



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

LOCAL LODGE SVEA #296

Instituted May 20, 1914

Erie, Pennsylvania

April 2023 News and Notes

Hälsningar!

Now is a great time to be a member of Vasa Order of America and Svea Lodge #296! Over the decades, fraternal organizations have shown a decline in membership; social trends change, people move around more, time is more constrained and other organizations compete for time and energy.

But, our motto – Ädelmod, Sanning, och Enighet – Generosity, Truth, and Unity still encourages us to follow the initial beliefs of our founders. We still strive to preserve the noble qualities of the Scandinavian people, unite men and women in the pursuit of happiness, assist one another, and have faith in one another.

Restart & Rebuild is the District 9 initiative that will carry Vasa Order of America, Svea Lodge #296 into the future stronger than ever. A Working Group has been formed within our District whose 3 main purposes will be to encourage new membership, retain present members, and build camaraderie among all three District Lodges – Svea, Nobel-Monitor, and Drott.

Stay tuned – we have great things coming.

In the meantime, keep checking our website for frequent updates and news about Svea Lodge and our activities. And if you haven't renewed your membership, we hope you will. If you have friends and family with some Scandinavian DNA, invite them to our next meeting. The more the merrier!

[Check out the Svea website](#)

In addition, if you click and sign-up below, and you don't already, you will receive the regular Svea Newsletter.

[Sign-up for the Svea Newsletter](#)

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTHS NEWSLETTER?

- Mark Your Calendar
- Things to do in NWPAA - Scandinavian and otherwise
- Our meeting in a nut shell
- News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9
- Benevolence - The Erie Humane Society March - May
- Glad Påsk

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.

Upcoming events:

April 3, 2023 – VASA Lunch (formerly known as VASA Breakfast)

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

April 9, 2023 - Glad Påsk!

April 16, 2023 – Svea General Meeting 1:00 Luther Memorial Church

- We'll play 3 rousing games of Bingo. The winners of the first two games will choose a prize from our Nordic Nook and the third game winner will win 1/2 of our take from selling Bingo sheets. This will be our last general meeting until September. You'll have to join in the fun at the Banquet, Midsommar, Ferrante's and Kraftskiva this summer.
- We will initiate our newest member, Ellie Supinski. Welcome Ellie!
- Bring in items for the Erie Humane Society; paper towels, cleaners, bleach, old towels/bedding, toys. Read Our Benevolence for more information.
- We will be voting on the Svea ByLaws.

Other Things to do in NWPAA with your Svea friends:

Community Class: Movement - Seiche Dance Collective *Wednesday, April 19, 5:30-6:30* Join Seiche company artists in a creative dance experience. Movement is a class for all adults, regardless of experience, ability, or mobility. Each class includes a warm up to get moving at your own level of comfort, and the opportunity to create art through movement together. All you need to bring is an open mind. \$12 per class or purchase a class pass of 5 for \$50 *Must register online in advance.* 1314 Griswold Plaza, Erie

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

Business News from our 3/19/23 Meeting:

At our meeting on Sunday, we accomplished a lot of business:

- We voted to accept Ellie Supinski into membership of Svea Lodge #296. She will be initiated in April. Welcome Ellie! We are so happy to have you with us.
- The membership decided that we would be more proactive with our finances. Lorraine and I signed papers for an 18 month CD at Erie Bank in the amount of \$10,000. Note: We were originally going to do a 9 month term but the rate was available only as an 18 month commitment. Since our \$\$ should be working for us, we decided to make it 18 months.
- Our Charter document looks wonderful. U Frame It did an excellent job restoring our Charter. It will be rededicated at our May Banquet. It has generated alot of excitement and interest. We are hoping to have representatives from the Grand Lodge and District at our Banquet to help us celebrate 109 years.
- .We are addressing our ByLaws again. Pat projected the Draft on the screen so everyone could review together the changes that we are proposing. Everyone was invited to see the ByLaws on the Members Only portion of the website and anyone who wants a paper copy can ask Pat for one. After everyone has had the opportunity to review the document, we will vote on the ByLaws at our April meeting. If approved, the document will be forwarded to the District Board for their approval.
- Lisa Davis asked if anyone was interested in having a Book Club, focusing on Swedish authors. Several members signed up. On May 5th, Lisa will host the group and discuss the book Animal Life by Audur Ava Olafsdottir. Then on June 23rd, we'll explore Stolen, by Ann-Helen Laestadius. Both books are available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Erie County Public Library (but presently checked out). More details later.
- Does anyone have any Swedish decor that they are looking to swap for something new? In the Fall, Svea members can bring in Swedish items they

would like to either part with or replace. Kind of like Swedish Death Cleaning - but we don't want to lose anyone! More details on that idea.

News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9

Drott Lodge: Karin Weeden was the adult recipient of the District Scholarship in 2022. She has a wonderful presentation on Swedish National Parks. It will be available to the other lodges sometime soon. They will be celebrating Walpurgis in April. Their transition to the Wild Apricot system is just about complete. Check out their website Drott-lodge.org!

Nobel Monitor: Their April dinner will be held along with the Vasa Club. The annual Memorial Service will be held in May. Vasa Voices, their Swedish choral group, will hold a spring concert May 21, led by their new director, Mary Ober.

PA DL #9: The Restart & Rebuild Committee met via Zoom on March 20, 2023 to discuss our new action plan to revitalize our 3 District #9 Lodges. A Working Group is being established to work on the activities and programs designed to increase membership, retain present members, and develop joint activities with the 3 lodges.

It won't be too early to start thinking about the District Convention that will be September 27-29, 2024 in the Cleveland area.

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.

The Erie Humane Society recently took in 130 cats from one residence. Many are sick and diseased and will need lots of care. The membership decided that March, April, and May would be our collection of items for them: paper towels, bleach, cleaners, old towels, toys. In addition, used medication containers, with your personal information removed, can be used to help dispense medicine to the animals. Please bring any of these items to the meetings with you. We'll be taking them intermittently to the Humane Society.

Glad Påsk! - Happy Easter!

*Great fun was had by all making
Påskris - Swedish Easter Trees*



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