

Residents' Corner



These are my Grandchildren dressed in their bunads, purchased in Norway. They are now young adults and continue to volunteer at the Scandinavian Festival. The Festival will be held at California Lutheran University on Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is the 45th anniversary of the festival. I have been involved with the festival for over 20 years and currently plan, purchase, and direct the children's craft booths at the festival. Children (12 and under) get a free backpack courtesy of my family and a passport as they enter. The craft booth teaches the children about the five Scandinavian countries by making a craft.

The festival of Nordic cultures, the largest such event in Southern California, features music, dancing, cooking and craft demonstrations, specialty Nordic craft vendors, and activities for people of all ages.



Festivalgoers can visit an authentic Viking Village and a Saami sliddastallan or community gathering, frolic with the lovable Norwegian Elkhounds, and decorate head wreaths with flowers and ribbon. Younger Vikings can also enjoy the Hans Christian Andersen puppet shows and make free Scandinavian craft souvenirs.

Food is always a highlight, come and enjoy Nordic Food! The main stage features dance groups, musical guests, and a headline performance by ABBAFAB, a tribute to the Swedish pop group ABBA.



Admission is \$15 for adults. Children (12 and under) are free. The festival is produced by the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation. Plan on coming and bring your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Village View



3415 Campus Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Volume 16 Issue 6
June 2022

UVTO: RESIDENTS, MANAGEMENT AND THE OWNERS

By Blaine S., reprinted with permission

The following article was written by Blaine S. and appeared in the October 2010 issue of the *Village View*. Blaine served on the Resident Council in 2009 and 2010, and was the Chair of the Council in 2010. His observations about the workings of the Resident Association and its relationship with Management and the owners are right on target and apply just as well today as when he wrote the article.

Alan B., Resident Council Chair

The State Code, which regulates CCRC's like UVTO, encourages residents to band together to protect rights and to help maintain a positive quality of life for their community. Here at UVTO, we collectively chose to adopt a set of Bylaws that sets an organizational structure of a Resident Council, Building Representatives, and functionally focused Committees. The Resident Council's prime task is to recognize, understand and influence actions that enhance that quality of life for all of us. Note the word "influence"; it properly applies as we all operate under constraints. A State Code guides Management, our Resident Association (we are all members) and Resident Council. Each of us signed a contract with the owners that defines who owes what to whom, how much, etc. In addition, there are the practical forces of the market place. Within these boundaries, the Resident Council can attempt to *persuade* Management and the owners to take actions. We may advise, but they make the final decisions, within the law and the contracts. Now this may seem to be a one-way street, their way. Not exactly. Residents, Management and the owners share a common objective: to maintain UVTO as the premium quality, high-valued, fully occupied CCRC of choice. *They* may want to do it for commercial, moneymaking purposes (imagine that!). *We* want the highest quality living at the lowest possible cost (how rational!). A community of interesting residents is both a marketing attraction and an essential for our own social lives. For us both, full occupancy is a cost reliever. We gain or lose together. While we do not call the final shots, we can and do advise and help Management direct attention and resources to do the most good. We raise issues, and we respond when consulted by Management. To do that, we need to keep well informed as to residents' concerns. Our purpose is not to posture and declare, but to get things done and to set the proper tone in the process.

We foster "open meetings," but it is not necessary to wait for formal proceedings to express an opinion or voice an issue. Call upon any Resident Council member, and the matter might be addressed even before the next session.

The key seems to be working with Management toward our common objectives.

