



The Danish Soldiers Club

January 2017

www.danishsoldiersclub.com

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DANISH SOLDIERS CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC. POST OFFICE BOX 41, PETALUMA CA. 94953
MEMBER OF DANSKE SOLDATERFORENINGERS LANDSRÅD PROTECTOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II OF DENMARK

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings -

Happy new year! The new year is now well on its way, but not without surprises. Certainly the first winter storms and heavy rain would indicate that the California drought conditions have come to an end.

2016 was a great year for our club, and I am confident 2017 will be even better.

As usual, our first meeting will take place in February, so our spring preparations at Kastania are just around the corner.

Herewith best wishes for 2017 and I am looking forward to seeing you all frequently in the coming season.

Poul



- Think about how times flies.
- Yes, Why does it bother

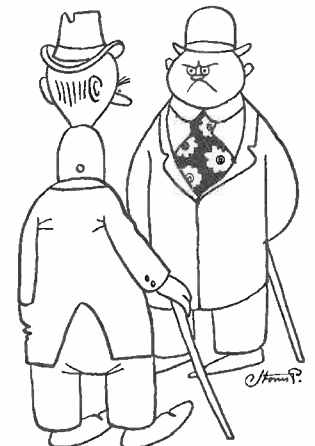
The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41
Petaluma, CA 94953



- I do not have any fun
- Nonsense, Brother in law, - wear two noses

Address Correction Requested



- It is a Christmas present
- But you can exchange it
- I did already!

The Governing Board for 2017

Poul Poulsen President to 2018	San Rafael (415) 459-7727 poulsenpo@danishsoldiersclub.com
Per Madsen Vice Pres. to 2018	San Francisco (415) 928-4509 permads@danishsoldiersclub.com
Vagn Nielsen Treasurer to 2017	Sonoma (707) 996-9950 vknielsen@danishsoldiersclub.com
Rick Santarini Secretary to 2019	Santa Rosa (707) 479-6575 ricksantarini@sbcglobal.net
John Johansen Newsletter/Web Director to 2019	Modesto (209) 545-8992 admin@danishsoldiersclub.com
Ken Fultz Director to 2017	American Canyon (415) 362-7509 KFCVA41@comcast.net
Leo Pedersen Director to 2018	Danville (925) 820-2150 Leo.pedersen@gmail.com
Keith Brians Director to 2017	Petaluma (707) 789-9953 kastaniakeith@gmail.com
Jill Brians Director to 2019	Petaluma (707) 227-8404 jcbrians@yahoo.com

Volunteer

Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator	Roseville (916) 771-4961 mormor@surewest.net 4397 Coach Whip Way Roseville, CA 95747-8623
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The Danish Soldiers Club Christmas Party was once more very successful. More than 170 members, guests & children had found their way to the Veterans Hall in Petaluma. The practical arrangement from food to service to Santa's visit, to raffle, and dancing around the Christmas tree worked out and was timed correctly. The extra feature with serving "DSC" labeled wine was received very well.



Now we are looking forward to the 2017 season. It starts Saturday February 4 at Kastania Park. During the month of January Treasurer Vagn Nielsen will tabulate how many members have paid their 2017 membership. With the tools like PayPal and the web site we do expect quite a higher percent of members have already paid for 2017. The remaining non paid members will be forwarded an invoice, and it is our hope, that by the end of February we are done with this project, so we all can concentrate on running the club and do the repair and improvements necessary to the Park.

Unfortunately Peter Steiness has decided to leave as a board member, but luckily for all of us, he will continue writing articles for our newsletter.

We also welcome a new board member Jill Brians. It is many years ago, another women was on the board, and we hope it will be visible that a woman's hand is involved.



Order form for Smørrebrød at \$17.00 each

Yes, I wish to order lunch for Kastania Fælled. My check is enclosed

Four pieces of smørrebrød of which one is **SALMON**
Total plates with Salmon _____

Four pieces of smørrebrød of which one is **SHRIMP**
Total plates with Shrimp _____

Four pieces of smørrebrød of which one is **HERRING**
Total plates with Herring _____

Four pieces of "non-seafood" Smørrebrød **REGULAR**
Total plates Regular _____

Email or mail this order no later than Tuesday prior to the lunch to:
vknielsen@danishsoldiersclub.com

Or: **Vagn Nielsen**
DSC Treasurer
20650 Burndale Rd.
Sonoma, CA 95476

Drink Tickets are 3 for \$10.00, or 7 for \$20.00. Please specify quantity _____
1 ticket for any mixed drink, wine or beer. Soft drinks 1/2 ticket. Bottled water free.

Name: _____ Check amount _____

LISTEN - IF YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET

By Peter Steiness

Assuming we are average, we only listen to about 25% of what is verbally communicated to us. This disturbing information comes from Barry L. Reece and Rhonda Brandt's book: *Effective Human Relations*. Like you and I, I'm sure neither Barry nor Rhonda is average! To be a bad listener is not good. Even worse is the fact that only 25% of what you and I verbally try to communicate is heard. That is very disturbing, as we have so much more great and important stuff to communicate than all those average people put together – don't you agree?

So what do all those average listeners actually do with the time they pretend to be listening? Are they balancing checkbooks, mentally repainting the garage or wondering if Darwin was right after all? I very much doubt it, and here is why.

There are three things I think they do: First of all, they are impatiently waiting for the other person to stop talking, to shut the Hell up. Secondly, they are waiting even more impatiently for it to be their turn so they can express what they have to say about the issue – any issue. Thirdly, they are contemplating how they can make their story much more interesting, colorful, exciting and fantastic and how they no doubt can out-do what this other person is saying – whatever 25% they hear. I'm sure you get the picture, but just in case this is all news to you (where have you been hiding?) here is a refresher course in how to "out-do":

Male one: "My wife was in labor for nearly 16 hours before our son was born. It was the most difficult of times!"

Male two: "That's nothing. My wife labored for

a fortnight before the third of the twins was finally born!"

Male three: "The hospital had never seen anything like the month long, shrieking, painful, excruciating and exhausting contraction filled labor my wife went through – and she wasn't even pregnant!"

So are we really such bad listeners? Obviously we are. Do we not find what other people are saying interesting? Obviously we don't. Is there any hope for us? You bet there is, but it is fully up to ourselves to become better listeners – nobody else can help us.

I'm sure that by now you have quietly tried to evaluate your own listening capabilities, taken stock as to how good of a listener you think you are. If you found that you suck, then welcome to the club and do not despair. The following might make you feel better and point you towards recovery:

My immediate family consists of my wife, our two sons and yours truly. As part of our daily routine back then, we all got together at dinner-time. It was a pleasant time as we would catch up, chat and enjoy each other's company. The 'catch up' and 'enjoy' parts were great, but it was the 'chat' part we had a bit of a listening problem with. Here is how and it's still somewhat like the following, though it has improved a lot:

We did not even consider waiting till the other person was done with his or her sentence, statement or story. All of us had basically perfected the art of ruthlessly cutting in the very second the other person needed to take a breath. We were waiting for that certain moment of weakness, waiting to coldly intercept, waiting for that split-second kill window and then it's: "me-me-me!" So for the talker to avoid being prematurely interrupted, we all learned to state our opinions, tell our stories, expose our ideas - without

breathing. You should try it - but please practice first, as talking without breathing is not for everyone. Compared to the above, you might actually be doing better as a listener than you thought!

Most of us were taught not to interrupt when others are talking. Obviously some of that well-meaning advice from our parents has, over the years, gone in one ear and out the other; one of the few dangers keeping our ears open! But it is still a great social skill to follow. We should always listen more and talk less. When we do, we quickly find out how much fun it actually is to listen more. We'll also find that more people will like us, because active talkers adore good listeners. So if you want to know a secret or two, all you have to do is close your mouth, open your ears and let patience rule.

Yes, there is of course still hope for all of us. To start improving our listening abilities, we must begin with the art of patience – simply by patiently listen. As we continue to get better at listening, the patience aspect will slowly fade, as it becomes a natural utensil in our communication toolbox. We are slowly becoming certified listeners as we begin to fully balance listening and talking. We start to experience a much richer world around us; but it is all up to ourselves – nobody else can help us.

Remember that we learn more from listening than from talking. I found, that getting to know more about the people in my daily life, is much more rewarding, exciting and interesting, than listening to my old somewhat worn-out stories again and again – and then some...

You meet somebody in whatever way. You start talking, small-talk perhaps (which is so bloody boring for everybody). But I have found a way to have the person I talk with open up by asking simple (initial) questions. Then I listen to the answer and instead of waiting for 'my turn', I easily find follow-up questions. And for the most part,

it can be very interesting indeed.

And the thing is that we like talking about ourselves, our experiences, etc. That is rather universal, so why not use that, as you already know about your own life (again and again). So by asking 'personal' questions we show interest in that person and we learn so much more. I really don't find it interesting or exiting telling you about me, but find getting to know you better a much better choice.

The funny thing is that most of the people I 'listen & learn' to actually have fascinating stories to tell – you should try it. Am I bothered that they don't ask about me? Not the least – I seriously couldn't care less.

So to keep improving, I continue to listen more than talking, no matter how much I want to open my mouth. If I want to know a secret, my ears must stay wide open and my mouth tightly closed. I'm also working on saying: "I talked with so-and-so" instead of: "I talked to so-and-so". There's a big difference.

Staying within the inter-personal form of communication, exercising the wonderful skill of the fifty-fifty-way of conversing, which must include parts of respect, concern, compassion, personal interest, love, consideration, listening, talking, and asking questions, mixed with some patience. That is the way we should all communicate with each other - the way we should all listen to and learn about each other. We learn so much more from listening, not a heck of a lot from talking - and that is no secret.

I'm sorry! Did you say something?

