



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

SUMMER 2016
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



This summer, many Vasa Vikings counted themselves lucky to see the Draken Harald Hårfagre in various Great Lakes harbors after sailing across the Atlantic Ocean from Norway. / Page 10 Photo from DL Michigan No. 8.

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

Birgitta and I have now all but concluded this year's travel, with a visit to District Pennsylvania No. 9 in Newbury, Ohio the only one still left on the schedule. Most of our Vasa travel centers around District Conventions but also includes a few significant lodge anniversaries. This year District Lodge

Lake Michigan No. 8 held its convention in Frankenmuth, Michigan, where the Grand Lodge Executive Board also met earlier that same week for a board meeting. We made this into a road trip, driving all the way from California to Michigan. On our way back home, we stopped in the small town of Gothenburg, Nebraska, once a stop along the Pony Express route, where the riders exchanged horses. The station building, which has been moved to the middle of town, is open for tourists.

You may wonder why that was worth mentioning if not for the fact that we also visited Gothenburg, Sweden (my hometown) just a few weeks later. Previously we always took our trips to Sweden in odd years, as both the Swedish Districts hold their conventions then. This year was different; we went for the Swedish American of the Year (SAY) celebration, an annual event hosted by the two Swedish Districts. The event dates back to 1960, when the first SAY was awarded. Prior recipients count many well-known names including astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist, actress Ann-Margret and

this year's musician extraordinaire Nils Lofgren, best known for his role as the lead guitarist in Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band.

Most years the SAY event spans several days and multiple venues, but this year, due to Nils' very tight schedule, it was confined to a luncheon at Restaurant Swea Hof, at Elite Plaza Hotel, where the band regularly stays during their concert tours in Sweden. (See elsewhere in this issue of Vasa Star for pictures from the event.) A video from the event and an interview with Nils is in the making and will be available later this year.

Our long ordeal following the 2009 loss of money to Enrique Villalba's Ponzi scheme is now closed. At the end of August we reached a settlement in the lawsuit against the futures trading company where Mr. Villalba gambled away the money. With this settlement, we have concluded all legal proceedings, and with it we eliminate any further, potentially long drawn-out appeals with its inherent risk of a possible judgement against us, an outcome that would then have given us nothing. Many thanks to our GLEB Member

Bruce Elfvin for his guidance in identifying appropriate legal counsel, Joel Levin and his law firm Levin & Associates, who specializes in this kind of law case and lead us through the lawsuit and to the final settlement. More information will be available in the next issue of Vasa Star.

The next Grand Lodge Convention is now less than two years away and action is required by every District at their next convention. It's time to elect your Grand Lodge Delegate(s). Delegate information has to be submitted to the Grand Secretary no later than four months prior to the convention. That means the information has to reach GS Joan by the end of February 2018. It is critical that you elect delegates who are willing and able to run for Grand Lodge positions. All GL positions are filled by delegates and current officers. Delegates may run for and be elected to all GLEB positions except to Grand Master and Vice Grand Master, where prior service on the GLEB is required. Some appointed positions, including Grand Lodge Deputy, are sometimes / continued on p5

Updated Guidelines

Submit information for publication that can help increase membership and participation by promoting upcoming events. / p3

Vasa 2016 SAY Award

This year's Swedish American of the Year was honored for his music and efforts to keep a strong bond between Sweden and America / p5

Scholarship Winners

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee announces the winners of this year's College or Vocational School Scholarship Awards. / p6

Highlights from GL EB Meeting

Important business initiatives and progress was made for the good of the future of the Vasa Order during the annual meeting in Michigan. / p8

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



I was one of the lucky ones who got to see Draken Harald Hårfagre (cover photo) during her historic voyage that started in Norway in April. When the Viking ship sailed into Chicago's harbor at Navy Pier on July 27, I felt like I was among kindred spirits as many of us were proudly, obviously of Scandinavian – Viking - descent. A spontaneous "Hurra, hurra, hurra, hurra!" was yelled en masse and a lone voice broke out in what I imagine was an Old Norse song of the sea as the Draken Harald arrived, her singular red silk mast standing out in the parade of tall ships.

If you were following the expedition you know it was not all glory and fanfare, however. After a rough trip across ocean waters, a very expensive surprise awaited the sailors in the Great Lakes – they found out they needed to pay for pilotage. The Swedish captain, Björn Ahlander, had some difficult announcements to make, but the persistent Scandinavian

spirit showed in the likes of you and me and the Sons of Norway and many others who took up the task of helping fund the trip, making it possible to sail through the Great Lakes at all. What an expression of pride and ingenuity and generosity. Sounds very Scandinavian.

Now the Viking ship is in the Northeast, making its way toward Mystic Seaport in Connecticut where it will spend the winter. If your local lodge has the opportunity to make an event out of visiting the Draken Harald, I highly recommend it. Visit <http://www.drakenexpeditionamerica.com/> for more information.

It's obvious from all the information in this issue that many local lodges are trying to take the advice of GM Tore Kellgren to heart: Don't be boring (read his message that starts on p1)! And please note the updates to the guidelines for submitting articles and photo (p3) about your events. With many thanks to our managing editor, Liza Ekstrand, this formatted information should be very helpful in sharing information and promoting the growth of the Vasa community.

AMANDA OLSON ROBISON

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Linde No. 492 is one of many lodges that has already enjoyed Swedish crustaceans. / p13



Winners of this year's College or Vocational School Scholarship Awards. / p6



Midsummer celebration at Vasa Park in Agoura. / p14

Deadlines for The Vasa Star

Fall Deadline » **November 15**
Winter Deadline » **January 15**

- Picture and article, 200 words or less.
- For Letters to the Editor column, 150 words or less.
 - Please send pictures of good quality in order for them to reproduce well in The Vasa Star. Electronically submitted photos should be scanned in JPEG format at a resolution of 300 dpi.
- For submitted lodge articles, please add city and state. Thanks!

IN MEMORIAM » Please read instructions on how to send and pay for Obituaries.

Where to Submit Material



MAIL TO:
vasaeditor@gmail.com

or
Vasa Star
PO Box 13331
Milwaukee WI 53213-0331

Christmas Greetings

Send your lodge or personal Christmas greetings to vasaeditor@gmail.com
'Vasa Star' • Box 13331 • Milwaukee WI 53213-0331
Please send no later than November 1.
One inch greeting - \$10, larger greetings - \$25

NORDSTJERNAN

The Swedish Newspaper in America

is proud to be of assistance in presenting *The Vasa Star, Vasastjärnan* in a new format, in print and digitally. *Nordstjernan* has been reporting on current events in Swedish America since September, 1872.

Kenneth T. Jackson, Professor of History at Columbia University and Editor-in-chief, *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, said it best:

"Over the past century and a half, more newspapers were published in New York than in any other city in the world, in large part because of the huge foreign-born community and the variety of publications that the different ethnic groups spawned. Most had a brief and almost ephemeral life, but Nordstjernan has been remarkable for its long life and high quality. It not only helped Swedish immigrants adjust to life in a new world and a giant city, but it set a standard that other newspapers worked hard to emulate."

www.nordstjernan.com • 1.800.827.9333 ext. 12
(Call now for a special if you are a Vasa member)

Family Tree Släktutredningar

I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information: swedengen@telia.com

Remember the Vasa Archives

when you are making a memorial donation
Send your donations to:
Vasa National Archives
PO Box 101, Bishop Hill, IL 61419

THE VASA STAR

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DONATE to the Education & Scholarship Funds

Send your donations to: Vasa Order of America, Joan Graham, Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804

Lennart Johansson

– Past Grand Lodge Executive Board Member At-Large 1990-1994

Word has been received that Brother Lennart G. Johansson passed away on March 9, 2016. Lennart and his wife Nancy organized LL Carolina Viking No. 722 in Greensboro, North Carolina, and later joined LL Carl Larsson No. 739 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Lennart served the Vasa Order of America in many capacities. He was elected delegate from the Southeastern Region to the Grand Lodge Convention in 1990, where he was elected to the office of Executive Board Member At-Large and also served as Grand Lodge Membership Chairman.

Lennart's father had also served as a member of the Grand Lodge Executive Board. Lennart is survived by his wife Nancy, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Elsa Fleetwood Memorial Fund

Elsa Fleetwood Memorial Fund was founded in memory of Sister Elsa Fleetwood, who passed away in 1979. She was a member of Mälardrottningen Lodge No. 563 in Stockholm and served as Grand Lodge Youth Director and Grand Lodge Cultural Director in Sweden. It was very important for Sister Elsa to encourage and support exchange between young Vasa members in USA/Canada and Sweden.

A member of the Vasa Order of America in Sweden can now apply for an award related to Culture and Youth Exchange in 2018. Next time the award will be granted to a Vasa member in USA/Canada.

More information about this award can be found in the Constitution of The Vasa Order of America Article XIV.

Ulf Alderlöf Maureen Bengtsson
G.L. MEB – Sweden Cultural Director – Sweden

Elsa Fleetwoods Minnesfond

Minnesfonden instiftades till minne av Syster Elsa Fleetwood, som avled i november 1979. Syster Elsa var medlem i Logen Mälardrottningen nr 563 i Stockholm och var både Storlogekulturledare och Storlogeungdomsledare för Sverige inom Vasa Orden av Amerika. För syster Elsa var det viktigt för vår Orden att upprätthålla och främja ungdomsutbytet mellan USA/Kanada och Sverige.

Svensk Vasamedlem kan ansöka om stipendium ur "Elsa Fleetwoods Minnesfond" för Kultur- och Ungdomsutbyte för 2018. Beloppet är på \$1000.

Information om fonden och ansökningsförfarandet finns i Konstitutionen för Storlogen Artikel XIV.

Välkommen med din ansökan före den 15 april 2017.

Frågor om stipendiet kan ställas till:

Ulf Alderlöf Maureen Bengtsson
MSLER-Sverige Storlogekulturledare-Sverige

ARCHIVE NEWS

HELLO VASA MEMBERS,

Summer traffic has picked up here at the Vasa National Archives. Last year at this time we had a total of 103 visitors and this year we've had 238! It has been a very successful summer and we're looking forward to continued success.

On June 7, we had Hans and Birgitta from Sweden performing Swedish songs in the Archive's basement. The basement had recently been decorated with various artwork and images from the collection. Special thanks to Judy Middleton for volunteering her time to help clean and hang the images. We had 30 people come to hear the music, some of them traveling an hour for the performance.

We discovered we had some issues with the phone lines following a storm in mid-June; it took a few days for us to discover the problem. It has since been fixed but we apologize if we missed your call during that time period.

At Midsommar, Bishop Hill featured music in the Village Park most of the day. Local Lodge #683 hosted the dancing around the

Maypole and light refreshments that evening. We offered fika at our make-and-take clay sculpture station here at the Archives and my parents made and hung a garland on the sign out front while they visited that weekend.

We planned for kubb games in the side yard on August 13-14. That weekend featured a Nordic Market in Bishop Hill, complete with a Viking encampment in the park, and a few people taught the game to passers-by here at the Archives.

Sten and Nancy Hult have been tremendous help when they come to visit. They have been pulling weeds, cleaning out the storage shed, greeting visitors and doing just about anything they can. We always look forward to their visits.

With our collections, we have finally finished the inventory of the items stored in the basement. The inventory has been added to the database, and now we have begun working on collections stored in the attic. A preliminary look at the boxes in the attic reveals that most of the contents are in fairly decent shape with no serious bug

or mold problems. The new dehumidifier is working! We will be improving storage for paintings and oversized images soon.

The Vasa National Archives website has been updated and redesigned. We still have a few pages under construction and hope to have them finished soon. We hope you can take a moment to visit and please send feedback about the site - vasaarchives.org. And be sure to find and like us on Facebook! Just look up the Vasa National Archives and click "Like." If you have any questions about the collections or the archives, feel free to contact me at VasaArchivist@gmail.com or at 309-927-3898.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
KATHY CUFF, CA
VASA ARCHIVIST

NEW - Vasa Star – Article & Picture Submission Guidelines

The Vasa Star has great potential for attracting new members to our lodges. The opportunity to submit articles that will emphasize Upcoming Events instead on focusing on past meetings and events will make it possible for members, potential members, other lodge and district members to attend the event or meeting, rather than reading about it after the fact.

**Submit articles
in a format that
ENHANCES
FUTURE events.**

Our editorial staff at Vasa Star encourages you to submit articles in a format that enhances future events. The events should take place within 60 days after the issue's deadline or within the next 90-180 days. There is nothing wrong with covering events more than once if possible. For example, if you have a December event for which the deadline is November 15, you could announce it in each issue of the year, then report on it after the event until the following spring. Especially big events such as milestone anniversaries and convention dates can be announced a year or more in advance.

**Submit pictures
of SUCCESSFUL
PAST events,
include names
for captions.**

Submitting pictures should represent past events, with a caption describing the event, and naming the people in the picture. It is not necessary for readers to know if your meeting was on a Saturday or a Thursday, or if it was on the 10th or the 11th of a month - it's too late to participate. But bragging rights are allowed to make it interesting and fun to share the highlights from successful events. Lodges typically submit 1-2 pictures (you can send more, and we will select the best ones, but we can never guarantee they will all be published). Please submit in jpg-format for best quality. Large, clear hard copy photos can still be mailed to the PO Box.

Memorials

**Small obituary
max. 40-45 words \$10.00**
**Large Obituary
max. 50-120 words \$25.00**

Memorials or obituary formats will only be listed under the "Memoriam" segment. Submit obituaries in electronic format via email if possible and follow the guidelines above for size. It is easier to count words as opposed to guess how much text fits into an "inch" space. Do not include obituaries as part of your lodge news. Occasionally an article inside the publication can feature a person who has gone over and above in contributions or leadership to our organization. This can be discussed with the editorial staff. No photos for this section will be accepted.

Deadlines

November 15, 2016
January 15, 2017
April 15, 2017
August 15, 2017

Submitting Photos from Previous Events and Articles of Future Events in preferable electronic format (.jpg) and word documents have the deadlines listed here with their suggested time-frames for covering future events: November 15, 2016 issue promotes events from January 15, 2017–June 15, 2017; January 15, 2017 issue promotes events from March 15, 2017–August 15, 2017; April 15, 2017 issue promotes events from June 15, 2017–October 15, 2017 etc.

Submit to:

vasaeditor@gmail.com or
Vasa Star
PO Box 13331
Milwaukee WI 53213-0331

Submit ALL information to the email or street address at left. Make checks or money orders payable to Vasa Star (when applicable) and mail to the PO Box. No cash please.

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Motions to the 2018 Grand Lodge Meeting

The Grand Lodge Vasa Order of America will meet for its 39th convention on June 28-July 7, 2018 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Sacramento, CA and it is not too early to start thinking about motions you want to submit. This is when you can present motions for the changes you want to see happen within Vasa. You can find the Constitution on the Vasa website: www.vasaorder.com

Any individual member, local lodge or district lodge may submit motions to this Grand Lodge meeting. An individual member does not need approval from any local or district officer when submitting a motion to the Grand Lodge. However, the local lodge secretary must certify (including the lodge seal) that the individual submitting the motion is a member in good standing (dues are current.)

Please use the format provided here when writing your motions. This will ensure a consistent appearance for the many motions to be considered. Please do not use the words "Whereas" or "Be It Resolved" or the motion will be returned to you for proper formatting. If you submit more than one motion, please put one motion per form to avoid confusion. All motions must be typed or printed clearly so that no errors in interpretation or intent will be made. All signatures are required, along with the appropriate lodge seal. A paper copy must be received by the due date of March 1, 2018. An emailed copy of the motion would be appreciated but does not replace the paper copy with signatures and lodge seal. Email a copy of your motion/s to: vasajlg@aol.com.

When making a motion that involves finances, please show the probable cost along with the motion.

Remember that constitutions and bylaws use the words "shall" or "will" not the words "can," "should" or "could."

Recommendations included in any GL Officer's or Archives Board Member's report involving a constitutional change must follow these rules.

Please refer to your Constitution for Grand Lodge Amendments (Article XVII) concerning motions to change the Constitution.

You may submit your motions as early as you want. **ALL MOTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE GS BEFORE MARCH 1, 2018.**

Process: Motions will be numbered in the order in which they are received. Motions are not voted on based on order received but are assigned to delegate committees for discussion and then presented by the committee to the full Grand Lodge for vote. All Vasa members may attend the Grand Lodge meeting. While you will not have voice or vote, you may pass along your opinions to your district's delegate at any time outside of the meeting.

Mail your convention motions along with the lodge secretary's certification to:

Joan Graham, Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Ave.
Richmond, CA 94804
 and
 Email motions to: **vasajlg@aol.com**



Joanie Graham

If you need a copy of the Constitution or the Local Lodge Ritual, send an email to GS Joanie at vasajlg@aol.com for an electronic copy (pdf.)

For a paper copy, send your order and a check payable to Vasa Order to: Vice Grand Secretary Lee-Ann Anderson Hurtubise, 350 Kenyon Ave., East Greenwich, RI 02818.

Constitution for Grand Lodge, District Lodge, Local Lodge (all three in one document) — \$2 + postage = send a check for \$3.78 in U.S./\$5.12

in Canada
 Local Lodge Ritual — \$2 + postage = send a check for \$3.36 in U.S./\$4.71 in Canada

Both — \$4 + postage = send a check for \$6.20 in U.S./\$7.54 in Canada

Again, all motions must be received by the GS before March 1, 2018.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY
 JOANIE GRAHAM, GRAND SECRETARY

Deadline for submission - March 1, 2018

SAMPLE FORMAT #1 - Motions Not Affecting Constitution

_____ Lodge, No. _____, Vasa Order of America, at its regular meeting on _____, 20____, voted to submit the following motion:

VOTED: That _____
MOTIVATION: _____

(Lodge or District Seal) _____
 Signature of Chairman (or District Master)

 Signature of Secretary (or District Secretary)

 (Date)

SAMPLE FORMAT #2 - Constitutional Changes

_____ Lodge, No. _____, Vasa Order of America, at it regular meeting on _____, 20____, voted to submit the following motion:

To change the Constitution for _____ Lodge:
Present Article _____, Section _____, Par. _____ Page _____ now reads:.....
[State section as it now reads]

MOTION is presented to CHANGE Article _____, Section _____, Par, _____ to read:
[State section exactly as it will be written should the requested change pass]

MOTIVATION: _____

 Signature of Chairman (or District Master)

 Signature of Secretary (or District Secretary)

 (Date)

SAMPLE FORMAT #3 - Motions made by Individual Members

NOTE: Motions submitted by individuals must include the format described below together with Sample Format 1 - motions not affecting the Constitution, or Sample Format 2 - Constitutional Changes, above.

I, _____, a member in good standing of _____ Lodge, No. _____, submit the following motion:

[Format as indicated above]

 (Signature)

 (Typed Name)

 (Address, City, State, Zip)
 Date: _____

This is to certify that _____ is a member in good standing in _____ Lodge, No. _____ as of this date.

(Lodge or District Seal) _____
 (Signature of Secretary)

 (Date of signature)

Swedish American of the Year 2016

Youtube Link:
youtube.com/nordstjernen



Nils prominently displaying his SAY Award.

The Swedish American of the Year (SAY) award ceremony was this year held June 26 at Restaurant Swea Hof in Göteborg. The recipient of the award is guitarist extraordinaire Nils Lofgren, best known for his role as the lead guitarist in Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band.

Lofgren, 65, is a professional musician, an outstanding recording artist in rock music, a songwriter and a multi-instrumentalist. He is also devoted to his Swedish heritage and keeps in contact with his Swedish relatives. He is Swedish on his father's side; his paternal grandfather emigrated from Värmland, Sweden to the state of Oregon in 1911.

Lofgren was born in Chicago and raised in Bethesda, Maryland, where at age 5 he began playing classical accordion. After

10 years he switched focus to rock music, developing his skills on the guitar and piano. He was already a professional musician at age 17.

Lofgren's recording career began in the early 1970s when he toured with his own band Grin as well as with Neil Young and Crazy Horse. His first of many solo albums was released in 1975, and in 1984 he began playing with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band and was with them for the next 32 years. Lofgren was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2014 and released a 45th anniversary recording the same year. He now lives in Arizona with his wife and family.

Present at the award ceremony were many Swedish relatives and musicians, and Vasa

members including chairman of the SAY Committee PDM Catherine Bringselius-Nilsson, DM Connie Grön and GM Tore Kellgren. Also present was the entire E Street Band, the governor of Kronobergs Län Kristina Alsér and vice speaker of the City Council of Växjö Åsa Karlsson Björkmarker. After the presentation, Nils surprised us all with a great rendition of "Idas sommarvisa" on the accordion.

The Swedish American of the Year is awarded to devoted Swedish Americans working on perpetuating the Swedish cultural heritage in America and for keeping and strengthening the bond between the two counties. Since its inception in 1960, it has been awarded to many prominent Swedish Americans from all walks of life.



Nils surprising us all playing "Idas Sommarvisa" on the accordion.



From left: First Lady of Vasa Birgitta, Nils, his wife Amy and Grand Master Tore.

Left: The choir Svea entertained throughout the event, here posing with Nils and Amy.



Nils showing off his copy of the Vasa Centennial Book.

Dear Friends,

Last year, your Swedish-American of the Year (SAY) award gave me a true lift as an artist and has opened up many more opportunities for me. As you know, SAY awards are given to Swedish Americans working to keep the Swedish cultural heritage strong in America and in strengthening the bond between the two countries. I've continued to do my best in that and now I'm writing to ask your help in supporting my new album project, which has become possible with thanks to you.

I'm excited about my fourth album, which I'm working on funding right now. You can learn more about it, my music and videos on my campaign page at <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/iva-the-fourth-album-music>. Thank you for being a part of this and my journey to success!

Emily Tepe
Swedish American of the Year 2015

The Grand Master's Message (continued from page 1)

filled by Delegates as well. While this is not mandated, the incoming Grand Master, who makes these appointments, will get to know the delegates pretty well during the convention.



The Vasa Centennial Book tells the story of the Vasa Order of America from the institution in Connecticut in 1896 and all the way through its 100th year in 1996. You will find stories from every District Lodge and from many Local Lodges. We have some of these high quality books

available at a bargain price of \$20 each, including shipping in the U.S. For delivery to Canada or Sweden, the price is \$50 to cover shipping. This is your opportunity to get one of these keepsake books. For delivery in the USA or Canada send your check \$20 (USA) or \$50 US (Canada) payable to VOAGG #12 to GS Joan Graham, 5838 San Jose Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804, with a note saying you want a Centennial Book. We will send it to the address on the check unless noted to send to a different address. For delivery in Sweden, please contact Charlotte Börjesson for method of payment. Charlotte is the Swedish board member of the Vasa Archives and can be reached at charlotte.borjesson@telia.com. She

is also happy to take pre-orders at SEK 200:- for delivery next year. All funds raised will go to support the next Grand Lodge Convention.

The Education Stamp is being printed as I write. By the time you read this, you should have received your letter and a sheet of stamps. It has been a good fundraiser for many years and I am convinced it will continue to be so. I urge you to donate to continue supporting our scholarship programs.

MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO BE OUR NUMBER ONE CHALLENGE. Your Lodge should have a Membership Chairman, though this is not the only person in charge of membership retention and recruitment – YOU ALL ARE! By retaining your members and

getting new members, your Lodge can grow and thrive. For this to happen, an interesting Lodge Meeting is essential. **Make your meetings worth attending!** The competition for your current and prospective members' time is stiff. You need to have food at your meetings and put on programs that your members don't want to miss. Cultural Leaders, work with your Lodge members. It is every member's job to make the meetings attractive to current and future members. ONE new member is all I ask from each one of you. Keep your current members!

Don't be boring!

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER

WINNERS OF THE 2016 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce the winners of this year's College or Vocational School Scholarship Awards.



KELSEY INGERSON
Lodge Tucson No. 691
DL Arizona No. 21

Winner of Edith Gauch/Klinglof Scholarship - \$2,500

Kelsey has been accepted to attend University of Arizona and State University of Arizona, studying Engineering.

She has been a Vasa member since 2012 and was a member of the Children's Club. Kelsey has been very active in school and Vasa activities while maintaining a GPA of 4.0.

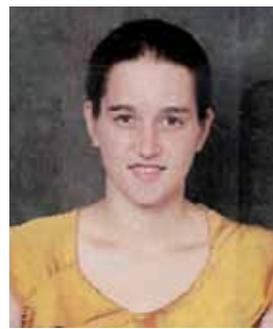


JEANETTE COMSTOCK
Tegner Lodge No. 224
DL Pacific Northwest No. 13

Winner of Ellis Hillner Scholarship - \$1,500

Jeanette is attending University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, pursuing an MD. She graduated from University of Montana with a BA in Human Biology.

She has been a Vasa member since 2008 and active attending lodge events since a toddler performing both dance and piano. Outside of Vasa, Jeanette has held various leadership positions in Community Outreach.



ASHLEY LEBLANC
Linde Lodge No. 492
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Winner of Grand Lodge Scholarship - \$1,500

Ashley is currently enrolled in Valparaiso University, Valparaiso IN where she is majoring in Electrical Engineering. Ashley has been a Vasa member since 2009 and was a member of Skansen Children's Club.

She is also President of Scandinavian Klubb of Linde, an organization on campus that promotes Nordic culture.



MARK BJORKNER
Sveaborg Lodge No. 446
Frithiof Lodge No. 63
DL New Jersey No. 6

Winner of Grand Lodge Scholarship - \$1,500

Mark is currently attending County College of Morris studying Engineering and will transfer to New York Maritime College majoring in Electrical Engineering. Upon graduation he will receive a BEE degree, a license as a Merchant Marine Officer and an Officers Commission in the Navy. He has been a member of Vasa since 2013 and has held different lodge offices. This year Mark was a Delegate to the District Convention.



LYNNEA DEN HARTOG
Lodge Evening Star No. 426
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15

Winner of District Lodge No. 8 Scholarship - \$1,000

Lynnea is currently attending Western New England University, Springfield, MA majoring in Arts and Entertainment Management.

Upon Graduation she will work for the Human Resources Department for an Arts and Entertainment firm.

Her Vasa days started back in 2004 with the Morning Star Children's Club No. 172, and she was Lucia in 2008.



HEIDI ABRAHAMSON
Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No. 4

Winner of Grand Lodge Scholarship - \$1,500

Heidi attends H Frank Carey High School in Franklin Square, New York and upon graduating will attend New York Institute of Technology majoring in Interior Design. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Art Honor Society. She joined Barnklubben Elsa Rix No. 1 in 2001 (age 3) and when 14, became a Vasa member. She participated in many Nordic events including Sweden Day, Midsummer in Battery Park City and local lodge/District events. Heidi was elected as Captain of the track team by her coach and peers. As Captain, Heidi did a tremendous job of motivating her teammates and leading by example in all that she does.



KATARINA PRASSO
Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No. 4

Winner of Bo & Sigrid Bjorling Scholarship - \$1,500

Katarina attends Loyola University in New Orleans studying Music Therapy and wants to continue education towards a graduate degree in Music Therapy and/or psychology. She joined Barnklubben Elsa Rix No. 1 in 2000 and when 14, became a Vasa member. She has participated in many Nordic events including Sweden Day, Midsummer in Battery Park City and local lodge/District events. She is a very talented vocalist, plays the violin and viola.



KODY SPABERG
Evening Star Lodge No. 426
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15

Winner of Irma and Knute Carlson Scholarship - \$1,500

Kody is currently attending California State University, Fullerton studying Mechanical Engineering. His long term goal upon graduation is to do Engineering Design and Testing.

He has been a member of Vasa since 2011 and participates in local events.



EMILY PEARSON
Nordik Folk Lodge No. 761
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Winner of Gladys & Russell Birtwistle Scholarship - \$1,500

Emily is currently attending Purdue University, Calumet, studying Human Resource Management. She has been a Vasa member since 2009. Emily was a very active member of Nordikids No. 208 and continues to assist with the club while holding an office in the local lodge.

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce this year's Sjölund Language Camp awards. Bertha Kalm Sjölund Language Camp Awards were awarded to:

Anna Benson, DL #12; Sophia Martinez, DL #21; Jonas Spaberg, DL #15, Claire Custer, DL #9; Melissa Pearson, DL #8, Annika Herron, DL #8 and Kevin Shoemaker, DL #9.



ANNIKA SPABERG

Evening Star Lodge No. 426
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15

Winner of Oscar & Mildred Larson Scholarship - \$1,500

Annika will be attending Colorado State University, studying Psychology.

She has been a member since 2011. Participating for many years in the Children's Club, Lucia, Folk Dancing, Viking Village and has attended Sjolunden Language Camp.



JENNIFER PEARSON

Nordikfolk Lodge No. 761
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Winner of Einar & Edith Nilsson Scholarship - \$1,500

Jennifer is currently attending Purdue University, Calumet, studying Business and Marketing.

She has been a Vasa member since 2011. Jennifer was a very active member of Nordikids No. 208 and continues to assist with the club while holding an office in the local lodge.

Family Tree Släktutredningar

I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information.

swedengen@telia.com

VASA SCHOLARSHIPS TO SWEDISH LANGUAGE CAMP

The Grand Lodge Executive Board will award up to five Sjölundens Scholarships to qualified applicants from the U.S. and Canada.

Eligibility

Applicant must be between 12 and 18 years of age as of April 1, 2017.
Applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent must be a member of the Vasa Order of America for at least two years prior to April 2017.

Requirements

Award winner is expected to provide:

- A. Evidence of health/accident insurance and a statement absolving the Vasa Order of America of any liability,
- B. A letter of recommendation from a current teacher and the latest records of grades,
- C. A brief essay on "WHY I SHOULD BE CHOSEN TO GO TO THE SJÖLUNDEN SWEDISH CAMP,"
- D. A letter, bearing the Local Lodge Seal, verifying that applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent has been a member for at least two years prior to April 1, 2017,
- E. Other comments that will assist in selecting the winners.

Awards

The Vasa Order of America will pay the basic tuition (around \$2,035) for the two-week 2017 Summer Program and will reimburse travel expenses up to \$600 against submitted receipts. All other costs will be borne by the recipient.

Date of Camp: <http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-languages/swedish-language-village>

**Additional information and the scholarship application is available on the Vasa web site: www.vasaorder.com.
Deadline for application is a postmark date of February 10, 2017. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

The Grand Lodge 2017 Scholarship and Essay Contest

The Grand Lodge of the Vasa Order of America offers the following to students attending or planning to attend institutions of higher education.

***Applicants for the above scholarships must have become a Vasa member prior to February 15, 2016.
Applications are available at the Vasa website (www.vasaorder.com) until January 15, 2017.***

To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2017 to be considered.

1. Completed application with enclosures **MUST** be postmarked no later than February 15, 2017.
2. Complete "OFFICIAL" transcripts of grades through the first half of the senior year for high school students or fall semester of current academic year for college students.
3. Current passport style photo (on photo quality paper, preferably 2"x3").
4. A letter of recommendation from applicant's Local Lodge with date of initiation.
5. Letters of recommendation from two personal references dated 2017.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor, dated 2017.
7. An original, typed essay, not to exceed 1,000 words. Cannot have been submitted in prior years.

**Please put in one envelope if possible.
Choose and essay subject from the following list:**

1. What do you consider to be role youth can and should play in Vasa.
2. If you have visited a Nordic Country, what was the most impressive element of your visit and why?
3. Explain the differences in Nordic music written by Sibelius, Kalle Jularbo and ABBA and which best suits you.
4. How would you describe a Nordic folk costume to someone? When and where are the costumes most used today?
5. Describe the various economies of the Nordic countries and compare their success.
6. Within the Nordic countries, choose what is a most popular tourist attraction, and provide your thoughts on its appeal.
7. What Nordic invention appeals to you in being most important to mankind and why have you selected this?

AWARDS ARE PAYABLE TO the institution in which the student is enrolled or accepted for enrollment. To qualify for the College or Vocational School Scholarship, a student needs to be enrolled in an accredited vocational school or institution of higher learning taking no less than six (6) credits per semester or eight (8) credits per quarter in the academic year immediately following the award. In extraordinary circumstances, on petition to the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee, payment may be postponed for a period not to exceed two years.

Art Bjorkner
Vice Grand Master
31 Vasa Dr.
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Phone: (973) 426-0776

For questions email: vgm@vasaorder.org

Vasa Order Grand Lodge Membership Initiative

During the recent Grand Lodge Executive Board (GLEB) meetings in Frankenmuth, Michigan, the GLEB discussed membership in the Order, which continues on its relentless slide. All members of the Order are members of District Lodges and Local Lodges as well as the Grand Lodge. All officers of the Grand Lodge and members of the GLEB are in agreement that members become more connected to the Order, as a whole, when the connection to a local lodge is strong. This overall connection in the Order is only made stronger when LLs and DLs see and feel their connection to the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge, whether officers or members of the GLEB, must make the effort to

strengthen these connections from long-term members to the newest initiate. In a simple-expression membership succeeds or fails at the local lodge and Vasa Club levels. The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce a contest that will focus on two levels: Local Lodge membership and District Lodge membership.

The contest: The Grand Lodge will present to the DL Delegate a cash award of \$400 to be given to the Local Lodge that has the highest net increase in membership during the GL Term, which began in 2014 and goes through the end of 2017. The LL that places second will receive \$200. A cash award of \$500 will be present to the DL that has the highest net increase in membership during the GL Term

(2014 through 2017) at the GL Convention in 2018. The DL that places second will receive \$300. The winning DL will have its name engraved on a membership cup to be on permanent display at the Vasa National Archives in Bishop Hill, Illinois until the next GL in session. It is the intent of the GLEB that this membership contest will take place each Grand Lodge term going forward.

We wish each DL and LL well in competing and adding members. This is intentionally using the GL term as the measure, as the GLEB is firmly convinced that it is not sufficient to merely initiating new members without also retaining them by involving them in their LL to keep them. Over the years members of the

GLEB have observed that new members are initiated in sufficient numbers for the Order to keep its membership numbers constant or growing, but the growth and survival of the Order depends on engaging and keeping new members.

Good luck, godspeed and may we all find a way to increase our membership by the end of 2017.

BRUCE ELFVIN
GLEB MIDWEST REGION, AND
GL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Highlights of Grand Lodge Executive Board Meeting – May 2016

Highlights of Grand Lodge Executive Board Meeting – May 2016

The Grand Lodge Executive Board met in Frankenmuth Michigan on May 9-12, 2016. Three members attended via Skype, due to family obligations (GS Joanie Graham, MEB-Canada Fae Doty, and MEB-Sweden Ulf Alderlöf.) Many thanks to Carl Hurtubise, District Secretary for DL Rhode Island #3 and husband of the Vice Grand Secretary Lee-Ann Anderson Hurtubise, for stepping in to take minutes of the meeting due to GS Joanie's off-site attendance. Here are highlights of the meeting.

1. MEB-Sweden Ulf Alderlöf reported two deaths on the DL Södra Sverige Executive Board – VDM Gunilla Broddesson, and DLH and Past GL Executive Board Member Bertil Ericsson.

2. GM Tore reported that a new lodge has been instituted in DL PSW #15, LL Kern River #763 in Bakersfield, CA, on December 30, 2015.

3. VGM Art Bjorkner, reporting as the GL Membership Chairman, announced that 11 college scholarships have been awarded, including the Ellis Hilner scholarship, the Edith Gaugh/Klinglof scholarship, the DL Lake Michigan No. 8 Grand Lodge scholarship, the Gladys & Russell Birtwistle scholarship, the Einar & Edith Nilsson scholarship, the Bo & Sigrid Bjorling scholarship, the Oscar & Mildred Larson scholarship, the Irma & Knute Carlson scholarship, plus three Grand Lodge scholarships. In addition, seven scholarships have been awarded for Sjölund Swedish Language Village summer two-week program. See the announcement of the winners elsewhere in this issue.

4. The Elsa Fleetwood Cultural and Youth Exchange Program will be restarted and an

announcement will appear in this issue of Vasa Star.

5. The Time Share in San Clemente CA, which was donated to the Grand Lodge by Sister Jackie Ahlen in 2005, has been deeded back to the San Clemente Inn/VRI and is no longer owned by the Grand Lodge.

6. Taking to heart the opinions expressed at the Grand Lodge Convention in New York (2014) that meetings need to be less formal, the Grand Lodge Executive Board Constitution/Ritual Committee was charged with presenting motions to the next Convention (2018) including many affecting the Constitution and the Local Lodge Ritual. Twenty-three motions have been written, so far, to answer this plea for a friendlier and more open format for lodge meetings. Work on this will continue at our next meeting in 2017.

7. The Board voted to help support the production of a video of the Swedish American of the Year (SAY) ceremonies in June 2016. The Grand Lodge requested that a copy of this video be made available for viewing in the US and Canada. Any Vasa member may nominate a person to be awarded the Swedish American of the Year. The nominee does not have to be a member of the Vasa Order.

8. The Jewelry and Printed Material Order Form will be updated to reflect the current supply available. All "pins" will now be fastened by a "tack" since most "pins" are too small to handle easily. The larger "jewels" will continue to have the pin fastener.

9. Upgrading the Vasa web site continues to be discussed.

10. A small number of lodges are refusing to submit their Yearly Reports and send in their annual dues. Possible solutions were



1st row, l-r: Ingegerd Alderlöf, GM Tore and First Lady Birgitta; 2nd row, l-r: GLEB Sweden Ulf Alderlöf, Vice Grand Secretary Le-Anne Andersson Hurtubise, Vice GM Art Bjorkner, Nancy Bjorkner, Grand Secretary Joanie Graham; 3rd: GLEB Midwestern Region Bruce Elfvin, Carl Hurtubise, Inger Hanright, GLEB Canada Fae Doty; 4th: GLEB Western Region Jeff Klein, GLEB Eastern Region John (Jack) Hanright, Lee Doty. (Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon is missing in this photo from the GLEB Meeting fall, 2015)

discussed and a motion was written to present at the 2018 convention to resolve this issue.

11. Supplies stored by PGM Eric Johnson must be moved because he is closing his business. Some will be relocated, others (the 100th Anniversary/Centennial book and songbooks) will be sold to benefit the 2018 Grand Lodge Convention Host Committee Fund, some will be sent to the Archives, and the rest disposed of. The Grand Lodge deeply appreciates the willingness of PGM Eric to store these supplies for over 20 years, at no charge.

12. The Education Fund Stamp fundraising campaign will be continued this year. GM Tore shared the design for this year's stamp.

13. GM Tore gave an update on the plans by DL Golden Gate #12 for the 2018 Grand

Lodge Convention. The quadrennial meeting will be held in Sacramento, California on June 28-July 7, 2018 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, in Sacramento, CA. San Francisco and Bay Area hotels were found to be extremely expensive. Sacramento offers many interesting opportunities for tours and is close enough to the Bay Area for the popular tourist locations. Sacramento has an international airport just north of the city.

If you have any questions about these, or any other topics relating to the Grand Lodge, please contact your regional Executive Board Member, the Grand Master or Grand Secretary.

SUBMITTED BY JOANIE GRAHAM
GRAND SECRETARY

Do you have a question for the Grand Lodge?

Ever wonder why or how or when...? Send your questions about anything Vasa-related to vasajlg@aol.com and then watch for the FAQ Column in The Vasa Star.

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

Connecticut No. 1 Midsummer, Scholarship Awards

Connecticut District Lodge No. 1 celebrated Midsummer at the beautiful Vasa Park in South Meriden on Sunday, June 26. It was a glorious sunny day with local Vasa families and friends who came together to enjoy Swedish delicacies and dancing to catchy tunes on the accordion. Accordion player Wivan Sundman, a stalwart supporter of Swedish music and singing in the Northeast and unofficial World Champ on both Swedish meatballs and kanelbullar (cinnamon buns), was often joined by LL Diana Birger Jarl's Gordon Reimer on strings. The musicians, the Majstång and the afternoon's award ceremony became a celebration to remember.

Two scholarships were awarded; Veronika Petkovich received the Vasa Park Award and Christopher Martensson received the Ivar Erikson Award. Veronika lives in East Haddam, Connecticut and is the daughter of Andria Alex of East Haddam and Christopher Petkovich of Colchester. She is also the granddaughter of Barbara J. Alex of Windsor, longtime member and past chairman of Vasa's Karl XII Lodge #103. A 2016 graduate of Nathan Hale-Ray High School, Veronika has been co-captain of the volleyball team and helped lead the team to winning the Class S Shoreline Championship for the first time in the school's history. She currently works at the Goodspeed Opera House and is deciding between two colleges where she will pursue a liberal arts education before specializing.

Christopher is a 2016 graduate of Center for Global Studies, Brian McMahon High School in Norwalk. He is a member of LL Diana Birger Jarl and is the son of Ulf Barslund Martensson, a naturalized Swede



2016 DL 1 scholarship award recipients Veronika Petkovich, member of LL Karl XII, who received the Vasa Park Award and Christopher Martensson, who received the Ivar Erikson Award with Vice District Master MaryAnn O'Leary.

from Lund, and Mette Barslund Martensson, who grew up in Sweden with Danish immigrant parents. After having been a varsity rower since middle school and topping off his career as team captain of his team at Norwalk

River Rowing, MVR, and with a silver in the pair class at the Club Nationals, several DI schools wanted to recruit him for his rowing prowess. Christopher instead chose the CSB (Computer Science and Business) program

at Lehigh University, PA for his advanced studies and looks forward to four years of the accelerated program and rowing on a club level for his university.

SUBMITTED BY LINDA STEINMILLER



Music by Wivan Sundman and Gordon Reimer.



The 2016 Ivar Erikson Award recipient Christopher Martensson flanked by District Master DL 1 Linda Steinmiller, left and Vice District Master MaryAnn O'Leary, right.

Minnesota No. 7 Biennial Convention

The Biennial Convention of Minnesota District No. 7 was held at the Roseville Masonic Center on April 23, 2016. It was a time to greet everyone, especially our members from Gota Lejon Lodge No. 251 Two Harbors, MN. Vice District Master Antonio Spargo conducted the meeting in the

absence of District Master Kendra Nielsen. District Cultural Leader Donna Mae Jensen gave a report on how our Lodges strive to maintain their Swedish heritage. District Historian Kari Dietrich Sifferle brought newsletters from many years past with articles highlighted for us to remember and

enjoy. We installed officers, and following the business meeting a memorial service was held. As each of the nine names were read a white carnation was placed in a vase. We concluded the day's events with a delicious meal, during which lively Scandinavian music was played for our listening

pleasure. It was a very pleasant ending to a wonderful day with Vasa friends. Thank you to the Spargo siblings, who have grown up in Vasa, Antonio (fiddle), Annika (fiddle) and Tom (guitar) for entertaining us.

SUBMITTED BY EUNICE DIETRICH



Minnesota District No. 7 members gathered for the meal concluding their Biennial Convention

Christmas Greetings

Send your lodge or personal Christmas greetings to vasaeditor@gmail.com

'Vasa Star'

P0 Box 13331
Milwaukee WI 53213-0331
One inch greeting - \$10
Larger greetings - \$25

Submit your greeting no later than Nov. 1



Lake Michigan No. 8

We had the honor of seeing the now so famous Viking ship, Draken Harald Hårfagre, which sailed from Norway across the Atlantic via Iceland, Greenland, Canada and then in ports around Lake Michigan. When arriving into the Great Lakes the crew found themselves needing to follow U.S. regulations to use a pilot while sailing in the waters of the Great Lakes. This was very costly and resulted in a shorter trip with fewer stops than scheduled in the harbors of each of the Great Lakes.

We know many of our members from DL No. 8 had the opportunity to see the ship in Bay City, MI, Chicago, IL or Green Bay, WI and tour it, talk to the crew and hear the story of how they lived and managed during their historic journey. It was an amazing expedition for these sailors in the largest replica Viking ship of modern times.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



Draken Harald Hårfagre with the Tall Ships and Largest Rubber Ducky in Green Bay. / Inset: Jacqueline Moline with the Viking ship in the background.

Pacific Northwest No. 13

North Star Lodge No. 145 hosted the Spring Executive Board meeting in Spokane, WA. Chairman, Steve Matthews and Secretary, Jeri Gannon-Matthews were instrumental in providing a guided van tour of the Spokane area after the Spring Executive Board Meeting. Sharon Highland, a North Star member was our skillful driver and tour guide. She provided an excellent summary of the history of Spokane and other important facts. It was a fun and a relaxing way for our officers and members to end their weekend in Spokane. The picturesque Japanese Garden made an ideal stopping place and the perfect backdrop for a group picture as our tour came to an end.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL MCGINLEY



Nishinomiya Japanese Garden was one of many stops enjoyed along the route of a personal guided van tour of Spokane provided by North Star Lodge No. 145. (Pictured from left to right) Barrett Monsaas, Per Flygare, Judy Rust, Jeff Klein, Jeri Gannon-Matthews, Jim McGinley, Steve Matthews, Alice Iverson, Carol McGinley, Alana Brandstrom.

Spring Executive Board Meeting in Spokane, WA, the Lilac City



(Pictured from left to right) Carol DeSau, Ass't Secretary; Michael Berg, Secretary; Per Flygare, Youth Supervisor; Daga-Karin Lindquist, EBM 2; Jeff Klein, PDM/GLEBM; Christa Svensson, Vice District Master; Jim McGinley, District Master; Alana Brandstrom, Cultural Leader; Barrett Monsaas, Trustee; Alice Iverson, GLH; Steve Matthews, Auditor; Jeri Gannon-Matthews, Membership Chairman; John Erikson, Scholarship Chairman; J. Allen Isaacson, Auditor; Judy Rust, Treasurer/GLD.

Pacific Southwest No. 15

Back in March, happy Vasa members congregated at Skandia Lodge No. 247 in Pasadena for the District Lodge's 4th annual Easter lunch, during which people made their own "Påskris" with branches and colored feathers and enjoyed the great company of friends, a glass of wine and a threecourse lunch. The Easter Hat Parade followed the luncheon. Most guests took part and Uno Kasperson won first prize with a very silly homemade creation, Valerie Larson won second prize with a classy spring hat and Eleonora Nyren won third prize with a simple but genius brown paper bag.

Members of DLPSW No. 15 officially greeted spring on May 1 at Vasa Park in Agoura Hills. The District Lodge is in charge of this event, which is backed by Vasa Park Association, and the day was perfect for picnicking. Some of the braver Vikings enjoyed the pool, a bounce house, and rock wall while others checked out the cars in what is now the yearly car show. A waffle breakfast, a kaffe stuga and



Easter Hat contest winner Uno Kasperson (center) with runners up Valerie Larson (left) and Eleonora Nyren

a lunch buffet were also available. From the stage came music, some short speeches and a program by some Vikings who spoke about their lives. It was a successful day. The park was again invaded by Scandinavians on June 26 when Swedish American Central Association celebrated a wonderful Midsummer; and on Sept. 18 the Annual Autumnfest and Marknad will be at Vasa Park.

SUBMITTED BY NEL SOLT

LOCAL LODGE NEWS



The inspiring talk by Brian Andersson, above, was followed by a delicious serving of open-faced sandwiches.

Birger Jarl No. 3

NEW HAVEN, CT / At the May meeting, Vasa member and Bronx, NY resident Brian Andersson joined us for a presentation on Jonas Bronck. Brian described his experiences growing up and learning of his own Scandinavian ancestry after which he discussed his efforts to trace the records of Jonas Bronck, an immigrant to New Amsterdam who received a grant of about 600 acres along what is now known as the Bronx River. Bronck, who died in 1643, was a religious

man who named his farm Emmaus, which according to the New Testament is where Jesus appeared before two of his followers after his resurrection. Brian discussed the tracing of Jonas Bronck's origins in Sävsjö Municipality in Jönköping County, Sweden and then took questions from the audience. Many thanks to Brian for this interesting presentation.

SUBMITTED BY PAUL LJUNGGREN



Crayfish party attended by some Tegner Lodge No. 149 members (L-R): Richard Orlando, Kathryn Hughes, Diane Eatherly, David Bilyeu, Ann Tennis and Marie-Ann Hill.

Tegnér No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / We heard a report in April by Kathryn Hughes about Swedes in California before the Gold Rush and a report in May by Marilyn Crawford about the Swedes in Humboldt County. Short reports about the Dist.12 Convention in Visalia were given by delegates, and the four of them were lucky winners of raffle prizes! Salads made up the meal for our May meeting and a Swedish movie, Force Majeure, was shown. In July many members attended the Tri-Lodge Pic-

nic at Roberts Park where Framåt Lodge was the happy winner of the Kubb Tournament - so they took home the Dalahäst Trophy. There was no meeting in August but five members enjoyed the Crayfish Feast at Nordic House in Berkeley, sponsored by Fylgia Lodge No. 119 of San Francisco. The setting was beautiful, crayfish were plentiful, and "a good time was had by all."

SUBMITTED BY ANN TENNIS



Thule Lodge honors members with summer birthdays (L-R): John Sipos, Carol Schermerhorn, Florence Swanson, Allie Linnea Nelson Withers, Edwin Sandberg and Tom Eckberg.

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN/BEMUS POINT, NY / In May, the annual Memorial Service was conducted by Vice Chairman Susan W. Sipos and Chaplain Diane K. Shaw. Thule Lodge meetings are held in the summer on Thursday evenings, and refreshments are always provided by members. In June those having a summer birthday were honored with a special decorated cake of Swedish colors. In July, the annual Scandinavian Folk Festival featured much music, dancing, the Maypole, food

and a good time had by all. In August, the annual corn and hot dog roast included other entertaining activities; and lectures, storytelling and special meals are continuously being held at the lodge, located at 4123 Pancake Hill Road in Bemus Point. Visitors are always welcome - if you are in our area, stop and visit. "God dag" to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS
LODGE HISTORIAN

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A SWEDE!!!
SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
Join DL CT #1 as we celebrate the
70th ANNIVERSARY OF
CONNECTICUT VASA PARK

358 Main Street, Meriden, CT
Park Opens 11:30 A.M. Noon to 7

Entertainment by Smörgåsbandet
Barnklubben Elsa Rix Children's Dance Group
Snacks and beverages 12:30 – 4:30 P.M. (beer, wine, soft drinks—cash bar) Admission and Catered Buffet 5:00 P.M.

\$25.00 (reservations required)

General Admission and snacks, no buffet: \$10.00
(Pay at the entrance)

Name(s) _____

Lodge _____

Phone or email _____

Dinners ____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks payable to Vasa Order of America
Return to Marta Sylvan by September 8, 2016

Marta Sylvan, 175 Mill Pond Rd. Unit 326, Hamden CT 06514

Space to camp available—no hookups



Fylgia No. 119

SAN FRANCISCO, CA / In June, Fylgia and Vasa District 12 celebrated the second annual International Aquavit Competition at Sveadal! Bob Olson won again for the most traditional. In May the cooking class was making gravad lax and June taught a class with no-mayo potato salad and herring. This was in preparation for the Midsommer Picnic that is an all-day feast with activities at Sveadal. August marked our annual Crayfest Festival in Berkeley.

SUBMITTED BY DIANNE DAHLBERG

Left: Group photo, Sweden Day at Sveadal.

Tegnér No. 224

MISSOULA, MT / Our regular, once-a-month meetings include a potluck dinner. As members have visited several different countries and enjoyed their food, those recipes have been brought back and tried on our members, resulting in many pleasurable experiences. After the dinners, pictures and videos from their travels are shared. Our lodge lost two of its long time members recently, Otto Benson and Gordon Swanson. The lodge has celebrated Midsummer at the Benson Farm for 40 years, and Gordon was a 60-year member of Vasa who held various offices in the lodge. Both men are missed. We were honored to have District Master Jim McGinley and his wife Carol visit us during our Midsummer celebration, where he presented the Grand Lodge Scholarship to Jeanette Comstock, who is away at school, but her sister Kristen accepted it for her.

SUBMITTED BY RICK SWANSON



Otto Benson - Midsummer was celebrated at his farm for 40 years.



Jim McGinley - District Master at our Midsummer at Benson's farms

Left: Gordon Swanson, Past District Master Dist 13.



Members attending the May Meeting of Brahe No. 245.

Brahe No. 245

ROCKFORD, IL / We met in our Vasa Park in May, where only eight members were in attendance. Chairman Gary Johnson conducted the meeting during which Roy Ylitalo, Park Board, reported on the proposed sale of Vasa Park. We continue to meet and had a discussion about having a Herring Breakfast on a Sunday at Rockford Stockholm Inn Restaurant where they serve fried herring ... but no action was taken. We met in June

and then doubled our numbers with 13 folks at our August meeting. First we enjoyed a delicious smörgåsbord with corn boil, then Charlotte Tollin reported on the finances and we proceeded with our business meeting and discussion of a tentative, pending sale of Vasa Park. It was noted that long time members Berit Livingston and John Nelson recently died. Our next meeting is at 2 p.m. on Sept. 25 at Rockford's Vasa Park.

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS G. EKSTEN,
ASSISTED BY GUNNEL D STEWART

Svea No. 253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / In May, Hannah Lindgren and her father Jim Lindgren told the immigration story of their family dating back four generations and how each generation has maintained relationships and visits with family members in Sweden. Several of our members also attended the District Convention in Frankenmuth, MI in May, and others met for a Swedish National Day luncheon on June 4. We celebrated Midsommar at the renovated Latvian Center on June 19, a beautiful day. There was wonderful participation in decorating the majstång, dancing and bringing delicious cuisine.

Congratulations as well to the Swanson and Escalante families who were re-inducted as mem-

bers. After the July break, we reconvened on Aug. 7 for a kräftskiva - thanks to all who came out and prepared the hall, brought food and visitors (hurrah!) and participated to make this a fun event! Many thanks to hostesses, officers and all who participated in our summer events.

SUBMITTED BY JAMES HOOK



Members dancing near the majstång at Midsummer.

Framåt No. 405

EL CERRITO, CA / The three East Bay lodges (Tegner No. 149/Oakland, Framåt No. 405/El Cerrito, and Sveaborg No. 449/Concord) co-host the annual Tri-Lodge Picnic in the beautiful redwood grove at Roberts Park. This year the picnic was on July 23 and was hosted by Framåt Lodge. Many Vasa members from the three lodges as well as others in northern California enjoyed the beautiful redwood trees, the chance to visit with friends from other lodges and share the picnic lunch. Some musical members brought along their instruments and played together for the enjoyment of everyone. The highlight of the day was the annual kubb tournament, with the winner becoming the holder of the perpetual trophy – a dalahäst with the names of the winning lodge listed thereon. This year “Team Framåt” won the trophy, with team members Diane Maynard, Charlotte Bergh and Mimi Holtermann becoming the first to knock down the king. There was great excitement in Framåt Lodge because it had been eight years since our last win.

SUBMITTED BY JOANIE GRAHAM



Kubb winning team: Diane Maynard, Charlotte Bergh and Mimi Holtermann.
Photo: Tore Kellgren

Sveaborg No. 449

CONCORD, CA / Our Vasa Order of America member, Baxter Swaffar, was awarded Honorary Life Membership by the District. He was initiated into membership in Sveaborg Lodge on September 14, 1956, after his marriage to Marlene Berg; 60 years ago he became a Vasa member extraordinaire! Soon he was also active in the DL Golden Gate No. 12, becoming District Master 1980-1981. He served as Grand Lodge Deputy, was twice elected Grand Lodge Delegate and was recipient of the Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Medal. In 1984 the District Executive Board decided to host the Grand Lodge Convention and appointed Baxter Swaffar chairman of the convention committee, reportedly producing one of the best Grand Lodge conventions ever held. Baxter and his wife Marlene moved to the Reno area but maintained continuous membership in Sveaborg Lodge. Baxter, who died April 15, 2016, three days before his 81st birthday, is deeply missed. We have been blessed by Baxter, who was “Swedish by marriage,” and all our non-Nordic members who serve Vasa with heart and soul.

SUBMITTED BY EVELYN TERNSTROM

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / We had a great turn-out at April’s Norwegian Torsk Dinner, and together with other Scandinavian organizations we had a wonderful Midsommar at Old World Wisconsin. Our first fall event was Kräftskiva, with 40 guests including DM Nancy and her husband PDM Sten Hult, and visitors from Austin Lodge. Following GM Tore Kellgren’s advice, we have food at every event. Now we are planning a road trip to Minneapolis and the American Swedish Institute, with a drive back via Lindström, MN on September 16-18. Our annual fundraiser at Scandinavian

Festival (Nordic Council) is on October 8. On November 12, members Allan Stenmark and Brent Erickson will do a presentation of their recent Sweden trips, especially sharing information about their river cruise adventures on the Göta Kanal. In December we will have a Christmas lunch on December 4, and our annual Lucia program on December 18. Save the date for June 17, 2017 for Linde’s 90th Anniversary Celebration! Contact 262.366.9152 or lekstrand@wi.rr.com for information if you’d like to visit/join us - we always welcome everyone.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



Crayfish food



Torsk Dinner with about 30 Linde members



Kubb match with Debbie Renaud (Austin Lodge), Elaine Johnson sitting, Rudy and Karin Konrad and Elizabeth Krill.



Lunch meeting with the following (L-R): Allan and Linda Stenmark, Elaine Johnson, Rolf Ekstrand, Ray Shoberg and friend Julie, Jan Kamholtz, Marge Gruel and Darlene Backman.

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / Our first meeting during the second half of the lodge year is on Sept. 24, at our usual location in Burns Hall, Shepherd of the Valley Church. The featured program will be “History of the Vasa and Swedish Flags.” On Oct. 22, we will be “Visiting Stockholm,” if only with a delightful narrative and pictures of the lovely city. On Nov. 5 at 10 a.m.-2 p.m., our Jul Bazaar at Shepherd of the Valley will take place. Everyone always enjoys the Vasa cookie walk and Swedish pea soup lunch. In addition to us Swedes, Finns and Friends, Sons of Norway, World Wide Norwegians and other Scandinavians will be joining us. We also host a monthly luncheon at one of the many restaurants in the Valley. It gives members a delightful outing to enjoy while



Phoenix 677 members at the April Luncheon (L to R): Lillian More, June Ostrom, Karen Artus, Fred Artus and Penelope Anderson.

sharing a meal. These occasions continue throughout the year, and only once did we cancel a lunch due to extreme temperatures, a switch from snow cancellations possible in other parts of the country! Visitors are always welcome!

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON



Generous members of Norden No. 684 have prepared a check for the Grand Lodge Convention in 2018.

Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / We hosted VASA's successful 101st District Convention in April at Wyndham in Visalia. In May we celebrated Valborgsmassafton "Welcome Spring," where Lennart Kulberg played the accordion and we sang Swedish songs, and enjoyed a smorgasbord in our hosts' beautiful backyard. At the Kingsburg, California Swedish Festival, our lodge was invited to participate by Ted and June Hess. Our Children's Dance Group helped decorate the Maypole with flowers

and ribbons and they entertained us with their singing and dancing. In June Norden voted to send the VASA Grand Lodge District No. 12 \$500.00 to support 2018's 39th Quadrennial Grand Lodge Convention conference at the DoubleTree in Sacramento. Everyone has been anticipating our annual Crayfish and Salmon Dinner in August and our 48th Annual Anniversary Luncheon at the Cattlemen's restaurant in Selma, California on September 3.

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN



The Children's Dance Group of Norden No. 684 are decorating the Maypole.

Bishop Hill No. 683

BISHOP HILL, IL / A chilly Valborg was held in April, but Tom Cleveland, and Sten and Nancy Hult from the Archives helped out. The bonfire was lit to chase away the winter, we heard "The Boy in the Birch Bark Basket" and a program on pottery. In June, Midsommar was celebrated and the park was full of music, flowers and people. Musical groups played throughout the day, and we decorated and danced around the Maypole. People come from near and far to celebrate. Ernie Sandquist from Rockford and his son Eric were our accordion players for the dancing, and this year Katie Anderson and her son Jack led the singing for the dances. At the end of the dancing everyone joined hands and gave one big HURRAH! that summer had come and lunch was served.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF ANDERSON



In April we held the event Valborg with a bonfire to chase away the winter ...



... PDM Tom Cleveland helped cook hot dogs.



Kern River No. 763

BAKERSFIELD, CA / What a beautiful Midsummer celebration at Vasa Park in Agoura! It was a very warm day as the Midsummer Pole was raised. We had two Kern River Lodge officers participating in the Midsummer Court: Natalie Mikkelsen represented Nordic Lodge as the Midsummer Queen; and Rebecca Mikkelsen represented Golden Valley Lodge as Miss Svea; representing Skandia Lodge was Jillian Elder as Miss Columbia.

Every year our Vasa children look forward to camping with their VikingVillage friends at Vasa Park and have fun swimming, horseback riding, zip lining, etc. For five days they sleep in tents, learn Swedish, do crafts, play games, sing Swedish songs and more. Ann Heinstedt of Golden Valley started VikingVillage at Vasa Park in Agoura 11 years ago. Every summer it has become



Midsummer with Jillian Elder, Natalie Mikkelsen, Rebecca Mikkelsen.

more popular with Vasa parents/grandparents to encourage their children to be exposed to and learn about their Scandinavian background.

SUBMITTED BY LAILA JENSEN



Kayla Santana, Jennifer Dewey.



In June, the classic Midsommar celebration at Bishop Hill Park and at the Colony School.



SWEDISH NEWS



Ritualgrupp möte från vänster: FDO Rolf Öhgren, FDM Einar Savolainen Grön, FDM Åke Mellnert, DM Connie Grön and FDM Olle Wickström.

Södra och Norra Sverige No. 19, 20

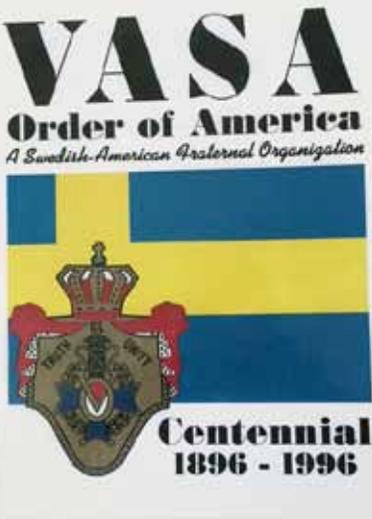
Ritualgrupp i Ljungby, Juni 2016

Att ladda inför kommande semester kan man göra på olika sätt. Vår DM Connie Grön kallade DL19:s och DL 20:s Ritualgrupp till ett möte för samordning av ritualer och ceremonier i de båda distrikten i Sverige inom Vasa Orden av Amerika. Från Södra distriktet nr 20 deltog FDM Åke Mellnert och FDM Olle Wickström, vilka bokat lokal, logi och förtäring på Hotell Terraza i Ljungby, deras ordinarie samlingslokal för sitt distrikts alla möten. Från Norra distriktet nr 19, deltog DM Connie Grön, FDM Einar Savolainen Grön och FDO Rolf Öhgren. Målet för mötet var att gå igenom alla ritualer och ceremonier

och komma överens om ett gemensamt förhållningssätt. Hur ska vi göra för att förkorta genomförandetiden av ceremonierna men ändå behålla den högtidliga och värdiga formen? Installation av tjänstemän, reception av nya medlemmar och gästloge diskuterades med hjälp av skisser och olika praktiska försök. Argumenten dissekerades och vägdes på guldväg, men alla var inriktade på att komma överens och resultatet av deras arbete kommer sedan att kunna upplevas av oss alla på våra logemöten i de båda distrikten. När det gällde reception av nya medlemmar hade gruppen två förslag och kallade på oss medföljare

för att titta på en praktisk övning av dem och komma med synpunkter. Från klockan 14 på fredag till kl 12 på söndag, med avbrott för mat och kaffe, var det koncentrerat arbete som gällde, men stämningen var god och många skratt hördes från konferenslokalen. Vi medlemmar är tacksamma för att det finns de som lägger ner själ, hjärta och tid för att vår Orden ska utvecklas och leva vidare.

TEXT OCH FOTO BY GRETA ÖHGREN



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1896 – 1996

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IN MEMORIAM

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, PO Box 13331, Milwaukee, WI 53213-0331. Email: vasaeditor@gmail.com. The fee is \$8 for one column inch. Longer obituaries will be charged a flat fee of \$25.00. All notices must be typed and in a format similar to what you see here. NO newspaper clippings

If you submitted an Obituary and it is not listed here, please resubmit to be included in the following issue..

ILLINOIS

CLARICE JOHNSON, Moline, IL. Born 8-27-1934, died 7-31-2016. Clarice joined Nobel Lodge No. 288 in 1998 and served as trustee, auditor, chairman, and Vice Chair until the last few months of her life. She was a wonderful friend and helper and is survived by daughters Julie Holt and Pamela Morris and their families.

MASSACHUSETTS

THOMAS KEAN III. Born 9-28-1947, died 5-8-2016. Tom was a supportive member of Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod, No. 703. He was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War and worked as a lineman/cable repairman for Nynex Telephone. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, daughter Kierstin and granddaughter Thea.

MONTANA

GORDON E. SWANSON, 94, of Missoula, died 3-23-2016. He was DM of PNW No. 13 in 1972-74, and was a 67-year member of Tegner No. 224. He was a WWII veteran and POW. He had a 43-year career with Missoula Mercantile as a sales clerk and manager. Gordon was active in many church and community activities and was a loving father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Ina, three children, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and sister-in-law.

NORTH CAROLINA

LENNART JOHANSSON. Our brother Lennart G. Johansson died on March 9, 2016. Lennart and his wife Nancy organized LL Carolina Viking No 722 in Greensboro and later joined LL Carl Larsson No. 739 in Raleigh. He served the Vasa Order of America in many capacities. He was a delegate from the South-eastern region to the Grand Lodge Convention in 1990 where he was elected to the office of Executive Board Member At-Large and also served as Grand Lodge Membership Chairman. Lennart is survived by his wife Nancy, two daughters and three grandchildren.

THOMAS B. WHITLEY, 85, died on June 18, 2015. Friendly and enthusiastic, he lived life to the fullest. He had a professional career in real estate law and management, then 15 years as a tour guide. Survived by his wife,

Carol, a daughter and son, and a step-daughter, step-son and step-grandson. Tom joined Drott Lodge in 2010.

OHIO (KANSAS)

ALBERT "AL" KNUD JENSEN, 90, died on 3-3-2016. A member of Nobel-Monitor No. 130 in Ohio since 1987. He was born in Ohio but ended his days in Kansas. He was a veteran of WWII, serving in the U.S. Navy. He was a loving husband and father, leaving daughters, grand- and great-grandchildren behind.

PENNSYLVANIA

LINDA MARGIT JOSEFSSON SMITH, PDM of DL Pennsylvania No. 9, died on 6-16-2016 at age 71. She was born in Philadelphia and was a proud first-generation Swedish American, an active member of Oscars Borg No. 172 for many years. While attending Frankford High School, she met the love of her

life, the late Dale Smith and shared nearly 50 years of marriage until 2013. Linda resided in Doylestown, and as member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church she enjoyed singing in the choir. Linda loved her friends and family, devoted to her sons Erik (Dina) and Bryan (Liz), grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

Family Tree Släktutredningar

I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information: swedengen@telia.com

SWEDISH NEWS

Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN /Till årets Sverige-Amerikamöte samlades ett 40-tal Vasamedlemmar, gästade Ordenssyskon var vår DD Br Rolf Hansson och BrittMarie Elvirson från LL Nybyggarna nr 698. O Sy Birgit Olsson öppnade mötet enligt ritual, gäster infördes och därefter utförde Ceremonimästarna och bitr. Ceremonimästarna en stilfull fanparad. Prologen till fanorna lästes av Kaplan Sy Elisabeth Henriksson. O Sy Birgit tackade för en väl utförd ceremoni och tackade också Br Leif Larsson för god hjälp med träningen inför fanparaden. Br Ola Sandberg redogjorde för årets Vasagolf och berättade att Sy Elisabeth Henriksson vann hela tävlingen och fick dessutom pris för deltävlingen att komma närmast mittlinjen. Eftersom samma loge inte får anordna Vasagolfen två år i rad, kommer den uppgiften att gå till Logen Kärnan nr 608 som blev tvåa i tävlingen. KL Br Hans Bogren berättade om Årets Svenskamerikan, Nils

Lofgren, och om festligheterna kring hans utnämning, då hela ensemblen runt Bruce Springsteen deltog för att hylla Nils. LH Br LarsOlof Strufve gav oss en intressant redogörelse från utvandringen från Höganäs och om alla de som åkte till Worchester för att arbeta med John Jeppson vid Northonverken. Den vackra ljussläckningsceremonin genomfördes varefter O Sy Birgit avslutade mötet och önskade alla en skön och avkopplande sommar varefter VO Sy Inger Bengtsson återgäldade. Till sprittande toner från Mats Nilssons enmansorkester intog alla sina platser vid de festliga borden. O Sy Birgit hälsade välkomna till bords och VO Sy Inger utbringade kvällens första skål och ett fyrfaldigt leve för HM Konungen. Kungssången sjöngs och därefter serverades kokt lax med tillbehör, glass med jordgubbar och vispgrädde och alla lät sig väl smaka. DM Br KarlAxel Bengtsson tackade för den goda maten och borden bröts. När

dansen tog vid fylldes golvet snabbt med dansglada Vasasyskon och fortsatte så under resten av kvällen, med kort avbrott för lottdragning, och när vi skiljdes åt var alla överens om att vi som vanligt haft en fantastisk Vasakväll.

SUBMITTED BY BERIT & HANS BOGREN



Deltagarna vid vårutflykten i maj månad.



Gäster infördes.



En högtidlig fanparad

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE (SWEDISH)

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

Birgitta och jag har nu nästan rest färdigt för året. Vi har bara Distrikt Pennsylvania No. 9 i Newbury, Ohio kvar på schemat. Våra Vasaresor är mestadels för att besöka distriktsmöten men vi har också varit med på några logejubileer. I år höll Distriktslogen Lake Michigan No. 8 sitt möte i Frankenmuth, MI, där SLER höll sitt möte tidigare samma vecka. Vi gjorde denna resan till en "roadtrip", dvs vi körde hela vägen från Kalifornien till Michigan. På vägen tillbaka hem stannade vi i den lilla staden Göteborg i Nebraska (Ja, den heter egentligen Gothenburg och är den enda staden i världen utanför Sverige med det namnet). Den var en gång ett stopp för ponnyexpressen, där ryttarna bytte hästar. Stallbyggnaden har flyttats

in mitt i staden och är numera en turistattraktion. Nu undrar du kanske varför detta var värt att nämna, och vore det inte för att vi besökte min hemstad Göteborg några veckor senare, hade det nog inte varit det.

Nu till vårt besök i Sverige. Tidigare har vi alltid rest till Sverige udda år, när de svenska distrikten håller sina möten. I år åkte vi för att vara med och fira Årets Svenskamerikan (ÅSA) - en tradition som ni säkert vet började redan 1960. Många välkända svenskamerikaner har tidigare erhållit utmärkelsen, inklusive astronauten Buzz Aldrin, justitierådet William Rehnquist (Amerikanska HD), skådespelerskan Ann-Margret och i år den framstående musikern Nils Lofgren. Nils är kanske mest känd som led-gitarristen i Bruce Springs-

teens E-Street Band. I år, på grund av den tid Nils var tillgänglig, var ceremonierna avsevärt mycket kortare än vanligt, och bestod av en lunch på restaurangen Swea Hof, på Elite Plaza Hotel, där bandet regelbundet bor under konsertturnéer i Sverige. Bilder från evenemanget finns på annan plats i detta nummer av Vasastjärnan. En video från händelsen och en intervju med Nils kommer att distribueras senare i år.

Vår långa pärs efter Mr. Enrique Villalba förskingrade vår stipendiefond 2009 är nu över. Förra veckan nådde vi förlikning efter domslutet mot det företag där Mr. Villalba spelade bort pengarna. Med detta avtal, har vi avslutat alla rättsliga förfaranden och därmed eliminerat ytterligare, potentiellt långa, utdragna, överklaganden som hade medfört risk för ett möjligt slutgiltigt domslut emot oss, ett resultat som då inte skulle ha gett oss någonting. Stort tack till vår SLER medlem Bruce Elfvin, för hans vägledning i att identifiera lämpliga juridiska rådgivare, Joel Levin och hans advokatbyrå Levin & Associates, som specialiserar sig på denna typ av ärenden, för att leda oss genom rättegången och till den slutliga förlikningen. Mer information kommer att finnas i nästa nummer av Vasastjärnan.

Det är nu mindre än två år till nästa Storlogemöte och alla distrikt måste därför välja sin storlogedeleгат vid nästa möte. Information om delegaten måste vara storlogesekreteraren tillhanda senast fyra månader före mötet. Detta innebär att informationen måste nå GS Joan senast i slutet på februari 2018. Det är viktigt att ni väljer delegater som är villiga och kapabla att ta en storelogetjänst. Endast delegater och sittande storlogetjänstemän är valbara. Delegater kan väljas till alla tjänster utom Vice Stormästare och Stormästare eftersom dessa positioner kräver tidigare tjänst inom ER. Vissa andra tjänster inklusive storlogedeputerad kan också tillsättas från delegaterna. Dessa tjänster tillsätts av den inkommande stormästaren, som under mötestiden lär känna alla delegater ganska väl.

Vasas 100-årsbok innehåller Vasa Orden av Amerikas historia från grundandet i Connecticut

1896 och fram till 1996. Här hittar du berättelser från alla distriktsloger och från många lokalloger. Vi har några av dessa vackra böcker till salu till fyndpriset \$20, inklusive frakt i USA. För leverans till Kanada eller Sverige är priset \$50 för att täcka de höga fraktkostnaderna. Här är din möjlighet att äga en av dessa praktfulla souvenirböcker. För leverans i USA eller Kanada skicka din check \$20 (USA) eller \$50 (Kanada), utställd till VOA GG No. 12, till GS Joan Graham, 5838 San Jose Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804, med en anteckning om att du vill ha en "Centennial book". Vi kommer skicka boken till adressen på checken om ingen annan adress anges. För leverans i Sverige, kontakta gärna Charlotte Börjesson för betalningsmetoden. Charlotte tar också gärna upp förhandsbeställningar för leverans nästa år. Priset blir då kr 200:-. Alla insamlade medel går till stöd för nästa storlogemöte.

Årets brevmärke trycks just i skrivande stund. När du läser detta, bör du redan ha fått ditt ark med brevmärken. Det har varit en bra fundraiser i många år och jag är övertygad om att det kommer att fortsätta att vara så. Jag uppmanar er att donera för att fortsätta stödja våra program.

MEDLEMSKAP FORTSÄTTER ATT VARA VÅR STÖRSTA UTMANING. Din loge har en medlemsvårdskommitté, men det är inte de enda som ansvarar för medlemsvård och rekrytering - ni är alla ansvariga! Genom att behålla nuvarande medlemmar och få in nya medlemmar, kommer logen att växa. För att detta ska hända, är ett intressant logemöte viktigt. **Gör mötet attraktivt!** Konkurrensen om nuvarande och blivande medlemmars tid är hård. Ni måste ha mat på era möten och erbjuda ett program som medlemmarna inte vill missa. Kulturledare, arbeta med era logemedlemmar. Det är alla medlemmars jobb att göra varje möte attraktivt för både nuvarande och framtida medlemmar. EN ny medlem är alltid jag ber om från var och en av er. Behåll nuvarande medlemmar!

Var inte tråkiga!

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER

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Festival
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