

Annual Dania-Dannebrog Senior Assistance Fund (OAF) Meeting  
April 11, 2025, Santa Nella, CA

The Dania – Dannebrog Senior Assistance Fund (SAF) General Assembly meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Sena Marie Freedman #9 at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and 15 Representatives and 8 Directors answered to roll. A moment of silence was observed for our departed members. The minutes of the April 12, 2024 meeting were read and approved as read.

Moment of silence was observed for our departed members.

Tim took rollcall.

Tim read the minutes of April 12, 2024. They were accepted as read.

Tim read the Secretary's report.

Natalie read the Treasurer's report.

Pat read the Trustee's Report; Doris Skow #17 moved to accept the report, seconded by John #2, and passed. (See attached reports)

Correspondence: Tim read a letter of resignation from Bob Lacey.

Bills: none.

New business: Tim moved to accept his resignation with regret, seconded by John J. motion carried.

Election of new committee persons: elect Lynn Wachter #10 Trustee, and to elect John Jensen #2 to continue on the Board, carried.

Sena Marie called on the Grand Presidents: Dannebrog Grand President Kathy Thomsen it is a pleasure to be here in this beautiful place, we are here for the members. Dania Grand President Dan Holm, Ditto.

Thank you Grand Presidents for your attendance.

Unfinished Business: none

General Assembly Meeting adjourned at 9:21 am.

Tim Heer called the Dania-Dannebrog SAF Committee meeting to order to elect officers. The current slate of officers were unanimously elected to stay in their current office. John Jensen, Chair; Sena Marie Freeman 1<sup>st</sup> Vice; Steen Skjellerup 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice; Trustees: Pat Brouillette, Mel Lundberg & Lynn Wachter.

Chair, John Jensen, took over the meeting.

Tim reported there were no applications.

If new questionnaires are received, they will be reviewed in October if not April 10, 2026.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.



Dania Ladies Society Dannebrog Annual Convention  
Hosted by  
Danebod #16 and Dannevang #7, Livermore  
Santa Nella, CA  
April 10 – 12, 2025

April 11, PP Karen Faraldo #16 instructed Deanna Dunbar GPP #11 to lead the Grand Officers into the meeting room marching around the convention room and took their stations.

GM Dennis Nielsen #3 presented beautiful potted flowers to GP Kathy Thomsen #16 and GVP Tracey Lamee #16.

GP Kathy #16 proceeded with opening of the convention with the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and singing of America the Beautiful and Vift Stolt Paa Kodans Bølge.

GP Kathy #16 appointed Rowland McNeil #1 to assist the GVM Susan Gauthier #1 while away from

her station.

GP Kathy #16 instructed GM Dennis #3 and Vice Grand Marshal Susan Gauthier #1 to collect the password from all present. They carried the new containers for the flags presented by Beth #1.

GP Kathy #16 proceeded to open the convention for business. Please give the opening sign.

GP Kathy #16 instructed GM Dennis #3 to escort her advisor PGP Anette Christensen #9 to her right who will my assistant during the convention.

Roll Call: Grand Past President Stuart Mahler #1, Grand President Kathy Thomsen #16, Grand Vice President Tracey Lamee #16, Grand Secretary Natalie Heer #15, Grand Treasurer Pat Brouillette #1, Grand Marshal Dennis Nielsen #3, Grand Vice Marshal Susan Gauthier #1, Grand Trustees: #1 Jessica Jobe Sea #3 #2 Kathy Christensen #3, and #3 Jillian Baker #9.

Delegates: Valborg #1 Hayward, Denise Andersen, Rowland (Mac) McNeil; Thyra #3 San Francisco, Daniel Joensen; Dannevirke #9 Reno, Bonnie Larsen, Jillian Baker, Sena Marie Freeman; Ydun #10 Ferndale, Lynn Wachter; Thora #11 Fresno, Deanna Dunbar, Kay Jensen,; Dana #15 Salinas Colleen Heer Cave; Danebod #16 Livermore Sherrill Esposito, Jackie Nielsen; Valkyrien # 23 Santa Maria, No Delegates.

Past Grand Presidents: Doris Skow #8, Grand Lodge (GL), Signe Ann McNeil #1, Sena Marie Freeman #9, Susan Gauthier #1, Martha Nielsen #11, Natalie Heer #15, Karen Faraldo #16, Jana Heer #15, Jackie Nielsen #16. Kathy Thomsen #16, Kay Jensen #11, Anette Christensen #9, Colleen Heer Cave #15, Lynn Wachter #10, Stuart Mahler #1, Beth Cowan #1 Deanna Dunbar #11.

GP Kathy #16 asked if there were any corrections or omissions to the 2024 Convention Report. Beth #1 had corrections: **Installation of Officers:** The Installation of Grand Officers, of Dannebrog and Dania for ~~2023—2024~~, **2024-2025** was held Saturday April ~~15, 2023~~, **13, 2024** at 2:00 p. m. Installing Grand Past President, ~~Beth Cowan Valborg #1~~ **Deanna Dunbar Thora #11** Dannebrog and Jr. Past Grand President ~~Jana Heer Freja #6~~ **Bente Ellis Bornholm #14** Dania were assisted by Installing Grand Marshals ~~Alan Filiau~~ **Beth Cowan** Valborg #1 Dannebrog and ~~John Scheuber Bornholm #14~~ **Jana Heer, Freja #6** Dania and Installing Grand Vice Marshal ~~Daniel Joensen Denmark #2~~ **John Scheuber Bornholm #14** Dania.

And Colleen #15 had an addition: GP Stuart #1 proceeded with opening of the convention with the pledge of allegiance to the flag of **the United States of** America and singing of America the Beautiful.

Karen #16 moved to accept the convention report as corrected, Sena Marie #9 seconded, motion passed.

The GP Kathy #16 read the names of the members who had passed away Convention to Convention April 12, 2024 through April 12, 2025: Valborg #1 Hayward: Mary Esther Filiau, PGP, PGTrustee PP, PT, Linda Cumming, PP, PGTrustee, PP, PT; Dannevirke #9, Reno: Janet Pulsipher, PP, PT, PGTrustee; Thora #11, Fresno: Pam Kjar, PGTrustee; Danebod #16. Livermore: Edith Andersen, Helen Morse. The Grand Marshal, Dennis #3, draped the charter in honor of the members who have passed. A moment of silence was observed.

GP Kathy #16 turned the meeting over to GVP Tracey #16 and proceeded to reading her GP Report:

#### Dannebrog Grand Presidents Report 2025 Convention

It's an honor to be here and preside over this convention of 2025.

I'd have to say this is pretty much my parents fault. My mom, Ruth Thomsen, joined Danebod No 16 in 1948, 8 years before I was born, so I was pretty much raised attending what we called in our house hold the Danish Lodge. She later became Grand President in 1981-1982. My dad, Sigurd Thomsen, had no desire to be Grand President of Dania, (which he joined in 1931, 2 years after arriving from Denmark) but since he would be traveling with my mom he did his tenure as Grand Trustee. And since I was traveling around with them in their later years, I served several years as Grand Treasurer. It was not until after their passing that I went through the chairs and became Grand President in 2007 and 2008. And here I am again.

And here we are again in the lovely Mission de Oro. I want to start out by thanking my fellow Grand Officers for a super fun year, and to thank my advisor, Anette Christensen, who was my Grand Marshall my first go round. I'd also like to thank my Livermore group for the hard work in making this convention happen. Tusind Tak til alle

It was a year ago I was installed here, at this gorgeous hotel, don't you agree. At the grand ball I had the honor of presenting the member of the year award to Beth Cowan, is that because she served what, 3

years during Covid? No seriously, after years of denial she was and is an outstanding grand officer.

In May we traveled up on a rainy day to Denmark Days at Kastania Feld (Danish Soldiers Club Facility) in Petaluma. It was a wonderful celebration which I hope becomes a traditional event.

We traveled up to Ferndale to attend the memorial service at the Dania Hall for Christian Nielsen. He was the mover and shaker of the Ferndale group and was awarded the 2024 member of the year by Dania. His plaque was on fine display there and he will be missed.

I attended San Jose's Danneskjold (Dania) meeting at the home of Doris Skow, not knowing at the time it would be one of their last meetings. In July I travelled down to Solvang to attend Hejls Minde No. 23 (also Dania) meeting at Bit O' Denmark. There were 21 members singing Danish songs and drinking aquavit, along with a presentation of the history of Rebild, which is the biggest 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration outside of the USA. Speaking of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the next day was the famous Santa Maria Barbecue, which I've heard about for years but this was the first one I attended. Towards the end of summer, Dan and I took 3 weeks to travel to Denmark and Germany where I got to visit my son in law's family.

Upon return we attended San Francisco's annual picnic up the windy road in Sunol. It was a fun and relaxing time to enjoy each other's company without any ritual or introductions.

Labor Day week end is a given, up to Ferndale for my first installation of the year. There is nothing to fear under the guidance of the awesome teamwork of grand marshals, Dennis Nielsen and James Olaf Jensen.

Sunday is the fun day of Bocci ball and a picnic to send us on the road home through the beautiful redwoods. Another tradition is Danish Days in Solvang, it is always the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September. Everyone is welcome to come by our cottage and watch the parade while enjoying a Carlsberg and appetizers. The first weekend in October found us up in Reno for their installation. Dan and I took his mom, Rita, along.

She loves to gamble so while she was at the machines, we went to the hall to do our best as assistants to Anette and her crew to make the best open face sandwiches (smørrebrød) this side of Denmark. A big surprise that we planned was that Dan's 4 brothers and their families surprised his mom for her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. I worried what they would think of our installation as they had never been to one before and how they would react to our marching and placing red velvet around our necks. But needless to say a good time was had by all. Next was my home lodge, Livermore's, installation at the lovely home of Bob and Tracey Lamee. Thanks to our kids for helping out to barbecue the Lockeford sausages while we paraded around their backyard. The day after was a picnic put on by Bornholm (Modesto) at a park on Orange Blossom Road. Best way to start out the day with a Bloody Mary and Æbleskivers. The hamburgers and side dishes were all delicious and all homemade. Speaking of Bloody Marys (my favorite) were in abundance upon arriving at the Christmas party in Hotel Mac put on by the San Francisco group. The food and company were great and the drink tickets were flowing. Perhaps next year I'll try wearing an ugly sweater for the competition. At last a few months off until February, Fresno decided to not have an installation but we did go to Fresno to attend a graveside service for Stan Kjar. He was my partner, and a wonderful one at that, my first time as Grand President. It was also with heavy heart we heard of the passing of Mary Esther Filiau. In March San Francisco held their installation at the gorgeous Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda, once again starting the day off with a Bloody Mary. I must say we were a bit rusty at the installation after so much time off, but it is always in good fun as that is more appreciated than a perfect installation, at least I think so. Dan and I drove down to Fresno to join them at Denny's for their February meeting. Next I sat home on my iPad and joined in Haywards Zoom meeting. I was a bit skeptical but they do an awesome job. Better yet was to see them live and in person at their installation in Benicia at the Union Hotel. Thanks to Stuart and Sue Mahler for the after dinner party.

That wraps up my year as Grand President.

I'm absolutely convinced Bob and Tracey will do a fantastic job.

Now let's enjoy the convention.

Natalie #15 moved to accept the Grand President's report as read seconded by Deanna #11, accepted as read. Grand Vice President Tracey #16 returned the meeting back to the Grand President Kathy #16.

**Grand Secretary's Report:** The GS Natalie #15 read the Grand Secretary's report. (See attached). The Inventory Report PGP pins 6; PP pins 6; 50 yr. pins 24; 25 yr. pins 155; Local Lodge rituals 5; Grand Lodge rituals 4; Grand Lodge Regalia 2; Grand Lodge gavels 2; Constitution & Laws 5; song books 9; Old Charters 2; old records; briefcase. Our membership as of January 2, 2024 was 197; Initiated 4; Reinstated 0; Deceased -6; Withdrawn -4; Suspended -1; Total membership as of December 31, 2024 is 190. Doris #8 moved and Martha #9 seconded to accept the report, carried.

**Grand Treasurer's Report:** The GT, Pat Brouillette #1 read her report. (See attached). Sena Marie #9 moved Martha #11 seconded to accept the report as read, carried.

**Scholarship Fund Report:** GT, Pat #1, read the Scholarship Fund Reports. (See attached). Dennis #3 moved to accept the reports as read, Jessica #3 seconded the motion, carried.

**Grand Trustee's Report:** #1 GT, Jessica #3 read the report. (See attached) Mac #1 moved to accept the reports seconded by Karen #16, motion carried.

**Committee Report:** Nominating, Kathy C. #3 introduced the others of the committee: Stuart #1 and Deanna #11 and Colleen #15 the Nominating Resource Specialist. So don't run when they approach you.

**Appointment of Committees:** GP Kathy #16 appointed the following committees, with the first named being the Chair:

**Finance:** Rowland #1, Lynn #10;

**Premium:** Kay #11, Karen #16;

**Resolution:** Denise #1, Jana #15;

**Law:** Susan #1, Daniel #3, Anette #9;

Deanna #11 announced that Bethel Lutheran Home is no longer a non-profit and moved to remove it from our donations, seconded by Rowland, carried.

**Correspondence:** Beth Cowan #1 how deeply honored to have been awarded Dannebrog member of the year 2024. Thank you so very much for this honor; Dorothy Petersen #4's change of address; Aldersly thank you for donation; Thank you from Bethel Lutheran Home for our donation; Thank you from Solvang Lutheran Home for our donation; Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke #9 Reno, wishing us a an enjoyable convention and to note their installation of officers is October 3, 2025; Danebod #16, President Tracey and Kathy Thomsen Secretary congratulation on another successful year and best wishes for the upcoming convention;

Jana told us about a Danish organization in Selma that has 4 activities a year to promote Danish culture. It is Danish American Historical Society of CA or DAHSC. Doris #8, GL moved to donate \$75 that had gone to Bethel Lutheran Home go to Danish American Historical Society of CA in Selma, Anette seconded, carried.

**Bills:** GP Kathy #16 called for the reading of the bills:

Grand Officers Travel to Convention

Stuart O. Mahler, GPP	\$25.00	
Kathy Thomsen, GP	\$25.00	
Tracey Lamee, GVP	\$25.00	
Natalie Heer, GS	\$25.00	
Pat Brouillette, PT	\$25.00	
Dennis Nielsen, GM	\$25.00	
Susan Gauthier, GVP	\$25.00	
Jessica Jobe Sea, GT#1	\$25.00	
Kathy Christensen, GT#2	\$25.00	
Jillian Baker, GT#3	<u>\$25.00</u>	
	\$250.00	\$250.00

## INSTALLATION TRAVEL EXPENSES

Grand President (Tracey Lamee \$225.00)	\$450.00	(1/2 at Convention & 1/2 the following January)
Grand Marshal (Susan Gauthier \$200.00)	<u>\$400.00</u>	(1/2 at Convention & 1/2 the following January)
	\$850.00	\$425.00

## DONATIONS/DUES

Aldersly-Dues	\$45.00	
Danish American Historical Society of CA-Donation	\$75.00	
Solvang Lutheran Home-Donation	<u>\$75.00</u>	
	\$195.00	\$195.00

## ADMINISTRATION

Grand Secretary's Expenses (Natalie)	\$350.00	
Grand Treasurer's Expenses (Pat)	\$150.00	
Web Master (Susan G.)	<u>\$150.00</u>	
	\$650.00	\$650.00
Membership Prize	<u>\$15.00</u>	
	\$15.00	<u>\$15.00</u>

Grand Total \$1,535.00

The bills were referred to the Finance Committee.

**Grand Presidents luncheon:** Deanna invited the PGPs to her room for cocktails before lunch.

**Recess:** GP Kathy #16 called for a recess to reconvene at 2:00 pm.

**Reconvene:** 2:00 pm

**Nominating Committee:** Kathy then put on the engineer's hat reported working with Stuart #1 and Deanna also Colleen #15 NCRS, being able to make some nominations she read the following:

Grand Vice Marshal	Anette Christensen #9
Grand Trustee #1	Kathy Christensen #3
Grand Trustee #2	Daniel Joensen #3
Grand Trustee #3	Jessica Jobe Sea #3
Grand Marshal	Susan Gauthier #1
Grand Secretary	Natalie Heer #15
Grand Treasurer	Pat Brouillette #1
Grand Vice President	Dennis Nielsen #3
Grand President	Tracey Lamee #16
Grand Past President	Kathy Thomsen #16

Doris #8 moved to accept the Nominating Committee's report, Deanna #11 seconded, motion carried.

GP Kathy #16 read: of the twenty-three (23) original branches of Dannebrog which became official in 1915 eight (8) remain:

- Valborg#1 A traditional festival celebrated in Scandinavia to celebrate the coming of spring. Pagan celebration of fertility;
- Thyra #3 First queen of Denmark, married to Gorm the Old, Old Norse name translates to "Follower of Thor" god of thunder;
- Dannevirke#9 "Danework" a system of Danish fortification of Danish Schleswig Holstein;
- Ydun #10 Goddess of youth and fertility;
- Thora #11 Associated with the thunder-god Thor;
- Dana #15 Celtic god, not Norse, of nature, fertility & wisdom;
- Danebod #16 One who mends or saves the Danes, Denmark adornment;
- Valkyrien #23 Norse "chosen of the slain" female warriors who selected fallen warriors to escort to Valhalla. Symbol of bravery, strength and honor in battle.

**Premium Committee:** Kay #9 and Karen #16 presented Valborg #1 with \$15.00 for the Branch who brought in the most members. Greg Gleeson for bringing in the most new members received the Grand Presidents prize. GP Kathy #16 requested GM Dennis #3 to take the report to the GT Pat #1.

**Other bills:** GT Pat #1 read the recipients of scholarships each received \$250.00: Ian Nielsen, Kiana Gleeson, Madison Gleeson, Robert Jensen, Don Osborn and Krista Thomsen. For a total of \$1,500.00; Member of the Year award \$129.51; PGP gavel guard \$64.18

**Correspondence:** Thank you from Kiana Gleeson for her scholarship, she is extremely grateful for our support which will help her in continuing to pursue her nursing degree; Dana #15 President Jana Heer and Secretary Natalie Heer may you have a wonderful time in this beautiful venue.

GVP Tracey #16 and GVP Bob #7 will be creating a committee to review the local branch installation ritual to try and streamline the ritual.

**Unfinished Business:** GVM Susan #1 noted that the per capita of \$10.00 with \$2.00 to go to the Scholarship Fund. She moved that the \$2.00 go to the General Fund and no longer donate to the Scholarship Fund seconded and carried.

GP Kathy #16 read from a wonderful find from Solvang: Queen Thyra Danebod written by Chantal Minchin & Sophea Hjorth Ward and translated by Olsen & Olsen. This story might explain why she earned the name 'Danebod' or Denmark's pride. Her resourcefulness and clever decisions over came starvation and misery, so she did well in difficult times.

**Reconvene:** to reconvene at 10:00 am Saturday.

**April 11,** GP Kathy #16 proceeded with opening Saturday with the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and singing of America the Beautiful and Vift Stolt Paa Kodans Bølge. GP Kathy #16 reminded Rowland to attend the GVM when away from the door. GM Dennis # and GVM Susan #1 collected the password. Roll call was taken with all present.

**Resolution Committee** We the Resolution Committee representing the Grand Officers, Past Presidents and the Delegates of Dania Ladies Society Dannebrog of California and Nevada at this 110th Convention on April 11th through the 13th of 2025, express our sincere appreciation for another successful event hosted by Dania's Dannevang #7, and Dannebrog's Danebod #16 of Livermore California.

**Thanks for the Memories!**

They really outdid themselves this time, making it look so easy, might have something to do with working out all the details last year. They have the staff at Mission De Oro in Santa Nella so well versed in the particularities required by Dania and Dannebrog it seems a shame to try and hold any future conventions anywhere else. We are most thankful for them for omitting a couple of details this year - the wind and the rain - whatever the Convention Committee had to do to bring out the sun . . . Awesome Job Tracy Lamee, Bob Lamee, Kathy Thomsen, Dan Holm, Jackie Nielsen, Sherrill Reinstein-Esposito and Louie Esposito, **Mange Tak!**

Each hotel staff member from the Management team of Lisa Trujillo and Chanacey Ciufto to Housekeeping, Food and Beverage and Security responded to every request with a genuine smile and a positive and helpful attitude which went a long way to ensure an enjoyable stay. Due to the close attention paid by the staff to the details regarding our room setups and arrangements for our business meetings and receptions everything ran smoothly and seamlessly. Everything was comfortably in the right place at the right time.

**Thank you so very much Mission De Oro.** (Jana paused)

**Entrance of a delegation from Dania:** GVP Bob #7 invited us to an open installation of Grand Officers at 1:30pm. Delegates from Danmark #2 invited us to the 2026 Convention April 9-11 here in Mission de Oro.

(Jana continued) From the moment Past Grand President Jackie Nielsen checked us in, the evidence of the combined efforts and generosity were in the bag, goodie bag that is. Thanks go out to Doris Skow for the dried apricots, Kathy Thomsen for the fresh almonds, Martha Nielsen for bringing out favorite little boxes of Sun Maid raisins and John Scheuber for the mini bottles of wine. Additionally grateful to see was the two essential food groups to sustain us through the 3 days - chocolate and water! It's always fun to look through the program for the schedule of events, photos and names of the Grand Officers and the roster of

delegates plus the decades long lists of Past Grand Presidents and Members of the year. All to let us know where we are and remind us how far we've come. It wouldn't be our Danish Convention Coffee Breaks without the much anticipated delicious pastries provided by Bent and Susie Olsen hand delivered from their famous Olsen's Danish Village Bakery in Solvang California.

**Thank you all for maintaining our treasured traditions.**

Throughout the convention a wide variety of generously donated raffle prizes by many local lodges and members were beautifully displayed and admired and coveted in the Raffle Room. Cherice Coil and Kindle Frederich spent three days cheerfully unrolling yards of raffle tickets with the added assurance that we each had just purchased the luckiest ones. Friday evening as we wound down from a full day of business we were treated to two very interesting presentations by Modesto member Bente Ellis and San Francisco's Ian Nielsen. Bente spoke to us about the wonderful collections, work and services being provided by the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn Iowa, pamphlets and flyers were made available to us throughout the convention, thank you Bente. Ian, who we are proud to say has been granted scholarships from both Dania and Dannebrog, told us of his studies and his success with projects involving innovative ecologically advanced contributions to the Agriculture Industry, we appreciated that he waited till we finished eating to enlighten us to the benefits of Cow "Patties". Speaking of eating - our Thursday evening reception and Friday and Saturday meals were generous, delicious and beautifully presented and devoured after which on Friday and Saturday the lights were lowered, the laser lights lit up the walls and the energy of "Mo Eazy" of *Meraz Event Services* got us up on the floor to bust our best moves while the luckiest of us claimed our raffle prizes. **Thank you Mo** and again to Cherice and Kindle for adding to the anticipation and excitement of both evenings.

Friday night's theme, "Day at the Game" resulted in a room full of colorful and creative interpretations of sport fandom. *Meraz Event Services* also provided a special addition to the Saturday Gala Banquet. We all had the opportunity to pose dressed in our finest for instant photos in front of a shimmery red a white backdrop. Fun props added to the joy of capturing the memorable moments with family and friends.

The Mission De Oro's beautiful early California architecture and interiors provided the perfect setting for our Annual Grand Installation of Officers and the following Gala Banquet that evening. Congratulations to all our newly installed Grand Officers of 2025-26 with a special acknowledgement to our new Grand Presidents Tracy and Bob Lamee, we all enjoyed your lovely reception, we especially loved being in the company of your delightful grandchildren as they demonstrated their energetic moves on the dance floor. We are all looking forward to the coming year under your inspiring leadership.

Last but not least it is our honor and privilege to extend our greetings and appreciation to our Royal family in Danmark with special Birthday wishes to our new King, His Majesty King Frederick X in celebration of his 57th birthday on May 26th 2025 as well as to his beloved mother Queen Margrethe II on her 85th birthday April 16th 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Dannebrog Resolution Committee 2025

Jana Heer - Dana #15 Salinas

Denise Andersen - Valborg #1 Hayward

Martha #11 moved to accept the Resolution Report seconded by Colleen #15 carried.

**Finance Committee:** Rowland #1 and Lynn #10 approved the payment of all. Doris #8, GL moved to accept the report and Susan #1 seconded, carried.

**Law Committee:** Daniel #3, Susan #1 and Anette #9 reported after a thorough due diligence we have done over the last few days we found nothing presented have been in violation of the Constitution.

GP Kathy #16 released all her committees.

**Correspondence:** Greeting to Dannebrog from Thyra #3 we hope that everyone is enjoying the convention as a time to reconnect to the friends, family and traditions we hold dear. Thank you to the Grand Lodge Officers who support our local lodge communities throughout the year and who keep the Grand Lodge functions running. Special thanks to the Convention Committee of Dannevang #7 and Danebod #16 for organizing such a wonderful event. Tusind Tak Tracey Beste Helsen, Thyra #3

**Recess:** to reconvene at 10:45 am.

**Reconvene:** Deanna #11 moved to accept the report of nominees by acclamation, Doris #8 GL, seconded the motion, and carried. Martha #11 asked to have the names of nominated officer read: GP Kathy #16 read: PGP Kathy Thomsen, GP Tracey Lamee, GVP Dennis Nielsen, GS Natalie Heer, GT Pat Brouillette, GM Susan Gauthier, GVM Anette Christensen, Grand Trustees #1 Kathy Christensen, #2 Daniel Joensen, #3 Jessica Job Sea.

**New Business:** Stuart #1 moved the incoming Grand President (Tracey Lamee #16) to appoint a committee to collaborate with a Dania committee to review the current installation of officer's ritual in the local branches and the installation of Grand Officer's in the Grand Lodge, and to make recommendations if any, Signe Ann #1 seconded, carried.

**Green March:** GM Dennis #3 prepared the money jar and we then all filed by with our donations to go to the Scholarship Fund.

**Good of the Order:** GP Kathy #16 asked GM Dennis #3 to escort Jackie Nielsen and Tracey Lamee to her station. On behalf of Danebod #16 she had the honor to present both with their 25 year pins.

GP Kathy #16 had presented each of her grand officers with thank you gifts.

GS Natalie #15 thanked her for the beautiful coffee mug from the Museum of Danish America filled with goodies.

GVP Tracey #16 also thanked for her gift and wonderful memories.

GT #2 Kathy C. #3 also thanked for her gift.

GVM Susan #1 also thanked for her gift. She also requested from Lynn #10 the information she shared yesterday to put on the website, as well as the information about Ian Nielsen.

Advisor Anette #9 thanked GP for her gift and it was an honor of being your advisor. GP Kathy #16 thanked her for being by her side.

GM Dennis #3 thanked for his gift, very nice from the Museum. Hope you like it and pour some Akvavit into your cup.

GT #1 Jessica #3 thank you for the gift and shared a recipe from Peter Schakow Denmark #2: put a dime in the bottom of your coffee mug and fill with coffee until you can't see the dime then fill with Akvavit until you can see the dime again and it will be ready to drink! Anette #9 can contest that is the true recipe for drinking Akvavit in coffee.

Daniel #3 had a little story for the Good of the Order: we had a congratulation to King Frederik X on his birthday, had another story in 1993 when we were in graduate school together in Cambridge Massachusetts and he turned 25 just before we both graduated and I hosted his birthday party as a young man went by and alias for you have to have a last name to register in schools, and because he didn't have a last name he was Frederik Hendersen. He was a very different man than what we see today. He grew up. For the record he was a fine young man and today he is a fine young man.

Doris Skow #8 GL listed highlights of her time as a Danish member throughout the years starting in 1949 through to today. She is a 76 year member of Dannebrog. On July 16<sup>th</sup> of this year she will be 96 year's young. She is very proud of this organization and of everything it does and tries to do in addition to what it tries to accomplish. I see we have a lot of new blood coming along and new strength and ideas and the more we can do those things the better we will grow which is the most important. If you get a chance to visit the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa, do so. Congratulations to GP Kathy who did a wonderful job and congratulation to all the incoming officers and looking forward to the rest of the day.

Sena Marie #9 also has wonderful memories of her years in Dannebrog.

**Green March:** GT Pat #1 announced that the Green March had collected \$324.00 to the Scholarship Fund, plus \$5.00 phone call.

**Good of the Order:** GP Kathy #16 turned the meeting over to GVP Tracey Lamee #16.

I was initiated into Danebod #16 in June 1982, one month after Bob and I got married. My mother-in-law Dorothy, was really deep in the local lodge and the various events (in fact, she put me on the drill team right away), and took so much pride in her Danish heritage. I feel so lucky to have been welcomed into our local branch and to have learned about the Danes and

the Lamee Danish heritage. As Bob and I started getting involved with the Grand Lodge, I again felt so welcomed with open arms into this extended Danish family (in spite of my red hair, pale skin, and freckles.)

When I started going through the chairs, I thought about what would be a good password during my term. From the beginning, the one word that always kept coming to mind is "Friendship." Again, I have felt so welcomed into this amazing group and so appreciate the friendships I've seen and made.

I've asked Signe Ann McNeil to be my advisor. She has always been so supportive and encouraging during this journey. Not to mention she is a treasure trove of information. Signe Ann, I so appreciate your saying "yes". This is going to be a fun year, and I look forward to leaning so much from you.

The nominating committee for this year will be Susan Gauthier, Anette Christensen, and Kathy Thomsen. Thanks to you all for agreeing to do this.

As you know, Bob and I started this journey out as a set so we're going to continue that way. We've heard, and you've probably heard too, ramblings about the installation ritual and that it needs some rework. So he and I will be putting together a joint Dania and Dannebrog committee, to look at the installation ritual and see what may need to be updated and look for ways to make it a little more user-friendly.

The other thing we will be working on is a kind of Dania/Dannebrog officer "user manual" that each person can reference specific to their office and that is easy to reference

That's it for me. Thank you for electing me Grand President. I never expected this in my wildest dreams. I'm excited for the upcoming year and seeing you all at the various events.

Before I turn it back to Kathy, there are a couple of details about I'd like to pass along:

Installation will start at 1:30 pm in the Franciscan room where we were last night.

The GP cocktail hour will be back there in the Isabella Room starting at 5:00, with dinner at 6:00

Thanks, Kathy, back to you.

GM Dennis #3 moved to accept the GVP's report seconded by GT #2 Kathy C. #3, motion carried.

GM Dennis #3 escorted GP Kathy #16 around the meeting room as we all stood and clapped her around the room.

GP Kathy #16 directed GM Dennis #3 to escort #1 GT Jessica #3 to her station along with her paraphernalia. He was escorted back to her station. GM Dennis #3 please escort #1 GT elect Kathy C. #3 to the GP where she presented the GT's paraphernalia to Kathy #3 and then had GM Dennis #3 escort her back to her station.

GP Kathy #16 called on the GM Dennis #3 to bring Denise Andersen Valborg #1 to her station where she presented Denise #1 with the check for \$15.00 to Valborg #1 for bringing in the most members and the Grand President's prize to Greg Gleeson for recommending the most new members.

GM Dennis #3 escorted Kathy C. #3 chair of the nominating committee passing on the heavy engineers cap to Susan #1 who is now the chair of the Nominating Committee.

**Closing:** There being no further business, we sang the closing song, gave the sign, and the GP Kathy #16 closed the Convention in due form until we meet again in April 9-11, 2026 at the Hotel Mission De Oro in Santa Nella for Convention hosted by Thyra #3 Dannebrog and Danmark #2 Dania Lodges of San Francisco.

Natalie Heer  
Grand Secretary

**Installation of Officers:** The Installation of Grand Officers, of Dannebrog and Dania for 2025 – 2026, was held Saturday April 12, 2025, at 1:30 p. m. Installing Grand Past President, Stuart Mahler #1 Dannebrog and Jr. Past Grand President Tom Martin Danmark #2, were assisted by Installing Grand Marshals Deanna Dunbar #11 Dannebrog and Bente Ellis #14 Dania and Installing Grand Vice Marshals Beth Cowan Valborg #1 Dannebrog and Jana Heer, Freja #6 Dania.

Dannebrog

Grand Past President Kathy Thomsen  
Grand President Tracey Lamee  
Grand Vice President Dennis Nielsen  
Grand Secretary Natalie Heer  
Grand Treasurer Pat Brouillette  
Grand Marshal Susan Gauthier  
Grand Vice Marshal Anette Christensen  
Grand Trustee Kathy Christensen  
Grand Trustee Daniel Joensen  
Grand Trustee Jessica Jobe Sea

Dania

Jr. Past Grand President Dan Holm  
Grand President Robert Lamee  
Grand Vice President James Olef Jensen  
Grand Secretary Tim Heer  
Grand Treasurer Greg Gleeson  
Grand Marshal Greg Gleeson  
Grand Vice Marshal John Jensen  
Grand Trustee John Scheuber  
Grand Trustee Steen Skjellerup  
Grand Trustee Johanne Rasmussen Gade

At 5:00 pm following the installation, the Grand President's reception hosted by our new GPs Tracey and Robert, was a wonderful time to greet our new Grand Officers.

During the Grand Ball Dinner and Dance, the Raffle Committee continued to delight those present with wonderful raffle gifts to the lucky winners.

Dannebrog's Grand President Tracey Lamee introduced his new corps of Grand Officers. Then she reviewed the highlights of The Dannebrog Member of the Year recipient who is very proud of the family's Danish heritage, worked to raise fund for the Senior Assistance Fund, has been very active in the local branch as well as Grand Lodge, currently a dedicated member of Dannebrog and Dania, promotes membership and encourages members becoming Grand Officers, Tracey presented a plate etched with the Danish woven heart to our Dannebrog Member of the Year, Stuart O. Mahler 2025.

Dania's Grand President Robert Lamee in turn introduced his new corps of Grand Officers. Bob then read the accomplishments of the 2025 Dania Member of the Year. His many years of service to Holger Danske #27 since 1956, 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic, US Army National Guard, Meals on Wheels, and Elks Rodeo support youth programs in Santa Maria. This award was presented to Dania Member of the Year, Elvin 'Slim' Juhl 2025.

These awards are well deserved and congratulations to you both!