



TWIN CITIES SWISS AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

50TH Anniversary Celebration – 1973-2023
June 25, 2023

Theodore Wirth Chalet
Minneapolis, Minnesota



The Forming of Switzerland's Presence in the Twin City Area

On June 30, 1971 Eric Huessy sent a letter to friends and Swiss compatriots following the get-together at the North Star Inn on June 28, 1971, which was hosted by the Swiss Consul General and Mrs. Manz. He included a list of addresses and phone numbers of the attendees. This was the beginning of the formation of the TCSAA and plans for a first of August picnic.

Then on June 9th 1972, the friends of Switzerland met at the Emerald Suite of the Marriott Inn in Minneapolis. After cocktails, a plated dinner with Swiss wine followed. The new Honorary Swiss Consul Peter May was introduced by Ambassador Manz, the Consul General of Switzerland in Chicago.

Eric Huessy presented the responses to the questionnaire that had been passed out. The major points that stood out:

- There is a definite interest in an organized society
- The society should be of the "Swiss-American" type
- For a starter, the society should be more "social" than "sportive"
- There is a great interest in an August 1st party

After discussions Dr. Hans Aepli moved that a Swiss-American Society should be formed. Mr. Ernie Haller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

During the meeting, a nomination committee was elected. The members were:

- Eric Huessy (Chairman)
- Consul Peter May
- Ed Maeder
- Franz Raetzer
- Paula Fluck
- Marie Schrepfer
- Ann Berger

On June 23, the nominating committee met and developed some good guidelines:

- The Board should have 7 officers to provide a good representation of interest. Approximately half of the officers should be nominated for a one-year term, the other half for a 2-year term. This was to ensure that there would always be a few "experienced members who know the ropes" on the board while providing plenty of opportunities for new members to participate.
- The Board should be made up of a mixed age group and should include women.
- As there are several couples among the interested members with American spouses, one board member should be American.



The 1970s - Beginning of the TCSAA

On July 29, a 1st of August Picnic was held at Ski Tonka Lodge in Wayzata in honor of our homeland. After more than one hundred members of the Swiss community had arrived, Mr. Eric Huessy made a brief welcome and asked Mr. Raetzer to announce the result of the ballot.

The first officers of the new Twin City Swiss American Society were presented by the Honorary Consul, Mr. Peter May:

- Chairman Mr. Eric Huessy
- Vice-Chairman Mr. Willy Schrepfer
- Secretary Mrs. Annelies Raetzer
- Treasurer Mrs. Lony Maeder
- Social Director Mrs. Ann Berger
- Food and Beverages Mr. Bruno Tanner
- Youth and Sport Mr. Rudi Gutmann

During the first board meeting on September 15, some of the discussions revolved around financial matters and the programs for the first business year. Eric Huessy asked the officers about an official name and establishing the by-laws of the Swiss Community. It was decided that the name of the society should be Twin City Swiss American Association (TCSAA). The Articles of Incorporation and the by-laws were discussed on March 23, and after consulting a lawyer, it was decided to hold the first General Meeting on June 2, 1973.

During the Annual Meeting, the board of directors was elected and the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were accepted with the exception that no corporate membership would be offered. On June 13, 1973 the TCSAA was officially recorded with the Secretary of State. The Association is organized under the provision of Chapter 550, Laws of Minnesota, 1951, as amended, known as the Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation Act. On June 24 during the board meeting, the Chairman reported the progress of the registration of the corporation, and motions were made and proceeded and the submitted by-laws were adopted.

