

131st Annual Grand Lodge Dania Convention Report



**Held at
John Ascuaga's Nugget
Sparks, Nevada
April 14-16, 2011**

FRIDAY April 15 2011

Grand Officers, Delegates, Past Grand Presidents, and Members assembled at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks Nevada for Dania's 131st annual convention on April 15 and 16, 2011. Host Lodges were Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 Reno Nevada

GRAND OFFICERS

Grand Past President	Roger Gearhart	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand President	Lilian Rasmussen	Sønderjylland #10	Petaluma
Grand Vice President	Kurt Høj	Hejls Minde #23	Solvang
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6	Salinas
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9	Hayward
Grand Marshal	Johanna Gade	Bornholm #14	Modesto
Grand Vice Marshal	Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11	Ferndale
Grand Trustee	George A Cumming Jr.	Thyra #9	Hayward
Grand Trustee	Peter Hoy	Bornholm #14	Modesto
Grand Trustee	Thomas Martin	Danmark #2	San Francisco

DELEGATES

Danmark #2	James Jensen	John Jensen	James Olef Jensen
	Peter Christensen		
Hejmdal #4	Bob Schall		
Thor #5	J.L. Morrison	Dick Hansen	Steen Skjellerup
Freja #6	PGP Arne Graversgaard	Ole Pedersen	Erik Rasmussen
Dannevang #7	PGP Arthur Reinstein	Jackie Nielsen	
Thyra #9	PGP Stuart Mahler	Rowland McNeil	PGP Gregory Gleeson
Sønderjylland #10	Jeannie Melendez	Karen F Lysmer	
Valhalla #11	Christian Nielsen	Francis Sweet	Mel Lundberg
Valdemar #12	Carl Christiansen	Pete Olsen	
Bornholm #14	John Schueber	Ann Stowers	Kirsten Johansen
	Bodil Rasmussen		
Danneskjold #17	PGP Robert Lacey	Arne Rasmussen	
Hejls Minde #23	Hans Kardel	Bent Olsen	
Holger Danske #27	No Delegates		

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen, Sønderjylland #10, called the convention to order at 9:00 A.M. The password was taken by Grand Marshal Johanna Gade, Bornholm #14, and Grand Vice Marshal Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11. After the password was obtained the Grand President called for the opening sign.

The assembly then rose to recite the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed by the singing of the Danish National Anthem, led by Past Grand President Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2.

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen, Sønderjylland #10, then declared a moment of silence for those departed members this past year as Grand Marshal Johanna Gade, Bornholm #14, draped the Charter.

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen proclaimed the 131st Dania Convention in session with full powers and authority to act. Grand President Lilian Rasmussen introduced the Dania members who represented the Convention Committee from Valdemar #12, Carl Christiansen, Erik Hansen, Pete Olsen and Baxter Swaffer, who welcomed the Grand Officers and delegates to the 131st convention

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen instructed The Grand Marshal Johanna Gade to escort Past Grand President Mr. Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14, to the chair on her right to act as her advisor during the Convention.

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen asked Grand Secretary to read the minutes from the close of the 130th convention. Grand President Lilian Rasmussen, asking for any errors or addition. Past Grand President Jim Jorgensen, Bornholm #14 reported the omission of the passing of his Brother in-law Chris Burton on November 27, 2010. Moved by Jeannie Melendez, Sønderjylland #10 to approve the minutes as corrected. It was seconded By Christian Nielsen, Valhalla #11 and Passed.

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen asked Grand Secretary to call the roll, 10 Grand Officers, 28 Delegates and 16 Past Grand Presidents responded to roll call. See addendum for the complete Roll Call result

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen turned the meeting over to Grand Vice President Kurt Høj. The Grand President read her report. (**see addendum**). It was moved by Grand Past President Roger Gearhart, that we accept the report of the Grand President. Seconded by Past Grand President Gunner R. Nielsen, Thor #5, and passed. The Grand Vice President Kurt Høj after ruling on the motion returned the Gavel to Grand President Lilian Rasmussen.

Report of the Executive Committee: The minutes of the two Meetings held on August 7, 2010 and March 19, 2011 were read by the Grand Secretary. It was moved by Past Grand President Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2, to accept the report. Seconded by Jackie Nielsen, Dannevang #7 and carried. **See addendum.**

Grand Secretary's report: The Grand Marshal and Grand Vice Marshal handed out the reports of the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and The Grand Trustees. While the reports were being passed out, the Grand Secretary verbally reported on the request made last year regarding the financial burden of the funeral benefit. The calculations showed that the total cost would be \$81,713.00 and the average Benefit would be \$155.05. This was not included in the written report due to the difficulty of auditing the calculation. Grand Past President Roger Gearhart asked if a pin inventory could be included in next year's report. After the Grand Secretary's annual report was reviewed and The Grand Secretary then called the Delegates attention to the itemized reports of the Branches on Membership, Assets, Receipts, and Disbursements for review. Grand Trustee George Cumming Jr, Thyra #9, moved to accept the report. Seconded by

Jeannie Melendez, Sønderjylland #10, and carried. (See addendum)

Recess at 10:00 A.M. Convention reconvened at 10:35 A.M.

The Grand Marshal collected the password from the new members in attendance.

Grand Treasurer's Report was presented by Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson, for reviewed. Past Grand President Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2, moved to accept the report, seconded by Past Grand President Robert Sorensen, Bornholm #14, and carried. (See addendum)

Grand Trustees' Report was presented by the Grand Secretary, Grand Trustee George Cumming Jr. added more information about the cash account and that it may be too high and some of that cash could be transferred to an interest account. After review, Past Grand President Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2, moved to accept the report. Seconded by Karen Lysmer, Sønderjylland #10, and carried. (See addendum.)

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

History Committee Report: Grand Past President Roger Gearhart gave the report. After the report was read, it was moved by Past Grand President Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17, to accept the report. Seconded by John Schueber, Bornholm #14, and carried.

Advisory Committee Report: Past Grand President Peder Hoy reported that they were here. The report was accepted by the Grand President Lilian Rasmussen.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RV Committee Report: Past Grand President Gregory Gleeson, Thyra#9, gave a report on the activities of the Campers. After his report it was moved by Jeannie Melendez, Sønderjylland #10, to accept the report. Seconded by John Jensen, Danmark #2, and carried.

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen appointed the following **Standing Convention Committees:**

Law:	George A Cumming Jr.	Grand Trustee, Thyra #9
	Gregory Gleeson	Grand Treasurer Thyra #9
	Stuart O. Mahler	Past Grand President, Thyra #9

Resolutions:	Karen Lysmer	Sønderjylland #10
	Carl Christiansen	Valdemar #12
	John Jensen	Danmark #2

COMMUNICATIONS:

Thank you note from Elverhoj Museum for a donation and Newsletter

Thank you note from Danish American Historical Society of California for a donation

Thank you note from Solvang Lutheran Home for a donation

Thank you note from Aldersly Inc. for membership renewal at \$40.00

Thank you note from Zack Reinstein for his Scholarship
Thank you note from Christiana Reinstein for her Scholarship
Letters of greeting for a successful convention from:

Thyra #9
Danmark #2
Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #19
Thor #5 and Thora #11
Valhalla #11
Sønderjylland #10

Letter Regarding the Ritual

NEW BUSINESS

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen asked to have the Resolution of Change handed out to the Officers, Delegates and Past Grand Presidents for consideration, along with the Old Age Fund report.

John Schueber addressed the Grand president with a request to have a traveling Microphone so that the Delegates could hear the question and comments from everyone.

The Grand Secretary presented the annual reports of the Old Age Fund for the information of the membership.

The Grand Secretary gave a report on changes made to the Diana/Dannebrog Old Age fund Bylaws, The Grand Secretary moved for the acceptance of the changes and to incorporate it into the Dania Constitution, seconded by Grand Vice Marshal Mel Lundberg, Valhalla No. 11, and carried.

The Grand Secretary directed the Members to The Resolution of Change by reading it to those in attendance, (**See addendum**). After Presenting the Resolution of Change the Grand Secretary asked if this would require a change to our constitution. Grand Past Grand President Roger Gearhart moved to accept the resolution. Seconded by Past Grand President Stuart O. Mahler, Thyra #9, and the vote was Yes 25 No 9 the Grand President declared that the motion carried.

The Grand Secretary Moved that the Resolution be sent to the Law Committee to determine if a change to our Constitution is required, seconded by James Olef Jensen, Danmark #2, and passed

The Grand President Lilian Rasmussen requested that the Grand Secretary present the bills individually.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay \$40.00 annual dues to Aldersly. Seconded by Grand Past President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2 and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to donate \$25.00 to the Solvang Lutheran Home. Seconded by Past Grand President, Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted.

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

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to donate \$25.00 to the Danish American Historical Society in Fresno. Seconded by John Jensen, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the Grand Trustee \$1.00 each per year expense reimbursement. Seconded by Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was

adopted

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the 2012 Convention Committee \$300.00 for expenses, \$100.00 bowling prize and \$100.00 golf prize for a total \$500.00. Seconded by Past grand President Kaj Kistensen, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the Grand Treasurer \$100.00 per month expense reimbursement. Seconded by Grand Trustee Thomas Martin, Danmark #2, the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to set Funeral Benefit at \$200.00, seconded by Grand Past President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to set the annual per capita tax at \$20.00 per member annually, paid semiannual, except for Branches who have demonstrated financial difficulty the tax be set at \$1.00 per member paid semiannual. Seconded by Past Grand President Stuart O Mahler, Grand Secretary. Tim Heer moved to Table the Motion until after Lunch, seconded by Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, The Grand President declared the Motion Tabled.

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen declared the convention to be at recess for Lunch and to reconvene at 2:00 P.M.

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen reconvened the meeting after the Lunch break at 2:00 P.M.

The Grand Marshal collected the password from the new members in attendance.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to bring the tabled motion back to the floor for consideration. Seconded by Past Grand President Stuart O Mahler and the Grand Secretary restated the Tabled Motion for the new members. The Motion failed

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to set the annual per capita tax at \$20.00 per member annually to be paid semiannually. Seconded by Past Grand President Stuart O Mahler and the motion passed 30 yes and 7 no.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to increase the Grand Presidents traveling expenses by \$600.00 over the current Constructional amount of \$600.00 to a total of \$1,200.00. Seconded by Grand Past President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted with 30 Yes and 4 No votes

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to increase the Grand Marshal traveling expenses by \$300.00 over the current Constructional amount of \$300.00 to a total of \$600.00, seconded by Grand Past Trustee Thomas Martin, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted with 37 Yes and 4 No votes

Past Grand President Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14, moved to pay the Grand Secretary \$200.00 per month expense reimbursement, seconded by Grand Past President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted with 37 Yes and 4 No votes

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to continue the payments in support of our web site not to exceed \$300.00. Seconded by Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9, and the motion was adopted with 32 Yes and 0 No votes

Jim Jensen, Danmark #2 announced that Danmark #2 pledges to match all other Branches donations to the Grand Lodge General fund up to \$5,000.00 between the end of Convention and May 16, 2011. This was announced as a challenge to the other Branches.

Nomination of new Grand Officers

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen, Sønderjylland #10, appointed three tellers Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, Past Grand President Glen Fritz, Danmark #2, and Past Grand President John Champagne, Bornholm #14

Past Grand President Peter Hoy, Bornholm #14 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. Seconded by James Jensen, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted

The following were nominated and elected:

Grand President	Lilian Rasmussen	Sønderjylland #10	declined with thanks
	Kurt Høj	Hejls Minde #23	
Grand Vice President	Johanna Gade	Bornholm #14	
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6	
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9	
Grand Marshal	Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11	
Grand Vice Marshal	Steen Skjellerup	Thor #5	
	Robert Schall	Hejmdal #4	
	Tom Martin	Danmark #2	

Past Grand President Peder Hoy moved to send the question of candidate qualification to the Law committee and called for a recess for coffee. Seconded and passed

Recess at 3:00 P.M.

Convention reconvened at 3:20 P.M.

The Grand Marshal collected the password from the new members in attendance.

Grand Trustee Thomas Martin, Danmark #2, declined the nomination for Grand Vice Marshal and Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, also declined the nomination for Grand Vice Marshal. The Grand President asked the Grand Secretary to cast the ballot for Robert Schall, Hejmdal #4, for Vice Marshal.

Grand Trustee #3 George A Cumming Jr. Thyra #9

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen, Sønderjylland #10, dismissed the tellers with thanks.

Grand Past President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2 presented Grand President Lilian Rasmussen with a cup as a reminder of her first Past Grand President's Luncheon.

Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson moved to adjourn until 10:00 A.M. Saturday Morning. Seconded and after some discussion Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson withdrew his motion and

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen adjourned the meeting until 9:00 A.M. Saturday Morning..

SATURDAY April 17, 2011

Convention was called back to order at 9:00 A.M. by Grand President Lilian Rasmussen. The password was taken up by the Grand Marshal and Grand Vice Marshal. 10 Grand Officers, 29 Delegates and 15 Past Grand Presidents responded to roll call

The Grand President asked the Grand Marshal to escort her advisor Past Grand President Peder Hoy to her station

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Jackie Nielsen, Dannevang #7, Move to impose a five dollar fine on anyone who receives a phone call during an open meeting at Grand Lodge with the proceeds going to the Old Age Fund. Seconded by Past Grand President Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17 then Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, moved to amend the motion by changing the fine from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Seconded by Past Grand President Robert Sorensen, Bornholm #14, and the motion was adopted. Yes 26 No 6

Past Grand President Robert Lacey moved that all cell phones are turned off as the members enter the meeting room. This motion was never seconded and no action was taken.

Past Grand President Roger Gearhart reported that the Danish Encyclopedia will be on loan to the Ferndale Lodge for an undetermined time. He also reported on the activities of a new group called Gathering.

John Schueber, Bornholm #14, moved that the incoming Grand President establish at least six months before the next Convention a Nominating Committee consisting of a Grand Officer, a Past Grand President and a Member at large. The Nominating Committee would come up with one to three names for each open Office a month before convention to be posted in the Bulletin so the membership would be able to know in advance who was planning on running for which Office. Francis Sweet, Valhalla #11, seconded the motion and the lengthy speech, the motion was adopted. Yes 35 No 1

Richard Hansen, Thor #5, reported on Stanley Kjar and it was all good news.

Francis Sweet, Valhalla #11, invited the Grand Officers and Delegates to Ferndale for the 2014 convention. It was moved by Past Grand President Jim Jorgensen, Bornholm #14, to accept the invitation from Valhalla. It was seconded and passed. The Delegates were reminded that the Convention date of 2013 is still open. Yes 38 No 1 (Francis Sweet)

The Grand President asked the Grand Marshal to escort Grand President elect Kurt Høj of Hejls Minde #23, Solvang to podium where Grand President Lilian Rasmussen asked the Grand President-elect to address the Grand Officers, Delegates and Members. The first thing was to apologize for being tardy to yesterday's meeting which was accepted by Grand President Lilian Rasmussen. He commended the job that Lilian did as Grand President

Grand President-elect Kurt Høj gave a thank you speech and pointed out that sometimes his name is spelled KRUT and in Danish KRUT means ammunition so he wants us all to know that he is loaded and ready to go!

Advisory committee:	Past Grand President Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9 (1 yr) Past Grand President Graham Sorensen, Bornholm #14 (2 yr) Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2 (3 yr)
Auditors:	Past Grand President Stan Kjar Thor #5 Past Grand President James Jorgensen, Bornholm #14 Past Grand President John Champagne, Bornholm #14
Dania RV committee	Past Grand President Gregory Gleeson, Thyra #9 Carl Jensen, Thor #5 Don Petit, Thor #5
History committee	Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2 First Delegate from each Branch
Web Committee	Grand Secretary Tim Heer, Freja #6

He then introduced his advisor Past Grand President Peder Hoy and his password. The Grand Marshal then escorted the Grand President Elect back to his station.

Bent Olsen gave a rundown of the menu items for the 2012 convention and it is going to be 100% Danish meals for all of the banquets. This news was very well received by everyone in attendance.

At 10:15 the Grand President Lilian Rasmussen declared a fifteen minute coffee break.

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen called the convention back to order at 10:30 A.M.

Resolution Committee report: the Resolutions were read by the members of the Committee Karen Lysmer Sønderjylland #10, Carl Christiansen, Valdemar #12, John Jensen, Danmark #2. Past Grand President Kaj Kristensen, Denmark #2, moved to accept the report, seconded. The report was accepted. (**See addendum**)

Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson paid all of the Grand Trustees their annual salary in cash out of his pocket.

The Grand Marshal Johanna Gade announced that all of the members of Dannebrog were without the door and asked to come in. Grand President Lilian Rasmussen invited them in. After all of our visitors were in the room and the Grand Vice Marshal announced that the doors were closed, the Grand President welcomed the members of Dannebrog and then asked the Grand Marshal to escort the Grand President Elect Kurt Høj to the front and announced that we have assembled for a special event and explained that she wanted both Grand Lodges together and had invited Grand Vice President Kurt Høj to preside for the presentation of the Dania Member of the year to Francis Sweet. It was Grand President Lilian Rasmussen intent to invite all of the members of Dannebrog so that they can have a part in this special moment for Francis, who has supported both Grand Lodges. She also wanted to give Kurt the pleasure of presenting

the award even though he had not yet been installed as Grand President at this time. It was done in this manner because it was learned that the Sweets were not staying for the Saturday night dinner and this was the only time that was available to make the presentation.

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen informed everyone about the fact that at next year's convention in Solvang that Hejls Minde #23 will hold their annual installation of Officers on the Friday night of Convention, and that the 2014 Convention will be held in Ferndale.

Report of the Law Committee: Grand Trustee George Cumming Jr., Thyra #9, reported that two items were sent to the Law Committee. One item being the qualification of a member to be nominated for office. Although it was no longer an issue, he did report that the opinion expressed during the meeting was consistent with our Constitution. The second issue having to do with the Resolution of Change that was approved on Friday, and the Committee found no conflict with our Constitution, and would not require any amendment or changes to implement the suggested options as to how to hold an Installation. The local Branches are free to hold their installations as they see fit.

Grand Vice Marshal Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11, moved to reconsider Resolution of Change that was approved yesterday, Mel confirmed that he had voted on the prevailing side. The Motion to reconsider was seconded by Rowland McNeil, Thyra #9, the motion passed. 18 Yes 12 No. Past Grand President Robert Lacey withdrew his Resolution of Change for consideration; his request was approved by the Grand President.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to accept the report of the Law Committee. Past Grand President Roger Gearhart seconded and the motion was approved 41 Yes 0 No

Grand President Lilian Rasmussen declared the 131st annual convention closed at 11:20 A.M. At 2:00PM Dania and Dannebrog participated in a joint installation of Grand Officers.

2011- 2009 DANIA GRAND OFFICERS

Grand Past President	Lilian Rasmussen	Sønderjylland #10	Petaluma
Grand President	Kurt Høj	Hejls Minde #23	Solvang
Grand Vice President	Johanne Gade	Bornholm #14	Modesto
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6	Salinas
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9	Hayward
Grand Marshal	Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11	Ferndale
Grand Vice Marshal	Robert Schall	Hejmdal #4	Sacramento
Grand Trustee #1	Peter Hoy	Bornholm #14	Modesto
Grand Trustee #2	Tom Martin	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Trustee #3	George A Cumming Jr.	Thyra #9	Hayward

MINUTES TAKEN BY
Timothy J Heer Sr., Freja #6
GRAND SECRETARY

Dania Grand Past Presidents

James Jorgensen	Bornholm 14	1969-70
*Bjarne H. Carstens	Danmark 2	1970-71
*Burton F. Skow	Danneskjold 17	1971-72
*Holger Carstensen	Hejls Mnde 23	1972-73
*Borge Nielsen	Odin 1	1973-74
*Dan Mogensen	Thor 5	1974-75
*Clyde G. Brown	Dagmar 8	1975-76
*Paul W. Andersen	Danneskjold 17	1976-77
Svend Christian	Freja 6	1977-78
Niels Walter Hansen	Thyra 9	1978-80
*Howard J. Krogh	Bornholm 14	1980-81
Stuart O. Mahler	Thyra 9	1981-82
*Lawrence C. Bentzen	Sønderjylland 10	1982-83
*Jan A. Walker	Freja 6	1983-84
*Reynold F. Nielsen	Thor 5	1984-85
*Terje Schiller	Danneskjold 17	1985-86
Peder Hoy	Bornholm 14	1986-87
*Fred H. Mahler	Thyra 9	1987-88
Erik Jensen	Thor 5	1988-89
Arthur Reinstein	Dannevang 7	1989-90
*Norman Dalgaard	Hejmdal 4	1990-91
Glenn A. Fritz	Danmark 2	1991-92
Gregory Gleeson	Thyra 9	1992-93
Graham Sorensen	Bornholm 14	1993-94
Alan D. Filiau	Thyra 9	1994-95
Henning O. Petersen	Danmark 2	1995-96
Allen Thomsen	Dannevang 7	1996-97
Robert Sorensen	Bornholm 14	1997-98
*Arthur J. Jensen	Thor 5	1998-99
Tim Heer	Freja 6	1999-00
Gunnar Nielsen	Thor 5	2000-01
*Tedd Matusiewicz	Dannevang 7	2001-02
Hugo Rasmussen	Bornholm 14	2002-03
Kaj Kristensen	Danmark 2	2003-04
Arne Graversgaard	Freja 6	2004-05
Robert Lacey	Danneskjold 17	2005-06
John Johansen	Bornholm 14	2006-07
Stanley Kjar	Thor 5	2007-08
John Champagne	Bornholm 14	2008-09
Roger Gearhart	Danmark 2	2009-10
*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
* Denoted Deceased		

Report of the Grand President, April 15, 2011.

Past Grand Officers, Grand Officers, Delegates and Members of
the Danish Society Dania, of California and Nevada.

Serving you, as Grand President for the past 12 month's, has indeed been an honor.

I would again like to thank Thyra #9 and Danneskjold #17, for co-hosting together with my home Lodge, Sønderjylland #10, at last years convention. Thanks to Grand Trustee George Cumming Jr. and to Past Grand President James Jørgensen, for being the *chair team* responsible for golf and bowling. To Past Grand President John Johansen, thanks for helping creating the very nice *Convention Program*. The Nugget Hotel, in Sparks Nevada, is a wonderful place to hold Conventions. Here we are again, for a second year in a row.

Going back to December 7, 1991, DANIA constitution was amended to allow people of non Danish heritage and for woman to become members of Dania. This was a remarkable step.

My home lodge, in Petaluma, was the very first Lodge to install 13 ladies. Now, 20 years later, sorry to say, we are only 5 left of the 13. Two of us are present, Secretary Jeannie Melendez and myself.

Little did I ever dream when I joined, that one day, I should be the Grand President of the Danish Society DANIA of California and Nevada?

In August of 1997 I lost my husband of 35 years due to cancer. The abundance of support and friendship, my children and I received, from what I call '*My Dania and Dannebrog family*', I never will forget.

I owe big thanks to many of you here, that supported me then, gave me strength to go on and guided me to be, who I am today. That was when I decided, it was time to '*give back*'.

I have had the honor of being Sønderjylland #10's President for 3 years, Secretary for 11 years and their Treasurer, now going on my 16th year.

At the 127th Convention, held in Fresno 2007, history was made again. Saturday April 14, 2007, I was elected and installed as the first lady, to start a journey through the *chairs in Dania*.

My work as Grand Vice Marshal was easy, with the supervision of our, always happy, Past Grand President, Stanley Kjar. When Stan introduced his Officers at installations, that first woman Dania Officer, was left out 3-4 times. He has over and over again, asked for forgiveness and it's been granted.

Stepping up to the Grand Marshal's position, required doing a bit of homework. The wording for the '*Combined Ritual for the installation of local Officers*' and the '*marching pattern*', was still young and the latter, needed some attention.

Past Grand President, John Champagne, was the perfect person to do just that.

He made sure that Dannebrog's Grand Marshal Collen Cave and I, put the *left foot first* and that *rounding of corners, became square*. I think we did well, thanks to Mr. John. He certainly knew how to march and give directions.

During the year as Grand Vice President, '*You are studying for the finals*'. With both eyes and ears open, absorb all you can at all gatherings. The following year would tell what you have learned.

Friday April 16th of 2010, one very short year ago, Grand Trustee Mr. George Cumming Jr., introduced me as "Petaluma's glue" and nominated me. The Delegate bestowed upon me the highest honor, which I shall long cherish, and elected me as the Grand President of Dania. I wish to, again express my sincere thanks for the confidence you gave me.

Installation took place on April 17, 2010 at the 130th Convention at the Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada.

It was a very special time for me, having my son Hans-Erik Rasmussen and my friend of 55 years, Jack Fredriksson present. Jack is very dedicated and active in 'the Odd Fellows Lodge' in Sweden. They are 'toying' with the possibility, of integrating men and woman. Now, he has seen proof, it has been done here and that it has worked very well. Hope you agree.

During my term as your Grand President, I have been presiding at every Lodge installation, and making some official visits. Attended some lodges for their general meeting, and some lodges, I had pleasure in visiting more than once.

I would like to thank all the branches for their dedication to our Society Dania and for all the hard work in preparing for meetings and installations. Decorating, preparing delicious food and of course, for the time we spent together at the *'attitude adjustment hours', with Mr. Carlsberg and Mr. Aalborg.'*

I have always been received with honor and wonderful hospitality. It is very interesting to see and hear, how and what, the various Lodges do for their members.

On May 7, 2010, Grand Officers met in Reno, Nevada for the first installation, installing the officers of Valdemar #12. Admit I was a little tense, but with the very friendly and relaxed Reno group, all went well.

May 13, 2010, I attended Thyra #9's general meeting, with President George Cumming presiding. Added to his attire was a chef's apron. He was also in charge of a delicious meal. During the dinner, I had a great conversation with the Dania scholarship recipient, Scott Jørgensen. I found him to be a wonderful nice young man with a promising future.

May 21, 2010, I was met with warm hospitality, when I visited Bornholm #14 and attended their general meeting. Grand Past President Peder Hoy, well experienced, filled President John Sheuber's shoes, since he was absent. It was a great meeting, followed by a huge spread of open faced sandwiches.

June 12, 2010, I was welcomed 'home' to Sønderjylland #10, Petaluma. I missed our meeting in May, due to other obligations. President Karen Lysmer, had pleasure in welcoming two new members to #10. With weather that never fails, at Kastaniafælled, it was a great day.

July 14, 2010, I paid a visit to Danmark #2 in San Francisco. Dannebrog's ladies of Thyra #3 celebrated their tradition, taking *'July Off'*. The boys were 'home alone'.

From the roof-top of the Odd Fellows building on 7th Street, under a sunny and cloud free sky, President James Olef Jensen presided. With many suspended formalities, the meeting was over in record time. After many laughs and a good bachelor-style meal, I left together with my chauffeur #10's President Finn Kjar, #10 Secretary Jeannie Melendez, Inger-Marie Andersen and Sabrina Wilcox.

August 1, 2010, I drove down to Tracy to meet with Dannebrog's Past President Kathy Thomsen. We carpooled down to Freja #6, to Salinas's installation. Kathy's car had room for Past Grand President's Robert Sørensen, Roger Gearhart and the Grand Marshal Johanne Gade as well.

With Dannebrog's Grand President Colleen Cave at my side, one more installation was completed with success. A *'Golden Chicken BBQ'* with wine and a pretty cake, was served in honor of the two lady Presidents.

August 7, 2010, I went to Bornholm #14, Modesto, to the 'Almond Pavilion'. This was my first *Dania* only installation, and the 'Old Original Installation Rituals", was used to the pleasing of Grand Secretary Tim Heer.

An executive meeting was held prior to the installation. After many years, of serving as Secretary, Robert Sørensen, retired and passed the books over to Ann Stowers. The luncheon was well attended, with ten Past Grand Presidents of Dania.

The absolute *HIGHLITE* during the visit to Modesto, was the honor I had to present a 50-year pin, to our friend and Past President Peter Hoy.

August 14, 2010, Installation time at Sønderjylland #10, Petaluma. Installing my home lodge's Officers, was very special. Festivities held at beautiful Kastania Park, with Karen Lysmer as the Past President for 3 1/2 years and Finn Kjar being installed as our President. Having Lise van der Beck catering the beautiful luncheon and her brother, Past Grand President Niels Walter Hansen, visiting all the way from Pedrolia, was wonderful. Twelve Dania Grand Officers, seven Dannebrog Officers and 38 additional friends and members was there as well. Many dressed in red and white. It was a day to remember.

September 4, 2010, Valhalla #11, Ferndale had their installation scheduled. Together with Dannebrog's Past Grand President, Kathy Thomsen and a friend of mine, Treva Rafalski, I drove to Ferndale already on Friday. Karen Faraldo and Jackie Nielsen recognized my car parked half way up on 101, U-id and hooked up with us, for some lunch. After we arrived in Ferndale, we all enjoyed a 'happy hour' and card playing in my suite. That day passed quickly.

Saturday morning, heavy fog was covering the view of trees and the temperature was very different, than what we were used to. Good day to give donations to the merchants, in the cute little Victorian town.

Later in the afternoon, the Danish Hall was beautifully decorated in the spirit of the Vikings. Only four of ten Dania Grand Officers were present. Thanks to Past Grand Presidents Alan Filiau, Robert Sørensen, John Champagne and John Johansen, the total of 'Dania Grand's doubled and happily paraded in with Dannebrog's Grand President and her staff. Another pleasant installation was completed. Sunday, we had fun playing bocce, since the Dania baseball days are over. The CC Market caterers were responsible for stilling our hunger, both Saturday and Sunday. After Sundays game, they served a wonderful Chicken BBQ lunch at the park.

Driving back home, I took the scenic route, thru the '*Trees of the Giants*'. It was a long but very nice, 600 miles trip.

December 3, 2010, I attended Valdemar #12, Reno, Christmas celebration. They had over 100 people attending. The Lucia performance with Scandinavian girls and star boys were very impressive. The gløgg and æbleskiver and their traditional smørrebrødsbord was very good. No Christmas without the good old 'Nissemand'. He was there as well, what a treat.

On **December 11, 2010**, it was time to visit Danmark #2, San Francisco. Their Christmas party was very festive and held at the Grosvenor Hotel in So. San Francisco. Mr. Roger and wife Kathleen, proudly presented their very charming little grandson Cameron and the latest addition to the Gearhart family, a cute little granddaughter. All the tables were beautifully decorated. Mr. Santa, Henrik Nielsen, showed up and gave presents to the children, young and old.

December 12, 2010, off to Sønderjylland #10, Petaluma. Christmas luncheon was served at Mr. McGoo's. We were honored to have Dannebrog's Grand President Colleen Cave, her husband Mark and Dania's Grand trustee Tom Martin, visiting us. The secretary Jeannie Melendez with help of Birthe Bækgaard, had decorated the tables beautifully. The luncheon buffet was very good.

February 5, 2011, the first installation of the year. Thor #5, Fresno. They had a crowd of 80 persons. We all enjoyed a good dinner, after the installation. Checking my list of Grand Presidents, I was pleasantly surprised. No less than twelve Past Grand Presidents were present. They had served between the years of 1987 – 2010. I introduced all of them and a group picture was later taken. It was maybe a first time; so many Past Grand Presidents were together, at an installation.

February 12, 2011, 11AM Danneskjold #17, San Jose's installation. Like the previous year, it was held at Mariani's Restaurant in Santa Clara. We were a smaller group attending. The purpose of my presence was accomplished, with some modification due to space. If there is a will, there is a way. A delicious buffet lunch was served.

February 12, 2011 at 4PM, Dannevang #7, Livermore called for their officers to be installed. Odd Fellows Hall was nicely decorated in celebration of Valentine. I had the pleasure of presenting 25-year pins to Nathan and Robert Lamee and to John Post.

Dannevang #7 and the ladies of Danebod #16, served a smørrebrodsbord and Danish kringle for dessert. It was very tasty.

It worked quite well, with two installations in one day, since they geographically are close.

February 19, 2011, Danmark #2 was next. The Grosvenor Hotel in South San Francisco, seems to be their *second home*. It is a great place for installation and dinner party. A large group was enjoying lovely hordeuvre's with the cocktails.

Dannebrog's Grand Marshal and Denmark #2's President, Elizabeth Jensen got the honor of presenting her son, James Olef Jensen, with the 'past presidents pin'. Before we got to good music and lots of dancing, we enjoyed a very good dinner. What a great evening that was.

March 5, 2011, Bornholm #14, Modesto, Fish dinner. It was my first visit to this event, but most likely, it will not be the last. I really enjoyed it and the food was delicious. Thank you, for inviting me.

March 12, 2011, Sønderjylland #10, Petaluma. President Finn Kjar conducted the meeting with ease and we had the honor of welcoming two new members. With sunny weather at Kastania Faelled, tasty hordeuvre's, delicious Cioppino meal and great deserts, no one left unhappy or hungry.

March 19, 2011, Thyra #9, Hayward, had their annual installation held at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Livermore and as always, it was well attended. At 10 AM an executive board meeting was held, followed by another successful installation and a great lunch.

Thursday **March 24th**, I started on the trip to Solvang. With rain coming down in buckets and sounds like bullets, my windshield wipers worked at high speed for miles. To cut down on the hours of driving in one stretch, Kathy Thomsen, Past Grand President of Dannebrog, welcomed me to spend the night.

Friday gave us an assortment of weather, but we made it safely down to Solvang. Usually, you run in to Dania members all the time, when walking the streets there. Not this time. Weather related accidents, falling trees, flooding and so on, caused many cancellations.

Saturday March 26th in the afternoon, Bent and Susie Olsen put on a very nice cocktail party, prior to the installation of Hejls Minde #23. They have a gorgeous home up on the "Viking Hills" with a breath-taking view.

My last installation was held at Pea Soup Andersen's Inn in Beullton. All went well and the evening ended with a delicious prime rib dinner and dancing.

When installations called for 'The Combined Rituals', I have had pleasure sharing the podium with the Heer family's baby girl, Dannebrog's Grand President, Colleen Cave. She has been very supportive and a priceless, full of fun partner.

Grand Marshal, Johanne Gade, very dedicated to Dania, has done an excellent job this year. Looking forward, seeing her *at the top of the ladder*. This coming year, she will just sit back and take notes, watching our new Grand President Kurt Hoj presiding and Grand Marshal Mel Lundberg doing the 'floor work'.

Johanne has also opened up her home for me on occasions, and I appreciated her hospitality very much. Thank you, Johanne.

A special thanks to the Grand Secretary and Web-master, Tim Heer, for keeping track of all of us members. His job has to be very time consuming and at times, not so easy.

Grand Treasurer Greg Gleeson, serving us for a 16th year, has faithfully kept a correct account of all receipts and disbursements. Not an easy task either.

Grand Trustees, Mr. George Cumming Jr, Mr. Peder Hoy and Mr. Thomas Martin have managed to add another 28 shares and \$5,542.95 to the Trustees Annual Report this year, despite the turmoil in the stock market. Great job, gentlemen.

The years I have spent going thru the chairs and now having served as the Dania Grand President, has come to an end. With fondness and great appreciation I will remember how rewarding this experience has been.

Wishing the Grand Officers for 2011-2012 of the Danish Society DANIA of California and Nevada and all of you

All my best,

Lilian Rasmussen

Grand President, Dania,

2010 - 2011

Dania Executive Board meeting held on August 7, 2010 in Oakdale , CA

Present:

Roger Gearhart	Grand Past President	Danmark #2
Lilian Rasmussen	Grand President.	Sønderjylland #10
George A. Cumming	Grand Trustee	Thyra #9
Peder Hoy	Grand Trustee	Bornholm #14
Tom Martin	Grand Trustee	Danmark #2

Tim Heer	Grand Secretary	Freja #6 (non voting)
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Meeting was called to order by Grand Past President Roger Gearhart at 10:00 AM

Grand Trustee Funds: George gave an over view of Trustee account

New Business: It was suggested that we remove the wording of “Society” from the joint installation Ritual. After much debate there was no action taken

Application For Membership Committee report: Lilian Rasmussen presented a new Application for Membership and it was suggested that Beneficiary be added and Dannebrog be removed so it would be a Dania only Application.

Next Meeting time and Place: The Grand Past President did not set a meeting time or place for the next Executive Board suggesting that we would not need to meet in Ferndale at the end of the month but would have two more during the year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM

Respectfully submitted: Timothy J Heer, Grand Secretary, Freja #6

Dania Executive Board meeting held on March 19, 2011 at the Cattlemen's Restaurant, Livermore California.

Present:

Roger Gearhart	Grand President.	Danmark #2 and Chairperson
Lillian Rasmussen	Grand Vice President	Sønderjylland #10
George A. Cumming	Grand Trustee	Thyra #9
Peder Hoy	Grand Trustee	Bornholm #14
Thomas Martin	Grand Trustee	Danmark 32
Kurt Høj	Grand Vice President	Hejls Minde #23 (non voting)
Tim Heer	Grand Secretary	Freja #6 (non voting)

Meeting was called to order by Grand Past President Roger Gearhart at 10:15 A.M.

Minutes of the August 7, 2010 Executive meeting was read and approved.

Dania Memorial Scholarship:

Moved by Peder Hoy and seconded by George Cumming to award 3 Scholarships at \$1,000.00 each seconded and passed. This year's recipients are: Kindle Frederich Member of Dannevang #7, Zack Reinstein Member of Dannevang #7, Ben Hoover Member of Bornholm #14

Dania Scholarship

Moved by Peder Hoy and seconded by George Cumming to award four (4) Dania Scholarship this year of \$300.00 each and two at \$50.00 each, passed.

This year's recipients are:

Marissa Christensen Submitted by Danmark #2, Allison Reinstein submitted by Dannevang #7, Elizabeth Reinstein submitted by Dannevang #7 and Erik Jensen Submitted by Valdemar #12. All were awarded a \$300.00 Scholarship. Kindle Frederich Member of Dannevang #7, Zack Reinstein Member of Dannevang #7 both were awarded a \$50.00 Scholarship

Dania Member of the year: After review the deserving nominees, with so many qualified nominations a paper ballot was taken and Francis Sweet was selected as the member of the year.

Grand Past President: Roger Gearhart submitted a paper addressing the wording in the joint ritual

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Timothy J Heer, Grand Secretary, Freja #6

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 131th Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada convention in Sparks Nevada on April 15 and 16, 2011 at John Ascuaga's Nugget; have enjoyed a successful convention, and

Whereas:

The Queen of Danmark, Her Royal Highness Margrethe II, celebrating her 71th birthday on April 16

Therefore be it resolved:


That this convention sends congratulations and best wishes;

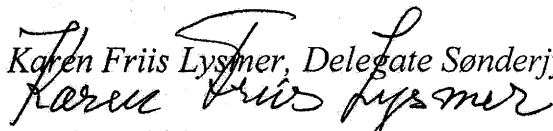
Be it further resolved:

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:


John Jensen, Delegate Danmark #2


Carl Christiansen, Delegate Valdemar #12


Karen Friis Lysmer, Delegate Sønderjylland #10
April 15, 2011

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION of SORROW

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 131th Grand Lodge convention in Sparks Nevada on April 15 and 16, 2011 at John Ascuaga's Nugget; 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:


John Jensen, Delegate Danmark #2


Carl Christiansen, Delegate Valdemar #12


Karen Friis Lysmer, Delegate Sønderjylland #10

April 15, 2011

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 131th Grand Lodge convention in Sparks Nevada on April 15 and 16, 2011 at John Ascuaga's Nugget; have enjoyed a successful convention, and

Whereas:

The Lodges of Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 hosted the 131th annual Danish Society Dania and Dannebrog 2011 convention at the Nugget Hotel in Sparks Nevada

Therefore be it resolved:


That this convention sends congratulations for a job well done.

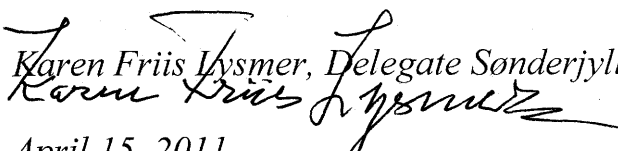
Be it further resolved:

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:


John Jensen, Delegate Danmark #2


Carl Christiansen, Delegate Valdemar #12


Karen Friis Lysmer, Delegate Sønderjylland #10
April 15, 2011

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 131th Grand Lodge convention in Sparks Nevada on April 15 and 16, 2011 at John Ascuaga's Nugget; have enjoyed a successful convention, and

Whereas:

The Nugget Hotel in Sparks Nevada was the host hotel to the 131th 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:


John Jensen, Delegate Danmark #2


Carl Christiansen, Delegate Valdemar #12


Karen Friis Lysmer, Delegate Sønderjylland #10

April 15, 2011

**131th Dania Convention
Delegates**

		4/14	4/15		4/14	4/15		4/14	4/15
Jr. Past Gr. Pres.	Roger Gearhart	X	X	Danmark #2			Valhalla #11		
Grand President	Lilian Rasmussen	X	X	James Jensen	X	X	Christian Nielsen	X	X
Grand Vice President	Kurt Hoj	X	X	John Jensen	X	X	Francis Sweet	A	X
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	X	X	James Olef Jensen	X	X	Mel Lundberg	X	X
Grand Treasurer	Gregory Gleeson	X	X	Peter Christensen	X	X			
Grand Marshal	Johanna Gade	X	X				Valdemar #12		
Grand V. Marshal	Johanna Gade	X	X	Hejmdal #4			Carl Christiansen	X	X
Grand Trustee	George Cumming Jr.	X	X	Bob Schall	X	X	Pete Olsen	X	X
Grand Trustee	Peder Hoy	X	X				Alt. Baxter Swaffer		
Grand Trustee	Thomas Martin	X	X	Thor #5					
				J.L. Morrison	A	A	Bornholm #14		
Past Grand Presidents				Dick Hansen	X	X	John Schueber	X	X
		4/14	4/15	Steen Skjellerup	X	X	Ann Stowers	X	X
James Jorgensen	Bornholm #14	X	X				Kersten Johansen	X	X
Svend Christian	Freja #6			Freja #6			Bodil Rasmussen	X	X
Niels W. Hansen	Thyra #9			Arne Graversgaard	X	X	Alt Doris Hoy		
Stuart O. Mahler	Thyra #9	X	X	Ole Pedersen	X	X			
Peder Hoy	Bornholm #14	X	X	Erik Rasmussen	A	X	Danneskjold #17		
Erik Jensen	Thor #5						Robert Lacey	X	X
Arthur Reinstein	Dannevang #7	X		Dannevang #7			Arne Rasmussen	X	X
Glen A. Fritz	Danmark #2	X	X	PGP Art Reinstein	X	A			
Gregory Gleeson	Thyra #9	X	X	Jackie Nielsen	X	X	Hejls Minde #23		
Graham Sorensen	Bornholm #14						Hans Kardell	X	X
Alan D. Filiau	Thyra #9	X	X	Thyra #9			Bent Olsen	X	X
Allen Thomsen	Dannevang #7			PGP Stuart Mahler	X	X			
Robert Sorensen	Bornholm #14	X	X	Rowland McNeil	X	X	Holger Danske #27		
Tim Heer	Freja #6	X	X	PGP Gregory Gleeson	X	X			
Gunnar Nielsen	Thor #5	X	X						
Hugo Rasmussen	Bornholm #14	X	X	Sønderjylland #10					
Kaj Kristensen	Danmark #2	X	X	Jeannie Melendez	X	X			
Arne Graversgaard	Freja #6	X	X	Karen Lysmer	X	X			
Robert Lacey	Danneskjold #17	X	X	Alt Finn Kjaer					
John Johansen	Bornholm #14	X	X						
Stanley Kjar	Thor #5								
John Champagne	Bornholm #14	X	X						