



**Minutes of 68th Annual Meeting**  
**In Person Meeting at the Edgebrook Lutheran Church**  
**Saturday, January 25th, 2025**

**In Attendance:**

Officers - Executive Board:

Horst Zemp, President

Raphael Ueltschi, Vice President

Elke Sujdak, Board Communications (via phone)

Milan Urban, Jr., Treasurer

Sacha Urban, Secretary

Extended Board

Lolita Buryak, Membership Director

Therese Peskowits Director of Sponsorship

Entertainment:

Monique Austin

Ruedi Bucher

Celeste Gallati

Tammi Zemp

Auditor

Beatrice Weiss

**Members:** 17 members in good standing are present plus 5 members of the executive board.

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

President, Horst Zemp calls the meeting 68<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting to order at 4:04 pm CST.

**2. Approval of Minutes of 67<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**

Milan moves to approve the minutes of the 67<sup>th</sup> annual meeting as posted on the website. Monique seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

### **3. President's Report 2024**

See attached

### **4. Treasurer's Report 2024**

Milan defers Beatrice to deliver the Treasurer's/Auditor's report. For the full report, see attached.

### **Auditor's Report 2024**

Beatrice presents the balance sheet of the last 3 years, which have been consistent. The rent went up at the storage unit because the Club pre-paid the rental fee cost, which was cut in half by moving to a smaller unit. Although the club lost money in 2023, it was made up in 2024.

### **6. Membership**

Horst is asking the current members to invite friends to become members of the Swiss Club and not just attend events. Members need to pay up membership and PayPal offers an automatic (annual) renewal option.

Ruedi asks if folks can pay membership dues during any event and Milan said that they could. Renewal is typically in March. Lolita reports that the Swiss Club has a total 74 active memberships of which 57 are family and 17 individual. In 2024, the Swiss Club added 9 new memberships (6 families, 3 individual) and in 2025, 4 new memberships were added as of January 25.

### **7. Membership dues**

Milan moves motion to keep the membership cost unchanged, which are \$35 for an individual and \$40 for a family. Monique seconds the motion. The motion is unanimously approved.

### **8. Honorary members**

Horst is asking for nominations from the floor (the Honorary members do not pay any annual dues, only the event price). There are no nominations. Horst asks the past presidents to stand and be recognized. The past presidents include Peter Herdegg, Martin Lagler, Britta Renwick and Beatrice Weiss.

#### **9. Election of new Officers and Auditors**

Peter Herdegg, Chair of the Election Committee, is taking over the Election Process of the Executive Board. Rafael served as Vice President in 2024 but cannot commit to assume the presidency in 2025 due to work and family commitments. Peter is thanking the Board for their work in 2024. The Board will go back to the structure prior to 2024, namely: Horst Zemp, President, Elke Sujdak, Vice-President, Milan Urban Jr., Treasurer, Sacha Urban, Secretary. Isabelle moves to approve the proposed executive board and Martin seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

#### **10. Other Business**

Horst is urging the member to get more people involved in the Swiss Club and for them to sign up as members, especially younger people. The Club is only as strong as its members. Milan reminds the members that if they volunteer for an event, they may attend it for free.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Peter moves to adjourn the 68<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, Sonja seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Sacha Urban, Secretary  
Swiss Club of Chicago

Attachments:

#### **President's Report 2024**

The annual meeting was held on January 27, 2024, in person at the Edgebrook Lutheran Church. We had ~ 40 people in attendance and were able to conduct all the business as planned. Shortly after 5PM the Fondue event started with great attendance. The very extensive and popular raffle

was well received and the Cheese donated by Emmi was liked by everyone.

In February, the ski weekend was held in New-Glarus and Tyrol Basin with great participation. Thanks to Ruedi Buecher for organizing the weekend.

Several Stammtisches were held though the year with more or less participation.

The Sunday Brunch at the Lake, traditionally held at Father's Day on Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup> was another wonderful event with much Swiss Style. The weather was in our favor and with over 70 people, the home-made breads and the lavish breakfast buffet was indulged in and appreciated by everyone. It was a very nice and relaxing event that brought many families out to the lake front.

The Swiss National Day celebration on Jul 28<sup>th</sup> on the Lawn of the American Legion in Morton Grove was again a fantastic a very well-liked event. The words of our Consul Pascal Borno and the presence of his wife Elena were very well received. I like to thank both for their involvement and support of all Swiss activities over the year in Chicago.

Our grill team Johann and Kevin supported by Reto and .....grilled the sausages to the Swiss crowd liking. Some like them just hot and some like the really well done. Our kitchen team lead by Tammi and Monique, made sure that the salads were up to the toughest Swiss standards. The rest of the 12 people strong entertainment board made sure that all was decorated on time and ready for our guests and that all was cleaned up by the end of the night. A big **Thank You** to all that stepped up to help. Any member is very welcome to step up and sign up as a helper for any of the events. I would like to remind all members that the event would not be possible without the generous donation we get through the year and the extra cash we make with the fondue fundraiser.

On September 7-9 a group of 30+ meet at the Sweet Minihaha campground near Albany WI for the Annual Canoe weekend. A favorite event for many members that lasts from Friday afternoon until Sunday lunch. Singing and yodeling at the campfire, wine tasting and a Fondue under the stars are the highlights surrounding the relaxing tranquil canoeing down the Sugar River. Although it was a bit chilly, we had a wonderful weekend.

On November 9 we held the Raclette at the Edgebrook Lutheran Church. With only 45 guests I was rather disappointing turnout. With three ovens built by Fritz Rechsteiner, who was present in his typical Swiss Tracht, we melted under his supervision the Emmi Roth USA donated Cheese. The Tiramisu dessert was much appreciated and complimented by many. Prior to the raclette a group of board members decorate the Christmas tree in Swiss style at the Museum of Science & Industry for the Annual Christmas around the world exhibition.

Samichlaus and Guezlibache was held at the Edgebrook Lutheran Church on December 7. Under the Supervision of Horst and Elke. We baked delicious Guezli for Santa and kids of all ages. Santa showed up on time. The interaction between the kids, Santa and the Schmutzli was a very heartwarming experience. Our Consul General, Pascal Borno and his wife Elena, took time out of their very busy schedule to witness the beauty of the interactions. Thanks to the Samichlaus and Schmutzli for their dedication to this event.

I would like to conclude the President's report with a great DANKE SCHOEN to all the volunteers that make our events possible.

**A club is only as strong as its members.** The members of the entertainment and executive board are the backbone of the club. Without their donation of time and willingness to get things done, none of the events would be possible. I would like to thank the executive board Elke, Rafael, Milan and Sacha for standing on my side.

I thank the extended board with Peter Keller and Ingo Eckstein - Storage

Managers; Lolita Buryak - Membership Director; Therese Peskowits - Sponsorship Director, and the Entertainment Committee with Monique Austin, Patrick Seitz, Tammi Zemp, Ruedi Bucher and Celeste Gallati. Thank you for your hard work and countless hours prior, during and after the events to make it possible for the Swiss Club of Chicago to exist.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to our Auditors, Beatrice Weiss and Chris Kaiser and to the Edgebrook Lutheran Church for allowing us to hold our events at their facility.

This concludes the President's Report for 2024

Auditor's report

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1DuLgRiJxo16EoeOnD6w6OC8QZgYdb1iR/edit#slide=id.p1>