

# Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.

## 2025 Annual General meeting

### Welcome & Announcements

- **Holiday Folk Fair, November 21 – 23, 2025**, Wisconsin State Fair Park
- **December 14, 2025, at 2 PM, Lucia Celebration at Fox Point Lutheran Church, 7510 N Santa Monica Blvd, Fox Point, WI**

### Election of Directors

- Quorum, nominations, election

### Annual Reports

- Secretary minutes from 2024 Annual meeting, 2025 reports: Treasurer, Membership, Publicity, Programs, Hospitality, Midsommar, Genealogy, Historical Projects, Presidents. (All reports available on SAHSWI website).

### Program

- Emma's Story, presented by Karen Snowberg.

### Fika

- Coffee and treats the Swedish way



# 2025 Holiday Folk Fair International

## Volunteers needed

Volunteer signup status: **Red Linde Lodge, Blue SAHSWI**

**Friday November 21**

9 am to 1 pm	Liza Ekstrand, Jan Ehrengren, John Engel,
1 pm to 5pm	Margo and Mike Kinservik
5 pm to 9 pm	Allan, Linda /Anja Stenmark

**Saturday November 22**

10 am to 1 pm	Cookie Anderson
1 pm to 4 pm	Elaine Johnson
4 pm to 9 pm	Marianne Ekstrand

**Sunday November 23**

10 am to 2 pm	Cathy Lehr,
2 pm to 6 pm	Lisa Ekstrand, Jan Ehrengren, John Engel



Celebrate the Culture of

**TRADITIONAL**



**2025 HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR INTERNATIONAL**

**Friday, November 21 - Sunday, November 23**

**State Fair Park Exposition Center • 8200 West Greenfield Avenue • West Allis, Wisconsin 53214**

**America's Premiere Multicultural Festival ... Explore the World of Music, Food, Dance, and Arts**

*Travel Around the World at the 82nd Annual Holiday Folk Fair International*

Holiday Folk Fair International, America's premier multicultural festival and a program of the International Institute of Wisconsin, celebrates the cultural heritage of the people living in southeastern Wisconsin. You can explore the ways music, food, dance, and art weave together a message of welcome.

# Election of Board Directors

## Bylaws

### Article 111 - Board of Directors

1. Membership: The Board of Directors shall consist of **seven Society members**, who shall be elected by the **members of the Society** at the Annual General Meeting thereof, plus the **immediate Past President**. If the immediate Past President is not available, one additional Board Member may be added if needed and subject to board approval. "Board" shall hereinafter be used to mean Board of Directors.
2. Terms: **The term** of each such elected Director shall be **three years**, to take effect upon the first meeting of the Board following the elections. Such meeting shall be called by the outgoing president, who will conduct the business of the meeting until new officers are elected by the Board. The terms shall be staggered so that terms of two, two and three Directors shall expire in successive years.

## SAHSWI Board Director Elections

John Elliott and Jan Ehrengren elected for 3-year terms,  
expiring 2028.



# Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.

## 2025 events



December 2024



**Lucia celebration**

January 2025



**Swedish Authors**

Presentation  
By  
Cookie Anderson

March 2025



**Fäbokultur**

June 2025



**Midsommar**



May 2025



**September  
2025**

# Secretary Report

Submitted by Joann Kreimendahl, SAHSWI past Secretary



## MINUTES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by President Jan Ehrengren with a Quorum present.

Annual Reports—All annual committee reports will be available on the website.

Minutes--The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting were approved as presented.

Election of directors--

The nominating committee presented the slate of nominations of board directors. Nominees are Janet Taylor, Irene Roberts, and Meg Haag, all nominated for three-year terms. As there were no further nominations, the slate was accepted and approved.

Reviews—Committee reports were presented and are available on the weblog.

Treasurer's Report—The report was presented by Irene Roberts and will be available to members on request.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30, with the fika meeting following featuring a tribute to Harry Anderson..

Joann Kreimendahl, Acting Secretary

# Treasury Report

## Submitted by Irene Roberts, SAHSWI Treasurer



Financial report available to SAHSWI members on request  
Contact Tracy Redman, Secretary:

[tracyredman1@gmail.com](mailto:tracyredman1@gmail.com)

# Hospitality Committee Report

## Submitted by Janet Taylor. Committee Chair



### **Annual Report – Hospitality Committee – 2025**

SAHSWI members continued to enjoy the Fika tradition in 2025 during four meetings at Martin Luther Lutheran Church as well as at a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting at St. Anskar's Episcopal Church in Hartland.

Sharing refreshments after an interesting program is always a time for members to relax, renew friendships with other members, and welcome visitors while enjoying coffee and tasty treats. Visitors are consistently surprised by the variety of baked goods and other foods that appear on the Fika table.

Thank you to all the members who generously helped set up and clean up, filled the Fika smörgasbord, and made everyone feel welcome at all of our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Taylor

# Midsommar Committee Report

## Submitted by Janet Taylor and Karin Konrad



SAHSWI's Midsommar Celebration took place on Sunday, June 22 at the Bavarian Bierhaus/Heidelberg Park in Glendale. Thirty-four members and friends set up the activity areas and welcomed visitors to the festivities. At the Welcome Table visitors received information about SAHSWI, a schedule for the afternoon, small Swedish flags, and some Swedish Fish candy.

The activities included:

- Making flower crowns;
- Decorating the Majstång with flowers and greens;
- Learning about genealogy research and SAHSWI's Genealogy group;
- Enjoying some Swedish specialties provided by the Bavarian Bierhaus;
- Playing the game of Kubb;
- Learning about early Swedish settlers in Wisconsin;
- Listening to Swedish folk tunes played by fiddlers from Goda Vänner with guest nyckelharpa musician, Gene Carlson;
- Enjoying a performance by the Norwegian Lykkeringen dancers;
- Dancing around the Majstång to traditional Swedish songs.

Children played bean bag games and tug of war. They also enjoyed getting their faces painted and making a variety of craft projects. All the children who participated received small prizes.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made another successful Midsommar Celebration possible, and thanks in particular to those who headed up activities: Martha Bergland, Tracy Redman, Susan and Del Worden, Wendy Pelsis, Brent Erickson, John Engel, Danielle Jackson, Elizabeth Elliott, Mary and Bob Stetson, Carol Gustafson, Stina Lemery, Amanda Balistreri, and Jan Ehrengren.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karin Konrad and Janet Taylor

# Santa Lucia Day Celebration, Dec 8, 2024

- About **75 people** attended the 2024 Lucia celebration at the **Fox Point Lutheran Church**.
- The Program performed together with the **Swedish School of Milwaukee** included Santa Lucia procession, Lucia song and Swedish Christmas Carols directed by **Stina Lemery**
- **The Lucia Story** was read by **Amanda Balistreri**
- 2024 Lucia: **Nadia Wright** Attendants (Tärnor): **Aubrey Wright, Leighton Ehrengren, Ella Lemery, Emilia Lemery, Thea Quealy, Willa Sjöberg** Star Boys (Stjärngossar): **Joseph Kaltenberg** Pepparkakor: **Eli Kaltenberg** Tomtar: **Oscar Erkander, Nova Balistreri, Orion Balistreri, Arlo Ehrengren**
- Following the Lucia program, a Swedish FIKA included Lucia buns,
- The children danced around the Christmas Tree (Julgran) led by Stina and Amanda.
- **John Elliott** was Santa Claus handing out treats to the children



# 2025 Membership Committee Report

SAHSWI Membership Committee



- **Maintains**
  - Records of current contact information for all SAHSWI members along with their activities and their interests in volunteering within the Society.
  - SAHSWI email account inbox at [swedishhistoricalwisc@gmail.com](mailto:swedishhistoricalwisc@gmail.com) directing incoming message to appropriate Board, Committee or Society member for assistance.
- **Welcome Table:**
  - Prepares name tags and distributes to welcome members at meetings.
  - Signs in visitors interested in receiving our semi-annual notice of planned events. (cumulative list now numbers over 180)
- **New Members:**
  - Provides letter of welcome explaining goals and providing further SAHSWI information and opportunities.

We thank and appreciate all who are helping or have in the past. If you are interested in volunteering your assistance on the Membership Committee or any area within SAHSWI, please contact Bev at 262-781-6113 or the society email account at [swedishhistoricalwisc@gmail.com](mailto:swedishhistoricalwisc@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,  
Bev Wenzel, Membership Committee Secretary

# 2025 Swedish Genealogy Research Group report – Submitted by John C. Engel



- We currently have 55 SGRG members.
- Four Saturday afternoon meetings were held at Martin Luther Church in the past year: Nov. 2, 2024; April 5, June 7, and Sept. 6, 2025.
- Our meetings start by inviting new participants to introduce themselves and to say a few words about their research level and findings. Many are beginners! We also invite members to describe any obstacles they face in their research, so we can try to help.
- The past year's topics include:
  - DNA Genealogy Websites for Ethnicity Estimates and Genealogy Validation
  - Tips and Tricks in American Genealogy Research
  - Tips and Tricks in Swedish Genealogy Research
  - Using the LDS Family History Center – in person or through the website at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
  - Protecting and preserving your precious documents, photos, and artifacts for future generations.

Please join us at our next meeting on Nov. 8, 2025!

Our topics are:

- American immigration records
- Using ArkivDigital for research in Swedish records: births, marriages, deaths, households, moving, etc.

Best, John

# Publicity Committee 2025



## SAHSWI Website [www.sahswi.org](http://www.sahswi.org) provides

- Information to the public about SAHSWI and Swedish American immigration to WI history
- Invitations to the public to all SAHSWI events
- Posts or blogs, “visitors” & “views” increasing, 257 subscribers

## SAHSWI Newsletter

- 5 Newsletters edited and distributed by Joann Kreimendahl

## Other publicity

- Two mailings per year distributed to prospective member list (see also membership)
- Invitation to events sent to Linde Lodge Vasa Order members
- Invitations sent to Nordic Council members organizations

[Home \(nordiccouncil.com\)](http://nordiccouncil.com)

## Website

### Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin



## Newsletter

### MARCH 2025



#### COMING EVENTS

- March 22, 2025 FÄBODKULTUR and FIKA
- April 5, 2025-Genealogy (SGRG) Meeting
- May 17, 2025-History of Swedish Sami people
- June 22, 2025-Midsommar at Heidelberg Park

## Nordic Council of Wisconsin

TO PROMOTE AND CREATE AN ONGOING INTEREST IN THE SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGES.



Home

Contact

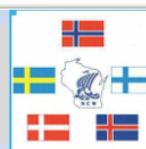
Denmark

Finland

Norway

Sweden

Holiday Folk Fair



# SAHSWI Historical Projects

## Unonius, New Upsala and the Scandinavian Parish State Historical Marker

- It was decided to honor Gustaf Unonius, New Upsala and The Scandinavian Parish Historical marker with an annual event.
- This event took place on Sept 13 2025, combined with the celebration of 50 year anniversary of SAHSWI.
- The event was attended by about 60 people, including members and a significant number of descendants of George Bergwall and Bengt Peterson.
- The event was festive serving Swedish Meatballs and Janssons Temptation made by Bergwall-Peterson descendants, and many sweats made by members.
- Swedish Folk Music played by Goda Vänner
- Jägarsång Acapella by Margie Wittkopp



# Thank you!

