



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

LOCAL LODGE SVEA #296

Instituted May 20, 1914 in Erie, Pennsylvania

February 2023 News and Notes

Hälsningar!

Having a new web presence has been wonderful - some ups and downs tweaking but we are so glad to have this platform to share with our members and those soon to be members!

At our January meeting, Cheryl installed the new officers and we initiated one new member, Noah. He is a young college student and the son of Brian and Lisa Davis. On January 18th, Michael was initiated into our Order by his mom, Chairman Pat! This occasion happened in Colorado so that he could be a member before he left for his military deployment to Eastern Europe. Nothing like making Svea #296 a family affair!

The membership also voted to NOT charge a \$10 initiation fee for new members and to elect officers every two years with 1/2 of the officers voted on in the odd years and 1/2 of the officers voted on in the even years.

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTHS NEWSLETTER?

- Mark Your Calendar
- Things to do in NWPA - Scandinavian and otherwise
- News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9
- Benevolence
- For the Spring Brides - Brudkronan
- The Deadline for Scholarships is nearing

All current members in Svea will automatically receive our email Newsletters, as long as you have provided a current email address. Those who do not use the internet are sent a USPS copy.

OUR NEW MEMBER DATABASE SYSTEM WITH WILD APRICOT

Don't forget - Through Svea Lodge's Wild Apricot website, the members can access member-only pages, and perform self-service functions such as updating their membership profile, eventually renewing membership, and paying membership dues online.

In the meantime, if you haven't yet paid your dues, please do so with cash or a check payable to Svea Lodge #296 and sent to Martha. We still have a few of our members who need to renew.

Upcoming events:

February 6, 2023 – VASA Lunch (formerly known as VASA Breakfast)

- Butch's Restaurant, West 26th Street
- 11:30 AM

February 12, 2023 - Super Bowl - are you in a pool?

February 14, 2023 - Sweden 'Alla hjärtans dag': In Sweden, Valentine's Day is called 'alla hjärtans dag' which means 'all hearts day'. They have a love for sweet things and there is a lot of exchanging sweet pastries, candies and jelly hearts!

February 19, 2023 – Svea General Meeting 1:00 Luther Memorial Church

- We need 2 people to cover Fika!

Other Things to do in NWPA with your Svea friends:

Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture - February 21st - The Kingdom Choir is a British Gospel Choir performing at MIAC, 7:30PM at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. For more information visit miac.mercyhurst.edu or call 814-824-3000.

Jamestown Cultural Day on the first Saturday of the month – October – May. Food, wood carving, Hardanger embroidery, weaving, dancing are available from 9:45-noon at Jamestown Community College, Hamilton Collegiate Center.

News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9

Drott Lodge: Drott celebrated Santa Lucia on December 10th. Their tickets were all sold out!

Nobel Monitor: NM initiated 4 new members and reinstated 2 others! Way to build your community. They will hold their Pea Soup and Plattar Meal on 2/12.

PA DL #9: The District Officers were unable meet on January 25th, 2023 to discuss our new initiative Restart and Rebuild, an action plan to revitalize our 3 District 9 Lodges. The new websites for the lodges and District are the result of the forward thinking of the officers! We'll be anxious to meet soon.

Our Benevolence:

We are a Benevolent Society, making monetary contributions to valuable organizations, as well as, collecting tangible donations for local social service agencies.

We strive to honor our aged members with cards and phone calls to let them know we value them. Let Cheryl know if anyone needs a card or call.

From October through December we collected boxes of facial tissue – any sized box- large, square, and pocket sized. The tissues were gratefully accepted by St. Patrick's Haven, run by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Erie. With cold and flu season in the wind, hygiene is necessary and welcomed.



At our January meeting, we assembled 40 dinner bags for the folks taking shelter at St. John the Baptist overflow shelter. We received a lovely thank you note from Mary Ellen letting us know how much their guests appreciated having a choice of a sandwich. The dinner bags allow for a more comfortable rest.

The Brudkronan the Swedish wedding crown—in olden days a mandatory part of the bridal outfit in Sweden.

One of the ancient and revered cultural mementoes dating back to the Middle Ages in Sweden is the Bridal Wedding Crown worn for the marriage ceremony. In those early days, some sort of special head decoration was usually part of the bridal outfit. The Brudkronan was fashioned out of metals such as brass, gold or silver which may also have had some wreathes of myrtle. The crowns were richly ornamented with pearls, gems, and dangling trinkets. The diameter of the base of a typical crown was about 2 inches and flaring out to 3¼ inches and about 3¼ inches tall. They may have weighed more than 4 pounds. The crown was perched on the bride's head on top of the veil. A church requirement for wearing the crown was that the bride must be a virgin.



The tradition of wearing a crown started disappearing in the first decades of the 20th century but has seen a certain revival with the more elaborate, large weddings of late. The Vasa Order of America has several bridal crowns which it proudly lends to its brides. Many years ago, Dr. William

Borgstrom, a Vasa member in Stockholm, Sweden, donated 11 beautiful crowns to the Vasa Order.

District 9 has one of the Brudkronan given by Dr. Borgstrom. Any Drott, Nobel-Monitor, or Svea member may borrow it. Two of our recent Vasa brides from District 9 can be seen wearing our Bridal Wedding Crown in the photos.

For more information on Brudkronan, check out *The Nordstjerman* Spring 2019!



Scholarship Applications - the deadline is nearing:

The YOUTH APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO THE DISTRICT LODGE PA #9 SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN BY FEBRUARY 28, 2023.

Applications for the Grand Lodge Scholarship are available until 1/15/23.

Ädelmod, Sanning och Enighet
Generosity, Truth and Unity