



GRAND LODGE DANIA & DANNEBROG

Danish Societies Dania & Dannebrog of California and Nevada

May 2026

Upcoming Conventions		
Thyra No. 9, and Valborg No. 1	April 8-10 2027	Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella
Upcoming Installations		
Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun No. 10	September 5 2026	Ferndale, Danish Hall
Valdemar #12. Dannevirke # 9	Oct 2, 2026	Reno, IOOF Hall

Dannebrog & Dania Grand Presidents

Dear Members,

It was wonderful to see everyone who attended the 2026 convention in Santa Nella. We missed those who could not join us and hope to see you next year when we return to the Hotel Mission De Oro.

On behalf of San Francisco Lodge Danmark #2 and Thyra #3, we would like to express our appreciation for the raffle donations and the delicious pastries provided by Bent Olsen. Thank you to the 2026 Convention Committee and everyone including the hotel staff who worked hard to make the event a success.

Congratulations to our 2026 Members of the Year: Tracey Lamee (Dannebrog) and Tom Martin (Dania). We also want to express our appreciation to our latest Grand Vice Marshals, Susan Mirkovich Mahler for Dannebrog and Stuart Mahler for Dania. We look forward to the upcoming installations with all of our new Grand Lodge officers.

Finally, we want to express our gratitude and thanks to Bob and Tracy Lamee for their wonderful performance as our Grand Presidents this last year. Their leadership and guidance have made a positive impact on our Society.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Best regards,

Dennis Nielsen and James Jensen

Dannebrog and Dania Grand Presidents

From PGP Glenn Fritz

Thanks to Danmark #2 and Thyra #3, and their Convention Committees for a great convention, Bravo!

Grand Officers

	Dania	Dannebrog
Grand Past President	Robert Lamee robertlamee@yahoo.com	Tracey Lamee tllamee@yahoo.com
Grand President	James O Jensen jamesolefjensen@yahoo.com	Dennis Nielsen nielsen.dennis.a@gmail.com
Grand Vice President	Gregory A. Gleeson gleeson2@icloud.com	Susan Gauthier s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net
Grand Secretary	Tim Heer tim-gs@sbcglobal.net (831) 332-4196	Natalie Heer natalie-gs@sbcglobal.net (831) 334-1372
Grand Treasurer	Gregory A. Gleeson gleeson2@icloud.com	Pat Brouillette pab0718@sbcglobal.net
Grand Marshal	John Jensen jajensend2@gmail.com	Anette Christensen anettechristensen@charter.net
Grand Vice Marshal	Stuart Mahler smahler52@gmail.com	Susan Mirkovich Mahler mirkmahler@att.net
Grand Trustee #1	Steen Skjellerup stivaxsteen@gmail.com	Daniel Joensen dj@danken.com
Grand Trustee #2	John Scheuber consultingjohns@gmail.com	Jessica Jobe Sea jessica@jobesea.com
Grand Trustee #3	Johanne Rasmussen Gade	Kathy Christensen pgchris@pacbell.net

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

During the SAF meeting at convention, it was agreed that it would be recognized as an approved use of the funds to assist Members who would like to attend Convention and would not receive financial support

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY'S

Just a reminder that the Dania Branches, your first half of your annual tax is due. For those who have a net worth less than \$5,000.00 your tax is based on one

IN MEMORIAM:

NEW MEMBERS:

Christian Christensen, Valdemar # 12, Reno

San Francisco, California

Danmark No. 2 & Thyra No. 3

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday every month 7:30 PM Odd Fellows Building; 26 Seventh Street, San Francisco CA 94103 Danmark #2 & Thyra #3 Secretary John A. Jensen, E-Mail: jajensend2@gmail.com

May I start by wishing our May birthdays a great big Happy Birthday! Peter Christensen, Mark Claussen, Lisa Ann "Goldie" Elsborg-Jones, and our Vice President at-large Ian Nielsen. Tillykke med fødselsdagen. Skål! The Dania Dannebrog 2026 Convention was a big success! I cannot tell you how much the entire San Francisco lodge appreciates everyone's attendance and participation. We want to thank Cherice Coil for all her help with the raffle, and Bent Olsen for once again delivering the best Danish pastries in North America. And how about those tee shirts? Everybody loved them. What a great job by Bob Fox and James Jensen. Thank you to all who donated those wonderful raffle items – we hope you won the one you wanted the most. And a special thanks to our new Past Grand Presidents Tracy and Bob Lamee. They helped us so much by providing the template for our Hotel Mission De Oro event. All we had to do was rinse and repeat. Thank you so much! Congratulations to all our new Grand Officers. It is indeed special for our lodge to be represented in the office of Grand President for both Dania and Dannebrog. From Danmark #2, James Jensen as Grand President of Dania, and from Thyra #3, Dennis Nielsen as Grand President of Dannebrog. As the new Dania Grand Marshal, I am proud to be joining my brother at upcoming installations of local branch officers. We look forward to another successful year. See you soon!

In the January newsletter, I wrote that we had found the original charter for Danmark #2 when we cleaned out our storage lockers at the Odd Fellows Hall. Well, I spoke too soon. During the convention, we noted that the initiation date on the charter is listed as January 21st, 1881. This is

from their branch, to apply for assistance from the fund. Using the current application noting the reason to attend convention, submitted by their Branch.

half of \$20.00 per member as of January 1st, for the rest of us it is half of \$30.00 per member as of January first Natalie & Tim

SENIOR ASSISTANCE FUND

DANNEBROG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

DANIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

incorrect. Danmark #2 started January 21st, 1882. Further "investigation" showed that the style of the charter was different than those from the late 1800s, and the Grand President who signed the charter, Robert Nelson, was the Grand President in the early 1900s. We can only conclude that this is a replacement charter created in the early 1900s. Why was a replacement needed? We must remember that 120 years ago in April 1906, the year of the great earthquake and fire, Danmark #2 was hosting the convention in San Francisco. Could it be that the original charter was lost during the disastrous fires that followed the earthquake? It seems a logical conclusion, but we must further investigate with the help of the History Committee. To be continued.

For our May meeting we had hoped to gather again in Brannan Hall in the Odd Fellows building. However, since the secretary will be in Denmark on our meeting date, we have changed plans and will have the business meeting via Zoom on the first Wednesday, May 6th at 7pm. It appears we will keep this first Wednesday Zoom schedule into June as well.

We are planning a social gathering later in the month of May so we can keep up with our monthly intake of leverpostej and akvavit. We know the location – Tom Martin's Backyard of course. Always a good time. But what date? May 16th, 23rd, or 30th? Let me know what works for you and keep looking for the details in the emails.

Once again, thanks for making our 2026 Convention such a success. Happy Mother's Day! Hope to see you soon. Med venlig hilsen, John A. Jensen, Secretary, jajensend2@gmail.com

Fresno, California

Thor No. 5 & Thora No. 11

**Meeting: 1st Friday 11:30 AM. Denny's 1110 Shaw Ave (on the north side, just east of First Street)
Fresno. Secretary, Martha Nielsen nielsenmarta@gmail.com**

Congratulations to both of the new Grand Presidents, Dania's James Olaf Jensen, and Dannebrog's Dennis Nielsen, my son. Wishing them a very successful and fun year.

The convention is over now and if you didn't go, you missed a great party. The Hawaiian Luau was a huge hit with everyone. Sparkling palm trees, tiki torches, and fresh pineapple and coconut centerpieces complimented the luau buffet. In addition to the DJ and abundant raffle prizes, there was a photo booth for everyone's enjoyment. Additional congratulations to Dania and Dannebrog's well deserving recipients of "Member of the Year", Tracy Lamee and Tom Martin.

Carl Jensen, our Cheer Chairman, enjoyed hearing about the convention news and reported that everyone is doing well.

The third weekend in May will be the Kingsburg Swedish Festival. Our Danish folk-dance group will be performing at the Friday night smorgasbord dinner, and at the Saturday morning crepe and sausage breakfast. Tickets can be purchased upon arrival.

Don't forget to remember our veterans and active military members on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.

We'll welcome back our delegates at our next lunch meeting, the first Friday, May 1, 2026 at 11:30AM. We meet at Denny's on Shaw Ave just east of First Street.

Come have lunch and visit with us.

Martha Nielsen

Salinas, California

Freja No. 6 & Dana No. 15

**Meeting: 1st. Sunday in August at 12:00 P.M.; Salinas Masonic Center, 48 East San Joaquin Street,
Salinas CA Secretary, Natalie Heer, timandnatalie@sbcglobal.net**

Congratulations to this year's Convention Committee of Thyra #3 and Danmark #2 for a job well done.

Everything went very smoothly. Talking about running smoothly, Tracey Lamee in Dannebrog and Bob Lamee in Dania, both did a fantastic job running their meetings. We look forward to our new Grand Officers as they hit the road in the coming months, with the new and approved

installation ritual which was approved by both Grand Lodges this year.

On behalf of the Salinas Branches, we Congratulate this year's Members of the year, Tracey Lamee for Dannebrog and Tom Martin for Dania, both hard-working members of the respective branches.

Livermore, California

Dannevang No. 7 & Danebod No. 16

**Meet 2nd Saturday at 5:00PM; the Farm Bureau Building, 638 Enos Way, Livermore.
Dannevang #7 & Danebod #16 Secretary Kathy Thomsen, danskfarm@yahoo.com**

Greetings from the Livermore gang. We are meeting Saturday, May 9th, 12:00, Farm Bureau Building. The theme is Cinco de Mayo. (Yes it's the day before Mother's Day). There is an email food sign up so we can have a wide variety of goodies. Thankfully we got the rain and snow that we needed in April, but the hills are already turning golden here in California.

Convention was as usual a fun fun time at the Mission de Oro. Congratulations to the new slate of Grand Officers and to our own Tracey Lamee as the recipient of the Member of the Year in Dannebrog and to Tom Marten for his dedication to Dania. We are already looking forward to next year when Hayward will be the host of convention 2027. Hope to see you soon, KRT

Hayward, California

No. 9 Thyra & Valborg No. 1

**Meeting: 2nd. Thursday every month 6:30 PM; On Zoom
President, Susan Gauthier, s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net, #9 Thyra/Valborg #1 Secretary, Beth Cowan,
beth.cowan@att.net**

Congratulations to the San Francisco 2026 Convention Committee on an incredible weekend! Wishing the newly

installed Grand Officers of Dannebrog and Dania a successful and inspiring year ahead – especially our own Grand Vice Marshals Sue and Stuart Mahler.

A special congratulations as well to Tracey Lamee, Dannebrog Member of the Year, and Tom Martin, Dania Member of the Year. Well deserved!

Petaluma, California

Sønderjylland No. 10

Meeting 2nd Saturday of April, June, August, and October at 11:30am, at the Danish Soldiers Club Facility at 4560 Kastania Road, Petaluma.

John Cruger-Hansen, Secretary, 8426 Bel View Court, El Cerrito, CA 94530-2557

Home: 510-232-6998 or cell: 510-375-5070; E-Mail: j.crugerhansen@comcast.net

Sønderjylland #10 was represented at the 2026 Dania Convention in Santa Nella by President Debbie Cruger-Hansen and Secretary/Treasurer John Cruger-Hansen. The Convention was great and well attended and we were

The Hayward Lodges will be meeting via Zoom on Thursday, May 14th at 6:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be sent out a few days prior to the meeting. If you are a member in another branch and would like to join us, please contact Susan Gauthier at s.gauthier@sbcglobal.net and she will send you the link. Skal!

able to network with old friends and become acquainted with, and make new friends. Altogether a worthwhile experience.

Respectfully, John Cruger-Hansen, Secretary/Treasurer

Ferndale, California

Valhalla No. 11 & Ydun No. 10

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

Secretary, Mary Kemp, marykempgigi1@gmail.com

Valhalla 11 and Ydun 10 will meet on Saturday, 2 May, at 11am followed by a potluck. Colleen Daastol, Larry Lancaster, and other helpers will set up and decorate to celebrate Syttende Mai. The 17th of May was established as a National Day in 1814 as the Constitution of Norway was signed in Eidsvoll declaring Norway as an independent nation. Norway had been under Danish rule for several centuries but Denmark was unable to keep it, so Sweden acquired it. The Constitution gave Norway a degree of self governance. Today the 17th of May is celebrated with parades of people of all ages dressed in their Bunads (folk costumes) and waving flags. In Oslo the parade walks by the Royal Palace where the royal family waves from the balcony. King Harold is the son of Prince Olaf (later King) and Princess Martha, for those who

watched ‘Atlantic Crossing’ on PBS. Popular foods for the day are hot dogs and ice cream.

Hans Kristian Christensen was able to attend April’s meeting. He missed several meetings because he skated in some roller derby competitions on a Scandinavian team. This meant flying to Scandinavia in order to participate. We are proud of him!!

We are also proud of our president, Tom Martin, who won Member of the Year for Dania. I am so grateful that he helped me with getting to Installations and visiting other lodges when we went through the chairs—and of course also to Gloria. I began to feel that their house was my second home. Well done, Tom! I also congratulate Tracey. It was an honor to have her and Robert visit us. Lynn Wachter

Reno Nevada

Valdemar No 12. & Dannevirke No. 9

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

Secretary, Sena Marie Freeman P.O. Box 4575, Sparks NV 89432; President, Anette Christensen, anettechristensen@charter.net

Now for the news. The Reno Lodges of Valdemar #12 and Dannevirke # 9 met Friday May 1st at 6:30 pm. 18 in attendance with guests Anette's Mom and friend Connie from Denmark and our little man Graysen. Delicious potluck of Anette's curry meatballs and great salads. Before dinner there were wonderful appetizers. During desserts of cake, lemon bars and a real nice assortment of fruit and coffee, Anette opened the meeting. The meeting was mostly about the great convention and the 5 of us coming home with the

closure of the hill and spending an extra night in Auburn and getting home Monday. Thank you Anette for driving in the awful rain and weather. (Snow). We announced that Hayward was having a 2027 convention at the same lovely hotel in San Nella. Also Reno's in 2028. Everyone said congratulations to our own Anette as our new Grand Marshal. Our San Hans Fest will be June 19th at the River School. Everyone is invited. Great Fun every year. Hopefully the weather will be better this year, not like last year. Come 1 come all. Time 7 pm. Our June

5th meeting will be a regular potluck. Sena-Marie will do dessert?????. Our sympathy went out to Carl and Helen and family with the loss of Carl's Dad aged 95. Glad you both are home safe and sound from Denmark. I had breakfast with the Olsen family on April 16 th. Ruth looked great, but Karen said there were still good days and bad ones. I also had lunch with Barbara Iler, daughter Lori and another Cousin Sherry. Everyone is doing well . Lori and Barbara are going to Tennessee and spending Mothers Day with Lori's daughter, Lori's granddaughter and Barb's great granddaughter. Safe travels. Missed Glenn Fritz. Hope everyone else is doing

well. Our June birthdays are Jillian Baker, Helen Christiansen, Hannah Matuzak, Louise Myers, LaRee Purdum, Cortney Webb, and Alex Baker. Happy Birthday ALL. Happy Father's Day to all our Danish Dads. Be safe, stay healthy, and take care, Sena-Marie. Before I close I had a message from Nina Potter (Ann- Katherine's daughter) asking if I would thank Karen Faraldo for the pictures, she gave me at the convention of her mom. She loved them so very much. THANK YOU THANK YOU.

Modesto, California

Bornholm No. 14

Meeting: 2nd Thursday at 5 p.m. Perko's Restaurant

President Jason LeBeouf, jlebeouf@yahoo.com, Secretary Marge Scheuber, olemarge1@sbcglobal.net

Welcome Home Delegates! Congratulations to the new Grand Presidents of Dania and Dannebrog, James Jensen and Dennis Nielsen. Many thanks to the committee from Danmark No. 2 and Thyra No. 3 for a successful and memorable convention. Friday night's Hawaiian Theme was a hit with members dressed in Hawaiian attire entering the dining hall with awesome decorations of lighted palm trees and tables adorned with pineapples, coconuts and bananas. Shout out to Jessica Jobe Sea for her enthusiasm

and excellence in taking charge of the raffle and presenting a beautiful display of items. Saturday night as usual brings anticipation as to who will receive Member of the Year! Congratulations to Tom Martin from Danmark No. 2 and Tracey Lamee from Danebod No. 16 who were both so deserving. Eight of our members who attended the convention look forward to sharing our comments at our May meeting. Marge Scheuber, Secretary

Solvang, California

Hejls Minde No. 23

Meeting: 1st. Wednesday 12 noon at Bit O' Denmark, President, Kristin Worthley, and Secretary, Elaine Anes

Eighteen people gathered in Solvang for our monthly luncheon/meeting on Wednesday, March 4. Of those eighteen people, seventeen were members and one was a guest from the San Francisco Lodge, Mr. Tom Martin. Tom, it was so good to see you again! March welcomed four birthdays – Alice Quimby, Mark Bates, Finn Runge, and Kristen Worthley. Our song leader, Alice, was not present, so the Solvang Danish choir of the remaining 17 members present had to sing without a leader. It was not pretty; in fact, we sang it twice, but everyone was happy and laughter was everywhere. It was so much fun! I don't think we will be invited to go Christmas Caroling in December! LOL

Darlene won the 50/50 drawing for \$35.00. Fun Fact – Darlene won the drawing last year also. You go, girl! Bent Olsen will be our delegate going to this year's convention. We look forward to being updated about all of the festivities from him at our May meeting. Elaine Anes will be attending the convention; however, she will not be a delegate. She is just going as a visiting member.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30, but we saved all of the Bit O'Denmark patrons by NOT singing. We will save that for when Alice comes back. We really missed you, Alice!

Santa Maria, California

Holger Danske No. 27 & Valkyrien No. 23

Meets four times a year; contact the secretary for further information.

Holger Danske Secretary, Wayne A. Allen 805-937-4720; Valkyrien Secretary, Darlene Iversen 805-260-3601