



# The Danish Soldiers Club

October 2017

[www.danishsoldiersclub.com](http://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,

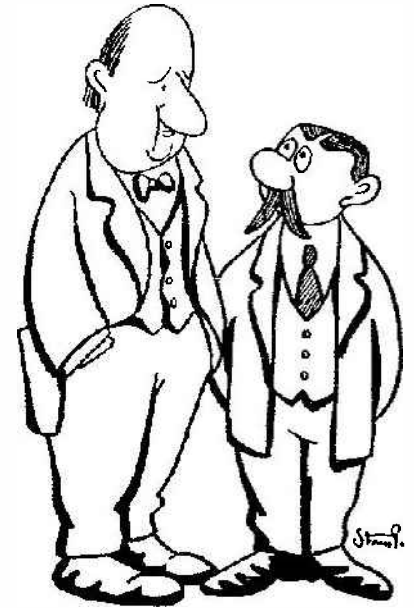
At my stage in life, I do not expect a whole lot of things to surprise me. But when I learned that during the first day of fire in Sonoma, the fire moved the equivalent of a football field every 3 seconds I was horrified. The situations created in the middle of the night must have been beyond imagination. I can only hope and wish that all our friends and members survived the horror.

But back to mundane club business. At the next meeting we have to elect 3 board members. Two current members have indicated that they could consider reelection, but our very popular treasurer, Vagn Nielsen, will not take an additional turn.

This situation will require that additional club member(s) will have to come forward to participate with events. Vagn has performed exceptional well for the club, but the remaining board has no objection to split up Vagn's club functions on several Soldiers, so that each task will be easy to handle for anybody. The most important will be the treasurer function, which essentially will be to pay our bills and collect revenue.

All this should be sorted out at our next meeting, so the new board participants are able to fully function as from January 1st. Participation in these functions will not require board membership unless you want to. We normally have no problem with finding great volunteers, so I hope this will also be the case in this situation.

See you in November.  
Poul



-I cannot understand what you mean.  
-I cannot understand that.  
-No, I understand that.

## The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41  
Petaluma, CA 94953



- Yes, they are not pretty, but on the other hand, I do not have them too long.

### Address Correction Requested



-It's incredible how they talk about what to do -but nobody does anything!

## 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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Thanks to the donors for the raffle:

Kirsten Pedersen, Gudrun, Vibeke Jensen, Birthe Baekgaard, Tove, Erik Larsen, Karen Lysmer, Peter Schakow, Rick & Lisa Santarini, Poul Poulsen.



55 members and guests enjoyed the meeting and the beautiful weather in the Kastania Park October 7. It is still unimaginable to think this scenario changed to an inferno in less than 48 hours. Praying that all members and their families are untouched by this fire.

In the director's meeting it was discussed how to divide Vagn Nielsen's job into several independent ones. Vagn has regretfully declined to take another term. It is always amazing when someone quits to find out how many tasks that person has accumulated over the years. The main jobs available are: Accounting, ordering & maintenance. Please consider to help out.

The directors also voted to establish a "Memory Lane" on our website. Right now we list the obituary of a departed member for 30 -60 days and then it goes away. In the future an obituary will move into "Memory Lane". Right now we have 17 departed members that will appear there.

The Christmas Party is coming up soon. Sunday December 17 is the date. Poul and Per have the Hall and the arrangement lined up. One new thing this year will be concerning the raffle. If you donate a raffle gift, you will receive 5 free raffle tickets, but you must inform Keith Brians, so he knows how much to buy for the club.

It was also raised, that we should include a list of past Presidents in our history, and also who built the buildings and when. Can anybody help with this? It would really be appreciated, if we could compile a lot of history to list at our website and to display at the meeting hall.

Last but not least everybody really liked the new speaker system. Now the national anthem, the raffle and announcements can be heard all over the park. Thanks to Leo Pedersen and his son-in-law who purchased and installed the system.

## Order form for Smørrebrød at \$18.00 each

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



Email or mail this order no later than Tuesday prior to the lunch to:  
[vknielsen@danishsoldiersclub.com](mailto:vknielsen@danishsoldiersclub.com)

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

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**  
\_\_\_\_\_

Drink Tickets are 3 for \$12.00, or 6 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# WE ALL MEAN SOMETHING TO EACH OTHER

we really do

*By Peter Steiness*

In Danish we have a term: "vi kommer hinanden ved". To me, loosely translated, it means that we all connect, we all rely on each other and we all care about each other. What I hope is that we do actually ALL mean something to each other. When I look at the big picture I see all of us, side-by-side, hand-in-hand together on this globe thing and just that should be enough to underline the **us** part, and that's a pretty cool start, don't you think? Well, enough fantasizing; back to life as it really is...

I was visiting my Mother some years back. She lived by herself and had this everyday routine going; very organized, doing the same things day in and day out. I walked with her to the supermarket Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, leaving the apartment at 9:30 sharp. She walked the same route, passing the same people who were either walking or biking. My mother never acknowledge any of them using any form of greeting – nothing; she didn't even look at them. And then I remembered this kind of "you don't exist" attitude that I grew up with and found somewhat rather normal and not only Scandinavian, but also very European.

I brought it up with my mother when we returned home and her response was: "I don't know them and if they want to greet me, why don't they do that?" They had passed each other three times a week for years; why couldn't they at least nod or something to acknowledge and respect each other's presence? My Mother nearly had a heart-attack when I suggested the following.

The next supermarket day I would greet all the people we met on our way. I wanted to prove to my Mother that we do care, no matter how reserved or whatever we appear to be. At this point my Mother was very busy tearing up my part of her will; but I was stubborn and off to the store we went.

A nice looking lady on a bike was the first test. I greeted her with a big smile and *good morning* (in Danish, of course). I thought she was going to fall off her bike, but instead she did one of those double takes to see if I was somebody she knew; she realized I wasn't, but she turned around that second time, smiled big and greeted me back. My Mother

stopped in her tracks, stunned, but in a nice way – I think. I greeted everybody as they came by that morning and received the same reaction: shock, curiosity and then those big smiles and loud good mornings. I had proved to my Mother that we do care, that we do want to connect, and we do *kommer hinanden ved*.

The funny bit is since that morning the passerby's kept greeting my Mother, but it took her several weeks before she finally gave in and started to greet back; but only to those people Monday, Wednesday and Friday. She never expanded this greeting thing to anybody else.

After I arrived in the USA some many years ago, I was initially shocked concerning the friendliness and the greetings everybody seemed to communicate (California). In the beginning I took it a bit too literal when asked *how are you?* I would be in the beginning of my answer and they were already gone. So all they wanted to hear was *fine and you?* Then I bitched about the shallowness of these *I'm gonna greet you but I don't really care about your response* bits. But I soon realized that my attitude was wrong. It had all to do with **acknowledgement** of each other by connecting, briefly or not. It's the effort that counts – big time. Don't you agree?



I pretty much talk with everybody I meet; in the streets, shops, elevators, planes, trains and wherever I travel (yes, especially in Denmark – a tougher challenge). 99.9% of the time I'm met with positive responses, smiles and comments. These moments are precious to me because they prove that we do want to connect, that we do care about each other and no matter the means of communication, we do acknowledge that we are all here together on this globe thing – and isn't that nice? Yes I know, this is the **BIGGER** picture; but most of the time we forget what it looks like because we are so darn busy getting to the supermarket. Once in a while stop, take a deep breath, smile and communicate; we all do mean something to each other, if you agree or not. When we take the time to acknowledge that, we will always be rewarded accordingly – and for the most with big smiles.



SCARY SCARY NIGHT / COFFEE PARK in SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA, IS BURNING / OCTOBER 9TH 2017 / 3 AM

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, early in the morning, Santa Rosa (California) was burning, as well as too many other areas in Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino and beyond. The horrific devastation has so far reached over 40 deaths, many still missing and over 6.500 homes and other structures burned to the ground. Thousands of acres of land have been erased due to this horrendous fire; the worst ever in California's history.

We know too many who have lost their

homes. We found our house standing, being fortunate, but we still question the 'survivor's guilt' that comes with it. We do care so much, but why didn't we get hit?

I have been utterly amazed about the turnaround I have already witnessed. People I know who have lost their homes, sound assertive with 'one step at a time – but doing great/okay'. I have no idea how I would react, how I would come back and how I would rebuild. But I also believe that if in that (unfortunate) situation, I would no doubt forge forward.

I have decided that I want to help rebuild – I have found the way to do it. It's just a tiny speck, but if we all, and when we all put all those tiny specks together, Santa Rosa will rise, as will all areas that have been assaulted. Because we all care, we all acknowledge that we are all part of this big thing, we 'kommer hinanden ved', we do care about each other – and isn't that great?

## SANTA ROSA: REBUILD WE WILL