



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT No. 9

Distrikt Tidningen

Spring Newsletter 2024

DEAR DIRECT MEMBERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!

HAPPY SPRING! Glad Påsk!

We are so proud of Eva and Arne Dunhem for completing the 750 mile El Camino walk. Check out the District #9 website for their footnotes and photos of this arduous journey. Congratulations - talk about some strong Swedes!

Hopefully, everyone has been receiving their copies of The Nordstjernen. Without our Nordic magazine, how would we ever know about the Day of the Banana on March 4th? If you haven't been receiving your 4 publications, please let Pat Bellingham know!

Please make sure you are following the progress of DL#9's ReEnergize and ReBuild initiative. We are doing great things for our Lodges and Vasa

membership as a whole. Scroll down to read a synopsis of what has been accomplished so far.

Keep checking the website for updates and news about PA District #9, its Local Lodges; Nobel-Monitor, Drott Lodge and Svea Lodge and their activities. Each local lodge also has a website that can give more detailed information about their Lodge. There are lots of Scandinavian things to check out on the web these days!

Check out our website by clicking here:

[Check out our District #9 website](#)

What's in the Spring newsletter?

- Mark Your Calendar
- News from the 3 Lodges
- The latest District Board Meeting
- Update from the ReEnergize & ReBuild committee

All current Direct Members, Board Members and others related to District #9 will automatically receive our email Newsletters, as long as you have provided a current email address.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11, 2024 - District Executive Board meeting Zoom 6:30PM

March 13, 2024 - ReEnergize & ReBuild Zoom 6:30PM

April 8, 2024 - Total Eclipse of the Sun - Erie, PA is in the Path of Totality!

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2024 - The District Convention Will be held at the Geneva Convention Center in Geneva, Ohio.

NEWS FROM THE 3 LODGES

Drott #168 - Drott elected and installed their 2024 Officers. Arne Dunhem has been named Chair. They had a busy holiday season with Lucia and the Holiday Bazaar.

Nobel-Monitor #130 - Nobel-Monitor as well elected and installed their 2024 Officers. Lucia was presented along with Vasa Voices and the Swedish Cultural Society. Marianne Gotrich remains their Chair for 2024.

Svea #296 - Finally, the Svea By-Laws have been accepted. It was a long process but that bit of business is done. Svea will be having their first ever Walpurgis celebration on April 30th. They are collaborating with the Danish Club in Erie at their property, Sommerlyst. Pat Bellingham remains the Chair of Svea.

UPDATE FROM THE 11-1-23 DISTRICT 9 BOARD MEETING

The applications, youth and adult, for the District are due to Marit Knollmueller by March 16th.

Our next biggest item is the 2024 Convention, September 27, 28, 29, 2024. Mark your calendars and save the dates! Hopefully, the registration and payment will be accomplished via our website. You'll be given plenty of time to make your reservation! We are hoping for epic numbers of participants in the beautiful setting - Geneva on the Lake, in the heart of Eastern Ohio wine country. There are wonderful things to report and build on at the Convention - see below the Update from ReEnergize & ReBuild.

If you have any ideas for cultural programs that would be beneficial, interesting and fun, please contact any board member with your suggestions. We want the Convention to be a worthwhile part of your Vasa membership!

UPDATE FROM THE ReENERGIZE & ReBUILD COMMITTEE

A survey was sent out by Svea through the Wild Apricot website. Unfortunately, it only went to members of Svea but not to any of the other contacts. Each Lodge continues to put ideas together to reach out to various groups - prospective members, new members, exiting members, surveys after an event.

We have recently subscribed to QR Tiger so that we can use QR codes to put out our website to the community. Svea has made business cards with Lodge

contact information and the QR code. It's a great, smaller option than a large brochure packet.

Our websites are up and running. Now we need to know how well they are doing promoting our organization. Arne Dunhem is starting to set up Google Analytics for all the websites. This is a powerful marketing tool that will tell us how many people (new and repeat) visit the website, how long they stay engaged, how they got to the website; through a search engine (organic search) or typing in the web address (direct search), where in the world they are reaching out from, which tabs are visited most often, what devices are people using to access the website. This is only a short list of things GA is capable of, it will take awhile to fully appreciate what this tool can do. Reporting is done in real time.

Lucky Strike was the first cooperative program through District 9. Lucky Strike was a World War II initiative between Sweden and America soldiers who were POW's detained in Sweden. It was held via Zoom on February 17th at 3PM. Approximately 25 people participated. We had some technical glitches with the film preview but the information shared by Bob Dyer and Arne Dunhem was so interesting and certainly made up for the glitch. If you are interested in viewing the power point, please let Pat Bellingham, Secretary, know. The film may be purchased from Mr. Jan Mark jan.mark@telia.com.

It's an exciting time to be a member of Vasa Order of America!

Ädelmod, Sanning och Enighet
Generosity, Truth and Unity