

YEAR BOOK and MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

THE SWEDISH CLUB
OF CHICAGO



SEASON 1954-1955

TO OUR MEMBERS
WE RESPECTIVELY
DEDICATE THIS BOOK



HAT you may
better know
your club and
its operations;
that you may better
know your fellow mem-
bers and their voca-
tions; that you may bet-
ter serve and be better
served by your club
and fellow members.

—Officers and Directors

THE SWEDISH CLUB OF CHICAGO
1258 NORTH LA SALLE ST., CHICAGO 10, ILL.
TELEPHONE MOhawk 4-4270

Joseph M. Blomgren, Steward-Manager

Club Automobile Parking Lots
1313-19 N. Wells St. 1236-38 N. LaSalle St.

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Season 1954-1955

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HISTORY AND ACTIVITIES

The Swedish Club of Chicago is a "Not for Profit Corporation" under the laws of the State of Illinois.

Its objects are to provide a social and cultural center for Americans of Swedish descent, mainly in Chicago and, where the traditions, literature, music, art and scientific and industrial achievements of the land of their ancestry may become known and appreciated not only by themselves but as well by their associates; to promote athletic sports and recreation among its members; to encourage and support worthy causes of charity and benevolence; to advance the cause of international good will and universal peace; and in general to secure to its members and their families the benefits of willing co-operation and good fellowship.

In promoting these objects, the Club not only conducts its own activities, such as lectures and addresses, book reviews, concerts and recitals, exhibitions of arts and industry, presentations by motion pictures, radio, and television, and other events, but also gladly assists other organizations and institutions, devoted to like purposes, by co-operation and support. The facilities of the Club are willingly made available, in proper cases, for meetings and conferences of mutual interest to the members of the Club and other participants.

The management and control of the affairs and property of the Club are vested in a Board of Directors, consisting of eleven members, including the five general officers.

The President of the Club is its general executive officer. Among the important committees appointed by him are the House Committee and Entertainment Committee, of which the First Vice President and the Second Vice President are traditionally chairmen, respectively.

The Club owns the property occupied by it at 1256-1260 North LaSalle Street, consisting of two former residences, now co-ordinated into a single unit, and a separate structure containing boiler-room and air-conditioning equipment. The Club also owns automobile parking space for the use of its members at 1313-1319 N. Wells St. and 1236-38 N. LaSalle St.

The Club traces its origin to a society called "Freja," which was organized in Chicago in the fall of 1869 by a group of Scandinavians, mostly Swedes, whose main purpose was to form a male chorus, but whose plan was soon expanded to include sick benefits and life insurance for the members and all kinds of social gatherings. On May 2, 1874, the society was incorporated under the name of "Föreningen Freja." It operated successfully until 1881, when the loss of the entire assets, through the failure of two small banks, practically disrupted the society, but in 1882 some of the Swedish members and their friends formed a purely social organization, which they

named "Svenska Klubben," and procured club rooms at (then) 155 East Chicago Avenue. In 1886, Swedish singers, who had belonged to Freja, organized Svenska Sångsällskapet, which name they changed in 1889 to Svenska Sångsällskapet Freja, and the same year this society and Svenska Klubben consolidated under the name of "Svenska Glee-Klubben i Chicago," which was incorporated May 13, 1891. In order to get permanent and larger quarters, which were urgently needed, members of the consolidated club formed a capital stock company, which was incorporated under the name of "The Swedish Club of Chicago," late in 1892. Early in 1896, this corporation bought the building at the southwest corner of LaSalle and Goethe Streets and leased it to Svenska Glee-Klubben i Chicago which moved in April 13, 1896.

In 1910 the singers withdrew from "Svenska Glee-Klubben i Chicago" and shortly thereafter reorganized as the "Swedish Glee Club of Chicago," and later incorporated under their present name of the "Chicago Swedish Glee Club." The remaining members of "Svenska Glee-Klubben i Chicago" resumed their former name of "Svenska Klubben" and on August 13, 1923, adopted the present name of "The Swedish Club of Chicago," which name was dropped by the members of the capital stock company, from whom the present club acquired the club house property in March of 1925, by deed and the purchase of all of the capital stock.

In 1909-1910 the two-story addition to the original building was erected and in 1927 the Club purchased the three-story building immediately south of the same building. The addition containing the boiler room and air-conditioning equipment was erected in 1952.

The interior and furnishings of the club house merit attention in this story.

The Reception Lounge, on the main floor, is attractively furnished. On the walls are original paintings by prominent Swedish-American artists. Connected with this lounge is the Swedish Room, whose furnishings are all importations of modern design from Sweden. In the lounge is a portrait in oil, procured by the Club, of His Majesty, King Gustaf VI Adolf, of Sweden.

The Banquet Hall, also on the main floor, is noted for six large murals, by Swedish-American artists, depicting important events in the annals of Americans of Swedish descent, and for a large painting in the rear of the stage, showing a striking view of the city of Stockholm, Sweden. Each window contains a colored panel of an American shield.

In the main hallway to the ground floor, on the west wall, there is a mammoth steel shield, measuring eight and onehalf by six feet, which is historical as

well as ornamental. This shield was produced in Sweden and was exhibited in the Swedish Pavilion at The World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. After the fair it was donated to the Field Museum of Natural History (now the Chicago Natural History Museum) which in 1928 presented the shield to The Swedish Club of Chicago.

The etchings on the shield relate to the love legend about Frithjof and Ingeborg in the Viking era (probably about 800 A.D.), which was immortalized by the Swedish epic poem entitled "Frithjofs Saga" by Esaias Tegnér and published complete in the year 1825. This poem has been translated into nearly every European language.

The Dining Room, on the ground floor, is reminiscent of quaint Swedish rural art on its walls and the specially built base of its Smörgåsbord. The stained paneled windows contain reproductions of the coats of arms of the 24 provinces of Sweden.

The Tap-Room Lounge, also on the ground floor, contains a large original painting showing scenes from the love saga of Frithjof and Ingeborg, as related in Tegnér's great epic poem. The lounge itself is conveniently equipped with seating arrangements. It connects with the Cosmos Lounge, whose mirrored glass walls reflect illuminated figures of the signs of the Zodiac and a similarly illuminated panorama of the Northern sky, featuring the sun pouring its brilliant rays upon the earth during an eclipse of the moon, several of the principal constellations, and a grand sweep of the Milky Way.

For smaller parties and dinners there are available the Blue Room on the second floor, the Balcony in the Banquet Hall, and the President's Room, ground floor, adjoining the Dining Room. The Card Room on the second floor contains ingenious murals on the contributions of Swedes to American life. The Business Office on the second floor includes an attractive room for the meetings of the Club's officers and directors.

The entire top or third floor (originally the assembly hall) has been suitably equipped and turned over to the Chicago Swedish Glee Club for its rehearsals and other gatherings. The Glee Club is an important auxiliary of the Swedish Club of Chicago. A separate sketch of the relationships of these two clubs appears elsewhere in this brochure. The co-operation of the two organizations adds greatly to the efficiency and pleasure of both of them.

An equally valuable adjunct is the Ladies' Auxiliary, whose corps of officers and leaders are shown elsewhere in these pages. The ladies in this group add greatly to the social and esthetic values of the Club's operations. Numerous entertainments are sponsored by them alone for the benefit of all the Club members and their families and friends.

A very important activity is the work of the Art Committee which arranges the exhibitions of paintings and sculpture by Swedish-American artists which the Club has sponsored almost annually since 1911, except during the war years.

The Reception Committee has the duty of receiving and entertaining distinguished visitors from our own and other countries (particularly Sweden), who come to Chicago. Such visitors are requested to register their presence in the Official Guest Book. Members of the Club are urged to advise members of the Reception Committee, in advance if possible, of the arrival of such visitors in our community.

The "Condensed By-Laws," as well as the lists of officers, directors, and committees, in the following pages, give further indications of the purposes and operations of the Swedish Club of Chicago.

CONDENSED BY-LAWS

Approved February 23, 1951

The corporate name of this organization is "The Swedish Club of Chicago."

The objects of the Club are those stated in the "History and Activities."

Memberships in the Club are of five classes:

Honorary, Resident, Associate, Non-Resident and Courtesy.

Honorary memberships may be conferred by the Board of Directors upon such men of distinction as they may see fit to so recognize.

In addition to the above, the following shall be Honorary Members of the Club during their incumbency in office:

The Ambassador of Sweden to the United States.

The Governor of the State of Illinois.

The Mayor of the City of Chicago.

The Consul General of Sweden at Chicago.

Male persons of at least twenty-one years of age who are of Swedish descent and are of good moral character, interested in the objects and purposes of the Club, shall be eligible to Resident Membership.

The number of dues-paying Resident Memberships shall be limited to five hundred. The admission fee and dues or assessments for such membership shall be established from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Resident Members, who have been such and whose dues have been paid for a period of twenty-five years and who have reached the age of sixty-five years, shall thereafter be exempt from payment of further assessments and dues.

Male persons of at least twenty-one years of age, who are not of Swedish descent but have the other qualifications required of Resident Members, may be admitted to Associate Membership.

The number of Associate Memberships shall be limited to one hundred. The admission fee for such membership shall be the same as for Resident Membership, and such members shall be exempt from assessment and shall pay such annual dues as may be fixed, from time to time, by the Board of Directors.

Male persons of at least twenty-one years of age, whose residence and place of business are beyond the radius of 50 miles from the Club House and who have the other qualifications for Resident or Associate Membership, shall be eligible to Non-Resident Membership.

The number of Non-Resident Memberships shall be limited to two hundred. The admission fee and dues for such membership may be established from time to time by the Board of Directors.

An Associate Member as well as a Non-Resident Member shall be entitled to all of the privileges of the Club, except voting, holding office, or having any right, title, or interest in the property of the Club.

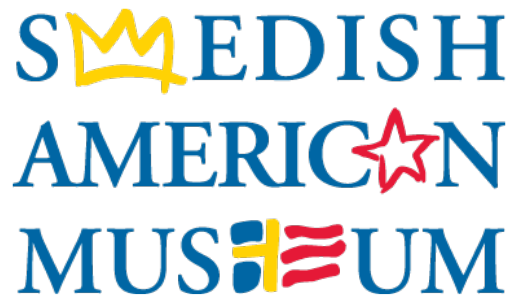
The Board of Directors may by unanimous vote confer a Courtesy Membership upon any person deemed by it to be eligible thereto by reason of his position in the community or his achievement in furthering the objects and welfare of the Club. A Courtesy Membership shall be non-transferable and shall continue at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Resident Memberships may be transferred by gift or by heritage to the holder's son, grandson or son-in-law, if of Swedish descent, or by sale, provided the transferee is an eligible candidate, approved by the Board of Directors.

Dues shall be due and payable quarterly in advance on the first day of April, which shall be the beginning of the Club's fiscal year, and on the first day of each successive quarter.

All accounts and debts of members to the Club, other than dues, shall be payable not later than the tenth day of the month following that in which they were incurred.

Guests who are not residents of the City of Chicago may be introduced to the Club upon such terms and for such time as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine. Members introducing guests shall be responsible for any indebtedness incurred by such guests. If a guest of any member shall have failed to pay any indebtedness to the Club, within the month succeeding that in which it was incurred, such indebtedness shall then be charged to the member who introduced such guest and become an indebtedness of such member.



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... THE
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CLUB OF
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CHICAGO 10
ILLINOIS