



# Sons of Norway's 2018 Simplified Dues Structure

Sons of Norway International delegates voted at the 2014 and 2016 International Lodge Meetings to proceed with a simplified dues structure for U.S. members only, effective Jan. 1, 2018. The vote to implement the Simplified Dues Resolution will put into effect the will of the International Lodge, your elected representatives.

## History

- With more than 385 dues schedules currently in place, our dues system is complex and has been discussed by our leaders over the course of many years.
- Toward simplifying our dues structure, actions were taken in 2014 and 2016 by your elected representatives, resulting in a new simplified dues structure beginning Jan. 1, 2018.



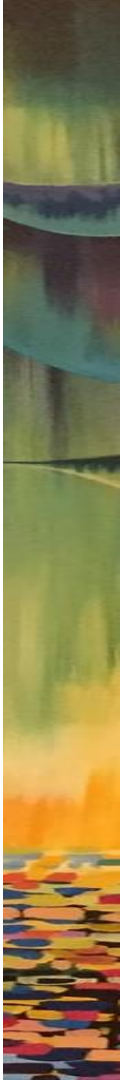
# History

## 2014 Resolution

*Investigating and pursuing a simplified dues structure was voted on and approved by the delegates to the 2014 International Lodge Meeting. Delegates overwhelmingly supported the following resolution forwarded for consideration by District Five:*

WHEREAS the current dues structure and membership categories are complicated and very hard to explain to prospective members AND for current members to understand; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a committee be established by the International Lodge President to present a resolution in 2016 to the International Lodge which will simplify the current membership classifications to include Insurance/Social and Individual/Family and make total dues for each lodge consistent within each country.



# History

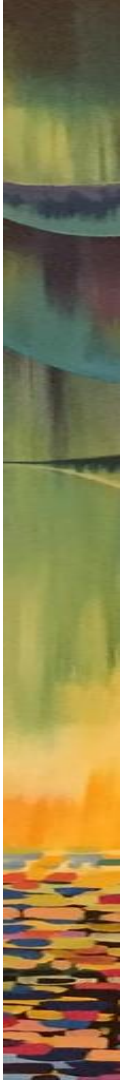
## 2016 Resolution

*In August 2016 at the International Lodge Meeting in Tacoma, a new dues structure was voted in by a strong delegate majority vote (121-32). This resolution applies to dues within the United States only.*

## Simplified Dues Resolution

WHEREAS the current dues structure and membership categories are complicated and very hard to explain to prospective members AND for current members to understand; and,

WHEREAS the 2014 meeting of the International Lodge passed a resolution for a committee to present a resolution in 2016 to simplify the current membership classifications to include Insurance/Social and Individual/Family and to make total dues for each lodge consistent within each country.

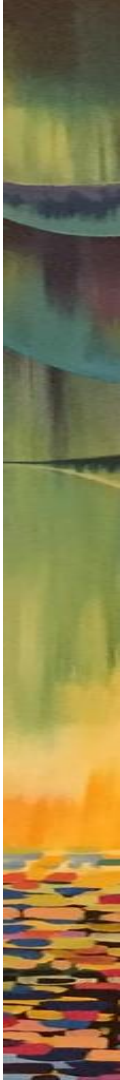


# History

## Simplified Dues Resolution *(continued)*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following law changes will be made to accommodate a more simple dues structure. As it states in the Constitution, the International Board of Directors will set dues annually at the Spring meeting. Effective January 1, 2018, the U.S. dues will be \$60 for an individual and \$95 for a family. The breakdown will be allotted as follows:

<b>\$60 Individual Dues</b>	INTERNATIONAL	\$32 (no change)
	DISTRICT	\$14
	LOCAL	\$14
<b>\$95 FAMILY DUES</b>	INTERNATIONAL	\$42 (reduction)
	DISTRICT	\$25
	LOCAL	\$28

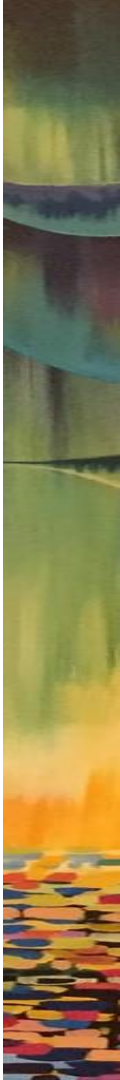


# Membership Charts and Dues Information

This chart lists the membership dues for members in U.S. lodges starting Jan. 1, 2018, for all membership categories.

## United States

				Total Dues	
	Intl.	Dist.	Local	Annual	Mthly
<b>Individual</b>					
Regular	\$32.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$60.00	\$5.00
Golden	\$16.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$42.00	\$3.50
Lifetime	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Family</b>					
Regular	\$42.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$95.00	\$8.00
Both Golden	\$21.00	\$25.00	\$14.00	\$60.00	\$5.00
One Golden/One Regular	\$32.00	\$25.00	\$21.00	\$78.00	\$6.50
One Golden/One Lifetime	\$16.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$42.00	\$3.50
Both Lifetime	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

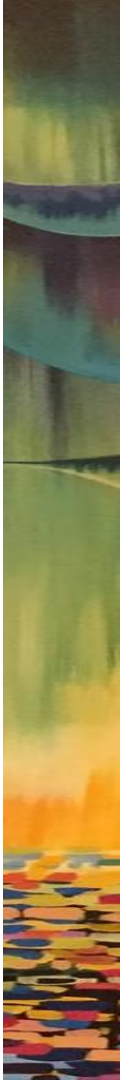


# Membership Charts and Dues Information

## United States

				Total Dues	
	Intl.	Dist.	Local	Annual	Mthly
<b>Central Lodge</b>					
Individual					
Without Insurance	\$32.00	\$28.00*	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$5.00
With Insurance	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$0.00	\$24.00	\$2.00
Family					
Without Insurance	\$42.00	\$53.00*	\$0.00	\$95.00	\$8.00
With Insurance	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$36.00	\$3.00

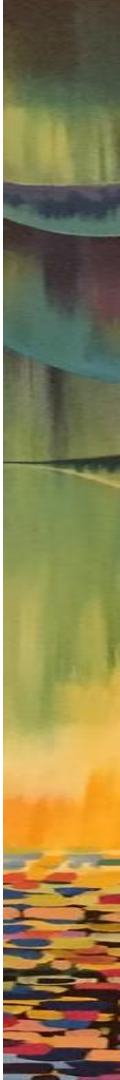
<sup>2</sup> \*The district receives the local lodge portion of the dues, since they are the officers of the central lodge.



# Membership Charts and Dues Information

## **Billing Date for Family Members** *(U.S. lodges only)*

In a number of households the Primary and Spouse members have different billing dates for their membership. Under the new structure they will be assigned a billing date as a family, using the “paid to date” of the member (primary or spouse) that is the latest in the year. This will delay payment of dues for these members by up to six months, but will still be paid in 2018.





# Membership Charts and Dues Information

## Local Lodge Bylaws

Currently local lodge bylaws include the local lodge dues. With the change in dues effective Jan. 1, 2018, these bylaws will no longer apply. Since the International Charter and Constitution overrides the local bylaws, the local lodge does not need to pass new bylaws in order to remove the local lodge dues.

## Member Communications

Informative articles have been and will continue to be featured in our communication channels, and online information will be supplemented on an as-needed basis.

**You may also send your questions to [2018dues@sofn.com](mailto:2018dues@sofn.com).**



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q. How were the dues changes determined?**

A. The dues figures were settled on after reviewing the full range of amounts paid across the organization. The goal was to ensure that this change would not financially penalize lodges.

## **Q. Do Unge Venner in the U.S. need to share an address with a family member to be free?**

A. Yes, that is the case for the U.S.

## **Q. Do Heritage members need to share an address with a family member to be free?**

A. Heritage members are always free.



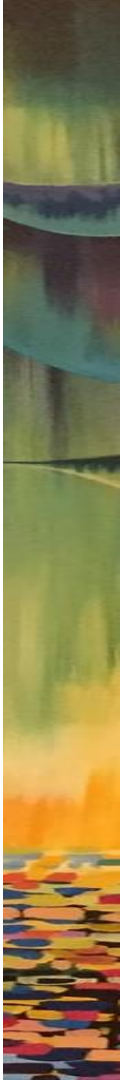
# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. If a lodge doesn't need to collect the \$14 local fee, may it be refunded to members?**

A. Those lodges that have little to no dues at present may use the additional funds to increase programming, charitable giving and/or community support, or they may refund the dues income to their members.

**Q. What is an Affiliate membership?**

A. In addition to their primary lodge, some members may wish to join another local lodge which would be considered an Affiliate membership. For each additional lodge joined, the member will be charged only the local lodge portion of dues (\$14 in the U.S.).



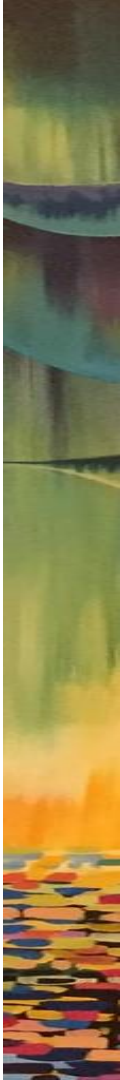
## Frequently Asked Questions Golden & Life Membership

### **Q. What is Life Membership?**

A. Life members are members who were 65 years old or older and who had been members for 30 years or more before the end of 1998. As of Jan. 1, 1999, Sons of Norway stopped awarding Life Membership. Life members will continue to have their dues waived under the new dues structure.

### **Q. What is Golden Membership?**

A. On Jan. 1, 1999, Life Membership was replaced with Golden Membership. People who were already Life members retained that status, but going forward people who met those same qualifications (65 years of age and older and 30 years of membership) became Golden members. Golden members pay a reduced dues rate.



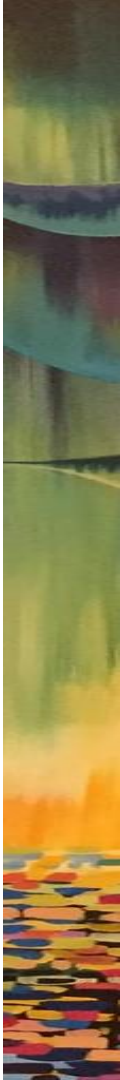
## **Frequently Asked Questions** Golden & Life Membership

### **Q. How are Golden members in the U.S. affected by the new dues structure?**

A. The awarding of new Golden Memberships will discontinue in the United States as of Jan. 1, 2018. Current Golden members, including those who attain the status by Dec. 31, 2017, will retain that designation and continue to pay a reduced dues rate. Individual Golden members will pay \$42.00 a year or \$3.50 a month. A couple, both of whom are Golden, will pay \$60.00 for a year at the family rate or \$5.00 a month.

### **Q. Can a Life Membership or Golden Membership be purchased?**

A. Membership in these categories cannot be purchased. They are based on the age of a member and their longevity with Sons of Norway.



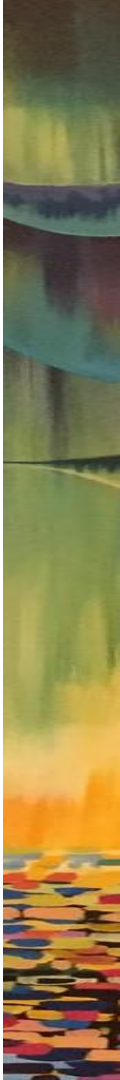
## **In Summary, Beginning Jan. 1, 2018:**

- The International portion of our dues will not increase.
- District and lodge portions of dues may change.
- Some districts and lodges may experience an increase.
- Others may experience a decrease, particularly in the total dues amount for a household.



## Important to Share with Members

- **Convenient automatic monthly withdrawal available** – Effective with their 2018 dues renewal, members in U.S. lodges will have the option to pay their dues by automatic monthly withdrawal from their U.S. bank accounts. Annual dues payments by check or credit card will continue to be available.  
*A member on a fixed income may find it easier to budget a payment of only \$5 each month, rather than a lump sum payment of \$60. Auto-withdrawal also saves time and postage. Moreover, the convenience of auto-withdrawal eliminates the hassle of wondering if I forgot to pay my dues.*
- **Dues more easily explained to potential members** – The new dues structure is simplified to maintain consistency throughout the U.S., making it easier for lodges to sign up new members and to discuss the dues with others outside of their lodges and districts.  
*Peer-to-peer recruiting works! Members can more confidently relay the cost of joining, whether in a casual conversation while on vacation or in their local community – then spend more time sharing the joys and benefits of membership.*



**Have further questions? Please send them to**

**2018dues@sofn.com**

