

January 24, 2026

Dear Lodge Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers

On June 25, 26 and 27th, 2026 we will be gathering for the 62nd Biennial District 1 District Lodge Meeting (aka convention) in Willmar, MN. If you have not done so, it is time to elect your delegates to the convention! According to the adult lodge membership as of December 31, 2025, **Lodge # 1- is entitled to delegates and alternates to the convention.**

We are hoping that all lodges will send their allotted delegates to carry out the business of our District. If you are unable to send delegates, we hope that you will still elect your allowed number of delegates so that you have a voice in the upcoming April caucuses. It is the District that supports the lodges through grants, and who you can turn to for help with your lodge, so it is critical that we hear from all lodges to know how best to support you!

Attached to this email you will find, a pdf copy of the this letter, as well as several other important items:

1. The District Convention Delegate and Alternate Verification Form
(attached in .docx and pdf format)

The delegate election has to take place **before** APRIL 1, 2024 as this simplified Delegate Verification form is due back to the District Secretary via email, or print format **by no later than April 1st**. Use the same form, to report your duly elected delegates and alternates. You are welcome to fill out the form in Word, and email it back. Note that this does not register your delegates for the convention. It does allow the district to certify that your Delegates are current Sons of Norway members who can be accepted as delegates and allowed into the convention as a voting member.

2. Delegate and Non-Delegate Convention costs

The delegate packet cost has been finalized at \$300. District 1 will supply a \$25 discount from the Nidaros Endowment fund if paid by March 15th for a final cost of \$275 per delegate.

The non delegate full package has been finalized at \$265 which includes all meals, banquets and classes. The online registration site will also have other day only or meal options available, as well as information about the classes, tour and speakers. The delegate registration link will be emailed directly to your delegates, using the email address provided on the

delegate verification form. A copy of the information will also be sent to lodge officers.

We have reserved the Best Western Plus, which is attached to the Conference Center in Willmar with discounted rates of \$134.99 plus tax for single rooms and \$144.99 plus tax for double rooms. Contact the hotel using the following link: https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.24139.html?groupId=I47ZC7W3 by May 25th to guarantee these prices.

3. Convention Bid Form (attached)

We are asking all lodges and/or Zones to consider being in charge of the 2028 District convention. In order to have a well functioning District it is important that we start planning for 2028 now! If there are no volunteers, the 2026 delegates will be asked to brainstorm a path going forward. If your lodge can help, please return the attached form by April 20, 2026.

3. Nominating Committee

One of the most important duties of the delegates is to elect the Officers and Directors for District 1. We need candidates who have a passion for Sons of Norway. Our current President, Mark Haugen, is serving as the chair of the 2026 Nominating Committee. He will gather and verify the required candidate applications. If any delegates are interested in running for office, contact Mark at mhaugen_architect@msn.com or (612) 850-3312

Applications and all forms are also available on the District Website at www.sofn-1.org.

Questions? Feel free to call me at 763-434-5650 or email me at cjtowntsend@comcast.net.

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