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REBILD NATIONAL PARK SOCIETY, INC.

Rebild General Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, April 6, 2024 – Embassy Suites, Covington, KY

1. **WELCOME:** Rebild National Park Society President Jorgen Bech Madsen welcomed 57 Rebild members (including 8 members online via ZOOM) to the Rebild General Annual Membership Meeting at the Embassy Suites in Covington, Kentucky on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 9:04 a.m. Jorgen said we had experienced some fantastic days in Ohio and Kentucky, and he looked forward to working with everyone to make an even stronger Rebild Society.
2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF MEETING:** Peter Orum was elected Chairperson of the Annual Membership Meeting.
3. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Rebild National President Jorgen Bech Madsen reported that Rebild had experienced a good year with high momentum, good networking with the Rebild and Aalborg municipalities, and the development of the Danish-American Business Network. He appointed Bruce Bro as “President of the Weather” in the hopes that we will have sunshine on July 4, 2024. Right now, plans are in the works for the Rebild July 4, 2024 Festival. Each July 4 is different and extraordinary. Rebild is working on getting a high-level speaker, but we will also have a Plan B for 2024. Rebild National Park Society has strong cooperation with the Danish Royal House. The costs of entertainment, staging and food are increasing, so we are accelerating sponsorships. Right now, we have the highest level of sponsorships that we have ever had. Through our Communications Strategy, we are working on streamlining our visual and brand identities. Rebild National Park Society had a loss of 120,000 DKK in 2023, but we had a profit of 250,000 DKK in 2022, so there is a good balance in the economy. We hope to break even in 2024. We are working on building Rebild’s 4th of July Festival into a “Must-Do” event. Jorgen will introduce more information about Rebild’s Strategic House in the autumn. Special thanks to Rebild Kentucky Chapter President Sune Frederiksen and the Kentucky Rebild Chapter for hosting the excellent 2024 Annual Membership Meeting and Tours.
4. **UPDATE FROM THE REBILD SECRETARY GENERAL:** Rebild Secretary General Helene Christensen thanked everyone who helped make the 2023 Rebild Festival and the July days in Rebild and Aalborg so successful. The 2023 Top Karen’s Prize winner was Jesper Jespersen. Bruce Bro was the 2023 Mayor for a Day of Aalborg. The Rebild Picnic on July 2 was sold-out with 50 participants. The July 3 Rebild Gala was attended by 216 people. Elisabeth Bumiller and Adam Price were the 2023 Rebild guest speakers, and Oh Land was the headline entertainer.

5. **FINANCES:** Jesper Jespersen presented the Rebild Annual Financial Report. In 2023, we had an income of \$198,291 and expenses of \$211,074 for a loss of \$12,783. With interest payments on our line of credit, the overall loss was \$18,142. Jesper also presented the Balance Sheet with assets and liabilities. Kim Qvistorff thanked the current management for the good job they are doing. Rebild is grateful to the foundations who have supported new straw roofing, new double windows and more to bring energy savings to the Rebild buildings. Rebild is also thankful to late members Svend Erik Pedersen and Jutta Larsen, who donated 250,000 DKK to Rebild a few years ago when they passed away. Peter Orum said the sponsorship program is very important as it generates 75% of Rebild's income while memberships bring in 25% of the income. Peter recognized the late Rebild President Harald Nielsen for starting the Benefactor (Sponsor) program many years ago. Jesper Jespersen said Annual Sponsorships are important, and it is also helpful if sponsors sign up for 3 – 5 year sponsorships, so we can plan ahead. Jorgen Bech Madsen said the goal is to get \$200,000 USD in Rebild sponsorships. A motion was made to approve the 2023 Annual Financial Report by John F. Rasmussen, seconded by John Larsen, and all voted in favor.
6. **UPDATE FROM THE U.S. VICE PRESIDENT:** Rebild U.S. Vice President Bruce Bro remembered Rebild members who had passed away within the past 1 – 2 years, including Kent Hanson (CA), Jens Erik Pedersen (CA), Arne Graversgaard (CA), Bent Andersen (CA), Andrew Andersen (CA), Doug Rachael (Delaware Valley), and Niels Selling (Aalborg, former Secretary General). We thank all these gentlemen for their contributions through the years.

Regarding being the new “President of the Weather”, Bruce said we have learned to have fun regardless of the weather.

Bruce said Rebild National President Jorgen Bech Madsen had finished his initial 5-year term, and he was unanimously elected for another year by the Rebild National Board. Rebild appreciates Jorgen Bech Madsen and his wife Mette Madsen's willingness to lead and support Rebild National Park Society.

Bruce acknowledged Scan Design Foundation for its \$25,000 grant to Rebild in 2023 and a new \$25,000 grant in 2024 for General Support. Scan Design also donated \$25,000 in 2024 to underwrite the new “Green Energy Study Tour”. Special thanks to Scan Design Foundation for its significant support.

7. **ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD:** The following retiring Rebild National Board Members were thanked for their service to the board: Lillian Jensen (3 years), Sean Roach (6 years) and Anna Thomsen Holliday (6 years).

Newly-elected Rebild National Board Members for 3-year terms in the USA in 2024 are: Daniel Haydt (Texas), Karin Wasler (California), Jeppe Moller (Florida) and Lone Soto (Kentucky). In Denmark, Jesper Jespersen and Vibeke Lybro were re-elected to their second 3-year terms, and Hanne Stovring was elected to her first 3-year term.

The 2024-2025 Rebild National Board currently includes:

USA: Bruce Bro (U.S. Vice President), Lisa Riggs, Toni Battaglia, John F. Rasmussen, Lisbeth Hopper, Carl Steffensen, Jeppe Moller, Karin Wasler, Daniel Haydt and Lone Soto.

DENMARK: Jorgen Bech Madsen (National President), Lars Nygaard Pedersen (Danish Vice President), Vibeke Lybro, Jesper Jespersen, Michael Kjeldsen, Henrik Jepsen, Anja Matthiesen, and Hanne Stovring.

8. **JULY 2024 ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK:** Helene Christensen highlighted the plans for July 2024 in Denmark including:
- **July 1 – 4, 2024:** American Days in Aalborg
 - **July 2:** Garden Party, Guided tour at the Marine Museum in Aalborg, Victor Qvistoff's Paintings 1882-1953, and Picnic at Tophuset, where the 2024 Top Karen's Prize will be presented.
 - **July 3:** The Aalborg Mayor bids welcome, Mayor's Lunch where the new Mayor for a Day is named, and the Rebild Gala at the Comwell Aalborg
 - **July 4:** Danish-American Business Network, Memorial Ceremony in Aalborg, Enrollment in Christian 4th Guild, Activities in Rebild (U.S. Car Show, US Football, Food and More), Tent Luncheon at 11:30 AM, Rebild Festival at 3 PM, Garden Reception and After-Party in the tent with live music and food. Eddie Szweda, an American living in Denmark for the past 30 years, will give the first beer courtesy of Midtffyns Bryghus. Rebild will split the beer sales 50/50 with Midtffyns Bryghus. Eddie will also promote Rebild to his 10,000 followers on Facebook and give a comedy show and beer tasting at Rebild.
 - **July 5:** Rebild Membership Meeting, Membership Lunch and Board Meeting.

Helene said the Rebild July 4th Festival program itself will include:

- U. S. Guest Speaker: Dr. Rachele Keck (Grandview University)
- Danish Guest Speaker: ?
- Danish Government Speaker: Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister
- U.S. Government Speaker: Ambassador Alan Leventhal
- Youth Speaker: CEO Jay Cannon
- Greetings from the Danes in the USA: Fidelma McGinn (President of Scan Design Foundation)
- Musical Entertainment: Prinses Musikkorps and Headliner Stine Bramsen

There will also be the "**Green Energy Study Tour**" June 30 to July 5, 2024 supported by Rebild, Green Hub, Scan Design and NFDA.

Special thanks to the Rebild Flag Guild and Peter Orum for the Avenue of American and Danish flags in Skorping and Stovring.

In addition, in the Rebild Hills themselves, special thanks to Toni Battaglia for sponsoring the brand new Minnesota state flag for 2024. If there are ever new state flags in your state, please let Helene, Bruce and Linda know.

9. **2025 ANNUAL REBILD MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND TOURS IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA:** Bruce Bro and Karin Wasler highlighted the plans for the April 2 – 10, 2025 Rebild Annual Membership Meeting and Tours in San Diego, California, entitled “*A Fusion of Cultures*”. During this time-period in Spring 2025, we will hold board meetings, chapter leadership meetings, membership meetings, tours, gala dinner, and more. Bruce and Karin have been holding ZOOM planning committee meetings with the Southern California Rebild Chapter. The main venue will be in San Diego, and we will have a chance to visit House of Denmark (Balboa Park) and many other spots, including California’s beautiful coastline and hopefully the Maritime Museum. San Diego has the best Zoo. A proposed Post Tour will include exploring Solvang, a Danish Village in California. Solvang is known for its Elverhoj Museum, HC Andersen Museum, Chumash Museum, Viking Ship Museum, wineries and more. Other suggestions included stops at the Danish Church in Yorba Linda, CA; Reagan’s Library in Simi Valley, CA; and Olaf Wieghorst’s Museum (Danish-born cowboy painter). For those who wish to go on a Post-Tour cruise, there are possibilities to book on your own out of San Diego or Los Angeles.

10. **SPECIAL THANKS:** Kentucky Rebild Chapter President Sune Frederiksen thanked everyone for their tremendous support before and during the 2024 Rebild Convention in Ohio and Kentucky. He hopes everyone enjoyed the fellowship, friendships and ideas. All of the sponsors are featured in the convention program booklet. Sune mentioned that the Gala Dinner, entitled “Dinner, Dance and Danes”, will feature a Silent Auction, including a Halter worn by Triple Crown horse and the Max Henius jacket with badges.

Rebild President Jorgen Bech Madsen thanked Sune Frederiksen and his committee again for the wonderful time in Ohio and Kentucky. The Annual Membership Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Steffensen/Rebild U.S. Corporate Secretary

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