

Sons of Norway District Lodge #3
67th District Convention Minutes
June 7-10, 2024
Hyatt Regency – Dulles Hotel
Herndon Virginia

NEW DELEGATE MEETING.

FRIDAY JUNE 7. 2024 1:30 PM.

President Stephen Helmold opened the meeting at 1:30 PM.

President Helmold gave the following address:

Welcome to the 67th Biannual Third District Convention.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your willingness to serve as a delegate from your lodge.

We meet every 2 years to conduct the business of the Third District and elect the officers of the Third District Board. We also have some fun activities planned during the next few days.

Conventions are also a great time to make new friends from other parts of our district and to network with them.

First, I would like to tell you a bit about the Third District, then I am going to ask our parliamentarian Mr. Michael Wagner-Diggs to talk about how the Third District Lodge meeting will be run and finally I will ask our District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold to add a few comments.

Our Third District has 35 Lodges along the east coast from Maine to Florida. We have our own District website which can be found at 3dsfn.org. We also have the ability to send email blasts to all members, but to do this we need your email address. If you have not been getting emails from Third District News, please make sure you give Karen your email address. The latest eblast was last week regarding youth camp, our new cultural weekend and prizes at the Viking Auction here at convention.

Our Third District is also unique in that we have our own Charitable Trust. You should have received information in your welcome bags. Please take the time to read that material and if you have any questions, please ask our Charitable Trust Director, Leif Easterson. The Charitable Trust is a worthy cause that assists members of the District who have fallen on hard times. We are funded solely from donations from our members and their lodges and some investments. You will be hearing about our Christmas store which is one of our fundraising campaigns during our meeting.

Our Givings Committee also supports the Alzheimer's Association and the Sons of Norway Foundation.

While you are here I hope you will visit the Cultural Folk Arts Display and the Vendor Display Sales, both in the Rockbridge room, and of course the Viking Auction in the Layton room.

You can purchase tickets at any time to bid on the baskets. The drawing of the winning tickets will start at 2PM on Sunday followed by our live auction with auctioneer Roy Berntsen. Even if you do not bid on anything, Roy will keep you entertained.

At this time, I would like to introduce Michael Wagner-Diggs who is no stranger to the Third District as he has been our parliamentarian at 3 previous conventions. Michael, will you explain how our District Lodge meeting is run.

Michael Wagner-Diggs explained how the Third District Lodge meeting would be conducted and his role as parliamentarian.

President Helmold. Thank you, Mr. Wagner-Diggs. I would like to call District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold to review the guidelines for the Third District Lodge meeting.

District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold.

I would just like to explain some Guidelines.

1. While reviewing the reports book if you find any typographical errors: please bring them, in writing, to the attention of the secretary personally in between sessions and during breaks. Please do not take time on the convention floor unless it changes the meaning of the report or resolution.
2. Any guest to address the delegation must be approved by the chair before speaking.
3. Roll call will be done each morning and after lunch. Designate one member to respond for your lodge. When your lodge is called, just respond with the number of delegates present at that time. If anyone leaves or comes in, someone should come to the microphone and alert us of the change in the number of delegates. Please make every effort to be in your seat when the session starts.
4. If you wish to speak, please come to the microphone and wait for the chair to recognize you. Start by showing your paddle and stating your name, your lodge, and paddle number. Do not shout out comments from your seats during the session. You must come to the microphone.

President Helmold. Thank you, Karen.

Are there any questions? I want to thank everyone for attending the meeting.

MEMORIAL SERVICE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024, 5:00 PM

The Memorial Service was held at the hotel. As guests entered, prelude music was played on a flute by Washington Lodge member Lisa Hestvik. Guests also received two booklets - a program for the service and a listing of those who have passed in the seven zones of District Three since the last convention.

At 5:00 PM, Washington Lodge President David Brown welcomed everyone and introduced District President Stephen Helmold. President Helmold introduced the Third District Board members who were escorted into the room and seated in the first 2 rows

ZONE 7 DIRECTOR	Bill Browning
ZONE 6 DIRECTOR	Jeanne Addison
ZONE 5 DIRECTOR	Christine Taylor
ZONE 4 DIRECTOR	Kaare Hansen
ZONE 3 DIRECTOR	Audun Gythfeldt
ZONE 2 DIRECTOR	Peter Hanson
ZONE 1 DIRECTOR	Michael Pedersen
CULTURAL DIRECTOR	Andy Mathisen
SPORTS DIRECTOR	Paul Kornbrekke
CHARITABLE TRUST DIRECTOR	Leif Easterson
TREASURER	Elaine Brieland
SECRETARY	Karen Olsen-Helmold
VICE PRESIDENT	Diana Syvertsen
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR	Kathy Dollymore
INTERNATIONAL TREASURER	Mary Andersen

President Helmold introduced Rev. Dr. Elijah Mwitanti who gave the invocation.

President Helmold introduced Third District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold who gave the tribute:

As we meet for this memorial service, we are once again reminded of the fleeting and transitory nature of human life in this world where nothing is permanent except change, and nothing is certain except death.

We meet today to pay a fraternal tribute to the memory of those brothers and sisters who answered the last summons and have passed into LODGE ETERNAL during the past two years.

To the families of these departed brothers and sisters, on behalf of Sons of Norway and all its members, we extend our deepest sympathy and offer such sincere although inadequate consolations as may lie within the power of the spoken word.

May their memory linger long in your hearts as a sweet benediction and as a rich heritage of love, companionship, and devotion.

Among those who have departed, there are a number who have served their fellow members in positions of honor and trust and whose contributions to Sons of Norway will be a permanent monument to their memory. All have contributed to the progress and welfare of their lodge and our Society.

May we all wish they rest in peace.

President Helmold introduced Katrina Knight who sang How Great Thou Art.

President Helmold then introduced International Treasurer Mary Andersen who gave the memorial address:

Something Beautiful Remains

The tide recedes but leaves behind
bright seashells on the sand.
The sun goes down, but gentle
warmth still lingers on the land.
The music stops, and yet it echoes
on in sweet refrains...
For every joy that passes,
something beautiful remains.

Author Unknown

At birth, we boarded a great big Viking long boat and met our parents, we believed they would always travel by our side forever.

As time goes by, other people will board the ship; and they will be significant in our lives, our siblings, our friends, our spouses, our children.

Our life's voyage will be full of joys, sorrows, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Because at some port our parents, our friends, and our family will step off the boat, leaving us to continue on this journey.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which port someone will step off the ship.

But a successful voyage consists of having good relationships with all passengers we meet along the way.

And nowhere is that more evident than in a Sons of Norway lodge.

When we join a local lodge, the members form a chain by the linking of their arms to surround us during the welcoming ceremony. This Fraternal Chain assures us of our friendships and the unity in our hearts. It is a representation of our fraternalism and the union of the Sons of Norway family.

When one of our own dies, we form another chain and cross our arms and take the hand of a sister or brother standing next to us.

With a prayer and a sprig of spruce (evergreen), we thank God for the life of our brother or sister.

It's those linking of arms, it's that sprig of spruce, the precious memories of our dear ones that we uplift today with each candle as we stand shoulder to shoulder in honor of our members who have gone to lodge eternal.

So, today as we continue to sail on, let's cherish the beautiful memories of our dear brothers and sisters.

I will close with a poem:

Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away to the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
That, we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way
which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect.
Without the trace of a shadow on it.

Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same that it ever was.
There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you.
For an interval.
Somewhere. Very near.
Just around the corner.

All is well.

Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918)
Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral

Amazing Grace was sung by all.

This was followed by the candlelight tribute. As Third District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold lit a candle held by each zone director, President Helmold remembered all the members who have joined Lodge Eternal from that zone.

As Third District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold extinguished each candle held by each zone director, President Helmold honored those members who have joined Lodge Eternal from that zone.

Katarina Knight sang Going Home.

Rev. Dr. Elijah Mwitanti gave the benediction.

Postlude music was played on a flute by Washington Lodge member Lisa Hestvik.

President Helmold addressed the audience as follows:

I would like to thank our convention chairperson David Brown and his entire convention committee for all the work they have done getting us ready for what I know will be a great convention and welcome everyone to the 67th Third District Convention. Thank all of you for taking time from your personal lives to join in the decision-making process for the good of the order. I hope each of you will find it interesting and educational. Please take the opportunity to meet people from other areas of the District. Enjoy the food, the fun, and the fraternalism. Now let's start this convention off with a party. The president's reception will be tonight starting at 6:30 with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, I look forward to seeing all of you there.

THE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION WAS HELD FROM 6:30 TO 10:00.

Dinner was a Mediterranean buffet with dessert.

THIRD DISTRICT LODGE MEETING. **SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024, 8:00 AM.**

President Stephen Helmold called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM. He used the Third District's Traveling Gavel and shared its history..

President Helmold. The wood used to make it was over 1000 years old and was from a Viking ship. A former member carved the wood. The gavel will be going from lodge to lodge in the future.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS.

The American, Norwegian and Canadian flags were presented by Boy Scout Troop 695 of Chantilly, Virginia. President Helmold thanked the Boy Scouts for getting our meeting off to a great start.

All rose for the singing of the Canadian, Norwegian, and American anthems, which was led by Helena Dick-Henriksen, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Helmold. Will the Credentials Committee please come forward. We will excuse the Credentials Committee so they can review all the credentials. Please go to the Potomac Room to finish your work.

President Helmold. As I mentioned last night, I would like to thank Convention Chairperson David Brown and his outstanding 2024 Third District Convention Committee for working for 2 years and for everything that they have done to make this a fabulous convention for all the delegates and guests to enjoy. They worked closely with the members of the Third District Board and were always a pleasure to work with. I would like the members of the host committee to come to the front of the room.

PRESENTATION OF THANK YOU GIFTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOST COMMITTEE

At this time, on behalf of the Third District Board, I would like to give you this small token of our appreciation. I know full well how much work goes into each committee, and that all of you had huge tasks. I realize each committee knew how much work it had to do, and I know that each is instrumental in making our District Lodge meeting and Convention a success. I understand and cherish your love for our Third District of the Sons of Norway. Thank you for all the time and effort that you put forth to make this a great convention for us.

President Helmold and Third District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold presented the members of the host committee with a thank you gift.

The delegates and guests gave them a great big round of applause to thank them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host Committee Chairperson David Brown. Good Morning. Are you ready for a full day? There will be a half-hour coffee break right outside the meeting room in the foyer. One nice thing about this venue is everything is really close. The lunch will also be in the foyer. Please wear your name tags. We have some competition here. The Navy, some of you may have enlisted, Subaru will have 13 of their new cars in the parking lot. They are blocking some of the parking lot. I will be back later to announce dinner. Thank you.

President Helmold. Thank you, David. It is now my privilege to introduce the Third District Board.

INTRODUCTION OF THE THIRD DISTRICT BOARD AND GUESTS

President Helmold introduced the Third District Board and guests.

Up here on the podium with me are:

CHARITABLE TRUST DIRECTOR	Leif Easterson
TREASURER	Elaine Brieland
SECRETARY	Karen Olsen-Helmold
VICE PRESIDENT	Diana Syvertsen
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Micheal Wagner-Diggs

Seated to my left are our Zone Directors:

ZONE 7 DIRECTOR	Bill Browning	
ZONE 6 DIRECTOR	Jeanne Addison	She is out with the credentials committee.
ZONE 5 DIRECTOR	Christine Taylor	She is out with the credentials committee.
ZONE 4 DIRECTOR	Kaare Hansen	
ZONE 3 DIRECTOR	Audun Gythfeldt	
ZONE 2 DIRECTOR	Peter Hanson	
ZONE 1 DIRECTOR	Michael Pedersen	He is out with the credentials committee.

Seated to my right are:

SPORTS DIRECTOR
CULTURAL DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL TREASURER

From the home office Vice President of Fraternal & Foundation Development

Paul Kornbrekke
Andy Mathisen
Kathy Dollymore
Mary Andersen
Connie O'Brien

CELL PHONE COMMERCIAL

President Helmold. If any phone goes off, there will be a \$20.00 donation to the Charitable Trust. I see some laptops, phones and tablets. Any messages or game playing will be subject to fines. Charitable Trust Director Leif Easterson, you are in charge of collecting the fines.

I would like to introduce former Third District and International officers by calling each person by name and by their highest rank. It is our pleasure to have so many who have dedicated their services to Sons of Norway and continue to do so in many different capacities.

Audun Gythfeldt – Former International Secretary
Barbara Berntsen – Former International Director
Kenneth Johnson – Former International Director
Peter Vatne – Former District 3 Vice President
Kari Williams – Former District Treasurer
Arnold Johnson – Former Zone 5 Director
Judy Nilsen-Mack – Former Zone 2 Director
Barbara Bensen – Former Zone 3 Director
Phil Fiederlein – Former Zone 4 Director
Janet Carlin – Former Zone 4 Director
Dirk Hansen – Former Zone 7 Director
Les Johannessen – Former Auditor
Kari Brescher – Former Auditor
Shirley Erland – Former Auditor

Did I Miss anyone? Thank you for your dedication to Sons of Norway and the Third District.

OPENING REMARKS – PRESIDENT STEPHEN HELMOLD

President Helmold. Welcome and, as I said last night, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 67th Third District Convention here in Herndon, Virginia. Delegates from all seven zones of the Third District have gathered this week to participate in the District Lodge meeting and Convention. I hope you will have the opportunity to relax and spend a few minutes networking with other conventioners. So, enjoy the event! Please make sure you attend all sessions and carefully consider the resolutions presented. The knowledge and experience of delegates will prove invaluable as we debate and chart the future course of the Third District. As we meet this week, we will accomplish great things to prepare for the months and years to come.

We are following the format that was started at the 2022 Convention by shortening the business meeting from 5 sessions to 3. Therefore, it is extremely important to keep to the schedule. You can all help us with this by being here on time to start each day and returning from our lunch and coffee breaks on time.

These past 2 years have been critical ones for our District. Your Third District Board has had some challenges these past two years. But you can be assured your elected officers of the Third District Board have done their due diligence as District Officers, with issues receiving the thoughtful, careful consideration and examination necessary.

At our last District Lodge meeting at the 2022 Convention, the delegates voted to add the position of Fraternal and Foundation Director to the Third District Board. The delegates also voted Dirk Hansen as the first Fraternal and Foundation Director. Jeannie Addison, who was the Third District Secretary from 2018 to 2022 diligently and timely sent the list of our new officers to the home office. The Board began its work for the 2022-2024 term. Dirk faithfully fulfilled his duties in his new position. Around January of 2023, in a conversation with Connie O'Brien, I learned that the International Board may have had a problem with the District adding this new position to our Board. I immediately and repeatedly reached out to both International Vice President Mark Agerter and International President Ron Stubbings with numerous phone calls and emails. My calls and emails were not answered. I left many messages, which also were not answered, questioning the International Board's position regarding our new board position of Fraternal and Foundation Director. It was not until December 2023, that I finally received a response from International President Ron Stubbings that the position was not approved and therefore not a valid position. I can't tell you how upsetting it was to me to have to inform Dirk that he was no longer a member of the Third District Board.

Dirk, I would like you to come forward now and accept this gift as a token of my appreciation of all the work you did while you were in the position of Fraternal and Foundation Director. While the International Board did not recognize you in that position, I certainly did and I appreciated your efforts.

President Helmold presented Dirk Hansen with a thank you gift.

This is not the only lack of communication from headquarters and the International Board that our Third District as well as other districts had to deal with. Many of them will be discussed in various portions of our Third District Lodge Meeting during the next 2 days. One which I would like to point out now was the reduction in the portion of dues that would be sent to districts.

As you have read in more than one of my president's messages, this meant that the amount of dues that our District received was cut drastically from approximately \$185,000.00 to under \$45,000.00 per year. The worst part is this was done in the middle of a budget year, so we lost money that we had already spent or had budgeted to spend.

The Board has made some changes that you will see as we go over the financial statements and budgets. It is unfortunate that some of the progressive ideas that the board had been considering are no longer possible to even consider.

Well, here we are heading into another 2 years in our Third District, our respective zones and individual lodges. With all that is being thrust upon us by the International Board and the home office, we need good, strong leadership. Good leaders control the determined and encourage the timid to speak without fear. As a member of the Sons of Norway organization we take an obligation to treat all members with respect and dignity. As leaders of the Sons of Norway Organization, we have to remember that each

member has something to contribute, and we must be respectful of this. No idea is too small or insignificant.

One issue, that of declining membership, is of great concern to the organization. We need **EVERY** member to do their best in finding new people to join our lodges. If we are to survive, we need every member to take responsibility. It would certainly be helpful if every member could attempt to bring in at least one new member.

Another issue is retaining our present membership, especially in light of the new dues increase. Here is where good programing at the district and lodge level is so important. Especially at the lodge level. We are continuously working on adding ideas to the Third District Website to help lodges with their programming.

I sincerely hope you will enjoy attending the 67th Third District Convention. Thank you all for your participation here.

Will the credentials committee come forward and make their report.

The Credentials Committee consists of

CHAIR:	Jeannie Addison	ZONE 6 Director
COMMITTEE:	Christine Taylor	ZONE 5 Director
	Michael Pederson	ZONE 1 Director

President Helmold. Will the Credentials Committee now report on the delegate and alternates listed on pages 3-6.

Chairperson Jeanne Addison. Steve introduced us. I would just like to add that Christine is from Tampa Bay Lodge, Mike is from Loyal Lodge, and I am from Bondelandet Lodge. We have met with Convention Host Registrar Kari Sprecher and we have all the names of everyone who is not here. Is there anyone else who is not here? We also checked that all delegates who are present are in good standing as far as their membership roles. They are all paid members. There are 64 delegates, 14 District Board members and 2 International Board members making a total of 80 voting members.

A simple majority is 41.

A 2/3 majority is 54.

Whenever there is a vote, we would need to have all of you present for the vote and those are the numbers that define the majority. I want to say thank you to Christine and Michael for getting all their numbers together.

Peter Vatne, Norumbega Lodge, Paddle #31. Are there any changes to the names of the delegates listed in the reports book on pages 3-6?

Chairperson Jeanne Addison reported the following changes to the Reports Book:

Page 3 – no changes.

Page 4 – Robert Johnson from Loyal Lodge is not attending.

Delegate Kari Brescher from Nor-Bu Lodge is being replaced by alternate Tammy Webber.

There is an additional delegate from Noreg Lodge - Edna Syvertsen.

Page 5 – Scott Klefstad from Norsk Carolina Lodge is not attending.

Jan Ruston from Norumbega Lodge is not attending.

Delegate Lori Nilsson from Oslo Lodge is being replaced by alternate Valerie Cole.

Page 6 – Board Member Asbjorn Lageraaen is not attending.

Board Member Susan Olson is not attending.

Diane Connelly, Gulfstream Lodge, paddle #71. Carole Michelsen from Gulfstream Lodge is not attending the meeting. She is registered, but absent now.

Les Johannessen, Norden Lodge, paddle #46. Norumbega and Nansen had no alternates so it should say none on the left side of pages 4 and 5.

Thom Brownworth, Loyal Lodge, paddle #61. This changes the numbers for a majority vote.

President Helmold. This will be done when the attendance is taken.

I move on behalf of the Credentials Committee to adopt the delegates' report on pages 3 through 6, as corrected.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

President Helmold. The Credentials Committee is excused.

MOTION TO SEAT ABSENT DELEGATES

President Helmold moved to seat Asbjorn Lageraaen and Robert Johnson as they were unable to attend due to medical reasons.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

President Helmold. I would like to ask Third District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold to read the roll call of lodge delegates and then to explain the District Lodge meeting guidelines.

Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. As I call your lodge's name, one person from your lodge will respond with the number of delegates from your lodge that are present in the meeting at this time.

Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold took attendance. See attendance sheet in appendix 1 at the end of this report.

REPORTED DELEGATES = 79

MAJORITY = 40 DELEGATES

2/3 MAJORITY = 53 DELEGATES

Peter Vatne, Norumbega Lodge, paddle #31. The roll call was done alphabetically, but the list in the reports book was done in numerical order, making it difficult to follow. Can we have the numbers read again?.

Secretary Olsen-Helmold. Yes, and I would do it numerically going forward.

Secretary Olsen-Helmold explained the District Lodge Meeting Guidelines.

1. While reviewing the reports book if you find any typographical errors: please bring them, in writing, to the attention of the secretary personally in between sessions and during breaks. Please do not take time on the convention floor unless it changes the meaning of the report or resolution.
2. Any guest to address the delegation must be approved by the chair before speaking.
3. Roll call will be done each morning and after lunch. Designate one member to respond for your lodge. When your lodge is called, just respond with the number of delegates present at that time. If anyone leaves or comes in, someone should come to the microphone and alert us of the change in the number of delegates. Please make every effort to be in your seat when the session starts.
4. If you wish to speak, please come to the microphone and wait for the chair to recognize you. Start by showing your paddle and stating your name, your lodge, and paddle number. Do not shout out comments from your seats during the session. You must come to the microphone.

President Helmold: Thank you Karen.

APPROVAL OF 2022 CONVENTION MINUTES

President Helmold. The Third District Board is authorized by the Bylaws to approve the 2022 Convention minutes on behalf of the Third District Lodge. The Board did so at its October 2022 Board meeting. He thanked the Convention Minutes Review Committee for their time and efforts. Chairperson Audun Gythfeldt and member Barbara Berntsen. THANK YOU!

Vice President Diana Syvertsen will you please appoint the marshals and greeters for the morning session and the tellers for the convention.

APPOINTMENT OF THE MARSHALS AND GREETERS FOR THE MORNING SESSION AND THE TELLERS FOR THE CONVENTION.

Vice President Diana Syvertsen made the following appointments:

Greeters:	Dirk Hansen	Marshalls:	Phil Fiederlein
	Jeff Dirgo		Hank Dester

Tellers:

Barbara Berntsen
Melody Loftheim
Barbara Kristiansen

Marshals remain in their seats until called upon as needed. Guards will take their stuff and sit at each back door to check that only eligible persons are allowed in the convention hall.

President Helmold. Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold are there any communications?

Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. There are no communications.

President Helmold. At this time, I would like to introduce Michael Wagner-Diggs and thank him for agreeing to serve in the role of our parliamentarian for the 2024 Third District Lodge meeting. Michael

also served as our Parliamentarian in 2012 in Virginia Beach, 2016 in Myrtle Beach and in 2018 in Hauppauge. Michael will now advise us of the general parliamentary rules of the convention. Michael, thank you and would you address the delegates?

PARLIAMENTARIAN MICHAEL WAGNER-DIGGS GIVES RULES

Thank you. When you need to speak on any matter, come the center microphone, hold up your paddle, announce your name, lodge and paddle number and then speak. We will worry about the formatting of the resolutions up here at the dais. Don't get wrapped up with the number of delegates for the votes. It is only the number of delegates present at the time of the vote that matters. That number may change. You cannot make anyone vote. You may abstain, but we do not call for abstentions. Do you have any questions for me? You can only speak for 2 minutes and only once for each item. The timer will give you a 15 second warning when your time is almost up. Thank you.

President Helmold. I am going to assume a motion to adopt these rules and opened it for debate

There was no debate.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

President Helmold. I declared these rules are adopted.

Before I bring up the committees, I would like to thank those delegates and zone directors who agreed to serve on a committee. Based on the questions I have received; it was obvious that you have taken your jobs very seriously and it is appreciated. We will start to call up the committees dealing with the resolutions assigned to them. Since the recommendations are made by a committee, no second is needed. This is their opportunity to share your view. Remember to approach the microphone, state your name and your lodge and your delegate number. Speak only about the issue being debated. Personal accusatory or libelous statements will not be tolerated. You will have two minutes to speak about the issue. You cannot speak twice about the same issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Helmold. Will the Finance Committee come forward and make their report?

Chair: Thomas Brownworth (Loyal Lodge)
Committee: JoAnn Stephens-Forrest (Bla Fjell Lodge)
Dawn Green (Nor-Bu Lodge)

Chairperson Thom Brownworth. Thank you, Mr. President and I would like to thank the committee for their work.

The financial reports begin on page 26, Compliance to correct the 2021 Charitable Trust Report, page 27 the Charitable Trust Balance Sheet, page 28 the Charitable Trust Receipts and Disbursements, and page 29 the Charitable Trust Portfolio. I would like to point out that there are two problems that we found with this report. They are both the same for page 27, which is only a half year report. So, either the date

is wrong, or the numbers are wrong. We do not know which it is so the auditors will have to tell us and the same for page 28, it was only a half year report.

The finance committee recommends approval of the Correction to the 2021 Charitable Trust Report on page 26 and the 2021 Charitable Trust reports pages 27, 28, and 29, and directs the auditors of the documents to send a copy of the full year's audit for 2021 to the District 3 Secretary for distribution to the lodges of the Third District.

Les Johannessen, Norden Lodge, Paddle #46. I question why 2021 is included here. Wasn't that covered in 2022?

Chairperson Brownworth. Yes, but at the 2022 Third District Lodge meeting there was only a half year report.

Les Johannessen, Norden Lodge, Paddle #46. Yes, but that has been corrected I do not know at this point where that copy is. And the 2022-23 report, there is an issue there too. That had been corrected and I don't know why it wasn't included. I do apologize.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, Paddle #82. Just a clarification please. What are we approving, just 6 months, right? We are not approving the whole calendar year because we don't have it.

Chairperson Brownworth. We do have a statement by the auditors on page 26 that the full year was audited and was acceptable to them. We are recommending approval of the auditor's report stating that the full year was audited and approval of the half year in the reports book with the recommendation that the audited full year report be sent to all lodges.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Brownworth. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the 3rd District Audit for Jan. 2022 to Dec. 2022 on page 32.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Brownworth. The Finance Committee recommends approval of Third District Lodge Financial Statement 2022 on page 36 and Third District Lodge Balance Sheet 2022 on page 37.

Christine Bremseth, Noreg Lodge, paddle #41. Should the entire line be moved up one space and on page 37, under liabilities, the second column be moved up one line?

Chairperson Brownworth. Yes, it was the excel spreadsheet one set of cells were added and moved everything down one. That is the way we took it. With that correction we again recommend the approval.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Brownworth. The Finance Committee Recommends approval of the Third District Limited Financial Statement 2022 on page 38, and the Third District Limited Balance Sheet 2022 on page 39.

Christine Bremseth, Noreg Lodge, paddle #41. The numbers need to be aligned on page 38 like page 37.

Chairperson Brownworth. Yes, you have to move the numbers up and recommend approval with that correction.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

The Finance Committee recommends approval of Charitable Trust Receipts And Disbursement 2022 on page 40, Charitable Trust Balance Sheet 2022 on page 41, and Charitable Trust Portfolio 2022 on page 42.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

The Finance Committee recommends approval of Amended D-17 for 12/31/2022 on page 43.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

The Finance Committee recommends approval of the District 3 Audit January to December 2023 on page 45, District Lodge 3 Financial Statement 2023 on page 45A and Third District Lodge Balance Sheet 2023 on page 46.

Jeanne Addison, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #13. I notice that the advance for the 2024 Convention Committee was \$5,000 on the last page, and yet the year before was \$3,000. Was it an additional 5 or was it an additional 2? I know the Board did approve the extra 2, but was that the correct way to show it then?

President Helmold. It is an asset so we have a total of \$5,000 as an asset so it is correct as stated.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Brownworth. The Finance Committee recommends approval of District Fraternal Funds on page 47.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

The Finance Committee recommends approval of The Charitable Trust Receipts and Disbursement 2023 on page 48, the Charitable Trust Balance Sheet on page 49, and the Charitable Trust Current Portfolio 2023 on page 50.

Peter Vatne, Norumbega Lodge, paddle #31. On page 50, the portfolio was as of June 30, it should be the December 31, 2022, report to match the balance sheet. He stated that this should be included at the next District Lodge meeting.

Les Johannessen, Norden Lodge, paddle #46. I just want to point out Page 50 is informational since there is no reconciliation needed, although it should have been the end of the year. I am not sure the auditors, we initial it to show the fact that it is there, but again, there is no reconciliation.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Brownworth. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the D-17 for 12/31/2023 on page 51.

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Brownworth. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the Third District Budget on page 53.

Jeannie Addison, Bondelandet Lodge, Paddle # 13. Just on the District Conventions again, the advance on page 53. It is a little confusing to me. Let's see \$2,000 in 2023 and 3,000 in 2024 are we down to \$2,000 again in 2025. So, we sort of splitting the advances for our next convention committee?

President Helmold. Yes.

Jeannie Addison. Thank you

APPROVED by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Brownworth. You will notice that 3D 2022 Convention Receipts and Disbursements on 34 and Gateway to Florida Lodge 541 Members/Lodge investments to support the 2022 District Convention on page 35 say could not be audited and District 3 Convention 2022 Audit on page 33 explains why they could not be audited.

MOTION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REGARDING REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN TO GATEWAY TO FLORIDA LODGE

The Finance Committee cannot consciously move to accept an incomplete financial record (report). Therefore, we move that Gateway to Florida Lodge repay the \$5,000.00 loan from District Three immediately. Failure to do so will force District Three to initiate arbitration in according with section 25.2.3 of Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures.

President Helmold. Will the 2022-2024 auditors join the Finance Committee at the table.

Kathy Dollymore, Restauration Lodge, Paddle # 83. I understood from an International Board position that arbitrators and International policy split the \$5,000 between the District 3 Lodge and Gateway to Florida Lodge. I do know that Florida has already paid their \$2,500 to the Foundation. That can be double checked. I am not sure what District 3, whether they have paid the \$2,500 to the Foundation. That was from Ron Stubbings the CEO, the President of the International Board.

President Helmold. I got the certified letter from Ron Stubbings. As far as I know the money has not been deducted from our account.

Kathy Dollymore. OK So, the \$5,000 has been rectified.

President Helmold. As soon as I got the letter, I sent an email to Ron Stubbings that the solution did not abide by their Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures. The District wanted to go to arbitration and Gateway to Florida refused. From that point on, when I sent that out when he said all of that we are still waiting for the arbitration. We are adamantly against being docked the \$2,500. That means we are out \$7,500. That is a very bad decision. I still have not heard anything back from Ron since then. So that is where it is.

Kathy Dollymore. As far as the International Board goes it is a done deal. The system has taken place.

President Helmold. It is not finished.

Barbara Berntsen, Norden Lodge, paddle #45. So, what you are saying is that the International Board has in turn penalized the Third District for not getting the \$5,000 that was a loan to Gateway to Florida, so we are now penalized because of that. How could that judgement have been approved by an International Board? That does not make any sense to me. I served on the International Board for 4 years and that would not have happened to penalize a district for asking for their money back.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, District 3 Secretary, paddle #3. The guidelines say there has to be an arbitration. There was no arbitration. I know what arbitrations are. As a union president, I attended many arbitrations. Both sides meet with the arbitrator to discuss their sides. We never had that opportunity. I do not care what the International Board thinks they have done. There was no arbitration, therefore they did not follow their own rules, their policies, and they did not follow the portion of the Third District Bylaws that the International Board mandated that all districts include in their district bylaws. There was no arbitration.

President Helmold. The letter was sent to me at Christmas, and I sent a reply the first week of January and I have not heard back.

Mary Anderson, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle # 82. I am going to give you my understanding. My understanding was that the Third District Board requested to solve this with Jacksonville and my understanding was that the Third District Board asked International to step in. The executive committee of the International adjudicated. I am a member of District 3 and I am a member of the executive committee so I was recused from it. The discussion happened, a decision was reached, a letter was sent, and in that letter the last sentence of that letter said there would be no future discussion, so I think that this whole conversation is out of order.

President Helmold. We asked for arbitration as far back as the summer of 2023. Gateway to Florida refused. Ron said there was nothing that he could do about it. He did not try to enforce it. That's where it stood and then we get the letter stating we are being penalized. Everyone on the Third District Board was very upset about it and that is where it was. The District lent \$5,000 that we did not get back and now we are going to lose another \$2,500. That is not right. I feel that we should go to arbitration regardless. If they refuse and if the arbitration goes in our favor, then that should be sent back up to the International Board and the International Board should enforce the arbitration.

Barbara Bensen, Noreg Lodge, paddle #40. One large problem is providing the information needed to solve this issue. According to the notes in the book, you do not have receipts, you do not have back up information. Am I understanding this?

President Helmold. Yes, that is correct.

Barbara Bensen. That is my point.

President Helmold. Shirely Erland, please clarify.

Shirley Erland, Auditor. According to the Third District Bylaws, whoever has a convention has 6 months to give their report into the Third District. As of October, this is what we had from the convention committee. It was a long letter and one page of income and disbursements with no receipts, no invoices, nothing and even a total of \$12,000 they estimated when people donated stuff, like someone

donated graphic design, \$800. They called that an expense. We got a hold of the lodge, and they did send drips and drags, but we never got everything so there was no way that an audit could ever be done with the material that we had. If anyone wants to see what we got, they can.

Les Johannessen, auditor. Just to further what Shirley said, we have tried to work with the lodge. Initially the paperwork and the documentation in order to reconcile their report that they sent which were not timely. We have spent over 40 hours attempting to take the material that we received to fix this. We actually got receipts with no indication of what they were for and this was just before we sat down as auditors to audit the books for this convention. 40 hours is probably generous, we probably spent more than that. In fairness to the lodge, their treasurer was not in a good situation because of some health issues in her family. We have since worked with her tirelessly going back and forth trying to resolve this thing. In the last statement with Bonnie she did say that the basic contract with the hotel which of course is one of the basic things we need, would be forwarded to us, but we are still waiting, so I do not know. That is where we are at.

President Helmold. You have tried to audit these three or four times?

Les Johannessen. Yes, we have tried these three or four times and again, we have tried to work with the treasurer.

President Helmold. And you have asked for the hotel contract which was not only asked for by the auditors but was also asked for by the Third District Board on many occasions since this whole thing started back in 2018 when they got the bid. We have not seen it at all. We were told that no District Board had ever asked for the contract, which is not true. I know of several past presidents and boards who have asked and have received it.

Christine Bremseth, Noreg Lodge, paddle #41. I do not understand what Kathy said the agreement that the International came up with aside from whether we can do anything, but of the \$5,000 Gateway would pay \$2,500, why would we pay \$2,500, or did they say Gateway would pay \$2,500 just to settle it and we would absorb the other \$2,500 just to settle it.

President Helmold. NO, both Gateway and the District would give \$2,500 to the Sons of Foundation.

Christine Bremseth. You mean to settle it?

President Helmold. That was their way of settling it, We never agreed to that. They just did that on their own. We asked them to see if we could get Gateway to go to arbitration because Gateway refused.

Christine Bremseth. Did we ever say give us \$2,500 and be done with it?

President Helmold. NO.

Diana Syvertsen, Noreg Lodge, Paddle #2. As a Board, we did offer to Gateway that if they did repay the loan, the Board would donate \$2,500 to the Foundation and \$2,500 to the Third District Charitable Trust. We did offer that to them if they would repay the loan. We would not keep the money if they repaid the loan but donate it.

President Helmold. That letter was sent to Gateway to Florida Lodge with a cc to the International Board.

Barbara Berntsen, Norden Lodge, Paddle #45. As a point of clarification: As the Bylaws Chair for the Third District, the mandate that was sent to me and to the District Board that we have to do this step, this step etc. That it was mandated by the International Board that we had to put this in our Bylaws. So, by agreeing with International's decision, we are now violating our own Bylaws.

President Helmold. That is correct. I can also tell you that in that letter that I got from the International that was certified that Kathy Dollymore said it was done, it was over, we were called a bunch of babies by the International Board. We just want what we are entitled to.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3. I previously spoke only to the issue of Arbitration. I would also like to point out that as past district secretary, I wrote the policy for hosting a convention which was in place when they made their bid. The host lodge was responsible for the cost of the AV (audio visual). During the course of the 4 years before the 2022 convention, when they were preparing for the convention, they came to the then Third District Board crying that the cost of the AV was too much. So, the Board granted to pay the first \$7,500 for the cost of the AV. So, we already gave them \$7,500 more than what they should have gotten when they won the bid. The cost of the AV went over the \$7500 and the Third District Board was never paid the difference, The Board paid out close to \$9,000. Some of it was for the hybrid portion which the District was responsible for. I called the hotel and spoke to their AV department and was told that was only about \$600. Also, in discussions between the host committee and the Third District Board it was agreed that the \$100 registration fee from those who attended virtually was to come back to the District. We never saw that. They kept that \$3,300 which was for 33 delegates at \$100 each. So, it is not just the \$5000. It is quite a bit more, but this Third District Board only wants their \$5,000 back.

Eric Johannesen, Loyal Lodge, paddle #58. I just want to give a big vote of confidence to President Steve Helmold for doing this. It is a very difficult thing to do. I would also like to say I have a lack of confidence in the International Board with what they have done. I hope we can work this all out. It sounds like there were a number of solutions that were very, very reasonable but unfortunately the International Board came up with one that was completely irrational. So, a vote of confidence to you, Steve.

There was a round of applause from the delegates.

Finance Committee Chairperson Thomas Brownworth reread the motion on the floor:

The Finance Committee cannot consciously move to accept an incomplete financial record (report). Therefore, we move that Gateway to Florida Lodge repay the \$5,000.00 loan from District Three immediately. Failure to do so will force District Three to initiate arbitration in according with section 25.2.3 of Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures.

Motion APPROVED by a show of paddles.

President Helmold. The Finance Committee is excused.

Will the auditors remain at the table. On behalf of the Third District Board, I would like to thank you very much for your service as auditors over the past 10 years. You have done a terrific job. Thank you!

President Helmold presented each auditor with a thank you gift.

The auditors received a round of applause.

President Helmold. Will the Reports Committee come forward and give their report. He reminded everyone that typographical errors that do not change the meaning of the sentence should be given to the district secretary in writing and do not have to be brought up at this time. I would like to introduce the committee.

Chair: Les Johannessen (Norden Lodge)
Committee: Diane Connelly (Gulfstream Lodge)
Charles Webber (Nor-Bu Lodge)
James Mostrom (Oslo Lodge)

Chairperson Les Johannessen. Since typos do not affect the overall report, and will be reported to the District Secretary, we found the report to be in good order and we congratulate the President for his report. I would like to point out there are a few things that might be confusing but all in all the report is in excellent shape.

Page 9. There was a correction sheet sent out stating that the Zone 3 Director is Audun Gythfeldt from Nor-Bu Lodge. The spelling of Zone 5 Director should be Christine.

Jeanne Addison's name is misspelled, it should be Addison, and she is from Bondelandet Lodge. So, if you did not get the correction page, those are the corrections on that page.

Page 10. The delegate count for Fredheim Lodge says 5456. It should be 56.

Page 11. The agenda has been changed from the original one in the reports book. Everyone should have received a new one at registration.

Page 19. Survey monkey should be one-word SurveyMonkey.

Page 92-97 have been reported to the secretary.

If your printers are not in the range, you may not have gotten the page numbers. They were there. I suggest that you number your pages.

Jeannie Addison, Bondelandet Lodge paddle #13. Some corrections that were on the correction sheet. I am not sure everyone got it. I think they need to be pointed out.

Page 9. This is just some of the people on the Board, and I think they need to be correct.

Page 9. Sports Director Paul Kornbrekke misspelled no e between the and n the b
Michael Pederson should be sen. Norwegian style not Swedish style like the people who are here.

Zone 3 Director is Audun Gythfeldt from Nor-Bu Lodge, and my name, and I am from Bondelandet Lodge, not Restauration Lodge.

Page 98 the site of convention should be Jacksonville Florida, not Herdon Virginia and Michael Pederson should be seen there too.

I just felt with Audun, with all the years he has put in, it should be correct.

Karen Olsen-Helmold District Secretary. That was sent out on a correction page.

Diana Syvertsen, Noreg Lodge, paddle #2. Page 10, where it says Third District Board and International Officers, the maximum number of International Delegates should be 4 not 16 and the number of delegates from the Third District Board should be 16 not 2.

Chairperson Johannessen. I move on behalf of the Reports Committee to accept the Reports Book as corrected.

Motion **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

President Helmold. Reports Committee, thank you very much and you are excused.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

President Helmold presented the Lodge of the Year Awards and The Family Lodge of the Year Awards:

1. Family Lodge of the Year (2022 |Large): Hampton Roads Lodge 3-522
2. Family Lodge of the Year (2022 |Small): Bla Fjell Lodge 3-646
3. Family Lodge of the Year (2023 |Large): Loyal Lodge 3-252
4. Family Lodge of the Year (2023 |Small): Norrona Lodge 3-467
5. Lodge of the Year (2022 |Large): Norumbega Lodge 3-506
6. Lodge of the Year (2022 |Small): Restauration Lodge 3-555
7. Lodge of the Year (2023 |Large): Washington Lodge 3-428
8. Lodge of the Year (2023 |Small): Lodge Brooklyn 3-243

President Helmold. Will District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold announce the Sons of Norway Foundation Scholarship winners for 2023 and 2024. Karen has done a lot of things for the Foundation.

District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. I hope everyone is aware that the Sons of Norway Foundation has a very nice scholarship program for members, children of members and grandchildren of members who are going to college. They need to apply online and we have a number of winners from District 3.

District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold announced the following winners:

The winner for 2024

Kaitlyn Lorentzen	Nansen Lodge
William McCall	Washington Lodge
Katherine Chuliver	Loyal Lodge
Kristiane Rell	Hudson Valley Lodge
Sophia Meagher	Hampton Roads Lodge

The winners for 2023

Kaitlyn Lorentzen	Nansen Lodge
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William McCall	Washington Lodge
Katherine Ropp	North Carolina Vikings
Lucas Deininger	Gulfstream Lodge
Marbella Deininger	Gulfstream Lodge
Emily Waalberg	Nor-Bu Lodge

Kaitlyn Lorentzen is listed in both years because she won a 4-year scholarship.

Congratulations to all our scholarship winners.

President Helmold. The Foundation does fantastic work and should be supported as well as our own Charitable Trust. You should try to support both.

President Helmold. It is time for our first coffee break. Please try to return by 10:20 so we can have time for the presentation from International.

Meeting recessed at 10:00 for coffee and cookies.

Meeting reconvened at 10:30.

President Helmold. Please shut off your phones or else you will get a fine and we don't want that.

President Helmold. At this time, I would like to bring up the Laws Committee.

Chair:	Peter Vatne (Norumbega)
Committee:	Barbara Bensen (Noreg)
	Janet Carlin (Gulfstream)

Chairperson Peter Vatne. Good morning, everybody. The Laws Committee has worked diligently to review the 6 resolutions assigned to them. The committee met 5 times previously via zoom and then met again yesterday in person for another 3 hours. Barbara Bensen will present Resolution #1 which appears on page 55.

RESOLUTION #1

Remove Youth Director as a Third District Board Position.

Submitted by Third District Board.

WHEREAS the main duty of the Third District Youth Director has been to run the Land of the Vikings Youth Camp; and

WHEREAS in the past few years this duty has been delegated to a Camp Director approved by the Third District Board; and

WHEREAS eliminating the position of Youth Director from the Third District Board would save money without impacting the operation of the Youth Camp;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the position of Youth Director be removed from the Third District Board; and

FURTHER be it resolved that the position of Youth Director be delegated to a Camp Director and/or others appointed by the Third District Board.

Barbara Bensen. Our committee is in favor of this resolution. The Third District Youth Director's primary job was to run the annual youth camp at LOV and LOV was sold, youth camp ended up on a back burner for several years and for the past 2 years the coordination of youth camp was delegated to a camp director approved by the board. There is really no reason why this can't be continued as it has been successful. There is really no need to have a Third District Youth Director. The reality is if the District Board finds that there is a need to reestablish the position in the future, the matter can be addressed at a future District Lodge meeting. The District will also realize a financial savings by the elimination of the position.

The Laws Committee recommends adoption of Resolution #1.

Resolution #1 **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. The next resolution is Resolution #2 on page 57. Barbara Bensen will give the committee's recommendation.

RESOLUTION # 2

Remove Sports and Recreation Director as a Third District Board Position. Submitted by Third District Board.

WHEREAS the main duty of the Third District Sports and Recreation Director has been to run the annual Bowling and Golf tournaments; and

WHEREAS in the past few years there has not been a Bowling tournament due to insufficient participation; and

WHEREAS the sports pins ordering and distributing is done on a local level; and

WHEREAS the Golf tournament has been run by other members; and

WHEREAS eliminating the position of Sports and Recreation Director from the Third District Board would save money;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the position of Sports and Recreation Director be removed from the Third District Board.

Barbara Bensen. Our committee is in favor of this resolution as stated. In the past, the Sports Director planned many of these annual events, the bowling, the golf outing. These have not been done in many years. All of them had a lack of participation, the golf tournament had been coordinated by other individuals. The sports metal challenge has seemed to go by the waste side. And again, the picnic is coordinated by other individuals. The District Board can appoint someone to coordinate all of the above-mentioned activities. If the District Board finds that there is a need to reestablish the position in

the future, the matter can be addressed at a future District Lodge meeting. The District will also realize financial savings by the elimination of the position.

The Laws Committee recommends adoption of Resolution #2.

Resolution #2 **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. The next resolution that the committee will handle is resolution #5 on page 62.

Resolution #5

Additional Duty for Zone Directors.

Submitted by Third District Board.

WHEREAS lodges need to be apprised of changes on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS local lodge officers meeting with their counterparts from other local lodges is a great forum for asking questions and exchanging ideas; and

WHEREAS the exchange of ideas may lead to healthier lodges; and

WHEREAS lodges need to be apprised of changes on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS local lodge officers meeting with their counterparts from other local lodges is a great forum for asking questions and exchanging ideas; and

WHEREAS the exchange of ideas may lead to healthier lodges; and

WHEREAS the district president and the district secretary meet regularly with international officers and other district presidents and district secretaries, and may have timely information to share; and

WHEREAS meeting in person can be expensive, time consuming, and inconvenient for lodge officers;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the duties of the Zone Director shall include: Hold at least four (4) virtual meetings annually with officers in their Zone; one meeting for each of the following groups – Lodge presidents, vice presidents, treasurers, and secretaries; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the Zone Directors are encouraged to invite the District President and District Secretary to each of these meetings

Chairperson Vatne. The Laws Committee is generally in favor of adding this duty to the Zone Directors. We know that it is based on the actual practice of Zone 7 Director Bill Browning, which has been successful. The committee feels that it is too narrow in the way it is written so the Laws Committee has written a substitute resolution.

Will the Marshalls come up to distribute substitute resolution #5.

Substitute Resolution #5

Additional Duty for Zone Directors.

Submitted by Third District Laws Committee.

WHEREAS lodges need to be apprised of changes on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS local lodge officers meeting with their counterparts from other local lodges is a great forum for asking questions and exchanging ideas; and

WHEREAS the exchange of ideas may lead to healthier lodges; and

WHEREAS the district president and the district secretary meet regularly with international officers and other district presidents and district secretaries, and may have timely information to share; and

WHEREAS meeting in person can be expensive, time consuming, and inconvenient for lodge officers;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the duties of the Zone Director shall include: As called upon, arrange and conduct virtual meetings of groups of Lodge officers within the Zone, along with other district officers as circumstances warrant; for example, meetings with all local lodge Treasurers in the Zone to discuss Form 990, or with all local lodge Secretaries to discuss Form D63.

Chairperson Vatne. The Laws Committee feels that this is more flexible. As called upon means that the District Board can decide how many meetings that they want, exactly what kind of meeting they want and gives examples of what would be good ideas. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee that this resolution be substituted for resolution #5.

Pat Hansen, Norrona Lodge, paddle # 36. As called upon by the District Board, that is very restrictive on the Zone Directors. It could be 4 meetings; it could be 25 meetings. Without some kind of constraint on the number of meetings, I think this is way to open.

Jeanne Addison, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #13. I like the wording of the new Resolution #5. There was discussion at a Third District Board meeting that possibly you could have one virtual meeting of the presidents and vice president together and another with the secretaries and treasurers, so that is an option. The other thing I wanted to mention, in letter H, one of the duties of the Zone Director is to elect nominees as delegates to the International Lodge Convention. Since there is no International Lodge Convention, I do not know if we need to remove that phrase at this point or in the future.

Chairperson Vatne. Modifying paragraph H will be covered in Resolution #10. We will be definitely editing that part. This resolution only deals with adding paragraph J.

Motion to substitute resolution #5 **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. We voted to substitute #5, so now the substituted resolution is on the floor for discussion.

Debra Martin, Norrona Lodge, paddle # 37. To clarify the past point as called upon, what about putting in a range for the number of the meeting so they are not bound by an abundance of meetings, but they have a range for the number of meetings that can be called.

President Helmold. So, you are asking for an amendment to that resolution.

Debra Martin. Yes, clarification with that number 1 to 4, or not to exceed something like that so we are not going crazy calling lots of meetings.

President Helmold. Do you have the language that you want?

Debra Martin. I move to amend Substitute Resolution #5 to say not to exceed 4 meetings per year.

Motion seconded.

Chairperson Vatne. Where exactly are the words to be inserted?

Debra Martin. Remove the words called upon and put in not to exceed 4 meetings.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3. I think to mandate that it cannot be more than 4 puts the Third District Board in a very bad position. If we have had 4 meetings and something critical arises, where we have to ask the Zone Directors to have another meeting, someone will say, "Well you had your 4 meetings we cannot talk about this", and it could be very important.

Karen Olsen-Helmold. I move to amend the amendment to include the words except in the case of an emergency.

Motion seconded.

Arnold Johnsen, Hudson Valley Lodge, Paddle #63. I would like to amend the amendment to the amendment.....

Parliamentarian Michael Wagner-Diggs called this out of order. You can only have 2 amendments at one time or else it gets too confusing.

Chairperson Vatne. Point of order. Can we have it read if the secondary amendment is passed.

J. Arrange and conduct virtual meetings of groups of lodge officers within the Zone, not to exceed 4 meetings within one year except for an emergency, along with other district officers as circumstances warrant; for example, meetings with all local lodge Treasurers in the Zone to discuss Form 990, or with all local lodge Secretaries to discuss Form D63.

Dawn Green, Nor-Bu Lodge, paddle #50. As it reads now it is pretty general as to what are the district officers.

Parliamentarian Michael Wagner-Diggs. We are only discussing the secondary amendment except in an emergency. Wait until it comes back up again.

Diana Syvertsen, Noreg Lodge, paddle #2. I would like to request that both the amendment to the amendment and the original amendment be withdrawn because there are certain Zone Directors within the District that holds more than 4 meetings, up to 16 meetings a year with various officers within their Zone and this would restrict him from holding more than 4 meetings per year. He is very productive. He has a great repour with his lodges. I would like to see that advance to other zones. So, I would respectfully request that these amendments be withdrawn and leave it to the original amendment.

President Helmold. The way to do that is to vote it down.

Shirley Earland, Norden Lodge, Paddle #47. I agree with what Diana said. The thing that I am disappointed in is that we are limiting the number of meetings.

Parliamentarian Michael Wagner-Diggs. We are talking about emergency meetings.

Shirley Earland. I don't feel we should need emergency meetings. There should be enough meetings for what we need without it being an emergency, instead of limiting it.

Bill Browning, Norskevenner Lodge, Zone 7 Director, paddle #14. I would just like to clarify something. Yes, I have 16 meetings a year, but it is not 16 meetings with the same leaders. I have 4 with the presidents, 4 with the vice presidents, 4 with the treasurers and so on.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3. I would like to withdraw my amendment except for emergency because I agree with what is being said.

Motion seconded.

Motion to remove the secondary amendment which added except for emergency **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Barbara Berntsen, Norden Lodge, paddle #45. I move to amend the amendment by adding as directed by the District Board. The zone director should be able to call as many meetings as she or he would but as directed by the District Board or required by the Board should not exceed 4. I would like it to read:

Arrange and conduct virtual meetings of groups of Lodge officers within the Zone **as directed by the Third District Board** not to exceed 4 meetings within one year, along with other district officers as circumstances warrant; for example, meetings with all local lodge Treasurers in the Zone to discuss Form 990, or with all local lodge Secretaries to discuss Form D63.

That would allow any zone director to call as many meetings as they want. He could call one a month if he likes. He could call twice a month if he chooses. This way the District Board can only require up to 4. You may need more, but then that is a decision you have to make with that specific zone.

Motion to amend the amendment by inserting as directed by the Third District Board.

Motion seconded.

Chairperson Vatne. As I understand it, if the secondary amendment passes it will read:

Arrange and conduct virtual meetings of groups of Lodge officers within the Zone **as directed by the Third District Board**, not to exceed 4 meetings within one year, along with other district officers as circumstances warrant; for example, meetings with all local lodge Treasurers in the Zone to discuss Form 990, or with all local lodge Secretaries to discuss Form D63.

Motion **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Christine Bremseth, Noreg Lodge, paddle #41. What section of the Bylaws is being amended?

Chairperson Vatne. We are amending Article 6, Section 11, Zone Director shall, and we are adding paragraph J.

We are now voting on the amendment to strike as called upon and to add not to exceed 4 meetings within one year.

As called upon, arrange and conduct virtual meetings of groups of Lodge officers within the Zone as directed by the Third District Board **not to exceed 4 meetings within one year**, along with other district officers as circumstances warrant; for example, meetings with all local lodge Treasurers in the Zone to discuss Form 990, or with all local lodge Secretaries to discuss Form D63.

Motion to amend Substitute Resolution #5 **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. The amendments have been incorporated and the entire thing is under discussion.

President Helmold. Now we can vote on the entire amendment as amended.

Chairperson Vatne. What is under discussion is amending section 11 adding J:

Arrange and conduct virtual meetings of groups of Lodge officers within the Zone as directed by the Third District Board not to exceed 4 meetings within one year, along with other district officers as circumstances warrant; for example, meetings with all local lodge Treasurers in the Zone to discuss Form 990, or with all local lodge Secretaries to discuss Form D63.

Motion to approve Substitute Resolution #5 as amended. **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. We will not proceed onto the next resolution assigned to the Laws Committee which is Resolution #8. Janet Carlin will handle this resolution.

Janet Carlin. Good morning.

Resolution #8

Addition of executive committee position of Recording Secretary to the Third District Board.

Effective for the 2026-2028 Term.

Submitted by Norden Lodge #3-407.

WHEREAS the number of board meetings greatly increased due to the invention of Zoom; and

WHEREAS the home office of Sons of Norway is requiring District Secretaries to do a lot of work that was previous done by the home office; and

WHEREAS the secretary spends much time working with lodge secretaries to help them get their duties completed in a timely fashion to protect against having their dues withheld or their lodge disbanded by the home office; and

WHEREAS the amount of work that the board secretary is required to do has greatly increased; and

WHEREAS it has been getting harder to fill the position of District Secretary; and

WHEREAS adding the position of District Recording Secretary will reduce the workload for the District Secretary;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that effective with the 2026-2028 term of office the position of District Secretary be divided into 2 executive committee board positions; District Secretary and District Recording Secretary; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the District Recording Secretary be responsible for the taking, distributing, and keeping of minutes of all Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings and the biannual District Lodge meeting; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the annual compensation of the District Secretary be reduced to \$750.00; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved the Recording Secretary receive annual compensation of \$500.00 per year.

Again, the Laws Committee agrees in general with the additional board member. However, we would like the name to be Assistant Secretary instead of Recording Secretary. Therefore, we are proposing Substitute Resolution #8

President Helmold. Will the marshals please come up and distribute the substitute resolution.

Substitute Resolution #8

Submitted by Third District Law Committee.

WHEREAS the number of board meetings greatly increased due to the invention of Zoom; and WHEREAS the home office of Sons of Norway is requiring District Secretaries to do a lot of work that was previous done by the home office; and

WHEREAS the secretary spends much time working with lodge secretaries to help them get their duties completed in a timely fashion to protect against having their dues withheld or their lodge disbanded by the home office; and

WHEREAS the amount of work that the board secretary is required to do has greatly increased; and WHEREAS it has been getting harder to fill the position of District Secretary; and

WHEREAS adding the position of Assistant District Secretary will reduce the workload for the District Secretary;

THEREFORE, be it resolved ~~that effective with the 2026-2028 term~~ the position of District Secretary be divided into 2 ~~executive committee~~ board positions: District Secretary and Assistant District Secretary; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the District Board divide the workload approximately equally between the Secretary and Assistant Secretary; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the annual compensation of the District Secretary be reduced to \$750.00; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved the Assistant Secretary will receive annual compensation of \$750.00 per year.

Janet Carlin. The Laws Committee is in favor of Substitute Resolution #8.

Chairperson Vatne. On behalf of the Laws Committee, I move that Substitute Resolution #8 be substituted for Resolution #8.

Debra Martin, Norrona Lodge, Paddle #37. I would like clarification. You said you are only changing the title to Assistant Secretary, but you have taken out executive committee and effective with the 2026-2028 term and removed executive committee. So, we need some clarification on that.

Chairperson Vatne. There are a couple of reasons why we changed those as well. As it turns out, according to the Sons of Norway policies and procedures states that the executive committee of a district board can only have 5 positions. So, we cannot add a position without taking someone off. The Third District Board was in favor of just adding the Assistant Secretary as a board position and not taking anyone off the Executive Committee. As far as the effective date, we had a discussion with the Third District Board who felt that we need this additional position sooner rather than later, so we did not want to defer it.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82. Please clarify one more time, will the Executive Committee include the District Secretary?

Chairperson Vatne. Yes, Substitute Resolution #8 will not change the composition of the Executive Committee.

James Mostrom, Oslo Lodge, paddle #29. Just a point of clarification, if the Assistant Secretary is not part of the Executive Committee, who would be recording the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings?

Chairperson Vatne. The District Secretary will. The person recording the minutes of the board does not have to be the same person recording the Executive Committee meetings.

Motion to substitute resolution #8 **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. Substitute Resolution #8 is now on the floor.

Motion to approve Substitute Resolution #8. **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. The next resolution for the committee is Resolution #9 page 68. Janet will introduce Resolution #9.

RESOLUTION #9

Increase distribution of District Board Minutes
Submitted by Hampton Roads Lodge #3-522

WHEREAS

There is a need to increase transparency of our organization, increase visibility of District operations to our local lodges and members and increase more local interests in District operations.

THEREFORE

Be it resolved that the duties of the Secretary be changed to read as follows:

e. Within 45 days of the District Board meeting, submit minutes of the District Board Meeting to all District board members and all District 3 lodge Presidents.

The Laws Committee is in favor of the idea, but these are draft minutes, not approved minutes, so the Laws Committee would like to submit Substitute Resolution #9.

Chairperson Vatne. Will the marshals come forward and distribute Substitute Resolution #9.

Michael Solhaug, Hampton Roads Lodge, paddle #65. We are submitting this to improve the awareness of the District functioning at the lodge level. We feel that this is really important given the issues we have with other entities within the organization at the higher levels. It is in no way a reflection of a displeasure of the current communications of the present District leadership, it is just to increase awareness of District Board functioning.

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION #9

Increase distribution of District Board Minutes

Submitted by the Laws Committee

WHEREAS There is a need to increase transparency of our organization, increase visibility of District operations to our local lodges and members and increase more local interests in District operations.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the duties of the Secretary be changed to read as follows:

e. Within 45 days of the close of the District Board meeting, submit minutes of the District Board meeting to all District Board members, and within 90 days distribute the approved minutes to all local lodge Presidents within the District.

Janet Carlin. On behalf of the Laws Committee, I move that Substitute Resolution #9 be substituted for Resolution #9.

Melody Loftheim, Hampton Roads Lodge, Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge, paddle #69. Why would we want to wait 90 days to find out what was approved instead of 45 days? Just have a group email and push a button and the president of every lodge would know?

Chairperson Vatne. The reason for the substitute resolution is that the 45 days in the Bylaws for distribution to the board is for draft minutes to be distributed to the Board. The Board needs time to read that draft and make any corrections. It would reduce confusion if only approved minutes are

distributed. It would give the Board an additional 45 days to make any corrections. That is why it says 90 days to distribute the approved minutes. It is within 90 days. It is the approved minutes.

Melody Loftheim. That does not feel very inclusive or cohesive. We feel that it is just too long.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, District Secretary. There were times when it took me the full 45 days to get the minutes typed and out to my Board to proofread and approve. Especially when we have a full board meeting that lasts a day and a half. The minutes are very inclusive. Sometimes they are very lengthy. The last board meeting I could not attend because of a bad back and I could not start to type them for 2 weeks. It took the full 45 days to get them done. Then we had to have another Board meeting to get them approved. Then they have to be corrected and gotten out. Maybe after they are approved, they could be distributed in less than 90 days. But not if there are extensive changes. We are volunteers and it takes time. Sometimes life interferes with our Sons of Norway duties. And we need a little extra time to get it right and get it out.

Chairperson Vatne. The motion is for Substitute Resolution #9 substituted for Resolution #9.

Motion to Substitute Resolution #9 for Resolution #9, **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Vatne stated that Substitute Resolution #9 is now on the floor for discussion.

Motion to approve Substitute Resolution #9. **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

President Helmold. It is time to break for lunch. Before we break, the Host Committee Chairperson Dave Brown has an announcement.

Dave Brown. Lunch will be served in the foyer right outside the door. You are getting a bag lunch with roast beef, turkey, or vegetarian sandwiches. We have a couple of gluten free for those who asked for it. The beverages are in the same place as they were for the coffee break. The silent auction and the Viking Auction will be tomorrow afternoon. If you want to place a bid in the silent auction, you need to have your bid in by 1:50 PM tomorrow before the auction. Buy your tickets before and enjoy the rest of your day. We have some lefse so each delegate can pick up one package. It should be put in the refrigerator.

President Helmold. You have 1 hour for lunch. Please be back by 1PM.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 PM.

Meeting reconvened at 1:06 PM.

President Helmold. Will Vice President Diana Syvertsen announce the marshals and guards for the afternoon session.

APPOINTMENT OF THE MARSHALS AND GREETERS FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION AND THE TELLERS FOR THE CONVENTION.

Vice President Diana Syvertsen:

I would like to thank all the marshals and greeters from this morning.

The marshals and greeters for this afternoon are:

Greeters: Michael Solhaug
Ken Johnson

Marshals: Charles Webber
Gregory Olsen

President Helmold. Will District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold take attendance.

District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold took attendance. Please see appendix #1.

President Helmold. Will the greeters take their positions at the doors.

President Helmold. Will the Laws Committee continue where we left off.

Chairperson Vatne. The last resolution that the Laws Committee report on is Resolution #10 found on page 69 in your reports book.

RESOLUTION #10

Update of District 3 Bylaws.

Submitted by Third District Board.

WHEREAS the Sons of Norway Charter and Bylaws, and Policy and Procedures have all been updated; and

WHEREAS it would reduce confusion by updating the Third District Bylaws to conform with the International Bylaws and Policy and Procedures; and

WHEREAS certain language and grammar should be corrected.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Third District Bylaws be updated to conform to the changes in the Sons of Norway Charter and Bylaws, and Policy and Procedures; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that Third District Bylaws be updated to correct language and grammar.

See appendix #2 for complete list of changes.

The proposed changes were shown on the screens.

Chairperson Vatne. The Bylaws Committee of the Third District; Barbara Berntsen, Audun Gythfeldt, and Diana Syvertsen worked very, very hard to update the bylaws. They have been working on this since 2020. They went through at least 10 revisions. Unfortunately, International has update the Sons of Norway Bylaws and Policies and Procedures at least 3 times since 2022. So, there needs to be additional changes. The Laws Committee met all last month in May about 5 times and we have gone through every

one of these changes. We have found additional things that need to be fixed. The original committee changed about 70 sections of the bylaws. Our committee has found of those 70 changes, 35 we would like to discuss. A lot of them are the same type and minor changes. Hopefully it will go quickly. The first couple might take a bit of discussion. Brother President, do you want to explain what the procedure will be for pulling out these sections?

President Helmold. It is up to you if you want to pull something. If it is not pulled it will be voted as a block.

The Laws Committee would like to pull and discuss the following;

Pages 70, 71, 72. Sections 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.11, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.5.2, 5.5.4, 5.5.6, 6.1, 6.2.2, 6.2.11, 6.2.12, 6.4.3, 6.4.4, 6.5.8, 6.5.9, 6.6.1, 6.7.5, 6.8.1, 6.11, 6.11.8, 8.2, 9.4.3, 13.1, 13.1.7, 13.1.9, and finally pages 86 and 87.

Page 70

Les Johannessen, Norden Lodge, paddle #46. Point of order as we are going to be voting on each of these, individually as we go through, without understanding the total Bylaws, would it be possible that we are voting on something that is future in the Bylaws?

Chairerson Vatne. The committee having reviewed these bylaws 5 times, I think each section stands alone so I don't think changing one will change something later. I think each one can be considered individually.

President Helmold. At the end you will have another opportunity to discuss the whole thing as amended before it gets voted on.

Chairperson Vatne. Does anyone else want to pull any sections?

There were none.

Page 70.

Chairperson Vatne The first change on page 70 is the striking of the words and an explanation of Charitable Trust. This document in its origin was actually a compound document. It has 2 parts. The first part is the Bylaws, and the second part is the explanation of Charitable Trust. Which is not part of the Bylaws, just an explanation. This document actually had a third part which was an explanation of the Land of the Viking. That was edited out when the Land of the Vikings was sold. There are reasons for and against striking the explanation of the Charitable Trust. Strictly speaking the explanation of Charitable Trust is not part of the Bylaws. It has always been this compound document. It was done for convenience. It is a one-page explanation. When you printed the Bylaws, you would have that one document. The Laws Committee feels that if you delete it, that one-page document will be lost forever. If you put it in a separate file and post it on the website, we feel that it would get lost.

The Laws Committee is NOT in favor of striking the explanation of the Charitable Trust from the document.

Audun Gythfeldt, Nor-Bu Lodge, paddle #10. Peter is correct. It used to be a compound document involving a lot of things that are not laws. However, the Bylaws Committee feels that our Bylaws should

be a document of laws. To live in the old days and think we can include everything does not work in my opinion. We had the same thing at the International way back, when Ted Fosberg, the then International President asked me to form a committee to clean out the International Bylaws and take out the policies and procedures and other things that do not belong in the laws document. We should do the same thing. When it comes to the explanation of the Charitable Trust, issue a document at each and every convention that explains the Charitable Trust. Let the Bylaws be bylaws.

Chairperson Vatne. I believe that because this has been pulled, the motion on the floor is to strike and an explanation of The Charitable Trust. If you vote yes, you are voting to strike and an explanation of The Charitable Trust.

Babara Berntsen, Norden Lodge, paddle #45. I disagree with leaving it in. Mainly because if you want to put in a paragraph of what it is, put it in under job descriptions for the Charitable Trust Director to explain instead of having an extra document that is not part of Bylaws. We could add everything in here. It could be an extra book if you start adding all the explanation of what a sports committee is. Now we got rid of 2 officers, do we put in now we have a youth camp should we add youth camp? Should we add sports camp? It becomes very cumbersome. It is not a bylaw. It is an explanation. I think it should be in its own category, not in a bylaw.

Leif Easterson, Loyal Lodge, Charitable Trust Director, paddle #5. Bylaws should be bylaws; and keep them just as that. I agree with that. Nowadays, everything is online so there should be no concern of something getting lost. I agree, keep the bylaws as clean as possible. And certainly, we will do everything possible to keep the Charitable Trust is available and people aware of what they need to know.

President Helmold. A vote in favor will take away and an explanation of The Charitable Trust.

Motion to strike and an explanation of Charitable Trust **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Committee Chairperson Vatne. Next is Page 71, the authority. The motion is to strike the authority page.

The Laws Committee feels that it should remain, however it needs to be updated, we would like to have a Substitution of the Authority page.

So, we need the marshals to hand out the proposed changes to pages 71 and 72.

President Helmold. Will the marshals please come up and hand out the pages.

Chairperson Vatne Everyone should receive 2 pages, one is the replacement of page 71 and the other the replacement of page 72.

Keith Aleckson, Washington Lodge, paddle #21. I just had a point of information. I was wondering what the original logic was for striking it.

Chairperson Vatne. We will get to that.

There was a question about why the authority was stricken in the first place. I cannot answer that. The Laws Committee did not have time to discuss this with the Bylaws Committee. We only had time enough to review everything. The Bylaws Committee can speak up.

The Committee feels that it would be useful to have the authority there, but that it needs to be updated so we are moving to substitute or to have an alternate amendment which changes the first paragraph to read:

By the authority of the Sons of Norway Charter and Bylaws, District Lodge No. 3 has enacted these Bylaws. They pertain to the operations of the District and do not conflict in any way with the Sons of Norway Charter and Bylaws.

And the date will be updated to 2024.

Substitute page 71.

SONS OF NORWAY DISTRICT LODGE No. 3 **2024-2026**

A U T H O R I T Y

By the authority of the ~~Constitution of District Lodges~~ Sons of Norway Charter and Bylaws, District Lodge No. 3 has enacted these Bylaws. They pertain to the operations of the District and do not conflict in any way with the Sons of Norway Constitution-Charter and Bylaws.

As authorized by the 48th District Convention of June 1984, the Bylaws were updated and revised into a simple and consistent form by a committee (George Gilbertson, Chairman, Leif Aschim, and Frank Monnick) and approved by the 49th District Convention in June 1986 and by the International Board in August 1986.

This edition contains all amendments adopted by the District Lodge at its meetings held through 2014 and approved at Sons of Norway Headquarters by the International Board.

This edition contains all amendments adopted by the District Lodge at its meetings held through **2024**.

Stephen Helmold, President

Karen L. Olsen-Helmold, Secretary

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee that this amendment be substituted for the amendment to strike.

Babara Berntsen, Norden Lodge, paddle #45, chair of the Bylaws Committee. I can explain why. These 2 pages are not bylaws, they are only explanations to explain something of what is happening. So, when you are mailing or you are emailing out or you are going to send out, this would be a very nice addition

to add to it, but it is not part of the Bylaws. You cannot keep explaining everything. Somethings are very good, but these are explanations these are not bylaws, and our Bylaws should remain our Bylaws and whatever additional information you want to send or explain that would be acceptable. But, as Mr. Easterson said, we should keep them as clean and neat as possible.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3, District Secretary. As the person who usually gets stuck sending out all this stuff, having it in one document is useful and helpful. It gets lost. It does not get sent out at the same time. If you think the explanation is worth having at all it makes sense keeping it with the document itself. I can't tell you how many times I had to send out again and send out again because things were not complete. As people change, as new secretaries come on, they might not be aware that all of these things exist, and they get lost and fall by the wayside.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82. Generally, when I see legal documents and I am talking about the field that I worked in which was employee benefit plans documents, it is not unusual at all to have a preamble that explains the purpose of the document. I think that it is worthwhile to keep it in.

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee that this amendment be substituted for the amendment to strike page 71.

The motion that the amendment that was passed out be substituted for the amendment to strike page 71 was **APPROVED** by a sign of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. The motion on the floor is to approve the substituted amendment which keeps and updates the authority page. The Laws Committee is in favor of this.

Motion to approve the substituted amendment which keeps and updates the authority page was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. The next issue is page 72, Introduction to the Bylaws. The motion is to strike the page completely.

The Laws Committee feels that this introduction is worthwhile, but it does need updating so the Laws Committee has a substitute amendment.

The first paragraph would now read:

Sons of Norway is a Fraternal Benefit Society, consisting of an International Board of Directors, District Lodges and Local Lodges, since the International Lodge has unfortunately disappeared from the Sons of Norway Bylaws.

The next paragraph will read:

The **INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS** is the supreme legislative, executive and judicial body of the Society. In general, it has the power and authority to do and perform all acts necessary to carry out the objective and purposes of the organization.

The net paragraph will read:

DISTRICT LODGES are comprised of the Officers, Directors and Delegates elected by Local Lodges in each District. Districts promote the interests of the Society within their boundaries to assist and cooperate with the International Board of Directors in their work, both with relation to fraternal activities and organizational work.

The next paragraphs will read:

LOCAL LODGES function at the “member level”, electing their own Officers and electing Delegates to the District Lodge meetings (Convention). They have no other authority than that delegated to them by the International Board of Directors.

DISTRICT BYLAWS supplement the District section of the Sons of Norway Bylaws and contain the rules and regulations applicable to the District Lodges and their Local Lodges. Each District is self-governing, subject to the authority of the International Board of Directors and Sons of Norway Charter and Bylaws.

Substitute page 72.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BYLAWS

DISTRICT LODGE No. 3 SONS OF NORWAY

Sons of Norway is a Fraternal Benefit Society, consisting of an International Lodge Board of Directors, District Lodges and Local Lodges.

The **INTERNATIONAL LODGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, consisting of the Officers, Directors and Delegates elected by District Lodges, is the supreme legislative, executive and judicial body of the Society. In general, it has the power and authority to do and perform all acts necessary to carry out the objective and purposes of the organization.

DISTRICT LODGES are comprised of the Officers, Directors and Delegates elected by Local Lodges in each District. Districts promote the interests of the Society within their boundaries to assist and cooperate with the International Lodge Board of Directors and its Officers in their work, both with relation to fraternal activities and organizational work.

LOCAL LODGES function at the “member level”, electing their own Officers and electing Delegates to the District Lodge meetings (Convention). They have no other authority than that delegated to them by the International Lodge Board of Directors.

THE SONS OF NORWAY CHARTER, CONSTITUTIONS and PROCEDURES AND BYLAWS contains the principles and laws under which the International Lodge Board of Directors, District Lodges and Local Lodges are governed. It is established by the International Lodge Board of Directors, which alone has the power to modify it.

DISTRICT BYLAWS supplement the District section of the Sons of Norway ~~Constitution Bylaws~~ and contain the rules and regulations applicable to the District Lodges and their Local Lodges. Each District is self-governing, subject to the authority of the International ~~Lodge Board of Directors~~ and the ~~Charter, Constitutions and Procedures Sons of Norway Charter and Bylaws~~.

Chairperson Vatne. On behalf of the Laws Committee, I move to substitute this page for the amendment to strike.

Motion to substitute the amendment for the amendment to strike was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. It has been substituted so the substituted amendment is now on the floor if you want to amend it further.

Motion to approve the substituted amendment was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. Effectively each section is a motion to amend the bylaws. Next up for discussion is **section 2.1**.

President Helmold. We will go through each chapter, and if anyone wants something pulled, please let us know.

Does anyone want anything pulled from Article One, Chapter One? We go on to Article 2

Chairperson Vatne. The proposal has some strike outs and additions. The Laws Committee felt that this was still awkwardly worded. We actually went to the Sons of Norway Bylaws and if you look at 2.3.1 of the Sons of Norway Bylaws, it has a very nice definition of what the district lodge consists of. So, on behalf of the Laws Committee I am moving that for section 2.1 we substitute:

2.1 The District Lodge shall consist of its elected officers and directors, all of whom shall be benefit members, and delegates from each local lodge (who are not required to be benefit members), and the elected international officers and directors from the district.

The motion to substitute this language for section 2.1 was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. On behalf of the Laws Committee, I move to accept this wording which is the wording in the Sons of Norway Bylaws for section 2.1.

The motion was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Section 2.2

Chairperson Vatne. The Laws Committee felt that the official title is the International Board of Directors and not International Board of Officers and Directors therefore we move to amend this to strike the words Officers and so that the section will read:

2.2 The District Lodge shall promote the interests of **Sons of Norway** within the District and shall cooperate with and assist the International **Board of Directors** in its fraternal and organizational work.

The motion to amend the motion was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

The motion to approve the amendment as amended was **APPROVED** by show of the paddles.

President Helmold. Does anyone want to pull anything else from Article 2?

Christine Bremseth, Noreg Lodge, paddle #41. I move to amend section 2.3 by striking, in its behalf.

Motion seconded.

The motion to amend was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

The motion for section 2.3 as amended was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Section 3.1

Chairperson Vatne. The word Convention is deleted. The fact is you will see this everywhere. The convention is deleted because properly speaking all these Bylaws refer to the District Lodge meeting. The Convention consists of everything including the District Lodge meeting. The Laws Committee agrees with the striking of the word convention. In addition, since Sons of Norway updated their Bylaws. On behalf of the Laws Committee, I move to amend 3.1 by striking chapters 5.4 and 5.5 and substituting sections 4.6.2 and 7.2.

The motion to amend was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. The Committee is in favor of 3.1 as amended.

The motion for section 3.1 as amended **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Section 3.2

Chairperson Vatne. I believe that it is not a vote of the District Lodge delegates, If you remember the definition of the District Lodge was the officers, the delegates from the local lodges and the International Lodge officers. I believe it is a vote of the entire District Lodge, which includes the Board and the International officers that vote on the convention site for the next time. So, on behalf of the Laws Committee, I move to strike the word delegates.

The motion to amend was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. So now on the floor is 3.2 with the word delegates struck.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3, District Secretary. The word convention should not be struck. The host committee is hosting the entire convention, not just the District Lodge meeting. They are hosting everything else that goes along with it. The majority of their work is outside the actual District Lodge meeting. I move to amend 3.2 to say District Lodge meeting and Convention in both places.

Motion was seconded.

The motion will now read

3.2 A Local Lodge, a group of Local Lodges, a Zone, or the District Board may bid for and host a regular District Lodge meeting and Convention, with the final selection of the District Lodge meeting and Convention site determined by a vote of the District Lodge from all the bids presented.

The motion to amend was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

The motion as amended was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Section 3.3

Chairperson Vatne. The proposal is to change 3.2 is as follows:

3.3 Within six (6) months after the close of a regular District Lodge Meeting (Convention), the sponsor(s) host(s) shall file with the District Treasurer a detailed financial statement of revenues and expenses and a detailed record of its receipts and expenditures including their receipts and expenditures with all supporting documentation and contracts. The financial statement shall be included in the Minutes of the District Board Meeting (Convention) and shall be published in the Reports Book for at the following next District Lodge Meeting (Convention) and shall be published in the Reports Book at the next District Lodge Meeting. A Local Lodge may request a copy from the District Treasurer.

Chairperson Vatne. This is not strictly within the call of resolution 10 which sets out to align our Bylaws with the International Bylaws. This has nothing to do with the International Bylaws and it is not a correction of grammar. It expands the description of what the Convention host lodge should file. After looking at the financial statements this morning, it wouldn't hurt to be really explicit about what we want. The Laws Committee agrees with expanding this section. We would like to make one small amendment to this. Where it says next District Lodge Meeting, we would like to add the word Regular District Lodge Meeting.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to amend this motion to include the word regular before District Lodge Meeting.

The motion to amend the motion was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. Now on the floor is 3.3 as amended. The Laws Committee is in favor of 3.3 as amended.

Debra Martin, Norrona Lodge, paddle #37. We should add and convention in the three places where it appears in this amendment also. You have to be consistent. It doesn't make sense when you start reading it.

I move to amend the motion to include and Convention after the District Lodge meeting in 3 places
The motion was seconded.

Barbara Berntsen, Norden Lodge, paddle #45. This portion of the Bylaws is talking about this exact meeting here. It is not talking about the Viking Auction, it is not talking about the lunches, it is not talking about anything else. This portion is only about what we are doing immediately right now. To add and Convention means that we are responsible and in charge of everything else and that is not the truth. We are only responsible for here unless it is an actual District run convention. 3.2 is a little bit different only because it is talking basically about putting a bid in. When you are talking about a convention you are talking about every aspect of what we are doing here this weekend. The host committee cannot put in a bid for this portion of the meeting. They need to talk about the entire convention. If you are looking at 3.2 it is looking at when a bid can be put in and it has to be sent to the Secretary, it can't be willy nilly off the floor and it can't be a discussion, it has to be sent to the District Secretary with specific information and that is why and convention needs to be only in that spot because they need to be talking about the hotel, they need to be making sure they have convention rooms have to make sure all the other aspects of this meeting can be accomplished. I feel that and Convention should not be in 3.3.

Christine Bremseth, Noreg Lodge, paddle #41. I agree with the original amendment to add and Convention. How are you going to separate the financial report that the host lodge is going to send in. You can't say this is for the meeting and this is for the Viking Auction. It is also confusing. The next sentence should be broken up into 2 sentences, so it is not so confusing. I think we should leave it and convention because there is no way to separate the different expenses.

Adrianna Murphy, Hampton Roads Lodge, paddle #68. Can we be specific and say the meeting portions of the convention?

Debra Martin, Norrona Lodge, paddle #37 I just want clarification, I understand part of it is just having the meeting here, but because we are looking for the receipts and after the discussion this morning about the previous convention, I want to make sure everything is in here correctly, so we get what we need. So that the next convention host knows and understands it. I just want to clarify so everyone knows what has to be done. The way I am reading it, you need convention in there somewhere.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3, District Secretary. This refers to when the financial statement is being published. The financial statement is being published in the minutes of the District Lodge meeting. We don't talk about the financial statements at the Viking Auction. We don't talk about the financial statements at the Cultural Arts exhibit. It has to be in the minutes of this particular Board meeting. As far as what is involved for the host lodge, we have a whole new policy for lodges that want to host a convention, and it is spelled out in great detail. The policy was passed by the Third District Board. I chaired the Convention Host Lodge Policy Committee which had Mary Andersen and other

members, and we detailed everything about hosting a convention so there should be no confusion for a host lodge about what they have to do.

Debra Martin. Then I withdraw it.

President Helmold. Then you are withdrawing.

Debra Martin. As long as it is somewhere.

President Helmold. Everything is in the new policy for convention as Karen said. It is a 20- or 25-page document that includes everything.

Hank Dester, Norrona Lodge. paddle #38. I need a little clarification. This is the District Lodge meeting and everything they are doing outside of this meeting is the convention. Is that correct?

President Helmold. The District Lodge meeting is part of the convention.

Peter Vatne, Norumbega Lodge paddle #31. Rereading this, sister Karen had it correct that the wording and Convention should not appear in section 3.3 is only talking about the close of the meeting, the minutes of the meeting. The financials should include the meeting and convention; therefore, I agree that we should not include the words and Convention

Pat Hansen, Norrona Lodge, paddle #36. 3.3 The first sentence District Lodge meeting and Convention because we are asking for receipts and the contracts for the entire convention. The contract with the hotel will include the entire convention.

Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. This paragraph states when the clock starts ticking for the months. It is not detailing what should be in the contract or the financial statements. It is just saying that the financial statements are due at such a time. The clock starts ticking at such a time.

Pat Hansen, Norrona Lodge, paddle #36. If you do include and convention you are asking them to separate out that portion of the receipts. It is very cloudy.

Debra Martin, Norrona Lodge, paddle #37. I would like to amend my amendment. What I would like to do is in the first line where it says District Lodge meeting add and Convention and take out the convention in the other places.

Seconded.

Diana Syvertsen, Noreg Lodge, paddle #2. I call the question.

Motion seconded.

President Helmold. We have a motion to call the question. This will need a two-thirds vote. We are closing the debate.

Calling the question was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

The motion to amend the motion was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. It will now read as:

3.3 Within six (6) months after the close of a regular District Lodge meeting and Convention, the host(s) shall file with the District Treasurer a detailed financial statement of revenues and expenses and a detailed record of its receipts and expenditures including their receipts and expenditures with all supporting documentation and contracts. This financial statement shall be included in the Minutes of the District Board meeting and shall be published in the Reports Book at the next regular District Lodge meeting. A Local Lodge may request a copy from the District Treasurer.

The motion to approve the amendment as amended was **APPROVED** by a show of the paddles.

President Helmold excused the Laws Committee.

Host Co-chairperson David Brown explained that you did not get any Viking Auction tickets in your bags, and you are not going to. You are going to support the Charitable Trust.

Happy hour starts at 5PM in the Atrium and you can go outside if you wish. There will be bar food available. Those of you who are taking the bus tour, be outside by 6:30. So, you have an hour and one half to eat, which should be enough. The rest of us will be going until 10:00PM, so come out and have a good time. Please go into the Folk Art Exhibition and vote for the best of show. The other awards will be made by our judges.

President Helmold. Please return by 3:00 PM. I am going to ask the Laws Committee and the Bylaws Committee to meet so they can address all of these issues.

Meeting recess at 2:35 PM.

Meeting reconvened at 3:00 PM.

President Helmold. I excuse the Laws Committee and the Bylaws Committee and ask them to meet to discuss the remaining motions to make it a little easier.

President Helmold. Will the Resolutions Committee come forward.

Chairperson: Judi Nilsen-Mack (Norumbega)

Committee: Robert Johnson (Loyal) Was not able to attend due to health reasons
Ruth Campbell (Norsk Carolina)

Chairperson Judi Nilsen-Mack introduced Resolution #3

Resolution #3

Timely notification from the International Board of Directors (IBOD) regarding changes in the SON dues structure.

Submitted by Third District Board.

WHEREAS changes made by the IBOD in the dues structure affect every district and local lodge; and WHEREAS such changes have been made in the past with little or no advance notice; and

WHEREAS district and local lodge budgets are prepared for a calendar year and approved prior to the start or right after the start of the calendar year; and

WHEREAS a change in the amount of dues received by a district or local lodge will have a major impact on the finances and running of the lodge; and

WHEREAS district and local lodge boards need time to budget and plan for such changes;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the effective date of all changes made by the IBOD to the dues structure be January 1 of the following calendar year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notification of any change in the dues structure be sent to all District Presidents within five (5) days of the approval by the IBOD, but in no case later than December 1, of the year prior to the effective date.

Chairperson Nilsen-Mack. The Resolutions Committee acknowledges that all lodges, including the District must have budgets and must stick to them and we have to know what to expect.

The Resolutions Committee recommends approval of this resolution.

James Mostrom, Oslo Lodge, paddle #29. There are two typographical mistakes. Why was 5 days chosen.

President Helmold. Bring the typographical mistakes to the attention of the District Secretary. Things have not always been in a timely manner. Five days was chosen to assure timely notification.

Les Johannessen, Norden Lodge, paddle #46. The resolution states that there is no financial impact. While there is no financial cost, the whole resolution is about the financial impact on lodges.

Ken Johnson, Henrik Ibsen Lodge, paddle #62, I recommend that we approve this resolution, but the larger question is about the dues increase and how we are going to be affected by the dues increase. I hope we will hear more about this. This will be critical to many of our lodges within our District and needs to be addressed.

President Helmold. It will be addressed after the Resolutions Committee has finished.

Melody Loftheim, Hampton Roads Lodge, Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge, paddle #69. I want to understand what the last few sentences are saying. If I need to renew my dues in November, am I at the current rate or am I at the January 1 rate?

President Helmold. This has nothing to do with effective dates of the dues increase.

Melody Loftheim. But I want to know about the rates, because it will affect my whole little Norge Norsemen group.

President Helmold. That will be coming up in a few minutes.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3 District Secretary. I was one of the writers of this resolution. I just want to explain the rationale behind it. This came after we had a September 28th meeting via zoom with International Chairperson Ron Stubbings who told us that effective October 1 the whole dues structure for Sons of Norway would be changed. We used to get \$28.00 for every Central Lodge member, 3-000, of which we had over 8,000 members, and we were now getting \$0 per member. And for every New Spirit Lodge Member, 3-999, of which we were getting \$28.00, we would now be getting only \$14.00. This reduced the dues coming into the Third District from over \$180,000 to about \$45,000. We had 3 days' notice. That is the rationale behind this resolution.

Resolution #3 **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Ruth Campbell. Resolution #4 on page 61.

Resolution #4

Timely notification by International Board of Directors (IBOD) to District Lodge Presidents regarding changes to the Sons of Norway Charter, Bylaws, and/or Policies & Procedures.

Submitted by Third District Board.

WHEREAS all district lodges and local lodges are bound by the Sons of Norway Charter, Bylaws, and/or Policies & Procedures; and

WHEREAS any change to the Sons of Norway Charter, Bylaws, and/or Policies & Procedures; will affect the running of the district and local lodges;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that any change made to the Sons of Norway Charter, Bylaws, and/or Policies & Procedures not be effective until at least 45 days after approval and notification to all district and local lodge presidents, except in case of an emergency.

Communication is key. So, it is important that local lodges and the District have time to incorporate any changes into their bylaws. The Resolutions Committee recommends approval of this resolution.

Resolution #4 **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Judi Nilsen-Mack. We would like to take Resolution #7 before we Resolution #6.

RESOLUTION #7

In-depth Instruction on Insurance Operations. Submitted by Norumbega #506.

WHEREAS, it has been repeatedly pointed out at International Lodge meetings that the average member has insufficient knowledge of Sons of Norway Insurance Operations, and is therefore unqualified to serve on the International Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, it would benefit the Order if more than a few members of Sons of Norway were educated about Insurance Operations, and were therefore qualified to serve on the International Board of Directors;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the International Board of Directors arrange for a periodic course or courses of instruction on Insurance Operations, at a reasonable fee, particularly as they relate to Sons of Norway's insurance operations, so that reasonably educated and experienced Sons of Norway members would be qualified to serve on the International Board of Directors.

At many of the previous International meetings, the comment was made that the delegates are inexperienced and had no idea of what was going on and how to deal with it. The way to solve that is to educate the delegates or educate the members as to what is going on. The Resolutions Committee recommends approval of this resolution.

Christine Bremseth, Noreg Lodge, paddle #41. It says at a reasonable fee. What are we proposing is a reasonable fee? Should we include travel expenses?

President Helmold. It would mostly likely be online.

Leif Easterson, Loyal Lodge, paddle #5, Charitable Trust Director. We are mentioning insurance operations. We should also be mentioning financial transactions. The finances of an insurance company goes far beyond what the base operations are and is very critical to have if you are going to be serving on the Board.

President Helmold. How would you amend it?

Leif Easterson. I move to amend the resolution by adding "and financial" between insurance and operation.

Motion seconded.

Mary Anderson, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82, International Treasurer. Let's just get this approved first. Where it says insurance operations, once we get this approved, we can set up a curriculum that includes basic backroom operations, the financials, how new products affect financial statements. I am all for that. Let's not get too detailed.

Peter Vatne, Norumbega Lodge, paddle #31. Point of order. I suggest that the resolution be shown on the screen.

If the amendment is approved, the resolution would read:

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the International Board of Directors arrange for a periodic course or courses of instruction on Insurance and financial Operations, at a reasonable fee, particularly as they relate to Sons of Norway's insurance operations, so that reasonably educated and experienced Sons of Norway members would be qualified to serve on the International Board of Directors.

The motion to amend resolution #6 **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Judi Nilsen-Mack. On the floor is Resolution #6 as amended.

Les Johannessen, Norden Lodge, paddle #46. It says experienced, we can be educated, but are we experienced just by being educated?

President Helmold. It is a matter of having some kind of background even if it is not an extensive background, but at least you will have some knowledge if you wish to go up to the International Board.

Les Johannessen, Norden Lodge, paddle #46. I move that experienced is changed to and or educated.

Motion seconded.

The motion to amend resolution #6 **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Chairperson Judi Nilsen-Mack. Once again, on the floor is Resolution #6 as amended.

Ray Stahl, Washington Lodge, paddle #16. What does the International Board want. Do they want experience or education? I guess it goes back to what Attorney General of Minnesota wants. Do we know what they want?

President Helmold. They would actually like someone with a background in it.

Ray Stahl, Washington Lodge, paddle #16. Can we produce that?

President Helmold. Right now, there are only 3 on the International Board that have any experience.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82, International Board Treasurer. A lot of this started years ago at Coeur d'Alene when a man named Joe Annotti, got up and said that Minnesota Department of Commerce said that Fraternal Benefit organizations do not have the necessary skill set to be on an insurance board of directors. That is how it all started. To the extent of what this gentleman just said, there are 2 parts to this. What the Minnesota Department of Commerce is looking for, and when you look at what a board should do, you need to build a board with the requisite skill set. What does that mean? Everyone cannot be everything to everybody. It would be good to have someone with insurance experience, it would be great to have someone with law experience, it would be great to have someone with accounting experience, it would be good to have someone who worked in an insurance agency brokerage. From my perspective, we need fraternal people too. We need people that have fraternal experience too. It is like a portfolio of skill sets that you hope you will get to come together to form a

really good board. So, there is really no one specific thing. As a body, does the board contain the portfolio of skills necessary to run an insurance company? Remember, we look at ourselves as a fraternal organization, which we are, but the Minnesota Department of Commerce looks at us and judges us on insurance company standards. That is what this is all about. So, there is no simple answer.

President Helmold. So, it does not hurt to for a fraternal member to get on the International Board to at least learn more about the insurance business?

Mary Andersen. I think we are getting into too much detail. I think we need a curriculum on what is required to run an insurance organization. Included in that curriculum is going to be the basics of insurance, if you introduce a new policy, which you are going to hear about in a while like a multiyear guaranteed insurance annuity, how does that impact the financial statement. How does that impact the surplus? What does that mean to us? It is a combination of things. It is more than just what we have up there now. You are making me nervous that you are getting too much into the weeds. It might be better to keep it a little more general, an insurance curriculum.

Leif Easterson, Loyal Lodge, paddle #5, Charitable Trust Director. I agree with Mary 100%. Boards are supposed to bring in expertise from other industries to help you be a more rounded overall business model. As far as getting too much into the weeds, an overall insurance curriculum that will cover all the facets of the insurance industry, that is fine.

Resolution #7 as amended **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Ruth Campbell. We will go onto Resolution #6.

RESOLUTION #6

Reconstitute the International Lodge. Submitted by Norumbega #506.

WHEREAS, the International Lodge has always served as a forum for the interchange of ideas and the formation of consensus between Districts; and

WHEREAS, the International Lodge has always consisted of the most experienced and knowledgeable members of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the International Board of Directors should make good use of this resource, and not attempt to carry out all the functions of the Order by itself;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the International Lodge be reconstituted, while retaining the supreme authority of the International Board of Directors and retaining the Minnesotan-required methods for their election.

There will be some costs associated with this for the International Convention which can be minimized by having the International Convention near the Sons of Norway headquarters.

Ruth Campbell. The Resolutions Committee recommends approval of this resolution. It will promote cohesiveness. District 3 is part of a larger order, coast to coast and international. The exchange of ideas and getting to know the candidates and as we mentioned earlier there is minimal representation from the districts today.

Jeannie Addison, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #13. I agree with the essence of this resolution, but I promised my zone delegates at our caucus meeting that I would bring up that the term reconstitute is not correct. Check the definitions, reconstitute means change the form and organization of an institution. So, changing the form whereas the term reinstitute means institute or introduce again. I think that is more applicable what we are asking here. Or the term restore, bring back and reinstall. So, I think we should use the word reinstitute or restore in our resolution title and in the therefore.

President Helmold. Jeannie, which term do you want to use?

Jeannie Addison. I move to amend resolution #6 by changing the term reconstitute to reinstitute in the title and the therefore statement.

Motion seconded.

Motion to amend **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

President Helmold. Now we go back to Resolution #6 as amended.

Resolution #6 as amended **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

President Helmold. Thank you very much. The resolution committee is excused for now and you will come back later.

Mike Solhaug, Hampton Roads Lodge, paddle #65. We had 3 resolutions referencing the International Board. The question I have is what other districts are making similar resolutions. If District 3 sends its resolutions up as a solo resolution. I can see a lot more effectiveness if other districts send similar or identical resolutions. Have there been any discussions on that?

Connie O'Brien, guest from the home office. Can I answer that? I don't have a paddle.

President Helmold. Yes, you are granted permission to speak.

Connie O'Brien. You are the second convention. District 2 had their convention last weekend and there was not a similar resolution nor any resolution to dispute what you just put forth. We have not had any other conventions and I have not seen any other resolutions that would counter this resolution or add to it. That is the best I can do at this time. We have to wait for the other conventions to go through and as you know they operate the same way.

President Helmold. As I spoke with the other district presidents, a few months ago they were still formulating their resolutions.

Mike Solhaug, That is fine. We can wait, but I am not sure waiting is appropriate at this point in time. We have been talking about timeliness and all I am asking is would it be worthwhile for district presidents to have a conference together to coordinate some of these. I would highly recommend that we do this as soon as possible. The longer we wait the less things are going to happen. If we don't do it in a coordinated way, then nothing is going to change.

President Helmold. That has been in discussion and going forward that is what we will be doing. When you had the International Lodge meeting, and all the districts came together you can see everyone's resolutions. We cannot see that now so we will be discussing it next month.

Leif Easterson, Loyal Lodge, paddle #5, Charitable Trust Director. I think the question is are we able to share our resolutions with other districts. Does it need to be voted on?

President Helmold. I have the ability to share.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82, International Lodge Treasurer. There is a forum called the District Presidents Advisory Council. The district presidents meet. They should be discussing all of this. There is no restriction on sharing. If everybody really wanted to do this, a good way to do this is to get the district president together to say we, as the district presidents, we think this is what we need, and everybody do the same thing. I do not see any coordination with the district presidents. What makes it difficult is zoom meetings.

President Helmold. I just spoke to Connie O'Brien about this last night. We are hoping we can go forward with all of this.

I would like to have Leif Easterson, the Charitable Trust Director, give his presentation. And, after Leif, I would like to ask Connie to come up and do her PowerPoint.

Will the Laws Committee and the District Bylaws Committee go out to work on the remainder of resolution #10.

CHARITABLE TRUST

Charitable Trust Director Leif Easterson presented a PowerPoint which is available on the Third District Website.

Major points

We are the only district with its own Charitable foundation to help our members who are on fixed income who have unexpected expenses. It was created in 1971. It will give modest, and we are trying to increase it to being more than modest, support to members who have unexpected financial event that being on a fixed income it is hard for them to get out of. There is a process in place where they can fill out the forms and request funds to help them get past this temporary situation.

2023 was an important year. There were increased donations, so we were able to give out more than in the past.

We are a 100% volunteer organization. There are no salaries. Expenses are minimal. Just our accountant and Morgan Stanley.

Last year we paid out 7% of our assets under management the prior year. Most similar type organizations, the goal is at least 5%.

We want to increase the number of beneficiaries. If anyone knows of anyone who needs assistance, contact your lodge president and they will contact us. Then we will initiate the process.

Leif discussed the types of investments. The allocation of assets is very standard.

Last year we started online fund raising. We have flowers, Little Ceaser's Pizza and See's candy. It is very easy; you can send gifts anywhere. You just have to go to the website. They each last about 30 days.

If you are also a member of Thrivent, you can donate your Thrivent choice dollars to the Charitable Trust.

I am the chairperson. Would the trustees raise your hand when I call your name. Judi Mack. Audun Gythfeldt, Peter Vatne, and Lloyd Ritter. ***(Audun, Peter, and Lloyd were out of the room)***

Shirley Erland, Norden Lodge, paddle #47. Whoever is a recipient, everything is strictly confidential. No one but the trustees will know who is receiving assistance. Norwegians have a lot of pride.

Question from the floor: How many recipients are we currently serving?

Leif: We have 4 getting monthly assistance and we want to expand that. We also have done a few one-shot deals.

CHARITABLE GIVINGS GROUP

Charitable Givings Group Chairperson Leif Easterson.

The Charitable Givings Group tries to coordinate the activities of the lodges for such causes as the Alzheimer's Association. Some lodges have annual events. The Third District also supports the Sons of Norway Foundation which has scholarships, and grants. They have a huge amount of money available.

Leif Erikson's Day is a continuation of a effort previously called New Service Givings Day. This is an opportunity to help someone out. What can you do to help someone out.

President Helmold asked Connie O'Brien, Mary Andersen, and Kathy Dollymore to come forward.

PRESENTATION BY CONNIE O'BRIEN

Secretary's Note: The PowerPoint will be available on the Third District website when and if it is released by the home office. There is a different presentation by the new CEO on the International website.

We are going to be talking about some things that are going to make you like that's a little bit weird, that's a little bit uncomfortable, but you have to think about changing your mind set and thinking about it differently and practice until it becomes comfortable.

Thank you for allowing me the time. I am here today in the role of the Vice President of the Fraternal and Foundation for Sons of Norway. I am not a delegate, and I am not a member of a lodge in District 3.

I am here to talk to you about a topic that I call State of the Union. Basically, I want to try to explain what is going on in Sons of Norway. I am not the smartest ball at corporate, but I did work with some brilliant people to put this presentation together. So, I had what I call my council. Whenever I really don't know what I am doing or how I am going to get somewhere, I just get people who know more than me or are smarter or better at something than I am and then I enlist them into my council, and I ask them to help me create what needs to be put forth for whatever presentation. And I did just that and I wanted a very balanced approach, so it has male and female, and I did have people from 3 or 4 different districts. So, I choose leaders that I thought would add a great deal of value to this presentation, and I asked them almost 2 months ago to review the content and help me make sure the measure was on point and help you the audience understand some key things that were going on at Sons of Norway.

Just as a bit of an overview, we are going to talk about things that have happened over the past 7 years. You really could go back in time to before 2009 if you wanted to, but for our purpose today we are going to look at the last 7 years. We are going to look at how growth, and when I say growth, I mean growth in an insurance company. So, the product and what you do to market that product. So, how does growth impact the bottom line for profitability. We are going to talk about expense management. Any of you who are working corporate America or own your own business, I grew up in a family that we were always looking at our expenses and how we could make the budget align. It was a fishing resort, so it was not all that complicated.

We are also going to talk about product development, and when I say product development, my background is life insurance. I have done different roles in the life insurance industry. But really, I am about the profitability journey of the products we develop and sell. I am also going to talk about the dues increase scheduled for July 1. I am also going to talk about the International Board, and the vote that will take place in September, September 1st to the end of September. I am not going to go deep into that, but I want you to be aware of what the timeline looks like and how important it is to the organization and the Supreme governing body.

On the screen is a picture of our 18 founders dating back to when they started the organization. When it was founded. We now have nearly 60,000 members, which is amazing.

I want to look back to 2017 and share with you what was going on in 2017. I joined SONS in 2018, so I am looking at the time I have been with the organization. I will tell you we were losing money, and the insurance premiums were shrinking drastically. We had 50 sales agents, which I could hardly believe

when I got to my office because I was used to working with thousands of agents. And when I was told that I had 50 to work with and half of them were ready to retire, I was a little concerned. I also found that all of our process was manual. We were still using typewriters and insurance sales were diminishing. We were losing members, as were every other fraternal. It was a very big concern for the AFA, the American Fraternal Alliance, who had put together groups of very young brilliant people to try to solve the problem and they have yet to solve that problem.

In the years that Sons of Norway should have been earning a profit, minimal investments were made in I.T., profit managing, or sales and marketing.

The business funds the mission, So, clearly in 2017 our number one job was to increase sales and to look to the organization. We had just piloted two new products. A guaranteed issue whole life and a simplified issue whole life. We had just started to promote the competitiveness, I am going to stop and tell you story and this might reflect poorly on me, but I had just taken a new job at SONS and was asked to look at the competitiveness of those two products, so I crunched all the numbers. I looked at it back and forth and said this can't be right, I must be looking at this wrong. So, I went into the last CEO Chris Pinkerton, my boss, and I admitted, Chris, I don't know what I am doing wrong, but we cannot be this competitive and I went back to my office, afraid that I might be in trouble. He came back and threw it on my desk and said nope you did everything right. We need to reprice this product because it is too competitive. We needed to correct that, and we did.

We started to increase our agent recruiting which I also lead back in 2018. We used the product comparisons that I had put together, and we used them to show how other carriers and then we ramped up our product development from there.

In 2018 we had about 84 appointed agents representing Sons of Norway. By 2021 we had over 4,000 agents selling Sons of Norway products. We grew our agent base 50 times in that time, which I think is remarkable.

We increased the price of our products.

Then we looked at managing expenses, so we only renewed agents that were selling for us. You have to pay to have an agent on your books. So, if they are not going to produce for you, get rid of them. You don't need them on your books.

We vetted the dues into the products, so we increased membership. They are not a member of a lodge and probably will not become a member of a lodge, but it increased membership totals. At the end of 2018 we had little over 48,000 members and at the end of 2023 we had almost 58,000 members.

At one point we had 63,000 members. The reason why it dropped down was covid. People were fearful, people bought a life insurance policy. After covid, many did not renew their policies. After surviving covid, many felt maybe I do not need my life insurance policy after all.

Life insurance premiums, so our recruiting and appointing efforts along with agent training did result in insurance sales growth. As of 2018 we had 4.9 million and a little over 14.6 by the end of 2021. That is amazing growth. That is because of the dedication and hard work of our small staff. They are very

hardworking and creative. The insurance sales increased from 4.6 to 6.8 in the year 2020 even though that was the year we repriced our guaranteed issue whole life.

While all of this is good news, you need to know that life insurance products and annuities can take from 4 to 8 years depending on the type of products and up to 10 years to be profitable. Our work on product sales should be viewed as an investment in the future.

We began to leverage new technology, streamline our application processes by reducing manual work and speeding up the process of issuing an insurance certificate.

We introduced a legacy insurance policy in December of 2023 and in May of 2024 we introduced a MYGA, a Multiyear Guaranteed Annuity.

Our plan now later in 2024 and 2025 is to reprice our whole life and our term policies.

Also, in 2020 Chris Pinkerton was named CEO and a week later covid locked down the country. 85% of our staff sheltered at home. I was one of the essential staff that came in every day.

We grew the business 4-fold in 2020. We started to take steps to limit our exposure by limiting the sales of our whole life policy. We did not renew agents not performing. All of that was under the leadership of Chris Pinkerton. Our current CEO Dan Seyfried was a part of this and helped Chris.

At the end of 2022, we still had hard changes to make. We cut 25% of our staff and substantial dollars from our budget. I called upon a number of people when I did not know how to do something because we cut the person whose job it was to do this. One was Karen Olsen-Helmold. Another was Darlene Arneson District 5 Secretary and asked for help. They were tremendous.

Next in 2018, we reinsured a portion of our annuity block which added a chunk of surplus back into our surplus. We had to find a partner and that is not so easy, and our CFO, a brilliant young lady, found someone who reinsured that block which gave us back surplus.

We were running out of money. In 2017, we sold the building which added to the surplus. If we had not sold the building, there would have been a loss.

Connie explained the slide on the screen which showed the increase in 2017 and a loss of 1.5 million in 2023 and she projected a loss in 2024 not as large.

We are avoiding those big losses because of the hard decisions we made, like cutting staff.

Many of the people on staff took a pay cut including me, because we believed in the direction we were going and we believed in the organization.

We have developed a new product to sell. We need to invest in the business because that is what funds the fraternal side.

It is a final expense whole life product. There is no medical exam, and the underwriting is simple. Dues are vetted in the product. In fact, our agents can give the client an answer in 5 minutes.

May of 2024, we introduced our Multi-Year Guaranteed Annuity. It is tax deferred, and the rate is superior to what we had on the books prior. I really encourage you to reach out to your agent and take a look at that annuity. This product is only sold to someone who is connected to a lodge.

Hank Dester, Norrona Lodge, paddle #38. That guaranteed minimum interest rate, 4.65% or 4.9% based on what?

Connie. The rate depends on the length of the annuity. You can have a 3 year, a 5 year or a 7 year. The 7 year you get the full 4.9%.

Hank. Is that guaranteed for the entire period?

Connie. Yes, you can make me the beneficiary.

2023 was a huge year of transition. Employees were starting to come back into the office. We still had people in masks. We continued to work on our financial projections.

As an insurance carrier, you have to project out 10 years to see what your profitability would be. This is a requirement of the Minnesota Department of Commerce which is our governing body.

As we looked at our projection, we saw that our expenses were still to high and our enforce block, that is basically the whole life or term where you have to pay that premium every year was still too low to support the fraternal expenses of the organization.

So, we had budget cuts. Some of the cuts are:

The change in the membership cards, now on paper, and in-house, saving over \$33,000. It was a budget cut that we did not like to make, but we had to make.

We moved invoicing for your dues in house saving \$50,000. By doing this we were able to keep one full-time person in the office.

Then, the Board approved to cut travel expenses. I am not here as a vice president of the company, but as a representative of the Foundation.

The Board also voted to reduce their own stipends and not travel to Minneapolis twice a year.

We evaluated every vendor we dealt with. We changed banks from Wells Fargo to Bell Bank. We saved money and added some benefits.

Our expenses have been reduced by a range of 35 to 50 percent while continuing to process more business than prior to reductions.

2023 and the years leading up to it, we looked at 2017-2023, were some of the most challenging, the most challenging in my career, but I will say probably the most rewarding because of what we accomplished, the very positive new products, legacy assured and the MYGA. Our staff has really worked hard to make the necessary business completions and service all of our customers, both on the business side, the insurance side, and on the members' side, handling all the calls, returning voice and emails.

While staff reduction and the budget cuts have been challenging, our staff is remaining positive and invested in our mission. This is the first time in 7 years that we had to make an adjustment to the membership dues. But not without a considerable amount of work by the International Board of Directors and a dues committee. There was a committee put in place to help with this decision. The membership dues do not support the fraternal side of the three-legged stool. In fact, the business is what funds the mission. We needed to acknowledge that the gap was just too big without increasing dues, which we had not done for many, many years.

Other fraternals have 100% of their members own a life insurance certificate. In fact, they cannot be a member unless they own a certificate. We are the only fraternal that allows membership without the purchase of a life insurance certificate.

Diana Syvertsen, Noreg Lodge, paddle #2. According to IRS guidelines, Minnesota Guidelines, Fraternal Organizations may not require members to be certificate owners. And most organizations according to them are not.

Connie O'Brien. I did not say that. That is not true, you have to be a certificate holder to be a member. I worked for a few fraternal organizations, so I am going by my experience, but thank you for your thoughts.

Other fraternal organizations do not produce anything near the Viking Magazine 6 times a year. I do regret that we do not have it 12 times a year. It hurt me more than it hurts you. That is my magazine. Everyone reports to me, and it is so much fun to work on. The fraternal that I worked with prior, we waited for the Viking to come out because our magazine paled in comparison. . Thrivent does a newsletter, but it is all about products, not members. I know I get them. The other fraternals do a paper newsletter.

Our fraternal staff worked hard to provide cultural activities in-house with no budget. Did everyone see the bunad map we produced and sent out? What about the solitaire game that we did during covid?

Connie O'Brien showed a slide of the breakdown of membership. We have less than 7% of our members active in a lodge that have a product with Sons of Norway. I would really love if you would consider how a product would fit into your financial picture, if it does, and remember if you buy whole life or UL which is another product that we are not going to talk about today, the dues will be vetted in your policy and you will not be invoiced in for your membership dues.

The cost of living has gone up for all of us and SONS is not immune from inflation. This graph shows the gap pre the dues increase between what we collect per member and the cost of having any one social member. So, the 2024 dues increase, and the budget reductions that we just went through should get us close to breaking even, so covering the cost. The dues do not fund the Foundation.

The bottom line, as an organization, we looked at other means available to cut expenses and raise revenue. The very last thing we did, reluctantly, was to increase dues. The move was necessary to maintain the organization and allow it to thrive. Many organizations, correct me if I am wrong, but I have watched them merge, I have watched them go out of business the past few years. We have been adding new members. A lot of it was from the growth of sales insurance life insurance in the last 4 to 6 years.

We did our best to communicate the dues increase by first introducing the messaging to the International Board which is protocol, and then promptly thereafter to District leaders and we watched the response from that and then communicated it forward.

Almost every time we have a discussion of why we increased dues, it almost always ends on a positive note.

Every June the annual report is in the Viking Magazine. Read it and understand it because we have been reporting losses for years and years and years. It just has not been talked about transparently from the podium and I think that needs to happen.

Connie. I am going to give you a little overview of the dues, I am not going to go into minutia of all the combinations. There are 6 various combinations for families.

The individual membership dues will be \$84.00 annually, \$7.00 a month.

The family dues are going up to \$144.00 annually, \$12.00 a month.

If you are a Golden member prior to 2018, you are grandfathered in to pay half of the International dues.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82. Connie, can you talk about the upcoming International election.

Connie explained that we will be voting to fill 8 open seats. ***She reviewed the International Bylaws regarding the International Board and the International Officers.*** The International Board of Directors shall be the supreme legislative, executive, and judicial body of Sons of Norway and that is Article 7. The International officers shall be the chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer. And there is a clarification on the social risk benefit member. The benefit member, remember the benefit member is that member that owns a certificate, the benefit members will vote on the International Board.

Applications are coming in and go to the Nominating Committee. 60 days prior to the election, candidates will be vetted and given to the Chair of the International Board on July 3. Sept 1, those benefit members for whom we have an email on file will receive an email with a link to an URL where they can vote for cast of characters that are on the ballot. The members that we don't have an email for, we will mail out post cards with instructions a few days before September 1. The window is September 1, noon central time to September 30, noon central time to vote.

We will announce the results in October. We will do it in the standard fashion, to the International Board, then to the District Leaders, then to the Lodge Leaders in the Leadership Resource Letter.

If you are a lodge leader, make sure you read your leadership letter. That is where that message will be embedded.

The new board will take over January 1, 2025. There are 4 Board members that are currently seated that are not up for election.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3. The post cards that you are mailing out for those members for whom you do not have email, will they be able to mail in their vote or does it have to be electronic?

Connie O'Brien. Currently it is set up with a vendor. They will get a URL and have to go onto their computer to vote.

Karen Olsen-Helmold. We have members who do not own a computer.

Connie O'Brien. If they own a certificate, we want to help those members vote. Once I know who the candidates are I will have their photos and a bio on a landing page to educate voters and that will be on the website. Otherwise, you can find it under governance.

Karen Olsen-Helmold. How are you going to help them vote? You said you are going to help them to vote, how are you going to help them?

Connie O'Brien. I said "we" meaning, if you have benefit members that you know do not have a computer, you have to help them to vote, if they want to vote. If they choose not to vote, that is their prerogative.

President Helmold. We have 10 minutes for questions. If Kathy or Mary have to answer, they can too. Does anyone have any questions?

Cheri Johnson, Bla Fjell Lodge, Paddle #80. I did not hear you mention children and I am concerned about the children. They are the future of the Sons of Norway. You took away the magazine. Did you save money doing that? You took away, you took away the pen pals.

Connie O'Brien. That was before my time. I did not take any children's stuff away. None of that was there when I came on in 2018. I don't know what happened to it, my apologies for that. I do love the children, most of them.

Kathy Dollymore, Restauration Lodge, paddle #83. If you look at the Viking Magazine you will see a section. They did incorporate in the Viking Magazine so there is stuff for kids in the Viking Magazine.

President Helmold. They took away the printing of the Viking for kids at the 2018 International Convention.

Mike Solhaug, Hampton Roads Lodge, paddle#64. Will the PowerPoint be available to us?

Connie O'Brien. NOPE.

President Helmold. I have already asked Connie about that, and I was told to wait until September after all the conventions are done and she gets permission, then we can actually do zooms with all the zones to present it.

Connie O'Brien. We have more district conventions to get through and out of respect I want to make sure they get their opportunity to have it.

Kathy Dollymore. Connie, if you buy a product, and you pay for the insurance, and you continue paying your premiums, you will not get a bill for dues. So, you are not paying dues and insurance with dues.

President Hemold. This is new in the last couple of years that they have done this. Before that they would pay it for a year and then you had to pay.

Connie O'Brien. Everybody that has a certificate is a member. If you owned a product before 2018 or early 2019, the dues were not in that product and if you still own that product, the dues are still not in that product. It is the products issued after 2018 that had the dues in them. It was Chris Pinkerton that said, what is happening is that the person who wants a certificate, a policy but they don't really want a membership, they are going to pay for a membership for one year and then not pay for it the next year. So, he vetted it to keep the money coming in even if they didn't want to be a member.

3-000 or Central Lodge are members who have a product but do not want to be a member of a lodge and do not want anything to do with Sons of Norway. They just want a product. They do not get the Viking Magazine.

3-999 or Spirit of the New Century Lodge are Sons of Norway members who do not belong to a local lodge, maybe because there is no lodge near them, but the want to be part of Sons of Norway.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82. When I was District President, we did not have the proverbial pot. It was because of this vetted dues, the 3-999 the dollars went up. When Karen was talking early about the big cut, it was because of that windfall that we got and not all districts got that windfall.

Question from the floor. Can we get the names of the 999 members to ask them to join?

Connie O'Brien. The District Secretaries can get that information, and you should ask them to join. You can have access to their names.

Mary Andersen. Isn't that what Ralph did in Hampton Roads?

President Helmold. Dirk Hansen did it also.

Connie O'Brien. Thank you President Helmold for allowing me to speak.

President Helmold. Connie, Mary and Kathy will be able to answer more questions tomorrow if we have the time.

President Helmold. The session will start tomorrow at 8AM. There will be happy hour on the patio/garden terrace at 5PM. For those of you who are going on the Bus tour of DC, please make sure you are on the bus by 6:30.

Meeting recessed at 5:05PM.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:00 AM, Sunday, June 9, 2024.

President Helmold called the meeting to order at 8:07AM.

Vice President Diana Syvertsen will you please appoint the marshals and greeters for the morning session and the tellers for the convention.

APPOINTMENT OF THE MARSHALS AND GREETERS FOR THE MORNING SESSION AND THE TELLERS FOR THE CONVENTION.

Vice President Diana Syvertsen.

Greeters: Pat Eudy -absent

Carole Michelsen – absent

Marshalls: Arnie Johnsen

Eric Johansson

Two delegates volunteered to be greeters.

President Helmold. Third District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold will you read the roll call of lodge delegates.

Third District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold took attendance. See appendix #1.

President Helmold. Third District Cultural Director Andy Mathisen will you come up and speak about the Cultural Weekend and the cultural events happening at this convention.

Andy Mathisen. Good morning. There will be a Cultural Weekend and Youth Week at Camp Koinonia. There is a flyer in your tote bags showing the dates. It is combined with youth camp. The youth camp has about 12 kids. The youth come up from Sunday to Sunday. We are trying to push culture. The adults can come from Thursday to Sunday. There will be wood carving, hardanger, archery, Norwegian classes. We have volunteers to do all that, we are looking for attendance. We are looking for applications to come in. We wanted to do something for the southern part of the Third District this year at Camp Kinard in North Carolina, but we were not getting the response that we needed, so that had to be cancelled, but we are planning something for 2025 in South Carolina at a camp that is on the beach. It will be a cultural weekend from Thursday to Sunday.

President Helmold. The youth camp and cultural weekend this year in the north is being combined so that if kids come for the weekend with their parents, they can see what goes on at youth camp and maybe they will want to come the next year.

Convention Cohost Dave Brown do you want to make an announcement?

Dave Brown. The bus got back last night at 11:40PM and everyone had a great time. When you complete your business, this room will be turned over for the gala tonight. Lunch will be a buffet, outside in the foyer where the coffee breaks have been held. You are welcome to eat in the foyer, the atrium or go out to the garden terrace. Enjoy your lunch. At 2PM we are going to have the Viking Auction. Get your bids in for the silent auction by 1:50 PM. It will be where the Memorial Service was and then the Installation of Officers will take place in the same room. If you have not signed-up for a table for the banquet tonight, please do. I still have some lefse for some delegates who have not picked up their lefse. See me or Kari if you have not picked up your lefse. Thank you.

Cultural Director Andy Mathisen. Please stop in and look at the Cultural Arts display. It is in the room across the hall. There is a full table of wood carving, weaving and so on. Your part in this is that you can vote for best of show. Look at the whole table, get a ballot and put the number of the item on the ballot and put it in the black box.

President Helmold. Cheri Johnson, do you have anything to add to the cultural weekend, and some of the things that you would like to do at youth camp.

Cheri Johnson. I am Cheri Johnson, and I will be working at the camp this summer. I put together a couple of displays. One is Viking writing. To work with older students, we have Viking symbols which are a little harder. ***She gave some examples of what she will be doing with the kids at camp.*** We are trying to bring in some culture. These displays are in the Cultural Arts Room. There is another display of the Sami people. You can see original artifacts there. Something we hope to teach people and children about that they might not be familiar with.

President Helmold. Les Johannessen, will you talk about Youth Camp?

Les showed a slide show of pictures of the kids at camp last year. The slide show is available on the Third District website.

Les Johannessen. The future of Sons of Norway is our youth. If we cannot bring our youth in, what's the point. I have been involved with camp over the years. I watch kids cry when they age out and cannot come back the next year. I don't know why, but the program works. We can say what we want about camp, but pictures say it better. We had a good core of kids; they keep coming back. We had older kids come back as junior counselors, but then we did not have camp for 3 years because of covid and that group aged out. We are trying to find kids to come back. One of the best things we can do as grandparents or parents is give kids the gift of camp. The cost is very reasonable for what you get, room and board for a week and lessons. I will just try to explain to you what is going on in the pictures. We try to give them activities on a daily basis where they are jumping around. We try not to give them a lot of down time. They play twister in Norwegian; we teach the numbers, colors, and other statements. We have two ladies who come up every year that are teachers, they have a teaching background, and they get kids involved. This is part of rosemaling class, for some of them this is their first try at it. Shirley Erland, who is here with us today, is running the rosemaling class for the kids. Some of the kids come in and don't want to do rosemaling, Shirley is open to that. Some of what they do is amazing. Here is the hardanger class. We also go outside and play kubb and other games. Here they are playing with a piñata. We give kids one swing and keep the rotation going until someone can break it. The kids are engaged the whole time.

The facility provides meals, and they accommodate special diets such as dairy or gluten free. Also, they provide all the linens and towels unlike LOV where kids had to bring their own.

There is a lake on the property. The kids can go swimming daily depending on the weather. This is at the end of the week when we have the bonfire. They come across the lake. You see them here; they are arriving with the light. This is the canoe that they brought the light over with. Of course you have to have marshmallows. The kids decided that should do some kind of uniforms, so when it came to the counselors the tutus were all that were left.

Here we have kubb going on. This shows some of the work the kids have done during the week. At the end of the week the kids make a cake. They call it a snake cake. The one to the right is gluten and dairy free. The staff at Koinonia is very protective of their kitchen so baking the cake this year was somewhat of a challenge, but we got through it.

They have a talent night toward the end. I am amazed at the amount of talent that these kids have.

Les showed a video of the talent show.

They are all required to be there every morning. We salute the flag, say the pledge and sing the American and Norwegian anthems and then go on to table prayer in Norwegian which is done before every meal. It is a cultural introduction. It is only for a week.

We need to increase attendance. This is the best gift we can give our kids.

President Helmold. We may even drop the lower age to 7 next year.

Les Johannessen. Thank you and I honestly feel that this is the best gift that we can give to our youth. The comradery. I know kids that are 26 and still talk to one another.

President Helmold. Are there any questions for Les at this time?

Questions came from delegates from their seats.

What are the ages?

Les. 8 to 17.

President Helmold. We may drop the lower age to 7 next year if things are alright next year.

Do you have different groups?

Les. We had a senior group and a younger group last year. It is all during the same days. Many times the older kids are helping the younger kids.

What is the cost of the camp? Can you explain about the Draxten funds?

District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. Draxten funds is scholarship money that we get from the Sons of Norway Foundation. We have been applying it equally to all campers to keep the cost to where it is \$500 per member and \$550 for nonmembers. Last year we got about \$2,000. You have applications in your tote bag and that will give you the cost for members and nonmembers.

President Helmold. Thank you, Les.

At this time will the Laws Committee come forward to finish Resolution #10.

Parliamentarian Michael Wagne-Diggs. To expedite this portion, if there are no objections to the motion, the motion is accepted without objection. There is no need to have a sign of the paddles.

Chairperson Vatne. Yesterday, President Helmold requested that the Laws Committee meet with the Bylaws Committee, so we met with Barbara Berntsen and Audun Gythfeldt. We reviewed the rest of the changes, and they agreed to most of the Laws Committee's changes. We hope that this will speed things up.

Many of the changes have to do with references to the Sons of Norway Bylaws and Policies and Procedures which was updated in April of this year after the Bylaws Committee had completed all of its work and submitted it to the Third District Board.

Chairperson Vatne. We will start with **section 3.4**.

The changes in red are from the Bylaws Committee and the changes in green are from the Laws Committee.

Chairperson Vatne. I would like to move on behalf of the Laws Committee to amend 3.4 to read:

Each Local Lodge shall be entitled to elect two Delegates for the Lodge, plus an additional Delegate for **every** 75 members or major fraction thereof, based on the last **Sons of Norway** Annual Report before the election takes place. Each Local Lodge may elect an equal or greater number of Alternates (**section 14.6.2 of the Sons of Norway Bylaws**). All persons who have been members of the Order for at least three months shall be eligible for election as Delegates or Alternates.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 3.5**.

I would like to move on behalf of the Laws Committee to amend 3.5 to read:

3.5 Chairperson Vatne moved on behalf of the Laws Committee to replace 3.5 with **The election of Delegates and Alternates, the election report, and the identification of delegates shall be in accordance with section 14.6 of the Sons of Norway Bylaws, and section 14.11 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures.**

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 3.6**.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to accept approval of adding the letter “s” to Resolution.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Sections 3.7 through 3.11**.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee for approval of **sections 3.7 through 3.11** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Chapter 4**.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee for approval of **Chapter 4** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Sections 5.1 and 5.2**.

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee for approval of **sections 5.1 and 5.2** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 5.3.**

Section 5.3 we have an updated reference to the Policies and Procedures, so I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to accept 5.3 as follows:

5.3 The District Board shall fulfill its general duties and such specific duties as **provided in sections 17.2 through 17.12 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures and** in these Bylaws.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 5.4.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to strike “additional” and replace it with “special”.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 5.5.**

Again, we have some updated references to the Sons of Norway Bylaws and the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures.

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to accept **section 5.5** as follows:

Except as provided below, the eligibility, terms of office, time and method of electing District Officers shall be as provided in **sections 14.4 and 16.7 of the Sons of Norway Bylaws, section 14.8 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures,** and in these Bylaws.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Sections 5.5.1 through 5.5.5.**

You will notice that 5.5.1 still has Youth Director there. We do not have to deal with that now because we have already passed the resolution to strike the Youth Director. So, those changes will be automatically merged by the Secretary when she updates the document. There are not other changes.

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee for approval of **sections 5.5.1 through 5.5.5** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. Section 5.5.6.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to add “sections 17.2 and 17.4 after Bylaws and the recommendation of the Bylaws Committee updating the name to Sons of Norway Bylaws.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. Section 6.1.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to accept 6.1 to read as follows:

6.1 All District Officers shall fulfill the duties of their respective offices **as provided in section 17.2 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures. In addition, they shall perform the following duties** established by this District:

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. Section 6.2.2.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to add the letter “s” to resolution.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. Section 6.2.3 through 6.2.10.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee for approval of sections **6.2.3 through 6.2.10** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. Section 6.2.11.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee for approval of 6.2.11 to read as follows:

6.2.11 **Serve as an ex-officio member of committees except the nominating and auditing committees;**

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. Section 6.2.12.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee for approval of **section 6.2.12** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee without the “s” on the word nominate.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **sections of 6.3 and 6.4** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

Jeannie Addison, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #13. Under the Vice President duties, I would like to add to serve as President if the President is unable to do so.

Chairperson Vatne. That is covered in Roberts Rules and the Sons of Norway Bylaws. I would suggest saving that for another time.

Jeannie Addison. OK.

Chairperson Vatne. 17.4.1 of the Sons of Norway Policy and Procedures states, In the absence of the President preside at all meetings and in cases where the president is prevented from acting, perform all the president's duties. So, it is covered.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **sections of 6.3 and 6.4** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 6.5.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to accept **sections 6.5.1 through 6.5.7** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 6.5.8.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **6.5.8** to read as follows:

Prepare the **District Lodge Meeting** Reports Book for publication and distribution forty-five (45) days before the District **Lodge Meeting** with a copy to each District Board member, delegate, **and District International Officer and Director**. The Secretary shall **transcribe the** minutes to be made available to all members.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 6.5.9.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve 6.5.9 to read as follows:

After each District Lodge Meeting, send to the International Headquarters within ten (10) days copies of Bylaws changes that must be considered by the International Board of Directors. Within forty five (45) days send a complete copy of the Approved District Lodge Meeting minutes. In addition, provide an approved updated copy of Bylaws, as provided in section 9.3 below.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3, District Secretary. I have a problem with the 45 days to send the approved minutes. That has to go to a committee. It takes a lot of time to put together the minutes, then they have to be reviewed by a committee and then approved by the Third District Board. I do not think that 45 days is enough time.

President Helmold. The minutes always get approved at the October Third District Board meeting.

Chairperson Vatne. I have a question for the District Secretary, In practice when have you sent a copy of the District Lodge meeting minutes to the International?

Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. After the October Board meeting when they are approved.

Chairperson Vatne. How much time is that. Maybe it should be 120 days.

Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. I move to amend the section to say within five (5) months.

The motion is seconded.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3, District Secretary. With all the changes we are making to these Bylaws, I am not going to be able to get them into the International Headquarters within 10 days. I am not even going to be back in New York within 10 days.

Chairperson Vatne. Do you want to change the number 10?

Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. Yes, I have already gotten an email from the home office about submitting bylaw changes. There is a whole new procedure for submitting bylaw changes that makes it much more cumbersome.

Chairperson Vatne. Do you want to change the number 10 to 45 days?

Karen Olsen-Helmold. Yes.

Chairperson Vatne, If you approve these amendments it will read:

After each District Lodge Meeting, send to the International Headquarters within forty five (45) days copies of Bylaws changes that must be considered by the International Board of Directors. Within five (5) months send a complete copy of the Approved District Lodge Meeting minutes In addition, provide an approved updated copy of Bylaws, as provided in section 9.3 below;

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82. You are making me crazy here. Why do we have to put in numbers, why can't we say after the October Board meeting?

Mary. I move to keep this simple and say, Send a complete copy of the District Lodge Meeting minutes as approved at the first fall Board meeting following the District Lodge Meeting.

Seconded.

Les Johannessen. Don't we have a motion on the floor?

Parliamentarian Michael Wagner-Diggs. We are trying to do this as a combination. Amend it to where you want it to be, then adopt it as a final product.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3, District Secretary. I would like to rescind the part of my motion that said 5 months.

Barbara Berntsen, Norden Lodge, paddle #45. I would like to make a point of personal privilege. I would like to give a little bit of history. Way back when, 1998 to 2004, when I was District Secretary, we had the approval of the District Lodge meeting minutes at the next District Lodge meeting 2 years later. This was changed to October, the first Board meeting in the fall, so that is why the verbiage is a little more confusing. To wait 2 years, there were never any changes because no one could remember what was done.

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **6.5.9** to read as follows:

After each District Lodge Meeting, send to the International Headquarters within forty five (45) days copies of Bylaws changes that must be considered by the International Board of Directors. Send a complete copy of the District Lodge Meeting minutes as approved at the first fall Board meeting following the District Lodge Meeting. In addition, provide an approved updated copy of Bylaws, as provided in section 9.3 below;

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 6.5.10**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **Section 6.5.10** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 6.6.1.**

We checked the Policies and Procedures, and the text does call for the District Lodge Treasurer to report at each regular District Lodge meeting.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **6.6.1** stand as is in the Bylaws without striking and each regular District Lodge meeting.

Barbara Berntsen, Norden Lodge, paddle #45. My confusion on that, is all of the Treasurer's reports, signed by the auditors are in our reports books and you are only talking about this meeting. Not every single Board meeting. Isn't that kind of redundant. It has already been given to all the delegates to approve.

Chairperson Vatne. It is my understanding that printing the Treasurer's reports in the reports book is the report from the Treasurer. I can only report on what is in the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures.

Barbara Berntsen. And the policies and procedures are just a suggestion. You are talking about this meeting, and you get all the financial that are approved, waiting for approval.

Chairperson Vatne. I am going to read to you, 17.7.4 Duties of the District Lodge Treasurer

Barbara Berntsen. I know it, Peter.

Peter Vatne. You have read it but the rest of the lodge may not have a copy of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures.

17.7.4 Duties of the District Lodge Treasurer 17.7.4 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures:
Give a complete financial report at District Lodge Meetings.

So, by putting it in we are only echoing the policies and procedures. So therefore, on behalf of the Laws Committee I move to recommend approving **Section 6.6.1** to say

Maintain separate financial accounts for each District fund and submit written reports thereon at each District Board meeting **and at each regular District Lodge Meeting**.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. There is a change in attendance. Oslo Lodge now has 2 delegates.

Chairperson Vatne. **Sections 6.6.2 through 6.6.5.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to accept **sections 6.6.2 through 6.6.5** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Sections 6.7; Duties of the Public Relations Director.**

I move on behalf of the laws committee to accept **sections 6.7; Duties of the Public Relations Director** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 6.8.1**

There is one update.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to add

6.8.1 **Perform the duties of the office referred to in section 17.9 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures.**

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. Nor-Bu Lodge now has 5 delegates.

Chairperson Vatne. **Sections 6.8.2 through 6.8.7**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to accept **sections 6.8.2 through 6.8.7** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Sections 6.9 and 6.10**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to accept **sections 6.9 and 6.10** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 6.11**

6.11 The text for the duties of the Fraternal and Foundation Director was approved by this Lodge 2 years ago and was in our Bylaws, but it was disapproved by International, so it was not effective. We, as the District Lodge, are the only ones that have the right to remove the text from our Bylaws, so we are recommending that we strike the duties, but insert the following so you know why that section was deleted.

(1/24 The position of Fraternal and Foundation Director was not approved by the International Board of Directors)

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to strike the duties but insert 1/24 The position of Fraternal and Foundation Director was not approved by the International Board of Directors.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82. Instead of striking all that great language, could we just put in reserved for future use and leave it?

Chairperson Vatne. No. Section 6.11 will still be there.

President Helmold. It could be brought back up again, but it would take another resolution at another meeting.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. The next section is the Duties of the Zone Directors. It is currently listed as Sections 6.11. Sections 6.11 and 6.12 will be renumbered by the Secretary.

Sections 6.12.1 though and 6.12.7.

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to accept **sections 6.12.1 though and 6.12.7** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Section 6.12.8.**

The Laws Committee feels that the portion struck by the Bylaws Committee should be kept in.

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve 6.12.8 as follows:

Prior to a District **Lodge Meeting**, call and conduct a caucus of the elected Delegates and District Officers from the Zone to select its nominees for Zone Director and Alternate, **and discuss other matters relating to the Zone and the District affairs.**

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Sections 6.12.9 and 6.12.10.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **Sections 6.12.9 and 6.12.10** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Chapter 7.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve the entire Chapter 7 as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Chapter 8.**

Section 8.1 was previously approved.

Chairperson Vatne. For clarification, I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve the **section 8.2** as follows:

The compensation for the first half of the year shall be paid within six months after June 30, and the compensation for the second half of the year shall be paid within six months after December 31. Partial years of service shall be prorated. The compensation package shall be reviewed prior to each District **Lodge Meeting** by the **District Lodge** Finance Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Chapter 9.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **sections 9.1 through 9.3** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Sections 9.4 and 9.5.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **sections 9.4 and 9.5** to read as follows:

9.4. Any resolution to be proposed at the District Lodge meeting, which includes the explicit or implicit expenditure of funds, shall include:

9.4.1 an estimated amount of the expenditure.

9.4.2 the means by which the necessary funds are to be obtained.

9.5 These statements **referenced in section 9.4** (or their lack) may be debated and amended or the resolution may be amended to conform to the statements or both. The District Lodge shall have final say as to whether these statements are deemed adequate or required for any particular resolution.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Chapter 10.** This dealt with the International Convention.

I moved on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **striking Chapter 10.**

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Chapters 11 and 12.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve **Chapters 11 and 12** as printed in the reports book as proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Chapter 13.**

I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve Chapter 13 to read:

CHAPTER 13

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 13.1 The following order of business shall be observed at regular District Conventions **and District Lodge Meetings:**
 - 13.1.1 Memorial for Deceased Members
 - 13.1.2 Opening ceremonies
 - 13.1.3 Report on credentials
 - 13.1.4 Roll call of officers and delegates
 - 13.1.5 Announcement of committee **memberships** and appointment of special committees
 - 13.1.6 Communications
 - 13.1.7 Review of prior Lodge meeting mandates
 - 13.1.8 Reports of Officers
 - 13.1.9 Reports from committees
 - 13.1.10 Unfinished Business
 - 13.1.11 New Business
 - 13.1.12 Election of Officers
 - 13.1.13 Nomination of International Director(s) and Alternate(s)
 - 13.1.14 Installation of Officers
 - 13.1.15 Adjournment

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. **Chapter 14.**

There were no changes.

Yesterday, we approved the striking of and explanation of the Charitable Trust from the title page. So, I moved on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve the striking of the Sons of Norway Charitable Trust from this document.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. All that remains is the addendum which is text that was approved by the International Board of Directors and mandated to be automatically included in the Bylaws by the International Board of Directors and there are no changes. So, that concludes the changes to the Bylaws.

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve Resolution #10 the updated Third District Bylaws with all the changes and amendments that have been approved.

As discussed, before you have one last chance to go back and change anything.

Christine Bremseth, Noreg Lodge, paddle #41. There should be a date after every section. Just a suggestion.

Chairperson Vatne. The dates after any of the sections is when that section has been changed. That is done automatically by the secretary as she updates the Bylaws.

District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. As I update the Bylaws, if the text was changed, it will get a date. Just the fact that it was renumbered will not get a date.

Lorin Johannessen, Hudson Valley Lodge, paddle #62. I come from a place where document control is pretty important, Would it make sense that this should be called draft 1? Anything prior will be draft 0. Just a suggestion.

District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold. I prefer to keep all the dates in so that you can go back and reference back to old Bylaws to see exactly what was changed and how it was changed.

Lorin Johannessen. Then rev zero would be the old document and now this is rev 1.

Karen Olsen-Helmold. Rev 0? How many conventions have we had? 30 documents. That is the problem. Keeping each date, 6/22 would be a different document than 6/16.

Lorin Johannessen. The prior one is whatever you want to call it, you can always go back to that document. Just a suggestion.

President Helmold. This is the first time in many years that we have done a complete revision of our Bylaws and while we will have some updates each District Lodge meeting, it will probably be many, many years before the entire Bylaws is revised.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82. I like the idea of what the gentleman just said, but I like what we are doing. Maybe when we save it we can, give it a special name.

Chairperson Vatne. I move on behalf of the Laws Committee to approve the bylaws as revised.

The motion was **APPROVED** without objection.

Chairperson Vatne. That concludes all the resolutions assigned to the Laws Committee.

President Helmold. Dave Brown has something that he would like to say. We are getting close to break right now.

Host Co-chairperson Dave Brown. Everyone should make sure you have signed up for a table for the banquet. At 6 PM we will have the reception area out in the foyer. At 7 PM we will open the doors to the banquet. Make sure you know what table you signed up for and make sure you have that little tag

that has your meal on it. Put it in front of you on the table so your waitress will know what meal to serve you.

President Helmold. I excuse the Laws Committee.

Will the Nominating Committee, Audun Gythfeldt and Barbara Berntsen, please come up to give the report of the Nominating Committee.

Audun Gythfeldt. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I would like to announce the following slate of officers and directors who are running unopposed.

President – Stephen Helmold

Vice-President – Robert Johnson

Secretary- Karen Olsen-Helmold

Treasurer – Diana Syvertsen

Charitable Trust Director – Leif Easterson

Assistant Secretary- Katie Brink

Cultural Director – Cheri Johnson

Publicity Director- Asbjørn Lageraaen

President Helmold asked each of the Zone Directors to please come forward to nominate the Zone Directors –

Zone 1 Director Michael Pedersen. I nominate Elaine Breiland for Zone 1 Director and Susan Olson for Zone 1 Assistant Director.

Zone 2 Director Peter Hanson. I nominate Peter Hanson for Zone 2 Director and Judi Mac for Zone 2 Assistant Director.

Zone 3 Director Audun Gythfeldt. I nominate Paul Kornbrekke for Zone 3 Director and Barbara Bensen for Zone 3 Assistant Director.

Zone 4 Director Kaare Hansen. I nominate Kaare Hansen for Zone 4 Director. Presently we do not have a nominee for Assistant Zone Director.

Zone 5 Director Christine Taylor. I nominate Christine Taylor for Zone 5 Director. Presently we do not have a nominee for Assistant Zone Director.

Zone 6 Director Jeannie Addison. I nominate Linda Hestvik for Zone 6 Director and Marie Hansen for Zone 6 Assistant Director.

President Helmold. They are not delegates so they cannot be nominated, but they will be appointed tomorrow.

Zone 7 Director William Browning. I nominate Bill Browning for Zone 7 Director and Dirk Hansen for Zone 7 Assistant Director.

President Helmold. I declared those nominated elected by acclamation:

Note: Robert's Rules says having the Secretary cast one ballot is out-of-order (see page 413, line 10). In any case, the Constitution says that if there is only one candidate for office, the election shall be by acclamation (see paragraph 3.11.5.2.2.1).

President Helmold. Congratulations to the new offices and directors.

At this time, I would like to nominate the auditors for 2024-2026.

Inger Nielsen
Elly Supinsky

I hope to get a third auditor soon. Kari Brescher and Les Johannessen have agreed to assist in the first audit.

I declare these auditors elected by acclamation for the term of 2024-2026.

It is time for a coffee break. Please return by 10:30.

Meeting recessed at 10:05AM.

Meeting reconvened at 10:31AM.

President Helmold. Everyone who did not get their lefse yesterday, please see Kari Sprecher today.

Are there any bids to host the 2026 convention?

No one came forward.

There was a motion that was seconded to allow the 3D Board to award the 2026 District Convention if there is an acceptable bid in the near future. If not, it will be up to the Third District Board to host the next convention.

The motion was **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

Peter Vatne, Norumbega Lodge, paddle #31. I move that concerning the bylaws, the Secretary be authorized to make corrections concerning gender, numbering, grammar, and punctuation to the Bylaws as necessary provided the changes do not alter the intent of the language.

Motion seconded.

The motion was **APPROVED** by a show of paddles.

President Helmold. Will Connie O'Brien come up and speak about the Sons of Norway Foundation.

President Helmold. I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to those celebrating a birthday.

Raise your paddle if you have attended 5 of more conventions, 10 or more, 15 or more, 20 conventions. **15 was the highest.** Thank you very much for your service.

Pick up your folk-art pieces at the end of this meeting. It was terrific. It was enjoyable to see all the pieces. The winners will be announced at the gala tonight.

SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION

Connie O'Brien spoke about the Sons of Norway Foundation.

Nordkap Lodge, when they disbanded, set-up a scholarship in honor of Nordkap Lodge and for the first time this year we awarded a scholarship to a member from Hampton Roads, Sophia Meagher, whose major is behavioral neuroscience with a history minor aimed to pursue a PHD in psychology and personal care and research traumatic brain injury. So she is a great winner. That is what I got from Amy Tuchenhagen this morning. We are very proud of what Nordkap did.

Since we are short on time, I am going to skip a couple of things because you all know how to read. I am not going to read the mission statement. Please go look at the website. I am not going to read the core values, they are awesome. Instead, I am going to look directly at what we did this last year with grants.

Grants

We have a Community Partnership Grant. We gave out 24 grants for over \$88,000.

The Vitality Grant. We gave out 15 grants.

The Community Partnership Grant will be enhanced this year because it is the year 2025.

We gave out some helping hands to children and some lodge heritage grants.

In District 3. Could the young lady from Nor-Bu lodge please stand up. Give her a hand. (Dawn Green) Nor-Bu lodge got a grant for the encampment featuring the Clan of the Ravens. Helping hands out of 3-646, Bla Fjell Lodge, a vitality grant to update the lighting at Loyal Lodge and some of the upkeep of the outside. They have a beautiful little lodge that I have never been to, and a vitality grant again for Nor-Bu Lodge.

Just a little bit about the Clan of the Ravens. The Clan of the Ravens, from New Jersey is an educational history group focusing on the history of the Viking age and from what I understand they are going to have a multi-day event of what it was like to live in that age.

Loyal's grant. This was a vitality grant to upgrade the lighting and to improve some things on the outside as well. Buildings age. We all age and the upkeep is expensive and electricians are expensive. So, kudos to the lodge for the wherewithal to apply for the grant. The grant was very well written. Whoever wrote the grant did an excellent job putting the budget together. And that is actually a decider hint, hint if you are going to put in a grant. This is important when you submit a grant.

President Helmold. It was Eric Johansson who is present.

Another lodge did a huge community outreach dealing with 25 people who got more than 50 fresh turkeys from Costco and partnered with a local organization. They were the only local organization that came forward and helped with Thanksgiving dinner.

Another grant was given for a program to celebrate a great man that fostered a connection between Norway and American culture.

Scholarships

We have a couple of scholarships that give out really large dollars. If you are in a District that gets the Nancy Lorraine Jensen award, which gives an award for full tuition, another for half tuition, another, the Brent Anker award is a 4-year award. There were 5 winners in District 3 for a total of \$13,500.

We gave out a total of almost \$148,000 this year. An excellent year for grants.

I would like to honor Nordkap Lodge 3-125. This was an amazing opportunity. Emily Stark, Amy's predecessor, worked very closely with 3 members of that lodge who wanted to take money from the sale of their building and use it to honor students and leave a legacy. Preference is giving for students entering the medical field and it is for up to \$2,000 per year.

All of the grants are written just a little bit different by statute. If you wish to put a scholarship together, please contact Amy Tuchenhagen. Also, talk to Gary Romsaas from Nordkap about his experience because it has been wonderful to be able honor those individuals.

One Scholarship, the Nancy Lorraine Jensen set up by the parents of a young lady who passed away. It is for women going into the field of science and gives one full year of tuition. Another, the Bernt Anker award is given to children of single parent families. There is one for attorneys.

Applications open Oct 1st. So, applicants do your homework. If you have a child or grandchild, tell them to go onto the website. There is an application process. If you qualify for more than one type of scholarship, the system will automatically put you in for each of the categories.

Fundraising

We have a goal of \$325,000 this year. We put together a QR code. We are doing a fall campaign again called, Together We Are The Future. I would like to honor Jon Tehven who came up with this. If you want these slides, just contact me. I can share these slides. These slides I would be happy to send to anyone who wants them. That would be wonderful. And Dirk, I will definitely send them your way.

We will have a personal phone call campaign. We are doing a direct mail appeal, and you will have an envelope in your October Viking Magazine where we honor the winners.

Can I just have a round of applause, not for me, but for Karen? Karen stepped in 2 years in a row to do a huge amount of work with the scholarship judging. She has set the bar for our judges on how to evaluate spreadsheets and come to the table with passionate discussion about the candidates. Emily was new in the role and then the transition to Amy. She has been our go to person. So, thank you, Karen. I wish I had a present for you, but I don't have a budget. That joke is getting a little bit old.

I would like to announce the Foundations Directors from each district and the Foundation Board members. Karl Heller out of District 1. We just lost our director from District 2, so we have to find a new one. Karen from District 3. District 4, Kay Halversson, District 5, Sandy Olsen, District 6, Jim Adams.

Isn't this a good-looking group. This is our Board of Governors. Marci Larson is from District 3. She is the Foundation Secretary. She was on the International Board, and she is now giving up her time and attention as the secretary. We just love working with her.

If you want to help judging, contact Amy Olson Tuchenhagen. She is a rock star. She is just a fabulous person and has a deep heart and passion and wishes she was here today. She was just at her son's graduation. She is just back and then will be on the road for District 4 and 5.

Thank you for your time.

President Helmold. Are there any questions?

From the floor, Do you give scholarships for trade schools?

Connie O'Brien. Yes, and we also have one for folk art in Norway. And there is a scholarship for anyone over the age of 40 to go and study. We don't have people apply. If you have any other questions, see me during the break.

President Helmold. Does anyone have any questions for Connie or the International Board about the dues increase since we got cut short?

Leif Easterson, Loyal Lodge, paddle #5. I know the dues went up and it had not gone up in a number of years. Speaking to a number of people, we would like to know on an annual basis going back a couple of years, what was the cost to support the fraternal. What were the expenses covered by International, how much of that was covered by dues? What is the delta? Going forward every year, is it better to just go up a dollar or two instead of waiting for a longer period of time.

Connie O'Brien. I will answer that to the best of my ability. I did not bring the entire break down of the entire budget for fraternal. I do know that the dues that we bring in covers less than half the cost of fraternal expenses. A big cost to fraternal expenses is the Viking Magazine. I can pull that out and send it to you Leif. That is not one that the staff nor the International Board wants to do any more to lower that expense. We have the building in Minneapolis.

If anyone is in Minneapolis, contact me and I will give you a tour of the building. We had someone from Hampton Roads visit. We learn from the members and the members have a great time. Melody will give you the down low on everything that we saw. We also have salaries and remember that if an employee is in the fraternal department we allocate the salaries and benefits for that staff to the fraternal budget. If they are in the insurance side, that is not considered a fraternal expense. There are a lot of complicated calculations that go into everything. The building is a big expense, we have water, heat. When we looked at this earlier in the year, it cost us more than twice what we take in per member. There is a big disconnect. The Board has had a discussion that they never want to see this percentage of dues increase ever again so they have measures in place.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82, International Treasurer. I am a royal pain in the butt when it comes to the International Board. The first thing that I did was to have them prove to me that we are not paying anything for the insurance, that the insurance is not getting into our budget. How did you allocate it? I was pretty happy with that. I was chair of the dues committee. I made a point of getting at least 4 people who were district presidents. There were 6 of us. We looked at it from the member perspective as well as from a business perspective. This is sticker shock. What we did is we now put in an escalator clause. I think of the Billy Joel song, "We Didn't Start the Fire," it's been burning, burning, burning. We did not start the fire; it has been burning for a long time. We started last October with a 50% increase and then added \$1.00. Headquarters wanted more and we said no, we just would not do it. That is why we built in the escalator clause. I have a lot of that Leif, if I can find the file, I will share it, give me a call.

This is painful for all of us. We started in October. We meet between the holidays, Christmas and New Years. We have to do what we have to do. One thing that happens when you get on the International Board, you have to think from the Board's perspective. We all know people who can't afford this, who are going to get hurt by this, who might have to drop out, but we all want this organization to go forward. And from a business perspective, this is kinda what you have to do. Do any of you work in corporations, you know about when you have to make budget cuts and reducing expense. Karen, I think the way you and I worked well together with Land of the Vikings trying to get everyone to think of it as a budget. You did an outstanding job. How can we reduce the workforce. You came up with the idea of the buffet. This is no different. We just have to remember we are a business. But here is the challenge. None of us joined an insurance company. We joined a fraternal organization. That is the nut that you have to get over in your head and when you make the switch from the District to the International Board that is a big nut that you have to get over in your head. You have to start thinking of this as a business as a whole. Let me tell you when I went through the orientation, if I heard one more time that we are an insurance company, I think I would have puked on the floor. I got so tired of hearing it. But it is the truth. The thing that you need to keep in mind is that we have a couple of different masters. We have the Minnesota Department of Commerce because the insurance company is sited in Minnesota, so we have to follow those rules. We are also a 501 c(8), a fraternal benefits society which is governed by the IRS. We have a couple of different masters so it is a tough spot and so we all think fraternal. So just remember the good of the whole entire order we have to think of it as a business as painful as this might be.

President Helmold. Thank you, Mary.

Ruth Cambell, Norsk Carolina Lodge, Paddle #34 This was never communicated to us.

Mary Andersen. It wasn't?

Ruth Cambell and President Helmold. No, it wasn't.

Mary Andersen. Again, I will take full responsibility for this. When we asked how the dues was communicated last time and last time a memo went out that the dues were going from this to that. And I said we have to do more than that. So, blame me for the communications. I am a detailed oriented person, and we gave too much information. Also, I was a math major too and I obviously couldn't add. We had an actuary. You know what it is like when you work, I am making excuses now, but you know what it is like when you work on something forever, you can't see it anymore. And that is what happened. We built-in an escalation clause.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3. What is the escalation clause? That was not stated.

Mary Andersen. That was not in the memo?

Karen Olsen-Helmold. All it said was that the dues would be reviewed annually.

Mary Andersen. That is what I call an escalation clause.

Karen Olsen-Helmold. So, it will not go up automatically every year?

Mary Andersen. No.

Connie O'Brien. It is important that people here embrace the business parts of the mission, that does not give away the importance of the mission. This is the fuel and we have to have the fuel to run the mission, and this is the fuel to run the mission and that is the sale of life insurance.

Mary Andersen. And that is another thing that I learned too. I deal mainly in life with CEOs and CFOs and one phrase that Ericka Oberg, the CFO said was that insurance premiums are the life blood of the organization and if you think about it, among the reasons that we got reinsured is that our annuity business was above a certain interest rate. We have to be conservative in our investments because we have to make sure that we have enough to fund the insurance policies. So, we reinsured the higher interest rate annuity policies. We get a chunk of change from that which helps our surplus. There is something called RBC, Risk Based Capital. My goal in my term as treasurer was to learn that calculation. It did not happen. It is about 30 pages. You do a lot of modeling. What if interest rates go up, what if interest rates go down. Are you going to have enough money to pay the policies? That is all the Minnesota Department of Commerce is interested in. They look at percentages and the critical percentage is your RBC. Your RBC has to be 250% and if it goes below 250% they step in. We were

getting close. The sale of the building pushed us up. This reinsurance business helped us. We are up to about 450%, 454%, 457%. I watch it. So, when we were introducing the MYGA, I asked how this will affect our RBC. Since it is such a small part of our business, the overall business, the portfolio of products, it will not affect it much. We will go down from 457% to 454% This is my world folks. I really like the nerdy details.

Connie O'Brien. And that is why we are only selling the MYGA to lodge related. Control.

I got a message on linked-in about 2023 Fraternals. They were hit by 3 things, there was going to be a reduction in surplus, it was covid, the deaths, you heard yesterday that you have to collect premiums for so many years, but if people start dying you lose money and if people didn't die, they stopped paying. All the insurance industry.

Let's go to expenses. When I started, I could not believe that our expenses were so much, so I asked who you are comparing us to. Hearing you have higher expenses than anyone else, well who the heck are you comparing us to. Well, I got this list. You may not believe this, but we are on the high end of the list. With all the cuts that we made we are no longer the highest one. We are dropping down. I have this chart that I think I brought with me, and I will send you a copy Steve. But another interesting thing on this chart is it shows is that, you have to understand that we are a small player. What it shows is that organizations this chart, we are a small player. So, my theory is that when covid hit and interest rates affects us more deeply so that is why we have to be more careful. There is a lot involved in this. I just retired in February, so I took on the role of the IRS and I asked questions. I may not know exactly, but I can smell stuff. You can just smell it does not feel right. That is what I do, and I am making them crazy, but I want the detail.

Leif Easterson, Loyal Lodge, paddle #5. A lot of stuff is online on the 990s. So, when we go through and see the salary increases from year to year and we see that for the past 3 or 4 year we have had annual year over year average increases of 9%, 39%, 22%, 15%, 13% year over year annual increases. Some of them over a 4-year period 35%. Over a 3-year period....

Mary Andersen. Let me

Leif Easterson. And again, there might be reasons why, but that is what we need to know. Can you print that? What is going on. In 2019 the 990 showed 64 employees with a salary base of 5 million and then in 2022 there were 39 employees with a salary base on 4.9 million. The average increase for those same 64 employees in 2019 was \$74,000 and the average in 2022 for those 39 employees was \$126,000. That is a huge increase. That is 66%.

Mary Andersen. Let me. Years ago, when I was the Counselor for the Third District at the time the Charitable Trust lost its credentials because we did not file our 990, I searched everywhere and I found the 990 and I went to and I saw the salary and I went very quietly to a couple of people and I said how can we pay this much money and I was looked at with how do you know this and I said it is public information. When I first came on as Treasurer, I went to the CEO and I said and I hope to hell that I

sounded much nicer than some people in this room and without so much animosity, how did this happen, how did you let this happen? And this person said to me, Be the change you would like to see. It stopped me in my tracks. I thought to myself he just told me very politely, put up or shut up. And I was giving him tons of credit but as it turns out it was Ghandi who said, be the change you would like to see. So, anyway I said ok Mary, what do you want to do, what do you want to do on this Board? I want to bring a business focus to it. How could all of this have been stuff be missed? I introduced KPI, Key Performance Indicators. One of those things we should be looking at in financial reports year to year is trends and if we see a trend happening, we should ask what we are going to do about it? What did we do about it? I am to say we went through a year and the KPI's we selected and the KPI's can change, but the KPI's we selected are trending good. They are trending down which is what we want to see. That is the main theme. In November what I did is, we are introducing this product, Legacy Sure, I am not certain what it is called e-cover or i-cover and I said oh boy, this sounds like AI to me. Well, what are the risks to the organization with AI? So given my last conference, last October, there were a lot of AI questions. I went through everyone. I went to our new CEO and he answered every single solitary question that I had. I give a presentation to the board on AI and ERM. If you talk about education, I am doing a lot of basic stuff here. What should a Board know about Enterprise Risk Management. What can we do now to avoid what happened in the past. I can't do a damn thing about what happened in the past. What can we do to go forward? We didn't start the fire. It's been burning, burning, burning. We are going to go forward. So, I'm on the case, but not for much longer, this is a tough job.

Connie O'Brien. Don't go away. I want to make a quick comment. Salaries and the 990's. 990's are at least 2 years behind whenever I look for them.

Diana Syvertsen, Noreg Lodge, paddle #2. 2022 is available.

Connie O'Brien. Ok The one thing I want to say about that is there are several of us that took salary cuts in the last year and a half to help reduce the budget. One of them was our previous CEO, who took a 50% pay cut. The devil is in the details. The other thing is that when I got this job, I mean no disrespect to anyone who was there, but we didn't have the talent in the organization with the skills that were up to date to run an insurance company. Their salaries were very low, but their skill sets were even lower. You will see a big increase and change when you have to go to the market and bring in talent that can do the work that you need to get done. The other thing is we are in the Minneapolis market where I might have a web developer/designer that I have to pay \$70,000 to employ. If I were in Crookston, Minnesota, I could get that same person for less than \$20,000. That is just a reality, so we have a marketing issue as well. So, I want you to keep that in mind as well. If anyone at SONS wanted to make more money, we would be so marketable. I could go make twice what I am making quite easily, but I am getting a little old to be jockeying around.

President Helmold. That is understandable.

Mary Andersen. Focus on the future please, focus on the future. And I would say something like ask not what Sons of Norway can do for you, ask what you can do for Sons of Norway. That is the point that we are at right now. Just support us.

Eric Johannesson, Loyal Lodge, paddle #58. So, you just said keep your eye on the future. And if we are all going to get this Sons of Norway moving again, we have to look to the future. And now the family plan has been raised to \$144 a year. So, if we are looking at young families joining our lodges, and they are looking at \$144 that is a lot for some families. We are not keeping our eye on the future and Viking Magazine has diminished very little and we cut our costs by reducing our membership cards and other things. So, what are we doing? Are we keeping our eye on the future or are we just covering our losses?

President Helmold: Are you asking, are we looking at the long term or just the short term?

Eric Johannesson. Yes, we have to look at the long term. Raising the cost of the family plan is wrong. Maybe we can do it differently for younger families coming in. Sometimes we see that not all members of a family plan are living in that house. Didn't you say that if you have a member with an insurance policy you don't pay dues.

Mary Andersen. The dues are now vetted into the premium. We need to do something about it, but we are like you, give us some ideas. What can we do about it? We can't reduce dues. We are all in this together.

President Helmold: When I first became District President, for the Board everyone said fraternal, fraternal, fraternal. I said, yes, but when you start to look at everything business-wise here, things are not what they are supposed to be. We have to straighten out the business first so then you can address the fraternal properly. Without a good base, what can you do fraternally. You have nothing to go by. I mention that to all the lodges I visit. Eric, we went through that with your lodge. We finally got that straightened out. And now you can do a lot more fraternal programs because of it. Connie mentioned the cuts. When I was working, in '08, '09, business was not that great so to hold on to people, we had to give certain cuts. Some of the people at my job were getting as much as 35% cuts just for a couple of years. It was eventually restored, but it took a couple of years. This is something you have to understand. This is business unfortunately, the way things are. But you have to look. Fraternal will be addressed as we go forward.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge paddle #3. First a question. Connie, yesterday you said that salaries were cut. In what year were salaries cut?

Connie O'Brien. "I don't remember what year it was. Was it the end of 2022?"

Karen Olsen-Helmold. It did not show in 2022's 990 or any year prior to 2022.

Connie O'Brien. Then it would have to be in 2023. I get a little confused on years, they go so fast.

Karen Olsen-Helmold. Mary, I know we had this conversation in private yesterday, but one thing that the International Board can do is increase transparency. If we would have had this presentation first, if you would have come to all of the conventions and talked to us about the dues increase and the need to

do it first and then publicized the increase, I think it would have been much better received. I know we had this conversation, but I think it should go on the record. Also, more transparency in general from the International Board. When you update your bylaws, and we don't know about it for six months, how are we supposed to be responsible to follow what we don't know about. Better communication and more timely communication, that was one of our resolutions.

Mary Andersen. I knew that the dues would be an issue. So, I asked every District Director after your convention, after the first convention, please call me with feedback. District 2 had theirs and it was the first thing. It was Chris Hicks, she is right now the acting Vice President, she was on my committee, I said what was it. She said, Mary we should have talked about this at the convention and then did it. I said I know, lesson learned. She also said that we gave too much information. Lessons learned. I agree with you 100%, 100%. Remember I am only one person. Luckily, I had Kathy supporting me. I am a newbie. I am kind of like feeling optimistic.

Les Johannessen, Norden Lodge, paddle #46. I just want to wrap-up the last piece of business before you close the meeting. I resubmitted Page 50, the Charitable Trust document that only went to June, I submitted to December 31.

President Helmold. Was it audited?

Les Johannessen. It is not an auditor issue. It is more informational than it is anything else. There is no reconciliation. It is just a list of the portfolio as it sits.

Leif Easterson, Loyal Lodge, paddle #5. Did the auditors reconcile it with the statements?

Karen Olsen-Helmold, District Secretary. This will be forwarded to all the delegates.

President Helmold. Will the Finance Committee please stand. Did the Finance Committee complete all its business?

Committee member Dawn Green. Yes

President Helmold. I want to thank the Finance Committee for all their service, and the Finance Committee is dismissed.

Will the Laws Committee please stand. Did the Laws Committee complete all its business?

Chairperson Peter Vatne. Yes, it has.

President Helmold. I want to thank the Laws Committee for all their service, and the Laws Committee is dismissed.

President Helmold. Will the Reports Committee please stand. Did the Reports Committee complete all its business?

Chairperson Les Johannessen. Yes, we have.

President Helmold. I want to thank the Reports Committee for all their service, and the Reports Committee is dismissed.

President Helmold. Will the Credentials Committee please stand. Did the Credentials Committee complete all its business?

Chairperson Jeanne Addison. We have.

President Helmold. I want to thank the Credentials Committee for all their service, and the Credentials Committee is now dismissed.

President Helmold. Will the Resolutions Committee come forward to present the Thank You Resolution.

Chairperson Judi Nilsen-Mack gave the resolution.

THANK-YOU RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Third District Convention gives thanks:

To the Washington Lodge #3-428 for hosting the 67th Third District Meeting (Convention), in Herndon, VA as we are implementing the governance format.

To the Convention Committees for the many hours spent planning and preparing for this convention, making this a memorable convention full of fraternal spirit and hospitality.

To David Brown, President of Washington Lodge, for his leadership preparing for this convention.

To the members who volunteered to be on the below committees for their willingness to serve;

Credentials, Law, Resolutions, Finance, Reports.

To Third District President Stephen E. Helmold for his expert and outstanding leadership at the “biannual” convention and during the last two years.

To District Vice President Diana Syvertsen for always being willing to help where needed.

To Third District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold for compiling and sending out, via email, the 67th District Convention Reports Book. She has also completed the necessary forms while keeping an accurate record of the Third District’s activities. And, I should add, she has done a lot more than what is mentioned here.

To Third District Treasurer Elaine Breiland for maintaining an accurate eye on District funds and preparing District budgets.

To Third District Charitable Trust Director Leif Easterson for his expertise and guidance overseeing our unique Third District Charitable Trust and working with the trustees.

To Third District Public Relations Director Asbjorn Lageraaen as he seeks to publicize the District.

To Third District Cultural Director Andrew Mathisen for his interesting cultural pieces that we have been reading and overseeing the Cultural Exhibition.

To Connie O'Brien Vice President of Fraternal and Development in giving her expertise from the home office. And I am sure I got your title wrong.

To Third District Youth Director Susan Olson for working with our youth/our future.

To Third District Sports/Recreation Director Paul Kornbrekke for organizing the District picnic.

To Marie Hansen for her work on the Convention Journal.

Judi gave the microphone to Resolutions Committee member Ruth Campbell who continued reading the resolution.

To Michael Wagner-Diggs PRP, Convention Parliamentarian, for his knowledge and expertise in assisting the convention members whenever questions of procedures arose and successfully guiding this 67th Convention.

To Jolene McNamara cookie coordinator and all who provided delicious, sweet treats for our coffee breaks.

To Bill DeRouche and his Viking Auction team for coordinating the auction to support the Charitable Trust.

To Greg Overbo Convention Treasurer.

To Cathy Sweetser for a memorable Memorial Service.

To Lisa Hestvik and Katerina Knight, the musicians.

To Rev. Dr. Elijah Mwitanti, for inspirational prayers.

To Mary Andersen, International Treasurer, for her moving words and explanation of the dues.

To Barbara Berntsen, Audun Gythfeldt, and Diana Syvertsen for their work on the By-Laws and Policy Revision Committee.

To all the vendors and sponsors who helped support the convention.

To International Treasurer Mary Andersen for her continued support, guidance, and counseling.

To International Director Kathy Dollymore for her guidance and dissemination of information.

To Third District Charitable Trust Trustees for their willingness to review and advise the chair.

To Third District Zone Directors who use their time and effort to maintain the lines of communication within the Zones and work on membership.

To the Third District Auditors Kari Brescher, Shirley Erland, and Les Johannessen for capably reviewing all Third District financial reports.

To Audun Gythfeldt for his dedication to raising funds for a cure for Alzheimer's disease and for his work on the Charitable Giving Group.

To Tubfrim Chairperson Kjell Kittilsen.

To Dirk Hansen for Sons of Norway Foundation fundraising and his work on the Charitable Giving Group.

To Kaare Hansen, Peter Hanson, and Jim Dunagan for their work on the Charitable Giving Group.

To the spouses of the District and International Officers for their support, understanding, and exemplary manner, in which they assisted the Third District Board.

To the Financial Advisors within the Third District to promote the benefits of membership and membership itself and educate all members on the sound financial products Sons of Norway offers.

To the editors of lodge newsletters.

To all the tellers, greeters, and marshals from yesterday and today.

To all the delegates whose attention and participation made our 67th Convention a success!

To Hampton Roads, what an asset younger members can be to the lodge and how they can improve a lodge.

The Resolution Committee asks the Third District Board to add any person or group that may have been omitted, with our apologies.

Motion. On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, we move that any business that has been overlooked or not brought before this District Board meeting shall be passed to the new District Board for their review and disposition.

Motion **APPROVED** by a sign of the paddles.

President Helmold. Did the Resolutions Committee complete all its business?

Chairperson Judi Nilsen-Mack. We have.

President Helmold. I want to thank the Resolutions Committee for all your service, and your committee is now dismissed.

Is there any new business to bring before this District Lodge?

NEW BUSINESS

None

President Helmold. Are there any remarks for the good of the order?

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Arnold Johnson, Hudson Valley Lodge, paddle #63. First, I would like to say that comment a little bit about what our counselor says at every meeting, May peace and harmony prevail within our lodge. Well obviously, from listening to some of the things happening between the District and in the International.

My introduction, I am Arnie Johnson, Hudson Valley Lodge, paddle #63 and former Zone 5 Director from Florida which also has some bearing on it. So, in any event, we have a situation where there is dissension all over the place. There doesn't seem that what the counselor says means a hell of a lot from what I see. The same thing happens within our District. We go back starting with LOV, it is almost like there is a Civil War. The North against the South. Now it comes into the deal with the Jacksonville convention. We have a problem going on here and all it is festering and festering and festering. You and the whole place here is going to fall apart. You have people here who say we are not surprised to see Jacksonville pull out of the organization. Now way back at the last meeting that we had of the last Board down in Florida, I used to be Zone Director and came up with a resolution and that there resolution was we forgive the amount.

President Helmold. No. Arnie you rescinded your motion. It never passed. And I said at the time it was voted on March 23rd that we would wait until the financials are in, which is usually in the fall, to look it all over and if they took a loss, we would back it up and that was accepted. When I mentioned that, you said OK, I withdraw my motion.

Arnie Johnson. I remember it differently.

President Helmold. That is when the hotel came in and said that they wanted to usher us out because they had already rented the room. So, we had to get out.

Arnie Johnson, Well, hold a second. Let me say my side. The fact was when the motion was made you were on zoom. You said that has been taken care of already. The secretary went through the minutes and when the secretary went through the minutes, she could not find any place where this had been previously squared away. So, I am the one who is a part of this thing.

Time called on Arnie.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, District Secretary. I went through 4 years of minutes, every single minutes of the four years from 2018 to 2022. What Steve said in March, there was a motion to wait until the financials were received at that time you would decide if they took a loss the Board would decide whether or not to forgive the loan. That was the only motion made. I read the minutes from the meeting you are talking

about. Your motion was never seconded, never voted on because you were ushered out of the room before any decision could be made.

Time was called.

Arnie Johnson. The rational was because of a zoom call.

Time was called.

Karen. I have the minutes for all 4 years in my room. If anyone want to read them.

Time was called again.

Arnie Johnson. I really hope in the future we will be able to come together and had we gone and cancelled this thing we would not have had a nasty couple of last years. Thank you.

Barbara Berntsen, Norden Lodge paddle #45. I would just thank Audun and Diana for all the work we have done these past two years to create these Bylaws. And I thank the delegates for their patience because this was an arduous job. I would also like to thank the Laws Committee, Peter, Janet and Barbara for all their diligence in following through because the International Board Bylaws were finished after ours were approved.

I would also like to take a personal point of privilege for one second from Ken Johnson and myself. We are the parade committee. I have pins with me from 2023 and 2024 and Roy has extra journals with him and so does Kjell Kittleson. So, if anybody wants any parade information just come and see us. Also, I would like to make a motion to authorize the Third District Board to conduct business in accordance with the rules until the next Third District Board meeting.

President Helmold. The Resolutions Committee already made that motion.

Barbara Berntsen. I withdraw the motion.

Bill Browning, Norskevenner Lodge, Zone 7, Director paddle #14, Sons of Norway Book Club Coordinator. We have been in existence for 3 years now. We are doing very well. We have two meetings the last Thursday every month, Eastern US and Western US. We are at the point where we are looking for a little funding so we can do more things, bring in more. I turn it over now to the book club secretary, Jeannie Addison.

Jeannie Addison, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #13. At this meeting we have several book club members other than Bill and myself, Kaare Hansen, Christine Taylor, Andy Mathisen, Diana Syvertsen, Mary Andersen. Anyone else? In any case, I would encourage anyone who wants to join to do so. We don't mean to take away from individual lodge book clubs. I know that Washington Lodge has a wonderful book club. They are reading several books. We do not intend to take away from them, but if anyone else in other lodges would like to belong to a book club. Sometimes it surprises you how intellectual members are. I am looking at Kaare Hansen over there. He always has great comments on the books.

This is a fun group. So please consider joining. We were hoping we could ask the Board for fraternal funds. We have author presentations every other month. If the District would like to contribute in the future when we have our bank account that would be great too, to have a line item in the budget. We are asking every district to help.

President Helmold. You should complete a Fraternal Funds request form.

Bill Browning. We will be asking other districts also, so spread this around.

Jeanne Addison. So, consider joining us. You have all been given papers of when we meet. Thank you.

Bill Browning. Thank you

Christine Taylor, Tampa Bay Lodge, paddle #12. I have a remark for the good of the order. Everyone has taken wonderful photos of our time together. I recommend that you send photos to Asbjorn Lageraaen so that they can be published on our website.

President Helmold. Please do that. If you can't get through to Asbjorn right now because he has some family issues, get it to me and I will get it on the website.

Eric Johansson, Loyal Lodge, paddle #58. I just want to thank Steve Helmold and the entire Third District Board for their support for the lodges in the District, especially Loyal Lodge. We were going through some things that are resolved now, but we really could not have done it without Karen and Steve and Leif. I really appreciate it very much. I would also like to thank the Third District Board for supporting our 100th centennial celebration. It was a great event, and I was so very happy that you were all there to be there with us. And thank you to the Sons of Norway Foundation for the Vitality Grant. We are going to be using that to increase the lighting at our events. The seniors have not been able to see with our lighting not being developed and the outdoors, it will pay for a new lighting system around a patio that my daughter did for her golden awards for Girls Scouts. So, that will increase our outdoor events. I just want to thank the Third District Board, especially you Steve. Thank you so very much.

President Helmold. I know that your lodge has gone through some rough times these past few years. I was very happy to help out.

Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, paddle #82. I would like to thank Steve for making the time, for allowing all the time needed for the discussion of very important issues. The next thing I would like to mention is, one of the things I like about the Third District, we are a great district, the kindness. I would like to thank the few people for the kindness exhibited to me last night. I have difficulty seeing at night and my brain freezes when I have to walk down the stairs at night. So, I had Ingrid from Washington, Jo from Bla Fjell, and I had Judy and Kathy. I had Elaine pointing the way for me and holding onto me, so thank you for that. The next thing I really want to thank too is the willingness of the people to speak up and open their mouths. A lot of people are afraid to do that. This group is not afraid to do that. But just remember, words once spoken cannot be taken back. Let's extend the kindness that we show each other

in acts and deeds to our words. Think about, still communicate, still say what you want to say, think about your communication channels. You are putting this in newsletters. You are putting this that goes out on the internet. Words that go out on the internet, stay there forever. So, continue to say the words, but consider your communication channels. Think about the impact of your words. Years ago, I used to do diversity training and the phrase that stuck with me is, it is not the intent, but the impact. Think about someone looking to join the Third District and they see these words in newsletters out on the internet. Please, voice your opinion, we need that. That will make us stronger and better. Just be careful how you do it. Thank you.

Diana Syvertsen, Noreg Lodge, paddle #2. I just want to talk about the Tubfrim stamps because for the past few years, I thought that it was cancelled, that we were no longer doing Tubfrim stamps maybe Kjell Kittilsen you can come up and say something about it.

Kjell Kittilsen, Faerder Lodge, paddle #76. Tubfrim was a charity that started in the 1920s. Tubfrim is still in existence. They outsourced the program to a big auction house in Norway, so they are still getting the benefits and the Norwegian government, their health system, is still helping young children. Just like March of Dimes in America, that is what their program is all about now. They are still doing it. Send all the stamps. I am forwarding it to Norway now. Thank you.

Karen Olsen-Helmold, Norden Lodge, paddle #3. I would like to give a very special thanks and a round of applause to Jeff Jorgensen and Barbara Berntsen for working on the computer.

There was a round of applause for Jeff and Barbara.

President Helmold. I do agree. Thank you, Jeff and Barbara. I know you took this on at the last minute about a week ago and I very much appreciate it. Thank you again.

I would like to remind you that the Viking Auction will start at 2 o'clock and the silent auction bids will be done by 1:50. Enjoy the Viking Auction, buy lots of tickets. It is for a great cause. The Installation of Officers will start at 5 PM in the Cirrus room where we had the Memorial Service.

Convention Co-host David Brown. The installation of officers will begin at 4:30, not 5 PM as stated in your schedule. They need time to get the room flipped for the banquet. Joleen has put some cookies outside the door here if you would like to get some to take some home. There are still some slots for dinner tonight that have not been filled in. So, if you haven't recorded what table you will sit at, please do.

President Helmold. Thank you again Dave. Please thank your committee. They were outstanding. They did a fantastic job.

President Helmold. I will adjourn the meeting. The meeting is adjourned at 12:01. Time for lunch.

Viking Auction for the 3D Charitable Trust June 10, 2024 2:00PM

The Viking Auction to support the Third District Charitable Trust consisted of 3 parts. First, there was a silent auction where bidders placed their bids on a piece of paper and the person who made the highest bid was the winner.

Then there was the regular Viking auction where bidders bought a string of raffle tickets and place them in the cup next to the prize they had hopes of winning,

And finally, there was the live auction, led by auctioneer Roy Berntsen from Norden Lodge, Huntington NY. As always, Roy had the audience in stitches as he pushed to increase the bids to their highest possible amount. The two hours were fun filled, with many leaving happy with the prizes they bid on and with a good sized donation to follow to the Third District Charitable Trust.

Installation of Officers June 10, 2024 4:30 PM

Installing Officer, Peter Vatne from Norumbega Lodge, West Newton, MA along with the assistance of marshals Barbara Berntsen from Norden Lodge, Huntington, NY and Kenneth Johnson from Henrik Ibsen Lodge, Bayshore, NY installed the Third District officers for 2024-2026.

President – Stephen Helmold
Vice President – Robert Johnson
Secretary – Karen Olsen-Helmold
Assistant Secretary – Katie Brink
Treasurer – Diana Syvertsen
Cultural Director – Cheri Johnson
Publicity Director – Asbjorn Lageraaen
Zone 1 Director – Elaine Breiland
Zone 2 Director – Peter Hanson
Zone 3 Director – Paul Kornbrekke
Zone 4 Director – Kaare Hansen
Zone 5 Director – Christine Taylor
Zone 6 Director – Linda Hestvik
Zone 7 Director – Bill Browning

GALA SUNDAY JUNE 10, 2024 8pm

After a delicious dinner, there was entertainment by Helene Dick-Henriksen. Then 2 special awards were given, the Leif Erickson Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Leif Erikson Citation Award – Presented by Barbara Benson, Noreg Lodge

Good evening, everyone, I am Barbara Bensen from Noreg Lodge, New Jersey. It is an honor to present the Leif Erikson Award posthumously to Karlton (Jerry) Rosholt, past President of Noreg Lodge 3-466. His diverse background in news media and journalism at NBC Nightly News, lent itself well to

the roles Jerry played at Noreg and, in later years at the Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, Decorah, Iowa.

Jerry is being awarded the Leif Erikson Award posthumously because of his significant cultural and humanitarian contributions to the Norwegian community at large. His pursuit of a life-long hobby in genealogy resulted in Jerry becoming a Vesterheim historian and researching Norwegians who fought for the American Civil War. His contribution: the study and understanding of Norwegian history, particularly about immigrants who served in the American Civil War. The end product is reflected in Jerry's work: an International data base of over 6,500 entries, available to anyone who wishes to search for Norwegian soldiers, and his book, "Ole Goes To War".

Jerry was presented the St. Olaf medal in October of 2006 by Norwegian Consul, Rolf Hansen. This medal was awarded by the Norwegian government, to honor outstanding services regarding the spreading of information about Norway abroad, and for strengthening bonds between expatriate Norwegians and their home country.

Furthermore, in all of Jerry's research and outreach activities, he acted as a volunteer for Vesterheim, refusing any compensation for his efforts, donating honoraria from speaking engagements and paying all expenses he incurred. One can say, Jerry Rosholt represented Norway, his heritage, Sons of Norway and fraternalism at its best. I was proud to have known Jerry, I was sorry to see him leave Noreg for Decorah, Iowa, and proud to have submitted his name as a candidate for this award he rightfully deserves. Here to accept the Leif Erikson award, on behalf of the late Karlton (Jerry) Rosholt, is his son, Dirk Rosholt.

Dirk Rosholt, will you please come forward.

Lifetime Achievement Award – Presented by Audun Gythfeldt, Nor-Bu Lodge

If you know John Hlivyak, you know that he is a low-key individual that is beyond active in both the Sons of Norway and in Civic organizations. He was an Honorary Marshal at the Brooklyn, New York Syttende Mai Parade on May 20th, 2012.

John served three terms as President of Hartford Lodge 3-474 in Connecticut, and three terms as President of Tampa Bay Lodge 3-515. He sang in the Hartford Lodges' Viking Chorus, and in 1995 (year of the Sons of Norway International Centennial) he wrote and submitted the Lodge's history for the Third District History publication. Both John and his wife, Aud-Helen, are Sons of Norway Golden Members. He lived in Norway for 3 ½ years, in the early 1950's, and considers Norway to be his adopted home nation.

He served as an Officer on the Third District Board for 12 years, culminating as District President from 1996-1998. In 2000, John became the International Director for the District for a four-year term. He was instrumental in moving the Leif Erikson Citation Award Program from Hartford Lodge to the Third District Board in the 1980's. John had the honor of giving that prize Grete Waitz, the world-famous runner, in 1997 at her annual mini-marathon event held in Central Park before an audience of about 4,000 runners and spectators. At the ceremony for the rededication of the Norwegian Seaman's

Home in New York in honor of King Olav V, John along with Sandy Ginsberg, was introduced to King Harald of Norway as Representatives of the Third District.

In 2000, John attempted to have the U.S. Stamp Advisory Committee recognize the 100th Anniversary of Leif Erikson's landing on North America with a commemorative stamp. In 2003, he also tried to get their approval for a commemorative stamp honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Viking Banner being flown over North American soil; the first flag known to do so, as recorded by the Library of Congress. Both attempts failed despite nationwide signature drives.

John and his wife have been active volunteers for many causes. They acted as interpreters and delegation hosts for the team from Norway that participated in the World Special Olympics held in New Haven, Connecticut in 1995. In 1997, John went to Fargo, North Dakota with the other International Board members where they helped move more than 25,000 sandbags from a private school that was heavily damaged by the Red River that year. He has been an ombudsman for elderly people in long term care facilities in both Connecticut and Florida for 8 years, an income tax consultant for AARP, a General Elections Precinct Clerk, a storyteller for the Hernando County Florida Libraries, and a Math and English Teaching Assistant for third and fourth grade students in Spring Hill, Florida. He also tells the students Norwegian folk tales each week. John was named the Outstanding Senior Volunteer for the Hernando County school system in 2010-2011, over 1500 other volunteers. He has also traveled to Sons of Norway Lodges from Maine to Florida, directing leadership training seminars for local Lodge Officers.

After more than 20 years of service to his country, John retired from the US Air Force in 1970. During that period, he served 7 years as an airborne radio-ECM operator, flying on everything from a C-45 with a single engine, to an IO engine (6 reciprocating and 4 jet) B-36. The latter 13 years he spent as an Air Traffic Controller Superintendent, supervising air traffic control facilities, planning and diagramming departures, routings and landing approach patterns with minimum safe altitudes for air traffic. He was part of the Occupation Forces in Germany and served a tour in Vietnam. During his service years, John resided in or visited all 50 states and 37 countries.

There is no doubt that John Hlivyak is more than deserving of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

50 Year Membership Pins - Presented by Roy Berntsen, Norden Lodge

Roy Berntsen. I am honored to present pins commemorating 50 years of membership to my longtime friends Stephen Helmold and Karen Olsen-Helmold.

The awards were followed by an evening of dancing, fraternalism and fun.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Olsen-Helmold
Third District Secretary

Appendix #1

Lodge ##	3	State	## Members	Max	Reg	SAT AM	SAT PM	SUN AM
0	Central		7292	Max	Reg	SAT AM	SAT PM	SUN AM
109	Fæder	NY	44	3	3	3	3	3
125	Fredriksten	PA	60	3	0			
242	Fredheim	NY	56	3	0			
243	Brooklyn	NY	82	3	1	1	1	1
252	Loyal	NY	235	5	4	3	3	3
337	Norge	NY	52	3	1	1	1	1
393	Henrik Ibsen	NY	69	3	1	1	1	1
407	Norden	NY	136	4	4	4	4	4
410	Nansen	NY	235	5	5	5	5	5
427	Nor-Bu	NJ	211	5	5	5	5	3
428	Washington	DC	429	8	8	8	8	8
432	Hudson Valley	NY	182	4	2	2	2	2
433	Scandinavian Heritage Society	NY	51	3	0			
438	Oslo	NY	35	2	2	2	2	1
439	Pleasant Point	NJ	28	2	0	0		
466	Noreg	NJ	126	4	4	3	4	4
467	Norrøna	NY	93	3	3	3	3	3
468	Skaugum	CT	27	2	0			
475	Lauderdale	FL	65	3	0			
476	Troll	NY	48	3	3	3	3	3
506	Norumbega	MA	173	4	3	3	2	2
514	Gulfstream	FL	92	3	3	2	2	2
515	Tampa Bay	FL	108	3	0	0	0	0
522	Hampton Roads	VA	336	6	6	6	6	6
541	Gateway To Florida	FL	106	3	0			
545	Morgensolen	MA	30	2	0			
555	Restauration	PA	71	3	0			
566	Bernt Balchen	PA	45	3	0			
612	Bondelandet	PA	42	3	2	2	2	2
630	Southern Star	SC	61	3	3	3	3	3

646	Blåfjell	VA	34	2	2	2	2	2
664	Maine Nordmenn	ME	60	3	0			
675	North Carolina Vikings	NC	59	3	0			
678	Norskevenner	GA	55	3	0			
679	Norsk Carolina	NC	54	3	2	2	1	1
683	Gulf Coast Vikings	FL	59	3	0			
999	Spirit New Century		835		0			
0	Central		7292	Max	Reg	SAT AM	SAT PM	SUN AM
	Third District		16	16	14	14	14	14
	International Officers			2	2	2	2	2
	Totals			136	80	77	76	73

		majority	two-thirds	
All Present		40	53.33333	54
SAT	AM	38.5	51.33333	52
SAT	PM	38	50.66667	51
SUN	AM	36.5	48.66667	49

Appendix #2

DISTRICT LODGE No. 3

SONS OF NORWAY

2024-2026



BYLAWS

SONS OF NORWAY DISTRICT LODGE No. 3

2024-2026

AUTHORITY

By the authority of the [Sons of Norway Charter and Bylaws](#), District Lodge No. 3 has enacted these Bylaws. They pertain to the operations of the District and do not conflict in any way with the Sons of Norway [Charter and Bylaws](#).

As authorized by the 48th District Convention of June 1984, the Bylaws were updated and revised into a simple and consistent form by a committee (George Gilbertson, Chairman, Leif Aschim, and Frank Monnick) and approved by the 49th District Convention in June 1986 and by the International Board in August 1986.

This edition contains all amendments adopted by the District Lodge at its meetings held through [2022](#) and approved at Sons of Norway Headquarters by the International Board.

This edition contains all amendments adopted by the District Lodge at its meetings held through [2024](#).

Stephen Helmold, President

Karen L. Olsen-Helmold, Secretary

June 2024

INTRODUCTION TO THE BYLAWS

DISTRICT LODGE No. 3

SONS OF NORWAY

Sons of Norway is a Fraternal Benefit Society, consisting of an International **Board of Directors**, District Lodges and Local Lodges.

*The **INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS** is the supreme legislative, executive and judicial body of the Society. In general, it has the power and authority to do and perform all acts necessary to carry out the objective and purposes of the organization.*

DISTRICT LODGES are comprised of the Officers, Directors, and Delegates elected by Local Lodges in each District. Districts promote the interests of the Society within their boundaries to assist and cooperate with the International **Board of Directors** in their work, both with relation to fraternal activities and organizational work.

LOCAL LODGES function at the “member level”, electing their own Officers and electing Delegates to the District Lodge meetings (Convention). They have no other authority than that delegated to them by the International **Board of Directors**.

THE SONS OF NORWAY CHARTER AND BYLAWS contains the principles and laws under which the International **Board of Directors**, District Lodges and Local Lodges are governed. It is established by the International **Board of Directors**, which alone has the power to modify it.

DISTRICT BYLAWS supplement the District section of the Sons of Norway **Bylaws** and contain the rules and regulations applicable to the District Lodges and their Local Lodges. Each District is self-governing, subject to the authority of the International **Board of Directors** and the **Sons of Norway Charter and Bylaws**.

BYLAWS

DISTRICT LODGE No. 3

SONS OF NORWAY

CHAPTER 1

NAME AND TERRITORY

1.1 The name of this District Lodge shall be "District Lodge No. 3, Sons of Norway".

1.2 The territory of this District shall include the District of Columbia and the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and the Provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec, Canada, or as determined by the International Board of Directors, Sons of Norway. (6/24)

CHAPTER 2

ORGANIZATION AND AUTHORITY

2.1 The District Lodge shall consist of its elected officers and directors, all of whom shall be benefit members, and delegates from each local lodge (who are not required to be benefit members), and the elected international officers and directors from the district. (6/24)

2.2 The District Lodge shall promote the interests of Sons of Norway within the District, and shall cooperate with and assist the International Board of Directors in its fraternal and organizational work. (6/24)

2.3 Subject to the approval of the International Board of Directors (International Board), the District shall:

- 2.3.1 Be empowered to adopt the laws, regulations and rules deemed necessary for its administration;
- 2.3.2 Be authorized to establish new Local Lodges within the District;
- 2.3.3 Have primary authority over issues and matters relating to the District's Local Lodges and their members, provided such authority is not expressly reserved for Local Lodges; (6/24)
- 2.3.4 Decide on appeals from Local Lodges or their members.

CHAPTER 3

DISTRICT LODGE MEETING AND DELEGATES

- 3.1 The District Lodge shall hold a regular District Lodge meeting once every two years. The date and place shall be determined by the District Lodge, except that if changes become necessary the new date and place shall be determined by the District Board of Directors (District Board). Special meetings of the District Lodge, including resolutions of the District Board directing the conduct of a referendum of the District Lodge by mail, shall be called and conducted as provided in **sections 4.6.2 and 7.2 of the Sons of Norway Bylaws.** (6/24)
- 3.2 A Local Lodge, a group of Local Lodges, a Zone or the District Board may bid for and **host** a regular District Lodge meeting **and Convention**, with the final selection of the District Lodge meeting **and Convention** site **determined** by a vote of the **District Lodge** from all the bids presented. (6/24)
- 3.3 Within six (6) months after the close of a regular District Lodge meeting **and Convention**, the **host(s)** shall file with the District Treasurer a detailed financial statement **of revenues and expenses and a detailed record** of its receipts and expenditures **including their receipts and expenditures with all supporting documentation and contracts**. This **financial** statement shall be included in the Minutes of the District Board meeting and shall be published in the Reports Book **at the next regular** District Lodge meeting. A Local Lodge may request a copy from the District Treasurer. (6/24)
- 3.4 Each Local Lodge shall be entitled to elect two Delegates for the Lodge, plus an additional Delegate for **every** 75 members or major fraction thereof, based on the last **Sons of Norway** Annual Report before the election takes place. Each Local Lodge may elect an equal or greater number of Alternates (**section 14.6.2 of the Sons of Norway Bylaws**). All persons who have been members of the Order for at least three months shall be eligible for election as Delegates or Alternates. (6/24)
- 3.5 The election of Delegates and Alternates, the election report, and the identification of delegates shall be in accordance with section 14.6 of the Sons of Norway Bylaws, and section 14.11 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures. (6/24)
- 3.6 Finance, Law, and Resolutions Committees may convene at the Convention site one day prior to the **District Lodge Meeting's** scheduled opening. (6/24)
- 3.7 Each member of those committees convened one day prior to **the District Lodge Meeting** shall be reimbursed one day's room rate (at the Convention room rate) for the extra day. (6/24)

3.8 Bids shall be accepted by the District Board when in accordance with the approved Convention Guidelines policy and shall include at least: (6/24)

- 3.8.1 The proposed dates for such meetings;
- 3.8.2 The full details involving room prices;
- 3.8.3 The cost and content of delegate and visitor packages;
- 3.8.4 Pertinent information where unusual circumstances may exist relating to additional expenses necessary to travel to a convention site. (6/24)

3.9 The District Board shall appoint a committee to review the District Lodge Meeting minutes before the Secretary sends a copy to the Sons of Norway Headquarters. The minutes will be reviewed and approved by the District Board at the fall Board meeting. (6/24)

3.10 All Delegates attending a regular District Lodge meeting shall pay in advance the required registration fee. (6/24)

3.11 Delegates are expected to attend all District Lodge Meeting business sessions and serve until the next District Lodge Meeting. (6/24)

CHAPTER 4

REIMBURSING EXPENSES FOR OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

4.1 District Lodge Officers shall be reimbursed for expenses and maintenance incurred in performing their duties as authorized by the District Board.

CHAPTER 5

DISTRICT LODGE OFFICERS

5.1 The officers of the District Lodge shall be the President, Vice President, Charitable Trust Director, Secretary, [Assistant Secretary](#), Treasurer, Public Relations Director, Cultural Director, and Zone Director (or the Alternate) from each Zone in the District. These officers shall comprise the District Board. (6/24)

5.2 The Executive Committee of the District Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Charitable Trust Director, Secretary and Treasurer. It shall be the Committee's duty to administer the requirements of the District between the meetings of the District Board. (6/22)

5.3 The District Board shall fulfill its general duties and such specific duties as provided in sections 17.2 through 17.12 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures and in these Bylaws. (6/24)

5.4 The District Board shall meet immediately after each District Lodge meeting and at least once every year thereafter. The District Board or the President shall decide the meeting time and place. The District President or a majority of the officers may call additional meetings. The District Board may meet via teleconference by any means of communication through which the District Board may simultaneously hear each other during the conference, if the same notice is given of the teleconference as would be required for a District Board special meeting, and if the number of District Board members participating in the teleconference would be sufficient to constitute a quorum at a regular District Board meeting. Participation in a meeting of the District Board by teleconference constitutes personal participation in such meeting. (6/24)

5.5 Except as provided below, the eligibility, terms of office, time and method of electing District Officers shall be as provided in sections 14.4 and 16.7 of the Sons of Norway Bylaws, section 14.8 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures, and in these Bylaws. (6/24)

5.5.1 No officer except the Secretary shall be eligible to hold the same office for more than two successive terms. (6/24)

5.5.2 The Nominating Committee will obtain and review all Candidate Leadership Applications for officers, directors, and zone directors, and have them available at the District Lodge Meeting. Nominations of Officers shall be opened the afternoon of the first business day of a regular District Lodge meeting, at which time the Nominating Committee shall present their candidates. (6/24)

5.5.3 No Officer or Delegate shall be nominated to more than one elective office at each biennial District Lodge Meeting. (6/24)

5.5.4 Duly nominated candidates except for Zone Directors shall address the District Lodge when there is more than one (1) candidate. Presidential candidates shall be allowed to speak for five (5) minutes and other candidates for three (3) minutes each. (6/24)

5.5.5 When a vacancy occurs in the Board of Directors other than for the President, Vice President or Zone Director, the District Board shall consider a candidate's interest, availability and qualifications for the same office at the preceding District Lodge meeting before taking action to fill the vacated office from among the District Lodge membership. (6/24)

5.5.6 Anyone properly removed from office within Sons of Norway at either the International or District levels, according to the Sons of Norway Bylaws sections 17.2 or 17.4, if that person seeks office at the Third District Board level again, the prior removal from office must be disclosed on the Candidate Leadership application. (6/24)

CHAPTER 6

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

6.2 All District Officers shall fulfill the duties of their respective offices as provided in section 17.2 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures. In addition, they shall perform the following duties established by this District: (6/24)

6.3 The President shall:

- 6.2.1 Visit as many Local Lodges as practical, and whenever he or she deems it necessary; (6/16)
- 6.2.2 In a reasonable time before a District Lodge meeting, appoint from the elected delegates, the District Lodge Meeting **committee chairs** and members for the following committees: Laws, Resolutions, Reports, **Finance**, and special committees as may be deemed necessary; (6/24)
- 6.2.3 Appoint an active Ways and Means Committee to create and implement programs designed to increase District revenue. The committee will work under the District Board's supervision;
- 6.2.4 **Approve** the Installing Officers for each Local Lodge and request them to obtain for the District Secretary the information needed for the Home Office and the annual District Directory; (6/24)
- 6.2.5 Provide instructional seminar(s) for the Officers of each newly-instituted Local Lodge and seminars as Zones may request;
- 6.2.6 Nominate the Trustees of District Lodge No. 3, Sons of Norway Charitable Trust (other than **the Charitable Trust Director**), subject to election by the Third District Board; (6/24)
- 6.2.7 **(Deleted 6/24)**
- 6.2.8 **(Deleted 6/24)**
- 6.2.9 Serve as an advisory member of the International Board;
- 6.2.10 Appoint members of all committees unless otherwise specified;
- 6.2.11 **Serve as an ex-officio member of committees except the nominating and auditing committees;** (6/24)
- 6.2.12 Nominate the District Auditors, to be elected by the District Lodge. (6/24)

6.4 The Vice President shall:

- 6.3.1 Assist the President in administering and managing District affairs;
- 6.3.2 Serve as the Chairman of the District Board's Membership Committee and as an ex-officio member of other committees as the President shall determine;
- 6.3.3 **(Deleted 6/18)**
- 6.3.4 **(Deleted 6/24)**
- 6.3.5 **(Deleted 6/14).**

6.5 The Charitable Trust Director shall:

- 6.4.1 **(Deleted 6/22)**
- 6.4.2 Serve as a Trustee and the Chairperson of the Charitable Trust Fund (any reference to the position of Counselor will now apply to the Charitable Trust Director); (6/22)
- 6.4.3 **Plan and oversee the operations of the Charitable Trust, including fundraising and financial investments in accordance with the Charitable Trust Agreement;** (6/24)

6.4.4 Provide a copy of the Charitable Trust Agreement and blank application form to any lodge upon request. (6/24)

6.6 The Secretary shall:

6.5.1 (Deleted 6/24)

6.5.2 Maintain a current copy of the amended Bylaws of each Local Lodge and of each organization established by the District Lodge;

6.5.3 Receive from the Installing Officers reports on Local Lodge Installations;

6.5.4 Publish and distribute the annual District Directory;

6.5.5 Within 45 days of the close of the District Board meeting, submit minutes of the District Board meeting to all District Board members, and within 90 days distribute the approved minutes to all local lodge Presidents within the district; (6/24)

6.5.6 (Deleted 6/24)

6.5.7 (Deleted 6/18)

6.5.8 Prepare the District Lodge Meeting Reports Book for publication and distribution forty-five (45) days before the District Lodge Meeting with a copy to each District Board member, delegate, and District International Officer and Director. The Secretary shall transcribe the minutes to be made available to all members; (6/24)

6.5.9 After each District Lodge Meeting, send to the International Headquarters within forty-five (45) days copies of Bylaws changes that must be considered by the International Board of Directors. Send a complete copy of the District Lodge Meeting minutes as approved at the first fall Board meeting following the District Lodge Meeting. In addition, provide an approved updated copy of Bylaws, as provided in section 9.3 below; (6/24)

6.5.10 As outgoing secretary, prepare the District Lodge Meeting minutes. (6/24)

6.7 The Treasurer shall:

6.6.1 Maintain separate financial accounts for each District fund and submit written reports thereon at each District Board meeting and at each regular District Lodge Meeting; (6/24)

6.6.2 Arrange a surety bond for each elected or appointed Officer, as needed, and in an amount sufficient to protect the District's assets;

6.6.3 (Deleted 6/18)

6.6.4 (Deleted 6/24)

6.6.5 Serve as a member and resource person of the Finance Advisory Committee described in Chapter 7.3 of these Bylaws. (6/24)

6.8 The Public Relations Director shall: (6/08)

6.7.1 (Deleted 6/24)

6.7.2 Publish the District's activities in the public media and in Sons of Norway publications including monthly submission of pictures for the Third District;

6.7.3 (Deleted 6/24)

6.7.4 Publish and distribute the "Third District Today" newsletter;

6.7.5 (Deleted 6/24)

6.7.6 When called upon, assist any Local Lodge to establish or publish its newsletter or bulletin.

6.9 The Cultural Director shall: (6/08)

- 6.8.1 Perform the duties of the office referred to in section 17.9 of the Sons of Norway Policies and Procedures; (6/24)
- 6.8.2 Serve as a member of the District Membership Committee;
- 6.8.3 Develop communications with all local lodge Cultural directors. Monitor District cultural activities and assist where needed in developing cultural programs for the local lodges;
- 6.8.4 Provide information to Third District Today and the Third District web site regarding District cultural activities and programs;
- 6.8.5 Encourage and track results of local lodge participation in the Cultural Skills programs;
- 6.8.6 Chair the District Convention Cultural exhibit; (6/24)
- 6.8.7 Be the District's liaison between the appropriate Norwegian cultural representatives and District 3 local lodges to provide greater access to Norwegian artists and performers.

6.10 (Deleted 6/24)

6.11 (Deleted 6/24)

6.12 (1/24 The position of Fraternal and Foundation Director was not approved by the International Board of Directors)

6.13 Zone Directors shall:

- 6.12.1 Work diligently to promote the growth and welfare of the local lodges within the Zones;
- 6.12.2 Represent the District at Zone activities;
- 6.12.3 Serve on committees and perform functions as the District President may assign;
- 6.12.4 Determine the need within the Zone to instruct or coordinate and arrange seminars to accomplish necessary purposes;
- 6.12.5 As called upon, assist and participate in processes to establish new Lodges within the Zone; determine their instructional needs and see that these are met and aid the new Lodges in becoming a full participant in Zone and District affairs;
- 6.12.6 As called upon, assist the trustees of the District Charitable Trust Fund by furnishing information essential to the Trust purposes;
- 6.12.7 At least once each biennium, call and conduct a Zone Meeting to assure that the Lodges of the Zone work together to achieve the objectives and programs of the District, and to keep the Local Lodges informed of the functions and activities of the District Board;
- 6.12.8 Prior to a District **Lodge Meeting**, call and conduct a caucus of the elected Delegates and District Officers from the Zone to select its nominees for Zone Director and Alternate, and discuss other matters relating to the Zone and the District affairs; (6/24)
- 6.12.9 Visit each Lodge in the Zone at least annually, if possible; and
- 6.12.10 As directed by the Third District Board, arrange and conduct virtual meetings of groups of Lodge officers within the Zone, not to exceed four meetings within one year, along with other district officers as circumstances warrant; for example, meetings with all local lodge Treasurers in the Zone to discuss Form 990, or with all local lodge Secretaries to discuss Form D63. (6/24)

6.14 Appointive Officers shall:

6.13.1 Assist in conducting the District Convention **and Lodge Meeting** and perform duties as the President requests. (6/24)

6.15 The Assistant Secretary shall:

6.14.1 Perform approximately half of the duties assigned to the Secretary, as directed by the District Board, and supervised by the Secretary. (6/24)

CHAPTER 7

DISTRICT FUNDS

7.1 District income shall be derived from sources specified in **Chapter 10.1** of the **Sons of Norway Bylaws** and from profits derived from District activities and voluntary contributions. These shall be maintained in separately designated funds or accounts, as directed by the District Lodge or the District Board, but need not be separately deposited or separately invested. However, each fund shall be used only for which it was created and shall contribute its fair share to administration expenses. (6/24)

7.2 District funds shall be managed by the District Board and shall be audited each six (6) months by a committee of three (3) auditors elected at the District **Lodge Meeting**. If an elected Auditor cannot serve, the President shall fill the vacancy with the District Board's concurrence. (6/24)

7.3 The District Board shall appoint a three (3) member Finance Advisory Committee with the Treasurer as a member and resource person:

- 7.3.1 to review the financial status of **the Third District**; (6/24)
- 7.3.2 to assist the Treasurer in preparing the budget;
- 7.3.3 to recommend current and long-term financial policies;
- 7.3.4 to advise on any other financial matters as requested.

7.4 The District Dues shall be determined by the International Board. (6/22)

7.5 (Deleted 6/22)

7.6 (Deleted 6/22)

7.7 (Deleted 6/22)

CHAPTER 8

COMPENSATION

(6/24)

8.1 The President, Vice President, Secretary, **Assistant Secretary**, and Treasurer shall receive annual compensation, paid in two equal installments, as follows:

- 8.1.1 President - \$1250.00
- 8.1.2 Vice President - \$500.00
- 8.1.3 Secretary - **\$750.00**
- 8.1.4 **Assistant Secretary** - **\$750.00**
- 8.1.5 Treasurer - \$500.00

8.2 The compensation for the first half of the year shall be paid within six months after June 30, and the compensation for the second half of the year shall be paid within six months after December 31. Partial years of service shall be prorated. The compensation package shall be reviewed prior to each District **Lodge Meeting** by the **District Lodge** Finance Committee. (6/24)

CHAPTER 9

CHANGE OF BYLAWS

9.2 Local Lodges or the District Board must submit all **resolutions** to change the District Bylaws to the District Secretary in writing at least seventy-five (75) days before the District Lodge meeting is held. An affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present is needed to effect a change. (6/24)

9.3 **Non-bylaw** resolutions are also considered at the District Lodge meeting and require only a simple majority for adoption. Such resolutions proposed by either the District Board or the Local Lodges must also be submitted to the District Secretary at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the district Lodge meeting. (6/24)

9.4 Within six (6) months after a District **Lodge Meeting**, the Secretary shall insure that each Local Lodge and each District Officer receive an insert sheet or new edition of the Bylaws, incorporating changes adopted by the **District Lodge** and approved by the International Board. (6/24)

9.5 Any resolution to be proposed at the District Lodge meeting, which includes the explicit or implicit expenditure of funds, shall include: (6/24)

- 9.4.1 an estimate amount of the expenditure;

9.6 the means by which the necessary funds are to be obtained.

9.7 These statements referenced in section 9.4 (or their lack) may be debated and amended or the resolution may be amended to conform to the statements or both. The District Lodge shall have final say as to whether these statements are deemed adequate or required for any particular resolution. (6/24)

CHAPTER 10

(Deleted 6/24)

CHAPTER 11

NOMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR AND ALTERNATE

11.1 As authorized in chapters 16.4.2 and 16.6 of the Sons of Norway Bylaws, the International Lodge Directors and Alternates to which the District is entitled shall be nominated at the regular District Lodge meeting. All eligible and attending Delegates and all International Officers and Directors from the District are eligible to be nominated. (6/24)

CHAPTER 12

FINANCIAL APPEALS

12.1 No Local Lodge may seek financial assistance from other Lodges without first obtaining permission of the District Board or the District Executive Committee on its behalf.

CHAPTER 13

ORDER OF BUSINESS

(6/24)

13.2 The following order of business shall be observed at regular District Conventions and District Lodge Meetings:

- 13.1.16 Memorial for Deceased Members
- 13.1.17 Opening ceremonies

- 13.1.18 Report on credentials
- 13.1.19 Roll call of officers and delegates
- 13.1.20 Announcement of committee memberships and appointment of special committees
- 13.1.21 Communications
- 13.1.22 Review of prior Lodge meeting mandates
- 13.1.23 Reports of Officers
- 13.1.24 Reports from committees
- 13.1.25 Unfinished Business
- 13.1.26 New Business
- 13.1.27 Election of Officers
- 13.1.28 Nomination of International Director(s) and Alternate(s)
- 13.1.29 Installation of Officers
- 13.1.30 Adjournment

CHAPTER 14

COMPOSITION OF ZONES

(6/16)

- Zone 1 (Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan)
- Zone 2 (New England)
- Zone 3 (Northeast Pennsylvania, Staten Island, New Jersey)
- Zone 4 (Upstate New York)
- Zone 5 (Florida)
- Zone 6 (Southeast Pennsylvania, Maryland, DC)
- Zone 7 (Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia)

ADDENDUM

Bylaw changes approved by the International Board of Directors and automatically incorporated into the third District bylaws as directed by the International Board of Directors. (1/24)

Compliance

1. The district must operate in full compliance with all governmental laws, regulations and applicable requirements and maintain in force all licenses, permits and approvals required for its operation within the country in which the lodge is organized.
2. The district must operate in full compliance with all laws, regulations and applicable requirements as outlined in the latest edition of the Charter, Bylaws, Policy, & Procedures (CBPP) of Sons of Norway, and as otherwise communicated to the district by the International Headquarters of Sons of Norway. These include, but are not limited to, the timely annual filing of IRS 990 forms for lodges in the United States, the D63 and D17 reports for lodges, the D64 and D18 reports for building corporations, if applicable, and the timely payment of the annual liability insurance assessment.
3. The district must adhere to the SON Social Media and Conflict of Interest/Ethics policies, and all district policies and procedures adopted by their district.

Dissolution and Distribution of Assets

1. Dissolution, either voluntary or involuntary, shall be made only in accordance with the procedures as set forth in the Sons of Norway CBPP.
2. In the event of dissolution of the lodge corporation(s), both district and building association, if applicable, it is recommended that the corporation's remaining assets shall be distributed to the Sons of Norway Foundation [a 501(c)(3) organization] or the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada [a charitable corporation in Canada], if in existence when the distribution occurs or, if not, to a similarly designated and purposed entity or entities within the country in which the district is organized.
3. Upon dissolution of the district, district assets may not be transferred to individual members for personal benefit.
4. The plan to distribute district assets must be approved in advance by Sons of Norway Headquarters. However, Headquarters shall not oppose any plan of distribution that complies with relevant state and federal laws and regulations.

Audits

1. The district shall elect, appoint, or employ competent auditors to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis. If elected or appointed the audit team shall be composed of two (2) or more district members, and in situations where additional financial and audit experience is needed, the district shall have the option to employ one (1) or more independent auditor(s) to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis.
2. At least once each year the auditor(s) shall submit a written report of each audit to the district board.

Dispute Resolution

1. Any grievance, complaint or dispute arising out of or in connection with SON business, at any level, if not settled to the satisfaction of the parties involved, shall only be resolved using the provisions contained in Bylaws Chapter 17 and Policies and Procedures Chapter 25 entitled Conduct and appeal process. The sections contained in these chapters prescribe the sole means to present and resolve grievances, complaints or disputes.