



Roots & Future



Bridging Generations



February 28, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are so pleased that you are planning to attend the 2026 District 1 Convention. Along with District 1 business, the convention will offer workshops on lodge opportunities, classes on cultural activities, site-seeing trips and special programs.

Dates: Thursday June 25, 2026 at 11 am opening ceremonies through Saturday June 27, 2026 early afternoon.

Location: Best Western Plus Willmar, 2100 Highway 12, Willmar MN 56201, Phone 320-235-6060

Delegates: Your main task will be to vote on suggested Bylaw changes and Resolutions, and to elect District Officers and Zone Directors to serve from 2026-2028. Now that you have been elected by your lodge, you should register for the convention and place your hotel registration. Links to registration and further information are available on the Convention News page on the District 1 website: <http://sofn-1.org>

Cost: Delegate registration (\$300) includes all meals, snacks, Thursday President's Reception, and Friday evening Banquet. **The District will offer an early bird discount of \$25 for delegates only, who register BY April 15, 2026.** (This is a correction to the March 15th date previously sent out). Non-delegate registration will be \$265 and includes all meals, including the President's Reception, Friday Banquet, snacks, and access to all classes. Individual day prices, are also available on the registration website. We ask that all registrations be paid before May 1st.

Delegate and Non Delegate (guest) Registration: Go directly to <https://sonsofnorwaydistrict1.regfox.com/sons-of-norway-district-1-convention> to register, OR use the QR code at the end of this letter, OR go to <http://sofn-1.org> to access all registration links. Registration can be paid by credit card or by check. If paying by check send the attached check form with your check to Connie Chrissis, District 1 Treasurer.

Hotel Registration: Will be handled individually. Contact the Best Western Plus in Willmar at https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.24139.html?groupid=I47ZC7W3. This link is also on our District 1 website <http://sofn-1.org>. Discounted rates of \$134.99 plus tax for single rooms and \$144.99 plus tax for double rooms per night. The Conference Hall is attached to the Best Western. Overflow rooms are available at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites for the same price. The deadline to receive this rate is May 25, 2026.

Further Information for Lodges and Delegates:

- Delegates are asked to be on site at the Willmar Conference Center by 11 am on Thursday, June 25, in time for the Opening Ceremonies, followed by lunch and cultural activities.
- Delegates will be asked to attend a Zone Caucus in March/ April, in-person or via Zoom, hosted by your Zone Director. This will give additional background information on the proposed resolutions, election of District officers and directors, etc. All Board positions are open to any delegate attending the convention. Zone Director and Alternate candidates for your specific Zone are selected at this Caucus. Lodges should elect delegates to attend the caucus even if they are not planning on attending the convention.
- We welcome everyone interested in running for a District Board position. Please submit the District Leadership Application to Carolyn Townsend, which is found on the Sons of Norway website (www.sofn.com) under "Governance" by April 25th. It is also on the District site at <http://sofn-1.org>, or contact me and I will send you one!
- Bylaw changes and Resolutions: Please submit by April 15th, 2026 for review. If you are late, they will have to be submitted to the D-1 Secretary no later than May 1 to be included in the Report Book for Convention Delegates. Note: Bylaws are your way of informing the District how you and your lodge want them to perform over the next two years.
- The Conference Center will not allow the hanging of banners. However, we would still love to have you bring your lodge banner to display, but, please bring a pole and stand for it as well.
- *Please check the attached forms* for information about participating in the Folk Art competition / exhibit, the Scholarship Walk, and the Silent Auction.
- Show your *support for the convention*; remember to submit your lodge ad for the souvenir book.
- Talk to your lodge about hosting the 2028 convention. If no one bids, be prepared to discuss convention options during the business meeting.

Your District Board Officers and Directors are here to help you. Should you have questions or need further information, do not hesitate to contact me directly

Fraternally,
Carolyn Townsend, D-1 Secretary
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H 763-434-5650; Text 612-275-6609



QR code for direct access to the
2026 District 1 Sons of Norway Convention
Delegate Registration website.