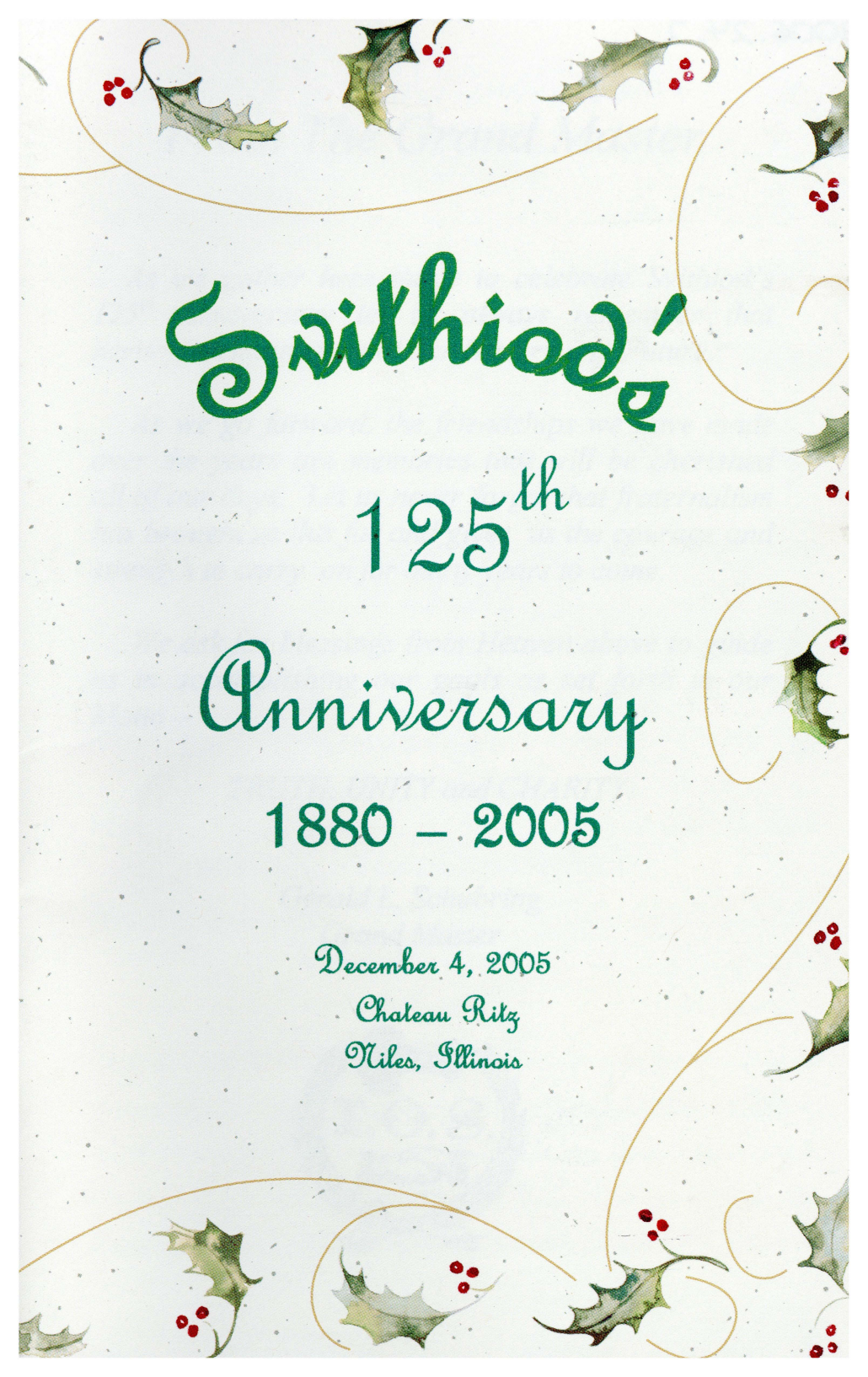




Smithsonian

125<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary

1880 – 2005

December 4, 2005

Chateau Ritz

Niles, Illinois

## *From The Grand Master*

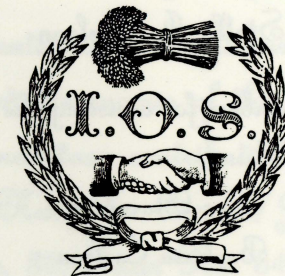
*As we gather here today to celebrate Svithiod's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary let us always remember that heritage remains part of our History and Future.*

*As we go forward, the friendships we have made over the years are memories that will be cherished all of our days. Let us never forget that fraternalism has brought us this far and gives us the courage and strength to carry on for many years to come.*

*We ask for blessings from Heaven above to guide us in accomplishing our goals as set forth in our Motto –*

**TRUTH, UNITY and CHARITY.**

**Gerald L. Schubring**  
Grand Master



# Independent Order of Svithiod

## Grand Lodge Officers

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Grand Master        | Gerald L. Schubring |
| Vice Grand Master   | Harold Carlson      |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Betty Jane Clausen  |

## Board of Directors

Janet Nelson Geist  
June Johnson  
Rolf Larson  
Matthew Lozich  
Stella J. Nelson  
Rosita Nordgren  
Frank Peterson  
Richard W. Rosberg

## Anniversary Committee Members

Betty Jane Clausen  
Janet Nelson Geist  
June Johnson  
Stella J. Nelson

Thanks to the following members for assisting the committee in the preparation of the memorabilia.

Dee Biarnesen  
Barbara Carlson  
Arlene Lindell

# Thanks To

Harold Carlson.....providing picture easels  
Betty Jane Clausen.....program book & memorabilia  
Janet Geist.....providing floor easels  
Gene Johnson.....creating centerpieces  
Arlene Lindell.....program book & place cards  
Stella & Jan Nelson.....ornament gifts  
Ron M. Nielsen.....printing of program book  
Gerald Schubring.....transporting memorabilia  
and supplies

Appreciation is extended to the following lodges for donating so generously toward the success of this affair: Svithiod No. 1, which matched monetary contributions from Verdandi No. 3, Linden Park No. 15, Corona/John Ericsson No. 23, Sten Sture No. 32, Orion No. 64 and Astrid No. 65.

# SVITHIOD'S PAST GRAND MASTERS

| Convention Year and Place                  | Grand Master              |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1893 370 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill.    | * Axel Blomfeldt (3)      |
| 1894 370 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill.    | * John Wolgren (1)        |
| 1895 370 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill.    | * John Wolgren (1)        |
| 1896 370 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill.    | * John P. Johnson (4)     |
| 1897 370 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill.    | * Olof Pearson (2)        |
| 1898 370 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill.    | * Fred Franson (5)        |
| 1899 370 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill.    | * Olof Pearson (9)        |
| 1900 370 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill.    | * John P. Johnson (4)     |
| 1901 122 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill.     | * John P. Johnson (4)     |
| 1902 Oriental Hall, Chicago, Ill.          | * Olof Pearson (9)        |
| 1903 122 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill.     | * Olof Pearson (9)        |
| 1904 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill.         | * Olof Pearson (9)        |
| 1905 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill.         | * H. E. Hanson (4)        |
| 1906 Briggs House, Chicago, Ill.           | * Joseph G. Sheldon (1)   |
| 1907 Svithiod Singing Club, Chicago, Ill.  | * Joseph G. Sheldon (1)   |
| 1908 North Side Turner Hall, Chicago, Ill. | * C. A. Carlson (2)       |
| 1909 Tegner Hall, Rockford, Ill.           | * Knute S. Carlson (8)    |
| 1910 Manufacturers Hotel, Moline, Ill.     | * Knute S. Carlson (8)    |
| 1911 Munroe Hotel, Joliet, Ill.            | * Edw. T. Carlson (20)    |
| 1912 Norden Hall, Minneapolis, Minn.       | * Olof F. Nelson (1)      |
| 1913 Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Ill.          | * Nels H. Olson (39)      |
| 1914 N. N. & E. Hall, Kansas City, Mo.     | * John G. Carson (32)     |
| 1915 South End Pythian Hall, Chicago, Ill. | * John G. Carson (32)     |
| 1916 Verdandi Hall, Chicago, Ill.          | * A. P. Olson (1)         |
| 1917 Verdandi Hall, Chicago, Ill.          | * Franklin Lundquist (42) |
| 1918 Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Ill.          | * August Lindeberg (12)   |
| 1919 Hotel Morrison, Chicago, Ill.         | * John A. Swanson (9)     |
| 1920 Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Ill.          | * Eric Almgren 12         |
| 1921 Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.      | * John G. Carson (32)     |
| 1922 Verdandi Hall, Chicago, Ill.          | * Oscar Hanson (3)        |
| 1923 Galesburg Auditorium, Galesburg, Ill. | * Carl A. Nystrom (12)    |
| 1924 Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Ill.          | * John R. Nelson (5)      |
| 1925 Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.    | * Lawrence Lenander (8)   |
| 1926 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill.         | * Samuel Peterson (42)    |
| 1927 Svithiod Hall, Duluth, Minn.          | * Samuel Peterson (42)    |
| 1928 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill.         | * Andrew Rasmusson (44)   |
| 1929 Hotel LeClaire, Moline, Ill.          | * Andrew Rasmusson (44)   |
| 1930 Fraternity Temple, Chicago, Ill.      | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1931 Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.      | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1932 Medinah Club, Chicago, Ill.           | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1933 Medinah Club, Chicago, Ill.           | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1934 Medinah Club, Chicago, Ill.           | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1935 Hotel Faust, Rockford, Ill.           | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1936 Hotel Lowry, St. Paul, Minn.          | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1937 Medinah Club, Chicago, Ill.           | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1938 Medinah Club, Chicago, Ill.           | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1939 Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.    | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1940 Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Ill.          | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |

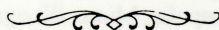
|                                              |                           |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1941 Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Ill.            | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1942 Medinah Club, Chicago, Ill.             | * Bernard Johnson (4)     |
| 1943 Medinah Club, Chicago, Ill.             | * E. Einar Andersson (74) |
| 1944 Medinah Club, Chicago, Ill.             | * Arthur J. Anderson (44) |
| 1945 Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Ill.            | * Arthur J. Anderson (44) |
| 1946 Hotel St. Paul, St. Paul, Minn.         | * Gustaf E. Johnson (1)   |
| 1947 Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Ill.            | * Holger Rosberg (2)      |
| 1948 Hotel Duluth, Duluth, Minn.             | * Robert M. Paulson (20)  |
| 1949 Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Ill.            | * Robert M. Paulson (20)  |
| 1950 Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Ill.            | * Herbert J. Nelson (64)  |
| 1951 Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Ill.            | * Herbert J. Nelson (64)  |
| 1952 Hotel Sheraton, Chicago, Ill.           | * Herbert J. Nelson (64)  |
| 1953 Hotel Radisson, Minneapolis, Minn.      | * Herbert J. Nelson (04)  |
| 1954 Sheraton Hotel, Chicago, Ill.           | * G. Ivar Carlson (5)     |
| 1955 Svithiod Club, Rockford, Ill.           | * G. Ivar Carlson (5)     |
| 1956 Sheraton Hotel, Chicago, Ill.           | * G. Ivar Carlson (5)     |
| 1957 Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria, Ill.      | Richard W. Rosberg (2)    |
| 1958 Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.      | Richard W. Rosberg (2)    |
| 1959 LeClaire Hotel, Moline, Ill.            | * Martin W. Carlson (12)  |
| 1960 Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago, Ill.    | * Martin W. Carlson (12)  |
| 1961 Hotel Duluth, Duluth, Minn.             | * E. Herbert Hanson (44)  |
| 1962 Svithiod Club, Rockford, Ill.           | * E. Herbert Hanson (44)  |
| 1963 Sheraton-Blackstone, Chicago, Ill.      | * E. Herbert Hanson (44)  |
| 1964 Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria, Ill.      | * Grant Frederickson (74) |
| 1965 Hotel Leamington, Minneapolis, Minn.    | * Grant Frederickson (74) |
| 1966 Conrad Hilton, Chicago, Ill.            | * Herbert J. Nelson (64)  |
| 1967 Orphei Singing Club, Chicago, Ill.      | * Herbert J. Nelson (64)  |
| 1968 Sheraton-Ritz Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn. | * Herbert J. Nelson (64)  |
| 1969 Voyager Inn, Peoria, Ill.               | * Herbert J. Nelson (64)  |
| 1970 Sheraton-Blackstone, Chicago, Ill.      | * Herbert J. Nelson (64)  |
| 1971 Ambassador Hotel, Chicago, Ill.         | * Harold G. Ekman (3)     |
| 1972 Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.      | * Harold G. Ekman (3)     |
| 1973 Faust Hotel, Rockford, Ill.             | * Harold G. Ekman (3)     |
| 1974 Marriott Hotel, Chicago, Ill.           | * Harold G. Ekman (3)     |
| 1975 LeClaire Hotel, Moline, Ill.            | * Harold G. Ekman (3)     |
| 1977 Marriott Hotel, Bloomington, Minn.      | * Harold G. Ekman (3)     |
| 1979 Hyatt House, Oak Brook, Ill.            | * Harold G. Ekman (3)     |
| 1981 Swedish Club of Chicago                 | Edna J. Hofverberg (1)    |
| 1983 Holiday Inn, Hillside, Ill.             | Edna J. Hofverberg (1)    |
| 1985 Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria, Ill.      | Henry A. Sanderson (3)    |
| 1987 Hyatt Regency, Schaumburg, Ill.         | Henry A. Sanderson (3)    |
| 1989 Hotel Pere Marquette, Ill.              | Harry L.N. Nelson (3)     |
| 1991 Drake Hotel, Oak Brook, Ill.            | Henry A. Sanderson (3)    |
| 1993 Hotel Pere Marquette, Ill.              | Henry A. Sanderson (3)    |
| 1995 Drake Hotel, Oak Brook, Ill.            | S. Erik Carlson (1)       |
| 1997 Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, Ill.      | Stella J. Nelson (65)     |
| 1999 Radisson Hotel, Schaumburg, Ill.        | Stella J. Nelson (65)     |
| 2001 Hilton, Northbrook, Ill.                | Yvonne Swanson (29)       |
| 2003 Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria, Ill.   | Gerald L. Schubring (64)  |
| 2005 Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, Ill.      | Gerald L. Schubring (64)  |

\*Deceased

# Menu

## Garden Salad

French or Ranch Dressing



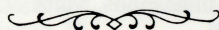
## Chicken & Beef Tenderloin Brochette

on rice pilaf

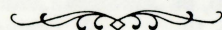
or

## Broiled Salmon, Lobster Dill Sauce

with parsley red skin potatoes



## Chef's Blend Vegetables



## French Vanilla Ice Cream

with Chocolate Sauce

and

## Anniversary Cake

with lemon custard filling

# Program

Welcome.....Richard W. Rosberg  
Past Grand Master  
Master of Ceremonies

Invocation.....Gerald L. Schubring  
Grand Master

## Dinner

Remarks.....Kerstin B. Lane  
Consul General of Sweden

## Introduction of Board Members and Past Grand & Vice Grand Masters

Remarks.....Harold Carlson  
Vice Grand Master

Sverige Barnen.....Grete Strom Spejcher  
Director

Remarks.....Betty Jane Clausen  
Secretary-Treasurer

Chicago Swedish.....Blaine Boogert  
Male Chorus  
Director

Remarks.....Gerald L. Schubring  
Grand Master

Musical Entertainment by Amazing Mike

## MILESTONES IN THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF SVITHIOD 1880 - 2005

On December 3, 1880, a group of eight men met at Bowman's Hall, now 370 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. There, the cornerstone was laid for the Svithiod of today. On March 14, 1881, Simon Hallberg was officially elected Chairman of the newly-formed organization and a committee was appointed to draft the bylaws. The Independent Order of Svithiod, a fraternal beneficial society, was officially chartered on September 2, 1881.

In 1885, membership in the Svithiod Order numbered 200. 1885-1891 was also an expansion period during which the first five branch lodges were organized and were under the supervision of the mother lodge - Svithiod No. 1.

The year 1893 was a very important milestone in the history of the Svithiod Order. On the 25th of June, the Grand Lodge came into being with Axel Blomfelt as the first Grand Master and Bernhard Peterson as Secretary.

In 1902 the membership in good standing totaled 2,267. At that time the lodges were very active socially and sponsored a great number of activities. From 1905 to 1913, the Order extended its activities into the states of Missouri and Minnesota and the membership was on the increase. An important change which took place during this period was to minimize the use of the Swedish language and allow the organization of English-speaking lodges. Central Lodge No. 42 was the first to come under that category.

In 1911, the Order was a full-fledged business concern with an office at 105 N. Clark Street in Chicago. Forty-two lodges were in existence, with a total membership of 7,642.

The year 1916 was a very important year because it was finally decided to allow women to become members. Agda C. Nordlund of Skandia Lodge No. 27 became the first woman to sign an application for membership, and was admitted on May 10, 1916. In June of 1916 the first ladies' lodge, Alpha No. 50 was instituted.

1916-1918 were the First World War years and 650 young men of the Order's membership of 10,000 served in the Armed Forces. Ten of them gave their lives for their country. The period following the War was one of great progress in every field of endeavor, especially in the insurance industry. In the Svithiod Order, six more new lodges were organized, making 67 in all. The membership roll reached the 16,000 mark. During the Grand Lodge year 1923-24, a record total of 2,260 new members were admitted to membership.

At the Grand Lodge meeting in 1923 in Galesburg, Illinois, a decision was made to establish and operate an Old Members' Home. The property was located on the shores of beautiful Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota. This consisted of approximately 60 acres of land and several buildings, and was purchased for

\$35,000.00. The official opening ceremonies were held on June 3, 1928. After benefiting our older members for forty-six years, the Home was sold in 1974 for \$130,000.00. These monies were placed in the Svithiod Home Fund, which was established for the specific purpose of providing financial assistance to our needy members. At present, the Svithiod Home Fund is known as the Benevolent Assistance Program, and continues to assist our needy members.

At the Convention held in Minneapolis in 1924, a suggestion was made to hold a Svithiod Day Outing each year for the benefit of the Old People's Home. This suggestion was adopted and, in 1926, the first Svithiod Day Outing was held in Good Templar Park, Geneva, Illinois. Including the first Outing in 1926, 74 have been held in various locations - Good Templar Park, Geneva, Illinois; Glenwood Park, Batavia, Illinois; St. Paul Park, Morton Grove, Illinois; and Vasa Park, Elgin, Illinois. Regrettably, in 2000, due to lack of personnel to man the stands and diminishing attendance, the Svithiod Day Outing had to be cancelled.

At the 1935 Convention, held in Rockford, Illinois, upon the initiative of Grand Master Bernard Johnson, action was taken to start a branch of insurance for the children. At this meeting, Brother Otto Hanson was again elected to the office of Secretary after an absence of three years from the Grand Lodge.

The period 1930 to 1943 must be called the "Bernard Johnson Era". At the 1930 Convention in Chicago this young man, then 27 years of age and known as the "Fellow with the million-dollar smile", was elected to the office of Grand Master. Brother Johnson was known for his winning personality, his untiring efforts in anything he undertook, his great planning ability, and his persuasive power, whereby he won the assistance of others. He was very fond of people and of large public gatherings. Brother Johnson was also the instigator and inspirational power of some very outstanding public gatherings through which the name of Svithiod appeared very often in the daily press and many other places.

During the Grand Lodge year 1933-34, the Grand Master, with the assistance of Sister Fannie Anderson of Elida Lodge No. 54, started the first Junior Club. A group of approximately ten children appeared at the Grand Lodge meeting and further developments in Juvenile activities were officially approved. The movement, under the guidance of Brother Johnson, gained popularity. It was not too long before several clubs were organized, not only in Chicago and vicinity but also in the Twin Cities and Rockford.

The 55th Anniversary Celebration held on December 7, 1935 in the Medinah Temple, Chicago was Bernard Johnson's greatest success in the staging of a social activity. It was the most outstanding festivity ever held by the Svithiod Order. The show *On Wings of Time* portrayed the development of the Order and various periods since 1880, and was staged under the direction of Carl Stockenberg.

On April 29, 1938 the Chicago and vicinity lodges observed the 300th Anniversary of the arrival of the Swedish people in America with a huge festivity at the Masonic Temple, 32 W. Randolph Street. An elaborate program was presented to an audience of 3000, including pageantry by Carl Stockenberg. One hundred ninety-two members were initiated, with eight initiatory teams participating. Membership on June 30, 1938 totaled 11,932.

The 1940 Grand Lodge meeting was held at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago. It was combined with the observance of the Order's most elaborate and impressive convention. One hundred new members were initiated in the Grand Ballroom with nine initiatory teams taking part in the ceremonies.

During the Second World War, 500 young men and women members of the Svithiod Order served in the military forces. A total of twelve young men made the supreme sacrifice for their country. Several successful War Bond Sales campaigns were also sponsored by the Order. Upon the initiative of Grand Master Bernard Johnson, Svithiod "Help Win the War" benefit rallies were organized. They were held in 32 cities and localities, climaxed by the huge Chicago festivity at the Medinah Temple on December 5, 1942. Combined, those rallies attracted thousands of people, and the net proceeds amounted to over \$14,000. This made it possible for the Order to donate nine ambulances and medical equipment to the Government.

In the early 1950's, many concerned members and officers saw the need for the Svithiod Order to establish a "Not-for-Profit" Nursing Home in order to render the very best care at the lowest cost to our members. At the 1950 Convention in Chicago, plans were initiated and a committee was formed, headed by former Grand Lodge Secretary Otto Hanson as chairman.

Three ladies' groups were formed to work for the establishment of the Nursing Home. On May 28, 1961, a somewhat smaller home than originally anticipated was dedicated at 8800 Grace Street in Niles, Illinois. It was the home for many of our members who were in dire need of loving and expert care for over ten years. It was a proud achievement, and all those who had a part in its existence and maintenance deserve the heartfelt gratitude of us all. The home was sold in 1971 and the monies realized from the sale were placed in the Benevolent Assistance Program Fund which is still in existence and aids Svithiod's needy members.

The "SVITHIOD CHARTER FLIGHT" to Sweden was inaugurated in 1960 through the initiative of Secretary of the Grand Lodge, Harold G. Ekman. The Order sponsored thirteen of these flights enabling members to visit Scandinavia. Proceeds after expenses had been paid were turned over to the Nursing Home Fund.

In August of 1962, at the convention held in Rockford, Illinois, an important resolution was adopted allowing persons of Scandinavian birth or extraction to become members of Svithiod. Up until this time, only persons of

Swedish birth or extraction had been accepted into membership. Now, persons of Scandinavian heritage - Danish, Icelandic, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish - were eligible to join the Order. This was a very important milestone in Svithiod's history.

In November, 1965, an "OPEN HOUSE" was held in Chicago dedicating the new Home Office of Svithiod at 5520 W. Lawrence Avenue. Svithiod Hall in the Home Office building was officially opened on January 1, 1975. Currently, three Svithiod Lodges, as well as other fraternal groups, make their home in our beautiful meeting facility, remodeled in 1981-82 by many Svithiod volunteers under the leadership of Brother Nils Hofverberg.

At the 84th Grand Lodge Convention held at the Marriott Inn, Bloomington, Minnesota on July 22-23, 1977, it was recommended that the Svithiod Order divest itself of its insurance department. On February 25, 1978, an "Agreement of Reinsurance", by and between Bankers Mutual Life Insurance Company of Freeport, Illinois and the Independent Order of Svithiod, was signed at the office of the Grand Lodge. The signing of this important document came as a result of years of study by the Svithiod Research and Planning Committee and months of deliberation and careful consideration by the Svithiod Negotiating Committee. After 98 years of being in the insurance business, the Independent Order of Svithiod was now a social organization. Bankers Mutual Life Insurance Company merged with Trustmark Insurance Company, and we continue to have a very good association with this company.

The Grand Lodge office moved from 5520 West Lawrence Avenue to 5518 on February 1, 1980, taking over a smaller office in order to effect a reduction in operating expenses for Svithiod. Renting out the larger space at 5520 brings in added income.

Our Centennial Year - 1980 - was momentous in Svithiod's history. Observances of various kinds were held throughout the year in the subordinate lodges to celebrate our 100 years of existence. On Sunday, October 19, 1980, a Centennial Pageant was held at Mather High School in Chicago, portraying our Order's 100th Anniversary. It was attended by over 500 people. The climax of the year's festivities was the 100th Anniversary Banquet, held at the O'Hare Marriott Hotel in Chicago on November 30, 1980. Seven hundred people attended this fitting finale to a spectacular era. These festivities were chaired by Past Grand Master Edna Hofverberg along with many other hard-working and dedicated Svithiod members, which made these events successful.

At the 86th Grand Lodge Convention, held at the Swedish Club of Chicago on July 24-25, 1981, a major change was made in the "top brass" of Svithiod. Three women were elected to the highest offices in the Independent Order of Svithiod. Edna J. Hofverberg of Manhem Lodge No. 2 was the first woman to become Grand Master in the 101 year history of Svithiod. Marie Larson of Linden Park No. 15 was re-elected Vice Grand Master, and Betty Jane

Clausen of John Morton Lodge No. 74 was the first woman elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

A children's group, known as Sverige Barnen, has been sponsored by Svithiod since 1982. This group of youngsters has performed at Svithiod Day Outings and Christmas programs, preserving our Scandinavian culture and heritage. In August of 1996 they performed at the Ethnic Village at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, and also at the Epcot Showcase Plaza, Disney World, Orlando, Florida the same year. Each year a special "Lucia" program is given by the children, as well as a Spring Concert. Director Irene Strom Spejcher is to be given much appreciation for her dedicated service to this fine group of young Svithiod members.

What a day to remember! On April 19, 1988, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia paid a visit to Andersonville on North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the founding of "New Sweden", a small Swedish colony in the state of Delaware. Thousands lined Clark Street between Summerdale and Foster Avenues to witness a fabulous and colorful parade of floats and marching bands. Svithiod had a beautiful float entered in the parade commemorating our 108 years of existence on which our Sverige Barnen group, dressed in Swedish costumes, rode and sang. A Svithiod banner preceded the float and was carried by Past Grand Master Edna Hofverberg, Past Vice Grand Master Marie Larson, and Secretary-Treasurer Betty Jane Clausen.

Svithiod has participated in several exhibits at the Swedish Festival held at the Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe, Illinois under the sponsorship of the Central Swedish Committee. Displays depicting our Order's purposes and special events were highlighted via posters and pictures.

In conjunction with Svithiod's 115th Anniversary - December 5, 1995 - the Grand Lodge Board of Directors arranged to have a display at the James R. Thompson State of Illinois Building in downtown Chicago from December 11th through the 19th. The display consisted of Svithiod artifacts and memorabilia.

Many Svithiod members now reside in Florida, and some years ago a "Florida Reunion" was started by Floridian Sisters June Bolinder Carlson and Lucille Severson. Thirteen reunions have been held to date, and many Svithiod members and friends gather to renew old acquaintances.

The first SVITHIOD JOURNAL was printed in September of 1898 when the Order was comprised of nine lodges, and the first issue outlined the history of the Order to that time. In 1898 the JOURNAL was, of course, written in Swedish. It was not until March, 1910 that Central No. 42 wrote its articles in English. Following Central's example, Unity Lodge No. 44 began submitting columns in English in May, 1911. In July of 1953 complete reporting was in the English language. The cover heading has changed several times in the last one hundred years, and it now reflects the five Scandinavian countries which make up our membership - Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The Fraternal Activities Committee was the social arm of Svithiod which planned various trips and entertainment for our membership. The committee was chaired by Past Grand Master, Stella J. Nelson for many years and consisted of representatives from participating lodges in the Chicago area.

Throughout the years the committee sponsored three cruises - Eastern Caribbean, Western Caribbean and the Panama Canal. Other trips included Branson, Missouri (two Christmas and one summer trip); Gatlinburg, Tennessee; Nashville Bash; Wheeling, West Virginia Jamboree; Cumberland Valley, Kentucky; Amish Acres, Nappanee, Indiana; Agawa Canyon, Canada; Mackinac Island, Michigan, and the Milwaukee, Wisconsin museum.

Many casino trips were enjoyed as well as Ice Shows, Theatre Parties (Cahn Auditorium and Maine South High School), Pancake Brunches, Baseball Games, USSS Concerts, and New-Year's Eve Parties.

Svithiod bowlers have also participated in annual Bowling Meets - 63 to date. Banquet parties following the bowling have also been a means of get-togethers for both junior and adult members.

For many years, the Spring Frolic has been an annual event at which large numbers of candidates are initiated into membership. Ceremonial rituals have been performed by various initiatory teams, among them Irving Park No. 20 and Astrid No. 65 teams. Since 1999 the Board of Directors have performed the ceremony. Each year special membership campaigns for new members result in large classes of candidates.

In the year 2004 Svithiod established a Web Site - [www.svithiod.org](http://www.svithiod.org) which links us the Swedish American Museum Association of Chicago, the Central Swedish Committee and the Junior Board of the Museum.

The Order's Benevolent Assistance Program has assisted lodge members in time of need, and has expended over \$292,326.00 to date since the closing of our Nursing Home in 1971. In addition, Svithiod has promoted our Scholarship Program since 1970, which has awarded scholarships grants to 290 students for a total amount of \$150,900.00

Through Svithiod's many benevolent endeavors, the Grand Lodge and the Subordinate Lodges continue to support our own objectives as well as continuing to support worthwhile charities and organizations, thereby living up to the Motto of our Benevolent Society, TRUTH - UNITY - CHARITY.





*SVITHIOD'S MOTTO IS:*

*TRUTH - UNITY - CHARITY*

*TRUTH*

is the light that guides us, in our daily life as well as in the lodge and the Order. We should always put into practice the principles of truth.

*UNITY*

Cooperation and a true spirit of comradeship should always characterize our acts. Unity is the bond that lends us power to gain our ends.

*CHARITY*

and love towards our fellow members must not be merely an empty phrase. Charity is the vital principle, and we should always treat the brothers and sisters of our Order with kindness and helpfulness, in a manner worthy of true fraternalism.