

CONSTITUTION

and

BY-LAWS

of the

Swiss

Society

OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
**SWISS
SOCIETY**
OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



Constitution of the Swiss Society

OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

*Established as a Non-profit Organization in 1857.
Chartered in the State of Tennessee March 8, 1957.
(Corporation Record Book, Volume 021, page 36)*

ARTICLE I.

Name and Object.

SECTION 1.

The name of this Society shall be "SWISS SOCIETY."

SECTION 2.

The object and purpose are: That we of Swiss nationality and descent may become better acquainted with one another and form among us a friendly and fraternal circle.

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

SECTION 3.

This Society shall be composed exclusively of male members of Swiss nationality and/or male descendants.

ARTICLE II.

Meetings.

SECTION 4.

Every month a regular meeting shall be held on a day to be stipulated in the By-Laws of the Society.

SECTION 5.

Every year a general meeting shall be held at the regular meeting in January, at which time the new officers shall be elected.

ARTICLE III.

Officers of the Society.

SECTION 6.

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Financial Secretary, a Treasurer and three Directors. The President, the Treasurer and the three Directors shall form the Finance Committee.

SECTION 7.

All officers shall be elected by the Society by secret ballot for one year and by an absolute majority.

If an office becomes vacant the President shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term. This appointment must be approved by the members by a two-third voice vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

Alterations of the Constitution.

SECTION 8.

The Society has the right at any time to revise or alter all or a portion of this Constitution and its By-Laws. Such alterations or revisions must be given in writing to be considered previously by a committee of five appointed by the President; these changes must be submitted to the Society on three consecutive meetings and voted on each time. Two-third vote of the members present at each meeting is required to pass any such revision or alteration.

ARTICLE V.

Dissolution of the Society.

SECTION 9.

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

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 10.

This Constitution shall take effect immediately and all formerly existing Constitutions are null and void.

March 30, 1957.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I.

Meetings.

SECTION 1.

The regular meeting shall take place on the last Saturday of every month.

SECTION 2.

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

SECTION 3.

All business shall be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE II.

Duties of Officers.

SECTION 4.

The President shall preside at all meetings, preserve peace and order and enforce the laws; he shall sign all orders on the Treasurer that have been approved by the Society. He shall not participate in the deliberations and shall have no vote, except in case of a tie, when he shall have the right to decide. With the consent of five members he shall have the power to call extraordinary meetings. The President can hold office for only two full consecutive terms. The President has the power to appoint committees, which have to be approved by two-third voice vote of the members present.

SECTION 5.

The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the latter. If for any reason the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall automatically become Acting President until the term expires.

SECTION 6.

The Recording Secretary must attend all meetings, must keep a correct record of all the transactions and resolutions of the Society and shall attend to all correspondence; and when the President calls an extraordinary meeting he shall notify the members thereof.

SECTION 7.

The Financial Secretary shall keep a correct record of the members and their addresses, shall properly credit the amounts for all money received and shall issue a voucher for all money ordered paid out by the Society. He shall submit at the General Meeting a detailed report of the receipts and disbursements. The Financial Secretary is required to keep a duplicate receipt system; his records of receipts of dues and receipts of assessments shall be kept separately. He is also required to keep an accurate record of benefits paid to each member.

SECTION 8.

The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all money collected by the Financial Secretary and the Directors and shall make all disbursements by check. The money shall be deposited in an accredited banking institution.

SECTION 9.

The Directors are empowered to examine and audit all the records of the Society at any time. One audit must be made every year and a report submitted at the General Meeting.

SECTION 10.

The Treasurer shall be chairman of the Finance Committee. It is the duty of the Finance Committee to invest all available surplus funds of the Society in first mortgages and/or accredited securities.

Any notes uncollectable by the Treasurer are turned over to the Finance Committee and they in turn are to report back to the Society their disposition of the same.

No real estate shall be purchased by the Finance Committee without approval of a two-third majority of the members present. The Finance Committee shall be in charge of any real estate belonging to the Society.

All legal documents shall be kept by the Chairman in a fireproof safe.

ARTICLE III.

Initiation.

SECTION 11.

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

Candidates who desire to become members of the Society must be at least 18 and not over 50 years of age and must have established residence at least six months in the State of Tennessee prior to his initiation.

SECTION 13.

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 the report is favorable the committee shall notify the President.

SECTION 14.

The admission shall be by secret ballot, and if three negative votes are cast the candidate cannot be admitted into the Society, but is permitted to renew his petition at the expiration of six months.

After a candidate is accepted he does not become a member until he is initiated.

SECTION 15.

The initiation fee payable after admission and prior to initiation shall be:

From 18 to 35 years of age	\$ 5
From 36 to 45 years of age	\$10
From 46 to 50 years of age	\$15
One month's dues in advance is payable with the initiation fee.	

ARTICLE IV.

Duties of Members.

SECTION 16.

Every member shall pay seventy-five cents monthly dues.

SECTION 17.

When a member dies, every member must pay one dollar and fifty cents to the Society within three months.

SECTION 18.

When the wife of a member dies, every member must pay fifty cents to the Society within three months.

SECTION 19.

Every member shall give his correct address to the Financial Secretary and in case of change of residence shall report his new address within one month. Failure to do this absolves the Society from all obligations.

SECTION 20.

Every member is required to file the name of his beneficiary with the Financial Secretary.

ARTICLE V.

Exemption from Dues.

SECTION 21.

Any member serving in the Armed Forces will be exempt from payment of dues only for the duration of such service, but will not be entitled to sick benefit during this time.

SECTION 22.

Every member that has been in the Society for fifty consecutive years shall become an honorary member and is exempt from dues only.

ARTICLE VI.

Withdrawals and Expulsions.

SECTION 23.

Members, who have complied with their duties toward the Society will, upon request, be honorably dismissed, and are entitled to rejoin the Society within one year without paying the initiation fee, but such members must wait six months from the time of their readmission before they can claim any benefits.

SECTION 24.

Every member owing the Society four months dues and/or assessments after date due shall be suspended from sick and death benefits. A member who has been suspended for any reason shall not be entitled either during the period of suspension or thereafter, to receive sick or death benefits on account of any disability originating during the period of such suspension.

A member who was suspended for neglect of financial obligations can be reinstated by paying his full arrears to the Society, but such member must wait six months from the time of reinstatement before he can claim any benefits.

SECTION 25.
A member may be expelled:

- (a) If, after having been notified repeatedly, he fails to comply with his duties;
- (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 fraudulently reports sickness, or in any way appropriates or seeks to appropriate money of the Society when he is not entitled to it.

ARTICLE VII.

Claims for Benefits.

SECTION 26.

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

SECTION 27.

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 sick benefit of one dollar per day.

If the condition of the sick member requires hospital treatment, the sick benefit shall start from the first day of such hospitalization.

SECTION 28.

In the event of doubtful circumstances the decision will rest with the members voting by secret ballot.

SECTION 29.

A member is not entitled to sick benefit for more than six consecutive months in any twelve months period.

SECTION 30.

Members claiming sick benefit are required to forward to the Society a certificate of the attending physician, giving the nature and duration of the sickness.

Members living beyond a 25 mile radius from Nashville are required to have this physician's certificate attested to by a Notary Public.

These certificates shall be sent to the Recording Secretary within thirty days from the beginning of the illness or accident.

SECTION 31.

Maximum amounts to be drawn:

Up to 5 years of membership	\$100
Up to 10 years of membership	\$140
Up to 15 years of membership	\$185
Up to 20 years of membership	\$230
Up to 25 years of membership	\$280
Up to 30 years of membership	\$350
Up to 35 years of membership	\$380
Over 35 years of membership	\$400

SECTION 32.

Every member who has received sick benefits shall have that amount subtracted from the maximum payment to which he is entitled according to the graduated schedule set forth in Section 31.

SECTION 33.

When a member dies his beneficiary shall notify the Society inside of one month and two hundred dollars shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Society to the beneficiary or the estate within six months; however, if the deceased member is indebted to the Society this debt shall become due and shall be deducted from the death benefit so far as may be possible.

SECTION 34.

In case of death of the wife of a living member of the Society, the husband shall be paid fifty dollars from the Treasury of the Society.

SECTION 35.

If a member dies, the Treasurer shall have the power to disburse ten dollars for either a floral design or a donation to a designated charity, or in case of hardship to the family of the deceased.

ARTICLE VIII.

Loaning of Funds.

SECTION 36.

If a member desires to borrow money from the Society, he can, after having been a member for one year secure an amount up to two hundred dollars for a period of six months, by giving a legal note with a member of good standing as co-signer, provided the Society has the money on hand and not loaned out. The loan must be balloted on by the Society and approved by secret ballot by a three-fourth majority.

Such notes shall bear interest at the rate of six per cent, payable in advance.

SECTION 38.

When a note becomes due it may be renewed for another six months by a three-fourth majority vote of the members present. A note cannot be renewed unless maker and co-signer of said note are in good standing.

SECTION 39.

No member is allowed to be indebted to the Society for more than two hundred dollars on personal notes, and can be co-signer for a maximum of two hundred dollars.

Additional loans may be secured by the members against securities approved by the Directors. These securities may consist only of first mortgages, U. S. Government Bonds, State and Municipal Bonds.

SECTION 40.

If a member has money borrowed from the Society, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to send a notice at least seven days prior to expiration date of the note. If the note is not attended to on the date due, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to send immediately a notice to the co-signer by registered letter. If no action is taken upon the note by the following meeting, both maker and co-signer of said note shall be automatically suspended from any sick and death benefits.

If a member resigns or is expelled from the Society, his personal note shall become due at the expiration date and if not paid by that date the member shall become liable for all collection costs plus accrued interest.

ARTICLE IX.

Refunds and Recalls.

SECTION 41.

Member upon withdrawing or being expelled from the Society shall have no money paid in by him returned, except dues paid in advance.

SECTION 42.

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

ARTICLE X.

Payment of Service.

SECTION 43.

The Recording Secretary and the Treasurer shall each receive nine dollars per year and the Financial Secretary shall receive eighteen dollars per year for service rendered.

ARTICLE XI.

SECTION 44.

These By-Laws shall take effect immediately, and all existing By-Laws and Regulations are null and void.

March 30, 1957.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The following order of business shall be followed at all regular meetings of the SWISS SOCIETY:

Call to order
Invocation by Presiding Officer, member or guest.
Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
Balloting for proposed candidates for membership.
Reports on new candidates.
Reports from Sick members, death, etc.
Unfinished and pending business.
New business and Propositions.

At the annual meeting the following business shall also be included in the Order of business:

Report from the Financial Secretary.
Report from the Treasurer.
Report from the President of the Society.
Election of Officers.

*The fiscal year of the SWISS SOCIETY ends
December 31, of each year.*

