

135th Annual Grand Lodge Dania Convention Report



**Held in Fortuna at the River
Lodge on April 10th and 11th 2015**

FRIDAY April 10 2015

Grand Officers, Delegates, Past Grand Presidents, and Members assembled at The River Inn, Fortuna, California for Dania's 135th annual convention on April 11 and 12, 2015. Host Lodges were Valhalla No. 11, Ydun No. 10, Hejmdal No..4 and Luran No. 13.

GRAND OFFICERS

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

DELEGATES

Danmark #2	Peter Christensen, Uffa Hellsten, John Jensen, Kaj Kristensen
Hejmdal #4	Bob Schall
Thor #5	PGP Stan Kjar, Steen Skjellerup, David Willis
Freja #6	PGP Arne Graversgaard, PGP Tim Heer, Ole M. Pedersen
Dannevang #7	Robert Lamee, Greg DiMartino, Jackie Nielsen
Thyra #9	PGP Alan Filiau, PGP Stuart Mahler, PGP Greg Gleeson
Sønderjylland #10	James R. Hollingshead, Sabrina Wilcox, John Cruger-Hansen
Valhalla #11	Larry Lancaster, Christian Nielsen, Francis Sweet
Valdemar #12	Pete Olsen, Carl Christiansen, Baxter Swaffer
Bornholm #14	Max Stoweres, Bente Ellis, Beth Mortensen, Anni Champagne, Kirsten Johansen
Danneskjold #17	PGP Robert Lacey, Ron Nielsen
Hejls Minde #23	Hans Kardel, Jean Kardel
Holger Danske #27	No Delegates

Grand President, Bob Schall, Hejmdal #4, instructed the Grand Officers to take their respective Stations and the Grand Vice Marshal Daniel Joensen, Danmark #2, to close the door.

The password was taken by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5 and Grand Vice Marshal Daniel Joensen, Danmark #2. After the password was, obtained the Grand President called for the opening sign.

Grand President, Bob Schall, asked Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, to please call the roll, 10 Grand Officers, 33 Delegates and 16 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 three of Dania's lady delegates. Grand President, Bob Schall, asked the Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, to drape the charter in memory of our departed members.

Grand President, Bob Schall, Welcomed everyone to the convention and then proclaimed the 135th Annual Convention of The Danish Society, Dania of California and Nevada in session with full powers and authority to act.

Grand President, Bob Schall, instructed Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup to escort his advisor Past Grand President, Johanne Rasmussen Gade, Bornholm #14, to the chair on his right to act as his advisor during the Convention.

Grand President, Bob Schall, asked Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, to read the minutes from the close of the 134th convention to the opening of this convention. Grand Secretary requested that the minutes be postponed until such that they could be located. The Grand President granted the request.

Report of the Grand President: Grand President, Bob Schall, turned the meeting over to Grand Vice President, Thomas Martin, and asked the Grand Marshal to take the gavel to his station. The Grand President read his report. (see addendum). It was moved by Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2, that we accept the report of the Grand President, seconded by Grand Trustee, John Schueber, Bornholm #14. The Grand Vice President, Thomas Martin, ruled that the motion was approved, and then asked the Grand Marshal returned the gavel to Grand President.

Minutes of the Executive Committee: The minutes of the meeting held on August 30, 2014, February 7, 2015 and March 21, 2015 were read by the Grand Secretary. It was moved by Grand Past President Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11, to accept the reports. Seconded by Grand Vice President, Thomas Martin, Danmark #2, and carried. (See addendum.)

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. They then passed out the reports of the Senior Assistance fund. The Grand Secretary's annual report was reviewed.

Grand President, Bob Schall, called for a brief recess to allow the Mayor of Fortuna, Sue Long, to bid us welcome. She was escorted to the alter and introduced by the Grand Vice Marshal, then escorted to the podium where She gave a welcoming address. Her welcome was warmly received by the Grand President and Delegates. After she was escorted out of the meeting room the Grand President call the meeting back to order.

Recess at 10:05 A.M. Convention reconvened at 10:30 A.M

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

The Grand Secretary then called the Delegates attention to the itemized reports of the Branches on Membership,

Assets, Receipts, and Disbursements for review. Following an explanation of every line item found on the report, and attempting to address every question of the Delegates, it was moved by Past Grand President, Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14, and seconded by Past Grand President, Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17 to accept the report of the Grand Secretary, and the motion was adopted. **(See addendum)**

Grand Treasurer's Report: Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, presented the Grand Treasurer's report for review. Grand Past President Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11, moved to accept the report, seconded by John Jensen, Danmark #2, and the motion was adopted. **(See addendum)**

Grand Trustees' Report: Grand Trustee #1, James Olef Jensen, Danmark #2, read the report. After review, Past Grand President, Tim Heer, Freja #6, moved to accept the report. Seconded by Grand Past President Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11, and the motion was adopted. **(See addendum.)**

Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, Freja #6, moved to remove the beginning and ending balances of the Grand Treasurer's General Fund checking account, from future Grand Trustee's reports. The Grand President allowed the motion at this time, and it was seconded by Grand Trustee, John Schueber, Bornholm #14. The motion was adopted.

Grand President, Bob Schall, asked the Grand Secretary to read the minutes from the close of the 133rd convention to the opening of this convention. Grand President, Bob Schall, asked if there were any errors or addition. Past Grand President, Johanne Rasmussen Gade, Bornholm #14, reported that William Gaedtke was initiated on March 20, 2015, Jackie Nielsen, Dannevang #7, asked why the report only showed one new member for Dannevang #7 while the Grand Secretary's report showed five. It was pointed out by the Grand Vice Marshal, Daniel Joensen, that it may be the Grand Secretary's report is based on a calendar year and the convention minutes are from convention to convention. (It was latter determined, by looking at last year's report, that in deed this was the case. There were four Members initiated on February 22, 2014 and was reported last year.) The Grand Secretary apologized for the possibility of any information that he may have miss read and confirmed that the member that was suspended from Danmark #2 on June 11, 2015 was not Kaj Kristensen but Tage Kristensen and that Danneskjold's Branch number is 17 and not 27. There being no further correction or omissions Grand Past President Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11, moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Seconded by Past Grand President, Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2. This motion was adopted.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

History Committee Report: Past Grand President Roger Gearhart gave the report. Roger reported a new addition of a Dania Pin from 1906 and explained it's history. He explained the collection of his Books that were on the display table from his personal collection, which also had information on Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup's family. After the report was read, it was moved by Past Grand President Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17, to accept the report. Seconded by Francis Sweet, Valhalla #11, the motion was accepted. **(See addendum)**

Report from the Advisory Committee: Grand President, Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17, reported that there was no report.

Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, gave a report on what he was able to find out about his family history in Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart's, Family history book.

Report of the Camping Committee: Grand Treasurer, Greg Gleeson, reported on the Camping activities both in the past and future campouts. Moved by Grand Vice President, Thomas Martin, to accept the report, seconded by John Jensen, Danmark #2, and the motion was accepted.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Letter from the Royal Danish Consulate Sacramento

Thank you letter from Ben Hoover for his Scholarship

The Bethel Messenger, from the Bethel Lutheran Home.

Thank you letter from Klaus Rasmussen for his Scholarship

Notice of the 68th Annual Tivoli Festival

Thank you letter from Aldersly for our continued Membership

Thank you from Solvang Lutheran Home

Thank you note from Elverhøj Museum, Solvang

Letters of greeting for a successful convention from:

Bornholm #14, Valdermar #12, Thyra #9, and Danmark #2,

Thank you letter from Sarah Gauthier for her Scholarship

Letter to Mr. Jack Sung, Elite Educational Institute, from Eric Jorgensen, Trustee of the Jorgensen Family Trust, thanking them for their donation and letting him know that this donations of \$500.00 was passed on the Dania Memorial Scholarship Fund.

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

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

Report of the Web committee: Past Grand President, John Johansen, Bornholm #14, presented information regarding the current website.

After the report the Delegates enjoyed a lengthy debate regarding a Password protected area of the website. Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, moved to set the issue aside until such appropriate time that it can be discussed by experts. Past Grand President, Peder Hoy, seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

John Jensen, Danmark #2, moved to accept the Website report, seconded by Past Grand President, Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14. The motion was adopted.

Membership Committee Report: John Jensen, Danmark #2, read the report, Moved by Grand Vice President, Thomas Martin, Danmark #2, Seconded by Jackie Nielsen, Dannevang #7, the report was adopted. (See addendum)

Grand President, Bob Schall, appointed the following **Standing Convention Committees:**

Law:	Roger Gearhart	Past Grand President, Danmark #2
	Peder Hoy	Past Grand President, Bornholm #14
	Glen Fritz	Past Grand President, Danmark #2
Resolutions:	Stuart Mahler	Past Grand President, Thyra #9
	Stanley Kjar	Past Grand President, Thor #5
	Lilian Rasmussen	Past Grand President Bornholm #14

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Report of the Nominating committee: Presented by Past Grand President, Peter Hoy, Bornholm #14, announced the name of Grand Trustee, John Schueber, Bornholm #14, as a nominee for the office of Grand Vice Marshal, and Grand Past President, Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11 for the Office of Grand Trustee.

NEW BUSINESS

Grand President, Bob Schall asked the Grand Secretary to present the bills. Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, requested the assistance of Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, to second all bill that are presented in the hopes of speeding up the process

Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, Freja #6 moved to set the Funeral Benefit at \$200.00. Seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

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 Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to donate \$25.00 to the Danish American Historical Society in Fresno. Seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, 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 Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay \$40.00 annual dues to Aldersly. Seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to donate \$25.00 to the Bethel Lutheran Home Selma. Seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to donate \$50.00 to the Solvang Lutheran Home. Seconded Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the 2015 Convention Committee \$100.00 golf prize. Seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the (2015) Convention Committee \$300.00 for expenses, seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

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 Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

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 Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

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 Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the Grand Treasurer \$100.00 per month expense reimbursement. Seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, the motion was adopted.

Grand Treasurer Gregory Gleeson moved to pay the Grand Secretary \$200.00 per month expense reimbursement. Seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, the motion was adopted.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to continue the payments in support of our web site not to exceed \$300.00. Seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

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 to be reevaluated and adjusted if necessary at every convention.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to continue and renew our Liability Group Insurance, Seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5, and the motion was adopted.

Grand President, Bob Schall, declared a recess at 3:00 P.M. Convention to reconvene at 3:15 P.M.

Grand President, Bob Schall, announced that a room key had been found and if not claimed would be turned over to the Hotel.

Grand President, Bob Schall, Announced that Dannebrog had closed for the day but he would like to be able to address one more piece of business taking our recess for the rest of the day. The Grand President called on the Grand Vice President, Tom Martin, to take over the meeting and directed the Grand Marshal to take the gavel to the Grand Vice Presidents station. The Grand Vice President, Tom Martin, recognized the Grand President, Bob Schall. He spoke on the work that had been done by the Executive Committee during the year on revising the Joint Combined Ritual. The Grand President, Bob Schall, moved to turn this revised ritual over to the Law Committee for their consideration, examination and come back tomorrow with their recommendation. John Jensen, Danmark #2, seconded the motions. The Grand Vice President, Tom Martin called for the vote and declared the motion adopted. At this time the Grand Vice President turn the meeting back over to the Grand President, and directed the Grand Marshal to take the gavel back to the Grand President.

Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, moved that the proposed bylaw change to the Old Age Fund be adopted with the stipulation that if Dannebrog approved a change that was different to what this motions states that we would reconsider this motion.

The Grand President asked the Grand Secretary to read a proposed Hold Harmless Form for the information of the Delegates for latter consideration. The Grand President declared the issue be set aside for Saturday's meeting.

Grand Vice Marshal announced that we had a delegation from Dannebrog who were wishing to be admitted. The Grand President welcomed in the Law Committee of Dannebrog who had made some proposed changes to

the Ritual and recommended that we give this version to our Law Committee, and the Grand President so ordered.

The Grand President announced to the Grand Officers that there would be a practice for installation follow the close of this meeting.

Grand President, Bob Schall declared a recess until 9:30 Saturday Morning.

SATURDAY April 12, 2013

Convention was called back to order at 9:30 A.M. Grand President, Bob Schall, Hejmdal #4, instructed the Grand Officers to take their respective Stations and the Grand Vice Marshal, Daniel Joensen, Danmark #2, to close the door.

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

Grand President, Bob Schall, asked the Grand Secretary to call the roll call of Grand Officers, Delegates and Past Grand Officers. 10 Grand Officers, 33 Delegates and 16 Past Grand Presidents responded to roll call. 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 Past Grand Vice Marshal, Daniel Joensen, Danmark #2 and Uffa Hellsten, Danmark #2.

The Grand President asked the Law Committee to give their report, Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, gave the report of the Law Committee noting that it is not yet complete At the conclusion of the report the Grand President asked the Grand Marshal to please escort the Law Committee to the Grand Lodge of Dannebrog to present them with our review of the ritual.

The Grand President recognized the Grand Secretary, who thanked the Branches and Individuals for their generosity in the amount donated last year and reminded the Delegates that without the suggested change in the per capita tax there is still a need for donation this year to be able to maintain our high level of operation.

John Jensen, Danmark #2, announced that Danmark #2 will donate \$1,000.00 and match up to \$2,000.00 of donation from other Branches. The total donation by Danmark #2 is not to exceed \$3,000.00. This was greeted by a round of applause.

The Grand Secretary acknowledged the donation by Danneskjold #17

Francis Sweet, Valhalla #11, spoke of the time when at Convention Dania would hold their installation in the morning and then have a luncheon afterwards. He recalled that the last time this happened in was in Salinas and the luncheon was held up at Arne Graversgaard's house. He acknowledged that maybe the amount of Beer and Akvavit at this party may have been the reason that stopped the rest of them, but thanked Arne for the wonderful time and what a way to end it..

Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, shared a story of the 1910's Convention after party also hosted by Salinas.

The Grand Vice Marshal announced that the Law Committee returned. The Committee reported that they were well received and that Dannebrog will form a Committee to work with us during the upcoming year.

The Grand President entertained a motion that would enable us to use the revised ritual during the year while making changes to it. Grand Trustee, John Schueber, Bornholm #14 moved to preliminarily accept this revised ritual to use for the coming year. Past Grand President, Johanne Gade, and Grand Past President, Mel Lundberg, seconded the motion. Grand President, Bob Schall, called for the vote, and it was adopted.

Nomination and election of Grand Officers

Grand President, Bob Schall, appointed PGP Kaj Kristensen, PGP Arne Graversgaard, and Anne Champagne, 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 following were nominated and elected:

Grand President	Robert Schall	Hejmdal #4	Respectfully declined
	Tom Martin	Danmark #2	
Grand Vice President	Steen Skjellerup	Thor #5	
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6	
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9	
Grand Marshal	Daniel Joensen	Danmark #2	
Grand Vice Marshal	John Schueber	Bornholm #14	
Grand Trustee #1	James "Jim" Jensen	Danmark #2	
Grand Trustee #2	John Schueber	Bornholm #14	Resigned his office
Grand Trustee #2	James Olef Jensen	Danmark #2	
Grand Trustee #3	Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11	

Grand President, Bob Schall, Hejmdal #4, dismissed the tellers with thanks.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Resolution Committee report: the Resolutions were read by Past Grand President, Stuart O. Mahler, Thyra #9, who introduced the other members of the Committee, Past Grand President, Lilian Rasmussen, Sønderjylland #10, and Past Grand President, Stanly Kjar, Thor #5. (**See addendum**)

The Grand President asked the Grand Marshal to escort Grand President elect, Thomas Martin, Danmark #2, to podium where Grand President, Bob Schall, asked the Grand President-elect to address the Grand Officers, Delegates and Members.

The Grand Vice Marshal announced that representatives of Dannebrog were outside and wished to address our Grand Lodge.

Grand President-elect Thomas Martin, turned the meeting back over to the Grand President, Bob Schall, who directed the Grand Vice Marshal to admit them.

The Grand Vice Marshal escorted the delegation to the alter where they were introduced by the Grand Marshal, Martha Nielsen, Thora #11, Dannebrog. Past Grand President, Doris Skow, Laura #8, Dannebrog spoke for the group. She made two requests. One: that the revised ritual not be used until such time as this new one is complete and approved by both Grand Lodges, and two that Dania also appoint a committee to work with the Dannebrog Ritual Committee starting within the next month to work out these little glitches.

Grand Past President, Mel Lundberg, Moved to accept the two request from Dannebrog, seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup. The Grand President declared this motion out of order because it conflicted with an earlier accepted motion. He asked for advice from the Grand Secretary on Parliamentary Procedure. The Grand Secretary explained how a motion to rescind is made and recommended this Parliamentary Procedure as a way to solve the issue.

John Jensen, Danmark #2, stated that he had voted on the prevailing side of the motion regarding the ritual, moved to rescind the motion regarding the Ritual. Seconded by Jackie Nielsen, Dannevang #7, the motion carried.

Grand Past President, Mel Lundberg, Moved to accept the recommendation of Dannebrog of using the current ritual, and have a committee work with the Dannebrog Ritual Committee until such time as a new ritual is completed, seconded by Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup. After much debate and consideration the vote was called for, the vote had seven against where only a majority would be required and the Grand President declared the motion adopted.

Grand President, Bob Schall, asked the Grand President-elect to continue his address to the Grand Officers, Delegates and Members.

Grand President-elect Thomas Martin gave a thank you to Grand Officers, Delegates and Members for all of their support and spoke of his family history, and his history with Danmark #2 and the Grand Offices he held. He then introduced his standing Committees

History committee	Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2
	First Delegate from each Branch

Advisory committee:

Past Grand President, Stuart O. Mahler, Thyra #9 (1yr)
Past Grand President, Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14 (2 yr)
Past Grand President, Glenn Fritz, Danmark #2 (3 yr)

Law committee:

Past Grand President, Alan D. Filiau, Thyra #9
Past Grand President, Johanne Gade, Bornholm #14
Past Grand President, Stanly Kjar, Thor #5

Nominating Committee:

Past Grand President, Mel Lundberg, Valhalla #11
Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2
Anni Champagne, Bornholm #14

Membership Committee:

Greg DiMartino, Dannevang #7
John Jensen, Danmark #2
Grand Vice President, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5

Web Committee:

Grand Secretary Tim Heer, Freja #6
Past Grand President John Johansen, Bornholm #14
Don Christensen, Valhalla #11
Grand Marshal, Daniel Joensen, Danmark #2
John Jensen, Danmark #2

Auditors:

Christian Nielsen, Valhalla #11
Past Grand President, Robert Lacey, Danneskjold #17
Greg DiMartino, Dannevang #7

Ritual:

Grand Past President, Bob Schall, Hejmdal #4
Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2
Past Grand President, Peder Hoy, Bornholm #14

Grand President-elect, Thomas Martin then introduced his adviser, Past Grand President, Kaj Kristensen, Danmark #2 He then gave and explained his password. The Grand Marshal then escorted the Grand President-elect back to his station.

Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, Moved to set aside the Hold Harmless Form, but give it to the Web Committee for their consideration to determine if it be necessary or not. If they believe it is than pass it on to the Law Committee. The Motion was seconded by Grand Vice Marshal, Daniel Joensen. After much debate and restating the motion by Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, it was moved by Grand Vice Marshal, Daniel Joensen to table the motion until next convention, seconded by Grand Trustee, John Schueber, and the motion carried.

Grand Trustee, John Schueber spoke about the idea of the Roster, and requested the locale Lodges Secretary to complete the list that was sent to them by the Grand Secretary. It was pointed out that the Grand Secretary should not pass on any contact information of any member onto another member without that member's permission. No action was taken on a Grand Lodge Roster.

Grand President, Bob Schall, led the singing of God Bless America, He thanked the Officers, Past Grand President, Delegates, and in particular his advisor for attending this year's convention. He then declared the 135th annual convention closed and asked for the closing sign at 11:59 A.M.

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

2013- 2014 DANIA GRAND OFFICERS

Grand Past President	Robert Schall	Hejmdal #4	Sacramento
Grand President	Tom 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 #1	James "Jim" Jensen	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Trustee #2	James Olef Jensen	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Trustee #3	Mel Lundberg	Valhalla #11	Ferndale

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	

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
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
	* 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

* Denoted Deceased

**135rd Dania Convention
Delegates**

		4/10	4/11			4/10	4/11			4/10	4/11
Jr. Past Gr. Pres.	Mel Lundberg	X	X	Danmark #2				Valhalla #11			
Grand President	Bob Schall	X	X	Peter Christensen		X	X	Larry Lancaster		X	X
Grand Vice President	Thomas Martin	X	X	Uffa Hellsten		X	X	Christian Nielsen		X	X
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	X	X	John Jensen		X	X	Francis Sweet		X	X
Grand Treasurer	Gregory Gleeson	X	X	Kaj Kristensen		X	X				
Grand Marshal	Steen Skjellerup	X	X					Valdemar #12			
Grand V. Marshal	Daniel Joensen	X	X					Pete Olsen		X	X
Grand Trustee	James Olef Jensen	X	X	Hejmdal #4				Carl Christiansen		X	X
Grand Trustee	James "Jim" Jensen	X	X	Bob Schall		X	X	Baxter Swaffer			
Grand Trustee	John Schueber	X	X								
				Thor #5				Bornholm #14			
Past Grand Presidents				PGP Stan Kjar		X	X	Max Stowers		X	X
				Steen Skjellerup		X	X	Bente Ellis		X	X
		4/10	4/11	David Willis		X	X	Beth Mortensen		X	X
James Jorgensen	Bornholm #14	▲	▲					Anni Champagne		X	X
Stuart O. Mahler	Thyra #9	X	X					Kersten Johansen		X	X
Peder Hoy	Bornholm #14	X	X	Freja #6							
Glen A. Fritz	Danmark #2	X	X	PGP Arne Graversgaard		X	X				
Gregory Gleeson	Thyra #9	X	X	PGP Tim Heer		X	X	Danneskjold #17			
Alan D. Filiu	Thyra #9	X	X	Ole M Pedersen		X	X	PGP Robert Lacey		X	X
Allen Thomsen	Dannevang #7	▲	▲					Ron Nielsen		X	X
Robert Sorensen	Bornholm #14	X	X	Dannevang #7							
Tim Heer	Freja #6	X	X	Robert Lamee		▲	▲	Hejls Minde #23			
Gunnar Nielsen	Thor #5	X	X	Greg DiMartino		X	X	Hans Kardel		X	X
Hugo Rasmussen	Bornholm #14	▲	▲	Jackie Nielsen		X	X	Jean Kardel		X	X
Kaj Kristensen	Danmark #2	X	X								
Arne Graversgaard	Freja #6	X	X	Thyra #9							
Robert Lacey	Danneskjold #17	X	X	PGP Alan Filiu		X	X	Holger Danske #27			
John Johansen	Bornholm #14	X	X	PGP Stuart Mahler		X	X				
Stanley Kjar	Thor #5	X	X	PGP Greg Glesson		X	X				
Roger Gearhart	Danmark #2	X	X								
Lilian Rasmussen	Sønderjylland #10	X	X	Sønderjylland #10							
Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Bornholm #14	X	X	James R Hollingshead		X	X				
				Sabrina Wilcox		X	X				
				John Cruger-Hansen		X	X				

Dania Executive Meeting

Ferndale, CA

August 30, 2014

Present: Mel Lundberg, Bob Schall, Tom Martin, Steen Skjellerup,
Jim Jensen, and John Scheuber

The meeting was called to order by Past Grand President, Mel Lundberg at 2:06 pm. Scheuber was asked to be the Acting Secretary in Tim Heer's absence. The Agenda items for the day were noted:

1. Revisions to the Combined Installation Ritual as proposed Mel Lundberand Bob & Mary Jo .Schall
2. Concern over the absence of Grand Officers contact information in the Newsletter
3. A question from Scheuber about the Grand Trustee's Responsibilities

After much preliminary discussion and a review of the suggested changes to the Combined Installation Ritual, a motion was made by Bob Schall and seconded by Tom Martin and passed to have Scheuber make the suggested revisions and make them available by the next Executive Meeting of both Dania and Dannebrog for their review prior to convention. Scheuber is to type up the revisions and get them back to the Executive Committee for review before they are sent on to Dannebrog.

After some discussion a concern was noted about the limited contact information of the Grand Officers for people who want to contact them by phone or physical address. At last year's convention it was concluded to only include their email addresses. This has been found to be inadequate. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the once the Grand Secretary gets and signed waiver from each officer stating what information they allow to be used in this way the Newsletter could then incorporate that into the monthly Newsletter. It was suggested that some organizations are already using this approach and a form for this purpose was likely available. The Grand Secretary is to provide such a form. It was also suggested that one key officer from each Branch should avail this information to the Grand Secretary to be used when appropriate.

Scheuber asked for a clarification of the Trustee Responsibilities. As is noted in the Constitution the Trustees are to find investment opportunities and recommend them to the Executive Committee before proceeding. He wanted to discuss this since their local Trustees are given the authority to move ahead without the Executive involvement. Scheuber also requested that he be provided the listing of investment now being made since he has not been included in that so far.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Scheuber, Acting Secretary

Dania Executive Board meeting held on February 7, 2015 at the Spike and Rail Restaurant, Salma California.

Present:

Mel Lundberg	Grand Past President	Valhalla #11 and Chairperson
Robert Schall	Grand President	Hejmdal #4
James Olef Jensen	Grand Trustee	Danmark #2
James "Jim" Jensen	Grand Trustee	Danmark #2
John Scheuber	Grand Trustee	Bornholm #14
Thomas Martin	Grand Vice President	Danmark #2(non voting)
Tim Heer	Grand Secretary	Freja #6 (non voting)

Meeting was called to order by Grand Past President Mel Lundberg at 9:00 A.M.

Revision to the Combination Ritual

The Chairman Mel Lundberg, Presented a working copy of the proposed Ritual. The Ritual was reviewed one page at a time with input from the whole committee and changes to improve the readability of the ritual. It was agreed that Grand President Robert Schall would make the additions and correction, forward it to the Grand Secretary to be proof read and submitted to the Committee at our next meeting on March 21 in Livermore. It was agreed that if it is approved at that time we would pass it on to the Grand Lodge of Dannebrog in the effort that they may be prepared to address these changes at convention.

Hold Harmless form

The Grand Secretary agreed to have a draft copy of a document for review at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Timothy J Heer, Grand Secretary, Freja #6



Dania Executive Board meeting held on March 21, 2015 at the Cattlemen's Restaurant, Livermore California.

Present:

Mel Lundberg	Grand Past President	Valhalla #11 and Chairperson
Robert Schall	Grand President	Hejmdal #4
James Olef Jensen	Grand Trustee	Danmark #2
James "Jim" Jensen	Grand Trustee	Danmark #2
John Scheuber	Grand Trustee	Bornholm #14
Thomas Martin	Grand Vice President	Danmark #2(non voting)
Tim Heer	Grand Secretary	Freja #6 (non voting)

Meeting was called to order by Grand Past President Mel Lundberg at 10:00 A.M.

Revision to the Combination Ritual

The Chairman Mel Lundberg turned the meeting over the Grand President Robert Shall who presented the Ritual with the recommended changes from our last meeting. It was mover and seconded that the ritual be submitted to the Grand Lodge of Dannebrog for their review.

Hold Harmless form

The Grand Secretary presented a draft copy for the committee's review. It was suggested that a List of items that the signee would agree to have in the public domain with a place for them to initial their selection. This is to be brought before the Body at Convention.

Dania Scholarship and Dania Memorial Scholarship:

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

Moved by Jim Jensen and seconded by James Olef Jensen to award Three (3) Dania Scholarship this year in the amount of \$400.00 each to Sarah Gauthier submitted by Thyra #9, Klaus Rasmussen submitted by Danneskjold #17 and Brandon Reinstein submitted by Dannevang #7 For a total of \$1,200.00 and award five (5) Dania Memorial Scholarship this year in the amount of \$600.00 each to Kyle Mahler a member of Thyra #9, Jens Christiansen a member of Valdemar #12, Ben Hoover a Member of Bornholm #14, Erik Jensen a member of Valdemar #12, and Kendyl Hoy a member of Bornholm #14. The motion was approved.

Dania Member of the year:

After review the deserving nominees, the committee unanimously elected PGP Johanne Rasmussen Gade as the 2015 Member of the Year.

New Business: It was explained, during the consideration of the Member of the Year award, by the Grand Secretary, that at the Executive meeting held on March 16, 2013 it was moved to change the resolution regarding the awarding of the member of the year, by making the application valid for only four (4) years, without a limit as to how many time a Branch could resubmit a recommendation, also that the application must have the Seal of the Branch and the signature of the President or Secretary of the Branch making the recommendation. With this in mind it was moved by James Olef Jensen and seconded by

Jim Jensen to add to this that the Grand Secretary notify the Branch Secretary that their Member's application has reached the four year limit, and inform them of their option to submit a new application. This Motion was approved.

Grand Lodge Membership Roster

A progress report was given by the Grand Secretary on receiving updated membership information. A format for the address book was approved, and John Scheuber Volunteered his continued support and assistance in this project.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Timothy J Heer, Grand Secretary, Freja #6

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J Heer" followed by a flourish.

Grand President's Report

I would like to welcome each of you to the 135th annual convention of Danish Society Dania of California and Nevada.

I would like to thank the members of Valhalla No. 11, Ydun No. 10, Hejmdal No. 4, and Luren No. 13 for hosting this convention.

Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, delegates and members, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for all the support you have given me for the last four years. I'd also like to thank each and every branch of Dania and Dannebrog for their hospitality and the warm welcome my wife and I received when we visited. As many of know, my wife, Mary Jo, served alongside me as Dannebrog's Grand President and to her I say thank you ever so much. You kept me focused and calm during all our all installations together.

A special thanks to my Advisor, Past Grand President Johanne Gade. Could not have done it without your help!

Last year's 134th Annual Dania & Dannebrog Convention was truly put together beautifully and perfectly in every way. The River Lodge was a beautiful setting; the food was delicious; the music was fantastic; and the reminiscing with old friends and making memories with new ones was wonderful. Thank you Valhalla No.11 and Ydun No.10!! I know you spent many months planning the convention and it showed! I had a lot of fun and could not have asked for a more memorable Installation/Convention as the incoming Grand President.

It was an honor and privilege to present Dania Member of the Year Award to a well deserving man. Congratulations and thank you to Roger Gearhart for your commitment and dedication to Dania.

Now on to what I did this past "Grand" year....

May 2nd we traveled to Reno. I installed Valdemar No. 12 officers at their joint installation with Dannevirke No. 9. We enjoyed a beautiful buffet of Danish open-faced sandwiches. Thank you Reno for your kindness and making me feel so welcome at my first installation as Grand President. In June we took off for a two week vacation to Oregon that turned into three weeks. A week and a half on the Oregon beaches worked like a reset button - clearing the mind! We went to the 47th Annual Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival. It was a three day festival honoring the Scandinavian cultural heritage. We stopped and talked with members of the Astoria Danish Society and told them about our Society. Again, I would like to apologize to Danneskjold No. 17 and Laura No. 8 - because we extended our vacation, we were unable to accept your invitation to your summer Bar-B-Que. We had a break from installations in July. We were able to take a mini vacation to Santa Cruz - wonderful weather, beautiful coastline, giant redwood trees, and of course, the Beach Boardwalk.

Back to work in August and we were very busy with Installations.

Saturday, August 2nd, we traveled to Modesto. I installed the officers of Bornholm No. 14. Mary Jo enjoyed a very nice visit with her Aunt Phyllis Allman from Laura No.8 of San Jose. Thank you Bob and Liz Lacey for talking her into going with you! We enjoyed another delicious lunch at Jacob's Fine Dining. Thank you Bornholm No. 4!

Sunday, August 3rd, we traveled to Salinas. I had the pleasure of installing Freja No.6 officers at their joint installation with Dana No.15. The room was a great size for my Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup and Dannebrog's Grand Marshal, Martha Nielsen to show off their floor work. They looked very professional and the installation went very smooth ... almost perfect! Thank you Salinas for your hospitality.

Saturday, August 9th we traveled to Kastania Faelled in Petaluma. I had the honor of installing the officers of Sønderjylland No.10. Lunch was delicious with Danish open faced sandwiches and of course Akvavit. Mary Jo gave Dannebrog's Grand Officers the day off, but, many still attended and

enjoyed the day! Thank you Sønderjylland No.10.

The Labor Day weekend found us in Ferndale for Valhalla No. 11 and Yuden No. 10 joint installation and celebration. It was a fun filled weekend. Ferndale members always make everyone feel so welcome. Everyone always has such a great time and there is always plenty of good food! I also attended a 2015 convention planning meeting and an executive board meeting. A lot of good ideas were shared.

On September 13th we attended a membership recruitment event at Campo di Bocce in Livermore hosted by Danmark No.2 and Thyra No. 3. There were appetizers, wine, and of course, bocce ball. We did meet one new potential member! Everyone had a good time and hopefully we can do it again and have more Branches participate. Good idea, San Francisco for scouting new members!

October 4th was the Sacramento 31st Annual Scandinavian Festival. It was a huge success! We sold out of Medisterpølse & red cabbage and Æbleskivers. I want to again, extend my sincere appreciation to Grand Marshal, Steen Skjellerup from Thor No.5 of Fresno. Steen served as the Festivals' official flag bearer for Denmark. Many people commented how dignified and professional he looked in his Danish attire and top hat. Steen, thank you so much for taking the time to be a part of the Sacramento Scandinavian Festival and representing the Danish culture!

On October 5th, I traveled to Orange Blossom Park, in Oakdale for a Picnic with Bornholm No.14. There were games, Bar-B-Que and a good opportunity to meet and visit with Bornholm members. Thank you for the great food and friendly conversations.

Early in November, we spent another week on the scenic Oregon coast, relaxing and enjoying the quiet beach towns without all the tourists. Late Fall is a great time to visit the Oregon coast and watch the magnificent storms with huge waves crashing on the rocks and sea foam spreading across the shore.

On our way back to Sacramento, we stopped in Ferndale and attended Valhalla No. 11 and Yuden No. 10's Thanksgiving luncheon and business meeting. I had the honor and pleasure of being present when three new members were initiated. I also attended another convention planning meeting. Things were moving right along.

In November, Mary Jo and I also attended the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Dannebrog's Past Grand Present, Esther Jergensen in Hayward.

December is always a busy month, and I stayed extremely active!

I started with a lovely Christmas luncheon at the Grosvenor Hotel with members of Danmark No.2 and Thyra No.3. I was able to meet new friends and reminisce with others. I enjoyed listening to the Christmas Carols sung in Danish and English. Many of their members' have great singing voices! Thank you San Francisco!

Dannebrog's Grand President and I attended another enjoyable Christmas Party with the Livermore branches, Dannevang No.7 and Danebod No.16. Thanks to the cooks and volunteers in the kitchen for the excellent frikadellers, red cabbage, creamed potatoes and many delicious desserts. We had a lot of fun playing Bingo after the great meal!

Mary Jo and I attended the Christmas lunch and party at Jacob's Fine Dining in Modesto with Bornholm No.14, It was a nice party. Thank you for inviting me to join you for your celebration. Everyone joined in singing Christmas Carols. The children truly enjoyed their visit with Santa – each receiving a present and a candy filled goodie bag. Mary Jo said it took her back when she was a child and would attend the Danish Christmas Party at Turn Verein Hall in Sacramento with her Grandmother, Christina Peterson.

On to Hayward with the members of Thyra No.9 and Valborg No.1, where we enjoyed another Christmas party. Pat and Greg were awesome hosts! The ham, side dishes and desserts were delicious - so was the wine and Akvavit. Well, Mary Jo enjoyed the wine and I enjoyed the Akvavit!

January 2nd we traveled in Reno to join Valdemar No. 12 and Dannevirke No. 9 to welcome in 2015. They served a very nice selection of wines, appetizers, fish dinner, and desserts. I even sampled deer salami. It was nice visiting with their members and nice to see so many “young” members! Sunday, January 4th, we had the pleasure to join Freja No. 6 and Dana No. 15 in Salinas for their holiday dinner. They served a traditional Danish Christmas dinner – the roasted pork was cooked to perfection. There were many appetizers and wines to select from. No one went away hungry! Thank you Freja No. 6 and Dana No. 15!

We left Salinas and headed to Solvang for Hejls Mindle No. 23 meeting on Wednesday January 7th. We met for lunch at Bit O’ Denmark. We were pleasantly surprised by members of Holger Danske No. 27 and Valkyrien No. 23 of Santa Maria who also attended the Solvang meeting. The business meeting was conducted and delegates to the convention were elected. Again, lots of Akvavit was served. Thank you Hejls Mindle No. 23 for your hospitality.

After a cruise to Mexico to rejuvenate, we were back on the road –on to more installations. On February 7th, I attended another executive board meeting before Fresno’s installation. Afterwards, I had the honor to install the officers of Thor No. 5 at the joint installation with Thora No. 11 at the Spike and Rail restaurant in Selma. It was so nice to visit with their Branch members. Another very nice lunch and good conversations. Thank you Fresno!

February 15th took us to Santa Clara at Marianis’ for a fantastic champagne brunch with Danneskjold No. 17 and Laura No. 8. I had the pleasure of installing Danneskjold No. 17 officers. Mary Jo had the privilege and pleasure of installing her Aunt – Phyllis Allman as Vice President. Thank you Danneskjold No. 17 and Laura No. 8 we will be back next year!

Then it was on to San Francisco to the Grosvenor Hotel to install Danmark No. 2 at the joint installation with Thyra No. 3 on February 21st. This was the second time as a Grand Officer that I forgot some article of clothing. This time it was my bow tie. Lucky for me, my Grand Trustee arrived prepared with a spare bow tie and loaned it to me. Thanks again John Schueber. Thank you Danmark No. 2 and Thyra No. 3.

March 7th we attended the annual Fish Dinner in Modesto. Bornholm No.14 sure knows how to throw a party!! It was sure nice to see so many people from many of the branches of Dania and Dannebrog in attendance. Everyone had a good time and plenty to eat. Thank you Bornholm No. 14.

March 20th we were in Fresno to celebrate Thora No.11’s 100th year Anniversary. We had a delicious lunch hosted by Thor No. 5 at Marie Callender’s Restaurant. I was very touched to be invited. Thank you so much Thor No.5 and Thora No.11 for including us in your special celebration!!!

Saturday March 21st, we were at Cattleman’s Restaurant in Livermore for Executive Board meetings. After taking care of business, I had the honor of installing Hayward’s Valborg No.1 officers at the joint installation with Thyra No.9. Following my last installation as Grand President, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch. Thank you Valborg No.1 and Thyra No. 9!

Again, I would like to thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving as a Grand Officer of Dania over the last four years. It was very rewarding and a lot of good memories!

Finally I would like to end with a quote from our departed Past Grand President, John Champagne, which sums up my feeling perfectly....

“Bring your new ideas and work together for the success of Dania but be ever watchful of unintended consequences and insure that any change is for the benefit of the Society and not just to satisfy an individual’s personal agenda.”

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Schall

GRAND LODGE DANIA of CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

The very big news for this year is acquisition a wonderful Dania pin from the year 1906 from SF. That has great historical significance inasmuch as that was the year and time of the San Francisco earthquake, 5:12 AM on April 18, and, as is documented, the Annual Dania Convention was just opening that day. A huge bowl of pickled herring had been prepared for the day and, by all reports (see Dasker i Kalifornia, Binde I, by Spopus Hartwig), the herring did not go to waste.

The story of how the 1906 lapel pin came to be in our possession is truly a series of great coincidences. Our own Uffe Hellsten, sitting right over there, had purchased a home in Alameda. The home is an older, classic Victorian, apparently once owned by a Danish sea captain. Perhaps he had been a member of Odin #1 in Oakland, not so far away. Uffe found the pin under a single board he removed in the basement---and that was well before he had ever thought of joining Dania. Uffe became a member of Danmark #2 in 2014 and he found the pin years before.

But there is still a further twist to the story. Before moving to Alameda, Uffe and his wife lived in San Francisco in the same small building as my son, Jim. Jim and his wife Traci are members of Danmark #2 and Thyra #3. Jim had told Uffe about the SF branch but apparently also told him it was a bunch of "old guys drinking beer". Perhaps not far from the truth but things have certainly changed. After Uffe and some other younger guys joined, Danmark #2 has become a bunch of "middle-aged guys drinking beer"----and having a great time doing it.

The History Committee has also acquired another "Modesto 1935" lapel pin. I'm sorry, but I have forgotten from where it came.

In keeping with this Convention's emphasis on Danish Immigration, I have again added some things from my personal collection. There are two books on my family history in Denmark. There is the wooden-cover book on my grandmother's family, "*Slægtsbog*" and "*Min Slægtehistorie*" written by a third cousin of my mother's; parts have been translated by another cousin. Mother's parents were both from DK and met and married in Nebraska. Danish was the language used exclusively at home until I was in school.

Many of you will recall that during the last convention, Uffe Hellsten was looking through one of the books and found the name "Skjellerup", an unusual name. He showed it to Steen Skjellerup and Steen was delighted to find that it nicely filled in about 100 years missing from his knowledge of his family history. Perhaps he will report today on what he uncovered.

Respectfully submitted on April 9, 2015.

Added post convention: Indeed Steen did elaborate and explained that some of his women cousins (*kusiner paa dansk*) married into the Fisker family (related to my mother's Lauitsen family. He and I probably do not have direct relatives (bears more research) but we certainly have common ancestors.

Roger Gearhart
Chairman

Membership Committee Report for Society Dania of California and Nevada, 2014-2015

During the 2014 Convention, Grand President Bob Schall appointed a Membership Committee whose goal was promote our societies Dania and Dannebrog and attract new members. The 2014-2015 Membership Committee was John Jensen, Zack Reinstein, and John Scheuber.

Ideas to increase membership were discussed via e-mail. The decision was to hold a promotional event where current members would invite a potential member as a guest. This would provide a friendly atmosphere in which guests could ask questions and discuss our society with many members, and they could see how much fun we have at a party. John Jensen spearheaded the planning of the promotional event.

The event was a bocce ball party at Camp De Bocce in Livermore hosted by Danmark #2 and Thyra #3. It was held on Saturday September 13th (rescheduled from the original planned date of June 21st) on two indoor bocce courts. The event was well attended by current members, but few potential members attended. Everyone had a great time and two potential members expressed the desire to join. However, to date neither has submitted an application for membership.

Although the event was great fun for all who attended, it did not generate new members as we had hoped.

Lessons Learned:

Advertise outside our Society's network – The invitation was shared with all members via our excellent monthly newsletter and by direct communication to lodge secretaries. However, potential members could only hear of the event by word-of-mouth from current members. We should advertise future events in local newspapers and community oriented web sites such as city Facebook pages and Patch sites.

Plan events far in future – Short notice is never good for generating interest and getting good attendance. The original date and announcement for the bocce party did not give enough lead time to attract members and guests.

More events at lower costs – The bocce ball party was fun but expensive, in the \$500 range. Rather than put the focus on one large event, plan many smaller events. Multiple or even regularly scheduled gatherings would better accommodate the schedules of potential new members.

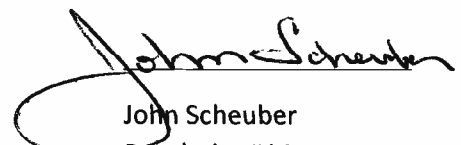
The committee thanks the Grand President for the opportunity to serve our Society Dania.

Respectfully Submitted on April 10th, 2015



John Jensen
Danmark #2

Zack Reinstein
Dannevang #7



John Scheuber
Börnholm #14

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 135th Grand Lodge convention in Fortuna at the River Lodge on April 10th and 10th, 2015; have enjoyed a successful convention

Whereas:

The Ferndale Lodges, Valhalla #11, Ydun #10, and Sacramento Lodges, Hejmadal #4 and Luren #13 ; hosted the 135th annual Danish Society Dania and Dannebrog 2015 convention at River Lodge, Fortuna, CA, and the Danish Hall, Ferndale, Ca; And the Caterer C.C. Market doing a superb job in all areas of service;

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 organizations.

Resolution committee:



PGP Stuart Mahler



PGP Stanley Kjar



PGP Lillian Rasmussen

April 11, 2015

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 135^h Grand Lodge convention in Fortuna at the River Lodge on April 10th and 11th 2015; have enjoyed a successful convention, and

Whereas:

The River Lodge was the host Venue to the 135th annual convention of the Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada; and our host Hotel, Best Western Country Inn, Fortuna

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:



PGP Stuart Mahler



PGP Stanley Kjar



PGP Lillian Rasmussen

April 11, 2015

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 135th Grand Lodge convention in Fortuna at the River Lodge on April 10th and 11th, 2015; have enjoyed a successful convention

Whereas:

The Queen of Danmark, Her Royal Highness Margrethe II, celebrating her 75th birthday on April 16

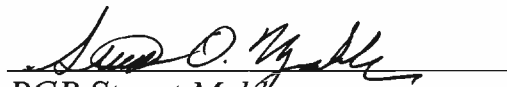
Therefore be it resolved:

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.

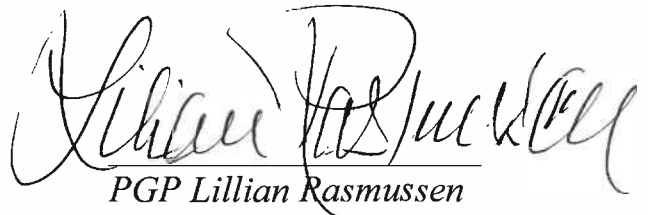
Resolution committee:



PGP Stuart Mahler



PGP Stanley Kjar



PGP Lillian Rasmussen

April 11, 2015

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION of SORROW

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 135th Grand Lodge convention in Fortuna at the River Lodge on April 10 & 11 2015 do deeply regret the deaths of, our faithful members who gave their devoted service to our Society over many years, and 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:



PGP Stuart Mahler



PGP Stanley Kjar



PGP Lillian Rasmussen

April 11, 2015