September 14, 2024

**Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada**

**President’s Report to the 2024 Annual General Meeting**

*Greetings and Velkommen to this 2024 Annual General Meeting of our Foundation*

I wish to start my report with a reflection on my time as a Foundation Board Member. I was first elected as National Director in 1990. Two years later I was elected Vice-President. In 1994, President Jack Lysne chose to retire from his President’s role, a position he had held for fourteen years, and nominated me for the position of President. I have now held the position of President of our Foundation for thirty years.

In my service as a Board Member, I have served and participated with an array of extraordinary people who served with total commitment to the ideals of our Foundation and participated in actions and discussions on making our Foundation what we are today.

Having stated this, it is time for me to retire from my position as Foundation President and make room for another leader. I know we have capable candidates in our midst!

During my time as a Board Member, we have followed the ideals originally set up by our founders. Operationally, there has been little change in our support programs. Financial support for Lodges and Affiliate groups as well as Post-Secondary Bursaries continue. This support is consistent with our Bylaws and Policies.

Financially, we are doing well. We can report that our donations and investment earnings have placed us at a better than average level. Now that we meet virtually, the savings are substantial, although it does not replace the friendly advantages of face-to-face meetings. Treasurer Erik will review our financial reports.

But all in not perfect! In the past few years, we have seen Lodges and Affiliate Groups dissolve. Reasons for such actions can be many, including aging memberships as well as difficulty in leadership availability. For our Foundation, the loss of member groups directly affects the representation of Voting Memberships, which then has a bearing on available candidates to participate in our Foundation.

We must carry on. It is most important that we are well informed about our Foundation. As I have stated many times, an important key is our website ([www.sonfic.ca](http://www.sonfic.ca)) , let us use it. Let us also remember the Foundation belongs to all of us.

Thank you all for your support through donations, program participation and active participation as Voting Member representatives and Board Members.

Hilsen, Tore