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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
CANARY ISLANDS DESCENDANTS ASSOCIATION, Inc.
OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
BYLAWS
Established June 1, 1979

Contents

Article I – Name	2
Article II – Purpose.....	2
Article III – Membership	3
Article IV – Board of Officers, Executive Board and Committees	6
Article V – Appointed Officers and Standing Committees.....	6
Article VI – Elections.....	7
Article VII – Meetings	7
Article VIII – Dues and Fees.....	8
Article IX – Revenue & Disbursements	8
Article X – Property.....	8
Article XI – Not For Profit.....	9
Article XII – Dissolution.....	9
Article XIII – Amendments.....	9
Article XIV – General Fund Disbursements	10
Commemorative Days	10
Colors of the Association	10

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
P.O. 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 shall be available to all biological 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 Meleano**
- 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, founded La Villa de San Fernando de Béxar and established the first civil government in Texas.

- B. There shall be six categories of membership in the Association; they shall be:
1. **Direct-Descendant Member** an individual who is a biological 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. Each document submitted must be an unaltered copy of the original document. If a copy of a document submitted is not an unaltered copy of the original and there is no adequate explanation of the changes, this may be cause for immediate rejection of the application. Every Direct-Descendant membership application and documentation must be verified by the Second Vice President and once approved by the Board of Officers, 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. A \$10 fee will be assessed for posthumous applications that require the certificate to be mailed. All necessary proof must accompany the application charge. No annual dues are required.

2. **Junior Member** a minor who is a biological 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. Each document submitted must be an unaltered copy of the original document. If a copy of a document submitted is not an unaltered copy of the original and there is no adequate explanation of the changes, this may be cause for immediate rejection of the application. Every Junior membership application and documentation must be verified by the Second Vice President and approved by the Board of Officers. Junior members are non-voting members and pay a one-time dues 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. Direct-Descendant dues from Junior members are payable during the CIDA dues renewal period (January - March) of the calendar year after the Junior member becomes eighteen years old and annually thereafter. 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. 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. **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.
5. **Friend of the 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.
6. **Tesoro de CIDA** –A Tesoro de CIDA (CIDA Treasure) is a Direct-Descendant Member who has demonstrated over 20 years of continuous service to CIDA. This designation is approved by a majority vote of the membership. Tesoros maintain all rights and privileges as an Active Direct-Descendant Member including the right to vote, hold an elected office, chair a committee, or serve on a committee in the Association. Annual dues for Tesoros are waived by the Association in perpetuity.

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 is taken. 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 Board of Officers to appeal the declination; then, based on the facts learned at the hearing, the Board of Officers will recommend to the individual and to the Second Vice-President any remedial actions necessary for successful application closure.

Article IV - Board of Officers, Executive Board and Committees

A. 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:

- A. President**
- B. First Vice President**
- C. Second Vice President**
- D. Third Vice President**
- E. Recording Secretary**
- F. Communications Manager**
- G. Treasurer**
- H. Property Manager**

B. 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-Descendent Member shall be appointed by the President with the remaining two (2) to be volunteers from within the Association or elected by the membership, consisting of Direct-Descendant 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. Election voting shall be accomplished in November of even numbered years.
- C. Any active, paid Direct-Descendant Member present at the election meeting may nominate an individual to serve as the Association’s officer
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. Members of the Nominating Committee shall tally all written votes.
- G. Officers elected at the November meeting shall be installed at the December meeting or Holiday Party whereupon they will assume the responsibilities of their offices from the outgoing officers. The outgoing officers will work with the newly installed officers to ensure a smooth transition.
- H. No candidate shall be a member of the Nominating Committee.
- I. Tie votes may be determined by a coin toss organized by the Nominating Chairperson.
- J. 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.
- K. A member shall be eligible for election to office when he/she has attended a minimum of three (3) monthly meetings or functions of the Association during the current fiscal year including attendance of any of the Association’s luncheons.
- L. In the event that 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 membership meetings, at least quarterly, at a pre-determined time, date, and location, either physically, telephonically, or electronically (virtual), in accordance with these BYLAWS. The President shall have the authority to determine the frequency of the meetings. 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 election years) and any suggested changes may be amended by two-thirds 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's 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, Tesoro de CIDA, 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. The President shall have the authority to call special meetings.
- D. The Board of Officers and/or the Executive Board shall meet at a time and place determined by the President.
- E. 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 is 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 Property Manager.
- 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:

- 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 at a Membership Meeting, not to exceed \$50 each gift without the approval of the Executive Board. Speakers for March Arrival or Cabildo Luncheons shall not exceed \$100 without Executive Board approval.
 - 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.
- D. Expenditures over \$500 and not of an emergency nature (contributing to loss of Association assets or the inability to communicate with Members) and not cited in the current budget, require Membership approval. The exception is CIDA Store merchandise. Store merchandise will be reviewed and calculated to pay for itself as sales commerce. The purchase of store merchandise will be pre-approved by the Executive Board.

Commemorative Days

Feast of La Virgin de la CandelariaFebruary 2, 1731
Arrival of the original sixteen families from the Canary IslandsMarch 9, 1731
Establishment of the first Civil Government in Texas.....August 1, 1731

Colors of the Association

Canary Yellow Royal Blue White