



**SONS of  
NORWAY**

**District Six**

California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Hawaii



Record of the 2022 District Six Lodge Meeting & Convention

Thursday and Friday, June 2 & 3, 2022

- The District Six Lodge Meeting was preceded by a Thursday morning board meeting and afternoon cultural sessions. Leadership sessions were on Friday.

Thursday: Genealogy session presenter: Jeff Svare from *Family Search*  
Genealogy Cultural Skills unit presenter: Terje Berger  
Literature Cultural Skills unit presenters: Lotte Sather and Luella Grangaard  
Music Cultural Skills unit presenters: Mary Beth Ingvaldstad and Tove-Lise Miller

Friday: Marketing your Lodge presenter: Connie O'Brien, Director of Fraternal Development  
Communication Panel Discussion facilitator: Lis Barca, District Public Relations Officer  
Panelists: Bruce Fihe, Teri Morken, Kristin Hunsbedt  
Newsletter Discussion and Sharing Information presenter: Kristen Hunsbedt, Nordahl Grieg #52 newsletter editor

- Memorial Service – Luella Grangaard introduced Janie Kelly, Past District Six President, and Past International Director, who conducted the solemn memorial service to honor and remember members who have passed away in the last four years. A booklet was provided with deceased members' names in lieu of reading the names. A photo and biography of Penny Joseph Knudsen, past District President and past International President, was included in the memorial booklet as a special tribute. Mary Beth Ingvaldstad provided music during the ceremony.
- President's Reception and Welcome – A reception line included President Luella Grangaard, International Director Mary Beth Ingvaldstad, and the full board. A buffet dinner, with seating by zones, was followed by a bunad parade and show, narrated by Cultural Director Judy Purrington. There were numerous bunader, drakt, and a Viking dress worn by delegates.

Saturday, June 4, 2022 8:30 am

- The District Officers and Directors, International Director Mary Beth Ingvaldstad, and Parliamentarian Janie Kelly proceeded into the hall and took their places at the dais.

President – Luella Grangaard  
Vice President – Bruce Fihe  
Secretary – Nancy Madson  
Treasurer – Bob Sather  
Public Relations Officer – Lis Barca  
Cultural Director – Judy Purrington

Zone 1 Director – Tove-Lise Miller  
Zone 2 Director – Lotte Sather  
Zone 3 Director – Laurie Mittelstadt  
Zone 5 Director – Troann Loy  
Zone 6 Director – Ronna Clymens  
Zone 7 Director – Benny Jo Hinchey  
Zone 8 Director – Bev Moe

- Canadiann, Norwegian, and United States National Anthems were sung with Mary Beth Ingvaldstad at the keyboard and Susan Cody as song leader. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- **Invocation** - Pastor Brian gave a greeting from Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Gilbert, Arizona and gave an invocation around the theme of *Celebrating Our Roots* - asking for guidance with the gifts of good listening, clarity in thought, strength for the journey ahead, and wisdom in our actions. As Pastor Brian squeezed his way out on the dias, Luella commented that it's tight up here, but we saved \$2000. 😊
- District President Luella Grangaard introduced the board members (who are also the Convention Committee); International Director Mary Beth Ingvaldstad; and Parliamentarian Janie Kelly who is also past District President and Past International Director. Luella also introduced Karen Huseonica, president of Sol Byer #134, Surprise, Arizona, as the chair of the Raffle Committee. Luella introduced Elaine Homan, editor of Trollheim #110, Lakewood, Colorado, who created the convention book with lodges' and others' greetings and ads.
- **President's Message** –  
Luella Grangaard introduced herself as president of Solskinn Lodge #150 and as District President. Luella expressed honor of serving as District President for a two, now four, year term due to the pandemic. Luella explained how the convention contract had to be renegotiated in 2020. Luella is also on the Recreation Center Board and that board has met almost every month during the past two years in securing the future of Camp Norge. Luella has also participated in an international committee to rewrite the Charter & Constitution and Bylaws of Sons of Norway. These documents are now with the Minnesota Department of Commerce for review. Besides all that, Luella manages a therapy department in a hospital, full-time. Dealing with Covid in a hospital setting at the beginning was interesting. So it was also with Sons of Norway. Luella participated in a Colorado zone seminar the beginning of 2019 as her last big, in-person meeting. Our last in-person district board meeting was in the fall of 2019. Vice President Bruce Fihe had previously suggested online meetings, but Luella had resisted. March 2020, we had our first Zoom board meeting. We also held some outreach meetings with the zones, urging them to stay in contact with lodges to encourage them to collaborate and to find new ways to reach out to their members, not only by Zoom meetings, but by cards, phone calls, drive-bys to pick up food, meetings in parks, and using YouTube videos.

In reviewing our 2020 convention contract, we did have a good force majeure clause which protected us in case of cancellation due to national emergency. All international and district officer terms were extended by two years. During this time our district retired four board members: Public Relations Officer Kaye Wergedal was replaced by Lis Barca; Zone 1 Director Adrienne Lincoln was replaced by Tove-Lise Miller; Zone 3 Director Karen Aaker was replaced by Laurie Mittelstadt; and Cultural Director Judy Immel was replaced by Judy Purrington. Luella was honored to serve as District President and she looks forward to all the wonderful things we can do as a district to grow and prosper.

- **Updates from the International Board** - Luella stated that before starting our official business, Mary Beth Ingvaldstad and Connie O'Brien will discuss some of the actions taken by the International Board on behalf of Sons of Norway. International Director Mary Beth Ingvaldstad, stated that she is proud to have served as your District Six Director on the International Board for the last four years. It has been a very challenging four years. The International Board has struggled mightily with the issues before us.

Mary Beth noted that the International Board has not always been looked at as being transparent. They have communicated what was possible considering confidentiality and legal issues and regulations. They would never hide information that could be communicated; besides, some issues take time. They have had to make many changes over the last years in order to keep Sons of Norway alive. Mary Beth has been a part of those decisions, and they have been tough. Bottom line – we are happy to still be here as part of

Sons of Norway. From the bottom of her heart and as a 38-year golden member, Mary Beth affirmed that without the changes that they have been making, and are continuing to make, we would not be surviving and looking forward to a profitable future. We just would not be here today! That is a difficult thing to process, and Mary Beth has had a difficult time with it. But that's the facts; that's the bottom line. Without the numerous changes within Sons of Norway in the recent past, we would not be here today.

Mary Beth stated that International President Ron Stubbings couldn't be with us. He had gotten over Covid, and he's Canadian. He needed to get a letter, and it couldn't get done in time for him to leave his country. We are sorry that Ron and his wife couldn't be with us. But, we have a mover, shaker, and decision maker here with us. Mary Beth is confident that you will be confident in our future after hearing from Connie O'Brien, Director of Fraternal Development and Marketing Foundation Director.

- **Updates from Headquarters** - Connie O'Brien, Director of Fraternal Development, shared that her heritage is from the Sami region, growing up in a small town in Minnesota, and that her professional background is in insurance and fraternal. She has been through a governance change with another fraternal organization. She joined Sons of Norway four years ago, last May. She has been on the insurance side and is now on the fraternal side, which is more fun. Connie reminded delegates of the history of Sons of Norway – eighteen male immigrants joined together, pooling resources for the purpose of 'protection.' We've been in existence 127 years.

Connie shared a 'remembering our roots' of Sons of Norway slide presentation:

1895 – 1901	\$100 insurance policy, 20- to 50-year-old males could get insurance
1912	Women were allowed to join (that's when the fun began!)
1913	Canadian lodges were allowed
1920	First shield logo, with Viking ship, was adopted
1946, WWII	Non-Norwegians were accepted, aid to Norwegian troops was provided
1961	Built HQ building on Lake Street in Minneapolis
1982	District 8, in Norway, was started
1995	Centennial celebration
1998	First woman Int'l President – Penny Joseph Knudsen
2007	Foundation reached \$5 million in assets (many thanks to District Six)
2020	Virtual meetings became the norm
2021	Governance changed from assembly method to board of directors governance

Connie continued, saying this is to give you the idea of the significance of change that this organization has gone through already. These past changes were not without controversy and debate – accepting women, accepting non-Norwegians. But they were done for the good of the organization and is now a part of our history. In the beginning of 2020, we were set to go to Norway for the International Convention. But the pandemic affected us big time. It affected our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We had a little gathering at headquarters then the 'wheels fell off.' Everything changed.

This governance change is not a new idea. It was first discussed twenty years ago. There are two types of fraternal governance – assembly or board of directors governance which most fraternal have adopted. The International Board deals with such things as reinsurance, what products to offer, the pricing of products, etc. These are not interesting issues for lodges and districts. So, the International Board hosted virtual 'town halls' to educate the (144) 2018 – 2022 International Delegates on the governance issue. There were Q&As and debate. Information was also mailed to the delegates. A MailChimp email was then sent out to the delegates with a link to a SurveyMonkey app to vote. The governance change passed by a

very large margin in September, 2021. The election of the International Board of Directors will now be by 'direct election' by 'shareholders' instead of by the 'assembly' type of election by delegates. A new Charter & Bylaws, that Luella has been working on, has been filed with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, as Sons of Norway is domiciled in Minnesota. They have been pressuring us to look at our governance, as what we were doing was antiquated, slow, and not efficient for running the insurance side of Sons of Norway. Remember – the insurance funds the mission. Anyway, the filing fee check has been cashed by the state, so now they have 60 days to challenge anything. If there is no challenge within 60 days, the new Charter & Bylaws are deemed accepted. Remember, oversight of Sons of Norway is by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

Connie stated that there will be no change to district conventions except that we will no longer be electing delegates to an international convention. She added that District Six is the only district whose board is also the convention committee.

On the insurance side, Connie stated that we've added a Guaranteed Issue Whole Life product which is now their best selling product. We've also included dues in insurance products, so membership is increasing by selling products. Also, online recruiting on Facebook and Google has increased membership, even during a pandemic. The June issue of Viking shows these membership graphs. Sons of Norway has tripled the number of insurance agents; has trained agents (not always easy); and has gotten new products approved in each state in which we do business. An insurance product is not profitable in the first years after purchase, as you have to pay the commission, the reserves, and the other office systems. There are different rates of profitability for different products. Profitability comes in about three to four years for the Guaranteed Issue Whole Life product. With term policies, it is about ten years. With permanent life and universal life, it is probably ten to twelve years. So, the growth in insurance products looks good, but it is a strain on our economics as well. We've gone from 500 to 11,000 certificates sold in a year with no additions to staff other than a couple customer service people. Our staff was scrambling to provide these insurance certificates. Likewise, we've gone from 20 to 600 phone calls in a day. Connie continued saying that the IT infrastructure is in need of upgrading, but that comes at a high cost. Growth to profitability is something that should have been looked at years ago. Looking at our products and looking at our technology should have been done twenty years ago. The changes we've made in the last four years should have been done twenty years ago. The accusation that we're taking away from the fraternal side of Sons of Norway is just not true; we are a fraternal organization – that is why we exist; that is how the organization is filed with the state of Minnesota. We have oversight by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, a government agency.

We have covered a lot of ground in the last four years – the governance side, the pandemic side, and the product side, and the IT infrastructure side. There has been so much going on in Sons of Norway. Our growth has come at a cost – in technology and in staffing. There were difficult decisions made for the good of the order.

The governance change is another change for Sons of Norway, but we've been through many changes. It will not impact your lodge nor your district conventions. It does put a lot more work on the International Board. There is more work to be done by the International Board. They still have vision and protection to address.

Luella Grangaard thanked the 2018 – 2022 International Delegates for attending the town halls and voting on the governance issue. She also thanked Mary Beth Ingvaldstad for her work on the International Board.

## Q & A -

The governance change will not affect lodge bylaws.

Luella explained that election of the International Board members will be done by owners of product, just as if you owned stock in a company and get a proxy to vote.

Connie explained that at this year's virtual International Convention, delegates will vote for the next International Board of Directors who are Sons of Norway members. The MN Dept. of Commerce looks at board member qualifications. Currently, it is possible to bring in outside expertise, if such is missing in the board composition.

Connie explained that the Central Lodge #000 is where people join online or through purchase of an insurance product. The Spirit of the Century Lodge #999 is where people join if they don't live close to a lodge or don't want to be a member of the lodge. Lodge recruitment can be attempted from #999 members. In the past, #999 members were moved to #000 after a year. They are trying to stop that as there is no need for such.

Keith Bordsen of Snowshoe Thompson Lodge #78 asked how we grew to having so many agents. Connie replied that she is "really good at my job." Connie explained that the average agent is appointed with twelve to twenty carriers. Luella Grangaard added that we would still like to have agents (Insurance Professionals or formerly Financial Benefits Counselors, FBCs) as part of our lodges. But those are difficult to find. If you know of anyone from a lodge interested in being an agent for Sons of Norway, give Connie a call. Luella explained that the requirement to have an insurance professional at a lodge meeting once a year has been taken off the Lodge Achievement form.

Fred Hymans, Insurance Professional, in discussing Insurance Professionals vs formally known as Financial Benefits Counselors (FBCs), commented that he and others couldn't figure out how Sons of Norway could remain in business under the previous model of selling only to lodge members. The changes have been painful, but we have an obligation to the company. Fred is available to come to any northern CA lodges.

Carl Ingvaldstad asked about sending delegates to International Convention. Connie replied that districts will no longer be sending delegates to an International Convention after this year's virtual convention.

Insurance Professionals – In response to another question regarding obtaining new Insurance Professionals, Connie reiterated that it took good, hard work to increase the number of Insurance Professionals. GCS is a vendor providing lists of insurance agents. She looked into the states in which we do business and bought lists of all appointed agents. Then she ran filters on the lists. For example, she didn't want agents who had just gotten their license. Then she filtered by the type of appointments they have. Then it's also by trial and error. They have better success with those who are not investment brokers, but with those who are focused on life products. She also filtered out those specializing in P&C - property & casualty. Those agents are really focused on P&C because, guess what – people are required to buy vehicle insurance and they want homeowners insurance. So after all the filters, focusing on agents who specialize in annuities and life products, she put together an email marketing campaign using Hypermail. She wanted to separate the entities from an unsubscribe perspective; she didn't want a bunch of unsubscribes that would be flagged by her MailChimp account. She wants to protect her MailChimp account as that is her main way to communicate with lodges and members. So sending out a Hypermail message, she did an analysis on a guaranteed issue whole life product, looking at the premium for various ages and comparing to other carriers. Then looking at the top carriers, Connie stated that this was super

fun as she was comparing to Royal Neighbors, her prior company/employer, and Sons of Norway was 'beating the pants off them.' It was fun. Then she put together a chart, asking the agents why they weren't appointed with Sons of Norway as 'we've got the best game in town.' Then they would call and want to get appointed with Sons of Norway. Keith Bordsen summarized – buy lists, then solicit agents.

- **Fraternal Update** -

Connie O'Brien stated that the cancellation of the in-person International Convention was a difficult decision, but having a virtual meeting instead was the right decision, financially as well as with covid considerations and travel from Canada and Norway. Connie is doing everything in her power to make this International Convention as much fun and engaging as possible albeit virtual. Connie has hired a virtual vendor to help with the technology. Connie stated that the virtual meeting will be August 31 and September 1, starting at 10:00 am central time for about four to four and a half hours each day. Registration will be \$100 per delegate and \$75 for a non-delegate. The International V.P. was involved in a videotaped memorial service that will be shown. We will have the national anthems played as well as other special music. Delegates will receive a box with the annual report, a printed agenda, a beautiful 2022 delegate pin, a properly printed delegate bag, and a tin of cookies. The special music will be played during a coffee/cookie break.

Connie continued, saying that the *Viking* magazine has cost between \$1 million and \$1.5 million a year. We are the only fraternal organization that still prints and mails a magazine to all members. Sons of Norway hasn't called for a RFP / RFQ (request for proposal or quote) in many years. They have now done such and changed vendors for a savings of over \$1 million over three years. We are now moving to have more digital content. In the previous vendor contract was a 'free' redesign which has now been done – with mixed reviews. Design changes include better readability (no squiggly fonts and never white text on black or dark backgrounds). The Norway Today feature is now 'Nordic Life,' and the District Pages are now 'Happenings' pages. The Happenings pages have gotten the most reader response. Some don't like the change. Others have said thank-you, as they see were seeing the same people and the same lodges in the photos. Also, this feature has always looked back at what was done, not what they are going to do. This was Doris Kamstra's (Membership Manager, recently deceased) vision. She wanted forward motion of our lodges and districts. The virtual book clubs are popular at lodges and is now also an activity presented by headquarters and featured in the *Viking* magazine. There is also a new 'Leader' focused article asking three questions of the member. Luella was featured in this section in a recent *Viking*. The virtual *Viking for Kids* feature remains popular and is loved by adults. Connie stated that she looks to leverage funds for the best possible use for culture and heritage. They have repurposed money from shipping out medals to provide free movies on the Sons of Norway website. A year and a half ago, they showed the documentary *The Blinding Sea*. Recently, they provided *The Way North*, which was a movie about a pilot for the Crown Prince of Norway after WWII. The recent Syttende Mai pins that were promoted this spring were not made in Norway due to cost. Also available is a new pin for 'super volunteer.'

- Coffee/Cookie Break - Luella reminded folks to visit the vendors; go to the raffle table; buy a duck for the Duck Pluck to support Camp Norge; join the Century Club and receive a Viking rubber ducky.
- Luella Grangaard introduced the Parliamentarian, Janie Kelly, past District President and past International Director, from Nordahl Grieg #52. Janie stated that Parliamentary Procedure came to America in 1619 when Virginia's House of Burgesses was founded. Janie gave more history of how Henry Robert, who had been asked to preside at a meeting (he didn't know how) came to publish his own manual of rules on how to run a meeting. Two printings sold out quickly. Apparently, others didn't know how to run a meeting either, and they wanted to learn. Robert's Rules of order do what they are supposed to do – help run a meeting smoothly. Janie commented that if you want to address the assembly, take your paddle to one of

the microphones. Hold your paddle so that Luella can see the paddle number, and wait to be recognized by the chair. When recognized, state your paddle number, name, lodge name and number, and state whether you are for or against the subject being debated. Limit your comments to two minutes. When there are many delegates waiting to speak, it is helpful to switch between pro and con. Policies need a simple majority to pass. District Bylaws changes require a 2/3 majority. Janie reviewed a few other guidelines. If you are confused at any time, just ask, before the vote, as things can get confusing. You may think we're voting on the resolution, but it's an amendment to the resolution. Some lodges may have given directives on how to vote. But there can be many sides to an issue, so listen to the debate, acquaint yourself with the facts that are presented, and vote with an open mind. Keep in mind what is best for Sons of Norway and the District as a whole, and not just what might be best for you personally, or for your lodge.

- Luella reminded everyone to turn off mobile devices. If your phone rings or we see you texting, we ask that you donate \$20 to Camp Norge. There will be break times when you can make phone calls or post a photo to Facebook. Please post photos so that others can see what is going on at convention. Luella stated that all delegates can be convention photographers in addition to Terje (TJ) Berger from Solskinn Lodge #150 who will be taking photos. Luella stated that Mary Beth Ingvoldstad is our pianist, and Susan Cody from Valhall Lodge #25 is our song leader.
- Luella Grangaard called the District Six Biennial Lodge Meeting to order.
- Secretary Nancy Madson announced that this first roll call will be by individual names. She explained that this is to assess the number of delegates present to determine a 2/3 majority when a vote is taken. There were several delegates in the printed biennial report book who were not able to attend. A couple were replaced by elected alternates, and a couple late elected delegates were announced. **Bob Sather moved to seat the late-elected delegates/second by Troann Loy/carried.**
- Luella asked first-time delegates to raise their paddle. Applause for the large number of first-time delegates.
- Luella called on Vice President Bruce Fihe to announce the Marshalls and Greeters for this session. Marshalls are Phebe Frizioni of Fridtjof Nansen #9 and Ronald Dill of Victory #43. Greeters are John Ronneberg of Henrik Ibsen #7 and Linda Huber of Centennial #161. Bruce gave them instructions to take their convention materials and be seated by the doors. Bruce asked them to distribute financial reports to the delegates.
- Luella called the Finance Committee to come forward and introduced committee chair Jonathan Walters of Desert Fjord #133, Jan Stiggen of Henrik Ibsen #7, and Michael Amundsen of Peer Gynt #22.
- Recreation Center Financials - Luella noted that the first order of business is the reports from the District Six Recreation Center Board as the Recreation Center meeting is this afternoon. Jonathan Walters, chair of the Financial Committee, stated that the auditors have reviewed the financials as had the Recreation Center Board of Directors. Now the Financial Committee has reviewed them as well, finding them very good bedtime reading (laughter). The committee has studied the financials and raised questions of Treasurer Bob Sather on a Zoom meeting and again, here, on Thursday with Bob Sather, with Luella Grangaard and Nancy Madson present as well. Jonathan stated that our purpose is to make comments to help you understand these reports and accept them. The committee focused now on the District Six Recreation Center (Camp Norge) financial reports on pages 47 – 52 in the Biennial Report Book. These reports consist of balance sheets and P&Ls (with previous year comparison) for years, 2018, 2019, 2020,

and 2021. Over this period, Camp Norge suffered the lingering effects of a bridge wash-out in 2017 and then the effects of Covid. Camp closure has seriously affected Camp revenue, most notably in 2020 as shown on pages 50 – 51. Luckily, they have cell tower revenue that kept the Camp afloat. It should also be noted that the Camp is run by a volunteer, Susan Winje (applause).

Laughter erupted as the report was interrupted by a phone ringing – President Luella’s phone - \$20 for Camp Norge. Jonathan continued, mentioning that a gal lives in the apartment at Camp and is a contractor paid to do various jobs at Camp Norge. Jonathan then explained that in 2021, the Century Club ceased to exist as a stand alone group. It started as a fundraising group for Camp Norge, using half of the revenue for maintenance and the rest for savings. The Century Club funds were transferred to the Recreation Center account and shown as income in 2021. The Century Club is now a committee operating within the Recreation Center Board, with the same purpose of fundraising and giving a portion of revenue for immediate maintenance needs. The Financial Committee recommends that the Century Club Committee make some investment of money raised to build up a fund that can sustain the Recreation Center into the future. Finally, they gave kudos to the Recreation Center Board members who have managed through thick and thin to help the Camp survive the hardship through the last four years and now to remain viable, able to operate for the benefit of young and old, alike. **The committee recommends that the delegation accepts the Recreation Center financials as presented.**

Luella explained that this recommendation, coming from committee, doesn’t need a second. A delegate asked for more information on Camp Norge, in general, and how it relates to this meeting. Luella explained that the Recreation Center meeting is this afternoon, and that Camp Norge is a member-owned camp that the district owns. Because of its tax status, it has a separate board of directors. Camp Norge is a District Six asset. Janie Kelly added that all members in District Six are shareholders of Camp Norge. Luella added that Camp Norge is where we hold our youth camps, Camp Oldfjell, and other events. Camp Norge is in northern California, but is owned by all members of District Six including Colorado, Arizona, and Utah members. Answering another question, Recreation Center Board Treasurer Vicki Running explained that the large increase in revenue from 2020 to 2021 was the transfer of funds from the formerly independent Century Club into to Recreation Center account. Recreation Center Board member, Fred Hymans, is now the chair of the Century Club Committee. **Luella called for the vote to accept the Recreation Center financial reports/carried.**

- Recreation Center Presidents’ Reports - Luella dismissed the Finance Committee, then called on the Reports/Resolutions Committee. Luella introduced committee members: Diane Molter from Storfjell #169, Lynelle Aanestad from Vegas Viking #152, and Craig Dill from Victory #43. On pages 24 – 27 are the reports of the Recreation Center presidents over the last four years. **Diane Molter stated that the committee recommends acceptance of these reports: pages 24-25 from years 2018-2020 and pages 26-27 from years 2020-2022.** Karla Henderlong, Snorre #61, inquired about the current status of the insurance coverage and the status of the \$50,000 fire remediation grant from the U.S. Forest Service. Recreation Center Board President Eden Washburn explained that they have secured insurance for Camp Norge. Also, Eden had exciting news that we have gotten the grant from the Department of Agriculture for doing fire abatement. We were told originally that we had to pay that \$50,000 up front, but we just got word that we do not have to do that. We will be fundraising for other work at Camp, but it is exciting that we do not have to pay for this fire abatement work up-front, as we do not have the money for that. Applause. Luella added that the work to be done will not be done until winter due to the fire danger. Cutting trees and mulching can cause sparks; we don’t want to cause a fire when we are trying to eliminate fire hazards. **Luella called for the vote to accept the Recreation Center Presidents’ reports/carried.**



- District President's Reports – Diane Molter stated that the committee recommends acceptance of the reports of the District Six President for the years 2018-2020 on pages 17-19 and for years 2020-2022 on pages 20-23. Luella stated that the motion comes out of committee and doesn't need a second. Hearing no discussion, **Luella called for the vote to accept the District Six President's reports for the four years/carried.**
- 2018 Resolution #7 Report – Luella explained that this report (pages 29-30) is informational only coming from a resolution in 2018. The lodge submitting the resolution would like to address the report. Gerald Rowe of Fjellheim #107 thanked the board for their review and examination of having access to convention activities for absentee lodges/delegates. Gerald read his comments, "I want to personally thank Bruce Fihe and the committee for their review and evaluation of this resolution regarding participation for absentee lodges. This resolution was submitted at the last District Six convention four years ago. Since then, technology has rapidly advanced and made possible some things that were not possible at that time. Technology of online, virtual meetings and conventions now make it easy for more people to participate. Perhaps two years from now, we can have many more, or all lodges take part in a virtual District Six convention, just as is being done for the virtual International convention this year." Diane Molter stated that the committee requested that this report be included on a consent agenda, as no action is required on this report.
- Consent Agenda – Luella explained that with a consent agenda, we can act on all items at once. The Reports and Resolutions Committee would like to place R1, R2, R3, R4, R9, and R10 on the consent agenda. Diane Molter, from the Reports/Resolutions Committee, mentioned that these mostly have to do with grammar or terminology to modernize the language in the bylaws. Luella asked if anyone would like to remove any resolutions from the consent agenda for any reason. District Vice President Bruce Fihe requested that R4 be removed from the consent agenda. **The consent agenda is now R1, R2, R3, R9, and R10. After allowing a few minutes to review those resolutions, Luella called for the vote to approve the consent agenda items/carried.**

#### **Approved bylaws provisions according to the consent agenda:**

R 1 - ARTICLE III, Par. 4: The District Lodge shall consist of the district board of directors, elected representatives from local lodges, and any elected international director within the district.

R 2 - ARTICLE III, Par. 5: The District Board of Directors shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public relations officer, cultural director, and the zone directors elected from each zone as outlined in Par.6. The president and vice president may not serve more than two consecutive terms in that office.

R 3 – ARTICLE III, Par. 9: The District shall consist of seven zones as determined by the District Lodge and as outlined in the District Policy Book.

R 9 – ARTICLE X, Par. 21: Prior to the Biennial Lodge Meeting and Convention, the district secretary shall compile and edit a biennial report of the previous two years' work. The secretary shall send a copy of the biennial report book to each delegate, each District Six board member, and a headquarters' representative. The biennial report book shall be sent out timely to allow ample time to review reports and resolutions. The secretary shall document the Biennial Lodge Meeting and distribute the minutes to those who received the biennial report book. A copy of the minutes shall also be sent to any lodge not represented at the Biennial Lodge Meeting.

R 10 – ARTICLE XI, Par. 22: The president shall visit the district’s local lodges as appropriate or send another board member if deemed necessary. It shall also be the duty of the officers and directors of the district to inform local lodges of fraternal traditions, ceremonies, responsibilities, and opportunities weather at zone seminars or at local lodge visits.

- Resolution 4 on page 34 to rename the Public Relations Officer to Communications Director – **Bruce Fihe stated that time and circumstances has not done well for this resolution, and the board needs to consider some ancillary material, and he moved that Resolution 4 be tabled indefinitely/second by Bob Sather/carried.**
- Resolution 5 on page 35 regarding Meetings and Representation – Committee member Lynelle Aanestad read the resolution. **The committee recommends acceptance of the resolution. Hearing no discussion, Luella called for the vote to pass Resolution 5/carried.**

**New bylaw:** ARTICLE V Meetings and Representation Par. 11

The District Lodge meeting shall be held once every two years. The dates and length of the meeting are to be determined by the District Board in consultation with any host lodge(s).

- Resolution 6 on page 36 regarding Traveling Expenses – Committee member Craig Dill read the resolution. **Committee recommends acceptance of the resolution. Hearing no discussion, Luella called for the vote to pass Resolution 6/carried.**

**New bylaw:** ARTICLE VI Travel Expenses Par. 13

The District does not provide funds for local lodge delegates’ travel expenses.

- Resolution 7 on page 37 regarding Salary and Travel Expenses, Par. 16 - 19 – Committee member Lynell Aanestad read the resolution. **The committee recommends acceptance as written.** A few clarifications were made, including that there will no longer be a Par. 18 and Par. 19 under ARTICLE IX, as those concepts were combined in the proposed Par. 16 and Par. 17. Luella added that this was a full rewrite of this article and that renumbering of the succeeding paragraphs will be done; it is a technical issue and does not need approval. Bob Sather clarified another concern about ‘various members’ being allowed a stipend. This body (District Lodge/delegates) has the right to authorize stipends to any members of the board. The International Bylaws state that we must compensate the secretary and the treasurer. Other districts are currently offering stipends to other board members. This body, then, has the right to offer stipends to others. Stating ‘various members’ in this bylaw does not limit us. But it is only this body that can authorize stipends and authorize the amounts. **Hearing no further discussion, Luella called for the vote to pass Resoluion 7/carried.**

**New bylaw:** ARTICLE IX Compensation Par. 16, 17

Various members of the District Board and others are allowed and annual stipend as determined by the District Lodge. Stipend amounts and frequency of payments shall be listed in the district policy book.

All District Board members may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the course of their duties. Other members may also be reimbursed for their expenses for duties assigned by the District Board. Reimbursement limits are outlined in the District Policy Book.

- Resolution 8 on page 38 regarding Salary and Travel Expenses, Par. 20 - Committee member Diane Molter read the resolution. **The committee recommends acceptance of this resolution deleting Par. 20 relating to expenses for delegates to International Lodge meetings.** Luella clarified that after this year's virtual International Lodge meeting, there will no longer be an International Lodge meeting. Keith Bordsen of Snowshoe Thompson #78 had several questions. Luella clarified that governance will now be by policy-holder elected board of directors instead of by delegates at an International convention every two years. Lodges and/or districts can still make recommendations for changes to the new International documents, once we see them. As before, lodges can present resolutions to the districts. But instead of an International Lodge (delegates) passing resolutions, the International Board of Directors will act on suggestions or resolutions. Luella added that once the International Board of Directors changes anything in the new Charter & Bylaws, they must notify lodges and districts within a specific period of time. Luella clarified that policy holders will be able to vote for the International Board of Directors via a ballot or proxy as is done by publicly held corporations. Phebe Fricioni inquired if we are having elections, during this meeting, for delegates to the virtual International convention and whether the district will be paying the \$100 fee. Luella replied that there will be a motion coming from the Finance Committee for the district to pay the delegate fees. We are allowed 25 delegates to the virtual International convention. However, delegates elected to the virtual International convention still need to have a Sons of Norway financial product, as before. Luella added that this will be the last time for an International convention. Teresa Broadhead of Fridjof Nansen #9 inquired about who will be able to vote for the International Board of Directors. Luella replied that instead of the previous 150 or so International delegates that would vote, now there would be 17,000 adult policy owners who are eligible to vote. **Hearing no more discussion, Luella called for the vote to pass this resolution deleting the article relating to International Lodge meeting delegate expenses/carried.**

- Nominating Committee announcement – Committee chair Michael Johaneson of Fjellheim #107 introduced Lynn Skrukud of Gulldalen #128 who is the other committee member here as a delegate. Other members are listed on page 8. The committee met monthly with a goal of presenting a slate of candidates for each office. They worked diligently to find candidates for the board, but mostly due to the recruiting efforts of President Luella. Michael announced these candidates:

President: Bob Sather

Vice President: Lis Barca

Secretary: Nancy Madson

Cultural Director: Judy Purrington

There is only one candidate for these positions, so Luella has the ability to declare election by acclamation.

Alternate International Director: Luella Grangaard

We will meet in caucus tomorrow morning to elect zone directors. These are the candidates:

Zone 1 Director: Tove-Lise Miller

Zone 2 Director: Craig Dill

Zone 3 Director: Laurie Mittelstadt

Zone 5 Director: Randy Sundeen

Zone 8 Director: Diane Molter

Note that not all offices were mentioned. That is because other candidates came in late in the process, and they can be appointed by the board. The following have all filled out all the forms, and they are willing to serve. These are Benny Jo Hinchey for Treasurer; Steve Rosenthal for Public Relations Officer; Maury Lee for Zone 6 Director (we got him last night); and Jonathan Walters for Zone 7 Director.

Michael Johaneson stated that the committee did a great job. They met monthly on Zoom. They met initially with the International Nominating Committee (on Zoom) for direction. We are really pleased to recommend all these candidates for election tomorrow.

There was some confusion about Luella's position as Alternate International Director going forward. Board to take it 'offline' and bring back information later.

- Announcements before lunch: Purchase raffle tickets to support the Sons of Norway Foundation and the House of Refuge, a local charity here in Mesa. Visit the Recreation Center/Camp Norge/Century Club Committee table to purchase a duck for the 'Duck Pluck.' Visit the Folk Art room and shop our vendors. Lunch is a boxed lunch. You may sit with these groups (signs at the tables): editors or cultural directors. Note the centerpieces on these tables and the Sunday dinner table centerpieces. Phebe Fricioni of Fridtjof Nansen #9 announced how you can purchase these centerpieces. Luella continued with the information of the Casino/Bingo night tonight, that is a fundraiser for Camp Norge, and that no food is being served.
- Vice President Bruce Fihe assigned convention officers for the afternoon. Marshals: Teresa Lord of Fridtjof Nansen #9 and Robert Craig Dill of Victory #43. Greeters: Michael Amundsen of Peer Gynt #22 and Randi Cruze of Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson #14. They will serve until we adjourn for the afternoon.
- Luella Grangaard suspended the District Lodge meeting and convened the District Six Recreation Center meeting.

### **Recreation Center Meeting, Saturday, June 4, 2022 1:00 pm**

Recreation Center Board President Eden Washburn introduced the board: V.P. and Camp Manager Susan Winje; Secretary Susan Cody; Treasurer Vicki Running; Director and Chair of the Century Club Committee Fred Hymans. Also, Directors Kirby Aasen, Tom Gundershaug, and a new Director, Jason Morken, are not here. Also on the board is District President Luella Grangaard. Eden thanked the amazing volunteer board for their hard work at keeping Camp Norge as beautiful as it is.

Camp Norge Description - Eden proclaimed that "Camp Norge is an amazing, beautiful, 40-acre property that is owned by all of you, as District Six." Camp is located in the Sierra Mountains near Alta, California. It is about 3500 feet in elevation and occasionally gets snow in the winter. It is beautiful in the snow, but travel can sometimes be challenging. Eden showed slides and described the facilities: the large Heritage Hall, with an amazing commercial kitchen; the Social Hall which has a kitchen as well and is a fun place to congregate; the Main House, with kitchen, has several bedrooms that can be rented; and Cozy Cabins and a beautiful, fun, Stabbur to rent. There are hiking trails on property as well as access to trails off-property including to old train trestles and to beautiful overlook areas. There are tent camping areas and RV spaces to rent. We'd like to encourage everyone to come to camp. Not everyone is into camping, so there are the other amenities – the house, cabins, and stabbur. Eden pointed out the Camp Norge flyer with rates, location, and reservation information. You can't stay anywhere else at these low rates.

Camp Norge Improvements - The board has been working very, very hard to make Camp beautiful. Covid really impacted the ability for people to stay at Camp. So, during that time, the board invested a lot of time and money into beautifying and renovating. The Main House has a new roof, and they are excited to announce a new floor, as well. They have done a complete renovation of the Social Hall including a brand new kitchen, new floors, and

fantastic new deck. They have also revamped many of the rooms, replacing mattresses, cleaning, painting, and doing new floors. They also have a new playground structure that was acquired due to a fundraising effort by Baylee McKenney and Jason Morken who worked really hard to get all the donations.

The board has also been working on tree removal and fire abatement. Eden was excited to announce they now have a new, fully functional well pump in the meadow, based on the 'Let it Flow' campaign which they have been shamelessly plugging. 😊 Thank-you to all who contributed to that effort. A lot of these projects have been spearheaded by Susan Winje who is managing our Camp Norge. Thank-you so much. Applause.

Camp Norge Challenges – Eden Washburn stated that they have a cash flow challenge. We need people to come up to Camp and rent rooms and spend time at Camp Norge. The Covid situation really was devastating for Camp, but now we are fully open and needing folks to come back to Camp Norge for a weekend or a week.

Being a camp in California – well, California has a tendency to burn fast and hard. So, we have a beautiful camp with a high risk of fire. The board is working on tree removal and fire abatement, but the camp's insurance was unexpectedly cancelled this year. So, camp was uninsured for fire for a short time. They worked tirelessly to find a new policy for fire insurance. But the new policy is more expensive than what they had before. So, that is another challenge and why we need donations and for people to come to camp and rent rooms. They have had to obtain a new liability insurance policy, too. So camp is fully insured and covered. That is fantastic.

Grant Received for Fire Abatement – Eden expressed that the board, as well as the insurance broker, are concerned about the fire risk at Camp Norge. The board has applied for and received an amazing grant from the Department of Agriculture called the Environmental Quality Incentive Program. This was a \$50,000 grant for doing the work of fire abatement to reduce the fire risk at Camp. This is a 50/50 cost share grant. We can offset some costs by having volunteers do some brush clearing. If you are able to do something like this, please contact Susan Winje at Camp.

Nominations for the Recreation Center Board – There are three board members who are up for re-election: Vicki Running, Tom Gundershaug, and Kirby Aasen. Vicki and Tom would like to rerun, but Kirby will step down due to family reasons. Oh, Susan Winje is up for reelection, too, but she has no choice; she has to stay on the board. 😊 – if you elect her; but we really need her. Eden stated that the board would like to nominate the current board members: Vicki Running, Tom Gundershaug, and Susan Winje as well as an amazingly talented volunteer – Lynn Skrukud. Eden opened nominations from the floor. Eden stated that there are nine positions on the Recreation Center Board, including the District President, ex officio. Lynn Skrukud introduced herself as president of Gulldalen #128 in Grass Valley. Gulldalen is the closest lodge to Camp Norge, about 35 minutes away. Lynn would love to join the Recreation Center Board as she is passionate about Camp Norge and having that as a community gathering place for District Six to come together to learn about our culture, and especially for having a place for young people to go to learn about our culture and heritage with our kids' camps. Lynn has a background in non-profits. She co-founded and served as co-executive director for a non-profit for the last twelve years. Now she works as an event producer and marketing manager. So she has a lot of experience with fundraising, non-profit work, board development, and marketing. She thinks she can be a strong asset for the organization. Applause. Hearing no nominations from the floor, Eden directs the secretary to cast a white ballot for all four nominees. Eden stressed that all board members are volunteers, and that the Board and Century Club Committee members have done amazing, phenomenal work. We are so grateful to all of them. Thank-you.

Revenue Streams for Camp Norge – Eden explained that we receive monthly revenue from a cell tower on property which has kept us afloat. Also are the rentals from people staying at Camp. We have had success with

family reunions and would like to encourage more. We have also had weddings, church retreats, and community events rent our facilities. If you have any referrals or recommendations, let us know.

Fundraising by Century Club Committee – Fred Hymans stated that Eden forgot to mention a few things about herself. She has a PhD in forensic pathology and archeology and was just hired as Deputy Coroner for San Mateo County. So we have a doctor who is in charge of our Recreation Center Board. Repeating a hand movement exercise that Connie O'Brien showed yesterday, Fred reiterated that change feels different. Tonight and tomorrow is all about fundraising for Camp. As Eden had mentioned, we did a fundraiser for the well, and we overshot our \$15,000 goal - we hit \$20,000 – thank-you very much. We needed every penny of that. Our next big challenge is the pool surface replastering – Pave the Pool. It will cost \$30,000 to do that, so our goal today is to raise \$5,000. Fred asked folks to fill out a donation form checking whether the donation is from an individual or from a lodge.

Luella started the donations with a \$100 personal check. Randi Cruze of Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson pledged \$1000 from the lodge. Stephen Rosenthal donated \$1000 from Roald Amudsen #48. Fred mentioned that Roald Amudsen lodge, in Sacramento, is a huge supporter of Camp. Kristen Hunsbedt donated \$500 from Nordahl Grieg #52. John Ronneberg donated \$1000 from Henrik Ibsen #7 in San Francisco. Terje Berge presented \$100 from Solskinn #150. Fred continued saying that the money you are spending at tonight's Casino Night goes toward having a lot of fun with your friends. \$20 admission gets you chips and/or bingo cards. Then purchase more chips and/or bingo cards; that's the whole fundraising theme. Mary Wiberg of Storfjell #169 donated \$100 personally.

Fred Hymans acknowledged past Recreation Center Board members by having them stand. Applause. Fred explained that Linda Carruthers, of Andrew Furuseth #49, was president of the Recreation Center Board for a long time. She and her husband donated time, money, and resources to Camp. She has energy, and has given blood, sweat, and tears for Camp Norge, and is still helping, especially with the forestry project. Thank-you to Linda. Fred announced that Linda handed an envelope to our camp manager earlier today to help us with the forestry project. That's the \$50,000 grant that we have to front the money for. Remember, Eden said we don't have to front that money anymore – that's because Linda brought in a check in memory of Penny Joseph Knudsen (Penny was a member of Andrew Furuseth lodge) in the amount of \$50,000, reported an almost tearful Fred.

Tove-Lise Miller of Roald Amudsen #48 donated \$200 personally. Mike Johaneson of Fjellheim #107 gave a personal check for \$100. Dave Severson of Snowshoe Thompson #78, in a nice-looking bunad, quipped that Snowshoe Thompson never had paved roads, but he'd like to pave the pool – and donated \$100. Mary Beth Ingvoldstad would like to acknowledge that her husband, Carl Ingvoldstad was on the Recreation Center Board for quite some time. He served as secretary when Penny was International President. Also, Mary Beth was on the Recreation Center Board when she was District President - and they love Camp Norge. They donated \$200. Fred acknowledged that the Ingvoldstad family has given up more for Sons of Norway and Camp Norge, and specifically Carl on his hard work for the Sons of Norway Foundation. Thank-you Carl for all your work. Applause. Diane Molter of Storfjell #169 presented a personal donation for \$100 and a lodge donation of \$200. Robert Hansen, paddle #61 of Snorre #61 announced personal and lodge donations will be forthcoming, amounts TBD. Vidar Bech of Norseman #91 announced personal donations from Norseman's three delegates, totaling \$300. Fred clarified to make checks out to Camp Norge. They are now taking credit cards and payment by Venmo and Zelle. Linda Huber of Centennial #161 pledged \$100. Lynn Skrukrud of Guldalen #128 announced \$100 from the lodge and \$50 personally. Siri Fenson of Freya #62 announced a \$250 donation. Becky Tamblin of Fjellheim #107 announced three of their members donated a total of \$250.

Bob Sather made a correction – that it is not a pool, but a reservoir. We could not build it as a pool. So Bob and Lotte Sather will donate \$200 to the ‘reservoir.’ Fred reiterated this bit of trivia – we couldn’t build a swimming pool at Camp; it had to be called a reservoir in order to get it approved. It is ‘open season’ for CalFire helicopters to come in draw water from the reservoir. You just don’t want to be swimming when they do that. Graciella Lee of Valhall #25 donated \$100. Since ‘Pave the Pool’ is not really correct, there were suggestions of Repave the Reservoir, Renovate the Reservoir, or Resurrect the Reservoir. Fred continued telling about Casino Night. There will be black jack, poker, and roulette. Fred has been searching for a poker dealer for months. Dakota, working audiovisual, will be a poker dealer.

Fred stated that the Casino Night is tonight from 6:00 to 9:00, and tomorrow is the Duck Pluck. You can purchase a duck for \$10 or 3 ducks for \$20. The top prize tonight at Casino Night is \$250; you earn tickets to the drawing. Other prizes for Casino Night and the Duck Pluck: free night at Camp Norge, Camp Norge T-shirt, and a nice selection of rosemaled items donated by Penny Joseph Knudsen prior to her passing.

Fred mentioned that if you haven’t paid your pledge here at convention, make sure you note the purpose of your donation – Century Club or Resurrect the Reservoir.

History and Future of Fundraising by Century Club (CC) – Fred reviewed the history of the Century Club. In 1996, the convention was in Sacramento. A busload of delegates took the hour trip up to Camp Norge. The founders came up with the idea of a hundred members donating \$100 every year and calling it the Century Club. That’s \$10,000 a year, half of which would build an endowment and the other half would go to Camp for maintenance. Those original Century Club board members are now either octogenarians or have left us. Karl Eikeberg and Ordale and Charlotte Johnson were CC board members not able to be here. Randy Sundeen, who is a delegate, had been on the CC board. But they have passed on the Century Club mantle to the Recreation Center Board. The board has now formed a fantastic committee which they are calling the Century Committee. Fred introduced those present: Kristen Hunsbedt, Lynn Skrukud, Teri Morken, and Vicki Running. Teri was so persistent in working with casino vendors; she got the cost down to \$500 from \$1500. So Fred is so excited, that with your love and support, that we’ll be able to raise the money tonight.

#### Three Parts to Century Committee Mandate -

1. Century Club Members - Fred stated that the Century Club members donate \$100 a month, oops, \$100 a year. They get a cool CC pin and a ribbon to attach to your name badge, and if you join during convention, you’ll get a Viking rubber duck. These will raise you up in the esteem of your peers, here, when they see your CC pin and ribbon. 😊 You can join by writing a check, handing us cash, use your credit card or Venmo. Or you can sign up for the ‘Evergreen’ program which starts at a minimum of \$10/month.
2. General Fundraising – When the Recreation Center Board states that we need to plaster the pool, for instance, that will be the purview of the Century Committee. So they will come up with the snappy slogans (Let it Flow (by Kirby Aasen), Raise the Roof (Fred Hymans), Resurrect the Reservoir (thanks Carl & Mary Beth Ingvodstad). These funds will go to Camp for the earmarked projects and not to the Century Club.
3. General Marketing - Efforts will be made to upgrade the website, our social media presence, and those types of things to try to make the place more inviting to our members and our members’ children and grandchildren. Also, we need to do more marketing to bring in more family reunions, weddings, etc. to keep the Camp busy – because we want you, as owners, to be happy with those numbers when you come to convention in two years. And we want you to know that we’re working our butts off to make that happen, as we are very passionate about Camp Norge.

If you have questions or suggestions for Camp, Fred suggests that you come to Camp for a couple of days so you get a feel for what is happening. Fred was reminded to say that lodges often make a memorial donation to Camp Norge when a member passes. Janie Kelly, Nordahl Grieg #52, stated, for all the first-time delegates, the district sponsored events held at Camp Norge. A two-week children’s camp (Language & Heritage Camp) called Camp Trollfjell for 8-13 year-olds with language, rosemallings, arts & crafts, swimming, and much more. (More recently another camp was added for 14-17 year-olds.) This is a great camp for training our future Sons of Norway leaders. We also put on a Memorial Day weekend event at Camp, with raffles, music, dancing, and fellowship. We have the Northern California Kretsstevne weekend over Labor Day. Several years ago, Camp Oldfjell was started. This is a basically a cultural and heritage camp for adults. Also, there are rosemallings weekends at Camp Norge twice a year. (Although not a district sponsored activity.)

Fred continued, saying the Century Committee will be making additional appeals – that is their job – to raise funds for Camp. So when you review your estate plan, review your trusts, review the beneficiaries of your life insurance, please think of Camp Norge as part of those things. Please visit the Century Committee table during your breaks, look at the prizes, and get ready for Casino Night.

Recreation Center President Eden Washburn thanked everybody for their support, and mentioned that donation time is not over; we’re here all weekend. If you want to make an electronic donation, come see them at the Century Committee table during the breaks. If you mail a check, write it out to Camp Norge and mail to Camp Norge, P.O. Box 622, Alta, CA 95701. Eden reported that we’ve received about \$6000 so far. Thank-you!

**District Lodge Meeting Reconvenes**

- Luella stated that she has been with the Recreation Center Board for her four-year term as District President. We are blessed to have this dedicated, hard-working, passionate team of volunteers working for Camp Norge, especially Vice President Susan Winje who has done so much along with her recently deceased husband, David. Luella added that Susan is a realtor in addition to being volunteer camp manager, taking reservations and managing the contract staff. Since Covid, this board has been meeting monthly instead of quarterly. So they have made a lot of progress. Thank-you so much for your service.
- Ski for Light – Luella wanted to highlight our district’s involvement with Ski for Light. The six Colorado front range lodges and even Vestafjell (western CO) have provided volunteers for Ski for Light. The visually impaired skiers come into the airport with their guide dogs, and our member volunteers help guide them through the airport, assist with taking the dogs outside to relieve themselves, and assist getting the skiers and their luggage onto busses to go to the Ski for Light venue. The District Board gives a monetary donation as does many of District Six lodges. Thank-you all for your support of Ski for Light.
- Educational Scholarships – Luella commented that District Six is the only district that has an endowment fund within the Sons of Norway Foundation. We can now support our youth with our scholarship program from the funds from the endowment fund. Over the last four years we have given out a number of scholarships:

**2019**

Shiloh Curtis	Nordahl Grieg #52
Kaitlin Daily	Vesterheim #118
Garret Weir	Valhall #25

**2020**

Kaitlin Daily	Vesterheim #118
Marit Hendrickson	Soldalen #67
Garret Weir	Valhall #25
Annika Wolfe	Freya #62



**2021**

Kaitlin Daily

Vesterheim #118

**2022**

Nicholas Daily

Ingrid Alkiri

Vesterheim #118

Nordahl Grieg #52

We had seven applicants for scholarships for the 2020 school year. Then Covid hit, and kids weren't going to school. So, the scholarships were reduced to one for 2021. In 2022, the scholarships were \$1500 instead of the \$1000 as in the past. Because we didn't have youth camps at Camp Norge this year, we gave the two scholarship recipients an extra \$500 from the district for the \$1500 total.

- Educational Fund - Gerald Rowe, Fjellheim #107, mentioned the District Six Educational Fund. Mary Beth Ingvaldstad and another past president saw the need for support for those more interested in vocational work. These necessary occupations require training and practical experience to qualify for a job. Such jobs include heating/air conditioning technicians, car mechanics, cable installers, etc. Training for such jobs can be costly just as a college education is. Gerald thinks this educational fund is a very worthwhile endeavor as does the board of directors of the Fjellheim Lodge. Therefore, Fjellheim Lodge #107 is donating \$1000 to the fund. Gerald thanked Mary Beth for her recognition of the need for vocational training. Applause. Luella pointed out the Educational Fund status report on page 69.
- Youth Camps – Luella reported that Teresa Broadhead, Fridtjof Nansen #9, brought CA AB 506 to our attention. This bill requires that all staff working with youth be fingerprinted and background checked. This is very common. But now, in addition, all adult supervisors must be trained in abuse reporting. In the past, we have used older youth (counselors-in-training) and adult volunteers. So, this year, we have stepped back in order to rethink how we are going to do our camps. We have thought about doing a family camp. If you have any ideas on this, please contact Bruce Fihe. We really want to continue to use Camp Norge with opportunities for the youth to be involved with their culture and heritage. There have been two 2-week camps, one for the 8-13-year-olds and one for 14-17-year-olds. The older kids are involved in a parade; they dress up as Vikings; the fire department shoots them with water; they go on hikes; and they love it. The kids love the camps.

Luella recognized the volunteers from our youth camps: Bruce Fihe, Kirby Aasen, Tove-Lise Miller, Lynn Skrukud, and others who donate their time; they're up there for four weeks. That is a lot of commitment for volunteers. Again, we are really blessed to have these adults who are so willing to support our youth. Tove-Lise Miller expressed that her four weeks at the camps was so much fun. The kids are absolutely the greatest. Tove-Lise taught Norwegian language and Norwegian songs. The kids were rather shy at the beginning, but they sang their hearts out at a performance for the parents at the end of each two-week camp – that made Tove-Lise cry. It is a lot of work, but so enjoyable. Tove-Lise certainly hopes we can get the kids camps going again next year. Applause. Luella added that when she was vice president, she and Bruce were instructors at camp. We laughed so much - the things those kids come up with. "They had these selfie sticks; I had no idea that kids were really good at posing." It was hilarious, and it was a wonderful time.

- Coffee/Cookie Break - Luella reminded folks to purchase raffle tickets that support the Sons of Norway Foundation and the House of Refuge, the local charity. Visit the Recreation Center/Camp Norge/Century Committee table to join the Century Club and make other donations. Purchase a duck for the Duck Pluck. You will all be excited to go out poolside tomorrow in 100 plus degree weather to watch the ducks being plucked to see if you are a winner. Also, visit the Folk Art room. Please visit our vendors; they will not be here tomorrow, so make your purchases today. Luella added that a portion of your vendor purchases some

back to the district. Eden Washburn, Henrik Ibsen #7, stated that the Recreation Center board has put up some cyclic photos on a laptop of Camp Norge at their table. Come take a look during the break.

- Paddles – Luella stated that she made the voting paddles. Ulf Lokke from her lodge, Solskinn #150, sanded all the edges, because it's difficult to cut a circle on a jigsaw. Luella painted the black, and the white side is white-board that can be written on with dry-erase pens. Luella had these in her garage, and it got over 100 degrees, and they all stuck together. She had to pry them apart before putting the design on the paddles.
- Luella introduced our audio-visual team – Rob Reistad and Dakota Reistad. Rob's mother and Dakota's grandmother, Berit Reistad, was a founding member and the first president of her Solskinn Lodge #150.
- Vice President Bruce Fihe introduced the convention officers for this session. Marshals are Susan Cody of Valhall #25 and Kris Bussell of Fjelldalen #12. Greeters are Rick Moen of Vigeland #155 and Gayle Rodgers of Fjelldalen #162.
- Lodge Merit Awards - Luella called up the zone directors to present the Lodge Merit Awards for 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. See Addendum #1.
- Communications Awards – 2018-2019 awards were mailed to lodges in 2020 and listed in the Interim Report Book sent out in 2020. Copied here:

Gold Ribbons

Zone 5, Norseman #91  
Zone 8, Fjelldalen #162  
Zone 8, Fjellheim #107  
Zone 5, Fridtjof Nansen #9

Silver Ribbons

Zone 7, Sol Byer #134  
Zone 1, Roald Amundsen #48  
Zone 7, Nordic Pines #167  
Zone 1, Vikings of Lake #166  
Zone 2, Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson #14  
Zone 2, Garborg #56  
Zone 2, Victory #43  
Zone 6, Vinland #159  
Zone 2, Freya #62

Public Relations Officer Lis Barca presented the 2020-2021 Communications Awards:

Gold Ribbons

Zone 3, Nordahl Grieg #52  
Zone 8, Fjellheim #107  
Zone 8, Fjelldalen #162

Silver Ribbons

Zone 2, Freya #62  
Zone 5, Norrøna #50  
Zone 5, Norseman #91  
Zone 7, Sol Byer #134  
Zone 8, Vestafjell #146

- Scholarship and Campership Committees – Luella acknowledged the Scholarship Committee members: Ginger Ketels, Stien Fjell #114; Laura Porter, Nordahl Grieg #52; and Greta Merrick, Overtro Fjell #153; and the Campership Committee members: Cheryl Malseed, Norseman #91; and Barbara Stoebner, Vegas Viking #152.

- Luella called up the Finance Committee and asked the Marshals and Greeters to hand out a convention questionnaire. Please give us feedback as we need to start planning for the 2024 convention. Also, indicate if you can volunteer. Julie Backus, Overtro Fjell #153, also the vendor – Lena and Ole’s Gifts – announced a \$520 check as 10% of sales, thanks to all of the generous purchasers. Applause. Luella announced that as of yesterday afternoon, we have raised \$1,295 for the Sons of Norway Foundation and the House of Refuge in Mesa. Thank-you all, and there is still opportunity to buy tickets for the raffle items.
- District Six Financial Reports - Finance Committee member, Jan Stiggins of Henrik Ibsen #7, presented the financial reports of District Six from 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 on pages 54 – 61. These reports have been reviewed by the auditors as well as the Finance Committee. Looking at the 2018 reports we see that it was a pretty normal year. It was a convention year, so there were expenses for the district convention and for the international convention. 2019 was another pretty normal year with set-asides for the 2020 convention and other funds going for cultural programs and for our District Six Educational Fund. Then Covid hit. 2020 financials reflects that – the district convention was cancelled and the way we met changed, so our expenses went down significantly. In 2021, we began to recover slowly, but we continued with Zoom meetings, so our expenses were still low. As Connie O’Brien reported yesterday, our membership did go up in 2021, so our revenue went up, as well, when people purchased insurance. The auditors’ report on page 70 reflects that they find the district in sound financial condition. **The Finance Committee moves acceptance of the 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 financial reports, including the Fraternal Funds reports. Hearing no discussion, Luella called for the vote on the committee’s motion/carried.**
- Language & Heritage Camps Financial Reports - Finance Committee member, Michael Amundson of Peer Gynt #22, presented the Language & Heritage (youth) Camps financial reports. For 2018 and 2019 we saw an increase in participation and therefore an increase in revenue from the two youth camps. That increase stopped in 2020 with the cancellation of the camps because of the Covid pandemic. However, a virtual camp was provided in 2020. Camps resumed in 2021. **The Finance Committee moves acceptance of the 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 Language & Heritage Camps reports. Hearing no discussion, Luella called for the vote on the committee’s motion/carried.** Michael added a huge shout-out to all the volunteers who make these programs work. They could not work without the amazing people who spend so much time in making these programs work so successfully.
- International Delegates’ Expenses - Finance Committee member, Jonathan Walters of Desert Fjord #133, stated that we are allowed 25 international delegates and the cost is \$100 each. **The committee motioned that the district provide the \$100 registration fee for all the elected delegates to the virtual international convention. Hearing no discussion, Luella called for the vote on the committee’s motion/carried.** Jonathan stated that the Finance Committee is finished with their work. Luella excused the Finance Committee.
- District Foundation Report - Luella called for the Reports/Resolutions Committee to come forward to present the Foundation Report. While they are coming forward, Luella thanked District Secretary Nancy Madson for preparing this Biennial Report Book. Nancy still gets upset when finding a misspelled word or name. **Craig Dill motioned that the Reports Committee recommends acceptance of the Foundation Report on page 28/carried.** Diane Molter thanked Carl Ingvaldstad for the many, many, many years of dedication to the Sons of Norway Foundation on behalf of District Six. Applause. Luella dismissed the Reports/Resolutions Committee for now. They have one more report to present later.

- Luella mentioned having only one day of business at our next convention in two years as we expect to have less to do. Also, Bob Sather has indicated that we may have referenda to address in the interim. Luella reminded the delegates that they serve until 2024. During the four years since 2018, we had an electronic resolution to address, and not all of the 2018-2022 delegates responded. Luella had to email delegates to remind them to vote. So, watch for emails from the District Board, as you are still delegates until 2024.
- Caucuses - Luella instructed the delegates on the caucus procedures. Caucuses have two jobs: to elect their zone director and to elect delegates to the virtual International Convention. The zone director candidates are running unopposed. Luella introduced the caucus leaders:
  - Zone 1 Dave Severson, Snowshoe Thompson #78
  - Zone 2 Lotte Sather, Victory #43
  - Zone 3 Bruce Fihe, Nordahl Grieg #52
  - Zone 5 Troann Loy, Fridtjof Nansen #9
  - Zone 6 Ronna Clymens, Vinland #159
  - Zone 7 Benny Jo Hinchey, Overtro Fjell #153
  - Zone 8 Bev Moe, Trollhaim #110

As you can see, most caucus leaders are an officer or zone director, and they are not returning in their position, so we will have a number of new people on the board. Luella explained that Jonathan Walters is running for Zone 7 Director. He was vetted for another position, so he is eligible for election in his caucus. Secretary Nancy Madson has provided the caucus leaders with packets of candidates' applications. Also, the delegates to the virtual International Convention must own a Sons of Norway financial product. Ballets will be utilized if there are more folks running than there are allowed delegates from your zone. If there are people who don't get elected in the zone caucus, bring those names back for the election at-large. Page 71 has the number of international delegates allowed from each zone. Luella answered a question that people can still be nominated from the floor for the at-large delegates, after the caucuses. Luella explained that there are 10 delegates to be elected from the zones and 13 delegates elected at-large. We've had tremendous growth in membership, largely due to the Central Lodge #000 (insurance only members) That allows us more membership numbers to 'pool' for electing delegates at-large. In addition, the new president and the immediate past president are automatic delegates for a total of 25 international delegates. Luella gave meeting locations for the caucuses.

- Luella reminded delegates that the centerpieces are for sale for \$10 each, see Bob Sather to purchase. Troann Loy confirmed that the centerpieces come apart – for packing. Susan Cody led the delegation in singing Nidelen. Lotte Sather explained about the rose-malleted lefse sticks that appeared during the break. It was a suggestion from Luella four years ago. Kirby Aasen fashioned these from paint sticks. The district paid for them, and Lotte painted them. She brought 160 that she painted and 10 that Ellen Aasen painted. They are all gone; one given to each delegate and the others sold. Applause.
- International Convention Delegate Election Results – Luella introduced the Teller Committee: John Morrow, Overtro Fjell #153; Ginger Ketels, Stein Fjell #114; Terje Berger, Solskinn #150; Maghild Bech, Norsesmant #91; and Rick Moen, Vigeland #155.

### **International Delegates Elected from the Zones:**

Zone 1	Tove-Lise Miller	
Zone 2	Lis Barca	Alternate: Lotte Sather
Zone 3	Janie Kelly and Laurie Mittelstadt	
Zone 5	Randy Sundeen	
Zone 6	Maury Lee and Nancy Madson	
Zone 7	Jonathan Walters	
Zone 8	Gerald Rowe and Diane Molter	Alternate: Bev Moe

Nominations for at-large delegates were made from the zones including for two who were zone alternates. The above alternates chose not to run at-large, and remain alternates from their zone. Then further nominations were heard from the floor. Not filling the 13 allotted spots, the 7 nominated candidates were declared by acclamation.

### **International Delegates Elected At-Large:**

Keith Bordsen  
Craig Dill  
Judy Purrington  
Bruce Fihe  
Susan Cody  
Teresa Broadhead  
Troann Loy

Congratulations. Connie O'Brien was thrilled to see how many international delegates we've elected.

- Cultural Director Judy Purrington reminded folks to vote for a people's choice item and an electronic program choice for the Olaf award - in the folk art room. Voting closes at 1:00 pm. We have 59 items exhibited in the folk art room and 5 electronic program entries. The people's choice ribbon will be awarded this afternoon as will the Olaf award which is a statue/figure that Bev Moe carved and painted.
- Joke by Keith Bordsen while waiting for Connie O'Brien – What do you call lutefisk mixed with LSD? A bad trip to North Dakota. (Joke was enjoyed by all at Int'l convention six years ago, except by the delegation behind him – North Dakota folks were behind him all week.)
- **Sons of Norway Foundation Update** - Foundation Director Emily Stark couldn't be here as she is at the District 2 convention. Connie O'Brien stated that the Sons of Norway Foundation is really dedicated to the preservation of our heritage and culture. She is amazed by how much the Foundation can accomplish with just one employee on the staff. From Connie's slide presentation: The Sons of Norway Foundation's mission is dedicated to funding activities that preserve and promote Norwegian heritage, positively affect members, and make Sons of Norway communities a more vibrant place to live. The core values of the Foundation, and worked out by the Foundation Board of Governors are :
  - 1) Creating the heritage of the future
  - 2) Sustaining the link to contemporary Norway
  - 3) Committing to life-long learning and service
  - 4) Preserving compassion for those in need
  - 5) Funding innovative individuals and opportunities
  - 6) Fostering a cohesive community of philanthropy.

Connie stated that there are three ways the Foundation really supports the membership across the board: grants, community partnerships, and scholarships. Emily had broken down District Six's involvement in the Foundation in a slide. District Six is one of the strongest districts for support of the Foundation.

Grants - During Covid, District 3 brought a Fjord horse (provided by a grant) to a residence for the elderly who couldn't get out due to Covid restrictions. Residents could pet the horse through their windows. It was so cool. In 2022, the Foundation gave out a total of 57 grants, 13 of them were partnership grants, 7 helping hands grants, 15 in heritage grants, and 8 vitality grants. It is very interesting to read through the grant applications to see the creative ways that members or lodges use the funds awarded through the Foundation. Luella added that District Six received a \$1500 grant to help pay for the genealogy speaker. Connie stated that District Six received three grants totalling \$4,000. One was for Scandinavian-American Culture and Historical grant, another was a Helping Hands grant for \$1500 (sixth grade science camp), and the one Luella mentioned for the genealogy speaker.

- Humanitarian Grants - Connie thanked Karla Henderlong of Snorre #61 for her question regarding the Humanitarian Grant. This grant never closes, unlike the other grants which close December 31. If you have a hardship, or if disaster strikes and you lose \$200 worth of venison in the freezer (true story), or the roof gets blown off in a tornado, you can apply for the Humanitarian Grant. We have a committee that serves as judges for these grants, and the applications are reviewed as soon as they come in. They have been used for medical hardships, as well – teeth implants, a hip replacement. This is an underutilized grant. Keith Bordsen of Snowshoe Thompson #78 inquired about the number of grants received by District Six members since 2016. They have gotten only a handful of these grant requests in the three years that Connie has worked with this. District Six members/lodges did receive such grants with wildfires in mind, but it may have been before Connie was involved with grants. Emily Stark can run a report if you want specific numbers of grants received by District Six members.
- Lodge Improvement Grants – These applications are fun to read. District 3 has a float they use in parades and they have applied for the grant to do restoration of the shed/garage where they keep the float. Elevator repair, handicap access, and electrical upgrades are some uses for this grant.

Scholarships - Connie stated that this is the coolest scholarship, barr none, not just with fraternal but across the board - the Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship pays half or full tuition. This young lady (on slide) received \$53,000 through this scholarship. Over \$100,000 is awarded in scholarships annually. This information is in the Foundation annual report which is online through the Sons of Norway website. All of the scholarships are listed as are the donors and the scholarship awardees. In October, watch for the *Viking* magazine. There will be a four-page feature showcasing all of the award winners. This is super fun. If your lodge has young people, direct them to the Foundation website; they will figure it out. Connie asked for applause for our District Six members as this was the first year that the District Six Educational Fund was fully endowed. That is a huge accomplishment. District Six awarded two \$1500 scholarships this year. Additional students in District Six were awarded funds from the Foundation scholarships. Finn was awarded \$3000 from the King Olav V Scholarship to study in Norway. The Bernt Anker Scholarship is \$3000 a year for four years, and was awarded to Jenson Lampe. The Desert Fjord Scholarship was \$1000 to Carl. Also \$1500 was awarded to Lena Joy from Nordahl Grieg #52 from the Rolf & Wenche Eng Scholarship for study in Norway. This was a total of \$11,500 in scholarships to District Six students. Answering a question about graduate school scholarships, Connie explained that parameters are set up by the person donating the money to create a scholarship fund. When a donor is deceased, it is difficult to change parameters. But there are a couple of folks still funding their named scholarships and Connie and Emily Stark can talk to them about allowing scholarships at the graduate level.

Camperships – Connie explained that the Foundation gives over \$10,000 to help kids throughout Sons of Norway attend heritage camps. Draxton Fund and the Everson Fund is where we draw the dollars. Also, you have District Six funds that support Camp Norge.

Applying for Grants and Scholarships – Connie stated to never hesitate to call Emily Stark at the Foundation for information or assistance. The online application is called Foundant and is sometimes in need of a reset if you apply a second year. Most grants will be open for applications on October 1, but deadlines do vary, so pay attention to that. They try to get to the study abroad scholarships early, as those students need more time to plan their travels.

Foundation Month – Connie almost hates to bring this up as District Six has been so generous to the Foundation, but they are again putting a Foundation Donation envelope into the October *Viking* magazine. It cost about \$500 to print the envelopes and insert them into the *Viking*. The return was 10-fold. They also did a direct mail campaign which garnered \$10,000 each of the last two years. It was definitely worth the effort. It is fun to receive the mail in October, November, and December to receive these donations.

#### Donation Opportunities

- Insurance Beneficiary - Remember, if you have an insurance certificate and have no heirs, you can name Sons of Norway Foundation as the beneficiary. Last year a woman left a large amount of money to the Foundation from her life insurance policy. (Her only living heir was a nephew who received \$4 million.) So, we are making great use of that money, opening up a new scholarship the end of this year to further the mission. Talk to your tax professional; donations are tax deductible.
- HQ Naming Campaign - Foundation Director Emily Stark has created a Headquarters naming campaign for your donation dollars. They already have a \$15,000 donation from International Board member, Carl Hella, to name the garden view conference room, which is gorgeous. He's actually donating \$30,000, but half was received this year and the other half will be next year. The naming opportunities are open to individuals and groups, anywhere from \$15,000 to \$100,000, but they'll accept a million, too. 😊 Donations are made to existing funds.
- Leaving a Legacy -
  - Memorial Donations – Most donations come from active members. Donations can be made to honor someone who has passed.
  - Legacy Endowment Funds – These funds are meant to last forever. The principal isn't touched; it is just the interest, the money that is earned that is spent. The accounting department has calculations for each fund that states the amount that can be awarded each year. If anyone wants to be a part of the scholarship judging for any of the funds, let Connie or Emily know. It is so rewarding and so much fun.

Get Involved - Connie had twisted Fred Hymans arm, and now he is a new director on the Foundation Board of Governors. You can apply to be on this board. We currently have about 200 lodge Foundation Directors out of 340 lodges. Jon Tehven, past International President, has done a great job at recruiting lodge Foundation Directors, but we need more. We also have Foundation Directors at the district level except districts 7 and 8 (Canada and Norway).

Connie thanked District Six for support of the Sons of Norway Foundation. Foundation Director Emily Stark is excited to come out to District Six in the future.

In response to a question, Connie replied that the monthly rent at HQ is about \$10,000 - \$15,000. An email to our CFO Erica Oberg or CEO Chris Pinkerton could get you the exact amount.

In response to a question, Connie explained that the Sons of Norway business entity does support the Sons of Norway Foundation. About \$200,000+ a year goes to support the Foundation through benefits for the Foundation Director, rent, IT support, and phone support. The housing of the Foundation is within Sons of Norway. It is a budget line item that is set each year in support of the Foundation. The budget is set by the Foundation Board of Governors in addition to an accounting representative and an auditor that oversees the entire process. There are calculations, spending policies, and best practices that an auditor put in place years ago. What we spend on scholarships is detailed out with the spending policies. Insurance premiums do not go to the Foundation.

In response to another question, Connie explained that Amazon Smile (shopping site that donates to charities) is a super huge headache. The Foundation has received money through Amazon, but they don't promote it as it is laborious; the same with FaceBookGives. Receiving a check in the mail is super easy, and we love when we get super large checks. But please donate with whatever method works for you.

Luella reminded delegates that Connie would be accepting checks, from individuals or lodges, for the Foundation anytime while she's here. Terje Berger presented a check for \$100 from Solskinn Lodge #150. Stephen Rosenthal, Roald Amundsen #48, presented a \$500 check from the lodge and announced that all six of their delegation joined the Century Club. Applause. Teresa Broadhead, Fridtjof Nansen #9, mentioned that we have had walk/jog-a-thons in the past to raise money for the Foundation. King Harald V has renewed his patronage of the Sons of Norway Foundation, so the beautiful silver medallions are still available for a minimum donation of \$250. Connie did not bring them with her, but they can be mailed. Since we didn't have a walk/jog-a-thon this year, Teresa is challenging individuals or lodges to join her in supporting the Foundation in this way and earning a King Harald V medallion.

- **Elections of Board of Directors** – Luella commented that no one is running opposed, so there's no surprise here. Luella named the candidates again:

President: Robert/Bob Sather

Vice President: Lis Barca

Secretary: Nancy Madson

Cultural Director: Judy Purrington

Luella announced these candidates individually as elected by acclamation/cast a white ballot.

Treasurer: Benny Jo Hinchey

Technically, we do not have a candidate for treasurer. Candidates need to be nominated and vetted 30 days prior to elections. Since that didn't occur, tomorrow, after the convention, there will be a board meeting, and the new president can appoint candidate Benny Jo Hinchey as treasurer with the board's approval. She has been vetted along with a background check. The positions of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and alt. international director all have to have a background check and interview completed.

Public Relations Officer: Stephen Rosenthal – will also have to be appointed and approved by the board tomorrow as he wasn't vetted prior.



Luella announced the zone directors elected in the caucuses:

Zone 1 Tove-Lise Miller

Zone 2 Craig Dill

Zone 3 Laurie Mittelstadt

Zone 5 Randy Sundeen, once he gets his insurance product

Zone 6 Maury Lee - will have to be appointed tomorrow as he wasn't vetted prior

Zone 7 Jonathan Walters - okay, as he was previously vetted for a different position

Zone 8 Diane Molter

Vice President Bruce Fihe announced that Luella Grangaard is running unopposed for Alternate International Director and she is elected by a white ballot.

- Luella mentioned that we have a guest coming from the Postal History Foundation before lunch. Luella thanked everyone for all the wonderful cookies. Someone had recommended sharing cookie recipes. Perhaps sharing a photo and recipes on Facebook would work or making a cookie recipe book could be made for a future convention fundraiser or delegate gift. During lunch we will have a focus group with Bruce Fihe to discuss solutions for the youth camps/family camps. Also, the three kretsstevne groups will meet with interested members during lunch. Northern CA Kretsstevne (NCK) meet with Mary Beth Ingvoldstad; Central CA Kretsstevne meet with Vidar Bech; and Southern CA Kretsstevne meet with Nancy Madson.
- Kristen Hunsbedt, Nordahl Grieg #52 and also from the Century Club Committee, had a trivia question, "Which side of a duck has the most feathers? The outside." Kristen explained the particulars of the Duck Pluck that will be done poolside this afternoon. Also, take photos as the ducks are plucked. Luella suggested that the ducks be used at NCK as well.
- Karen Huseonica, Sol Byer #134, explained how the raffle will work. Karen thanked everybody for their donations as well as the raffle team of Laurie Mittelstadt, Tove-Lise Miller, Jan Stiggins, and Karen Aaker. As of this morning, \$1,295 was raised.
- Luella acknowledged and thanked the following for their work with the convention: Elaine Homan for the Convention Greeting Book; Karen Huseonica, Laurie Mittelstadt, Tove-Lise Miller, Jan Stiggins, and Karen Aaker for the raffle; Troann Loy, Phoebe Fricioni, Teresa Broadhead, Teresa Lord, and Ronna Clymens for centerpieces and decorations in the meeting room, signage, and the centerpieces for tonight (No one knew that this meeting room would be decorated, thank-you.); Lotte Sather for the rosemalled lefse sticks; Bev Moe for the wonderful Christmas ornaments; Bev Moe for carving the Olaf award; Judy Purrington for the Folk Art Exhibition – registration, set-up, and voting; Lis Barca for the PR and the Communications Awards; Bob Sather for finance and budget; Bruce Fihe for the convention website, online registration, and AV coordination; Benny Jo Hinchey for registration; Mary Beth for name badges; Nancy Madson for the Biennial Report Book and for all the informational emails sent to delegates, and as vendor coordinator; Nancy Madson and Luella Grangaard for the hotel site visits. Luella added that the hotel has gone through at least six meeting sales people in the last four years including another new person six weeks ago.

We receive 10% from vendor sales which helps with the overall cost of the convention. Since the District Board has met by Zoom, the savings has contributed to the early bird registration discount. Luella gave an example of hotel meal costs – a box lunch might be \$27 + gratuity + tax on all, so that adds 30% to the base cost. Hotel convention meals are extremely expensive. We tried keeping meals simple. Near

the end, it became very complicated as we had late registrants, delegate substitutions, and delegates not being able to attend last minute. Luella pointed out savings, on page 68, by having Zoom meetings.

- Tubfrim Alternative - Bruce Fihe explained that we've been collecting stamps for years and years for the Tubfrim organization in Norway. The shipping of the stamps was gratis by the Norwegian shipping lines and the Norwegian Seamen's Church until about three years ago. So, out of habit we continued collecting stamps. Bruce scrambled to find another organization that was interested in accepting our stamp donations. Through a lot of work, Jon Arild, past Tubfrim Coordinator, found this Postal History Foundation in Tucson, AZ. The board decided to redirect all our stamps to this organization. Bob Davis is the Chairman of the Board.
- Postal History Foundation - Bob Davis stated that he missed one board meeting, so now he's the chairman. Every year, he proposes term limits, but he can't get a second on that. Bob explained that the main mission of the Postal History Foundation is to use postage stamps to teach students history, geography - almost any subject you can think of. We have a teacher on staff who makes lesson plans for the students. We process the postage stamps, file the stamps, gather the appropriate stamps for a class lesson plan, then present such to a teacher. They mail out three to four packages per day to individual teachers. They have sent to teachers in 42 states and 6 countries so far this year. They send the stamps and the lesson plan. They also have a philatelic library that was donated. They received about 600 donations last year. They have about 50 active volunteers who go through and sort and file the donations. They also run a contracted post office through the facility. They also package and sell the extra stamps and the old stamps from around the world that the students just aren't interested in. These eBay sales help keep the lights on. Look for PostalHistoryFoundation on eBay. Website is PostalHistoryFoundation.org. They also have a small museum, so they have teachers bring their classes in (except for the last two years with Covid).
- Postal History Foundation (PHF) Q&A – Bob explained that the lesson plans are made up by grade and subject. Each lesson plan is a single page, and the student has to figure out where each of 6 or 7 stamps go on the page. For the youngest students, a lesson might be about colors or animals. This is a bee stamp, find the bee on the page and put the stamp there. There is a lesson plan on civics for the older students. There may be a question about the Declaration of Independence, and there are a number of stamps regarding the Declaration of Independence. A popular lesson plan is about geography, as it seems that's not taught in schools anymore. They have US and world geography lesson plans.

They prefer to receive first class stamps. The non-profit stamps are so common, that those are given to Boy Scouts for their merit badge for stamp collecting or given in packets as fire starters. 😊 Luella commented that in our stamp pile to donate are some first-day release stamp sheets. We think Bob will find some good, interesting stamps in there.

Teri Morken, Solheim #69, asked if she can get a couple of the lesson plans to use in the Kids Pages in the Cultural Newsletter. Affirmative. Bob will have the PHF teacher get in touch with Teri.

For teachers to receive lesson plans, go to

<https://postalhistoryfoundation.org/education/lesson-and-topical-orders/>

Home schoolers may request lessons as well.

To mail/donate stamps, <https://postalhistoryfoundation.org/support/philatelic-donations/>

They don't require that stamps be cut in any particular way, and they do accept post cards. The volunteers do the sorting to see which ones they can use. They can use some of the older stamps for their education program and the rest for their eBay program.

It was asked if this was going to be a district effort going forward. Luella is deferring this to the new district president. There is a lot of history on their very comprehensive website. Bruce Fihe stated that there is a link on the convention website to the Postal History Foundation's website. Luella thanked Bob Davis for his presentation and thanked him for taking our collections of stamps away. Several delegates assisted in taking the boxes of stamps to Bob's vehicle. More contact information in Addendum #2.

- Luella made announcements before lunch. Join the Century Club, buy your duck for the Duck Pluck, go to the folk-art room and vote, buy raffle tickets, and get your convention questionnaire done, buy a centerpiece. Meet with a focus group during lunch. We have more business to do this afternoon.
- Song *Per Spelman* lead by Susan Cody, music by Mary Beth Ingvaldstad.
- Special Thanks - Luella called up the Finance and Reports/Resolutions Committees to thank them for their work. Their work in advance allowed our business to proceed quickly. Luella called up two members of the Nominating Committee, Michael Johaneson and Lynn Skrukud, to thank them for their work. This committee has changed over the course of four years, as a couple committee members had been appointed to the board. International Nominating Committee Chair Jon Tehven had complimented Michael on the work that he has done. Luella called up Kristen Hunsbedt and Terje Berger. Luella said that it was very refreshing to receive an email from Kristen offering to do a newsletter presentation at convention. We really appreciate that. Original planning of the genealogy workshop had someone from Overtro Fjell #153 in Mesa doing the Cultural Skills portion of the workshop, but she moved away, leaving Luella searching for a replacement. Terje Berger is a member of Luella's lodge and had done a wonderful genealogy program for Solskinn #150. So, there he was – 'right under her nose.' Luella thanked Terje for doing the Sons of Norway Cultural Skills portion of the genealogy workshop. Luella thanked Ginger Ketels, a member of the Scholarship Committee for her work. Luella also thanked Elaine Homan for the Convention greeting/ad book. Elaine thanked all the lodges for their greetings/ads in the book. Luella thanked Karen Huseonica for her work putting the raffle together.
- Raffle – Tove Lise Miller gave instructions for the raffle drawings saying to stay in your seat, raise your paddle so we know there's a winne, and line up at at the back at the end of the session to have your number checked against the drawn number. Tove-Lise read the numbers for each item with a few cheerful whoops from winners. Luella thanked the Raffle Committee. They did a great job, with a beautiful presentation, well organized. Luella thanked everyone for their raffle item donations. Luella commented that perhaps tonight we can make the check presentation to Connie for the half of the raffle revenue going to the Foundation, the other half going to House of Refuge in Mesa.
- Folk-Art Awards – Judy Purrington acknowledged Bev Moe for carving/painting the lovely, Olaf figure award. There were five entries in the new virtual/video program category. Many of you watched these programs in the Folk-Art room, at home, or here in your room. Winner: Michael Amundsen, Peer Gynt #22, for his short film, Halvor's Radio. Applause. Photo was taken of Michael, Bev, and the Olaf award.

Olaf Award Acceptance Speech - Michael expressed being honored by this award. Initially, he didn't know there was a competition; he just wanted this film to be seen. He stated that the set for the film was built in his garage in New Mexico. It was built for a larger project for which funds never came through. So, he

was selling the house to move to L.A. and he had a 'set' in the garage. He didn't want to tear the set down without doing something with it. So he came up with a story. His grandparents were Norwegian homesteaders in Montana. The film is not their story, as they were successful farmers. But many came to homestead who were not farmers, and in 1917/1918 there was a drought and many of them failed and had to move into town and get other jobs. So, a lot of that land went to ranchers who were already there. The land was rather dry to begin with, so the land is better for grazing than farming. Some folks pointed out that the subject matter is rather depressing, but it's not; it's about this man, who has lost so much, reaching out trying to find a connection to the world. Michael mentioned his cinematographer. Michael's background in film is mostly as an editor, but he has taught at the University of New Mexico, so a lot of the crew had been students of his. The Native American was supposed to be Cheyenne, but she's Navaho. The baby was the sweetest ever; they had to adjust the camera angle to not show that she was sleeping. The music was partly done by Michael, and the Norwegian lullaby at the beginning was sung by a friend. The film was a very personal endeavor by Michael.

People's Choice Awards – Judy Purrington announced that there are two people's choice awards:

- 1) Tove-Lise Miller for the blue and white knit sweater
- 2) Mike Johaneson for his carved Lutheran minister.

Mike stated that he learned to carve at Fjellheim #107 from instructor, John Nelson. The carved Lutheran minister looks like Mike's cousin, who taught school and ice skating for some thirty years before going to the seminary. Mike is going to send his carved Lutheran minister to his cousin who is now a minister in Michigan, but with wider shoulders than the carving. Applause. Photos were taken of the winners. Steve Rosenthal, Roald Amundsen #48, mentioned that Tove-Lise rode down with him from Sacramento, and she finished knitting the sweater about Bakersfield and sewed the last button on as they were coming into Phoenix.

Judy continued saying that we had so many wonderful pieces in the Folk Art Exhibition. It was interesting to be in the Folk Art room listening to people comment on the items and talk to each other. People would grab a paper to vote, then go back to the tables. It was difficult to choose, as there was so many lovely items. Some of the items were completed by seasoned artisans and other items were from beginners. That is part of what this is about - we want to get people enthused about trying something new. People voted for just about every item in that room; most items were somebody's favorite. People enjoyed viewing the items, and many people came back in repeatedly. There were sixty items in the Folk Art Exhibition, so there was plenty to look at. It was a lot for people to pick just one favorite, so that is why we are giving two people's choice awards. Thanks to everyone who brought items for the Folk Art Exhibit. The items can be picked up during the break. Some photos will be in the next Cultural Newsletter, and perhaps Bruce can put a collage of photos on the convention website.

Luella answered a question – There is a link on the convention website, under Folk Art, then Olaf Award - to view the virtual video programs again or to show them to your lodge.

- Luella called the Reports/Resolutions Committee back up. Luella joked that delegates have to stay until the coffee comes as we pay \$48 plus 30% for a gallon of coffee. "You will drink the coffee." Luella added that when she and Nancy Madson went on hotel tours, they always asked about the cost of coffee, which neither of them drink. Coffee can cost much more than what we are paying here.

In response to a question, Century Club Committee member Lynn Skrukud reported that they took in about \$1200 from the Casino Night, but they haven't subtracted expenses yet. It was announced

previously that it cost \$500 just to have a casino night. Lynn replied that they did purchase a lot of items this year, but the hope and the goal is to use them again year after year with more profit in future years. Luella commented that we hope to have some financial figures tonight, and she thanked everyone for their generosity in supporting all of our fundraising efforts. Lynn added that the grand prize winner, Laurie Mittelstadt, donated the \$250 prize back by joining the Century Club for two years, plus giving the difference as an additional donation. Luella reminded delegates that after the coffee break to meet out at the pool for the Duck Pluck.

- Thank-you Resolution – The Reports/Resolutions Committee members read the Thank-you Resolution. **The Committee recommends acceptance of the Thank-you Resolution/carried.** See Addendum #3. Luella dismissed the Reports/Resolutions Committee.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:06 by President Luella Grangaard.

Banquet - Sunday Night, June 5, 2022

- Luella introduced International Director Mary Beth Ingvaldstad who presided over the Installation of Officers. Siri Fenson and Robert Dill were escorting Marshalls. Newly elected President, Robert Sather, was escorted through the banquet room and presented to the assembly.
- After dinner, Luella introduced guests from Overtro Fjell #153 in Mesa: Sissel Liknes who is on the Nominating Committee and her daughter, Greta Merrick who is on the Scholarship Committee. Luella presented a regional photography book to Connie O’Brien as a thank-you gift. Then Luella presented boxes of chocolates with personal and endearing messages to retiring board members, continuing board members, and to Janie Kelly, Mary Beth Ingvaldstad, and Carl Ingvaldstad thanking all for their service.
- Secretary Nancy Madson presented Luella with a wooden Sons of Norway plaque thanking her for her four years as District Six President. Also presented to Luella was a large basket with a number of personal and adjoined gifts from board members and the international director.
- Luella Grangaard presented the Lodge of the Year awards. Luella mentioned that the board agreed on a \$100 award instead of a plaque. Congratulations to all.

2018	Large Lodge of the Year	Snowshoe Thompson #78, Marysville
2018	Small Lodge of the Year	Garborg #56, Modesto
2018	Family Lodge of the Year	Norrone #50, Van Nuys
2019	Large Lodge of the Year	Roald Amundsen #48, Sacramento
2019	Small Lodge of the Year	Garborg #56, Modesto
2019	Family Lodge of the Year	Overtro Fjell #153, Mesa
2020	Large Lodge of the Year	Fjellheim #107, Colorado Springs
2020	Small Lodge of the Year	Victory #43, Vallejo
2020	Family Lodge of the Year	Storfjell #169, Grand County
2021	Large Lodge of the Year	Stein Fjell #114, Loveland
2021	Small Lodge of the Year	Fridtjof Nansen #9, Long Beach
2021	Family Lodge of the Year	Storfjell #169, Grand County

Mary Beth Ingvaldstad noted that Garborg #56 in Modesto was International Family Lodge of the Year for 2018.

- Luella continued with special recognitions: Susan Winje, Camp Norge manager, and her deceased husband, David, for all the work they have done at Camp; Kirby Aasen, camp cook, and Recreation Center board member – he knows how to stretch a buck; Bruce Fihe, not only for websites, but for teaching at kids camps, Camp Oldfjell, and more; Nancy Madson for teaching Hardanger at Camp Oldfjell; Teri Morken for doing Cultural Newsletter and Camp Oldfjell graphics; Tove-Lise Miller for teaching at kids camps, Camp Oldfjell, and working with NCK; Lotte Sather for teaching rosemaling at Camp Oldfjell; Mary Beth Ingvaldstad for being our pianist and teaching cooking at Camp Oldfjell.
- Raffle Financial Results – Luella announced that the raffle generated \$761.50 for the Sons of Norway Foundation. Another \$761.50 check was given to Ed Bergo of Desert Fjord #133 in Scottsdale to present to our local charity, House of Refuge in Mesa.
- Misc. – Kristen Hunsbedt announced additional Duck Pluck winners who weren't present this afternoon. Keith Bordsen told more jokes. Tove-Lise Miller repeated missing raffle winner numbers. Dave Severson of Snowshoe Thompson #78 joined in with a joke. Bruce Fihe didn't miss the chance to tell a Scottish joke. Luella reminded that the beautiful centerpieces that showcases our theme, *Celebrating our Roots*, are still available for purchase.
- Newly elected President Bob Sather adjourned the convention at 6:55 pm.

Submitted July 30, 2022

*Nancy Madson*

District Six Secretary

\*\*\* Secretary has taken the liberty to correct a few items that were inadvertently stated incorrectly.

\*\*\* Several items are placed out of actual order to keep similar topics together, such as Foundation donations which came in at several different times.

Addenda are separate attachments.