



No. 168
Drott Lodge
Vasa Order of America
Washington, D.C.



Vasaloppet Ski Race Dalarna Sweden

Drott Lodge Newsletter
March 2022

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Springtime 2022

Dear Lodge Members,

The skies are blue and the earth in McLean is once again revealing its miracles. For me, as for most of you, Spring is as it is expected to be. As we observe the crocuses and daffodils emerging from the soil, don't your thoughts go to the lands where your culture was cultivated?

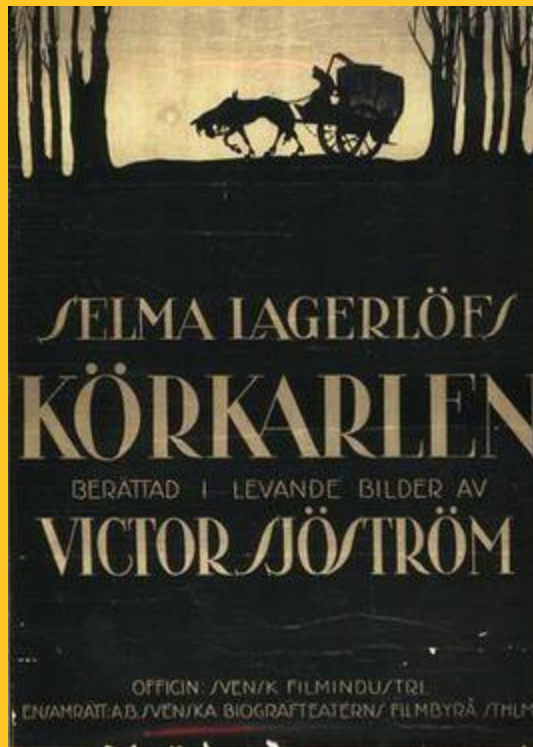
My Fulbright year in Finland allowed me to see the same excitement for Springtime as I experience here. Once the mantle of white snow had melted away, the forest floor revealed its precious white wood anemones much to everyone's delight. In Swedish, the word is vitsippa and in Finnish it is valkovuokko. Also, patches of green grass planted in small containers began to grow in homes and in churches alike. In addition, skates and skis were stored for next year's season. Equally, people awaited April 30, Walpurgis Night, the official celebration of the coming of Spring which was celebrated in different ways across many northern countries.

Dear members, as we remember and reflect on who we are now in this Springtime, let us not forget that our Viking forefathers in the 8th-11th centuries were invited to bring law and order to a hopefully prosperous area of eastern Europe. Those world citizens in Ukraine and Russia have the same blue sky as we do, but Mother Earth has deceived them during this Springtime. My heart cries out. I want sanity to come back. Where are the peacekeepers now? Valhalla doesn't need more fallen warriors. Please keep your friends, relatives, and also fellow travelers on our Earth in your hearts and minds.

In truth and unity,

Margaret Bergvall Schueman
Past District Master
Past Chairman

**Upcoming Zoom Event
March 13, 2022 2:30 PM
Business Meeting
Cultural Program: Let's Go to the Movies!**



The last person to die on the last day of the year is doomed to drive Death's carriage and collect fresh souls. From this legend comes our March cultural presentation: a Zoom showing of Swedish film director Victor Sjöström's silent cinema classic from 1921, *Körkarlen* or *The Phantom Carriage*. In 2012 the movie was voted the best Swedish film of all time by a poll of 50 film critics and academics conducted by Swedish film magazine FLM. With its groundbreaking special effects, Dickensian ghostly storyline and universal morality themes, *The Phantom Carriage* has influenced directors from Bergman to Kubrick.

Körkarlen is based on a novel of the same name by Nobel Prize winner Selma Lagerlöf, which tells a tale of a drunkard who is given the choice to change his ways or be conscripted as Death's emissary for the following year. This was the third of Lagerlöf's novels which Sjöström adapted for the screen; he not only directed but starred in the production. Renowned film director Ingmar Bergman considered the movie: the film of all films. 'I saw it for the first time when I was fifteen; to this day I see it at least once every summer, either alone or in the company of younger people. I clearly see how *The Phantom Carriage* has influenced my own work, right down to minute details.'

While the film is not rated, parents of young children should be aware that the famous ax scene from Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* was inspired by a

scene from this movie. The movie has English subtitles.

So, pull up a comfy chair and treat yourself to some of your favorite popcorn and settle in to view one of Sweden's most famous films. A discussion will follow.

Date: March 13
Time: 2:30 pm - Drott Lodge meeting
Show time: 3:15 pm – Film begins
Movie Length: 106 minutes



Sunday Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81842361949?pwd=OUpmKzhBb1dvWHpnZVRxV0VWS0xLQT09>

Attachments for the Business meeting:

[Drott Lodge Agenda 031322.docx](#)

[Drott Lodge minutes 010922.pdf](#)

[Drott Lodge Minutes 02132022.pdf](#)

[Drott Way Ahead Minutes w meeting guidelines 262022.pdf](#)

**Upcoming Drott Lodge Events
April 2022**

Join us on the Vasa!



Come and journey back to 10 August 1628 and discover the amazing ship Vasa, which sunk in Stockholm Harbor as it departed for its maiden voyage. For those who have already toured the Vasa Museum, this will be a wonderful chance to re-visit those memories. For those who have never been to see the Vasa, you are in for a treat as you have a glimpse into one of the most popular museums in Sweden.

Drott Lodge will sponsor a virtual tour of the Royal Ship Vasa in conjunction with Vasamuset, Stockholm. Peter Rydebjörk, Assistant Director of Museum Services, will be our guide as we have a unique opportunity to tour this historic ship. The tour will last approximately one hour, with time reserved for questions and answers at the tour's conclusion.

Date: April 23, 2022

Time: 4 pm (Eastern Time)

Cost for Drott Lodge Members:	NO CHARGE
Cost for Guests/non-Members:	\$10.00 per person
Registration deadline:	Midnight, April 19, 2022
Maximum number of attendants:	95

You must register to attend this event. Here is the link:

<https://mp.gg/miz7b>



Upcoming Drott Lodge Events

May 2022 Drott Lodge Spring Foraging Expedition

On Sunday, May 22nd from 3 pm - 4:30 pm, Drott Lodge will embark on a spring walk in Wheaton Regional Park* to forage for native spring edibles: mushrooms, ramps, edible flowers, and berries. Following our foraging trip, participants will meet for fika at picnic shelter #2 at the park. Those wishing to continue their day are invited to join at the fire pit for a cozy spring fire. Bring your own marshmallows to roast!

Our Spring Foraging Walk will be led by Matt Cohen of Matt's Habitats. Matt is a landscaper who became interested in foraging after spending time working on an organic farm; he hosts between 10 - 15 walks each year in the Takoma Park and Silver Spring area in search of wild edibles such as henbit, a member of the mint family, which can add a gourmet touch to a pesto.

You never know quite what you'll find underfoot once you start learning to identify the local flora. A wildflower known as the Virginia Spring Beauty yields not only mild-tasting flowers, but also has roots resembling tiny potatoes. (It's also been given the whimsical nickname of "fairy spuds.") This wildflower is rich in carbs and can be boiled like its larger namesake. "Some wild foods are really packed with vitamins and nutrients," Cohen says.

Knowing how to identify and safely —and legally— collect wild plants, fruits, and nature's other noms can net nutritional benefits and help supplement your grocery bill with fresh greens, especially this time of year when young plants boast the sweetest flavor from warm days and cool nights.

During the walk, Cohen points out more than two dozen types of plants and trees, giving a bit of historical background on some and cooking recommendations on others.

Registration for the event is required – Deadline is May 17

Members	\$ 0.00
Non-Members	\$15.00
Children (non-Member) 6-14 years	\$ 5.75
Children under 6 (with parental supervision only)	\$ 0.00

Please join us at 4:30 pm for fika, even if you don't go on our foraging trip. If you are interested in a picnic supper, you may bring your own or order a boxed lunch from Panera.

Box lunches will be available for pre-order for the event. These include your choice of a Tuna Sandwich, Turkey Sandwich, or Veggie

Sandwich. Each comes with a cookie and chips for \$10. These must be ordered by May and more information will be sent closer to May.

Be sure to wear sturdy boots or shoes, and comfortable clothes for our walk in the woods.

Learn more about our guide on his website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/mattshabitats.com/www/>

*Wheaton Regional Park offers additional recreational and educational opportunities: The “Shorefield Area” has beautiful spots for fishing and relaxing. The “Adventure Playground” includes climbing structures, swings, slides and a sand castle. Nearby “Brookside Gardens” has year-round horticulture displays, ponds, and walking trails, and the “Brookside Nature Center” offers displays of live reptiles and mammals to delight young naturalists.

*****Past Zoom Event*****

Cultural Program: Talar du svenska? February 13, 2022

In schools across America, students have been celebrating “World Language Month.” The most commonly-taught languages in our area’s public schools are Spanish, French, German, and Chinese. But Swedes also have a place where they can brush up on their language skills – or learn Swedish for the first time—and that is at the Svenska Skolen in Falls Church, Virginia.

Our February meeting featured our Drott Lodge Chaplain, Gunnel Hamilton, who teaches at the Swedish school. She shared some history of the language and taught us some commonly used words – and even some slang! While some of the markings over the vowels may stump many of us, with a little help we can learn the pronunciation and expand our ability to learn the language. Gunnel was eager to answer questions and willing to stay on Zoom for a bit after the meeting to give us some of her expertise.

Tack, Gunnel, for your excellent presentation and for the list of words you included in your talk. Perhaps soon we’ll be able to gather in person and we can practice our new-found language skills!



If you missed the presentation, here are three files that Gunnel provided.

[Ordlista Drott 2022.xlsx](#)

[Useful phrases.docx](#)

[Audio_Gunnel Hamilton .mp3](#)

Paper Crafts & Cardmaking



As part of our Lodge's renewed membership outreach in 2022, Joann

Moretti has agreed to be our official Correspondence Deputy. Our Cultural Committee (with additional Drott volunteers) spent a Saturday afternoon creating an array of hand-made Swedish-themed greeting cards to send to our members throughout the year.

This was just the first of several card-making events, so please email Janet Johnson at JanetJohnson30254@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this creative team in the future!

A special thanks to Dee Medlin, Laura Rhodes, Linda Olson, and hostess Janet Johnson for donating your entire Saturday to help lift member spirits!

Get to Know Your Drott Lodge Members

Valentine's Day - Alla hjärtans dag

Thanks to all those who sent in photos of their Valentine's activities from February. From the beach to the winter slopes, our Drott Lodge members are starting to get out and about!

Drott Members celebrating Valentine's



Keith & Katrin



Madeleine



Ashley & Jason



Karin



Pete & Linda



Eva & Arne



Katie & Finn



Joann

Julie & Eric



Calling All Pet Parents

For March, send in photos of your pets (with their names) to Julie.Lynn.Olson@gmail.com and we will continue to share member news and experiences in this new newsletter section.

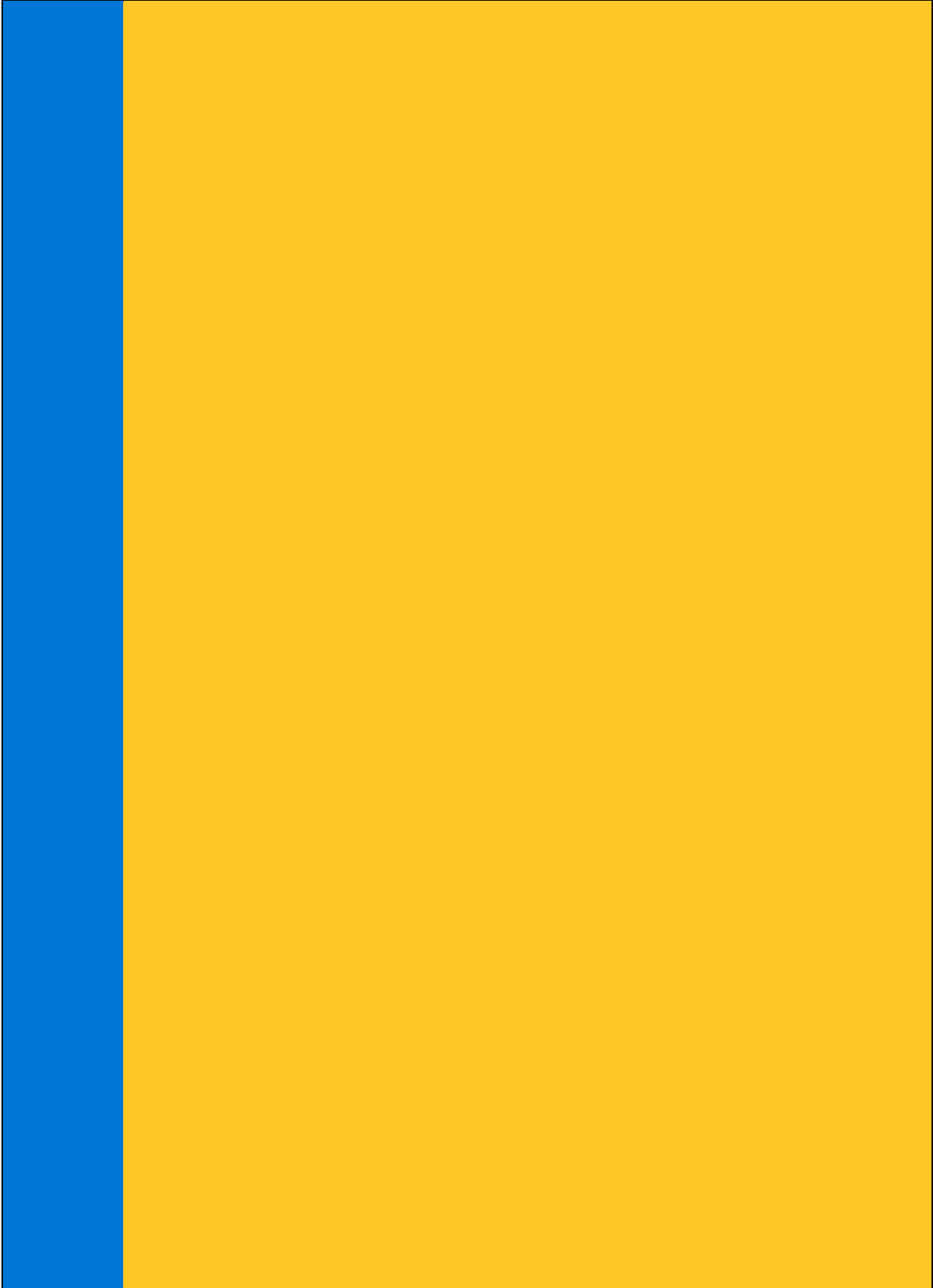
Membership Fees for 2022 are Due

Regular annual membership fees due are \$50.00

Life Members and Youth Members still at \$25.75.

Please go to Member planet and make your payment.

You can also send in a check. Please contact Carol Whitley at carol4600@verizon.net.



Genealogy News March/April 2022

March 20, 2022

The Swedish Genealogy Group of MD, DC, and VA will meet on **Sunday Mar 20th at 1:30pm**, both in person and via Zoom. We will help attendees break through brick walls in their genealogical research.

If you wish to attend, please email JanetJohnson30254@gmail.com to receive the meeting link or request directions to attend in person.

April 2, 2022

Old Mill Museum: Swedish Genealogical Seminar.

Session topics will include:

***What's new in ArkivDigital** - Presenter, Kathy Meade

***Digging deeper in the Swedish Church**

books - Presenter, Kathy Meade

***Filling in your Family Tree with ArkivDigital:**

Starting

out Right or Stepping it Up -

Presenter, Angela Martingson

***How to Travel Trouble-free and Absorb your**

History in

Sweden - Presenter, Janet Carlson

Registration is now open for our Spring Swedish Genealogy ZOOM (Virtual) Workshop on Saturday, April 2, 2022 hosted by the Lindsborg Old Mill & Swedish Heritage Museum in Lindsborg, KS.

Registration is \$50.

Register online at <https://www.mcphersoncountyks.us/20/Old-Mill-Museum> or by calling 785-227- 3595.

Swedish and Nordic Events for March

Nordic Lights Film Festival:

March welcomes another virtual Nordic film event, Nordic Lights Film Festival hosted by National Nordic Museum in Seattle, WA. Films will stream **March 7-14**. Partnering with National Film Festival for Talented Youth, they will also be presenting a shorts program that includes emerging filmmakers from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Some of the feature films have been geo-blocked by their production companies; those films will only be viewable in Washington State. However, many have no restrictions. For programming and ticket information, visit the festival website. Personally, I'm intrigued by The Birdcatcher's Son/Fågelfångarens son, a drama from Sweden that takes place in the late 1800's on the Faroe Islands.

<https://www.nordicmuseum.org/nlff>

Fika & Slöjd:

Folk Art Eggs: Join us for an informal afternoon of online Fika & Slöjd (coffee & crafts)! Follow along with our monthly themed craft, or bring your own. All crafters welcome! This gathering is FREE for Nordic Center members and \$5 for non-members. For the **month of March**, we will be celebrating Easter by making painted Easter eggs! We will present some ideas to inspire you! Suggested Materials:

- Wooden or paper mache eggs
- Paint & paint brushes

RSVP (members) or purchase a ticket (non-members) to receive a Zoom link to the event.

<https://www.nordiccenterduluth.org/calendar/fika-slojd-folk-art-eggs/>

American Swedish Institute Makers Morning

Join other makers online for this weekly opportunity to work, share and visit in a relaxed virtual setting. Whether you knit, carve, weave, sew, spin, crochet or do some other fascinating thing with your hands, tune in with a project to work on. All are welcome, regardless of ability level or craft of choice. Drop in as often as you like, for as long as you like.

This virtual program is free, however advance registration is required. You will need a device with video capabilities and a project of your choice to work on. By registering, you will gain ongoing access to ASI's Virtual Makers Mornings and receive weekly reminder emails.

http:// <https://asimn.org/event/makers-morning-3/>

**Smorgasbord
New UVA Radio Show by Drott Member!**



Drott Lodge member, Erik Jacobson, a second-year student at the University of Virginia, is currently hosting a Sunday afternoon radio show on WXTJ 100.1 FM, UVA's Student Radio Station. He hosts the show with his friend Majlis Walker, and they have named the show, "Smorgasbord" as a nod to their Scandinavian heritage.

On the show, which airs from 4-6 pm on Sundays, they play mostly new music preferred by their college listeners, but they usually start the show with an ABBA tune and play a few tunes of Swedish origin along the way.

Erik has been a volunteer with the Drott Lodge over the past several years, especially during the Bazaar. In 2020 he was a winner of a Grand Lodge College Scholarship and Essay Competition.

In Memoriam

Henry Nelson, Past Chairman



Drott Lodge recognizes the many contributions of Past Chairman Henry Nelson (1924 – 2022). As a 76-year member of Vasa Order of America, he was one of our Lodge's longest supporters, served as Chairman for two terms, and we are forever grateful for his service.

Henry met his future wife, Alva Viola Rytters, at Drott Lodge, and the two were married on March 26, 1949. Please find the obituary at the link below:

<https://adamsgreen.com/.../12529/Henry-Nelson/obituary.html>

Vasaloppet 2022 Celebrating 100 Year Anniversary

Every year on the first Sunday in March, thousands of cross country skiers from around the world participate in Vasaloppet. It's a 56 mile ski race in the province of Dalarna, Sweden. Vasa loppet started in 1922, but it is much older than that.

The original Vasaloppet was carried out in 1521 by Gustav Eriksson. During his flight from the Danish king, he stopped in Sälen and returned to Mora to lead the uprising against the occupation forces. Gustav Eriksson eventually united the realm and became Sweden's first king, better known as Gustav Vasa. So in other words, Sälen is not only the starting point for the world's largest exercise race; it is also the starting point for the history of our whole country.

This year was the 100th anniversary of the first ski race that took place in 1922. The organizers had a wonderful idea of how to commemorate this. Jubileumsvasan was a race in tribute to the pioneers who started and

carried out the Vasaloppet in 1922. You can see Jubileumsvasan as a living museum or a unique opportunity to travel 100 years back in time. Here is a picture from the 1922 race:



The goal was that everything, as much as possible, would reflect the Vasaloppet race that participants experienced in the early 1920s. The footwear should either be pointed cloth shoes or boots made of felt or leather. The skis must be made of wood and they should be at least 1.5 times your body length, and prepared with tar wax. The ski binding must have a leather strap for the toe and heel. The poles must be made of wood or bamboo with large wicker baskets with leather straps, and metal tips and sleeves.

The Jubileumsvasan was more of a celebration than a competition. The finishing times were clocked manually. Other rules: Classic technique as of 1922 (freestyle), joint class for women and men, and there were medals for all. The winner was crowned with a victory garland. At the checkpoints, the participants were served the following items on real china plates and cups: Swedish pancakes, cheese sandwiches, boiled eggs, coffee, bouillon, blueberry soup, milk, and water.

There were 139 participants, just like the first Vasaloppet in 1922. A total of over 550 applied for Jubileumsvasan, including two grandchildren of the original winner.

The winner of the Jubileumsvasan was Erik Wickström. He finished the race in 6 hours and 57 minutes. You can compare this time with the 1922 winner (7 hours 32 min) and the 2022 Regular Vasaloppet race winner (3 hours 32 min).

Here are some pictures from the 2022 race :



Winner Erik Wickstrom. His skis were 100 years old.



Not easy getting up the hills with that old equipment.



Skis were very long.



Checkpoint with 1922 fika. No modern day nutrition bars were allowed!

Here is a film from the 1922 race. You can turn down the sound if you do

not understand Swedish, but the pictures speak for themselves.

<https://youtu.be/EGLk7xI586I>

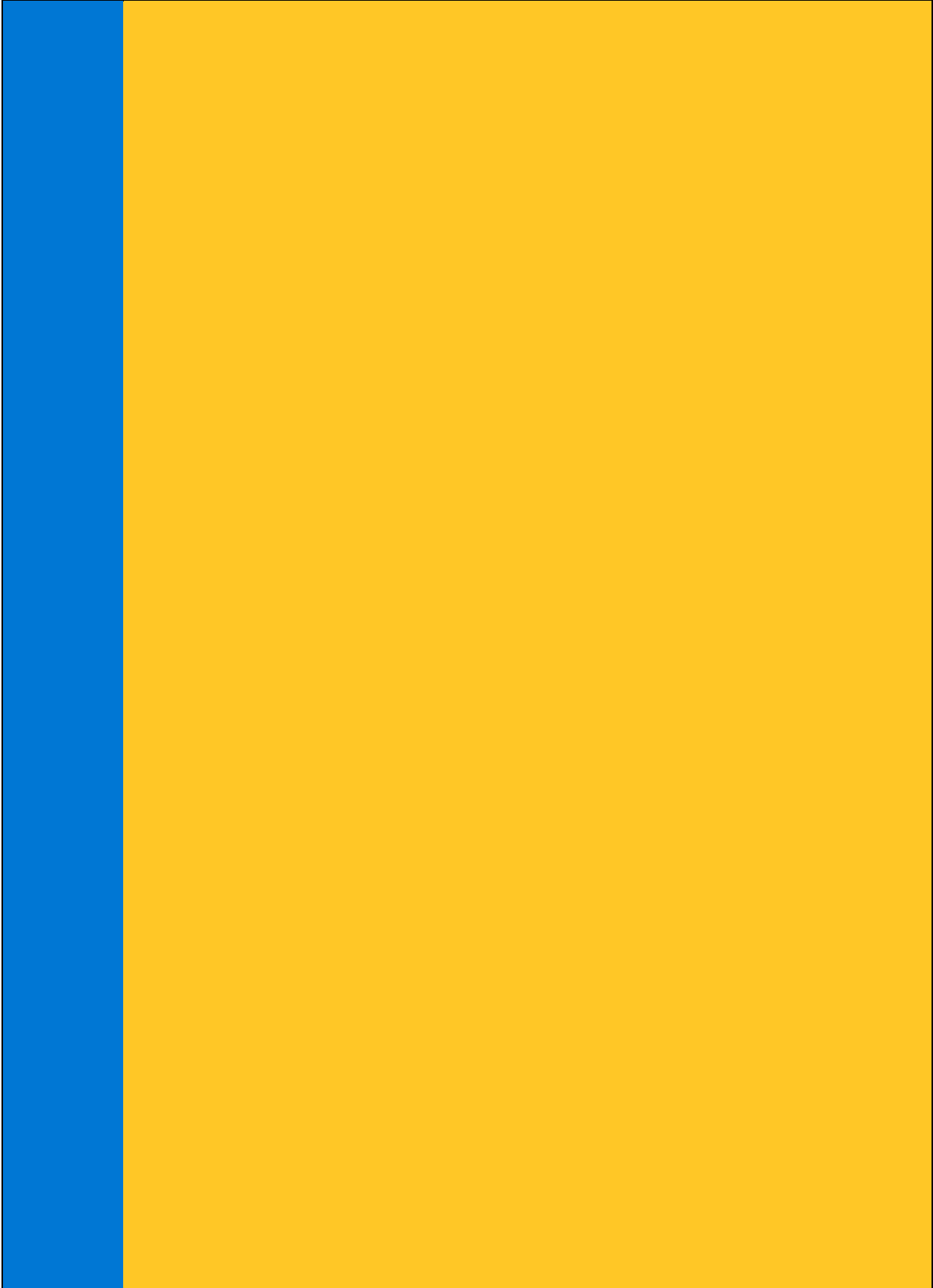
Keep Your Memberplanet Account Up to Date

Please update Drott if you have new contact information, such as if you have moved or have a new phone number.

Newsletter Deadline April 5

The next newsletter will be distributed in April. Do you have something you want to share with us?

All submissions are due to [pk weeden@msn.com](mailto:pk_weeden@msn.com) by **April 5, 2022**. Please make sure to include the word **NEWSLETTER** in the subject.



VASA Drott Lodge 168
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