



## SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA

Incorporated 1971

September 2025

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### **NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

Vacant

### Report of President Gloria Benazic to AGM

Following in the footsteps of Tore Pettersen has not been easy after so many years in his position of President – the learning curve has been steep. I think I can say that Ron Reine has found the same with replacing long time Treasurer Erik Brochmann. Ron and I have had many conversations this past year to get up to speed, especially with the financial reporting to CRA and ensuring compliance with all the regulations.

As there was a decline of nominations for the Foundation Board at the last AGM, the Board moved to open the membership representation at the AGM to two members from each member organization in hopes that more interested members would participate. Hopefully this will bring the results the Board is hoping for. As the AGM elections failed to fill the slate of officers, the Board referred to By-Law 4.04 with states officers will hold office until they are replaced by election and Tore Pettersen and Erik Brochmann agreed to remain as National Directors. Unfortunately, November 5, 2024 Karen Rosvold resigned due to changes in her work and additional duties and the Board approved Tore Pettersen as the Vice President. The Board had also asked the membership organizations to submit nominations for filling the Board and we received one nomination and approved Devon Ward as a National Director (a young entrepreneur with some younger perspective). Unfortunately, later on Director Brenda Carlstad had to resign due to personal matters but has agreed to remain as the webmaster so we are currently short one National Director as well as our optional two Alternate Directors. This is the reason we called for additional nominations for this AGM when it is normally a non-election AGM. I wish to extend a sincere THANK YOU KAREN AND BRENDA for your service and contributions to the Foundation!!

As President, it has been a learning curve but I think we are now on the path to move the Foundation forward. We really miss the newsletters that Thelma Lysne provided regularly and if you are interested in taking on this role, please get in touch with me. Until an editor is found, I will produce more materials to send out to the Foundation Directors (or Presidents if no Director) to share with their members. It is important that we share grant opportunities as

well as encouraging families to have their post-secondary and trades students apply for bursaries. The Foundation should have a presence at all our events so people know and remember to check out the possibilities to donate and to use our resources.

This past year has constantly brought to my mind the objectives of our Foundation and maybe this is a good time to share some of those objectives with you. As with every Foundation, we are here to secure gifts and donations to be used for the charitable purposes established in 1971. Primarily, the Foundation wishes to encourage and promote the history and arts of our Nordic heritage by providing bursaries and grants to assist groups with project funds and individuals with attending or teaching various skills and information. The Foundation also gives donations to other charitable organizations to help their objectives – examples like the Red Cross, Salvation Army. We may also assist other organizations that have similar objectives to our own.

The past couple years, all our Board meetings and AGM have taken place on Zoom. This has afforded us the opportunity to meet more often to have short Board meetings which are very helpful. The Board is considering looking at holding a face-to-face meeting as they are often more productive in bringing forth ideas and plans. We will see what develops from these discussions.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada. Your donations have made the lives of many students a little easier with a boost to their funding. A number of events and workshops have shared with the local community, Nordic crafts or celebration of Nordic dates and histories. As our population moves away from the immigrant to second, third or even greater generations from European residency, many want to ensure that our offspring learn about their Nordic culture and history. Your gifts help make this possible.

I welcome questions and input so please contact me. I look forward to the next year to see what this organization will support for the betterment of our communities.

Fraternally,  
Gloria Benazic