

# the fraternal link

Chapter Officer Newsletter

*Wishing all of our Chapter Officers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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## OPERATION SANTA'S ELVES IS UNDERWAY

As the national member food drive winds down, it is time to prepare for Operation Santa's Elves; the last of our national member service campaigns for the calendar year.

This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year for Assured Life Association's Operation Santa's Elves. When the Fraternal Committee coined the program Operation Santa's Elves, they did so with the

knowledge that there are already so many programs and projects that help provide needy children with Christmas gifts. Assured Life Association decided not to re-invent the wheel, but instead encourages its camps/lodges and members to help bring the joy of Christmas and Santa Claus to the lives of needy children by seeking out and participating in one of those many projects and pro-

grams. Operation Santa's Elves is about promoting the worth-while programs already out there that serve the underserved at Christmas time; especially children!

It's easy to participate! Just seek out a local organization or program that assists in providing Christmas gifts to kids that would not otherwise receive anything for

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## ASSURED LIFE ASSOCIATION'S 2016 FOOD BUILD



I am not sure how they do it year after year, but the Eugene, Oregon and Seattle, Washington DBIA Lodges have once again outdone themselves in Assured Life Association's 2016 Food Build event.

DBIA Lodge 29 of Seattle created a replica of Holger Danske. Holger Danske is normally regarded as a Danish national symbol according to Encyclopedia Mythica. The character was first mentioned in French literature in 1060. Hans Christian Andersen brought the character to life in his fairytale, Hoger Danske, where he is described as sitting fast asleep, with his beard having grown into the table in front of him and his sword in his lap; prepared to wake up to action in case Denmark is threatened by outside forces. DBIA Lodge 29 collected a total of 490 lbs of food valued at \$996 plus \$86 in cash donations. With the profits of its Veteran's Night Dinner in the amount of \$196.56 also being added, the total value of DBIA's Food Drive was \$1,278.56, all benefiting HopeLink.



a replica of the Tuborg Brewery in Copenhagen, Denmark, that delivers their "Julebryg" Christmas Beer on the first Friday of November every year. That day has become known as "J-Day"! A scene was created surrounding the theme of Tuborg's delivery of its Christmas brew. This seasonal beer is only on the market for ten weeks every year, yet is Denmark's 4th best selling beer according to the Carlsberg Group website. DBIA Lodge 348 collected 250 lbs of food valued at about \$400 for Food for Lane County. From the blue bottles of beer to the truck wheels, everything was made with cans and/or boxes of food!

For their efforts, DBIA Lodge 29 and 348 have each earned a \$250 donation from the home office to their respective food banks. See more pictures on page 4.

DBIA Lodge 348 of Eugene created a

## OPERATION SANTA'S ELVES IS UNDERWAY

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Christmas. Whether it is Toys for Tots, Adopt-A-Family programs or the Salvation Army, get involved.

We have many resources available for members wishing to participate in Operation Santa's Elves. Go to our Society Website and click on the National Service Campaigns link at the top of our home page. Then click on

Operation Santa's Elves. Thank you for your support.



## 2016 BOARD ELECTION & BYLAW AMENDMENTS RESULTS



The recent Board Elections have been tallied and verified by Assured Life's Legal Counsel, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP of Denver, CO. A total of 426 valid ballots were certified. The four nominees elected to the Board of Directors as a result of the vote were as follows:

- Tanya S. Unrein
- Charles R. Cloud
- Chris A. York
- Douglas H. Oury

Amendments to Assured Life Association's bylaws were also considered by benefit members and have been tallied and verified. 87.5% of the benefit members casting a vote approved all of the proposed amendments. The Colorado Insurance Division has also approved the amendments.

A full reporting and synopsis of the changes to the bylaws will appear in the Spring issue of *Life Assured* magazine as required by Colorado law.

## CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORTS DUE MARCH 31, 2016

Chapter annual reports are being mailed to Chapter Officers after the first of the year. **The deadline for all reporting is March 31, 2017.**

There are no changes to the various reports for the 2016 reporting. We encourage as much online reporting as possible. Links to Chapter Reporting can be found on our website by clicking on the Camp/Lodge Leaders link at the top of the page (we have not completely updated our website for the change in terminology from camp/lodge to chapter). There you will find a link to the annual reporting. If you have any questions contact Jerry at [jlc@assuredlife.org](mailto:jlc@assuredlife.org).

The screenshot shows the Assured Life Association website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: About Us, Camp/Lodge Leaders, Customer Service, Insurance Products, Member Benefits, and National Service Campaigns. Below the navigation is a large banner image of Santa Claus and a young girl in a green elf costume. The banner text reads "Give the Magic of Christmas" and "Through Operation Santa's Elves". To the right of the banner is a sidebar with a "Like Page" button and a "Calendar of Events" section listing "Operation Santa's Elves" (November 1, 2016 to Dec), "Christmas Holiday" (December 25, 2016 to Dec), and "New Year's Holiday" (January 2, 2017 to Janu). Below the banner is a "Benefit Focus" section with a sub-section "For Our Members" featuring "The Enhanced Benefits Card" and a "Focus on Service" section with another image of Santa and the girl. A "New" section is partially visible on the right.

### “CHAPTER” VERSUS “CAMP/LODGE”

One of the changes to Assured Life Association’s articles and bylaws is the change in terminology from “camp/ lodge” to “chapters” when referring to its subordinate local organized groups. Research by the American Fraternal Alliance, the trade association for fraternal benefit societies, indicated that “chapters”, as a term to describe local organized groups of fraternal, was considered more recognized, modern and preferred by focus groups over the term “camp” or “lodge”; especially among the general public and non-members.

What does this mean for your camp or lodge?

If your camp or lodge uses the term camp or lodge in its current bylaws or as part of its name on a bank account, you are not required to make a change. The home office will begin updating its forms, website, letters, etc. to address all camps/ lodges as chapters in the future.

The home office will continue to use the term camp or lodge for individual chapters in its IRS 990-N (e-postcard) Filings on behalf of chapters.

**IRS 990-N (e-postcard) Filings for Chapters**

The Home Office will be filing the required 990-N e-postcards for all chapters based on annual reporting. This is another reason that completing the annual reporting for your chapter is important. We use it as a basis for that 990-N electronic filing. In the words of the IRS questionnaire for parent organizations; “Do you verify continued existence of your subordinates prior to submission of your annual group exemption update?” “Do you verify that your subordinates continue to meet the requirements for federal tax exemption prior to the submission of your annual group exemption updates?” The answer is Yes, we verify through receipt of the annual reporting of our chapters.

### MORE FROM 2016 FOOD BUILDS



**Holger Danske awakens for a beheading!**



**Tuborg Brewery Delivering its “Julebryg” on J-Day**



## NEW MEMBER BENEFIT COMING SOON



We are adding a **LifeLock** Discount to our Member Benefit package; available to members and their families.

This offer will be available soon, so watch your email inbox for details and information on how to sign up for this fantastic benefit.

As an Assured Life Association member, you will be entitled to a special 30-day risk-free offer and 10% off LifeLock membership. That's just \$9.00 a month or \$99.00 annually for LifeLock Standard™ service.

## OPERATION PURPLE CAMPS FUNDRAISER 1/1/2017—2/28/2017

Assured Life added the National Military Family Association's Operation Purple® Program to its national member service campaigns in 2011 following an appeal from the National Fraternal Alliance.

What is Operation Purple Camps and Why Purple?

According to the National Military Family Association website, Operation Purple® Camps provide military kids a free week of camp where they connect with other kids just like them. "Purple happens to be the perfect mix of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force Blue, Marine Corps Red, and Navy blue. In the military world, purple symbolizes all who serve, and at our Association, we know families serve, too!"

Join with us to help the National Military Family Association send military kids to summer camp! Your Chapter can make a donation by going to our website under National Service Campaigns and then clicking on Operation Purple to download a donation form.

This is the first of the National Service Events for the calendar year, so please do not lose sight of it. The first of the year brings annual reporting requirements for your chapter so this program gets lost in the shuffling of paper. Please mark your calendar and remind your chapter to help with Operation Purple Camps.



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 28, 2017** – Ending Date for Fundraiser for National Military Family Association’s Operation Purple Camps

**March 15, 2017** – Deadline for College Scholarship Applications

**March 31, 2017** – Due Date for Chapter Annual Reports

**May 6, 2017** – Join Hands Day

**May 15, 2017** – Deadline for Summer Camp Grant Applications

**June 1, 2017** – Deadline for Fraternalist of the Year Nominations

### **Updated Chapter Model Bylaws Available**

If your Chapter uses Assured Life Association’s Chapter Model Bylaws as its bylaws, you can download an updated copy from our website under Camp/Lodge Leaders. These bylaws were updated and adopted by the Board of Directors on December 2, 2016.

### **Updated Chapter Rituals Available**

Also available on the website under Camp/Lodge Leaders you will find an updated Chapter Ritual packet for use in your chap-

**HOSPITALITY | SERVICE | LOYALTY | PROTECTION**



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