

## **District Director 2022 (International Board of Directors)**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Sons of Norway is a \$350+ million enterprise and the issue is corporate governance, especially on the International Board.

Sons of Norway is an insurance company. Many state insurance departments require that everyone elected to the board of an insurance company complete the following:

- Fingerprinting
- Financial services disclosures
- Employment history
- Conflict of interest documentation

Because of recent legislative and regulatory changes and in accordance with best practices standards of good governance for fraternal benefit societies, it is important that Sons of Norway establish criteria guidelines for those seeking election as officers and directors to the International Board of Directors and to the District Boards of Directors.

A primary consideration for any potential candidate is whether or not he or she is able to commit to the amount of time and flexibility required to fulfill the responsibilities of service on the International Board. The time commitment could be up to 20 hours a week especially in a convention year.

Besides the leadership and expertise a candidate brings to the office, there are personal characteristics that are desirable:

- Mission driven with a passion for the Sons of Norway
- Functional and visionary leadership
- Time and self management skills
- Results oriented
- Can be a leader or follower, as needed
- Interpersonal skills
- Willingness to learn
- Comfortable with conflict
- Good listener
- Benefit member
- No felony convictions
- Flexibility
- Dedicated, disciplined
- Ethical , Honest
- Demonstrates wisdom
- Fair and impartial
- Accepts majority-ruled decisions
- Analytical
- Inquiring mind
- Decision maker
- Good communicator and listener
- Participatory, responsive
- Motivator

## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATE APPLICATION**

All candidates for International Director and Alternate International Director shall complete the Board of Director Application, which can be obtained from Headquarters office and shall be distributed to delegates as per method determined by each District. Candidates must also meet all qualifications as required in the Sons of Norway Charter and Constitutions or as required by the International Lodge.

## **GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

1. The primary responsibility of the members of the International Board is to establish policy and procedure and, in general, to determine directives for management as outlined in the Constitution of the International Lodge.
2. The International Director(s) is/are the liaison between the District and the International Board, serving as the representative for his/her District.
3. The International Director(s) shall attend at least one District Board meeting annually and shall be the official representative of the International Lodge at his District Convention.
4. The International Director(s) shall keep the District Board fully informed concerning policy and shall explain matters pertaining to International Board decisions.
5. The International Director(s) and International Officer(s) are encouraged to attend local lodge functions. Communication of travel plans with local lodge and District leaders is an important aspect of this policy.
6. The International Director shall participate in the institutional meeting of a new Lodge, upon notification of the District President or Secretary.
7. The International Director(s) and International Officer(s) may install the officers of an established lodge if requested.
8. The International Director(s) may accept a special invitation from a Lodge within another District upon notice to the International Director(s) of such other District and approval of the International President.
9. The International Director(s) is (are) not a member of his/her respective District Board by reason of being a member of the International Board of Directors.
10. Members of the International Board of Directors are encouraged to refrain from running for District office while they are International Directors, but should work closely with District Officers and Board in promoting District and International operations and activities for the good of the Order.
11. Members of the International Board shall not endorse a candidate for employment at Sons of Norway.

## **TRAVEL BY BOARD MEMBERS**

All travel by Board Members shall be by the most economical and efficient means available.

\*The current approved rates for the United States, Canada and Norway will be revised and updated, as necessary, at the yearly Spring Board Meeting.

## **BOARD MEETING DATES, POLICY REGARDING**

1. The Spring Meeting of the International Board of Directors will be held the first full week of May each year.
2. The Fall meeting of the International Board of Directors will be held the first full week of November each year.
3. Both Spring and Fall International Board of Directors meetings usually begin on Wednesday night with a dinner meeting and conclude Saturday night with dinner with the DPC and Senior Staff and spouses.

## **COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES**

- The International Directors shall receive a director's fee stipend of \$3,000.00 per year.

## **TIME COMMITMENT**

1. Board Meetings
  - Spring and Fall
  - Additional meeting prior to the International Convention at the Convention site
  - New Board members, along with continuing members, participate in a Board Orientation Workshop prior to the Fall meeting (Tuesday and Wednesday)
2. Committees
  - All International Board members serve on one of three committees that meet during the Spring and Fall Board meetings. Committees may be asked to consider issues prior to the Board meeting.
    - Finance
    - Benefits
    - Corporate Matters
3. Lodge visitations/travel – ceremonies, education