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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
*CANARY ISLANDS DESCENDANTS' ASSOCIATION, Inc.*  
OF SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR, TEXAS  
**BYLAWS**  
Established June 1, 1979

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## Article I - Name

This non-profit corporation shall be known as *THE CANARY ISLANDS DESCENDANTS ASSOCIATION OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS*, herein also known as *CIDA*.

The address of the Association shall be:  
Canary Islands Descendants Association  
PO Box 12618  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

## Article II - Purpose

This nonprofit corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as tax-exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the CIDA are tax-deductible. In addition, the lawful purposes for which the corporation is organized are as follows:

- A. To encourage and promote all educational studies and historical and genealogical research that enhance the historical, cultural, and civic significance of the accomplishments of the sixteen original Canary Islands families who founded the Villa de San Fernando de Béxar, now the City of San Antonio, in 1731.
- B. To foster and perpetuate the preservation of documents and artifacts identified with the culture and life of the Canary Islanders' history in San Antonio, Texas.
- C. To initiate, and promote programs, lectures and civic events which are intended for the general public, and which are conducted to memorialize historical sites and buildings associated with the Canary Islanders' history in San Antonio, such as San Fernando Cathedral.
- D. To establish and promote the celebration of significant days and commemorative civic events that celebrate those special days linked to the Canary Islanders' history in San Antonio including but not limited to the following:  
February 2 – Feast day of La Virgen de La Candelaria, patroness of the Canary Islands;  
March 9 – Arrival Luncheon Commemoration of the arrival of the 16 families at the Presidio de San Antonio de Béxar and  
August 1 – Cabildo Luncheon: Commemoration of the establishment of the first civil government in Texas in 1731.
- E. To remain non-political in structure and activity, yet a viable civic entity.

## Article III -- Membership

- A. Canary Islands Descendants Association's membership, with full voting rights, shall be available to all natural descendants of the original sixteen families who were commissioned by the King of Spain to emigrate from the Canary Islands to found, in this northeastern frontier of Nueva España, the Villa de San Fernando de Béxar, which became the City of San Antonio, and having arrived on March 9, 1731 for that purpose.

Members who are genealogically documented descendants of one, or more, of the sixteen Canary Islands families listed below are qualified to be Direct-Descendant members of the Canary Islands Descendants Association, Inc.:

THE NUMBERED HEADS OF CANARY ISLANDS FAMILIES  
TAKEN FROM THE QUATITLAN LIST, NOVEMBER 8, 1730 \*

**\*This official document was approved by the Viceroy of Nueva España and recognized by His Majesty Felipe V.**

**[It is the historical basis for the *Hidlaguia* bestowed upon the heads of families and their descendants.]**

- I. **Juan Leal Goras**
- II. **Juan Curbelo**
- III. **Juan Leal “El Mozo”**
- IV. **Antonio Santos**
- V. **Joseph Padron**
- VI. **Manuel De Niz**
- VII. **Vicente Alvarez Travieso**
- VIII. **Salvador Rodriguez**
- IX. **Francisco De Arocha**
- X. **Antonio Rodriguez**
- XI. **Joseph Leal**
- XII. **Juan Delgado**
- XIII. **Joseph, Marcos, & Ana Cabrera**
- XIV. **Maria Rodriguez Robayna**
- XV. **Mariana Meleana**
- XVI. **Phelipe Perez, Joseph Antonio Perez, Martin Lorenzo De Armas & Ignacio Lorenzo De Armas**

**At eleven o'clock on the morning of March 9, 1731, these sixteen families of Canary Islanders arrived at the Presidio de San Antonio by royal decree of the King of Spain, they founded La Villa de San Fernando de Béxar and established the first civil government in Texas.**

- B. There shall be seven categories of membership in the Association; they shall be:
1. **Direct-Descendant Member** - an individual who is a natural descendant and has successfully submitted an application with the required documentation to prove direct descent from one or more of the original sixteen Canary Islands settling families. Proof

- for each generation and named person must include proof of birth, marriage, and death, i.e., Birth Certificates/Records, Baptism Certificates/Records, Marriage Certificates/Records, and Death Certificates/Records. Additional documents accepted are wills, probate records, other public documents, and other published sources. Every ~~direct~~ descendant membership application and documentation must be verified by the Second Vice President and once approved by the Executive Board, the member will pay initiating dues and appropriate annual dues to the Treasurer. Once accepted, no other qualification requirements will be levied upon the individual. All documents submitted for these qualifying members shall become the property of the Canary Islands Descendants Association. Upon paying yearly membership dues, Direct-Descendant Members are eligible to vote, hold an elected office, chair a committee, or serve on a committee in the Association. Posthumous membership is acceptable in the Direct-Descendant Member category.
2. **Junior Member** — a **minor** who is a natural descendant and has successfully submitted an application with the required documentation to prove direct descent from one or more of the original sixteen Canary Islands settling families. Proof for each generation and named person must include proof of birth, marriage, and death, ie, Birth Certificates/Records, Baptism Certificates/Records, Marriage Certificates/Records, and Death Certificates/Records. Additional documents accepted are wills, probate records, other public documents, and other published sources. Every junior membership application and documentation must be verified by the Second Vice President and approved by the Executive Board. Junior members are non-voting members and pay a one-time due fee upon approval of the application. This membership category does not pay annual dues until the member reaches the age of eighteen and is then transferred to direct descendant status. Once accepted, no other qualification requirements will be levied upon the individual. All documents submitted for these qualifying members shall become the property of the Canary Islands Descendants Association.
  3. **Associate Member** — the legal spouse of a living or deceased Direct-Descendant Member who has successfully submitted the required documentation to prove the marriage to the Direct Descendant. The required proof for this category is a Birth Certificate/Record or Baptismal Certificate/Record and a Marriage Certificate/Record. This individual shall register with the Second Vice President and pay applicable dues to the Treasurer. Whereas Associate Members shall not be eligible to vote or hold an elected office in the Association, however, they may participate in discussion. Associate members may not chair committees but can serve on committees, except for the Officer election nominating committee.
  4. **Provisional Member** — an individual who has reason to believe that he or she is a direct descendant but has not yet had an application for direct-descendant membership approved. This individual shall register with the Second Vice President for a two-year provisional period. During the provisional period, this member shall *actively* pursue his/her quest to acquire the necessary genealogical data and submit his/her application for full membership into the Association. Any extensions beyond the two-year period must be applied for with the Second Vice President, who will seek concurrence from the Executive Board.

5. **Honorary Member** — a benefactor who has contributed generously, consistently, or significantly to the well-being of the Association through grants, properties (real or authentic artifacts), services or monies, but does not meet the criteria for Direct-Descendant Membership. Candidates for honorary membership shall be nominated in writing by a Direct-Descendant Member and approved by majority vote of the membership at a regular monthly meeting. Formal recognition shall be accomplished by the President as expeditiously as possible. The Honorary Member is a non-voting member who may serve on, but not chair a committee nor serve as an Officer. The Honorary Member does not pay dues.
6. **Affiliate Member** – a member in active and good standing of a sister Canary Islanders Association such as in Louisiana, Florida, etc. An Affiliate member is a person who shares a mutual interest in promoting the Association’s mission and who wishes to be registered in our membership roster. The Affiliate member is a non-voting member who may serve on, but not chair a committee nor serve as an Officer. The Affiliate member does not pay dues.
7. **Friends of Canary Islands Descendants Association** – a friend to the Association and one who wishes to volunteer alongside Members, who shares a mutual interest in promoting the Association’s mission, who wishes to be registered in our membership roster, and believes in the furtherance of the Association. Friends may serve on but are not eligible to chair committees. Friends are non-voting members who may not serve as Officers, nor chair a committee. Friends are required to pay annual dues at the same rate as Direct-Descendant Members.

C. Association members shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. A Direct-Descendant Member whose membership lapses for nonpayment of annual dues as prescribed by Article VIII of these By-Laws shall be placed on inactive status and declared unable to vote on motions and elections at monthly meetings or to run for office. He or she, however, will be immediately reinstated upon payment of current dues.
2. A Member may be considered for termination by the membership when he or she commits a grievous and treacherous act that is determined by the Executive Board as injurious to the Association. The vote for terminating a member shall occur at a regular monthly meeting. The affected member shall be given the opportunity to be heard at the meeting before the vote. A motion for termination shall be made and seconded, and a two-thirds majority vote of the Direct-Descendant Members present at that meeting will be necessary to constitute passage.
3. When an individual has been declined membership by the Association, he/she shall have the opportunity to appear before the Executive Board to appeal the declination; then, based on the facts learned at the hearing, the Executive Board will recommend to the individual and to the Second Vice President any remedial actions necessary for a successful closure.

## **Article IV - Executive Board Board of Officers and Committees**

### **Board of Officers:**

The Membership shall elect from its roster of Direct-Descendant Members officers to ensure the proper and continuous administration of the Association. Full job descriptions are found in the Standing Rules of this Association. The officers shall consist of:

**President**

**First Vice President**

**Second Vice President**

**Third Vice President**

**Recording Secretary**

**Communications Manager**

**Treasurer**

**Custodian**

**Past President**

### **Executive Board:**

The above-named Board of Officers, together with the immediate past President, Appointed Officers, and the Chairpersons of Standing Committees who are Direct-Descendant Members shall constitute the Executive Board of the Association. This body shall be called upon by the Board of Officers to officiate and make recommendations to the Board of Officers and to the Association in matters of a scope beyond the capabilities of the Board of Officers such as, but not limited to, the expedient replacement of an officer who leaves office prematurely.

## **Article V - Appointed Officers and Standing Committees**

The President may appoint the following Officers and Committee Chairpersons for the full term of the President's term in office. The chairpersons will select their committee members and announce them at the next regular monthly meeting after their selections. The appointed officers and committee chairpersons shall serve as members of the Executive Board and have a vote in the Executive Board decisions and hearings.

- A. Appointed Officers**
  - 1. Merchandising
  - 2. Chaplain
  - 3. Parliamentarian
  - 4. Sergeant-at-Arms
- B. Standing Committees**
  - 1. Telephone Committee
  - 2. Historical/Library Committee
  - 3. Courtesy/Hospitality Committee
  - 4. Education / Scholarship Committee

## **Article VI - Elections**

- A.** A nominating committee shall be named at the regular September meeting of an election year to nominate one member for each office for the November elections. The nominating committee shall be comprised of three (3) members: one (1) Direct-Descendant Member shall be appointed by the President with the remaining (2) two to be volunteers from within the Association or—elected by the membership, consisting of Direct-Descendant Members and/or Associate Members. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers at a regular membership November meeting. The nominating committee shall appoint its own chairperson and shall seek at least one (1) nominee for each office.
- B.** Voting functions shall be accomplished in November of even number years exclusively by active, paid Direct-Descendant members present
- C.** Any active, paid Direct-Descendant Member present at the election meeting shall be accorded the privilege of nominating a member for office, providing that a maximum of three candidates per office, including the nominating committee's nominees, is observed.
- D.** Elections shall be by written ballot; and a majority vote shall constitute an election. In cases where there is only one nominee for a given office, the election shall be by voice. Voting by proxy shall not be acceptable.
- E.** Members of the Nominating Committee shall tally all written votes.
- F.** Officers elected at the November meeting shall be installed formally at the following January meeting; whereupon they will assume the responsibilities of their offices from the out-going officers.
- G.** No candidate shall be a member of the Nominating Committee.
- H.** Tie votes may be determined by a coin toss organized by the Nominating Chairperson.
- I.** A member may be elected to hold office for one two-year term at a time, not to exceed two consecutive terms in the same office.
- J.** A member shall be eligible for election to office when he/she has attended a minimum of three-monthly meetings or functions of the Association during the current fiscal year including attendance any of the Association's luncheon.
- K.** In the event of the office of the presidency becoming vacant before the termination of the two-year term, the First Vice President shall immediately assume that office and serve as President until the Executive Board makes a recommendation for an official replacement for the interim and that replacement is ratified by the CIDA membership.

## **Article VII - Meetings**

The Association shall convene monthly meetings at a pre-determined time, date, and location, either physically, telephonically, or electronically (virtual), in accordance with these BYLAWS. The President shall have authority to call special meetings or postpone regular meetings when sufficient need justifies such actions. The President shall set the agenda. A two-member committee shall be appointed at the October meeting to function as auditor of the Treasurer's books. In addition, the November meeting of each year shall be designated as the fiscal meeting, at which time annual reports shall be made as well as elections in even-numbered years.

The BYLAWS will also be reviewed between May-August of odd years (opposite of election years) and any suggested changes may be amended by majority vote of the Direct-Descendant

Membership in attendance at the November meeting of the same year. Any approved changes to be effective January 1st of even-numbered years. Suggested changes must be presented to the membership one week prior to the vote. Members must be notified by email at the regular meeting in October or by email with one week notice that there are BYLAW amendments up for vote. The Recording Secretary will keep the minutes of the meeting.

- A. The Association monthly meetings shall be open to all Direct-Descendant, Junior, Associate, Honorary, Provisional, Affiliate, Friends of CIDA members, and to guests.
- B. Eleven voting members shall constitute a quorum at any regular monthly, special, or annual meeting of the membership. In the event that a quorum is not met at a gathering intended for a business meeting, the session cannot convene; nevertheless, all members present at that gathering shall be given credit for having attended for the purpose of determining eligibility for election to office or for voting at an officers' election.
- C. Active Direct-Descendant Members who are current in their dues and have attended a minimum of three-monthly meetings or functions, including luncheons during the past fiscal year shall be eligible to cast a vote at the election meeting.
- D. The President shall have the authority to call special meetings.
- E. The Executive Board shall meet at a time and place determined by the President.
- F. Five voting members shall constitute a quorum at any Executive Board meeting.

## **Article VIII - Dues and Fees**

Dues shall be assessed annually concurrent with the fiscal year, which shall run from January 1 to December 31. See CIDA's Standing Rules for information regarding the current dues schedule. Dues amount shall be established by membership vote.

## **Article IX - Revenue & Disbursements**

Operating revenue will come from the following sources but not limited to:

- A. The revenue income of the Association shall be derived from the application fees and annual dues paid by members, revenues from extracurricular functions, ticket sales, etc., and voluntary donations from members and friends of the Association.
- B. Donations and grants specifically designated for the CIDA Scholarship Fund shall not be commingled with CIDA Operating funds; they will be accounted for separately.
- C. A member may make a voluntary donation to the Association at any time.
- D. The Monument Fund shall not be commingled with the CIDA Operating Fund nor the CIDA Scholarship Fund and each is accounted for separately.

## **Article X - Property**

The Association may have and hold property of several or mixed classifications, such as real, grants, donations (articles or cash accounts), or purchased items. In addition:

- A. All gifts presented to the president or any member on behalf of the Association and designated as such by the donor shall become the sole property of the Canary Islands Descendants Association of San Antonio, Texas and shall be held in secure custody by the



Custodian.

- B. All membership-qualification documents submitted by applicants shall become the archival property of the Association and shall be filed in a secure central location by the Second Vice President to ensure preservation and confidentiality. The Association shall maintain such documents as library data which may be used by the Second Vice President in the qualification processing of applying members' proof of descent from the 16 Families.

## **Article XI - Not For Profit**

The Canary Islands Descendants Association shall operate as a not-for-profit entity. Furthermore, no part of its assets shall inure to any officer, member, or any private person for either private possession or personal profit.

## **Article XII - Dissolution**

Dissolution of the Canary Islands Descendants Association may be accomplished only upon the three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the entire active membership of the Association at the time that a formal proposal for such dissolution is made. Pursuant to a successful vote to dissolve, the Executive Board will execute the formal dissolution after:

- A. Paying or making arrangements to pay for all liabilities of the association, and
- B. Disposing of all assets and properties *as* described in Article III herein in such a manner as to leave all members whole and free of loss and by donating them to such organizations which operate exclusively for charitable, educational or religious purposes, and which, at such time, qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding provisions pursuant to future United States Internal Revenue Law.

## **Article XIII - Amendments**

The CIDA Constitutional Operating Procedure and BYLAWS, as contained in this document, may be amended when: from time to time by: Executive Board by majority vote to amend such articles.

- A. The proposed amendment has been reviewed by the Executive Board and approved for membership vote.
- B. The proposed amendment has been publicized for a minimum of one week prior to the actual voting on the proposed changes, either by reading it at a monthly meeting or writing it in a newsletter or missive.
- C. A two-thirds majority of the Direct- Descendent members present at the meeting scheduled for the amendment shall approve it.
- D. The Recording Secretary shall ensure that a new amendment be added to this document as an addendum; and The President shall ensure immediate enactment of such an amendment and publication of its consequent addendum.

## Article XIV - General Fund Disbursements

- A. The Treasurer shall pay, in the name of the Association, for the following:
  - 1. A commemorative gift not to exceed \$50 in cost to an immediate past president.
  - 2. Correspondence supplies and equipment (i.e., postage, printing costs, cards, etc.) upon receipt of bill or invoice, or receipt of payment when reimbursement is requested.
  - 3. Scrapbook and associated materials required, upon receipt.
  - 4. Offerings and memorials to acknowledge the death of a member, not to exceed \$50 each gift.
  - 5. Honorarium gifts to guest speakers, not to exceed \$50 each gift without approval of the Executive Board.
  - 6. Membership dues to other civic or religious organizations such as the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce or The Pillars of San Fernando.
- B. The Canary Islands Descendants Association shall contribute a monetary gift of an amount approved by the Executive Board designated for the maintenance and preservation of San Fernando Cathedral, our Mother Church. The amount will be determined and approved for disbursement at the November meeting.
- C. The Executive Board shall decide upon and present a commemorative gift or memorial to a visiting dignitary from Spain or the Canary Islands. Each such gift shall not exceed a maximum of \$100.

## COMMEMORATIVE DAYS

*Feast of La Virgin de la Candelaria* .....February 2, 1731

*Arrival of the original sixteen families from the Canary Islands* .....March 9, 1731

*Establishment of the first Civil Government in Texas*.....August 1, 1731

## COLORS

*Canary Yellow*      *Royal Blue*      *White*