

September 18, 2021

## SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA

### **President's Report to the 2021 Annual General Meeting**

Greetings and Hearty Velkommen to this 2021 Annual General Meeting of our Foundation.

2021 is a banner year for our *SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA*. This is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. To recognize this milestone we have set up our **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Circle of Friends Campaign**. Notices of this fund raising campaign has been circulated throughout our Canadian membership and member groups.

Throughout our 50 year history our focus has remained as was noted in our Letters Patent. That focus was to financially support Heritage and Cultural programs in our greater Nordic community including Sons of Norway lodges, our Scholarship/Bursary program for Post-Secondary and Apprenticeship students, and Humanitarian Support programs in cases of catastrophic events. These purposes have only been possible due to donations by members and member groups as well as investment earnings generated by donated funds over the years.

This reporting year has actually seen less activities in our member groups due to the ongoing covid pandemic. There were no lodge or group activities that required financial support from us. Further, since our meetings were conducted by teleconference or zoom, we had no meeting costs, with our thanks to District 7 for sharing their Zoom subscription time.

Our Bursary program remains intact. This year, we received twenty applications for bursaries, including two for apprenticeships. This compares to last year's application numbers.

Financially, our Foundation continues to grow in assets. We are very thankful for donations from individuals and groups. But to stay level and strive for continued growth, our low-risk investment strategy alone cannot adequately cover our needs. Therefore, continued and special fund-raising campaigns are necessary. Treasurer Erik Brochmann will present the Financial Reports including our 2020 Financial Statement 'Notice to Reader' report.

Promotion of our Foundation to the members in our Sons of Norway Lodges and our affiliate groups have not been as active as in the past. This is mostly due to very few meetings by these groups. However, our Foundation News has been a great tool to promote our interests. The News is sent out electronically to all Lodges and Affiliate groups, most of whom distribute the News to their members.

We also have our Foundation website ([www.sonfic.ca](http://www.sonfic.ca)). This is where one can look for information on our history, making donations, applying for grants, back-copies of Foundation News and Lodge Foundation Director information.

As we approach this meeting, we are preparing for election of National Directors. This year, having delayed for a year, we have four vacancies. One of those expiring term positions is held by our

Secretary Helen Evjen. Helen was first elected as National Director in 1996! In 2006 Helen took on the role of Secretary, previously held by Jack Lysne. In total, Helen has been a Board Member of our Foundation for twenty-five years! Her work on the Board is nothing short of Excellent! Mange, Tusen Takk Helen!!!

So again, thank you all for your participation in all aspects of our operations. Continuous promotion and fund raising is so important for the positive condition of our Foundation.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tore Pettersen'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial 'T' at the beginning.

Tore Pettersen, President

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

*Annual Meeting September 18th, 2021 - Helen Evjen, Secretary*

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

I have performed regular Secretarial duties such as: preparing agendas for meetings, recording minutes, and dispersing them to all members.

Covid has had our member organizations at a slow down or pause for the past year and a half which has resulted in little activity for me as Secretary of the Foundation.

I want to thank all the past Foundation directors that it has been my pleasure to meet, get to know, call them friend and to work with over the years, you have enriched my life. Each director, whether they served one term or multiple terms, brought with them ideas and insights which have contributed to the growth and development of the Foundation to where it is today.

It has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience for me to be part of this organization and the people I have worked with have made it so.

I want to especially thank Tore for his leadership, he was President when I was elected to the board and he has continued to guide this ship for these many years, well done my friend.

I am confident that going forward the Foundation will grow and evolve to meet the needs of today's changing norms and standards of our society and the Norwegian/Scandinavian community that we serve. Wishing you all the best for the future.

Vennlig hilsen,  
Helen

SONS OF NORWAY  
FOUNDATION IN CANADA



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AGM REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021

Greetings Sons of Norway Members!

Another trying year for everyone! This will be the second year the Foundation has held the AGM via Zoom. At least we have the means of seeing and talking with each other even if it is via our computer screens.

This year, the Foundation received 19 Post Secondary Bursary applications, two Apprenticeship Bursary applications but no applications for the Bjarne and Karel Thorshaug Norwegian Studies Bursary or for the Oslo International Summer School Bursary. I believe many students feel the restrictions of travelling and are uncertain of physical attendance at school.

The number of applicants from Western Canada were way down this year, as were the applications from members of Sons of Norway and family of members of Sons of Norway. Please remember to encourage your family students to go to the [sonfic.ca](http://sonfic.ca) website and apply next year.

The Board of Directors has approved the ranking of the applicants, and we are pleased to release the list of those receiving funding from the Foundation for 2021 for 10 Post Secondary students and 1 College certificate student. 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.

In celebration of the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Circle of Friends** campaign, each of us has an opportunity to help students, adults or Lodges reach their goals in academia, crafts and workshops, Nordic language or history. Donations to the Foundation help generate the funding that allows bursaries and grants to be given out. I encourage my family and friends to honour a loved one's passing with a memorial gift to the Foundation. In your Lodge, prepare envelopes addressed to the Foundation Treasurer and have them available at the funeral or a celebration of life of passed members. The Treasurer can advise the family that a gift was received in the name of their loved one. If you wish to leave a gift in your will or an insurance policy, please contact the Foundation President and discuss how that money could be used for future bursaries or grants.

Remember - every gift counts toward making our goal of \$50,000 in recognition of our Foundation's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!

Fraternally,  
Gloria Benazic, SONFIC Awards Director

Hello, I am Graham Begg, representing Brubyen Lodge in Saskatoon and this is my third 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. I encourage you to continue prompting your young people to apply for SONFIC bursaries in 2022.

Thanks again for your support of the Foundation.

# FOUNDATION REPORT

## THELMA LYSNE – EDITOR

SEPTEMBER, 2021

I was nominated to serve on the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada Board of Directors in September, 2014. This was an honour but I knew that it was not my nature to be “On the Board” and not work for that board.

I approached President Tore Pedersen with the idea of starting a newsletter along with a sample of a newsletter. Tore said go ahead let’s try. The rest is history, Issue 28 has been sent out to all the Canadian Lodges.

I completed my four-year term. With the need to care for Jack I chose not to run for another term. Tore asked if I would continue editing the newsletter. This is a task I have enjoyed doing for the past seven years. I have disciplined myself to have ideas for future issues already in the works long before the current issue is forwarded to the Lodges.

Issue 18 contained my second “Swan Song” in order to care full time for Jack because of his failing health. Jack passed away in January 2019. The March, April May issue was missed. Tore contacted me and asked if I would resume editing the newsletter. Reluctantly I agreed as long as my health permitted, even though I did not have Jack’s knowledge and support.

It has certainly been a slow process but I am encouraged by the increase in Lodges forwarding the Foundation Newsletter to their Lodge members and posting it to their websites. I have confirmation of nine (9) Lodges forwarding to their members. The goal is to have every Lodge forwarding to their members.

Because the Foundation has a limited area of services to Lodge members and the community, I must repeat many of the articles and try to find different ways to approach each subject. I am open to any ideas from Foundation Directors on different ways to approach these limited services.

In my report for the September 2020 AGM I noted that I would like to do a short article on the Foundation board members, this has not happened and is probably due my not following through with this idea. With the co-operation of the board, I would like to pursue this concept.

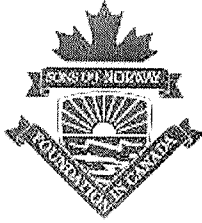
I am always open to suggestions from all Foundation Directors on the contents of the newsletter. All I need is a suggestion and I will do the research and editing.

I will continue editing the newsletter:

- a) As long as the board wants me to continue.
- b) As long as my health continues to be stable.

Fraternally,

Thelma Lysne, Editor  
Your Foundation News



## SONFIC – WEBMASTER AGM 2021 REPORT

As done in previous years, we renewed five domain names.

- sofn.ca
- sonsofnorway.ca
- sonfoundationincanada.ca
- sonsofnorwayfoundationincanada.ca

These four names were reserved to make it difficult for someone to spoof SONFIC with a Canadian domain. Although the risk of this occurring is low, the damage that could be done is high and easily justifies the annual cost, and including sonfic.ca, the cost is about \$58.

The content of the website was extensively revised with Tore's assistance. This included updating the text of many pages, shifting content between pages, and adding additional information. The 50 Year Anniversary banner, which is linked to Tore's letter, will remain on the site until sometime in 2022, or as directed.

The website now includes information for donating via Interac e-transfer. We are not accepting credit card donations on the website, even though the site encrypts visitor information, as shown by the "https" in the url. Doing so requires a credit card processor, such as PayPal or Moneris. The monthly cost and processing fees would likely offset any increase in donations.

The biggest issue we've faced this year is with email and trying to keep it free from spam. Someone doctored a spam email to look like it came from [treasurer@sonfic.ca](mailto:treasurer@sonfic.ca). Many hundreds of the spam addresses were not valid, which resulted in [treasurer@sonfic.ca](mailto:treasurer@sonfic.ca) receiving an equal number of "Mail delivery failed" messages – all of which were forwarded to Erik. One of these was a Yacht company suggesting we could invest \$18,000 per week! These items have been addressed. Please continue to advise of any spam emails being received.

The webserver continues to run the latest software, which provides protection for the more than 90% of hacks that are due to out-of-date software. Routine matters, like posting Newsletters, updating application forms and updating forwarding addresses for emails, continue to be done.

*Submitted by Brenda Carlstad, 'Webmaster'; Assistance by John Elias/CLR Consultants Inc.*

[webmaster@sonfic.ca](mailto:webmaster@sonfic.ca)

Edmonton, AB

780-628-5005

**SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA**

Founders award 2020

| <u>Founders award</u>                           | <u>Total donation</u> | <u>Per member</u> |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Varden Lodge 7-019</b>                       | <b>\$2,750.00</b>     | <b>\$52.88</b>    |
| Eidsvold Lodge 7-053                            | \$9,582.82            | \$45.63           |
| Nordlys Lodge 7-020                             | \$520.00              | \$27.37           |
| Solglyt Lodge 4-143                             | \$3,430.00            | \$25.41           |
| Asplund Lodge 4-576                             | \$445.72              | \$18.57           |
| Rondane Lodge 7-071                             | \$807.71              | \$10.63           |
| <br><u>Individual donation via dues payment</u> |                       |                   |
| Hamar Lodge 4-345                               | \$192.00              | \$8.00            |
| Vestlandet 7-098                                | \$20.00               | \$3.33            |
| Asplund Lodge 4-576                             | \$52.00               | \$2.17            |
| Vestlandet 7-098                                | \$25.33               | \$4.32            |
| Solglyt Lodge 4-143                             | \$60.00               | \$0.93            |
| Rondane Lodge 7-071                             | \$62.00               | \$0.82            |
| District 4                                      | \$609.00              | \$1.06            |
| District 7                                      | \$487.50              | \$0.42            |
| <br><u>Donation of Lodge funds</u>              |                       |                   |
| Varden Lodge 7-019                              | \$1,000.00            | \$19.23           |
| Asplund Lodge 4-571                             | \$300.00              | \$12.50           |
| Solglyt Lodge 4-143                             | \$1,500.00            | \$11.12           |
| Nisse Lodge 4-567                               | \$250.00              | \$14.71           |
| Trollheimen Lodge 7-157                         | \$125.00              | \$7.36            |
| Brubyen Lodge 4-576                             | \$250.00              | \$4.81            |
| District 7                                      | \$3,875.00            | \$3.21            |
| District 4                                      | \$2,100.00            | \$4.35            |
| <br><u>Individual member donations</u>          |                       |                   |
| Eidsvold Lodge 7-053                            | \$9,132.82            | \$43.49           |
| Varden Lodge 7-019                              | \$1,750.00            | \$33.66           |
| Nordlys Lodge 7-020                             | \$520.00              | \$37.37           |
| Solglyt Lodge 4-143                             | \$1,780.00            | \$13.19           |
| Valhalla Lodge 4-341                            | \$995.00              | \$11.57           |
| Asplund Lodge 4-576.                            | \$300.00              | \$12.50           |
| North Star Lodge 7-063                          | 505.00                | \$9.18            |
| District 4                                      | \$2,672.05            | \$5.55            |
| District 7                                      | \$12,769.82           | \$10.84           |
| <br><u>Postage Stamp donations</u>              |                       |                   |
| Hardanger Lodge 7-109                           | \$54.42               | \$1.30            |
| Rondane Lodge 7-071                             | \$70.71               | \$0.93            |
| Brubyen Lodge 4-571                             | \$18.72               | \$0.36            |
| District 4                                      | \$18.72               | \$0.04            |
| District 7                                      | \$125.13              | \$0.3             |

2020 Founders Awards and other stats



**SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA  
2020 Pin Awards**

**District 4**

SOLGLYT Lodge 4 – 143

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Paula Jamison     | Gold   |
| Sharon Bruce      | Bonze  |
| Arvid H. Pederson | Bronze |

VALHALLA Lodge 4 – 341

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Alison Wiigs | Platinum |
|--------------|----------|

**District 7**

SLEIPNER Lodge 7-008

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Erik Brochmann | Gold   |
| Evy Birkeland  | Silver |

VARDEN Lodge 7-019

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Ron Stubbings    | Platinum Plus |
| Glenda Stubbings | Gold          |

NORDLYS Lodge 7-020

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| James Rutherford | Bronze |
| Donna Headly     | Bronze |

EIDSVOLD Lodge 7 – 053

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Thelma Lysne     | Platinum Plus |
| Teresa Cecil     | Gold          |
| Teresa Fayle Jr. | Gold          |
| Ema Scoular      | Silver        |
| Donna Walker     | Silver        |
| Merete LeRoy     | Bronze        |

**Pin Award levels:** Bronze - \$100.00, Silver - \$500.00, Gold - \$1,000.00, Platinum - \$2,000.00 and Platinum Plus - \$5,000.00, minimum accumulated contribution.