

The Reg. Bus. Mtg. opened at 6:45 PM by Chm. Margaret Carlson.

ROLL CALL - Absent: Asst. Fin. Secy - Martha Fredrickson & M.C. - Peggy Carlson.

APPLS FOR MEMBERSHIP - 12 Appls. were read, voted on and accepted. They are: Hildegard Alvarado, Nancy Bissanette, Sharon Anderson, Gloria Brasswell, Sven Eric & Brita Carlson, Edwin Cook, John & Kay Erickson, Richard & Gloria Eriksson, Helen Starkey. Initiation Ceremonies followed for: Edwin Cook, Helen Starkey, Richard & Gloria Eriksson. The others were unable to attend tonight so they will be initiated later.

MINUTES - of November Mtg. were approved as written. (No Business Mtg. in Dec.)

FRIENDSHIP COMM - We were sad to hear about the recent death of Jill Stockham's son. Margaret Linn is recovering from by-pass surgery, Viola Bodelson broke her arm, George Uffens fell off his bicycle, but wasn't hurt badly, Richard Forsty is back in the hospital following surgery, Eivor Pfannkuch is doing quite well following hip surgery. Helen Tura isn't doing too well after having a foot amputated. Eliz. Johnson had talked with Hank Hjersman & Alice Swanfeldt. They are getting along pretty well.

CULTURAL COMM - Jewel Wright told us a little about Swedish Xmas Celebrations.

VASA STAR - Marianne sends in articles but they are slow in being printed.

CHILD. CLUB - No report

SCHOLARSHIP - " "

SINGERS - They will perform at Sierra Kronan & Scand. Festival.

SCAND. FESTIVAL - There will be a Mtg. at 7 PM Jan. 23 at Norway Hall. Everyone invited.

SMÖRGÅSBORD - Margaret Carlson has resigned as Chairman of the Smörgåsbord. It's getting to be too much work and tickets didn't sell as well this time, so she asked for ideas for next year.

UNFIN. BUS - None

CORRES - Read. Several thank-you notes for the Xmas plants and cookies. Letter from District re; Sweden Day Mtg. in Stockton on Feb. 5. Delegates from Monitor are Myrtle W. & Audrey Fales.

FUTURE EVENTS - Jt. Installation of Officers Jan. 13 at Sierra Kronan. Discussion about car pooling. Pea soup dinner - Feb. 3. Delegates were elected for the Dist. Convention in April. They are: Margaret Carlson, Myrtle Widmark, Audrey Fales & Leisma Krastins. Alternates are: Gail Nemy and Jewel Wright.

NEW BUS - Margaret will have a Mtg. for new officers at her place Sun. Jan 15. Margaret reported that Viola Hallen will no longer take care of Monitor's storage shed, so a new facility will have to be located. A Xmas Tree and decorations were donated to the Lodge by the Anderson's? Secretary was asked to send a thank-you note. There was discussion about Lodge Assessments. Our dues (14) barely cover the assessment costs which are quite high, so our dues will have to be increased soon. Kurt made a Motion for a "Proposal to establish New Financial Level of Membership". This change to our by-laws would be an Associate Membership which would be a full voting membership, but with reduced annual dues for members on a fixed income. Sec. by Ingrid Kennedy. Motion tabled awaiting further discussion.

BILLS - Read. Motion by Kurt and Sec. by Arlie that Bills be paid. Passed.

ANNUAL REPORTS - Read. Monitor now has 205 Members.

GOOD OF THE ORDER - Kurt welcomed our new members. Myrtle announced that Swedish Classes will resume Feb. 12. Marianne apologized for not bringing the piano key tonight. Kurt said that the new Program Books should be here by Feb.

FIN. SECTY & TREAS - Reports read.

Mtg. closed at 8:15 PM followed by refreshments.

Jean Anderson
Assist. Secty.

Monitor Lodge #218
Proposal to Establish New Financial Level of Membership

It is proposed that Monitor Lodge #218 consider the establishment of a new level of membership. This proposal should be reviewed by all members and considered as a permanent change to our by-laws.

The Proposal is as follows:

Monitor Lodge #218 should add an Associate Membership which would be a full voting membership, but with reduced annual dues. The rationale for this status is to provide relief for those members on a fixed income, but who wish to continue their participation in Lodge activities. The following rules are suggested for administering this type of membership:

1. The member must have been a full dues paying member for a minimum of ten (10) years prior to applying for Associate Membership.
2. The member must request associate status in writing. The request will be reviewed by an executive committee consisting of the Chairman, Financial Secretary., and Recording Secretary and that committee shall be enabled to approve the request based on verification of need.
3. The associate status may be rescinded if financial conditions improve. The Lodge may ask persons holding such membership to rejustify their need periodically.
4. The dues for an Associate Member shall be the dollar amount (rounded up) sufficient to cover all District and Grand Lodge assessments plus the newsletter postage.
5. The Lodge shall advise Associate Members annually of the dues amount, based upon current assessments.
6. The associate status and dues shall take effect on the members' next membership anniversary.

As of January 1995, the total annual "fixed" cost of membership in Monitor Lodge is \$15.25. This is the total of District and Grand Lodge assessments and the postage cost of ten issues of our newsletter. Our dues are currently only \$14/year, obviously not enough to cover basic costs. Dues will need to be raised soon. An argument against a dues increase has always been, "Our older members on fixed incomes cannot afford it." This may be true in many cases, and consideration should be given to those who have contributed to the Lodge over the years and now need relief to remain members. However, even social security has seen more cost of living increases than our dues, and those of us who are gainfully employed should not see reasonable dues increases as a substantial hardship. An Associate Membership would help protect those who need it, keep some members active who may otherwise drop out, and clear the way for realistic dues evaluation and management.