



# The Danish Soldiers Club

June 2020

[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,

There has been some encouraging news about getting together again, but we're not there quite yet. Sonoma County recently liberalized its COVID 19 regulations and lifted some restrictions effective June 6th but continues to preclude gatherings of any groups of individuals not part of the same household. There is also continued additional concern for vulnerable populations including people that are 65 or older.

The board will continue to monitor official guidance and would like to have some feed-back from you on who would willing to come to a meeting if and when it should become possible. Please e-mail at [kastaniakeith@gmail.com](mailto:kastaniakeith@gmail.com) or contact your favorite director. We are planning a Zoom board meeting this month to review what we will have to do to reopen when the time comes.

I wish you all good health and look forward to seeing you all again.



Keith Brians



## The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41  
Petaluma, CA 94953



Address Correction Requested

## The Governing Board for 2020

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Keith Brians<br>President to 2020                 | Petaluma (707) 789-9953<br>kastaniakeith@gmail.com                     |
| Dennis Wimple<br>Vice President to 2021           | El Cerrito (510) 525-4120<br>denniswimple@yahoo.com                    |
| Margrethe Bækgaard<br>Treasurer to 2020           | Santa Rosa (707) 293-7972<br>margrethebaekgaard@danishsoldiersclub.com |
| Jill Brians<br>Secretary to 2022                  | Petaluma (707) 227-8404<br>jcbrians@yahoo.com                          |
| Michael Stecher<br>Web Master<br>Director to 2022 | Mill Valley (415) 624-6215<br>mstecher@me.com                          |
| Ken Fultz<br>Director to 2020                     | American Canyon (415) 362-7509<br>KFCVA41@comcast.net                  |
| Adam Byer<br>Director to 2021                     | Oakland (510) 332 6932<br>adam@cherrystreetgames.com                   |
| Vagn Nielsen<br>Director to 2021                  | Sonoma (707) 996-9950<br>nielsen.vk@gmail.com                          |
| Henrik Olsgaard<br>Director to 2022               | Orinda (510) 847-5186<br>holsgaard@hotmail.com                         |

### Volunteers:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Lilian Rasmussen<br>Membership Coordinator | Roseville (916) 771-4961<br>mormor@surewest.net<br>4397 Coach Whip Way<br>Roseville, CA 95747-8623 |
| Rick Santarini<br>Newsletter Editor        | Santa Rosa (707) 477-6669<br>ricksantarini@danishsoldiersclub.com                                  |

| 2020 Danish Soldiers Club Schedule      |                  |                   |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| All Events on Hold until Further Notice |                  |                   |
| July 4th                                | Luncheon/Meeting | <b>CANCELLED</b>  |
| August 1st                              | Luncheon/Meeting |                   |
| September 5th                           | BBQ/Meeting      | Board Nominations |
| October 3rd                             | Luncheon/Meeting | Board Elections   |
| November 7th                            | Luncheon/Meeting |                   |
| December 20th                           | Julefest         | Sonoma Vets Hall  |

If you already have paid your dues for 2020 you can relax. If not, please send a check for \$40 to:

**Margrethe Bækgaard**

**1740 Brandee Lane**

**Santa Rosa, CA 95403-8676—**

**Email:**

**[margrethebaekgaard@danishsoldiersclub.com](mailto:margrethebaekgaard@danishsoldiersclub.com) Also remember that you can pay online thru PayPal at [www.danishsoldiersclub.com](http://www.danishsoldiersclub.com)**

Even as the [Health Officer of the County of Sonoma](#) is starting to allow businesses, parks and facilities to reopen on a limited basis, the Governing Board in an effort to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 has decided to cancel our monthly meeting & luncheons until further notice. This is being done to protect and to ensure the health and well-being of our membership. We will look at resuming the schedule when Governor Newsom and the County of Sonoma says it's acceptable. Please respond to Keith or other board members your feelings about when and how to resume our meetings.

As always the Board wishes for all of you and your families to remain safe and well until we are able to see each other again.

With all this distressing news during these times it is nice to get some good news so I am happy to announce that Pia Klausen, the owner of Nordic House, has decided not to sell the store after all. They do need people to come to the store not just in December but year-round if they are going to survive. So when you have time check it out.



### **Nordic House**

[2709 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA 94702](#)

1-800-854-6435

1-510-705-1932 (Customer Service and Orders)

<https://www.nordichouse.com>

STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 9:30AM - 5PM

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE JULY 4th LUNCHEON and MEETING AND THE CORONA VIRUS, COVID-19**

**To ensure the health and well-being of our membership, the Board has regretfully made the decision to cancel the July 4th Luncheon and meeting on the recommendations of health authorities regarding the corona virus, Covid-19. As we have put all events on hold until further notice we will revisit the meeting schedule when the situation becomes clearer and then will provide more information on the upcoming meetings.**



## Danish Graduation

This summer my wife Lisa and I along with my mother Inger were planning a trip to Denmark. The purpose of the trip was to visit family and friends, along with attending the graduation from Gymnasium of my cousin Solveig's youngest son Jesper. In 2018 we were able to attend the graduations for Solveig's middle son Stephen and our former exchange student Thesis. With the advent of Covid-19 and closures to travel in both the United States and Denmark those plans were quickly in disarray. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, our flight was officially cancelled by Norwegian Airways and this alert made the visit officially over.



*"Health Alert: Denmark, Update on Border Closure*

*Update May 29, 2020. Denmark border closed to tourists until August 31. Danish government officials announced Denmark will keep its border closed to tourists until August 31. Limited access will be granted for Germans, Norwegians, and Icelandic residents beginning June 15 who will be allowed to visit Denmark, but only if they have a lodging reservation of at least six nights outside of the Copenhagen region. Detailed information about Danish border restrictions can be found on the [Danish government COVID-19 information page.](#)"*

Therefore, since we will not be going to Denmark this summer I thought I would share something about this uniquely Danish experience.

## Celebrate school graduates

The conclusion of *gymnasium* (or high school) in Denmark is deemed a considerable accomplishment and celebrated as such. After a month of final exams, Danish students receive a special graduation cap, which is placed upon their heads by their parents upon their last examination, and which many sport all month long. Each school holds a formal graduation ceremony, but it is right after the ceremony that the real fun begins. Students pile onto open-top trucks to tour around town, stopping for a short time at each student's house along the way. Here, family and friends gather to welcome the graduates with

drinks, food, and a toast before they hustle back aboard their rides to continue the parade.

## The student cap.



The graduated students special wear white caps, called "studenterhue", that look like sailors' cap. And the white cap serves as a traditional symbol for this specific period in the students' lives.

The student cap was introduced in Denmark in 1850 and at that time it was black (now the black cap by choice is for gymnasium students studying Latin or Greek). The cap usually has the Danish flag ("Dannebrog") cross which symbolizes the Order of the Dannebrog established in 1671 by Christian V.

The student cap is made of linen with a black brim and is supplied with a band and a rosette with the Danish flag cross or other badge. The design varies after which exam it represents. Another feature is a colored band that identifies a student's field of study. For example bordeaux red means that the student has passed the Studentereksamen (STX-student, regular student), light blue - Higher Preparatory Examination (HF-student), blue - Higher Commercial Examination Program (HHX-student), bordeaux with international flags - International baccalaureate (IB-student, international student), green symbolizes - the agricultural education, pink is the education for hairdressers etc.

There are also other traditions linked with the white cap. One is the belief that students who try on the cap before their last exam are in bad luck. Sometimes, students also write personal messages in the cap's lining.



## Student driving with the fun

Once the students have their hats on, each class rents a truck with an open back. The truck is decorated with Danish flags, balloons, banners and signs, sometimes trees and flowers. The joy ride begins in the morning and the truck travels around to each of the students' homes, where the graduates have a drink and sometimes eat snacks. They are riding around the town honking



their horns, drinking, listening to loud music, cheering, and waving. Interesting,

that almost everyone waves back and some shout congratulations. People around are very friendly - maybe they are reminded of being young and celebrating their own graduation. The shops are filled with graduation greeting cards and lots of cap's stickers and gift ribbon. It seems that the whole world around celebrates together with the young graduates. It makes this time for them unforgettable.

