Christopher Columbus Italian Society

# Qualifications of Membership

## ARTICLE III
## Membership

Membership shall be limited to male persons of good moral character.

There shall be three classes of members in this Society:
a. Regular b. Honorary, including Chaplain c. In-Absentia

**Regular members** shall be all those who are citizens of the United States of America or Italian citizens legal residents of the United States of America and who are at least 18 years old as of their date of admission to the Society. Regular members shall be permitted to vote and to hold any office in the Society.

Regular members shall be entitled to all available benefits, subject to approval by the responsible committee.

**Honorary membership** may be conferred to any person who has distinguished himself by some special act, or has contributed to the moral or material benefit of humanity or to the Society. The election to Honorary membership must be by unanimous vote of those present and voting at the meeting.

Honorary members and the Chaplain are neither permitted to vote nor to hold office in the Society. Such members are not entitled to any benefits offered by the Society.

**In-absentia membership** may be conferred to any member during said member's temporary absence from Bexar County. See Article III, section 10 for applicable conditions and designated procedures.

**Application for membership to the Society.**
Any eligible individual desiring membership in the Society will complete the prescribed form. Said application must be endorsed by two regular members. The application along with the admission fee shall be submitted to the Secretary.

**Acknowledgment and course of application.**

a. The application is to be read at the regular meeting following its receipt by the Secretary, and subsequently forwarded to, the Investigating Committee.

b. The Investigating Committee will report its findings to the President before the next regular meeting.

c. At the second regular meeting following its receipt by the Secretary, the application will be read and voted upon by the membership. Voting shall be by secret ballot unless the membership unanimously agrees to vote otherwise. A majority of two thirds of the votes cast by the eligible members present at the meeting must be favorable to constitute acceptance.

d. The applicant shall be informed, in writing, by the Secretary concerning the acceptance or rejection of the application. Should the application be rejected, the admission fee shall be refunded to the applicant.

e. The accepted applicant shall be sworn in to the Society at the meeting following his notification of acceptance.

f. Membership into the Society shall commence on the date the applicant is sworn into the Society.

g. A person whose application has been rejected by the membership must wait one year before submitting a new application form.

h. The accepted applicant will receive no more than three (3) written consecutive monthly notices instructing him to attend a regular meeting to be sworn into the Society. Failure to attend after receiving these three notices will constitute forfeiture of the admission fee.

**Conditions and procedures for in-absentia membership.**
a. When it becomes necessary for a member to temporarily leave Bexar County for a period exceeding one year he may apply for membership in-absentia. A written request to obtain this status will be submitted to the President prior to or within 60 days following said member's departure. Said request will include the purpose of the relocation, departure date and the approximate length of absence.

b. Said request will be read at the regular meeting following its receipt by the President. The request will be voted upon; a two-thirds majority of the votes cast must be favorable to constitute approval of the request.

c. An in-absentia member will remain on the Society's membership role. He is not required to pay dues; he is not eligible for any benefits.

d. Within 60 days following his permanent return to Bexar County, said member will notify the President in writing of said return. Upon receipt of this correspondence, the Secretary will automatically revert the aforementioned in-absentia member to the applicable membership status.