

September 2013 Vice President's Voice
By Mary B. Andersen, 3DVP

What can we learn from a flock of geese?

When the fall comes, the familiar honk can be heard. Look up and you see a flock of geese in a perfect V formation; honking happily on their way. Scientists believe the V formation is deliberate; as each goose flaps its wings it provides lift to the goose behind it, enabling the geese to fly farther than they could on their own. If a goose drops out of formation, it immediately discovers it has to flap its wings harder to keep up and it might make it harder on the other geese; each goose has a role to fulfill. The lead goose must work the hardest. If the lead goose gets tired, it goes to the back into formation and another goose comes up to take its place. Other geese provide reassuring honks as they continue their journey. Should a goose become sick or injured and falls, two geese from the flock go down with it to either stay with the ill or injured goose until it gets better. If it dies, the two guardian geese will join another flock.

What does this have to do with Sons of Norway you may ask? Do you have a member you haven't seen for awhile, perhaps one or two members could call or visit just to check in and say hello.

Do we remember to honk encouraging words to our leaders? Do our leaders open themselves up to receive encouragement? It is a two way street. Is there a lodge officer struggling with his/her role? Do we ask what is going on? Do we offer to help? Think of the guardian geese; what can we do to help?

Some of our current leaders have been the lead goose for some time, often repeating roles they have done many times before. Is it time for someone else to take the lead and give our veterans a bit of a break? Probably.

Many lodges will be nominating new officers; looking at the Directory it is evident that some lodges struggle to fill positions. Think about job sharing; some lodges successfully share Board positions. The D63 even contains a check box asking if an officer position will be shared by "two or more" members. A lodge with a large "snow bird" population might want to investigate shared positions. Look at your officer positions and the specific tasks required, break it down into manageable pieces; will job sharing work? Did you ever think of officer position by committee? Would forming a Social committee as Social officer work for your lodge? Publicity committee? An added benefit of job sharing and committees is leadership development!! Think about it; if you try it, please let me know how it goes.

Here is a great [3 minute video](#) you might want to watch. (no longer available as of 12/19/2017)

Finally, here is a [great big honk](#) to thank you for all that you do for Sons of Norway and the Third District.

All the best,

Mary