— DIRECTORS OF 1943 —

President
Dr. Joseph F. Montminy, Jr.

Vice-President
Andre H. Bourgeois

Treasurer
Raymond E. Descheneaux

Secretary
Francis L. Monette

Hall Committee
Leo D. Gaumont, Chairman
Andre H. Bourgeois  G. Rosario Spenard

Joseph E. Clermont  Arthur L. Leblanc
George W. Normandin
PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE CLUB LAFAYETTE

Dr. Joseph E. Lamoureux, 1913-14-15
Albert J. Blazon, Esquire, 1916
Ernest J. Dupont, 1917
Zepherin A. Normandin, 1918-19
Dr. F. N. LaBelle, 1920
Arthur J. Lambert, 1921
George H. Boucher, 1922
George H. Dozois, 1923
Arthur J. Lambert, 1924
Alphonse A. Couture, 1925
Andre L. Bouthillette, 1926
J. Zenon Chouinard, 1927
Samuel T. Robitaille, 1927-28-29
Emile Gagnon, 1930
Elphege A. Phaneuf, 1931-32
Alphonse A. Couture, 1933-34
Dr. Leo F. King, 1935
Albert L. Bourgeois, Esquire, 1936-37
Dr. Raoul L. Drapeau, 1938
Leo D. Gaumont, 1939-40
Paul R. Foisy, 1941
George W. Normandin, 1942
HISTORY OF CLUB LAFAYETTE

In 1913 a group of prominent Franco-American citizens of Lowell assembled and discussed the anomaly of Franco-Americans celebrating Le Jour de l’An in clubs not French, where the members did not have the same ties of language blood and tradition surging through their veins. They decided to form a high grade French club under the name of Club Lafayette, named after that great Frenchman, the apostle of American liberty, who is the greatest Franco-American.

On December 4, 1913 the Club Lafayette was incorporated with the following officers; Dr. Joseph E. Lamoureux, President; Joseph A. Legare, Vice-President; Albert J. Blazon, Secretary; J. Calixte Manseau, Treasurer. The Board of Directors consisted of the above named members, together with Adolphe Delisle, E. Ovide Ledoux, Dr. Arthur J. Gagnon, Louis P. Turcotte and Dr. Rodrigue Migneault.

There were ninety-seven (97) charter members, men well known in the community life of Lowell and especially in Franco-American cen-

The Club was first located at 831 Merrimack Street and the grand opening was held with a very successful New Year's Party held December 31, 1913 at which the ladies were admitted.

The Club was situated at this location for six years and then removed in 1920 to 59 Wannalancit Street in what was then known as the "Stone Castle" and the "Bowers Castle". It remained there until January 31, 1924. It then became the feeling of the majority of the members that it was not centrally located and not
within reach so that the location was again changed to 663 Merrimack Street at the corner of Cabot Street occupying the three upper floors of that building where it remained until April 28, 1939. The club then purchased the Fletcher Street Fire House at 465 Fletcher Street and completely renovated it into modern club rooms.

When the Club was first formed, bonds to the amount of thirty-five hundred ($3500) Dollars were subscribed voluntarily by the members without any great effort. This was an indication of the enthusiasm and spirit of the founders. Until the bonds were paid, only bondholders could be directors of the Club. Under the able leadership of Dr. Lamoureux and his first officers, the bonds were paid during his term of office or within two years.

During its existence the Club Lafayette has aided materially various French causes, having contributed among others to the Oblate Fathers for their Centennary celebration, St. Theresa’s Church in Dracut, L’Association Educatrice, St. Louis Parish, to the 50th jubilee of the Oblates, to the St. Joseph’s College, to St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph’s Convent, la Salle Paroissiale and St. Jeanne d’Arc Parish.
St. Joseph Hospital has two rooms that have been furnished by the Club and are known as the "Club Lafayette Rooms". We have also donated to the hospital a Rhythmic Compressor, Dome-Lights for the operating table and a refrigerator for the Blood Bank. It also contributed to several other causes such as the yearly donations to the Community Chest and the American Red Cross, etc.

In 1936 our then president and also State Representative Albert L. Bourgeois initiated a bill in the Legislature to have a proclamation by the Governor marking the anniversary of the death of Marquis de Lafayette to be known as "Lafayette Day". This legislative bill was passed and each year the Governor of Mass. proclaims May 20th as being "Lafayette Day". Since that day the Club Lafayette celebrates the proclamation with appropriate ceremonies.

The Club enjoys a very high standing in the Community. Among the members are many who have or have had prominent positions in political, financial, professional and business fields, all of whom played a conspicuous part in the development of the City of Lowell.
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME AND LOCATION

Section 1. Name.
The name of the association is Club Lafayette

Section 2. Location.
It shall be located at Lowell, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purposes for which this association is formed are as follows: To promote and engage in civic, cultural, charitable, educational and social matters and affairs.
ARTICLE III
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. Officers.

The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, who shall be ex-officio Secretary of the Board of Directors and a Board of Directors of nine members of the Club consisting of the four officers above named chosen from the Directors and five other Directors.

Section 2. Election of Directors and Eligibility.

a. Election.

There shall be a board of nine Directors elected from the floor at the annual meeting, 3 for a term of 3 years, 3 for a term of 2 years and 3 for a term of 1 year.
At every annual meeting thereafter the members shall elect from the Club membership three members of the Board of Directors to serve for a term of three years from the date of the annual meeting and thereafter until their successors shall have been chosen and qualified.

b. Eligibility.

No member shall be eligible for membership to the Board of Directors unless he has been a member of the Club for three consecutive years prior to his election to that Board.

Section 3. Method of election of officers.

As soon as convenient after the annual election of the Board of Directors, said Board shall meet and choose among their own number the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary above provided for, which officers shall serve in such capacity for one year beginning with the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the annual meeting, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
Section 4. Vacancies.

Any vacancy in the offices of the Club or the Board of Directors may be filled by the Board of Directors, the term of such vacancy to last only until the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV
DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. President.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors. He shall also be ex-officio, a member of all committees.

All contracts, deeds, leases or other documents, after approval by the Board of Directors shall be signed on behalf of the Club by the President, who shall also affix the corporate seal, and countersigned by the Treasurer.

The President shall appoint from the members of the Board of Directors or from the membership such committees as he deems advisable for the proper management of the Club.
Section 2. Vice-President.
In case of the absence or disability of the President, it shall be the duty of the Vice-President to act in his stead.

Section 3. Treasurer
a. Duties.
The Treasurer shall be charged with the collection and custody of the funds of the Club and their disbursement under the direction of the Board of Directors. He shall deposit said funds in a bank or banks approved by said Board. He shall keep accurate financial records of the Club in books belonging to it which records shall be available for inspection at all times by the Board of Directors. He shall render to each member of the Club on the first of every quarter a statement of the amount then owing from such member. The Treasurer shall make a written report of the financial condition of the Club at its annual meeting.

b. Audit.
The accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited annually prior to the annual meeting by a committee of three (3) members who
are not Directors appointed for that purpose by the Board of Directors, which Committee shall report to the members at the annual meeting.

Section 4. Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep a record of all the meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors. He shall notify all persons of their election to or expulsion from membership in the Club. He shall notify members of their election to office or appointment to Committees. He shall have custody of all documents, periodicals and correspondence of the Club.

Section 5. Directors.

The Directors shall have the management and control of all property, effects and assets of the Club, authorized contracts and purchases, and shall exercise a general superintendence of its interests and welfare. It shall make rules concerning the use of the rooms and all other property of the Club. It shall have no power to transfer or sell any property belonging to the Club unless authorized by a majority of the members.
It shall have authority to suspend or expel members for reasons specified in the By-Laws. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum. The Board of Directors shall meet once a month or oftener at the call of the President. Any officer or director absent from three (3) consecutive meetings may be replaced by the Board of Directors at its discretion.

ARTICLE V

FINANCE COMMITTEE

There shall be a Finance Committee of three (3) members, not directors, to be elected from the floor at the annual meeting—one for a term of 3 years, one for a term of 2 years and one for a term of 1 year. One member of the Finance Committee shall thereafter be elected annually for three years. Any and all expenditures of fifty ($50.00) dollars or over must be approved by the Finance Committee to be valid.

Any motion for the making of a gift or donation for one hundred ($100.00) dollars or over cannot be voted upon at the meeting at
which such motion is made. It must be referred to the Finance Committee to be acted upon by them on some day following the meeting and then submitted to the members for action at a subsequent meeting. No such motion shall pass unless authorized by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE VI

RESERVE FUND

There shall be a Reserve Fund to which all net profits in excess of One Thousand ($1,000.00) Dollars as determined by the Treasurer's Annual Report and approved by the auditors shall be transferred. This Fund will be under the control of the Finance Committee and will be subject to withdrawal only in the following manner:

The proposed withdrawal will be presented to the members at the annual meeting or at a meeting of the members called by the President. It will then be referred to a subsequent members' meeting for action. No such withdrawal will be authorized unless approved by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting.
ARTICLE VII

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility.

Any male person twenty-one years of age or over, of French ancestry or recognized as such, and a citizen of the United States of America, may become a member of the Club upon election by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Mode of admission.

Applications for membership must be made in writing, contain the name, address and occupation of the applicant, bear the endorsement of two members and be presented to the Board of Directors. A quarterly payment of the yearly dues must accompany all applications. Such payment will be refunded in case of rejection. The Secretary must post the application on the Club bulletin board for at least one month before action is taken by the Board of Directors.

No person who has been rejected can file a new application until six months after the date of rejection.
Section 3. Resignation.

A member can tender his resignation at any meeting of the Board of Directors. His dues for the quarter in which his resignation is submitted shall be due and payable.

Section 4. Causes for expulsion.

Any member may be suspended or expelled, in addition to non-payment of dues, for any action inimical to the best interests of the Club. He shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Credit to members.

No member or guest shall incur a bill for any merchandise at the Club.

Section 6. Guests.

Members shall be responsible for the behavior of their guests at the Club.

Section 7. Damage to club property.

Destruction or damage to the property of the Club must be paid for by the member causing the same, the cost to be assessed by the Board of Directors.
ARTICLE VIII

Section 1. Dues.
The dues shall be $15.00 annually payable in advance in equal quarterly payments. Any male person having the necessary requirements and residing over 10 miles from Lowell, but not over 25 miles, the dues shall be $10.00 per year. Any male person having the necessary requirements and residing over 25 miles from Lowell, the dues shall be $5.00 per year. The Directors may recommend to the annual meeting a change in the amount of such dues.

Directors may recommend to the annual meeting a change in the amount of such dues.

Section 2. Non-payment of dues-penalty.
If a member is two quarters in arrears in payment of his dues, he shall be notified of the same by the Treasurer. Fifteen (15) days after the sending of such notice, if he has failed to make satisfactory adjustment of the same, his name shall be posted and if he is still delinquent 30 days after his name is posted, he shall be expelled from the Club and notice of the same shall be sent him by the Secretary.
No member who is expelled for non-payment of dues can again become a member unless he has paid up his back dues and is approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

**MEETINGS**

Section 1. Annual meeting.

The annual meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of January of each year, the actual date to be left to the discretion of the Board of Directors. Fifteen (15\%) percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Special meetings.

A special meeting may be called by the President or upon the written request of 10\% of the members. Notice of such meeting and the reasons for the same shall be given by the Secretary to all members at least five days before the meeting. No matters other than those set forth in the notice shall be transacted at such meeting.

Section 3. Subject matters at meeting.

The Board of Directors may in their discretion bar the discussion of political or religious questions at the meetings.
ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

Any proposition to amend the Constitution or By-Laws must be made in writing, read at a regular meeting and left on the table until the following meeting. It is then read a second time before being discussed, adopted or rejected. Two weeks before the date of this second meeting, the nature of the proposed amendment is to be sent to every member. A two-thirds vote of the members present and voting shall be necessary to authorize any amendment.

Robert’s or Cushing’s Rules of Orders shall govern all deliberations.

ARTICLE XI

DISSOLUTION

The Club cannot be dissolved and its funds disposed of as long as ten members adhere to its Constitution and By-Laws. This Article can only be amended by an unanimous vote of the members of the Club.