



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

LOCAL LODGE SVEA #296

Instituted May 20, 1914

Erie, Pennsylvania

May 2023 News and Notes

Hälsningar!

Svea #296 is certainly on a roll! Since January we have initiated 4 new members and have 3 applications that have been approved. Our Year of Membership campaign is paying off, thanks to all of you who have reached out to family and friends, posted invitations on social media, and taken the time to be involved with our organization. The website has brought a vibrant way to keep in touch with each other and introduced new friends to us! We have two new friends from a sister Lodge #452 in Gothenberg, Sweden. Go figure - Lars has family in western NY and PA and checked out our website. He then shared our information with their Lodge Chair, Torsten. They probably won't be coming to any meetings but what a fun connection we have.

Our first Book Club will meet on May 17th at Lisa Davis' home. We are reading *Animal Life*, by Olafsdottir.

The Banquet promises to be EPIC - join the fun.

The Restart & Recruit Working Group is coming together and will be meeting via zoom May 9th. It has been formed within our District for 3 main purposes: to encourage new membership, retain present members, and build camaraderie among all three District Lodges – Svea, Nobel-Monitor, and Drott. Lisa and I will be representing Svea on the committee.

In the meantime, keep checking our website for frequent updates and news about Svea Lodge and our activities. If you have friends and family with some Scandinavian DNA, invite them to Midsommar. 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 NWPA - 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
- King Carl Gustav XVI is celebrating 50 years as King of Sweden. Do YOU know who is next in line?

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:

May 1, 2023 – VASA Lunch (formerly known as VASA Breakfast)

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

May 9, 2023 - The District 9, Restart & Recruit will Zoom at 7PM. Lisa and Pat are representing Svea.

May 17, 2023 - First Book Club at Lisa Davis'

May 21, 2023 - Our Banquet honoring 109 years of Svea Lodge #296

[Banquet invite 5-23.docx](#) click to download a copy of the invitation.

Other Things to do in NWPAA with your Svea friends:

Erie Zoo - May 20th, 10AM-2PM It's time to party for the oceans, the wildlife, and the whole wild world! It's Party for the Planet, where you can join the Erie Zoo and the Association of Zoos and Aquarium (AZA) in celebrating our earth and all who inhabit it! This event honors Earth Day, World Oceans Day, and Endangered Species Day.

This year the Erie Zoo will be partying with local environmental organizations: Asbury Woods, Presque Isle State Park, newBin, TREX, Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF), and the Purple Martin Conservation Association who will all have booths throughout the zoo! The Erie Zoo will also have booths where you can learn about endangered animals at the Erie Zoo, how composting works, and local recycling efforts! You can even buy your very own pepper and tomato plants for a small cash donation that were grown here at the Erie Zoo (perfect time to start your garden)!

This event is included for free with the price of admission or with an Erie Zoo membership. The event will go on rain or shine.

Jamestown Cultural Day on the first Saturday of the month – October – May. Cultural Days are coming to a close May 6th. Food, wood carving, Hardanger embroidery, weaving, dancing are available from 9:45-noon at Jamestown Community College, Hamilton Collegiate Center.

Business News from our 4/16/23 Meeting:

At our meeting on Sunday::

- We welcomed a guest, Ralph Erickson. Ralph is Ellie Supinski's father. Ellie was initiated into our Lodge. We are so happy to have her join us. She was thrilled, as we all were, to find her grandfather's name in our membership book.
- We voted to accept two new applications from Sarah and Karen, friends of Lisa. These ladies are from Wisconsin and Louisiana! They are also a fair distance from Erie but they are interested in their Scandinavian roots and don't have any other organization to connect to.
- We voted to approve the Svea By Laws. The document will be forwarded to the District for their approval.
- The Banquet is May 21st. Registration forms were passed out. You can register **BY MAY 14th**, either by sending the registration form to Martha, calling Pat, Martha, or Cheryl, or clicking the Register button on the website Events tab for the Banquet. We will be rededicating our 109 year old Charter, everybody in attendance will sign as members for another 109 years!
- Swedish birthday cards are available - one person signed up each month to be responsible for mailing them to the respective birthday person.
- Our new Book Club will be reading *Animal Life* by Olafsdottir. First meeting is at Lisa's house 5/17 6PM

- Thank you to Sarah and Cathy for Fika!
- BINGO! We played several games of Bingo using the ancient, twirling Bingo Cage found at the back of our Svea cupboard! Prizes were given for the first 4 games. Frank was the big winner of \$24 for the coverall. He generously donated the money back!

News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9

Drott Lodge: They are hosting Swedish author, Maria Bouroncle to learn more about her book *It Came to Me on a Whim*.

Nobel Monitor: The annual Memorial Service will be held June 4th along with a concert by Vasa Voices, their Swedish choral group and led by their new director, Mary Ober. We hope to see some of our Nobel Monitor friends at our banquet in May.

PA DL #9: The Working Group has been established to work on the activities and programs designed to increase membership, retain present members, and develop joint activities with the 3 lodges. Pat and Lisa will represent Svea.

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. The last day to bring in items will be at the May banquet.



2023

GOLDEN JUBILEE

King Carl Gustaf XVI has been King of Sweden for
50 years!

Daughter, Victoria, is the Crown Princess.

Ädelmod, Sanning och Enighet
Generosity, Truth and Unity