



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

LOCAL LODGE SVEA #296

Instituted May 20, 1914

Erie, Pennsylvania

September 2023 News and Notes

Hälsningar!

The tree across the street is turning red already! I love the fall colors but it also announces Old Man Winter. Thinking about it though - we don't have hurricanes, floods, drought, and 115 degree temperatures. At least in NWPA, we know what's coming and have plenty of time to prepare.

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.

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?

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:

October 2, 2023 – VASA Lunch (formerly known as VASA Breakfast). Note there is no breakfast in September due to the Labor Day holiday.

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

September 17 - Our first general meeting back at Luther Memorial 1:pm. Bring your previously enjoyed Swedish decor to trade or donate to other members. A great way to refresh your home for the holidays. We'll learn a bit about Swedish Death Cleaning - minus the death part.

September 29th - Bokklubb, *Stolen*, 6PM at Karen's house. Please note the change in venue. The Davis's have had more than their fair share of doctors lately so Karen has graciously agreed to take Bokklubb this month. There will be a sign up sheet at the September meeting.

Looking ahead - October 9, 2023 - Leif Erickson Day in Cleveland at Shooter's on the Water. There will be car pooling. There will be a sign up sheet at the September meeting.

Other Things to do in NWPA with your Svea friends:

Bayfront Maritime Center's 11th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta - September 16, 9AM-5PM. Great fun for all ages, build a boat or watch the fun! Get a team together to create your best cardboard boat made of only corrugated cardboard and sealed with any of the following: tape, caulk, glue, latex paint, or varnish. Teams will compete in races, two by two, and vie for the Fastest Time trophy in four divisions – Children (under 12), Teen (13-18), Adult (19 and up), and Mixed Ages. There are also judge's awards for Most Creative and Most Dramatic Sinking!

Asbury Woods - Drop In & Discover - Looking for something wild to do? Stop in each Saturday from 1-2PM to discover something new about the natural world. Each week, Asbury Woods will offer a new experience that could include an animal meet-and-greet, a science experiment, a nature art project, a guided hike, and more.

Book Club - Bokklubb - Stolen is our present read.

Our Booklubb has been rescheduled for September 29th 6PM at Karen's house. You must register though so Karen knows how many to plan for. You can contact her directly, call Pat or sign up at the meeting.

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!* Lisa suggests from Scandinavian House - *Reykjavik: A Crime Story* by Katrin Jakobsdottir or *The Liar* by Martin Hansen.

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 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 a 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:

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.



Kräftskiva



2023

Ädelmod, Sanning och Enighet
Generosity, Truth and Unity