



**SONS of
NORWAY**

District Six

California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Hawaii



Dear District Six Lodges,

The District Six Officers and Directors hope you all had a great holiday season and wish you a great 2021. 2020 was a difficult year for all of us. Due to the limitations set on our lodges as a result of the global pandemic and as members of a lodge, we know the frustrations you all have faced during the last year. However, despite the challenges, many lodges are creating alternative methods to keep lodges active and vibrant. To support all District Lodges in their journey to “keep things going,” the District Six Board has voted to give each of our lodges \$200. This money is to be used by the lodge for membership retention, recruitment, and communication. How do you do this in a pandemic when lodges can’t meet? There are many ways this can be accomplished. The ideas that are being shared have come from lodges in our district. Here are some of the ways you could use the money the district has sent to your lodge.

- Hold meetings via ZOOM, Go To Meeting, Google Teams, or conference calls. Use the funds to pay for a yearly subscription. Many lodges are finding that using an internet meeting format has made it more accessible to many members. Some lodges are planning to use the format even after we can meet in person. Sometimes it is not easy to have group discussions via internet service. Use a break out room with 3-4 in a group. That facilitates conversations on a more personal way. Meeting materials can be shared as well as media presentations.
- Send additional newsletters, cards, or notes to keep members engaged. Use the money to pay for postage and printing.
- Host meetings, events, lectures, movies, concerts, or whatever via an electronic media. Some lodges have members creating innovative programs. Have a virtual cooking class.
- Hold meetings in parks, parking lots, or driveways so that social distancing can be utilized. One lodge has set up community groups. The lodge leadership identified members in the same area and encouraged them to meet in small groups.
- Give back to members. Have a drive-by giving a goodie bag, gift, or just a hello to see how everyone is doing. Provide individually wrapped items.
- Utilize a phone tree. This, for the most part, is free but allows members to reach out and check on each other.
- You still can have a lutefisk dinner. Pre-order meal kits and provide instructions on the preparation. Members pick up their meal kit and prepare it themselves.
- Or let’s flip this. Do your members like to reach out to the community by providing food for a local food bank, care kits for the homeless, or socks for a local mission? Let others in your community hear about this, they may want to participate. Many younger members have class projects that require community service. Support their school project, and this could help retain that younger member.

The District Board requests a note, photo, or article as to how your lodge utilized the funds. We would like to share your ideas in the District newsletter and share photos in the *Viking Magazine*.

The District Board hopes this contribution to your lodge will assist your lodge to continue to reach out members and maybe they in turn will bring in additional members.

Thank you all for everything you do for our members, our lodges, and our communities.

Fraternally,

Luella Grangaard,
District Six President
and the District Six Board of Directors