

DRAFT
Sons of Norway District Lodge #3
61st District Convention Minutes

June 9 - 13, 2010
Holiday Inn and Conference Center
Harrisburg, PA

MEMORIAL SERVICE, June 9, 2010

The 61st Convention of the Third District, Sons of Norway, held at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Harrisburg, PA, convened at 5 p.m., Wednesday, June 9, with the Memorial Service. Convention Chairperson Kathy Dollymore, Restauration Lodge, welcomed the delegates and guests. She then introduced District 3 President Ralph Peterson who thanked Kathy and her very capable and hard working Convention Committee.

President Ralph introduced the following: Zone 6 Director Kathy Dollymore; Asst. Zone 5 Director Gail Martinsen and her husband Ron; Zone 4 Director Arnold Johnsen and his wife Ragnhild; Zone 3 Director Joan McKillop and her husband Jim; Zone 2 Director Judi Mack and her husband Richard; and Zone 1 Director Kris Rasmussen and his wife Christine; Cultural Director Karen Doty and her husband Verlin Morton; Youth Director Evelyn Karpack; Public Relations Director Mary Andersen; Counselor Louis Olsen; Treasurer John Gregg and his wife Vera; Secretary Marci Larson; Vice President Gail Ekloff and her husband, Rolf; International Director Barbara Berntsen and her husband Roy; International Vice President Marit Kristiansen; and President Ralph's wife Annegrete.

The audience then sang the opening hymn "In the Garden," accompanied by Luana Jøsvold, Norumbega Lodge.

President Ralph asked the audience to rise and share a moment of silence for departed members. He then quoted the poem by Mary Frye that reads as follows:

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glint on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight,
I am the soft starlight at night.

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I did not die!

The Zone Directors assembled up front each holding an unlit candle. President Ralph lit each candle in memory of our departed brothers and sisters. President Ralph then extinguished each candle in memory of those departed brothers and sisters from each zone who have now entered "Lodge Eternal."

President Ralph introduced International Director Barbara Berntsen who gave the following Memorial Address:

We have gathered here this evening to pay tribute for those who have completed the final chapter of their lives. As we reflect over the past years, we have many members to honor and those we privately think about and many who have touched our hearts.

Their passing to Lodge Eternal is always a somber experience and our hearts are saddened from the loss. Remembering each member for the friendship, how they smiled, the planning of events, how they participated at the lodge meetings, the officer positions they held, the delight when sharing at celebrations, the family they spoke so proudly of, and being thankful for the many personal interactions they have had in our lives. We need to allow ourselves to feel our feelings and taking each emotion day by day, but we do this with the knowledge that we are not alone. Time has a way to help us to replace our sorrow from the heartache, giving us the strength to live our lives. When we realize this, our remembrances have become thoughts of precious moments. Our lives become fulfilled with memories of happier times, aware that these memories will hold us together. Let us give a valuable gift of ourselves by unselfishly remembering those who have gone before us.

Listen to these loving words by an unknown poet:

We Remember Them

At the rising of the sun and at its going down,
 we remember them.
At the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter,
 we remember them.
At the opening of buds and the rebirth of spring,
 we remember them.
At the blueness of the skies and the warmth of summer,
 we remember them.
At the rustling of leaves and the beauty of autumn,
 we remember them.
As long as we live, they too shall live,
 for they are a part of us, as we remember them.

We cherish all the members who are no longer with us, but I would like to pay tribute to one member. John Kaare Hagen was born in Norway and immigrated to the US when he was 17 years old. He became a U.S. Citizen and served in the Navy during World War II. He joined Roald Lodge in August 1934. He served as Lodge President for 17 terms, as Zone Director, Counselor and President of the District, a Supreme (International) Director for two terms, Supreme Vice President and "Supreme (International) President." He was the General Chairman for the 17th of May Parade Committee for six years. He chaired the committee to purchase a cultural center which we call "Our Home Away from Home: Land of the Vikings." He was honored by numerous awards and testimonial dinners. His accomplishments in the Norwegian Community earned him the Leif Erikson Citation Award

in 1972, the Saint Olav Medallion from King Olav of Norway in 1976, and the National Ethnic Coalition Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1996. In 2009, International President Dan Rude presented John Kaare a beautiful picture of the Sons of Norway Building for his 75 years of service to the order. He was renowned for stating it was his “last hurrah” at many conventions and he knew Roberts Rules of Order by page and paragraph. He is someone who will be missed across the Order.

Our extended Sons of Norway family is a comfort to us all, and we can be proud of how we reach out to each other in times of joy and in times of need. When we lose someone we love we learn to trust that their soul is in a brighter place. A place of grace and peace and joy beyond all time, mindful we will meet them again. By surrounding the bereaved with our love and compassion, we share in their sorrow. When we join a local lodge – the members form a chain by the linking of their arms to surround us during the welcoming ceremony. This Fraternal Chain assures us of our everlasting friendships and the unity in our hearts. It is a portrayal of our fraternalism and the union of the Sons of Norway family.

Many Nordic churches have model ships positioned in the center isle sailing towards the altar. In the Christian tradition the ship can be seen as a symbol representing the journey of life through our Lord. These model ships suggest the Norwegian tradition as seafaring people and their faith relating to the sea and our seafaring ancestors. Another consideration is that seamen believed the hull of the ship could be seen as the borderline between life and death. It is not known how old the tradition is or where it began; but the Odyssey states, “Life in this world is like a stormy ocean that we have to cross to lead our ship safely into the Harbor. If we are able to resist the song of the sirens, it will lead us to eternal life.”

The Vikings believed in the afterlife. They held the spirit of the dead in reverence and alleged these spirits were powerful and had magical forces. They imagined death as a long-distance voyage, therefore their Longship graves became the passage for their souls. Burials were determined by their surroundings but frequently remained close to home, so that their souls might give protection to their surviving family. Odin was thought to be holding court in Valhalla to welcome all his warriors killed on the battlefield. In this spirit world – these Vikings could battle during the day, have their bodies magically restored to health during that evening thus giving them the ease to carouse at night, with their understanding of that final battle to end all time. Whether it was an actual burial in their boat with all their precious weapons and worldly possessions or stones erected and placed in the shape of a longboat, they trusted their souls would embark on the journey to the hereafter.

Each member is a treasure to our Lodge, Zone, District and to the Order. We recognize their accomplishments and welcome those friendships by remembering them this evening. Some whom we thought would always be here have since slipped away. Tears well up when we remember those special moments we shared, but those reminiscences eventually turn into smiles as we realize that Heaven has also forever changed, as each member is united with those who had gone before.

When taking their final Longboat Journey to Lodge Eternal, I know their ship was greeted by those who are waiting to celebrate their next chapter with Norse pride. As I reflect back on our loved ones, I want to personally dedicate this to those who are no longer with us:

Don't grieve for them, for now they are free,
By following God to Lodge Eternity.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
As they'll be part of the sunrise tomorrow.

Taking His Hand when they heard His call,
They uncrossed their arms and left it all.

They could not stay their work was done,
At the Lodge, at LOV, or at a scholarship fund.

Tasks left undone should stay that way,
For they found peace at the end of the day.

Their Life's been full, they savored much,
Good friends, good times or a loved one's touch.

A closeness shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, Sons of Norway that too they'll miss.

Perhaps their time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

All members' parting will leave a void,
Therefore fill it with remembered joy.

Lift up your heart to share with me,
God wanted each one, He set them free.

The Third District funeral service mentions the fraternal chain several times. In death a link is severed from our endless chain which can never be replaced, explaining the uncertainty of life. By this symbol – the breaking of their fraternal link in our chain – we will mourn the loss of the member but keep his or her Norse spirit in our hearts. Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into a place of eternal rest! May peace be with you.

The attendees sang "Abide with Me", accompanied by Luana Jøsvold.

Following the Memorial Service the President's Reception was held in the hotel Atrium and the dinner following.

Convention Session, Thursday, June 10, 2010

President Ralph opened the first session of the 61st Third District Convention at 8:40 a.m. The color guard from the American Legion Post 998 presented the colors. The convention delegates sang the Canadian, Norwegian and U.S. anthems, accompanied by Luana Jøsvold, Norumbega Lodge. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Convention Chairperson Kathy Dollymore welcomed the group and made brief remarks about the area tourist attractions, the coffee breaks and the Thursday luncheon. As President Ralph continued the session, he provided a brief history of the traveling gavel he was using. President Ralph then called the Credentials Committee which included Zone 4

Director Arnold Johnsen, Chair, and Zone 1 and 2 Directors Kris Rasmussen and Judi Mack and then excused them to continue their work. He then introduced the District Board, Zone Directors, Parliamentarian Kristen Lintvendt, International Vice President Marit Kristiansen, International Director Barbara Berntsen, SON CEO Eivind Heiberg, SON Foundation Director Cindy Olson and Len Carlson, SON Director of Agencies. He announced a \$10 fee will be donated to the Charitable Trust for any cell phone disturbances. Counselor Olsen will handle collections.

Convention Chairperson Kathy Dollymore introduced and thanked her Convention Committee present in the hall that included Jim and Barbara Vaughn, cookie committee; Sonia Forrest, secretary and registration; Doris Beck, ways and means/entertainment; Randi Nilsen, treasurer; Marian Maurer, co-treasurer; Mary Andersen, public relations director for the journal; Ken Gundersen for the golf tournament; Karen Doty for the cultural activities; and George Beck, her co-chairman and registrar that "was her rock."

Kathy then introduced Mayor J. D. Landis, Cumberland, PA, who welcomed the group and provided brief remarks. Mayor Landis said she was quite impressed with Kathy's organizational skills because she had approached the Mayor about speaking more than a year earlier. During the time, Mayor Landis learned about Norwegians and Sons of Norway and referred to the 1950s movie "The Vikings," which she had purchased. She also talked about the restoration of the New Cumberland business district and said her "shop keepers" had been telling her that the "Norwegians" had been visiting their businesses. She also explained that New Cumberland is a borough of which Pennsylvania has approximately several hundred and that when you enter the community, you have reached "nirvana". Following her presentation, Kathy presented the Mayor with a gift of the Liberty Stone paper weight, which contains copper from western Norway along with a gift of special Nordic goodies. As Kathy stated the Liberty Stone gift is a piece of America and a piece of Norway.

President Ralph then introduced International Vice President Marit Kristiansen as "a person who has worked tirelessly to develop and create ways to increase and retain our membership. I first met Marit in Madison, WI at the 2002 International Convention when she was an International Director and she read a report from the International Board that I didn't agree with, but while we were discussing the report I told her that the order needed people like her to take on more responsibility. She assured me she was not running for any other office. I am very happy that she changed her mind and I am so happy to introduce one of my favorite Alaskan citizens, our dynamic International Vice President Marit Kristiansen."

International Vice President Marit Kristiansen graciously began with. "It is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to be in District 3, which is an extreme opposite from my home district. This is my second time at a District 3 event because I had the opportunity to attend a district board meeting and finally see Land of the Vikings. What an outstanding facility you have in northeastern Pennsylvania. Taking part in a convention can and should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We rekindle connections with members and also learn about the workings of Sons of Norway. This is an opportunity to find what others have discovered in the past and keeps them so dedicated in preserving our organization's future. Professor Nordberg in his book "An American Saga," which is a fine history of Sons of Norway that begins thus: the founders of Sons of Norway were Americans. They crossed the wide Atlantic in search of greater opportunities for themselves and their families. From the day that they passed through the immigration gates at Ellis Island, they

knew their lives and fortunes were linked forever with this vast free land. This then is the strong thread that runs through much of Sons of Norway's story, a love for the land of their birth but at the same time a fierce loyalty to their new land. The fledgling organization, Sons of Norway, provided security not only against financial crisis and a forum to celebrate their new nationalism, but it also served to preserve the many things Norwegian that were treasured when they left Norway – the music, the literature, art and religion, which formed such a large part of their heritage. Out of this modest beginning has come the organization we know today as Sons of Norway International.

I, too, am an immigrant. My family set sail for New York on the liner Stavanger Fjord, arriving in Seattle when I was age five. I began school with very limited English: yes and no and that was about it. That was not a pleasant experience. But perhaps because I was Norsk, and very young, I learned quickly. It was much more difficult for my parents. I remember accompanying my Mother to the local grocery store and watching her open up the spice boxes, taking a whiff, because she did not know what ginger and cinnamon were in English. I became the assistant to help my parents read and write English. Then when I was 13, my parents did a very unselfish thing. They sent my younger sister and me alone to Norway to live with our grandparents for a year. Now that was a cultural shock! Imagine coming from Seattle in 1957 to a small island a little ways above the Arctic Circle with 400 residents, no automobiles, no indoor toilets, no TV, lots of fishing boats, small farms that had one cow, some chickens, a pig, and even several sheep. I even had the same school teacher that my Mother had. It was indeed the best year of my life! Here for the first time I truly understood what being Norwegian meant. It meant family – uncles, aunts, cousins and traditions. I knew I belonged to these hearty people who had lived there for generations and they knew their genealogy. Perhaps that's why I became so active in Sons of Norway. It was an opportunity to continue to nourish being Norsk. Sons of Norway is now in its 115th year and we always ask, "how come it's lasted this long?" And I believe, and I know many of you believe, that we've been able to adapt to changes in our society, but still keeping our basic mission to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationships with other Nordic countries and to provide quality financial products and services to our members.

Much has changed, but the basics are there and that is why most join Sons of Norway to connect with their heritage. I have been a member for 42 years and boy, have I seen changes. Back then most lodge meetings were very formal with much ritual including the presentation of flags, the initiation and installation ceremonies that were led by drill teams. We had the voting box with the white and black balls – do you remember those? And the secret password that constantly changed that had to be whispered one to another because it could not be said out loud. And here's another example of how it was. Two years ago I read the following in a District 2 newsletter from the Lodge Counselor: **Attention** in big letters. If you come to a meeting late you may have to wait outside the meeting room for awhile until the guards let you in. The reason is that once the president begins to open the meeting, the guards will stop all late members to wait until after the following is done: roll call of officers, introduction of guests and visitors, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, singing the national anthems, five officers reporting on their duties and then singing one song by the members present. When the president declares the lodge is lawfully open, he will inform the guards to request members in the anteroom to enter the meeting room. For some of us, the old ways were just fine. The ritual gave us meaning, but for most, and especially younger adults, Sons of Norway meetings were archaic and boring. Now we have several versions of the rituals. We strive to have shorter lodge business meetings with a focus on good and interesting programs. Our meetings generally begin at an earlier hour

and we have greeters in lieu of guards and the initiation of new members is now a welcome ceremony. So, you see that we have made some changes.

The strength of Sons of Norway is its members and for several years we have set membership goals that we have worked very hard to reach. The monthly membership reports indicate that although we are diligently and consistently recruiting new members, the number of non-renewals continues to bring our numbers down. We continue to have a membership retention problem, one that could have serious ramifications well into the future if we do not take the steps to address it in the here and now. And I commend President Peterson and the District Board for continuing to institute lodges in District 3. Great job!! We know on average we experience a net loss of two percent every year and it is due to a number of causes. But we also know that none of these causes are insurmountable. In fact most of them can be addressed by taking simple steps like making your lodge environment as welcoming to new members as possible, starting a retention committee or utilizing the Sons of Norway resources to plan exciting new lodge programs.

And that is our challenge today. How do we make Sons of Norway relevant to a new generation? This generation is not only interested in the culture and history of Norway, but how Norway is today. Norway is a country rich in natural resources and very tech savvy. And I believe the *Viking Magazine* is doing an excellent job in offering great articles and information. Our task then is to change with the needs of our membership and we can achieve our membership goals by working together through the local Lodge, the District and the International Boards. Perhaps we have come full circle. The early founders kept their cherished heritage alive and they did this through the Sons of Norway. My generation has a need to tap into that sense of belonging to something, a search for our basic roots and we do that through the Sons of Norway. Our strengths are many. We continue to promote culture and heritage and encourage members to research their ancestors. We have good solid people as members and officers. We offer activities for the entire family from sports to scholarships. We have a firm foundation in our charter and constitution and a democratic process for implementing changes. We have a very respectable insurance program that is available to all.

In conclusion I would like to say, cherish your heritage, be kind and courteous to fellow lodge members, contribute to your community and pass your heritage onto your children and grandchildren. Give them a reason to proudly say, I am of Norwegian descent. Mange takk!"

President Ralph added on to Marit's comments stating that we always get new members, because he's been looking at the numbers for four years, but retaining the members is the challenge. New members have indicated that the web site has helped them in joining. In comparing the first four months of 2010 compared to 2009, we are losing fewer members in our lodges. The voluntary leaving of the 999 members who are at large members and not assigned to a local lodge has been decreased 20 percent. President Ralph also mentioned the value of a mentor program in our lodges which the District heartily endorses and the value of members attending the district convention.

President Ralph called the Credentials Committee for their initial report. Zone 4 Director Johnsen is the committee chair, even though it is customary for the zone director for the convention lodge to chair the committee, which would be Kathy Dollymore. However, as Convention Chair, she is fully occupied. Brother Johnsen reported that 119 delegates had been seated, 14 board members and the International Director, totaling 134 voting

delegates. **It was MOVED and SECONDED to accept the report of the Credentials Committee. MOTION CARRIED.**

The Secretary read the Roll Call of Lodges with 134 delegates present, 68 are a majority and 89 are a two-thirds majority.

President Ralph then introduced the former District and International Officers, which included the following:

Charlie Nilsen, International Vice President
Sandy Ginsberg, International Director
Frank Tepper, International Director

Ardis Morton, District Vice President
Kenneth Johnson, District Vice President
Keith Lavin, District Treasurer
Rolf Ekloff, District Counselor
Asbjørn Lageraaen, Publicity/Cultural Director
Doris Beck, District Sports and Recreation Director
Phil Fiederlein, District Sports and Recreation Director
Helen Timoney, District Treasurer
David Dunlop, District Counselor
Gene Olson, District Sports and Recreation Director

Lillian Bolstad – President Ralph told the group that 50 years earlier in 1960, Lillian had been elected as Social/Publicity Director and served on the District Board. Lillian is back as a delegate from the VikingWorld Lodge in Orlando. The Third District delegates gave Lillian a standing ovation.

President Ralph recognized the first-time lodges North Carolina Vikings and the Norsk Carolina. He thanked them for attending. Ralph also mentioned that since the past Convention three lodges have been instituted, which include Norsk Carolina Lodge in Charlotte, Drammen Lodge in New Bern, NC and the Gulf Coast Vikings in Estero, FL. Ralph said all first-time delegates have a blue ribbon on their name tag so he encouraged all “repeat” delegates to make these first-time delegates feel welcome. Then Ralph asked first-time delegates to stand and they received a hearty round of applause. Next Ralph asked which delegates had attended more than 16 conventions. Charlie Nilsen, Gulfstream Lodge, said he attended his first convention in 1957 and has attended everyone except two since that time. Ralph Ekloff, Loyal Lodge, has attended 21 conventions.

President Ralph then introduced the Eivind Heiberg, Sons of Norway Chief Executive Officer (CEO) stating. “Eivind originally came to the US from Norway as an exchange student. He was a very good basketball player who ended up at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN eventually marrying his high school sweetheart from Larimore, ND. If he hadn’t exhibited great thinking before he married, this proved that he was thinking ahead. Eivind has been a great addition to the SON family. He has great visions for the future while remembering the past. He has already made significant contributions to our organization and I expect many more of these positive contributions in the future. Eivind is truly one of these people who thinks out of the box all day, every day. When you ride with Eivind it’s very tiring because he has so many ideas, it’s hard to follow which one is being discussed. As we move forward, SON is extremely fortunate to have Eivind at the helm. It

is with great pleasure that I introduce my friend and our Chief Executive officer, Eivind Heiberg.”

“It’s been great to be back in District 3,” Eivind said. I have been on the East Coast a number of times and every single time I am made to feel welcome and it’s a pleasure to get to know so many of you. Three weeks ago I had an opportunity to be in Brooklyn and for the first time experienced your Syttende Mai Parade and the festivities that so many of you are involved in. It was great to see the lodges, the district and so many of you involved. What a fantastic event, which was actually a weekend of events. Kudos to everyone involved for the great work.

I wanted to share with you SON’s financial situation. Overall I want you to know that we are doing well. However, Sons of Norway, like every other company or organization, has felt the economic impact and challenging times over the past couple years. And because of some of the losses we have seen in our investment portfolio, SON did see a \$1.8 million decline in our surplus position last year. Although this is not a positive experience for us, I think it’s important for all of you to know that our surplus does exist for this type of adverse situation to help us through these kinds of challenging times. So it served its purpose and it’s important to know this. I want you to know that SON senior management and the International Board have a plan in place to rebuild that surplus. The main item in that plan is to spend time with our investment advisors which is a huge outside company to identify bond winners in our portfolio that would mature over the next few years. And by selling these bond winners we are able to capture the gains and apply to our bottom line over the next couple years. So SON is working hard to get back to where we need to be for the long-term and the financial stability. I am hopeful that as long as we don’t see any other major negative financial market surface, our surplus should be in a much better position at year end.

I’m also pleased to let you know that we run a very lean, but profitable operation. You can read a lot more about this in the current issue of Viking Magazine. But we ended up with nearly \$700,000 in net gains from operations in 2009 alone. We had a very good year. And when I mention “lean operation” I think it’s important to share with you that both staff and the International Board went through a cost-cutting process last summer and took a hard look at how we can be more efficient. Our expenses for 2009 ended up being below 2008. We are very careful how we spend our dollars, your dollars, the members’ dollars. Another reason for our financial health and profitability is our financial benefits counselors. These are smart, caring and very knowledgeable people who not only care about you as members but also care about Sons of Norway. And personally I am very pleased to see that more and more of our financial benefits counselors are taking more active roles in the local lodges, helping with programming, lodge events and assuming lodge officer positions. So, when you see them around and know they are coming to a lodge function near you I encourage you to reach out. These are people that have great resources, have a great heart and can be of great value to you. Thanks to all our financial benefits counselors, SON had a banner year on the insurance side last year. We had a terrific year.” CEO Heiberg then introduced the Fraternal Benefits Counselors (FBC) in the audience who were given a round of applause. He also recognized Len Carlson, Director of Agencies, who works so closely with the FBCs and thanked them for what they do.

“You heard both Marit and Ralph talk about membership this morning and I want to touch briefly on that. As an organization we do a pretty good job bringing in new members, about 4,000 to 4,500 in a good year. Unfortunately, we have just as many, if not a few more,

making a conscious decision not to renew. Back in Minneapolis, we call these people “voluntary leaving.” And from research done, we know that we can reduce that number and increase our overall membership by creating a welcoming lodge environment as possible. And it reminds me of something that I read during a dinner at a Chinese restaurant about 15 years ago. And you are thinking, “What in the world do Sons of Norway and a meal at a Chinese restaurant have in common? Well, at the end of any meal at a Chinese restaurant, you get these Chinese cookies. And I’ve had my fair share of them. But this one I felt was so profound that I kept it. And it is still taped to my computer in my home office and it reads, ‘People will forget what you say, people will forget what you do but people will never forget how you made them feel.’ So, my question to you is how do you want new members to feel as they show up to your first meeting or event? How can you create as welcoming a lodge environment as possible? What can you do as an individual? I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas and I would love the opportunity to share those thoughts and ideas with other districts and lodges. Let me know by giving me a call or sending me an e-mail.

Speaking of sharing, I want to share what’s new at Headquarters. The most recent news is hiring our new Fraternal Director, Linda Pederson. I’m very excited to have Linda on board. Some of you may have worked with her over the years. Linda is the former vice counsel of the Royal Norwegian Counsel in Minneapolis for about 15 years. She is very talented and used to work for Sons of Norway back in the early 1990s as the Fraternal Manager. She has a Masters Degree in International Business and is a native of Norway and has an incredible passion for the culture and heritage. You will have a chance to meet Linda at the International Convention. She is a welcome addition and we are excited to have her.

Speaking of new, what are some new things that we should be considering for Sons of Norway and our future well being. We know that in looking at our membership statistics that if we are able to keep members the first three years there is a very high likelihood that we will keep them for years to come. So, what if we were able to develop a plan, a communications strategy or plan, for those first three years? You know, they will get their membership card, but what if through their first month they got a call to say thank you for joining Sons of Norway. Is there anything we can help you with? What if at six months of membership we sent them a note saying thank you for being with Sons of Norway, maybe highlight one benefit. What if before the first renewal, we followed up again and thanked them for their year of membership, and look forward to their renewing and staying with us for another year. What if we have a three-year plan in place? How would you as a Sons of Norway member feel?

As Sons of Norway, we have our district conventions in place, we get our business done and there is lots of fun going on. And in District 3 you take that to another level in a good way. It’s always wonderful to be in District 3 and kudos to the District Board and the Convention Committee for the break-out sessions which are catching on throughout the other districts. But what if we developed a conference – let’s call it a “Great Ideas Conference” – where the conference itself would be completely devoted to exciting, energizing, motivating conference with industry leaders who led discussion on such topics as marketing, fundraising, membership recruiting and retention with cultural entertainment. What if this were open to current delegates and lodge officers but what if this was open to everybody. What if anyone of our nearly 70,000 members could be a part of this? What would that do to Sons of Norway’s future?

Speaking of human interaction and resources, we have Len here working very hard and diligent with our field force. We have Cindy Olson who is putting such an emphasis on the

Foundation. But we also have great talent and expertise among the rest of the Headquarters staff and I encourage you to contact me or the headquarters staff if there is anything that we can do to help. That's why we are there. Thank you so much for inviting me to be part of another great convention."

President Ralph thanked Eivind and reiterated that in the past three years, District 3 had about 1300 new members and of that group the average was 54.5 years noting there are lots of younger people coming into Sons of Norway. This group is computer literate since 20 percent of the members in District 3 signed up on line last year. Ralph also reiterated the District 3 web site traffic a year ago was 50 per day and now it has increased to 184 per day. The most we have had is 256 in one day. Ralph said in the past seven days 208 on average are visiting the web site.

President Ralph mentioned that he and Barbara Berntsen, past District President and current International Director, have been very fortunate because in the past three years five new lodges have come on board. "When you walk into a new lodge institution, the enthusiasm is spectacular. And it's great to see that excitement no matter what the age. We can all get excited. We did lose good lodges as well, but the strongest of the good lodges will help make the District grow in the next two years."

Ralph also mentioned our military members who are on active duty in combat zones and that dues can be waived by the lodge, the District will waive same, and that lodges should then let SON know, so they can waive the dues as well.

President Ralph then introduced Gail Ekloff, Vice President, to the podium who then announced the tellers for the Convention which include Gladys Balzarano, Sun Viking Lodge; Bjørn Solli, Oslo Lodge; and Kari Williams, Troll Lodge. The greeters for the morning include Eric Bjørseth, Fredriksten Lodge and Rita Tweed, Gateway to Florida Lodge. The marshalls are Njál Svege from Brooklyn and Gladys Johnson, Restauration Lodge.

Then President Ralph asked if any lodges planned to enter a bid to host the 2012 Convention to please let him know. Referring to the traveling gavel mentioned earlier, Ralph stated that the president of Hudson Valley Lodge is the granddaughter of the man who carved it.

President Ralph introduced Cindy Olson, SON Foundation Director, and complimented her on the fine job she has been doing since assuming Foundation responsibilities. He credited her with outstanding fundraising capabilities that include the pink piggybank with "Pass the Piggy" written on it.

Cindy Olson told the delegates this is her first time attending a District 3 Convention and she is very excited to be part of it. She said that each lodge has received a piggy that needs to be "fed" on a regular basis. Cindy started the feeding by putting \$20 in one piggy and welcoming lodge challenges throughout the convention. She continued that the Foundation has been very active in the past biennium offering a wide variety of scholarships and grants to our members and lodges. "We like to call it the jewel in the crown and consider it one of the best member benefits." The Foundation provides funding for cultural events and creates opportunities for cross cultural exchange through grants. We partner with the lodges through scholarships. One such scholarship is founded in memory of Nancy Jensen by her parents and is awarded to young women who study science. King

Olaf Norwegian American Fund is for anyone studying American/Norwegian topics. Cindy asked the delegates for a show of hands if their lodges have Adopt-a-School programs, because the Foundation makes funds available. She also mentioned the lodge partnership grants and gave examples of lodges receiving money. Cindy said the Walk-a-thon forms that were mailed to everyone as another fund raiser for members hit by natural disasters (such as the flood in the Red River Valley, Hurricanes Charlie and Katrina, 9-11 terrorist attack, the Tsunami, etc.). During the District Convention, monies received through the piggy banks and the Walk-a-thon will go to the Humanitarian Fund that provides money for members in distressed situations. Cindy also said the Walk-a-thon would be at 6:45 a.m. the next morning.

The Foundation was established in 1966. Cindy mentioned that she was an early grant recipient when she was a member of Oslo lodge #2 and her daughter received a scholarship for camp using the Draxten funds. Cindy stated that she receives over 250 applications annually and they award between \$90-100,000 annually. Overall \$4 million has been awarded.

Cindy then reviewed the lodges in District 3 that have included grants in 2009: Hudson Valley (local lodge partnership); Gateway to Florida (Knut Eric Jensen Concert); Hudson Valley (parade float); North Carolina Vikings (Syttende Mai picnic and parade); Vennekretsen (Knut Eric Jensen concert); Hampton Roads (Adopt a School); Gateway to Florida (Adopt a School); Maine Nordmenn (Adopt a School); Zone 1 (Children's Heritage Fair); Norumbega (general heritage/cultural grants); North Carolina Vikings (geneology workshop); Land of the Vikings (heritage workshop); Norumbega (two scholarship recipients); Washington (two scholarship recipients); Vennekretsen (one scholarship recipient); and Færder (two scholarship recipients). District 3 has received \$33,600 in scholarships the past two years and \$38,805 in grants. In the past two years, the SON Foundation has given \$193,000 in grants and scholarships. The Foundation packets will be mailed to the Lodge Foundation Directors in September. Cindy also mentioned that lodges would receive an on-line survey mid-June for lodges who give scholarships to ensure they are following the appropriate IRS guidelines.

When money is given to the heritage and cultural fund, monies are then available for programming. Monies donated to the humanitarian fund go for Adopt-a-School and disaster relief; funds in the general fund go for scholarships. Cindy said that the Foundation lost \$1.2 million on paper during the economic crisis but is back with a \$1 million. The funds earn interest and the Foundation uses only the interest to fund the grant and scholarship awards. Cindy said that donations can be made online along with donations sent by mail. Applications, general information, recent recipients and the annual report are online in the SON Foundation section of the SON web site.

President Ralph thanked Cindy for her presentation and for her efforts on behalf of the SON Foundation. Then he recognized Convention Chairperson Kathy Dollymore who introduced the very talented Schwandt Family who performed nearly an hour with varied musical selections. Eric and Joan Schwandt were both raised in large Christian families, seven children each, in northwestern Chester County. After 22 years of marriage, they formed the Schwandt Family Chamber Ensemble to bring hope and joy to others. The Ensemble consists of the father, mother and their seven children (five daughters and two sons) ranging in age from 6 to 21 years and musical skill from beginner to advanced. The music they play is classical and sacred and as a family they play many instruments. For the Convention they played violins, violas, cellos, flute, guitar and recorders. The Schwandt

Family Chamber Ensemble also sang and played their own renditions of classical pieces and even delighted the Convention delegates with both a Swedish and a Norwegian song. While various family members changed instruments, Mr. Schwandt told the delegates that each family members practices three – four hours daily. He also informed all that they are bee-keepers and the family gave away jars of honey to the oldest delegate and the couple married the longest who were both attending the Convention.

After a rousing encore, President Ralph thanked the Schwandt Family Chamber Ensemble and told the delegates that a link regarding their honey would be available on our District web site.

Ann Marie Seddon, Hudson Valley Lodge, said that alternate delegate Ragnhild Johnsen is sitting in for delegate Julia Nilsen for only Thursday and that Julia will assume her delegate duties Friday. Nalda Olson, Bondelandet Lodge, said that alternate delegate Gene Olson is sitting in for Marilyn Corneliussen who is in the hospital, but who will assume her delegate duties Friday.

MOTION MADE and SECONDED to seat the alternate delegates (Olson and Johnsen) for Thursday. MOTION CARRIED.

President Ralph once again excused the Credentials Committee who will provide a delegate report following lunch. Ralph stated that there is no Fraternal Programs Committee this convention and that the Reports and Resolution Committees have only three members. This is because of a reduced number of resolutions, which is not unique to District 3, but is reported from the other districts as well. President Ralph stated that if this trend continues, committees may be combined to more efficiently handle the resolutions. In District 6, they have one member from each zone and they pick a chairman for the three committees.” President Ralph said.

President Ralph asked for a motion to accept the 2008 convention minutes which have been sent to the International Board and the convention delegates. He stated that spelling and grammatical changes have been received and incorporated into the minutes. All comments will be filed with the minutes. **Gene Olson, Bondelandet, MOVED and Rolf Ekloff, Loyal Lodge, SECONDED that the 2008 Convention minutes be approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

Secretary Marci Larson provided brief instructions to the delegates regarding the written parliamentary procedures that were distributed and asked everyone to read through them. She also stated that if a delegate wishes to address the convention body the individual must first be recognized by the President; then speak into a microphone that is placed at several locations in the room; provide name, lodge name and number, and the paddle number before proceeding. Marci also explained that the delegate roll call will be taken each morning and each afternoon and if a delegate is either temporarily absent or absent for a longer time, please so state.

Secretary Marci also shared a note of best wishes for a fruitful and successful convention from Ed Trabulsy, former District President and International Director. Ed concluded that he and his wife Peggy hope to see many members at the 100th anniversary of Færder Lodge in Brooklyn March 26, 2011.

President Ralph mentioned the CD of the 2008 convention that is available for sale at \$10, which was prepared by Hampton Roads Lodge Secretary June Cooper.

President Ralph told the delegates that three new lodges have been instituted since our last district convention. Providing background information and per the District Bylaws, Ralph stated the District Board assigned these lodges to various zones: two were assigned to Zone 6 and one was assigned to Zone 5. "As you can well understand, location is key to the zone selection by the Board. The District Board is recommending that a new Zone 7 encompassing the mid-Atlantic area be created to include Vennekretsen Lodge in Atlanta; Southern Star in Myrtle Beach, SC; Norsk Carolina in Charlotte; North Carolina Vikings in Raleigh; Drammen Lodge in New Bern, NC; Hampton Roads Lodge and Blåfjell in Roanoke, VA. The benefits will be improved geographic proximity which will create better communications and hopefully opportunities for lodges to partner for events and other activities. This is already happening." Ralph added this resolution would be forthcoming from committee.

Ralph then introduced Len Carlson, Director of Agencies for Sons of Norway, for his presentation. "Len has been a SON member since 1994 and he served as president of the Synnove-Nordkap Lodge in St. Paul. He's been in the insurance business for 37 years and was appointed director of agencies in 1996. And while Len is the face that members most frequently see when it comes to fraternal benefits, others are involved as well. Our CEO Eivind Heiberg is where the buck stops. In addition Phil Tschumperlin is the Director of Insurances Services. He is in charge of under writing, the issue of new insurance certificates and is the customer service representative for life and annuity contracts. Dean Stiller is the actuary and Dean has assured me more than once that we are not dying too fast or slow, but rather right on time. Dean determines the reserves required to cover future claims and develops new life and annuity products. Having said all that, it is up to Len and his sales group to sell. And they have been doing just that. The Sons of Norway has been recording increased sales for the past few years and 2009 was a record year. 2010 might even top that. Sons of Norway formed not as a fraternal organization, but as an insurance company that has lasted 115 years. Not only does the fraternal benefits side provide member protection, but it also provides hundreds of thousands of dollars that support our fraternal side. If we were to depend on our dues to support our organization we would be in deep trouble. Thankfully, that is not the case."

Len Carlson introduced the Financial Benefits Counselors attending the Convention. He then gave a short power point presentation of which key information is presented in these convention minutes:

- SON has never defaulted on an obligation in its 115-year history and currently operates with \$282 million in assets and \$6.8 million in surplus.
- SON was founded in 1895 when 18 Norwegian immigrants each contributed a small amount weekly in return for medical care and financial assistance during times of need.
- SON focuses on three core business areas: fraternal, financial and foundation
- Fraternal operations include cultural education programs and resources (online language courses, cultural skills and sports medal programs), special events, web presence with lodge events, recipes and other cultural information.

- In 2007 over \$1.1 million in insurance profits and over \$1.26 million from insurance profits in 2008 were used to publish *Viking* magazine and provide cultural and heritage programs.
- Annually, SON asks the Standard Analytical Service, Inc. to prepare their Independent Comparative Report, which provides significant factual analysis of Life Insurance companies.
- SON is compared with 25 of the largest life insurance companies in the U.S. Their average is \$105.85 while SON is \$102.48.
- With regard to assets in bonds, stocks, cash and short-term investments, the average of the 25 largest life companies is \$47.89, while SON is \$95.78.
- The Financial Statement Summary as of Dec. 31, 2009, show admitted assets of \$282,315,070; policy reserves of \$260,008,674; total liabilities of \$275,485,181; total income of \$52,065,651; gross surplus of \$6,829,889; Insurance issued of \$63,966,000 and Insurance in Force at \$627,460,000.
- The Financial Benefits Counselors help members protect their families in the event of death; fund college educations; plan for retirement; and, plans to accumulate and protect assets and not outlive them.
- SON provides sound financial products that include life insurance, tax-deferred annuities; immediate annuities; traditional Roth IRA's; long-term care, Medicare supplement and disability income, all provided by affiliated companies.

Len then thanked the delegates for their attention and wished them well at the Convention. President Ralph thanked Len for the update on the SON fraternal benefits. The Convention recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

Thursday Afternoon Session, June 10, 2010

President Ralph opened the afternoon session at 1:20 p.m. Luana Jøsvold led the delegates with a song and the Secretary called the roll with 133 delegates present for a 67 majority and a two-thirds vote of 88.

Vice President Gail explained the role of greeters and marshalls requesting that two chairs be placed at each door and the delegates use the front and middle doors to enter and exit. Greeters are Solveig Hellstrom, Norrøna Lodge and Ed Neugaard, Tampa Bay Lodge. Marshalls are Don Rush, Scandia Lodge and Edith Rasmussen, Færder Lodge.

President Ralph called the Credentials Committee for an updated report on convention delegates. Chairman Arnie Johnsen, Zone 4 Director, referred the delegates to pages 2 – 6 of the convention reports book, which listed delegates when the convention book was printed. Brother Arnie stated the following changes:

Bernt Balchen 3-566: no changes

Blåjfell Lodge 3-646: no delegates seated

Bondelandet 3-612: Marilyn Corneliussen replaces Ken Fagerheim; Gene Olson, alternate, sitting in Thursday.

Brooklyn Lodge 3-243: no changes

Dovre Lodge 3-232: no delegates seated

Drammen Lodge 3-682: no delegates seated

Færder Lodge 3-109: Alternate delegate Carol Silva replaces Else Liebermann

Fram Lodge 3-564: Alternate delegate David Dunlop replaces Solfrid Kugler

Fredriksten Lodge 3-125: no changes except Ron Bjørnseth should be spelled **Bjørseth**

Garborg Lodge 3-265: no changes
Gateway to Florida 3-541: no changes
Gulf Coast Vikings Lodge 3-683: no delegates seated
Gulfstream Lodge 3-514: no changes
Hampton Roads Lodge 3-522: no changes
Hartford Lodge 3-474: Anne Hoff-Laliberte should be listed as Annamor Laliberte
Henrik Ibsen Lodge 3-393: no changes
Hudson Valley Lodge 3-432: Alternate Mel Seddon replaces Randi K. Tolfsen; Alternate Ragnhild Johnsen replaces Julia Nilsen for the Thursday session.
Lauderdale Lodge 3-475: Delegate Jan Rubinov is not attending.
Loyal Lodge 3-252: Alternate delegate Rolf Ekloff replaces Judy Fleming
Maine Nordmenn Lodge 3-664: no changes
Morgensolen Lodge 3-545: No delegates seated
Nansen Lodge 3-410: Alternate delegate Jim McKillop replaces Brian Olsen; Lillian Kuell replaces Sally A. Lorentzen.
North Carolina Vikings Lodge 3-675: no changes
Nor-Bu Lodge 3-427: no changes
Norden Lodge 3-407: no changes
Nordkap Lodge 3-215: add Janice Thompson as a delegate
Noreg Lodge 3-466: Alternate delegate Millie Johnson replaces Ellen Hansen
Norrøna Lodge: no changes
Norsemen Lodge 3-572: Delegate Karin Petrovsky is not attending
Norsemen Harbour Lodge 3-643: no changes
Norsk Carolina Lodge 3-679: no changes
Norumbega Lodge 3-506: Alternate delegate Hans Christensen replaces Andrew Paul Holman and alternate delegate Vera Ryen Gregg replaces Peter Hanson
Oslo Lodge 3-438: no changes
Peconic Lodge 3-485: no delegates seated
Pleasant Point Lodge 3-439: Anny Andersen and Randi Kvalo were seated as delegates
Port Orange 3-551: no delegates seated
Restauration Lodge 3-555: no changes
Sarasota Lodge 3-539: no changes
Scandinavian Heritage Society Lodge 3-433: no changes
Scandia Lodge 3-617: no changes
Skaugum Lodge 3-468: no delegates were seated
Southern Star Lodge 3-630: no changes
Space Coast Lodge 3-615: no delegates were seated
Sun Viking Lodge 3-607: Alternate delegate Ron Martinsen replaces Gail Martinsen
Suncoast Lodge 3-562: no changes
Tampa Bay Lodge 3-515: Delegates John Hliviak and Turid Centineo are not attending; Alternate delegate Hannah Neugaard replaced John.
Troll Lodge 3-476: no changes
Vikingworld Orlando Lodge 3-501: no changes
Washington Lodge 3-428: Alternate delegate Ardis Morton replaces delegate Caitlyn Howell

District Lodge Officers, page 12: Asst. Zone 5 Director Gail Martinsen replaces Zone Director Carol Anderson who is not attending. Audun Gythfeldt, International Secretary, is not attending because he is at the District 8 Convention. Sports and Recreation Director Phil Nelsen is not attending because of illness.

President Ralph asked for a motion to approve the report of the Credentials Committee. **It was MOVED and SECONDED to approve the Credentials Committee's report as presented with changes to the convention delegates. MOTION CARRIED.**

President Ralph announced the following meetings: Zone 3 will caucus in the Susquehanna Room Thursday evening; Zone 5 will caucus in the convention meeting room immediately following the convention recess; and the LOV Long-range Planning Committee will meet one hour following the convention recess in the back of the convention meeting room.

Delegate Don Ohnemus, Hampton Roads Lodge, said the two-thirds majority with 133 delegates should be 89. President Ralph so corrected the number.

President Ralph introduced the Convention Parliamentarian, Kristen Lindtvedt, a native of Minnesota, and who works part-time professionally in parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order.

President Ralph announced that anyone in the Walk-a-thon collecting \$250 will receive a King Harold Medallion.

President Ralph introduced International Director Barbara Berntsen by saying, "she needs no introduction because she has been serving the district for many years in many ways. She has worked tirelessly at Land of the Vikings where she painted the flag pole and also stepped through the roof at one of her work weekends. Not only is she working for District 3, but she is a contributor on the international scene as well."

Sister Barbara apologized for leaving the session Thursday morning, but she had a touch of food poisoning. She then referred the delegates to pages 15-19 of the Convention Reports book relative to a Candidate's application for the Office of International Board Director or Alternate, which must be completed for anyone wishing to be considered for these positions. She reiterated that Sons of Norway is a \$300 million insurance company so it is vitally important that a background check be done on all international officers. She also reminded the delegates that to be considered for an International Officer position, you must be a delegate to the International Convention and a benefits member.

President Ralph then called the Law Committee forward. David Tonnessen, Nordkap Lodge, is the chair. Prior to the other members being introduced, Peter Vatne, Norumbega Lodge, stated as a point of order that the parliamentary procedures distributed earlier and referenced by the Secretary in the morning session must be approved by two-thirds vote of the delegates. Brother Peter **MOVED that the parliamentary rules be adopted. Motion SECONDED and CARRIED to adopt the procedures as presented.**

President Ralph told the delegates the Tampa Bay Lodge that submitted Resolution #13 has withdrawn it from consideration. Brother David then introduced his committee which included Charlie Abrahamson, Maine Nordmenn; Karin Gudbranson McCadam, Oslo Lodge; and Peter Vatne, Norumbega Lodge. David said the committee reviewed eight resolutions, which have been reduced to seven because of substitutions.

Sister Karin read resolution #3 into the record which is as follows:

**District Three Bylaws Change Eliminating
Zone and Local Lodge Information
Submitted by District Lodge No. 3 Board
APPROVED**

WHEREAS, the District Bylaws require a two-third vote in order to change the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws give the District Board of Directors the authority to assign lodges to Zones; and

WHEREAS, such changes require approval by vote at the next District Lodge meeting effectively delaying such changes for up to two years often resulting in outdated information in the Directories;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that paragraph two of Article X of the District 3 Bylaws be removed from the Bylaws and moved to the Policy Manual and the remaining paragraphs be renumbered.

This resolution has no financial impact on the Sons of Norway.

The Law Committee recommends approval of Resolution #3, given that the Third District Board consistently and very actively visits local lodges and has its thumb on the pulse of established lodges as well as assists in the rebirth of dying lodges and helps to organize new lodges. The Third District Board should be entrusted with the oversight of assigning lodges to the respective zones.

Delegate Sandy Ginsburg asked if the Executive Committee or the entire District Board had voted on the resolution. President Ralph replied that the District Board had voted on his resolution. **Karin MOVED to approve resolution #3; motion SECONDED and CARRIED.**

David asked Charlie Abrahamson to discuss Resolution #7, which is submitted as a substitute resolution by the Law Committee. Chairman Tonnessen said the Law Committee had substitutions for four resolutions, which were then distributed to the convention delegates. He asked President Ralph if the entire substitute resolution should be read or just the THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED. President Ralph instructed that the entire resolution be read. Chairman David reiterated for the delegates that they should have copies of substitute resolutions #1, #7, #8 and combined #4 and #9. Once the delegates received the substituted resolutions, Brother Charlie read Substitute Resolution #7 into the record:

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION #7
International Director Term
Submitted by District 3 Convention Committee on Laws
DEFEATED

WHEREAS, the term of office for an International Director, as specified in paragraph 2.11.6 of the Sons of Norway Charter and Constitutions, is the only position on the International Board including the Alternate International Director to be of more than two years duration; and

WHEREAS, no District now has more than one International Director; and

WHEREAS, it could greatly benefit Sons of Norway for each District President to share his/her knowledge and have the opportunity of becoming an International Director immediately after having served as District President; and

WHEREAS, District Presidents are now serving two terms of two (2) years as District President so their terms expire at the time the International Director's term expires, thus stymieing the development of good capable people with fresh ideas to become District Presidents because of the extended amount of years it now takes to achieve the Presidency; and

WHEREAS, new people with fresh ideas are needed to keep our Organization vibrant in a time of declining membership and status quo development;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that paragraph 2.11.6 be amended by replacing the first sentence to read as follows:

The term of Officers and Directors shall be two years, or until their successors have been elected and installed.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution take effect starting with the 2010 International Convention for International Directors elected this year; and for Directors in the middle of their four-year term, this resolution takes effect at the end of their current term.

This resolution has no financial impact on Sons of Norway.

The Law Committee MOVED to adopt substitute resolution #7. Charlie explained that until several years ago each district had two International Directors, which rotated every two years. Because of cost cuts, it was reduced to one International Director, but the terms were never changed from four to two years.

Delegate Don Ohnemus, Hampton Roads, raised a point of clarification that in the fourth **Whereas** the verbiage implies that district presidents are entitled to two two-year terms and recommends language adjustment. Delegate Peter Vatne stated that the delegates should discuss the full substitute resolution before looking at specific sections to which President Ralph concurred. **Motion SECONDED and CARRIED to accept Substitute Resolution #7.**

Delegate Arnie Johnsen, Hudson Valley Lodge, spoke in support of the resolution stating that since district presidents have been attending International Board meetings for the past six or eight years that they have an elevated learning curve regarding International Board issues and therefore as they might become an International Director the learning curve is not so severe because of this new exposure that would require an individual to hold the position for a four-year term to be more productive in exercising the duties. Arnie continued that we talk about stagnation and lodges dying with presidents in place for 10/12 or longer years with the outcome of lodges folding. On a broader plain, he mentioned situations where district board and international board members are in place 20 years and more, which in his opinion does not generate new ideas.

International Director Barbara Berntsen spoke in opposition of the resolution stating that if all eight International Directors changed at the same time it would create a breakdown in continuity and institutional history. In 2010, four districts will vote for International Director, while in 2012 the four other districts will also vote for International Director representing a continuity of directors with two years experience. Barbara clarified that in District 3 an Alternate International Director is elected for two years.

Delegate Sandy Ginsberg, Garborg Lodge, spoke in opposition to the resolution stating that adequate time is needed for the learning curve, which takes about two years, when then International Directors can be assigned to committees as members and possibly chairs.

Delegate David Dunlop, Fram Lodge, stated this resolution has been passed three times at the district and then defeated three times at the International Convention. He suggested that the District 3 Bylaws be changed so the District President is only a two-year term.

Delegate Charlie Nilson, Gulfstream Lodge, after stating various reasons recommended the resolution be defeated. President Ralph called for the vote. **MOTION to approve Resolution # 7 was Defeated.**

Chairman David moved discussion to Resolution #12, which Brother Charlie read into the minutes as follows and which the Law Committee recommended approval.

Resolution #12

Short Form of Installation of Ceremonies

Submitted by Norumbega Lodge 3-506

APPROVED

WHEREAS, the Sons of Norway Guide for Leadership recommends 10 to 20 minutes for a business meeting; and

WHEREAS, it may be necessary to install officers of a Local Lodge quickly in order that other pressing business or social or cultural programs may be attended to; and

WHEREAS, the Guide for Leadership has a long form and a revised form of the Installation Ceremonies, but no alternative short form; and

WHEREAS, the Guide for Leadership already has detailed job descriptions for each officer and the Guide for Leadership is available online;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Lodge develop an alternative short form of the Installation Ceremonies of approximately 10 minutes or less wherein all the Local Lodge officers may be installed at the same time.

Because the modified Guide for Leadership can be published online, the estimated financial impact is \$0.

Motion MADE and SECONDED. Several delegates spoke both for and against the resolution. **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #12 CARRIED.**

The Law Committee moved to Resolution #2, which Sister Karin read into the convention minutes. The Law Committee recommends this resolution be defeated.

Resolution #2
Removing Article VI, Duties of Officers, from District Bylaws
Submitted by District Lodge No. 3 Board
DEFEATED

WHEREAS, the job descriptions for district officers are presented in the District Bylaws in Article VI, Duties of Officers; and

WHEREAS, the job descriptions are also in the District Policy Manual; and

WHEREAS, any changes to job descriptions presented in the District Bylaws can only be made during the District Lodge Convention in even-numbered years causing unnecessary delay in implementing necessary changes; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Manual may be changed as dictated by business needs and only with approval of the District Board;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article VI, Duties of Officers be removed from the SON District Lodge No. 3 Bylaws and be maintained in the District Policy Manual, which is available to all District members.

This resolution has no financial impact on Sons of Norway.

Karin offered the following concerns of the Law Committee:

1. The comprehensive updating of the Policy Manual is a monumental task and is still in process. Therefore, no final District Policy Manual is readily available for review by District members.
2. Given there are specific essential responsibilities of District Officers, especially at the Executive Board, the Law Committee has reservations of removing this language from the Bylaws.
3. The District 3 Board has oversight of two important entities of which there is not an equal in the other districts. These include the Charitable Trust and Land of the Vikings and as a Committee we would like to better understand how any District 3 Board would maintain or change the oversight of these two entities. Therefore we recommend defeat of Resolution #2.

President Ralph asked for delegate discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote on the **MOTION to defeat the Resolution, which was carried.**

Chairman Tonnessen asked Peter Vatne to read Substitute Resolution #1. **MOTION MADE to accept this resolution. MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Substitute Resolution #1
Notification of Special Meetings
Submitted by District 3 Convention Committee on Laws
APPROVED with the word telegram eliminated

WHEREAS, the Constitution is not clear in its guidance to local lodges for calling Special Meetings thus requiring the application of Robert's Rules of Order to supplement the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, clarifying the procedure will speed up decision making and give clear guidance and increased protection to all members' rights;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Paragraph 4.2.4 be revised to read as follows:

4.2.4 NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL MEETINGS

The President shall cause all members to be informed of the time, place and purpose of such Special Meeting. No other matters than those mentioned in the notice shall be considered. Such notice shall be given to each member at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting date. Such notice shall be made by mail, email, facsimile or other electronic print medium.

This resolution would cause minimal financial impact on Sons of Norway.

The Law Committee recommends adopting Substitute Resolution #1 because the Constitution is not clear and this resolution would clarify the process. Suggestion made to change language to read that each member shall receive notice at least seven days ahead. Chairman David said by law it is only necessary to prove when a notice is sent only and not when it may be received. Another delegate suggested that his lodge meets every 14 days and therefore a seven day notice would not represent a meeting of urgency.

Delegate Roger Sean, Norsemen Harbour, asked the last time anyone received a telegram and **MOVED to strike the word "telegram" from the wording. MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Delegate Bjørg Dunlop, Fram Lodge, **MOVED** to change the word given to "sent" to each member. **MOTION SECONDED.** Brother Charlie mentioned that a person could be handed or given a notice, which is not the same as being sent. Another delegate suggested changing the word to transmit. **AMENDED MOTION to change the word from given to sent is DEFEATED.**

Delegate Don Ohnemus, Hampton Roads, **MOVED to change** the word given to "transmitted." **MOTION SECONDED and DEFEATED.**

President Ralph called for the vote on the substitute resolution eliminating the word "telegram." **MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Tonnessen asked Peter Vatne to discuss Combined Substitute Resolution 4 and 9 which he read into the minutes. Peter referred the delegates to pages 64 and 69.

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION #4
COMBINING RESOLUTIONS #4 and #9
Calling Special Meetings by Local Lodges
Submitted by the District 3 Convention Committee on Laws
APPROVED

WHEREAS, Section 4.2.3 of the 2008-2010 SON Constitution states that if the Lodge President receives a written demand for a Special Meeting signed by five Lodge members, it shall be the President's duty to call such a Special Meeting;

WHEREAS, sometimes Special Meetings have been called for matters that could have waited until the next scheduled meeting; and

WHEREAS, the number five is an arbitrary number and does not take into account the membership size of each individual lodge; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that the reason to call a special meeting is truly valid and a concern of a representative number of lodge members;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 4.2.3 be amended to read as follows:

4.2.3 SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the President. It shall be the President's duty to call such Special Meetings, if the Board of Directors so decides or if the President receives a written demand, signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the members of the lodge, or signed by five (5) members of the lodge if the lodge has less than fifty (50) members.

The resolution has no financial impact on the Sons of Norway.

MOTION MADE to combine these two resolutions; MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED. The Law Committee recommends adopting the resolution. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED.**

At this juncture, President Ralph announced the coffee break. Following the delegates return, the Bondelandet delegation said one delegate Roger Corneliussen had departed to get his wife Marilyn from the hospital and both would return Friday as delegates. President Ralph said the delegate count is now 133; simple majority is 67 and two thirds is 89.

Law Committee Chairman Tonnessen deferred to Peter Vatne to discuss Substitute Resolution 8 with the original on page 69.

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION #8

Addition of "Counselor" to the Local Board of Directors
Submitted by the District 3 Convention Committee on Laws

APPROVED

WHEREAS, Paragraph 4.13.1.1 of the 2008-2010 SON Constitution does not include "Counselor;" and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 3.1.3.1 of the 2008-2010 SON Constitution includes Counselor as a member of a District Lodge Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, a Counselor usually has served as the President of the same Local Lodge and is knowledgeable of its affairs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following sentence be added to Paragraph 4.13.1.1:

If the Local Lodge chooses to elect a Counselor, the Counselor shall also be a member of the Local Lodge Board of Directors.

This resolution has no financial impact on Sons of Norway.

Discussion ensued about substituting this resolution for the original. **MOTION MADE and SECONDED to substitute resolution 8; MOTION CARRIED.**

Delegate Verlin Morton, Washington Lodge, stated an error in numbering regarding paragraph 3.1.3.1, which should correctly read 3.13.1 on page 37 of the SON Constitution and **MOVED to amend the resolution with that correction.** Parliamentarian ruled that a second and vote is not required to make the correction.

International Director Barbara **MOVED to amend the resolution so that it reads: the local lodge board of directors shall consist of all elected lodge officers. MOTION SECONDED.** Discussion ensued among the delegates. **AMENDMENT FAILED.**

President Ralph asked for additional discussion regarding the substituted resolution. Additional discussion ensued, which included comments from Karin McCadam who stated the Law Committee approves the Substitute Resolution #8 because it leaves it up to the local lodge whether to have the Office of Counselor, and it does not mandate that a Lodge have, create or fill a position of Counselor. Simply, that if a lodge chooses to have a Counselor then the Lodge Board would benefit from having that voice as a part of the lodge leadership.

The Law Committee recommends adopting the resolution. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and CARRIED to accept Substitution Resolution #8.**

President Ralph asked International Vice President Marit Kristiansen to award the winners in the Sons of Norway Fall Frenzy Membership Contest of which both the large and small lodges are from District 3. As President Ralph reminded the delegates, "District 3 did pretty darn good winning in both categories. Each lodge will receive a \$500 check for their efforts," he said.

Sister Marit awarded the first place award to Dovre Lodge in the small lodge category. Zone 2 Director Judi Mack accepted for the Lodge which was unable to send delegates. Gateway to Florida Lodge in Jacksonville won first place in the large lodge category. Kent Larson, Vice President, accepted on behalf of the Lodge. Then he asked, "Where's the check?" to which President Ralph replied, "On my bed in Virginia Beach."

President Ralph then called nominations for the District Board.

- Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, nominated Kathy Dollymore for Public Relations Director.
- Luana Jøsvold, Norumbega Lodge, nominated Keith Lavin for District Vice President.
- Arnie Johnsen, Hudson Valley Lodge, nominated Mary Andersen for Counselor.
- Kris Rasmussen, Loyal Lodge, nominated Ken Johnson for District President.
- Louis Olsen, Nordkap Lodge, nominated Ralph Peterson for District President.

President Ralph called for nominations three times. Hearing no further nominations he closed nominations with a reminder that nominations would reopen every day throughout the convention until the elections are held Saturday morning.

President Ralph then asked Counselor Louis Olsen to report on the Charitable Trust (CT). Louis thanked the delegates who had elected him because he said that he gained a very valuable experience from it. "The Charitable Trust was started in 1971 by lodges in the Brooklyn area who decided that the fraternal spirit of the Sons of Norway can be brought into the Third District. So they wrote they would like to sponsor a trust to provide some financial assistance for the aged, infirmed or those under special hardship. They recommended this be handled by modest monthly checks. And when this comes up each month I send the checks to those who have qualified along with a letter and personal note letting them know about the Third District or other activities. As Counselor, when I receive a letter from a Lodge which suggests that there is a member who may be qualified, I then send a letter and application to get as much information both financial and personal and, when I gather this, I then present it to the Executive Committee members who are also the trustees of the Charitable Trust. As the Counselor, I assemble information and pass it along and then pass it along to the beneficiaries. District 3 has a financial advisor to provide insight as to our investments and the Administrator serves as the intermediary between the account and me. Only the Administrator and the Counselor know the identity of the CT recipients. The funding for the Charitable Trust is solely dependent on the donations of the District 3 members. We receive no outside funding whatsoever. So everything comes from the hearts of the members through their pocket book through the lodge or individually. Funding can be sent as a lodge donation or through a family donation. Roald Lodge, which disbanded Dec. 31, 2009, sent a donation of \$12,000 to the Charitable Trust.

President Ralph concluded that the job of the Counselor is a great job. He said that the Charitable Trust is the height of fraternalism. Cindy Olson, Foundation Director, closed the day's session with a challenge: District 2, with membership numbers close to District 3 membership numbers, raised \$4,000 at their convention, so they are challenging District 3 to raise the same. The Foundation Walk-a-thon is set for 6:30 a.m. The meeting recessed at 5 p.m.

Convention Session, Friday, June 11

President Ralph Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Credentials Committee Chairman Arnie Johnsen said that Hudson Valley Delegate Julia Nilsen was seated replacing Alternate Ragnhild Johnsen. Gene Olson, Bondelandet Lodge, will continue as a delegate for the remainder of the convention. President Ralph asked for the delegates' approval to seat the Bondelandet alternate as a delegate. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Luana Jøsvold accompanied the delegates as they sang the National Anthems of Canada, Norway and the United States. President Ralph led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance. Luana led the group in a second song.

The Secretary read the delegates' roll call. Delegates totaled 129; simple majority is 65 and two-thirds majority is 86. An additional delegate reported making the total 130; majority is 66 and two-thirds majority is 87. Vice President Gail Ekloff named Judith Durkin, Nor-bu Lodge and Ed McCarthy, Hampton Roads Lodge, as greeters. Marshalls are Barbara Bensen, Noreg Lodge, and Michael Tilder, North Carolina Vikings.

President Ralph said that Zone 5 Director Carol Anderson and Sports Director Phil Nelsen are not present because Phil had a medical emergency which prevented his attendance. President Ralph said that Phil would have announced various sports awards, but the information is not available and will be presented at a later time. John Hliviak, Tampa Bay, was to attend the Convention, but his wife Aud-Helen had medical issues and Bill Lund, Norumbega Lodge, was also to attend but his doctor advised against travel. President Ralph extended best wishes to everyone.

Verlin Morton, 2008 District Convention Chair, thanked the delegates who had attended the 2008 Convention, which was very successful. A \$2,500 donation was given to the Charitable Trust, a \$1,000 to District 3 and \$2,800 to the Foundation Walk-a-thon.

President Ralph called the Reports Committee, chaired by Christine Vehstedt, Bernt Balchen. Members included Nalda Olson, Bondelandet Lodge and Asbjørn Lageraaen, Henrik Ibsen Lodge. The Committee will report only significant changes and not changes in punctuation, etc. The changes begin with the following:

- Add lodge numbers 3-555 and 3-125 respectively to Restauration and Fredriksten Lodges on the cover page.
- On page 7, Roald Lodge (3-280) should be added since they disbanded Dec. 31, 2009; membership is 61. Sarasota membership should be 85 instead of 81.
- Pages 9, 10, 11, 13 in good order;
- Regarding page 14 Nalda Olsen should be spelled Olson; Karin McAdam should be spelled McCadam, insert the name of Kristen Lindtvedt as parliamentarian; Ron Martinsen replaces Gail Martinsen on the Resolutions Committee; and Kris Rasmussen replaces Carol Andersen, Zone 5 Director, on the Credentials Committee.
- Pages 20, 21 and 22 were in good order except for a minor change on page 20, fifth paragraph where *of* should be inserted before restructuring in the first sentence and 300% increase in line 8 of paragraph 5 should be changed to 200%.
- Pages 23, 24, 35, 39-43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48-50, 51-53 all in good order; however, regarding page 52 SUNY Delhi should be spelled out as State University of New York;
- Page 54 is in good order;
- The pages of the Officers of District Lodge in the back of the convention reports book have no numbers, but are in good order; also the National Anthems page is in good order.

Christine thanked the Officers for their good reports.

Kristen Stone, Washington Lodge, reported they had six delegates now seated.

MOTION MADE and SECONDED to accept the Reports Committee Report. MOTION CARRIED. President Ralph excused the Reports Committee.

President Ralph called the Resolutions Committee, chaired by Anne Marie Seddon, Hudson Valley Lodge. Members included Ron Martinsen, Sun Viking Lodge and Ed Fleming, Loyal Lodge. The Committee discussed Resolutions 5, 10 and 11. Ron read into the minutes Resolution 11.

Resolution #11
Amending Financial Impact Statements
Submitted by Norumbega Lodge 3-506
APPROVED

WHEREAS, the District Lodge No. 3 Bylaws, Article IX, Section 3, states that “any resolution to be proposed at the District Lodge Meeting (Convention), which includes the explicit or implicit expenditure of funds, shall include (a) an estimated amount of the expenditure and (b) the means by which the necessary funds are to be obtained;” and

WHEREAS, it is the fundamental right of the District Lodge to debate any part of a resolution; and

WHEREAS, amending a resolution or a financial impact statement may cause an inadequate or missing financial impact statement to become adequate;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following be appended to Article IX, Section 3 of the District Lodge No. 3 Bylaws: “These statements (or their lack) may be debated and amended or the resolution may be amended to conform to the statements or both. The District Lodge shall have final say as to whether these statements are deemed adequate or required for any particular resolution.”

Because this would only affect how the Lodge conducts its meeting, the estimated financial impact is \$0.

Ron reported that the Resolutions Committee met with the Law Committee and spent a substantial amount of time reviewing and discussing this resolution. The Committees **MOVED approval** because in the past resolutions were ruled out of order because they did not contain financial information. This resolution would help remedy that situation.

President Ralph called for discussion regarding this resolution. Hearing none, **the MOTION was SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Brother Ed discussed Resolution #5, which was read into the record.

Zone Realignment
Submitted by District Lodge No. 3 Board
APPROVED with modest word changes

WHEREAS, in the last few years we have established new lodges in the Mid-Atlantic states that previously had no Sons of Norway presence; and

WHEREAS, newer lodges that are instituted very seldom have members who previously belonged and are familiar with the Sons of Norway organization; and

WHEREAS, it is most important to have a person within reasonable traveling distance with Sons of Norway procedural and background knowledge that can nurture the lodge officers and members in strengthening their lodge and be a catalyst in fostering lodge fraternalism among other lodges in a zone; and

WHEREAS, without this guidance a new lodge may flounder and/or cease to exist; and

WHEREAS, a new Zone 7 could be established consisting of lodges in the States of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia and the southern area of Virginia which would enhance the chances of Sons of Norway growth in those States and develop greater fraternalism among the lodges in that Zone, and

WHEREAS, it is a goal of Sons of Norway to increase and maintain membership;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a new Zone 7 be established in the 3rd District that would consist of the area from West Virginia and southern Virginia extending south to and including the State of Georgia, and from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the eastern border of District 5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Zone Director and Assistant Zone Director be elected from one of the Lodges in new Zone 7 at this District Lodge Meeting. The term of the elected Directors would be until the next District Lodge Meeting as prescribed in the Third District Bylaws. The lodges that would be incorporated into Zone 7 would be Blafjell Lodge #3-646, Hampton Roads Lodge #3-522, Southern Star Lodge #3-630, North Carolina Vikings Lodge #3-675, Norsk Carolina Lodge #3-679, Atlanta Vennekretsen Lodge #3-678, Drammen Lodge #3-683 and all other lodges within the Zone 7 geographic boundaries instituted before this 2010 District Convention.

Financial Impact – Although adding another Zone Director will increase the District expenses for District Board meetings and the biennial District Convention, the additional cost would be mostly offset by the lower travel costs that would result from shorter travel distances for lodge visitations by a Zone 7 Director including overnight motel stays that are required in many instances today because of the long distances from Zone 3 or 5 that the Zone Directors currently experience.

Presently the cost to the District for a Zone Director to stay at LOV for a board meeting is \$330 per meeting and the transportation cost is about \$220 per meeting from Hampton Roads (within new proposed Zone 7) to LOV. The most recent amount paid for the delegate expense to the last convention was \$650. Based on current costs, the approximate annual cost to maintain an additional Zone Director not counting lodge installations, visitations and training sessions would amount to \$660 (2 X \$330) for board meeting lodging, \$440 (2 X \$220) for transportation expense to board meeting and \$325 (1/2 of \$650) for biennial convention expense, for a **total basic annual expense of \$1425.**

Although it is not possible to have a precise accounting of the savings, having a Zone 7 Director would reduce travel costs for the Zone Director because the geographic distance would be significantly reduced. Current distances are 620 miles each way from Naples, FL to Atlanta GA; Miami FL to Atlanta 670 miles; Philadelphia to Charlotte, NC 545 miles with other combinations within the present Zones 5 and 6 to the new Zone 7 being in the 500 mile area. It appears the furthest distance within a new designated Zone 7 would be from Virginia Beach, VA to Atlanta 585 miles. Excluding Atlanta, which is located at the furthest southern point in Zone 7, most other distance combinations between Zone 7 lodges would be 200 miles or less.

No appreciable difference in costs can be seen as a result of adding a Zone. The reduced expenses incurred by shorter travel distances for visitations, etc. would help offset the additional expense of adding another Zone Director. The many positive benefits that the

District will reap including potential increased membership and retention in the new Zone 7 will more than compensate for the actual expense, if any, to the District.

Ed stated that the Resolutions Committee recommends adoption. Delegate Roger Sean, Norseman Harbour, **MOVED that the word *presently* in paragraph 10 be changed to “currently.” MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Delegate Karin McCadam, Oslo Lodge, **MOVED to strike the words *one of* in line 2 under BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** so it does not imply that both the zone director and assistant should be elected from the same lodge. The sentence would read as follows: **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Zone director and the Assistant Zone Director be elected from the Lodges in new Zone 7. **MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Zone 4 Director Arnie Johnsen said a change should be made to the zone numbers in the last line of Financial Impact which should be Zone 6 instead of Zone 3. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and CARRIED to make this change.**

President Ralph asked for any additional discussion regarding the resolution. Hearing none, **the MOTION was SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Sister Anne Marie introduced Resolution #10 and read it into the convention record.

Resolution #10
Approval of District Lodge Meeting (Convention) Minutes
Submitted by Norumbega Lodge 3-506
AMENDED and APPROVED

WHEREAS, the District Lodge Secretary must send a copy of the minutes of a District Lodge meeting (convention) to the Sons of Norway headquarters within 45 days of such meeting; and

WHEREAS, it would seem beneficial to review and approve the District Lodge meeting (Convention) minutes before sending a copy to the Sons of Norway Headquarters and before sending a copy to members of the District Lodge; and

WHEREAS, the International Board reviews and approves the minutes of the International Lodge meeting (convention), in accordance with the recommendation of Robert’s Rules of Order; and

WHEREAS, prompt review and approval would in no way prevent a subsequent District Lodge meeting from correcting the minutes via a motion to Amend Something Previously Adopted:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following new section be added to Article III of the District Lodge No. 3 Bylaws: “The District Board shall appoint a committee to review and approve the District Lodge Meeting (Convention) minutes before the Secretary sends a copy to the Sons of Norway Headquarters.”

Because review and approval of the minutes can be carried out via e-mail, the estimated financial impact is \$0.

The Resolutions Committee recommends approval. Marci Larson, Gateway to Florida Lodge, **MOVED to amend the motion to add: The Minutes will be reviewed and approved by the District Board at the fall Board meeting. MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.** Brief discussion ensued.

MOTION made and SECONDED to approve the Resolution as amended. MOTION CARRIED. President Ralph excused the Resolutions Committee.

Convention Chair Kathy Dollymore made various announcements which included a reminder to visit the vendors and the cultural skills area and to sign up for banquet seating. The Viking Auction starts at 7 p.m. Friday. Tickets were included in the registration packet but more tickets are available.

President Ralph called the Finance Committee, chaired by Kent Larson, Gateway to Florida Lodge. Other members included Ron Bjørseth, Fredriksten Lodge; Kristin Stone, Washington Lodge; and Don Ohnemus, Hampton Roads Lodge. Also present was District Treasurer John Gregg. Don spoke to the District Lodge and Youth Camp financials; Kristin spoke to 3D Ltd. and Land of the Vikings financials; Ron spoke on the 2011/12 budgets and Kent spoke on the Charitable Trust financials. Delegate Ken Johnson suggested that for the benefit of delegates not familiar with the various components of district financials, President Ralph provide brief descriptions thereof, which he did. President Ralph explained that the D3 Ltd. is the land owner of Land of the Vikings and is administered by the District 3 Board; the Land of the Vikings Board is the operating arm of LOV; the Charitable Trust is our district foundation which works with “needy” members requiring financial support.

Kent referred delegates to pages 36/37 for the 2008 Charitable Trust Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Statement. He said the Committee found the reports to be in good order. The Committee also reviewed the 2009 Balance Sheet on page 38 and found it in good order. **MOTION MADE and SECONDED to accept the 2008 and 2009 Charitable Trust financial statements. MOTION CARRIED.**

Don said that the Finance Committee had reviewed District Lodge financial statements for 2008 and 2009 on pages 25-30 which included the financials for 2008/2009 Youth Camp to be in good order. Finance Committee recommends approval. Delegate Keith Lavin, Viking World Orlando Lodge, commented that on page 25/Financial Statement ending Dec. 31, 2008 that it references district dues and fraternal fees from 2007, which would have been included with the 2007 financial reports approved at the 2008 District Convention. District Treasurer John Gregg explained that the reference to the 2007 dues was received in January 2008 because it was for dues in 2007 with the check written in December, 2007 and deposited within the first 10 days of January. Auditor Peter Vatne said the auditors had requested that John show the dues income as it is presented for appropriate accounting. **MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to accept the District Lodge financial statements on pages 25-30. MOTION CARRIED.**

Kristin discussed 2008 and 2009 3D Ltd. and Land of the Vikings financials on pages 31-34 and said the Finance Committee has found these reports in good order. The Finance Committee recommended approval. **MOTION MADE and SECONDED to accept the 3D Ltd. and Land of the Vikings 2008/2009 financial statements on pages 31-34. MOTION CARRIED.**

Kent said the Committee had a handout regarding Land of the Vikings balance sheets. Kristin explained to the delegates that the two sheets being distributed replace pages 56 and 58 in the convention reports book which are Restated Balance Sheets for 2008/2009 Land of the Vikings. The Finance Committee asked that the Restated Balance Sheets be accepted for discussion. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and CARRIED to include these Restated Balance Sheets.** Kristin referred delegates to the Restated Balance Sheet, page 56, ending Dec. 31, 2008; page 57 LOV Special Funds Report; Restated Balance Sheet, page 58 ending Dec. 31, 2009; Profit and Loss Statements, pages 59-60. The Finance Committee found these reports from pages 55-60 to be in good order and recommended acceptance. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and CARRIED to accept these reports on pages 55-60.**

Ron and John spoke to the proposed 2011 and 2012 District budgets which were distributed to the delegates. President Ralph then called a coffee break.

When the convention resumed, the Financial Benefits Counselors announced the winner of a drawing for a gift membership to be used to bring in a new SON member (family member or friend) and not to renew personal membership. President Ralph resumed the Finance Committee's report. They asked that delegates approve page 61, the LOV Restoration Fund, which is in good order. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and CARRIED to accept this financial report.**

Delegate Burt Koske, Washington Lodge, asked why the budgets reflect a fiscal year that is not the calendar year. The Committee explained that budgets must be adopted at the District Convention which establishes the July 1 – June 30 time line. Delegate Keith Lavin, VikingWorld Orlando, asked about the proposed \$4,200 for the 3D Golf Tournament, which should be shown as \$2,100 annually. Keith so **MOVED to have that change reflected in the Proposed District budgets. MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Delegate Gladys Johnson, Restauration Lodge, asked for a clarification regarding the fraternal fee. President Ralph explained that each district member is assessed \$2, as approved by a previous convention, which then goes to the 3D Ltd for Land of the Vikings. John explained LOV has already been advanced \$10,000. Dave Dunlop, Fram Lodge, asked about the Fraternal Fund Program, which comes from SON and is given to support the Zone Memorial Services, buses to the May 17 Syttende Mai parade in Brooklyn, cultural programs within the lodges, zones and the greater Norwegian community, etc. Several other questions were asked and answered.

The Finance Committee **MOVED that the proposed District 3 Budget for 2011 and 2012 be approved with the amended change of \$2,100 for the 3D Golf Tournament. MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.** Delegates will be given a corrected copy.

Ron continued with the proposed 3D Ltd. Budget for 2011 and 2012. Delegate Peter Vatne referred to the \$75 web site expense which does not match the web site expense in the District Lodge budget. To clarify, Delegate Verlin Morton, Washington Lodge, **MOVED to change the amount to \$250 so it matches the district budget even though the expected cost is \$125 (one-fourth of \$500), which means the amount would be under budget.** Delegate Ken Gundersen, Nansen Lodge, **SECONDED the MOTION, which CARRIED.** Delegate Keith Lavin, VikingWorld Orlando, asked about the receipt of lease payments. John said the District had received them in 2008, but none in 2009.

The Finance Committee MOVED that the 3D Ltd. budget as amended be approved. MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.

The Finance Committee referred delegates to page 62, **Final Accounting for the 2008 District Convention** and found the report in good order. It was **MOVED to approve. MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Finance Committee Chair Kent Larson thanked the committee members; Treasurer John Gregg; President Ralph Peterson; LOV Board Members Rolf Ekloff, Helen Timoney and Luana Jøsvold; and Counselor Louis Olsen. President Ralph excused the Finance Committee.

President Ralph introduced Mary Andersen, Public Relations Director, and complimented Mary and her committee who facilitated a new web site which has become an incredible communications tool for the district lodges, our members and the 999/000 members. President Ralph also said Mary's newsletter, the Third District Today, is the envy of the Order.

In her presentation, Mary went to the district website and explained the various audiences the committee wanted to attract to the website. Key to a website is content and keeping the site "fresh" with information so people will return for updates. Mary said the SON technical resources of Rochelle Hockert and her team at Headquarters were invaluable in selecting a vendor and one willing to work with volunteers that change periodically. Mary said the district newsletter is posted on the web site in both word and PDF so if lodges want to copy something from the district newsletter they can do so. Mary also stated that she finds wonderful information from the lodge newsletters and shares it in the district newsletter. She mentioned the Archives section where past newsletters are found. Mary said that in an effort to attract younger people, we have a blog and she said it has information about the District Convention. Mary also mentioned the Photo Gallery and encouraged members to navigate the site and add photos from lodge events. Mary also described the Favorite Links and said that many lodges have web sites and if they were active, she linked to them. She pulled up the Henrik Ibsen site as an example. Mary thanked several members that she had used to test the site and who offered suggestions. Mary also acknowledged that having Jim Dunagan, Oslo Lodge, as the web master has been an incredible benefit not only to her but for the district website.

Mary then announced the newsletter awards saying every newsletter editor deserves recognition because being a newsletter editor is a huge job. Mary said the newsletter competition was divided into lodge size of large, medium and small. In Category A – Large – are 15 lodges; Category B – mid-sized – 19 lodges; and Category C – small lodges – 18 lodges. There is 50 percent participation. Mary said that newsletter editors are asking for improvement suggestions.

Category A: Large Lodge

Third place – Nansen(Greg Brown, editor); Second place – Suncoast (Gail Brown, editor); First Place – Norumbega (Bill Lund, editor).

Category B: Medium-sized Lodge

Third Place – Henrik Ibsen; Second Place – Bernt Balchen; First Place – Gateway to Florida (Gail Yerkes, editor).

Category C: Small Lodge

Third Place – Fram; Second Place – Space Coast Viking; First Place – Southern Star.

Certificates of Recognition are presented to all newsletter editors of the following lodges: Washington, Nordkap, Loyal, Norden, Fredriksten; Norrøna; Lauderdale; Garborg; Sarasota; Troll; Roald (Mary commented about the beautiful masthead they had); VikingWorld Orlando; Tampa Bay; Port Orange; and Norseman Harbour.

President Ralph said that it appears that no lodges will be offering a bid to host the **2012 District Convention** so the District is making a bid to do so. Louis Olsen has volunteered to assist and is providing an overview. Louis referred the delegates to a written report regarding the Anniversary Convention. The District Lodge will celebrate 100 years in 2012 and efforts are underway to invite the King of Norway or a member of the Royal family during the third week of June, 2012 to the Virginia Beach/Hampton Roads/Norfolk area because of a tie-in with a visit to NATO Headquarters. The Norwegian Ambassador has indicated he will endorse the invitation with a cover letter.

Louis mentioned that convention business would be compressed to allow time and events to celebrate the 100th anniversary which could include a President's Reception with entertainment, a musical evening with a Norwegian artist, an additional offsite musical evening at a concert hall with an extraordinary Norwegian talent performing, an afternoon Regatta with our own Viking ships followed that evening by a special Norwegian dinner with a special presentation and remarks by a member of the Royal Family. A celebratory cruise following the convention would leave from Norfolk for several days to Bermuda or up and down the coastal waters.

Louis continued that members from throughout the District will be asked to provide their experience, knowledge and time. No one or two lodges will be asked to stage this event; such an undertaking will involve many people and many lodges to form the committees needed. Seeking corporate and individual sponsors will be key to help offset the costs of this celebration. In addition, to commemorate this historic 100th anniversary, a 100-year History Book will be completed focusing on each decade. Members will be needed for this project that will also feature a narrated CD.

Louis summed up his report by saying that two groups of volunteers will be needed with one group handling the convention planning/implementation and the second group focusing on the district anniversary/entertainment/sponsorships. He also said the convention delegate package will be comparable to previous conventions and that the remodeled and refurbished Holiday Inn Virginia Beach, which is being considered, will be \$105 per night.

Louis also said he would have "sign-up" sheets for individuals/lodges expressing interest.

Delegate Per Sagaard, Færder Lodge, reminded the delegates that his lodge will celebrate its 100th anniversary March 26, 2011 and invited delegates and lodges to join in the celebration.

President Ralph reminded the delegates of the new Zone 7 and their need to caucus and elect a Zone Director.

President Ralph called for additional nominations for District offices.

- Delegate Carol King, Norsk Carolina Lodge, nominated Kristin Stone for Cultural Director.
- Marci Larson, Gateway to Florida Lodge, nominated Gail Ekloff for District Vice President.
- Delegate Verlin Morton, Washington Lodge, nominated Peter Vatne for Treasurer.
- Delegate Peg Gerding, Nor-Bu Lodge, nominated Evelyn Karpack as Youth Director.

President Ralph recessed the convention at 12 noon for lunch.

Afternoon Session, Friday, June 11

The Convention resumed at 1 p.m. Delegate Luana Jøsvold, Norumbega Lodge, led the delegates in song. Secretary Marci called the roll with 130 attending. Simple majority is 65 and two-thirds majority is 86.

Vice President Gail announced the greeters: Ingrid Hammen, Gulfstream Lodge, and Susan Maybeck, Scandinavian Heritage Society Lodge. Marshalls are Bill Horne, Maine Nordmenn Lodge and Bette Stahl, Henrik Ibsen Lodge. Delegate Charlie Nilsen, Gulfstream Lodge, said that Ingrid was not available. Gail corrected the marshall to be Bill Browne, Maine Nordmenn, not Bill Horne. Randi Nilsen, Fredriksten Lodge, is appointed as greeter.

Vice President Gail said a "Resource" sheet is being distributed to Convention delegates to learn about the talents of District members and their willingness to share their talents on a volunteer basis.

President Ralph asked Louis Olsen to resume his discussion about the 2012 Convention. President Ralph asked if any lodge was entertaining a bid to host the 2012 District Convention. Hearing none, Louis **MOVED that the District Board will host the 2012 District Convention in the Virginia Beach area with an invitation being extended to King Harald of Norway. MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.**

President Ralph announced that District 3 has been successful in recruiting efforts with a .3 percent decrease. Vice President Gail also said that District 3 is #1 in recruiting 999 members to join lodges. In 2008 there were three District folks who did a phenomenal job in recruiting and they deserve recognition.

In 2008, Nina Rosvoll, Vennekretsen Lodge recruited 11 members; Erik Kind, Vennekretsen Lodge, 14 members; and Kent Larson, Gateway to Florida Lodge, 26 members.

In 2009, Dave Thorson, Nansen Lodge, recruited 14 members and Artie Ellison, from the newly-instituted Drammen Lodge, recruited 18 members. Not only is the third winner a top recruiter in the District, he is also the top recruiter for membership in the entire Order. It is a pleasure to present Kent Larson, Gateway to Florida Lodge, with the #1 International Membership Recruiter Award. Kent brought in 32 members.

President Ralph asked Delegate Bjørg Dunlop, Fram Lodge, to give an update on **Ski for Light**. Bjørg stated this program needs to raise \$60-70,000 annually, so she thanked the

lodges who provide financial support. Ski for Light was started many years ago with a grant from the SON Foundation. This program teaches cross-country skiing to visually and physically challenged individuals. Many SON members and lodges act as guides and support staff at the regional and international events. The 2009 International Ski for Light event was held in Utah. Bjørg read comments from two participants who offered their personal endorsement of confidence building. Bjørg continued that she became involved with Ski for Light in 1987 at Land of the Vikings. Bjørg also shared that the Sportsmen program will be at LOV in July and the Ski for Light Week will be at LOV in January 2011 followed by the International Ski for Light in late January 2011 in Colorado.

President Ralph stated that the Founders Awards would be presented to lodges that had at least a 3-20 percent membership growth in one year. He said that 12 lodges in District 3 earned Founders Awards for 2008 which have been presented and include the following lodges:

- 3-232 Dovre, Providence, RI 9%
- 3-337 Norge, East Williston, NY 6%
- 3-432 Hudson Valley, Kingston, NY 10%
- 3-432 Oslo, Syracuse, NY 15%
- 3-539 Sarasota, Sarasota, FL 4%
- 3-541 Gateway to Florida, Jacksonville, FL 9%
- 3-551 Port Orange, Port Orange, FL 5%
- 3-566 Bernt Balchen, Rowlands, PA 11%
- 3-607 Sun Viking, Spring Hill, FL 5%
- 3-612 Bondelandet, Lancaster, PA 11%
- 3-615 Space Coast Viking, Melbourne, FL 6%
- 3-664 Maine Nordmenn, Falmouth, ME 14%

District 3 had nine (9) lodges earn Founders Awards in 2009 and include the following:

- 3-438 Oslo, Syracuse, NY 33%
- 3-232 Dovre, Providence, RI 25%
- 3-541 Gateway to Florida, Jacksonville, FL 17%
- 3-630 Southern Star, Myrtle Beach, SC 13%
- 3-433 Scandinavian Heritage, Rochester, NY 6%
- 3-664 Maine Nordmenn, Falmouth, ME 5%
- 3-410 Nansen, Staten Island, NY 3%
- 3-612 Bondelandet, Lancaster, PA 3%
- 3-643 Norsemen Harbour, Port Charlotte, FL 3%

President Ralph said that Dovre Lodge had seven members, but has been working to join members and now has 24. Ralph also complimented Oslo Lodge with their 33% increase coupled with a 15% increase in 2008. These two lodges were near extinction, but have returned with steady growth.

President Ralph introduced Evelyn Karpack, Youth Director, to discuss Youth Camp scheduled for July. She has 41 currently registered for the younger group and said she can fit in a few more. In the older group, 31 are currently registered. This is the largest attendance in a few years, but Evelyn said that she needs counselors. She also mentioned that she has needed a nurse for the past several years, but an EMT would also work since

injuries have been minor. Evelyn reiterated that staff at Youth Camp is NOT paid; everyone is a volunteer.

President Ralph updated the delegates regarding efforts of Bill Lund, Norumbega Lodge to secure 40 hotel rooms for District 3 members in Minot, ND, for the Norsk Høstfest. North Dakota has an oil boom and hotel rooms are scarce. A local travel agent had secured the 40 rooms and, when it became time to advertise to District members, the travel agent rechecked with the hotel to discover it had a new owner and there was no contract to support the hotel room arrangement. So, Bill will try again next year. President Ralph thanked him for the time and effort he put into working with the travel agent and others.

President Ralph introduced International Director Barbara Berntsen to provide additional information on the upcoming International Convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort and Golf Club Aug. 29 – Sept. 1. The theme is "Viking Spirit United." Seven hotel rooms are available for District 3 delegates at \$179 per night. Other rooms are available at \$199 and \$279. If anyone wishes to arrive early or stay late, room rate is \$249 which is the standard room rate. The International Convention delegate price is \$300 which includes the President's Reception and a dinner cruise buffet; Monday and Tuesday lunches, coffee breaks and the Wednesday evening banquet. Deadline date is July 15. Varied transportation is available from the Spokane Airport. A night out is planned for delegates and non-delegates to the Coeur d'Alene Casino that includes the bus trip and buffet for \$55. A floor show is available at \$15 for anyone interested. A non-delegate trip is available to the Wallace, Idaho, Mission and the Silver Mine Museum. More information is available on the SON website and has been advertised in *Viking Magazine*. Barbara said that her best cost estimates are \$1,600 for room, air fare, airport shuttle, misc. meals, etc.

President Ralph asked Cultural Director Karen Doty to present the awards for the cultural skills. Karen complimented all participants and suggested that they stand for recognition. The winning entries are as follows:

AMATEUR CATEGORY AWARDS

#1 - Hardanger - Photo Matte
Marjorie Havens, Nordkap Lodge

#2 - Hardanger – Christmas Table Runner
Theresa Thompson, Noreg Lodge

#3 - Hardanger - Heart Wall hanging
Theresa Thompson, Noreg Lodge

#1 - Needlework – Cross-stitched Pillow
Bjorg Dunlop, Fram Lodge

#2 (tie) - Needlework - Tote Bag
Marjorie Havens, Nordkap Lodge
#2 (tie) - Needlework - Rya Wall Hanging
Lillian Bolstad, Viking World Lodge

#1 - Rosemaling - Black plate
Deborah Welde, Fram Lodge

#2 - Rosemaling – Triangular Container
Else Andersen, Fram Lodge

#3 - Rosemaling - Round lid
Susan Gundersen, Sun Viking Lodge

##A-014 (no award)
Rosemaling - Black tray
Susan Gundersen, Sun Viking Lodge

##A-015 (no award)
Rosemaling - Key Box
Deborah Welde, Fram Lodge

#2 - Knitting - Bunad socks
Molly Solbak, Bondelandet Lodge

#1 - Knitting – Fish bone design socks
Molly Solbak, Bondelandet Lodge

#3 (tie) Knitting - Child's sweater
Gail Martinsen, Sun Viking Lodge
#3 (tie) - Knitting - Dolls and Toy Bear
Gail Martinsen, Sun Viking Lodge

#1 - BEST OF SHOW
Category “Other” - Hand Made Knives
Morten Johannesen, Fram Lodge

SPECIAL EXHIBIT AWARDS
(Awarded superior exhibits which did not meet registration criteria)

Decorative Carving (Acanthus) - Wooden Spoon
Morten Johannesen, Fram Lodge

Figure Carving – Troll
Sally Abrahamson, Maine Nordmenn Lodge

Knitting – Child’s sweater
AnneGrete Peterson, Hampton Roads Lodge

Rosemaling – Telemark style, Light blue plate
Debra Landvik-Larsen, Nor-Bu Lodge

Other exhibits

Figure Carving - Viking/Sword & Horn
Sally Abrahamson, Maine Nordmenn Lodge

Figure Carving – Norsk Man
Michael Fellner, Nor-Bu Lodge

Figure Carving – Viking Warrior King
Donald Orting, Norden Lodge

#2 Figure Carving - Grieg Conducts Peer Gynt Suite
Carl Johnson, Noreg Lodge

Professional Category

#3 – Figure carving - Music is so Beautiful
Carl Johnson, Noreg Lodge

#1 - Figure Carving - Mahogany Bear
Carl Johnson, Noreg Lodge

#1 - Decorative Carving - Dragon Style
Alfred Miller, Hartford Lodge

#1 - Hardanger - Runner
Elizabeth Baumgardt, Noreg Lodge

#2 - Rosemaling Plate - Telemark style (Blue & Red)
Linda Miller, Hartford Lodge

#1 - Rosemaling - Tankard, Stave Construction
Linda Miller, Hartford Lodge

#3 - Rosemaling Plate - Red Center
Eldrid Arntzen, Hartford Lodge

P-009
Knitting - Adult Sweater
Elizabeth Baumgardt, Noreg Lodge

Karen told the delegates that some exhibitors had missed the deadline so the judges were asked to evaluate any special awards that should be given. Those recognized are AnneGrete Peterson, Hampton Roads Lodge, in the amateur category even though the judges said she should participate in the Professional Category; Debbie Landvik-Larsen for a light blue plate and Charlie Abrahamson, Maine Nordmenn Lodge. Karen encouraged everyone to look at the exquisite work in the Cultural Skills Display area.

President Ralph asked Eric Nord, Gateway to Florida, for an update on the Vikings Boat Program. Eric said that he is a 10-year SON member and has been involved with the boat program since he joined. Eric said that in addition to participating in Regattas that Gateway uses its boat in land parades. The boat program is also a great family experience. Eric said the Gateway lodge has great community exposure through various events, plus the three Regattas that are held in Florida. He described the Riverside Arts Market, light parades, the Susan G. Komen Row for the Cure that featured the 2008 Olympic Gold Medal Rowing team that loved rowing “Hagar,” the replica Viking boat. Eric also mentioned that Gulfstream Lodge in Florida has the mold so new boats can be built and he can provide contact information.

Cultural Director Karen Doty came forward to announce “the Best in Show Award” to Martin Johannsen who handcrafted a pair of knives, which included the fashioning of the lade on one of the knives. Karen encouraged everyone to visit the Cultural Displays.

President Ralph invited the Land of the Vikings (LOV) Board to give their report. As the members were coming forward, Ralph made various announcements. Ralph said that a convention evaluation form would be distributed Saturday morning and asked that delegates take a few minutes to complete because the information will be invaluable in planning future conventions.

LOV Board Chairman Rolf Ekloff complimented the board and then introduced them as follows: Luana Jøsvold, marketing manager; Roy Berntsen, buildings and grounds supervisor; Helen Timoney, treasurer; and Karin Petrovsky, secretary, who could not attend because of family illness. Rolf then introduced LOV Managers Rick and Beverly Budrick. Brother Rolf said that business at LOV has not been good the past two years because of declining patronage. Rolf said that many things have been done at LOV. He encouraged delegates to talk about LOV with lodge members and plan a lodge weekend or other event at LOV.

Rolf introduced Roy Berntsen who is finishing his 8th year on the LOV Board. When Roy first started, LOV had fallen into disrepair. The property now looks clean, neat and inviting. Roy reviewed his list of accomplishments which were distributed to the delegates and are included in these minutes.

The improvements made at LOV by volunteers and hired professionals over the past 2 years:

Roof Project

- New roof on lower portion of the barn and silos
- New roof over the dining room and over the bar area

Barn Project

- Removed all NIA exhibit material from the barn
- Removed all the wood troughs
- Installed a locked room with shelves for the youth camp to store supplies
- Installed wire mesh on all the barn openings to get rid of the birds
- Outside barn and silos completely painted

Room Restoration Project

- Ongoing progress of which Luana will discuss during her presentation
- Painted rooms when requested by the lodge

Miscellaneous Projects

- Fix light and fan to have separate switches in the rooms
- Storage under serving counter
- Chair rails around the dining room
- Repaired floor tiles in the kitchen
- Cleaned and waxed the dining room chairs
- Painted the entrance doors of the main lodge and bar
- New automatic sensor lights over the bar and barn entrance
- Generator is connected to the water pump in the manager’s house
- Designed and installed armoire for new flat screen TV in the lobby
- Fabricated new sump pump manifold and ran a new 6” PVC line into a dry well in the back of the lodge

- Removed wood around play area
- Removed logs by the shuffleboard courts
- Removed the flower boxes under the dining room windows
- Replaced screen doors
- Purchased new furniture in bar area
- Repaired and secured the fencing around the septic tank
- Installed new pool liner
- White fence around property was repaired and painted
- Kitchen in the manager's house was painted
- Porch in the manager's house was painted
- Bathroom in the manager's house was finished and painted
- Repaired the basement stairs in the manager's house
- Complete new heat and hot water system for the lodge was installed
- Removed smoke eater in bar
- Moved rocks and leveled out the area where the new gas line was installed for the new heating system
- Repaired the walk in sub-zero freezer
- Repaired the septic system and leach field
- Various jobs are partially completed so I will not report on those until they are completed

Roy said, "The good news is that every weekend in June and July are booked so we cannot have work week during this 2010 summer. Most of the larger projects are completed. All other projects can be done during work weekends.

Brother Roy encouraged more people to come and enjoy both the work and fun. It is the nicest way to get to know someone on a more personal level. When you work together like this you become fast close friends.

Roy continued, "I want to thank the dedicated volunteers who worked countless hours at LOV. Their commitment has greatly enhanced the charm and provided improvements that may not be seen by the members but ensure the buildings are sound and in good shape. Without the help from these members, LOV would again begin to deteriorate. When I started this venture eight years ago I could not have envisioned all the changes that have been accomplished at LOV and the generosity of the workers, not only with their time but also their personal donations. LOV is ours and we need to keep ahead of the work.

A reminder to everyone: LOV is looking very good now. We have wonderful managers and a dedicated LOV board that spends a lot of time and effort to keep your "home away from home" in great shape. We can't do it alone. We want and need your help to keep this place going. Remember, you should use it or we may lose it," he closed.

Brother Rolf then introduced Helen Timoney, LOV treasurer the past six years, who gave a brief overview. Rolf then introduced Luana Jøsvold who said she deals with the pretty stuff at LOV, which includes the room restoration fund. She said that most rooms have been "adopted" by lodges. She reviewed the highlights. LOV Managers Rick and Bev Budrick extended personal invitations to all delegates and families to visit.

President Ralph thanked the Board and added that he has very little updated information regarding the gas lease at Land of the Vikings. He has placed calls to Chesapeake and

Stat Oil but with no response. Apparently in the area, permits have been applied for seismic testing and a test well. The gas lease was signed in 2008 and in 2009 a right-of-way lease was signed to give them the right to build a pipe line across the LOV property.

President Ralph thanked the Committee and then introduced the Tubfrim Program, which he said has been helping people for many, many years. Richard Olsen, Nor-Bu Lodge, is the Tubfrim Chairman, who is responsible for collecting stamps from lodges and individuals in District 3 and then ships them on a boat to Norway. Over 450 pounds were shipped June 2 with another 400 pounds shipped earlier in the year. Brother Richie reminded the delegates to cut the stamps leaving a quarter-inch around the stamp. He mentioned that Joan Tellefsen collects stamps which is about half of what is sent to Norway.

President Ralph said that in 2008 the District started phase 3 of Leadership Training which was completed in 2009. Unfortunately the International Board decided to stop funding in 2009, but the District continued the efforts and assumed the associated funding. He introduced Ken Johnson, Garborg Lodge, who served as Leadership Coordinator. Brother Ken referenced the report on pages 48-50. He reminded the delegates that the training has been in three parts: Phase 1 focused on self evaluation and group planning; Phase 2 focused on the SON structure and included the responsibilities and accountabilities of the membership team; and Phase 3 covered membership. He applauded the trainers who reached out to invite lodges to participate and then handled the training. He recognized Barbara Bernsten, Zone 1; John Gregg, Zone 2; Arnie Johnsen, Zone 4; George Teigland and John and Aud-Helen Hliviak from Zone 5; Doris Beck, Ardis Morton and Karen Doty, Zone 6. They visited 28 lodges that included 436 members encompassing 53.8 percent of the lodges but it was only 7.1 percent of the membership. With the new members, Ken encouraged that lodges continue the training because it's important they understand how SON works.

Ralph mentioned the Exchange of Ideas which is viewed differently than Leadership Training, but he advocates getting people together. President Ralph mentioned the hard work of the lodges in presenting the Merit Awards for 2008 and 2009.

The **2008 Gold Awards** went to the following: Loyal Lodge, President Kris Rasmussen; Nansen Lodge, President Paul Kornbrekke; Nor Bu Lodge, President Joe Zarnitz; Hudson Valley Lodge, President Anne Marie Seddon; Norrøna Lodge, President Svein Sedeniussen; Norumbega Lodge, President Vera Ryan Gregg; Gulfstream Lodge, President Charlie Nilsen; Tampa Bay Lodge, President Stan Ewanowski; Hampton Roads Lodge, President Ed McCarthy; Gateway to Florida Lodge, President Marci Larson; Suncoast Lodge, President Phil Nelsen; Bernt Balchen Lodge, President Christine Vehstedt; Sun Viking Lodge, President Jan Link; Bondelandet Lodge, President Astrid Mullen; Maine Nordmenn, President Paul Moson.

The **2008 Silver Awards** included Færder Lodge, President Frank Bolstad; Nordkap Lodge, President David Tonnesen; Garborg Lodge, President Sandy Ginsberg; Norden Lodge, President Karen Olsen; Washington Lodge, President Richard Nelson; Oslo Lodge, President Karin Gudbranson McCadam; Noreg Lodge, President Robert Bensen; Hartford Lodge, President Rosemary Donnestad; Restauration Lodge, President Kathy Dollymore; Southern Star, President Karen McIlrath;

The **2008 Bronze Awards** included Sarasota Lodge, President Mary Larsen; Morgensolen Lodge, President Harry Widman; Norsemen Lodge, President Karen Petrovsky; Space

Coast Vikings, President Janet Carlin; Norsemen Harbour, President Sonja Moreno; Blåfjell Lodge, President Jeff Rigdon; Vennekretsen Lodge, President Erik Kind.

The **2009 Gold Awards** included the following lodges: Loyal, President Kris Rasmussen; Nansen, President Paul Kornbrekke; Nor Bu, President Evelyn Karpack; Hudson Valley, President Randi Tolfen; Oslo, President Bjorn Solli; Noreg, President Robert Bensen; Hampton Roads, President Ed McCarthy; Gateway to Florida, President Marci Larson; Bernt Balchen, President Christine Vehstedt; Sun Viking, President Gail Martinsen;

The **2009 Silver Awards** included the following lodges: Sarasota, President Melvin Nelson; Washington, President Richard Nelson; Norsemen Harbour, President Sonja Moreno; Tampa Bay, President Stan Ewanowski; Nordkap, President David Tonnessen; Garborg, President Sandy Ginsberg; Norden, President Karen Olsen; Gulfstream, President Charlie Nilsen; Restauration, President Kathy Dollymore; Norrøna Lodge, President Solveig Hellstrom; Suncoast, President Christine Taylor; Norumbega, President Andrew Holman.

The **2009 Bronze Awards** included the following Lodges: Fram, President Robert Christensen; Morgensolen, President Debbie Jackson; Brooklyn, President Sigrun Larsen; Færder, President Frank Bolstad.

President Ralph congratulated the lodges for their hard work and diligence and mentioned that in the near future Lodge of the Year Awards Program would be given a new name.

President Ralph introduced Nalda Olson, Adopt a School Coordinator, who explained the Adopt-a-School Program was founded in 2002. Nalda described some of the activities that members become involved in with the schools. For lodges without an Adopt-a-School Program, she asked that delegates visit the Adopt-a-School Program booth for information and how best to start a program. She also mentioned the grants available from the SON Foundation.

President Ralph asked for additional nominations. Delegate Karin Gudbranson McCadam nominated Marci Larson, Gateway to Florida, as Secretary.

Sister Gail requested a correction to her Vice President's Report which stated she and Doris Beck had chaired the 30th Anniversary at Land of the Vikings. Gail and Doris had worked on another anniversary celebration.

President Ralph mentioned the three break-out sessions that include "Geeky" (Communications/website), "Twecky" (Lodge Management/Operations) and "Seeky" (Membership Recruitment/Retention).

Convention Chairperson Kathy Dollymore gave instructions regarding the Viking Auction scheduled for 7 p.m. that evening. Cindy Olson thanked the delegates who were walking and encouraged the other delegates to give them donations for the Foundation. The Fraternal Benefits Counselors drew two free memberships that went to Mette Andersen and Ryan Olson. President Ralph recessed the convention at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday Session, June 12, 2010

President Ralph opened the convention session at 8:35 a.m. Luana Jøsvold led the group in singing the three National Anthems, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Secretary took the roll call with 132 delegates present for a 68 majority and two-thirds vote is 89.

Delegate Peter Vatne said that Norumbega had five delegates. This did not change the vote.

Greeters are Burt Koske, Washington Lodge and Arvida Cash, Nordkap Lodge. Marshalls are Dirk Hansen, Southern Star and Barbara Wikoren, Loyal Lodge.

Ralph complimented the Convention Committee on the successful Viking Auction the previous evening. He then discussed the Committee that had been established to look at long-range options for Land of the Vikings. He said this was not the first committee and that one had been set up years ago and was then chaired by Richard Tonnessen. Their report has been invaluable to the current committee's efforts. He complimented Mary Andersen, who chairs the committee, and all the members who have been involved to provide guidance and suggestions for Land of the Vikings to become profitable and remain as one our District's shining stars.

Sister Mary said she had been extremely lucky to have Barbara Berntsen and Luana Jøsvold as her co-chairs. Mary asked for a show of hands from the delegates who had been to LOV in the past year and for those who had been there at least once. About 15 percent responded they had never been.

Mary said the Committee's objective was to create a long-range vision for LOV. "We did not want to use the words, 'long-term plan' but rather use the word 'strategy'." She said a strategy can adapt to changing times. She also said that anything developed will be SMART: specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time bound. A work plan will be developed to implement the strategy but the overriding thought is this: LOV is a business, should be run like a business and is being looked at as a business. Mary also said that as things happen, informed choices can be changed. Mary referenced the study that was done in 1989, 20 years ago, and because of the volunteer nature of SON, the first study was lost. For the effort this time, it will not be lost. Mary said in selecting team members it was important to find individuals from different parts of the District and with different knowledge bases. Mary said her role is the official "nudge." Barbara is to focus on "nitty gritty of financial records: and Luana is to focus on marketing. Mary said this is a big project so they needed a framework from which to approach it and broke it into infrastructure, business, marketing, potential markets. We have advisors or subject matter experts (SME) which included Rolf Ekloff for infrastructure, Audun Gythfeldt as business SME, Arnie Johnsen as devil's advocate and Richard Tonnessen as business SME and historical perspective. These advisers are brought in as needed. Roy Berntsen (Garborg) is team leader for infrastructure, Carol King (Norsk Carolina) is team leader for potential markets; Helen Timoney (Southern Star) is team leader for financials and Jennifer Gardner, (Hudson Valley) team leader for marketing. Jennifer is a former Youth Camp attendee and LOV You Camp counselor.

Mary raised the questions the group is addressing— "what is LOV? What was its original purpose? Does that vision still work?" Mary explained that when the team kicked off more than a year earlier, they spent lots of time in the planning process because they wanted to get it right. Audun and Richard came to LOV and went through the file cabinets looking for original documents. Mary talked about electronically storing these documents for a knowledge transfer purposes since SON is a volunteer organization.

Mary discussed the unknown business concerns and said the LOV Board, the LOV committees and the 3D Board separately did a SWOT analysis: strengths, weaknesses,

opportunities and threats. Mary said that everyone was asked to use their business head and not their heart in doing the SWOT and they did a good job.

Strengths included rustic, fun, cultural atmosphere. Weaknesses included eroding customer base, cancellations, rustic, lack of amenities; Opportunities included hunting and fishing, rest and recreation activities; Threats include membership under utilization, infrastructure, upkeep and economy. With the current circumstances, the Committee believes LOV will have to be opened to specific groups that would enjoy the amenities.

Barbara spoke about the infrastructure which includes numerous buildings, some in disarray and some very sound. Roy developed a schematic of the grounds and rated the buildings accordingly. Those listed as fair are being watched constantly. Many small projects are being handled constantly. Barbara asked delegates who had been at a work week in the past year, five years or ten years to stand for recognition.

Barbara said that when she became District President the books were in terrible shape, but thanks to the efforts of Helen Timoney, LOV treasurer, she reconstructed the books while handling her current duties. Several students from the State University of New York at Delhi (SUNY Delhi) in the Hotel Management program were available to offer a fresh look on handling the finances. They were impressed with LOV and with the manner in which Helen kept the books. One suggestion was to itemize all finances for one year. Barbara and Helen selected 2009 to itemize these costs. They asked the SUNY students to compare LOV to another facility which is difficult because LOV is like a bed and breakfast, a fully staffed hotel but it's not open to the general public.

Luana said the first question to ask is "who is the customer" and it's been the Sons of Norway members. The customer base is changing and Lodges are not participating as they once did. It is necessary to look at new groups as potential customers such as outdoor groups, possibly quilting or rosemaking groups, and other external markets. Luana said there is no marketing budget so those who have used LOV will be potential marketers to other lodges, members and groups in which individuals are involved. Luana presented the power point presentation that she and Helen Timoney gave at the Zone 5 meeting in Florida last fall along with a personal invitation to visit.

Mary also mentioned that as LOV may be opened to external groups that we need to make sure we balance this so our tax status is not compromised. Mary said that Jennifer Gardner will use time over the summer to research other facilities in the area and how they might compare to LOV. Mary went through various questions that need answers. She concluded this is a continuing process and the group has really just begun its work.

Delegate Paul Kornbreke said Nansen had seven delegates, but it did not change the majority or two-thirds vote.

Convention Chairperson Kathy Dollymore thanked the delegates for their "cookie" baking and Viking auction donations.

President Ralph recalled the Law Committee, chaired by David Tonnessen. The Committee reviewed Resolution #6 and Karin McCadam read it into the record:

Resolution #6
Unge Venner Membership
Submitted by Hudson Valley
Approved

WHEREAS, Sons of Norway has increased membership by adopting in August 2006 the resolution that an individual who is a lineal descendent of a member or resides in the same household as a Sons of Norway member and is between the ages of 16 and 23 inclusive may become an Unge Venner Member and be exempted from paying International, District and Local Lodge dues; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the original resolution was that an Unge Venner would remain in that Unge Venner non dues paying membership status until age 24 even if the sponsor died or was dropped from membership because of nonpayment dues; and

WHEREAS, the Unge Venner member has no control of a sponsor's demise or monetary situation, especially in today's economic climate; and

WHEREAS, the Unge Venner member met the membership requirement when s/he became an Unge Venner member; and

WHEREAS, Sons of Norway is encouraging younger members to join to develop a younger vibrant organization and to increase the membership of Sons of Norway;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Part 1, Chapter 6, Para 1.8 of the SON Constitutions be amended to include the sentence "This Unge Venner membership status will remain in effect until the member becomes 24 years of age regardless of whether the sponsoring member dies or drops their membership because of nonpayment of dues before the Unge Venner reaches age 24."

The new Para 1.8 would read as such: **Unge Venner Members:** Any individual who is a lineal descendent of a member or resides in the same household as a Sons of Norway member and is between the ages of 16 and 23 inclusive, may become a member of Sons of Norway. Such members will be exempted from paying International, District and Local dues. Further, such members shall have all the rights and privileges as all other members of Sons of Norway. **"This Unge Venner membership status will remain in effect until the member becomes 24 years of age regardless of whether the sponsoring member dies or drops their membership because of nonpayment of dues before the Unge Venner reaches age 24."** An Unge Venner member who desires a subscription to the Viking Magazine will be assessed the same amount that is allocated to the Viking Magazine subscription from a regular annual membership. Any other member of Sons of Norway between the ages of 16 and 23 will pay dues at a reduced rate.

This resolution has no financial impact on Sons of Norway.

Sister Karin McCadam said the Law Committee recommends approval of this resolution and cited several reasons to support the resolution. Delegate Arnie Johnsen cited several situations where Unge Venner members in good standing were dropped because circumstances for the sponsor changed which made them drop their membership. Karen Plasha, Washington Lodge, **MOVED to amend the language** by dropping the portion of the sentence that reads: whether the sponsoring member dies or drops their membership

because of nonpayment of dues before the Unge Venner reaches age 24” and replace it with “future membership status of sponsor. The sentence would then read as follows: **This Unge Venner membership status will remain in effect until the member becomes 24 years of age regardless of the future membership status of the sponsor.** **MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.**

President Ralph also said the reference to the section in the SON Constitutions has to be changed to reflect the current numbering which is 1.6.1.8. **MOTION MADE to correct the reference; MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED. MOTION SECONDED to approve resolution as amended. MOTION CARRIED.**

President Ralph excused the Law Committee.

President Ralph then announced the **Lifetime Achievement Award winners**. This distinguished Third District 2010 Lifetime Achievement winner is a person who has served the district with pride and all the enthusiasm that could be mustered. He was born in Chicago but soon after the family moved to Wisconsin. In 1953 the family moved to New Jersey and found a wonderful Norwegian Community to become part of. It was in this community where he found the love of his life and they were married in 1960. Together they raised four sons.

He joined the lodge in 1961. In the first year of his membership he was installed as an “Outer Guard.” During his second term as President in 1974 the Junior Lodge was initiated. His four sons each held the office of Junior Lodge President, which is not surprising for them to have followed in their dad’s footsteps. He had served the lodge as an officer, holding various positions for an astonishing 42 years. His heritage meant more to him than he could acknowledge and it shows by his continuing involvement today. The ideals of the organization were very important to the family. Not only did his sons join the lodge, but his parents and in-laws earned life memberships.

His lodge has become one of the focal points that he could count on. The members became his extended family. He stated many times, “Sons of Norway was a must and your schedule should never be too busy not to include Sons of Norway in your life.” When it came time to rebuilding their lodge, after the fire, he was right there ready to assist in any way he could. There were many times you would see him, hammer in hand, willing to work. Being a union carpenter, like his father, he would lead numerous work parties. The lodge events and the picnics became part of his regular visits. The work to obtain the Lodge Property Tax Exempt status was a huge benefit for the lodge. Most of the time since the exemption was granted he has completed the forms to maintain that status today. He has chaired many of the lodge’s most important fundraisers, and headed the committee to bring together the lodge with another Norwegian organization in the town. He became the first president of the new organization. As the lodge was a family affair, you can see why they are very proud to be associated with Sons of Norway. If you add up the family years of involvement with the organization it totals 207 years. What a triumph!

He began his District career in 1978 serving as a Zone Director, then Treasurer, Vice President and President. He was excited to take on the chairmanship to host two district conventions. His background made him the perfect choice to become the Building and Grounds Chair for Land of the Vikings the first four years of ownership. His leadership had not gone unnoticed as he became an International Director and International Vice President. He was appointed and accepted the office of Sons of Norway Foundation

President for five years. His determination to make things better and help those in need is a tribute to him and his family. They work side by side to make each Sons of Norway event a time for great fellowship and to enjoy wonderful friendships.

His personal life led him in many directions. He joined the army in 1962 serving for 5½ years in active service and with the reserves. He became a Financial Benefits Counselor for two years. His family was a major force in his decision to advance into construction management, shown his commitment when he needed to travel to different states for work. He was well respected for the work he accomplished and had the good fortune to succeed as the project manager for a New York City based company having many significant clients throughout the city including major hospitals, Columbia University, and The New York Stock Exchange.

His work in the Norwegian Community earned him many accolades. A few special moments, which he will never forget, was during his tenure as International Vice President he was honored to be a guest speaker celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Sons of Norway at Rådhus (City Hall) in Oslo, with King Harald sitting right in front of him. Another honor was in 1981 by the New Jersey Fraternal Congress being recognized as the “Family of the Year.”

He is still working for the district as a member of the Strategic Committee for Land of the Vikings. His devotion and willingness to assist others never wanes.

He is a true scholar, a wonderful friend, and a person whom I admire and respect very much. It is my pleasure and privilege to announce on behalf of the Third District Board the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient: **Richard Tonnessen**.

This next distinguished Third District 2010 Lifetime Achievement winner is a person who has served the district and spent a lifetime visiting lodges as an officer for the district or international or just as a friend. This person has been a member since February 4, 1971. He has served in numerous officer positions and as Lodge President for three terms. He was welcomed as he transferred to another lodge and began this cycle all over again finally serving as Lodge President.

As members, he and his wife became part of the extended lodge family. They hosted many parties and became very active with lodge functions and part of the Norwegian community.

His tenure on the District Board began in 1976, where he served as a Zone Director, then Counselor, Vice President and President. His dedication to the lodge and the district are evident in the years of service and his continuation to serve.

In the earliest days at Land of the Vikings he was asked to serve as the chairman for the fundraiser committee to purchase Land of the Vikings. His guidance of the campaign yielded \$120,000 for the project in just over a month's time, far exceeding the \$40,000 goal that was set forth, by collecting donations and loans to support the financing plan. He was the Chair for LOV during a very challenging time when the managers of LOV were running the place to the ground, when the Board stepped in to run LOV before they selected two people they could entrust to manage LOV and keep it going. It took over three years to bring LOV back. He also chaired a LOV study advisory group which brought insight for the future which is still vital today. He even wrote a five scene play for the 10th anniversary of LOV.

His professional life involved him in many wonderful projects. His college years earned him a degree in engineering. Working for a firm in New York he had the opportunity to complete a project in Denmark. He was captivated by the Nordic Culture and Scandinavian countries. Upon his return home he began to attend many functions in the Norwegian Community. That is where he met the love of his life and they were married a short time later and together raised two children. The family moved to upstate New York but he never lost his love for the city he grew up in and worked in most of his life.

With an opportunity to work on various historical projects throughout New York City, he was selected as the project manager by the non-profit Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. He was responsible to restore and preserve Lady Liberty, Liberty Island and Ellis Island. This is the largest historical restoration project in the history of the United States. This endeavor was finished in September 1990, two years ahead of schedule. Over the years, he managed many other unique and complex projects, including work on Shea Stadium, the Meadowlands Sports Complex (including Giants Stadium), the Central Park Zoo, the New York State Theater at Lincoln Center, the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the North End Access at Grand Central Station. He is a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. These special projects earned him notoriety and he was proud to receive an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from his alma mater Clarkson University.

He has been a vital part of the Norwegian community for more than 40 years working on various committees in many organizations. He was a member of the Junior Chapter of the American/Scandinavian Foundation, an organization which awards grants and scholarships to Scandinavians or Scandinavian Organizations. He is an active board member of the Norwegian Immigration Association bringing wonderful ideas which enhance the exhibits and wisdom to the research center whose pursuit is to provide information during the major influx of Norwegian immigration in Brooklyn and the surrounding areas. He also served as General Chairman for the 17th of May Parade Committee in Greater New York for three terms. He took the chairmanship during a tenuous time when rumors were circulating that the committee was disbanding and there would be no more parades. He was questioned by Channel 17 NYC Television and quoted to say, *"The Norwegian Constitution Day celebration, which runs through Bay Ridge down to Leif Erickson Park, is the main time people of Norwegian decent and affiliation from the New York Metropolitan area can come together and celebrate our heritage. NYC TV 17 has enabled us to share our traditions with all New Yorkers."* That was six years ago, so under his leadership the parades grew stronger and stronger.

These accomplishments in the Norwegian Community earned him the February 2009 MVP of the Fraternalism- in-Action Program given by The National Fraternal Congress of America. He told his story to Members of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. You will often meet him at the Norwegian Seaman's Church having lunch with his buddies. You may have heard his aliases "the Prince," "the Tonsberg Kid," and most recently "Doc." It is my greatest pleasure and personal privilege on behalf of the Third District Board to present the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award to **Dr. Sandy S. Ginsberg**.

The Secretary read the roll call with 132 delegates present; 67 majority and 89 two-thirds vote.

Len Carlson gave away two additional SON memberships to Don Ohnemus, Hampton Roads and Greg Brown, Safety Harbor, FL. Then he introduced Fraternal Benefits Counselors Michael Beck, Virginia Beach, VA and Paul Umansky, Rockville Center, NY.

Washington Lodge has six delegates seated which does not change the majority or two-thirds vote. The Convention evaluation forms were distributed to the delegates that were to be handed in as they exit the convention hall at the close.

Delegate Ken Johnson gave an overview of the Norwegian American 17th of May Committee of Greater New York, Inc. in Brooklyn. This event was organized in 1952 and is handled by three distinct representative groups: Sons of Norway, which Ken chairs; the churches and the civic organizations headed by Delegate Paul Kornbreke, Nansen Lodge. The three co-chairs fall under a General Chairman. Barbara Berntsen is the Recording Secretary. Delegate Ken Gundersen, Nansen Lodge, is Parade Chairman. Dave Dunlop, Fram Lodge, is a past General Chair and handles the journal and nominating committee. Other SON members very actively involved include Dr. Sandy Ginsberg, Rolf Ekloff, Richard Olsen, Audun Gythfeldt and Helge Aursland. Ken sends a letter in January to lodge presidents and secretaries (mail and electronically) outlining the event. He then follows up again in April. SON CEO Heiberg was the Parade Grand Marshal who invited special guest Norman "Boomer" Esiason, former American League football quarterback and currently an analyst for CBS Sports on *The NFL Today*, as well as morning co-host on New York radio station WFAN and *Monday Night Football* analyst to join SON and he accepted. Ken also provided an overview of sales items still available and the parade journal to which lodges provided advertising. Then Ken explained the two parade categories, which are judged: marching and floats. He recognized the following lodges in the marching category: Henrik Ibsen Lodge received third place and Nansen Lodge received second in the marching category. Fredriksten Lodge was first and President Randi Nilsen accepted the award. He then recognized the following lodge in the float category: Hudson Valley Lodge, first place with the award accepted by Anne Marie Seddon. Ken concluded that the 2011 theme will honor Roald Amundsen, explorer. SON needs to continue to support the parade, the sales items, the journal, etc.

President Ralph called for additional nominations for District office.

- Mary Andersen, Bondelandet Lodge, nominated Gene Olson for Sports and Recreation Director.

President Ralph said that for nominees running unopposed they have the option of speaking for two minutes. For the nominees running opposed, the nominators will have two minutes and the nominees will have two minutes except for the candidates running for President who will have four minutes each.

Before the voting took place, Brother Ken Johnson said he had accidentally omitted the name of a judge for the 17th of May Parade and wanted to recognize and thank Per Sagaard, Færder Lodge, for his continued participation and help.

President Ralph called for additional nominations for each of the following positions that were unopposed and included **Sports and Recreation Director, Public Relations Director, Cultural Director, Youth Director, Counselor, Treasurer and Secretary.** Hearing none, nominations closed for each position and the nominees each briefly addressed the delegates. For each office, President Ralph asked the Secretary to cast one

ballot for the nominee except the President who cast one ballot for Marci Larson as Secretary.

The nominations for the **Zone Directors and Assistants** are as follows:

Zone 1: Kris Rasmussen	Assistant: Toron Robuto
Zone 2: Judith Nilsen-Mack	Assistant: Vera Ryan Gregg
Zone 3: Barbara Bensen	Assistant: Bob Stetz
Zone 4: Karin Gudbranson McCadam	Assistant: Kari Williams
Zone 5: Gail Martinsen	Assistant: Vacant until fall zone meeting
Zone 6: Carol Goral	Assistant: Eric Bjørseth
Zone 7: Ed McCarthy	Assistant: Mike Tilder

President Ralph asked the Secretary to cast one ballot for the Zone Directors.

President Ralph asked the nominators for the Vice President candidates to speak. Luana Jøsvold, Norumbega Lodge, for Keith Lavin and Marci Larson, Gateway to Florida, for Gail Ekloff. Nominees Keith Lavin and Gail Ekloff addressed the delegates. Gail Ekloff was elected Vice President for another two-year term.

International Director Barbara Berntsen addressed the delegates regarding the travel agency handling travel to the International Convention, Borton Overseas. She also discussed the John Lund Fund. The goal is to raise \$50,000 by Aug. 1; over \$13,000 has been raised as of June 5. If members donate \$250 or more, the individual's name will be placed on a plaque. For those giving \$1 to \$249 names will be on a parchment certificate.

Delegate Charlie Nilsen, Gulfstream Lodge, spoke to circumstances in which John Lund as both SON Legal Counsel and CEO played a pivotal role and urged members to support the Lund Fund.

President Ralph recalled the Law Committee and asked if there was any more business to conduct. Chair David Tonnessen said they had completed their work. President Ralph thanked the Committee for their diligence and service and dismissed them.

President Ralph asked that Kris Rasmussen, Loyal Lodge, nominator for Ken Johnson and Dr. Louis Olsen, Nordkap Lodge, nominator for Ralph Peterson as President address the delegates. The nominees, Ken Johnson and Ralph Peterson, also addressed the delegates.

Vice President Gail Ekloff recalled the Reports Committee and asked if there was any more business to conduct. Chair Christine Vehstedt said they had completed their work. Sister Gail then thanked the Committee for their service and dismissed them.

Vice President Gail recalled the Credentials Committee and asked if there was any more business to conduct. Chair Arnie Johnsen said they had completed their work. Sister Gail thanked the Committee for its work and then dismissed them.

President Ralph recalled the Finance Committee and asked if there was any more business to conduct. Chairman Kent Larson said they had completed their work. President Ralph thanked the Committee for its work and dismissed them. However, Ralph quickly recalled them for their recommendation as to a stipend for the International Delegates to which

Chairman Kent replied it was \$800. **MOTION MADE and SECONDED to pay delegates \$800 to attend the International Convention. MOTION CARRIED.**

Delegate question was raised as to the vote for Vice President. President Ralph announced the vote was 77 to 53.

President Ralph said that seven delegates to the International Convention will be elected. Zone 3 has turned back one delegate position. Cindy Olson, SON Foundation, announced that \$2,300 has been raised for the Foundation.

President Ralph recalled the Resolutions Committee and asked if there was any more business to conduct. Chair Anne Marie Seddon and the Committee read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Third District Convention give thanks:

To the Restauration and Fredriksten Lodges for hosting the 61st Third District Lodge Meeting (Convention);

To the Host Convention Committees, Chairman Kathy Dollymore and George Beck, Registrar; and all the Convention Committee members spent planning and preparing for this event and making this a memorable Convention full of fraternal spirit and hospitality with special thanks to the bakers who gave their time and expertise to provide the delicious cookies for our coffee breaks;

To Third District President Ralph Peterson for his leadership during this biennium convention and during the biennium;

To Third District Vice President Gail Ekloff for her diligent work on membership recruitment and attention during this biennium;

To all Third District Board Members for their faithful dedication and services rendered during this biennium;

To Third District Secretary Marci Larson for compiling and printing the 61st Convention Reports Book;

To Third District Treasurer John Gregg for his diligence in reporting our finances and making the District financially sound;

To Third District Counselor Louis Olsen, MD, for securing donations to the Charitable Trust for the close contact with our recipients and securing our portfolio as the best it could be;

To Kristen Lindtvedt, Convention Parliamentarian, for her knowledge and expertise in assisting the Convention members whenever questions of procedure arose;

To Eivind Heiberg, CEO, Sons of Norway, for both his attendance and input;

To Len Carlson, Director of Agencies, Sons of Norway, for both his attendance and input;

To Cindy Olson, International Foundation Director, Sons of Norway, for both her attendance and input;

To Marit Kristiansen, International Vice President, Sons of Norway, for her attendance and input;

To Barbara Bernsten, District 3 International Director, for her inspirational message at the Memorial Service;

To Verlin Morton, Peter Vatne and Bill Lund for working long and diligently on the audits of the Third District throughout the biennium;

To Richard Olsen, Tubfrim Chairman, for collecting and shipping cancelled stamps to Norway;

To the LOV Long-Range Planning Committee – Mary Andersen, Chair; Barbara Berntsen and Luana Jøsvold, co-chairs and their advisors and team leaders for their dedication and service in making their fraternal project the best in the order.

To Beverly and Richard Budrick, managers at Land of the Vikings, for their friendliness and hospitality to all members and guests at Land of the Vikings;

To all members and lodges who have worked so hard and successfully to support and maintain our property at the Land of the Vikings;

To International Director Barbara Berntsen for her continued support, guidance and counseling during the biennium;

To Ken Gundersen, Administrator, who oversees the Charitable Trust, for his work and diligence;

To Gene and Nalda Olson for their work as Adopt-a-School Encouragers and to all the lodges that participate in this worthwhile program;

To Karen Doty, Cultural Skills Director, for her encouragement of participation in the Cultural Skills Medal Program;

To Evelyn Karpack, Youth Director, for her planning and coordinating the campers and teachers for the Youth Camp at LOV, to the District for making applications available to those children who attended Youth Camp and to the lodges who provide financial support to their youth;

To Ken Johnson, Chairman, and his team for their expertise in training our members in the Leadership Program and to all the members who participated in the program and to the Lodges who helped with co-sponsoring the sessions;

To the spouses of the District and International Officers for their support, understanding and the exemplary manner in which they assisted the Third District Board;

To the Norwegian-American 17th of May Committee for planning and coordinating the successful parade in Brooklyn;

To Gateway to Florida, Gulfstream and Sun Coast Lodges for their sponsorship for the Viking Ship Regattas;

To Mary Andersen, Third District Public Relations Director, for re-introducing the Third District Today as a monthly newsletter 10 months of the year;

To Mary Andersen, Marci Larson and Luana Jøsvold to refresh the District 3 website and to Jim Dunagan, who serves as the webmaster;

To the editors of lodge newsletters for their efforts in keeping members informed about upcoming events. Congratulations to the winners and runners up in the Newsletter Contest;

To the Financial Benefits Counselors for promoting both the benefits of membership and membership itself;

To Bjørg Dunlop for her tireless and devoted work for Ski for Light and Sports for Health;

To the Installing Marshals within the District for their services rendered during the ceremonial installation of officers;

To Phil Nelsen, Sports and Recreation Director, for his work in organizing the bowling events in the District;

To Ken Gundersen and Keith Lavin for their work in organizing District Golf Tournaments;

To all participants in the folk arts competition and to all members who have demonstrated Norwegian arts and crafts during the convention;

To the lodges and members who brought banners and wore Bunads to add to the Convention festivities;

To all lodges who planned and participated in Leif Erikson Day and 17th of May celebrations and parades;

To all lodges and members who have worked hard to raise money for the Charitable Trust Fund;

To the lodges who have hosted events to provide funds to various charities;

To all lodges and members who have contributed to the Sons of Norway Foundation and Humanitarian Fund;

To the lodges who have completed the Lodge of the Year Award. Congratulations to all the winners of both 2008 and 2009;

To all who have promoted Norwegian culture in the communities especially those working with Adopt-a-School;

To all the delegates whose attention and participation have made our 61st Convention a success; and

To Jim McKillop and his audio-visual crew for their services;

We authorize the Third District Board to thank anyone or any group that may have been forgotten or overlooked.

Chairman Anne Marie **MOVED that these resolutions be accepted; MOTION SECONDED and CARRIED.**

Anne Marie said this completes the committee's work and she thanked her co-members Ed Fleming and Ron Martinsen for their assistance. President Ralph dismissed the committee and thanked them for their work.

At this time, Vice President Gail introduced the District President for 2010-12, Ralph Peterson with a vote of 78 to 52.

President Ralph asked for nominations for Alternate International Director. Rolf Ekloff, Loyal Lodge, nominated Ralph Peterson. President Ralph called for additional nominations. Hearing none, the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot to elect Ralph Peterson as the Alternate International Director.

President Ralph nominated the following as Auditors for 2010-2012:

- Willis "Bill" Lund, Norumbega Lodge
- Don Ohnemus, Hampton Roads Lodge
- Charlie Abrahamson, Maine Nordmenn Lodge

Hearing no objections, the Secretary cast a unanimous vote.

Election of International Delegates from the Zone Caucuses:

Zone 1:	Kris Rasmussen Ken Johnson	Alternate, Roy Berntsen
Zone 2:	Judith Nilsen-Mack	Alternate, Peter Vatne
Zone 3:	Joan and Jim McKillop	Alternate, None
Zone 4:	Arnold Johnsen	Alternate, Karin Gidbranson McCadam
Zone 5:	Marci Larson Gail Martinsen	Alternate, Keith Lavin
Zone 6:	Kathy Dollymore Kristen Stone Eric Bjorseth	Alternate, None

President Ralph asked the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for these individuals as delegates to the International Convention. Ralph then stated that he, as the District President, is required to be a delegate and was elected by acclamation.

Nominations from the floor for International Delegate include the following:

- John Gregg nominated Roy Berntsen
- Kent Larson nominated Ron Martinsen
- Arnie Johnsen nominated Karin McCadam
- Kris Rasmussen nominated Keith Lavin
- Karen Doty nominated Verlin Morton

- Paddle 7 nominated Peter Vatne
- Gail Ekloff nominated Louis Olsen
- Debbie Fossaen nominated Karen Doty
- Dirk Hansen nominated Ed McCarthy

Karin McCadam withdrew her name as a nominee. Ed McCarthy withdrew his name as a nominee. President Ralph asked these two nominees if they would be alternates and they both agreed.

The Secretary cast a unanimous ballot to elect these individuals as International Delegates. The Secretary also cast a unanimous ballot to elect the two alternates.

Good of the Order

Randi Nilsen, Fredriksten Lodge, said the Lodge will celebrate their 100th anniversary in spring, 2012.

Gene Olson, Bondelandet, said it pays to advertise and related that two individuals saw the SON welcome on the hotel marquee when they stopped for pizza. They joined the Bondelandet Lodge.

Solveig Hellstrom, Norrøna Lodge, said she is extremely proud to be a Norwegian American and that she has really enjoyed this Convention. She cannot wait to meet the King of Norway in 2012.

Arnie Johnsen reminded the delegates that sometimes there have been differences in the District, but as the Counselor would say, "May peace and harmony prevail in the lodge."

David Tonnessen, Nordkap Lodge, stated that Nordkap will celebrate its 90th anniversary during the spring of 2011.

Per Sagaard, Færder Lodge, reminded the delegates they will celebrate 100 years March 26, 2011.

Marit Kristiansen, International Vice President, said she had a great time and knew that she was welcomed when she arrived at the Airport and she quickly encountered the Becks holding a sign that read "Marit."

John Gregg, Norumbega Lodge, thanked former treasurers Keith Lavin and Helen Timoney for their very gracious help. Also, thanks to Verlin Morton as auditor, especially Bill Lund as auditor and most particularly Peter Vatne for their unselfish time and incredible help.

Louis Olsen, Nordkap Lodge, encouraged everyone to continue to support the Charitable Trust and to be involved in the 2010 Convention/100th Anniversary celebration.

Keith Lavin reminded the delegates of the Robert Morton Invitational Golf Tournament in Myrtle Beach Sept. 16-18.

Rosemary Donnestad, Hartford Lodge, said Engel Nilsen, who served many years on the District Board, passed away in May.

Charlie Nilsen, Gulfstream Lodge, invited the delegates to the Regatta Oct. 8-9 in Jensen Beach and promised a great time.

Eric Bjørseth, a youth camper and counselor at LOV, encouraged the delegates to continue to support Land of the Vikings.

Barbara Berntsen, Garborg Lodge and International Director, congratulated President Peterson on a well conducted convention and to the newly-elected District officers.

Charlie Abrahamson, Maine Nordmenn, invited everyone to the 8th annual Hammerfest at Bailey Island in Maine July 31.

Vera Ryen Gregg, Norumbega Lodge, said she cannot walk so she swims and did so for 128 minutes during the convention and raised \$62 for the Charitable Trust.

Randi Nilsen, Fredriksten Lodge, and Kathy Dollymore, Restoration Lodge, as presidents, thanked the delegates for attending and said they tried to make the convention informative and fun, but business like to conduct the affairs of the Order.

Roger Sean, Norsemen Harbour Lodge, said that few resolutions were added for the Constitution and that hopefully in the next two years that perhaps the SON Constitution can be reviewed and reduced to be the size of the US Constitution.

Kristin Stone, Washington Lodge, said the Bazaar would be open another 30 minutes and this is the last chance to shop.

Ken Johnson, Henrik Ibsen Lodge, congratulated President Ralph and wished him well in his next two years as District President.

It was **MOVED and SECONDED** that the **Secretary will destroy the ballots after 30 days. MOTION CARRIED.**

President Ralph adjourned the 61st Convention at 1:10 p.m.

Saturday Evening, June 12

The delegates and guests attended the banquet in the Pennsylvania Ballroom with Rev. Karen Ladderud Doty giving the invocation. President Ralph Peterson provided greetings and introductions. Musical entertainment during the evening was provided by the "Blue Mist" Band.

Henrik Width, Deputy Consul General, Norwegian Embassy, was the guest speaker. He heads the Press, Culture and Information Departments and is a former counsel to Finland. His wife Terhi, who is Finnish, also attended

The Consulate General provides information on Norway to the public in the district, and facilitates cultural and educational exchange between countries.

He invited the delegates: "I encourage everyone to visit norway.org regularly and sign up for our newsletter to hear about Norwegian cultural events happening in the area, and welcome all Norwegians and others in need of consular services to the Consulate General in New York City. Visit www.visitnorway.com/us."

President Ralph explained the Leif Erikson Award and the selection criteria. He then announced the 2010 recipient of the District 3 Leif Erikson Award - **Bjarne Livollen** of Delancey, New York, a longtime Sons of Norway member with many accomplishments that were outlined to the attendees. Bjarne was unable to attend, but his granddaughter accepted the award on his behalf. The plaque will be presented to Bjarne later in the summer at a public event closer to his home.

President Ralph then announced the winning lodges in the 2008 and 2009 Lodge of the Year competition. Representatives from these lodges stepped forward to receive a plaque and be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. These lodges are as follows:

2008 Large Lodge of the Year – Hudson Valley
Small Lodge of the Year – Sun Viking
Family Lodge of the Year – Bernt Balchen

2009 Large Lodge of the Year – Gateway to Florida
Small Lodge of the Year – Oslo
Family Lodge of the Year – Hudson Valley

Respectfully Submitted,
Marci Larson, District 3 Secretary