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Mashville, Tenn.



CONSTITUTION BY-LAWS

OF THE

SWISS RELIEF SOCIETY

OF

NASHVILLE, TENN.

CONSTITUTION

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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

SWISS RELIEF SOCIETY

OF NASHVILLE, TENN.

ARTICLE I.

Name and Object.

Section 1. The name of this Society shall be Swiss Relief Society.

SEC. 2. The object and purpose are:

That we of Swiss nationality may become better acquainted with one another, may mutually discuss the interests of the fatherland and form among us a friendly and fraternal circle.

The source of benevolence flows from the intelligent efforts of those members who together strive to assist one another in word and deed when sickness or other misfortunes interfere with the performance of one's daily work; when widows and orphans of deceased members are supported, and when the last tokens of respect are paid to deceased members by accompanying them to their last resting place.

SEC. 3. This Society shall be composed exclusively of members of Swiss nationality or of United States citizens of Swiss descent. SEC. 19. After a candidate has been proposed the President shall appoint a committee of two, who shall make a report as to his health, conduct and character.

SEC. 20. Candidates, who are not admitted shall have the initiation fee returned to them.

SEC. 21. If a newly elected member fails to appear at the two first monthly meetings his name as a member shall be stricken and his initiation fee forfeited.

ARTICLE VIII.

Withdrawals and Expulsions.

SEC. 22. Members, who have complied with their duties toward the Society will, upon request, be honorably dismissed, and are entitled to a withdrawal card, which enables them, if they so desire, to rejoin the Society within one year without paying an initiation fee, but such members must wait six months from the time of their readmission before they can claim any benefits.

SEC. 23. A member may be expelled:

(a) If, after having been notified repeatedly, he fails to comply with his duties for nine months;

(b) If charges have been preferred against him by the Society and he has been duly tried

and found guilty;

(c) A member shall be expelled immediately if he reports himself sick when he is not, or in any way appropriates or seeks to approriate money of the Society when he is not entitled to it.

ARTICLE IX.

Duties of Members.

SEC. 24. Every member shall pay 50 cents per month to the Society; provided, however, that members who live a great distance from the meeting place may pay to the Secretary for as many months in advance as they see fit.

SEC. 25. Members who leave the district of the Society are entitled to a traveling card, which shall be issued for the length of time for which they pay their dues in advance.

SEC. 26. Every member owing the Society three months' dues shall stand suspended until he is in good standing again.

ARTICLE X.

Claims for Benefits.

SEC. 27. Every member who has belonged to the Society for six months and who has performed his duties according to the Constitution is entitled to benefits.

SEC. 28. In case such a member becomes sick and is unable to work, he shall be entitled, after the elapse of one week from the time he was reported sick, to one dollar per day for the duration of his sickness.

SEC. 29. In case such sickness or inability to work has been caused by a member's own fault or immoral conduct, no sick benefits will be paid.

SEC. 30. In case a member remains sick for

more than six months the Society shall determine whether he shall receive benefits for a longer period of time or not.

SEC. 31. Members living removed from Nashville, and who have paid their dues properly, are entitled to benefits, but are required to forward to the Society a certificate of the attending physician, giving the nature and duration of the sickness, attested by a Justice of the Peace in the county in which they live.

SEC. 32. In case the funds of the Society are reduced to less than \$200, the benefits paid to sick members shall be defrayed for an indefinite time by extra dues.

SEC. 33. Absent members are entitled to benefits only from the eighth day after which they were reported sick. (See Sec. 28).

SEC. 34. When a member of the Society dies his survivors shall be paid \$200 from the treasury of the Society within three days after his death. In this case every member must pay one dollar to the Society within three months. If the assessment is not paid during this time the same shall be added to his dues, and when the sum thus accumulated amounts to \$4.50, the member can, by a resolution of the Society, be expelled.

SEC. 35. In case a member dies and is indebted to the Society for a note, this note shall become due and shall be deducted from the death benefit.

Sec. 36. In case of death of the wife of a member of the Society, the survivor shall be paid

\$50 from the treasury of the Society, and every

member must then pay 25 cents extra.

SEC. 37. If a member dies who has not belonged to the Society for six months, funeral expenses will not be paid.

ARTICLE XI.

Loaning of Funds.

SEC. 38. If a member desires to borrow money from the Society, he can, after having been a member for one full year, secure an amount up to \$200 for a period of six months, by giving a legal note with sufficient security; provided, the Society has the money on hand and not loaned out on interest.

SEC. 39. Such notes shall bear interest at the rate of six per cent, and when they become due can, with the approval of the Society, be renewed for another six months.

ARTICLE XII.

Singing.

SEC. 40. If a sufficient number of members can be found in the Society who desire to form a singing circle, they shall have the right to demand from the Society a sum of money monthly for the support of the circle as long as it exists.

SEC. 41. The amount shall be determined every time at the regular monthly meetings, at which the chairman of the circle shall give an account of the use of the money and make a report of the activity of the circle.

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ARTICLE XIII.

Alteration of the Constitution.

SEC. 42. The Society has the right at any time to alter or cancel any sections of this Constitution, but such propositions must first be submitted three times to the Society in writing, and require a two-thirds vote of the members present for their adoption.

SEC. 43. A complete revision of the Constitution, however, can only take place after a committee of five has previously considered the

matter.

ARTICLE XIV.

Dissolution of the Society.

SEC. 44. This Society shall not be dissolved as long as there are five members who desire to continue it.

ARTICLE XV.

SEC. 45. No member upon withdrawing or being expelled from the Society shall have any

money paid in by him returned.

SEC. 46. If the Society is in need of money, those members who hold borrowed money from the Society for the longest time shall be called upon to pay off their notes within thirty days.

BY-LAWS

- ART. 1. If five members are present at a meeting it can be called to order for the transaction of pending business.
- ART. 2. The regular meetings shall take place on Saturday on or before the full moon of each month, from October 1 to April 1, at 7 o'clock p. m., and from April 1 to October, at 8 o'clock p. m.
- ART. 3. A motion is not debatable unless it has been seconded. Members desiring to speak must rise, and address the President. No member is allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject. If a member speaks too long or deviates from the question under consideration, he shall be called to order by the President.
- ART. 4. The reports of the various committees shall be submitted separately to the President in writing.
- ART. 5. Any member expecting to draw benefits from the Society must, in case of sickness, report such to some member of the Society or Committee on Sick, and upon recovery do likewise.
- ART. 6. If members of the Committee on Sick fail to perform their duty they shall pay a fine of 25 cents for every neglect.

- ART. 7. Officers and members who are absent from the annual meetings without a sufficient excuse shall be fined as follows: Officers, 50 cents, and members, 25 cents.
- ART. 8. Members of the Society who fail to attend the funeral of a deceased member shall pay a fine of 50 cents. Exceptions are only made in cases where members live more than four miles beyond the city limits.
- ART. 9. Every member is obliged to accept the office entrusted to him by the Society and to perform the duties thereof.

The two Secretaries, as well as the members of the Committee on Sick, are exempt from monthly dues for the term of their office.

- ART. 10. All officers can be re-elected, but are not obliged to accept the same office for two consecutive terms.
- ART. 11. All officers and committees shall continue in office until others are elected to take their places.
- ART. 12. Every member shall give his correct address to the Financial Secretary, and in case of a change of residence shall report his new address within one month.
- ART. 13. This Constitution shall take effect immediately, and all formerly existing old laws and regulations are null and void.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The following order of business shall govern the meetings:

The President calls the members to order.

- (a) Reading of the minutes.
- (b) Balloting for proposed candidates.
- (c) Proposal of new candidates.
- (d) Report of the Committee on Sick.
- (e) Unfinished business.
- (f) New propositions.
- (g) Report of the accounts of the Treasurer at every annual meeting and also of the Financial Secretary.
- (h) Reading of the list of members and collection of the monthly dues and fines.
 - (j) Election of officers.
 - (k) Reading of the new provisory minutes.