

**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA**  
*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896*

Vol. 20, No. 6

June-July 1996



**NEXT MEETING WILL BE** held on Friday, June 7, to celebrate *Fars Dag*. We'll have refreshments at 6:00 PM and potluck supper at 6:30. This time it's the ladies' turn to entertain the men. So all women, bring you favorite dish big enough to serve 12 people. We all love to eat!

We're having a "Men's Best Leg Contest." All men who would like to enter, please sign up with Jewel Wright.

We are also initiating new members, so there will be a short business meeting. Hope to see you all there!

Remember, we will not have a meeting in July and only a very brief business meeting at the crayfish party on August 17. Make sure you check out the separate articles in this newsletter on our summer socials.

### **Chairman's Message**

What a nice *Mors Dag* dinner and program! We had a capacity crowd and almost ran out of food. Unfortunately, there were people who did not get to taste everything, partly because some people had already had seconds.

The children performed with song and dance. They even gave all women small handmade gifts. District Youth Supervisor Britt O'Grady, dressed as a troll, kept as all spellbound with troll sto-

ries. Thank you Britt for coming that long way to give us such a great program!

Sincere thanks to everyone who participated, especially our cooks Ernie Skorheim, Ed Dahlberg, Arlie Veis, Chuck Nelson, and Carl Nelson!

We had a great district convention. Kurt and Eivor Pfannkuch hosted a wonderful reception. Friday night was a lot of fun dressing up in Gay 90s costumes. Arlie Veis was the MC for the Friday night activities and did a great job.

Many of you are traveling this summer. Enjoy your summer vacation and come back safely.

*In Truth and Unity,  
Margaret Carlson*

### **Upcoming Events**

This is our LAST NEWSLETTER for a while. The July/August issue will be mailed before our September 2 meeting. In the meantime, here are our summer activities [see also separate articles on the following pages]:

**22 June:** Midsummer potluck  
**23 June:** Midsummer celebration at the International House in Davis

**July 13:** Bay Area bus trip  
**August 2:** Picnic and ice cream social

**August 17:** Crayfish party

### **What A Nice Surprise**

to see long-time members **Britt-Marie and Lennart Andersson** from Sequim, Washington, and **Sue Bergman** from Duluth, Minnesota, at our May meeting! Retirement must be agreeable—you all looked great!



### **District Officers**

Following the recent district convention, several Monitor members now hold district offices: Kurt Pfannkuch is Past District Master, Margaret Carlson is continuing as District Historian, and Myrtle Widmark is Inner Guard. Myrtle is also District Deputy to Nord Lodge.



### **For More Information about Monitor Lodge, Please Contact**

- Membership Committee members Jean Anderson 682-7438, Arlie Veis at 489-5729, or Eivor Pfannkuch, 673-5917.
- Secretary Marianne Ek at 372-1015
- Vice Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330
- Chairman Margaret Carlson, 742-9346





## Condensed Minutes from April 5, 1996, Informal Meeting

(Following 84th anniversary potluck celebration)

1. March minutes were approved with minor corrections.
2. We had three applications for membership.
3. Terry Tillman's proposal to create and sponsor a World Wide Web home page for Monitor Lodge on a trial basis was approved. The district is also creating an Internet site.
4. So far, 20 reservations had been received for the Bay Area shopping trip.
5. UC Davis is looking for a Swedish teacher.
5. The district convention resolutions were read by the Secretary. The meeting approved resolutions #01-#03 but agreed to vote no on #04.



6. Correspondence included anniversary congratulations from several lodges; notice of a slight price increase for Grand Lodge jewelry; new date for Balder Lodge's *Luciafest*; Ferndale Scandinavian Festival announcement; and newsletter from Linnéa Lodge.
7. Our meeting place had been burglarized.
8. Helen Mingram and Neil Hogue spoke with congratulations for our anniversary and thanks for the excellent meal. The also expressed thanks and congratulations to Kurt Pfannkuch who was about to conclude his term as District Master.
9. Following Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports, the meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

— Brian Stockham,  
Assistant Secretary

### Dues Anniversaries

If you have already paid, please ignore this reminder and thank you for your promptness.

Daniel & Violet Backman  
Jack & Linda Becker  
Don Carlson  
Beatrix Clark  
Elizabeth Coleman  
Ellen Harrod  
Liesma Krastins  
Frank Lindahl  
Bernie Lundberg  
Nancy Maddox  
Beatrice & Harold Mattson  
Frances & Nancy Misenti  
Dorothy Mogford  
Billie & Edmund Nelson  
April Nelson  
Carl & Launna Nelson  
Ernest & Juanita Skorheim  
John & Jewel Wright  
Birgitta Ellis  
Henry Hjersman  
Donn & Lillian Stafford  
Sigrid Thorsen

Dues are \$18 a year. You may pay them at the June meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.

### Scandinavian Festival

This year, we were especially honored by the presence of Siri M. Eliason, Consul General for Northern California and also Swedish-American of the Year. We certainly appreciate her taking time from her busy schedule to attend and speak at our festival.

*TUSEN TACK* to all of you hard workers who contributed to the success of our festival—before, during, and after. Without people like you, such an event wouldn't be possible.

Attendance was up by about 100 people this year. Despite the fact that we ran out of food and baked goods, each participating lodge will receive a \$600 check as their share of the profits.

The next festival meeting will be held on **Monday, November 11, at 7 PM**, at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue. Come and help us plan for next year's festival which will take place on **Saturday, April 12, 1997**. Mark both dates on your calendars!

— Ethel Johnson

### Nål och Tråd

There will be no meetings during the summer. We will get together again in the fall and will let you know when and where. Have a good summer!

— Jean Anderson

### Nordic Delights

Mindy Patterson, daughter of Monitor member Birgitta Ostlund and about to be initiated herself, can provide you with all kinds of Nordic delights: from candy to vinegars, from cookies to spices, from pastries to condiments, from desserts to fish and seafood . . .

For more information, a list of items and prices, or to put in an order, call Mindy at (916) 773-6762. She also delivers in the Sacramento area.

### Deadline

for the August/September newsletter is **Friday, August 16**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.



## Ditt och Datt

- ✓ We're looking forward to our **Bay Area bus trip**, but we need about 10 more people. Please sign up by June 1 or we might have to cancel the trip. If you have lost the reservation slip, just send a \$10 check to Marianne Ek.
- ✓ If anyone has **membership applications**, please send them in now so all our new members can be initiated at the June meeting or they'll have to wait until fall.
- ✓ Don't forget, high school students need to be members of Vasa for a year to be awarded the rather substantial District or Grand Lodge **scholarships**. Look ahead!
- ✓ Please note that the committees hosting social events are also responsible for **assigning clean-up duties**. Margaret Carlson is always the first to arrive and the last to leave, and she definitely takes too much on herself.
- ✓ We looking forward to a **trip report** from Myrtle Widmark and Dorothy Scherer. They have been attending language camp for seniors at Sjölund.

## Friendship Committee

Our deep condolences to Astrid Horyza on the death of her son. We're also thinking about Audrey Fales and Viola Hallen who have been having health problems. Elizabeth Johnson and Marge Skicklig have both had surgery. Gerda Anderson is suffering bad arthritis. The good news is that Martha Fredrikson is doing better.



## Congratulations

On May 4, Gregory Ellis and Michelle Baldwin were married at the mission in Carmel. Gregory's brother Christopher was best man. Both are sons of Monitor members Russell and Birgitta Ellis and both used to be members of our children's club. Congratulations to all on this happy joining of the Ellis and Baldwin families!

## Congratulations also



to Marie and Terry Tillman upon the happy arrival of their second daughter, Sonya Marie!

## More Congratulations

We also wish many happy returns to the following members who are having birthdays in June and July:

- 6/01 - June Brown
- 6/02 - Audrey Olson-Smith
- 6/02 - Ruth Uffens
- 6/02 - Inger Thornros
- 6/07 - Violet Backman
- 6/08 - Gilbert Holm
- 6/09 - Lou Johnson
- 6/09 - Beatrix Clerk
- 6/10 - Beatrice Mattson
- 6/15 - Elizabeth Johnson
- 6/17 - Edmund Nelson
- 6/20 - Barbara Erickson
- 6/20 - Frank Stangl
- 6/30 - Ardeth Coster
- 7/05 - Martha Fredrickson
- 7/06 - Melvin Coster
- 7/07 - Herb Johnson
- 7/10 - Eivor Pfannkuch
- 7/11 - Ernest Skorheim
- 7/15 - Roy Sjogren
- 7/16 - Camilla Holm
- 7/16 - Patricia T. Page
- 7/18 - John Ericson
- 7/18 - Madeleine Hallstrom
- 7/24 - Ingegerd Kennedy
- 7/24 - Joyce Johnson
- 7/31 - Leo Krastins

Dear Monitor Friends,

I want to thank you so much for the cards, notes, flowers, and phone calls I have received since I have been recuperating. It makes me feel good to be remembered like this. I'm making progress, and I hope it won't be long before I can see all of you in person. I want you to know that I am thinking of you.

Thanks for everything!

Love,  
Millie Johnson  
In Truth and Unity

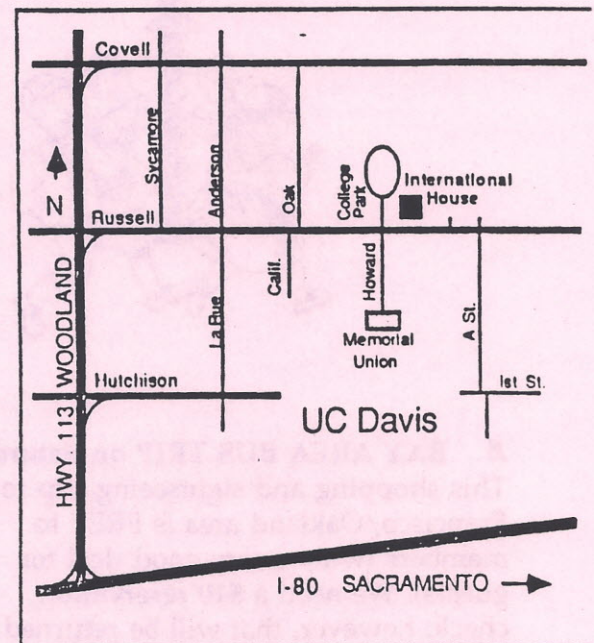
## Midsummer in Davis

Mr. Patrick Widner, Executive Director of the International House in Davis, has invited us to participate in their midsummer celebration on **Sunday, June 23, at 4 PM.**

They will raise the maypole and have music, dancing, and Swedish refreshments.

Let's go and join in the fun!

- Myrtle Widmark



"I decided I ought to be nicer to my kids. It occurred to me they're the ones who will choose my nursing home."  
- Anonymous



## Monitor Summer Socials

♪ **MIDSOMMAR FEST AND POTLUCK** on Saturday, June 22 at Tom and Annika Anderson's home, 12269 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove. Hoping it's not too hot, activities will start around 3 PM when we will dance around the *majstång*, play games, and swim in the pool. We should be very hungry and ready for the potluck supper by 6 PM. Bring your favorite dish to serve about 12 people. Cold soft drinks, beer, and wine will be furnished. You might want to bring a chair to sit on also.

This is a family affair, and a really Swedish one too. Come and enjoy the Andersons' great place for your midsummer celebration!

Here's the location: Bruceville Road runs between and parallel to highways 99 and 5. The Anderson live across the street from the Rio Cumnes Correctional Center. If you need more information, their phone number is 684-2204.



♪ **BAY AREA BUS TRIP** on Saturday, July 13.

This shopping and sightseeing trip to the San Francisco/Oakland area is FREE to members (with a very good deal for guests). We need a \$10 reservation check, however, that will be returned on the bus. Please make sure you contact Marianne Ek as soon as possible, so you won't miss out on this all-day trip—the first of its kind for Monitor. The bus will be air conditioned with refreshments and all the other comforts of home.



♪ **PICNIC AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL** on Friday, August 2, 6 PM. We're bringing back this old summer-time tradition. We'll be at Lars and Birgitta Ostlund's place, 7524 Sloughhouse Road, Elk Grove. Bring your own meat to barbecue and a potluck side dish to share. Cold soft drinks, beer, and wine will be furnished. And we'll have lots of ice cream for dessert! When it gets dark, you will be treated to a video and slide show. It would help if you can bring a table or at least some chairs.



Here's how to get to the there: Going south on Sunrise Boulevard, south of highway 50, take a left turn on Jackson Road, cross Grant Line Road, turn right on Sloughhouse Road, and go about two miles. Look for the Swedish flag!



♪ **ANNUAL CRAYFISH PARTY** on August 17, at 7 PM—in case it's really hot. A business meeting

(short and sweet) will be held first, starting at 6:30. We'll be at the home of Peggy and Kenneth Carlson at 4408 Kenneth Avenue, Fair Oaks (off Sunset Avenue), where we were last year also. The crayfish is furnished by the lodge, but everything else is potluck. It would help if you could bring chairs and also some small tables (like card tables). Come and enjoy a real Swedish *kräftkalas* with lanterns, music, aquavit, etc. It'll be an evening you won't soon forget!



### Roster Change:

June Brown  
330 Summerfield Drive  
Vacaville, CA 95687

### Did you know

that in Kiruna, Sweden's northernmost city 130 km north of the Arctic Circle, the sun is visible above the horizon 24 hours a day from 29 May to 24 July.



## Convention Report

As a first-timer to any Vasa convention, two things leaped immediately into mind. One was a warm sense of fellowship and kinship in the knowledge that we all had something in common that was near and dear to our hearts. The second thought was that we sure spend a lot of time on rituals.

As our outgoing District Master Kurt Pfannkuch pointed out, the main purpose of the order has changed over time but the rituals have survived. This seems to be a current topic of discussion throughout the order. Do we relax our rituals and conduct informal meetings more often; or should we find alternative ceremonies? There is a general fear that the old, lengthy rituals turn off prospective members, especially young people. However, rituals do serve a purpose, and there are some we should not tamper with at all, I think. For instance, the memorial ceremony Sunday morning for members who passed away during the year was beautiful, fitting, and very touching.

Kurt planted another thought: Should we perhaps adopt a more meaningful name, such as the Swedish American Order of Vasa?

Kurt suggested that the terms of office for the District Master and the Vice District Master need to be changed from one to two years. He said he would have liked to spend the first year learning what needs to be done and a second year implementing improvements.

In his report, Kurt also stressed computer needs—including full use of fax, e-mail, and the Internet—to communicate, advertise, and also distribute newsletters.

Monitor Lodge is a pioneer in that we already have a site on the World Wide Web. Kurt urged the district to establish a home page and other lodges to follow suit.

The delegates discussed changing the program format to 8 1/2x11" because it would considerably cut down expenses. Judging from the discussion, this was a rather controversial proposal. Some delegates felt strongly about keeping the current size because the binders are handy. Others thought the slimmer, 8 1/2x11" folder-size format would be more practical. The problem was referred to the lodges, so Monitor will be voting on our preference eventually.

A general concern for the need to maintain or increase Vasa membership was expressed in various ways during the convention: District Youth Supervisor Britt O'Grady of Lindbergh Lodge pleaded with the lodges to organize or vitalize children's groups and to try to reach teenagers. Most lodges had gained members or at least stayed even. Valhalla gained 66 members in 1995, the biggest gain in the district. They attributed the gain to their inclusion of people from all the Scandinavian countries rather than limiting membership to Swedes. The membership chair suggested separate cultural and business meetings, efforts to effectively meet the demand for culture and knowledge, special interest programs, and membership seminars.

I was very impressed with the hospitality of Kurt and Eivor Pfannkuch in holding a really grand reception, which included many kinds of original Swedish foods and drinks. The occasion was enhanced by the exceptional

musical talents of several district members.

Of the four Monitor delegates, Gail Nemy served on the Acknowledgments Committee and Betty Schoepf on Constitution Committee. Monitor members served in other capacities; for instance, Arlie Veis was the banquet master of ceremonies.

### Resolutions

- On the occasion of the Vasa centennial, **Resolution 96-01** reaffirmed the purpose of the order, recommended publicity to attract new members, and encouraged a great variety in the programming to meet existing demands for social and cultural activities among Scandinavian descendants in our area. The resolution was adopted.

- **Resolution 96-02** changed the date for closing Sweden Day Fund books from September 30 of each year to "within 30 days prior to the Sweden Day Picnic Planning Meeting."

- **Resolution 96-03** was rejected. It would have changed district bylaws to increase traveling expenses from 10 cents per mile to 15 cents per mile.

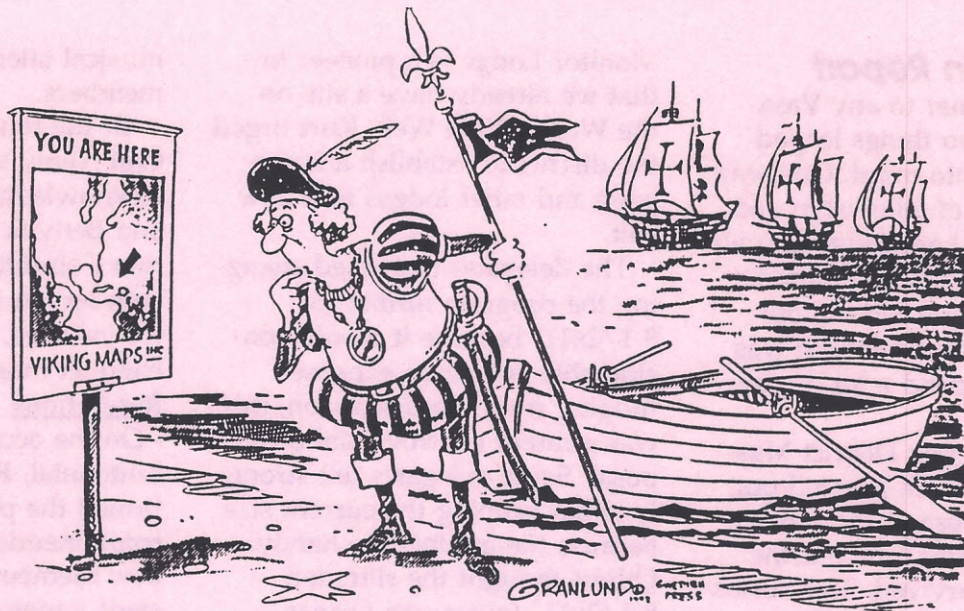
- **Resolution 96-04** prescribed that a District General Fund account that has been inactive for two full years shall be terminated and returned to the general fund. The convention voted to adopt the resolution with the addition: "After approval of the District in session."

Among upcoming events, the delegates voted to have a district booth at the California State Fair on 28-29 August. The centennial dinner and dance will be held on September 14 at Treasure Island for \$36 per person.

Svea Lodge will host the 1997 district convention in San Jose.

- Ingrid Kennedy





**Monitor Lodge No. 218  
Vasa Order of America  
126 Hibiscus Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95828**

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