

Vasa Gay Lodge 484

# **HISTORICAL REVIEW**



**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA**

*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization*

**DISTRICT LODGE ILLINOIS NO. 8**

*Instituted March 31, 1908*

**1969 - 1987**

# **HISTORICAL REVIEW**

**OF THE**

**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA**

*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization*

**DISTRICT LODGE ILLINOIS NO. 8**

*Instituted March 31, 1908*

*A resume of activities during the  
1969 - 1987 period*



*Published by*

**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA  
DISTRICT LODGE ILLINOIS NO. 8**

## PREFACE

The Vasa Order of America was organized September 18, 1896. The District Lodge Illinois No. 8 was organized twelve years later on March 31, 1908.

The District Lodge Illinois No. 8 published its first Historical Review in 1943. It covered the first thirty-five years of the District Lodge. It is a comprehensive history of the lodges in existence at that time. The Review has been and still is a most useful reference manual.

In 1968 we published an update of the 1943 Historical Review, covering the years 1944 to 1968.

The 79th Annual Convention in 1987 decided that an update should be published covering the years 1969 to 1987. As the District Historian it is my pleasure to edit this volume.

I have perused the "Officers' Reports and Minutes" to the Annual Conventions and selected the most important decisions for this volume. A complete set of the Annual Convention Documents from the inception of the District to the present are available in the Vasa Order of America National Archives in Bishop Hill, IL. Information about the individual Local Lodge activities have been furnished by the respective Lodges.

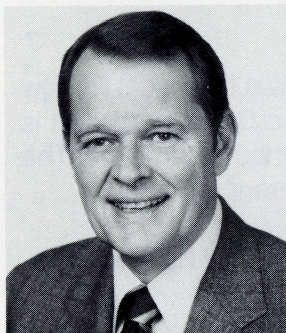
The reading of this Historical update and the previous update together with the original Historical Review will enrich your knowledge of District 8. We hope it will stimulate your efforts to enhance the goals and membership of the Vasa Order.

Bertil G. Winstrom  
Past Grand Master  
District Historian.

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## A GREETING FROM THE GRAND MASTER



DL Illinois No. 8 has, since its institution on March 31, 1908, shown great interest in promoting our Vasa cause.

It is this kind of dedication that is of utmost importance to preserve as an historical review for generations to come.

The Vasa Brothers and Sisters of DL Illinois and its Local Lodges, who have given freely of their time and talents to foster our proud Scandinavian Heritage, most certainly deserve praise and recognition for their unselfish deeds.

An accurate and well written historical review reflects not only the particular progress of the organization as such, but also touches on the economical and political climate of its geographical location.

It is particularly note-worthy that your District Lodge has contributed talented members to serve our Grand Lodge on several occasions.

Our future strength is in the hands of wonderful Vasa-members who work with our Vasa-children — to prepare them to accept leadership positions in Local and District Lodges as well as the Grand Lodge; and in the hands of our current leaders and past leaders, who continue to give guidance and advice when requested.

My very best wishes for continued growth and success, and I commend you for your decision to prepare and print an updated historical review of your District Lodge.

In Truth and Unity,

Carl G. Lindquist,  
Grand Master

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

1969

The Sixty-first Annual Convention was held in Rockford, Illinois, at the Holiday Inn, Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18, 1969. Brahe Lodge No. 245 and Elvira Lodge No. 522 were hosts.

The Convention was opened by D.M. Arthur Johnson 10:15 A.M.

The Credentials Committee reported a total of 87 delegates. Of these 69 had attended previous District Conventions and 18 were newly elected delegates. Three delegates had not reported in. The report was accepted.

After the initiation ceremonies, Grand Master Bertil Winstrom was escorted in and presented by Brother Nyberg. The presentation of flags was performed by boys from Boy Scout Troop No. 57.

City Treasurer Howard Lundberg of Rockford wished the delegates welcome to Rockford.

Br. Tore Carlson, the Convention Chairman greeted the delegates and wished them welcome to Rockford.

District Master Johnson read his report and also the treasurer's report for the Vasa Park Apartments as of April 28, 1969.

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Accumulated Income .....   | \$ 2,439.10 |
| Total Accumulated Expenses ..... | \$ 3,156.10 |
| Loss to Date .....               | \$ (717.00) |
| Total Assets .....               | \$11,208.00 |

Both reports were accepted with thanks.

The nomination of Grand Lodge Delegates was conducted according to Par. 23 of the District By-Laws. Elected were Arthur Johnson, Sten Sture Frihet No. 444, Carolyn Swanson, Oden No. 132, Algot Lindmark; Siljan-Mora-Tuna No. 134, Edward Ingdahl, Fram No. 267, Tore Carlson, Brahe No. 245 and Eric Freburg, Brahe No. 245.

District Master Johnson thanked Harry Swanson for his tremendous work in compiling the 2nd volume of the District's History.

District Treasurer Br. Winstrom recommended that we omit printing the listing of disbursements in order to save printing expenses. Motion carried.

Br. Harry Frisk was presented with a medal from Tre Hjärten Lodge in Sweden for faithful correspondence.

Sr. Winstrom read a report covering the Second Annual Seminar sponsored by the District Lodge. The language class and the proposed ritual and installation ceremonies were practiced at the seminar.

Ernest Magnusson, the District Archivist informed that much material had been cataloged and put on shelves and walls.

The District Master Johnson recommended that the District Master be empowered to appoint a nominating committee with nomination from the floor also. Motion carried. The District Secretary reported that she had a large supply of the District's 2nd update on hand, only 196 had been sold. The price was dropped to \$1.00.

Officers' salaries for the coming term were set as follows: D.M. \$200, D.T. \$200, D.S. \$450, H.F. Sec./Treas. \$600, C.L. \$50, Ch. Cl. Spt. \$50, Bonds D.M. \$5,000, D.T. \$7,000, D.S. \$7,000, H.F. Sec./Treas. \$25,000.

Session closed with the election of officers, to be reconvened 9:30 A.M. at the Rockford Vasa Park.

The delegates' travel reimbursement was established at 8¢ per mile. Mileage to be established by the District Master or the District Executive Board.

The gratitude of the District Lodge was expressed by the District Master to District Treasurer Br. Winstrom for his efficient handling of the District's Sweden flights and of the Flight Funds.

The Nicolet Hospital and the New Berlin Memorial Hospital in the Milwaukee area were added to approved hospitals for the Hospital Funds. Also approved was the Illini Hospital in the Moline area.

It was decided when a lodge secedes from the Funeral Fund, it will receive its proportionate of the Fund's assets. The District Executive Board will study the future safety of the Funeral Fund and report.

Br. Algot Lindmark was elected District Master.

The new officers were installed by Grand Lodge Deputy Eric Freburg. The 61st Annual Convention was adjourned at 1:20 P.M.

OFFICERS 1969—Arthur Johnson, D.M., Sten Sture Frihet 444; Gosta Ericsson, V.D.M., Siljan-Mora Tuna 134; Svea Jansson, D.S., Victory 377; Ingegard Norman, V.D.S., Varblomman Children's Club 54; Bertil Winstrom, D.T., Linde 492; Ellen Larson, Chap., Viljan 349; Nioma Anderson, M.C., Fram 267; Tore Carlson, I.G., Brahe 245; Arvid Nyberg, O.G., Pontiac 510; Laverne Sershon, Y.S., Harmoni 313; Edward Ingedahl, E.B.M., Fram 267; John Ebert, E.B.M., Linde 492; Carolyn Swanson, H.F.S.T., Odin 132; Stig Momquist, C.L., Skandia 576; Joel Nelson, Aud., Kronan 179; Willis Lenehan, Aud., Austin 466.

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## 1970

The Sixty-second Annual Convention was held in Kenosha, WI at the Midway Motor Lodge, Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17, with Svea Lodge 210 as the host.

The Convention was opened by District Master Algot Lindmark at 10:30 A.M.

The Credentials Committee reported a total of 82 delegates. Of these 68 had attended previous District Conventions and 14 were newly elected delegates.

After the initiation ceremonies, Grand Master Winstrom was escorted in and introduced as was G.L. Deputy Eric Freburg.

Mayor Wallace A. Burkee of Kenosha welcomed the delegates to Kenosha. He presented D.M. Lindmark with a booklet "Profiles of the City" and a key chain.

D. Cultural Leader, Beatrice Winstrom reported she had arranged for

a memorial service to be conducted by Rev. J.H. Hogberg of Milwaukee. The meeting was recessed for a very beautiful service with Mrs. Hogberg singing "In the Garden" and "Tryggare kan ingen vara."

Harry Swanson reminded the Convention of former D.S. John Carlson whose Granddaughter Carolyn Swanson presented the District with an aluminum gavel in memory of D.S. Carlson.

D.M. Lindmark stressed in his report the importance of visiting our lodges, it stimulates the interest in our common heritage. He regretted that we took in only 214 new members during this term against 343 in the previous term, let us do better.

D.S. Svea Jansson reported the following changes in the membership.  
Jan. 1, 1969 . . 3998 Benefit members, 2002 Non-benefit members  
Dec. 31, 1969 . . 3791 Benefit members, 2058 Non-benefit members  
Net loss for the year 151.

D.C.L. Beatrice Winstrom reported on the District's flights to Hawaii and Sweden, they are profitable and enhance our cultural work. She stressed the very fine language courses, books and tapes which are available through the Grand Lodge and handled by Br. Algot Lindmark. She recommend that the District find means to publish a District News Bulletin.

Sup. Ch. Clubs, Ruth Johnson, reported good activity in the youth clubs. Four Vasa brides have requested the use of the Vasa Bridal Crowns.

D.T. Winstrom reported on the very successful Sweden flight which he arranges. It is reasonable transportation cost and a very good income for the District. The total of the District Funds is \$102,676. On the VASA PARK APARTMENTS, INC. Br. Arthur Johnson, president of the Vasa Park Apartments presented a full and perhaps final report on this project. There have been many changes by the U.S. Government regarding the project. The application for Federal assistance has been made more encompassing. The necessary initial money has been raised by the Government, so that he anticipated tenants to cover the cost. Apartment Board of Directors have decided to discontinue work on the project, in other words — give up. The downpayments have been refunded to the prospective tenants. In the final accounting, the loss from operations amounted to approximately \$1,500. The incoming E.B. was empowered to provide enough monies to cover the final loss. The Apartment Committee was given a standing ovation for its enormous work to organize a real home for older Vasa members.

The officers expense accounts were voted to remain as last year.

The Saturday session ended 4:30 P.M. Sunday session reconvened at 9:15 A.M. A number of new hospitals were added to approved hospitals covered by the Hospital Fund.

The Cultural Leader suggested a 1971 Vasa flight to Hawaii, that was approved. It was also approved to continue with the Memorial Services, which she had started this year.

Art. Johnson discussed advertising our lodges in the Swedish American



This archival record has been partially scanned, including covers and initial pages for each issue. For more information about a particular issue of this publication, please contact the Swedish American Museum Curator.

