

History of the Order of Runeberg

The **Order of Runeberg** was organized in Waukegan, Illinois, U.S.A. on August 20, 1920. The organization was made possible by the combining of two separate groups: **The Swedish-Finnish Benevolent and Aid Association of America, and the Swedish-Finnish Temperance Association.** The membership at that time consisted almost exclusively of people who came to North America from the Swedish speaking part of Finland.

The Order bears the name of **Johan Ludwig Runeberg**, one of Finland's greatest men. He was known throughout Scandinavia as a poet, teacher and statesman. To a great extent, the ideals as portrayed by this man formed the foundation of the organization that bears his name. It is the aim of the Order of Runeberg, as a fraternal organization, to encourage unity, friendship, helpfulness, honor and the preservation of the Finnish-Swedish culture.

The Order of Runeberg at its inception, provided a much-needed common meeting ground for a group of people who had brought the cultural traditions of Finland to the shores of North America. Since that time the membership has been extended to many other sons and daughters of the founders, plus relatives

and friends, some of the same origin and others of different nationalities. The Swedish language which formerly predominated throughout the Order, has now largely been replaced by English. However, in spite of some surface changes, the Order of Runeberg is still carrying on the traditions and ideals which existed in 1920.

The official name of the Order is "The International Order of Runeberg," which includes Lodges in the U.S.A, Canada and Finland. In the Swedish language "Runeberg Orden."

We extend a hearty welcome to you and your friends to join with us in our Lodge work and festivities.

Social Activities

Dances	Festivals
Sports	Picnics
Camp-outs	Contests
Banquets	Card Parties

Folk Dancing
Friendship Gatherings
Business Meetings
Conventions
Youth Activities
Song Fests
Bowling Tournaments
Civic Projects

TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____ Place of Birth _____
 City, State, Province, Zip, Postal Code _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 Are you a former member of the International Order of Runeberg? _____
 If so, when? _____ Location and Lodge No. _____
 Wife/Husband's name and nationality _____
 Do you promise to obey the Constitution and the By-Laws of this Order? _____
 I, _____ hereby certify and warrant that the foregoing answers are true and I hereby renounce all rights and benefits granted by the International Order of Runeberg if any of my answers are proven to be contrary to the true conditions and facts.
 City _____ State/Province _____ Date _____
 Applicant's Signature _____

OBJECTIVES of the ORDER

- To promote an organization in which the **whole family** can belong from the age of four upwards with equal consideration for enjoyment of all ages.
- To promote **fraternalism**.
- To help one another in true **friendship**.
- To develop in our children a recognition of their ancestry and a pride in their heritage.
- To encourage **cultural** and **traditional** ties with Finland through exchanges of Chorus Tours and Scholarships between America and Finland.

Benefits of Membership

- Take part in the activities of a local lodge
- Receive the quarterly newspaper the *Leading Star*
- Website www.orderofruneberg.org
- Annual scholarships available to further your education, open to all members to apply



International Order Of Runeberg

The Family Lodge

www.orderofruneberg.org

