

Golden Valley News for January 2012

This is my last issue of the GVL newsletter. I'm happy to report that Laurie Taylor has volunteered to take over as your editor starting next month. I'm sure she will do a great job.

I started writing the newsletter three years ago, in February 2009 – it's hard to believe how quickly time has gone by. For the year ahead I plan to continue writing a column appearing under the headline 'Chairman's Message'. Of course, it's up to Laurie what to publish in her newsletter.

Chairman's Message

The State of our Lodge is good. Our finances are in good shape and the membership numbers in various categories are essentially unchanged. We ended the year with 149 members - eight new members were initiated but eight others either resigned or were dropped for non-payment of dues. The number of regular members stands at 115 – the remaining 34 are gold card members who are exempt from paying dues. Two gold card holders passed away during the year so we had a net loss of two members. A more detailed picture of our membership is presented under the headline "Statistical Data" later in this newsletter.

The Christmas party was a great success thanks to the hard work of many people in our Lodge. I would like to thank all the people that helped out and/or donated items to be raffled out. Sonja Andonian (with able help from Kerstin Wendt) was in charge of organizing the event. We ended up with 82 members and guests in attendance. This number was somewhat less than we had last

year, probably because of competition from other events in the Swedish-American community.

Four of our active members, the Lindstrom and the Richards families, were hired to provide the Christmas dinner. People at my table were all raving about the food – it was fantastic, cooked just the way I remember from the old country. The evening's entertainment included a Lucia ceremony in which Ann Heinstdedt presented a talented group of youngsters who apparently had spent many hours rehearsing the traditional songs in Swedish – it was a beautiful performance. Lucia this year was Lauren Powers. Another popular portion of the program was the visit by Santa. Some questions popped up about permits from LAX Air Traffic Control and whether Santa flew in from the North Pole or from the local community of Northridge but in the end it didn't matter. Everyone, young and old alike, got a goody bag – no questions asked on how good they had been all year 😊

We have our first business & dinner meeting for the year on the 12th. Dorothy Reiersen, Gunilla Thelin, Lena Thelin, and Inger Sorenson are in charge of the kitchen. Hope to see you all there!

In truth and unity, Bertil

Lottery Winners

From the meeting on December 8 Steve Tabanelli reports that we sold lottery tickets for \$111 and the flower march brought in \$43. Emily Wendt was the lucky winner of \$25 in the capsule drawing. The cash raffle prizes went to Marie Mickelson (\$30), Sonja Andonian (\$20)

and Dagmar Rydberg (\$10). We also raffled out several center pieces.

Building Corporation News

The first meeting of the year was held on January 5. Tommy Eneberg reported that the work on converting the corporation to an IRS 501c(3) organization is going forward but at a slow pace.

One important function at the meeting was for our auditors to review all lodge accounts. The auditing team included Bill Wendt and Marie Mickelson.

The annual meeting of the Building Corporation is scheduled for Monday, February 6 at 6:30 pm. It will be held in the small backroom at the Sons of Norway lodge. Since space is limited, please let us know if you plan to attend. The annual meeting will be followed by a regular board meeting where the officers of the corporation will be elected.

In Memoriam

It is my sad duty to report that one of our long-time members, Gloria Nelson, passed away in April of 2011 at the age of 74. She joined the Lodge in 1963. Our sincere sympathies go to her friends and relatives. We will drape the Lodge charter at our general meeting on January 12.

Important Announcements

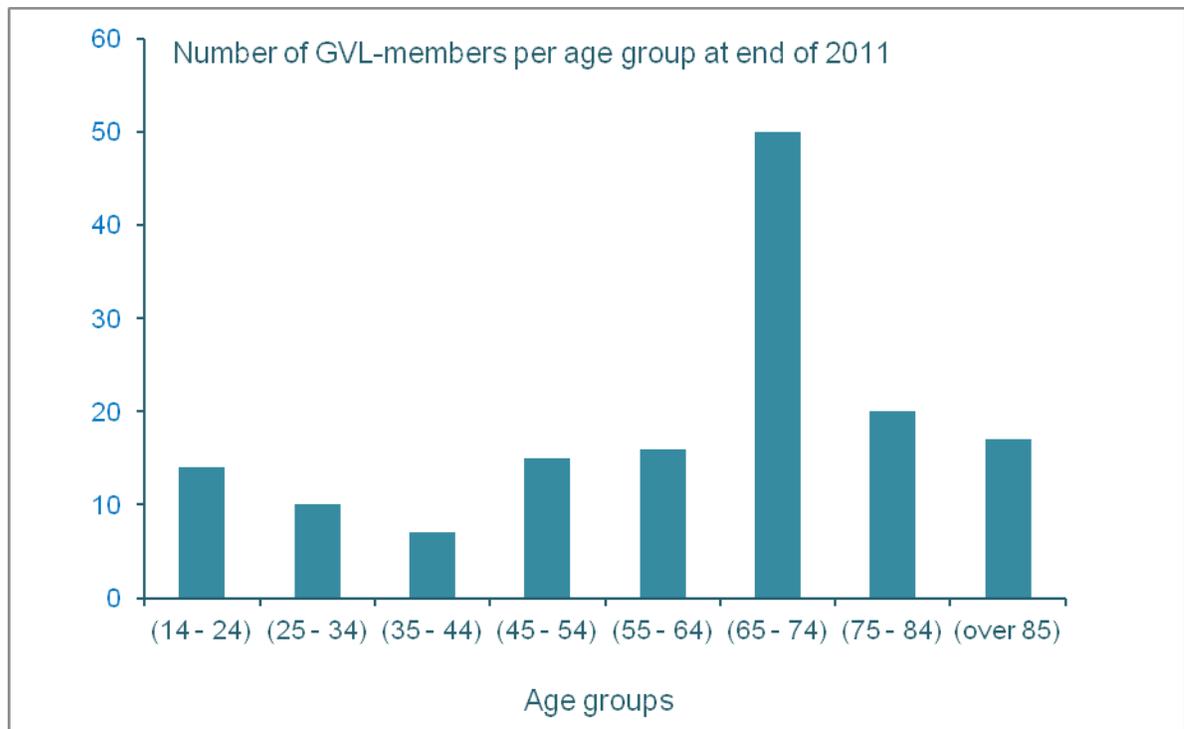
It's time again for the membership dues, \$25, the same as last year. Please make the job easy on Delphine Trowbridge, our hard-working Financial Secretary, and send her your check made out to Golden Valley Lodge #616. Her address is: 450 E. Olive Avenue #236, Burbank, CA 91501.

Statistical Data

For the future existence of our Lodge it is essential that we recruit new members in the younger age groups and get them involved in our activities. We have made some progress in that regard but the numbers are not improving quickly enough. It's a little bit like the national unemployment numbers – lately they have improved but not enough to have a real impact.

I have prepared a chart (see next page) showing the age distribution of our members. It comes as no surprise that the distribution is highly unbalanced. The relatively large number of members aged 65-74 is probably due to the demise of the Swedish Hollywood Club – many in that organization belonged to that age group and they joined GVL when it folded or became less active. It is interesting to note the low number of members between the ages of 35 and 44. This is the age when most people are working very hard to establish themselves in their professions and have less time to participate in social groups. A way to increase the number of members in this group would be to create activities for families with children in kindergarten or in elementary school. I understand our Lodge at one time had such an activity that operated under the name “Blåsippan”.

In 2011 the average age of our members increased from 60.9 to 61.6 – collectively we became 8 months wiser during the 12-month period. As a matter of fact, if you were born after September 1944 you belong to the youngest half (age median) of our membership. You might like that just fine but it doesn't bode well for the continued survival of our Lodge. At the business meeting in December we discussed a proposal to subsidize social events for the younger members (ages 14 to 34). I hope members of that group can agree on a suitable excursion and I urge the general membership to be generous in their support.



Birthdays in January

Mary Wilson	2 nd	Dagmar Rydberg	8 th
Isabella Muscarella	3 rd	Rigmor Johnsdotter	9 th
Aina Selinder	5 th	Amir Hamaoui	11 th
Birgitta Clark	5 th	Elizabeth Eacott	12 th
Odd Reiersen	5 th	Kamil Hamaoui	18 th
Margit Bennett	6 th	Karl Brink	23 rd
Kristina DeHart	7 th	Ruzenka di Benedetto	
Brita Anderson-Brink	8 th		28 th

Happy birthday to you all

Dates to Keep in Mind

January 12 th	Golden Valley Lodge meeting 6:30 pm
January 16 th	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 6 th	Building Corporation Annual meeting at Sons of Norway 6:30 pm
February 9 th	Golden Valley Lodge meeting 6:30 pm

Wishing you all a happy New Year,
Bertil