

## **JANUARY 2022 REPORT TO THE BOARD**

I have had two fun, busy, challenging years as President of the Poulsbo Sons of Norway Lodge. Now that my time as President has come to an end, I must complete the directive from International and make my fourth and final semi-annual report. There were many starts and stops throughout the last half of 2021 as covid refused to disappear. Through it all, the board has remained faithful and has taken many actions for the benefit of the lodge and Trolls' Den. As President, the following is my end of the year report to the Lodge:

### **July 2021**

1. Christina Webster began as the lodge Office Manager on July 5<sup>th</sup>.
2. A program for evaluations was set in place and the first employee evaluations were completed. From now on the evaluations are scheduled to take place around October/November of each year.
3. Through the constant efforts of our Treasurer and the appreciated support of the board, the lodge finances began to break even.
4. The huge Keys/Codes/Passwords Project is nearly completed with just decisions regarding the passwords left to tackle.
5. Thirteen (13) applicants have applied for membership during the month and will be voted on in September.
6. The first annual Kubb Tournament was held at the lodge with Rob Meng and Colin Kuester as the winners.
7. The Friday Night Dinners were in the black for the month.
8. A new arm of the lodge, the Food Services Committee (FSC), was set up with Karen Zabinski, Lorena Maxwell, and Debbie Goyette the first members.
9. The Poulsbo Historical Society codfish dinner was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> and was very successful for both the PHS and the lodge.
10. Rotary restarted their Friday morning breakfasts on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
11. The \$3,000 received from the LTax Grant was successfully spent on advertising during the year.
12. Our bylaws amendment submitted to International was rejected by them because we didn't use their new template.
13. The Ladies Club donated funds to purchase a service of 200 plates for the lodge.

### **August**

1. LUC (Lodge Update Committee) continued to clean out and rearrange the storage areas in the lodge.
2. The Christmas Bazaar was renamed Nordic Market.
3. The Ladies Club silver was surveyed to see what was surplus to the lodge. The surplus silver will be sold at summer sidewalk sales and/or at the Nordic Market with the proceeds going to LUC.
4. Lodge finances were in the black for the first time in a long time.
5. Following a review of the finances, the House Committee concurred to have the bar continue to be open seven days a week.

6. The Executive Committee hired Christina Webster as a part-time bartender and also hired Blair Anderson as a temporary bartender to cover Sundays.
7. The lodge's application for the 2022 LTAX grant season was submitted to the City of Poulsbo.
8. The Vikings took part in the Liberty Bay Festival, a downtown HDPA event.
9. Katrina Krouse was selected to be the St. Lucia Bride for Julefest.
10. A kayak event was scheduled by the Sports Director.
11. The City of Poulsbo required the lodge to "correct" their street address from 18891 to 18991.
12. A T-shirt fundraiser was held.
13. The board concurred that library books surplus to the lodge will be sold in three categories: a) books with little or no perceived value to be sold for \$1 each with proceeds to go to the scholarship fund; b) minor value vintage books to be sold as possible with the proceeds to go to LUC; and c) most valuable vintage books to be sold online or however possible with the proceeds to be split 50-50 between the lodge and the scholarship fund.

### **September**

1. The lodge finances were in the black for the second month in a row.
2. The second annual Kubb Tournament was held on September 11<sup>th</sup> with Rob Kodalen the winning member.
3. Seventy-six (76) new members were voted into the lodge.
4. Cross-training of employees began.
5. The House Committee concurred to open the Trolls' Den a half hour before each Seahawks game.
6. The board approved additional cameras for the ARLO security system and also approved the possible swap out of the large safe.
7. The board decided to eliminate the free meal tickets to volunteers and concurred the outstanding meal tickets must be used by December 31, 2021.
8. The board directed the Membership Committee to review the process of accepting new members to determine whether the lodge should continue to vote new members in or accept the more common procedure.
9. The final Walsh Oktoberfest was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> and was very successful.
10. A sick leave carryover procedure was set up for employees allowing a maximum of 40 hours to be carried into the next year.
11. The Executive Committee addressed two employee issues: the new state LTC (long term care) requirement and the Direct Deposit request.

### **October**

1. The Trolls' Den Advisory Committee's request for an online donation proposal was approved by the House Committee and the board.
2. Thirty (30) new members were voted into the lodge.
3. The lodge received a \$25,000 federal ARPA grant through the City of Poulsbo.
4. The Custodian, Jamie Harker, resigned.
5. The Vikings had a Halloween bonfire on the 30<sup>th</sup> and handed out candy.

6. The lodge royalty joined the HDPH Halloween celebration on the 31<sup>st</sup> and distributed candy outside the lodge.
7. With the approval of the board, the Treasurer and office personnel looked into setting up a computer network for the office.
8. The Office Manager, Christina Webster, was given check signing authority.
9. The Keys/Codes/Passwords Project was finally completed.
10. The Daughters of Norway decided to move their meetings to Vinland Church.
11. The Membership Committee recommended continuing to vote members in through 2021 and revisit the procedure in 2022.
12. A search for a new custodian was begun.
13. The lodge finances continue to promise health for the lodge.

## **November**

1. The copying of the Norwegian National Anthem picture book (found in the library) was completed and will be given as a gift to those donating \$10 or more to the Scholarship fund.
2. May Mathiesen was appointed to join the FSC.
3. Following the 3-month review of the Rotary contract, revisions were made to better address covid requirements and continue to strive for zero waste.
4. Twenty-eight (28) new members were voted into our lodge.
5. The lodge finances were again in the black at the end of the month.
6. The members came together to celebrate Veterans Day on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
7. The Ladies Club bank account was closed with the funds going to the lodge and to LUC.
8. The lodge and Trolls' Den were decorated for the holidays on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
9. The board approved renting out the Norse Room to Jeff Iller for non-contact Martial Arts classes on Wednesday evenings.
10. An ongoing supplies account with Sysco was re-established after the long covid closure.
11. LUC began concentrating their updating plans on the Trolls' Den with new barstools their first change.
12. Board member Colin Kuester and Building Association members began refinishing the lodge staging.
13. There was a major change to International's governance policy which may negatively affect local lodges in the future.
14. Our Gambling Manager, Hank Roest, resigned since he was moving to Kansas.

## **December**

1. Rob Meng was appointed the new lodge Gambling Manager.
2. On the 4<sup>th</sup> the Nordic Market/Taste of Norway/Julefest event was held with a staggering 3,500 guests entering the lodge and a net profit of over \$7,000.
3. For the first time, the Nordic Market included demonstrations of rosemaling, lefse making and heritage crafts along with the usual vendors.
4. All the food at the Taste of Norway was sold including the waffles made at the last minute, with only jars of pickled herring remaining to be sold.

5. In the evening, to complete Julefest, the Vikings brought the St. Lucia Bride in by boat and celebrated with a proclamation and a bonfire.
6. The Santa Breakfast was held in the Viking Room on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
7. Forty-eight (48) applicants were accepted into the lodge for a total in 2021 of 297 new members.
8. The first ever Norwegian Julemiddag for 50 members and guests was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> and well received.
9. The return of our Christmas Kaffe Stua (thank you Judy Morgan and Bjorn Nilsen) on the 15<sup>th</sup> with all items priced ala carte was a huge success.
10. The Leikarringen provided a \$2,500 donation to the lodge.
11. The lodge received word it has been awarded an \$11,165 LTAX grant for 2022.
12. The board and lodge membership approved up to \$1,000 for improvements in the lodge to ensure continued hot water availability during large events.
13. Due to snow and as a covid precaution, the lodge and Trolls' Den were basically closed the last week of December.
14. The lodge ended 2021 with a net profit that was much larger than any since the finances were computerized about fifteen years ago.

### **January 1 to 11, 2022**

1. The Trolls' Den officially reopened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the lodge on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
2. Because of my exposure to covid and the quarantine requirement, I missed my final board meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There goes a perfect attendance record!
3. Vice President Mike Dudley had the opportunity to lead the Executive Committee meeting and the board meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> and used Zoom for the meetings.
4. Volunteers came together on the 6<sup>th</sup> to take down the holiday decorations.
5. I presided over my final lodge meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
6. I announced the following 2021 Man and Woman of the Year awards—there was a tie for Man of the Year between Marvin Crossland and Roger Swenson. The unanimous selection for Woman of the Year was Lizbeth Doving.
7. District President Jerry Erickson installed the 2022 Board of Directors on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
8. Now that I am no longer President, I was installed to complete the final year of a three-year Trustee position on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

As with my July 2021 report, I am including a part of the "Looking ahead" section to show where we started last July and how far we have come.

### **Looking at what happened and what is on the horizon (from July 2021):**

Now that our state has "opened up", the lodge is receiving many calls and our Venue Rental Coordinator (Alisha Anunson) is staying very busy. Our new Office Manager, Christina Webster, will begin on July 5<sup>th</sup> and will join Alisha and Susan Wytco, our Financial Clerk, in covering the office. Along with the three of them we have our Bar Manager, Koleen Baker, and four part-time bartenders so the Trolls' Den is in good hands. We are beginning to fill our calendar with room rentals and we are looking forward to a very successful last half of 2021. As I have said so many times, remember—it's a New Dawn, a New Day, a New Life—and we're back!!!

**My thoughts for the future:** Now that my time as your president is over, several thoughts are running through my head. First, thank you to all the members who stepped forward whenever there was a need and for the ongoing support. The past two years have been challenging but successful. As a lodge, we have been able to complete projects to enhance and update the facility, keep things going in the middle of the pandemic, come together to enjoy the camaraderie of our membership, gather together at the Trolls' Den, volunteer to make events like the Nordic Market/Taste of Norway/Julefest successful, bring our culture to the public in events like Kaffe Stua and the Vikings bringing the St Lucia Bride in by boat to celebrate at the bonfire, and generally enjoy our lodge. During 2020 and 2021, we accepted more than 400 new members into our lodge. Our membership increase shows our lodge to be a vital and growing entity. I look forward to wonderful events in the future and, with covid waning, I would love to see our membership once more be an ongoing leader in community outreach.

Before I sign off, I must, of course, applaud our Treasurer, Jerry Block, for his extraordinary efforts the last two years. What an amazing gift he has given the lodge. He has transformed the finances and now, looking into the future, the position of Treasurer will be much less daunting and, hopefully, more fun to fill. Thank you, Jerry, you have accomplished amazing things for the lodge! Lastly, my time as president of the lodge has brought many new friends into my life. I shall cherish them. **AND HERE IT IS—The New Dawn of 2022 shall make a New Day and bring a rejuvenated New Life to our lodge.** This is Sherry signing off!!