## VASA ORDER

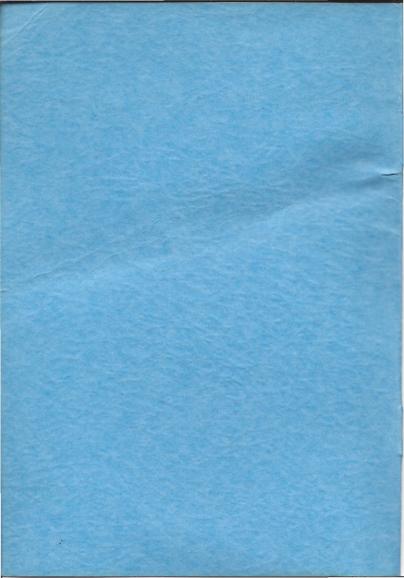
OF

# AMERICA HAND - BOOK

FOR



CHILDREN'S and JUNIOR CLUBS



#### HAND BOOK

for

### CHILDREN'S AND JUNIOR CLUBS Of the Vasa Order of America

#### ART I.

#### INTRODUCTION

The history of the Vasa youth movement goes back to December 10, 1921 when Mrs. Helga Hoving gathered around her a group of youngsters, children of members of various local lodges in New York. This group became "Vasa Ordens Barnklubb No. 1." It is now known as "Elsa Rix No. 1".

That club with others, later organized, was incorporated within the Order itself at the Grand Lodge meeting in Detroit, Michigan, in 1923. At a similar meeting in Winnipeg, Canada, in June 1935, it was decided to divide this movement into two branches: Children's Clubs and Junior Clubs, and the respective age qualifications were established.

Before such a division is attempted, however, the probabilities of a successful existence for each group should be carefully weighed. Where only a small number of young people might be counted on to join, a single club comprising both age groups should be formed or maintained. Where a comparatively large number for both age groups seems probable, efforts should be made to form both a Children's Club and a Junior Club.

It has become increasingly clear how important the youth movement is, hence at least one of these clubs should be organized wherever the Vasa Order raises its blue and yellow banner.

#### ART. II.

#### THE AIM

of these clubs is:

- a. to assemble the sons and daughters of the Vasa Order members.
- b. to cultivate their interest and knowledge of the culture, history and customs of Sweden and of the contribution made in United States by Swedish immigrants.
- c. to foster an early understanding of and regard for the high ideals of the Vasa Order and for the practical benefits of the Order, thus encouraging them to join a local lodge when they reach the age of 14. It is therefore the duty of every member of the Order to support this movement to the utmost.

#### ART. III.

#### ORGANIZATION

Within areas of every District there are Vasa members interested in organizing a Youth group. The local lodges should form a committee to gather names of eligible youth. When sufficient names have been obtained, the Committee should call an organization meeting of parents and youth. The District Supervisor of Youth Clubs should be present if possible. The permission of the District Supervisor is necessary to institute a new club. Localities out of a district jurisdiction should obtain permission from the Grand Lodge Youth Director.

The Organization Meeting:

- 1. Opening of the meeting with a brief explanation by the organizer of the aims and activities of the clubs and their relationship to V.O.A., the largest Swedish-American organization.
- 2. Introduction of a resolution to form a club and apply to the Grand Lodge Secretary for a charter and number. Such application must be made by the District Supervisor, with a notice of the application going to the Grand Lodge Youth Director and the Associate Regional Director.
- 3. Selection of a name, time and place for meetings. Particular attention should be paid to the name selection. It should be easily pronounced and should have special meaning for the group.

- 4. Election and installation of officers.
- 5. Appointment of a committee to draft special rules to be presented at a subsequent meeting. The club will abide by the by-laws provided in this handbook, but may desire additional rules to meet specific circumstances.
- 6. A well planned brief business meeting conducted for the purpose of demonstrating procedures.

#### ART. IV.

#### CONSTITUTION

The Grand Lodge Youth Director: The Grand Master appoints a Director of Vasa Youth Activities to serve during his term.

The duties of the Grand Lodge Youth Director are:

- 1. Together with the Grand Master appoint regional associate directors for the Eastern, Midwestern and Western regions.
- 2. Supervise, advise and give information on all questions concerning the youth program.
- Maintain an up to date record of all children's and junior clubs in the Vasa Order (including name, number, date instituted, name of organizer and sponsoring lodge or lodges) and their annual reports.
- Submit a detailed report at each regular meeting of the Grand Lodge in accordance with paragraph
   of the Constitution for the Grand Lodge.

- 5. Together with the associate directors propose improvements and suggestions to the Grand Master.
- Encourage Vasa Youth to participate in the Scholarship program.
- 7. Distribute to the associate directors
  - 1. Annual report forms
- 2. Membership certificates, pins and honor pins The duties of the Associate regional directors are:
- Cooperate with and assist the Grand Lodge Youth Director.
- 2. Carry out the tasks assigned by the Grand Lodge Youth Director.
- Distribute report forms, pins, certificates as requested by the District Supervisors.

#### DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

Unless elected by the District meeting or other provision is made by the District meeting, the District Supervisor of Youth Work is appointed by the District Master with the approval of the District Executive Board. The term of the District Supervisor should coincide with the fiscal year of the Clubs (July 1 through June of the following year). The duties of the District Supervisor are:

 Supervise the activities of all clubs within the district.

- 2. Stimulate an interest in all local lodges to support the Youth work of the District and wherever possible to organize their own clubs.
- Submit an annual report to the Grand Lodge Director covering all club activities within the District on a form provided for this purpose, with a copy to the Associate Regional Director.
- 4. Submit reports as frequently as requested to the District Executive Board.
- 5. Distribute the annual report forms to the club supervisors promptly. (Forms are obtained from the G.L. Assoc. Directors).
- 6. Make application to the Grand Lodge Secretary for charters and numbers as requested by clubs in the process of organization. Notice of this application must be sent at the same time to the Regional Associate Director and the Grand Lodge Director.
- Encourage Vasa Youth to participate in the Vasa Scholarship program.

#### LOCAL CLUB SUPERVISOR:

Every club and junior club shall be under the direction of a supervisor appointed by the local lodge or by a Youth Committee.

The duties of the Local Club Supervisor are:

1. Procure such assistants and instructors as may be necessary.

- 2. Supervise the club and its activities.
- Promote interest in the clubs activities to gain new members for the Club and gain cooperation of the local lodge.
- Submit oral reports to the local lodge monthly and seek the utmost support of the members.
- 5. Submit an annual report on the form provided to the District Supervisor with a copy thereof for the Grand Lodge Director and the Associate Regional Director.
- 6. Organize a "Booster Committee" consisting of parents and interested lodge members to help with the work and promotion of the club. This committee can be of great help in planning and preparing for programs, outings, fund raising, hosting other groups and other activities undertaken by the club.

#### LOCAL CLUBS

**Meetings:** Clubs shall meet regularly at the time and place determined, at least once a month except during July and August when they may suspend meetings if they so desire.

Quorum: At least 7 members must be present to open a meeting and conduct all the business of the club.

Election of Officers: Officers shall be elected at the first regular meeting in September. Each officer shall be individually elected by a plurality of votes cast with closed ballots. A Club may elect new officers twice a year if they desire to offer opportunity for more children to hold office.

Installation of Officers: Installation may be held at the same meeting in September or at the next meeting. The District or the local Supervisor shall preside at the installation of officers.

**Dues:** Dues may be imposed for courses of instruction, special activities or refreshments, but not for sick benefits. Other moneys received through donations or money raising events may be placed in a special fund to be used for special occasions such as trips, conventions or hosting other clubs.

Fiscal Year: The fiscal year for the children's and youth clubs will run from July 1st through June of the following year. A complete audit of the books must be made at the close of the fiscal year by the auditors of the sponsoring committee, local lodge or district lodge.

Language: The Swedish language should be introduced at each meeting. It may consist of greetings, farewells and response to roll calls to begin with and gradually extended to include more words as the occasion arises.

Insignia: The Grand Lodge Youth Director, through the Associate Regional Directors, supplies membership pins for the members of the Children's and Junior Clubs. They are distributed free of charge by the local supervisor after one year of membership. A certificate of membership is presented to the member at the time of initiation.

Merit Insignia: The Grand Lodge will provide a 5 year pin to be presented after 5 years of active membership. The 5 year period need not be consecutive. A special honor pin will be provided for a member at least 14 years of age with 8 or more years of active, responsible participation in all the club's activities. It is an award which must be earned. These honor awards are to be made at a lodge affair, a performance or similar public occasion. The Local Club Supervisor will request these honor awards from the District Supervisor, who obtains them from the Grand Lodge Associate Regional Director. They are free. Replacements are available at \$1 each.

Regalia: All regalia and equipment should be of such design and appearance as to comply with the regulations of the Grand Lodge and must have the approval of the Grand Lodge Executive Board.

**Interpretation:** In case of any doubt in interpretation of the constitution, a written explanation should be requested from the District Supervisor. If further

explanation is required, the matter may be referred to the Associate Regional Director, the Grand Lodge Youth Director, and eventually to the Grand Master.

#### ART. V.

#### BY-LAWS

Additions to and alterations in these by-laws may be made in minor details should local circumstances so require.

- 1. Membership: Children of Vasa members may become members in
  - a. Children's Club: Between the ages of 5 and 14 years or younger at the discretion of the teacher and supervisor.
  - b. Junior Clubs: Between the ages of 14 and 21 years.
  - c. Children of Scandinavian ancestry whose parents are not Vasa members may be accepted as members providing at least one parent joins the Vasa Order within 6 months after a child becomes a member of a club.
  - d. Eligible children, at the age of 14 or over may join a Youth or Junior Club and the local lodge even if the parents are not members.

#### 2. Officers:

Each club shall have the following officers:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Financial Secretary

Treasurer

Chaplain

Master of Ceremonies

Guard

Past Chairman

A club may have additional officers for specific purposes.

The officers shall serve for a period of one year (or half year if elected twice a year), or until their successors have been elected and installed.

#### 3. Duties of Officers:

The Chairman shall open and direct the meetings of the club, appoint temporary officers to fill vacant positions at the opening of the meetings, and together with the other officers, see to it that the members arrive on time and remain in good order.

The Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman and in his absence occupy the chair.

The Secretary shall keep a detailed record of the proceedings at all meetings of the club and a complete list of members.

The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of all members, receive dues and other monies, and turn them over to the Treasurer at the end of each meeting. He shall keep all receipts received from the Treasurer for these monies.

The **Treasurer** shall receive all monies from the Financial Secretary and give receipts for same, pay all bills duly acted upon by the club and keep a complete and correct account of all receipts and expenditures.

The Chaplain shall perform such duties as the Ritual, Constitution and By-laws of the club may prescribe.

The Master of Ceremonies shall take care of all properties of the club except specific properties left in care of other officers, and perform such other duties at the meetings as the Chairman may assign.

The Guard shall be in charge of the door leading to the club room and perform such other duties as the Ritual, Constitution and By-laws of the club may prescribe.

The Past Chairman shall assist at the initiation of new members, aid and advise the Chairman, and, if the Chairman and the Vice Chairman are both absent, take the Chairman's place.

#### 4.. Program Committee:

Each Junior Club shall also at the time of elec-

tion of officers, elect a Program Committee, consisting of three members.

This committee shall, together with the club's Supervisor, plan and conduct all programs at the meetings of the club or other duly proposed and ordered activities held in accordance with the regulations indicated under the title "AIM".

#### 5. General Rules:

- a. Members should be polite and well mannered at all meetings or performances and be prompt and regular in attendance. They shall cooperate with the teacher and supervisor at all times.
- b. Each club shall, if possible, give a yearly performance. Since the parent organization, VASA ORDER OF AMERICA, is a Swedish-American organization, stress should be put on Swedish songs, dances and recitations. Since membership in V.O.A. is also open to all people of Scandinavian descent, parts of the program may consist of other Scandinavian songs, dances and recitations if desired.

#### 6. By-Laws of The Club:

Each Club may adopt their own by-laws, providing that such by-laws in all principal parts conform with this Constitution and the By-Laws here given. All such by-laws, to become valid, must be approved by the District Supervisor and the Grand Lodge Youth Director.

#### ART. VI.

#### MEETING PROCEDURE

(•) Signifies taps of the Chairman's gavel.
One tap (•) calls the meeting to order and bids the officers and members to take their seats. Two taps (••) bid officers to arise. Three taps (••) bid all present to arise, and remain standing until one tap (•) is given to be seated again.

#### OPENING OF MEETING

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Ordföranden: Vi vill nu sjunga vår inledningssåang. Chairman: We will now sing our opening song.

Ordföranden: Vi vill nu lyssna till vår Kaplan. Chairman: We will now listen to our Chaplain.

Introduction of dignitaries and other guests.

Chairman: Secretary! Call the name of the officers and members and make a note of those absent. (Members present answer "ja" or "närvarande").

Chairman: Secretary! Please read the minutes of our last meeting. (Secretary reads the minutes.)

Are there any omissions or corrections? If not, the minutes are approved as read.

#### ART. VII.

#### **NEW CANDIDATES**

Chairman: Secretary! Have you received any names of new candidates?

(The secretary shall read the name, address and age of each new candidate as given on the application blank.)

#### ART. VIII.

#### INITIATION

Chairman: Master of Ceremonies! Depart to the ante-room and escort the candidate(s) to the Vice Chairman.

(When ready to re-enter he signifies by a knock on the door.)

Guard: Who is there?

Master of Ceremonies: Master of Ceremonies with candidate(s) wishing to become (a) member (members).

Guard: Vice Chairman! Master of Ceremonies with candidate(s) desires admission.

Vice Chairman: Let them enter.

...

(The Guard opens the door. The Master of Cere-

monies escorts the candidate(s) — if possible with music—once around the room, placing the candidate(s) in front of the Vice Chairman, with the altar between him and the candidate(s).)

Master of Ceremonies: Vice Chairman! I present to you this friend (these friends) wishing to join our club.

Vice Chairman: My friend (friends)! I am happy to welcome you to this club. Our endeavor is to give you a better knowledge of our parents' and fore-fathers' language and glorious deeds. To be able to do so, it is essential that you participate in our meetings. Your membership in this club is therefore useful and beneficial, but it also demands certain duties.

Master of Ceremonies! Escort the candidate(s) to the Chaplain.

Master of Ceremonies: Worthy Chaplain! I present to you this candidate (these candidates).

Chaplain: My friend (friends)! Thousands of years ago there lived a vigorous people who became world-famous as Vikings and warriors. They were our forefathers, settling and founding new nations, one of which is Sweden. There they cleared the forests and tilled the soil. Later, in peaceful pursuits, they became one of the foremost nations. The

Swedish flag is symbolic of the high ideals we should strive for. It, as well as the flags of the other Scandinavian countries, bears the cross of Christianity to remind us to be truthful, honest and charitable, and in true Christian spirit to extend a helping hand whenever needed.

Vice Chairman: Master of Ceremonies! Escort the candidate(s) to the Past Chairman.

Master of Ceremonies: Past Chairman! I present to you this candidate (these candidates).

Past Chairman: My friends! We are the descendants of a free, democratic, law abiding and industrious people. More than three centuries ago, Swedish immigrants came to this continent and founded New Sweden. Here they have broken land and defended liberty. Honesty, love and freedom are part of the inheritance of these forefathers. Our interest in our Scandinavian heritage should bind us together into a strong and purposeful club.

Master of Ceremonies: Escort the candidate(s) to the Chairman.

Master of Ceremonies: Chairman! Upon the request of the Past Chairman I present to you this candidate (these candidates).

Chairman: My friend (friends)! It is our duty and privilege to learn more about our parents' and forefathers' land, its life, beautiful language and rich culture. This will enable us to give in a richer measure our best to our own country. That knowledge will also give us a better understanding and appreciation of membership in the largest Swedish-American fraternal organization — the Vasa Order of America.

...

I extend to you our heartiest welcome.

Master of Ceremonies: Escort our new member (members) to his (her) (their) seat (seats) to be seated among us.

#### ART. IX.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Chairman: We shall now hear the reports from the following committees.

(The chairman and secretary should prepare a list beforehand of the committees to be called on for reports.)

#### ART. X.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairman: Is there any unfinished business to be discussed?

(The secretary should inform the chairman of any such business.)

#### ART. XI.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman: Secretary! Read the mail received since the last meeting.

a. Reading and disposing of letters

Chairman: Secretary! Read the bills received since the last meeting.

b. Reading and disposing of bills.

Chairman: Is there any other new business?

(At the first regular meeting in September the nomination and election of officers would now take place, followed by the installation of officers. See page . . . . . for this ceremony. If the installation is to take place at the meeting following the election, it would take place at this point in the meeting.)

#### ART. XII.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT.

Chairman: Treasurer! Please read your financial report.

#### ART. XIII.

#### FOR THE WELFARE OF THE CLUB

At this time the Club Supervisor may give an outline of activities or plans for the future. Guests may be called on to speak. Short entertainment may be presented.

#### ART. XIV.

#### CLOSING

Ordföranden: Låt oss nu lyssna till vår Kaplan. Chairman: Let us now listen to our Chaplain.

...

Chairman: We are now ready to close this meeting. I remind you to come to the next meeting promptly.

Ordföranden: Detta möte är nu avslutat. Chairman: This meeting is now closed.

#### ART. XV.

#### INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

(The installation of officers is conducted by the District Supervisor or the club supervisor, who will appoint a temporary Master of Ceremonies, in case no installation staff is available).

Chairman: District Supervisor (Supervisor)! This club is now ready to install its elected officers. I therefore ask you to conduct this part of the ceremony.

District Supervisor: Chairman! The term for your officers has now reached its end, and I will therefore ask you to tell them to leave their stations.

Chairman: Officers! You have now reached the end of your term. Upon the request of the District Supervisor, I bid you to leave your stations.

District Supervisor! The other officers have left their stations.

**District Supervisor:** Chairman and other retiring officers! May I convey to you both my own and the Vasa Order's gratitude for work well done. I trust

you will continue to participate in the meetings and work for our success.

District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the Past Chairman to his (her) station.

District Master of Ceremonies: District Supervisor! Your order is complied with.

**District Supervisor:** District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the elected officers to the altar in the order they are called by the supervisor.

(Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Master of Ceremonies, Guard).

District Master of Ceremonies: District Supervisor! The newly elected officers are ready to be installed.

District Supervisor: My friends! You have been honored by this club to lead its work during the coming year, and I extend to you my best wishes. Try to be punctual, thereby setting a good example for the other members. Seek by every means to make the meetings enjoyable and worth while for everyone.

Guard! It is your duty to maintain good order during the meetings and to prevent outsiders from entering.

District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the guard to his (her) station.

Master of Ceremonies! It is your duty to take care of all the club's property not assigned to other members, to escort and announce visitors, and to perform such other duties as the Chairman may assign.

District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the Master of Ceremonies to his (her) station.

Chaplain! It is your duty to read the messages as prescribed in the handbook during the meetings and during initiations.

District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the Chaplain to his (her) station.

Treasurer! It is your duty to take care of and disburse the funds of the club. You shall keep an accurate account and report the club's financial condition at every meeting. At the close of your term, you will present the books to the auditor for the closing audit:

District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the Treasurer to his (her) station.

Financial Secretary! It is your duty to receive dues and funds for the club and turn them over to the Treasurer.

District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the Financial Secretary to his (her) station.

Secretary! It is your duty to keep an accurate record of the work within the club and punctually handle correspondence. Also keep a complete list of members and a record of their attendance at the meetings.

District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the Secretary to his (her) station.

Vice Chairman! It is your duty to assist the Chairman in all work pertaining to the club and in his (her) absence take his (her) place and perform his (her) duties.

District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the Vice Chairman to his (her) station.

District Master of Ceremonies! Escort the Chairman to the rostrum.

...

Chairman! The main responsibility for this club rests upon its chairman. You should, by exemplary leadership, make its activities as valuable as possible. Through punctuality and friendliness, your work will become pleasant and enjoyable. I congratulate you upon gaining this honor, and wish you success in your work. You may now take your place as Chairman of this club.

Members of ...... Club Number ..... I hereby declare your officers duly installed.

#### ART. XVI.

### GUIDE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR LOCAL SUPERVISORS AND TEACHERS

Children's and Junior Clubs should hold their

meeting and practices at the most convenient, clean and safe places and at times which do not interfere with attendance at school, studies or church activities. They should be held weekly, semi-monthly or monthly according to local requirements.

Meeting place should be chosen with due regards to the size of the Club, location, comfort, lighting, safety and healthy atmosphere.

Exercises should always start at a fixed time and last no longer than two hours, nor be prolonged until tiresome.

The Local Supervisor may decide on material's considered necessary and the manner of conducting the meetings, using own method or one recommended by the Grand Lodge, taking into consideration the composition, age and understanding of the members.

The Swedish language should be introduced and used as much as possible. The pupils should be taught the meanings of words so that they can not only repeat, but also understand what they are saying. The parents should be encouraged also to use Swedish words or sentences at home. Encourage parents and children to use the Swedish Language Course offered by the Grand Lodge.

In recital of poems, legends, stories, sings, etc., the teacher should consider the performer's sex, age and capability. For example: "Soldatgossen" by Runberg should not be recited by a girl, nor "Torpflickan" by a boy.

Songs should be sung in unison and only exceptionally in various keys, when the composition of voices should be carefully considered. Songs may be selected from those taught in schools as well as those found in the books of Swedish songs and ring dances, provided by the Vasa Order or found through the efforts of the supervisors. A few solo songs may be used at entertainments.

All members should participate as much as possible in singing, in singing games and in folk dances. Exceptions, of course, would be certain dances such as "Oxdansen", a dance for boys, "Vingakersdansen" danced by one boy and two girls. It is advisable to concentrate on a dance until the pupils have become skilled and able to give a fine exhibition. If the group is large enough it can be divided in two—the younger group up to the age of 11 years could work on ring dances while the boys and girls over 11 years work on more intricate folk dances.

Histories (Swedish and Swedish-American) should be selected with intent to be entertaining and of such interest that the members would of their own accord seek to improve their knowledge on that subject. The reading or relating of historical events, legends, folklore or modern stories by the Supervisor should be short to make them interesting to the members. The older members should be instructed on Swedish cultural achievements and important events and encouraged to read the local Swedish newspapers or magazines. They should also be encouraged to bring in items of interest about Sweden or Swedish-Americans found in the daily papers or other periodicals. They could report on these orally or prepare written presentation. This would be good preparation for them for the time when they could apply for a Vasa scholarship.

If the membership is large enough and conditions otherwise favorable, special groups could be formed within the club to function as orchestra, theatre group, etc. The training of such groups should, however, be separate from other exercises of the club. Age, talent and ability should be the basis to a careful selection of musical and theatrical groups.

The parents or guardians of the members should be advised to form a committee with purpose of giving the Club financial and moral support, especially at entertainments and programs.

Whenever possible the Children's and Youth Clubs should be on the program and participate in national entertainments, church festivals, meetings or gatherings of local lodges, etc. to give prominence to the Club's activities and thereby gain new friends and patrons. On those occasions the members should be dressed in Swedish national costumes of their own choosing. These beautiful, colorful costumes always attract special attention besides being characteristic of the members and organization.

If at all possible the season should close with a program or exhibition of some kind to show the progress of the club. Some lodges or districts have Midsummer picnics with programs that could include the Vasa Youth. All the numbers performed by the Clubs should be Swedish if possible.

Material for work in both Children's Clubs and Junior Clubs may be obtained through the Grand Lodge Youth Director and the Associate Regional Directors. Local bookstores and libraries are also a source for material. The Club Supervisors may in every case use their own judgment in the selection of material.

Revised and approved by the Grand Lodge Executive Board, San Francisco, Cal., October 1968.

#### Vasa Order Junior Club Emblem

- (a) The Grand Lodge will pay the cost of the emblem from accounts established for Children's and Junior Clubs activities.
- (b) Entitled to this award are members of the Vasa Order who held offices as District Supervisors or Children's Club Leaders for a period of five years, not necessarily consecutively.
- (c) Request for this award shall be made to the Grand Secretary by District Lodge or its Executive Board, and such application accompanied by complete information on qualifications will then be forwarded to the Grand Lodge Supervisor for action.

Exception to the above rules can only be made in a specific case, where a District or Local Supervisor, or any other Vasa Member has rendered special out of ordinary service to Children's or Junior Club activities. In such case a special recommendation must be submitted to the Grand Lodge Secretary by the District Lodge or its Executive Board giving full details of the service rendered by such member. Any such case must also be recommended by the Grand Lodge Supervisor.

