



# The Danish Soldiers Club

September 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,

Our second 2017 BBQ was again a great success. Thanks to the dedicated and hard work of the volunteers. Keith the cook master must have lost 20 pounds staying so close to the BBQ in over 100 degrees. And they say bankers are not tough!

And a great thank you to the Vikings, who put on an interesting and first class performance. One can only imagine how many hours have been spent in perfecting their detailed presentation. Clearly a special treat for members of all ages.

Leo is reporting that our new integrated audio system is almost fully installed. We have been talking about such a system for quite a while, and it has been high on our wish list.

Thank you Leo for tackling this project.

And do not forget that at the next meeting we will be expecting candidates to come forward to volunteer for any of the three openings in our board for 2018.

Candidates must be announced so we can have a vote in November. See you all in October.

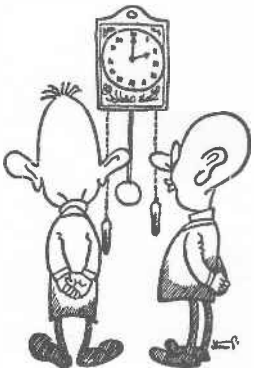
Poul



-Now, we are not talking about that anymore.  
-Not a word—but you are wrong.

## The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41  
Petaluma, CA 94953



-How can your clock be exact, when it doesn't work?  
-Yes—at 2 AM and 2 PM



Operator, I cannot know if my call is important, until I have had it!

Address Correction Requested

## 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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It's BBQ time and the number of donations increases. Thank you very much.

Carsten Johansen, Joe Santarini, Eric Tate, Per Madsen, Holger Jorgensen, Finn Jacobsen, Birthe & family Baekgaard, Vibeke Jensen, Ronald, Faith Wimple, Jessica Wimple, Erik Larsen, Leo Pedersen, Rick & Lisa Santarini, Poul Poulsen.

*Donations  
are Greatly  
Appreciated!*

Over 100 "Soldiers" their guests and children made it to the BBQ September 2nd. in spite of the heat. The food was great (as usual) and in the shade under the roof of the Benzen Hall everybody had a great time.

The Vikings from Bjornstad gave us a very nice presentation and a fighting demonstration. Their exhibition was really great. Below are a few examples.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# FAILURE

## - a big part of success

By Peter Steiness

We all fear failure; it's a basic human emotion. But we really shouldn't. Sure we don't like to screw-up or make mistakes, as it deflates our self-esteem, inflates our insecurities and even more importantly, embarrass the heck out of us. But we really shouldn't fear to fail, as failure is actually a really big part of success and progress – it truly is. So when we do fail, we should not respond with: 'Oh crap, how stupid was that (failure)' while trying to crawl under the nearest rock. Instead we must respond with: 'Now what can I learn from this (failure) so I never do it again, ever.' That's the only positive way to handle failures, which make them into something that helps us progress in life, instead of holding us back.

When you ask yourself if you learn more from the success you have, or from your failures, I'm positive that you'll find much more knowledge and experience gained from what you did wrong, than from what you did right. And please remember, that the embarrassment we do feel when we fail should be extremely brief, as our minds must now fully concentrate on what we have just learned, and how we can apply that new-found knowledge to move forward; so you see, we shouldn't fear failure – a lot.

Ok, let's be clear of one very important thing: For the most part we fail by being ignorant. No, that is neither a derogatory nor a demeaning term; it simply means 'not knowing'; most of our failures are based on the fact that we simply didn't know what would happen, what the outcome would be like.

When we stuck a finger into the burning candle, we weren't aware that it would hurt like hell, no matter how many times mom told us it would –

a lot. So we ignorantly did it and quickly, no matter how painfully so, learned something positive and that was that we should (probably?) never do that again. We had learned from experience and in this case, an extremely painful one. And now listening to mom repeating: 'but I told you so', strapping the band aid on your burned finger while rolling her eyes.

As our two boys grew up and had their mishaps, I rarely got angry when that happened, as they were kids and they were learning the basics – just like their parents had. Instead I asked them if they had screwed up on purpose, and the answer was always 'no' (duh). My point has always been, that for the most part we don't try to fail on purpose, we really don't. It's more like: 'oh crap, that was stupid'. We know what we have done wrong, but just as quickly we write a mental note never to do it that way again – we have learned something positive, from our burned fingers and hurt egos.

Ignorant failures or failures stemming from ignorance are kind of acceptable, but somewhat depending on the gravity of the situation. Failures from stupidity, as in 'I know this might not work, based on blah, blah, blah... but I'll do it anyway', are not our most charming side, and we are quickly being judged by our peers as being, well 'stupid'. Some of those stupidities have giggle factors when we tell ourselves that I am NOT EVER going to do that again – but perhaps we end up doing it anyway – again; ignorance at its very best.

Most failures or results marked 'failure', also comes from lack of anticipation. We don't expect anything bad to happen if we do this or that; the old law of thinking before doing. It's like being naïve crossing the street with our eyes closed, hoping nothing bad will happen. This also applies to the perception of our actions: do we fully understand what will be involved if we do this or



that?

When I started being utterly interested in girls back in the days (14, I think), and I wanted to chat with Jytte, as she was about as hot as could be (and I was not), I totally feared failure in my pursuit of her. Before Jytte even knew I existed, I had already accepted defeat, so why even bother – a solid strategy, huh? Well, it was solid for this kid with no experience in these matters; no failures and no successes, because I had never even tried.

This was before I acknowledged that it was not a disaster to fail, though my sweet mother had advised me, that when we fall down, it stays a failure, only if we don't get up. I anticipated the horror of embarrassment and the ridicule from my peers that would mark me for the rest of my miserable life – and perhaps longer.

The perception of sure-fire failure was etched into my forehead for all to see. Having Jytte at least acknowledge I was alive, would have made me utterly excited. So I looked at all the angles concerning any form of communication, in addition to my sweating in really weird places, stuttering guttural animal like sounds every time Jytte was in the same postal area; but then things changed.

The teacher assigned pairs of students to do whatever thing, can't remember. What would the odds have been for Jytte & Peter: about 1 in 60 trillion – and that being on a good day? So we walked down the hall to do whatever, all silent and with me sweating, feeling my throat tie a complicated knot so speech for the rest of my life was done with.

“So what's wrong with you, Peter?” I was stunned; she actually knew my name. The knot was in the way, of course. “I always wondered why you haven't talked to me. You have been circling around me for so long, stalking me; but never talked to me...don't you like me?”

Jytte and I was an item for two wonderful years. We were inseparable in school and outside; she was intelligent, utterly funny and rather sophisticated for someone at age 14. When she moved to another part of Denmark, we lost contact. I often thought about what would have happened with my life if she hadn't moved.

After Jytte, I faced 'failure' with a much better attitude. Sure, some crappy things happened down the road of life, but I had learned that I shouldn't fear to fail, and I can truly say that it has been a blessing ever since. If we don't take chances we will not move forward, and taking chances open up for failures in the process – but have no fear, please... it's worth it when we learn that it is okay.

At times results from failures can of course be gruesome; that's when we really dig in and try, because we must, to acknowledge what went so wrong, so we can learn, repair and adjust. Thinking before doing is of course recommended, and when we patiently do so, we find that the volume of screw-ups diminishes and due to that, we progress even faster – no kidding.

