

Celebrate Norwegian Culture

“Sons of Norway is your destination for discovering and celebrating the rich tapestry of Norwegian culture . . . we have something for everyone.” Sons of Norway website.

Nordic Trunk Information and Guidelines:

The District 5 Cultural Committee would like to encourage all Lodges to enhance their Norwegian culture experience by taking advantage of an opportunity for your lodge members. District 5 has a Norwegian Culture Collection in the form of three different containers (trunks), to assist you in discussing our heritage at your Lodge meetings. The trunks were created and made by Owen Christianson and contain examples of our Nordic heritage that have been donated over many years to these collections. The three trunks are identified as:

1. Viking Chest 2. Immigrant Trunk 3. Mini-Family Immigrant Trunk

The Viking Chest was the first trunk. In addition to the cultural items, it contains a written history of the creation of the collection and includes information about the Viking House located at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay.

Each trunk contains different items representing Norwegian culture such as rosemaling, Hardanger embroidery, books, recipes, tools, cooking utensils, and much more. Included in each trunk is a list and description of each item, a list of suggested activities for sharing the items, and a space to document and describe new contributions.

Change in Trunk Rotation:

Due to the changes in our By-laws regarding Zone Directors, the Committee is looking at a different process to deliver the trunks to our Lodges. The Cultural Committee plans to track the containers and be a clearinghouse for arranging their routing throughout the district. Members are asked to assist in moving the trunks from one lodge to another. Communication will be important between lodges. Our goal is to keep the travel distance as short as possible. This will be a challenge for the eastern and southern part of the district where lodges are quite far apart, but if several people who can drive can find meeting places, a trunk could be transferred with 3 or 4 drivers cooperating.

The Cultural Committee will do our best to provide all three trunks to your lodge over a period of time. The trunks will be reviewed and updated by members of the Cultural Committee at the Spring and Fall Board meetings.

Donating to the Nordic Container Collection:

- Lodges are encouraged to donate to the collection, write a description of their donation on the sheet in the trunk, and email a copy to the District 5 Cultural Director.

-All donations to the trunks will become the property of District 5, therefore

NOTHING IS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE COLLECTION.

The Cultural Committee will distribute the donations among the trunks, so your donation may be found in one of the trunks other than the one in which it was originally donated.

Nordic Trunk Request Form:

To determine the routing proposal for the trunks, please complete the attached request form and email it to District 5 Cultural Director, Judith Ghastin at judy62ghastin@gmail.com. The Committee and or Director will then determine the best route to distribute the trunks. The Contact Person from your Lodge will be contacted to determine the best time and place to receive and transfer the trunk. Please contact Judith Ghastin, District 5 Cultural Director, if you have any questions or suggestions or comments.