

The Monitor

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

Vol 21. No. 10

December 1997

BÈ SURE TO COME to our *julfest*—a combination *glögg* and *smörgåsbord* party—on **Friday, December 5, 6:30 PM**. This event is open only to members and their special guests, not the general public.

There will be no charge, but we would like you to bring something for our *smörgåsbord*. If you haven't been contacted by the time you receive this newsletter, please call Margaret Carlson, 742-9346, to find out what's needed.

We also need help to set up, decorate, do various duties during the evening, clean up, etc. Please volunteer.

Jultomten will be coming, so bring a \$3 gift (marked for a man or woman) if you want to participate in the gift exchange. You'd be surprised what you can find or make for only \$3 and it's lots of fun.

At this time of the year, we like to make a special occasion for those of our members who are not able to attend many meetings. While you're baking cookies, make a few extra to bring to this Christmas party or bring a poinsettia plant. There will be a special table for these items. Nål och Tråd members will deliver them.

A nice program is being planned and we're having special guests. Grand Lodge Master Eric Johnson, District Master Bob Bergman, our Grand Lodge Deputy Helen Mingram and their spouses have all accepted our invitations.

You don't want to miss this occasion!

Chairman's Message

Those of you who attended the November business meeting got to try out a revised initiation ceremony that a group of us developed to simplify and shorten the existing ritual. For various reasons, the old ceremony has become more and more difficult to stage in a correct and dignified manner. The revised ceremony contains some significant changes to the ritual but does not in any way alter our requirements for membership. It eliminates voting and the need for the candidates to leave the room. For its first test, it seemed to go quickly and smoothly and appears to meet our needs.

The biggest change is the deletion of the requirement that the general membership vote on the candidates. This seems reasonable to me for three reasons: 1. We have been voting for candidates at the same meeting we initiate them and a "No" vote would thus be awkward and embarrassing. 2. We vote for multiple candidates at a time, so the focus of any "No" vote would be indeterminate. 3. Very few of us meet our candidates before initiation, much less get to know them well enough to decide on their fitness for membership. As far as I can see, we currently depend on the recommendations of the membership committee anyway, so let's make it official. This does not mean members have no say in the process. The initiation ceremonies are scheduled well ahead of time. If you have any questions on a candidate, you can contact the membership committee and voice your concerns. If these

concerns can't be resolved by the committee, the candidate will be sidelined for discussion and a vote at the next scheduled business meeting.

I will submit the revised script to the District for Vasa Order approval and will have a copy for your perusal at our December Christmas party. PLEASE let me know your feelings on this!!!

Lastly, make plans to attend our Christmas party on 5 December. The Grand Master and our District Master will be there and we'll have lots of good authentic Swedish food, culture, and *glögg*!! See you there.

— In Truth and Unity, Art Niemoller

IN MEMORIAM

Vera Anderson, who for very long played a major role in Monitor Lodge, passed away on October 30. She was survived by many family members, including 7 great grandchildren. Lately of Pinehurst, North Carolina, she was a resident of Sacramento for 42 years. We remember her fondly.

★

READ ALL ABOUT MONITOR LODGE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB, INCLUDING PAST AND CURRENT ISSUES OF OUR NEWSLETTER. OUR URL IS:
www.mother.com/~terry2ts/vasa218/vasindx1.html

Program Book

Welcome to all our new members!
And to our "old" members, please
make sure to add them to your
program books.

Elsa M. Cisar
4732 Corona Circle
Rocklin, CA 95677
(916) 624-0992

Karna J. and Richard D. Boyer
748 E. Hillcrest
Yuba City, CA 95991
(530) 673-4597

Solveig B. Eltner
2221 Moon Lane
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
(916) 644-4985

Esther A. "Beckie" Oleson
4800 Marconi Ave., #142
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 484-0819

Mark W. and Mary-Beth Roop
5812 Laguna Shore Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758
(916) 684-740

Elizabeth Swenson
P.O. Box 22943
Sacramento, CA 95822
(916) 739-7637

We also have an address change:

Karin Johnson
P.O. Box 4005-325
Carmichael, CA 95608

Deadline

for the January newsletter is
Thursday, December 11. Please
send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582
Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova,
CA 95670-2317. Or you can e-mail it
to iken@gvn.net.

Condensed Minutes from November 7 Business Meeting

1. Three new membership applications had been received.
2. Five new members were initiated, trying out a proposed simplified initiation ritual.
3. Eivor Pfannkuch reported on the Membership Seminar. She had received a district-wide handout that can be tailored to our lodge. It will be printed in 500 copies to be used at public events and for members to give to interested individuals.
4. We will work on computer-made name tags with larger lettering.
5. Ailing members who need visits or cards include Charles Badgely, Ed Nelson, Sue Bergman, Sophia Swanson, and also Carol Kwolek's husband.
6. Gail Nemy had visited Bishop Hill and they requested a copy of our membership list for the archives.
7. Monitor received \$40 back from Sweden Day which will be used towards a 50/50 raffle next year. At the 1998 Sweden Day, held in June at Camp Norge at Alta, Monitor will be in charge of reservations and coordinating the Saturday night dinner.
8. The meeting voted to continue Monitor's Web site: Terry Tillman will be asked what kind of support he needs and if he is willing to continue updating it.
9. In a discussion on revising the initiation ritual, Kurt Pfannkuch pointed out that this is a Vasa Order ritual that can be modified only by the Grand Lodge. Monitor will submit the proposed version to the Grand Lodge.
10. All members are being contacted to make a commitment to help with arrangements for at least one meeting each during the coming year.
11. Correspondence included tickets from Gold Nugget Lodge for a 50/50 raffle and a thank-you letter from Joyce Trnka for her 25-year pin.
12. Myrtle Widmark reported on Heritage Day at Davis. Monitor will probably be asked to participate in the Midsummer event. California State University, Sacramento, will be busy celebrating its 50th anniversary in 1998 and, therefore, will not have a Nordic Day.
13. Ernie Skorheim and Ed Dahlberg have volunteered to build bookcases for our many library books but will need to be reimbursed for materials.



– Brian Stockham, Secretary

Stockholm Visit

If you're planning to visit Sweden sometime in the next few years, 1998 should be a good choice for a trip. Stockholm has been named Cultural Capital of Europe for 1998 which means that the city will be Europe's main center for cultural events throughout the year. With more theaters per capita than most European cities, Stockholm is a natural for this role. In addition, some 1,500 visual artists and craftspeople will be displaying their work throughout the city. Two new museums will also open in 1998: the Museum of Modern Art and the newly expanded Swedish Museum of Architecture. The overall theme for the cultural year will be children's culture which Swedish is world famous for.

– From Swedish Press, Apr 97

Scandinavian Festival

On Saturday, April 18, 1998, we will have our 15th (!) annual Scandinavian Festival together with Sierra Kronan and the Danish, Finish, and Norwegian Sacramento lodges. This has become a very popular event, but it's huge and requires massive planning with an early start.

We have the same, few generous people year after year, meeting faithfully from November and on to plan and coordinate this event. They contribute an extraordinary amount of their time. And there are some talented people in our Scandinavian community who have volunteered for many years and who have become very important to this festival.

But we need more people earlier to volunteer their time and talents, practical or artistic, to this fun and worthwhile fund raising event. If you think you don't have any particular talent or expertise, rest assured we still have lots of important things for you to do. It's not very helpful to simply show up on the day of the festival, saying "Here I am. What can I do?" All the slots must be filled well in advance so that we can be sure that we have all the arrangements well in hand. We need workers NOW! This kind and size of event requires organization, organization, organization.

Our next planning meetings for the '98 festival will be held on the following dates: January 12, February 9, March 9, and April 13. All these meetings are held on Mondays, start at 7 PM, and the location is the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue.

For further information you can contact Ethel Johnson, 457-0966, who is Monitor's liaison with the planning committee. Ellen Harrod is the overall coordinator and Ingrid Kennedy is the committee secretary.

Happy Birthday!

12/01 - Thomas Center
 12/03 - Marjorie Skicklig
 12/03 - Ivan Page
 12/04 - Kerstin Hakansson
 12/07 - Ellen Harrod
 12/12 - Margaret Carlson
 12/15 - Jean Barney
 12/18 - David Swanson
 12/24 - Evelyn Anderson
 12/24 - Sophia Swanson
 12/25 - Karl-Heinz Hennig
 12/29 - Brita Carlsson
 12/31 - Dorothy Mogford
 12/31 - Naomi Fletcher



IKEA Catalog

In the November issue of this newsletter, we passed on a phone number to order the new IKEA catalog, which we had found in *Swedish Press*. It turned out that this number is no longer in service, but our member Michelle Kauffman (thanks, Michelle!) found out that the catalog can be ordered by sending a postcard or letter to IKEA, 185 Discovery Drive, Colmar, PA 18915.

Another piece of good news is that according to *Vestkusten*, IKEA has already purchased land and will have an IKEA store ready for us in the Bay Area some time in 1999.

Cheers!

Sweden has the highest consumption of American wine per capita. In a period of just 24 months, the Californian winery Ernest & Gallo increased its sales in Sweden eight-fold to 2 million liters.

— *Swedish Press, May 97*

Heads Up!

Just a reminder that in January we will be meeting at Sierra Kronan Lodge for joint installation of officers, a members-only occasion. We will not be having a regular meeting at our lodge. More about this in our January newsletter.

Swedish Lesson

Birgitta Ellis is providing this month's Swedish lesson with the upcoming holidays in mind:

Tack store Gud för alla våra gåvor: familj, hälsa, och vår frälsare Jesus Kristus. (Thank you great God for all our gifts: family, health, and our savior Jesus Christ.)

Phonetically, the sentence would be pronounced approximately as follows: Tack stoore Gued foer alla vaara gaavor: familje, helsa, ock vaar frealsare Yesus Kristus.

Lots of Christmas Stuff

Don't forget to visit William Glen's Christmas store to see all the Swedish ornaments, tiles, trays, napkins, tomtar, etc., etc. It's really quite an experience. Louise Sims tells us that the store has lots of new things this year, buying from three additional houses, such as beautiful collections of Lucias, Santas, and candle holders.



**God Jul
 och
 Gott Nytt År**

More Lucia

The Lucia pageant is so beautiful, it's too bad it comes around only once a year. But here's a second opportunity to experience it this year:

Nord Lodge in Stockton, just down the road from us, is having their *smörgåsbord* and Lucia on **Sunday, December 7**, with social hour at 2:00 PM and dinner at 3:30 PM. It will be held at Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12.

For reservations call 478-7498 or 951-1983. The deadline for paid-in-full reservations is November 30.



Monitor Lodge No. 218
Vasa Order of America
 10582 Apple Grove Way
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

December Dues Anniversaries

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

Eva Allred

Joyce Burns

Kenneth and Peggy Carlson

Ethel Hoffman

Christie and Ronny Kagstrom

Audrey Ohlson-Smith

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the December meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Karin Dorey, 2434 Stokewood Way, Rancho Cordova, CA. If you would like a receipt and membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Call Karin (858-8568) if you have questions or there are errors on this list.

For More Information

about Monitor Lodge, please contact one of the following:

☐ Membership Committee members Eivor Pfannkuch, 673-5917, Astrid Broess, 791-4463, or Michelle Kaufman, 451-3075

☐ Secretary Brian Stockham, 683-3078

☐ Vice Chairman Marianne Ek, 372-1015

☐ Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330

Convention Delegates

We're going to have to vote on four district convention delegates very soon. If anyone is interested in being a delegate, be sure to contact Art Niemoller. The 1998 District Convention will be held at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa, hosted by Linnea Lodge.

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WELCOME TO A SWEDISH



LUCIA PROGRAM

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.

**Sponsored by Vasa Order of America's Sacramento Monitor Lodge
Children's Group**

Swedish Lucia
with the
children
performing
traditional
songs, dances
and verse.

A Swedish
tomte (santa)
will visit.

Refreshments
served!



Need more
information?
Christi
Kagstrom
641-8770

Swedish
Crafts!

**NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR!! - JOIN US AT THE WINTERSTEIN
ADULT SCHOOL - CORNER OF MORSE AND NORTHROP.**

**Take Hwy. 50 to the Watt Ave. exit. Travel north past
Fair Oaks Blvd. to Northrop. Travel west to Morse.**

