



September 13, 2017

**To: Dania Executive Committee
Dannebrog Executive Committee**

From: The Joint Committee in Pursuit of Blending Dania and Dannebrog
Dania Members: Daniel Joensen, Peder Hoy, John Johansen, Roger Gearhart and John Scheuber
Dannebrog Members: Stuart Mahler, Doris Skow, Signe Ann McNeil, Anette Christensen, and Tracey Lamee

Re: Proposal for the Blending of Officers of both Organizations into One

After each committee had met at least once by themselves, a joint meeting was called to have an open dialogue in the interest of both organizations. More than 10 topics were discussed, all relating to a long-term transition of blending the organizations together. These have been summarized into the five topics shown below. A sample of the benefits of blending the two organizations would result in a single slate of qualified officers, as well as operational efficiencies. After considerable discussion, the following items are being proposed for both of the executive committees to review in preparation for the 2018 Convention.

Our Proposal

Item	The Topic Presented	The Joint Committee's Recommendation
1	Maintain each organization's Identity	Both Dania and Dannebrog feel strongly that there must be a continuation of recognition for Member of the Year, the awarding of 25 & 50 year pins, and the offering of Scholarships.
2	Maintain Officers	As long as Dania and Dannebrog are maintained as separate organizations, they will each keep their own Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees in place.
3	Blend Remaining of Officers	Starting in 2018 elect just one Vice Marshal, in 2019 elect one Marshal, in 2020 elect one Vice President, in 2021 elect one President. An effort will be made to alternate between D & DB each year to identify a qualified candidate. If a qualified candidate is not identified, the office may be filled by the other organization.
4	Special Joint Session at Convention	In 2018 an introductory session will be held individually by each organization (D & DB). A joint session will then be held to discuss this blending concept in detail and answer questions for clarification before we vote. A secret ballot will be taken following the joint session. If blending is accepted, future conventions will have more joint sessions.
5	Installation of Grand Officers	As we move to one officer in each position instead of two, there will be less duplication and redundancy.

In Summary:

Simply put, we are advocating the blending of officers and meetings at the Grand Lodge level, just as many branches are doing today at the local level. While the Committee knows well that our #1 problem and concern is declining membership and that a concerted effort needs to be made to enhance it, that is not the charge of this Committee. This topic of membership is being addressed by the Membership Committee, and every branch needs to make an effort to help. The Committee also feels that the blending of officers for the reasons given is indicative of our effort to be more progressive, which should also improve our membership situation.

The Process:

Once the Executive Committees review and accept this proposal, it will need to be communicated to the entire membership to include the local branches. This can be done by posting this document in our newsletter and sending a copy to each branch to study in preparation for a vote at Convention. As described above, most questions will be answered at the joint session, followed by our individual sessions for further clarification before we vote. The Committee feels strongly that this proposal should be voted on with a secret ballot in each organization as one composite motion. Our Joint Committee Members are available to attend Branch meetings for explanation and clarification, if requested.

Submitted by the Joint Dania/Dannebrog Committee