

Happy Saint Patrick's Day



Golden Valley News for March 2011

Chairman's

Message

evening. More news from the

convention can be found under the heading *Tidbits from Past Events*.

I guess someone forgot to notify the weather gods that spring starts two weeks from now, on March 20 to be specific. As I'm sitting down to write this newsletter I'm tempted to use the classical opening line: 'It is a dark and stormy night'. With daytime temperatures rarely reaching into the 60's I will let this serve as official notice for the powers that be – hey, it's time to turn on the heat. I hope the weather gods read my GVL newsletter and that they won't ask for a human sacrifice. 😊

Speaking of powers that be – but this time not quite at the godly level – I can report that several current and former officers of the Grand Lodge attended our Pacific Southwest District convention at the Hilton in Woodland Hills last week. The Grand Master, William Lundquist from Michigan, made an appeal for money to replace part of the loss incurred in last year's scandal when funds in excess of one million dollars disappeared. Lundquist moved to have our District donate an annual percentage to the Vasa Archives. However, after some discussion this matter was tabled until all members of our District could be informed. There was no mention of earlier assertions that some of the lost funds would be recovered. It appears that this possibility is very remote. Consequently the scholarship program at the Grand Lodge has been suspended indefinitely. I wish to emphasize that none of the accounts in our Building Corporation or in the Golden Valley Lodge have been affected by this scandal. Our own scholarship program will continue as will the one sponsored by our District. At the convention it was a pleasure for me as GVL-chairman to present a check for \$2,000 in support of four scholarship funds managed by the District. Two bright GVL-members, Christina Thelin and Anders Heinstedt received their awards at the banquet on Saturday

So what's happening next at our Lodge? Well, I have great news for you – Karin Coleman has promised to cook dinner at our Thursday, March 10 meeting. The menu is secret but I'm sure you won't be disappointed. Cultural leaders of the month are Birgitta Clark and Karin Altankov. However, before we get to enjoy all the fun stuff, you will have to endure a brief business meeting with Yours Truly as chairman. This time we have an initiation ceremony on the agenda. Also, I hope to introduce and welcome some new prospective members.

On March 13, Sunday morning at 2:00 AM, a couple of days after our Lodge meeting, we need to change our clocks to Daylight Saving Time. This means 'spring forward' so that 2:00 AM PST instantly becomes 3:00 AM PDT. It is an interest-free loan of time and you will lose an hour of sleep but, rest assured, I guarantee that you will get it back in November (trust me). Please note that the clocks in Scandinavia don't change until March 27 (this is no joke). So for two weeks the people in Sweden will be only 8 hours ahead of us instead of the usual 9 hours.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Lodge on Thursday the 10th. Mark your calendar so you won't forget! In truth and unity,

Bertil (Bert)

Flower March and Lottery News

From the February meeting Steve Tabanelli reports that we sold lottery tickets for \$109 and the flower march brought in \$43. Stig Klintare was the lucky winner of \$25 in the capsule drawing. First prize in the raffle was split between Gunilla Polutanovich and Stig Klintare,

each winning \$15. The other raffle prizes went to Mona Steffen (\$20) and Kerstin Engblom (\$10).

Tidbits from Past Events

This year's District convention was held at the Hilton hotel in Woodland Hills on February 25 – 27. I counted 18 of our members among more than 100 participants in the various events. At the risk of inadvertently leaving anyone out, I'll list the members from the GV Lodge: Nathan Coddling, Inga Francis, Maj-Lis Friedman, Anders Heinstedt, Ann Heinstedt, Linnea Heinstedt, Maidie Karling, Daga-Karin Lindquist, Sven & Gertie Lingstrom, Elvine Lundberg, Frank & Isabella Muscarella, Christina Thelin, Lena Thelin, Bill & Kerstin Wendt and Yours Truly (Bert Winther). I apologize sincerely if I left anyone out.

I suppose it comes as no surprise for you that these elaborate conventions are very expensive. With a decreasing District membership it becomes difficult to justify the cost of an annual event. The idea of having these gatherings every other year instead of annually has come up at all the conventions I have attended in recent years but such proposals have been voted down every time. This year Thomas Jahn from the Evening Star Lodge submitted a resolution to modify the bylaws of the District Lodge so that future conventions would be held only in even-numbered years. Similar changes have been implemented by many other districts in the Vasa organization. The resolution by Thomas Jahn was not even voted on – it was withdrawn because the procedure requires a resolution to be signed by a District officer. Thomas Jahn is an officer of the District but he had signed the document only as the author and had asked his Lodge chairman (who isn't a District officer) certify the document on the bottom line. Another reason given for not voting on the resolution was that it had electronic signatures (oh, come on now). Let me guess - it's hard to give up those annual perks.

Three GVL-members were elected or re-elected as District officers. They are: Nathan Coddling, Ann Heinstedt and Maidie Karling. Last year Isabella Muscarella was elected District Trustee

Several center pieces from the dinner tables were raffled out also.

for a 3-year term and she continues to serve in that position.

Hidden GVL-heroes

As mentioned in the February newsletter, each month I would like to recognize two of our long-time members who quietly go about helping the Lodge year after year without much notice. This time the turn comes to Sonja and Gary Andonian. They are always ready to pitch in when we need help on various committees. For several years Sonja has served on our Scholarship committee. Currently she is a board member of the Building Corporation. Gary has also served on the board of the Corporation for many years in the past. Both of them have been very helpful in honoring our commitments at District conventions – I remember especially the convention in Irvine two years ago when they did a lot of work to set up the cocktail party. At that time Sonja also served as our convention delegate. We are really lucky to have such members among us.

Important Announcements

We still have many members who haven't paid their dues for 2011. Please make the job easy on Delphine Trowbridge, our new Financial Secretary, and send her your check for \$25/person made out to Golden Valley Lodge #616. Her address is: 450 East Olive Avenue #236, Burbank, CA 91501.

Enclosed with this newsletter you'll find a list of our members. Please notify me or Delphine if you have any corrections.

I am not sure you all know about our website that is maintained by Bonnie & Jonas Fornander. The URL is:

<http://www.goldenvalleylodge.org/>

There you can find our newsletters and some other important information. Please check it out.

Birthdays in March

Linnea Heinstedt	1 st	Kerstin Engblom	30 th
Kristoffer Diös	14 th	Maidie Karling	30 th
Britt-Marie Potter	22 nd		

Happy birthday to you all

Dates to Keep in Mind

March 10 th	Golden Valley Lodge meeting, 6:30 pm
March 13 th	Daylight Saving Time begins
March 17 th	Saint Patrick's Day
March 27 th	Time change in Sweden (sommartid)
April 1 st	April Fools' Day – watch out. 😊
April 7 th	Building Corporation meeting at the Wendts' home, 6:30 pm



*Wishing you all a Happy Saint Patrick's Day,
Bertil*