

September 19, 2020

SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA

President's Report to the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Velkommen to this 2020 Annual General Meeting of our Foundation. No doubt we are well aware of the need to respect the effects and the unknown factors of this devastating Corona virus. In recognition of this situation, we decided this meeting be virtual and be conducted by Zoom technology.

On March 7, long-time supporter of our Foundation and former Board Member (1984-88), Ken Domier passed away after a sudden heart attack. Ken and his wife Eileen are also long time members of Solglyt Lodge in Edmonton. Ken was very much involved in the Scandinavian community groups in the Edmonton area. Before retiring he held professor roles in Saskatoon and Edmonton. During his Director term, Ken provided much help to the Board of Directors with the scholarship (bursary) evaluation process, both for the application process and for the evaluation itself. Ken's obituary asks that donations in his memory be made to *Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada*.

I will also acknowledge the passing of Martin Naske of Sleipner Lodge in early summer. Martin was a District 7 Board member holding the position of Publicity Director. Martin was also the District 7 Webmaster and he also functioned as our Foundation Webmaster for a few years until we acquired our own Website. Martin passed away after battling cancer for some time.

La fred og ro hvile i Ken's and Martin's minne. (Let peace and tranquility rest in Ken's and Martin's memory.)

I can report the first half of this reporting year (2019) was very much a repeat of past reporting years. Our incomes by donations and investment earnings were in line with past years as were grant and bursary awards. Treasurer Erik will provide a closer look at our financial situation in his review of our Financial Statements.

Financially, our Foundation continues to show growth. As of the end of 2019 we were at nearly \$630,000 and at the end of this last August we were at \$642,000. This increase needs some explanation:

This year, our awards programs have been quite different. Though our Post-Secondary Bursary Program remains intact, events and activities that benefitted from our financial support were cancelled. While these unfortunate circumstances presented us with substantial savings, this also limited many of our supporters and beneficiaries of enjoying our heritage and culture so important to many of us.

Our Website (www.sonfic.ca) is replacing our Foundation Manual. On this site you can find information on making donations, applying for grants and bursaries, current and back copies of our Foundation News, and a guide on the roles of our Local Foundation Directors. Please use this medium to keep in touch with what the Foundation can do for you AND what you can do for our Foundation.

Let me again thank all of you and the people you represent for your great support and involvement of our Canadian Foundation.

Tore Pettersen
President

Secretary's Report to THE SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA

Annual Meeting September 19, 2020 - *Helen Evjen, Secretary*

President Tore, Officers, fellow Directors, members, and friends.

I have performed regular Secretarial duties such as: preparing agenda's, recording, and dispersing to all members.

In my home Lodge, Solglyt in Edmonton, we usually have a Pea Soup Supper in October and gather donations to the Foundation on that evening. This year we are going to be collecting donations for the Foundation by cheques, mailed to me or money e-transfers, we had an outdoor gathering (social distancing being observed) earlier this month where donations were made. We are promoting the giving via our Lodge Newsletter and e-mail reminder messages sent out to all Lodge members.

Vennlig hilsen,

Helen

AGM REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020

Greetings fellow Sons of Norway Members!

This has been a trying year for everyone and, hopefully, we will be back to our normal lives soon but until then we have had to make a few changes to our normal lives and one of them is the use of virtual media to meet. This will be the first time the Foundation has held the AGM via Zoom and I hope it works well for everyone. It is so important that we continue to keep in touch, seek information and answers, and continue to share in our love for all aspects of Sons of Norway.

In the area of Bursaries and Grants, there has been less activity as people and Lodges are restricted in holding events, meetings or workshops. However, I was pleased to see there was an increase in the number of applications for the Post Secondary Bursaries. The Foundation received 17 Post Secondary applications, one Apprenticeship application but no applications for the Bjarne and Karel Thorshaug Norwegian Studies Bursary. We did receive 1 application for the Oslo International Summer School Bursary but due to restrictions in travel between countries, this application had to be suspended. Compare this to last year; the numbers for applicants for Post Secondary Bursaries were down to 12, with one each for Apprenticeship Bursary, Bjarne and Karel Thorshaug Norwegian Studies Bursary, and Oslo International Summer School, so considering the life issues of today, the response was good. Please remember to encourage your family students to go to the sonfic.ca website and see if they might qualify to apply next year.

Following approval by the Board of Directors of the ranking of the applicants, we will notify the students as well as release the list of those receiving funding from the Foundation for 2020. We wish all the applicants a very successful academic year and look forward to hearing from the recipients as to their progress over the next school year.

Each of us has an opportunity to help students or adults or Lodges reach their goals in academia, crafts and workshops, Nordic language or history. Donations to the Foundation will help generate the funding that allows bursaries and grants to be given out. One of the avenues of giving that I encourage with my family and friends is to honour a loved one's passing with a memorial gift to the Foundation. In normal times, with the family's permission, I have prepared envelopes addressed to the Foundation Treasurer and had them available at the funeral or a celebration of life of passed members. If you are unable to attend a loved one's service but want to acknowledge her/him, you can enclose a note providing a family member's contact information with your personal cheque and the Treasurer will advise that family that a gift was received in the name of their loved one. Or, if you wish to leave a gift in your will or an insurance policy, please contact the Foundation President and begin discussions on how that money could be used for future bursaries or grants. Every gift counts toward making these wonderful awards possible!!!

Fraternally,

Gloria Benazic, SONFIC Awards Director

Hello, I am Graham Begg, representing Brubyen Lodge in Saskatoon and this is my second full year as a Board Member of Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada.

I would like to congratulate the SON Lodges and members for their support of the Foundation and their promotion of the Bursaries and Grants available.

This year showed an increase, over last year, in applications and allowed for the awarding of 10 post-secondary bursaries of \$800.00 and one bursary of \$600 for apprenticeship program.

So, we encourage you to continue prompting your young people to apply to SONFIC in 2021.

Thanks again for your support of the Foundation.

FOUNDATION REPORT - THELMA LYSNE – EDITOR

SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

Issue No. 1 of the Foundation Newsletter was distributed to the Canadian Lodges in October, 2014. Six years later Issue 24 was distributed in August 2020 with a letter encouraging the Lodges to forward the Newsletter to all Lodges members. This request has resulted in many Lodge members responding to me with favorable remarks about the Newsletter and support for the effort in the publication

The importance of making sure that each Lodge Communicator forwards the Newsletter to all Lodge members has made me realize that a strong encouraging letter should accompany the Newsletter and if possible a follow up reminder. The following paragraph offers another better option.

We must be doing something right when the American Foundation has recently started sending a newsletter. Home office has either email or snail mail addresses for every Sons of Norway member in all Districts. Would there be a possibility to receive permission for the Canadian Foundation to have email addresses of all Canadian Sons of Norway members in District No. 7 and District No. 4, **Zone 4** to enable us to send our newsletter to the Canadian members in those areas instead of relying on a Lodge communicator who might or might not forward the Newsletter. The ability to ensure that every Canadian Sons of Norway member receives information about the Foundation may inspire every Lodge to elect a Foundation Director.

I would like input from all Foundation Directors on how their Lodges support the Foundation. I have been able to, in the past, report on a few Foundation Fund raisers by attending the event.

In order to keep the newsletter fresh (not change the format) I would like to do a short article on every National Board Member and possibly, in the future, Lodge Foundation Directors. Presentation pictures to the Bursary Recipients are also a welcome addition.

Respectfully submitted by,
Thelma Lysne, Editor
Your Foundation News

Webmaster report for SONFIC AGM

Good afternoon. Thank you to John Elias for complete tech support over this past year. The following information pertains to website maintenance and updating over the past year:

- The webserver has been updated to the latest software. It has been estimated that over 90% of hacks are due to out-of-date software.
- The five domain names registered to the Foundation have been renewed for another year. Four of these are reserved to prevent other people using them for malicious websites.
- The site now encrypts all user data sent from visitors to the webserver. The only change that users may notice is the lock icon beside the URL at the top of the page.
- The top menu has been shortened by removing Donate, Grants and Newsletters. These items can be accessed through the three large boxes located below the menu and the rotating images. The shorter menu provides space for a new section – Get Involved – for which Tore is to provide content.
- These urls were renewed: sonfic.ca, sonsofnorway.ca, sofn.ca, sonfoundationincanada.ca, sonsofnorwayfoundationincanada.ca

Thank you,

Brenda Carlstad