



Viking Journal

Vikingen

*Förskä 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 122, No. 1
March 2022

Chief's

Corner



Rod Ottum
Grand Chief

Fellow Vikings,

It feels a little strange to be submitting an article as Grand Chief. For those who don't know me yet, let me share a little information about myself and how I became a Viking. I have been married to my wife Delaine (Dee) for nearly 58 years. We have two sons: Roddee resides in Minneapolis and Jason, along with his wife Kerry, reside in Kenosha. We have one grandson, Cal, who is attending Arizona State and was a Grand Lodge Scholarship recipient last year. Both my sons and Cal have been Vikings since around age one, and my wife Dee became a Viking in 1973 when we changed our bylaws to admit women. I was admitted to the Vikings in June of 1969, along with my brother-in-law and his father. When they voted on us I was "black balled" (rejected) three times! After the first vote, they revoted and I was rejected a second time, then a third time! When the Chief and Vice Chief checked the ballot box the third time they both over looked it and accepted me. I guess there was a member who had been at the bar for happy hour a little too long and couldn't recognize the difference between the white balls and black balls. I guess, technically, I'm a member illegally. (ha, ha!)

In December of 1969 I was asked to serve as a guard by our Chief Jim Hansen, which I did for a couple of years and then served as Financial Secretary for several years. I was then elected Chief and served for about 40 years. I was elected to the Grand Lodge Executive Council in June of 2007 and then elected Vice Grand Chief in June of 2019. I was to be installed as Grand Chief in Kenosha in June of 2021 but the Convention was delayed due to the Covid pandemic. I became Grand Chief on January 1, upon the resignation of our past Grand Chief Mindy Worden.

I will be "officially" installed as Grand Chief in Kenosha at our convention October 6-8. We've moved the convention to October because, according to GBU bylaws, new officers will now assume their duties on January 1st. I will be the first Grand Chief from Wisconsin which, at one time, also had a lodge in Milwaukee. History is being made along with our prospective merger with GBU.

You may be wondering, "who is GBU?" GBU Financial Life is a company who specializes in life insurance and annuity products with a focus on fraternal activity. As of this writing we are not officially merged. We are in the final stages of seeking approval from the state departments of insurance in Illinois (where IOV is incorporated) and Pennsylvania (where GBU is incorporated). This is something the executive council has been working on for the last few years and it will be great for the IOV! After the merger is final, GBU will be sending you information about their products and member benefits, which are optional to Vikings. From what I've been told and have seen, it would be well worth checking out. Stay tuned for more info, or check out their website at www.gbu.org.

As I reminisce on what my old Viking neighbor and great friend Ernie Haggmark would think about me being elected Grand Chief he would probably say, "Rod, take care of the IOV." Shortly before he passed away he said, "Rod, take care of the Lodge," which I feel I have done. So now I will try to take care of the Grand Lodge to the best of my ability. Ernie would attend most of the conventions and Past Grand Chief C. Henry

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WE NEED YOUR EMAIL to complete the database!

Please send a message to admin@iovikings.org, including your full name, lodge and member number. Thank You!

VIKING JOURNAL

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Please make a note!

SUBMIT ARTICLES TO:
admin@iovikings.org

SUBJECT LINE:
IOV Journal Article

Deadline for Submissions

May 1, 2022
August 1, 2022
November 1, 2022
February 1, 2023

Publication Dates

June 1, 2022
September 1, 2022
December 1, 2022
March 1, 2023

Website:
www.iovikings.org

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**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!!

<i>New Member</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>New Member</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Ingjald Lodge #65		JENNIFER SCHULTZ	KELLY JENSEN
ROBERTA HIGGS	GARY HIGGS	FRED SIMMONS	RAY GRENNAN
LILLY HOULE	EDWARD JANDRON	LISA STRATIL JOHNSON	THOMAS DEWEERD
ROMEO DAVID SANTIAGO	LORI A WATSON	LESLIE A SWANKER	MARY FLOWERS
EVERLY ILLA STORER	DAWN STUART	SALLY WHITE	SHARON FODROC
		SHELLY L WIERDA	KATHY SAYLES
		STEPHANIE WITHAM	AMANDA DARGA
Linne Lodge #57		Sigurd Lodge #30 IOV	
PAULA QUICK	JILL HOWELL	ROBIN LYNN GRINNELL	RODNEY OTTUM
TED QUICK	JILL HOWELL		
CHAD ROLLSTON	CINDY ARMSTRONG		
CHERRI RUFFILO	YVONNE SZOT		
CHARLES SAUR	RUSSELL VANDERWIER		
ADAM SCHULTZ	KELLY JENSEN		



MILESTONES

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

CORRECTION: due to an unfortunate and regretful database error, Richard Fessenden was included in "Milestones" in the December 2021 edition of the Journal. Richard is, happily, still among us! My apologies to Richard, his family and friends. - Robin

Lodge	Member Name	Lodge	Member Name
Grand Lodge	LINDA BOJARSKI	Linne' Lodge #57	JOHN BRONSEMA
Ingjald Lodge #65	MARGARET L ANDERSON	Linne' Lodge #57	VIRGINIA CUTHRELL
Ingjald Lodge #65	PHILIP C BEMIS	Linne' Lodge #57	MICHAEL GOYETTE
Ingjald Lodge #65	DANIEL K BURNS	Linne' Lodge #57	NEIL HAWRYLIU
Ingjald Lodge #65	JACK R ENGDAHL	Linne' Lodge #57	JEANNETTE HEGER
Ingjald Lodge #65	JAMES E KELLY	Linne' Lodge #57	CAROLE A HODGES
Ingjald Lodge #65	C BRUCE OLSON	Linne' Lodge #57	DONALD MATTHEWS
Ingjald Lodge #65	ELEANOR R PAVICK	Linne' Lodge #57	JAMES D. ORDISH
Ingjald Lodge #65	VIVIAN A ROSSI	Linne' Lodge #57	DONALD SANBORN
Ingjald Lodge #65	RONALD L TEDQUIST	Linne' Lodge #57	KARL THOMPSON
Ingjald Lodge #65	DAVID M WATSON	Linne' Lodge #57	PENNY TURGEON
Ingjald Lodge #65	BARBARA B YAHN	Linne' Lodge #57	DOROTHY M WERNER

HÖGSATTA KÄMPAR

Letter from the Chief

Continued from page 1

Widegren would tell me Ernie was his bodyguard. What a pair! All in all, I hope I can do as good a job as my predecessors did.

I would like to see more subordinate lodges submit an article in the Viking Journal, even if it's a short note. Also, to the smaller lodges, after the merger with GBU (and insurance is no longer required for Vikings Membership), maybe we could have a contest to boost membership. I know I had friends years ago who wouldn't join because they "had enough insurance." If you have any ideas, please send them in!

In closing, I would like to thank Bill Peterson for his many years of service, as both a Past Grand Chief and longtime Council member. I know he has been a tremendous help with his knowledge and dedication, even now that his term on the Council has ended. I also want to thank Steve Kosthorst for his diligent work on Council, and thanks to past Grand Chief Mindy Worden for all her work on the merger and our new beginning. Finally, thank you to our Fraternal Administrator, Robin Grinnell, for all of her hard work. I don't know where we would be without her.

God Bless you all. Please try to attend your meetings and lodge functions: another meaning for IOV is **I**nvolve, **O**rganize and **V**olunteer.

Remember, HAPPINESS IS BEING A VIKING
Rod Ottum; Grand Chief

Grand Lodge Scholarship Report



The Grand Lodge Scholarship Raffle drawing was held in Muskegon on February 2nd by the lodge officers. The winners are:

1st \$500	Barb Morrison, Linne #57
2nd \$200	Nancy Shapiro, Stenkil #92
3rd \$150	Judy Bolin, Harald #13
4th \$75	Carolyn Wentzloff, Linne #57
5th \$75	Mike McGuire, Sigurd #30

Congratulations to all the winners and many, many thanks to all the lodges and individuals who participated. This is one of many programs that make the Vikings stand tall. The report of the scholarship winners will be in the next journal.

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee
Mary Beth Liskey
Rod Ottum
Bob Grinnell

IMPORTANT DATES:

March 31, 2022	1st Quarter (Jan - Mar 2022) membership reports due to Fraternal Administrator
March 31, 2022	2021 Annual Financial Reports Due to Fraternal Administrator
May 1, 2022	Submissions due for June 2022 Journal

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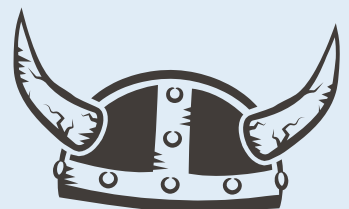
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INGJALD LODGE #65

Jamestown, New York

Christmas With Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus (Following COVID-19 Regulations)

Our Ingjald Lodge House Committee, thinking out of the box, planned a very unique and novel Christmas experience for our Viking youth 12 years of age and under. On Saturday, December 11th, Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Charlie Kent & Darla Nelson) welcomed young Vikings at our Lake Park. The planning committee had taken care of all the details making sure this would be a fun event---but the weatherman threw them a curve ball! Even though numbers weren't huge, there were many young Vikings and their families who enjoyed this well-planned event. It should be noted that the Claus's had plenty of elves helping all to have a good time. Jon Kent was Santa's right-hand man. Tara Dart was dressed as Rudolph welcoming guests. Included as Santa's helpers were: Sue Bell, Julie Beach, Dawn Stuart, Diane Terrano, Bonnie Magers, Jerri Telford and Viking photographer Betsy Lynch. Each youngster received a cookie with frosting and sprinkles, a small plush tomtie, coloring book with crayons, coupons from our local McDonalds and Burger King restaurants, and candy/snacks donated by Jerry and Toni Lyon. The weather may have been bad, but it didn't stop our brave young Vikings from having a wonderful holiday experience. Still thinking of making youngsters happy---the Committee took left over gifts to our local Jamestown Boys and Girls Club.



In Remembrance

Members of Ingjald Lodge were saddened this past Fall with the unexpected passing of Past Chief Thomas Eckberg. Past Chief Eckberg was Chief of Ingjald Lodge in 2007. Tom was a dedicated volunteer who used his many talents to improve our Lodge. One of his many notable achievements was working with our N.Y.S. elected officials to help finance and have a natural gas line constructed to our Lake Park Lodge. He used his talented electrician and construction skills generously on many Viking projects. Tom was a U.S. Navy veteran (1956-1959) and served as Chairperson of the Thule Lodge in Jamestown for many years. A "Celebration of Life" will be held at the Viking Lake Park this summer. Members of Ingjald Lodge extend THANKS and APPRECIATION in memory of TOM for his dedication, help, guidance and service.



Excitement is Building!

Members of Ingjald Lodge are excited and busting with anticipation on the reopening of our Lake Park facility on Friday, March 11th! Our House Committee has been working hard with enthusiasm planning a wide range of new and old activities that will "MAKE THE LAKE PARK THE PLACE TO BE" for fun, food, and fellowship! The House Committee encourages and welcomes volunteers to carry out these ambitious plans. Every Viking should strive to volunteer for at least one activity. The old saying "many hands make lite work" has another benefit. Volunteers develop a sense of belonging and pride---AND MEET NEW VIKING FRIENDS! The following are only a few of the activities planned to follow the reopening Friday, March 11th!

- The Queen of Hearts will be back on Wednesday nights
- St. Patrick's Day celebration Friday, March 18th
- Kid's Easter Party on Saturday, April 16th 18th
- Taco Tuesday starting May 4th
- Annual Mother's Day Brunch on May 8th
- Memorial Day Weekend---Chicken BBQ on May 30th
- Bands Every Friday Night starting Friday, May 27th
- 24th Annual Sportsmen's Day on June 5th
- Viking Boat Club Steak Fry and Fishing Contest on June 18th
- Scholarship/Membership Night to be Announced
- July 4th Weekend starting Friday, July 1st ---with Bands and Chicken BBQ on Monday, July 4th
- Family Picnic on Sunday, July 31st

MORE OF THE PLANNED EVENTS FOR SUMMER AND FALL IN THE NEXT VIKING JOURNAL!

INGJALD LODGE #65

Jamestown, New York

Viking Temple Corporation's Annual Meeting

The Viking Temple Corporation is a separate elected organization responsible to the Viking Ingjald Lodge that is responsible for maintaining all the buildings and grounds at our Lake Park facility. It is required by their constitution to elect committee members and report their activities and future plans to Ingjald Lodge at an annual meeting held each January. Corporation President Jim Francisco gave a report detailing last year's activities and plans for 2022. A few of the things he mentioned in his report were: budget concerns, removal of the many diseased trees, the need for a new roof on the main building, future sewer project and road repair. He stated that volunteers are always needed, encouraged and welcomed. Newly elected members of the Viking Temple Corporation are: Steve Worden, Tim Wells, and Kevin Nelson. Continuing members are: Jim Francisco-President, Dan Clark, Doug Sanders, Jane Fosberg, Fred Bell, Chris Bernhardt.

Members of the Temple Corporation give countless hours of work keeping our Lake Park safe and beautiful for all of us to enjoy. All members of Ingjald Lodge are encouraged to volunteer, if they can, to lighten the work of these dedicated Vikings. When you volunteer, you feel more pride and sense of belonging!

Jim Francisco, Temple Corporation President, being installed by Ingjald Lodge Chief Dawn Stuart and Vice Chief Tera Darts



Vikings Elect New Chief

Local Viking Ingjald Lodge 65 elected new officers for 2022. Pictured is newly elected Chief Dawn Stuart receiving gavel from Past I.O.V. Grand Chief Bill Peterson. Past Chief Bryan Nelson assisted in the installation of the newly elected Ingjald Lodge officers.

Other newly elected and appointed Lodge officers are: Vice Chief-Tera Darts; Recording Sec.-Diane Terrano; Asst. Recording Sec.-Bonnie Magers; Financial Sec.-Charlie Kent; Asst. Financial Sec.-Darla Nelson; Treasurer-Betsy Lynch; Trustees-Bryan Nelson, Allen Johnson, Doug Sanders; Outer Guard-Allen Johnson; Inner Guard-Steve Kosthorst; Herald-Bryan Nelson; Asst. Herald-Bob Greenwald; Membership Chairpersons-Jane Fosberg, Betsy Lynch; House Committee-Darla Nelson, Betsy Lynch, Diane Terrano, Bonnie Magers, Linda Anderson, Tera Darts and Dawn Stuart.



Cherished Memories-"Grand Ballroom" and "Big Bands"



LINNE' LODGE #57

Muskegon, MI

On Saturday, November 27, the Lodge was abuzz with the annual Christmas Bazaar. Many Lodge members sold their crafts and baked goods, while members and guests enjoyed a luncheon. Thanks to Christine Grinnell and her wonderful committee for all their hard work.

December brought about the celebration of Scandinavian traditions at Linne' Lodge. The Lodge was beautifully decorated for the holidays, with thanks to Suzi and Boyd Freeman and the committee for all their work. On December 4 the club was lit up. Keeping with tradition, the Juniors donated an ornament for the club tree that will be displayed for years to come.

Sunday, December 12, we celebrated one of the most cherished and lovely traditions of all: Santa Lucia. The Invandrarna singers sang traditional songs in English and Swedish as the children paraded through the club performing the St. Lucia pageant. This year's St. Lucia was Ashlynn Nadeau, daughter of Lisen and Chad Kerbuski and granddaughter of Dianell and Alf Majors. The celebration was followed by Swedish baked goods. Such a beautiful way to start the Christmas season.

Saturday, December 18, old St. Nick made an appearance at Linne' Lodge. Children aged 2-10 made crafts, had lunch and received an appropriate gift for their age from the big guy himself. That evening the Cook family hosted the Christmas Carol sing-along.

On Christmas Eve the club was open for a celebratory gathering with snacks and refreshments hosted by the Majors Family. This event is appreciated by family and friends from near and far who come to town for Christmas. It is always so nice to bring families together to enjoy the holiday prior to going on to their family Christmas parties.



LINNE' LODGE #57

Muskegon, MI

The Lodge enjoyed New Year's Eve with dinner, music, dancing and merriment while ringing in 2022. Thanks to Bev and Bruce Klieyn for all their hard work over the years. Not only is this a good fundraiser for the club, it is a magical night for all who attend.

50-year pins were awarded to Martha and Dewey Bringedahl, and to Alf Majors at our January lodge meeting. All three of them have served Linne' Lodge as Chiefs and have made endless contributions.

Unfortunately, COVID caused us to pause for the month of January and our annual Winterfest had to be rescheduled. We look forward to a different type of Winterfest May 20-22, 2022. We invite all Viking Lodges to join us for this fun-filled weekend.

January 20, 2022, we installed our new officer class. We are grateful to Mary Caswell for her 9 years of service as Chief, Vice Chief and trustee. Mary has done so much for the club - we sincerely thank her and know she will be around, putting her touch on things as a past chief. Alf Majors also retired as trustee. If you look around the club and the grounds you see all the love Alf puts into keeping our Lodge looking awesome. We are grateful to our most recent Viking of the Year for all he has done and all the traditions he keeps going.

As we close we want to pay special thanks to our new and returning officers who have accepted the responsibilities of service to our club. Chief, Shawn Perry; Vice Chief, Chris Wilks; new trustee Cam Cook, and all those who offer to share their time and talents. Many blessings to those who have been elected and offer to serve as elected officials of the lodge.

Chief Shawn Perry

Mary Beth Liskey, correspondent



Past Chief Mary and new 50-year members



Chief Shawn and Vice Chief Chris



Past Chief Mary

SIGURD LODGE #30

Kenosha, Wisconsin

Hi all!

Hope everyone had a nice Christmas and New Year. We at Sigurd had a delayed Christmas party along with installation of officers January 21st. We had three members from Harald Lodge in Tinley Park venture to Kenosha and install them. Thanks to Nancy and Mike Conrad along with Bill Hendry for doing it. I was invited, along with our Chief Jack Yule, to install Harald's new officers but, due to me having some dental work and Jack having knee surgery, we couldn't make it. Congratulations to the officers of Harald Lodge! We're sorry we couldn't be there. We had a very good time at our installation and also the Christmas party with the gift exchange. Thanks to all who brought snacks etc. for it. I think everyone had a great time.

Back in December my wife Dee had a minor stroke. I know it was very scary, and she spent a couple of days in the hospital. She is doing fine now except for all her other medical issues. On January 6th we accepted Robin Grinnell, our fraternal administrator, as a member. She needed to join a Viking lodge so she can be appointed as Fraternal Secretary once we merge with GBU. (We will no longer have a contracted Fraternal Administrator.) She lives in Lansing, MI but could not join Linne' as they cannot accept any more members at this time. Wish all the lodges had that problem! Congratulations, Robin.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Past Grand Chief Paul Pitts. He was a visitor to Kenosha on different occasions; in fact, he installed me as a Chief several times. Our sympathies are extended to his wife Marilyn and family.

Until next time stay safe and healthy
Rod Ottum, correspondent



Administrator's Corner

Hello, Vikings!

Just a few quick items this quarter...

1. We're still missing quite a few emails for the database. We will notify you by email when the next Journal is ready, but you will also need an email to access our member portal through GBU (if/when the merger goes through). Keep 'em coming to admin@iovikings.org.
2. Please be patient with the Executive Council, your fraternal secretary and lodge officers, and me as we work through the merger and transition. We have been setting goals and timelines to get everything taken care of, but the state departments of insurance in Illinois and Pennsylvania have the final say. Our schedule can only kick in once we have approval from both. It's worth the wait, but we know that EVERYONE would like to move on!
3. Please remember that the IOV website, www.iovikings.org, has a "Forms" section. Here you will find scholarship and language camp info, as well as reports that are required of Lodges (quarterly and annual). If there is anything else that would be helpful to see in the website, please let me know!
4. Lastly, with all of the shuffling over the past few years, we will use our 2022 Convention as a "reset point." We will recognize our most recent Viking of the Year, Alf Majors; will introduce everyone to representatives of GBU (fingers crossed!); and will hold officer elections. It will be nice to get back on track! Please remember that, post-merger, insurance is no longer required for you to run as a lodge delegate. We will update lodges with the new timeline for delegate elections in a few months.

Happy spring!

Robin Lynn Grinnell, IOV Fraternal Administrator
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