



Golden Valley News for January 2010

The Christmas decorations are safely stored away, the New Year's resolutions are all forgotten and we in southern California, contrary to people in other parts of this vast country, are enjoying spring-like weather conditions – at least for the time being. How many of you went to see the Rose Parade in Pasadena? To me it seemed better than ever, probably because I was home with a cold and was limited to watching the event on TV. Well, the cold wasn't all bad and now I (Bertil) can testify to the fact that there is no better cure than a big cup of piping hot glögg left over from the holidays.

We have our first business & dinner meeting for the year on the 14th. Karin Coleman and Steve Osman with wife Lena are in charge of the kitchen. I have been told that they intend to serve Swedish peasoup with ham. The main course includes salad, bread and cheese. For dessert, Karin says she'll make Swedish pancakes with Whidbey Island blackberry topping. Doesn't that make your mouth water? About two months ago I attended a dinner at a restaurant together with another Swedish group. The restaurant charged \$25 per person for the dinner consisting of – you guessed it, peasoup and then pancakes for dessert. At the Golden Valley Lodge you get all this (and more) for free by attending just one meeting – isn't that an irresistible bargain. By the way, at the December meeting we decided to increase the annual dues from \$20 to \$25.

At the anniversary meeting on December 10, we voted to donate \$12,000 to five charitable organizations – more on that later in this newsletter. At the same meeting we handed out scholarship awards totaling \$11,000 to five of our young students. By the way, it was great to see that so many of our younger members are willing to help out in the operation of our lodge. The following week at the Christmas party, when a dozen of our young adults put on a beautiful Lucia ceremony, I couldn't

help make the following reflection: "here are some of the future leaders of our lodge". That show was an inspiration for us all – thank you.

Chairman's Message

Happy New Year everyone! It's amazing that another decade is behind us. What a way to end the year at our Lodge. The Christmas Party was a huge success. Our caterers, Karin Coleman and Gertie Lingstrom with staff, served a fantastic Swedish Christmas Table that every-one enjoyed. We had a visit from "Lucia" and her court and the star boys. It was beautiful. Jultomten "Santa Claus" stopped by to see all the good children. They all in turn got goodie bags. We also, of course, had raffle ticket sales and two tables full of prizes; too many some of us thought. Everyone loved the fact that they could choose their own prize and in the end chose up to four prizes in one turn. We all had a lot of fun. All the prizes were donated by our generous members. My personal favorite was when Arne Ljunggren read "Endast Tomten är vaken". Thank you Arne!

It was a great pleasure to see so many of our young members attend the last meeting. Several of them were willing to take a position on the board. We have two teenagers on our new board for 2010, isn't that great? Who knows what will happen next year. Oh, and by the way, our next Lodge Social in May is being organized by six of our young people.

Now, we are looking forward to the New Year and this will be my last "Chairman's Message". It has been a pleasure to serve and I thank you all for your support. As you all know, Bertil Winther is the new chairman for our Lodge, and I'll hand the gavel over to him at the next meeting. He will need your support, so please, come to our meetings.

In truth and unity, Kerstin

Lottery Winners

At our meeting on December 10 we sold lottery tickets for \$71 and the flower march brought in \$50. Tommy Eneberg was the lucky winner of \$25 in the capsule drawing.

The cash raffle prizes went to Frank Muscarella (\$20), Steve Tabanelli (\$12) and Nathan Coddling (\$10). We also raffled out several center pieces.

Building Corporation News

One important function at the meeting was for our auditors to review all lodge accounts. The auditing team

consisted of Kerstin Engblom, Nathan Coddling and Marie Mickelson. Another item on the agenda was to prepare the 2010 GVL program and submit it to our District Lodge for publication.

In addition, we discussed this year's District Convention scheduled for February 26 – 28 at the Hilton hotel in Woodland Hills. Since most of our members live in close proximity of the hotel it was suggested that we would save money by having our delegates commute daily to the convention. Tommy Eneberg made a motion to limit expenses by recommending the lodge to reimburse only 50% of actual expenses for all our delegates and their spouses with the exception of the GVL chairman who would receive full compensation. This motion included expenses for the banquet and the memorial luncheon and there was some concern that it would be difficult to recruit delegates under these circumstances, but the motion passed. If this recommendation is adopted by the general membership it would apply only to the 2010 District Convention.

Tidbits from Past Events

We had a good turn-out with many young members showing up for the meeting on December 10. The business portion of the meeting turned out to be relatively long, partly because of the nomination and election process. Here is the list of officers for 2010: Chairman: Bertil (Bert) Winther, Vice Chairman: Steve Tabanelli, Past Chairman: Kerstin Wendt, Secretary: Maidie Karling, Assistant Secretary: Mona Steffen, Treasurer: Ann-Kristin Karling, Financial Secretary: Emily Wendt, Chaplain: Birgitta Glad, Master of Ceremonies: Frank Muscarella, Assistant Master of Ceremonies: Andrea Tabanelli, Historian: Maria Jacobs, Inner Guard: William Osman, Outer

Guard: Lena Osman, Trustee 1 year: Bertil Winther, Trustee 2 years: Hubert Pitters, Trustee 3 years: Sonja Andonian, Auditor 1 year: Kerstin Engblom, Auditor 2 years: Marie Mickelson, Auditor 3 years: Nathan Coddling, District #15 deputy: Isabella Muscarella, Vasa Park deputy 1 year: Bertil Winther, Vasa Park deputy 2 years: Britt Potter, Vasa Park deputy 3 years: Frank Muscarella, SACA deputy 1 year: Birgitta Clark, SACA deputy 2 years: Andrea Tabanelli, SACA deputy 3 years: Nathan Coddling, Banner Bearers: Lage and Kerstin Engblom.

We also had a long discussion and a couple of votes on our 2009 charitable donations. In the end, the meeting decided to go with the organizations and the amounts that were recommended by our Building Corporation. Here's the list: \$3,000 to Salvation Army of Southern California, \$2,500 to San Fernando Valley Food Bank, \$2,500 to Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice, \$2,000 to City of Hope in Duarte and \$2,000 to Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. The checks were mailed out by our Secretary (Bill Wendt) before Christmas.

Important Announcements

As I mentioned in the introduction, the membership dues have been increased from \$20 to \$25 annually. Please, make the job easy on Emily Wendt, our new Financial Secretary, and send her your check as soon as possible. Her address is: 7754 Texhoma Ave., Northridge, CA 91325.

With this newsletter I enclose a questionnaire prepared by Maidie and Ann-Kristin about our planned excursion to the Santa Anita Race Track. Maidie needs to have your response by January 16.

With the United States Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cautious, so as not to become victims of fraud. Census workers will gather information including name, age, race and gender of every person living at each address. The question is - how do you tell the difference between a census worker and a con artist? The BBB offers following advice: If a Census worker knocks on your door, he or she will have a badge, a handheld device, and a Census Bureau canvas bag. Ask to see the badge before answering any questions. You should never invite anyone you don't know into your home. Census workers are currently

only knocking on doors to verify address information but eventually you may be contacted by telephone or regular mail. The Census Bureau will not contact you by email so be on the look-out for email scams. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if the person

claims it is mandatory. Remember, no matter what they ask, you really only need to tell them how many people live at your address.

Birthdays in January

Edith Kastus	1 st	Dagmar Rydberg	8 th
Mary Wilson	2 nd	Rigmor Johnsdotter	9 th
Isabella Muscarella	3 rd	Amir Hamaoui	11 th
Aina Selinder	5 th	Elizabeth Eacott	12 th
Birgitta Clark	5 th	Deidra DeHart	13 th
Odd Reiersen	5 th	Kamil Hamaoui	18 th
Margit Bennett	6 th	Karl Brink	23 rd
Kristina DeHart	7 th		
Brita Anderson-Brink	8 th		

Happy birthday to you all

Dates to Keep in Mind

January 14th Golden Valley Lodge meeting 6:30 pm
February 1st Building Corporation Annual meeting at Sons of Norway 6:00 pm

***Wishing you all a happy New Year,
Bertil***