

**DISTRICT SIX,
SONS OF NORWAY
BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I

Name and Territory

Par. 1 The name of the District Lodge shall be District Six, Sons of Norway. It shall include California, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Hawaii.

ARTICLE II

Authority

Par. 2 District Six, Sons of Norway shall have first instance authority over the local lodges within the District, shall direct all the organization work within its boundaries, decide on appeals from local lodges or from members from the same, and further have authority to deal with all the questions not expressly reserved by the International Lodge or which concern the Order as a whole.

Par. 3 District Six, Sons of Norway shall be named on the 501(c) (2) filing for its Real Estate holding(s) as the “sole member” of the Real Estate holding(s) corporation.

ARTICLE III

Organization

Par. 4 The District Lodge shall consist of the district board of directors, elected representatives from local lodges, and any elected international director within the district.

Par. 5 The District Board of Directors shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public relations officer, cultural director, and the zone directors elected from each zone as outlined in Par. 6. The president and vice president may not serve more than two consecutive terms in that office.

Par. 6 The District Officers with the exception of Zone Directors shall be elected at large in the same sequence described in Par. 5; each Zone shall caucus separately and elect their Zone Director.

Par. 7 The Executive Committee of the District board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer.

Par. 8 In the event new lodges are established in the District, but not within any one Zone as established by the District Board, the District Board shall assign such new lodge to the Zone it most logically belongs.

Par. 9 The District shall consist of seven zones as determined by the District Lodge and as outlined in the District Policy Book.

ARTICLE IV

District Dues

Par. 10 District Dues are determined by the International Board. To support the District Six Recreation Center, *Camp Norge*, the District will contribute 16% annually from the allotted district dues.

ARTICLE V

Meetings and Representation

Par. 11 The District meeting shall be held once every two years. The dates and length of the meeting are to be determined by the District Board, in consultation with any host lodge(s).

Par. 12 Every lodge within the District shall be entitled to two delegates for the lodge and one for every fifty members or major fraction thereof, based on the last semi-annual report prior to the election. All members in good standing, with at least three months membership in a lodge, are eligible as delegates. In lodges not in existence for three months at the time of election, all members are eligible, regardless of length of membership.

ARTICLE VI

Travel Expenses

Par. 13 The District does not provide funds for local lodge delegates' travel expenses.

ARTICLE VII

Committees

Par. 14 The President shall appoint committees for the Convention in accordance with the Constitution, Chapter 12 Par. 3.12.1

ARTICLE VIII

Loss of Rights

Par. 15 Representatives of the District Board who leave the meeting without valid excuse or permission before the meeting is over lose all claim to traveling expenses.

ARTICLE IX

Compensation

Par. 16 Various members of the District Board and others are allowed an annual stipend as determined by the District Lodge. Stipend amounts and frequency of payments shall be listed in the District Policy Book.

Par. 17 All District Board members may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the course of their duties. Other members may also be reimbursed for their expenses for duties assigned by the District Board. Reimbursement limits are outlined in the District Policy Book.

ARTICLE X

Biennial Reports

Par. 18 Prior to the Biennial Lodge Meeting and Convention, the District Secretary shall compile and edit a biennial report of the previous two years' work. The Secretary shall send a copy of the biennial report book to each elected delegate, each District Six Board member, and a Headquarters' representative. The biennial report book shall be sent out timely to allow ample time to review reports and resolutions. The Secretary shall document the Biennial Lodge Meeting and distribute the minutes

to those who received the biennial report book. A copy of the minutes shall also be sent to any lodge not represented at the Biennial Lodge Meeting.

ARTICLE XI
Lodge Visits

- Par. 19 The President shall visit the district's local lodges as appropriate or send another Board member if deemed necessary. It shall also be the duty of the officers and directors of the District to inform local lodges of fraternal traditions, ceremonies, responsibilities, and opportunities whether at zone seminars or at local lodge visits.

ARTICLE XII
Referenda for District Board and District Lodge

- Par. 20 The President shall, whenever possible, use the system of referendum during the period between Board meetings and have members of the Board vote by email on questions of importance. Whenever time does not permit a referendum, the Executive Committee shall have to make decisions.

- Par. 21 The President shall oversee a referendum of the District Lodge on questions of importance during the period between District Lodge meetings. The Secretary, or other designee, shall send each member of the District Lodge via mail, electronic communications, or other methods of internet-based communication, a copy of the District Board of Directors' resolution directing the referendum, a summary of the referendum presented for consideration, and instructions for casting a vote, including the timeline in which the vote must be cast. Each District Lodge member is entitled to cast one vote, and the results of the referendum shall be binding provided a quorum (a majority) of the District Lodge members casts a vote.

It takes two-thirds approval of votes cast by District Lodge members (delegates) to change district bylaws, and it takes a majority of votes cast by District Lodge members (delegates) to change District Policies.

Bylaw changes shall become effective upon approval of the Sons of Norway CEO and legal counsel. District Policies shall become effective upon verification of the majority vote approving the referendum. Results of any referenda shall be published in the next District Six board meeting minutes or in the next District Six Lodge Meeting minutes.

ARTICLE XIII
Vacancies

- Par. 22 Whenever vacancies occur on the District Board due to resignation, death or removal from office, the vacancies shall be filled by the District Board.

- Par. 23 The District Board shall, by a majority vote of all its members, have the power to remove from office any member of the Board by reason of incompetence, moral or physical weakness, embezzlement, or neglect of duties, provided the accused has been given a chance to defend himself or herself. Should a member of the Board, without its approval, be absent from their home for a period of more than six months, he shall forfeit his office and a new member shall be elected at the next Board meeting.

ARTICLE XIV

Election of Delegates and Alternates to the International Lodge Meeting

- Par. 24 The District shall use the Zones defined in Article III, Par. 9 for the purposes of electing delegates and alternates to the International Lodge Meeting, based on the semi-annual report immediately prior to the District Lodge Meeting.
- Par. 25 The District Secretary shall allocate in the Report Book prior to each convention the number of delegates to which each Zone is entitled in proportion to its membership.
- Par. 26 After the nomination and election of District Officers in accordance with Article III, Par. 6 each Zone shall caucus and shall elect from its members the Zone Director and the delegates to which it is entitled; they shall also elect an alternate for each delegate.
- Par. 27 International delegates are elected in the zone caucus, and each zone may have only one elected delegate per 300 members, exclusive of delegates at large. A corresponding number of alternates from each Zone are elected after the delegates are elected.
- Par. 28 In addition to the two delegates for the District provided for by the Charter and Constitutions (one of whom shall be the District President, if able to attend), the remaining fraction of 300 members in each of the various zones shall be pooled, and delegates elected at large in accordance with the number of pooled members. Also, a corresponding number of alternates shall be elected at large, who, in order of their election, shall fill vacancies, the first filling the first vacancy, etc. These nominations shall be from the floor of the convention.
- Par. 29 Zones shall be defined by the District Board with consideration to geographic area, lodge membership, and local lodge(s) concerns, but not to allow any zone to become less than 300 members for election of an International delegate. Local lodge zone assignments may only be changed biennially, to take effect at the District Six Convention. (Zone 4 placed on hiatus in June, 2004.)

ARTICLE XV

Nomination of International Lodge Directors

- Par. 30 The District Six Lodge shall nominate the International Lodge Director and Alternate to which it is entitled, at the Biennial District Lodge Meeting from among its newly elected delegates to the International Lodge Meeting and its present representative on the International Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVI

Compliance

- Par. 31 The district must operate in full compliance with all governmental laws, regulations and applicable requirements and maintain in force all licenses, permits and approvals required for its operation within the country in which the district is organized.

Par. 32 The district must operate in full compliance with all laws, regulations and applicable requirements as outlined in the latest edition of the Charter, Bylaws, Policy, & Procedures (CBPP) of Sons of Norway, and as otherwise communicated to the district by the International Headquarters of Sons of Norway. These include, but are not limited to, the timely annual filing of IRS 990 forms for lodges in the United States, the D63 and D17 reports for lodges, the D64 and D18 reports for building corporations, if applicable, and the timely payment of the annual liability insurance assessment.

Par. 33 The district must adhere to the Sons of Norway Social Media policy and the Conflict of Interest/Ethics policy, and all district policies and procedures adopted by their district.

ARTICLE XVII

Dissolution and Distribution of Assets

Par. 34 Dissolution, either voluntary or involuntary, shall be made only in accordance with the procedures as set forth in the Sons of Norway CBPP.

Par. 35 In the event of dissolution of the lodge corporation(s), both district and building association, if applicable, it is *recommended* that the corporation's remaining assets shall be distributed to the Sons of Norway Foundation [a 501(c)(3) organization] if in existence when the distribution occurs or, if not, to a similarly designated and purposed entity or entities within the country in which the district is organized.

Par. 36 Upon dissolution of the district, district assets may not be transferred to individual members for personal benefit.

Par. 37 The plan to distribute district assets must be approved in advance by Sons of Norway Headquarters. However, Headquarters shall not oppose any plan of distribution that complies with relevant state and federal laws and regulations.

ARTICLE XVIII

Audits

Par. 38 The district shall elect, appoint, or employ competent auditors to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis. If elected or appointed the audit team shall be composed of two (2) or more district members, and in situations where additional financial and audit experience is needed, the district shall have the option to employ one (1) or more independent auditor(s) to audit the district lodge books on an annual basis.

Par. 39 At least once each year the auditor(s) shall submit a written report of each audit to the district board.

ARTICLE XIX

Dispute Resolution

Par. 40 Any grievance, complaint or dispute arising out of or in connection with SON business, at any level, if not settled to the satisfaction of the parties involved, shall only be resolved using the provisions contained in Bylaws Chapter 17 and Policies and Procedures Chapter 25 entitled *Conduct and appeal process*. The sections contained in these chapters prescribe the sole means to present and resolve grievances, complaints or disputes.

ARTICLE XX
Amendments to the Bylaws

Par. 41 These bylaws may be altered, augmented, or repealed at any regular or special District Lodge meeting by a two-thirds majority of the qualified voters' ballots.

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BYLAWS**



Adopted at the Convention in Santa Barbara, CA October 1952

Amended at the following Conventions/District Lodge Meetings:

- Santa Cruz, CA June 1954
- Eureka, CA June 1956
- Oakland, CA June 1964
- Los Angeles, CA June 1966
- Pasadena, CA June 1970
- Concord, CA June 1976
- North Hollywood, CA June 1978
- Colorado Springs, CO June 1980
- Santa Clara, CA June 1982
- Long Beach, CA June 1984
- Visalia, CA June 1986
- Napa, CA June 1988
- Golden, CO June 1990
- Eureka, CA June 1992
- San Diego, CA June 1994
- Sparks, NV June, 1996
- Sacramento, CA June, 1998
- Tempe, AZ June 2000
- Westminster, CO June 2002
- Sacramento, CA June 2004
- Ventura, CA June 2006
- San Ramon, CA June 2008
- Modesto, CA June 2010
- Mesa, AZ June 2012
- Palm Springs, CA June 2014
- Loveland, CO June 2016
- Rohnert Park, CA June 2018
- By electronic referendum Aug. 2021
- Mesa, AZ June 2022
- By International Board of Directors January 2024