



NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Gott Nytt År,

After waiting two years for a magical Lucia Pageant, the Lodge was aglow this December during our treasured celebration. Songs and dancing, Starboys and Tomtes, the Julbord and Santa – our celebration did not disappoint the more than 80 in attendance. View the wonderful photos on our website or Facebook that capture so many memories, new activities, old traditions and a truly wonderful evening spent with friends and family. To our *many* participants and organizers– the evening was a great success due to your efforts. We begin 2015 with the election of new officers and board members and an opportunity for any member to consider ways of participating in Vasa. The busy nature of our modern lives makes it difficult for many of our members to volunteer for these positions, but I assure you that it is an extremely rewarding experience. Some of our successful efforts over the last year include orchestrating our 35th annual bazaar, participating at the District Convention in Gettysburg (receiving numerous membership awards), hosting our second annual crayfish festival, taking a road trip to the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia, preparing meals for the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health, arranging our first Valborgsmässoafton Bonfire with Vasa Ventures (V2), touring the House of Sweden, and learning the history of Volvo at Don Beyer Volvo. We have enjoyed a fulfilling year at the Lodge – and I hope we maintain the enthusiasm and energy as we start the New Year.

In Truth & Unity, Julie L. Olson

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 11, 2:30 pm

Drott Lodge Meeting

St. James' Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac MD



Following the festivities, we will hold our official business meeting, accept 2015 Drott Lodge Officer nominations, hold elections, and conduct the installation ceremony. An engaged slate of officers is critical to the very existence of the Lodge, as well as to an interesting program of activities for the coming year. All officers are elected for one year terms. One auditor and one trustee will be elected for a three-year term, joining two auditors and two trustees who are still serving their three-year terms. In addition, the

Chair appoints several members to serve on the Executive Board in an advisory capacity to assist the officers. Please note that current officers and the Executive Board members are listed at the end of this newsletter. We currently do not have, but need, an assistant Recording Secretary and an assistant Treasurer. You may make nominations or indicate your own willingness to serve at the January meeting. Please volunteer for a position or suggest another member as a candidate by contacting one of the Nominating Committee members:

Carol Whitley	202-686-6214	carol4600@verizon.net
Linda Smith	301-467-8477	leslieandlinda2@comcast.net
Joann Moretti	301-438-1940	joann.moretti@hotmail.com

RECENT DROTT EVENTS

Drott's 2014 Sankta Lucia

Drott's Sankta Lucia was a tremendous success with over 80 people attending. As always, the stars of our event are the Lodge families' children and young people and they were magnificent this year. After being snowed out last year, lovely Kara Fagerstrom* finally got her chance to lead the Procession as Lucia.



Star Boys Erik Fagerstrom and Kevin Shoemaker followed Lucia in the Procession, carrying the Star of Bethlehem.



Twelve solemn Lucia attendants played an important role by dispelling the darkness with their light. They were followed in the Procession by two Tomtar who checked out the lonely darkened farm.

An adult chorus of seven organized by Arne and Eva Dunhem led the assembly in the singing of traditional Lucia and Christmas songs, all sung in Swedish.





Children and adults danced around the tree, followed by an exciting visit with the Jultomten. Visits to the Craft Table were also popular. To round out the festivities, a wonderful buffet of sides and sweets accompanied the meatballs and herring, provided by the Lodge.

Thanks are owed to many for the planning and execution of this lovely event. Julie Olson, Carol Whitley and Marit Knollmueller were the Lucia Coordinators while Eva and Arne Dunhem were the music coordinators. Karin Weeden led the dancing around the tree. Eric Randolph designed the Program and was in charge of photography. Gerry Schueman handled the audio-visual tasks and provided the Christmas tree. Joann Moretti organized the mini-bazaar and filled Santa's bags, and Rod Rydlun once again was the congenial and personable Jultomten.

*Kara Fagerstrom, Lucia, is the second oldest of four children of Cathie and Fred Fagerstrom. Kara has been participating in our Lucia for many years. All three of her siblings joined her again this year. Kara, 14, is a 9th grader who loves science and architectural drafting. She is a dedicated reader and also an avid circus arts performer who specializes in aerials, balance tricks, and clowning. She regularly appears in parades, festivals, and other shows with the Jim Moyer Circus Club and the Center Ring Circus School.

VASA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2015

Youth Scholarships to Swedish Language Camp

1) The Vasa Grand Lodge has announced the availability of five Scholarships in 2015 to Concordia Language Camp near Bimidji, MN. The scholarships will pay the basic tuition (around \$1,925) for a two-week 2015 Summer Program and will reimburse travel expenses up to \$600. Applicants must be between 12 and 18 years of age as of April 1, 2015. The applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent must be a member in good standing of the Vasa Order of America for at least two years prior to April 1, 2015. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than February 10.

2) In addition to the five scholarships being awarded by the Grand Lodge, District Lodge Pennsylvania 9 will award one scholarship. It is for the same two-week camp experience and will also pay for the full basic tuition, but the limit on reimbursable travel expenses will be \$300. The applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent must be a member in good standing of the Vasa Order of America for at least one year prior to the date of the letter of verification. Completed applications must be postmarked by February 12.

This program is not a boring session of all-day classroom Swedish lessons! It's a total immersion environment involving summer camp favorites such as camping, canoeing, swimming, and sailing mixed with authentic Swedish activities. Visit their website at www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org to see what they offer!

Vasa Adult Scholarships

District Lodge Pennsylvania 9 is also offering a ***Scandinavian Cultural Opportunity for Learning Scholarship***. The Scholarship is in the amount of up to \$1,500 and is available to District 9 members who are in good standing for at least one year. It is directed to those who wish to participate in a worthwhile Scandinavian educational or cultural activity in the U.S., Sweden, or other Scandinavian destination. For example, you might want to consider spending some time at the National Archives to help them add new materials to their collection. The applicant must be a member in good standing of the Vasa Order of America for at least one year prior to the date of the letter of verification. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 12.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

January 17, 7-10 pm, , Scandia DC 3rd Saturday Dance,

Greenbelt Community Center Dance Studio (wood floor), 15 Crescent Drive, Greenbelt. No partners necessary. **Teaching 7 - 8 p.m.**

Klackpolska a fun Swedish dance to lively music. Enjoy a variety of Scandinavian couple dances led by Linda Brooks and Ross Schipper. This month's live fiddle music will feature Paul Carlson, a talented fiddler who is passionate about Scandinavian fiddle music. He teaches and plays music professionally. Although this will be his first time playing for Scandia DC, he plays regularly for the Nordic Dancers, for other dance performers, and with the Washington Spelmanslag. Cost \$10. Info: call Linda or Ross at 202-333-2826 or send an e-mail to: linda@scandiadc.org. If inclement weather call 301-474-0646. visit: www.scandiadc.org.

“ALLT FÖR SVERIGE” - The Great Swedish adventure

The nominated TV series, "ALLT FÖR SVERIGE" is now conducting a nationwide casting for **Season 5**. They are looking for outgoing, fun and adventurous people. Applicants have to be Americans of Swedish descent (anyone with a little bit of Swedish blood) who are interested in their heritage but have never visited Sweden or any of the other Scandinavian countries. The deadline to apply is **February 11, 2015**. The show will be shooting in the summer of 2015. To apply, go to:
www.greatswedishadventure.com.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Submissions for the February issue of the newsletter will be due to Linda Smith no later than January 18.

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