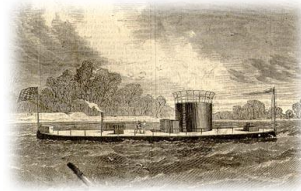


Monitor Lodge #218

Sacramento, California

Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave

<https://www.monitorlodgesacramento.org/>



februari (February) 2026

Our January meeting was a busy one. Ed Netzel, our chairman, presided over the initiation of two new members. We followed that ceremony with Darin Freeland, our District Deputy, presiding over the installation of our elected officers for 2026.



Moving on to our business meeting, while we had several items on the agenda, the two most important items were bestowing of Honorary Life Member (HLM) status on Marianne Ek and a productive discussion on options to increase lodge income to offset increasing expenses.

2026 Calendar of events

(dates subject to change)

February 6th – Friday – **Pea Soup & Pancakes**

March 6th – Friday – **Corned Beef & Cabbage**

April 11th – Monitor's **114th Anniversary** luncheon

April 24-26 – **District convention** location TBD

May 9th – **Kraftskiva** at location TBD

June 5th – Friday – **Midsommar** at IOOF Hall

June 6th – Saturday – **District Sweden Day** – location TBD

July – no meeting

August 8th – Saturday – **Kräftskiva**

September 4th – Friday – **Nominations** – 2027 officers

October 2nd – Friday – **Swedish Tacos**

November 6th – Friday – **FIKA**- elections

December 5th – Saturday – **Julbord and Glögg party**

December 11th – Friday – **St. Lucia**

2027 Calendar of events

(dates subject to change)

January 8th – Friday – **Installation of officers**

February 5th – Friday – **Pea Soup & Pancakes**

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We wrapped up the evening a convivial potluck dinner and a presentation by our new Cultural Leader Kellie Paredes about several Swedish holiday traditions, including the “hard core” strictly Swedish tradition dating back to 1959 of watching [Kalle Anka och hans vänner önskar God Jul](#) ("Donald Duck and His Friends Wish You a Merry Christmas")



Upcoming Monitor events. We will have our Pea Soup & Pancakes in February and Corned Beef & Cabbage in March. April will see us returning to the Doubletree for our 114th anniversary luncheon followed by our annual Sillfrukost brunch at Lisa and Charley Rea’s home in May.

Important reminder: Our 2026 dues are due on January 1, 2026 and delinquent on March 31st. Remember that the yearly dues are \$50.00 per active member. Please make checks payable to Monitor Lodge #218 and mail your dues to:

Monitor Lodge #218
c/o Johanna Benker, Financial Secretary
6040 Plum Canyon Lane
Roseville, CA 95747

We also ask that you consider making a donation to our scholarship fund when you send in your renewal check “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one or just because.

Annual Program book updates. Please contact Brian Horsfield, Yvonne Magneheim and Chuck Johnson with any needed changes so we can update the Program Book, member database and newsletter mailing list. There is two updates as of February:

Page 11: Weatherby, Loren *corrected address*
601 Feature Drive, Apt 107 *cell no. still OK*
Sacramento, CA 95825

Page 12: Willow, Joyce **(916) 878-6063** *corrected cell number*

A grattis på födelsedagen to our birthday celebrants for **February**: Chuck Johnson*, Ethel Johnson*, Louise Parzannici, Mindy Patterson, Kurt Pfannkuch*, Lisa Rea, Jill Stockham*, Orville Voxland* and Susan Weber*. (* denotes member 75 years of age or older).

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A reminder that our Scholarship committee is accepting applications for our 2026 scholarship. The annual VASA scholarship deadlines are fast approaching. The Grand Lodge 2026 application is due no later than February 15, 2026 while Monitor Lodge's and Golden Gate District's applications are due no later than **April 1, 2026**. Applicants will find all the necessary information and application forms on our website at:

<https://www.monitorlodgesacramento.org/membership/scholarship/>

Read the instructions carefully as the requirements are different for each scholarship.

Did you know _____ about Monitor Lodge? This occasional section features factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. This month we encourage you to explore some of Monitor's pictorial history by going to our **Monitor Memories** web page and checking out some of our photo albums (<https://www.monitorlodgesacramento.org/photo-albums-and-scrapbooks/>). We still have a substantial number of albums in our storage room in the queue to be scanned and posted on the website.

Current financial report (summary) as of January from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer. We continue to be comfortably in the black but with the demise of the Scandinavian Festival along with increasing costs we need to explore other opportunities to raise monies to support Monitor's activities and scholarships.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Children's Club</u>	<u>Nål och Tråd</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Totals</u>
\$9,064.28	\$93.77	\$5,189.37	\$9,104.62	\$23,452.04

How good is your Swedish vocabulary? If you want to brush up on your Swedish you have several options. We have Monitor's in-person/ZOOM Swedish language classes led by Will Hanley. In addition to the on-line tutorials utilized by some of Will's students at Innovative Languages (<https://www.innovativelanguage.com/>) you will find Swedish vocabulary and lessons in Nordstjernen (<http://www.nordstjernen.com/>) and in the Swedish edition of The Local (<https://www.thelocal.se/>). You can also get a language fix from bi-weekly podcasts at: <https://shows.acast.com/the-newbie-guide-to-sweden-podcast>.

Today's word of the day, **blunda**, is provided by the [August 25, 2025](#) edition of *The Local* is a word with no direct English equivalent, but which is useful for everyday conversation.

Blunda means "to shut one's eyes", and can be used literally or figuratively. In the latter sense, you usually use it with the preposition *för*, for example: *det kan vara farligt att blunda för historien* (it can be dangerous to ignore history); *blunda inte för övergrepp!* (don't ignore assault!)

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Old Norse had the word *blundra* with the same meaning, and the word probably shares an origin with the word *blind* (unable to see), found in Swedish, German and English among other northern European languages.

And *blunda* is still used in Icelandic, although there it has taken on the meaning "to doze": this is an example of how the definition of a word can shift over time, which often happens if there are other competing synonyms.

Swedish also has the related word *blund*, which refers to a sleep. You often hear it in the negated sense, as in *jag har knappt sovit en blund i natt* (I barely got a wink of sleep last night).

Swedish speakers use the fictional name John Blund to refer to what English and German speakers know as the Sandman, a figure who sprinkles dust in your eyes to get you to doze off – hence the dust you may feel in your eyes the next morning.

Example sentences:

Det är nästan omöjligt att nysa utan att blunda. It is almost impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Blunda och hoppa. Close your eyes and jump.

For the good of the order: 1. On Saturday, February 7th, there is a free workshop at the Elk Grove History Center where folks can learn how to leverage genealogy to learn more about their family history. In addition to short classes there will be information tables for organizations to provide information about cultural opportunities. To that end, Monitor needs 2-3 volunteers to devote a couple of hours manning a membership table. Please consider a pleasant day meeting new people and sharing stories.

2. Our March meeting cultural presentation will be about *runes* given by Sara Huber. Be sure to join us then.

Editor: Chuck Johnson

