



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

## NEWSLETTER

[www.drott-lodge.org](http://www.drott-lodge.org)

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202-669-2476 – Carol Whitley

# DROTT LODGE NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 18, 2019

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear [First Name],

I just can't believe it – we are getting closer to December and Christmas! What happened with the Summer? And when I started to write this message, it was only 23 degrees outside! Record cold. So this Newsletter will of course focus on our upcoming Lucia and Christmas Celebration.

We will have the traditional Drott Lodge Lucia and Christmas Celebration this year on December 8th, 2019. The Lucia and Christmas celebration is a very family oriented event with the Lucia procession being with only children, girls and boys. The Lucia will this year be Lana Renae Birdwell, daughter of Drott member Christine Svevar and husband Scott Birdwell. The Lucia Procession will be in the Sanctuary of our regular meeting place, St. James Episcopal Church in Potomac, Maryland. After the Lucia procession, we will all move down to the Undercroft and have our Christmas party with potluck dinner. We have no final confirmation, but the rumor has it that Santa will take time off from his busy schedule and detour and come visit us and all children. The Lucia Procession will start at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary and the Christmas party in the Undercroft will start around 4 pm. The Drott Lodge Christmas Choir will sing together with the Lucia Procession. See more info about this below.

If you have children or grandchildren or friends that would like to participate in the Lucia Procession, please contact Carol Whitley by email [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net) and tell her name and age of children. Also their sizes and whether they have their own Lucia gowns.

This year, we have invited members of the American Scandinavian Association (ASA) to join our Lucia Celebration in the Sanctuary since unfortunately they had to cancel their own celebration. We have also invited some children from ASA to join our Lucia Procession. However, ASA members cannot join our Christmas Celebration in the Undercroft, since we are already at capacity with our own Members and families with children participating in the Lucia Celebration.

In Truth and Unity

Arne Dunhem

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### **THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS TO OUR BAZAAR!**

What a very successful Bazaar we had on November 2, 2019. Many Volunteers participated and so many visitors showed up. At 11 am, many visitors were lined up in the entrance to get in and after Julie Olson's brief opening ceremony, they all stormed in to first the Baking Table, and then to all the other tables like Imported Foods and Imported Gifts. After their purchases, our visitors joined the long Food Line for real Swedish meatballs, shrimp sandwiches, pea soup, pancakes and desserts. If there ever was an expression of "selling like hot cakes", our expression instead was "selling like hot Princess Cakes". Eva Dunhem and team in the kitchen could barely keep up making all the wonderful Princess Cakes and runners in the Food Line constantly had to run back in to the kitchen to bring out more freshly prepared Princess Cakes.

Many Bakers prepared home baked items and brought them to the Baking Table that was organized by the Baking Table Chair Laura Soerensen. Thank you Laura, and thank you all Bakers! And Marjorie and Don Morris, thank you for letting our Bakers come to your wonderful kitchen to bake for the Bazaar!

Larilyn Andre as Chair for the Imported Foods spent many hours in ordering cheese, herring, chocolate etc., preparing all the items for sale and setting up the table together with other volunteers. Thank you Larilyn and team for all your great work!

Joann Moretti as the Chair for the Imported Gifts over so many years, ordered and organized the transportation of all the Imported Gifts and all other items from our storage needed for the Bazaar. She even went up to the ScanFest in New Jersey to find and bring to the Bazaar new Swedish Christmas items for sale. Joann also organized so many great volunteers to help out. Thank you Joann and all your helpers!

Margaret Schueman was the Chair of the Kitchen Crew. She took the lead in planning

and organizing all the activities for the kitchen with support from Lisa Jacobson. Margaret purchased many of the items that were needed for all the Swedish foods and dishes that were prepared in the kitchen for the Food Line like the Swedish meatballs, pea soup, sandwiches and pancakes. Margaret came with her crew as early as 7 am on the Bazaar day to start-up all the kitchen activities. Eva Dunhem worked many hours before the Bazaar with baking of so many desserts, including all the Princess Cakes, that were offered in the Food Line. Margaret and Kitchen Crew, thank you all for your hard work.

The Food Line was organized by Carol Whitley. She arranged with all her volunteers the set-up of all the various food stations starting with the sandwiches and ending with the beverage tables and cashier station. Carol and all who worked the Food Line, thank you.

Marianne Diaz and Peter Olson were during the whole Bazaar working in the back area assisting Eva Dunhem, our Treasurer, with counting and organizing all the money matters for the Bazaar. Thank you Marianne and Peter!

Finally, but certainly not least, Julie Olson was the Chair for the entire Bazaar activities. She started early 2019 and immediately took charge during the year of planning, managing and leading all the various activities needed for the Bazaar. Julie chaired all meetings among all volunteers and activity chairs preparing for the Bazaar. When we started the set-up of the Bazaar, Julie was there and organized and directed all volunteers to ensure that we had a well organized Bazaar and on Saturday, the actual Bazaar day, that all Tables and stations were well set-up and that our visitors had a great time and could enjoy the Bazaar. A Great Thank You Julie.

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### SOME PICTURES FROM OUR SWEDISH BAZAAR 2019





**DROTT LODGE SANKTA LUCIA PAGEANT AND JUL FEST**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 3 PM,**  
St. James' Episcopal Church Sanctuary, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac



## MD

Come and join us for our annual Lucia Pageant. It will be followed by a festive holiday party that includes dancing around the Christmas tree, a potluck Julbord and a visit by the famous Jultomten with his bag of gifts for the young ones. Also, there will be a little surprise item prepared by the Cultural Committee for each person attending to bring home with them!

### Children's Lucia Pageant

This year's lovely Lucia is Lana Renae Birdwell, daughter of Drott Member Christine Svevar and husband Scott Birdwell. Lana and her older sister, Ava, have participated in the Drott Lodge Lucia Pageant for many years. In preparation for our lovely Lucia Pageant, we ask that Members and attendees who have children or grandchildren interested in being part of this wonderful celebration to contact Carol Whitley at [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net) or 202-686-6214 by Monday, December 2nd to register the children. Younger children dress all in red and play the role of tomtar (elves). Lucia, her attendants, and star boys each wear white gowns. Please include in your message the name, gender, and age of each child, and whether they have their own white gowns or need a gown. For each gown needed, please provide measurement from shoulder to ankle. All children will need to arrive by 1:00 pm (meet in the Undercroft, accessible at the rear of St. James' Church). One adult from each family group also must be available to help with dressing and rehearsal in the Sanctuary. We will also rehearse the popular Christmas song Tip-Tip-Tap.



### Holiday Choir

Our Lodge's adult Holiday Choir will again be performing during the festivities and welcomes any Members or family Members who would like to join us! Rehearsal of the traditional Swedish holiday songs will begin in the Undercroft at 1:30 pm. Songs will be performed in Swedish and English and the lyrics can be provided via email before the rehearsal. Contact Arne Dunhem at [adunhem@gmail.com](mailto:adunhem@gmail.com) if you wish to participate – all singers are welcome to participate.

### Julbord

The Julbord is a potluck arrangement. Drott Lodge will provide meatballs and beverages. Attendees are asked to generously bring a dish or dessert in an amount sufficient to serve at least ten persons.

### RSVP

In order for us to plan accordingly, please RSVP for the Pageant & Jul Fest by contacting Carol Whitley at [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net) or 202-686-6214 with the number of guests in your group by December 4th. In order for Santa to know, please include

the age and gender of all children who will be present, so we can relay this to Santa. We are looking forward to a wonderful Celebration!

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## **DECEMBER 13th – THE SANKTA LUCIA DAY IN SWEDEN**

December 13th is the Sankta Lucia Day in Sweden. This is traditionally celebrated nationwide with Lucia Processions in all schools, day-care centers, factories, offices and other work-places. Early in the morning, many high school students also celebrate as Lucia some of their teachers with song, coffee and "lussekatter", a kind of saffron buns. Even the Nobel Laureates are visited this morning in their Stockholm hotel rooms by Lucia and her attendants with song, coffee and lussekatter.

The National Lucia Procession is always shown on national TV at 7 am in the morning. Last year it was in the Cathedral of Gothenburg on the West Coast. It was a wonderful celebration with children's, women's and men's choirs singing all the traditional Lucia and Christmas songs.

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## **DROTT LODGE AT HOUSE OF SWEDEN/SWEA HOLIDAY MARKET DECEMBER 7, 2019**

The SWEA Washington D.C. Holiday Market is a popular event and will take place on December 7, 2019 at House of Sweden, 2900 K St NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

Holiday Shoppers and Visitors will find Nordic Vendors and Artists selling their arts & crafts, including holiday ornaments, decorations, textiles, Swedish glass, gifts, books, packaged food, Glögg, candy and more!

This is by far the largest one-day event taking place at House of Sweden for the year. More than 1,500 people will attend the market during the day and watch the Lucia Procession following the market at 5 pm. Whether you want to buy someone a holiday gift or just eat Scandinavian treats – this is the Holiday Market!

In addition to all the vendors this year; Swedish FIKA & Glögg will be served, as well as Swedish ("smörgås"/"macka") sandwich with meatballs, lax, or herring.

10 AM to 4:30 PM: SHOPPERS STROLL MARKET

5 PM: SWEDISH LUCIA PROCESSION OUTSIDE BUILDING

Important To Remember that all need tickets to enter the Holiday Market that can be purchased on EventBrite in advance. You can click on the link below and purchase tickets:

REGULAR TICKETS are sold from November 16 for \$6 + Eventbrite fee

FREE Tickets are for children under 10

Tickets at the door are \$10

ALL PAID tickets (via Eventbrite or at the door) include Glögg & Fika

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/swedish-holiday-market-2019-house-of-sweden-tickets-74148069873>

**DROTT LODGE** will have three tables at the event selling Imported Gifts and Imported Foods organized by Larilyn Andre and Joann Moretti with several Drott Lodge Member volunteers. Please come and visit our tables there.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2019

Our Membership Chair Carol Whitley informs that some Members despite reminder letters have still not made their annual dues for 2019. If you have not yet paid your 2019 dues, please mail a check to Treasurer Eva Dunhem at c/o Drott Lodge #168, 20640 Hope Spring Ter, #406, Ashburn VA 20147-2953. If you have any questions, you can send Carol an email to [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net) or give her a call at 202-686-6214.

Dues for regular Members is \$50.00 per year. Dues for Youth Members and Drott Lodge Life Members in 2019 is \$25.75. Youth Members are those aged 14 to 24; Life Members are those who are 75 or older and who have been Members of the Lodge for 10 or more years. The reduced amount dues begins in the year following the 75th birthday. Paid membership entitles a Member to a pass on the meal fees associated with the March Pea Soup dinner and the September Welcome Back Crayfish Party. However, those Members who pay only the minimum dues required (\$25.75) are expected to pay meal fees if they attend.

The reduced amount for Youth and Life Members is equal to the amount of the assessments the Lodge must pay out annually to the Grand and District Lodges for each Member. No part of this reduced amount is retained by Drott Lodge.

Many Lodge Members choose to pay the full amount of the annual dues even if in "Life Member" status. Others add an extra amount to the required minimum dues to help support the Lodge.

In truth and unity, we hope to hear from each of you who have not paid yet for year 2019.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2020

For year 2020, Drott Lodge plans to use MemberPlanet more actively for the payment of membership dues and allow more use of credit/debit card payments. This will simplify and reduce the need for check writing by our Members. The MemberPlanet system is very well suited for credit/debit card payments. So, starting January 1, 2020, we will start using MemberPlanet to send to all Members encouragements and reminders for the membership dues for year 2020.

For year 2020, we also will encourage more and more use by our Members of the MemberPlanet system.

## DROTT LODGE OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR YEAR 2020

Drott Lodge Officer Elections occur each year in January. Terms for all officers except auditors and trustees are for one year. Are you interested in getting more involved by becoming an officer? Many positions currently are filled by Members who have been in that position for several years and they would be happy to pass along their responsibilities to someone with fresh eyes.

If you are interested in a position, please contact Larilyn Andre who is the Chair of the Nominating Committee. It is planned to have the slate of proposed and nominated officers for year 2020 available in the December Newsletter which means that Larilyn will want to know of your interest by early December. You may contact Larilyn at larilynandre@gmail.com or (703) 659-5128. It is of course also possible to make a nomination at the January Business Meeting, for either yourself or another Member.

In addition to the Nominating Committee we have three additional Committees that need Members and have room for additional Members. The other Committees are:

- Cultural Planning Committee - will suggest cultural activities for the coming year
- Policy Index and By-laws Committee - will set out guidance for our Lodge operations
- Special Goals Committee - will identify and recommend donations to worthy causes that merit Lodge donations

To volunteer on any of the Committees, please contact Arne Dunhem at adunhem@gmail.com or (703) 624-8042 or Larilyn Andre at larilynandre@gmail.com or (703) 659-5128.

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## DROTT LODGE OFFICERS

The following are the current Drott Lodge Officers for 2019. All positions are up for election during our January 2020 Business Meeting.

Chair:	Arne Dunhem
Vice Chair:	Larilyn André
Recording Secretary:	Lisa Jacobson
Asst. Recording Secretary:	Allison Bennett
Treasurer:	Eva Dunhem
Asst. Treasurer:	Marianne Diaz
Membership/Financial Secretary:	Carol Whitley
Asst. Membership Secretary:	Katrin Shoemaker
Historian:	Vacant
Webmaster:	Susan Remmert
Newsletter Editor:	Jeffrey de Hart (not available for year 2020)
Chaplin:	Karin Weeden



Cultural Committee: Marit Knollmueller (not available for year 2020), Susan Remmert, Janet Johnson, Laura Rhodes, Rod Rydlun

Trustee and Auditor positions up for election in January 2020:

Trustee: Don Morris (term ends 2019)

Auditor: Ione Linke (term ends 2019)

Trustees and Auditors with remaining terms:

Trustee: Keith Shoemaker (term ends 2020)

Trustee: Julie Olson (term ends 2021)

Auditor: Ione Linke (term ends 2020)

Auditor: Peter Olson (term ends 2021)

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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Our Newsletter Editor Jeffrey de Hart can unfortunately not continue as our Newsletter Editor. The Newsletters that Jeffrey has prepared have been excellent with wonderful designs and been very informative, so we will miss his great work. Thank you Jeffrey!

So, we need a new Newsletter Editor. Someone that can spare some few hours to prepare the Newsletter. We have for the Newsletter lately changed from the traditional PDF-format to using the design tools and capabilities of MemberPlanet. This we believe will make the process to prepare the Newsletter simplified and easier to send out as an email to all our Members.

If you are interested, please contact Arne Dunhem at [adunhem@gmail.com](mailto:adunhem@gmail.com) or (703) 624-8042 or Larilyn Andre at [larilynandre@gmail.com](mailto:larilynandre@gmail.com) or (703) 659-5128.

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## STAY CONNECTED WITH DROTT LODGE REGISTER YOUR ACCOUNT IN OUR MEMBERPLANET SYSTEM

OR UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION HERE:

<https://mp.gg/qdg9t>

MemberPlanet will provide our Members with several great benefits some of which are:

- Secure Member Personal Access
- Member Newsletters
- Rapid Email Broadcast and Notices, including Text Messaging, when accepted
- Interactive and Searchable Member Directory
- Event Planning and Invitations
- Payments for Events and Activities
- Membership Dues Payments

- Member Surveys
- Discussion Groups and Forums
- Digital Member e-Cards
- Document Storage, like Newsletters, Bylaws, etc.
- Planning and Direct Communications with Event Volunteers
- Photo Album for the Member
- Email Campaigns for Reaching Out to New Potential Members

If you have not already created an account in our MemberPlanet system, this gives you the opportunity to do it now. Please fill in your information to include your first and last name, your email address and a password of your choosing. If you already have an account you need only enter your email and your chosen password. If you have forgotten your password, no problems. You can easily follow the instructions to create your new password.

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## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Please send input for the next issue of the newsletter to Arne Dunhem at [adunhem@gmail.com](mailto:adunhem@gmail.com) by December 15th.

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VASA Drott Lodge 168  
c/o Arne Dunhem, Chairman  
Ashburn, VA 20147

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