



Minutes of 64th Annual Meeting

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Saturday, January 30th, 2021

In Attendance:

Officers – Executive Board
Horst Zemp, President
Elke Sujdak, Vice President
J.P. Persico, Treasurer
Jennifer Heller, Secretary

Directors – Extended Board
Peter Keller, Storage Manager
Lolita Buryak, Membership Director
Hagen Zemp, Marketing Director

Entertainment
Patrick Seitz,
Tammi Zemp
Monique Austin
Celeste Gallati
Therese Peskowits
Ruedi Bucher

Members: ~25 members present

1. **Opening of the Meeting**

The 64th Annual Meeting was called to order by the President, Horst Zemp at 17:18 CST; seconded by J.P. Persico. The President welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance.

Acceptance of the Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.

2. **Approval of Minutes of 63rd Annual Meeting**

JP Persico made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Monique Austin seconded it.

3. **President's Report 2020**

2020 started on February 1st with an amazing Fondue event. A full house of many familiar faces, dignitaries from the new consulate, and celebrities from Wisconsin. Chef Johann cooked the fondue under super vision of our long time board member Peter to control the quality. The Extended Board of the Swiss Club as always managed to have the room ready on time and guaranteed for a super fun and successful evening. I would like to thank everyone that helped with the event and all the sponsors for the fantastic raffle prizes.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic dictated a screeching halt of all planned Club activities. With that, we cancelled the ski weekend, Raclette, Stammtisch, and Brunch on the lake. In addition, August 1st could not be celebrated as we planned with a large gathering on the American Legion lawn. However, during their monthly web meetings, the Board unanimously agreed that we have to do something to mark the occasion. The Idea was born to have an August 1st drive-through so that everyone could celebrate in style at home. Over 70 families took advantage of the event. With a combined effort, the Board organized Swiss specialties (for example, cheese, sausages, decorations); managed the many orders that came in, and organized the distribution. The Club was able to bring a little "Swissness" to so many homes in Chicagoland.

As the pandemic was better manageable and we had learned how to gather safely outdoors, the Board decided in August to organize the annual outdoor Canoe event. We gathered at the Sweetminihaha campground near Albany, Wisconsin on the afternoon of Friday, August 28th. Following protocol, only family members camped and ate together and social distancing was practiced at all times. Saturday was a warm and fun day on the Sugar River including wine tasting and a sausage lunch, followed by an evening celebration with a fondue under the stars. On Sunday, we managed to play a round of golf at the New Glarus Edelweiss Chalet Country Club.

Unfortunately, we couldn't hold any further events in 2020 and thus Samichlaus, Cookie baking, and the fall Stammtisch were cancelled. As tradition holds, the Club set up the Christmas tree at the Museum of Science and Industry. Not many attendees saw the display in person this year, although it was broadcast as a Virtual Christmas tree display. In January, the Board took the tree down and the many ornaments and candles are back in storage waiting for Christmas 2021.

I would like to thank the entire board for a fun, successful Club year under special circumstances:

- Peter Keller - Storage Manager
- Lolita Buryak - Membership Director
- Hagen Zemp - Marketing Director and our newest Board member
- Monique Austin
- Patrick Seitz
- Tammi Zemp
- Robert Holtz
- Therese Peskowits
- Ruedi Bucher
- Celeste Gallati - Entertainment lead by the executive board members
- Elke Sujdak - Vice President
- JP Persico - Treasurer
- Jennifer Heller - Secretary

This concludes the President's Report for 2020.

4. **Treasurer's Report 2020 (preliminary)**

J.P. Persico, Treasurer, presented the annual financial statements for 2020. The Swiss Club reported a year end account balance of \$23,880.23 and reported a net profit of \$4,098.12.

Operations Finance Report:

DESCRIPTION	Result
Fondue	\$5,438.56
Raclette	(\$35.36)
August 1	(\$271.96)
Canoe	(\$134.30)
Membership	\$1,882.11
OPEX	(\$3,230.44)

Finance Update:

Account 1/1/2020	Balance
BUSINESSSELECT CHKG (0696)	19,190.81
PayPal Bank	149.30
Register	442.00
Account 12/31/2020	Balance
BUSINESSSELECT CHKG (0696)	14,306.83 (-4,883.98)
PayPal Bank	9,321.40 (9,172.10)
Register	252.00 (-190.00)
Increase in Cash	4,098.12

Note: These P&L results have not yet been audited and therefore are subject to change.

5. **Auditor's Report 2020 (to be completed)**

Chris Kaiser and Beatrice Weiss will review all the Swiss Club financial records following this meeting to assess them for accuracy. The Auditor's Report for 2020 will be posted to the Swiss Club of Chicago website in mid-February.

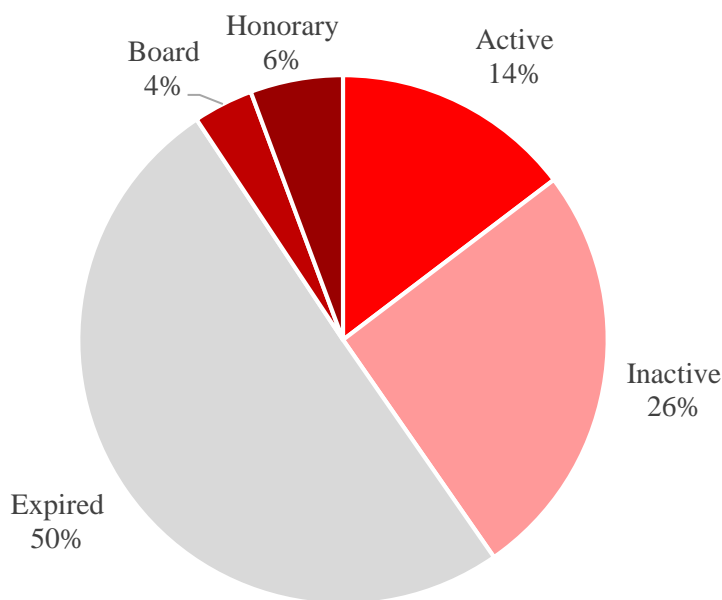
6. **Membership**

Lolita Buryak provided the following membership report:

- Currently, we have 44 active memberships (31 Family; 13 Individual):
 - We gained 6 new memberships in 2020
 - To date, we have 1 new member in 2021
- Several memberships that had "Expired" in 2020 have recently paid to renew memberships for 2021.
- We are hoping to continue to further increase our membership when restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic will be lifted and we will be able to host all our events
- Suggestions to improve membership experience:

- **Engagement:** More interactions / staying in touch with our members (i.e., electronic Birthday card from Swiss Club of Chicago, since we have the day and birthday month of each member)
- **Events:** Come up with more online events via Zoom or other virtual platforms. Along with our events, possibly promoting other similar organizations' events to our members, while those other organizations could possibly promote our online events.
- **Social media:** Make regular posts, including informational or sharing beautiful pictures of Swiss scenery, travel, recipes, and cultural traditions. It is important to stay in touch with our community while we can't have in person meetings. Social media is the most effective tool nowadays to attract more members or catch the interest of more people to attend future events.
- We are thankful for all our members for continuous support of our community and sharing the importance of preserving culture and traditions.

Membership overview:



7. Discharge of outgoing Officers and Election of new Officers and Auditors

The following officers are discharged from the Board of the Swiss Club 2020:

- President: Horst Zemp
- Vice President: Elke Sujdak
- Treasurer: J.P. Persico
- Secretary: Jennifer Heller
- Auditors: Chris Kaiser and Beatrice Weiss

Martin Lagler made the motion to discharge the Officers and Horst Zemp seconded it.

Martin Lagler, Chair of the Election Committee, presented the following candidates for the Swiss Club Executive Board 2021:

President: Horst Zemp
Vice President: Elke Sujdak
Treasurer: J.P. Persico
Secretary: Jennifer Heller
Auditors: Chris Kaiser and Beatrice Weiss

There were no nominations from the floor. Peter Herdeg proposed to support the slate of nominees as presented; seconded by Erika Eddy. The Chair, Martin Lagler then asked for all those in favor to say “aye” and all officers were elected by acclamation.

8. **Other Business**

- If anyone is interested in joining the Extended and/or Entertainment Board, please reach out to Horst Zemp.
- Horst Zemp solicited suggestions for new events in 2021:
 - J.P. Persico suggested a brunch by the lake, where members bring their own food
 - Elke Sujdak suggested a picnic by the lake
 - Rabiya Mahmood (member) suggested more Zoom events, including Stammtisch and events focused on Swiss food (e.g., Raclette)
 - Ruedi Bucher suggested an online Jass event
 - Horst Zemp, Martin Lagler, Monique Austin, and Celeste Gallati said they would be excited to join.
 - J.P. Persico will send Celeste Gallati a list of the registered members from last year’s events.
 - Rabiya Mahmood (member) asked about additional social media accounts for the Club. Hagen Zemp will starting an Instagram account to encourage more engagement from members.

9. **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Martin Lagler and seconded by Therese Peskowits. The meeting was adjourned at 18:19.

Submitted by Jennifer Heller, the Secretary on January 30, 2021.