

September 2015

**SPECIAL
POINT OF
INTEREST:**

Outside of Norway, Sons of Norway, a fellow Fraternal Benefit Society, represents the greatest collection of used stamps in the United States for the TUBFRIM organization.

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CAMP/LODGE OFFICER NEWSLETTER

DBIA Lodge 35, Chicago, Illinois Joins the Fight Against Childhood Disabilities & Handicaps in Norway

One of DBIA Chicago Lodge 35's monthly activities is the collection of used postage stamps which they send to the TUBFRIM program in Nesbyen, Norway to help handicapped or disabled children in that country. Hard to believe that such an easy activity can help others.

You might be asking yourself, how is it that a Danish lodge is helping to support a Norwegian cause? One of its members is very good friends with members of the local Sons of Norway lodge. Outside of Norway, Sons of Norway, a fellow fraternal benefit society, is noted as the greatest collection point for this program here in the United States. As a result, Tarvis Iversen brought the idea to his Danish Brotherhood lodge and they have been supporting it ever since.

TUBFRIM was organized in 1928 by then Nesbyen Postmaster, Ditlef Franzen. His idea at the time was to collect and sell used postage stamps and use the proceeds to help the Tuberculosis Association in Norway. His vision soon caught on and soon many other communities in Norway and even other countries were collecting used postage stamps for the cause. Today, TUBFRIM is owned by the Norwegian Health Association and the profits are used to help handicapped children and youth and children with disabilities.

TUBFRIM recognized its first profits for charity in 1929 in the amount of 1.500 Kroner. According to its website (English version, of course), TUBFRIM has donated over 21 million Kroner to charity since its start in 1928. At today's rate



of exchange, one Norwegian Kroner is equal to about 12¢ here in the United States.

Since 2013, DBIA Lodge 35 members have collected over 700,000 stamps (estimated), valued at about \$1,575, for the TUBFRIM organization. They continue to support this cause as it is easy for everyone to get involved; young and old alike.

Thank you to DBIA Lodge 35 for sharing this story. If your camp/lodge is doing something that you would like to share, please email Jerry at jlc@assuredlife.org.

Hospitality—Service—Loyalty—Protection

National Member Food Drive

Our National Member Food Drive is in full swing! With the fall season upon us, please consider having a Camp/Lodge Food Drive this year. It is probably one of the easiest community service events for your camp/lodge to participate in; especially if you are already gathering for a camp/lodge meeting or other member social event.

Have your members bring canned and other food items to your meeting or social to

donate to your local food bank or food pantry. Done and done! The hardest part is having someone take the food items to the local food bank or food pantry.

If you do have a camp/lodge food drive, consider including a Food Build for your event. Even though some of the excitement has gone out of the process of building something out of the cans and boxes of food and other food items collected during your

food drive, you can earn easy money for your local food bank. Build a food structure, send pictures of your build to the home office and earn at least \$100 for your food program. Last year, 2 DBIA Lodges participated with a Food Build and earned their food banks an extra \$250 each.



Members of DBIA Lodge 348 in Eugene, OR created Danish Nisse out of the collected canned and other food items collected.



Members of DBIA Lodge 29 in Seattle, WA created a replica of Himmelbjerget in Denmark out of the collected canned and other food items collected.

SERVICE—giving back to the community through member-directed service projects and campaigns.

2015 Camp/Lodge of the Year Winners

Two Danish Brotherhood Lodges of Assured Life Association submitted a nomination for the Camp/Lodge of the Year Awards this year. Nominations were received from DBIA Lodge 15 in Des Moines, IA and DBIA Lodge 348 in Eugene, OR.

The Fraternal Committee selected the following winners for 2015:

Best Fraternal Event went to DBIA Lodge 15, Des Moines, IA for its Julefest in December. The lodge hosted a Christmas event for the families of its members, complete with dancing around the Christmas tree, Christmas carols, a Hans Christian Andersen story, and the Christmas story read from the Bible. Then Santa Claus came to visit and the young children got to sit on his lap, tell him what they wanted for Christmas and received a bag filled with treats. Members enjoyed socializing after the festivities with snacks, cookies, coffee and lemonade.

Best Join Hands Day Event - We had no nominations for a Join Hands Day project this year. We continue to promote Join Hands Day among the

camp/lodges as one of our national member service campaigns.

Best Community Service Event went to DBIA Lodge 348, Eugene, OR for its Operation Santa's Elves event. The lodge "adopted" two families for the holidays. Some members donated gifts, others donated money (\$308 total) which went to purchase additional gifts, provide gift cards and groceries for the families.

Best Camp/Lodge Newsletter went to DBIA Lodge 348, Eugene, OR; Newsletter Editor, Lois Toftemark.

And the **Camp/Lodge of the Year 2015** is DBIA Lodge 15 of Des Moines, IA. Lodge 15 included a nomination for each category except a Join Hands Day Event.

For each lodge recognized as the "Best" in each category, Assured Life will donate \$250 to a charity of the lodge's choice. The lodge selected as the Camp/Lodge of the Year is awarded \$500 by the Society, to be donated to a charity of its choice.

Camp/Lodge of the Year Program to be Discontinued

Camp/Lodge of the Year
Nominating Form

ASSURED LIFE ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 3169
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80155
800.777.9777
WWW.ASSUREDIFE.ORG

Camp/Lodge name and number: _____
Camp/Lodge Officer and position: _____
Submitting Nominations: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Use a separate sheet of paper if not enough space is provided.
Pick One Event in Each Category to Nominate.
A social event for members was organized and the event was
attended and popular with members and brought in new members.
DO NOT NOMINATE THE SAME EVENT for two consecutive years.
event along with the month in which it was held.
and popular with members.

2. Did you participate in Join Hands Day last year? YES

3. If an organization is sponsoring a project and the youth organization is participating, please list the organization's name below. This should be included.

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Because the participation level for the Camp/Lodge of the Year program is so low, we have decided to discontinue this program in the future. In the last issue of the *fraternal link* newsletter I requested feedback from you regarding your thoughts on this program. No response is a good indication that the program has lost its appeal; or no one is reading the newsletter.

If you would like to see us reconsider this decision, please email Jerry at jlc@assuredlife.org and let him know your thoughts or recommendations.

Society Awards 65 College Scholarships

Assured Life Association awarded 65 individual scholarships and 1 institutional scholarship this year for a total of \$63,000 in scholarships. Over the last 16 years, including 2015, our Society has provided 1,035 scholarships for a total scholarship distribution of \$929,550!

The top scholar this year was Dominique

Van Howe, recipient of the \$2,500 Arthur J Barrett, Jr Scholarship. Dominique is associated with Rocky Mountain Camp 999 and is the grand-daughter of benefit member Antoinette Lepine of Niwot, Colorado.

2016 College Scholarship applications are available on the Society website under member benefits.

Interest in Summer Camp Grants on the Rise

This year, interest in summer camp grants was up compared to most recent years. This year we awarded 43 summer camp grants for a total of \$4,272. Last year we awarded 34 summer camp grants for \$3,390. And in 2012 and 2013 we had 23 and 25 applicants respectively.

It is great to see this number back on the rise as this is an important member benefit for Assured Life; an investment in our youth. And it's nice when you get a thank-you note from a camper!

Here is one from Sebastian Portillo, Age 12.

Dear Mr. Christensen, Thank you so much for allowing me to experience another exciting week at YMCA Camp Silver Beach! This time at camp, I saw some old friends and met lots of new ones. My favorite activity was the new zip-line. It was always nice to cool off in the pool. Thanks again for this awesome experience!

Please remember to promote this program in your camps and lodges. Summer Camp Grant awards are available to members, children or grandchildren of members – or youth being sponsored by a local camp/lodge.



Why a Food Drive?

Food Drives Strengthen Our Communities

Food drives foster a sense of teamwork by creating an opportunity to work together toward a common, worthy goal. Wow! That sounds like what Assured Life Association is all about; hospitality and service. We represent a community of members joining together in com-

mon interests, values, visions, ideas, friendship, ethnic background, goals and community service.

Our National Member Food Drive gives us a sense of pride and community; AND shows those we are helping that they are valued. Please get involved with a camp/lodge member food drive!



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