

142nd Annual Grand Lodge Dania Convention Report



**Hotel Mission De Oro
Santa Nella,
13070 S. Highway 33, CA**

FRIDAY April 12, 2024

Grand Officers, Delegates, Past Grand Presidents, and Members assembled at the Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella, CA for Dania's 142nd annual convention on April 11 and 13, 2024. Host Lodges were The Livermore branches, Dannevang #7 and Danebod #16

GRAND OFFICERS

Jr. Past Grand President	Bente Ellis	Bornholm #14	Modesto
Grand President	Thomas Martin	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Vice President	Dan Holm	Dannevang #7	Livermore
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6	Salinas
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9	Hayward
Grand Marshal	Robert Lamee	Dannevang #7	Livermore
Grand Vice Marshal	James O Jensen	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Trustee	John Jensen	Danmark #2	San Francisco
Grand Trustee	John Scheuber	Bornholm #14	Modesto
Grand Trustee	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Bornholm #14	Modesto

DELEGATES

Danmark #2	Peter Christensen, Peter Schakow, Peter Maris and Anne Maris
Thor #5	PGP Steen Skjellerup,
Freja #6	Ole M. Pedersen, GPP Jana Heer
Dannevang #7	Dan Holm, Robert Lamee
Thyra #9	PGP Gregory A. Gleeson,
Sønderjylland #10	Karen Friis Lysmer
Valhalla #11	PGP Mel Lundberg, Daniel Barney, Tamara Barney
Valdemar #12	Leif Larsen, Kurt Tomozy
Bornholm #14	Bodil Whitehouse, George Dutra
Danneskjold #17	Doris Skow
Hejls Minde #23	Elaine Anes, Bent Olsen, Kristin Worthley
Holger Danske #27	Elvin 'Slim' Juhl

Grand President Thomas Martin instructed the Grand Officers to take their respective stations and the Grand Vice Marshal James O Jensen, to close the door at 10:00 A.M.

The password was collected by Grand Marshal, Robert Lamee, and Grand Vice Marshal, James O Jensen. After the password was obtained the Grand President called for the opening sign. Grand President admonished all that any Cell phone going off from this point forward would result in a fine.

Grand President Thomas Martin asked the Grand Secretary Tim Heer, to call the roll of Grand Officers, Delegates and Past Grand Presidents. 10 Grand Officers, 22 Delegates responded and 12 Past Grand Presidents to roll call. The Grand Secretary informed the Grand President that a quorum was present. See the complete Roll Call result attached to this report.

Grand President Thomas Martin gaveled up the assembly 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 PGP Steen Skjellerup and Bent Olsen.

Grand President Thomas Martin asked the Grand Marshal to drape the Charter and asked a moment of silence in honor of our departed Members.

Grand President Thomas Martin welcomed everyone to the convention and then proclaimed the 142nd Annual Convention of The Danish Society Dania of California and Nevada in session with full powers and authority to act on all subjects brought before this session, in accordance with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge.

Grand President Thomas Martin instructed Grand Marshal Robert Lamee to escort his advisor, Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, to the chair on his right to act as his advisor during the Convention.

Grand President Thomas Martin asked Grand Secretary Tim Heer to read the minutes, the Grand Secretary moved the Convention reports of 2022 and 2023 be approved as posted on the website, seconded by Doris Skow, Danneskjold #17, approved. The Grand Secretary then read the minutes from the close of the 141st Convention to the opening of this Convention. The Grand President asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes; there were none and the Grand President ruled them approved as read.

The Grand President recognized Doris Skow, Danneskjold #17, who requested permission not to stand when addressing the Grand President, permission was granted.

Report of the Grand President: Grand President instructed the Grand Marshal to present the gavel to Grand Vice President Dan Holm and turned the meeting over to him. The Grand Vice President asked the Grand President to read her report.

Grand Officers, Delegates, Members and guests,

It has been my honor to serve as your Grand President for a second time. I would like to thank the team of Grand Officers that supported me this past year for their efforts, your work did not go un-noticed.

We have been busy since the last convention. Over the course of the last year, I visited every branch that held in-person meetings, most more than once. I installed the officers of each branch in ever-changing situations that have resulted from our dwindling membership and the need to find places that we can afford and still accommodate the ritual. I attended a terrific BBQ in Santa Maria, a St. Hans Fest in Reno, a summer party in Sunol a fall picnic in Oakdale and a few Christmas parties.

At each of these events, I would see a few visitors from other lodges, but only a few. I was a bit disappointed that more of our members didn't make the trip to support other lodges. Our group has continued to decline in membership and if we are going to continue to exist, we need to address why.

A big part, I believe, is that, in order to accommodate our senior members, many branches are holding their meetings at lunchtime, during the week. You can't recruit new younger members if meetings are held when they would have to be at work. Daytime isn't the issue; it is a weekday problem. If those meetings were on Saturday or Sunday, getting younger folks may be less of an issue.

Another almost obvious reason is that most of our business meetings are exactly that, business meetings. San Francisco has had great success in having a separate gathering each month for social purposes only, no business. We get a great turn-out at these. People come and enjoy the company and food and generally have a good time. These are far better recruiting opportunities than a strictly business meeting. I suggest more fun, and less business might help.

There are plenty of other issues hampering us from growing our membership and I hope we hear some recommendations from the membership committee when we get their report later today.

I've also noticed that every lodge conducts their meetings differently. Many no longer take the password or the opening sign, some don't recite the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of their meetings. The loss of these rituals bothers me a bit and I understand that most have been done for the sake of expediency but at what cost?

I cannot emphasize enough that every event we do is better when we have more of our members present. Non-business events like picnics and parties should be happening more often and with more support from other branches. We may be a death benefit society, but that doesn't mean we can't spend a bit more on enjoying living.

There are a couple of events coming up soon after our convention that may be fertile grounds for new members ... Next Saturday, the 20th, The Sacramento Scandinavian Festival is at the Elks Lodge on Riverside Drive in Sacramento and May 4th, Denmark Day at Kastania failed in Petaluma. Please put these on your calendar and pass out a few recruiting cards.

The other big issue we face is the continuing problem of finding a new Grand Lodge Vice Marshall each year. This has been an issue for many years now and part of the problem is the requirements for Grand Lodge officer include either serving as local president for one term or 3 years as secretary or treasurer. In the past we have bent these rules to accommodate those willing who were not qualified. Several of the branches face this same problem and the result is that the same people remain in the branch offices year after year and no new qualified candidates for Grand Lodge are created. The solution shouldn't be relaxing the qualifications because you wind up with people who don't understand the job. We need to create more turnover at branch level offices, so we create qualified candidates. I do see new faces at several of the lodges, it would be good to see them groomed for local and then Grand Lodge Office.

All in all, it has been an interesting year. I'm glad that I took on the job and I'm looking forward to seeing where the lodge goes under the next leader.

Thank you very much, and I promise never to run again.

The Grand Vice President asked what is the pleasure of the Grand Body. It was moved by Grand Trustee, PGP Johanne Gate, Bornholm #14, that we accept the report of the Grand President, seconded by Past Grand President Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2. The Grand Vice President ruled that the motion was approved, and then he asked the Grand Marshal to return the gavel to the Grand President to resume his authority and returned the meeting back to the Grand President.

The Grand President asked the Grand Secretary to read the Minutes of the Executive Committee: The minutes of the meetings held on March 16, 2024, were read by the Grand Secretary. It was moved by PGP, Roger Gearhart, to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee, seconded by PGP Jana Heer. The Grand President declared the Minutes approved. The minutes are attached at the end of this report.

The Grand Secretary added to the report, that if any Branch is being questioned by their Bank about being registered with the Secretary of State, The Grand Secretary would be glade to write their Bank a letter explaining that they are a not for profit 501(C8) and as such not required to be registered with the Secretary of State.

The Grand President asked the Grand Secretary to read Grand Secretary's Report: In the interest of time the Grand Marshal and Grand Vice Marshal handed out the reports of the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and the Grand Trustees before the meeting opened. It became evident that a few members did not receive a copy and the reports, and the Grand Vice Marshal asked for permission to pass out. The Grand Secretary called the Member's attention to the itemized reports of the Branches on Membership, Assets, Receipts, and Disbursements for review then presented his annual report. Grand Secretary, moved to accept his reports, seconded by PGP Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2 & Bornholm #14. During the discussion a question was asked about the Scholarships awarded by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary explained that both the Dania Scholarship and the Dania Memorial Scholarship

are not found in the Constitution but were created by resolution. The Dania Scholarship is limited to a total of \$1,200.00, limited to Members or a Member's child and a limit of four awards per individual, while the Memorial is limited by the amount of income generated by the Fund during the Year, it is for Members only and there is no limit as to how many awards an individual may receive. Both Scholarships must be reapplied annually. The motion was unanimously approved. The Grand Secretary's report is attached at the end of this report.

The Grand President asked the Grand Treasure to read Grand Treasure's Report: Grand Treasurer, Gregory Gleeson, presented the Grand Treasurer's report for review. Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, moved to accept the report, seconded by PGP John Scheuber, Bornholm #14. During the discussion a question was asked about the Dania Memorial Scholarship Fund and if donation can be made directly into the Vanguard account, Grand Treasure said that depending on the amount of the donation the fund will be place wherever the donor request, he also added that back in 1995 the balance in the Vanguard account was \$9,021.00. The motion was unanimously approved. The Grand Treasurer's report is attached at the end of this report.

The Grand President asked for the report of the Grand Trustees: Grand Trustee #1 John Jensen, Danmark #2 read the report. Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, moved to accept the report, seconded by Doris Skow, Danneskjold #17. After much discussion it was moved by the Grand Vice Marshal, James O. Jensen to table the motion until after lunch, seconded by Danial Barney, Valhalla #11, the motion was approved.

Grand President Thomas Martin declared a Lunch recess to reconvene at 2:00 P.M.

Grand President Thomas Martin instructed the Grand Vice Marshal to close the door and then declared the Grand Lodge back in section.

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

Grand President recognized the Grand Vice Marshal, James O. Jensen who moved to un-table the question of the Grand Trustee's report, seconded by Doris Skow, Danneskjold # 17, the motion was approved.

Grand President recognized Grand Trustee #1, John Jensen, Danmark #2, who explained the numbers are correct, but the format is confusing. The -350 is the total of the numbers listed under the Activity column and is not of the calculation. It may be more understandable if a double line was used between the 3,435 and the -350. There was no other question and the motion was unanimously approved. The Grand Trustees' report is attached at the end of this report.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

History Committee Report: Past Grand President, Jana Heer, gave her report regarding the items housed in the Danish Hall in Ferndale. The complete History report is attached to this report.

It was moved by Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, to except this portion of the history report. Seconded by Grand Trustee #1, John Jessen, Danmark #2, after much discussion the motion was accepted unanimously.

Grand President called on Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, to give his report. He had several historical documents he passed on to PGP Jana Heer for her safe keeping. He gave brief remarks from memory from his report and promised to send the full report to the Grand Secretary. It was moved by Grand Secretary, Tim Heer, to publish Roger's complete history report in this year's annual report. Seconded by Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, after much discussion the motion was accepted unanimous.

The Grand President instructed the Grand Marshal to escort Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, to the Dannebrog meeting so he could share his report with their membership.

In their absents, the Grand President called on the membership committee for their report.

Report of the Membership Committee: Past Grand President, Steen Skjellerup, reported that the committee will supply everyone with a group of the new member business card and challenge all members to bring in one new member before next year's convention. They would also like to see changes to the website to make it more attractive to new members, suggesting adding videos of our fun events.

The Grand Marshal returned with PGP Roger Gearhart and informed us that the Grand Lodge of Dannebrog had recessed for the day.

Grand Trustee, John Jensen, moved to accept the report of the Membership committee, seconded by Doris Skow Danneskjold # 17. After much discussion on how to attract new members into the Lodges, the motion was adopted.

It being 3:00 P.M, the Grand President called for a recess for Coffee and cake to reconvene at 3:15.

Grand President Thomas Martin asked for all those who were not in the afternoon session to stand, as there was no one standing the Grand President declared the meeting open.

Report from the Advisory Committee: Had no report this year.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Grand Trustee #3, John Scheuber, reported that the office of Grand Vice Marshal is open.

Standing Convention Committees: Grand President Thomas Martin appointed the following:

Resolutions: Peter Schakow, Danmark #2
Peter Maris, Danmark #2
Tamara Barney, Valhalla #11

Law:	Roger Gearhart	Past Grand President, Danmark #2
	Peder Hoy	Past Grand President, Bornholm #14
	Allen Thomsen	Past Grand President, Dannevang #7

COMMUNICATIONS:

A thank you for a donation from the Solvang Lutheran Home.

A thank you from Ian Nielsen thanking us for the Scholarship and the continued support.

A thank you for a donation from the Elverhøj Museum

A letter from Kaelie Rose Martin-Mahler announcing her graduation from Middle Tennessee State University.

A flier regarding the Annual Denmark Day event at Danish Soldiers Clum in Petaluma.

A letter of greeting for a successful convention from Thyra #9, Hayward

A letter of greeting for a successful convention from Danmark #2 and Thyra #3

A letter of greeting for a successful convention from Danneskjold #17

A verbal thank you for the donation from the Danish American Historical Society, Fresno

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Grand President Thomas Martin asked if we had any old Business, The Grand Secretary reported that there was no business carried over from last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination and election of Grand Officers

Grand President Thomas Martin appointed Peter Christensen, Danmark #2, Jr. Danial Barney, Valhalla #11, and George Dutra, Bornholm #14, as tellers and he gave the instructions to the tellers on how to process with counting the votes. He asked the Grand Marshal to remove the flag from the alter.

The Grand President opened the nomination of Grand Officers for 2024-2025. The following were nominated and elected individually. There being only one person nominated for each office the Grand Secretary cast the ballot that elected the Officer.

Grand President	Dan Holm	Dannevang #7
	Thomas Martin	Danmark #2, He declined
Grand Vice President	Robert Lamee	Dannevang #7
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Glee\$on	Thyra #9
Grand Marshal	James O Jensen	Danmark #2
Grand Vice Marshal	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9
Grand Trustee #1	John Scheuber	Bornholm #14
Grand Trustee #2	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Bornholm #14
Grand Trustee #3	John Jensen	Danmark #2

Grand President Thomas Martin dismissed the tellers and thanked them for their assistance and asked the Grand Marshal to replace the flag on the alter.

During the election of Grand Officers Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to suspend any provision in the Constitution that would prevent a Grand Officer from holding more than two Grand Offices. Seconded by Grand Trustee #1, John Jensen, the motion was adopted.

After the Grand Vice Marshal was elected Greg explained his reason for wanting to run for the office, because 33 years ago when he was Grand President he went through the line with Susan Gauthier, and she has been elected by Dannebrog as their Grand Vice Marshal. Greg did not want to give up his job as Grand Treasurer but wanted to go through the line again with Susan. The Grand Secretary pointed out that last time he started the line as Grand Marshal so this will be his first time as Grand Vice Marshal.

Grand President Thomas Martin asked the Grand Secretary to present the bills.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the Grand Treasurer \$100.00 per month expense reimbursement; Grand Treasurer Gregory A. Glee\$on seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to pay the Grand Trustees \$1.00 each per year expense reimbursement, Grand

Treasurer Gregory A. Glee\$on seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Grand Secretary Tim Heer moved to set the Funeral Benefit at \$200.00, Grand Treasurer Gregory A. Glee\$on seconded the motion. Ole Petersen moved to suspend the rules regarding the Funeral Benefit for this convention, seconded by Grand Vice Marshal, James O Jensen the motion was adopted with two opposed. Grand Trustee #1, John Jensen, moved to amend the funeral amount to \$300.00, Grand Trustee #2, John Scheuber, seconded the motion, the motion to amend was approved with 1 opposed. The motion as amended was approved.

Grand Secretary moved to set the annual per capita tax at \$30.00 per member to be paid in two installments, except for those Branches that have a net worth less than \$5,000.00, in which case their amount would be \$20.00 per member. Seconded by Grand Treasurer, Gregory Glee\$on. The motion was adopted with two opposed

Grand Secretary moved to donate \$75.00 to the Danish American Historical Society in Fresno, Grand Treasurer Gregory A. Glee\$on seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously

Grand Secretary moved to donate \$75.00 to the Elverhøj Museum of History and Art in Solvang, Grand Treasurer Gregory A. Glee\$on seconded the motion. Bent Olsen moved to amend the motion to increase the donation to \$100.00. The motion was seconded, and the motion to amend was approved with 1 opposed. The motion as amended was approved with 1 opposed.

Grand Secretary moved to pay \$45.00 annual dues to Aldersly, Grand Treasurer Gregory A. Glee\$on seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Grand Secretary moved to donate \$75.00 to the Bethel Lutheran Home Selma, Grand Treasurer Gregory A. Glee\$on seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Grand Secretary moved to donate \$75.00 to Atterdag Village Solvang, Grand Treasurer Gregory A. Glee\$on seconded the motion. Bent Olsen moved to amend the motion to increase the donation to \$100.00. Ole Petersen, Freja #6 seconded the amendment, and the motion to amend was approved with 1 opposed. The motion as amended was approved with 1 opposed.

The Grand Secretary pointed out that the Constitution states that the host Lodge of a Convention will receive \$300.00 so there is no need to vote it out as a bill.

Grand Secretary moved to support the Web Site Committee not to exceed \$300.00 Grand Treasurer Gregory A. Glee\$on seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Grand Treasurer moved to pay the Grand Secretary \$200.00 per month expense reimbursement, it was seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Grand Treasurer moved to pay the Newsletter Publisher \$100.00 per month expense reimbursement for the printing of the Monthly Newsletter it was seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Grand President Thomas Martin declared a recess until 9:00 A.M. Saturday Morning.

SATURDAY April 13, 2024

Convention was called back to order at 9:00 A.M. Grand President Thomas Martin instructed the Grand Officers to

take their respective Stations and the Grand Vice Marshal, James O Jensen, to close the door.

The password was collected by the Grand Marshal, Robert Lamee, and Grand Vice Marshal, James O Jensen. The Opening sign was given.

Grand President Thomas Martin asked the Grand Secretary to call the roll of Grand Officers, Delegates and Past Grand Officers. 10 Grand Officers, 22 Delegates and 12 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 President Steen Skjellerup and Bent Olsen

The Grand President called for a moment of silence for our departed members.

NEWBUSINESS

The Grand President; directed the Grand Marshal and Grand Vice Marshal to hand out copies of the proposed amendment to the constitution.

The Grand President; called on the Chairperson of the Law Committee for their report concerning the proposed change. Past Grand President Roger Gearhart introduced his committee, PGP's Peder Hoy, and Allen Thomsen. Roger reported that they found that the proposal conforms to the requirements of the constitution and is not in conflict with any existing sections of the Constitution.

The Grand Secretary moved to except the Law Committee report. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Grand Secretary moved to except the proposed changes to our constitution, Doris Skow Danneskjold # 17, seconded the motion. The Grand President asked the Grand Secretary to explain the changes and what it would mean if adopted. the Grand Secretary explained that the original death benefit was based on the age of a member when they joined the Branch, and the proposed change is based on the number of years that a member has been a member. He pointed out that a member would be fully vested after 20 years, would be entitled to 50% after 10 years, would be entitled to 25% after 5 years, and would not be entitled to receive any benefit before that time. The motion was adopted with 33 yes votes and 2 no votes. A copy of the proposed change is attached to this report.

The Grand President called on The Grand Marshal Robert Lamee to speak on behalf of the Convention Committee. Robert hoped that everyone had a good time and enjoyed the accommodation of the facility. He reported that it is the intention of next years committee to hold the convention here at the Hotel Mission De Oro in Santa Nella. With the agreement of the Hotel.

The Grand Secretary moved to except the invitation to the 2025 convention to be hosted by Dannevang #7 and Danebod #16 and held at the Hotel Mission De Oro at a date to be determined. Doris Skow Danneskjold # 17, seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Grand President asked Grand Marshal to escort the Grand President-elect, Dan Holm, to the podium to address the Grand Officers, Delegates, Past Grand Presidents, and Members.

He started with a history of his birth in Danmark and life in California

Presidents Advisor: Past Grand President, Johanne Gade, Bornholm #14 with the assistance of Past Grand President Tom Martin and Robert Lamee.

He announced his appropriate Password for the year.

Advisory Committee Past Grand President, Johanne Gade, Bornholm #14
Past Grand President, Glen Fritz, Danmark #2
Peter Schakow, Danmark #2

Nomination Committee Past Grand President, John Scheuber, Bornholm #14
Past Grand President, Jana Heer, Freja #6
Grand Marshal, James O Jensen, Danmark #2

Membership Committee: Peter Christensen, Danmark #2
Tamara Barney, Valhalla #11
Kristin Worthey, Hejls Minde #23

Web Committee: Grand Secretary, Tim Heer Sr., Freja #6
Past Grand President John Johansen, Bornholm #14

History committee First Delegate of every Branch
Danial Barney, Valhalla #11
Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart, Danmark #2, continue with Viking King
History
Doris Skow, Danneskjold #17

Auditors Past Grand President, Bente Ellis, Bornholm #14
Past Grand President, Steen Skjellerup, Thor #5
Leif Larsen, Valdemar #12

Grand President-elect thank everyone for electing him and promised to do the very best job that he is able to do.

The Grand President Thomas Martin; recognized Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, who recalled when Dan and Kathy were engaged 2017 on a beach in the Virgin Islands.

The Grand President asked Grand Marshal to escort the Grand President-elect, Dan Holm back to his station.

Resolution Committee report: the Resolutions were read by the Resolution Committee, Peter Schakow, Danmark #2. Peter Maris, Danmark #2 and Tamara Barney, Valhalla #11 (Resolutions are attached to this report)

Grand Trustee #2, John Scheuber, moved to except the Resolution Committee's report. Danial Barney, Valhalla #11 seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The Grand President recognized Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, reported the Solvang has recently been recognized as one to the 10 best small towns in the United States.

The Grand President recognized Past Grand President, Roger Gearhart who spoke on the subject regarding Legacies and gifts to support the Grand Lodge.

The Grand President recognized Peter Christensen, Danmark #2 who informed everyone the Danmark #2 well donate \$5,000.00 to the Dania Memorial Scholarship Investment Fund.

The Grand President recognized Grand Trustee #2, John Scheuber, who congratulated the convention committee for a job well done, and he looking forward to next year.

The Grand President recognized Grand Secretary, Tim Heer who moved to hold an open installation of Grand Officers at 2:00 P.M. today. Seconded and passed.

The Grand President recognized Bent Olsen, Hejls Minde #23, who thanked Grand President Thomas Martin for his wonderful year as Grand President then led the group in singing a medley of Danish drinking songs as part of a tradition that should never be forgotten.

Grand President Thomas Martin led the singing of God Bless America. He then declared the 142nd annual convention closed and asked for the closing sign at 10:20 A.M.

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

2023- 2024 DANIA GRAND OFFICERS

Jr, Past Grand President	Thomas Martin	Danmark #2
Grand President	Dan Holm	Dannevang #7
Grand Vice President	Robert Lamee	Dannevang #7
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer	Freja #6
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Glee\$on	Thyra #9
Grand Marshal	James O Jensen	Danmark #2
Grand Vice Marshal	Gregory A. Gleeson	Thyra #9
Grand Trustee #1	John Scheuber	Bornholm #14
Grand Trustee #2	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Bornholm #14
Grand Trustee #3	John Jensen	Danmark #2

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

List of all Branches Past and Present

Branch Name & Number	No.	City	Date Instituted
Odin	1	Oakland CA	Dec 11, 1879
Danmark	2	San Fransico CA	Jan 21, 1882
Helga	3	San Fransico CA	Aug 25, 1894
Hejmdal	4	Sacramento CA	Dec 1, 1888
Thor	5	Fresno CA	Jan 10, 1891
Freja	6	Salinas CA	Jan 30, 1892
Dannevang	7	Livermore CA	July 22, 1892
Dagmar	8	Watsonville CA	Sept 9, 1892
Thrya	9	Hayward CA	Feb 11, 1893
Sonderjyland	10	Petaluma CA	April 15, 1893
Valhalla	11	Ferndale CA	June 2, 1893
Valdemar	12	Reno NV	June 2, 1893
Dannevirke	13	Lincoln CA	Nov 11, 1894
Holger Danske	13	Lovelocks NV	Apil 1, 1906
Bornholm	14	Modesto CA	Jan 23, 1895
Hammershus	15	Suisun CA	June 8, 1895
Holger Danske	16	Lovelocks NV	Aug 24, 1895
Dannebrog	16	San Luis Obispo CA	April 14, 1900
Danneskjold	17	San Jose CA	April 12, 1904
Dannebrog	18	Newman CA	March 25, 1896
Vitus Berhring	18	Los Angeles CA	April 15, 1906
Kryger	19	Gardnerville NV	Sept 10, 1896
Skamlingsbanken	20	Chualar CA	Feb 4, 1897
Dybol	21	Newman CA	April 4, 1902
Kronborg	22	Gustine CA	January 12, 1912
Hejls Minde	23	Solvang CA	April 12, 1912
Dannevirke	24	Santa Barbara CA	April 15, 1923
Standford	25	Palo Alto CA	April 10, 1924
Oresund	26	Pasadena CA	January 4, 1926
Holger Danske	27	Santa Maria CA	April 11, 1926
Aldersly Marin	28	San Rafael CA	April 14, 1993

List of all Past Grand Presidents of Daina

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	* James Madison	Danmark #2
1892-93	* John H.Lydgens	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. Kiildsen	Thor #5
1898-99	* Jacob Petersen	Danmark #2
1899-00	* Carl Plow	Sønderjylland #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 Nelson	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	Sønderjylland #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	Valdemar #12
1935-36	* Carl Fauerso	Bornholm #14

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	Sønderjylland #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 Minde #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 Wolter 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 Shall	Hejmdal #4
2015-16		Thomas Martin	Danmark #2
2016-17		Steen Skjellerup	Thor #5
2017-18		Daniel Joensen	Danmark #2
2018-19		John Schueber	Bornholm #14
2019-22		Jana Heer	Freja #6
2023-24		Bente Ellis	Bornholm #14
	*	Deceased	

Dania Member of the Year Award

Name	Year	Branch
*Chris Pedersen	1990	Danmark 2
*Melvin Oredsen	1991	Odin 1
Greg Gleeson	1992	Thyra 9
*Knud Ove Knudsen	1993	Danmark 2
*Raymond P. Olsen	1994	Bornholm 14
*Reynold F. Nielsen	1995	Thor 5
*Sigurd Thomsen	1996	Dannevang 7
*Ralph N. Kerr	1997	Thyra 9
*Dan Mogensen	1998	Thor 5
*Elmer C. Jorgensen	1999	Thyra 9
*Fred H. Mahler	2000	Thyra 9
Peder Hoy	2001	Bornholm 14
*Burton Skow	2002	Danneskjold 17
*Henning O. Petersen	2003	Danmark 2
*Norman Dalgaard	2004	Hejmdal 4
*James Jorgensen	2005	Bornholm 14
Carl Jensen	2006	Thor 5
John Johansen	2007	Bornholm 14
*Kaj Kristensen	2008	Danmark 2
Stuart O Mahler	2009	Thyra 9
Stanley Kjar	2010	Thor 5
*Francis Sweet	2011	Valhalla 11
Tim Heer	2012	Freja 6
*Kurt Høj	2013	Hejls Minde 23
Roger Gearhart	2014	Danmark #2
Johanne Rasmussen Gade	2015	Bornholm 14
Rowland McNeil	2016	Thyra 9
Glen Fritz	2017	Danmark 2
Mel Lundberg	2018	Valhalla 11
Robert Lacey	2019	Danneskjold 17
Alan Filiau	2022	Thyra 9
John Schueber	2023	Bornholm 14
*Christian Nielsen,	2024	Valhalla # 11

* Denoted Deceased

Dania Executive Board meeting held on March 16, 2024, at the Union Hotel, Benicia

Roll call.

Bente Elis	Jr. Past Grand President	Bornholm #14 and Chairperson
Tom Martin	Grand President,	Danmark # #2
John Jensen	Grand Trustee #1	Danmark #2
PGP John Schueber	Grand Trustee #2	Bornholm #14
PGP Johanne Gade	Grand Trustee #3	Bornholm #14
Tim Heer	Grand Secretary	Freja #6 (non voting)

Meeting was called to order by Jr Grand Past President Bente at 11:00 A.M.

It was moved by PGP John Schueber to accept Michael Lacey's application as a Memorial Scholarship and award Dania Scholarship to Audrey Filiau, Daughter of Scott Filiau, Thyra #9 Victoria Filiau, Daughter of Scott Filiau, Thyra #9 and Robert Jensen, Son of John A Jensen of Danmark #2 in the amount of \$400.00 each and award Dania Memorial Scholarship to Ian Anders Nielsen, Member of Danmark #2, Kiana Gleeson, Member of Thyra #9 and Michael Lacey, Member of Danneskjold #17 in the amount of \$1,000.00 each. Seconded by Grand President Tom Martin, and Passed.

Dania Member of the year:

We had a discussion and elected a Member of the year.

New Business:

Grand Secretary gave a report regarding Banking issues which required the creation of new signature card. Currently the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasure are the only two signers on the accounts. It was also explained the Bank had questioned the fact that we were not registered with the Secretary of State they may have to close our account, but ounce it was explained that we are a 501(C8) it was no longer an issue.

The Committee was informed about an amendment to the constitution to be presented at convention.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58

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

Last year when incoming Grand President Tom Martin honored me and our friendship with his request to take on the History Committee Chairman position, I was hesitant about following in Roger Gearhart's footsteps, but was relieved to know that Rodger would continue to keep us informed, inspired and entertained with Danish history and hand over the responsibility of preserving Dania's history to me.

As Ferndale's Labor Day Installation approached, I remembered that over the last couple of years Ferndale had generously offered space in their hall to store the portion of Dania's documents and properties that had been re-located to Tom's garage when Roger moved out of state. Included in this collection were several antique framed panoramic convention photos which Johanna Gade had painstakingly researched, identified and documented the Convention dates, the hosting branch, the location, and the names and offices of all the Grand Officers appearing in the photos. When I contacted Christian Nielsen about viewing the Dania properties during their busy installation weekend, without hesitation he said he'd make time to give me access to the storage space.

Any of you who has visited Valhalla #11 and Ydun #10's Dania Hall in Ferndale, California, are aware of the extensive historical archive they have on display, and I know for sure now, tucked away up in the corners of their attic, you can appreciate their willingness to find room for us. What they have is a well-lit, finished, clean and dry, wedge of a storage space. Not the dusty rafters I was anticipating, but it is very limited. And as we get deeper into the plan of action that I'm going to recommend in this report, we are sure to discover the need to find more space for the quantity of records, documents, and possessions that now exist in garages, rafters, crawl spaces and dark corners of closets scattered throughout California and Nevada.

Most of the items in Ferndale's Dania Hall are from closed lodges, a box of leather bound ledgers containing minutes and financial records, framed charters. Old convention minutes and reports. Scrap Books with photos and newspaper clippings. At least 7 antiqued framed convention photos. Brief cases filled with miscellaneous printed material, Bien newspapers. Regalia's, Flags, even Ballot Boxes!

At this point the Committee is not prepared to report on the scope of material currently in custody of the Grand Lodge Secretary at any known and yet to be discovered locations, but I know he is really easy to work with and will offer any assistance necessary.

It is very clear to me that there is a lot that needs to be done to organize and document what we have now and to plan for more in the future, the local lodges can play a major roll in this ongoing (never ending?) process. I can say from personal experience that the challenge for local lodges in regards to storage is huge! Dania Halls are magical places of the past, and unfortunately through no fault of anyone, lodge properties are having to be passed from one willing member's garage to another which increases the possibility of a misplaced 1893 membership ledger containing your Great Great Grandfathers signature. Like our ledgers containing handwritten meeting minutes, photos and keep-sakes we are getting old too. We are moving and downsizing, or just running out of room. Do we need to preserve every piece of paper? I don't think so, but it's not my place to decide. What I want to do is bring the issue to light, take it down from the rafters, open those boxes, investigate, make lists and decide where to go from there. And it's not just Dania's concern, we need an enthusiastic Historical Committee with a passion for history that includes Dania and Dannebrog members.

I am proposing that a joint History Committee together with input from the Grand Secretaries create a check list to assist the local lodges in taking inventory of their properties and records. This inventory would include the amount, types and sizes of storage boxes with an estimate of sq footage of space required for storage. A copy of their completed inventory can be provided for the Grand Secretaries records and most importantly an updated inventory would accompany all properties and records should the unfortunate time come when they needed to be surrendered. We might also consider limiting materials transferred to Grand Lodge, for example no prized centerpieces or Drill Team costumes, hey, I'm a member of Salinas Lodge, I know what I'm talking about, but photos of them might hold some historical value.

In closing, a few more things to think about . . .

More storage space is certain to be needed, maybe a storage unit, choosing a location will be difficult.

The thought of scanning and digitizing our records feels daunting and overwhelming, but if everything is organized and documented we might be able to find a Historical Society, Museum, or Genealogy libraries interested and willing to archive and make our records searchable, specifically, Local and Grand Lodge minutes, membership records, lists of past officers.

The committee can request "history reports" from the local lodges similar to ones that have appeared in Convention

programs, maybe already exist in their files. Historical accounts of the early start up days in Dania and Dannebrog can be contributed. Then in the next couple of years, as we gather histories and images from lodges, maybe a book created can be made available for sale to members.

In the meantime, the History Committee requests that all convention reports, as we do with Past Grand Officers, contain a list of all Lodges that ever existed by number and location with dates of establishment and closure when appropriate. Our history is behind us, let it not be closed up in a box and forgotten.

Respectfully submitted, Jana Heer History Committee Chair, 2024

HISTORY REPORT

It has been several years since I have been able to offer a History Report at the DANIA Convention. Last reported, we were about to discuss the Norman Conquest in 1065. But there are some early kings of Denmark that need to be mentioned. Many of the names are interesting in themselves.

But first, it is a pleasure to present Jana two historical items, a large Medal from the Pan-Pacific Exhibition dated April 1915 and. from own collection of stuff. a Dania booklet dated 1938/

Now let's review the early history of Danish kings. Gorm den Gamle (Gorm the Old) was a very important early king ruling from Jelling. In 940, the first bishops were appointed for Denmark: Ribe, Aarhus and Hedeby; however, King Gorm was never baptized. Upon the death of Queen Thyra he caused a monumental stone to be erected with runes engraved praising her as being the "Savior of Denmark"; she had been instrumental in creating the storied Dannevirke that kept Denmark safe from attacks by the Huns and other southern tribes. That monument still stands today----perhaps many of you have seen that stone along with the one erected by their son, Harald Blatant (Harald Bluetooth) upon Gorm's passing in 958.

About 960, Jarl Hakon, a Norwegian built a Viking ship over 100 ft long. The Viking ships were shallow drafted and ideal for raiding into coastal rivers and raid they did. There were many raids by Vikings, mostly Danes and Norwegians, against Muslims and Christians in England, Spain, France, Sicily, and Italy, as far as Rome in the 960's. In 974, King Harald raids Saxony and Otto II responds by taking Hedeby. However, 10 years later, King Harald, with Slavic help, retakes Hedeby.

In 986, King Harald is driven from Denmark and Sweyn Forkbeard becomes king. Olof Ericsson, king of the Swedes and King Swen Forkbeard kill Norwegian King Olaf Trygvason in 999.

From 1019-1024, Forkbeard's son, Knut, raided England and soon became King of all of England, later becoming king of Denmark. In 1027, Knut, now King of England, sails to Rome to attend the Imperial Coronation; returning home he dominates the Scots, Welsh, Norway, and Ireland. At his death at 41 in 1035 he was simultaneously King of England, Denmark and Norway, then known as Knut the Great. He was succeeded by his son Hardaknut. By 1042, Magnus Olafsson, King of Norway is accepted as King of Denmark and Edward the Confessor is King of England. From 1042-44, more wars in Scandinavia; Sweyn becomes king of Denmark. It is interesting to note that what we know of England now was largely regarded as a Scandinavian Island. This has been a tumultuous period, kings came and went, many battles were fought.

History now shows that there are more than forty known gravesites with women warriors all buried with their swords. One story from the Sagas relates a shield maiden entering the battle, killing several enemies, even hacking off the jaw of an opponent wherein he tucks his beard into his mouth and continues fighting---but not for long. The story will continue at your next convention starting with the Norman Invasion in 1066/

Some fascinating names not to be forgotten are: St. Anscar, Egil Skallagrimsson and Halldor the Unchristian.

Respectfully submitted by Roger Gearhart, April 11, 2024

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We the Officers and Delegates of the 142nd Grand Lodge convention in Santa Nella on April 11^h - 13th at The Hotel Mission De Oro; have enjoyed a successful convention, and because of the hotel personnel being so efficient and accommodation we sincerely thank them all.

Whereas:

We express our sincere appreciation for all services to us and the Personnel were very accommodating and the Grounds were very beautiful.

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:



Peter Schakow, Danmark #2



Peter Maris, Danmark #2



Tamara Barney, Valhalla #11

April 13, 2024

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We, the Officers and Delegates of the 142nd Grand Lodge convention in Santa Nella on April 11th - 13th at The Hotel Mission De Oro; have enjoyed a successful convention.

Whereas:

The Livermore branches, Dannevang #7 & Danebod #16; hosted the 142nd annual Danish Society Dania and Dannebrog 2024 convention at Hotel Mission De Oro, in Santa Nella

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:



Peter Schakow, Danmark #2



Peter Maris, Danmark #2



Tamara Barney, Valhalla #11

April 13, 2024

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

We, the Officers and Delegates of the 142nd Grand Lodge convention in Santa Nella on April 11th - 13th at The Hotel Mission De Oro; have enjoyed a successful convention.

Whereas:

The King of Danmark, His Royal Highness King Frederik X, celebrating his 56th birthday on May 26th

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:



Peter Schakow, Danmark #2



Peter Maris, Danmark #2



Tamara Barney, Valhalla #11

April 13, 2024

Grand Lodge Dania of California and Nevada

RESOLUTION of SORROW

Whereas:

We, the Officers and Delegates of the 142nd Grand Lodge convention in Santa Nella on April 11th - 13th at The Hotel Mission De Oro; 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 organizations.

Resolution committee:



Peter Schakow, Danmark #2



Peter Maris, Danmark #2



Tamara Barney, Valhalla #11

April 13, 2024