

# GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

www.danishsociety.com Email timb@danishsociety.com

## Grand Lodge Dania Ir Past Grand President

Well the convention is over and congratulations to Steen Skjellerup who is now the Grand President. Steen, you will be glad you did this. Thank you to all of the members in Fresno who worked so hard to put the convention together and what a great job they did.

I've had a very rewarding year travelling around visiting with each of the lodges and getting to know everyone a whole lot better. What a great group of people this bunch of Danes is. I had the pleasure of working with Lynn Wachter as we installed officers from Ferndale to Fresno and San Francisco to Reno. It was a great year that I will always remember. I want to wish Steen and Martha the best of luck as they set out on their year of travel and I hope to see many of you out there supporting them on their journey.

First up is Reno on May 6<sup>th</sup> and they are counting on you to show up for the party. You will not be disappointed! I would also like to say thank you to all of my grand officers and committees who worked so hard on our projects this past year. A lot was accomplished, but we've left a lot for Steen and his officers to finish. The job is never done. I would also like to thank everyone for their hospitality this year.

Thanks for letting me be your Grand President, I'll see you on the road. Tom Martin, Jr Past Grand President Dania

## Grand Lodge Dania Grand President Grand Lodge

I want to thank all the convention participants for coming to Clovis, California for a few days and making it a very special experience. I want especially to thank Dave and Nancy Willis, Deanna Dunbar and the volunteers for being the leaders in putting the convention together in such special way. You guys did a great job and completely exceeded expectations. I want to thank my daughter MaryJane Skjellerup, along with Taylor Harris, for putting "Danish mini smoerrebroed" together in such a tasty and spectacular way for the Grand Presidents' reception.

About 30 people started in "Tour de Grundfos" Thursday afternoon under the guidance of Mike Obradovich. Mike did a good job of explaining the Grundfos commitment to going green and making a product line which lives up to that. 85% of Grundfos is owned by a Danish foundation, 12% by family and 2% by employees.

After a couple of hours, we were back in Clovis for the Senior Assistance Fund meeting. Robert M. Lacey did a good job of explaining the situation and that we need to add to the Funds, to keep it going.

We ended the day with Thor#5/Thora#11's "lots of good food" welcome reception put on by caterer Debbi and crew. We also had a test run of the bar. Without any visible hick ups, Masters Stan and Don had it running just fine.

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	Tom Martin thomm1@comcast.net	Lynn Wachter wachter.lynn@gmail.com
Grand President	Steen Skjellerup stivax@aol.com	Martha Nielsen nielsenmarta@gmail.com
Grand Vice President	Daniel Joensen dj@danken.com	Stuart O Mahler smahler52@att.net
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer tim-gs@sbcglobal.net	Natalie Heer natalie-gs@sbcglobal.net
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson gleeson2@icloud.com	Pat Brouillette pab0718@sbcglobal.net
Grand Marshal	John Scheuber john.scheuber@vsi.cc	Alan Filiau adfiliau@sbcglobal.net
Grand Vice Marshal	Jana Heer-Glovaski juganddana@sbcglobal.net	Beth Mahler Cowan beth.cowan@att.net
Grand Trustee #1	James Olef Jensen jamesolefjensen@yahoo.com	Elizabeth Jensen ecjensen@mac.com
Grand Trustee #2	Mel Lundberg melandzena@gmail.com	Colleen Heer Cave winegal59@yahoo.com
Grand Trustee #3	James "Jim" Jensen j13jensen@yahoo.com	Jackie Neilsen Nielsen514@aol.co

Friday started with business meetings. Decorum (soemmelighed, decency, dignity) was enforced throughout the meetings, by now Jr. Past Grand President Tom Martin with assistance of Grand Secretary Tim Heer. My highlight would be, finally (!!) approving the Dania/Dannebrog combined Ritual for Installation of local Officers. We will now focus on increased membership, web site upkeep, and support to our main purpose, which is sick and benefit help to our members in need.

We finished our business meetings on Saturday, and elected one new officer Grand Vice Marshal Jana Heer Glovaski. A lengthy picture section for all participants left all to-be installed Grand Officers walking around in circles, not knowing what to do. The installing Grand Presidents took charge, and sent the installing Grand Marshals to the door, to get the installation started. By then drill team leader Mary Esther Filiau, declared "there is nobody to install". That

was what was needed, and after that everything went very well!

At 3:33 PM, the Grand Presidents' reception started with Gunnar and Martha's son's excellent homemade Barbera wine, some hand-carried snaps from Denmark and cold Carlsberg. The seafood swam easy to their destination. It was nice to see many members hanging out and enjoying visiting.

Saturday evening was concluded with an open bar, good food, raffle, dancing, more raffle, more dancing and

## Dannebrog Grand Past President

I would like to thank Thor #5 and Thora #11 Fresno lodges for hosting a very successful convention in Clovis. The Clovis Veterans' Memorial District Building was a good venue and a fitting tribute to Clovis' "Fallen Heroes". Everyone enjoyed the quite interesting tour of the Grundfos factory (thank you, Steen and Mike). Good food, good music, and great camaraderie made for a very enjoyable three days. And we even managed to accomplish a considerable amount of business in our meetings! We finally approved a Combined Ritual for Installation of Local Officers after three years of work (my ad hoc law committee was definitely relieved)!!

I am very thankful that Dannebrog gave me the opportunity "to go through the chairs". The experience has helped me to grow personally as well as to get to know members of the other lodges. What could be more rewarding? I am grateful

# Dannebrog Grand President

Greetings to all,

Hope everyone enjoyed Fresno's convention and had time to take in the "Old Town Clovis". We thank all of you for coming. As you know it takes a lot of time and help to put on a convention. The members were very busy, some more than others. We even had Bent Olsen here with his wonderful pastry and sandwiches for our coffee breaks. The Caterer did a fine job with our dinners and the bar with Stan and Donny manning it were kept busy as the beer and wine were flowing.

The dance floor was filled each night, with Jerry Logolosa's band on Saturday night and the Western band on Friday evening.

Our Grand President's reception was prepared by MaryJane Skjellerup and her friend Taylor. They did an outstanding job and Steen and I are very proud of them. You have a heartfelt thank you.

## **Grand Lodge Secretary**

#### **IN MEMORIAM:**

Roy Sharp and David Darling, Freja #6, Salinas Baxter Swafer Valdemar #12, Reno

## **TO DANIA GENERAL FUND:**

Danneskjold #17, and PGP Robert Schall

## **TO DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP:**

## DANIA/DANNEBROG SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

Svend Erik Birkholm Nielsen, Alex Lund, Peter Christensen, PGP Robert Schall, John Schuber, Karen Faraldo, Glenn Fritz, Dannebrog Green March

announcement of slate of Grand Officers, Past Grand Presidents and Dania member of the year Rowland "Mac "McNeil.

The evening ended with singing Auld Lang Syne (sku gammel venskab ren forgo)! Thank you and looking forward to visiting Reno in May.

Grand President Dania Steen Skjellerup

to those who have helped me with my travels; those who have hosted me as an overnight guest; those who have allowed me to be a passenger; those who have fed me. I couldn't have asked for a better Dania partner than Tom. He and Gloria have been absolutely wonderful! I kiddingly call their house my "Bed and Breakfast" away from home!! I also thank my advisors, Natalie and Kay, and my Grand Officers. I couldn't have done it without all of you! And now with mixed feelings of sadness and relief, the Dannebrog Grand President position has passed to Martha Nielsen. I have no doubt that she will do a fantastic job, and I am certain that everyone will support her as they have me. Martha, may your time as Grand President be as rewarding as my year was for me!

Tusen tak! Med venlig hilsen, Lynn Wachter, Grand Past President, Dannebrog

It was an honor and pleasure for me to present Viola Jensen with the Dannebrog's "Member of the Year" award and plate. Viola is a member of Danebod #16, Livermore. Congratulations!!

Congratulations are also in order for the newest members of Dannebrog's Grand Officers. So pleased to have Beth Cowan come on as Grand Vice Marshal and Jackie Nielsen as #3 Grand Trustee. I'm looking forward to working with our Board throughout the year. A thank you to all the Officers of the Grand lodge that continue to diligently do their job. Thank you also to the Ritual Committee for their continued work on updating the ritual to have it ready for our first installation.

I plan on visiting all of the Lodges and look forward to our installations this year as your Grand President.
Our first installation will be in Reno, hope to see you there.
Martha Nielsen, Grand President, Dannebrog

#### **Local Branches**

## Danmark No. 2 & Thyra No. 3

Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wednesday every month 7:30 PM Odd Fellows Building; 26 Seventh Street, San Francisco CA 94103 Danmark #2 Secretary Roger Gearhart <u>E-mail ragearhart@comcast.net</u> 209-329-3687 Thyra #3 Secretary Johanne Gade

Our April meeting was a week early to accommodate travel to the Convention. We were relegated to a meeting room in the basement but we still enjoyed ourselves. We ordered Pizza---it was very, very good. And there were plenty of great snacks and plenty of beer and snaps. We discussed the upcoming Convention and there was great anticipation for the trip to Clovis. We discussed how Danmark #2 might be of financial assistance to the Grand Lodge and to the Senior Assistance Fund.

The Convention was a great success. Our own Grand President Tom Martin presided over the Convention. Daniel Joensen was elevated to Grand Vice President and Jim Jensen and James O. Jensen continued as Grand Trustees. It is always very pleasant to be with so many good friends we don't often see. We need to get together with folks from other branches more often. Perhaps picnics or casual gatherings can be arranged, much like the RV group but without the RV's. The members in SF are always ready to party.

Our next meeting is *Onsdag*, May 11. We gather at 6:30 for a social hour, then a brief meeting at 7:30 followed by our Welcome Home Party. We will be having a potluck dinner--that means we will have some truly great food. Elizabeth Jensen,

ecjensen@mac.com, is in charge; please contact her for details.

#### Hejmdal No. 4 & Luren No. 13

Meets four times a year, contact the secretary for further information Secretary Robert Schall, <a href="mailto:schallb48@gmail.com">schallb48@gmail.com</a>

Guests are always welcome. Contact the secretary for more information. A number of our members ride BART as our meeting is near the Civic Center Station at 7th and Market. *Med venlig hilsen*, Roger Gearhart, Secretary,

<b>-</b>			
Upcoming Conventions			
Danmark #2 and Thyra #3	April 6-8 2017	Grosvenor S. San Francisco	
Dannevirke #9 and Valdemar #12	April 19-21, 2018	Nugget, Sparkes NV	
Thyra #9 and Valborg No. 1	April 11-13 2019	Grosvenor S. San Francisco	
Upcoming Installations			
Dannevirke #9 and Valdemar #12	May 6, 2016	IOOF Hall Reno	
Bornholm #14	July 30, 2016	Modesto	
Freja #6 and Dana #15	July 31, 2016	Salinas	

#### Thor No. 5 & Thora No. 11

Meeting: 1st. Thursday every month 11:30 AM. Hope Lutheran's Conference Room, 364 E Barstow Ave, Fresno.

Secretary: Christie Pettitt poppatango@msn.com Gail Hansen dickgailh@aol.com

Hooray!!! Thor #5 and Thora #11 members survived Convention. Much thanks go to our co-chairmen, Dave and Nancy Willis and Deanna Dunbar. Also, a BIG Thank You to our members who worked so hard to make convention a success. We hope all of our

Grand Officers, delegates, and other guests enjoyed their stay and had a great time! Congratulations to our new Grand Officers! Have a great year!

## Freja No. 6 & Dana No. 15

Meeting: 1st. Sunday every month at Noon.; Installation 1st Sunday in August, Salinas Masonic Center, 48 East San Joaquin Street, Salinas CA 93901-2904. Freja/ Dana Secretary: Natalie Heer, timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net

As I compose this May entry for our D&D newsletter, there's two things I know for sure about Freja and Dana's May meeting on Sunday the 1st. It's NOT going to be a potluck, and it's not going to be at the Masonic Hall. A couple of restaurants have been lined up and by the time our members read this they will know the location and time. Just like the rest of you, Freja and Dana have been working together to make the adjustments necessary to meet the challenges of these times in our Lodge's history. We're all trying to find the balance between honoring our departed members, finding ways to attract the new, making it still work for

those of us able to actively participate, and supporting those who can't. We wish you all the best in your efforts and would be very interested in reading about what has worked for you. Happy Spring everyone!

and . . . Mange Tak!! again to Fresno's Thor 5 and Thora 11 for a fabulous convention in Clovis! You did it all with smiles on your faces, making it look so easy when we all know how incredibly hard it is!

"Hurrah! Hurrah!" JHG

#### Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16

Meets 2nd Saturday at 6:00PM; 4th Saturday Potluck, IOOF Hall, 2160 First Street, Livermore, CA 94551.

Dannevang #7 Secretary: Robert Lamee, Robertlamee@vahoo.com Danebod Secretary Kathy Thomsen, danskfarm@vahoo.com

Livermore has great news! We are proud to announce that our very own Viola Jensen was awarded as the Dannebrog Member of the Year at the convention in Clovis. We are very happy that her granddaughter, Jenean, brought her down to accept the award during the Saturday Night Ball. Her dedication to the lodge and Grand Lodge goes without saying, we all know and love Viola dearly, what a treasure she is! Congratulations to Roland MacNeil for receiving the Dania Member of the Year award, and

congratulations to all the incoming Grand Officers. It was fun to have Bob & Tracey Lamee attending the convention. We will see what the upcoming year has in store for us.

Diane Reinstein was the lucky winner of the attendance prize at the April meeting. Next meeting will be Saturday,

May 14 at, 4:00, in the Odd Fellows Hall. Dinner will be courtesy of Anita's Mexican Restaurant for our Cinco De Mayo Theme. See you there KRT

## No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1

Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup>.Thursday every month 7:30 PM; 20920 Redwood Road, Castro Valley CA 94546. President Susan Gauthier, s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net #9 Thyra / Valborg #1 Secretary Beth Cowan beth.cowan@att.net

We are back from another successful convention, hosted this year by Thor #5 and Thora #11 of Fresno. A good time was had by all! The facility was a great venue at the Veterans Memorial Building in Clovis. The committee put in a lot of hours and hard work...THANK YOU!

Please join us when the Hayward Lodges meet again on Thursday, May 12. We will also welcome back our delegates from the

convention and our newest grand officers from Valborg #1 and Thyra #9. Congratulations to our new Dannebrog Grand Vice Marshal who stepped up and bailed out Judith Heer.

Congratulations also go out to Rowland Mac (McNielsen) for receiving Dania's Member of the Year!

Pizza will be provided by Valborg #1. Meeting will be held at 7:30. Visitors are always welcome! The HAWK

## Sønderjylland No. 10

Meeting 2nd Saturday every month 11:30 AM Kastania Fælled, Petaluma

Secretary, John Cruger-Hansen j.crugerhansen@comcast.net Sønderjylland #10 held the Apr. 9th Meeting at Kastania in a lovely spring-shower, that turned into the always the predictable California Sunshine halfway through the meeting. We were cozy in the hall with three heaters going After delicious appetizers, the meeting was opened with everyone accounted for except the six Cruger-Hansen family members. The meeting opened at 12.30pm, conducted by Pres. Jim Hollingstead, with Karen Friis Lysmer

Treasurer Vibeke Jensen gave her report and mentioned three members had been dropped due to none payment of dues, in spite repeated requests for a response.

V.P. covering for Secr. John Cruger-Hansen.

Holger Jorgensen reported that Sato is still suffering from her fall and subsequent hip-surgery several months ago. Grace Gustaafson is fighting a bad case of Shingles (get your preventive shots!) Wishing both a speedy recovery!

Discussion was followed regarding adding a third Representatives to our representation at the convention, it was moved and with majority vote approved. Current Representatives are ; Karen Friis Lysmer, Carol Saffro, Sabrina Wilcox.

President Jim Hollingstead, in a surprise move, announced his resignation as president, due to personal circumstances and commitments. It is with sadness and regret we accept his choice and appreciate his efforts and hard work, job well done under difficult circumstances. Best of luck Jim,- and a big thank you A big thank-you to everyone who contributed to our wonderful lunch.

Please bring your voice, thoughts, vote to the next meeting so we can assess and decide the future of Sønderjylland #10 Next meeting is May 9th 2016 11.30 am at Kastania...

Call either Carol Saffron (707)708-2177 Karen Friis Lysmer (510) 526-5665, whether you can come or not,... please!! Respectfully submitted, Karen Friis Lysmer, Pres. Sub for. Secretary J. Cruger-Hansen.

#### Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun No. 10

Meeting: 1st. Saturday every month at 11:00 A.M., Danish Hall; Ferndale, CA 95536.

Secretary Christian Nielsen Christian Nielsen @suddenlink.net

We had a lot of fun at convention in Clovis. Eight of us made it for the weekend. It was good to see all of our friends and meet a few new ones.

May  $7^{th}$  we will meet at 11:00 for a business meeting followed by a soup and salad potluck. Some signed up for soup, so members are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there.

May 30<sup>th</sup> Balder Lodge will be holding a public Swedish pancake breakfast at the Danish Hall. Come out and see the finish of the Kinetic Sculpture race and the Memorial Day parade.

June 4<sup>th</sup> we will meet at 11:00 for a business meeting followed by a BBQ Potluck and Bocce game. This will be our first practice game for September Labor Day installation of officers.

June 26<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Scandinavian Midsummer Festival at Fortuna Rohner Park starting at 11 am.

Members and guests are asked to bring a potluck item to share and your own BBQ item. BBQ and Brackets will be furnished, also Coffee and Lemonade. Bring your own picnic gear plates, plastic ware and hat. Lindy Mantova will be playing music for your dancing and listening enjoyment.

We are planning on doing a float for the 4th of July parade in Ferndale. We will be doing a theme of the Danish Mermaid. We have a Mermaid, but need people to decorate the float and ride or walk in the parade. If interested in participating, call me at (707) 449-3746. Come in your Danish costume, if you need to borrow a costume we have some available. The more participation the better and you don't have to be a member.

Christian Nielsen

#### Valdemar No 12. & Dannevirke No. 9

Meeting: 1st. Friday every month at 7 PM, Odd Fellows Hall; 1300 Stardust Street Reno, NV 89503.

Secretary: Sena Maria Freeman P.O. Box 4575, Sparks NV 89432; Anette Christensen, achristensen@medicine.nevada.edu

On April 1, (no April's fool's joke ②) we celebrated our Easter Pot luck in the fellowship with 24 in attendance. We had some really wonderful food and lots of desserts.

After dinner, we had the youth performance with Nikolas Powers playing the piano. His mother is a member of Dannevirke #9. He played two songs: A Thousand Years by Christian Perri and Finlandia by Jean Sibelius. Great job Nikolas, thank you for sharing your talent with us.

During coffee and dessert we had our meeting. First we had election of officers and we all agreed to keep the same officers in the same rank as currently. Past President Ann-katherine Sawyer, President Anette Christensen, Vice President Baxter Swaffer, Financial Secretary Jim Myers, Secretary Sena Marie Freeman, Treasurers Carl H. Christiansen and Ina Segesman, Marshal Nina Sawyer, Vice Marshal Erik Jensen, Trustees: Jens Christiansen, Ingrid Hedman and Helen Christiansen, Auditors Lars Jensen, Janet Pulsipher and Palle Larsen. We also voted in a sick committee for 2016-2017. They are Erik Jensen, Helen & Carl Christiansen and Sena Marie Freeman.

Anette read our 2018 Convention report. The dates are April 19, 20 & 21, 2018 at the Nugget Casino Resort, which will have all remodeled rooms to be completed by the end of 2017. Installation of Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 officers will be Friday May 6th 2016 at the Odd Fellow Hall, 1300 Stardust St, Reno, NV. 89503. Cocktails will start at 6 PM. Dinner at 7 PM with installation and dessert to follow. Anette, we will miss you while you are on holiday in Denmark. Glenn Fritz and Sena Marie will be in charge of the dinner this year. Please RSVP to Sena Marie, 775-786-1630 or email danishgal@gmail.com. The Reno lodges hope that everyone had a safe trip home from Convention, and we look forward to see you May 6th. Sena Marie After we came home from the wonderful convention, that the Fresno lodges treated us to, we learned that our dear friend and member, Baxter Swaffar had passed away in the evening of Friday April 15. He was surrounded by his wife Marlene, their son and daughter-in-law. He has requested no service. We are all very saddened by his passing and our prayers & sympathy goes out to

Bornholm No. 14

Meeting: 3rd. Friday every month 7:00 PM Eagles Hall 126 Camellia Way Modesto, CA 95351.

Secretary: Ann Stowers, ann.max@att.net

### Danneskjold No. 17 & Laura No. 8

Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 1 PM in various homes.

President: Doris Skow dws1929@gmail.com, Secretary, Lis Lacey

Our May business meeting will be held at the home of Jonna Robison. We will begin at 12 Noon with lunch and follow with the meeting. Be sure to let Jonna know if you are coming or not. Dessert and coffee will follow the meeting.

Please try to attend as we will have some important items of business to discuss.

We send greetings to our shut-ins and wish them well. DWS

Marlene, their family and friends. AC

#### Hejls Minde No. 23

Meeting: 1st. Wednesday 12 noon at Bit O' Denmark, 473 Alisal Rd. Solvang, CA 93463. Secretary: Marie Jaeger

Hejls Minde #23 held its regular meeting Wednesday, April 6th at the Restaurant "Bit O' Denmark" at noon with 20 members and 1 visitor, Knud and Birte Koors from Westlake Village, CA. The snaps today was brought in by "Slim" from Santa Maria. We are so glad to see you back. We sang Happy Birthday to our birthday members. SKAAL!

We started the business meeting at 1:05 pm. Our president Hans Kardel opened the meeting with welcome remarks. The Secretary Marie Jaeger read the official list of officers present. The recording Secretary Kate K. Nielsen read the Minutes from the last meeting. Treasurer Agnes Larsen read the financial report. In sick bay: our latest report re: Ove and Erna Andersen. They are both in a nursing home in Petaluma, to be near their son. We

missed Arla Hoj. Glad to see Judith Thompson back again. Hans Kardel has set up a Food Committee: Agnes Larsen, Lucille Wulff and Kate Nielsen. They are to keep in touch with the restaurant Bit O' Denmark to suggest some meals for our meetings. Convention, Convention, Convention. Our two representatives Bent Olsen and Knud Jacobsen attended the Convention in Clovis on April 14 - 6, 2016, looking forward to hearing their report at our next meeting.

We closed with singing "Der er et yndigt land". See you May  $4^{th}$  at the Bit O' Denmark at noon.

Kate

# Holger Danske No. 27 & Valkyrien No. 23

Meets four times a year; contact the secretary for further information. Holger Danske's Secretary: Wayne A. Allen. Valkyrien's Secretary Darlene Iversen