



Sons of Norway
HERITAGE PROGRAMS



IdeaBank#49

A-COIN-A-DAY—THE NORTH DAKOTA WAY

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Sons of Norway Foundation Coin-a-Day Skit

MEMBER: Who—or what are you? (Looks foundation director over carefully with a puzzled look.)

Is this the latest fashion? If it is, I don't think I want one!

DIRECTOR: No, I'm not the latest in fashions, but I am the thing to do, and after you hear all about me, I think that you'll want to be involved, too.

I'm the Sons of Norway Foundation coin bank! Why don't you ask the people here if they've seen me before?

MEMBER: How many of you have seen a *sparebøsse* before? (Looks at all the people and directs these questions):

How many of you have one of these?

(To the director): What's this all about anyway?

DIRECTOR: Well, the Sons of Norway Foundation was established in 1966 for the purpose of collecting funds by bequests, donations, and gifts to be used for charitable, scientific, literary, and educational endeavors in the form of scholarships, grants, or loans. (Whew!) Contributions are accepted from individuals, Sons of Norway lodges, corporations, and other organizations interested in supporting the goals and objectives of the Sons of Norway Foundation. Contributions are tax deductible.

MEMBER: What are the Foundation's objectives?

DIRECTOR: There are three major objectives:

- 1) to provide scholarships and promote cultural exchange,
- 2) to promote Norwegian heritage activities,
- 3) and to support humanitarian causes.

MEMBER: What kind of scholarships are administered?

DIRECTOR: There are two major ones—the **King Olav V Norwegian-American Heritage Fund** and the **Astrid G. Cates Fund**. To be eligible for the King's scholarship you have to be 18 or older and demonstrate a keen and sincere interest in the Norwegian heritage and desire to further the study of this heritage at a recognized educational institution.

Applicants for the **Astrid G. Cates Fund** have to be between the ages of

17 and 22 and be members of Sons of Norway, or children/grandchildren of Sons of Norway members. Deadlines for these scholarship applications is March 1 of each year. The Cates Fund was set up for students needing financial assistance.

MEMBER: I know someone who might be interested. *(Pause)* What else does the Foundation do?

DIRECTOR: Through the grants, we are able to support larger efforts which benefit a great number of people. Through lodge grants, we foster and encourage new and exciting ways to appreciate our culture and heritage.

We give funding for Sons of Norway's **Camp Norway**, an innovative summer program combining fast-paced learning with the direct experience of living in Norway. Camp Norway is a half-day's journey north of Bergen on the famous Nordfjord. The Foundation provides several scholarships each year to students age 16–22 for Camp Norway. The Foundation also supports **Vinland National Center**, **Ski for Light**, and other humanitarian causes.

Do you want to hear more?

MEMBER: My head is swimming! Scholarships—grants—Ski-for-Light...What does all this have to do with me—just one _____
Sons of Norway member? (fill in name of your lodge)

DIRECTOR: You can support the Foundation with your financial support, and one of these ways is the **Coin-a-Day** program! If you put a penny in a can for every day of the year, you would save \$3.65. That's not very much, but just think—if 1/2 of our members—say 250—would participate, how much would we collect?

MEMBER: *(Pauses—figures in head)* That would be \$912.50! *(smile)*

DIRECTOR: Yes—supporting the Foundation programs needs to be a combined effort by all of us.

MEMBER: When will these cans be collected and is it too late for me to start?

DIRECTOR: We will collect them in December, so you still have time to save. Here's a bank for you! You'll just have to put a dime in every day! *(Laughs)*

MEMBER: Is this the only way that I can help?

DIRECTOR: No. You can write a check made payable to the Sons of Norway Foundation, or you can send a memorial when someone in the lodge, or someone else dies. But you can think of memorials in connection with happy occasions, too, like the birth of a child, an anniversary or birthday. You can participate in fundraisers. We're giving away this *nissejente* in December and you can buy some tickets to try and win her. (Each lodge would have to fill in their special project.)

MEMBER: I'd love to have her in my house. How much are the tickets?

DIRECTOR: They are 50¢ each, or three for \$1.

Besides the financial support, you can provide personal assistance in the Gode Venner which means "good friends." It is mostly a labor of love, and examples of acts of brotherly and sisterly love range from giving an older member a ride to a meeting, checking in on those people who live alone, to helping with yard work, meals, and housekeeping after a death or accident.

MEMBER: I can't wait to get started in all the Foundation activities. I like your fashion after all! (*Points to label*)

DIRECTOR: Thank you, Sons of Norway member! The Foundation helps fulfill dreams, and I'm happy that you will be part of making those dreams come true. We want to be able to send a generous gift! What we decide to do together now will make all the difference for our Norwegian heritage in the future.

MEMBER: I'm going to tell everyone about the Coin-a-Day program!

Everybody, please say with me: "A Coin a Day, the North Dakota Way!" (*Point to line on label*)

"A Coin a Day, the North Dakota Way!"

How to make a “coin-a-day” outfit:

The “coin-a-day” label was made using two pieces of white tag board (thin cardboard). They were taped onto a metal ring which had been purchased for macrame (a diameter of 26 1/2"). The tag board was supported on the bottom by another wire. Both wires were taped on the innerside of the tag board using masking tape. Shoelaces were attached to the front and back of the cardboard in two places in order to go over the shoulders. The cardboard was decorated with the “coin-a-day” slogan similar to the one that is printed on the “coin-a-day” labels that fit on cans.

