



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

LOCAL LODGE SVEA #296

Instituted May 20, 1914

Erie, Pennsylvania

October 2023 News and Notes

Hälsningar!

Another new member! At the September meeting we voted to accept Rev. David Hills to Svea #296! He will be initiated at the October meeting. I hope you'll all attend the meeting to give Rev. Hills a hearty Valkommen!

Congratulations to Drott Lodge Members Arne and Eva Dunhem! They completed the arduous pilgrimage Camino de Santiago. The *Camino de Santiago* or the Way of St. James, is a network of pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the apostle James in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain where tradition holds that the remains of the apostle are buried. During their 30 day hike, Arne and Eva, covered over 100 kilometers and finished at Finisterrre, "The End Of The World". That is the coast of the Atlantic Ocean where people believed the world ended, until Christopher Columbus showed up. We are so proud of our friends for their stamina and hard work! There will be photos to share soon.

Fall is the start of a very busy holiday season. There are lots of activities coming up: initiation of our new member, voting of officers, membership renewals, and of course, Lucia! Normally, we would have our Memorial Service in November. But, I'm happy to say everyone has stayed healthy and above ground! Let's keep it that way.

Be thinking about who in your family might benefit from the scholarship programs - adult or youth. Applications and information will be available on the website or see one of the officers at our meetings.

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTHS NEWSLETTER?

- Mark Your Calendar

- Things to do in NWPA - Scandinavian and otherwise
 - Our meeting in a nutshell
 - Bokklubb - Stolen
 - News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9
 - Benevolence - Holy Trinity Center needs trial sized shampoo and body wash
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Upcoming events:

October 2, 2023 – VASA Lunch (formerly known as VASA Breakfast).

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

October 9, 2023 - Leif Erickson Day at Shooter's on the Water with our friends from Nobel-Monitor.

October 15, 2023 - General Meeting

November 6 - VASA Lunch

November 19, 2023 - General Meeting

Other Things to do in NWPA with your Svea friends:

October 14-15 & 21-22 Peek n Peak Fall Fest, Clymer, NY

October 21, 2024 6:30-9:30PM - Maritime Mayhem: Dead Man Floating - murder mystery dinner theatre at Madeline's Restaurant in Cranesville, PA \$45

October 25, 2024 7:30PM Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture - Alan Cumming & Ari Shapiro - Och & Oy! A Considered Cabaret.

At our September 17th meeting:

- We voted on our newest member, Rev. David Hills. With no opposition, we will initiate Rev. Hills at our October 15th meeting! Welcome! That makes 47 members.
- We draped the Charter for our former member, Doris Forbes.
- Our checking account balance is \$434.34, we have over \$9K in savings and a CD with \$10K! It looks like we are doing fairly well. However, the District Convention is in September 2024 and we will need to decide what to do about funding our new website in 2025. North West is now charging to mail statements. We can get them on line for free if we sign up to get digital information.

- Gary proposed a few Svea members join him in a Scandinavian presentation to the Torch Club in December. This sounds like a great way to promote our Lodge.
- Cheryl is calling present Svea Officers to see if they are willing to serve another term. Some officers will be voted on in November for a one year term and some for two years - as we decided to stagger the officers' terms last year.
- Our Benevolence for the next two months will be trial sized shampoo and body wash for Holy Trinity Center.
- All Hands On Deck for Lucia this year. Lynnette is asking more members to help out learning how the Lucia Pageant comes together!
- Several members brought in Swedish items to share for our Swedish Death Cleaning Event. Swedish Death Cleaning is a life style of decluttering and simplicity! It actually did feel pretty good to repurpose, reuse, and recycle.

Book Club - Bokklubb -

I wonder if there is a book on Swedish germs - that seems to be what plagues our Bokklubb. Once again, illness has dampened our efforts to gather together! However, we will not be deterred and the Bokklubb will resume soon! In fact, we will be discussing 2 books - *Stolen* (that we've been working on for a bit) and a new literary endeavor suggested by Karen - *Astrid & Veronika* by Linda Olsson.

News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9

Drott Lodge: Genealogy Conference - Join VASA Drott Lodge #168 on Saturday, November 11, 2023 for a day of research at its Virtual Swedish Genealogy Conference. Four presenters are all experts in the field of Swedish genealogy. More information is on their website. The Grand Lodge has supplied grant money so that any Vasa member may participate at the \$35 rate.

Nobel Monitor: Svea and Friends are cordially invited to join Nobel-Monitor and the Cleveland Scandinavian community to celebrate Leif Erickson Day at Shooter's on the Water. There will be car pooling on October 9th. It is an on your own lunch event.

PA DL #9: The Working Group is putting together ideas that the 3 lodges can do together. One idea is a Zoom program on Lucky Strike; the WWII initiative that put American soldiers in Swedish war camps. It's not what you might think!

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; Geneva State Park, Punderson State Park and Quail Hollow Inn.

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.

Next District Zoom is 10/4/23 at 6:30.

Our Benevolence:

At our September meeting we decided that our next benevolence project would be Holy Trinity Center. They are opening up a free laundromat and shower facilities for their neighborhood at 17th & Walnut. Appointments will be necessary. Neighbors who do not have a home or stable living situation may use the showers and will be given clean clothing to change into. Holy Trinity is asking for trial sized shampoo and body wash so that each person will have their own personal toiletries. We will be collecting those 2 items for the next couple of meetings. Holy Trinity will supply the towels and washcloths.

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.

Lisa Davis supplied Swedish birthday cards. Members have volunteered to send the cards during the month to those celebrating another year around the sun!

Ädelmod, Sanning och Enighet
Generosity, Truth and Unity