

January 2025

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to 2025 and a very exciting year for Golden Valley. We will have a new Management Board who will be initiated at our meeting Thursday. We will have two events which you can choose between. Vasa Park will have their 3 picnics and Viking Village. Our January dinner hosts are Britt, Maggie and Lilian and thank you for starting out the year.

See you Thursday,

*Delphine*

If you have not paid your membership dues, they are due.

Questions? Ask:  
akarling20@yahoo.com

Please send your checks to:  
Ann-Kristin Karling  
13754 Burbank Blvd.  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401

Reimbursement for an expense:

Dorothy Burns  
8201 Glade Avenue  
Canoga Park, CA 91304

or  
gladegal2003@yahoo.com

# GVL Happenings

## Happy January/February Birthday!!!

### JANUARY (1) 2025

Linda Luna	?
Isabella Muscarella	3
Jonathan Ostergren	4
Birgitta Clark	5
Tyra Dios	7
Rigmor Johnsdotter	9
Mary Locke	11
Jennifer Dewey	13
Aaron Gomes	27
Ruzenka di Benedetto	28
Ian Wolf	28
Theo Wolf	28
Lars Heinstedt	29
Susanne Moreland	30



### FEBRUARY (2)

Hanna Claesson-Assad	3
Olof Wester	4
Alice Karling	5
Mona Steffen	5
Stig Klintare	7
Mikael Amador-Stromberg	10
Jason Trowbridge	11
Anna Maj Lis Aasa	3
James Thorsen	13
Tyler Holstein	17
Melissa Steffen-Coombes	19
Keri Mikkelsen	21
Tina DeHart	22
Michel Hamaoui	22
Bernice Dreher	24
Annika Cropper	26
Lage Engblom	27



## 2024 Golden Valley Lodge Board & Service Positions

Chair: Delphine Trowbridge  
 Vice Chair: Jason Trowbridge  
 Past Chair: Maidie Karling  
 Recording Secretary: Dorothy Burns  
 Assistant Secretary: Cecilia Danhi  
 Membership Secretary: Danielle Sommer  
 Financial Secretary: Ann-Kristin Karling  
 Treasurer: Birgitta Clark  
 Chaplain: Beth Bunnell  
 Master of Ceremonies: Stig Eneberg  
 Assistant MoC: Lucas Taylor  
 Cultural: Laurie Taylor  
 Trustee Chairman 1 yr: Maria Jacobs  
 Trustee 2 yr: Kerstin Wendt  
 Trustee 3 yr: Bertil Winther  
 Auditor chairman 1 yr: Ann Heinstedt  
 Auditor 2 yr: Britt Potter  
 Auditor 3 yr: Linda Trowbridge  
 Events Co-Chair: Maggie Connelly & Delphine Trowbridge  
 Scholarships: Beth Bunnell, Hubert Pitters  
 Financial: Hubert Pitters  
 Historian: Laurie Taylor  
 Vasa Park: Dorothy Burns, Richard Heinstedt, Linnea Heinstedt  
 Alternate Ann-Sofi Holst  
 Bar: Valerie & Dylan Olson  
 Newsletter: Laurie Taylor  
 Youth Group: Cecilia Trowbridge  
 Vasa Star: Laurie Taylor

## 2025 Dues

Please pay your 2025 dues.  
 If you paid for the Christmas dinner, then your dues are taken care of.  
 If not, please pay early.

# Culture Corner



Brooks H Mabry/American Kennel Club

## The New Danish-Swedish Farmdog The latest dog in the American Kennel Club's lineup of recognized breeds

It is called the farmdog or DSF for short, the breed goes back centuries in parts of what are now Denmark, southern Sweden and some other European countries.

This distinction as a breed makes it eligible to compete for many best in show trophies and increase its popularity.

“They’re interesting, fun little dogs,” said Segebart, who has owned them since 2011 and is the Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America’s incoming president. “They’re essentially up for anything. They succeed at most everything.”

In their original homelands, the dogs’ main job was rodent patrol, sometimes herd a bit, act as watchdogs, and play with farmers’ children.

## Northern lights

The Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, is a natural light display that is frequent during the winter months in northern Sweden.

Thanks to Sweden’s geographical proximity to the Arctic Circle and the magnetic North Pole, a significant portion of the country lies within the zone where solar particles collide with gases in the Earth’s atmosphere to create these colourful ribbons of light. Usually red, green, or purple in colour, they last anywhere from a few minutes to several hours. Your best chance of catching a glimpse of the Northern Lights is on cold and cloudless winter nights when the sky is clear, dark with little to no moonlight



Credits: David Schreiner/Folio/imagebank.sweden.se

# Several new laws will come into force in Sweden in 2025. Here are some of the confirmed changes.

## Scrapped hotel permit

You will no longer need a permit to open a hotel or bed and breakfast. You will have to notify police.

## New recycling rules

All textile waste – including old and damaged clothes – must be separated from other household waste and dropped off at your municipality’s collection point.

Heated non-residential buildings with more than 20 parking spots must have at least one spot for charging electric vehicles. This includes not only new builds, but also existing buildings. The charging spots do not have to be available to the public.

## Reporting to the Tax Agency about sick children

Employers will have to send in a monthly report to the Swedish Tax Agency if their employees have been home due to parental leave or caring for a sick child.

## More rights for children

The law is being strengthened to make sure that when determining issues such as custody, housing and visiting rights, courts and social services should base decisions on what’s in the child’s best interest. They should especially focus on whether there’s a risk that the child or family members could be exposed to violence or abuse.

## Lower taxes

There will be tax cuts on petrol and diesel. Pensioners are also set to get tax cut, and the employment tax credit will

## More expensive ‘blanco loans’

Tax deductions will be removed gradually on unsecured debt – also known as signature debts or personal loans, or more commonly in Sweden as blanco loans. In 2025, only 50 percent of the interest rate will be deductible, and in 2026 tax deductions on unsecured debt will be completely removed.

## Less generous ROT and RUT deductions

In Sweden you can get money back on your taxes for any domestic work you have paid for such as for example cleaning or gardening (RUT) or building repairs (ROT).

In 2024 the cap on ROT and RUT deductions was temporarily raised to 75,000 kronor each. But in 2025 the old rules will be back, meaning that there will be a 50,000 kronor cap on ROT deductions, with a 75,000 kronor cap on RUT and ROT combined.

## New EU Blue Card rules

From January 1st, the new EU Blue Card rules will apply in Sweden, which means that some highly skilled professionals will be able to use it as a convenient way of building a career in the country.

## Anonymous witnesses

From January 1st, witnesses will be able to testify anonymously to police and in courts if they or their family are at risk of retaliation as a result of their testimony. Anonymity will only be permitted if the suspected crime could carry a punishment of at least two years in jail.

# 2024 Christmas Party







