

136th Annual Grand Lodge Dania Convention Report



**Held in Clovis at the Clovis Veterans
Memorial Building
On April 15th and 16th 2016**

FRIDAY April 15 2016

Grand Officers, Delegates, Past Grand Presidents, and Members assembled at The Clovis Veterans Memorial Building Clovis, California for Dania's 136th annual convention on April 15 and 16, 2015. Host Lodges were Thora No. 11, and Thor No. 5

GRAND OFFICERS

Jr. Past Grand President	Robert Schall	Hejmdal #4	Sacramento
Grand President	Thomas Martin	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Vice President	Steen Skjellerup	Thor #5	Fresno
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6	Salinas
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9	Hayward
Grand Marshal	Daniel Joensen	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Vice Marshal	John Schueber	Bornholm #14	Modesto
Grand Trustee	James "Jim" Jensen	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Trustee	James Olef Jensen	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Trustee	Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11	Ferndale

REPRESENTATIVES

Danmark #2	Leroy W. Larsen, Alex Lund, Peter Christensen, John Jensen,
Hejmdal #4	Bob Schall
Thor #5	Steen Skjellerup, PGP Stan Kjar,
Freja #6	Ole M. Pedersen, Jana Heer-Glovaski
Dannevang #7	Robert Lamee, Jackie Nielsen
Thyra #9	No Representatives
Sønderjylland #10	Sabrina Wilcox, Karen Friis Lysmer, Carol Saffro
Valhalla #11	Francis Sweet, Christian Nielsen, Mel Lundberg
Valdemar #12	No Representatives
Bornholm #14	Doris Hoy, Kirsten Johansen, Max Stowers
Danneskjold #17	PGP Robert Lacey, Ron Nielsen
Hejls Minde #23	Knud Jacobsen, Bent Olsen
Holger Danske #27	No Representatives

Grand President, Tom Martin, Danmark #2, instructed the Grand Officers to take their respective Stations and the Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber, Bornholm #14, to close the door.

The password was taken by Grand Marshal, Daniel Joensen, Danmark #2 and Grand Vice Marshal John Schueber, Bornholm #14. After the password was obtained the Grand President called for the opening sign.

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, to please call the roll, 10 Grand Officers, 21 Representatives and 13 Past Grand Presidents responded to roll call. See addendum for the complete Roll Call result. The assembly then rose to recite the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed

by the singing of Der er et yndigt land, led by Grand Marshal, Daniel Joensen. Grand President, Tom Martin, asked the Grand Marshal, Daniel Joensen, to drape the charter in memory of our departed members.

Grand President, Tom Martin, Welcomed everyone to the convention and then proclaimed the 136th Annual Convention of The Danish Society, Dania of California and Nevada in session with full powers and authority to act.

Grand President, Tom Martin, instructed Grand Marshal, Daniel Joensen to escort his advisor Past Grand President, Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2 to the chair on his right to act as his advisor during the Convention.

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, to read the minutes from the close of the 135th convention to the opening of this convention. The Grand President asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes, there were none and he ruled them approved as read.

Report of the Grand President: Grand President, Tom Martin, turned the meeting over to Grand Vice President, Steen Skjellerup, The Grand President read his report. **(see addendum)**. It was moved by Past Grand President, Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11, that we accept the report of the Grand President, seconded by Past Grand President, Johanne Rasmussen Gade, Bornholm #14. The Grand Vice President, Steen Skjellerup, ruled that the motion was approved, and then presented Grand President, Tom Martin with a nice Tie from the Danish American Historical Society that has Danish and American Flags on it. He returned the meeting back to Grand President.

Minutes of the Executive Committee: The minutes of the meeting held on March 19, 2016 were read by the Grand Secretary.

Grand Secretary's report: After the Grand Marshal and Grand Vice Marshal handed out the reports of the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and The Grand Trustees along with the reports of the Senior Assistance fund. The Grand Secretary's annual report was read. It was moved by Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2, to accept the reports. Seconded by Jr. Past Grand President, Robert Schall, Hejmdal #4, and carried. **(See addendum.)**

The Grand Secretary then called the Delegates attention to the itemized reports of the Branches on Membership, Assets, Receipts, and Disbursements for review **(See addendum)**

Grand Treasurer's Report: Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, presented the Grand Treasurer's report for review. Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber, Bornholm #14, moved to accept the report, seconded by Grand Trustee, Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11, and the motion was adopted. **(See addendum)**

Grand President, Tom Martin, recognized Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2, who asked a question regarding the itemized report supplied by the Grand Secretary. On the report titled 2015 Receipts what made up the entry under Grand Lodge Initiation Fees of \$1,500.00. The Grand Secretary explained that this was the donations made to Grand Lodge and he wanted to call attention to this generosity so he separated it from the Other Income Total. Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, suggested that a new column be added to the report Titled Donation to Grand Lodge.

Grand Trustees' Report: Grand Trustee #1, James Olef Jensen, Danmark #2 read the report. After review, John Jensen, Danmark #2, moved to accept the report. Seconded by Jr. Past Grand President, Robert Schall, Hejmdal

#4, and the motion was adopted. (See addendum.)

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Report from the Advisory Committee: Grand Secretary Read the report, It was moved by Past Grand President Johanne Rasmussen Gade, Bornholm #14, to accept the reports. Seconded by Leroy W. Larsen, Danmark #2, and carried. (See addendum.)

Recess at 10:14 A.M. Convention reconvened at 10:30 A.M

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked for all those who were not in the morning session to stand, there being no one standing, he reconvened the meeting.

Grand President, Tom Martin, recognized Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, who clarified roll call in regards to Sønderjylland who do have 3 Representatives present and Hejls Minde has one more so the total Representatives is 23.

History Committee Report: Grand Past President, Roger Gearhart, gave the report. Roger reported his Family Book with information on Grand Vice Presidents Steen Skjellerup's family. He asked Steen to share what he had found out about his Family connection with Roger's. Steen had written up a report and it was attached to the history report. After both reports were read, it was moved by Past Grand President Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2, to accept the report. Seconded by Francis Sweet, Valhalla #11, the motion was accepted. (See addendum)

Grand President, Tom Martin, recognized Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, who clarified the question regarding donations which was raised during the reading of the Grand Secretary's report. After taking some time during the coffee break the Grand Treasurer reviewed the details of last year and found that the donations totaling \$1,500.00 were made by Bornholm #14 giving \$1,000.00 on May 22, 2015 and Danneskjold #17 donated \$500.00 on August 3, 2015. He reminded the Delegates to keep in mind that these reports cover our fiscal year of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, and thank both Branches for their continued support of Grand Lodge.

Standing Convention Committees: Grand President, Tom Martin, appointed the following

Law:	Peder Hoy	Past Grand President, Bornholm #14
	Lilian Rasmussen	Past Grand President, Sønderjylland #10
	Arne Graversgaard	Past Grand President, Freja #6

Resolutions:	Christian Nielsen	Valhalla #11
	Alex Lund	Danmark #2
	Karen Friis Lysmer	Sønderjylland #10

Grand President, Tom Martin, recognized Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber, Bornholm #14, who thanked Grand Past President, Roger Gearhart, for all of his years of service to the Grand Lodge as the History Committee Chairman and lead us in a round of applause for this most deserving Member.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Thank you letter from Past Grand President, Johanne Gade, on being name as the Member of the Year for 2015.

Thank you letter from Ben Hoover for his Scholarship

Letters of greeting for a successful convention from Thyra #9.

Grand President, Tom Martin, recognized Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber, Bornholm #14, who reported that the Grand Marshal of Dannebrog was requesting admission. Grand President postponed the reading of communication and ask the Grand Vice Marshal to admit our visitor.

Grand President, Tom Martin, recognized the Grand Marshal of Dannebrog, Past Grand President, Stuart O Mahler, Thyra #9, who reported that Dannebrog would like to suggest that the Ritual Committees of both Grand Lodges meet together during the afternoon coffee break to work out the last few details of the combined ritual. The Grand President thanked him and announced that we would be getting back to them with our reply.

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked the Grand Secretary to continue with the reading of the Communication. There was a letter from Danish American Chamber of Commerce, thanking us for our sponsorship; letters of greeting for a successful convention from Valdemar #12 Reno and invitation to their Installation on May 6th, A resolution from Bornholm #14 for a successful convention in Clovis and thanking the Host Branches of Thor #5 and Thora #11.

Grand President, Tom Martin, recognized Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, who moved to have the Grand President direct the Dania Ritual Committee to meet with the representatives of Danneborg during the afternoon Coffee break to go over the changes in the combined installation ritual. Seconded by Past Grand President Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2, and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Grand President, Tom Martin, recognized Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, who gave a report of the Web Committees activity over the last year. He also reported on items that need to be addressed at this convention.

Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, moved to allocate a onetime purchase of compression software for \$600.00 and a one year maintenance fee of \$50.00 for the web site. Seconded by Past Grand President Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2, after much discussion the results of the vote was 34 yes and 6 no. The Grand President declared the motion adopted with the required 2/3 majority.

Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, moved to have one page on the web site password protected for Dania use. Seconded by John Jensen, Danmark #2, after much discussion the Grand Secretary was asked to restate the motion and clarifying that it is asking promotion to place documents behind a password protected area. The results of the vote was 32 Yes and 3 No. The Grand President declared the motion adopted.

A question by Francis Sweet, Valhalla #11, to the Grand Secretary regarding communicating with the Grand Lodge, The Grand Secretary expressed his commitment to communicate with all members in the manner they desire, be it USPS, Telephone, e-mail or by the Web site, He also said that he would include personal contact information in the newsletter after receiving written approval from the member.

Grand President, Tom Martin, declared a Lunch recess at 11:50 P.M. Convention to reconvene at 1:30 P.M.

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked for all those who were not in the morning session to stand, The Password was collected from the one standing and the Grand President reconvened the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Grand President, Tom Martin asked the Grand Secretary to present the bills. Grand Secretary Tim Heer, Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, Freja #6 moved to set the Funeral Benefit at \$200.00. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted. Yes 30, No 1

Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, Freja #6 moved to set the annual per capita tax at \$20.00 per member to be paid semiannually. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted. Yes 25 No 0

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to donate \$25.00 to the Danish American Historical Society in Fresno. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to donate \$25.00 to the Elverhøj Museum of History and Art. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay \$40.00 annual dues to Aldersly. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to donate \$25.00 to the Bethel Lutheran Home Selma. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to donate \$50.00 to the Solvang Lutheran Home. Seconded Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, moved to amend the motion to \$75.00. Seconded by Knud Jacobsen, Hejls Minde #23, the Grand President declared the amendment to the motion failed because it did not have the necessary 2/3 majority vote to pass. Yes 17 No 14. The original motion was adopted, Yes 35 No 0

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the (2016) Convention Committee \$300.00 for expenses, seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted, after some discussion. Yes 35 No 0.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to increase the Grand Presidents traveling expenses by \$600.00 over the current Constitutional amount of \$600.00 to a total of \$1,200.00, to be paid monthly. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted. Yes 32 No 1

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to increase the Grand Marshal traveling expenses by \$300.00 over the current Constitutional amount of \$300.00 to a total of \$600.00, to be paid monthly. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted. Yes 33 No 1

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the Grand Trustee \$1.00 each per year expense reimbursement to be paid in cash. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted. Yes 27 No 2

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the Grand Treasurer \$103.00 per month expense reimbursement. Seconded by Grand Trustee, James Olef Jensen, Danmark #2, Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to amend his motion to pay the Grand Treasurer \$100.00 expense reimbursement. The motion was adopted Yes 33 No 4

Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson moved to pay the Grand Secretary \$200.00 per month expense reimbursement. Seconded by Past Grand President, Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17, the motion was adopted Yes 33 No 2

Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson moved to pay the Grand Secretary/Newsletter Publisher, \$100.00 per month expense reimbursement for the printing of the Monthly Newsletter. Seconded by Past Grand President Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11, and the motion was adopted after some discussion Yes 36 No 0

Grand President, Tom Martin, recognized Jana Heer Glovaski, Freja #6, explained that she was directed by the members of Freja #6 to make the following motion to assess each branch who's total liquid assets are greater than \$20,000.00 make a onetime donation of 10% of their assets to the Senior Assistance Fund. Seconded by Past Grand President, Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17, at this point The Grand President asked the Grand Secretary to calculate the impact on each branch based on his report that was presented at this morning. Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber, Bornholm #14, Moved to refer the Motion to Committee. Seconded by Past Grand President, Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14 during the discussion Past Grand President, Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14 moved to amend the original motion from 10% to 1%. The motion was seconded, but ruled out of order and after much more discussion Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2 stated that since this has been brought to the attention of the Branches that we should wait and see how much money is donated during the year and moved to table all the motions on the subject until next convention. It was seconded and adopted with 26 Yes and 10 No votes. Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, encouraged all delegates to take this message back to their home lodges for their consideration.

Grand President, Tom Martin, Requested the Grand Marshal to ask Dannebrog if they would be willing to move up the afternoon coffee break up to 2:30PM to allow more time for the ritual committees to meet. He then called on the Grand Secretary to report on upcoming convention dates. He reported that April 13-15 2017 convention to be hosted by Danmark #2 and Thyra #3 at the Grosvenor Hotel in South San Francisco, and April 19-21 2018 convention to be hosted by Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 at the Nugget in Sparks Nevada. 2019 had not been spoken for.

At this time the Grand Marshal returned with the reply from the Grand Lodge of Dannebrog agreeing to take an early coffee break.

Grand President, Tom Martin, declared a recess at 2:30 P.M. Convention to reconvene at 3:00 P.M.

After a prolonged recess as we waited for the Ritual Committee to complete their meeting the Grand President, Tom Martin, asked for all those who were not in the last session to stand, with nobody standing the Grand President reconvened the meeting.

During the recess copies of the current combined ritual were handed out to the delegates Grand President, Tom Martin, and then called on Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber, to report on behalf of the Ritual Committee. John Schueber reported that Grand Past President, Robert Schall, Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, and himself met with the members of the Dannebrog Law Committee on the joint ritual. He then went over a number of changes that the joint committee is recommending to the copy of the ritual that was passed out to give a rough idea as to what the changes are in nature. Past Grand President, Johanne Gade, Bornholm #14, moved to accept the committee's recommendation of the changes of the combined ritual. Seconded by John Jensen, Danmark #2, the Grand President recognized the Grand Secretary who after thanking the Grand President for providing the Delegates with copies of the ritual moved to amend the proposed ritual by keeping the installing Grand President's closing remarks to stay as they were on page 21. Seconded by Past Grand President, Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17, John Jensen rose to a point of information regarding the change is only to the one paragraph and that a yes vote would leave all of the other suggested changes in tact. The Grand President confirmed that was the case and called for the vote on the amended motions and it was adopted 24 Yes and 9 No. The Motions as amended was

adopted with a vote of 33 Yes and 1 No. The Grand President thanked the ritual committee for all the effort and hard work they put into the ritual, and dismissed the Committee. He then directed the Grand Marshal and the Grand Vice President to inform the Grand Lodge of Dannebrog of the vote of our Grand Lodge.

The Grand President recognized the Grand Treasurer, Greg Gleeson, Thyra #9, who invited the convention to the Grosvenor Hotel in South San Francisco, on April 11-13, 2019 to be hosted by Thyra #9 and Valborg #1

The Grand President recognized John Jensen, Danmark #2, who had a change to the 2018 convention dates, because of the conflict with Good Friday and Easter, will be moving the dates to April 6-8, 2017.

The Grand Marshal and the Grand Vice President returned with the Grand Marshal of Dannebrog, Stuart O. Mahler who was recognized by the Grand President. He informed us that the Grand Lodge of Dannebrog is very easy to get along with and have agreed to our changes. The Grand President thanked him and asked John Jensen, Danmark #2, along with Grand Treasurer, Greg Gleeson, Thyra #9, to report to them about the upcoming Convention Dates and times.

Nomination and election of Grand Officers

Grand President, Tom Martin, appointed Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, Francis Sweet, Valhalla #11, and Past Grand President, Lilian Rasmussen, as tellers he gave the instructions to the tellers on how to process the votes.

Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, Freja #6,, moved that in the case of one nominee that the Grand Secretary is to cast the ballot. In the event of the Grand Secretary nominee, the Grand Treasurer will cast the ballot. In the election of the Grand Vice President the Grand Vice Marshal shall carry the Ballot box to the tellers

The Grand Marshal, John Jensen, Danmark #2, along with Grand Treasurer, Greg Gleeson, Thyra #9, returned with a request of the Grand Lodge of Dannebrog that before the Installation on Saturday that all of those attending Grand Lodge this weekend assemble for a group photo to be taken and send to the Queen along with our acknowledgements of Her birthday.

The Grand President opened the nomination of Grand Officers for 2016-2017

Grand President	Tom Martin	Danmark #2	Respectfully declined
	Steen Skjellerup	Thor #5	
Grand Vice President	Daniel Joensen	Danmark #2	
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6	
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9	
Grand Marshal	John Schueber	Bornholm #14	
Grand Vice Marshal	Jana Heer Glovaski	Freja #6	
Grand Trustee #1	James Olef Jensen	Danmark #2	
Grand Trustee #2	Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11	
Grand Trustee #3	James "Jim" Jensen	Danmark #2	

Grand President, Tom Martin, Danmark #2, congratulated the newly elected Grand Officers and dismissed the

tellers with thanks.

The Grand President recognized Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, who voiced his disappointment with the breaking of tradition on who nominates a member for an Office. Point was well taken.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Past Grand President and the President's advisor, Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2, requested the Grand President's approval to allow him to send greeting to the Danish Sisterhood and Brotherhood who will be holding their convention in San Francisco on the 29-30 of April. Permission was granted.

The Grand President recognized Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, who expressed his disappointment with not seeing any news about Dania or Dannebrog in the Danish newspaper Bienen. Our Convention was always big news in the paper before. He then went on to inform us about what has been going on in Solvang especially the Copenhagen House with a meeting room called Dania Hall.

The Grand President recognized Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, who encouraged the delegates to make an effort to let people know about our organization.

The Grand President recognized The Grand Vice Marshal who spoke on the need for changes to the constitution. The Grand President acknowledged the submission of proposed changes and have given them to the incoming Grand President to establish a Committee to work on them during the next year.

The Grand President recognized The Grand Trustee #3, Past Grand President, Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11, who suggested a later starting time of 9:30 or 10:00 A.M. Saturday Morning.

The Grand President recognized the Grand Treasurer, Greg Gleeson, Thyra #9, who informed the delegates that a few years back the proposal to change our per capital tax structure was denied in favor of the Branch's making donation voluntary, and with those donation being down last year and the need being the same, informed the membership that all donation would be gratefully accepted.

Grand President, Tom Martin, Danmark #2, declared a recess until 10:00 A.M. Saturday Morning.

SATURDAY April 16, 2016

Convention was called back to order at 10:00 A.M. Grand President, Tom Martin, Danmark #2, instructed the Grand Officers to take their respective Stations and the Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber, Bornholm #14, to close the door.

The Grand President recognized Francis Sweet, Valhalla #11, who introduced his Grand Daughter as a visitor. She was welcome by the Grand President and she thanked him for allowing her to stay and observe the meeting.

The password was taken up by the Grand Marshal, Daniel Joensen and Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber. The Opening sign was given.

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked the Grand Secretary to call the roll call of Grand Officers, Representatives and Past Grand Officers. 10 Grand Officers, 23 Representatives and 13 Past Grand Presidents responded to roll call.

The Grand President recognized Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, who introduced his guest Svend Erik Birkholm Nielsen who is visiting from the island of ÆRO in Danmark just above Langeland in Danmark. He has been a great aid to Bent in helping with the Coffee Breaks.

The assembly then rose to recite the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed by the singing of Der er et yndigt land, led by Grand Marshal, Daniel Joensen, Danmark #2.

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked for a moment of silence in honor of our departed Members.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked The Grand Secretary if there were any new Correspondence. He read a letter of good wishes from Freja #6

NEW BUSINESS:

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked Grand Marshal, Daniel Joensen and Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber, to pass out copies of a proposed change to the Dania only ritual. The Grand President explained that this looks a lot like what we reviewed yesterday but is for our use only and Dannebrog is not impacted by it so there is no need to have that Grand Body ratify it. He Then Called on Grand Vice Marshal, John Schueber, who has put this together. Explained history of the proposed change and asked for any question. The Grand Secretary explained to the Delegates that this was not a revision of the wording found in our Dania only ritual but a brand new ritual which would change the order and form of a Dania only installation. After much discussion Grand Past President, Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17, moved to reject the proposed Dania only ritual. Seconded by Grand Trustee, James Olef Jensen, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted after some more discussion and clarification, Yes 27 No 3

The Grand President recognized Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, moved to accept the two formally introduced visitors. Seconded by John Jensen, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted, Yes 32 No 0.

The Grand President asked for any future New Business from the floor and recognized Jackie Nielsen, Dannevang #7, who commented that we should strongly encourage our Branches to make donations to the Senior Assistance Fund. Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, moved to have all the Delegates to return to their local Branches and encourage them to donate to the Senior Assistance Fund and the General Fund of the Grand Lodge. Seconded by Past Grand President, Kaj Kristensen, and the motion was adopted, Yes 33 No 0.

John Jensen, Danmark #2, announced that Danmark #2 will donate \$1,000.00 to the Senior Assistance Fund and with an additional \$1,000.00 of matching donations from other Branch's for a total of \$2,000.00 to the Senior Assistance funds, and the same pledge to donate to the Grand Lodge General fund in the same manner.

The Grand Secretary acknowledged the donation by Danneskjold #17.

The Grand President recognized Jackie Nielsen, Dannevang #7, who reported on the plans for the Senior Assistance Fund will to come up with a possible raffle prize of a trip. Grand Trustee, Mel Lundberg, talked about thinking of the Senior Assistance Fund when setting up your will.

The Grand President asked The Grand Marshal to deliver some envelopes to the Representatives of the Branch's whose members have received The Dania Memorial Scholarship from the Grand Lodges. They are Jens Christiansen a member of Valdemar #12, Erik Jensen a member of Valdemar #12, and Kendyl Hoy a member of Bornholm #14, and Jens Christiansen also received a Dania Scholarship.

The Grand President referred back to the report of the Advisory Committee Report in regards to how the Member of the year is handled, and asked the Secretary to reread that portion of the report dealing with the application. After reading the report and giving some history surrounding the Member of the Year application The Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, moved to amend the Grand Lodge resolution regarding the Member of the Year to allow any Member to submit an application on anyone for Member of the year. Seconded by Jana Heer Glovaski, Freja #6, and the motion was adopted, Yes 36 No 0.

Grand President, Tom Martin, declared a recess until 11:30 A.M for the morning coffee break.

Grand President, Tom Martin, asked for all those who were not in the morning session to stand, there being no one standing, he reconvened the meeting.

The Grand President recognized the Grand Secretary who moved to hold an open installation of Grand Officers this afternoon at 2:00 P.M. it was seconded by John Jensen, Danmark #2 and the motion was adopted. Yes 29 No 1

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Grand President asked the Grand Marshal to escort Grand President elect, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, to podium where Grand President, Tom Martin, asked the Grand President-elect to address the Grand Officers, Representatives, Past Grand Presidents, Members and visitors.

Grand President-elect Steen Skjellerup gave a thank you to Grand Officers, Representatives and Members for voting him as Grand President and spoke of his family history, growing up in Danmark during and after the war.

History committee	Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2 First Delegate from each Branch
Presidents Advisor: Advisory committee:	Past Grand President, Johanne Gade, Bornholm #14 Past Grand President, Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14 (1yr) Past Grand President, Glenn Fritz, Danmark #2 (2yr) Past Grand President, John Johansen, Bornholm #14 (3yr)
Law committee:	Past Grand President, Johanne Gade, Bornholm #14 Grand Past President, Thomas Martin, Danmark #2 Past Grand President, Robert Schall, Hejmdal #4
Nominating Committee:	Past Grand President, Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11 Grand Marshal, John Schueber, Bornholm #14 Grand Vice Marshal, Jana Heer Glovaski, Freja #6
Membership Committee:	A player to be named latter Grand Vice Marshal, Jana Heer Glovaski, Freja #6

Grand Trustee, James Olef Jensen, Danmark #2

Web Committee:

Past Grand President John Johansen, Bornholm #14

Grand Vice President, Daniel Joensen, Danmark #2

John Jensen, Danmark #2

Grand Secretary Tim Heer, Freja #6

Grand President, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5

Auditors:

Past Grand President, Lilian Rasmussen, Sønderjylland #10

Past Grand President, Robert Lacey, Dannekjold #17

Past Grand President, Arne Graversgaard, Freja #6

Constitution Committee

Past Grand President, Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14

Past Grand President, Lilian Rasmussen, Sønderjylland #10

Past Grand President, Arne Graversgaard, Freja #6

Jr, Past Grand President, Thomas Martin, Danmark #2

Grand President, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5

Grand Trustee #1, James Olef Jensen, Danmark #2

Grand Trustee #2, Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11

Grand Trustee #3, James "Jim" Jensen, Danmark #2

Grand Marshal, John Schueber, Bornholm #14

Grand President-elect, Steen Skjellerup then gave and explained his password. He invited everyone to a reception following the installation. The Grand Marshal then escorted the Grand President-elect back to his station.

Resolution Committee report: the Resolutions were read by the Resolution Committee, Christian Nielsen, Valhalla #11, Alex Lund, Danmark #2 and Karen Friis Lysmer, Sønderjylland #10 (**See addendum**)

The Grand President recognized Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde, who thanked Grand President, Tom Martin for a wonderful year as Grand President and led the group in a round of three hurrahs and singing a medley of Danish drinking songs as part of a tradition that should never be forgotten. Francis Sweet also congratulated Tom on a job well done.

The Grand President reminded everyone about the group photo to be taken before the installation and to gather at 1:30 P.M.

Grand President, Tom Martin, led the singing of God Bless America, He thanked the Officers, Past Grand Presidents, Representatives, and in particular his advisor for attending this year's convention. He then declared the 136th annual convention closed and asked for the closing sign at 12:10 A.M.

At 2:00PM Dania and Dannebrog participated in a joint installation of Grand Officers.

2016- 2017 DANIA GRAND OFFICERS

Jr, Past Grand President	Thomas Martin	Danmark #2
Grand President	Steen Skjellerup	Thor #5
Grand Vice President	Daniel Joensen	Danmark #2
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9
Grand Marshal	John Schueber	Bornholm #14
Grand Vice Marshal	Jana Heer Glovaski	Freja #6
Grand Trustee #1	James Olef Jensen	Danmark #2
Grand Trustee #2	Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11
Grand Trustee #3	James "Jim" Jensen	Danmark #2

MINUTES TAKEN BY

Timothy J Heer Sr., Freja #6
GRAND SECRETARY

Year installed	Name	Lodge
1880-84	* O.F. Westphal	Oden #1
1884-87	* Fred Petersen	Oden #1
1887-89	* Thorvald Orlob	Oden #1
1889-92	* JamesMadison	Danmark #2
1892-93	* John H.Lytgens	Danmark #2
1893-94	* Halvor J.T. Jacobsen	Thor #5
1894-95	* Halvor J.T. Jacobsen	Thor #5
1895-96	* Halvor J.T. Jacobsen	Thor #5
1896-97	* C.P. Jensen	Dagmar #8
1897-98	* O.P. Kielsen	Thor #5
1898-99	* Jacob Peetersen	
1899-00	* Carl Plow	Sonderjylland #10
1900-01	* Johannes Sandholdt	Thyra #9
1901-02	* Hans Ahrenberg	Thor #5
1902-03	* H. C. Hermansen	Oden #1
1903-04	* F. W. Andreasen	Valhalla #11
1904-05	* Carl Rasmussen	Skamlingsbanken #20
1905-07	* Robert Nnelson	Valdemar #12
1907-08	* Peter C. Krogh	Hejmdal #4
1908-09	* Carl Holm	Dannevang #7
1909-10	* Hans Sorensen	Thyra #9
1910-11	* H.P. Vogensen	Sonderjylland #10
1911-12	* H. P. Mathiesen	Dannebrog #16
1912-13	* C. W. Hansen	Helga #3
1913-14	* C. H. Duborg	Valdemar #12
1914-15	* Martin Eriksen	Valhalla #11
1915-16	* Martin L. Cramer	Danmark #2
1916-17	* John C. Scott	Oden #1
1917-18	* Jens T. Lund	Freja #6
1918-19	* Ole Christopher	Danneskjold #17
1919-20	* Peter Petersen	Helga #3
1920-21	* Hans Vejby	Thyra #9
1921-22	* Anton B. Ibsen	Hejls Minde #23
1922-23	* John Christensen	Valhalla #11
1923-24	* Christian Iversen	Danmark #2
1924-25	* J. P. Knudsen	Oden #1
1925-26	* Carl Jorgensen	Thor #5
1926-27	* Finn Andersen	Danmark #2
1927-28	* Hans J. Sorensen	Bornholm #14
1928-29	* Peter Sorensen	Dannevirke #24
1929-30	* P. A. Nielsen	Oden #1
1930-31	* Albert L. Christopher	Danneskjold #17
1931-32	* Viggo C. Dahl	Danmark #2
1932-33	* Henry Gilling	Helga #3
1933-34	* Iver Frydendahl	Dannevang #7
1934-35	* Marius Petersen	

Year installed	Name	Lodge
1935-36	* Carl Fauerso	
1936-37	* Marius Kristensen	Helga #3
1937-38	* Janes Martensen	Dagmar #8
1938-39	* Clifton M Anthonson	Vitus Berhring #18
1939-40	* Andy Madsen	Thor #5
1940-41	* Hans Skytt	Hejls Minde #23
1941-42	* C.H. Gregers	Oden #1
1942-43	* James Bach	Danneskjold #17
1943-44	* E. Jurvig	Danmark #2
1944-45	* Ted Petersen	Bornholm #14
1945-46	* Ted Petersen	Bornholm #14
1946-47	* Peter J. Juhl	Freja #6
1947-48	* Albert Henriksen	Vitus Berhring #18
1948-49	* Julius Hansen	Thor #5
1949-50	* Carl Jensen	Holger Danske #27
1950-51	* Jim Nielsen	Helga #3
1951-52	* Hans C Jorgensen	Thyra #9
1952-53	* Asmund Andersen	Vitus Berhring #18
1953-54	* Chris Pedersen	Danmark #2
1954-55	* Clement Miller	Valhalla #11
1955-56	* Raymond Olsen	Bornholm #14
1956-57	* Walter Christensen	Helga #3
1957-58	* Art Christopher	Danneskjold #17
1958-59	* Melvin Oredsen	Oden #1
1959-60	* Ted Poulsen	Hejmdal #4
1960-61	* Knud Clausen	Dannebrog #16
1961-62	* Corrad Moldt	Dannevang #7
1962-63	* Knud Weaver	Danmark #2
1963-64	* Arthur N. Clements	Bornholm #14
1964-65	* Hans J Therp	Sonderjylland #10
1965-66	* Robert L. Lind	Thor #5
1966-67	* Henry G. Kari	Hejls Minde #23
1967-68	* Jorgen Rasmussen	Danmark #2
1968-69	* Peter Brix	Thyra #9
1969-70	James Jorgensen	Bornholm 14
1970-71	* Bjarne H. Carstens	Danmark 2
1971-72	* Burton F. Skow	Danneskjold 17
1972-73	* Holger Carstensen	Hejls Mnde 23
1973-74	* Borge Nielsen	Odin 1
1974-75	* Dan Mogensen	Thor 5
1975-76	* Clyde G. Brown	Dagmar 8
1976-77	* Paul W. Andersen	Danneskjold 17
1977-78	* Svend Christian	Freja 6
1978-80	* Niels Walter Hansen	Thyra 9
1980-81	* Howard J. Krogh	Bornholm 14
1981-82	Stuart O. Mahler	Thyra 9

Year installed	Name	Lodge
1982-83	* Lawrence C. Bentzen	Sønderjylland 10
1983-84	* Jan A. Walker	Freja 6
1984-85	* Reynold F. Nielsen	Thor 5
1985-86	* Terje Schiller	Danneskjold 17
1986-87	Peder Hoy	Bornholm 14
1987-88	* Fred H. Mahler	Thyra 9
1988-89	* Erik Jensen	Thor 5
1989-90	* Arthur Reinstein	Dannevang 7
1990-91	* Norman Dalgaard	Hejmdal 4
1991-92	Glenn A. Fritz	Danmark 2
1992-93	Gregory Gleeson	Thyra 9
1993-94	* Graham Sorensen	Bornholm 14
1994-95	Alan D. Filiau	Thyra 9
1995-96	* Henning O. Petersen	Danmark 2
1996-97	Allen Thomsen	Dannevang 7
1997-98	Robert Sorensen	Bornholm 14
1998-99	* Arthur J. Jensen	Thor 5
1999-00	Tim Heer	Freja 6
2000-01	Gunnar Nielsen	Thor 5
2001-02	* Tedd Matusiewicz	Dannevang 7
2002-03	Hugo Rasmussen	Bornholm 14
2003-04	Kaj Kristensen	Danmark 2
2004-05	Arne Graversgaard	Freja 6
2005-06	Robert Lacey	Danneskjold 17
2006-07	John Johansen	Bornholm 14
2007-08	Stanly Kjar	Thor 5
2008-09	* John Champagne	Bornholm 14
2009-10	Roger Gearhart	Danmark 2
2010-11	Lilian Rasmussen	Sønderjylland 10
2011-12	* Kurt Høj	Hejls Mnde 23
2012-13	Johanne Gade	Bornholm #14
2013-14	Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11
2014-15	Robert Schall	Hejmdal 4
2015-16	Thomas Martin	Danmark #2
	* Deceased	

Dania Member of the Year Award

*Chris Pedersen	1990	Danmark 2
*Melvin Oredsen	1991	Odin 1
Greg Gleeson	1992	Thyra 9
*Knud Ove Knudsen	1993	Danmark 2
*Raymond P. Olsen	1994	Bornholm 14
*Reynold F. Nielsen	1995	Thor 5
*Sigurd Thomsen	1996	Dannevang 7
*Ralph N. Kerr	1997	Thyra 9
*Dan Mogensen	1998	Thor 5
*Elmer C. Jorgensen	1999	Thyra 9
*Fred H. Mahler	2000	Thyra 9
Peder Hoy	2001	Bornholm 14
*Burton Skow	2002	Danneskjold 17
*Henning O. Petersen	2003	Danmark 2
*Norman Dalgaard	2004	Hejmdal 4
James Jorgensen	2005	Bornholm 14
Carl Jensen	2006	Thor 5
John Johansen	2007	Bornholm 14
Kaj Kristensen	2008	Danmark 2
Stuart O Mahler	2009	Thyra 9
Stanley Kjar	2010	Thor 5
Francis Sweet	2011	Valhalla 11
Tim Heer	2012	Freja 6
*Kurt Høj	2013	Hejls Minde 23
Roger Gearhart	2014	Danmark #2
Johanne Rasmussen Gade	2015	Bornholm #14
Rowland "Mac" McNeil	2016	Thyra #9

* Denoted Deceased

**136rd Dania Convention
Delegates**

Grand Officers		4/15	4/16	Representatives	4/15	4/16	Representatives	4/15	4/16
Jr. Past Gr. Pres.	Bob Schall	1	1	Danmark #2			Valhalla #11		
Grand President	Thomas Martin	1	1	Leroy W. Larsen	1	1	Francis Sweet	1	1
Grand Vice President	Steen Skjellerup	1	1	Alex Lund	1	1	Christian Nielsen	1	1
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	1	1	Peter Christensen	1	1	Mel Lundberg	1	1
Grand Treasurer	Gregory Gleeson	1	1	John Jensen	1	1	Daniel Barney ALT		
Grand Marshal	Daniel Joensen	1	1				Valdemar #12		
Grand V. Marshal	John Schueber	1	1						
Grand Trustee	James "Jim" Jensen	1	1	Hejmdal #4					
Grand Trustee	James Olef Jensen	1	1	Bob Schall	1	1			
Grand Trustee	Mel Lundberg	1	1						
		10	10	Thor #5			Bornholm #14		
Past Grand Presidents				Steen Skjellerup	1	1	Doris Hoy	1	1
		4/15	4/16	PGP Stan Kjar	1	1	Kersten Johansen	1	1
James Jorgensen	Bornholm #14						Max Stowers	1	1
Stuart O. Mahler	Thyra #9						Anni Champagne	0	0
Peder Hoy	Bornholm #14	1	1	Freja #6			Elizabeth "Beth" Mortensen		
Glen A. Fritz	Danmark #2	1	1	Ole M Pedersen	1	1			
Gregory Gleeson	Thyra #9	1	1	Jana Heer Glovaski	1	1	Danneskjold #17		
Alan D. Filiu	Thyra #9						PGP Robert Lacey	1	1
Allen Thomsen	Dannevang #7						Ron Nielsen	1	1
Robert Sorensen	Bornholm #14			Dannevang #7					
Tim Heer	Freja #6	1	1	Robert Lamee	1	1	Hejls Minde #23		
Gunnar Nielsen	Thor #5	1		Jacky Neilsen	1	1	Knud Jacobsen	1	0
Hugo Rasmussen	Bornholm #14						Bent Olsen	1	1
Kaj Kristensen	Danmark #2	1	1						
Arne Graversgaard	Freja #6	1	1	Thyra #9					
Robert Lacey	Danneskjold #17	1	1				Holger Danske #27		
John Johansen	Bornholm #14	1	1						
Stanley Kjar	Thor #5	1	1						
Roger Gearhart	Danmark #2		1						
Lilian Rasmussen	Sønderjylland #10	1	1	Sønderjylland #10					
Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Bornholm #14	1	1	Sabrina Wilcox	1	1			
Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11	1	1	Karen Fris Lysmer	1	1			
		13	13	Carol Saffro	1	1			

Grand President's Report

Grand Officers, Past Grand Presidents, Delegates, Members and Guests, I would like to welcome you all to the 136th Annual Convention of Danish Society Dania of California and Nevada.

It has been a terrific year. I've travelled up and down the state and even made a few trips to Reno. Everywhere I went I was greeted by members who seemed truly happy to see me. I must say if all I did was visit the various branches of the lodge, it would have been a great year. But it was much more than that.

I want to express my thanks to the convention committees in both Ferndale and Fresno. The fine folks in Ferndale put on a wonderful convention that was very special to me, not just because I was being installed as Grand President, but because Ferndale is my hometown. The convention committee did a fabulous job of putting the event together and there were many highlights. I was very proud to be installed so close to home and my counterpart in Dannebrog was delighted that I had chosen Ferndale as the location for our installation. The venue is top-notch, the caterers did a fine job, and the entertainment was so good at the previous convention we had them back again. I was especially honored to have my good friend Bill Gilmore play piano for the installation. It was one of the truly memorable moments of my life. A few months later I was honored to be Bill's best man at his wedding. ...And...I hope everyone got a chance to enjoy the Phony Carlsberg that my good friend Joe and I brewed just for the event.

It was my special privilege to present the Member of the Year award to a very deserving PGP Johanne Gade.

I cannot thank the committee enough for all of their hard work. It showed.

The Fresno committee has been hard at work for the last year preparing for this event and I'm sure we will see the benefits of their labors. I want to thank all of you who had a part in putting this together especially Mr. David Willis, the Convention Committee Chairman for this year.

When we closed the convention last year, there was still some unfinished business. Our Ritual Committee and our Web Committee have been working throughout the year to complete these projects and we will later discuss their findings and hopefully they will be resolved at this convention.

Since we last convened, I've been busy. Throughout this past year, Dannebrog Grand President Lynn Wachter and I have travelled near and far. Gloria and I got the chance to get to know Lynn as we travelled together and often hosted her on her trips to the bay area. She has been a pleasure to work with.

We started the year off with a trip to Reno, Nevada for the first installation of the year, Valdemar #12. Lynn and I stumbled our way through the installation but heard nary a complaint.

A couple of days later, I enjoyed a nice visit with several members at the home of PGP Roger Gearhart and was treated to a grand entrance, riding on a chariot...Sure, it was a chair in a wheelbarrow... but with none other than PGP Roger Gearhart at the helm. It was an amusing stunt and a wonderful afternoon visiting with members.

My first visitation was with the Hayward lodge on May 14th. It was a celebratory evening with several members

receiving their 50 year pins. Several Grand Officers attended helping to make this a special evening.

I visited the Salinas Lodge on the 7th of June. A small group with big ideas and Natalie's first-ever Frikadiller served with the traditional side dishes.

I rode one of my motorcycles to Bornholm's meeting on the 19th. It was in the high nineties when I arrived. I was greeted with a cold beverage and a pot-luck dinner to which I had come, empty-handed.

The next day I was a guest of the Rebild Society at an event held at the home of Bente Ellis. There were at least six Dania PGP's in attendance. It was a very nice gathering with a lot of Danes that I hadn't met before.

As I have for the past three years, I attended the July 4th BBQ in Santa Maria. They really know how to throw a BBQ. So much beef on the grill. A lot of family members attend this event so there is always a good crowd. I look forward to going every year.

In July, my wife and I took a trip to Alaska to attend the wedding of my niece. We took the opportunity to take a cruise up from Vancouver to Whittier and then spent a few days in Anchorage before gearing up for installation season. We were very glad we made the trip as my brother passed away about a month later.

Saturday, August 1st found me in Modesto for the installation of Bornholm #14's officers. Here I was on my own. Bornholm held the only Dania-only installation this year. Our other Dania-only lodges retained their officers from the previous year and opted to not hold installations.

The next day I installed the officers of Freja #6 in Salinas. The Masonic Temple there has a huge room, perfect for marching.

The following weekend, I visited the Petaluma lodge at Kastaniafalded. Sønderjylland usually holds their installation that weekend, but with no installation this year, it was more of a picnic with fabulous open faced sandwiches and a brief meeting afterward.

Gloria joined me for the trip to Ferndale over Labor Day Weekend. Going home to Ferndale is always special. Gloria is becoming a feared Bocce Ball player, but I don't see any teams forming.... After the Saturday morning picnic we had the pleasure of celebrating my good friend Sandra Mesman's birthday with a big dinner party in Eureka and Ice cream at her home in Fortuna. I was quite surprised when my cousins Larry and Ron were there, I hadn't seen Ron in more than 35 years.

The following weekend I attended another Rebild function, a BBQ at the home of PGP Arne Graversgaard. Afterward I raced up to Livermore for their regular meeting. Not many folks there, but I was happy to see the younger members were involved in running the meeting. They are the future of our lodge.

I started October off with a fabulous ride up to Reno. I took backroads as much as I could. The trip took more than two hours longer than the direct route but it was so much more interesting. It was a nice day that would lead to a wonderful evening. Reno was celebrating Octoberfest and more than 30 members joined in for a great dinner and a few beers. I was surprised when I arrived to find Dannebrog Grand President Lynn Wachter in attendance as

well. It was great to see everyone there.

The next day I attended the Scandinavian Festival in Orangevale. There were representative groups from every Scandinavian country. Our own JGP Bob Schall was busy in the kitchen. Denmark was represented in the flag ceremony by Mary Jo Schall wearing the traditional outfit that Mary Ester Filiau made and wore for her drill team at the last convention. There was music and folk dancing and a lot of crafts for sale. I had my first (and last) Viking on a Stick. I'm not really sure what it was, but it was interesting...The festival is definitely worth visiting if you get the chance.

Sunday, the next day, Gloria joined me at Bornholm's summer picnic at Orange Blossom Park in Oakdale. The day started out with Abelskiver by Brian Mefford and I can't think of a better way to start the day. They put on a nice BBQ and pot-luck picnic. I think I may have even thrown a Frisbee that day...

I visited Solvang and Fresno in November. I took the big bike to Solvang and attended their meeting at the Bit'O'Denmark. They had a nice turnout including a few members they referred to as their "Northern Tribe", from Holger Danske in Santa Maria. Bent showed up late, but he made up for it with a nice bottle of Svendborg Snaps to share. After lunch I checked out the map and found some interesting back roads to get to Fresno and off I went. I arrived in Fresno in time to have dinner with Steen Skellerup and his daughter. We had a delightful evening that included a variety of snaps. In the morning, Steen took me for a tour of Fresno and Clovis. I saw the Grundfos factory that some of you toured yesterday. He drove me around old Clovis and showed me the facility we are meeting in here today. We then attended the regular meeting of the Fresno lodges. They are some of the nicest people you will ever meet. They had plenty to talk about as preparations for the convention were well under way.

Friday afternoon I pointed my car east and headed for Carson City. PGP Glen Fritz invited me to stay and ride with him to the meeting in Reno so I left my car in Carson City and joined Glenn in the Lincoln. I had the pleasure of attending their Thanksgiving party and presenting a couple of 25 year pins that were quite a bit overdue. I had a great evening, there was too much food, and before long it was time to head back to Carson City.

In the morning I was up early and driving the 400 miles to Ferndale. I was alone, so I took highway 36. It is one of my favorite roads, but you wouldn't want to be my passenger...I attended the 103rd anniversary dinner of Ydun #10 at the Ivanhoe restaurant in Ferndale. The event was generously paid for by the members of Valhalla #11. After dinner we went back to the hall for the longest "short meeting" I've ever attended.

In December I attended Hayward's last meeting at the Hill and Valley Club. Lynn joined me as we celebrated the end of an era.

I sadly missed San Jose's Christmas party but still managed to attend three. First was Danmark #2 at the Grosvenor hotel in South San Francisco. We've been holding the party in the lounge for the last couple of years and everyone seems to like it better. Then Lynn and I drove straight from Danmark's party to Livermore to attend their celebration. Great food and lots of Bingo. I think Bob and Mary Jo took home the most prizes.

The following weekend, Gloria joined me for Bornholm's party at the Familia Bistro. There were more the 60 people in attendance. We even got a visit from Santa Claus. A ton of raffle prizes contributed to their Christmas fund raising. They always make us feel welcome.

January started off with sad news. Dannebrog Grand Past President Mary Jo Schall had suddenly passed away. We shuffled our February installation schedule to accommodate the services for Mary Jo. We all miss her immensely.

I visited the San Jose lodges on the 9th of January at the home of Doris Skow. It was their “planning” meeting for the year. Doris was worried I wouldn’t like attending that kind of meeting, but it is interesting to see how each lodge handles their business. With this meeting, I had now visited every lodge at least once.

On the 14th, I visited Hayward at their new location. The Round Table will work just fine for meetings and it is much more convenient for many of the members.

February, finally....You think you are near the end and then you realize there are FOUR installations in February. First I installed the officers of Dannevang #7 in Livermore on the 13th. Then on Valentines day, Gloria joined me at Mariani’s in Santa Clara where I installed the officers elect of Danneskjold #17.

The following weekend was Danmark #2. The installation was described as a “Square Dance” by some as we had to get creative with the Grand President being the local President and the Grand Marshall being the local Vice President. We drafted JPGP Bob Schall to assist and it worked out just fine.

We ended the month with installation of Thor #5’s officers at the Spike and Rail in Selma.

March, yes, the end is in sight...

Gloria joined me at Bornholm’s annual Fish Dinner. This is one of the lodge’s premier events and should never be missed. This year, a new lead chef was in place and the dinner was fabulous. I want to thank our Current Member of the Year, PGP Johanne Gade, for making lactose free sauces just for me.

On the 19th of March we concluded our installations. Thyra #9 holds their installation at the Cattlemen’s restaurant in Livermore. We had a few hours of Executive Committee meetings and the audits of the Grand Officers reports before we settled in for the installation and lunch. There were a few hurdles, but we made it work.

On April 3rd, I had the pleasure of attending the Danish American Chamber of Commerce’s presentation of the Danish American Frontier Award. Gloria and I represented the Grand Lodge at this gala at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. The award was presented to Jorgen Vig Knudstorp, the CEO of Lego Corporation. It was a very nice evening with many current and prospective Dania members in attendance.

And that brings us here today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of my committees and the Grand officers for their hard work and dedication this past year. I think it has been a productive year and I have certainly enjoyed every minute of it. I certainly could not have done this without your help and inspiration.

I would also like to thank each and every lodge member who participated in lodge activities this year. The more involved you are, the more rewarding our organization is, both to you and to your community. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Grand President. Thomas Martin, Grand President.

Dania Executive Board meeting held on March 19, 2016 at the Cattlemen's Restaurant, Livermore California.

Present:

Robert Schall	Jr Grand Past President	Hejmdal #4 and Chairperson
Thomas Martin	Grand President	Danmark #2
James "Jim" Jensen	Grand Trustee	Danmark #2
James Olef Jensen	Grand Trustee	Danmark #2
Mel Lundberg	Grand Trustee	Valhalla #11
Steen Skjellerup	Grand Vice President	Thor #5(non voting)
Tim Heer	Grand Secretary	Freja #6 (non voting)

Meeting was called to order by Jr Grand Past President Robert Schall at 10::15 A.M.

Dania Scholarship and Dania Memorial Scholarship:

Two other applications were submitted, one for Daina and one for the Dania Memorial Scholarship, but the Grand Secretary was unable to prove eligibility. It was moved by Grand President, Tom Martin, to not except the an applications were we cannot verify the Membership. Seconded by Grand trustee Jim Jensen and passed.

It was agreed that both Scholarship to be voted on in the same motions.

Moved by Tom Martin to award Three (3) Dania Memorial Scholarship this year in the amount of \$300.00 each to Jens Christiansen a member of Valdemar #12, Erik Jensen a member of Valdemar #12, and Kendyl Hoy a member of Bornholm #14. Seconded by Mel Lundberg The motion was approved. Moved by Tom Martin to award one (1) Dania Scholarship this year in the amount of \$400.00 to , Jens Christiansen a member of Valdemar, and seconded by Mel Lundberg The motion was approved.

Dania Member of the year:

After review the deserving nominees, the committee unanimously elected Rowland "Mac" McNeil as the 2016 Member of the Year.

New Business:

Purchases a Sponsorship for DAFA Event:

Moved by Jim Jensen to purchase a \$600.00 Sponsorship for the Danish American Frontier Award event to be held on April 3 and have our Grand President Tom martin and his wife represent us at the dinner if space is available. Seconded by James Olef Jensen, the motion was approved.

Revision to the Combination Ritual:

Mel Lundberg Moved to submit the final draft of the Combined Dania Dannebrog Ritual to the Delegates at convention, it was seconded by Tom Martin, the motion was approved

Revision to the Daina Branch Installation Ritual:

A discussion of the submitted ritual and after much discussion the committee took no action. It was recommended that if this is to be submitted then the Grand President should refer it to a committee.

Revision to the Dania Constitution:

The Grand Secretary gave a lengthy explanation of how our Constitution can be changed.

Mel Lundberg Moved to accept the proposed changes and have it referred to a Bylaw committee made up of the 2016-17 Executive Committee, the members of the Law Committee along with the Member who made the proposal. With the understanding that the members of Law Committee well be appointed at convention and the members of the Executive Committee will differ from the current members that met today. It was seconded and adopted

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Timothy J Heer, Grand Secretary, Freja #6

GRAND LODGE DANIA of CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

Report of the History Committee

2015 has been an interesting year. You may recall that at the last Convention in Ferndale, Uffe Hellsten was perusing one of the family history books of my grandparents. He ran across the unusual name Skellerup and brought it to the attention of our Steen Skjellerup. Steen quickly discovered that his family had married into my grandmother's Laueritsen/Fisker family. Later, he and his brother in DK discovered that it added about 100 years to their Skjellerup family history. With the Grand President's permission, we should ask Steen to relate what he discovered.

See Steen Skjellerup's report.

I think this is all truly amazing and personally, I am delighted to have Steen in my family. It would not have happened if his name had been more common such as Larsen, Hansen, Jensen, etc. It makes one wonder if indeed more of us are related. We certainly share the taste for good food and for good beer, both strong family traits. And Danmark is a small country.

There are many things on display at the back of the room. Please take time to have a look.

On a personal note, my daughter Anne gave me the Genographic Ancestor Test Kit. The result is that I am 62% Scandinavian, 17% British and Irish, 14% Eastern European, and 8% Southern European. The first reference group assigned to me is Danish, the second Norwegian. The assignments are made on the basis of overlapping genetic characteristics. Actually, it was reported that I am more Scandinavian than the Danes, 62% vs 59%. All this is somewhat surprising to me because my father's family was considered to have been from England and Switzerland. However, my research shows that he had ancestors in DK, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and even Italy (Rome). That could explain a lot.

I have to admit that I am 1.1% Neanderthal—but that is less than the average of 2.1% for the general population.

I would encourage everyone interested to be genetically tested. The History Committee could compile and share the data. Also, the Dania History Committee asks that everyone who has recently visited Danmark to write of their experiences: such as, how they found the people living, their successes and problems, how it is to live and travel in Danmark, hotels and inns where they stayed, the food, interesting places they visited, the expense of living and visiting, etc. That invitation is extended to all who travelled there recently and to those who will soon be going. We could compile a list of places to visit and to stay.

I would encourage the Dania Computer Committee to have a more prominent place on the website for the Dania History Committee. For instance, the only way to locate Committee reports for any year is to go to the Convention Reports and dig it out. That is far too cumbersome. Also, it would be nice to have History listed on the main page banner rather under reports.

On another personal note, I would like soon to retire as the Dania Historian. I have enjoyed the experience but perhaps it is time for someone with new and better ideas to take over. I thank the members of Dania for contributing so very much to the success we have had over many years. Your support has been tremendous. In any event, should the incoming Grand President like to appoint someone else to be the Chairman, I will certainly help—and I will empty my garage of all that has accumulated.

I thank everyone for their interest and attention today and for all the contributions in the past.

Respectively submitted by Roger Gearhart to the 2016 Dania Convention, April 15, 2016.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS SKJELLERUP & GEARHART

Slaegten Fisker from Midtjylland

At the 2015 Convention in Ferndale, Roger Gearhart, our History Committee Chairman, had on display some of his family history books from Denmark: The "Slægtsbog" on the Fisker family relating to his grandmother Sine Lauritsen Lang, and "Min Slægtshistorie," relating to his grandfather, Terkild Christian Nielsen Lang. Uffe Hellsten, Danmark #2, was reading in the former and found references to some Skillerups. He called it to my attention, and indeed I have found that my family had married into Roger's family.

The oldest references were to Niels Pedersen Skjellerup (NPS), b.1657, d. 1707, his son Peder Nielsen Skillerup (PNS), b. 1695, d. 1755. Both lived on a farm in the little village Holmstol. The farm belonged to the Skanderborg Rytterdistrikt, the King's Royal Calvary.

One of my brothers in Denmark had traced the family back to Peder Nielsen Skjellerup . b. 1801, d.1858 in a village named Mollerup close to Holmstol. In those days in Denmark, one did not travel far from where one was born and raised. And there was the tradition of recycling names within the family. Given the closeness in time and location, we are confident that NPS and PNS are my ancestors. .

This Peder N. Skjellerup is my gg grandfather and his grandson, Peder Skjellerup, is my grandfather. So far, we have covered about 7 generations of the Skjellerup family. Now how do they interact with Roger's family?

Peder's sister, Ane Marie, married Søren Nielsen Fisker, b. 1870 at Åbjerghus in the village Skjellerup . Søren died 1961 at the hospital in Kjellerup. So Søren was married to my grandfather's sister.

Soren was a community leader in many ways. He arranged the first family reunion in 1932 for the Fisker family, and he also was instrumental in publishing the first Slaegtsbog in 1960.

On a personal note, I remember there was an expectation and fuss at a family event (my youngest brother's baptism?) because Søren was going to participate, and my family, especially my grandmother, were very excited to see him.

Søren's toughest daughter Anna married Karl Aage Andersen and they farmed a mile from where I grew up .They raised 5 sons and some of them still live in the little city of Ans . The oldest son Peder was an architect and responsible for many LEGO buildings in Denmark.

Søren's g grandfather Niels Jensen Fisker born 1766 had 6 children, no 2 Laurs Søren Sørensen born 1823 in Skovby had 11 children , 4 stayed in DK, 7 immigrated to USA, no. 9 Nielsine, called Sine, born 1861, married Terkild Christian Nielsen Lang (called Charlie Lang in America). They had 8 children, the youngest, Alma Lang, married Frank Gearhart, Roger's parents.

Steen Skjellerup,
Fresno, April 14, 2016

Note added by Roger: It seems that Steen's father and I are 4th cousins so Steen and I are 4th cousins once removed (subject to further study). That is why we look so much alike.

Advisory Board Report 2016

The contents of this report is that of the author and in no way implied that the other two members agree as it has not been shared with them.

First item I want to discuss is the format of submitting fellow members for consideration of Member of the Year. When this program first started the application needed the lodge seal along with signatures from the president and secretary. During those years submittals were scarce or nonexistent.

During my tenure as Grand Secretary there were times that no applications were submitted and the Executive Committee discussed well deserving members to make the annual recognition.

It was discussed by the Executive Committee that the requirement of a lodge seal and two signatures was somewhat restrictive. Maybe the lodge wants to submit the secretary but may be awkward to have the secretary sign his own submittal and place the seal on it, thus the same scenario for the president signing his own application. Most committee members agreed that the process was usually in secret of the nominee as to not disappoint the member if not selected and to be a surprise at the convention once named as a recipient.

To place a lodge seal on an application along with signatures of the secretary and president would suggest that those assembled at a lodge meeting discussed the candidate and voted in favor. This could be uncomfortable to a member sitting through this process in a meeting.

In an attempt to create more applications of qualified member of the year from branch's the Executive Committee changed the requirements to any member of Dania may submit an application for Member of the Year for a Dania member. The following years showed that the action of the Executive Committee worked in there were now eight or more applications to review and consider versus the prior one, two or no applications.

I respectfully submit to the delegate's consideration to going back to letting any member submit an application for Member of the Year.

Second item: I would like to encourage branch's to submit their proposed dates for installation of officer's to the Grand Secretary so those dates may be announced. This would enable Grand Officers and those desiring to attend installations enough time to calendar these events to minimize scheduling conflicts and travel plans others may wish to do.

Respectfully submitted,

PGP Stuart O. Mahler, Ph.D

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 126th Grand Lodge convention on April 15 and 16, 2016 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building; have enjoyed a successful convention and

Whereas:

The Fresno Lodges, Thora #11, and Thor #5; hosted the 136th annual Danish Society Dania and Dannebrog 2016 convention.

Therefore be it resolved:

That this convention sends congratulations for a job well done.

Be it further resolved:

That this resolution is spread upon the records of the Grand Lodge and a copy is forwarded to the aforementioned officials, individuals and organization.

Resolution committee:



Christian Nielsen



Karen Fris Lysmer



Alex Lund

April 16, 2016

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 136th Grand Lodge convention in April 15 and 16, 2016 at The Clovis Veterans Memorial Building; have enjoyed a successful convention, and

Whereas:

The Best Western Clovis Cole Hotel, was the host hotel to the 136th annual convention of the Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

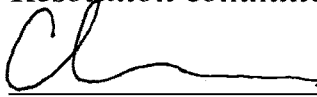
Therefore be it resolved:

We express our sincere appreciation for all services to us

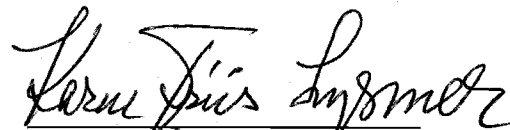
Be it further resolved:

That this resolution is spread upon the records of the Grand Lodge and a copy is forwarded to the aforementioned officials, individuals and organization.

Resolution committee:



Christian Nielsen



Karen Frits Lysmer



Alex Lund

April 16, 2016

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 136th Grand Lodge convention in April 15 and 16, 2016 at The Clovis Veterans Memorial Building; have enjoyed a successful convention, and

Whereas:

The Queen of Danmark, Her Royal Highness Margrethe II, celebrating her 76th birthday on April 16

Therefore be it resolved:

That this convention sends congratulations and best wishes;

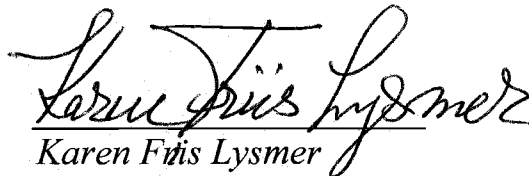
Be it further resolved:

That this resolution is spread upon the records of the Grand Lodge and a copy is forwarded to the aforementioned officials, individuals and organization.

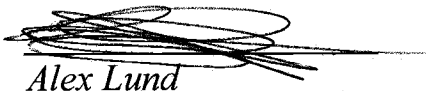
Resolution committee:



Christian Nielsen



Karen Fris Lysmer



Alex Lund

April 16, 2016

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION of SORROW

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 136th Grand Lodge convention in April 15 and 16, 2016 at The Clovis Veterans Memorial Building; do deeply regret the death of all lodge members of Grand Lodge Dania.

Therefore be it resolved:

We extend to the bereaved family our sincere sympathy of sorrow

Be it further resolved:

That this resolution is spread upon the records of the Grand Lodge and a copy is forwarded to the aforementioned officials, individuals and organization.

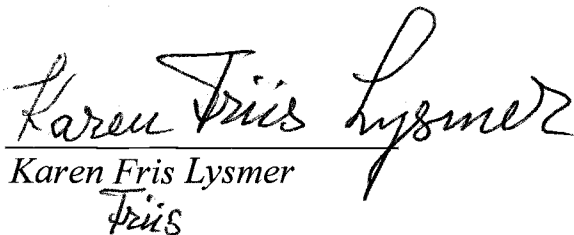
Resolution committee:



Christian Nielsen



Alex Lund



Karen Fris Lysmer
Fris

April 16, 2016