

# IN TOUCH

## Italian Catholic Federation

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## District Mentor Newsletter

October 2019

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### BY-LAW CHANGES

During the 2019 Annual I.C.F. Convention, Delegates voted these changes to the By-Laws:

#### Chapter IV - Meetings

Add - **Article 4.** - Officers' Meetings may be called by the President at his or her discretion, or by written request of three (3) officers. Officers' Meetings are open to the Officers of the Branch and the President's invitees. Officers' Meetings are for planning purposes only, and decisions are not binding on the Branch until approved by the members at a General Meeting of the Branch.

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#### Chapter XI - Elections

Added the second sentence

**Article 2-H.** - An officer who has not paid his or her dues in full by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the new year will automatically be suspended from office. The officer shall receive a fifteen (15) day notification, before March 15<sup>th</sup>, from the Financial Secretary that the officer must pay his or her dues to avoid suspension from office.

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#### Chapter XIV - General Dispositions

Deleted "at least 1 year" from Article 7-A. It now reads:

**Article 7-A.** - No Branch shall vote to close on its own. If a Branch wishes to close, the Branch must write a letter of this intent to the Executive Committee of the Central Council, signed by the President and the Secretary of the Branch, before any vote to close. At this time the Executive Committee will appoint a Central

Council Member to work with the Branch to resolve the problems and/or challenges facing the Branch and administrate the Branch if necessary.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Each Branch should elect Officers in October. Refer to your Branch By-Laws Book, Chapter XI. **If a Branch has not yet elected officers for the new year, please be sure to assist them in doing so and inform me if there are any problems.** Here are some reminders regarding Elections:

- Each office is nominated and voted on one at a time. Do not let the Branch vote on a "slate" of officers.
- The Nominating Committee nominates a candidate for each office.
- The President must also ask three times for nominations from the floor for each office.
- Nominations do not require a second.
- Contested offices must be voted on immediately by secret ballot before continuing.
- Candidates must be present to be nominated and elected, or a letter declaring their intention to run is acceptable.
- Candidates must be in good standing with their dues.
- New officers assume office on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank all of the officers of the past year for their hard work and dedication to the Branch and the I.C.F.

- Branches are allowed to combine Treasurer and Financial Secretary, and they may elect one to three Trustees.
- If Branches have trouble electing officers, contact me or the Grand President for advice and ideas.
- The new officers should plan a Calendar of Events for the coming year. A Branch Budget for the upcoming year is also recommended.
- Remind Branches to send a list of their new officers to the I.C.F. office by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **I.C.F. CALENDARS**

Branches received their allotment of 2020 calendars "Cooking With Our Grandchildren" at the Convention or by mail. Sell them to friends, business suppliers, family and members of your Church. **For \$25 you get 365 chances to win a cash prize.** Be sure to purchase one for your Pastor. They make great Raffle Gifts for your Branch and Stocking Stuffers at Christmas. Remember, the Branch keeps \$5.00 for every Calendar sold.

### **WANT TO BE A MENTOR?**

District and Branch Mentors are needed. Please ask your Branch and District members to encourage volunteers. It truly is a rewarding experience. Contact Deborah Rodondi for more information.

### **Typical Duties of a Branch Mentor**

- Mentor Branch President and other Officers of the Branch.
- Attend Branch Membership Meetings, Branch Executive Meetings, Branch Events and Fundraisers as possible.
- Report from the Central Council to the Branch membership.
- Assist Branch with Strategic Plan goals and activities, such as Annual Membership Drive and Retention.
- Report to the District Mentor monthly (form).
- Attend District Mentor workshops.

- If necessary, contact CC Mentor Program Chair if there are Branch problems.

**District Mentors:** According to our Statutes it is probably time to **move Branch Mentors to new Branches** in your area. Branch Mentors are to serve a maximum of 4 years at the same Branch. This allows for a fresh approach and vision for the individual Branches. PLEASE work on this NOW, so these new assignments are in place by the first of the year and installations. Although not an ideal situation, if you do not have enough Mentors to cover all your Branches at this time, a Branch that has you (District Mentor) or Central Council Members as a member can forgo having a Branch Mentor, until the time you have enough Mentors to go around. Please send me your list as soon as possible. Thank you!

### **IMPORTANT E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

If you need to contact Patty Smith for accounting issues her e-mail is [accounting@icf.org](mailto:accounting@icf.org) or if you need to contact Charlene Kramer at the I.C.F. Office her e-mail is [admin@icf.org](mailto:admin@icf.org) or [info@icf.org](mailto:info@icf.org).

### **BOLLETTINO**

The *Bollettino* E-mail Address is: [editor@icf.org](mailto:editor@icf.org)

If the Branch you Mentor is one that does not send in an article, encourage them to do so. So many members enjoy reading what other Branches in the Federation are doing; it also helps the Branch's members who were unable to attend the meeting to keep up with what is happening!

**Get your articles in by the 10<sup>th</sup>** of the month for the following month's issue (example October 10<sup>th</sup> for the November issue). If it is received late it will not go in, but will be held over for the following issue.

All image and article submissions need to be sent in an editable electronic format. Those submissions not sent in an electronic format

or those articles sent in the mail will not be used. Finally, a reminder that ALL Branch and District reports need to adhere to word count requirements (**no more than 250 words**) or they will be shortened or possibly excluded entirely based on editor judgement.

Please keep your submission positive and informative. Thank you!

**Membership Drives** and different things we can do without much effort to promote the I.C.F. One is to have a table at all fundraisers with I.C.F. brochures and applications. Another nice thing to have is a poster with the annual donations that the Branch gives – this is of great interest as individuals love to know where monies made are going and to the good causes we support. Often there are non-members in attendance at fundraisers and this is an excellent way to show them what we are about.

Another is to put a notice in the Church Bulletin – not just your parish but go to neighboring parishes that do not have an I.C.F.

#### SAMPLE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

### **The Italian Catholic Federation – Join us!**

The Italian Catholic Federation (I.C.F.) is a Catholic family organization open to all ages and cultures. Although Italian in origin, we welcome diversity. We support our parishes through charitable, spiritual, social and heritage programs. We support seminarians, college scholarships, and persons with disabilities.

We meet at (*location, address, day of month, time*). For more information, contact (*name, phone and/or e-mail*) and visit our Website at [www.icf.org](http://www.icf.org).

Presidents can also arrange with their Pastors for time at the Masses to speak about the Italian Catholic Federation. A two minute Mass script is available that really works. After Mass, a table should be set up at the back of the Church with I.C.F. Brochures, Italian cookies and a few members to answer questions. Take down names and then call them to invite them to the next meeting.

You can call our Membership Chairperson, Pat Mages, for assistance and more ideas.

## Remind Branches/Districts:

- Dues for 2020 will increase by \$1.20. It is the last of the 3 increases that were passed at the 2017 Convention.
- Get Installation information out as soon as possible, so Branch/District Members and Central Council Members can mark their calendars.
- It is not too early to start promoting support of our Scholarship Program. Our goal should be 100% participation in all Districts. Remind them that if they cannot afford a full scholarship, a donation of any dollar amount helps!

### MEMBERSHIP AS OF 9/30/19 BY DISTRICT

		Gain/Loss since 6/30/19
<b>Central Coast</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>+ 6</b>
Santa Clara Valley	1,026	- 4
Los Angeles	1,011	- 1
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>+ 4</b>
<b>Contra Costa</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>+ 2</b>
Santa Rosa	632	- 17
San Mateo	510	- 6
<b>Stockton</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>+ 3</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>+31</b>
<b>East Bay</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>+ 2</b>
Blessed Sacrament	355	- 3
San Diego	243	- 13
<b>Marin</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>+ 1</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
<b>Orange</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
<b>Tucson</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
San Bernardino	58	- 5
<b>Reno</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>+ 0</b>

Total membership as of 9/30/19 **8,550**

New members	157
Reinstated	8
<b>Cancelled/Non Payment</b>	<b>137</b>
Deceased	28
<b>Dues not paid 6 – 8 months</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Dues not paid 9 – 12months</b>	<b>528</b>

