



Drott Lodge Newsletter

April 3, 2024

WELCOME

Welcome to the Drott Lodge April 2024 Newsletter. The Newsletter looks somewhat different, but it actually has more information compared to previous Newsletters. We have clickable links with a button saying **Read more**. Try them all and read the more detailed descriptions, articles, stories or pictures. It looks great on a Smartphone (iPhone or Android).

At the end of the Newsletter there is a section asking for your feedback and your thoughts about the Newsletter. Please review and respond to the survey.

Thank you from your Newsletter Editors Emma Hedman and Arne Dunhem

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

With this Newsletter, Drott Lodge is launching a new format of the Newsletter. Check out all the clickable links. Please review and provide your comments and thoughts about it. There is a member survey at the end of the Newsletter.

We had a wonderful Pea Soup Dinner at our March 10th meeting and we “set sail” on the historic Swedish American Line from Gothenburg to New York. Margaret

Schueman and Anita Lundgren and others shared their memorable experiences, having sailed on these famous Swedish ships. A lot of thanks to Margaret and Anita for your stories.

Also a lot of thanks for the Pea Soup organizers and food makers for the event to include among others Julie, Linda and Peter Olson, Eric Bosavage, Eva Dunhem, Dancia Langebeck, Larilyn Andre, Susan Remmert, Carol Whitley, Linda Cline, and many others.

A reminder that we will have a Zoom Online Tutorial about our Wild Apricot, our membership system and the website on April 14, 2024 4 pm - 5 pm.

Our next big event will be the Valborg or Walpurgis celebration on April 27th with a real bonfire. More information below in this newsletter. Please register and come, bring your family and friends along.

Finally, I encourage all members to be active and volunteer with the various activities that we have during the year. Arne Dunhem, Chairman Drott Lodge

UP NEXT FOR APRIL!



Wild Apricot Tutorial on Zoom on Sunday, 14 April, 4 pm - 5 pm. We will host this session through Zoom (link will be distributed upon registration).

Drott Lodge began using Wild Apricot as our membership management system in 2023. There are an array of opportunities for members to utilize our website - and our experts will demonstrate how to navigate the system. We know transitioning to a new platform and website can be tricky - and we want everyone to be comfortable with using this powerful tool! [Read more and register for the Wild Apricot Tutorial on Zoom](#)

Walpurgis Night - Valborgsmässoafton will be held at Normans Farm in Woodbine, MD. Saturday April 27th at 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm. It is Hosted by Drott Lodge, the American Scandinavian Association, and SWEA DC. Come on out and celebrate this traditional Swedish event with families and friends. This is the third year that we are at this location in Maryland, a beautiful farm with plenty of parking. Fingers crossed that the weather will cooperate. Bring your friends and family. More information and registration here: [Read more and register for the 2024 Valborg.](#)

EVENTS FOR MAY AND JUNE

Traditional Dala Horse Painting, Business Meeting and Draping of the Charter May 19, 2024, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM @ St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 101701 Old Georgetown Rd, North Bethesda, MD. This May, join Drott for traditional Dala Horse painting, led by instructor Tina Keune. We'll apply primer while enjoying Fika and then begin painting a traditional Swedish design, or something unique and modern. We will hold our May business meeting with draping of the Charter in recognition of members that have passed.

Registration required. Cost will cover the cost of materials. See more information here: [Read more about Drott Lodge Meeting May 19, 2024.](#)



Midsommar Joint Celebration June 23, 2024, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Carderock Park, Potomac, MD. Hosted by Drott Lodge, ASA, SWEA DC, and Finlandia Foundation NCC. All are invited to our 59th annual Midsommar - come help decorate and raise the Maypole! Join us for children's Games, Live Music and Ring Dances around the Maypole. Bring greens and flowers to decorate the Maypole! Bring your own picnic! [Read more about the 2024 Midsommar and registration](#). You can download the Midsommar Flyer by clicking here: [2024-Midsommar Flyer](#)

**[READ MORE ABOUT THE DROTT LODGE FULL YEAR 2024
EVENT CALENDAR HERE.](#)**





SAVE THE DATE – OUR BIANNUAL VASA PENNSYLVANIA #9 CONVENTION

Members, it's time again for our 60th biannual Vasa Pennsylvania District 9 Convention! This year's convention will be held over the weekend September 27 – 29, 2024.

We will be meeting in the beautiful Geneva Lodge & Conference Center, at Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio. It boasts breathtaking views with its location on the southern shore of Lake Erie, near Geneva State Park in the heart of the Ohio Wine Country. What began as the Buckeye State's first summer resort town is now a four-season star among vacation destinations. Geneva-on-the-Lake is set in Northeast Ohio's most attractive countryside. This amazing lodge even has a zipline adventure park and yoga onsite.

We need about 6 delegates from Drott Lodge this year! (Hotel and mileage will be reimbursed).

This is truly an amazing opportunity to get to know more about the larger Vasa Organization, meet members of our sister lodges, and help play a part in the direction of Vasa moving into the future. Please reach out to **Julie Olson** at Julie.Lynn.Olson@gmail.com if you might be interested. (I attended the District convention my very first year as a member - and it was amazing!).

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



With this new section in our Newsletter, we would like to highlight one or two members, sharing their achievements, contributions, or involvement in Drott Lodge's activities. May we suggest that members write a story about something that they would like to share with us all.

At our March 10th meeting, we welcomed and initiated seven new members: (from left to right in the picture above) Karen Sundquist, Benjamin Crull, Laurie Crull, Jeremy Crull, Melanie Taylor, Emma Vaughn and Bjorn Lensander. Please let us all wish them welcome to Drott Lodge.

The member story for this Newsletter is about Arne and Eva Dunhem's special adventure – hiking the Camino de Santiago, the pilgrim trail in Northern Spain. The story is written by Pat Bellingham of our sister lodge Swea in Erie, PA. Arne and Eva hiked about 350 miles in September - October 2023. Pat describes the history of Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile long hiking trail in Northern Spain starting in Southern France. She describes why many pilgrims have hiked this trail for over 1,000 years. You can read about it and see pictures from their hike by clicking on the link here: **[Hike of A Life Time - Arne and Eva Dunhem](#)**

NEWS AND UPDATES

Under this section, we will include special news or updates, particularly from our lodge. However, this time we will highlight another big story since we have so many ABBA Fans in our lodge.

ABBA WILL BE RECEIVING THE ROYAL ORDER OF VASA. For the first time in almost 50 years, Royal Orders for exceptional members of the Swedish public have been awarded to all the members of ABBA. For the full press release and to read more please [visit this page](#) (text in Swedish).



Foto of Vasa Order: Markku Koivumäki/Studio Kamera-Boden

Agnetha Fältskog, Björn Ulvæus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Reuss are all being awarded the Royal Order of Vasa as “Commander of the First Class” during a ceremony in May, 2024. The order has been given to all four members for their “longevity and successful engagement within the performing arts”.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

Here some pictures from the Pea Soup Dinner: The Joann Moretti Family, Foxtrot Dancing lessons, Kids Corner and Pea Soup Decorations with Flags.





You can see more pictures from the **Pea Soup Dinner** [here](#).

SOME SCANDINAVIAN ACTIVITIES IN OUR AREA

There are so many Scandinavian activities happening in our area. Under this section, we will highlight some of them. You will find a more complete listing and description

of the activities by clicking here: [Read more about current Scandinavian activities in our area.](#)

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

We need Volunteers! Drott Lodge is built by and with volunteers and grow with its volunteers. We need 4 volunteers to be part of the Valborg organization. Please contact Julie Olson, at Julie.Lynn.Olson@gmail.com.

Some Drott Lodge Members have formed The Swedish American Plogging Group. The group has a lot of fun when volunteering and being out walking and cleaning up some trash along a 1.5-mile section of the W&OD Trail starting in Vienna, VA. You may also join the group as a volunteer. Contact Arne Dunhem, adunhem@gmail.com.

Next outing is tentatively April 20th. **Read more about it here.**

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2024

Many of you have already made payment of the 2024 dues. However, some of you may have received one or two email reminders about your 2024 membership dues. Regular annual membership fees due are **\$50.00**. **Dues for** Life Members and Youth Members still at **\$25.75**.

You can renew your membership by paying with a credit card by clicking on the following link and follow the instructions there: **Renewal of Membership 2024**

The instructions will say that if you have a personal account in Wild Apricot, you may easily renew by logging into that personal account and viewing your profile. There will be a white “renew” box which will take you to the online payment portal.

Or you can send the payment as a check to: Linda Cline, Membership Secretary,
Address: 24130 Ridge Road, Germantown, MD, 20876.

Please contact **Linda Cline** at linda.cline@me.com if you have any questions.

NOT YET A MEMBER?

You are more than welcome to join us - sign-up to become a member here:

[Sign-up to Join Drott Lodge](#)

FEEDBACK

So, what do you think about the new format of our Newsletter? Please take a few moments and provide your comments and thoughts by clicking on this [Newsletter Member Survey](#).

The Survey is completely voluntary, and you may remain anonymous by not providing your name etc. The results will be presented over the next month in our Newsletter.

Thank you!

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Next Drott Lodge Newsletter is planned to be sent to you on Tuesday April 30, 2024.

Any contribution for the next Newsletter should be sent before April 24, 2024 to Emma Hedman, Newsletter Editor, Elouise.bmc@gmail.com or Arne Dunhem at adunhem@gmail.com

Thank you!

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DROTT LODGE #168

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

Instituted 1910

Washington, D.C.

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