

IN TOUCH

Italian Catholic Federation

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District Mentor Newsletter

October 2022

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WELCOME

Hello, and Welcome to the District Mentor Newsletter - **IN TOUCH**. My name is Franklyn Lopes, Jr. and I am the Grand 2nd Vice President of the Italian Catholic Federation. I will be taking over the duties of the Mentor Program. You can contact me at (831) 588-9839 or icfmentor@aol.com.

BY-LAW CHANGES

During the 2022 Annual I.C.F. Convention, Delegates voted to approve these changes to the By-Laws:

Chapter XVI - The Annual Convention

Change - **Article 3-C.** - The delegates to the Annual Convention shall receive from the General and/or Social Fund of their Branch a reasonable expense allowance to cover costs of meals, accommodations and transportation for the Convention days in which delegates participate. The Convention registration fee, which includes **specified meals**, shall be paid in advance by the Branch. **Delegate expenses must be included as an operational expense of the Branch and take precedence over voluntary expenses.** Deviations from these regulations must be the approval of the **Central Council Executive Committee.**

Change - **Article 4** - All Branches are required to send at least the minimum quota of their delegates; otherwise, they are subject to an **assessment of two hundred fifty dollars**

(\$250.00) per day per delegate. A Branch, which desires to be excused from the Convention, must receive prior approval of the **Central Council Executive Committee.** When requesting to be excused, a letter stating the reason must be submitted to the I.C.F. Office by June 30th of that year's Convention. A Branch that is **assessed** by the **Central Council Executive Committee** shall pay the **assessment** to the I.C.F. General Fund within sixty (60) days of notice from the I.C.F. Office.

Chapter II - Membership

Change - **Article 1** - Applicants for Regular Membership are eligible at age 15 (see Chapter III for Family Membership). Applicants must be Roman Catholics in good standing as determined by the Roman Catholic Church (except the non-Catholic spouse of a Roman Catholic member; **and, for family memberships, non-Catholic children and grandchildren.**)

Chapter III - Family Membership

Change - **Article 1** - Applicants for a Family Membership consist of parent(s) or grandparent(s) and all related, **unmarried** children or grandchildren under the age of **23.** The eligible applicants are non-voting members of the Branch until their 15th birthday. Only applicants paying Full

Membership will be included in the Branch membership total when determining the election of Convention delegates. All family applicants are subject to conditions outlined in Chapter II, Article 1.

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 1st. 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 1st Vice 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 1st.

I.C.F. CALENDARS

Branches received their allotment of 2023 calendars “Feast With The Saints” 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 Franklyn Lopes, Jr. for more information.

IMPORTANT E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

BOLLETTINO

The *Bollettino* E-mail Address is: editor@icf.org

Get your articles in by the 10th of the month for the following month’s issue (example October 10th for the November issue). After the 10th, the article may not go in the next issue, and may 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. Please keep your submission positive and informative. 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.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES

- Have a table at all fundraisers with I.C.F. brochures and applications.
- 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.
- Put a notice in the Church Bulletin...not just your parish but go to neighboring parishes that do not have an I.C.F.
- More information is available on the I.C.F. Website on how to conduct a Membership Drive.

Branch 227, in Aptos, recently had a Membership Drive in July of 2022. We spoke at the 3 Masses with the approval of the Pastor. We set up a table in front of the church with members present and handed out I.C.F. brochures and Biscotti. We had 2 people join and 6 people taking membership applications. Perry Shurko, the Membership Chair, came up from Downey to help with the Drive. We will be doing a follow up talk in the coming months before the holidays. If you are interested in getting a Membership Drive going, please contact me.

REMINDER TO BRANCHES AND DISTRICTS

- Dues for 2023 will be due January 1, 2023.
- 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. Start promoting the program within Districts and Branches. Remind them that if they cannot afford a full

scholarship, a donation of any dollar amount helps!

MEMBERSHIP AS OF 9/30/22 BY DISTRICT

		Gain/Loss since 6/30/22
Central Coast	1,111	- 2
Los Angeles	830	+ 2
Santa Clara Valley	775	- 2
Fresno	705	+ 6
Contra Costa	551	+ 9
Santa Rosa	516	+ 8
Stockton	352	- 3
San Mateo	350	+ 8
Blessed Sacrament	332	+ 11
East Bay	285	- 2
Marin	205	+ 9
Chicago	198	+ 1
San Diego	181	- 3
San Francisco	90	- 1
San Bernardino	64	+ 1
Orange	62	+ 2
Reno	31	- 1

Total membership as of 9/30/22 **6,338**

New members	87
Reinstated	11
Cancelled/Non Payment	30
Deceased	25
Dues not paid 6 – 8 months	4
Dues not paid 9 – 12months	560

Wishing you God's blessings as the end of the year approaches.

