15th. Hosted by Sol-land. Registration will start at 9:30 am with the tournament starting at 10 am. There is a \$5 suggested donation for snacks. Please purchase your steak fry tickets from the Trollhaugen board.

February 4, 2023, we were able to have an in-person ski race. The event was well attended and had 17 skiers from 4 lodges. Thank you to Leif Erikson for hosting the event and providing lunch and helping with the race.

Once again, we offered the virtual ski challenge. There were 9 people who emailed me their miles for this challenge.

Below are included the most recent fliers for sports events.

Thank you  
Laurie Berg  
District 2 Sports Director



# DISTRICT TWO GOLF TOURNAMENT

**August 19, 2023**



## **Leavenworth Golf Course**

**Hosted Lodge Needed: Bothell Golfers**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER BY August 1, 2023.**

**No exceptions.**

**ALL AGES  
EVENT**

**ADVANCE  
TICKETS**

**\$125 per player,  
including golf, cart,  
lunch and banquet.  
\$30 per additional  
banquet plate for Guest.**

**LODGING**

**On your own. Many  
Hotels in the area and  
VRBO.**

**CONTACT**

**Laurie Berg  
LauriebergJb@gmail.com**

## District Two Golf Tournament Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Will be used to send additional Info closer to Tournament)

Lodge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge #: 2-\_\_\_\_\_

Teammate Preference (if applicable – each person must fill out own registration form):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Banquet Guest (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and return registration form by Aug 1, 2023 to:

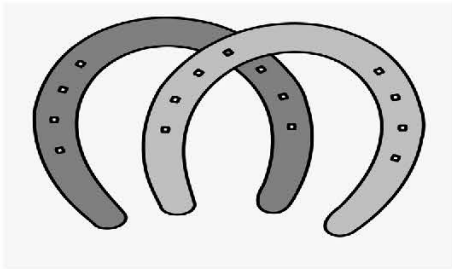
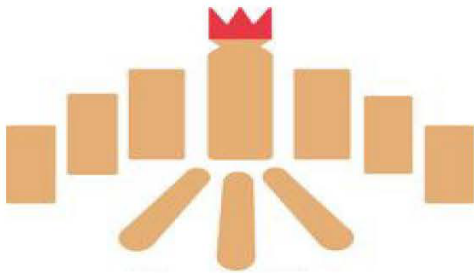
Bothell Sons of Norway  
Attn: Golf Tournament  
PO BOX 492  
Bothell WA 98041

With a check made payable to: District 2 Golf Tournament

More information will be emailed once registration is paid.

# DISTRICT 2 HORSESHOE/KUBB TOURNAMENT

HOST LODGE NEEDED



## Game on!

Yes, you read that right! Join us for a low stakes tournament that will take place the morning of the Annual Trollhaugen Steak Fry.

Registration Starts at 9:30 AM

Tournament Starts at 10:00 AM

Donation of \$5 is requested for snacks.

*If you have any questions about this event, please contact Laurie Berg: [laurieberg.lb@gmail.com](mailto:laurieberg.lb@gmail.com)*

To get your tickets to the Steak Fry, please contact:

Bill Hicks: (425) 672-0194

[Hicks1015@msn.com](mailto:Hicks1015@msn.com)

If you would like to stay for a night or the whole weekend, please contact the Trollhaugen Managers (509) 656-9997

[Trollhau@outlook.com](mailto:Trollhau@outlook.com)

## July 15, 2023 Trollhaugen Lodge

Heading East on I-90 take Exit # 62 onto Stampede Pass Road.  
Turn right at stop and continue for approx. 1 mile. Driveway is on the left.

Address: 314 Stampede Pass Road  
Easton, WA 98925

## Publicity Director's Message – Robert Kodalen



As I have said in my last report, time is sure flying by! In a little over a year, we will be at the next D2 Convention in Coeur d'Alene. I will give up the reins to this position as many on this current board will have to do. This position (and others) is very rewarding in a number of ways. You get to work with a fantastic D2 board, experience the inner working of our fraternity, and interact with other District 2 lodges. In many ways it feels like a family.

At the present time we are putting on Zone seminars. I hope you were able to attend or will attend one. We focus on sharing information to help you and your lodges better understand what is happening in the district and beyond. One of the goals is to provide ideas for lodges to thrive. My presentation is focused on this newsletter, social media, changes to the Viking Magazine and of course those wonderful photos you send me.

Our District 2 webpage is undergoing what I will call an upgrade. Our webmaster is revamping it to better focus our members. You should see the new website very soon. I will definitely report on this on the next Dynamic 2 in the Fall.

Viking Magazine, as you know has undergone a major change in an effort to cut expense but still provide a good magazine. We went with a new editor. We now received the magazine every other month. The photos I submit to international are sent to the editor. The editor decides what pictures will be put in the magazine. I have been told what doesn't get printed will be put on the International webpage in a section called "Happenings".

As I have said before my goal is to get more lodges involved in submitting photos of lodge activities. Please help me attain that goal.

I help members who request events be posted on District 2 social media, such as Facebook, and/or send via email to District 2 lodges. I have Adobe Pro which allows me to convert pdf and word files into jpg format, which is required to post on Facebook.



## Zone Directors' Messages

### Zone 1 – Duane Esperum



**Zone 1 Seminar May 6<sup>th</sup>,**

**Sonja Lodge,**

**710 McKinley St, Eugene Or. 97402**

**8:30am – 3pm Coffee and lunch provided by Sonja Lodge Daughters**

**#15 Grieg Lodge 111 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland Or 97232-3002**

Events:

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday 5:30-8:30 Social in the Trolls Den

17<sup>th</sup> of May Celebration authentic Norwegian food, dancing and national dress, Norwegian Fjord horses, and local high school marching bands. Rain or shine.

**16 Nidaros Lodge Gearhart/ Astoria Warrenton, Or 97146**

Events:

17<sup>th</sup> of May Celebration

Come to Astoria **Midsummer Festival June 16, 17, 18.** Stay for the weekend! If you aren't a runner, it's a beautiful walk in the North Coast countryside. When you are finished swing by the Sons of Norway booth and restore your energy with some delicious lefse and treats!

This run/walk Supports the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association Scholarship Fund!

**RUNNING OF THE TROLLS June 17 Saturday 8:30 AM,**

Walluski area by Clatsop County Fairgrounds

Join us for a walk or run in the beautiful Walluski countryside. Proceeds from the race will benefit the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association Scholarship Fund. Registration is available online or at the festival. Check-in is from 7-8 AM on Saturday in the Main Entry Hall. The Race begins at 8:30 AM. Register online at: <https://astoriascanfest.com/events/troll-run-walk/>

**#38 Sonja Lodge 710 McKinley St, Eugene Or. 97402**

Events:

17<sup>th</sup> of May Celebration 12 noon – 3:00pm Polse, Lompe, salad beverages, Norsemen will sing.

July (date TBD) Annual Lodge Picnic

November 18th, Holiday Fair

October 28 Torsk Dinner, Norsemen fundraiser

December date (TBD) Julebord

**#39 Roald Lodge 2209 Gary Street, #137, Klamath Falls, OR 97603-4926**

Events: 17th of May at the Klamath Falls Elks lodge 6:00 PM



**#42 Thor Lodge 1625 Brush College Rd NW, Salem OR (not a mailing address)**

Events:

April returning to 6:30pm membership meetings

17<sup>th</sup> of May Celebration, no details at this time.

**#47 Fjeldheim Lodge 549 NW Harmon Blvd, Bend, OR 97701-3068**

Events:

April 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> Rosemaling Class with Patti Jo Meshnik

17<sup>th</sup> of May Celebration, no details at this time.

**#58 Columbia Lodge 2400 Grant Street, Vancouver, WA 98660-2461**

Events:

APRIL 29 9:30 am to 4:00 pm SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS BAZAAR APRIL 29 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

A great selection of work by local artisans artistic items upstairs, Craft items downstairs

SUNDAY PANCAKE BRUNCH. We have resumed the Brunches on the first Sunday of each month, September through June. Serving from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

17<sup>th</sup> of May Celebration, no details at this time.

**#143 Roguedalen Lodge 2000 Biddle Rd (Elmer's Restaurant) Medford, OR 97504-200**

Events:

No events known at this time.

**Zone 2 – Roberta Morrow**



Zone 2 kicked off the round of zone meetings this spring with the first one scheduled at Abel Lodge in Conway. Elaine Graddock, a seasoned zone director as well as their current lodge president, graciously volunteered to host it, and she had a marvelous crew of kitchen staff available for a lovely meal and plenty of coffee and nice deserts. As “zone director” is a new hat for me, I welcomed her experience in planning the event. The D2 board members who were presenters did a marvelous job with hardly a glitch, considering it was their first time working together “on stage” as a team. I was impressed with how smoothly the day went, and how lively and interesting the presentations were. We had 37 participants according to my count (although we may have missed some kitchen staff who arrived later). All six lodges in our zone had representatives there, and we had several guests from Leif Erikson Lodge as their zone meeting conflicted with an event at their lodge on the same day. It was wonderful to be together again with old friends from other lodges, after being sequestered by COVID for so long! Abel Lodge has been having problems with their heating system, so at the end of the day, we took up a collection to help them with repairs or replacing it. A big “Thank you” to Able Lodge for hosting our meeting!

Another of Elaine’s pet projects over the years has been Border Festival, which has also been on hiatus since COVID began. It will be held on July 8, 2023 at the Peace Arch Grounds in Blaine, WA

on the Canadian border, and with the Canadian lodges in the vicinity participating. Tickets for prizes are available and you need not be present to win. It is a fun event!

Another fun event we had this winter was the “Ski Race” at Trollhaugen. Our Edmonds Lodge president, Norma Jean Sands and I attended and were happy to participate and see lots of friends. If you have never been to Trollhaugen, plan to visit this year!

Other events coming up include the 17th of May parade in Ballard, and Skandia Folkdance Society’s Midsommarfest on Sunday, June 25 at St. Edward State Park in Kenmore. More of a Swedish tradition than Norwegian, this event is, however, well represented by the Norwegian community, with a bunad presentation, lots of folk dancing, vendors, and live music as well as the raising of the pole garlanded with live flowers. Unfortunately, Edmonds Lodge has canceled the May Pancake Breakfast we were hoping to revive because we were not able to recruit enough workers to put it on, and the facility where we meet in Edmonds has not kept up with the housekeeping and kitchen maintenance required to pass the inspection in order to use the kitchen and obtain our permit for holding the event.

Although I have not attended a meeting at Normanna Lodge in Everett yet, I am there once or twice a month as our Daughters of Norway Lodge meets there and sometimes has board meetings there. According to their newsletter, they have a busy schedule with lots of events. I am also looking forward to visiting with Whidbey Island Nordic in Coupeville, and Wergeland Lodge in Bellingham in the future.

I appreciate the new directories!

Roberta K. Morrow, Zone 2 Director

### **Zone 3 – Vernene Scheurer**



I am happy to provide my Zone 3 Report for the D2 Newsletter.

Zone 3 and Zone 4 held their Zone Seminar at the Poulsbo Lodge on March 25. There was a good turnout from the two Zones with great information being shared.

Leif Erikson Lodge #1 in Ballard had a busy winter and will have a busy spring. They held their Heritage Day on March 25, so they were unable to send anyone from their lodge to our Zone 3 Seminar in Poulsbo on the same date.

They attended the Zone 2 Seminar instead. They will be celebrating their 120th anniversary at their May 10th meeting, where they will present awards, honor their new members, and elect their Leif Erikson Building Association board members. They are also preparing for, and will walk in, the Syttende Mai Parade on May 17th in Ballard. On the same day they will hold an open house from 1-5 to continue to celebrate their anniversary. June will see a social and potluck at their meeting along with their program for the night. They will have a picnic in July at Norway Park, but there is

also a Seafoodfest in Ballard the weekend of July 14-16. They take a break in August but will have a Youth Sandwich Making Class in September, on the day of their monthly meeting.

Bothell Lodge #106 held their 50th Anniversary on February 11, where they had a wonderful meal and shared many scrapbooks and a great slide show of their history. They also had a successful Heritage Day in early March. In April they held their Memorial Service. Bothell will crown their Prince and Princess in May, as well as announce their scholarships. They will also participate in the Syttende Mai Parade on May 17. They kick off summer with a BBQ at their June meeting and walk with their float in the Bothell 4th of July Parade (no meeting in July). At their August meeting, they will host their Car Show and BBQ. They resume their regular monthly meetings in September.

Cascade Lodge #87 will hold a blockbuster program on Saturday, April 22 (same day as our D2 Board Meeting), titled "WWII Aircraft Submerged in Lake Washington, their Past and Future Recovery". It will be presented by Matt McCauley, who, as a teenager, with a friend, located and recovered five plane wreckages from the depths of Lake Washington in the 1980's. Cascade Lodge will award scholarships to as many as 3 youth to attend the 2023 Trollhaugen Youth Camp. They plan to attend the Syttende Mai Celebration in Ballard in May and have their popular annual picnic this summer. They will plan additional activities of interest to members and their community during the summer. They meet on a Saturday (usually every other month), at the Mercer Island United Methodist Church.

Vesterdalen Lodge #131 has held some interesting programs and had a few potlucks this winter, as well as a Torsk Dinner for their March meeting, where numerous guests (including James Wraalstad!) joined the dinner. They also held a raffle with some wonderful prizes. One member was awarded the highest Sports Program Award, the Sports Hero Award, for walking. At the April meeting, they heard from a couple of their members about their fall Norway trip, where they got off the beaten path and shared many of their adventures. The lodge will celebrate Syttende Mai during their May meeting with another Potluck dinner and videos, and some may attend the Syttende Mai Parade in Ballard. After a 4-year absence, they will hold a Nordic Fest on Friday, June 16 from 3-8 with vendors, food, a bake sale and gently used items sale at the Auburn Messiah Lutheran Church. Summer will see them in the Enumclaw 4th of July Parade, at their annual picnic on their meeting night at the Auburn Game Park in July, a break for August and back for their regular monthly meetings in September.

I have really enjoyed visiting each of the Zone 3 Lodges and getting to know many of their members. I attend each Lodge at least once (if not more) per quarter and enjoy their programs (and the meals!).

## **Zone 4 – Alisha Anunson**



Lodges in District 2's Zone 4 have been busy! Several lodges were representing their members at this year's Zone conference in Poulsbo, Washington. It was fun to see so many of us in person. Despite the awful weather, lodge activities have been a bright spot for many. Food is often a gathering point for people and, indeed, for the Sons of Norway! Kelso Lodge has had a fantastic breakfast of Norwegian waffles, Swedish pancakes, and lefse lessons. Gray's Harbor Lodge just hosted their Salmon dinner on April 15th. Poulsbo Sons of Norway held a Heritage Day in February, teaching members about Nordic foods, complete with an Aquavit tasting. Hovedstad Lodge hosted their 15th annual Olympia Norway Day on April 15th, jam-packed with Norwegian culture and an impressive food lineup for people to purchase! Oslo Lodge held their Spring Dinner Social at the Kitsap Golf & Country Club. Norden Lodge is hosting a baking class on April 25th and a Syttende Mai codfish dinner dance on May 20th—many fun activities with many more ahead. Hopefully, the sun will begin to shine again on our beautiful pacific west coast. In any event, I wish you all a Happy Syttende Mai, everyone!

Fraternally submitted, Alisha Anunson.

## **Zone 5 – Cindy McManus**



As zone director of a geographically diverse area with eight lodges, my first goal has been to understand and recognize the challenges my lodges are facing. While talking to a president that is literally hundreds of miles away from the nearest lodge, she said they feel very disconnected from others in our district. Their lodge is also small in membership which is another factor. Our zone has the lowest amount of membership compared to all the other zones:

Zone 1- 1135 members, 7 lodges

Zone 2- 1538 members, 6 lodges

Zone 3- 1956 members, 4 lodges

Zone 4-2726 members, 8 lodges

Zone 5- 573 members, 8 lodges

Zone 6-1018 members, 6 lodges

Milage wise the closest lodges together are:

Spokane to Couer d' Alene	32 miles
Moses Lake to Wenatchee	66 miles
Kennewick to Moses Lake	75 miles
Yakima to Kennewick	83 miles
Clarkston to Spokane	106 miles
Boise to Clarkston	268 miles

The membership challenges are clear when you look at the size of the lodges:

Tordenskjold Lodge No. 5, Spokane, WA	167 members
Harald Haarfager Lodge No. 11, CDA, Idaho	105 members
Odin Lodge No. 41, Yakima, WA	70 members
Columbia Basin Lodge No. 80, Moses Lake, WA	27 members
Sol-Land Lodge No. 86, Kennewick, WA	75 members
Epledalen Lodge No. 96, Wenatchee, WA	21 members
Grondal Lodge No. 122, Boise, ID	64 members
Elvedalen Lodge No. 129, Clarkston, WA	44 members
Total	573 members

Our Zone seminar is a great place to discuss the struggles we are facing and to foster working ideas to help grow these lodges. Lodge finances and distance may contribute to the challenge of attending this seminar as well as other events going on in our district. I look forward to future dialogue with my 8 lodges to help them with whatever their needs are. CDA and Spokane, since we are so close in distance, have been great in collaborating on activities and ideas. Since last fall I attended Spokane's Lutefisk Dinner, installed Spokane's new officers and attended their Jul Party. I also helped with their trash pickup.

**Tordenskjold Lodge # 5-** has been giving Viking bracelet classes in Spokane and Couer d' Alene. These classes are always full and produce very beautiful bracelets. They have picked up trash as a part of Adopt-A-Highway, they sailed the Viking 1 in Spokane's 43<sup>rd</sup> annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, they raided a local hockey game and had the largest attendance ever, and Sue Foss and Wendy Payne received their Sports Medal pins for walking.

**Harald Haarfager Lodge #11** -Since I am currently the Social Director of this Lodge, I attend all of the functions held. In October they had a Salmon Dinner, November was the Lutefisk, Meatball and Lefse dinner, December they had a Jul Party with over 70 people in attendance, January was their 113<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Installation with installing officer Darrin Lee. In February they held a Norwegian Cultural and Craft Fair. It was a huge success with numerous vendors, music, presentations and of course the debut of the Viking on a Stick. In March they had a Norwegian Waffle Breakfast with the proceeds going to the Foundation. They presented a check for \$300.00 to the Foundation's own Darrin Lee. April's Social was Taste of Norway Potluck which is always a hit as members bring their favorite dishes to share, and tell about the food they make, this also

helps gain the bars needed for the Cultural pins etc. President Dave McManus attended the Zone 5 Seminar in Kennewick on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Odin Lodge #41-** Yakima has elected a new president. He is Lance Ostrom and he and his wife Charlene have been a part of Odin Lodge for 4-5 years. President Lance Ostrom attended the Zone 5 Seminar in Kennewick on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Columbia Basin Lodge #80-**This lodge has been busy with a pirate regatta race, demonstration of Nordic culture, Halloween Viking ship trick or treating for their community, several parades, two of which collaborated with a local martial arts school to give out goodies. They are planning an appreciation dinner/Syttende Mai dinner as well as more parades, a lodge BBQ and a rose mauling class.

**Sol-Land Lodge #86-** I would like to thank this Lodge for stepping up to host the Zone Seminar. Greg and Nancy have been very helpful to make sure this event is a success. They have offered lodging to a person if needed for the seminar which is very generous. They are planning a Norwegian Cultural Day for May 20<sup>th</sup>. Their Assistant Cultural Director Joe Molvik converted his former metalworking shop into an art gallery featuring his artist skills that span over 50 years. Joe was born in Norway and was recently featured in the Tri-cities Area Journal of Business and Senior Times. President Greg Holter attended the Zone 5 Seminar in Kennewick on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Epleдалen Lodge #96-**has elected a new president. She is Emiley Smekofske. She currently has no email so I am still conversing with Leonard Anderson, past president.

**Grondal Lodge #122-**has asked if it is possible to zoom the seminar. Joanne Gray and Chris Hicks sent out a zoom link for the Zone 5 Seminar.

**Elvedalen Lodge #129-**They had a very successful 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Scandinavian Breakfast & Nordic Marketplace on March 18<sup>th</sup>. President Julie Pierce attended the Zone 5 Seminar in Kennewick on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

As I am still learning and finding my way, I have enjoyed my first year as zone director and I am looking forward to more interactions with the lodges in the future and am waiting for the invitations to join them in their endeavors. I hope all lodges are gearing up for a fun and festive Syttende Mai on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Couer d'Alene is planning a flag raising, parade, hot dogs and ice cream, Spokane is having a picnic and Kubb, and Kennewick is planning on hot dogs, ice cream and a parade.

I would like to thank Sol-Land Lodge for hosting a fantastic Zone 5 Seminar and District Two Officers, International Lodge Director Chris Hicks, International Vice President Mark Agerter and District Two Insurance Professional Mike Dyal for the presentations.

Have a fantastic and fun summer!

Fraternally,

Cindy McManus

Zone 5 Director

## **Zone 6 - Hanna Persson**



Wishing all of District 2 a happy Spring from the 1,002 members in Zone 6, the state of Alaska!

A highlight for Zone 6 was the April 1<sup>st</sup> Zone Seminar hosted by Arctic Viking Lodge in Fairbanks, Alaska. In attendance were over 20 Sons of Norway members from Fairbanks and Anchorage, as well as several District 2 board members who flew up from Washington or joined through Zoom to share presentations and information. Wonderful ideas were brought forward through the day's many conversations, sparking a new enthusiasm for Sons of Norway member recruitment and retention. We are working on planning a second seminar hosted by Fedrelandet Lodge in Petersburg, Alaska this Fall, 2023. Stay on the lookout for information including the date and time and we hope you can join us!

### **Fedrelandet 2-023 (Petersburg, AK)**

Potlucks, celebrating National Rosemal Day, raffles, a Christmas bazaar with soup-to-go, weekly bingo, Julebord with Santa, Salvation Army bell ringing and a Lutefisk potluck; Fedrelandet has had a busy Winter. Practices are also beginning for around 100 dancers from the lodge to perform for the "Little Norway Festival" to celebrate Norwegian heritage the week of Norway's Independence Day on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. They are also looking forward to a solstice barbeque in June! Go, Petersburg!

### **Midnatsol Lodge 2-032 (Ketchikan, AK)**

Midnatsol Lodge has been quiet this Winter. As many lodges know, it's difficult to find enough volunteers at times. We are supporting our members in Ketchikan and hope that they begin meeting more often later this year!

### **Svalbard Lodge 2-033 (Juneau, AK)**

Svalbard Lodge's members have come together during the winter months to have some very fun events! The lodge hosted a holiday bazaar featuring knitted items, baked goods, woodworking, crafts, and more. They also had a Julefest with live accordion music and a wide spread of delicious Norwegian foods and desserts. Members have also met with the Alaska Pioneers of Alaska group for presentation sharing. It's wonderful to see different groups coming together to strengthen the community!

### **Bernt Balchen Lodge 2-046 (Anchorage, AK)**

Staying busy, Bernt Balchen lodge has a goal to focus on families and involving the kids in more events with activity/craft tables, kid friendly outdoor hikes and adventures, and "fun kits" of Norwegian themed activity boxes. Event highlights include the Fish Dinner serving black cod and a crowd favorite aquavit sorbet between courses, an outdoor Lucia celebration in the snow, and monthly Friluftsliv with wintertime Kubb games, hikes and more.

### **Arctic Viking Lodge 2-117 (Fairbanks, AK)**

Arctic Viking Lodge was so wonderful to be willing to host our first Zone Seminar for 2023. Like Bernt Balchen Lodge, their members are focusing greatly on the kids, sharing fun ideas they've implemented into their events such as scavenger hunts with Norwegian phrases and books for kids to take home with them. This winter they've enjoyed events such as their Lucia party, bingo nights, Skifest, holiday themed dinners, ice fishing and more!

### **Island Viking Lodge 2-145 (Kodiak, AK)**

Island Viking Lodge is looking to add members! Do you know of someone living in Kodiak who has a passion or interest in Norwegian culture or is looking for a way to give back to the community? Encourage them to look into the Sons of Norway. We would love to see this lodge growing and thriving once again!

Way to go, Alaska!

Hanna Persson

Zone 6 Director

## **International Board Director's Message – Chris Hicks**



Greetings across District 2

It has been my pleasure to travel with the District Leadership team as they present information at the biannual Zone seminars. These gatherings are designed to share information, answer questions and exchange ideas amongst lodges to help all of our lodges grow and prosper. So far, we have had positive feedback and a lot of good ideas shared and I hope the lodges will take advantage of some of these ideas and make them your own.

As we have all heard there have been changes recently in the Home Office. Change is not always bad, and in this case, I believe it is setting us on the correct path for our future. Change is hard, as it has been in our personal lives the last few years as we adjust to the new normal. When you call back to the Home Office, different people might answer the phone. Please be patient, they are all trying to help, they're just learning a new job, which we all know is a challenge. We are trying to automate more, to make it more efficient for you, for our personnel, and for the tracking oversight that is required. Process improvements are always being looked at, with more of a self-service model, using online reports and forms. We are also working to outsource mail delivery to save money using bulk rate mailing, when we can.

With that being said I hope all of you got online and met the deadline of March 15th for your lodge D17 financial form which is required from all lodges annually. "Lodge of the Year" and "Family Lodge of the Year" forms were also due by March 15th. May 15th is just on the horizon as I am writing this and those that own real estate need to turn in a D18 financial form as well. Don't



forget the IRS wants its 990 Form and you need to send a copy of your confirmation to the home office for tracking that as well.

Membership is always a topic for Sons of Norway, some say we are the best kept secret. Home Office has used Facebook and other social media to continue to bring a steady stream of new members to our district and lodges, as well as new financial products, which is what our order was founded for, over 125 years ago to support one another.

The Districts have a “000- Central Lodge” and “999- Spirit New Century” that members can join when there is no local lodge in their immediate area, or a lack of available information about a lodge. It is our job as leadership to reach out to those members that have joined the 000 & 999 lodges and let them know what your local lodge has to offer. Local Lodge Vice Presidents can reach out to the District VP Joanne or any of the district officers to get a list of those members in your area, in hopes that you can reach out to those members and see if they would like to join your local lodge and all you have to offer.

Fraternally,

Chris Hicks

District 2 International Board Director

## **International Board Vice Chair’s Message – Mark Agerter**



Greetings all. It has been a pleasure to serve as your representative on the International Board for the past seven years. Hard to believe it has been that long! I appreciate your confidence and support as we, as an organization, have navigated some very troubled waters since 2020 and the advent of the Covid pandemic, as have other organizations such as ours. I am glad to say that we were able to come through those trying times and I look forward to calmer, quieter waters going forward! Let me update you on the “state of the union” at the international level.

As you all know many changes have been made to Sons of Norway over the past few years. No change has been taken lightly and all have been necessary for the long-term health of our organization.

Probably the most difficult change was the elimination of 8 staff positions as of January 12 this year. Those were an internal sales support rep, an administrative assistant, 2 customer service reps, a technical support specialist, a fraternal membership specialist, a senior IT analyst and an agent contract specialist. This places somewhat of a strain on remaining staff as they adapt to assuming the responsibilities of these employees moving forward. But this move was totally necessary to align staffing levels with the 2023 budget.

The good news is that SON, through careful financial dealings and substantial belt-tightening, managed to make a profit last year and ended the year with an increase in surplus. Surplus is a

measure of solvency equal to the owner's equity in accounting terms. We are required to maintain sufficient surplus in order to back our policies in force. The belt-tightening was reflected in the staff cuts and other cost cutting measures. I am sure you have already heard that insurance sales take from 5 to 10 years to become profitable. So, these profit and surplus levels are not necessarily going to represent an ongoing trend yet. We may see further financial challenges for the next few years, until product sales from the last few years begin to make a profit. Be sure to look for the June Viking magazine for further information regarding our financial stability.

Financial topics of interest include:

- Upgrades to our claim-processing systems
- Successful disaster recovery testing to our IT systems
- Ongoing IT infrastructure upgrades to maintain high security and performance standards
- Website upgrades including a much-needed search function upgrade in response to member feedback
- The re-launch of the improved lodge directory on the website – it is now searchable by state or zip code and it also works well on a smartphone or tablet
- Regular updates of all financial products to ensure regulatory compliance in all 38 states we sell in

Fraternal topics of interest:

- Tracking continues to ensure local lodge compliance with the filing of D17 lodge financial reports, D18 building association financial reports and 990 federal filings for both entities as well as D63 and D64 lodge and building association officer updates.
- Additionally, lodge liability insurance payments are past due. Lodges not paid up will have dues withheld starting in April until payments are made. This may seem harsh but unpaid assessments potentially put the entire organization at risk.
- Facebook continues to be a popular way to keep SON in front of people with 26,813 followers. In January alone we had 15,024 likes to our page. Top posts were Happy New Year and the Christmas cookie survey – krumkake by the way!
- For those of you on Instagram – we now have 2,868 followers.

We continue to enjoy great responses to our online postings. We are getting exceptional engagement rates of 44.1% to our January 2023 E-post, 58.6% to the latest Leadership Resource to lodge leaders and we have been seeing 67.7% buy-in from board and district officers. There is still room for improvement though and I highly recommend you take advantage of these resources even to the point of sharing with your members. They are very informative and will help you and your lodge keep abreast of changes, assist with operations, and increase efficiency and the enjoyment of all of our activities.

Foundation news:

- 66 grant apps were received this cycle, up from 42 in 2022 and 21 in 2021
- Scholarship applications were due March 1 and are ahead of last year in number
- Fundraising goals were easily met in 2022 with \$607,183 received, more than double the goal
- As of March 7, the 2023 total so far is at 50% of goal in only 2 months, a really good sign

- District 2 moved \$60,000 of the Sofie/Olson funds into the control of the Foundation. This is a long-needed change as it now allows donations to that fund to be tax deductible – a great incentive for future donors to continue to honor the legacy of these two women who contributed so much to Sons of Norway and District Two.

Other news you can use:

- The post office serving SON has had staffing shortages which have resulted in delayed or no mail delivery at all. This has delayed sending out invoices, statements, reports, and other critical mailings. This has also resulted in delayed receipt of payments and other correspondence. Going forward, the work-around for this is that the SON staff will now be picking up mail at the post office. So, if you experienced a delay in any mail-related issue, hopefully that is behind us.
- The Corporate Matters and Governance Committee (CMGC) has completed revisions of the Charter, Bylaws, Policies & Procedures document which is posted online for your reference. The next task on our agenda is to complete new voting procedures for the 2024 elections. This will also necessitate reviewing candidate applications and nominating committee documents and procedures. We hope to have these finalized by mid-year.
- Additionally, the CMGC has finalized the revised local lodge bylaws template. The update includes updated references to new chapter numbers in the new bylaws and procedures documents. So, we are now ready to have lodges that do not have bylaws incorporating all of the required clauses, specifically those pertaining to compliance and dissolution and distribution of assets, to bring your bylaws up to date. Lodges are required to use the current local lodge template, as found online in the members only section, to perform the updates. Revisions that do not include the new clauses and/or use the old bylaws template will not be accepted and will need to be re-done.
- And along that same line, in order to fulfill any and all reporting requirements that arise, please make sure that you and your lodge always utilize only the latest versions of any forms or templates, as found online. This would of course include current forms for the D-17, D-18, D63 and D64 reports.

My parting thoughts are that yes, there have been many changes in a very short time. Yes, there will be an adjustment period as people at headquarters assume the duties that have been done by other staff in the past. Yes, things are going to be somewhat different. But it is up to all of us to keep a positive attitude in the midst of these changes and to continue to support this organization that we know and love. It is still Sons of Norway and that has not changed, it will continue to be Sons of Norway. So, let's all hang in there through this adjustment period. Though somewhat different, things are going well for the organization and will continue to improve as time passes and the changes settle in.

Thanks for your ongoing service and contributions to our lodges, the district and Sons of Norway.  
Mark Agerter, International Board Vice Chair



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.

On December 29, 2022, I shipped 128 pounds of stamp to Tubfrim in Norway. The shipping was arranged by DSV Air and Sea Inc at no cost to us. We only paid for the supplies used to prepare the boxes for shipping which most of the supplies we had on hand.

After 95 years and collecting 26 million NOK to fund the mission of the organization, Tubfrim announced they were closing. The good news is we have found another organization that is willing to continue Tubfrim's mission of collecting stamps and generating income benefiting the many good initiatives for children and young people in Norway. District 2 is still collecting stamps as we work out the details so, please continue collecting and send them to Bothell Lodge for processing. Do not forget to add your name and lodge to each pound of stamps so you can be entered in the drawing at the 2024 District 2 Convention.



## District 2 Youth Camp – Chris Hicks

We are looking for campers!

District 2 youth Camps are back ready to host camps again this year.

Last year camp attendance was low but our staff is looking forward to be back in full swing this year.

COVID 19 vaccines are recommended but not required for campers and staff

2023 dates are

Camp Trollhaugen - Dates for 2023 - June 25th-July 8th

Camp Nidaros - Dates for 2023 - July 9th-July 22nd

Camp Normanna - Dates: 2023 - July 23rd-August 5th.

We continue supporting the Sofie Olson Scholarship Fund by selling the Norwegian flag state stickers and camp T-shirt design decals. Contact one the Camp Committee or attend a final program to get yours.

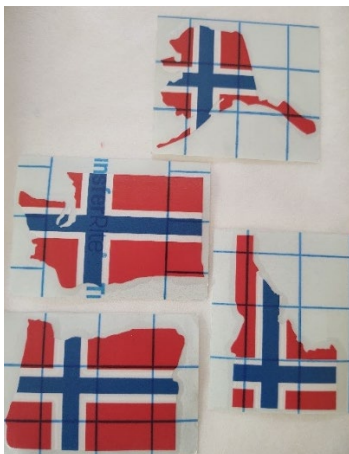
If you are interested in working at any of our camps or would like more information, please let us know. You can email the Camp Committee at [sofncamps@gmail.com](mailto:sofncamps@gmail.com)

Chris Hicks – Camp Committee Chair

## Sofie–Olson Camper Scholarship

State Stickers \$5.00

Washington-Oregon-Idaho-Alaska



Support District 2  
campers & show your  
Norwegian Pride

## **District 2 Scholarship Report – Seth Tufteland**

The Carl M. Saltveit Scholarship is awarded annually and covers the tuition, room, and board to attend the International Summer School at the University of Oslo. This is a permanent fund that is named to honor and remember Carl M. Saltveit Sr. who was a member of Grieg Lodge #2-015 in Portland, OR and former International Director.

There were no applications received for this scholarship for 2023. Please encourage your members to apply for this in the future. There is no age restriction. You must have completed 1 year of college and provide transcripts as proof.

We also have the Sofie/Olson Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is named after Sherrie Sofie and Bernice Olson, district officers both of whom passed away while in office. The Sofie/Olson Scholarship is a self-sustaining fund and only the interest is used each year for scholarships. Our goal is to award a minimum of 3 scholarships each year, one to each of the Youth Camps (Camp Nidaros, Camp Normanna, and Camp Trollhaugen). This fund is now being held at the Foundation as it will be giving us a higher interest return allowing for more scholarships to be awarded. The Scholarship is still administered by District 2.

To help continue the growth of the Scholarship, we are selling Norwegian flag state stickers as a fundraiser. These will be available at most District 2 events at the cost of \$5 each. 100% of that goes directly to the principal of the fund. They can be purchased from the District Youth Director.

District 2 also has the Draxten Memorial Scholarship Fund which was established by the late Nina Draxten of Minneapolis in memory of her father, Bersvend Draxten, the first President of Sons of Norway. This fund is set up as a matching fund and can only be used to assist campers who have received a scholarship from their local lodge. The Draxten Fund can grant up to but not to exceed the amount awarded by the local lodge. These funds are managed by International Sons of Norway and distributed by the District Scholarship Chair.

It is a pleasure to serve on this committee and to award these scholarships to the deserving young people of our District.

Fraternally,  
Seth Tufteland, Chairman  
Ingrid Hueneke  
Jane Bueing





## The Scandinavian Hour Radio Program

Since 1961, the weekly Scandinavian Hour radio program has been broadcast on the airwaves in Seattle, WA and has not missed a week. Doug Warne was the original host, serving from 1961 to 2020. Since 2021, Seth Tufteland has been the new host and producer of this program. Bringing you music, news, and interviews from all the Nordic countries, the Scandinavian Hour has been a staple for the Nordic community in the Puget Sound area. We also include a monthly events bulletin for our Scandinavian Hour associates/partners. Scandinavian Hour associates/partners are clubs/organizations who donate \$200 or more to the program for the year. The benefits include unlimited advertising of their events on our monthly bulletin board, a history of your group vignette, a membership drive advertisement, and an opportunity to co-host a show.

We also have regular advertising at \$50 a week for a 105-word ad. We are now able to expand beyond the borders of Puget Sound by streaming live online. Broadcast on KKNW 1150AM in Bellevue, WA from 9am-10am Pacific Time every Saturday morning and re-aired at 6am Pacific Time both Saturday and Sunday mornings. You can stream online from our website [www.thescandinavianhour.org](http://www.thescandinavianhour.org) from anywhere in the world. We have listeners from all over the US, Canada, and Scandinavia.

If your Lodge or group is interested in advertising or becoming a Scandinavian Hour associate/partner, contact Seth Tufteland at [scanhourkknw@outlook.com](mailto:scanhourkknw@outlook.com).

Let your friends and family know about this radio program too! Our website features an archive of interviews, book reviews, vignettes, and bulletin board features. Find us at [www.thescandinavianhour.org](http://www.thescandinavianhour.org).

Seth Tufteland  
Host/Producer  
The Scandinavian Hour  
KKNW 1150AM



**The Scandinavian Hour**  
with your host  
**Seth Tufteland**

**Saturday & Sunday 6:00-7:00am, Saturday 9:00-10am**

Stream us online at <https://1150kknw.com/listen-online>  
Visit our website at [www.thescandinavianhour.org](http://www.thescandinavianhour.org)  
Advertising opportunities available  
**Music, News, & Interviews for the Scandinavian Community**

## **Ski For Light - Puget Sound**

By GOSH! We did it and what an incredible season! Thanks to Mother Nature for the bounty of snow this year and everyone who came to share the love of the snow sport! One unfortunate thing was that we had some minor injuries - sprained ankle, a bruised rib, little bumps and bruises.

I want to thank and acknowledge the board for all the on-going work during and as well as off season. Nancy Dunn and Jessica Semingson will be working on the online fundraising. Roger Young and Erling Berg will be working on the Dinner Dance Fundraising in October, more to come.

While the people mentioned above work hard to get funding, Doug Sundberg gets to spend it! He will be looking into, among other things, getting new equipment for next year. We will also be working on safety to see what we can do to minimize injuries and to recruit a few more guide trainers.

### **Board Members:**

Besides yours truly, there are:

Doug Sundberg: Vice-President

Nancy Dunn: Treasurer

Sheri Richardson: Secretary

Bob Miller

Erling Berg

Jessica Semingson

Linda Cooley

Patrick McManus

Roger Young

Tim McCorcle

### **Sponsorship**

Each year, we sponsor one guide and one skier to participate at the US SFL International, expenses paid. The 2024 event will be in Rhinelander, Wisconsin from January 28 to February 4. The Board awarded the 2024 sponsorship to:

Guide - Mark Rossow, Skier - Ilyse Rosenberg

Mark and Ilyse will be joined by 250+ others across the US, Canada, Europe, Asia, ETC.

Congratulations to them both. I am sure they will do us proud!

We wanted to thank everyone who submitted their names to be considered. Remember...If you didn't get it this time, maybe next time!

### **2024 Ski Dates**

January 6, January 20, February 10, February 24, March 9, March 23



**Golden Year** - Ski for Light Puget Sound is turning 50 next year! The program was started by Knut and Svea Karlsen in December 1974 with just two blind skiers. One of the skiers is still around. Back then, she was a high schooler and today she is a grandma!

### **Thank you to our outstanding volunteers**

I know I can speak for all of our skiers! We all know that this program cannot exist without our outstanding volunteers, who give up their valuable Saturdays every year, so we visually impaired skiers can have an opportunity to do the snow sport that we love. You all never ceased to amaze me whenever a call for help went out. The more I work with you all, the more I love you to death! So, from the bottom of my heart, a very special thanks to all our awesome volunteers!

### **Members**

This year, we have four new guides, two new skiers, and two return skiers. This brings our number to a total of 49 active members in the program.

Thanks all, be safe, be well!

Deng Kong

President, SFL Puget Sound

[skiforlightpugetsound@gmail.com](mailto:skiforlightpugetsound@gmail.com)

## **Trollhaugen**

We have a great group of volunteers for Trollhaugen. The board members became weekend managers. After 2 years of searching, we have Scott and Lori Lynn becoming our new managers. They will start in May (or after the snow is gone). The managers will have the choice of ten months with summers off or 12 months with two weeks off.

Bjørn Balstad offered his garage for the temporary home for Freya while she was being overhauled. Many thanks go out to all who help get her up and running.

Our snowfall was average and we had good rentals this year. Beds are still being discussed.

The cell phone booster has been installed.

The hot tub is aging and we are starting to have problems with the motor.

Our next work party is May 12-14, unless the snow proves otherwise.

Steak Fry July 15<sup>th</sup>. Bill Hicks is selling the tickets. Please email Trollhaugen for reservations for overnight stay.

Fraternally,

Erick Balstad

Trollhaugen Chairperson



## District 2 Convention 2024 – “Better Together”



At the District 2 Board meeting in September, the District 2 - 2024 Convention was awarded to Tordenskjold & Harald Haarfarger Lodges to be held in beautiful Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Planning is well underway, led by Chair Pamla Silk and Co-Chairs Cynthia McManus and Darrin Lee. The slogan is “Better Together” and the logo is our traditional woven red and white heart, which will also serve as the paddle design! The woven heart showcases that working together, as members in a lodge, lodges with other lodges, Zones, our District 2 and throughout the rest of Sons of Norway; we will be better equipped to navigate challenges, celebrate our successes and grow to sail smoothly into the future. Zone 5 Lodges Tordenskjold and Harald Haarfarger coming together to bid for and host the 2024 Convention is an example of “Better Together”.

The 2024 Convention will be held in Coeur D’Alene, Idaho which is about 35 miles east of Spokane, Washington. The Coeur d’Alene area is surrounded by dozens of lakes left behind by the glaciers from the ice age. There are more than 55 lakes within easy driving distance of Coeur d’Alene, but none more scenic and full of activities than Lake Coeur D’Alene itself. There is something magical about the town and Lake Coeur d’Alene that’s hard to define. The perfect setting to hold our 2024 Convention.



ID 83814.

Thursday night will be an evening Viking Voyage Dinner Cruise on the “Mish-An-Nock” boat on Lake Coeur d’Alene.



Specifically, the 2024 Convention will kick off with the President’s Dinner May 29th and will end with our final Celebration Banquet on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Accommodation and convention meetings will be held at the Coeur D’Alene Inn located conveniently off of I-90; 506 W Appleway Ave, Coeur d’Alene,



Be sure to mark your calendars for 2024; be a delegate for your lodge or come as a guest. Its sure to be a great convention! More details to share in the Fall. If you have any questions or just want to share your excitement, the convention email is [sofn2024conv@gmail.com](mailto:sofn2024conv@gmail.com)

## **Border Festival**

The Border Festival will resume this year after a three-year absence due to the Covid Virus. The park was closed for events until just recently.

The Border Festival has always been held on a Sunday but the Peace Arch Park was already booked for all Sundays this summer when we applied. Thus, we had to opt for a different date. The date is for JULY 8, a SATURDAY. MARK YOUR CALENDAR. This year marks the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Border Festival.

Usually there are games played prior to lunch. These will be run by the Canadian group.

Lunch is “bring your dish(s)” and share with others at your table. All desserts are put on tables in the kitchen and are shared by everyone. Coffee is furnished, other beverages are up to you. Bring your own utensils.

Following lunch, the program will commence with the singing of the three national anthems and presentation of the respective flags., Canada, Norway and U.S.

Raffle tickets will be drawn for prizes ranging from \$10.00 – \$100.00.

Entertainment this year will be selected by the US Group II, Abel, Fritjov and WINL Lodges.

The committee in charge of the Royalty consists of lodges Normanna, Edmonds Bothell, Leif Erikson and lodges south. This year we will have prince candidates as well as princesses.

Fraternally

Elaine Grasdock

President



**District Seven  
British Columbia**

# **SONS OF NORWAY BORDER FESTIVAL PICNIC**



**District Two  
United States**



**Peace Arch Park, Blaine Washington**

**Saturday, July 8th, 2023**

**Celebrating 75 Years**

**Lunch at 12:00 noon, Coffee provided.**

**Bring a lunch for yourself with utensils and beverages (other than coffee) and a dessert with serving utensils to share with all lodges.**

**Program begins at 1:00 and includes:  
Flag salute and national anthems,  
raffle drawings, royalty contest and entertainment.**

**Optional: Lawn chair, sun glasses, hat and umbrella**

**Parking: Washington State Parks Dept charges  
\$10.00 for one day or requires a  
Discover Pass (\$30.00) to use the parking lot.  
Handicapped parking is free.**

**For Information Contact**

**Elaine Grasdock, [viking1kg@gmail.com](mailto:viking1kg@gmail.com) (360) 982-2965  
Susan Strang [strangb@telus.net](mailto:strangb@telus.net) (604) 291-1664**

## District 2 Board Members, June 2022 – June 2023

### **President**

Gerald Erickson  
Home: (360) 692-1664  
Cell: (360) 813-4423  
Email: [jerry.sond2@wavecable.com](mailto:jerry.sond2@wavecable.com)

### **Vice President**

Joanne Gray  
(360) 259-0924  
Email: [joanne@moholtusa.com](mailto:joanne@moholtusa.com)

### **Secretary**

James Wraalstad  
(206) 963-8200  
Email: [jmwraalstad@outlook.com](mailto:jmwraalstad@outlook.com)

### **Treasurer**

Judy Moxley  
Cell (509) 990-1470  
Home (509) 467-4759  
Email: [judymox02@gmail.com](mailto:judymox02@gmail.com)

### **Counselor**

Ernie Fosse  
(509) 990-1470  
Email: [ernie@cedarcomm.com](mailto:ernie@cedarcomm.com)

### **Publicity Director**

Rob Kodalen  
(360) 710-0167  
Email: [publicity.d2@gmail.com](mailto:publicity.d2@gmail.com)

### **Cultural Director**

Nancy Holter  
Home: (509) 375-0919  
Cell (509) 948-2684  
Email: [d2.cultural@gmail.com](mailto:d2.cultural@gmail.com)

### **Youth Director**

Seth Tufteland  
(206) 605-4112  
Email: [sofnseth@yahoo.com](mailto:sofnseth@yahoo.com)

### **Sports Director**

Laurie Berg  
(206) 235-5558  
Email: [laurieberg.lb@gmail.com](mailto:laurieberg.lb@gmail.com)

### **Foundation Director**

Darrin Lee  
(425) 241-2392  
Email: [Sofn.d2.Foundation@gmail.com](mailto:Sofn.d2.Foundation@gmail.com)

### **Director Zone 1**

Duane Esperum  
(206) 501-1020  
Email: [zone1D2sofn@gmail.com](mailto:zone1D2sofn@gmail.com)



### **Director Zone 2**

Roberta Morrow  
(425) 921-0302  
Email: [birdeekay@gmail.com](mailto:birdeekay@gmail.com)

### **Director Zone 3**

Vernene Scheurer  
(253) 221-7059  
Email: [vernene.scheurer@gmail.com](mailto:vernene.scheurer@gmail.com)

### **Director Zone 4**

Alisha Anunson  
(360) 271-7302  
Email : [alishaanunson@gmail.com](mailto:alishaanunson@gmail.com)

### **Director Zone 5**

Cynthia McManus  
(907) 632-8899  
Email: [mcmom37@yahoo.com](mailto:mcmom37@yahoo.com)

### **Director Zone 6**

Hanna Persson  
(907) 744-0808  
Email: [hannarpersson@gmail.com](mailto:hannarpersson@gmail.com)

### **International Board Director**

Chris Hicks  
(425) 766-3537  
Email: [ChrisD2SofN@outlook.com](mailto:ChrisD2SofN@outlook.com)

### **International Board Vice Chair**

Mark Agerter  
(541) 729-2824  
Email: [markagerter@comcast.net](mailto:markagerter@comcast.net)

### **District 2 Facebook Page**

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

### **District 2 Camp Website**

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

### **District 2 Web Site**

<http://www.sonsofnorwayd2.org>

### **District 2 Flickr page**

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

Clip art credits: *Copyright Johnny Automa*