

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol 22. No. 6

June-July 1998

AT OUR JUNE 5 MEETING, IT will be the ladies' turn to honor the men in the lodge for *Fars Dag*. We'll start with refreshments at 6:00 pm, and at 6:30 we'll have a Swedish potluck *smörgåsbord*. So we're asking all the women to please bring your favorite Swedish dish or dessert, big enough to serve at least 12 people. You know how men love to eat! And there will be no charge for this feast.

We'll again be initiating new members (just can't get enough!), award this year's Monitor scholarship, have a very short business meeting, our cultural leaders always have an interesting program and there will be valuable raffle tickets. So mark the date on your calendar and come to enjoy the good food and fellowship with your Vasa friends.

The women in our lodge send a big THANK YOU to all the men for the great *Mors Dag* dinner they served, prepared by Ed Dahlberg, Arlie Veis and Dan Beckman, ably directed by Ernie Skorheim. The Valley Viking Singers presented a delightful musical program. All women received a candy rose made by Donna Niemoller's pupils. Donna also did the table decorations. Dale Ingvarsdson assisted Gail Nemy at the bar. It's difficult to mention everyone by name, but our thanks go to all the people who helped make this a memorable event.

Chairman's Message

Our June meeting ends a very busy spring season for our lodge and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped to make it very successful and enjoyable: our choir members who put on such delightful performances; our arts-and-crafts people who made us money; and every one of our cooks, setter-uppers and cleaner-uppers: THANK YOU!

Special thanks to three people who always work especially hard for the lodge: Margaret Carlson for putting on the pancake breakfast and the anniversary dinner and doing lots of other things; Myrtle Widmark for her efforts as lodge representative to the Scandinavian Festival and the *sillfrukost* brunch as well as many, many other things; and last but not least, Ernie Skorheim and his crew who spent most of their time in the hot kitchen cooking a lot of delicious food!

Our May *Mors Dag* dinner was enjoyed by all. For me it was fun to be with a group of guys faced with insurmountable problems like "How do you fold napkins?" and "Salt and pepper? We need salt and pepper??" Anyway, we did it and did it well. Come-on, ladies, top that! We'll even give you an edge: Good weather!

Enough. See you all at our June meeting. (Fathers, prepare to be waited on!). And have a good summer!

- In Truth and Unity, Art Niemoller

Sillfrukost

Many thanks to Myrtle Widmark for hosting our annual herring brunch at her home on May 16 and also to her helpers, who made it possible.

We're proud to say that 35 hardy souls and one dog made it, despite a rather unusual weather. We were served real Swedish fried herring with new potatoes and lots of onions. For the timid, there was also scrambled eggs and ham. Elizabeth Swenson took advantage of the captive audience to peddle lots of raffle tickets.

Condolences

Sincere condolences to our member Maude Udvardy who lost her husband a few months ago. Sorry it took us so long to find out, Maude. Glad you could make it to our herring brunch, and we hope to see you often.

For More Information

about Monitor Lodge, please contact one of the following:

☐ Membership Committee members Astrid Broess, 791-4463, Michelle Kaufman, 451-3075, or Dee Benson at 933-5502

☐ Secretary David Benson, 9335502

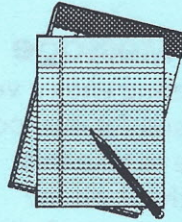
☐ Vice Chairman Marianne Ek, 372-1015

☐ Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330

Minutes from May 13 Business Meeting

(Condensed by the editor. Full minutes available from the secretary.)

1. Four additional members were approved.
2. The meeting decided that there would be no charge for the *Fars Dag* dinner.
3. Elizabeth Swenson agreed to handle the sale of raffle tickets at the *sillfrukost* and at the *Fars Dag* dinner.
4. A VCR has been purchased by the lodge.
5. The chairman again expressed concern about the shortage of volunteers to carry on the activities of the lodge.
6. The ice cream social must be canceled this year unless someone steps forward to host it and enough volunteers can be lined up to help.
7. Plans are underway to operate a joint Scandinavian booth at the State Fair for a few days. Elizabeth Swenson will contact the other countries' Sacramento lodges to gauge their interest.
8. Margaret Carlson and Eivor Pfannkuch will again this year demonstrate how to make bread and cheese at the Turlock Festival.



9. Myrtle Widmark reported that the five Scandinavian lodges participating in the Scandinavian Festival last April will each receive \$600 from the proceeds. Chairman Niemoller expressed appreciation for all the assistance from Monitor members.
10. Myrtle Widmark reported that the *Nål och Tråd* group has closed shop for the summer but will be busy again in November with Christmas items.
11. Marianne Ek reported that the Valley Viking Singers declined the \$5 per member food tickets at the Scandinavian Festival due to the controversy this payment raised.
12. The lodge has received a donation of books and periodicals. A daughter of Audrey Fales has donated items that will be used for fund raising (e.g., raffles or silent auction). Notes of appreciation will be sent.
13. The Monitor scholarship was awarded to Stephanie Niemoller and will be presented at our June meeting. Emily Carlson has been awarded a \$500 district scholarship. Congratulations to both!



- 6/01-June Brown
 6/25-Jack Reynold
 6/53-Elsa Cisar
 6/02-Audrey Olson-Smith
 6/02-Inger Thornros
 6/07-Karna Boyer
 6/08-Gilbert Holm
 6/09-Beatrix Clerk
 6/10-Beatrice Mattson
 6/15-Elizabeth Johnson
 6/17-Edmund Nelson
 6/28-George Lively
 6/20-Barbara Mecci-Erickson
 6/20-Tiffany Niemoller
 6/20-Frank Stangl
 6/30-Monica Eriksson
 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
 7/28-Lars-Erik Hammarin
 7/29-James Woodstrom
 7/31-Leo Krastins

Scandinavian Festival

Another successful festival was held on April 18. After all the income and expenses were figured, the participating five lodges each received \$600!

Many thanks for this accomplishment go to all the members who volunteered a lot of their time and skills. The baked goods table is usually the

first top for many and our Swedish pancakes are popular.

The flag ceremony is always inspiring with each country represented. Monitor's Valley Viking Singer made it more impressive as they sang each country's anthem in the native language. We also had some new visiting dancers and musicians.

Planning for the 1999 festival will begin at a meeting on November 9.

- Myrtle Widmark

Monitor's Ellen Herrod is finally "retiring" after 10 years as the festival coordinator. It's a job that requires special skills, carries great responsibility, and takes lots of time both before and after the festival. Thanks for a job well done, Ellen!

◆ Convention Report ◆

We the delegates, Don and Joy Carlson and Dee and David Benson, appreciate the opportunity to attend the annual meeting of Golden Gate District #12, representing Monitor Lodge. The accommodations, food prepared by the host lodge, and fellowship were excellent.

We were directed by the Monitor membership to vote against resolutions relating to scholarship eligibility, appointment versus election of some district officials, and holding a district cultural meeting every other year in place of an annual district meeting. All three of these resolutions were defeated.

The district grew in membership by 12 percent last year, remarkable as overall Vasa Order membership has been declining. Monitor also grew by 12 percent.

The flag ceremony, with Kurt Pfannkuch serving as narrator, was impressive. During the two days, there were cultural presentations in which Kurt performed admirably. The Memorial Service for deceased members across the district was exceedingly well done. We delegates stood in your behalf as the names of the 10 departed Monitor Lodge members were read.

Monitor members elected and appointed for the coming year are as follows: Margaret Carlson, Historian; Myrtle Widmark, Inner Guard and District Deputy to the Feather River Nordic Lodge; and David Benson, Assistant Master of Ceremonies.

We came away realizing that the local lodge is the critical element in service and fellowship and to a vital Vasa Order. It appears that our district lodge is keenly interested in supporting and servicing the local lodges in their endeavors to serve their memberships and provide cultural activities.

At the Grand Lodge meeting in Chicago in July, there will be a number of issues relating to attracting new members, especially younger families to bolster an aging membership, latitude in rituals and in conducting meetings, reducing or eliminating the archive assessment, and a moratorium on Grand Lodge assessments for a limited time.

- David Benson

To Monitor Lodge Members:

The Valley Viking Singers wish to decline the lodge's kind offer of \$5.00 each for refreshments for singing at the Scandinavian Festival. Because other groups are given this gratuity from the festival committee for performing, the Monitor board thought the Valley Viking Singers should receive the same for their services. A motion was passed at the April business meeting.

Because of the tremendous opposition and complaints to several groups, from one or two members of Monitor Lodge, we wish to decline your kind offer.

Thank you for your consideration,

- The Valley Viking Singers

Summer Activities

♫ A reminder that Sweden Day will be celebrated on **Saturday, June 6**, at Camp Norge, Alta. To make overnight reservations, call Kurt Pfannkuch at 530/673-5917.

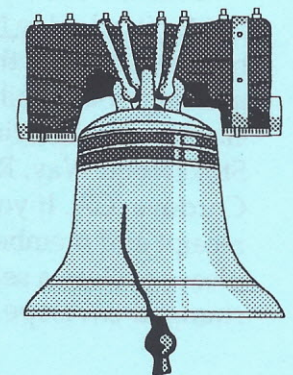
♫ Our annual **kräftkalas** on **Saturday, August 22**, will be blasting off as scheduled at the home of Lars and Birgitta Ostlund, 7524 Sloughouse Road in Elk Grove (off Jackson Highway). You can call 682-2285 if you need more detailed directions. This is a potluck. However, since the crayfish is so outlandishly expensive, we must charge \$5 per person. We will start with a short business meeting at 6:30 pm and the party gets underway at 7:00 pm. Please bring a card table and/or chairs.

♫ If you're interested in going on a 3 days/2 nights **Turlock Skandi-Fest Tour September 25-27**, contact Don Bak of the Norwegian Vikings Group at 530/873-0796 or Myrtle Widmark, 481-4056. The price is \$246 per person for double occupancy and a \$50 supplement for single occupancy.

♫ Unfortunately, the **Ice Cream Social**, scheduled for August 1, has been canceled as of the May 13 business meeting. We have neither a place to hold it nor volunteers to organize it. If either should magically materialize, we will contact everyone via the telephone committee.



**Happy
4th of
July!**





June and July Dues Anniversaries

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

Daniel Backman
Linda Becker
Jamie Canaday
Don Carlson
Beatrix Clark
Christina Fletcher
Naomi Fletcher
Lars-Erik Hammarin
Ellen Harrod
Karl-Heinz Henning
Andrea and Kent Kjelstrom
Liesma Krastins
Frank Lindahl
George Lively
Nancy Maddox
Beatrice and Harold Mattson
Frances Misenti
Nancy Misenti
Dorothy Mogford
Billie and Edmund Nelson
April and Carl Nelson
Launna Nelson
Kenneth Olson
Jack Reynolds
Ernest and Juanita Skorheim
Dorothy and James Woodstrom
John and Jewel Wright
Birgitta Ellis
Henry Hjersman
Donn and Lillian Stafford
Sigrid Thorsen

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the June 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.

Roster Additions

Here are recently initiated members to be added to the program book and telephone lists:

Ken Ericson
1700 41st Street
Sacramento, CA 95819
736-3923

Gordon Mortenson
5200 Arden Way
Carmichael, CA 95608
971-4682

Tiffany Niemoller
10893 Walnutwood Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
631-9330

Debbie Oleson
2700 5th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818
456-5532

Sue Bergman has a new apartment number. It is Apt. 407.

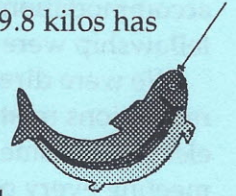
According to returned newsletters for Christina and Naomi Fletcher, their new address is:
5571 Lancelot Drive
Sacramento, CA 95842-2136



Fishing in Stockholm

If catching all the tourist sites in Stockholm wears you out, take a few hours off to fish. Stockholm is proud of being built on water and it is even prouder of the fact that the water is clean.

Fish thrive here, and you can eat pretty much anything you catch. Be prepared for anything from eel to herring to sea trout or even salmon. A salmon weighing in at 19.8 kilos has been recorded as being caught in front of the Royal Palace.



Fishing with rod and line is absolutely free in Stockholm (this right dates back to 1436). However, you must throw back fish under certain sizes. You can rent a basic kit including rod, reel, hooks, bait, etc., from *Fiskarnas Redskapshandel* on St. Paulsgatan.

— *Swedish Press, June 1997*

Pronouncing Swedish

If you are trying to learn Swedish and are having problems with the pronunciation, there is now a new CD called *Hear it in Swedish!* (*Hör det på svenska!*). This pronunciation guide contains 2,300 words, phrases and sentences in Swedish. The CD-ROM is divided into five sections and includes 30 categories of words and phrases, including the alphabet, numbers, names, genealogy words, provinces, idioms, greetings, food, and even the lyrics of the Swedish national anthem. *Hear it in Swedish!* can be used with both Macintosh and Windows computers and includes the necessary Adobe Acrobat Reader and RealAudio Player software. (\$59.95 from Pronouncement Software, 59 Baldwin Street., Tewksbury, MA 01876-2405, phone 508/657-6084 or look up the Web site <http://www.pronouncement.com>).

Member of the Month

As our chairman already noted in his message on the first page of this newsletter, Ernie Skorheim is definitely one of the most dedicated members and hardest workers in Monitor Lodge. He's been a member for 25 years, a chaplain and a vice chairman—and most recently, treasurer of the Scandinavian Festival committee for several years—but he prefers the kitchen where he serves an essential mission. We all know the importance of FOOD at our gatherings! But there is more to Ernie Skorheim than his apron and set of exceedingly sharp knives. Ernie had some even more important, entirely different, missions in the past.

Ernie served in the Armed Forces for 23 years and retired from Beale Air Force Base as a Lieutenant Colonel. Those 23 years, however, included World War II, and he has some great and not-so-great stories to tell.



Here's just one of them.

Assigned to an Army Air Corps bomb squadron stationed in Tunisia, North Africa, during World War II, Ernie flew 33 missions as a bombardier. November 18 is a date he'll probably never forget. The Athens airport was their target that day. Flak was heavy and accurate. They lost two engines and the radio was shot out, so there was no way to communicate with the rest of the group. Trying to make the best of the situation, they headed for Italy in a slow glide. After an hour and a half, they found themselves over

the Ionian Sea. They were too low to bail out and the sea was too rough, so the pilot chose the small island of Corfu to crash land. Friendly Greeks found them, provided civilian clothing, and hid them in the hills from the occupying Germans—about 3,000 of them on this tiny island. The crew was kept hidden in various places for about six weeks then transported to the north-central part of the island, which included a walk right by the German airport. They were then loaded in fishing boats for a 13-hour trip to Albania, where they were turned over to the underground. Ernie and the rest of the crew spent the next two and a half months in the hills of Greece with the underground, helping with their missions. Eventually, after a nine day walk to the west coast, they were rescued by a small mine-sweeper, taken to a hospital in Italy, and then shipped home. Understandably, Ernie has had a special place in his heart for the Greeks of Corfu ever since.

— As told to Ingrid Kennedy



Deadline

PLEASE NOTE that the editor gets to take the next two months off. Our next issue will be the August-September issue, mailed to you in plenty of time for the September 4 meeting—if everyone remembers to punctually meet the **August 14 deadline**.

Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Or you can e-mail it to iken@gvn.net.

Our thoughts

are with Viola Hallen, who has been a member of Monitor Lodge for ever and ever. Viola has spent a few days in the hospital and is now recovering in a nursing home. We send our best wishes.

Wolves in Sweden

Until a couple of decades ago, the wolf had been hunted to the brink of extinction, but a slow recovery is under-way. An estimated five new pairs of wolves have established themselves in Sweden since last winter, taking the total population in Sweden and Norway to between 40 and 45. Some experts expect the population to grow to 700-1000 in the next ten years.

The wolves are found mostly in the northern parts of Sweden, the southernmost area being the province of Värmland. But recently, a wolf had to be shot by animal conservation officers just outside Stockholm. This was the third wolf seen around Stockholm in recent months.

The population of wolves in Sweden is still so small that males undertake long wanderings—distances of 100 kilometers are not unusual—in search of a partner. The wolves seen outside Stockholm probably came all the way from Värmland—in vain.

— Swedish Press, June 1997



**GLAD
MID-
SOMMAR!**

Member of the Month

As our chairman already noted in his message in the last page of this newsletter, Brian Johnson is definitely one of the most talented members and past presidents of Monitor Lodge. He's been a member for 25 years, a chapter and vice chairman—and most recently treasurer of the local district. Brian's been committed for several years—but he gives the lodge what he serves as essential. You all know the importance of FOD in our chapters, but there is more to it than just the money. It's an act of exceedingly sharp knives. Brian had some even more important duties. Brian's missions in the past year were to the Armed Forces for 25 years and earned from Grand Air Force Base as a Lieutenant Colonel. Those 25 years, however, included World War II and he has some great stories to tell.

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The fact is, they were low to find out and the way too rough to the pilot crew the small island in Cuba to cross land. Friendly Crews found them, provided civilian clothing and had them in the hills from the company's entrance—about 2000 of them on the tiny island. The crew was kept hidden in various places for about six weeks then transported to the north-eastern part of the island, which included a walk right by the German army. They were then housed in fishing boats for a 12-hour trip to Albania where they were turned over to a underground. Brian and the rest of the crew spent the next two and a half months in the hills of Greece with one another, keeping with their mission. Eventually, Brian and day work to the west coast that were rescued by a small motor sweepstake, taken to a hospital in Italy, and then shipped home. Consequently, Brian has had a special place in his heart for the Greeks of Cuba's great story.

Deadline

PLEASE NOTE that the editor gets to take the next two months off. Our next issue will be the August-September issue, mailed to you in early to mid-July. In September a meeting will be held one month to reorganize. Please send input to: Monitor, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Or you can e-mail to: monitor@monitor.org

Our thoughts

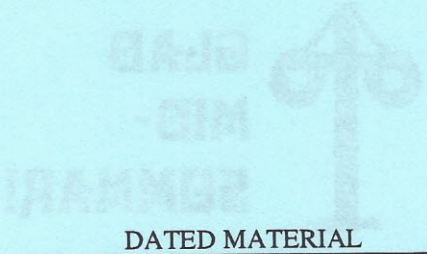
The wife's job. Father, who has been a member of Monitor Lodge for over 20 years, has spent a few days in the hospital and is now recovering in a nursing home. We send our best wishes.

Wolves in Sweden

Just a couple of decades ago the wolf had been found to be a bit of extinction, but a slow recovery is under way. An estimated two new packs of wolves have established themselves in Sweden since last winter, making the total population in Sweden and Norway between 40 and 45. Some experts expect the population to grow to 100-150 in the next few years. The wolves are found mostly in the northern parts of Sweden. The wolf is still an animal, but the wolf has to be shot by animal conservation officers.

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

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