

# Sons of Norway District Lodge #5 By-Laws- Revised June 2024

## **ARTICLE I . . . NAME**

Par. 1 The name of this District shall be District Lodge #5, Sons of Norway.

## **ARTICLE II . . . TERRITORY**

Par. 1 The territory of this District shall be the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi

## **ARTICLE III . . . MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATION**

Par. 1 The regular meeting of the District Lodge shall be held once every two years of the even years.

Par. 2 Every local lodge in the District shall be entitled to two representatives for the lodge, and one representative for every 100 members or major fraction thereof, based on the last Semi-Annual Report prior to the election of delegates. All members in good standing are eligible representatives. If a lodge has exhausted its list of elected alternates, the Delegate Leader may designate a potential alternate to the credentials committee which may recommend to the District Lodge the seating of the alternate.

Par. 3 Members of Central Lodge #5-000 shall be entitled to two representatives for the lodge, and one representative for every 100 members or major fraction thereof, based on the last Semi-Annual Report prior to the election of delegates. All members in good standing are eligible representatives. Members wishing to be candidates as delegates to the District Lodge meeting should notify the District President of their desire no later than February 1 of the convention year. Those so notifying the District President need not be present, though attendance is encouraged, at the Central Lodge meeting held to elect lodge delegates.

Par. 4 The Central Lodge will meet at the call of the District President. Unless the President calls a special meeting, the lodge will meet at the time and place as indicated each convention year in the January issue of *Viking* magazine; and the biannium meeting is for the purpose of electing delegates to attend the District Lodge meeting. The District President has the option to call the meeting with members participating via electronic means, such as telephone or Skype.

Subpar. a The electronic meeting means must accommodate reasonable identification methods, such as available by telephone or Skype. Participation via e-mail is not acceptable.

Subpar. b Those participating by electronic means must identify themselves, upon entering the meeting and when voting, by giving their full name and membership number.

Subpar. d The District Board of Directors will approve minutes of the Central Lodge meeting at the next District Board of Directors meeting and include those minutes as part of the District Board of Director meeting minutes.

Par. 5 The Board of Directors of District Lodge Five shall determine the duration of the District Lodge meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IV . . . CREDENTIALS AND TRAVELING EXPENSE**

Par. 1 The Secretary of the District Lodge shall prepare a list of all duly elected delegates and alternates for the use by the convention registration committee and the District Committee on Credentials.

Par. 2 A current Sons of Norway membership card, driver's license or other form of ID may be used as a credential to identify a delegate.

Par. 3 Representatives to a District Lodge Meeting shall receive such per diem and travel allowance as may be determined and paid by their local lodge. Transportation expenses will not be equalized between local lodges.

#### **ARTICLE VI . . . ZONES**

Par. 1- That District 5 will not have divisions called zones.

#### **ARTICLE VII . . . OFFICERS AND SALARIES**

Par. 1 The elected Officers of the District shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director, Youth Director and the four At-Large Directors provided for in these By-Laws.

Par. 2. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director and Youth Director shall be nominated and elected in that order, after which the four At-Large Directors would be elected.

Par. 3 The Vice President will serve as the alternate for the President. An alternate for the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected. A pool of 4 alternates for the other officer positions and the 4 at-large directors shall also be elected.

Par. 4 A Presidential candidate shall have served on the District Board at least one full term.

Par. 5 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than three consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited.

Par. 6 The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Publicity Director, Cultural Director, and Youth Director shall receive such compensation as determined by the District Lodge. The Board of Directors shall make recommendations to each District Lodge Meeting with respect thereto.

Par. 7 At the first meeting of the Board of Directors after a District Lodge Meeting, the Board shall determine the per diem and traveling expense allowance for members of the Board for the next

calendar year.

Par. 8 The President shall assign to each Officer and Director the lodges to be under his or her supervision.

Par. 9 At the opening of each District Lodge Meeting, the President shall appoint from the attending representatives a Marshal and an Assistant Marshal and two greeters to serve during the meetings.

## **ARTICLE VIII .... Fees and Dues**

Par. 1 District dues shall be set by the International Lodge, per the Simplified Dues Structure of 2018.

Par. 2 Funds shall be annually earmarked for the purpose of offsetting the cost of hosting a District Lodge Meeting and Convention and will be distributed to the host lodge during the month of January of the convention year.

## **ARTICLE IX . . . FRATERNAL PROJECT**

Par. 1 District Lodge #5 will match scholarships provided to campers by their local lodges up to an amount to be determined by the District Lodge #5 Board. All Masse Moro income and expenses, except for matching funds, will be handled by the Sons of Norway District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation.

Par. 2 The District Lodge shall have the authority to levy a fraternal fee, not to exceed \$1.00 per member, per year, with the exception of life members, upon lodges within the boundaries of the Fifth District. The fraternal fee must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

Par. 3 The authority to assess said fraternal fee shall remain in effect for a period of two (2) years and then terminate unless renewed by the District Lodge at its biennial meeting.

## **Article X...Compliance** (From International January 9, 2024)

Par.1. The district must operate in full compliance with all governmental laws, regulations and applicable requirements and maintain in force all licenses, permits and approvals required for its operation within the country in which the lodge is organized.

Par. 2. The district must operate in full compliance with all laws, regulations and applicable requirements as outlined in the latest edition of the Charter, Bylaws, Policy; & Procedures (CBPP) of Sons of Norway, and as otherwise communicated to the district by the International Headquarters of Sons of Norway. These include, but are not limited to, the timely annual filing of IRS 990 forms for lodges in the United States, the D63 and D17 reports for lodges, the D64 and D18 reports for building corporations, if applicable, and the timely payment of the annual liability insurance assessment.

Par. 3. The district must adhere to the SON Social Media and Conflict of Interest/Ethics policies, and all district policies and procedures adopted by their district.

## **Article XI. Dissolution and Distribution of Assets** (From International January 9, 2024)

Par. 1. Dissolution, either voluntary or involuntary, shall be made only in accordance with the procedures as set forth in the Sons of Norway CRPP

applicable, it is recommended that the corporation's remaining assets shall be distributed to the Sons of Norway Foundation [a 501(c)(3) organization] or the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada [a charitable corporation in Canada], if in existence when the distribution occurs or, if not, to a similarly designated and purposed entity or entities within the country in which the district is organized.

Par. 3. Upon dissolution of the district, district assets may not be transferred to individual members for personal benefit.

Par. 4. The plan to distribute district assets must be approved in advance by Sons of Norway Headquarters. However, Headquarters shall not oppose any plan of distribution that complies with relevant state and federal laws and regulations.

**Article XII-Audits** (From International January 9, 2024)

Par. 1. The district shall elect, appoint, or employ competent auditors to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis. If elected or appointed the audit team shall be composed of two (2) or more district members, and in situations where additional financial and audit experience is needed, the district shall have the option to employ one (1) or more independent auditor(s) to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis.

Par. 2. At least once each year the auditor(s) shall submit a written report of each audit to the district board.

**Article XIII- Dispute Resolution** (From International January 9, 2024)

Par. 1. Any grievance, complaint or dispute arising out of or in connection with SON business, at any level, if not settled to the satisfaction of the parties involved, shall only be resolved using the provisions contained in Bylaws Chapter 17 and Policies and Procedures Chapter 25 entitled Conduct and appeal process. The sections contained in these chapters prescribe the sole means to present and resolve grievances, complaints or disputes.

**ARTICLE XIV . . . CHANGES OF THESE BY-LAWS**

Par. 1 These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the District Lodge #5, provided notice thereof has been given to the District Secretary at least 45 days prior to the date of said meeting by any lodge in the District or has been submitted by the District Board of Directors. Proposed amendments originating in the local lodges, or by the District Board of Directors, must be submitted to the Chairman of the Laws Committee as soon as possible prior to the date of said meeting. The Laws Committee may recommend changes at the said meeting.

Par. 2 Any change must receive a 2/3 majority of the votes cast to become law.

(Revised June, 1996) , (Revised June, 1998), (Revised June, 2000), (Revised June, 2002), (Revised June, 2004), (Revised June, 2006), (Revised October, 2008), (Revised June, 2010), (Revised October 7, 2011), Revised: June 23, 2012, Revised: June 28, 2014, Revised: June 26, 2016, Revised: June 28-29, 2018, Revised: January 13, 2021 by postcard ballot of 2018 Delegates; Revised June 17, 2022; Revised March 10, 2023 by postcard ballot of 2022 Delegates; Revised January 2024 by postcard ballot and mandated articles from International. Revised June 21, 2024



1455 West Lake Street  
Norwegian, MN 55408  
Tel: (763) 432-9145-9158  
Fax: 612-827-0458  
www.sonsnorway.com

District Bylaws Signature Page

Reviewed and approved by Corporate Matters and Governance Committee:

26 day of April, 2024

Signed: *[Signature]*

These bylaws approved on 9th day of May, 2024

By: *[Signature]*  
Chief Executive Officer

By: *[Signature]*  
Legal Counsel



**District Bylaws Signature Page**

*received Aug 22, 2024*

Adopted by District lodge, vote completed on: 21st day of June, 2024.

Signed: *Beryl J. Wineschauer*  
District President

Signed: *Darlene A. Ameson*  
District Secretary

Reviewed and approved by Corporate Matters and Governance Committee:

26 day of August, 2024.

Signed: *Luella Hargrave*

These bylaws approved on: 28 day of August, 2024.

By: *Paul Spill*  
Chief Executive Officer

By: *D. M. [Signature]*  
Legal Counsel