

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

SWISS RELIEF

SOCIETY

OF

NASHVILLE

TENNESSEE



# 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.

members in arrears of their delinquency. He shall collect all the money due the Society and turn the same over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor. He shall issue an order for all money ordered paid by the Society, and shall submit to the general meeting a detailed report of the receipts and disbursements.

SEC. 12. The Treasurer shall receive all money collected by the Secretary, giving his receipt therefor, and shall not dispose of any money without an order from the Secretary, signed by the President. He shall keep a correct account of all receipts and disbursements, and shall submit a report thereof at the annual expiration of his term of office. It shall furthermore be his duty to give the Society *sufficient security* for the money in his hands.

## ARTICLE V.

### *Duties of the Committee on Sick.*

SEC. 13. The Committee on Sick shall, upon being notified by the member, visit the sick member. If the sick member is entitled to benefits, a member of the Committee on Sick shall report the case at the next meeting of the Society.

In case of death of a member the Committee on Sick shall invite the members to attend the funeral.

## ARTICLE VI.

### *Duties of the Finance Committee.*

SEC. 14. The Finance Committee shall consist of the President, the Treasurer and three other members, and the Committee shall have the power to examine the books of the Secretary and Treasurer at any time, but shall be obliged to examine all the books and papers at least once a year and submit a report of the result of their work to the general meeting of the Society. Any notes uncollectable by the Treasurer are turned over to the Finance Committee for collection and they in turn are to report back to the Society their disposition of same. The Treasurer shall be chairman of this committee.

## ARTICLE VII.

### *Initiation.*

SEC. 15. Candidates can be proposed only by members of the Society, and whoever proposes a candidate must furnish the Financial Secretary with his age and residence.

SEC. 16. Candidates who desire to become members of the Society must be at least 18 and not over 50 years of age, and live at least six months inside of Tennessee.

SEC. 17. The Initiation Fee payable after admission and prior to initiation shall be:

From 18 to 35 years of age .....	\$ 5.00
From 36 to 45 years of age .....	10.00
From 46 to 50 years of age .....	15.00

SEC. 18. 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, and if he is accepted shall notify him.

SEC. 19. The admission shall be by ballot, and if three black balls are cast the candidate cannot be admitted into the Society but can renew his petition at the expiration of six months. After a candidate is accepted, he does not become a member until he is initiated.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### *Withdrawals and Expulsions.*

SEC. 20. 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. 21. A member may be expelled:

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

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- (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 appropriate money of the Society when he is not entitled to it.

## ARTICLE IX.

### *Duties of Members.*

SEC. 22. Every member shall pay 50c per month to the Society. Any member who has been in the Society for 50 consecutive years is exempt from dues.

## ARTICLE X.

### *Claims for Benefits.*

SEC. 23. Every member who has belonged to the Society for six months and who has performed his duties is entitled to benefits.

SEC. 24. 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.



If the condition of the sick member is such as to require hospital treatment, the sick benefit shall start from the first day of such hospitalization.

SEC. 25. In case the sickness or inability to work has been caused by a member's own fault or immoral conduct, no sick benefits will be paid.

SEC. 26. A member is not entitled to sick benefit for more than six consecutive months for the same illness.

SEC. 27. Members living removed from Nashville, and who have fulfilled their obligations, 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. This certificate shall be attested by a Justice of the Peace or Notary in the county in which they live.

SEC. 28. When a member dies his beneficiary shall be paid \$200.00 from the treasury of the Society in reasonable length of time, subject to the following provision, namely:

SEC. 29. That in any case where a member dies and is indebted to the Society; this debt shall become due and shall be deducted from his death benefit so far as may be possible.

SEC. 30. In case of death of the wife of a living member of the Society, the husband shall be paid \$50.00 from the Treasury of the Society.

## ARTICLE XI.

### *Loaning of Funds.*

SEC. 31. 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 \$200.00 for a period of six months, by giving a legal note with a member of good standing as a co-maker, provided the Society has the money on hand and not loaned out on interest. This loan must be balloted upon by the Society and if 3 black balls appear in ballot box, the loan will be refused.

SEC. 32. Such notes shall bear interest at the rate of six per cent, payable in advance, and when they become due can with the approval of the Society, be renewed for another six months.

SEC. 33. No member of the Society is allowed to be in debt to the Society for more than \$400.00.

SEC. 34. If a member has money borrowed from the Society, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to send him a notice at least seven days in advance of the date the note is due. If the note is not attended to on the date due, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to immediately send a notice to the co-maker by registered letter. If the note is not attended to by the following meeting, both maker and co-maker of said note shall be automatically suspended from any sick and death benefits.



## ARTICLE XII.

### *Alterations of the Constitution.*

SEC. 35. 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. 36. A complete revision of the Constitution, however, can only take place after a committee of five has previously considered the matter.

## ARTICLE XIII.

### *Dissolution of the Society.*

SEC. 37. This Society shall not be dissolved as long as there are five members who desire to continue it.

## ARTICLE XIV.

SEC. 38. No member upon withdrawing or being expelled from the Society shall have any money paid in by him returned.

SEC. 39. 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 - L A W S

ARTICLE 1. If five members are present at a meeting it can be called to order for the transaction of pending business.

ART. 2. Regular meeting shall take place on the last Saturday of every month.

ART. 3. A motion is not debatable unless it has been seconded. Members desiring to speak must rise and address the President.

If a member speaks too long or deviates from the question under consideration, he shall be called to order by the President.

ART. 4. Members living inside of 20-mile radius of Nashville, who expect to draw benefits from the Society in case of sickness, are required to report to an officer or a member of the Committee on Sick, inside of 10 days from the beginning of their sickness and shall report off likewise not later than one week after having recovered.

ART. 5. Other members, living away from Nashville, shall notify in writing any member or officer of the Society inside of the first month from beginning of their sickness; no claims will be paid unless the certificate as requested by Article X Section 27 of the Constitution is presented to the Society inside of one month after date of recovery.

ART. 6. Death claims for members living away from Nashville should be filed with the Society inside of one month after death.

ART. 7. The President can hold office for only two consecutive years.

ART. 8. All officers and committees shall continue in office until others are elected to take their places.

ART. 9. 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. 10. The Financial Secretary is required to keep a duplicate receipt system. His records of receipts of dues and assessments shall be kept separately.

ART. 11. The Treasurer is required to be bonded by a reliable bonding firm to an adequate amount; said bond shall be paid by the Society.

ART. 12. When a member dies, every member must pay one dollar to the Society.

ART. 13. When the wife of a member dies, every member shall pay 25 cents to the Society.

ART. 14. A floral design to cost \$10.00 is to be furnished by the Society in case of death of any

member, and it is the duty of the Treasurer to order same.

ART. 15. Every member owing the Society three months dues shall stand suspended from sick benefit for thirty days after dues are paid and suspension lifted.

ART. 16. Any member owing the Society a total of \$4.50, be it dues or assessments or both, shall be automatically suspended from sick and death benefits.

ART. 17. A note cannot be renewed unless maker and co-maker of said note are in good standing.

ART. 18. The two Secretaries and the Treasurer shall each receive a salary of \$6.00 per year payable at the end of each year.

ART. 19. The members of the Committee on Sick shall each receive a salary of \$12.00 per year payable at the end of each year.

ART. 20. No purchase of any kind shall be made without first being approved by the Society.

ART. 21. 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.

**Dec. 28, 1935**