



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

LOCAL LODGE SVEA #296

Instituted May 20, 1914

Erie, Pennsylvania

July 2023 News and Notes

Hälsningar!

New Members! Welcome Karen and Sarah, we are so pleased that you have joined Vasa Order of America. Although our two new members live in other states, Wisconsin and Louisiana, we are hoping that membership will be valuable to them both. Who knows maybe it will start an interest in their respective areas and some new Lodges will develop. In the meantime, enjoy the Nordstjernen, our newsletters and website, scholarship opportunities, and the camaraderie of some great Scandinavian friends!

Enjoy your 4th of July celebrations honoring our nation's independence! Picnics are always a great way to enjoy good food and company. Be safe around any fireworks!

Karin Weeden from Drott Lodge #168, has shared her trip to Sweden's National Forests, compliments of our District #9 Adult Scholarship program. The beautiful photos and a synopsis of her trip can be viewed on our website's home page.

We seem to be appealing to long distance friends. Lars Andersson of Gothenburg, Sweden continues to share the activities and ideas from our sister Lodge Goteborg #452! Recently, they had their District banquet. This photo shows John Hanright, Grand Lodge Master, holding the book, *Gothenburg 400*. Tore Kellgren brought the book back to the US and mailed it to us as a gift from our Sister Lodge Goteborg #452. It is a gorgeous, illustrated 400 year

history of the city of Gothenburg. So many of the Swedish immigrants came to America starting their journey out of Gothenburg. More photos of Goteborg #452 are shared on our website. Check it out! Heartfelt thanks to our brothers and sisters of Goteborg #452, your gift will be cherished by our Svea Lodge #296 for many years.



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTHS NEWSLETTER?

- Mark Your Calendar
- Things to do in NWPA - Scandinavian and otherwise
- Bokklubb - Stolen
- News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9
- Benevolence - Swedish Death Cleaning - minus the death part.

Upcoming events:

July 15-16, 2023 - Jamestown Scandinavian Festival at the Northwest Arena in Jamestown, NY.

August 7, 2023 – VASA Lunch (formerly known as VASA Breakfast). Note there was no breakfast in July, due to the 4th of July holiday.

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

Other Things to do in NWPA with your Svea friends:

Wellness Wednesdays - Sunrise Yoga - from 6-7AM at Dobbins Landing

Kickball League - Flagship City Sports & Sips - 5-9PM every Friday at Perry Square, Downtown Erie

Sunset Concert Series at Highmark Amphitheatre Liberty Park - July 18th @ 6:30PM

LOOKING AHEAD:

2023 Mt. Jewett Swedish Festival - August 11-13 - Mt. Jewett, PA

Book Club - Bokklubb - Stolen is our present read.

Unfortunately, our Book Club, scheduled for June 25th had to be postponed due to the health concerns of our hostess, Lisa Davis. Lisa is home recovering, slowly but surely. As soon as it is feasible, we will reschedule and keep you posted. It is a great read, one that you'll be glad you read.

I'm pleased to say that those of us who participated in *Animal Life* enjoyed our time together and are coming up with ideas on what to read after *Stolen!*

News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9

Drott Lodge: Members celebrated Midsommar on June 24th along with members of the ASA, SWEA, and the Finlandia Foundation at Carderock Park, Md. In September they will host a welcome back meeting and dinner with a program on Viking Longboats.

Nobel Monitor: Vasa Voices, the choral group, is busy getting ready for their performances at the Jamestown Scandinavian Festival. It's a quick ride down I-86 to Jamestown and we can easily support our brothers and sisters. Want to car pool? Find a Svea friend and head north.

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. The District Board is considering several venue options for the Convention.

Svea's By-Laws have been presented to the District Board. Rolf Bergman and Bruce Elfvin will review them to make sure that we have followed Grand Lodge guidelines.



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.

In September, we will host a Lodge Swedish Death Cleaning - minus the death part. If you have Swedish items that you would like to see go to a new home, would like to swap some Scandinavian items to give your Christmas decorations a refresh, or you are new to the group and would like to start collecting tomte, come to our meeting on September 17th. Any items left over will be donated to a local charity.

Ädelmod, Sanning och Enighet

Generosity, Truth and Unity