

Daughters of Norway

Grand Lodge President Interview Questions

-When was/is your term?

2021-2023

-What does a typical work day look like for a grand lodge president?

There is no typical work day for a Grand Lodge President. Most days include sending and answering emails and telephone calls, planning for meetings, and following-up on projects. The busiest days were coordinating each issue of the *Døtre av Norge*—writing the President's Letter, reading and editing the draft issues, usually on very short notice, and often creating 1/2-page to several pages of content. In the weeks leading up to Convention, the President works full-time on the agenda, appointments, and preparing for the general meeting.

-What prompted you to pursue a leadership role?

After my lodge co-hosted the 2018 Convention, the Nominating Committee contacted me about joining the Grand Lodge Board. Having managed a busy and successful law firm, and working in many community organizations, I am familiar with running meetings, and managing a wide variety of employees. I thought these skills would be useful.

-What was your main goal in your position, and did you feel you were able to complete that goal?

My goal as President was to help carry Daughters of Norway into the 21st Century by welcoming the next generation of members interested in Nordic culture. I worked on strengthening our ties with Modern Norway and the Nordic countries, through the use of technology to bolster our ability to share cultural programs with virtual meetings and speakers. The pandemic necessitated the use of technology for meeting during most of our term. Since people were not able to meet in person, we put substantial effort into providing resources and helping the lodges to maintain programming and keep in contact with their membership. We managed to keep our membership numbers fairly stable throughout the lock downs.

-What is your history with the Daughters of Norway?

***Follow up: How did you come into contact with the organization? When did you become a member?**

I became a member in 2008, after an article about my cookies appeared in the *San Jose Mercury News*. Sigrid Undset Lodge asked me to speak about my Christmas cookie baking. I was hooked and joined the lodge. Over the next few years, served in many lodge positions, including Cultural Chair, Membership, Financial Secretary, Vice President, and President.

-How has Daughters of Norway made you feel in touch with Norwegian culture?

Meeting and getting to know so many Scandinavian sisters has broadened and solidified my knowledge and appreciation of Nordic culture. I have researched, prepared and presented many cultural programs for my lodge and learned a great deal from the presentations given at my lodge and at conventions. In addition, as Grand Lodge Vice President one of my roles was selling advertisements for the *Døtre* and I contacted many potential advertisers in that role. I also developed a Resource List for the lodges to use in finding cultural programs.