

*Capture Your Culture***Fra Presidenten Bob Hoover****THE FRIENDLY FIRST POSTEN****GREETINGS FROM DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

Is summer over already? It hardly seems possible, that could be because actual summer weather was scarce! Fall brings on new and exciting challenges for Sons of Norway, so let's get busy.

I have seen lots of activity in several lodges, namely festivals and MAP brunches and dinners. It is great to see lodges grow. That is our number 1 goal, to increase membership. It is an opportune time to invite friends and relatives to join our organization.

Plans are underway for the 2010 convention to be held in Rochester, complete with a Saturday night banquet to celebrate the Districts 100th birthday/ anniversary. It is not too early to be thinking who your delegates to the convention will be.

Each lodge is asked to prepare an update to be added to the District 1 History Book. A letter has already gone out to each lodge with more information. I believe the deadline is December 31.

Election time for lodge officers is also getting close. Have you considered stepping up to the plate and volunteering to take a lodge office? Give it a try; it is a very rewarding experience.

We just returned from Hostfest in Minot where folks from all over the United States, Canada and Norway enjoyed the food, entertainment, vendors and friendships. When I witness such an event, I know that the Scandinavian heritage is certainly alive and well!

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact your zone director, district officers or myself. Sons of Norway has and always will be an organization open to new ideas and suggestions. My e-mail is bobsboxs@yahoo.com and my phone is 218-847-6345. I look forward to visiting with members throughout District 1.

Bob Hoover, District 1 President





Sons of Norway

We're on the Web

www.sofn-1.com

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Fra District Secretary—Karl Hella

It's time to kick off the fall program series, elect officers, start prepping for the 2010 District 1 Lodge Meeting and convention and crank up our membership programs.

I am sure everyone has programs lined up for the fall. I know many lodges plan a full year's calendar in advance. Remember that good programs are a key to retaining members. The workshops District 1 sponsored last winter had terrific lists ideas and resources. Many of those resources are available from the Fraternal Department at Sons of Norway.

The election process starts in September with selection of a Nominating Committee. It's important for nominating committees to do some homework and understand the work of the various officers before seeking candidates. Don't be afraid to ask newer members to help, if not as the principal officer, perhaps as an assistant. In my lodge we have even asked new members to be President and had them do excellent work with assistance from "old-timers". Don't be offended if someone says no, but if you don't ask, they can't say yes. Nominations should be presented to the October lodge meeting, elections held in November and installation held in December or January. Secretaries please remember to report you officers to Headquarters as soon as possible, either on the Sons of Norway web site or the form D63.

The District #1 Lodge meeting and Convention will be held June 17, 18 and 19 in Rochester, Minnesota. Lodges should elect their delegates in February and report the names to the District Secretary (me!) by March 1.

You will receive a delegate count and report form in early January. Lodges should also consider and vote on any resolutions or law changes they think necessary before March 1.

All resolutions must be approved and submitted by a lodge, not an individual. Delegates will receive Convention registration materials from the committee in Rochester in April.

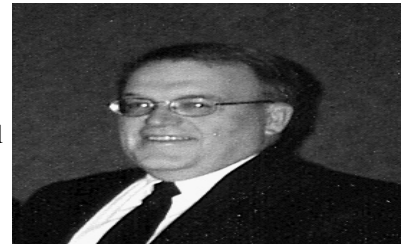
The registration fee should be about \$150 and the hotel rooms will be less than \$110

(including tax). 2010 is the centennial of District #1, Sons of Norway and we are planning to celebrate in Rochester at the conclusion of the Convention. Every lodge should have received a packet of information and order forms for centennial items, including a request for updated histories.

You probably noticed the article by International President Rude regarding membership in the *Viking*. It is a story that could have been written any time in the last 10 years. You may recall that in District #1, we want every event to be a membership event. So everyone needs to work for good programming, and remember to invite friends, family and acquaintances to the meetings. I have said the membership is really a question of belief in the importance of preserving and promoting Norwegian heritage and culture. If you think it's important, pass it on!

On September 5 I had the opportunity to represent District #1 at the funeral of former District President Marv Zuelke of Albert Lea. I believe Marv served as District Secretary and then as President for four years before moving to the International Board as a director from District #1. His work in Sons of Norway was mentioned in the obituary and during the service and many members of Normanna Lodge 1-052, Albert Lea, were in attendance. Marv was President when I first started attending District Lodge Meetings and had a steady hand on the tiller from what I could see.

Karl Hella, Secretary



Fra Vise Presidenten—Gary Anderson

Gary's article is hiding in his computer which is suffering "technical difficulties."

He has been busy organizing the constitution and bylaws. In addition, he is part of the First District 100th Anniversary team which Dennis Rusinko addresses on page 15.

Gary Anderson, Vice President



Fra Sosial Direktor, Bernice Oellien

Cultural Exhibits! Keep in mind that the Sons of Norway Convention is getting closer and we will be looking forward to another great Cultural Exhibition. You still have time to complete items before the convention. I am looking for many items to be on display. Be sure to encourage other members from you lodge to exhibit also. Even if you won't be able to attend the convention, items can be sent with your delegates.

Bernice Oellien



Fra District Kasseereren—Arlene Field

After the coolest summer on record, it is now time to plan your best activities and programs for the coming year.

I encourage each of you to diligently sell the “lil’ ole pins”. It has been a slow summer, but with the upcoming busy season, please sell, sell and sell. Bring your money to me at the fall board meeting.

We did not receive the \$4,000 this year to help defray a portion of the expense for the 2009 workshops. The district absorbed all the expenses. The district continues to stay on budget.

As we are all aware that the interest rates are extremely low, the scholarship fund and the mikal kartvedt fund continue to grow. I’m confident that we may again reach my goal for the villagers.

Arlene M. Field, Treasurer



Fra Publicity Direktor—Louise Bakken

As the Publicity Director. I am responsible for submitting photos to the Viking magazine, publishing the First Posten quarterly, and maintaining the First District website—SOFN-1.com.

Viking magazine photos: I contacted every lodge encouraging them to submit pictures for the Viking magazine. My campaign has been very successful. I now receive photos from lodges who have never submitted them in the past few years. The photos that are not used in the Viking will be included on the First District website. This is very good publicity for the lodges.

First Posten newsletter: This quarterly newsletter provides lodges with information on happenings in the First District and the accomplishments and goals of its officers. Several lodges have told me they find it a valuable tool.

SOFN-1 Website: I continue to work on enhancing my skills in this area. After acquiring useful suggestions, I changed computers and added Vista to the other challenges. Please be patient, I have many plans to make this website represent the lodges of the First District.

Marketing the sons of Norway is the key to its survival, and as publicity director is my intention to do what I can.

Louise Bakken, Publicity Director

Fra Youth Direktors—Todd Stafne & Chris Larson

Chris writes: The Larson's had two children attend camp this year. Ben brought his guitar and contributed to their celebrations with music. Elizabeth (Sigrid at camp) enjoyed her second year even more than her first and that was difficult to top off. Rebecca was accepted to be a volunteer this year as she was too old to be a camper and too young to be a counselor. Next year she intends to be a counselor. It's something she's been hoping to do since she became an older camper. The kids describe camp as a safe, comfortable place unlike school. It's a place where they're away from their parents and can "be themselves" and have a great time. It is a priceless experience and one that our children are grateful for.

Some people may be of the opinion that camp is just a fun place and that the children will not hold onto their interest in their culture beyond their camp experience so why contribute. I would like to say this: If it were not for the Sons of Norway financial assistance to attend camp (thank you District 1 and Norsota), many families (mine included) would not be able to afford to send their children. Even more important, the experiences my children have gained by being at camp far exceed the typical "fun" camp experience. They are building relationships with their Norwegian friends. They are exploring Norwegian schools to attend. They are introducing their friends back at home to their Norwegian music, crafts, colors, all aspects of the culture. My daughter has the Norwegian flag as the picture on her desktop on her laptop computer. She is so PROUD to share her heritage and she is only sixteen. All three of my children proudly wear their camp t-shirts to their school and are always excited to share with their friends what their Norwegian heritage means to them. My children have also begun volunteering their time and labor with other members of our Lodge (Norsota) to Vesterheim Museum one weekend every summer. They are becoming extremely vested in their Norwegian heritage (and feel Vesterheim is theirs now) and it is incredible to witness.

We live in a time where the world is at our fingertips. It is so easy to communicate and travel over seas. The internet has opened the world to our kids. We need to find ways to continue to support our teens so that when they become adults and move on to colleges they are interested in seeking out Sons of Norway lodges to join or at the very least, to visit and maintain their connection until they are settled down in their 20's and ready to find a lodge to join.

Let's not underestimate the value of our dollar in supporting scholarships to camp.

Fra Youth Direktors—Todd Stafne & Chris Larson (cont)

Todd writes: Well the summer has come and gone and the kids are now in school again. However, the summer time off from school was not a vacation for everyone...sort of.

My youngest daughter attended the Skogfjorden Norwegian language camp in Bemidji this summer for 4 weeks as a high school credit camper. This means that she was able to get a year of foreign language credit for high school. If any of you parents have sent your kids to college recently, you know that colleges recommend at least two years of a foreign language in high school before entering/applying for college.

She has attended the one and two week camps for the past six years at Skogfjorden and this year stepped up to the 4 week camp. The 4 week camp is a very intense learning program. It is much like being in school, only you are studying one language 24/7 for a month. Of course they still have some time in the evenings to wind down and have fun with their friends, but they have homework too for the next day.

After two weeks they get their “free weekend” where they go into town with their friends and do some shopping, wash their clothes, and probably don’t speak much Norwegian for two days. Then for the next two weeks they are back to learning the language, history, and current topics that Norwegians are talking about today.

Her language skills are much improved...she is much more confident in speaking, reading and writing Norsk, and she had a fantastic time. She is already making plans for this again for next year. What a great opportunity for our young people to carry on our heritage and interest in our Nordic culture. Sons of Norway does need our youth if it is going to survive. By contributing to our scholarships, we are all planting the seeds that are necessary for our organization to continue over the next generation and beyond.

I would like to personally thank District 1 and my local lodge for their financial contributions to the scholarship funds over the years. It helps our family be able to afford our kids this learning opportunity. As parents, we look at this as an investment in our child’s education. It gives them a unique language skill, a broader outlook on other people outside of the United States, the promotion of peace, understanding and tolerance of other cultures and communities of people around the world.

Todd Stafne & Chris Larson
Co-Youth Directors

Fra Rekreasjon Direktor—Marilyn Syverson

The Sons of Norway Lutfisk Open took place on July 19, 2009 at the Brooktree Golf Course in Owatonna, MN. It was a beautiful day with 80 degree weather. Twenty four golfers participated with tee times starting at 8:52 a.m. to accommodate the course. After lunch, awards were given for low score, least amount of putts, longest drive and closest to the pin. There were drawings for a variety of golf items as well. It was a fun day and I enjoyed playing and socializing with other Sons of Norway members.

The Norsk Open Golf Tournament at Blueberry Pines Golf Club, Menahga, MN, was held on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009. Golfers from three Sons of Norway lodges participated in the event and many from the area signed up for a total of 48. They served 56 dinners and gave out many prizes. The weather was beautiful again, so it was a very successful tournament.

The folkdance workshop will be held again in Morris at the American Legion club on Sat., Nov. 14, 2009 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The lodges participating are Alexandria, Benson, Detroit Lakes/Fargo, Glenwood, Morris, and Vining. Mikkel Thompson will be the instructor featuring live fiddle music by Anders Persson. Flyers will be sent out encouraging people in the surrounding area to participate as well as Sons of Norway members.

The First District bowling event will be held on Sat., May 1, 2010 at the Southtown Bowl in Bloomington, MN and the banquet at the Fred Babcock VFW. This is the same place as the last one on April 18, 2009. This year it will be hosted by Vestland # 601, Minnetonka, MN. More details will be sent later, but reserve this date now so you can participate. In 2009 we had 54 bowlers, so let's try to make it an even bigger event in 2010.

My e-mail address is: msyverson@hometownsolutions.net and telephone number: 320-589-1228.

Marilyn Syverson, Sports & Recreation Director

Adopt A School Coordinator—Marilyn Syverson

Many lodges are starting their Adopt A School activities in the schools, but I will have to report on them at a later time when they are completed. I did receive an email from the Vining lodge:

Leif Erikson has increased its emphasis on youth this past year with efforts to have members sign up their children and grandchildren as Heritage Members and increase their efforts with the Adopt A School program. They believe putting an emphasis on their adult children will increase membership by achieving the interest of the adults now and giving kids a good Nordic experience when they are young. Other notable activities they did were: A dozen kids rode on a nicely decorated float waving flags of Norway and the other Scandinavian countries. During the year they supported the Battle Lake Schools by reading Scandinavian stories to children at their five nights of the “Big Read” program. They used grant money to have “Ole Oleson and His Immigrant Trunk” visit three area schools. In September, Paul Wilson and Mary Abendroth of Nisswa and Brainerd area and leaders of Skäl Musik gave the children in Henning School experiences with Scandinavian folk music and dancing. Paul plays a button accordion and fiddle and Mary plays guitar and pump organ. They were sponsored directly by Leif Erikson.



The Morris lodge, Norskfødt #590, sponsored a group called Vestafor made up of Ginny Lee, Mikkel Thompson, & Toby Weinberg to perform at the lodge Sept. 21 and in the elementary school for a lyceum on Sept. 22. It was possible through a Lodge Partnership Grant from the Foundation, the lodge, and a donation from a lodge member. They played many Scandinavian instruments, danced, and told a story about trolls. This summer, a heritage member rode the Sons of Norway float in the Prairie Pioneer Day parade. Also, lodge member, Clarice Dieter, conducted many rosemaling workshops in the area and went to a workshop on rosemaling to increase her skills. She continues to paint many beautiful pieces to add to her collection.

I received an article from John Ross about Scandinavians on the road presenting and performing in the schools and communities of Minnesota towns: Montevideo, Granite Falls, Dawson, Canby, Minneota, Morris, Evansville, Ivanhoe, Ortonville, Appleton, Ecco, Madison, and in the Dakotas: Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Cooperstown, Cando, Wolford, Rugby, Maddock, Devil’s Lake, Fargo, Bismark, and Velva. To book Scandinavian artists who provide Nordic instruction and entertainment in music, dance, crafts, Viking lore and language contact Ross at rossutter@qwest.net

Lodges - Please e-mail me and tell me about your activities in the school or community. I would like to include you in the next article and inform others of ways to get involved in the Adopt A School program. E-mail: msyverson@hometownsolutions.net,

Address: 210 South St, Morris, MN 56267 or Phone #: 320-589-1228.

Marilyn Syverson

Adopt A School Coordinator

Adopt A School Coordinators

Zone 1

Heimsyn #15 – Cloquet, MN – Rita Baresh
Nortun #16 – Duluth, MN – Bente Soderlind
Terje Viken #17 – Two Harbors, MN – Lucille Hansen
Sagatun #18 – Brainerd, MN – Sharon Carlson
Haarfager #40 – Virginia, MN – Phyllis Starich
Nordstjernen #563 – Grand Rapids, MN – Carmen Solem
Skogvannet #658 – Walker, MN – Alice Groth
Tusevann #659 – Isle, MN – Ingrid Trandahl

Zone 2

Nidaros #1 – Minneapolis, MN – Jim Townsend
Oslo #2 – Minneapolis, MN – Herbert Morgenthaler
Synnove-Nordkap #8 – St. Paul, MN – Ruth Gibson
Vonheim #108 – Minneapolis, MN – Carol Gillespie
Trollheim #511 – St. Cloud, MN – Debbie Backus
Syttende Mai #517 – Minneapolis, MN – Dennis Rusinko
Nordmarka #585 – Northfield, MN – Pam Nerhus
Vennekretsen #559 – Anoka, MN – Chester Tollefson
Norsota #602 – Lakeville, MN – Kenneth Brandt
Fjell Syn #667 – Mounds View, MN – Shirley Emmert

Zone 3

Snorre #70 – Thief River Falls, MN – Harlow Johnson
Vikingland #495 – Detroit Lakes, MN - Lyle Dahl
Bemidji #500 – Bemidji, MN – Lois Egelhof

Zone 4

Bjorgvin #10 – Benson, MN – Jackie & Mary Johnson
Heimskringla #12 – Fergus Falls, MN – Gloria Sheils & Phyllis Knutson
Leif Erikson #32 – Vining, MN – Carol Pagel
Nornen #41 – Madison, MN – Camey Maland
Fedraheimen #59 – Willmar, MN – Barb Anderson
Mjosen #175 – Glenwood, MN – Marlene Nelson
Jaabeck #264 – Montevideo, MN – Eileen Nokleby
Elvidal #509 – Granite Falls, MN – Larry Stensrud
Runic Venenskap #530 – Alexandria, MN – Dale Braunchweig
Venenskap #554 – Canby, MN – Ruth Leppke
Norskfødt #590 – Morris, MN – Marilyn Syverson

Zone 5

Normanna #52 – Albert Lea, MN – Roger Lonning
Valheim #364 – Spring Grove, MN – Emma Landsom
Heimbygda #376 – Lanesboro, MN – Lynn Susag
Lin-Hans-Rud #479 – Hanska, MN – Shirley Olson
Kenyon Viking #487 – Kenyon, MN – Rhana Olson & Ione Overby
Nor-Win #505 – Winona, MN – Joan Klagge
Storting #519 – Austin, MN – David Dahlquist & Ramona Swenson
Stavanger #582 – Windom, MN – Tom Wickie
Elsvingen #582 – Mankato, MN – Kris Norland
Kristiana #47 – Rochester, MN – Sharon Barsness

Zone 6

Viking #463 – Watertown, SD – Geri Mahlen & Shirley Stormo
Fjordland #508 – Brookings, SD – Mary Fiedler
Vakre Vann #619 – Madison, SD – Nancy Sabbe
Granittdalen #651 – Milbank, SD – Norman Shelsta

Zone 7

Glitne Sioux Viking #167 – Sioux City, IA – Janet Gross
Valdres #503 – Decorah, IA – Leroy & Jean Iverson
Solglimt #547 – Cedar Falls, IA – Joyce Spande
Restauration #548 – Cedar Rapids, IA – Lois McCormick
Marsteinen #596 – Des Moines, IA – Arlene Field
Elveby #604 – Omaha, NE – Larry & Carol Johnson
Maihaugen #665 – Overland Park, KS – Diane Adamson
Kong Sverre #482 – Story city, IA – Sharon Miller
Storelva # 655 – Davenport, IA – Cynthia Bleich

Zone 8

Cleung Peerson #645 – Austin, TX – Leila Tackett



Fra International Direktor—Jon Tehven

As Scholarship Coordinator, Jon writes:

Summer 2009 saw an increase over 2008 in the number of youth attending Skogfjorden Language Village and Masse Moro Heritage Camp.

Skogfjorden Language Village

<u>Village</u>	<u>Attending</u>	<u>District 1 Scholarships</u>
1 Week	20	\$1,347
2 Weeks	41	\$5,020
4 Weeks	13*	\$2,633

In addition to the above \$9,000, the Scholarship Committee awarded \$1,570 tuition assistance grants from the Mikal Kartvedt Scholarship Trust Fund to 3 Villagers. Lodges provided over \$16,000 in scholarships.

*One attended the Swedish Village.

Masse Moro District 5 Heritage Camp (Two weeks only)

<u>Attending</u>	<u>District 1 Scholarships</u>
13	\$700

In addition to the above, Lodges provided over \$1,300 in scholarships.

Norwegian Folk High School

One student was awarded \$600 to attend a Norwegian Folk High School.

Gifts to the Scholarship Trust Fund

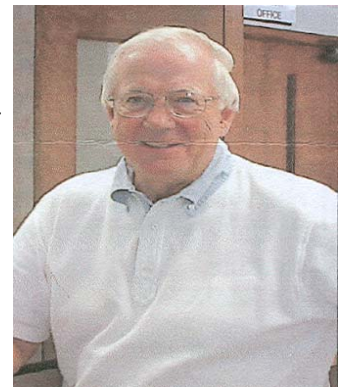
The Scholarship Trust Fund has received \$2,415 in gifts so far this year. Lodges are encouraged to help grow the Scholarship Trust Fund by sending gifts and memorials.

Visits

In July my wife and I visited the Concordia Language Village offices in Moorhead, MN and conferred with the CLV leadership. District 1 has a great working relationship with the CLV staff, and I wanted to personally say “Thank You” on behalf of the District.

We also spent two days in Bemidji attending first the 25th anniversary of the Chinese Village and International Day and then the Knighting ceremony of Skogfjorden Dean, Tove Dahl. She was awarded the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit from the King of Norway. I was privileged to bring greetings from International President Dan Rude and District 1.

There are 15 Concordia Language Villages and they serve over 10,000 youth each summer!



Fra International Direktor—Jon Tehven(cont)

As International Director, Jon writes:

Chief Executive Officer Search

As I am sure you know, John Lund retired as Sons of Norway Chief Executive Officer at the end of July. A professional ‘executive search’ firm is currently screening over 70 applicants for the position. The International Board of Directors Executive Committee will interview the finalists selected by the search firm and make a recommendation for John’s successor at the Fall Board Meeting.

Eivind Heiberg, Fraternal Director, has been appointed Interim Chief Executive Officer and is acting in that capacity. Linda Nelson has been appointed Interim Fraternal Director.

The Sons of Norway has had a ‘Succession Plan’ in place for several years, so John’s retirement did not disrupt the daily activities at Headquarters.

We wish John well in his retirement. He will continue as a faithful Sons of Norway member and we thank him for his visionary leadership.

Memorials & Gifts to the Scholarship Trust Fund since the last issue

Memorials

Fjordland Lodge 1-508, Brookings, SD

Solbjorg Andol

Marge and Garry Grorud

Andrew Larson

Runic Venenskap Lodge 1-530, Alexandria, MN

William DeGrote

Runic Venenskap Lodge 1-530, Alexandria, MN

Arthur Mikkelson

Lin Hans Rud Lodge 1-479, Hanska, MN

Gladys Hottman

Lin Hans Rud Lodge 1-479, Hanska, MN

Marie Henning

Valdres Lodge 1-503, Decorah, IA

Hazel Smorstad

Valdres Lodge 1-503, Decorah, IA

Fern Watts

Marsteinen Lodge 1-596, Des Moines, IA

Lillian Larson

Nordstjernen Lodge 1-563, Grand Rapids, MN

Kenneth Helgeson

Runic Venenskap Lodge 1-530, Alexandria, MN

Roger Field

Marsteinen Lodge 1-596, Des Moines, IA

District 1 Sons of Norway

Mary and Jerry Sletmoe

Myrt and Gene Brandvold

Mary and Dennis Quissell

Dorothy and Bob Hoover

Gloria and Jon Tehven

Shirley and Earl Evenstad

Lee and Richard Bjelland

Marge and Garry Grorud

LeElla and Ken Mjoen

Dennis Sorheim

Dao and Karl Hella

Ramona and Lloyd Swenson

Mae and Robert Long

Nordstjernen Lodge 1-563, Grand Rapids, MN

Ingeborg Klungreset

Joanne Marose

Dorothy Brye

Solglimt Lodge 1-547, Cedar Falls, IA

Orville Omodt

Elmer and Elain Roth

Betty Conklin

Storting Lodge 1-519, Austin, MN

Roger Field

Norskfodt Lodge 1-590, Morris, MN

Nordtex Lodge 1-594, Dallas, TX

Richard Sydnes

Marsteinen Lodge 1-596, Des Moines, IA

Gladys Johnson

Fjordland Lodge 1-508, Brookings, SD

Jesse Keech

Lin Hans Rud Lodge 1-479, Hanska, MN

Roger Ostby

Solglimt Lodge 1-547, Cedar Falls, IA

Raymond Smith

Solglimt Lodge 1-547, Cedar Falls, IA

Byron Bjerke

Lee and Richard Bjelland

Lloyd and Delores Paulson

Sharon Jacobson, Marlene DeOtis,

Granddaughters Dana, Joyce, Carrie & Joanna

Martin Gorder

Fjordland Lodge 1-508, Brookings, SD

Myrtle Kostad

Nordic Hall Association, Sioux Falls, SD

Memorials & Gifts to the Scholarship Trust Fund since the last issue(cont)

Lodge Gifts

Leif Erickson Lodge 1-032, Vining, MN

Solglimt Lodge 1-547, Cedar Falls, IA

Honoring

Nordtex Lodge 1-594, Dallas, TX – 25th Anniversary

Gloria and Jon Tehven

Marsteinen Lodge 1-595, Des Moines, IA – 25th Anniversary

Gloria and Jon Tehven

Contribution Form

SONS OF NORWAY - DISTRICT LODGE 1

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISTRICT LODGE 1 SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Please print clearly - acknowledgement letters are sent and it is important that all information is legible. Thank you.

Amount \$ _____ Date _____

Donated by _____

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

In Memory Of In Honor Of Lodge Gift (please circle which)

Name

Mail Acknowledgement To _____

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Remitted By _____

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Make checks payable to: District 1 Scholarship Trust Fund*

Mail checks to: Arlene Field, Treasurer, District 1, Sons of Norway

802 SE Sherman Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021-3519

*** Contributions are tax deductible in the USA.**

First District Anniversary Committee Report

The 100th anniversary of the first district will be taking place in 2010 and as part of the celebration the district has created some commemorative items for sale. all these items are for sale through your local lodges. commemorative shirts and pins. the deadline for placing your orders will be dec 31, 2009. The cost for the shirts is \$29 and for the pins \$5. Also the District will be holding special 100th Anniversary celebration on the Saturday after the District Convention in Rochester, Mn. more information will be sent out later. Now is the time for all the lodges in the District to plan something in honor of the 100th Anniversary. A packet with all the information has been sent to all lodge Presidents or secretaries.

Zone Director's Reports

FROM: Barbara Olson, Leif Erikson publicity director & Zone 4 Director

Leif Erikson Lodge, Vining MN, expanded the year to have programs during the summer, with support of the Minnesota Humanities Center grant and Lake Region Arts Council.

We celebrated Syttende Mai with our MAP dinner and "Ole Oleson and His Immigrant Trunk". A record 132 persons attended. In July we hosted international author Lauraine Snelling, who writes "Red River" series, the "Return to Red River" and "Blessing". Lauraine's appearance was a gift from her to Sons of Norway at Vining --- another record attended, 140. In August Skål Musik Ensemble led by Paul Wilson of Brainerd area presented an evening of Scandinavian music with pump organ, fiddles, bass, accordions and the saw! Our attendance was 146. Author Will Weaver spoke also about his book and movie, "Sweet Land", attendance 80.

Our Leadership Team meets once a month, usually after our Cultural Program, to recap, review, and to plan for the next month's program. We report our minutes and financial report in our newsletter. Time is offered for questions at the Cultural Meeting.

We have held three rosemailing classes in the last year and are in the process of starting a woodcarving group. Several of our members attended a rosemailing and woodcarving classes in Milan. Another member has attended a woodturning with Phil Holten in Perham MN.

Our members have attended several festivals this year beginning with the Nisswa Scandinavian Festival, the Hjemkomst Fest in Moorhead where we chartered a bus for some 40 persons, and we have a number going to Høstfest.

We've expanded our Adopt-A-School by four schools with programs this year --- Skål Musik presented for Henning Elementary students while "Ole Oleson and His Immigrant Trunk" were in Battle Lake, Henning and Staples schools. During the year a group of our members participated in 'The Big Read' where we read stories to children for five evenings at the school.

Trying to emphasize youth, we have increased our Heritage Members to over 30 members so that parents and grandparents can pass on stories of our heritage. In one parade this summer we added on to our entry and had a dozen youth on a float waving Norwegian and Scandinavian flags. This is our beginning, we hope to increase our activities for youth in the future. So far in 2009 we have 19 new members; we know there are many more we need to contact and invite. This fall we will appoint a nominating committee and plan programs for 2010.