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**THE CONSTITUTION**

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## THE CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME, OBJECTS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY

##### Section 1

The name of the Society shall be: The Danish Society Dania of California and Nevada.

##### Section 2

The aims and objects of the Society shall be: To unite under its banner people of Danish descent, as described in Article XXI, who want to aid members in sickness and distress; to procure work for unemployed members; to secure a fitting funeral and burial for deceased members; to insure the fitting and proper care of the elderly members; to give educational scholarships to members and their families; to preserve the Danish culture, heritage and history, and to create and encourage knowledge of Danish art, heritage, history, culture and sciences; to arrange social gatherings, including lectures and discussions, etc., and to support such movements which, in the judgment of the Society, will advance and further its welfare and create esteem for the Danish nationality among our fellow citizens; and to create love and interest among its members for these United States so as to loyally perform our duties as good American citizens.

##### Section 3

The Society shall consist of a Grand Lodge and local Branches. Local Branches may be organized in areas west of the Rocky Mountains where a sufficient number of people express a desire to organize a local Branch.

##### Section 4

Neither the Grand Lodge nor any local Branch may adopt laws, which in any way interfere with the political or religious rights of a member.

##### Section 5

The Society shall have the prerogative to procure, buy, receive, own and control real estate, personal property, bonds and documents of all descriptions, and may sell, assign, transfer and/or mortgage the same.

### ARTICLE II

#### THE GRAND LODGE

##### Section 1

The Grand Lodge, when in session, is the highest authority of the Society, legislative as well as judicial. It may adopt a Constitution. It may adopt such further laws, rules, regulations and duties for the implementation of the purpose and aims of this Society, which do not conflict with this Constitution and which terminate at the convening of the next succeeding convention.

##### Section 2

The Grand Lodge is conducted by the following corps of officers:

- Junior Past Grand President
- Grand President
- Grand Vice President
- Grand Secretary
- Grand Treasurer
- Grand Marshal
- Grand Vice Marshal
- Three Grand Trustees

### Section 3

The Grand Lodge shall consist of the Grand Officers, all Past Grand Presidents and all duly elected delegates from the local Branches. All members of the Grand Lodge, hereafter referred to as voting members, shall have the right to vote on all matters, save and except that the Grand President may cast a vote only where there is a tie, or where it is necessary to obtain a result. If a person has a right to vote in more than one capacity during each vote, he shall have a total of only one vote. All voting members shall have speaking privileges.

### Section 4

The Grand Lodge, unless otherwise set forth in this Constitution, shall have the following prerogatives:

1. To determine the composition of the Grand Lodge.
2. To determine the duties, compensation and the amount of expense reimbursement of officers and committees. (4-2019)
3. To levy and collect taxes and dues for the purposes of carrying out the aims and objects of the Society and for its administration.
4. To establish a general fund, a funeral and burial fund, a funeral and burial Trustees' fund, a sick benefit fund a sick benefit Trustees' fund, and such other funds as needed by the Society and to adopt such rules and regulations for the administration of these funds. The general fund may also be used for funeral and burial benefits, sick benefits, and other such benefits; appropriate accounting will be made. (4-2019)
5. To adopt and prescribe rituals to be used for the organization of new local Branches, and at the installation of officers, installation of candidates, funerals, etc.
6. To adopt and prescribe the form of emblems, regalias, blanks, bonds, and certificates to be used in the Society.
7. To participate in discussions with other Danish societies in the United States; to develop a plan of cooperation for the mutual benefit of the Danish societies, and pass laws and legislation for such cooperation.
8. To hear an appeal from a decision of the Executive Committee, if the said appeal is filed within 30 days after the decision of the Executive Committee is appealed, then the decision of the Executive Committee is stayed until a decision of the Grand Lodge is issued.
9. To sit as a court and have jurisdiction in all cases concerning its own members. It is the Supreme Court in all appeals from local Branches and from the Executive Committee. Its pronouncement of judgment is final and decisive.

## ARTICLE III

### THE CONVENTION OF THE GRAND LODGE

#### Section 1

The Grand Lodge shall meet at least once a year, and the meetings shall be officially known as conventions. The conventions shall remain in session until all business brought before it has been considered and acted upon.

#### Section 2

Par. 1. In case of wars, epidemics or other elements endangering the public welfare, the Grand President together with the Executive Committee shall be empowered to postpone a regular convention until such state of urgency has been overcome, but must call a regular convention within six months after the conclusion of such a state of urgency.

Par. 2. If conditions should prevent the Grand Lodge from holding a yearly convention, the present Grand Officers and all regulations shall continue through the next succeeding convention.

#### Section 3

The local Branch in charge of the convention for the ensuing year shall, at least four months prior to the opening of the convention, inform the Grand Secretary of the date and place for holding same.

#### Section 4

Par. 1. Extraordinary conventions may be called at any time by the Grand President, with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Par. 2. The Grand President shall call an extraordinary convention whenever one-third of the local Branches shall demand it. If the Grand President declines to comply with this demand then an appeal may be made to the Executive Committee whose duty it shall then be to call a convention.

Par. 3. Whenever an extraordinary convention is called, the Grand Secretary shall notify the local Branches of the time, date and place of the said extraordinary convention in the usual manner. The reason for calling said extraordinary convention must be clearly stated and no other matters, except as so stated, shall be considered at such convention.

#### Section 5

Upon the convening of the Grand Lodge, the following order of business is to be followed:

1. Meeting opened; password taken up.
2. Roll call of Grand Officers, delegates and Past Grand Presidents
3. Reading of minutes of previous Meetings.
4. Report of Grand President
5. Report of Executive Committee.
6. Report of Grand Secretary.
7. Report of Grand Treasurer.
8. Report of Grand Trustees.
9. Report of Standing Committee.
10. Appointment of Convention Standing Committees.
11. Reading of communications.
12. Unfinished business.
13. New business.
14. Good of the Order.
15. Closing of meeting.

#### Section 6

Following the election of the Grand Officers, their installation shall take place either in the regular session of the Convention, under New Business, or a session open to the public, after the close of the convention, to be decided by a majority of the Grand Lodge voting at the said convention.

#### Section 7

The convention is legally constituted when two-thirds of the elected delegates are present.

#### Section 8

The Grand Lodge shall, before the close of a convention, determine by a majority vote which local branch will host the next convention.

#### Section 9

If a member of the Grand Lodge is in arrears for dues in his own local Branch, then he shall be disqualified to sit in the Grand Lodge either as a Grand Officer, delegate, or Past Grand President.

#### Section 10

Par. 1. Voting is done by the raising of a hand and a majority shall rule.

Par. 2. All proposals in regard to the payment of money must have at least two-thirds of the votes cast in favor in order to carry.

Par. 3. A motion to pay out monies cannot be accepted by the Chair unless it clearly states the amount and purpose for which it is to be spent and each expenditure must be considered individually.

Par. 4. On request of two-thirds of the voting members present, the voting shall take place by written ballots.

Par. 5. On request of three-fourths of the voting members present, the voting shall take place by calling the roll, in which case each separate vote shall be recorded in the minutes.

Par. 6. Any member entitled to vote can at any time request that he vote with the minority and have this recorded in the minutes.

#### Section 11

It is the privilege of every member of Dania in good standing to be present at the meetings of the convention.

#### Section 12

The sum of THREE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$300.00) shall be paid to the local Branch sponsoring the convention.

### ARTICLE IV

#### DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION OF THE GRAND LODGE

##### Section 1

Three (3) months before the opening date of the convention the Grand Secretary shall inform the local Branches of the exact date and place for holding same.

##### Section 2

Election of delegates must take place in time so the Grand Secretary is notified at least sixty days before the convention opens. The names of duly elected delegates and alternates must be submitted to the Grand Secretary in writing and signed by the recording secretary or secretary of the respective local Branch.

##### Section 3

Delegates shall be elected in the following ratio: Local Branches consisting of 25 members or less: Three (3) delegates, and thereafter one (1) delegate for every twenty five (25) members or fraction thereof.

##### Section 4

Any number of alternates deemed necessary by the local Branch shall be elected at the same time, who shall act whenever a regular elected delegate is prevented from attending the Grand Lodge Convention.

##### Section 5

Past presidents, and current serving presidents and vice presidents shall be eligible for election as delegates to the Grand Lodge. However, any member who has held the office of financial secretary, recording secretary, secretary, or treasurer for at least three years shall also be eligible.

##### Section 6

A local Branch may elect any member in good standing as a delegate to the Grand Lodge if it cannot secure enough eligible delegates to accept nomination. However, such members shall be ineligible to hold office in the Grand Lodge.

## Section 7

Delegates and alternates are elected for one (1) Grand Lodge term, which dates from the opening of the convention succeeding their election until the opening of the next ordinary succeeding convention.

## Section 8

It is the duty of every Grand Officer and delegate to be present at every session of a convention. Should a Grand Officer or delegate be absent from two (2) consecutive sessions of a convention without a valid excuse, he shall be considered as having voluntarily resigned and shall have lost his seat, office and position in the Grand Lodge.

# ARTICLE V

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT THE CONVENTION OF THE GRAND LODGE

### Section 1

Any voting member of the convention shall be eligible for nomination to a Grand Lodge office.

### Section 2

Election of Grand Officers is done on individual ballots by writing in the name of one (1) nominee. Nominations must precede elections and separate ballots must be had for each office to be filled.

### Section 3

Absolute majority of all votes cast is required before a candidate can be declared elected. Where there are three (3) or more candidates for an office, and neither receives an absolute majority on the first ballot, the name of the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be dropped and this same procedure is to be followed until an absolute majority is obtained.

### Section 4

Before the election is opened, the Grand President shall appoint an election committee consisting of the three (3) members who take their places in the center of the hall. The Grand Marshal and the Grand Vice Marshal shall distribute the ballots. Balloting shall be by roll call, the committee shall count the same and announce the results. At the order of the Grand President, one of the members of the election committee shall open each ballot, acquaint himself with the contents and pass the ballot to the second member who shall read the contents aloud and thereafter pass the ballot to the third member for verification. The Grand Secretary shall keep an accurate list of the number of the votes for each candidate and shall read the results aloud after each vote. When it appears that a candidate has reached an absolute majority, the Grand President shall declare him elected.

### Section 5

With the exception of the Grand Trustees, the Grand Officers are elected for one (1) term at a time, which means until the close of the next ordinary convention and until the successor of the individual Officer is elected and lawfully inducted into office. One Grand Trustee, whose terms shall be three (3) years, shall be elected at each convention and one (1) Grand Trustee retires at the close of each ordinary convention. The three (3) Grand Trustees are called according to their seniority first, second and third Grand Trustee.

ARTICLE VI  
STANDING COMMITTEES AT THE CONVENTION  
OF THE GRAND LODGE

Section 1

Par. 1. The Grand President shall appoint the following committees on the first day of the convention, each to consist of three (3) members.

- a) A committee on laws, which shall be a fact finding committee, whose duty it shall be to examine all proposals for new laws or amendments of old laws, under which Article, Section, or Paragraph of the laws they should be inserted and to report any and all problems and conflicts that the said committee finds.
- b) A committee on resolutions.

Par. 2. These two (2) committees serve during the duration of the convention.

Section 2

On the last day of the convention, just before adjournment, the Grand President shall appoint the auditing committee and Advisory Board.

Section 3

Par. 1. The auditing committee, consisting of three (3) members, shall have access to all of the books and account of the Grand Officers at any time.

Par. 2. Prior to each convention, the auditing committee shall examine and audit the books and accounts of the Grand Officers and render a report to the Grand Lodge at the Convention. This report, after having been received, shall be added to the Convention Report of the Grand Lodge.

Section 4

The Advisory Board shall have three (3) members, one (1) appointed each year for a term of three (3) years, and shall make a report of any and all recommendations that it sees fit at each convention. Once the said report has been received, it shall be added to the Convention Report of the Grand Lodge.

Section 5

Such other special committees needed to carry out Grand Lodge business shall be appointed by the Grand President.

Section 6

Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, all vacancies occurring on any committee shall be appointed by the Grand President.

ARTICLE VII  
LAWS GOVERNING THE GRAND LODGE

Section 1

The Grand Officers listed below are entitled to a draw from the General Fund for expenses incurred while carrying out the responsibilities of their respective positions:

- Grand President
- Grand Marshall
- Grand Secretary
- Grand Treasurer
- Grand Trustees

The amount of the draw will be determined at the Annual Convention for the upcoming year's activities. The term of the Grand Lodge is the period of time between annual conventions.



## Section 2

The Grand Lodge shall furnish the local Branches with a seal, regalia membership badges, membership cards, application blanks, rituals, which shall be paid for by the local Branches to the Grand Lodge at its cost.

## Section 3

The Grand Lodge shall, without charge, furnish each local Branch with a charter, copies of this Constitution, blank for bonds, if used, as well as blanks for the report of the various offices of the local Branch, and give the local Branch a number following the number of the last previous established local Branch.

## Section 4

Par. 1 All communications from the Grand Lodge and the Executive Committee to local Branches must be signed by the Grand Secretary with the seal of the Grand Lodge attached and a copy of such communications and the date of sending must be entered in the records.

Par. 2. The sending of such communications to the last address furnished the Grand Secretary by a local Branch, or the secretary thereof, shall be considered as satisfactory evidence that the same has been lawfully sent by the Grand Secretary and received by the local Branch, and all acts resulting from same shall be considered as lawful and binding.

## Section 5

All payments to the Grand Lodge shall be sent to the Grand Secretary by check or money order made payable to the Grand Lodge of The Danish Society.

## Section 6

The term of the Grand Lodge is the period of time between two (2) ordinary conventions.

## Section 7

A report of the financial condition of the Grand Lodge as of the 31st day of December of each calendar year shall be prepared by the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and Grand Trustees. The Grand Secretary shall furnish a sufficient quantity of all financial reports for the members of the Grand Lodge and distribute the same to each of them at the opening of the convention. These financial reports shall be added to the Convention Report of the Grand Lodge after its approval.

## ARTICLE VIII

### **RULES OF ORDER AT CONVENTION OF GRAND LODGE**

#### Section 1

The Grand President shall maintain order during the meetings. He shall announce the result of every vote and shall judge in all questions in dispute and his decision shall be final, unless appeal is made to the convention, which then has the authority to decide. In such case, the Grand Vice President shall put the matter to a vote.

#### Section 2

When a motion is made and seconded, the Grand President shall put the motion before the house. When a motion is put before the house by the Grand President, it shall be open for discussion, and the proposer shall at any time be privileged to withdraw the motion before it is voted on. When all whom wish has expressed themselves, the Grand President shall put the motion to a vote.

#### Section 3

When a motion is before the house, nothing else shall have consideration except the following motions:

1. To adjourn.
2. To call for a recess.

3. Rise to a point of order.
4. To lay on the table.
5. To close debate.
6. To postpone to a definite time.
7. To refer to a committee.
8. To amend.
9. To indefinitely postpone.

These motions shall have precedence in the order they are presented on the floor.

#### Section 4

The motion to close the debate must carry with at least a two-thirds majority vote and when the proposal to adjourn the meeting is made before the vote upon a motion it must carry with at least two-third majority vote.

#### Section 5

No interruption of the voting member speaking shall be allowed and anyone so doing shall be called to order.

#### Section 6

A voting member, on being called to order, shall resume his seat until this question is decided and he may then continue by permission.

#### Section 7

When a voting member desires to speak he shall rise and request permission from the Grand President. If two or more rise at the same time the Grand President shall decide who shall speak first.

#### Section 8

A voting member shall, when speaking, confine himself to the matter under consideration and avoid all personalities.

#### Section 9

No one may speak more than once on the matter until all who wish to do so shall have expressed themselves.

#### Section 10

A motion to reconsider a vote can be made by two (2) voting members who voted with the majority.

#### Section 11

Should the Grand President desire to join in the discussion, he may do so by turning the meeting over to the Grand Vice President.

#### Section 12

All documents, resolutions, rules, alterations, amendments, regulations, papers and reports, save and except the reports of the Laws and Resolutions Committees, which are submitted to the Grand Lodge at its convention for consideration by the Grand Lodge, shall be submitted with sufficient copies for all voting members who are present, at the cost of the submitter.

#### Section 13

No one may leave the meeting without permission from the Grand President.

#### Section 14

A single paragraph of this article or a part of such paragraph can be suspended during the meeting by a two-thirds majority vote, but permanent changes in these rules or order must be proposed and carried in the same manner as is done in regard to changes in the laws governing the Grand Lodge.

## Section 15

All parliamentary questions which cannot be decided according to these laws and rules shall be decided according to the latest edition of Roberts' Rules of Order.

### ARTICLE IX

#### GRAND OFFICERS

##### Section 1

##### Duties of Grand Officers

Besides the duties enumerated in this article, it shall be the duty of each Grand Officer to acquaint and familiarize himself with this Constitution, the Laws for Dania - Dannebrog Old Age Fund, and particularly, with the laws affecting his own office.

##### Section 2

##### Junior Past Grand President

Par. 1. The office and function of the Junior Past Grand President is assumed by the last retiring Grand President.

Par. 2. To be entitled to the rank and privileges of a Past Grand President, one must have served, as a Grand President" until his successor has been appointed, elected or succeeded to the office or the Grand President.

Par. 3. As he, by virtue of having filled the highest office in the Society, has acquired an intimate knowledge of the laws and workings of the Society, the duties of the Junior Past Grand President shall be to assist the Grand President and the Grand Officers by counsel and service in every way possible.

Par. 4. On his retirement from office, it is his privilege to install the newly elected Grand Officers.

Par. 5. Should the office of Grand President and Grand Vice President be vacant at the same time, then the Junior Past Grand President shall assume the office and position and duties of Grand President until one or both of the said offices and positions have been filled.

Par. 6. He shall chair the Executive Committee and he shall have the right to vote at all times.

Par. 7. If the Grand President is disqualified or does not attend a meeting of the Executive Committee, then the Junior Past Grand President shall temporarily appoint a Past Grand President as a substitute.

##### Section 3

##### The Grand President

Par. 1. The executive authority of the Society is vested in the office and person of the Grand President.

The Grand President:

Par. 2. Is the supreme executive, not only of the Society as a whole but also of each local Branch, and as such shall at all times have authority to examine the books and accounts of the Grand Lodge as well as those of the local Branches, and may at any time, demand a report from the Grand Officers or from the officers of local Branches relative to their respective offices.

Par. 3. May organize new local branches and grant permanent or temporary charters to same.

Par. 4. Shall have authority at any time to assume the presiding chair in a local Branch when such local Branch is assembled in regular meeting, and should the President of such local Branch dispute the authority and adjourn the meeting, then the Grand President shall have the authority to reopen the meeting and continue with the proceedings.

Par. 5. Shall have the authority whenever deemed expedient, to call an extraordinary meeting of a local Branch, provided that notice must be issued at least four days previous to such

meeting. It shall be the duty of such local Secretary to notify each individual member of such local Branch in writing that an extraordinary meeting has been called. Should the local Secretary refuse to issue such notice, or refuse to surrender the names and addresses of the members of the local Branch to the Grand Secretary, then the local secretary shall immediately stand suspended from all the rights and privileges as a secretary. When such a meeting has been assembled, the Grand President shall assume the chair as presiding officer and state the object for which the meeting has been called.

Par. 6. Shall be authorized to designate a Grand Officer to act as a substitute in place and to perform such acts as directed by the Grand President.

Par. 7. In all circumstances, where the authority and jurisdiction to enforce this Constitution are not delegated to any particular Grand Officer, such authority and jurisdiction shall be vested in the office and person of the Grand President.

Par. 8. Shall hear appeals, questions and disputes from the decisions of a local branch or from members. The decision of the Grand President is final but may be appealed to the Executive Committee within 30 days after the issued date. If this decision is appealed, it is stayed until the decision of the Executive Committee is issued.

Par. 9. May appoint an assistant, who must be a Past Grand President, to be seated to the right side of the podium during the convention.

Par. 10. Shall, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, fill all vacancies which occur among Grand Officers or on committees, but such appointments shall terminate with the expiration of the Grand President's term in office.

Par. 11. Shall, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, appoint all committees and the first member appointed shall be considered as the Chairperson of the committee.

Par. 12. Shall open and preside at all the meetings of the Grand Lodge, and shall see that order is maintained and that the laws are followed and carried out, and after the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, shall make a clear and complete report of work performed during the term. The report may also include any suggestion or recommendation deemed advisable to set forth; and once the report has been received and accepted by the Grand Lodge, it shall be included in the Convention Report.

Par. 13. Shall, at the meeting of the Grand Lodge, announce the result of any vote taken and decide all questions submitted and this decision shall be final unless an appeal is made to the assembly, which has the final authority. Such an appeal shall require a two-thirds majority in order to reverse the decision of the Grand President.

Par. 14. Shall, as far as possible, see that all officers of the Grand Lodge and in the local Branches perform their duties faithfully.

Par. 15. Shall visit the local Branches as often as may be expedient.

Par. 16. Shall, at the installation of officers in the local Branches, be satisfied prior to the installation that the officers to be installed are familiar with the ritualistic work and shall assist the officers of the local Branches by instructing them in the management of the local Branch and the conducting of meetings.

Par. 17. May have an assistant in every local Branch and it shall be the duty of such assistant to perform such duties as may legally be required of them.

Par. 18. Shall sign such papers, which require a signature to make them valid.

Par. 19. Shall give the annual password.

Par. 20. Shall appoint as a temporary member of the Executive Committee, a Past Grand President to act as a substitute member of the Executive Committee when a member of the Executive Committee fails to attend a duly called meeting of the Executive Committee or when a member is otherwise disqualified.

Par. 21. Shall, at each meeting of the Executive Committee, give an oral report of activities since the last meeting of the convention or Executive Committee.

Par. 22. Shall appoint an Election Committee at the convention and shall declare a candidate elected when the candidate has received an absolute majority.

Par. 23. Shall, with the approval of the Executive Committee, postpone the convention until the state of emergency has ended.

Par. 24. Shall, when required, call extraordinary conventions.

Par. 25. Shall sign such drafts and checks with the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer for the payment of monies.

Par. 26. Shall supervise the merger, suspension, dissolving, or discontinuance of local Branches.

Par. 27. May cast a vote at the convention where there is a tie or where it is necessary to obtain a result.

Par. 28. Shall execute the decisions of the Executive Committee.

Par. 29. Shall be a voting member of the Committee of the Dania-Dannebrog Old Age Fund.

#### Section 4

##### Grand Vice President

Par. 1. The Grand Vice President shall assist the Grand President in the performance of his duties, preside at the convention when the Grand President gives his report or participates in the discussions on the convention floor, or when his decision is appealed to the convention, the Grand Vice President shall put the matter to a vote.

Par. 2. In the absence of the Grand President, or in case of his death, he shall immediately assume the office and duties of the Grand President.

Par. 3. He shall be an auditor of the financial records of the Dania-Dannebrog Old Age Fund.

Par. 4. He shall attend all Executive Committee Meeting.

#### Section 5

##### Grand Secretary

Par. 1. He shall furnish a bond, if required, at the expense of the Grand Lodge, for the faithful performance of his duties. The amount of the bond shall be equal to one-half of the assets under his control.

Par. 2. He must be present at all meetings of the Grand Lodge and the Executive Committee and keep a true record of the proceedings.

Par. 3. On the first day of the annual convention, immediately following the Grand President's report, he shall be required to render a complete report covering the financial condition of the Grand Lodge and the local Branches. Once his reports have been received and approved by the Grand Lodge, it shall be included in the Convention Report of the convention.

Par. 4. He shall keep an accurate record of the annual reports of the local Branches, such as cash on hand bank balance, values of property and furnishings, etc., how many have died, how much expended for sick benefits and aid, and such other historical and statistical information as may be of interest to the Society.

Par. 5. He shall keep a complete and true record of all receipts and disbursements of the Grand Lodge and of accounts between the Grand Lodge and the local Branches and others. He shall collect all monies due the Grand Lodge and give a receipt of the same. He shall pay to the Grand Treasurer all monies that may come into his possession, taking his receipt for the same.

Par. 6. He shall keep a true record of all the members of the Society, containing their names, birthplace, age, date of initiation, withdrawal, suspension, transfer, death, and rejection by ballot, notice of the latter to be sent to all local Branches.

Par. 7. He shall before the close of each term send to each of the local Branches the necessary blanks for the yearly report to the Grand Lodge, also four blanks for bonds. He shall have in his keeping the seal of the Grand Lodge and he shall be the only one who has the right to use the same. He shall also have in his keeping all books, minutes, archives, documents, printed matter and other effects of the Grand Lodge. He shall, after the close of the convention, prepare and have

printed a complete convention report of the transactions, committee reports and financial reports of the Grand Lodge. This convention report shall be immediately printed in a quantity corresponding to the total membership of the Society and be distributed among the local Branches in proportion to their membership. It is the duty of the Secretary of the local Branches to distribute these convention reports to the individual members.

Par. 8. He shall have charge of all printing for the Grand Lodge, also the purchase of regalias and membership emblems.

Par. 9. He shall be entitled to render his bill in the form of an order on the Grand Treasurer each month for his expense reimbursement, postage and other expenses as Grand Secretary.

Par. 10. He shall perform such other duties as required by these laws, the Grand Lodge, the Executive Committee and the Grand President.

Par. 11. When an extraordinary meeting of a local Branch is called by the Grand President, the Grand Secretary shall notify the Secretary of the local Branch by certified mail of the extraordinary meeting. Should the local secretary refuse to notify the local members of the said extraordinary meeting or refuses to surrender the names and addresses of the members of the local Branch to the Grand Secretary, then the local secretary shall immediately be deemed suspended from all of the rights and privileges as a secretary and the Grand Secretary shall take his place until there is another secretary legally elected or appointed by the local Branch.

Par. 12. He shall be a nonvoting ex officio secretary of the Executive Committee.

Par. 13. He shall keep an accurate list of the numbers of votes for each candidate for a Grand Office at the Convention and he shall announce each vote.

Par. 14. He shall notify the local Branches of the exact date and place of the holding of the Convention or extraordinary conventions.

Par. 15. He shall sign such drafts and checks with the Grand President and Grand Treasurer for the payment of monies and he shall sign such documentation along with the Seal of the Society as required.

Par. 16. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, he shall manage, control, receive and expend all funds as created, allowed and provided for in this Constitution.

Par. 17. He shall report to the Executive Committee and to the Convention those members, who have membership under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, who are sick and entitled to sick benefits and what has been paid to the sick member.

Par. 18. He shall appoint three (3) members to a sick committee when a report is needed to state the condition of a member whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge and who is entitled to receive sick benefits.

Par. 19. He shall receive notification of sickness from members whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

Par. 20. He shall notify members whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge that they will be dropped from the rolls because they are six (6) months in arrears in their dues.

Par. 21. He shall mail proposals and resolutions to the local Branch of changes to this Constitution received by him at least two (2) months prior to the Convention.

Par. 22. He shall receive the names and addresses of newly elected officers and delegates of the local Branches.

Par. 23. He shall put the time, date and place of the meeting of the Executive Board into the newsletter, if it exists and when he can reasonably do such.

Par. 24. Unless he is otherwise qualified to vote, he shall be a non-voting ex officio secretary of the Dania-Dannebrog Old Age Fund.

## Section 6

### Grand Treasurer

Par. 1. The Grand Treasurer shall receive and give his receipt for all such sums as he may receive from the Grand Secretary. He shall pay all drafts and checks which are issued in a lawful manner and signed by himself, the Grand President and the Grand Secretary. He shall keep an accurate account of the money received and distributed by him.

Par. 2. He shall be entitled to render his bill in form of an order on the Grand Lodge each month for his postage and other expenses relating to the office of the Grand Treasurer.

Par. 3. He shall furnish a bond, if required, at the expense of the Grand Lodge, for the faithful performance of his duties. The amount of the bond shall equal one-half of the assets under his control.

Par. 4. He shall present his annual report to the Grand Lodge at each convention, which when received and approved by the Grand Lodge shall be part of the Convention Report of the Convention.

Par. 5. He shall perform such other duties as required by these laws, the Grand Lodge, the Executive Committee and the Grand President.

## Section 7

### Grand Marshal

Par. 1. The Grand Marshal shall be required to open the meeting place and to put all in order for the opening of the meetings and perform such other duties as may be required by the Grand President.

Par. 2. That he shall receive the password, see that order is maintained, distribute and collect ballots and assist in the installation of incoming officers of local Branches.

## Section 8

### Grand Vice Marshal

The Grand Vice Marshal shall assist the Grand Marshal in the performance of his duties, guard the door to the convention to distribute and collect ballots and in the absence of the Grand Marshal, or in case of his death, immediately assume his office and duties and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Grand President and the Grand Marshal.

## Section 9

### Grand Trustees

Par. 1. The Grand Trustees shall be present at the conventions and shall perform such duties as these laws and the Grand Lodge and Executive Committee may require of them. They shall furnish such bonds, if required, at the expense of the Grand Lodge, as the Grand Lodge may determine from time to time.

Par. 2. That all three (3) Grand Trustees acting together shall in the name of the Grand Lodge, manage and control all of the assets and funds, save and except the General Fund, the Funeral and Burial Fund and the Sick Benefit Fund of the Grand Lodge, as if they were the sole owner thereof provided, however, that the consent of the Executive Committee shall be obtained before the said Grand Trustees buy or sell real or personal property, bonds, securities, stocks, execute mortgages or deposit funds in accounts not insured by an agency of the United States of America.

Par. 3. The said Grand Trustees shall keep a strict account of the assets and funds under their control. A report of the various assets and funds under the control of the Grand Trustees, as of the 31st day of December of each calendar year, shall be prepared by the Grand Trustees and shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge at each convention, which, when received and approved by the Grand Lodge, shall be part of the Convention Report of the Convention.

## ARTICLE X

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Section 1

The Executive Committee is the supreme authority in the period between conventions, and shall act in all such matters as may develop during that time.

## Section 2

Par. 1. The Executive Committee shall be five in number, consisting of the Jr. Past Grand President, Grand President, and three Grand Trustees, with the Grand Secretary as secretary ex-officio without voting power. In addition, the Grand Vice President shall attend all Executive Committee Meetings without voting power.

Par. 2. A member of the Executive Committee cannot act in any case where he himself, or his own local branch, is the party under consideration. When a member is thus disqualified, or does not attend a meeting, the Grand President shall temporarily appoint a Past Grand President as a substitute. If the Grand President is disqualified or does not attend a meeting, the Junior Past Grand President shall temporarily appoint a Past Grand President as a substitute.

Par. 3. It is the duty of each member of the Executive Committee who cannot attend a meeting to notify the Grand Secretary forthwith.

## Section 3

If a member of the Executive Committee fails to attend two consecutive meetings without a valid or lawful excuse, the said member shall be deemed to have voluntarily resigned from his Grand office and his position on the Executive Committee shall be deemed to be vacant.

## Section 4

If the position of Junior Past Grand President, Grand President and Grand Vice President shall become vacant at the same time, then the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall appoint Past Grand Presidents to assume the office, position, and duties of the vacant offices and positions.

## Section 5

The Executive Committee shall hold meetings whenever it may deem it practical and necessary as called by the Junior Past Grand President or Grand President. The meetings shall be chaired by the Junior Past Grand President who shall have the right of vote at all times. Three (3) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum to transact business unless otherwise provided by this Constitution. The time, date and place of the said meeting of the Executive Board shall be placed in the newsletter, if it exists and if it can reasonably be done.

## Section 6

In addition, it shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to:

- a) Act as advising council to local Branches and the Grand President.
- b) Decide by majority vote such matters which in accordance with these laws, may be brought before it.
- c) Sit as a court in such matters, which in accordance with these laws may be brought before it.
- d) Act on laws of local Branches. New By-Laws or amendments to By-Laws of local Branches must be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval and are not operative until sanctioned by the Executive Committee.
- e) Hear appeals from the decision of the Grand President. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final unless it is appealed to the Grand Lodge within 30 days after the decision is issued. If the decision of the Executive Committee is appealed, it is stayed until the decision of the Grand Lodge is issued.
- f) Give advice and consent to the Grand Trustees relating to the buying and selling of real or personal property, bonds, securities, stock, the execution of mortgage or deposit funds in accounts not insured by an Agency of the United States of America.
- g) With the Grand President, postpone the convention until the state of urgency has ended.
- h) Call an extraordinary convention when the Grand President declines to call the said convention when required to do so.



- i) Approve the merging of local Branches.

#### Section 7

The Executive Committee shall also act as a Court and have jurisdiction in these matters:

- a) Differences between local Branches.
- b) Differences between members of separate local Branches.
- c) Differences between a local Branch and a Grand Officer.
- d) To hear all Petitions for the revocation of Charters, Office, or membership and to render a decision upon the said Petitions.
- e) In cases where one or several members consider themselves as victims of injustice or unfair treatment, and his, or their local Branch, has refused to take action, and try the complaint according to law.

### ARTICLE XI

#### RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND ASSETS OF THE GRAND LODGE

##### Section 1

##### Assets

The assets of the Grand Lodge shall come from the following sources:

- a) Per capita tax and dues.
- b) Money received through the sale of printed matters requisites, charts, and other supplies to the local Branches by the Grand Lodge.
- c) Donations, legacies, bequests and the like.
- d) Funeral and burial assessments.
- e) Assessments for sick benefits.
- f) Fund raising events.
- g) Such other legal sources as authorized by this Constitution, the Grand Lodge, or the Executive Committee.

##### Section 2

##### Funds

Par. 1. The assets of the Society shall be accounted for in the General Fund, which includes the Funeral and Burial Fund and the Sick Benefit Fund. These funds are accounted for separately in order to provide an accurate accounting and audit trail. Other funds may be added, as needed, by the Grand Lodge. (4-2019)

Par. 2. Such funds and asset under the jurisdiction of the Grand Secretary may be commingled at the discretion of the Grand Secretary for the full and proper administration of the said funds, but each fund shall be accounted for separately and individually.

Par. 3. Such funds and assets under the jurisdiction of the Grand Treasurer may be commingled at the discretion of the Grand Treasurer for the full and proper administration of the said funds, but each fund shall be accounted for separately and individually.

Par. 4. Such funds and assets under the jurisdiction of the Grand Trustees may be commingled at the discretion of the Grand Trustees for the full and proper administration of the said funds, but each fund shall be accounted for separately and individually.

##### Section 3

##### General Fund

Par. 1. The receipts of the general fund shall be: A yearly per capita tax which shall be collected through the local Branches, the amount of which shall be determined for the coming year and voted on at the convention. This tax shall be collected in two equal installments on the first of January and

the first of July of each calendar year and must be paid to the Grand Secretary before the following first day of February and August respectively. (4-2019)

Par. 2. Further receipts of the General Fund shall come from sources authorized in subparagraphs a), b), c), f) and g) of Section 1 of this Article.

Par. 3. All interest and dividends from the assets in the General Fund shall be added to the General Fund and shall be used as the General Fund is used.

Par. 4. All the administration expenses of the Grand Lodge, such as draws, traveling expenses of the Grand Officers, printing matter, postage, purchase of regalia, rent of quarters for meeting purposes, etc., shall be paid from the General Fund. This fund can also be used to defray the expenses connected with such undertakings as the Grand Lodge at its convention or by the Executive Committee at its meetings may decide as being to the advancement of the Society. (4-2019)

#### Section 4 Funeral and Burial Funds

Par. 1. The income of the funeral and burial fund shall be from funeral and burial assessments as authorized in Sub-Paragraph d) of Section 1 of this Article and collected by the local Branches from each member and individually from members whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. In each fiscal year there shall be collected not more than five funeral and burial assessments, according to the demand upon the fund.

Par. 2. Should the stipulated numbers of assessments be insufficient to meet the demand upon the funeral and burial fund, the Grand Secretary is authorized to draw upon the General Fund for the deficiency. (4-2019)

Par. 3. The Grand Lodge acting at any regular yearly convention may determine the amount of the funeral and burial benefits, which, however, in no event shall exceed TWO HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$200.00). (4-2019)

Par. 4. . Following the distribution of a Funeral and Burial payment, the Grand Secretary will replenish the fund to its maintenance level of THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) Funds will be replenished from the General Fund. (4-2019)

Par. 5. From the General Fund, after notification to the Grand Secretary of the death of a member in good standing, funeral benefits shall be paid pursuant to Paragraph 6 of this Section. (4-2019)

Par. 6. Members are entitled to funeral and burial benefits in the follow manner.

1. Any member in good standing for a minimum of 20 years regardless of age shall be entitled to and receive 100% of funeral benefits set at the convention
2. Any member in good standing for a minimum 10 years and not reaching 20 years regardless of age shall be entitled to and receive 50% of funeral benefits set at the convention
3. Any member in good standing for a minimum of 5 years but not reaching 10 years, regardless of age shall entitled to and receive 25% of funeral benefits set at the convention
4. . Any member in good standing who has not reaching 5 years, regardless of age shall not be entitled to receive a funeral benefits set at the convention

Section 5  
Sick Benefits Funds

Par. 1. Income used to provide Sick Benefit shall come from the monthly dues paid by members whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge and that part of the assets of a local Branch which was suspended, dissolved, or discontinued and was transferred to the Grand Lodge and as authorized in Section 1e) of this Article. (4-2019)

Par. 2. If the Sick Benefit Fund is insufficient to meet the demand upon the said fund, the Grand Secretary is authorized to draw upon the General Fund for the deficiency. (4-2019)

Par. 3. Following the distribution of a Sick Benefit payment, the Grand Secretary will replenish the fund to its FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) Funds will be replenished from the General Fund. (4-2019)

Par. 4. All sick benefits to be paid to members whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. (4-2019)

Par. 5. The amount, rate and computation of payment of sick benefits is set forth in Article XX of this Constitution. (4-2019)

Par. 6. If no sick benefits have been paid from the Sick Benefit Fund for a period of five (5) consecutive years and if there are no members whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, then the assets of the said Sick Benefit shall be transferred to the Funeral and Burial Fund to be used pursuant to the rules and regulations of the said Funeral and Burial Fund. (4-2019)

Section 6  
Other Funds

The Grand Lodge shall set forth such rules and regulations as is needed for the management, control, payment, disposition and dispersion of any and all other funds created by the Grand Lodge and the monies received therein. (4-2019)

ARTICLE XII  
CHARTERS FOR LOCAL BRANCHES  
Section 1

Before a local Branch can function as such, it must have been granted a charter from the Grand Lodge of the Society.

Section 2

New local Branches cannot be organized with less than ten (10) members and when a local Branch is organized with the minimum membership, the Grand President must see to it that the conditions are favorable for the growth of the local Branch so organized.

Section 3

Par. 1. The Grand President may, at his option, grant a temporary charter to a new local Branch that is being organized and has ten (10) or more members.

Par. 2. That this temporary charter shall be valid for a period of one (1) year.

Par. 3. That the Grand President may issue a temporary charter to a new local Branch for no more than five (5) consecutive years.

Par. 4. If a permanent charter cannot be issued to a new local Branch on or before the end of the fifth consecutive temporary charter, then the new local Branch shall be merged, suspended, dissolved or discontinued pursuant to the provisions of this Constitution.

Section 4

Each local Branch must take a name as it decides as well as the consecutive number issued to it by the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE XIII  
GENERAL RULES FOR LOCAL BRANCHES

Section 1

The local Branch shall have jurisdiction involving settlement of disputes between a member and his local Branch. The decision of the local Branch shall be final unless it is appealed to the Grand President within thirty (30) days after the decision is issued. If the decision of the local Branch is appealed, it is stayed until the decision of the Grand President is issued.

Section 2

Each local Branch shall hold at least three (3) general meeting each year and their election of officers shall be for a full term.

Section 3

Five (5) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum. However, if a local Branch consists of twelve (12) members or less, three (3) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4

The term for officers of local Branches shall be from the installation of the said officer until the installation of his successor.

Section 5

Each local Branch may formulate and pass its own By-laws and rules and regulations relating to membership and sick benefits, but these must not be contrary to this Constitution. Before the By-laws, rules and regulations of the local Branch, or changes in same can be put into effect, six (6) copies of same must be sent to the Executive Committee and approved by same.

Section 6

The correspondence of a local Branch with the Grand Lodge or the Executive Committee shall be addressed to the Grand Secretary.

Section 7

All payments to the Grand Lodge, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary by check, or money order and be issued payable to the Grand Lodge of Dania within thirty-one (31) days after it becomes due and payable. If all said payments are not so paid, then the local Branch shall have lost its claim on the Grand Lodge and its resources until the said payment has been made.

Section 8

Each local Branch shall, immediately after the election of officers and delegates and through its secretary, advise the Grand Secretary of the names and addresses of the newly elected officers and delegates.

Section 9

Each local Branch shall at the end of the calendar year send to the Grand Lodge a complete report on the transactions for the year just ended. Forms for said reports containing the principal items of interest to the Society shall be furnished by the Grand Lodge and forwarded to the local Branch.

Section 10

Permission is granted to each local Branch to incorporate under the laws of its State.

Section 11

When a member resigns or transfers, the secretary of the local Branch must notify the Grand Secretary at once. Likewise, he must notify the Grand Secretary when a member is expelled and the reason therefore.

Section 12

Each local Branch shall immediately notify the Grand Secretary of the initiation of a new

member, his name, birthplace and the date of his birth, and the date of his initiation.

#### Section 13

It is the duty of each local Branch to keep an accurate list of addresses and telephone numbers of its members.

#### Section 14

Each local Branch shall notify all members in writing of the contents of every communication from the Grand Lodge, as far as the communication concerns the rights in and duties of the members toward the Society.

#### Section 15

The funds and valuables of a local Branch are property in common and can only be used for the purposes as mentioned in the laws of the Society. Under no circumstances must this property in common or any part thereof be divided among the members. If a local Branch is for any reason merged, suspended dissolved or discontinued, it shall at once deliver and divide the assets of the local Branch pursuant to this Constitution.

#### Section 16

The secretary of a local Branch shall advise the local Branch of a Dania Ladies Society Dannebrog, on request, as to whether a member is in good standing or not. Also he shall advise said Society when a member of the local Branch, who is also a member of Dannebrog, withdraws or is suspended.

### ARTICLE XIV

#### ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL BRANCHES

##### Section 1

The Officers of each local Branch shall consist of the following:

- Past President
- President
- Vice President
- Financial Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Marshal
- Vice Marshal
- Property Custodian (optional)
- One, Two or Three Trustees
- One, Two or Three Auditors

Together with such other officers as the local Branch may require, the offices of financial secretary and recording secretary may be held by the same person, who thereafter shall be called Secretary. The office of financial secretary and treasurer may also be held by the same person, who thereafter shall be called Treasurer. Auditors may not be authorized signers on branch bank accounts and other financial holdings.

##### Section 2

The office of Past President shall be assumed by the last retiring president.

##### Section 3

To attain the rank and privileges of a past president, a member must have served as president until his successor has been appointed, elected, or succeeded to the office of President.

##### Section 4

The officers are elected at the general meeting for a full year and can be re-elected as often as the local Branch desires. However, the Trustees shall be elected for a period of three (3) years in the conformity with the general election so that one retires at the end of each year. The officers continue to serve until the installation of their successors.

## Section 5

Following the election of the officers of the local Branch, an installation shall take place, which may be open or closed, at the discretion of the said local Branch.

## Section 6

The President may appoint a President's assistant from the past presidents of the local Branch.

## Section 7

Par 1. The local Branch shall fix the amount of the bond required of the various officers.

Par. 2. The bond required of the various officers shall not be less than fifty percent (50%) of the personal property of the said local Branch under their control, which shall be paid by the local Branch.

Par. 3. If the local Branch does not want the bond requirements as set forth in Par. 2 of this Section, then the signatures of at least two (2) separate designated officers of the said local Branch, as selected by the said local Branch, shall be required for any and all transactions relating to the financial matters of the said local Branch.

## Section 8

At or after the December meeting of the local Branch, delegates and alternates shall be elected to the Grand Lodge.

## Section 9

Each local Branch has the right to determine the duties and remuneration of its own officers.

## Section 10

It is the duty of every officer to acquaint himself with the laws of the Society and of his own local Branch and to perform each of the duties therein described.

## Section 11

Par. 1. Every local Branch may, at their option, waive the opening and closing ceremonies and waive the procedure and ceremony of allowing members to enter and exit a meeting and have a joint and/or open meeting with their respective local Branch of the Dania Ladies Society Dannebrog of California and Nevada.

Par. 2. That if a local Branch does have joint and/or open meetings with their respective local Branch of Dania Ladies Society Dannebrog of California and Nevada, the president shall see that only members of the local Branch of the Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada shall vote on matters before the said local Branch.

Par. 3. That all other provisions of this Constitution and that of the Ritual shall be followed by the said local Branch.

# ARTICLE XV SICK BENEFITS OF LOCAL BRANCHES

## Section 1

A local Branch shall at all times have a standing sick committee which shall be elected or appointed as per the rules of the local Branch and whose duties shall be plainly set forth in the by-laws of the local Branch.

## Section 2

Each local Branch shall maintain a sick fund and shall state the amount of the weekly sick benefits in its by-laws and who is entitled to receive the said sick benefits.

## Section 3

If a local Branch does not have a special sick benefit fund, sick benefits shall have a first right

of lien on and upon all of the assets of the local Branch.

#### Section 4

A member must decide if he wants to be entitled to sick benefits from his local Branch pursuant to the rules and regulations of his local Branch.

#### Section 5

Each local Branch has the right to determine in its by-laws the sickness for which there shall not be paid any sick benefits. However, any restrictions upon the type of sickness covered shall apply only to and upon members initiated after the adoption of the said restrictions.

#### Section 6

If a member is taken sick away from his own local Branch and there is a local Branch of Dania at the place where he is residing during his illness, it shall be the duty of such local Branch to care for him as for one of its own members, and, when authorized by his own local Branch to do so, pay him sick benefits to which he is entitled and also report his condition to his home local Branch once every month. A bill for sick benefits paid must be sent once a month to the local Branch.

#### Section 7

Par. 1. A member who has transferred his membership to another local Branch shall be entitled to benefits in case of sickness from his old local Branch for the first six (6) months after the transfer, after which his new local Branch assumes the obligation, unless the said transferred member has retained his sick benefits in his old local branch pursuant to this Constitution.

Par. 2. If the member retained the sick benefit in his old local Branch, then the member shall receive sick benefits from his old local Branch pursuant to their rules and regulations and he shall not receive any sick benefits from his new local Branch of which he is a member.

### ARTICLE XVI

#### FUNERAL AND BURIAL BENEFITS OF LOCAL BRANCHES

##### Section 1

On the death of a member, his local Branch immediately notify the Grand Secretary so that the funeral and burial benefits may be paid as soon as possible and at the same time send a statement of the deceased member's account with the local Branch, which statement must be signed by the president or recording secretary of the local Branch.

##### Section 2

In case of the death of a member of the Society without he having indicated to whom the funeral and burial benefits shall be paid, or if the named beneficiary is dead or cannot be found, or if the decedent member has no relatives at hand, it is the duty of the local Branch, to the best of its ability, to arrange for and conduct the funeral.

##### Section 3

Where it is not possible find his legal heirs, the balance of the funeral and burial benefits shall be returned to the General Fund of the Grand Lodge.

### ARTICLE XVII

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS OF LOCAL BRANCHES

A local branch, for want of rules of order of its own, may use the rules adopted by the Grand Lodge. When the meeting has been opened in regular form as prescribed in the ritual, the following, or a similar order of business, may be used.

1. Roll of officers called
2. Membership
  - a) Application received
  - b) Investigation Committee appointed
  - c) Report of investigating committee
  - d) Balloting
  - e) Initiation of members
3. Minutes of previous meetings read and approve

- (possible errors should be corrected)
4. Report of Trustees
  5. Communications
  6. Members sick and distressed reported
  7. Report of sick committee
  8. Payment of sick benefits
  9. Employment
    - a) Employment wanted
    - b) Help wanted
  10. Bills presented to auditors
  11. Approval of Auditors report
  12. Warrants drawn for payment of bills
  13. Recess
  14. Reports from committees
  15. Members in arrears for dues
  16. Unfinished business
  17. New Business
  18. Good of the Order
  19. Receipts and disbursements of meeting
  20. Treasurer's balance
  21. Adjournment.

## ARTICLE XVIII MERGER OF LOCAL BRANCHES

### Section 1

Two or more local Branches desiring to merge into one (1) local Branch, shall follow rules set forth in this Article.

### Section 2

Each local Branch desiring to merge with another local Branch must obtain the approval of the merger by a two-thirds majority of the members at a legally constituted meeting of each local Branch.

### Section 3

Notice of the said meeting shall be mailed to each member of each local Branch at least seven (7) days prior to the actual meeting and the notice of the said meeting shall be placed in the Newsletter of the Grand Lodge, if it exists, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting when the voting is to take place.

### Section 4

If the local Branches desiring to merge receive a favorable vote to merge, the merging local Branches shall set forth a sick benefit plan and a funeral and burial plan where the sick benefit and the funeral and burial benefit will be at least equal to the most favorable plans for the members that exist prior to the merger by one of the merging local Branches.

### Section 5

No member of the merging local Branches who is in good standing, and had sick and/or funeral and burial benefits in his own local Branch prior to the merger, shall be denied sick benefits and/or funeral and burial benefits in the new merged local Branch if he maintains his good standing.

### Section 6

The assets of the merging local Branches shall be segregated so that the sick benefit and funeral and burial benefits to which the members are entitled are protected.

### Section 7

None of the assets of the merging local Branch shall be transferred to the Grand Lodge because of the said merger.



#### Section 8

That the merging local Branches shall provide for agreeable meeting dates, locations, facilities and a name of the new merged local Branch.

#### Section 9

Unless otherwise agreed upon, at the final joint meeting of the merging local Branches, all prior officers shall resign and all of the new officers shall be elected, which officers shall serve until their successors are duly elected.

#### Section 10

That all members of the merging local Branches shall retain all of the rank, title, position and status they had prior to the said merger unless otherwise set forth in this Article.

#### Section 11

The merging process shall be supervised by the Grand President who shall preside at all Joint meetings.

#### Section 12

The Executive Committee shall give the final approval before the merging of the local Branches is actually consummated and shall determine the local Branch number for the new merged local Branch.

### ARTICLE XIX SUSPENSION DISSOLVING OR DISCONTINUANCE OF LOCAL BRANCHES

#### Section 1

When a local Branch of Dania has been suspended, dissolved or discontinued and its members have fulfilled all lawful requirements, then all members who wish to remain members of Dania may transfer to another local Branch.

#### Section 2

A member of a suspended, dissolved or discontinued local Branch who is in good standing and has fulfilled all his obligations, and if there is no local Branch reasonably close to the said member, or if the member's health or age prevents a transfer, the said member may retain his membership under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge itself pursuant to this Constitution.

#### Section 3

Par. 1. The assets of the suspended, dissolved or discontinued local Branch shall be divided among the Grand Lodge and local Branches in ratio to the number of sick benefit members of the suspended, dissolved or discontinued local branches who have transferred to the Grand Lodge or to local Branches.

Par. 2. If there are no members transferred, then all of the assets of the suspended, dissolved or discontinued local Branch shall be transferred to the Grand Lodge to be placed in the General Fund.

Par. 3. If members are transferred then any and all assets received by the Grand Lodge or by a local Branch from a suspended, dissolved or discontinued local Branch shall be placed in the General Fund of the Grand Lodge or of the local Branch.

#### Section 4

The Grand President, and such other Grand Officers as he selects, shall assist in the implementation of this Article and the transfer of members and assets to local Branches or to the Grand Lodge, whichever is appropriate.

ARTICLE XX  
MEMBERS WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IS UNDER THE  
JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE

Section 1

The yearly dues for members under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge shall be FOUR and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4.00) payable yearly in advance, and the funeral and burial assessment levied on local Branches each year as well as the regular semi-annual or yearly tax. The dues shall be kept in a Sick Benefits Fund out of which eventual sick benefits shall be paid.

Section 2

All dues, assessments and taxes shall be paid to the Grand Secretary. If the said member is unable to pay his dues, the Grand Lodge may waive the payment of the said dues or have the said dues paid from the Sick Benefits Fund created from the assets of the said members' prior dissolved local Branch, if the said member is entitled to the said sick benefits.

Section 3

A member in arrears on dues, taxes and assessments for a period of six (6) months is not in good standing and has no right of claim to sick benefits or funeral and burial benefits.

Section 4

A member indebted to the Grand Lodge for a period of six (6) months shall be dropped from the rolls by reason of such arrearage; provided however, that the Grand Secretary, before such action is taken, shall notify such member by certified mail at least two weeks prior thereto.

Section 5

Par. 1. Sick benefits in the sum of FOUR and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4.00) per day shall be paid to sick benefit members, whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, for a period not to exceed thirteen (13) weeks in anyone (1) year or twelve (12) month period. Thereafter, the same amount shall be paid until the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$728.00) has been paid.

Par. 2. After the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$728.00) has been paid to a member, whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, a sick benefit member shall then receive TWO DOLLARS and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2.00) per day for a period not to exceed thirteen (13) weeks in any one (1) year or twelve (12) month period. Thereafter, the same amount shall be paid until the total sum of ONE THOUSAND NINETY-TWO and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,092.00) has been paid, after which said member shall be entitled to no more sick benefits.

Par. 3. The period of sickness covered by the first payment shall start the one (1) year or twelve (12) month period.

Section 6

To arrive at the total sum paid, there shall be added the amount of sick benefits received by the member from local Branches in which he held membership before coming under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

Section 7

A sick member must at once notify the Grand Secretary of his sickness and no sick period will be considered as beginning more than one (1) month prior to the date postmarked on the letter of notification.

Section 8

A report of a sick committee, consisting of three (3) members appointed by the Grand Secretary, or a physician's statement must be submitted at least once every month, commencing with the one accompanying the first sickness, which sets forth the condition of the said member.

## Section 9

If a member under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge is receiving benefits from the Dania-Dannebrog Old Age Fund, the Grand Secretary shall receive the said benefits and place the same in the General fund and thereafter, shall pay the said benefits according to the rules and regulations as set forth by the Grand Lodge.

## ARTICLE XXI MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1

Subject to the rights of each local Branch to formulate and pass its own By-Laws pursuant to Article XIII, Section 5, hereof, any person of a Danish heritage or persons who are blood or step related through marriage or as close friends of a member of Dania, who have an interest in Danish heritage or customs shall be eligible for membership subject to the rules and regulations of the Society.

### Section 2

The membership consists of:

- a) Primary Members;
- b) Secondary Members;
- c) Honorary Members.

### Section 3

A primary member must be over fourteen (14) years of age at the time of his initiation, must fill out and sign a regular approved petition blank, submit to a ballot and Sign the membership book of the local Branch in order to be entitled to any financial benefits from the Grand Lodge or its local Branches.

Par 1; A Primary member will pay dues as mandated by the Primary Branch. The Primary Branch of the Primary Member will pay the appropriate per capita taxes to the Grand Lodge.

Par 2; A Primary Member may apply for Secondary Membership in any other Branch.

Par 3: Primary Members with 50 years of membership in good standing shall be honored with a 50-year membership pin provided by the Grand Lodge.

Par 4: A Member may elect to transfer their Primary Membership by following the procedure as defined in Article XXII. A member can hold one Primary Membership.

### Section 4

A Secondary Member will pay dues as required by the Secondary Branch. Membership will not accrue per-capita tax to the Grand Lodge. A Secondary Member cannot hold the same financial office in two branches.

### Section 5

Par. 1. Honorary members are individuals of Danish birth or extraction, who have distinguished themselves in the arts or science, or otherwise, and by their acts conferred honor upon the Danish nationality, or individuals whose influence and standing in a community, in the judgment of a local Branch, would be of benefit, if included in the membership roll.

Par. 2. Honorary members pay no fees or dues of any kind, nor do they have any claim on the Society, financial or otherwise, nor does the local Branch pay any assessments or dues to the Grand Lodge for honorary members.

### Section 6

Par. 1. When a candidate applies for admission as a member, the petition must be sponsored by one (1) member who shall vouch for the candidate. The initiation fee shall accompany the petition.

Par. 2. After a favorable report has been received from the investigation committee, the candidate is balloted for with white balls and black cubes or balls. The white balls are cast for the candidate and the black cubes or balls against him.

Par. 3. If at the first ballot there should be cast one (1) or two (2) black cubes or balls, a re-ballot shall be taken and if there should be no more on the re-ballot, the candidate is elected. If three (3) or more black cubes or balls are found, the candidate shall be rejected and his initiation fee shall be returned to him. He cannot seek re-election before a period of six (6) months has elapsed.

Par. 4. That the voting upon an individual candidate by the use of the white balls and black cubes or balls may be waived at the time of each balloting by the unanimous vote of the members present and voting, and if so waived, then the candidate shall be voted upon using the normal voting procedure, with each negative voting being deemed as a black cube or ball.

#### Section 7

If a candidate is rejected by ballot, the Grand Secretary shall be notified at once. He shall in turn notify all other local Branches thereof.

#### Section 8

The initiation of all members shall take place in accordance with the rules and rituals as prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

#### Section 9

It is the duty of every member to acquaint himself with the provisions of this Constitution and to submit to them in every respect as it now exists and with changes and additions made from time to time.

#### Section 10

The accounting of Primary and Secondary Memberships will be maintained by the Grand Lodge.

#### Section 11

It is the duty of a member to advise the secretary of his local Branch of any changes in his address and telephone number. All communications sent to his last known address shall be considered as lawful and he must submit to any resulting consequences of such notification.

### ARTICLE XXII

#### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER OF MEMBERS

##### Section 1

A member who wishes to transfer from one local Branch to another shall be provided with a transfer card showing his full name and birthplace, date of initiation and financial standing with the former local Branch, also how much has been paid to him in sick benefits, if any. This must be signed by the President and Secretary and sealed with the seal of the former local Branch.

##### Section 2

Before a member can join another local Branch, the individual must be balloted upon in the usual way. However, they remain a member of the former local Branch until finally accepted in the receiving Branch.

##### Section 3

Par. 1. A member, who is receiving or is entitled to receive sick and/or funeral benefits from his former local Branch but does not want or is ineligible for the said benefits in the local Branch to which he is transferring, may join the new local Branch as a member without sick and/or funeral benefits and retain his sick and/or funeral benefits from the local Branch from which he is transferring, without membership therein.

Par. 2. He shall pay to the former local Branch any and all dues and assessments attributable to the sick and/or funeral benefits of his former local Branch.

Par. 3. He shall be deemed as a member of the local Branch to which he transferred and pay all of the dues and assessments of the said local Branch and of the Grand Lodge to the said Local Branch he transferred as a non-sick and/or non-funeral benefit member.

Par. 4. He shall have no right of vote nor right of membership in his former local Branch, but he shall be entitled to any and all sick and/or funeral benefits that any other sick and/or funeral benefit member receives from his former local Branch, if he retains his sick and/or funeral benefit in his former local Branch.

Par. 5. A member shall lose his sick and/or funeral benefits from his former local Branch when he is no longer a member of a local Branch or of the Grand Lodge or when he fails to pay any and all dues and assessments attributable to the said sick and/or funeral benefits.

Par. 6. This section shall not refer to nor shall it have any reference to any and all funeral benefits provided by the Grand Lodge.

#### Section 4

If a member does not join another local Branch within six (6) months from the date of issuance or the certificate of transfer, he shall retain his membership in the former local Branch and be considered a member in good standing for all purposes so long as he continues to pay his dues and assessments.

#### Section 5

A member should present himself for presentation to the local Branch mentioned in his certificate of transfer within the above-mentioned limit of time. The local Branch may on special occasions excuse a member from appearing in person and the President then has the authority to pronounce him a member of the local Branch.

#### Section 6

Par. 1. Before a certificate of transfer may be issued, the applicant must pay six (6) months dues in advance to his former local Branch, which shall not be refundable.

Par. 2. That during this six (6) month period he shall receive all of the sick benefits to which he is entitled from his former local Branch.

#### Section 7

On the issuance of a certificate of transfer, the former local Branch shall send to the Grand Secretary the name of the applicant and the name and number of the new local Branch to which he desires to transfer.

#### Section 8

When a member is accepted by a certificate of transfer, the new local Branch shall notify the Grand Secretary and the recording secretary of the former local Branch of his name and number of the former local Branch which issued the certificate of transfer.

#### Section 9

If qualified a member entering another local Branch under a certificate of transfer shall not for this reason be entitled to greater advantages in regard to sick benefits than the other members of the new local Branch. The amount he has already received in sick benefits in his former local Branch shall be deducted from the total sum, which his new local Branch may pay for this purpose. The same rule applies to a member who has resigned or has been suspended and is re-instated.

### ARTICLE XXIII

#### WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERS AND CLEARANCE CARDS

##### Section 1

A clearance card shall be issued by the secretary of the local Branch at the request of members who are not indebted to the Society. Such a clearance card shall be evidence that the member to whom the same is issued was in good standing at the time he withdrew from the local Branch.

##### Section 2

A receipt from one of Dania's local Branches showing that the holder is in good standing in his local Branch shall be proof that he was in good standing at the time of withdrawal from the local Branch.

### Section 3

Should a member withdraw from membership, he may, within one (1) year after his withdrawal, be reinstated.

### Section 4

The said member who chooses to be reinstated must pay all monies due the local Branch and assessments and taxes due the Grand Lodge that become due and payable during the period of withdrawal.

### Section 5

The said member who chooses to be reinstated shall be entitled to all of his benefits.

### Section 6

Should the local Branch from which a member withdrew be suspended, dissolved, or discontinued when he wishes to be reinstated into the Society as allowed by this Constitution, he then shall pay his arrearages to the Grand Lodge and become a member whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

## ARTICLE XXIV SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1

When a member is in arrears with his dues and assessments for a period of six (6) months to his local Branch, then he shall be suspended for non-payment of dues, but only after being notified in writing by certified mail.

### Section 2

The said suspended member may, upon request to his local Branch, have his suspension stayed until the adjournment of the following convention.

### Section 3

Within six (6) months after the beginning of the period of suspension or if the suspension is stayed, then at time before the adjournment of the following convention, the suspended member, upon payment by him of all monies due the local Branch and assessments and taxes due the Grand Lodge, be reinstated.

### Section 4

During the period of suspension, whether stayed or not, the said member shall have no claim against the Society, the Grand Lodge or his local Branch.

### Section 5

All other suspended members may join the Society like any and all other qualified persons.

### Section 6

Should the local Branch from which a member was suspended for non-payment of dues be itself suspended, dissolved, or discontinued when he wishes to be reinstated into the Society as allowed by this Constitution, he then shall pay his arrearages to the Grand Lodge and become a member whose membership is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

## ARTICLE XXV REVOCATION OF CHARTERS, OFFICE, OR MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1

Any member may file a Petition with the Executive Committee requesting that a Charter of a local Branch be revoked, a Grand or local officer be removed from office, or that the membership of a member be revoked.

## Section 2

That any Petition filed shall set forth the reasons and grounds and shall list that part of this Constitution or the local By-laws that has been violated.

## Section 3

The Executive Committee shall hold such open hearing and shall receive all testimony from all persons as is reasonably needed in order to reach a decision.

## Section 4

The Grand President and such other Grand Officers as needed, shall execute the decision of the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE XXVI

### DISSOLUTION

That should the said Grand Lodge decide to dissolve, then all of the assets of the said Grand Lodge, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the said Grand Lodge shall be paid to the following organization, to wit:

1. An undivided one-half (1/2) thereof to all of the retirement homes which have been created, sponsored and controlled by the Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada at the time of its dissolution, share and share alike; and if there be none, then to all of the retirement homes to which the Grand Lodge has contributed or maintained membership within the five (5) years immediately preceding the said dissolutionment, share and share alike; and if there be none then to the organizations as set forth in Paragraph 2 of this Article XXVI
2. An undivided one-half (1/2) thereof to all of local Branches of Dania which are in existence at the time of the said dissolutionment, in proportions to the members in each local Branch; and if none of the local Branches are in existence, then to the organizations as set forth in Paragraph 1 of this Article XXVI.

## ARTICLE XXVII

### LAW AND AMENDMENTS

## Section 1

Where an alteration or amendment to this Constitution is contemplated, a proposal of the said alteration or amendment may be submitted sent to the Grand Secretary at least two (2) months prior to the opening of the convention. If so received by the Grand Secretary, he must send a copy of the said alteration or amendment, forthwith, to each local Branch.

## Section 2

Alterations or amendments to this Constitution can only take place at a lawfully assembled convention of the Grand Lodge, and such alterations or amendments must be adopted by a two-third majority of all votes cast.

## Section 3

A motion to alter or amend an Article, Section or Paragraph must be made in writing and must include the original as well as the proposed Article, Section, or Paragraph, as altered or amended, and must point out the changes desired. Copies shall be provided as required by Article VIII, Section 12, of this Constitution.

## Section 4

All new or amended Articles, Sections or Paragraphs shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after their adoption, Unless the Grand Lodge shall provide otherwise

## Section 5

The Grand Secretary has the authority to make "housekeeping" changes to the Constitution in regards to

capitalization, punctuation, and document formatting.

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

By: /s/ LAWRENCE C. BENTZEN Lawrence C.  
Bentzen, Sønderjylland No. 10

/s/ STUART O. MAHLER Stuart O. Mahler,  
Thyra No. 9

/s/ JAN ALTON WALKER Jan  
Alton Walker,  
Freja No. 6

/s/ ELMER- C. JORGENSEN  
Elmer C. Jorgensen, Thyra No.9

Adopted by The Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on April 11, 1986.

Amended ARTICLE IV Section 3, Section 4 and ARTICLE XIV Section 11 Par.1 and Par 4 by The Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on April 14, 2007

Amended ARTICLE X Section 2, Paragraph 3 by The Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on April 12, 2008

Amended ARTICLE XI Section 4, Paragraph 7 by The Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on April 16, 2010

Amended ARTICLE XI Section 4, Paragraph 8 by The Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on April 16, 2010

Amended ARTICLE IV Section 5, Paragraph 1 by The Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on April 12, 2014

Amended ARTICLE XXI Section 9 and add Paragraph 1-6 by The Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on April 21, 2018

Amended various articles, annotated within by The Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on May 12, 2019

Amended various articles, annotated within by The Danish Society of Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on May 2, 2022

Timothy J Heer

Grand Secretary



## LAWS FOR DANIA-DANNEBROG OLD AGE FUND

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME, OBJECTS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE FUND

##### Section 1

The name of the Fund is the Dania-Dannebrog Old Age Fund.

##### Section 2

The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial aid to those members of the Danish Society Dania of California and Nevada, hereinafter called "Dania", and of the Dania Ladies Society Dannebrog of California and Nevada, hereinafter called "Dannebrog", who are in need of financial assistance.

##### Section 3

The Fund is the joint property of the Danish Society Dania of California and Nevada and the Dania Ladies Society Dannebrog of California and Nevada.

##### Section 4

The Fund shall be controlled by a committee named the "the Committee of Control for Dania-Dannebrog Old Age Fund", hereafter called "Committee".

### ARTICLE II

#### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

##### Section 1

Par. 1. At the same time as the local Branches of Dania and Dannebrog elect representatives to their respective annual conventions, each local Branch shall elect a representative to the Fund's general assembly, together with an alternate.

Par. 2. That the secretary of each local Branch of Dania and Dannebrog shall, at least two (2) months prior to the convening of the annual Conventions of Dania and Dannebrog, mail the name and address of the duly elected representative to the General Assembly, and his alternative to the secretary of the Fund.

##### Section 2

The general assembly for the Fund must convene, either before or after the annual Conventions of Dania and Dannebrog, for the purpose of electing members to the committee, and considering any and all business and appeals that may come before it.

##### Section 3

The Chairman of the Committee shall preside over the General Assembly.

##### Section 4

Par. 1. Two (2) Committee members are elected annually at each general assembly for a term of three (3) years.

Par. 2. No person may be elected to the Committee for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Par. 3. One (1) member shall be elected from the duly accredited representatives of the local Branches of Dania and the other member shall be elected from the duly accredited representatives of the local Branches of Dannebrog.

Par. 4. Save and except the Grand Presidents and Grand Secretaries of Dania and Dannebrog, no local Branch shall have more than one of its members on the Committee at the same time.

Par. 5. Only the duly accredited representatives from all of the local Branches of Dania and Dannebrog and from, the Committee may vote upon all matters before the General Assembly. If a person has a right to vote in more than one capacity, he shall have a total of only one vote.

### ARTICLE III COMMITTEE

#### Section 1

The Committee shall consist of six (6) members elected by the General Assembly and the Grand President of Dania and the Grand President of Dannebrog.

#### Section 2

The Committee shall as soon as possible after the adjournment of the General Assembly, organize itself by electing a chairman, one or more vice chairmen, and three trustees.

#### Section 3

Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

#### Section 4

Par. 1. Vacancies on the Committee, because of death or resignation, of a man shall be filled by appointment by the Grand President of Dania and vacancies, as aforesaid, of a woman shall be filled by appointment by the Grand President of Dannebrog, and all of the said appointments shall be made from the duly elected representatives of the last convened General Assembly.

Par. 2. If a member of the Committee fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings without a valid or lawful excuse, the said member shall be deemed to have voluntarily resigned from his position on the Committee and the said position shall be deemed to be vacant.

#### Section 5

Committee meetings shall be conducted under the parliamentary rules as set forth in the latest edition of Roberts' Rules of Order.

#### Section 6

The Committee must meet at least once each half year, beginning with the month of April in each calendar year at a place decided upon by the Committee, or at such other times as called by the Chairman.

#### Section 7

Par. 1. If two or more members of the Committee vote in opposition to the payment of benefits in the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00) or more, then any member of the Committee may, unilaterally, appeal the decision to the General Assembly, which has the final decision upon the matter.

Par. 2. If the payment of benefits has been appealed to the General Assembly, then the payment of the said benefits shall not be made until the appeal has been decided by the General Assembly; provided however that the Committee may vote for the payment of benefits to the applicant below the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00), until the General Assembly has decided the appeal.

#### Section 8

No member of the Committee shall be entitled to traveling expenses or salary.

ARTICLE IV  
OFFICERS

Section 1

Chairman

Par. 1. The duty of the Chairman is to preside over the meetings of the General Assembly and over the meetings of the committee.

Par. 2. The Chairman shall sign such checks, reports and documents as is required and authorized by these Laws and by the General Assembly and by the Committee.

Par. 3. The Chairman shall not have the right of voting on matters before the General Assembly or the Committee, save and except case of a tie wherein he may vote, breaking the tie.

Par. 4. If not otherwise called, he shall call such meeting of the Committee and General Assembly as is needed to carry out the business of the Fund.

Section 2

Vice Chairmen

Par 1. There shall be two Vice Chairman, the first elected being called the First Vice Chairman and the second one elected being called the Second Vice Chairman.

Par. 2. Each Vice Chairman shall have the right of voting on all matters before the Committee save and except when one is acting as Chairman.

Par. 3. Each Vice Chairman shall perform such duties as directed by the said Chairman.

Par. 4. In case of the absence of the said Chairman, the First Vice Chairman shall take over the duties of the Chairman. In case of the additional absence of the First Vice Chairman, the Second Vice Chairman shall take over the duties of the Chairman.

Section 3

Secretary

Par. 1. The Grand Secretary of Dania shall serve as secretary of the committee.

Par. 2. He is to keep an accurate record of all proceedings, conduct the correspondence of the Committee, receive and receipt for all monies paid into the fund, and keep an accurate financial account of all receipts and disbursements of the fund.

Par. 3. He shall pay over to the treasurer all monies that may come into his possession, taking a receipt for same.

Par. 4. He shall draw all warrants on the fund's treasury for all benefits and bills that have been duly ordered paid.

Par. 5. He shall sign such documents, reports and warrants as is needed to execute the duties of his office.

Par. 6. He shall have no vote on any matter before the General Assembly nor the Committee unless he is a duly elected representative to the General Assembly or a duly elected member to the Committee.

Section 4

Treasurer

Par. 1. The Grand Secretary of Dannebrog shall serve as treasurer of the Committee.

Par. 2. She must give a receipt for funds received by her from the secretary of the Committee. She must keep an accurate financial account of all monies in her possession and turn over to the trustees all sums in her possession in excess of THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00).

Par. 3. She shall sign such documents, reports and warrants as is needed to execute the duties of her office.

Par. 4. She shall have no vote on any matter before the General Assembly nor the Committee unless she is a duly elected representative to the General Assembly or a duly elected member to the Committee.

## Section 5

### Trustees

Par. 1. It shall be the duty of all three (3) trustees, acting together, to manage, control and deposit all monies in their possession in safe and sound banks, savings and loan associations and/or financial institutions, and in diversified investments, provided, however, that the consent of the Committee shall be obtained before the said Trustees buy or sell real or personal property, bonds, securities, stock, execute mortgages or deposit fund in accounts not insured by an agency of the United States of America.

Par. 2. The trustees can only withdraw funds on deposit upon written order, signed by the chairman and secretary.

Par. 3. At least two (2) trustees must sign withdrawal checks before they are payable.

Par. 4. All of the trustees shall sign such documents, reports and warrants as is needed to execute the duties of their office.

## ARTICLE V

### Annual Reports

#### Section 1

The secretary, treasurer and Trustees shall prepare annual reports of the operation of the fund before the annual meeting or the General Assembly.

#### Section 2

The annual reports must be audited by the Grand Vice Presidents of Dania and Dannebrog, after which they must be given to the respective Grand Lodges of Dania and Dannebrog.

## ARTICLE VI

The secretary, treasurer, and trustees must furnish such bonds at the cost and expense of the Fund, equal to one-half of their assets under their respective control.

## ARTICLE VII

All checks drawn for payment of benefits and bills from the fund must be signed by the chairman, secretary and treasurer before they are payable.

## ARTICLE VIII

### USES OF THE FUND

#### Section 1

Only members of the societies Dania and Dannebrog shall be entitled to the benefits of the Old Age Fund.

## Section 2

Par. 1. Applicants for benefits must be at least 65 years of age.

Par. 2. The age limit herein above set forth, may be reduced in cases where accidents sickness, disabled war veterans or other reasonable causes prevent the applicant from earning a livelihood.

Par. 3. Applicants do not have to apply for State Old Age Pension in order to be eligible for benefit under this Fund.

## Section 3

Par. 1. An applicant for benefits must have the endorsement of his or her local Branch, or, if a member of the Grand Lodge Dania or the Grand Lodge Dannebrog, by the respective Grand Lodges or their respective Executive committees.

Par. 2. The applicant must fill out a questionnaire which can be had from the Committee and which must be signed by the president and secretary of the local Branch or, if not a member of a local Branch, applicant's respective Grand Lodge, after a satisfactory report from applicant's local Branch's or, if a member of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge's investigating committee.

## Section 4

Par. 1. Before benefits can be allowed, it is the duty of the Committee to get all the information possible regarding the applicant.

Par. 2. It shall be the duty of the local Branches and the Grand Lodge, if required, of Dania and Dannebrog to investigate carefully and thoroughly the financial circumstance of all applicants for benefits.

Par. 3. Only after the Committee has received thorough and complete reports from the applicant's local branch or from the respective Grand Lodge may the Committee vote to provide benefits as requested or in such other sums as the Committee deems necessary for the applicant needs.

Par. 4. An applicant who fails to make a full and truthful report of his or her financial circumstances and who receives benefits through fraud, shall be dropped from benefits at once.

## Section 5

A member of either the Society of Dania or Society Dannebrog receiving benefits from the fund cannot become in arrears with his or hers dues. However, dues can be deducted from the benefits given or the local branch or the respective Grand Lodge may assume them.

## Section 6

Benefits from the fund can only be distributed by the following methods:

- a) Monthly assistance to a member while in his or hers own home.
- b) Monthly payments towards room and board in a private home, not his own.
- c) Monthly payments towards a member living in an old age home.

d) Or a sum of not over TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) towards a member's admission into a senior citizen's residence of his or her own choosing, provided however, that the said applicant shall not be entitled to receive any benefits from the Fund until four (4) years has passed from the date of the said payment.

## Section 7

All benefits must be paid to the applicant through his, or her local branch, or if a member of the Grand Lodge, through his or her Grand Lodge.

## ARTICLE IX

Changes, modification, amendments and additions to these laws must be made at the annual

convention of the Societies of Dania and Dannebrog by the said Societies, pursuant to their respective rules, law and regulations for the amendment of their respective Constitutions.

**DANIA – DANNEBROG OLD AGE FUND LAW REVISION COMMITTEE**

/s/ VIVIAN OLSEN

Vivian Olsen  
Alfa No. 14

/s/ ELMER JORGENSEN

Elmer Jorgensen  
Thyra No. 9

/s/ DEBORAH MAHLER

Deborah Mahler  
Valborg No. 1

/s/ PAUL W. ANDERSEN

Paul W. Andersen  
Danneskjold No. 17

---

Irma Knudsen

Thyra No. 3

/s/ JAN ALTON WALKER

Jan Alton Walker  
Freja No. 6

Adopted by Danish Society-Dania of California and Nevada, effective forthwith, on Friday, April 11, 1986.

Adopted by Dania Ladies Society Dannebrog of California and Nevada on Friday, April 11, 1986.