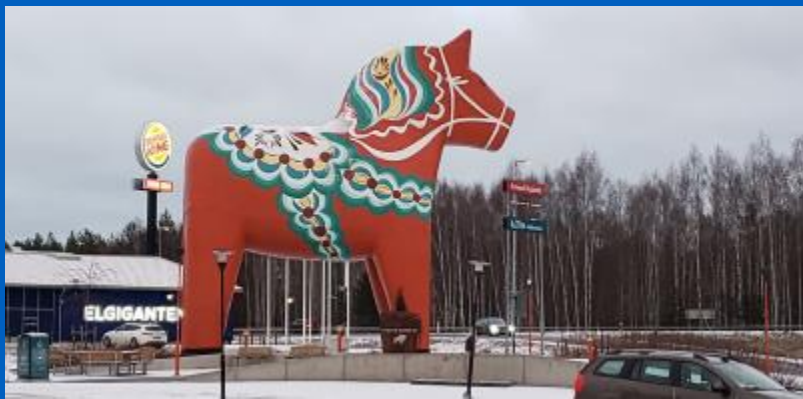




No. 168
Drott Lodge
Vasa Order of America
Washington, D.C.



Dalahästen, the Dala horse, Avesta, Dalarna

Drott Lodge Newsletter
February 2023

Visit us on our website by clicking on the link below:

www.drott-lodge.org

Find us on Facebook: Vasa Order of America - Drott Lodge #168

Message from the Chairman

By joining the Vasa Order, I followed the example of my mother. She was a member of Thule Lodge, Jamestown, NY, and would be pleased to know of my election as chair of Drott Lodge. I am honored by your confidence in me and promise the best that I can give.

My maternal great-great-grandfather was among the earliest Swedish immigrants to the Jamestown area in 1852. It turns out that he is considered a founding member of the city's First Lutheran Church. My paternal grandparents arrived closer to the turn of the century. It was Grandpa Olson who always hoisted the U.S. flag on nice summer days.

Growing up, my exposure to Swedish culture was limited. Some elders had delightful accents and spoke Swedish among themselves, Grandpa could be persuaded to play "Nikolina" on his accordion, and holidays brought delicious smörgåsbords. In fact, the names of my favorite foods became my primary Swedish vocabulary—korv, sill, sylta, potatis, fruktsoppa, bullar, and pepparkakor.

By joining Drott Lodge I hoped to experience the Swedish cultural activities I had missed and engage with people of similar backgrounds. Thanks to dedicated and creative Cultural Leaders and teams, and all the welcoming and generous Swedes, I have not been disappointed! Thank you all!

Now, we look forward to a new year of informative and fun Drott Lodge activities—hopefully in person, all year. My goals as chair are to facilitate the completion of our new bylaws, development of policies and procedures, and support of PA #9 District's new Restart and Rebuild Plan. Should there be others? I welcome your thoughts and ideas!

In the meantime, as I look at long-range weather forecasts for meeting dates, I smile at this practical Swedish proverb: "Det finns inget dåligt väder, bara dåliga kläder." (There is no bad weather, there are only bad clothes.)

In Generosity, Truth, and Unity,
Kathy Olson
Chair
Drott Lodge #168

February 12, 2023, 2:00 PM (New time)
Business Meeting
Cultural Program: A Man Called Ove

**Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
10701 Old Georgetown Road
North Bethesda, Maryland 20852**

We will start with a short business meeting at 2 PM. Please allow time for traffic and parking. The cultural program will run almost two hours, so it is imperative that all members arrive timely.

Here are the minutes from the January business meeting for your review:

[Meeting Minutes of Drott Lodge January 8 2023 Final.docx](#)



Our February cultural program is Movie Night. We will be watching “A Man Called Ove,” the original version of the recent Tom Hanks movie release “A Man Called Otto” based on Fredrik Backman’s 2012 novel. Backman’s great “trick” seems to be in presenting ornery Ove, a grumpy old man, as an initially unsympathetic character – and then peeling back the layers of how he came to be that way in a sympathetic manner. The satirical novel demonstrates Ove’s universal struggles of love, loss, and grief. Please join us for the original movie. We will have popcorn and munchies for our viewing. Wear your comfy pants and cozy sweater and settle in for a great movie. Please note that we are unable to share this activity via Zoom due to legal constraints.



A FILM BY HANNES HOLM

A MAN CALLED OVE

Upcoming Event
March 12, 2023, 2:30 PM
Business meeting
Pea Soup Dinner
Cultural Program: National Parks of Sweden

We will listen to Karin Weeden's experiences during her fantastic trip to Sweden last July. Karin was the Adult District Scholarship recipient in 2020. Her trip was delayed twice during the pandemic. Karin visited the Haparanda Archipelago, Gotland Sand Island, and Fulu Mountain National Parks. She will show similarities between the parks, as well as what makes each park special. She also spent time with relatives she found through her genealogy research.

Come listen to stories of nature, people and food!



2023 Calendar of Events

February - A Man Called Ove

March - Pea Soup and Plättar Dinner - National Parks of Sweden

April - Nordic Craft

April - Walpurgis Celebration

May - Hike (Swedish walking with Swedish Poles)

June - Midsummer in Carderock Park, MD

July and August - Fika at localities in MD and VA to keep communication and comraderie flowing!

September - Crayfish Supper & The Golden Jubilee of King Carl XVI Gustaf

October - Ride the Longship Boat and Celebrate Leif Erikson
November - Annual Genealogy Conference
December - Lucia Celebration

Other Scandinavian Activities in Our Area Feb-Mar



Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)
February 15, 2023, at 12:30 pm
Two Green Journeys (Virtual Program)

How did a Swede and a Floridian Transform their Modern Homes in Two Very Different Climates with the Same Sustainable Technology? By a remarkable coincidence a Swede and a Floridian both converted their homes to solar power, using solar energy systems, and both purchased Tesla e cars. As different as Sweden and Florida are, the two men have some things in common. Both are techies who share a concern about the environment. This fascinating story will be revealed in a virtual presentation.

Peter Ahlqvist is a Swede who lives in the Goteborg suburb of Molnlycke. He holds a Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics from Chalmers.

Ernest Forman is a friend who has a Ph.D. in Management Science from George Washington University.

Please RSVP to sacu2022@gmail.com by **February 12, 2023**
The Zoom Link to be provided to attendees closer to the date.

Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)
March 8, 2023, at 12:00 pm

**Lucky Strike
Lunch-Lecture Program in Arlington, Virginia**

Lucky Strike is the story of Young American Airmen and Soldiers who spent time in Sweden during World War II after their planes had crashed.

Interview with Dennis Malette (conducted by Robert Dyer)

Exhibition Tables

Private Viewing of "Lucky Strike," courtesy of Jan-Olof Nilsson

Cost of lunch and program is \$ 35. Here is more information:

[Lucky Strike Swedish American Cultural Union.pdf](#)

Please RSVP to sacu2022@gmail.com at your earliest convenience.

**Väsen Live - Modern Swedish Folk Music Duo
March 23, 2023
Jammin Java
Vienna, VA**

Väsen-Duo, Mikael Marin and Olov Johansson have, after 37 years of interaction and touring, refined their sound and their stage presence to the extent that today they are unique in their kind. With their playful and perfect interplay, they seem to defy the laws of physics in what appears to be a telepathic communication.

The music is intense and full of humour. They create their very own musical language which in its appeal is as modern as it is ancient. With the foundation firmly rooted in the traditional music of Uppland, they have always looked curiously at new musical goals.

They will be touring in the US this spring.

Here is more information:

<https://vasen.se/vasen-live/>

Past Event

During our Business Meeting on January 12, 2023, a slate of officer candidates for 2023 was presented by Karin Weeden of the Nominating Committee. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion to approve the slate of candidates was seconded and adopted.

The newly elected Lodge officers include:

Chairman	Kathy Olson
Vice Chairman	Karin Weeden
Financial & Membership Secretary	Laura Rhodes
Asst. Financial & Membership Secretary	Julie Olson

Recording Secretary
Asst Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Lodge Chaplain
Historian
Cultural Committee:

Carol Whitley
Linda Cline
Kenneth Hamilton
Susan Remmert
Gunnel Hamilton
Lisa Jacobson
Tanya Cantrell
Janet Johnson
Kristen Leedom
Laura Rhodes
Ashley Mullinax
Wendy Shoemaker

Upon the election of the Officers, the meeting proceeded with the installation of Drott Lodge Officers for 2023. VDM Arne Dunhem (who was on zoom) delegated his duty to conduct the installation to Julie Olson.

New Chairman Kathy Olson expressed her appreciation to the Lodge and her personal gratitude to the Past District Master and her staff for conducting the installation ceremony. To the Members of the Lodge, she extended her thanks for their confidence in electing her as Chairman.

The cultural program was prior to the business meeting. We listened to Wendy Shoemaker discuss the Swedish political parties and the 2022 election. The political system in Sweden is different from the two-party system in the US. Unlike the US where we vote for a candidate, in Sweden they vote for a political party. No party alone is strong enough to form a government on its own. There are many small parties. In order to have a governing alliance, some smaller center parties will join either left or right majorities, depending on the political climate. It was a very interesting presentation and afterwards Wendy was able to answer questions from the group.

Here are some pictures:

Zoom Meeting



Mark - Julie.Olson (Bosav...



gunnel hamilton



Drott Lodge

Type here to search

New Chairman Kathy Olson



Members signing in and paying their dues.



The Fika table was full of goodies: Cookies, Danish Kringle and Tosca cake.



We also had Princess cake.



Speaker Wendy Shoemaker

Scholarship Opportunities

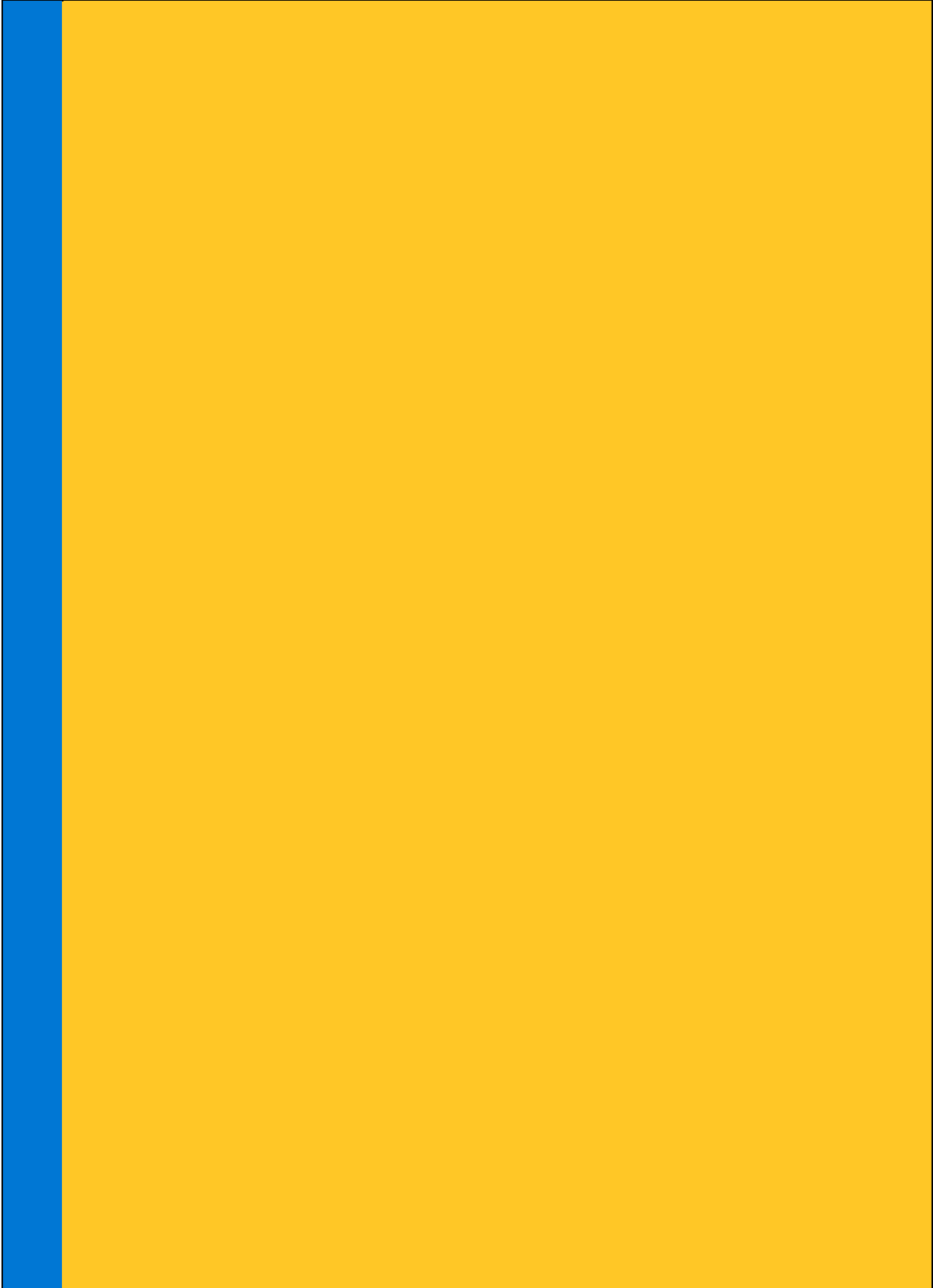
District Lodge PA No. 9 is again offering a two-week session at the Concordia Swedish Language Camp in Minnesota for youths between the ages of 8 and 18.

[District 9 YOUTH Scholarship Application 2023.pdf](#)

The District's Adult Scholarship for Learning is available every other year and is not being offered in 2023.

The VASA Grand Lodge has a Scholarship and Essay Contest for students attending or planning to attend an institution of higher learning. Applications are available on the VASA website (vasaorder.com) until **January 15, 2023**. Applicants must have become a VASA member prior to February 15, 2022. Applications and all enclosures must be postmarked no later than February 15th to be considered.

The VASA Grand Lodge also offers scholarships for the Concordia Swedish Language Camp. They are available to children 12 to 18 years of age as of April 1, 2023. Applicant, parent/guardian, or grandparent must have been a Vasa member for at least one year prior to April 1, 2022. Go the Vasa Order website for details. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 10th.



Genealogy Meeting

The **Maryland, Virginia and DC Swedish Genealogy Group** will meet in person and virtually on Feb 26 at 1:30pm. Contact **Janet Johnson** at janetjohnson30254@gmail.com to receive an invite for this meeting.

Member News

Ashley Mullinax and her husband Jason Zwickl have become parents of a baby boy. Kasper Neil Zwickl decided to arrive on his due date Jan 21. He was 9lbs 3oz and 21 inches long which was quite a surprise to the new parents! Kasper and the rest of the family are doing great. Congratulations on your little bundle of joy!



Swedish Street Sign

Gunnel Hamilton saw this sign in Skogås, a suburb of Stockholm on hwy 73 to Nynäshamn. "Drive carefully, watch out for retirees!"



Membership Fees for 2023 are Due

It is that time of the year! This is your gentle reminder to please go in to Memberplanet and make your payment by credit card. You can also pay by check and mail it in.

Regular annual membership fees due are **\$50.00**

Life Members and Youth Members still at \$25.75.

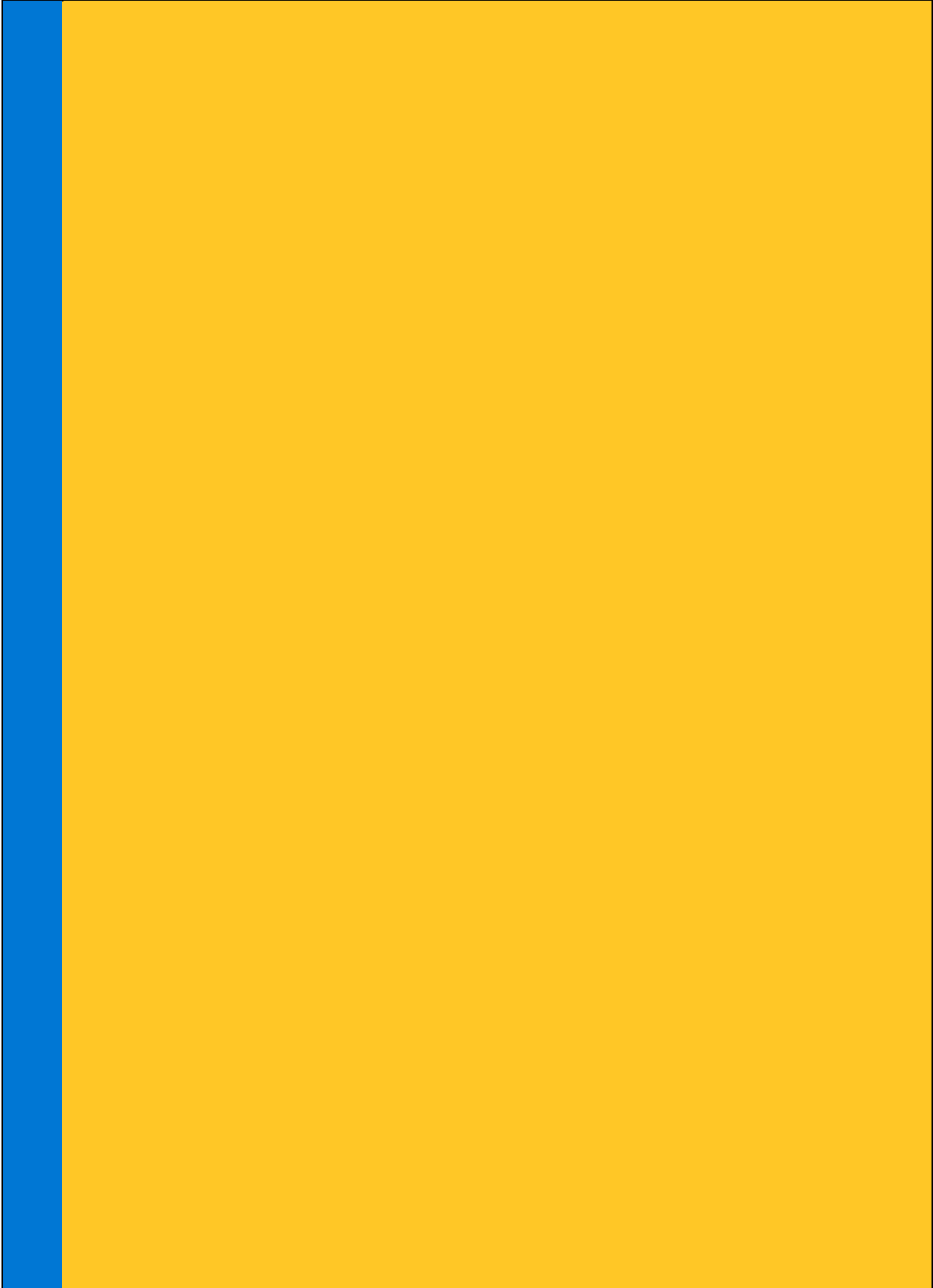
Please go to **Member planet** and make your payment by credit card (select credit card option \$ 50 plus processing fee).

You can also send in a check. Please contact **Laura Rhodes** at rhodesland@aol.com.

Have you moved?

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

The next newsletter will be distributed in March. Do you have something you want to share with us? All submissions due by February 25, 2023.



VASA Drott Lodge 168
c/o Laura Rhodes, Member Secretary, 28 E. Linden St
Alexandria, VA 22301-2220

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