



Viking Journal

Vikingen

*Forska som om du skulle leva evigt!
Search as if you would live forever!
Lev som om du skulle dö i morgon!
Live as if you would die tomorrow!*

Volume 121, No. 2
June 2021

Chief's

Corner



Melinda Worden
Grand Chief

Hello, Vikings!

The Members of the IOV Executive Council would like to say THANK YOU for your patience over these past several months, as we work to secure the future of IOV. We want to take a few minutes to bring everyone up to speed.

Plan A

As you may recall, IOV delegates approved the insurance surrender process at the June 2017 Convention. Closing the insurance program was an attempt to change IOV's legal (IRS/tax) standing from a Fraternal Benefit Society to a Fraternal Society, allowing us to exit the insurance business and continue the fraternal activities we all value and enjoy. This was the course suggested by our insurance administrators during the convention discussion. When the idea was presented to the Illinois Department of Insurance (IDOI, the government body with the final say about IOV's plans), they said they had not seen this type of conversion done before but they were willing to work with us. We were excited! We thought we had found the answer. But as we worked through this process we have learned, for several reasons, it will not be possible to close the insurance program as planned.

The Road Block

IOV has nearly 700 insurance policies remaining. Between policy holders we cannot locate and those individuals who cannot (or will not) surrender, we will not achieve a 100% surrender rate – even after considering those who have indicated their willingness still to surrender. 100% surrender is the rate we must achieve, which was not evident in the beginning of the process. IOV's recent pause in surrender activity – to audit the number, value and type of policies remaining – came as we were working with lawyers from Locke Lord LLC (based in Chicago) to determine other options IOV may have, since Plan A is not going to work.

We have to deal with the reality of our financial forecast, which is concerning: our existing insurance policies do not generate enough revenue to support the insurance operations, and IOV is losing money on an annual basis through insurance administration fees. If we don't make significant changes, IOV will be forced to close in as few as five years. **This is not "new"** – it is the reason that the 2017 Convention delegates voted to pursue surrenders, in the hopes of providing a long life for the IOV.

Plan B

We are now exploring Plan B, a possible relationship with a national insurance company who will service IOV's remaining insurance policies while allowing the IOV fraternal structure to continue. In this relationship, IOV would continue to add members as "social" members (uninsured), and the insurance company would promote their products to all members. Vikings would receive periodic communication from the insurance company, much like you do from a credit union or AARP. **AN IMPORTANT NOTE:** marketing this new company's financial products to Viking members will be part of the deal. Uninsured IOV members will **NOT** be required to purchase an insurance policy for IOV membership, but they will have that option if they choose to pursue it.

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VIKING JOURNAL

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on Legal Reserve*

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listed below.
Please make a note!

SUBMIT ARTICLES TO:
admin@iovikings.org

SUBJECT LINE:
IOV Journal Article

Deadline for Submissions

February 1, 2021
May 1, 2021
August 1, 2021
November 1, 2021

Publication Dates

March 1, 2021
June 1, 2021
September 1, 2021
December 1, 2021

Website:
www.iovikings.org

Facebook:
Find us and like
**Independent Order
of Vikings!**
(This is a closed group, so
you must request to join.)

Welcome Aboard

The following are new members who were admitted to the Viking Order since the previous *Viking Journal* was published. We welcome you one and all to the Viking Order and sincerely urge you to attend your respective lodges and join in all of the activities planned for you. Remember . . . It's great to be a VIKING!!

| NEW MEMBER | SPONSOR | NEW MEMBER | SPONSOR |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Ingjald #65 | | Ring Lodge #18 | |
| John J Conti | Judith M Barmore | Craig Burgess | John Gosselin |
| Spencer Drake | Carol M Drake | | |
| Doug C Johnson | Kim Touhey | Skandia Lodge #68 | |
| Scott P Kauffman | Douglas Sanders | Dennis James Pritchard | Bruce Tolonen |
| Suzanne Keppel | Judy Lockwood | | |
| Kevin Muldowney | Thomas J Muldowney | | |
| Ava L Nyweide | Catherine L Nyweide | | |
| Brian Nicholas Orlando | Brian G Conklin | | |
| Anika Saar | Susan L Saar | | |
| Zachary Saar | Susan L Saar | | |
| Carter Dale Bohland | Tonja Bohland | | |



MILESTONES

To let you know that our many thoughts are with the members and families in this time of sorrow.

Lodge

Ingjald Lodge #65
Ingjald Lodge #65
Ingjald Lodge #65
Linne' Lodge #57
Linne' Lodge #57
Linne' Lodge #57
Linne' Lodge #57
Linne' Lodge #57
Linne' Lodge #57
Linne' Lodge #57
Linne' Lodge #57
Sigurd Lodge #30

Member Name

Mary Ann Bollman
Rodney Lindquist
LeRoy McCray
Timothy J. Bott
Keiren J. Caughey
Jason Devette
Ann Eklund
Maxine Joan Hendrick
Gerry Lee Ridderman
Thomas Schillaci
Louis F. Spyke
Sonja Marie Westman
Robert O. Westman



HÖGSATTA KÄMPAR

All Lodges are asked to submit membership reports that include the passing of our Viking brothers and sisters. Submit to the Fraternal Administrator for inclusion in the Vikings Journal.

Chief's Corner

Continued from page 1

What's Next?

We are in the exploration and information seeking phase of Plan B (due diligence) and Council Members had to approve a **confidential non-disclosure agreement**. This means we **cannot** divulge the name of the company or any details about the potential partnership until both parties agree that we have sufficient agreement to "go public." We will provide more complete details as soon as we can. If Plan B turns out to be the Executive Council's recommended course, a formal proposal will be presented for a special meeting with lodge delegates sometime this summer. We will be in contact with lodge leadership and the delegates themselves when the time comes and will provide a minimum of 30-days written notice, as required by the IOV Constitution. *(It is highly unlikely that we will be ready by June 19, so that date can be released.)*

Please know the Executive Council and many volunteers have been working very hard to close the insurance program as approved at the 2017 Convention. We reached out to lodges for their assistance and have printed multiple notices in the Journal. Many of our Viking members willingly surrendered their insurance for the good of the Order. We greatly appreciate everyone's efforts! After all this, it has been extremely frustrating to learn that Plan A is not possible. We are now working through the details to find the best path forward. From a financial standpoint, we simply cannot continue "business as usual" without putting the IOV in jeopardy. Plan B has great potential. **Our #1 goal is to ensure the IOV will continue and to grow.** We are working as hard and as fast as we can, in service to you.

Ever Onward!

Melinda R. Worden

Melinda R. Worden, Grand Chief

IOV Grand Lodge Scholarship Winners



The IOV Executive Council has approved 2021 Grand Lodge Scholarship Awards of \$1,750.00 to six students. As usual, an independent team of adjudicators (all former educators) reviewed the application packets and made their recommendation to the Scholarship Committee. Scholarship award packets were mailed directly to the students, with lodge Chiefs and their school principal also receiving notification.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

- Olivia Abraham, Linne' Lodge
- Corinne Covert, Ingjald Lodge
- Natalie Fosberg, Ingjald Lodge
- Jami Mikesell, Linne' Lodge
- Callan Ottum, Sigurd Lodge
- Allison Tilburg, Ingjald Lodge

We had another stellar round of applicants this year! To our Grand Lodge scholarship recipients and to all graduating Junior Vikings, we wish you much success!

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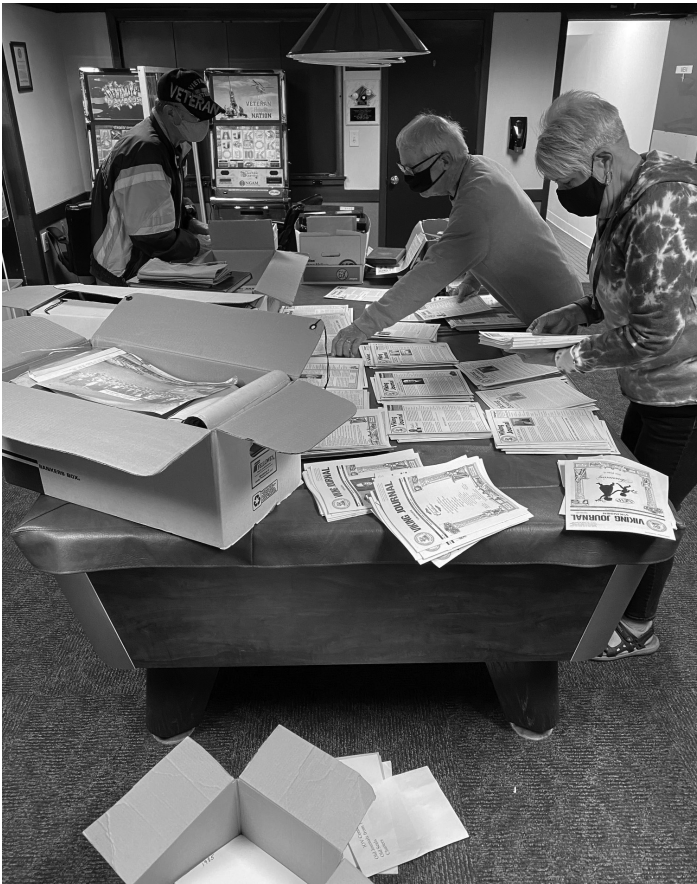
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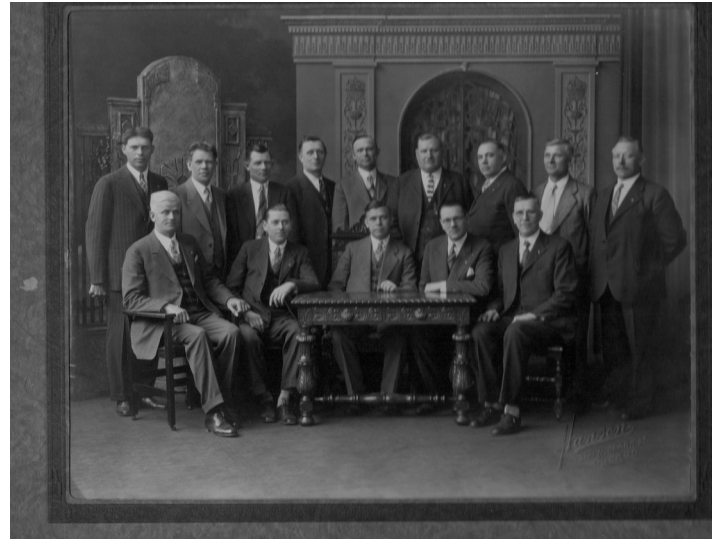
Margaret (Peggy) Schaefer
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IOV Executive Council, Discovering the Past

Past Grand Chief Ralph Beck recently passed on boxes of IOV history to the current Executive Council. A few Council members met at Linne' Lodge #57 to go through the boxes. We found some treasures!



Executive Council Members Tom Jandt, Bill Schaefer and Mary Beth Liskey with decades of Journals.



IOV Executive Council, 1926, with Felix Johnson as Grand Chief.



75th Grand Lodge Convention (1965) - Omaha, Nebraska

Burn Camp Update

Great Lakes Burn Camp:

Linne' Lodge will be holding their "Tee Off Against Burns" Golf Outing on June 4, 2021 to benefit the Great Lakes Burn Camp in Michigan. Chris and Traci Wilks will be spearheading the event. NEW Camp website: <https://glbcforkids.org>

Illinois Fire Safety Alliance will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Camp I Am Me the week of June 20-26, 2021. We received a newsletter from IFSA addressed to Clara Lodge, which has been disbanded. We would like to see one of the Illinois lodges serve as the partner/point of contact for Camp I Am Me. Please contact Bob Grinnell, Burn Camp Committee Chair, if you are interested.

We are also looking for a new partner/point of contact for the Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp in Connecticut. We have not had communication with them for several years.

E-mail Bob at cgrinnellm@aol.com if you'd like to learn more. Thanks for any help you can offer!

Language Camp Update

Due to COVID-19, our 2020 Language Camp grant recipients were unable to go to Concordia Language Villages. Rather than invite new applicants for 2021, we carried the 2020 grants forward. Unfortunately, due to changes in the Concordia program and ongoing COVID-19 concerns, our campers have all opted to pass this year as well. The Language Camp Committee will watch how Concordia programs recover after COVID and will share details about the next application process in the September Journal.

SIGURD LODGE #30

Kenosha, Wisconsin

Hi all!

Spring has finally sprung in fact it's supposed to get to the upper 70's today [May 1st] here in SE Wisconsin. We're still in the COVID-19 hiatus but eventually we should be able to return to some kind of normal.

Bob Westman passed away on March 26th. He was a 50+ year member. He was the financial secretary when I joined the lodge in 1969, and I eventually took over for a few years. I remember we had a few beanos at his place out in the country, and Bob and his family organized quite a few Swedish American Friends and Family bowling parties. He was also on a Sigurd lodge bowling team with me. I never saw anyone throw a bowling ball so hard and fast - I thought more than once the pins were going to break. He would play his button box at some of our installations as well as at the nursing homes. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Virginia, and family. Bob and Virg were married for 70 years.

In the last journal I failed to mention that Terri Formella passed away on December 11th, 2020. She was Recording Secretary for quite a few years; she also was a great help at our breakfasts and made some great pies for the bake sale. We extend our sympathy to her family as well.

Recently six students were selected as scholarship recipients and my grandson, Callan Ottum was one of them. Congratulations to Cal as well as the other five recipients. This is another reason why parents as well as grandparents should sign their grandchildren up for Vikings membership. I know I signed Cal up when he was around one.

On April 25th we had a very successful, take-out only, Swedish Pancakes and Sausage Breakfast. I would like to thank all those who helped out and also to all those who baked for the bake sale, for which we had the second highest profit ever!

During the summer we will only be meeting the first Thursday of the month, subject to change.

Not much to report yet on the convention to be held here in Kenosha in 2022; the tentative dates are June 17th and 18th with delegates and guests arriving on Thursday June 16th. Due to cost we have eliminated one day of Convention activities, so expect long meetings on Friday and Saturday.

Remember, HAPPINESS IS BEING A VIKING!
Rod Ottum, Correspondent

LINNE' LODGE #57

Muskegon, MI

Hello from Linne' in Muskegon. I hope all of you are well and have received your shots. We can defeat this virus if we all work together. We have lost too many Vikings already.

On the upside, we are open! It is so good to see everyone again. We are having a Mother/ Daughter Banquet May 6th. We were limited to only 100 tickets sold and of course it sold out the first ticket sale night. There are other parties in the planning stages with the Vikings, following the CDC guidelines. We are starting up our 20-week drawings and making plans for Summerfest in June. We are also planning to get together outside for July 4th. It may take some time, but we will get through this.

The Viking Golf League has started and on June 4th we are having a TeeOff Against Burns fundraiser for the Great Lakes Burn Camp. It is always a great time for everyone!

Our hats are off to our lodge Trustees and Officers who stepped up during this rough time. Who would have thought a virus would attack the whole world? I hope the next article I write will have fun reports about parties, with pictures of Vikings dancing.

Fraternally,
Thomas Jandt, Past Chief, IOV Grand Treasurer



40 years ago, Linne' Lodge #57 broke ground for their beautiful lake front lodge.

INGJALD LODGE #65

Jamestown, New York

BAD NEWS: The COVID 19 virus is still affecting our lives!

GOOD NEWS: The large beautiful American flag still flies high above our Lake Park facility. The grounds are greening-up and the trees are blossoming! Chautauqua Lake is still providing us with awesome sunsets!

VERY GOOD NEWS: Our Lodge committees are working hard and diligently trying to bring activities back to normal as soon as possible as COVID 19 protocols permit!

The House Committee has been meeting regularly planning Lake Park activities; including food availability. This spring our kitchen is open with sandwich specials being served Wednesdays and Sundays. Dinners are being served Fridays and Saturdays. Since no waitresses are available, food is ordered at a designated area and picked up at a designated area. People have been understanding of the necessary changes and appreciate the efforts of the House Committee. We have started slowly and will increase our activities as COVID 19 protocols change.

The Temple Corporation Committee has also been meeting regularly for both business and work sessions. This Committee is charged with the responsibility of maintaining our Lake Park grounds, buildings, and trailer sites. One of the main problems the Temple Corporation is dealing with is with the high number of mature and diseased trees (Ash Disease) found in our beautiful Lake Park facility. Hundreds of trees have been cut off our 66-acres of wooded land. Professionals have necessarily been hired to do much of the cutting because of insurance and the technicality of cutting trees down by buildings, trailers, and power



lines. Members of the Committee have been able to save money by participating in several work sessions doing the clean-up. Of course there have been other jobs, such as replacing roof shingles that needed to be done after winter winds. There has been a discussion about the purchase of a new swing set for the playground. Members of the Temple Corporation deserve a big thank-you for the ongoing work they do throughout the year. Volunteers to assist in this ongoing work are welcomed and encouraged.



IOV Grand Lodge members gather for the 1947 Convention in Jamestown, NY

INGJALD LODGE #65

Jamestown, New York

INGJALD LODGE PAST CHIEFS

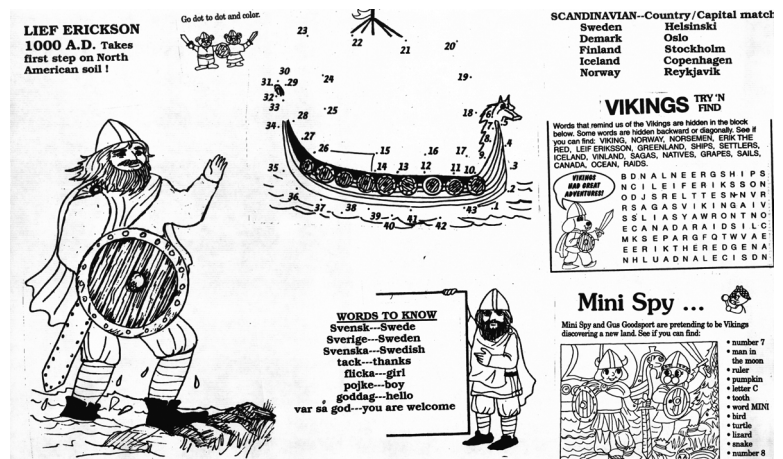
Our Past Chiefs Club has been in existence for many years. The number attending meetings ranges anywhere from 12-20+-----depending upon the time of the year. The purpose of this group, that meets regularly each month, is twofold. It serves as a time of fellowship and continuing support of Ingjald Lodge. The support of this dedicated group has proven invaluable in the life of Ingjald Lodge. The experience of these members who have served as Ingjald Chief and their continued commitment is often called upon in an advisory capacity. They offer advice when called upon. The Past Chiefs group has assisted financially many projects and programs in the past and continues to do so every year. Just a very few of the causes they have aided include: playground construction, scholarship recognition program, new flags, building maintenance, Family Picnic, outdoor cooking pavilion, replacement of needed equipment, etc... Ingjald Lodge is indeed fortunate to have the Past Chiefs Club!



Past Chiefs pictured (appropriately wearing masks) attending the April meeting:
L to R Front Row - Tim Fagerstrom, Juanita "Toots" Porter, Tom Eckberg, Betsy Lynch.
Back Row - Bryan Nelson, Bill Peterson, Jane Fosberg, Doug Sanders, Tim Miller, Steve Kosthorst (Al Johnson-photographer)

INGJALD LODGE "VIKING MEMORY RELICS"

How is your memory? The following pictures will test your Viking memories of by gone "Viking relics". If you can remember 3 of the 7 pictured items stand up and shout in Swedish: "hurra"! (hurrah)



Independent Order of Vikings

Fraternal Administration

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IMPORTANT DATES:

March 30, 2021

2020 Annual Financial Reports due to
Fraternal Administrator

June 30, 2021

2nd Quarter 2021 membership reports due to
Fraternal Administrator

August 1, 2021

Submissions due for September 2021 Journal

TBD

Delegate meeting to discuss the future of IOV
(release June 19, will notify of new date)

