

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
SAN FELESE SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
UNIONE E FRATELLANZA SAN FELESE

UNIONE E FRATELLANZA SANFELESE

FOUNDED
1902



TRENTON
NEW JERSEY

INCORPORATED: SEPTEMBER 12, 1902

BY-LAW REVISIONS
2003, 2007, 2012, 2014

www.sanfelesesocietynj.org

Organization Name:
Article 1.

“Fratellanza” means brotherhood for mutual benefit. Our use of translations is because our membership is now 3rd, 4th and 5th generation and doesn't speak Italian. The Corporation's only name which is retained for historic reasons remains as it was incorporated in 1902. For internet purposes we use San Felese Lodge or Society as that is what our members are most likely to web search under.

Organization Type:
Article 2.

The San Felese Lodge is organized as a Philanthropic organization.

Mission Statement:
Article 3.

Under the fundamental laws of the State of New Jersey which recognize and guarantee the right to organize freely, this organization was constituted as a society of mutual benefit of the Sanfelese Brotherhood. Its main purpose is mutual aid among its members and their families. Unity, equality, and fraternity is the motto of this organization. This organization will inspire its members to promote the moral, civic and material betterment of Italian Americans in general; as well as the advancement of our society and its members in particular. In addition it is our purpose to promote the preservation of Italian culture and to support continuing education of students of Italian-American descent through our scholarship program.

Qualifications:
Article 4.

Full membership in this organization is open to adults, who have attained the age of 21, who have at least one parent, be it mother or father, whose

blood line can be traced to San Fele, Southern Italy (Basilicata region)

Dues:

Article 5.

Dues shall be \$25.00 annually, subject to increase by amendment. Funds for special circumstances can be procured by a majority vote.

Election of Officers:

Article 6.

All members are invited to attend the general assembly meeting held in July, at a time and place designated by the President, in order to elect new officers for a 2 year term.

Meeting Dates:

Article 7.

General meetings will take place on the 3rd Wednesday of every other month. The President may call a special meeting at any time.

Administration:

Article 8.

The society will be governed and regulated by a board of officers composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. A Sergeant-At-Arms will be appointed by the President. Officers duties will be detailed by the President.

Voting Procedure:

Article 9.

The President will appoint a nominating committee consisting of three members to propose a slate of officers for the coming term. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Term of Office:

Article 10.

Officers will serve a two-year term, to coincide

with the fiscal year. Elections will be held on a bi-annual basis.

Duties of the President:
Article 11.

The President is the leader of the organization, conducts the meetings and interprets the Constitution as well as making the legal decisions. The President opens and closes the meetings, keeps order and discipline, calls special meetings, supervises elections and votes in case of a tie. The President may not make any proposals and may not take sides in discussions. The President has only the right to summarize the arguments and further clarify the subjects to the members who will vote. The President is under obligation to suspend any officer who is found negligent in his duties or who cause social harm.

Duties of the Vice-President:
Article 12.

The Vice-President will take the President's seat in the President's absence.

Duties of the Secretary:
Article 13.

The Secretary will carry out the orders of the President and will keep the following records: Meeting minutes. 2. Roll call of all members and officers. 3. Will maintain a membership list. 4. Maintain file of membership applications. Keep an inventory of Society artifacts. In addition the Secretary will call the roll in the general elections on July 10th to see who is permitted to vote. He will notify the officers/ membership of special meetings. He will receive and transmit correspondence to the membership. The Secretary will also be the custodian of the

archives and the seal.

Duties of the Treasurer:
Article 14.

The Treasurer will be the keeper of the sums of money with which he is entrusted. The Treasurer at each meeting must present in writing a Treasurer's Report and rendering of accounts. The Treasurer provides the Secretary with a bi-monthly report which is to be archived by the Secretary. All approved bills will be submitted to the Treasurer for payment.

Committees:
Article 15.

Committees and committee chairs will be appointed by the President. Committee chairs will report to the President. Committees will be formed as the need arises to further the purposes of the Society.

Membership Application:
Article 16.

Applications will be submitted to the Secretary along with the membership fee. The Secretary will in turn present the application to the membership at the next meeting for review and acceptance. The membership will vote on the application at that time.

Removal of Members:
Article 17.

Infractions contrary to the by-laws may result in the loss of membership. Any member who acts contrary to the mission of the Society will be notified by the President by letter in this matter.

Any member who is facing suspension or removal may appeal this decision.

Categories of Membership:

Article 18.

The Society consists of five categories of membership; Full Membership, Inactive Membership; Honorary Membership, Youth Membership, and Spousal Membership. Honorary membership consists of those who have attained the age of 80 and who has been on the active membership roster for 10 years. Youth membership consists of those who are between the ages of 16 and 20. Those in this category are asked to contribute a nominal fee of \$5.00 annually, until they reach the age of 21.

Conduct of Meetings:

Article 19.

Meetings will be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for departed members will be included at each meeting.

Organization Dissolution:

Article 20.

In the event of Dissolution of the 'Unione E Fratellanza San Felese' (San Felese Lodge), any assets remaining will be donated by the remaining membership to the NJ Italian American Heritage Commission or like State-wide Italian American 501 © corporation, in existence at the time of dissolution, dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Italian American Culture, history and heritage.

Life Membership:

Article 21.

Will be awarded to those members who have attained the age of 80 years old before the date of July 1st, and have been an active member of the San Felese Lodge for at least 10 years. In this case the payment of annual dues will be suspended; however, the life member will maintain all the rights and privileges of full membership. However the organization will accept donations toward membership maintenance and the scholarship fund.

Youth Membership:

Article 22.

This special status membership will be available to youth of San Felese descent between the ages of 16 and 21 years. A nominal membership fee of \$5.00 is required. The purpose of said membership is to promote camaraderie, cultural heritage, and civic responsibility. Voting privileges are not permitted until the youth member has reached the age of 21 years. At that time they will become full members requiring annual dues of \$25.00.

Spousal Membership:

Article 23.

Will be extended to spouses of active or deceased members, to include those individuals who are (were) married to individuals of San Felese descent. Spousal membership requires the payment of annual dues of \$25.00 which will entitle the spousal member to all the rights and privileges of full membership.