

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



**Happy
Valentine's Day!**

Chairman's Message

In my January message I stated that it would be my last one as chairman of the Lodge. Yesterday, however, I learned that our newly elected chairman, Frank Muscarella couldn't attend the installation ceremony at the District meeting in Pasadena. It means that I continue to be your chairman until Frank is installed by the District Deputy (Gunilla Thelin) at our next meeting. All this seems a bit ridiculous - but who am I to argue with our old rituals?

We have more important business to argue about (in a friendly way) when we meet next time. As you all know the Building Corporation was dissolved and we are now in the process of creating a Finance Committee to handle an important duty of the Lodge - that is, to manage our investments. At the January meeting we elected a team to prepare guidelines for the committee. Their proposed rules were e-mailed a few days ago to most of our members. We'll discuss and vote on these guidelines at the business meeting on Thursday, the 14th. To ensure that all of our members (including those without an e-mail address on

record) have a chance to study the document prior to the meeting, it will be distributed again with this month's newsletter.

About a month ago I wrote an article entitled "History of Transition - Building Corporation to Finance Committee" and e-mailed it to members on my mailing list. My intention was not only to explain why we had to dissolve the Building

Dates to Remember

Golden Valley Lodge Meeting...Thursday, Feb. 14
Valentine's Day.....February 14
Coronation.....April 28
Open to girls aged 15 - 22 years old
Midsummer Picnic.....June 23

Corporation but also to advocate a change of direction for our Lodge. I'm sorry this purpose wasn't stated more clearly in my article. But that is not all. It has come to my attention that some directors of the corporation have interpreted my article as an attack on their integrity and honesty. I wish to assure all involved that I'm not accusing anyone of wrongdoing, nor did I intend to imply anything of the sort.

On reviewing the article, however, I see that it could be misinterpreted. When writing that the corporation had been in the "driver's seat", I should have added a sentence saying that the board of directors had managed its business prudently and had complied with all the bylaws of the corporation. I sincerely apologize for the omission. I also wish to make clear that there was no disagreement about the course of action when our attorney advised us to dissolve the corporation. We all concluded that it was best for the Lodge and for the corporation to continue without change until all legal issues could be resolved. Later, however, some honest disagreements arose when the corporation was about to terminate its activities. My intention was to ensure that the Lodge could handle the new responsibility in a spirit of openness which in the long run would benefit

our organization in a multitude of ways – for instance, by involving diverse stakeholders in the decision-making process. Simply stated, my opinion was (and is) that new and younger members must be encouraged to take part in various committees and in the general operation of our Lodge. Now we have a great opportunity to work towards this goal.

Our next meeting takes place on Valentine's Day, February 14. We have a couple of things on the agenda at the business portion of our meeting but I hope we'll be able to finish them in a timely fashion. As usual, the award for taking care of business is that later in the evening we'll sit down together for a nice dinner. At the time of this writing I haven't been able to find out what's on the menu – all I know is that the Holstein & Thorsen families have volunteered for kitchen duty. Well, from experience I know more than that – it's going to be a great dinner. I look forward to seeing you all at the Lodge on Valentine's Day.

In truth and unity,

Bertil

.....

Happy February Birthday to You!



Sven Lingstrom	Feb. 1	Maria G. Grew	Feb. 14 ♥
Dagny Svensson	Feb. 5	Tyler Holstein	Feb. 17
Mona Steffen	Feb. 5	Melissa Steffen	Feb. 19
Olle Wester	Feb. 6	Tina DeHart	Feb. 22
Viola Kindstrand	Feb. 6	Michel Hamaoui	Feb. 22
Stig Klintare	Feb. 7	Bernice Dreher	Feb. 24
Elvy Heinstedt	Feb. 12	Bengt Heinstedt	Feb. 26
James Thorsen	Feb. 13	Lage Engblom	Feb. 27
		Johan Forslund	Feb. 27

GVL Happenings

Buffet Buzz

Delphine Trowbridge and Dorothy Burns prepared a delicious meal of traditional Småland food complete with some beautiful entertainment by Rolf Gustafsson. It was a very enjoyable evening.



Dorothy Burns and Delphine Trowbridge



Rolf Gustafsson

Thank You to Our Building Corporation!

Our Building Corp. has been handling our lodge affairs for 30 years! As you know, the Corp. has recently been dissolved since there is no longer a building. We are all *very* grateful for their years of dedicated service to the lodge!

A committee was formed to propose guidelines for the new Finance Committee. The purpose of the Finance Committee is to manage and protect the our investment funds. The Grand Lodge Treasurer, Keith Hanlon was extremely generous in sharing his time and vast knowledge about lodge compliance with the U.S. Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)

and the IRS. The committee met a few times to get the guidelines established. It follows this newsletter and we will be discussing it at our Valentine's Day meeting.

Thank you also to Lois Johansson and Ingela Sörensson for allowing the committee to meet at their beautiful homes. We noticed that Ingela has a wonderful collection of dala horses that I hope to get some pictures of for the next Cultural Corner article.

(Was that hint too strong?)

Youth Central A Youth Group Invitation

Kellie Spaberg, District ViQueen is inviting Vasa Youth to attend the District Convention Dinner and Dance on February 23 6:30-11:30 pm. Anyone interested needs to let Ann Heinstedt know at ann@nordicheritage.com or text 661-714-4347 by February 14.

Cultural Corner

Last month the Cultural Corner focused on Tomte. What a nice response to the request for pictures of your Tomtar! Ruth Wilkening even decorated her envelope - it was adorable. She shared pictures of her Troll Skogen. Kerstin Wendt generously emailed several pictures of her tomte/tomtar and more pictures from the Christmas party. Enjoy!

Next month features the dala horse - so get out your cameras! E-mail them to laurietaylor@hotmail.com I got my scanner working so you can mail it as well.



Ruth Wilkening's collection



*Ruth Wilkening's collection: Sign reads
← Santa Barbara Sweden →*



*Ruth Wilkening's collection,
Sign reads: Troll Skoggen*



*The rest of the pictures are
courtesy of Kerstin Wendt.
I love the little guy in the tree!
Isn't he cute?*

*Kerstin Wendt's
Tomte Collection followed by
Christmas Party pictures.
Thanks Kerstin!*







Joint Installation of Local Lodge Officers for District No. 15

The Joint Installation of Local Lodge Officers for District No. 15 was held at Skandia Hall in Pasadena on Sunday, January 13, 2013. There were local workshops, a social hour, installation of Officers, dinner and then Julgransplundring. Live music was provided by accordionist LeRoy Anderson. The meeting was very well attended by Golden Valley Lodge members. It was a fundraiser for the 2013 District 15 Convention that will be held at the Holiday Inn in Long Beach on February 22-24.



Favorite recipe? Upcoming event happening?
Send your newsletter submissions to laurietaylor@hotmail.com.

Valentine's Day Quotes

Well, no one took my advice again this year to make Valentine's Day a National holiday. Here are some fun and mushy quotes to get you ready for Valentine's Day.

All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.
- Charles M. Schulz

Love is missing someone whenever you're apart, but somehow feeling warm inside because you're close in heart.
- Kay Knudsen

"Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end."
- Author Unknown

If you have only one smile in you give it to the people you love.
- Maya Angelou

Love is a game that two can play and both win.
- Eva Gabor

A heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others.
- Frank Morgan

You don't marry someone you can live with - you marry the person who you cannot live without.
- Anonymous

A kiss is a lovely trick designed by nature to stop speech when words become superfluous.
- Ingrid Bergman

Today is Valentine's Day - or, as men like to call it, Extortion Day!
- Jay Leno

I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon.
- Anonymous

If you love someone, let them go. If they return to you, it was meant to be. If they don't, their love was never yours to begin with...
- Anonymous

"You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."
- Dr. Seuss
(*I never knew Dr. Seuss was such a romantic!*)

Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart.
- Anonymous

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.
- Henry Van Dyke

"For it was not into my ear you whispered, but into my heart. It was not my lips you kissed, but my soul."
- Judy Garland

I've fallen in love many times... always with you.
- Anonymous

Love is like playing the piano. First you must learn to play by the rules, then you must forget the rules and play from your heart.
- Anonymous

I love you not because I need you, but I need you because I love you.
- Anonymous

In true love the smallest distance is too great, and the greatest distance can be bridged.
- Hans Nouwens

If I know what love is, it is because of you.
- Herman Hesse

What I need to live has been given to me by the earth. Why I need to live has been given to me by you.
- Anonymous

If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you.
- Winnie the Pooh

A life with love will have some thorns, but a life without love will have no roses.
- Anonymous

"Love is just a word until someone comes along and gives it meaning."
- Author Unknown

and lastly...
"A life without love is like a year without summer."
- Swedish Proverb