



# Veljeysviesti

The Message of Brotherhood

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## GRAND LODGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, once again I've been elected to the position of Grand Lodge President so I'll be holding the post for the next two years. The Seattle Lodge did a splendid job of holding and conducting the convention, many thanks go to Lynn Wirta, (Seattle Lodge President - Grand Lodge Secretary,) and all of the Seattle officers and members for organizing and assisting in the convention. The two days of meetings were held at the Finnish Lutheran Church a unique building of sorts. By the looks of the structure it's architectural design has Finnish influence and portions of the interior certainly has. The second floor sanctuary has Finnish Birch paneling that has a very distinctive look that's only seen in older Finnish homes and other interiors. The lower floor meeting room has a small library that contains a variety of older Finnish publications mostly in Finnish. Unfortunately I didn't have enough time to peruse the selections of publications many of which were older seldom seen ones. As with all Finnish get to gather's there was no shortage of good food and try as we might we couldn't finish it all off. The Saturday evening banquet at the Nexus Hotel, (where most of stayed,) was quite special with a superb selection of Finnish music provided by local groups and a poetry reading along with an excellent meal to complete the festivities. As the county folk say, "a good time was had by all!"

As for the convention proceedings a considerable amount was accomplished but the ongoing problem of certain lodges not keeping up with their Grand Lodge and Veljeysviesti assessments was again addressed and hopefully this time the problem will be corrected. The planned for examination and upgrading of the portion of our Grand Lodge Constitution regarding the local lodges never occurred due to time constraints. The Grand Lodge officers will address the constitution questions next August during the officers meeting to be held in Astoria.

Once again I want to thank Lynn Wirta and all of the officers and members of the Seattle Lodge for the planning and hard work they did to hold the convention. Job very well done!!!!

Art Johnson - Grand Lodge President

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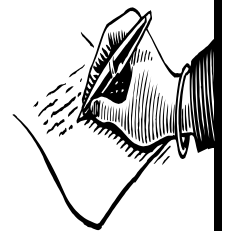
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What a wonderful Grand Lodge we had in Seattle. Congratulations to all the members of Seattle Lodge for everything you did to make all of us feel welcome. Many of us visited the Nordic Heritage Museum—what a great display. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit. The convention agenda was very well planned along with the great dinner and entertainment.

Please check your Lodge information at the end of this publication to insure the Lodge officers are correct. Thanks again.  
Alice Hammontree  
.Editor/Business Manager



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**Thank you to all the delegates, officers and volunteers of the 53rd Annual Grand Lodge Convention so beautifully hosted by Seattle Lodge No. 11. Thank you & Kiitos!! Alison Kastama, Grand Lodge President**



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