

Skandia Nytt

SKANDIA LODGE #247, VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

VOL. 106, No. 3, MARCH 2018

Chairman:

Beau Stocking

Vice Chairman:

Ernie Mauritson

Past Chairman

Nel Solt

Secretary:

Betsy Cepielik

Financial Sec:

Lori Wennbo

Treasurer:

Bob Solt

Cultural Leader:

Kathleen Demarjian

Trustees:

Ernie Mauritson

Nel Solt

Patrick McGinley

Auditors:

Ernie Mauritson

Kathryn Martin

Birgitta Roodsari

District Deputy:

Peter Lindgren

Chairman's Message

Convention is over and we are on to a new year. Our new District Master is Bertil Winther and the newly elected Vice District Master is Elliot Codding.....this dynamic duo will lead us for the next year. Our delegates Nel, Betsy and Harold were kept busy with the elections of the new officers and the resolutions (which took up a great deal of time). Bertil will be attending our Anniversary Lunch.....if you haven't met him, make an effort to introduce yourself---he is very approachable. Nel was elected to the Executive Board and Lori and Ernie are District Auditors; and our Miss Kathryn is the District Treasurer. I hope I haven't forgotten any of our members. We are well represented at the District level. It was great to see Mary Ethel at Convention---she had spent a number of weeks in the hospital, much of which in ICU----she looked perky and appeared to be feeling well. All members can go to Convention---make your plans for next year---let's have Skandia make an appearance.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day with hearts and flowers. Lori and Betsy treated us to a scrumptious Mexican dinner. Valentine decorations and margaritas were part of the celebration..... a big THANK YOU to Lori and Betsy. We are moving on to St. Patrick's Day---the McGinley's are doing the honors! At our last meeting we had a reminder that we need to do a more comprehensive job of straightening up after our meeting. Let's

all remember to pitch in after the meeting.

We also have our Easter Brunch coming up.....there will be a hat contest---start decorating your Easter Bonnet.

There will also be another activity I think you will all enjoy....this is a surprise.

See you at our meeting Thursday, March 8th.....don't forget Birgitta is collecting items for the raffle at the luncheon.....so, please bring some items to help her with the project.

Beau

Skandia Nytt is

On-Line and
In Color at
vasaDL15.org

See what's going on
in the District

vasaDL15.org

District Officers for 2018

District Master: Bertil Winther
Vice District Master: Elliott Codding
Past District Master: Haakan Spaberg
District Secretary: Linda Kosvic
District Treasurer: Kathryn Martin
Assist. District Secretary: Carrie Kosvic
1 yr Executive Board Member: Delphine Trowbridge
1 yr Executive Board Member: John Dorming
2 yr Executive Board Member: Nel Solt
2 yr Executive Board Member: Inga Francis
District Cultural leader: Annie Anderson
District Chaplain: Maidie Karling
District Master of Ceremonies: Carol Kerr
Assist. District M of C: Lillian Cropper
District Inner Guard: Lisa Eklund
District Outer Guard: Jason Trowbridge
District Auditor 1 yr: Lori Wennbo
District Auditor 2 yr: Maggie Connolly
District Auditor 3 yr: Ernie Mauritsen
District Trustee 1 yr: Russell Almquist
District Trustee 2 yr: Gunlog Spaberg
District Trustee 3 yr: Peter Lindgren

**March
Happenings**

Birthdays:

10 Curtis Hedlund
21 Lisa Solt Shelley

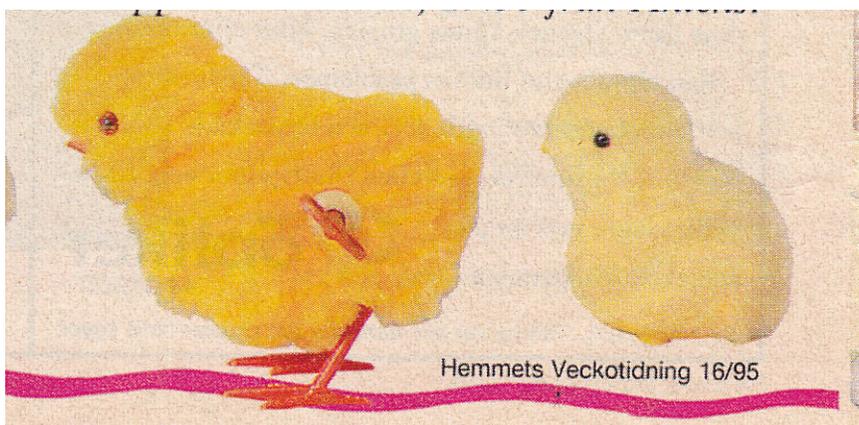
Business Meeting:
(2nd Thursday)

March 8
7 pm Dinner
8 pm Meeting

March 10
Anniversary
Luncheon
Noon Social
1 pm Luncheon

Host / Hostess:

The McGinley Family



Bob's Page

February 2018

Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim (1867-1951) – Part 3, The Winter War

Finland had been long aware that Russia would like to include all or part of Finland in the Soviet Union. Part of Finland's defence preparation was the Mannerheim Line, set back from the border with Russia by about 25 miles. It was nowhere near the imposing Maginot Line of the French or the Siegfried Line of Germany, but consisted of defensible structures and weapons storage designed to slow the advance of an army while causing maximum damage to the invading army. Unlike continental Europe, Eastern Finland was composed of dense forests, swamps and lakes with almost no roads. It was totally unsuited for the famous Blitzkrieg tank tactics developed by the German Army.

Finland refused to yield any ground in negotiations in the late 1930s. On November 30, 1939 Finland was invaded by the Soviet Army. Mannerheim was appointed Commander in Chief of the Finnish Army. The expectation of international observers and the Russians was that it would be a short war. The Russians had over twice as many soldiers, thirty times as many aircraft, one hundred times as many tanks, and had conquered Eastern Poland in three weeks with only 4000 casualties. On the other hand, Finnish soldiers were used to moving in the forest on skis, had white outer clothing, and were well trained. The Russian soldiers were conscripts who had khaki uniforms and khaki painted tanks which made them stand out against the snow. Stalin had carried out purges in 1936-1938 which led to the execution or imprisonment of 36,000 senior officers.

The first two months of the war were a great embarrassment to the Russians. The Finns killed or wounded over half of the Russian Army, destroyed half of the Russian tanks, and destroyed 10% of the Russian aircraft. The war was viewed with great disapproval and Russia was expelled from The League of Nations.

A part of the Winter War that gets little mention is signals intelligence. Before the war, both the Swedes and the Finns had extensive monitoring of Russian radio transmissions and had cracked many of the Russian encryption systems. With great help from Swedish codebreakers, in particular Arne Beurling, the Finns

were soon able to read almost all of the Russian military communication. They could get early warning of bombing raids, and could advise Mannerheim where to concentrate his forces to meet a Russian attack. A prime example occurred when an intercepted Russian message described how a crack motorized group from Moscow would break through the Mannerheim Line at Suomussalmi and divide Finland and its army in half. Mannerheim promptly sent reinforcements, white clad troops on skis who moved rapidly like ghosts in the night. The Russian group was broken up, the fragments fled across a frozen lake, and were annihilated.

On occasion an encircled Russian group would make a radio call for a night air drop of food and ammunition. The Finns would provide false identification signals which caused the supplies to be delivered to a Finnish army unit. Both Finnish and Russian rifles were based on the Mosin-Nagant design, so the Russian ammunition worked quite well in Finnish rifles.

In the end, as Stalin liked to say, "Quantity has a Quality all its own". The Russians wanted to end the war, the Finns were exhausted and out of resources, so a settlement was reached in which Russia got about 10% of Eastern Finland.

Mannerheim's performance during the Winter War gained him the respect of both Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin, and it is generally agreed that only Mannerheim could have guided Finland through World War 2 without having Finland annexed by either Germany or Russia and turned into a battleground. A brief history of those times would take several Bob's Pages. At the end of WW2 in Europe, Finland's president resigned and the Finnish Parliament appointed Mannerheim President of Finland. Unfortunately his health declined to the point where he resigned in 1946. He moved to Switzerland for medical treatment and died there in 1951. Mannerheim's residence in Helsinki has been turned into a rather nice museum open to public visits.

In Truth and Unity,

Bob Swanson

from Skandia's Cultural Leader

The Swedish Birthday Song

The Swedish happy birthday song is called "ja, ma du leva," or "yes, may you live." The Swedish birthday song is actually a very old one, the melody dating back the 18 century when Mozart and Haydn's tunes were known by most. That is why the song is actually very well known in Austria as well. Bellman, a man of disgrace during his lifetime but a well renowned poet after his death wrote the lyrics to the birthday song. The song was originally a drinking song that appeared in writing for the first time in 1914 in a student's notebook. Almost 30 years later it had turned into a well-known birthday song. Within the lyrics of the song, there are threats to shoot, hang and drown the person celebrating their birthday! This song was previously a drinking song and became tradition to sing on people's birthdays in the 1940's.

According to Scandinavius, the song has eight verses that repeat the phrases, "ja, ma du (han,hon,dom) leva," which means "yes, he/she/they will live," and "uti hundra år," for a hundred years. The song concludes with four hearty huzzahs. The reason we say this four times comes from the 1600's, when war ships needed to identify which country they belonged to. Sweden had the code 2 canon shots. When the King was present this was doubled, hence our 4 "hurrahs" today.

Full lyrics and translation

*''Ja, må han leva! Ja, må han leva, Ja, må han leva
uti hundra år!
Javisst ska han leva! Javisst ska han leva! Javisst ska
han leva uti hundra år!*

*Och när han har levat, Och när han har levat, Och
när han har levat uti hundra år!
Ja, då ska han skjutas, Ja, då ska han skjutas, Ja, då
ska han skjutas på en skottkärra fram!*

*Och när han har skjutits, Och när han har skjutits,
Och när han har skjutits på en skottkärra fram
Ja, då ska han hängas, Ja, då ska han hängas, Ja, då*

ska han hängas på en häst bakåfram!

*Och när han har hängits, Och när han har hängits,
Och när han har hängits på en häst bakåfram
Ja, då ska han dränkas, Ja, då ska han dränkas, Ja,
då ska han dränkas i en flaska champagne!*

*Och när han har drunknat, Och när han har
drunknat, Och när han har drunknat i en flaska
champagne!
Ja, då ska han firas, Ja, då ska han firas, Ja, då ska
han firas med jättelång låt!
Ja må han leva! Ja må han leva!''*

This translates roughly as

*''Yes, may he live! Yes, may he live! Yes, may he
live for a hundred years! Sure he will live! Sure he
will live! Sure he will live for a hundred years!
And when he has lived! And when he has lived!
And when he has lived for a hundred years! Then he
should be shot! Then he should be shot! Then he
should be shot forward in a wheelbarrow!*

*And when he's been shot, and when he's been shot.
And when he's been shot forward on a wheelbarrow
then he should be hanged, then he should be
hanged, then he should he hanged on a horse back
to front.*

*And when he's been hung, and when he's been hung
and when he's been hung on a horse back-to-front,
then he should be drowned, yes drowned, yes he
should be drowned in a bottle of champagne
And when he's been drowned in a bottle of
champagne, then he should be celebrated for a
really long life!*

Yes, may he live! Yes, may he live!''

Thank you,

Kathleen

SKANDIA LODGE #247

105th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

MARCH 10, 2018

HILTON GARDEN INN

401 S. SAN FERNANDO BLVD. BURBANK, CA 91502

COME AND JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN, COMRADERIE, GOOD FOOD AND RAFFLE

FREE PARKING AT THE HOTEL

SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH 1:00

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED WITH A CHECK NO LATER THAN MARCH 3, 2018

NO EXCEPTIONS

SEND FORM AND CHECK TO:

LORI WENNBO: 5703 PRIMROSE AVE., TEMPLE CITY, CA 91780

NAME(S): _____

Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

Members- attending 6 meetings per year NO. _____ FREE _____

Skandia Members NO. _____ \$20.00 _____

Guests NO. _____ \$35.00 _____

TOTAL _____



Look, here comes Mrs Anderson

Glad Påsk

Skandia Lodge No. 247

Invites you to a

SWEDISH EASTER LUNCH and EASTER HAT CONTEST

April 7, 2018

Skandia Lodge No. 247, 2031 E. Villa St., Pasadena, CA 91107

Social Hour at 11

Lunch to be served at 12 Noon

Donation: Adults \$20.00;
ages 12 and under \$12.00

A MUST: Prepaid reservations no later than April 2, 2018 to:

Lori Wennbo

5703 Primrose Ave, Temple City, CA 91780

No ticket sales at door

Join in an Easter Hat parade!

Semlor by Maidie Karling

Name: _____ Number of Adults _____

Address _____ Number of Pre-teens _____

City _____ Zip _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Skandia Nytt

Skandia Lodge #247
Vasa Order of America
2031 E. Villa Street
Pasadena, CA 91107



Anniversary Luncheon

We will have a raffle at the luncheon,
and would appreciate any items
that you may provide for the raffle.
Please bring the item(s) to the luncheon
by 12:00 noon.

Birgitta

Skandia Nytt

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