

1. Sons of Norway, the Organization

Fraternal organization

- Norwegian heritage and culture
- Mutual assistance to benefit members

Mission and Vision

- Provide quality insurance and financial products to our members,
- Promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway
- Celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries

Founding and History of Sons of Norway

- Founded on January 16, 1895, in Minneapolis, Minnesota by group of 18 Norwegian immigrants
- Established to offer financial aid to members
- Expanded to include the preservation of Norwegian heritage and culture
- Quickly expanded to lodges in other cities and states
- District Six established in 1952

Resources are available on the headquarters sofn.com website to help lodge leadership spread this information to the members of your lodge through many informative slide shows.

-Under the “Leadership Training Series, there is an audio slide show presentation information relating to the founding of the Sons of Norway and its mission.



2. Sons of Norway's Organizational Structure

Structured into districts across United States, Canada, and Norway

Headquarters Leadership

- Executive team: strategic planning, financial oversight, organizational governance
- Team includes
 - Chief Executive Officer (CEO),
 - Controller,
 - Executive Committee made of Elected International Directors
 - Other key executives

Resource - **There is a quarterly Leadership Resource Newsletter put out by the Sons of Norway Headquarters covering several subjects, such as Lodge training, important headquarters information, compliance requirements, information on scholarships with due date reminders, and much more.**

The Three Sons of Norway Branches

The Fraternal Aspect

- Cultural Preservation
- Community Involvement
- Member Support
- *Heart* of Organization

There are resources available on the headquarters sofn.com website to help lodge leadership spread this information to the members of your lodge through informative slide shows.

Resource -*There is an informative audio slide show on the overview of the fraternal aspect within the “Training and Presentation Resources” Training Series.*

The Financial Services

- Life Insurance, Annuities, and other Financial Planning Tools
- Generates revenue that supports fraternal programs and charitable activities
- *Unfortunately, only about 6.7% of local lodge members own a product. A smart choice for a lodge to follow a path action that would ensure financial security for members and their families. Have your lodge plan and schedule a financial planner visit at your lodge gatherings.*



The Financial Services cont'd

Resource - There is an informative audio slide show on the financial product's overview at the SofN.com Website within the Leadership Training Series

The Foundation

- Charitable branch
- Supports education, cultural initiatives, humanitarian efforts
- Provides scholarships, grants and funding
- Creates support system for members and their communities.

In 2023,

- **the Sons of Norway Foundation distributed over \$241,000 in awards.**
- **\$160,000 In Scholarships** for students to study in the United States, Canada, and Norway
- **\$67,336 In Grants** for Norwegian culture and heritage programs
- **\$14,000 In Camperships** for kids across the United States to attend Norwegian cultural camps

Resource -There is an informative audio slide show on the Foundation's overview at the SofN.com Website within the Leadership Training Series.



3. District Operations

- Each District oversees operations within respective regions
- Leaders elected from local lodge membership

Resources - A Newsletter is put out by the Sons of Norway District Six (6) Public Relations Officer (PRO) three times a year covering several subjects, such as future District events, recaps of past district events, cultural events, Lodge training, important headquarters information, compliance requirements, information on scholarships with due date reminders, and much more.



3. District Operations cont'd.

Role of Districts

- Implement broader goals
- Tailor to needs of local communities
- Offer guidance on administrative matters
- Organizing training sessions
- Biannual Convention

Resource -There is an informative audio slide show on the district structure within the Local Lodge training overview at the SofN.com Website within the Leadership Training Series.

Yes, we are mentioning these slide shows a lodge resource over and over!

There are at least twenty (20) slide shows and multiple videos on the SofN.com website covering several areas that a local lodge could incorporate into its lodge meeting programs to inform and educate its members about the Sons of Norway.



4. The Role of Local Lodges

Cultural Events

- Performances, language classes, workshops, holiday celebrations

Educational Programs

- Such as lectures, film screenings, book clubs on topics from Viking history to modern-day Norway

Volunteer Opportunities

- Members often engage in community service projects

Social Connections

- Meetings, gatherings and events provide social framework

Support Systems

- Help for those in need, scholarships, fundraising events

Overall, individual **Sons of Norway lodges are the lifeblood of the organization, ensuring that its mission to promote Norwegian heritage and foster community spirit is carried out effectively at the grassroots level.**