



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT No. 9

Distrikt Tidnigen

Spring Newsletter 2023

DEAR DIRECT MEMBERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!

Our newsletter format and website are definitely a work in progress! There have been a few corrections, additions and better ideas incorporated into our web presence so that we can reach as many Scandinavians as possible. It's been an interesting and fun process, one that I hope you will continue to share with family and friends.

Check out our new website by clicking here:

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

We are all excited about this development. Our website describes more about Vasa, our District #9 and our Local Lodges, about our history and our ongoing activities.

Keep checking the website for updates and news about the 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!

In addition, if you click and sign-up below, if you are not already, you will receive the regular District #9 Newsletter.

[Sign-up for the District #9 Newsletter](#)

What's in the Spring newsletter?

- Mark Your Calendar
- News from the 3 Lodges
- The latest District Board Meeting
- Think Spring!

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

JUNE 7, 2023 - District #9 Board Meeting via Zoom @ 6:30PM we will be discussing:

- Our new initiative: Restart & Rebuild, now including the Working Group
- The new websites
- Updating the By Laws
- Preliminary thoughts for the 2024 Convention

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2024 - The District Convention We will keep you informed in plenty of time to attend. Cleveland's Nobel-Monitor Lodge is slated to host the Convention. If you've ever wanted to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, see a Brown's game, or go the the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, now is the time to start planning! All are welcome to attend, we are stronger together!

NEWS FROM THE 3 LODGES

Drott #168 - Drott is having good programs so far this year; political parties of Sweden, the movie Man Called Ove. Karin Weeden shared her scholarship program on National Parks in Sweden. Her presentation will be available to other lodges. Their Pea Soup and Plattar was nicely attended. Coming up - Swedish weaving, Walpurgis are just a couple of activities scheduled for the next few

weeks. The transition from Member Planet, their initial web platform, to Wild Apricot is about complete.

Nobel-Monitor #130 - Nobel-Monitor initiated 4 new members and reinstated 2 former members. Their April dinner will be with the Vasa Club in Cleveland. Vasa Voices, their choral group will hold a spring concert, lead by their new director, Mary Ober. Every week the group meets for breakfast at Bob Evans. Leyla Wilk, granddaughter of Karen Chilcote, NM member, is the recipient of the 2023 youth scholarship to Sjölund, the Swedish language camp, Concordia Languages Village in Minnesota. Congratulations Leyla!

Svea #296 - Svea has initiated 3 new members and have applications for 2 more. They continue their community benevolence - putting the Human Trafficking Hotline number on hotel sized bars of soap that will be distributed by the SOAP Project - Saving Our Adolescents from Prostitution. They are collecting items for the Erie Humane Society - the shelter recently took in 130 cats from a local residence. In March the group made Swedish Easter Trees. Svea is starting a book club focusing on Swedish authors. Their first book will be Animal Life by [Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir](#).

UPDATE FROM THE 3-22-23 DISTRICT 9 BOARD MEETING - A task force was formed and a 16 page *Restart & Rebuild Action Plan* was developed by Arne Dunhem. Over several months, the Plan has been edited and discussed. The task force has recommended to pay for 1 District website and 3 lodge websites through Wild Apricot. An email vote of the Executive Board was taken to approve the expenditure. It was approved. The task force made the following recommendation:

This Task Force Group for Restart and Rebuild recommends to the DL#9 Board that a Working Group be established to carry out activities and programs along the lines suggested in the Document, *Restart & Rebuild Action Plan*, with the following guidelines:

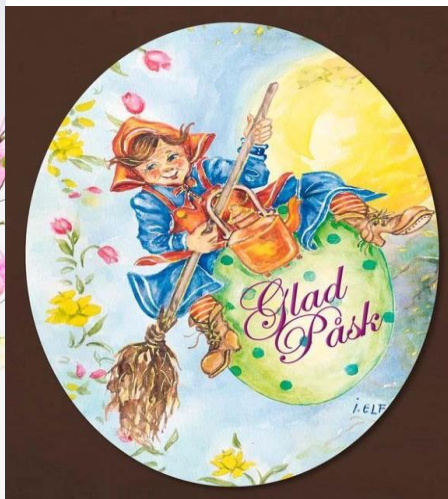
- The Working Group will consist of 2 people from each lodge, one being the Chair. Svea - Pat Bellingham and Lisa Davis NM - Marianne Gotrich and member to be invited Drott - Kathy Olson and member to be invited.
- And 3 executive board members - Bo Carlsson, Arne Dunhem, Rolf Bergman
- The Working Group will use Zoom for some meetings and will then decide what collaborating programs best suit the Group's needs
- The Action Plan can be amended as needed by the working Group.

Since the recommendation was brought forward by committee no second was needed. Board members received a copy of the Plan ahead of time. Rolf has since made comments to the Plan and will be incorporated into the working document. The Board accepted the Plan unanimously. Thank you to Arne for his hard work getting this together. Bo and Jason Mullinax were instrumental in getting

this off the ground. The websites are a definite catalyst for interest in VASA. Arne will be chairman of the Working Group. Pat will take care of secretarial duties.

Glad Påsk! - Happy Easter!

Påskris - Swedish Easter Trees



Ädelmod, Sanning, och Enighet

Generosity, Truth, and Unity