

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol 22. No. 8

October 1998

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, IS WHEN we serve our popular Swedish meatball supper. We start with refreshments at 6:00 pm. At 6:30 we serve a salad, meatballs with mashed potatoes, a vegetable, and lingonberries, *limpa*, and coffee—all for only \$5.00 (children under 10 eat free). This is a family affair, so we hope everyone can come.

There will also be a short business meeting to elect new officers (listed separately in this newsletter) and to vote on proposed activities for 1999. In addition, our cultural leaders will have a nice program for us.

-Margaret Carlson

Chairman's Message

This month my primary interest is in the survey sent out to all members attached to last month's newsletter. To date, an even 30 questionnaires have been returned. Thirty returns from a mailing of almost 200 newsletters does not strike me as excessive, but my experts assure me that this is typical for a survey of this type. (Non-returns are either so satisfied with the status quo that comments aren't necessary, or so unhappy they feel their comments would be ignored anyway. I am assuming the former applies in this case!)

The results are interesting and gratifying. In answer to Question #1 "Are you satisfied?" 90% were positive. In response to Question #2 "Getting your money's

worth?," 71% agreed. To Question #3 "More Swedish culture?" 93% answered yes. According to Question #5, 87% support Monitor's various groups.

To me, this means our members are satisfied with the way things are being run but want more cultural presentations at meetings and more emphasis and visibility for the Children's Club, our crafts groups, and the choir. We'll work on this!

Responses to the other four questions were: #4 "Willing to assist" 60% vs 40%; #6 "More activities" 53% vs 47%; #7 "Require participation" 63% vs 37%; and #8 "Worker incentives" 47% vs 53%.

The results here indicate to me that changes are not warranted at this time. The comments on the returns were welcomed and appreciated. Thank you! However, they will take more time to digest.

In summary, I will regard these results as your mandate to maintain the status quo while increasing our emphasis on Swedish culture and presentations. Comments from the membership on how to do this would be most welcome, especially from spokespeople for the choir, the Children's Club and our crafts groups.

In Truth & Unity, Art Niemoller

Our Sympathy

Our member Ethel Johnson has just lost her mother. We all know how very close they were, and most of us have met her mother as she attended many of our activities. You are in our thoughts and our hearts go out to you, Ethel.

Tack, Tack!

Our thanks to Lars and Birgitta Ostlund for their generous hospitality in AGAIN opening their home to us for Monitor's annual crayfish party. We know a lot of time and work is involved (before, during and after) and we really appreciate it!

Forgot Something?

Someone left a Pyrex dish, white with clear lid, at the crayfish party. Please contact Birgitta Ostlund to reclaim it.

Nål och Tråd

Crafts and needle work items made by our "needle and thread" group will be displayed at our October meeting. Be sure to stop by the display table and learn about this handicrafts group. You might like to join! For information, you can also call Myrtle Widmark, 481-4056.

-Dorothy Scherer

Minutes from Business Meeting August 22



1. The resignation of Betty Schoepf, who moved to Washington state, was accepted. Gail Nemy was appointed to finish her term as Treasurer.

2. Resignations were accepted from John and Jewel Wright.
3. David Benson had attended the audit of the Treasurer's books conducted by Kurt Pfannkuch. The auditor's report was accepted and filed.
4. As previously decided by the lodge, a VCR has been purchased and delivered for use at Wisteria Hall.
5. Applications for membership had been received from Kerstin Herrmann and Leah McLam. Their applications were voted on and approved.
6. Bills paid included district and grand lodge assessments, rental storage fees, crayfish party expenses, and costs of the program books.
7. Correspondence included a thank-you card from scholarship recipient Tiffany Niemoller, letter of recognition of Monitor's participation in the Skandia Fest cultural exhibit; an updated list of district officers for distribution, and announcement that the district has selected the Salvation Army as this year's charity.

Minutes from September 4 Meeting

1. Four Vasa members from the Swedish lodge at Höganäs attended and presented Monitor with a small flag on a stand.
2. Kerstin Herrmann and Leah McLam were initiated.
3. The Nomination Committee presented a slate of officers for 1999.
4. Returned questionnaires will be discussed at the October 14 business meeting (location to be announced).
5. The following members were reported in need of encouragement: Sue Bergman, Michelle Kaufman, Millie Johnson, Harry Johnson, Ruth Volkoff, and Marjorie Skicklig.
6. Eivor Pfannkuch described the exhibit and cooking demonstration by members of Monitor Lodge at the Skandia Fest.
7. A September 14 meeting was planned to discuss next year's Swedish exhibit at the State Fair Global Village.
8. Marianne Ek reported on potential for the lodge to receive equipment through an organization for nonprofit entities.
9. Kurt Pfannkuch was recognized for producing and organizing new name badges for the membership.

Attention Parents and Grandparents!

It's not too late to join the Children's Group! We are meeting the first and third Monday of each month at the Kågströms. All kids 2 years old through highschool age are welcome. We have a great time singing, dancing, making crafts, and PLAYING. And the adults have a wonderful time getting together, too. If interested, call Christi Kågström at 641-8770.



Important Notice

There has been a scheduling change for the CHILDREN'S GROUP'S LUCIA PROGRAM. It will be held on **Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 pm at the Winterstein Adult Center**. Please update your program book and your calendar and plan to attend this fun and beautiful event. (We will also have a flyer enclosed with the November newsletter.)

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

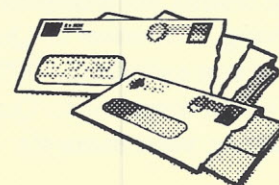
Secretary David Benson, 933-5502

Vice Chairman Marianne Ek, 372-1015

Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330

Deadline

for the November newsletter is **Thursday, October 15**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-2317. Or you can send it to by e-mail to iken@gvn.net.



Our thanks to all the nominees listed below for excellent citizenship and their can-do attitude!

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 1999

Chairman	Art Niemoller
Vice Chairman	Don Carlson
Secretary	David Benson
Assistant Secretary	LaVerne Gilbertson
Financial Secretary	Karin Dorey
Asst. Financial Secretary	Liesma Krastins
Treasurer	Gale Nemy
Cultural Leader	Carol Churkin
Chaplain	Helen Jensen
Master of Ceremonies	Astrid Broess
Asst. Master of Ceremonies	Monica Eriksson
Inner Guard	Larry Holmquist
Outer Guard	Tom Andersson
Historian	Dorothy Scherer
Past Chairman	Margaret Carlson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

1 Year - Michelle Kaufman
2 Years - Dee Benson
3 Years - Elizabeth Swenson

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

1 Year - Elizabeth Johnson
2 Years - Don Johnson
3 Years - Joyce Johnson

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

1 Year - Vicki Lydecker
2 Years - Dan Backman
3 Years - Jillian Stanley

TRUSTEES

1 Year - Paul Gullans
2 Years - Ernie Skorheim
3 Years - Myrtle Widmark

AUDITORS

1 Year - Russ Ellis
2 Years - Don Johnson
3 Years - Ellen Harrod

CHILDREN'S CLUB LEADER - Christi Kågström

VASA STAR CORRESP.: Margaret Carlson

VALLEY VIKING SINGERS:

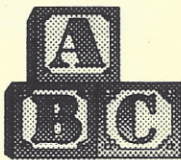
Director: Marianne Ek

Pianist: LaVerne Gullans

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ingegerd Kennedy

Swedish Class

The intermediate and advanced Swedish language class, taught by LaVerne Gullans, meets on Thursdays at 7 pm at Russ Ellis' office, 1901 Royal Oaks Drive, Suite 190. You're cordially invited to join us! For information, call LaVerne at 485-2609.



Help Wanted

We still have a few committees that need help and would appreciate any help you can give. Please contact Margaret Carlson, 530/742-9346.

The Norwegian Lodge

is having a *lutfisk* dinner in October. Please call Florence or Jim Smith at 783-8830 or Pearl Lemkuil at 483-4496 for details.

October

Dues Anniversaries

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

Louise Amundsen
Robert Anderson
Jone Canady
Edward and Lucy Dahlberg
June Delle
David and Karin Dorey
LaVerne Gilbertson
Paul and LaVerne Gullans

Robert Johnson
Carol Kwolek
Barbara Mecci-Ericson
Jillian Stanley
Inger and Lennart Thornros

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the October meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Karin Dorey, 2434 Stokewood Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. If you would like a receipt and membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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



Program Book Changes

A sincere welcome to our two new members:

Kerstin Herrmann
8413 Bramble Bush Circle
Antelope, CA 95842
339-1564

Leah McLam
P.O. Box 838
Orangevale, CA 95662
989-5210

We're sorry to say that as many as seven members did not get the last newsletter. It was returned because we had the wrong (i.e., old) addresses. The US Postal Service has provided the following address corrections:

Linnea Carlson
5739 N Ridge Ave #3-50
Chicago, IL 60660-5505

Charles and Bertell Nelson
3304 Chertsey Court
Sacramento, CA 95827-2308

Linda Becker
500 Pemberton Lane
Folsom, CA 95630-7911

Ester "Beckie" Oleson
7410 Salton Sea Way
Sacramento, CA 95831-3777

Keith Bergstrom
P.O. Box 518
Courtland, CA 95615-0518

June B. Brown
207 Lemon Tree Circle
Vacaville, CA 95687-3219

Gordon Mortensen
3031 F Street, Ste 203
Sacramento, CA 95816-3844



*Hjärtliga
gratulationer
på födelsedagen!*

10/01 - June Delle
10/03 - Lowell Carlson
10/04 - Eva Allred
10/05 - Karen Johnson
10/06 - Dale Ingvaridsen
10/08 - Barbara Lutz
10/10 - Helen Dyckman
10/11 - Keith Bergstrom
10/15 - Astrid Broess
10/16 - Juanita Skorheim
10/17 - Kent Kjelstrom
10/17 - Ruby Anderson
10/20 - Ethel Hoffman
10/21 - Carl Nelson
10/24 - Diane Curtis
10/24 - Marianne Ek
10/27 - Vickie Lydecker
10/30 - John Anderson

Swedish IKEA Store

The "California Life" section of *The Sacramento Bee*, 8/29/98, carried an article about the regional presence of a couple of "furnishing giants," one of the two being IKEA.

This Swedish store, said the article, is a chain of 146 stores worldwide and it is finally shopping around for a home in the Bay area to open in the year 2000. A corporate official said the company does not yet own property but is in the "negotiation, bidding stages for a plot halfway between Oakland and Emeryville," where anyone driving by on the freeway will be able to see "IKEA" in brilliant blue and yellow.

The acronym IKEA stands for Ingvar Kamprad and Elmtaryd, Agunnard. Kamprad was the founder of the megastores; Elmtaryd and Agunnard are the

names of the farm and parish in southern Sweden from where he came.

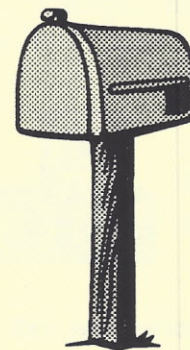
Inside IKEA, the article continues, "folks can shop for days for everything from furniture (mostly ready-to-assemble), plants and linens to dishes, complete kitchens (in a box) and toys. At the end of this exhausting exercise—and the Swedes know how to exercise—they provide a Swedish *smörgåsbord* complete down to the lingonberry crepes."

Note to Nonmembers

We really want to mail out as many newsletters as possible to tell about our activities and share our Swedish heritage. However, Monitor Lodge has found it necessary to limit the number of free issues to six per nonmember. Unfortunately, it's all we can afford! We hope that in the meantime, you have decided to join the lodge and will keep receiving the newsletter.

When someone has received six issues and has decided not to become a member, it will still be

possible to stay on the mailing list for \$10 a year. If you have received six free issues and do not plan to join Monitor, please send your subscription check to:



Karin Dorey,
Monitor Financial Secretary
2434 Stokewood Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Fantastic Opportunity for all Monitor Members!

If you're in Sweden from Advent through New Year's, you'll see a large, five-arm (at least) so-called Advent candle holder in the window of practically every Swedish household. The Swedes can keep it there safely because it's electric.

These very impressive candle holders are difficult to find in this country, and if you can find them, they're expensive (usually around \$50). Here's your opportunity to enjoy them yourselves and to impress your neighbors: Birgitta Östlund has a supply of these large Swedish candle holders (with two extra bulbs) for only \$15 each! (They are factory seconds, but who can tell!?) Birgitta will bring a sample to our October meeting, so you can see what it looks like and you can call Birgitta any time to order one.



Three Crowns

Undoubtedly, you've seen the Swedish three crowns symbol a lot. They've been an emblem for Sweden since the mid-1300s. According to one theory, King Magnus Eriksson (1319-1364) adopted the three crowns to symbolize his title "King of Sweden, Norway and Scania." Three Crowns was also the name of the original royal castle in Stockholm and, among other things and much later, the name of the Swedish ice hockey team.



Being Young in Sweden

Of all Swedish children under 18, 78% live with both their biological parents while 14% live with one parent, usually the mother. 30% of 18-year-olds have been through a parental separation. Divorce is most common in cities and in working class families.

78% of all children born in Sweden are christened in the Church of Sweden and 55% of all 15-year-olds are confirmed.

Almost all Swedish teenagers (96%) go on to upper secondary school (*gymnasium*) after finishing their 9-year compulsory schooling. There are many different 3-year upper secondary programs to choose from, both vocational and academic. 40% of students opt for an academic program that prepares them for further studies at a university. The others choose vocational programs that equip them for a trade.

Half of all teenagers work during their summer holidays. Almost 15% also work on weekends.

Music and sports are the biggest spare-time interests. Roughly half of lower secondary students play an instrument. Two-thirds of all Swedish youths belong to a sports club and participate actively in their sport at least once a week.

Around 40% of girls and 20% of boys at upper secondary school have a steady relationship. 50% of girls and 40% of boys have had a sexual experience by age 17. Sex education became compulsory in Swedish schools in 1956.

Young people in Sweden are considered mature at different

ages. At the age of 12, they are allowed to take on light work, like distributing flyers. At 15, they are admitted to adult films. At 16, they are allowed to get a driving license for vehicles like tractors and light motorcycles, start a company, practice driving a car, and leave school. At 17, a young Swede can take a ballooning or pilot's license. But it is first at age 18 that a person is no longer considered a minor and is allowed to have a driver's license, vote, stand for election, and get married. And, finally, young Swedes have to be 20 to be able to purchase beer, wines and hard liquor.

— From *Swedish Press*, Aug 98

One Big Middle Class

According to a poll carried out by Statistics Sweden, a full 85 percent of Swedes regard themselves as middle class, while 4 percent regard themselves as lower class and only 2 percent as upper class.

— *Swedish Press June 1998*

**HAVE A
FRIGHTFULLY
GOOD
HALLOWEEN**



**Monitor Lodge No. 218
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