

**CONSTITUTION AND
GENERAL LAWS
FOR
THE INDEPENDENT
ORDER OF SVITHIOD**



(Incorporated September 2, 1881, under the Laws of
the State of Illinois)

Its Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges

**Printed for the Grand Lodge of I. O. S.
1919**



Jacobson Printing Co., 305 N. Wells Street
Chicago, Ill.

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State of Illinois Insurance Department.

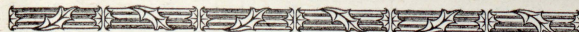
Springfield, April 17th, 1901.

WHEREAS, the Independent Order of Svithiod, located at Chicago, in the State of Illinois, a fraternal beneficiary society, has made application for permission to continue to transact business within this State, under the provisions of an act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled "An Act to provide for the organization and management of fraternal beneficiary societies for the purpose of furnishing life indemnity or pecuniary benefits to the beneficiaries of deceased members, or accident or permanent indemnity disability to members thereof; and to control such societies of this State, and of other states, doing business in this State, and providing and fixing the punishment for violation of the provisions thereof, and to repeal all laws now existing which conflict herewith." Approved and in force June 22nd, 1893. And has otherwise complied with the requirements of the said act which are applicable to said Society.

Now, therefore, I, Jas. R. B. Van Cleave, Insurance Superintendent of the State of Illinois, by virtue of the power vested in me and the duties imposed upon me by the act aforesaid, do hereby authorize and grant permission to said Independent Order of Svithiod to transact business in the State of Illinois, as a fraternal beneficiary society, in conformity to the provisions, requirements and conditions of the act aforesaid.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of my office at Springfield the day and year first above written.

Jas. R. B. Van Cleave,
Insurance Superintendent.



ARTICLE I.

Name, Object and Requirements.

§ 1. The name of this Order shall be THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF SVITHIOD.

§ 2. Its object shall be:

a) To unite in bonds of fraternal harmony and benevolent co-operation men and women of Swedish birth or extraction, not under eighteen nor over fifty years of age who are of sound health and of good character;

b) To promote the moral and material welfare of its members;

c) To render aid to members in need;

d) To pay to the legal beneficiaries of deceased members certain death benefits, the amount of which as well as the system of assessment whereby the same shall be raised, shall be determined by the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE II.

Authority of the Grand Lodge.

§ 1. The Grand Lodge shall be the highest authority of the Order in the enactment of laws and the administration of justice, and all branches of the Order, wherever located, shall be governed by its regulations.

§ 2. The Grand Lodge shall have the authority:

a) To prescribe ritual and ceremonies in written or oral form;

b) To determine the form and color of all materials, insignia and regalia, emblems, badges of degree and decorations of officers;

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c) To determine and distribute all passwords of the Order and give instructions concerning their use;

d) To establish and charter branches of the Order in localities, where Swedes are sufficiently numerous to maintain a subordinate lodge;

e) To raise the money necessary for the maintenance of the Grand Lodge by a per capita tax and through the sale of articles necessary for the subordinate lodges;

f) To investigate and render judgment in all appealed cases of dispute between different lodges or between a lodge and its members;

g) To supply the lodges with all material, printed matter, etc.;

h) To make all laws and regulations necessary for the performance of its functions;

i) To recall and declare null and void the charter of any subordinate lodge for violation of the constitution and the enactments of the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE III.

The Grand Lodge.

§ 1. The Grand Lodge shall be composed of representatives from each subordinate lodge of the Order, who shall be elected at the regular election meeting in December.

§ 2. Each lodge shall be entitled to one representative, at least, in the Grand Lodge. If the membership of a lodge exceeds one hundred members it shall be entitled to one additional representative for each additional one hundred members or fraction thereof, not less than 50, however, based upon the number of members for which the lodge last paid Per Capita Tax to the Grand Lodge.

§ 3. Representatives to the Grand Lodge shall be elected for two years, lodges with even numbers to hold their elections in odd years, and lodges with odd numbers to hold their elections in even years.

§ 4. If a lodge, at the time of the election of representatives, has no member qualified according to Art. VII, § 1, the Chairman of the lodge shall serve as representative and the Vice Chairman as alternate in the Grand Lodge for the first term, or until the lodge is entitled to hold an election, according to § 3.

§ 5. At the election of representatives to the Grand Lodge, an alternate for each shall be appointed by the Chairman to serve when required, the alternate to be qualified in the manner of the representative, but not eligible to hold office in the Grand Lodge.

§ 6. Past Grand Masters in good financial standing shall at all times have a voice in the Grand Lodge, but no vote, except when elected as representatives by a subordinate lodge.

§ 7. No representative or alternate shall partake in the transactions of the Grand Lodge before having been duly installed.

§ 8. Within five days after the election of representatives and alternates, the Secretary of the lodge shall send to the Secretary of the Grand Lodge a certificate signed by the Chairman and the Recording Secretary, and bearing the seal of the lodge, containing the names of the representatives and alternates and stating the time they are to serve. A copy of this certificate shall be given each representative and alternate.

ARTICLE IV.

Meetings.

§ 1. The annual convention of the Grand Lodge shall be held at a time and place determined at each preceding Grand Lodge meeting.

§ 2. The Grand Lodge may, with the consent of the Board of Directors, be called to an extra meeting by the Grand Master whenever necessary. No call shall be issued, unless at least ten members of the Grand Lodge or five subordinate lodges shall make the request.

§ 3. For such extra convention the Secretary of the Grand Lodge shall issue a call to the members of

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the Grand Lodge at least five days prior to the meeting. The call shall contain a minute statement of the questions to be acted upon, no other business than that specified to be transacted at such extra convention.

§ 4. Representatives to the Grand Lodge are entitled to per diem compensation from the lodge they represent and mileage from the Grand Lodge; provided, that if a subordinate lodge, by reason of its membership, is entitled to more than one delegate, the Grand Lodge shall not pay for mileage a larger amount than equal to 15 cents per member, based upon the membership of the lodge at the end of the preceding year, the balance to be paid by the subordinate lodge.

ARTICLE V.

Quorum.

§ 1. Twenty-five representatives to the Grand Lodge shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the usual business, but for the election of officers, changes of laws and enactments, or the passing upon expenditures not authorized by this constitution, a majority of all representatives is required.

§ 2. If at an annual convention of the Grand Lodge a lesser number than that required for a quorum should appear, the meeting may be adjourned from hour to hour; if no quorum be secured by 12 o'clock the following day, the Grand Master shall declare the convention adjourned until the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

Headquarters.

The headquarters of the Grand Lodge and the office of its Secretary shall be located in the City of Chicago, Illinois. The Board of Directors shall there hold its meetings, and all correspondence shall be addressed to the Secretary at that place.

ARTICLE VII.

Eligibility as Representative.

§ 1. As representative to the Grand Lodge may be elected only such member who at the time of election is in good financial standing, and has served at least one term in one of the elective offices of the lodge, and has been a member of the Order for at least two years.

§ 2. Representatives to the Grand Lodge shall enter upon their duties at the first regular meeting after election.

§ 3. A representative to the Grand Lodge suspended or expelled for cause from a subordinate lodge, thereby forfeits membership of the Grand Lodge and any office held therein; reinstatement in a subordinate lodge shall restore such member to representation and office in the Grand Lodge, except where vacancy has been filled.

ARTICLE VIII.

Officers of the Grand Lodge.

§ 1. The Grand Lodge shall have the following officers, assistants and committees:

One Grand Master;
One Vice Grand Master;
One Secretary;
One Treasurer;
One Chief Medical Examiner;
One Past Grand Master;
One Chaplain;
One Marshal;
Two Assistant Marshals;
One Inner Guard;
One Outer Guard;
An Auditing Committee of 3 members;
A Board of Directors of 11 members.

§ 2. The Grand Master, the Vice Grand Master, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Board of Directors shall be elected at the yearly meeting. All officers, except those



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