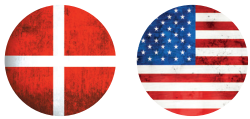


REBILD NEWS

DANISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ORGANIZATION



Dear Rebuild Friends

Happy New Year! A new and exciting year for us is now well under way. I participated in Her Majesty the Queen's New Year Levee at the Christiansborg Castle on Friday, January 3, 2020 as my first Rebuild Society activity.

I have great expectations for this new year and the work we started during autumn 2019 by looking at all our activities in a new and fresh way. The essence and the historical foundation is important to us, and of course we will stay true to that, but in 2020 we continue to focus on the strategic focus we set out in July 2019.

But most importantly we need to strengthen the economy. We need more members and sponsors and during the coming meetings in Phoenix the board in close cooperation will look into that. It was also an important point on the agenda when we met for the Leadership Meeting in Minneapolis in October last year. Through the past years it is primarily in Denmark that we have succeeded in establishing a relation to new sponsors. Especially in USA there are great potentials for new sponsors.

Just now we are also working on a new strategy for communication. We think that the time has come to do things much more digitally to save costs, a.o. when it comes to the printing of RebuildNews and the subsequent postage. We suggest that in future the RebuildNews will only be published digitally. Yet it will still be possible to have a

printed copy sent to the few, who still want so.

The bottom line is that we need to be more in contact with you as members and others, and it is easier and much quicker via e-mail and social media. The website is also being updated and the two present websites are united to one site. Annual Membership Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

In the beginning of April we are meeting for the Annual Membership Meeting, and this time we are going to Phoenix, Arizona. I hope that many of us may gather for some active, exciting and relaxing days together. It is still possible to sign up!

In Phoenix we are also announcing the result of the election to the board. In this RebuildNews the candidates standing for election are presented, and the ballot is on the back page. As a member I shall request everybody to vote and participate in leaving your mark on the composition of the society's board.

I look forward to meeting as many as possible in Phoenix in April and even more this summer in Rebuild, Denmark!

Jorgen Bech Madsen
President



Election to the Board for 2020

Please return the ballot no later than March 1, 2020

A ballot for the election to the Rebild National Board in 2020 is included in this issue of RebildNews. The ballot is to be used by members only. Please send the ballot to the Rebild U.S. Corporate Secretary, att. Linda Steffensen, 1582 Glen Lake Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169. When received, the validity of the ballot is verified.

Thank you very much to the two nominating committees in Denmark and USA and thank you to the candidates willing to run for election. We request all members of the society to vote – especially if you are unable to be present at the upcoming annual membership meeting. The result of the election will be presented in Seattle on Saturday April 4 at the Annual Membership Meeting 2020.



Helene Christensen *Re-election, Denmark*

Biography

My name is Helene Christensen and I am ready to run for re-election to the National Board of the Rebild Society. I believe that in the Rebild Society we are standing on the threshold to something new – and I want to contribute to this and be part of it. I am sure that we are facing an exciting time. I have been an alternate in Chapter North for one year and have now joined the board. I have lived in Hals for the past 8 years in the corner, where Kattegat meets the Limfjord. Originally I come from north of Frederikshavn.

I am working at the tourist organization VisitVesthimmerland as responsible for marketing and I am a member of some boards, and furthermore I have been working as a volunteer in connection with the Rebild celebration for the past 6 years. My connection to USA is that I have studied at Dana College, Nebraska, which unfortunately is now closed. I have also been a trainee at The Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa. I am very fond of America, the people, the culture, and the nature. During my rare spare time I love very much being in the nature, either with hiking boots or on horseback, when I am totally relaxing.

Statement

The Rebild Society is facing a big challenge in the future, and I would like to be part of the work ahead of us. The challenge is: more members and more guests at the Rebild Celebration. When the Rebild Society was founded more than 100 years ago, the necessity of the friendship association was to preserve and remember the Danish roots and have a connection with the old land – Denmark. The necessity of a friendship association in 2020 is of course quite different than 100 years ago. I want to contribute to this in connection with the young people and future generations and descendants of Danish-Americans and Danes living in USA, and Americans living in Denmark.



Mette Dyhr

New Candidate, Denmark

Biography

My name is Mette Dyhr, and I am 42 years old. I am married to Christian and we have 2 children of 12 and 15 years. I work as a teacher at EUD/EUX In Hobro, where among other things I am teaching informatics and culture understanding. I am also a project developer and international coordinator.

My interest in the USA started back in the 1990'ies, when for the first time I heard about students having been attending high schools in USA, and I got the idea that I also wanted to go there. This meant that after having finished 9th grade I went to USA as an exchange student at Lopez Island in the state of Washington, where I stayed with a host family, while I attended high school. Here I really got the American culture under my skin, and my preference for USA was distinctively developed. I was moved by the hospitality and positive attitude to many aspects of life, shown by the American people, and I experienced how Americans were interested in both Denmark and Scandinavia as a whole, and if I met people with Danish or Scandinavian roots and maybe remote relatives, then we were almost family. Soon I established a network and got relations and friendships, which are still existing to-day, and I meet with my American friends and host family as often as possible.

I take a pride in getting young people out, so thereby they are experiencing different cultures and facets of our lovely world - exactly as I did myself and still love to do. During my work as international coordinator I act out my own longing to go abroad by urging our students to choose a college stay in USA.

Statement

My interest In Danish-Americans and the Rebuild Society started several years ago, when I attended the July 4 celebration the Hills of Rebild for the first time. I think that it is a fantastic arrangement with an atmosphere second to none, and I am happy that both local Americans and Danes together can feel the fellow-feeling around the American possibilities and values of freedom. Lately I have seriously thought that now is the time and possibility for me to enter the board of the Rebild Society. I am already member of a few boards, both of which are differently working for making our local community more dynamic and growth-oriented in order to make it attractive to live and work in, and I have great knowledge of communication, fund applications and know the importance of networks. I shall definitely draw on my experience in my work as part of the board of the Rebild Society. To me the Rebild Society is the connection between Denmark and America, contributing to cultural understanding and anchoring in history, highly influencing the present time.

**The Rebild
Festival
In Denmark
July 4, 2020**

www.rebildfesten.dk



Jens Gaardbo
Master of ceremonies



Henrik Fisker
US Keynote Speaker



Mads Tøtting
Entertainment



Nick Kofod Mogensen

New Candidate, Denmark

Biography

My Name is Nick Kofod Mogensen and I am a historian. I have both worked with effecting of history, teaching, and as a file collaborator at The Royal Library. It was my interest in history which led to my interest in the Danish-Americans and the Rebild Society. In 2014 I spent half a year in one of the Danish strongholds in USA – Elk Horn in Iowa. I was a trainee at Museum of Danish America, and I was instantly infatuated with the Danish-Americans.

It was therefore obvious that I should be part of the Rebild Society. The Rebild Society is both a tribute to the Danish emigrants to USA in the past and a support of the strong bonds between Denmark and USA to-day and in future. I was previously a candidate to the national board, and I am already a member of the local board in Chapter EAST. I really hope to be given the chance of also entering the national board at the annual membership meeting in 2020.

Statement

The Rebild Society is just as important and relevant as it has always been. Many Danes live, work and study in USA. The same goes for Americans as to Denmark. But if the association shall survive on a long view, it is necessary that more young people will join. It demands a special effort and new, fresh eyes on the association, and not least its activities and communication outwardly. In especially this connection I can contribute as a member of the board, because I know that to a higher degree we can catch the young people and renew ourselves – also without forgetting whom we are. As a historian with a special interest in Danish-American history I can make an effort that the Danish emigrants to USA will still be remembered. It is an important part of the identity of the Rebild Society, which must not be forgotten, because without them the Rebild Society would not have existed.

Welcome to the Annual Meeting in April

In April 2020 it's time for the Annual Meeting again and this time we will meet in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Annual Meeting is held from April 1 to April 5 but there is an opportunity to go on a pre and a post tour.

The entire program for the Annual Meeting, and all the tours is so extensive that we have chosen to do a website with all the information.

At the website www.rebildfesten.dk/arizona prices, registration form and information are available.





Bruce Bro

New Candidate, USA

Biography

I was born and raised near Elk Horn, Iowa on a farm established by my Grandparents Niels and Laura Bro who were immigrants from near Ringkøbing, Denmark. On my mother's side, my Grandparents Jens and Marie Levisen also immigrated from a Jutland town Ulsted near Aalborg. Both sets of Grandparents immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s. My great great Grandfather, Niels Sorensen Kjergaard (Bro) was a Danish soldier in the first Schleswig-Holstein war 1848-1850. I am a 1980 graduate of Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. In my working career I was founder/ owner of Bro Business Center Corp., a business technology company located in Harlan, Iowa near Elk Horn. I sold that business in 2004.

Over the years I have been active and involved with various Danish/American organizations. I travel to Denmark nearly each year visiting friends and relatives. I have a great interest in genealogy and have traced my Danish roots on both sides back to Jutland in the 16th century. Currently I am Vice President of the Arizona Rebild Chapter, and I am President of the National Foundation for Danish America.

Statement

The Rebild Society has a great history and heritage in maintaining ties and friendship between the America and Denmark. Rebild's annual festival on July 4th, American Independence Day, is a wonderfully unique observation of the strong mutual bonds. Among all Danish/American organizations, the Rebild Society has a unique niche in building and maintaining the friendship between both nations.

I believe the two biggest challenges are expanding the reach to expose more people to the mission of the Rebild Society, and involving the youth of both nations to the organization. Reshaping to the Society to be more compelling to both young and old. My objective would be to work towards these goal.

Call for Annual Membership Meeting 2020

When: April 4th at 08:30 AM
to 10:30 AM

Where: Embassy Suites, Phoenix
Tempe in Phoenix, Arizona

If you want a specific matter addressed at the general meeting then contact the secretariat in Denmark no later than March 1, 2020.

Agenda

- The meeting is opened by the President
- Election of a chairman
- The President's report
- Highlights from the Rebild Celebration 2019
- Annual accounts for 2019 and the annual budget for 2020
- Report from Danish and U.S. Chapters
- Election to the board 2020
- Update about new projects and the future
- Received proposals
- Miscellaneous



Katrine Vange

New candidate, USA

Biography

The Rebuild National Park Society (RNPS) captivates us as a Danish-American institution abundant with history and tradition, as well as friendships, fellowships, and family. With this in mind, I accept the nomination to be a candidate for the election to the National Board of Directors of the RNPS. Like the society itself, my life's story has been a balancing of a Danish upbringing in an American culture. Born into a vibrant Danish-American home and community in the Chicago area, my first language was Danish. I used my American education to explore Danish roots and identity in papers, research projects, and speeches - culminating in a junior undergraduate year at Aarhus University.

Eventually, I came to serve both locally and nationally in assorted roles and on various non-profit boards, including (amongst others), the Museum of Danish America, the Center for Scandinavian Studies at North Park University, and as Miss Denmark-USA for the Rebuild National Park Society. Recently, I was elected President of the Midwest Danish-American Chamber of Commerce. Certified and credentialed, I am a CPA with a Master's in International Management and a Bachelor's in Marketing with over 30 years' experience in the securities, wealth management, and real estate industries. Over the years, I have studied the Danes' participation in Chicago and America's histories and found subtle and incisive contributions, Max Henius included. If elected, I pledge to apply these insights and sensibilities towards elevating the RNPS, the Fourth of July celebration, and our intercontinental fellowship.

Statement

In the Rebuild Hills, Danish-American friendships are celebrated. Rebuild's forum provides a framework through which crosscultural conversation and sharing can take place. Our objective is to host a gathering whereby we can platform the positives of this special ongoing intercultural dialogue. There are challenges in so doing and board members have to be up to the task. Weather, competitive events, budgetary constraints, "stating the case", and maintaining local and international interest are just a few. I liked President Joergen Bech Madsen's strategic focus set out in July; I like the direction he can see the Society going and am comfortable supporting it.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Norholm Gods / Midwest Groundcovers / Aalborg Akvavit / Aalborg Kommune, DK

Novi - Home of knowledge / The Danish Home Foundation / EGE / Chicago Midwest Rebuild Chapter

Midwest Groundcovers / S.F. Rebuild Chapter / Rebuild Kommune, DK / Trepko / Solvang Rebuild Chapter / Netic

The Danish Pioneer / Southern California Rebuild Chapter / The Copenhagen House / Jutta Larsen & Svend Erik Pedersen

Eva & Ole Sindberg / The U.S. Leadership Benefactor / Marilyn & Lowell Kramme / Anelise Sawkins

Sune & Barbara Frederiksen / Paul Roge & Family / Carlo Christensen Trust / Upper Midwest Rebuild Chapter

Ed & Bente Bladt / Museum of Danish America / Gomspace / E. K. Egeskov & L. E. Andersen



Bertel Schou

Re-election, USA

Biography

As a member of the Rebild Society I am prepared to rerun for the national board. It was a privilege to start the Cedar Valley Danes in 1982 and later serve as President. Recently served as a district officer in the Danish brotherhood and am a member of the Danish museum. In 2015 took a group to Denmark and included Rebild. I was Born at Kenmare, North Dakota, married Diane in 1974, and have a son Paul born in 1982. Four summers were spent in Denmark near Kolding where Father was born and who came to Iowa in 1912 at age 18 and five years after an older brother. Later bought the Uncle's farm that is now a research station. Bachelors and masters from North Dakota State and PhD from Michigan State in agronomy with Danish as a foreign language. A post doc was at Ohio State at Wooster followed by five years at a major chemical firm. Began a private firm ACRES (Ag Custom Research) at Cedar Falls, Iowa in 1980 and served as President. ACRES has worked for 100 firms and included projects with Danish groups.

After a 1986 trip to Senegal joined Self Help, a nonprofit NGO in Ghana and Nicaragua, and have served as President and board member 32 years with many trips to Nicaragua. Numerous trips to Europe to visit family in Denmark and attend conferences. Served as President of Sigma Xi honorary scientific at the University of Northern Iowa and now vice president at a West Virginia medical school, vice president of Sons of Norway, Ruritan President, district Eagle Scout commissioner, church treasurer and much more.

Statement

I remember Rebild and seeing King Frederick, Queen Ingrid, and Princesses in 1962. One Rebild Society we met the chairman of Lego, and later I toured facilities in Billund. I sense young people like to learn history and today can do so quickly with communication tools. Rebild can help tell the story of going to a new land and how that is like a new generation going into new areas. Point to positive and exciting discoveries and remind young people how they occur.

One needs to understand people's fears, dreams, and hopes, and then relate and obtain trust. People who have traveled are needed to help see the future. People also need good information to make decisions and this takes people from many backgrounds to understand world complexities. I believe exposures to challenges in Nicaragua, historical cultural and family backgrounds from Denmark, and business exposures can help me help Rebild for the future.

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1582 Glen Lake Road,
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Ballot

To be used for the election of Board Members to serve from 2020-2023

USA

Members may cast max. 3 votes for candidates residing in the U.S. (Please mark an "X" by each candidate you wish to vote for)

Candidates seeking re-election	A	B
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Bertel Schou	_____	_____
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New Candidates	A	B
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Bruce Bro	_____	_____
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Katrine Vange	_____	_____
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Denmark

Members may cast max. 2 votes for candidates residing in Denmark. (Please mark an "X" by each candidate you wish to vote for)

Candidates seeking re-election	A	B
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Helene Christensen	_____	_____
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New Candidates	A	B
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Mette Dyhr	_____	_____
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Nick Kofod Mogensen	_____	_____
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- All members of the Society may vote for candidates residing in both Denmark and the U.S.
- Members may cast max. 3 votes for candidates residing in the US.
- Members may cast max. 2 votes for candidates residing in Denmark.
- Members may cast 6 votes for candidates in the USA in each of the columns (A+B) if they have a household membership.
- Members may cast 4 votes for candidates in Denmark in each of the columns (A+B) if they have a household membership.
- All other members are using only column A.
- To be valid the ballot must be returned not later than March 1, 2020. In cases of doubt the post stamp on the envelope will be decisive. Ballots cannot be handed over personally.
- Reference is made to detailed description in this RebildNews.

Send the ballot to Corporate Secretary Linda Steffensen

Address: Linda Steffensen, 1582 Glen Lake Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169