



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

LOCAL LODGE SVEA #296

Instituted May 20, 1914

Erie, Pennsylvania

August 2023 News and Notes

Hälsningar!

Time sure flies when you're having fun! It's hard to believe that we're heading into August already. I hope you have had a great summer so far filled with family and friends.

There are still plenty of upcoming events to enjoy. If you want to do some traveling, check out the websites for Drott Lodge and Nobel-Monitor Lodge. They have some wonderful opportunities to gather and learn. Of course, everyone is anxiously awaiting Kraftskiva at Lorraine's. How many are going to be adventurous and actually eat the crayfish? Bring a dish to share, a chair, and your beverages. Please register/RSVP so Lorraine knows how many to plan for.

Before you know it, we'll be planning for Svea activities for 2024. Do you have some ideas to share, programs you'd like to see, places we could visit? Our new website has given light to so many new people and places to include in Svea - what's your idea?

See you at the Crayfish Party!

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S 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.
- Chooser of the Slain

Upcoming events:

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

August 11-13 - Mount Jewett Swedish Festival. Check out their Facebook page for lots of good information about their activities.

August 12 - Kraftskiva at Lorraine Johnson's home in Waterford. Bring a chair, a dish to share and your beverage. Get your throwing arms ready as we'll have some rousing games of Kubb and Molkky. Make sure you RSVP so Lorraine knows how many to plan for.

September 4 - Labor Day holiday, there will be no Vasa Lunch at Butch's.

September 17 - Our first general meeting back at Luther Memorial 1:pm. Karen and Donna have Fika.

Other Things to do in NWPA with your Svea friends:

Comedy Cruise - Victorian Princess - August 29th 7-9PM

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

8 Great Tuesdays Concert Series at Highmark Amphitheatre Liberty Park - each Tuesday through August @ 6:30PM

Book Club - Bokklubb - Stolen is our present read.

Bokklubb has been rescheduled for September 29th at Lisa's house, 6PM. Lisa is confident she will be ready to host the discussion of *Stolen*. It's a great read, you'll be glad you did!

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: Ride the Longship - Sea Raven October 14, 2023 (Rain date 21st). The ship is an authentic reconstruction of a Viking-era vessel.

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.

Nobel Monitor: Svea and Friends are cordially invited to join Nobel-Monitor on August 16th for a 2 hour buffet lunch cruise on Lake Erie on the Good Time III, Cleveland, Ohio. Boarding begins at 10:30 with lunch at 11:AM. The dock area is across from the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame. The cost is \$30.

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.

Next District Zoom is 9/13/23 at 6:30.

Our Benevolence:

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 returned to the owner or donated to a local charity.

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 Norse mythology, a **Valkyrie**, (“Chooser of the Slain”) is one of a host of female figures who guide souls of the dead to the god Odin’s hall, named Valhalla. There, the deceased warriors become einherjar (single/or once) fighters. When the einherjar are not preparing for the events of **Ragnarök**, the Valkyrie bear them mead, a beverage of fermented honey. The Valkyries are usually depicted as beautiful maidens riding on horses through the skies over the battlefield. With shrieking cries they swoop down and take their pick of fallen men. They bear the bodies to Valhalla to spend eternity with Odin, waiting Ragnarök. Valkyries also appear as lovers of heroes and other mortals, where they are sometimes

described as the daughters of royalty. They are sometimes accompanied by ravens and sometimes connected to swans.

Ragnarök is a foretold series of impending events, including a great battle in which numerous great Norse mythological figures; the gods Odin, Thor, Týr, Freyr, Heimdall, and Loki, will perish. Ragnarök will entail a catastrophic series of natural disasters, including the burning of the world, and culminate in the submersion of the world underwater. After these events, the world will rise again, cleansed and fertile, the surviving and returning gods will meet, and the world will be repopulated by two human survivors, Líf and Lífþrasir.

From: Wikipedia and Lifeinnorway.net



Jamestown Scandinavian Festival 2023!



Ädelmod, Sanning och Enighet
Generosity, Truth and Unity