

SOCIETA' VAL TREBBIA E VAL NURE, INC.



BY-LAWS

Organized March 19, 1950 and incorporated under the laws of the state of New York, June 23, 1950.

The 1950 By-Laws of this Society were amended after being read, discussed and unanimously passed at the September 7, 2003 general membership meeting and became effective October 1, 2003.

By-Laws committee: Antonio Mosconi, Hector J. Morisi, Peter Segalini, Joseph Castignoli and Joseph Ferdenzi.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The Society was incorporated with the name of Societa' Val Trebbia Inc. to honor the founders originating from the Val Trebbia Valley located in the Province of Piacenza, Italy. On November 10, 1956, due to the request of the members and the Executive Board the name of the Societa' Val Trebbia Inc. was amended during a special meeting to include the additional words of Val Nure. On February 17, 1957 the Society became officially known as **Societa' Val Trebbia e Val Nure, Inc.** (the "Society").

ARTICLE II – LANGUAGE

The Italian and English languages will be the official languages of the Society.

ARTICLE III – AIMS

Section 1: To promote and encourage friendship among its members.

Section 2: To fraternize with residents of the United States of America (U.S.A.) who

immigrated from the Val Trebbia and Val Nure Valleys and the Province of Piacenza (Italy), without prejudice to religion, party, profession, class or economic status.

Section 3: To maintain respect for the country of origin by promoting the culture of Italian glories and by spreading knowledge and understanding of our heritage and the use of the Italian language.

Section 4: To raise funds for charitable purposes and to dispose of such funds by:

- a. Direct aid in cases where immediate relief is urgent.
- b. Contributing to other organized relief and charitable organizations engaged in the same or like work.
- c. Making surveys and investigations of relief and charitable needs.
- d. Aiding other charitable organizations in their drives for funds.
- e. Cooperating with other relief agencies and to coordinate the work of relief and charitable agencies in the community.
- f. Receiving money or other property by gift, device or otherwise and to hold the same in trust and to administer the same for the foregoing purposes.
- g. Awarding scholarships, by merit, to students attending a university or college of higher education.

ARTICLE IV – TERRITORY OF OPERATION

The territory in which its operation is to be conducted by the Society will be primarily in the United States and Italy with the main headquarters based in New York City.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP, DUES, INITIATION FEE & LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - MEMBERSHIP, there shall be four (4) classes of Membership: Active, Honorary, Merit and Life Membership:

a. Active: Anyone who comes from the Val Trebbia and Val Nure Valleys or from the Piacenza Province; is a descendent of a father or a mother, a grandchild, great grandchild, etc., from such descendents or is married to a descendent as such, may become a member of this Society, only after the Councilors have reviewed and considered the qualifications. (see Appendix “E” sub. b.) That person must be at least 18 years of age, fill out a membership application, be nominated by a member and seconded by two other members. After the secret voting, for which the candidate cannot be present, if the majority of the members voting, vote in favor of the candidate’s admission, the candidate will be entered in the Society’s membership registry. If the majority of the members vote against the admission then said candidate will not be able to become a member of the

Society and will not be entitled to an explanation. A failed candidate may re-apply for admission after six (6) months have elapsed.

b. Honorary: Any person may become an honorary member of the Society if the majority of the members present, at a meeting, will consider said candidate eligible. This member will have the right to attend meetings and to participate in discussions but will not have the right to vote, run for any office or receive membership benefits.

c. Merit: A merit member may be any person who contributes to the fund of the Society a sum decided to be worthy of such recognition by the Executive Board. This member will not have the right to vote, to attend membership meetings, to participate in discussions or receive membership benefits.

d. Life Membership: an Active member becomes a Life Member when that member:

1. Remained a member in good standing for a maximum of 35 years; or
2. Attained age 75 and paid regular dues for a minimum of 10 years; or
3. Paid dues, up-front, to 75 years of age according to the "Dues" formula published in Appendix "A" sub. a & b. As an incentive to becoming a Life Member, one-year dues for every ten (10) years that is paid will be subtracted from the total amount due according to the said formula.

Section 2 – DUES, regular membership Dues for an Active member shall be as listed in Appendix "A" subs. a and b.

- a. A member in the military service will be exempted from the payment of dues for a maximum of four (4) years while on active duty, but must resume payments three (3) months after discharge from said military service.
- b. A Life Member will no longer pay dues and will be entitle to all benefits, see above Section 1 sub. d and Appendix "A".
- c. The fees may be adjusted by a two-third vote of the Executive Board and finalized by a majority vote by the Society members present at the meeting.

Section 3 – INITIATION FEE, The Initiation Fee shall be as listed in Appendix "B".

This fee must be paid at time of acceptance into the Society and may be adjusted by the Board's two-third vote, finalized by a majority vote by the Society members present at the meeting. All fees are non-refundable.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Society will be governed by a Board of Officers consisting of an Executive Board (the "Board"), which is composed of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary of Correspondence and Secretary of Finance. And, three Trustees, four Councilors and a Sergeant at Arms.

- a. None of these officers shall be paid for the services rendered.

- b. Every effort must be made by these Officers to attend every meeting.
- c. In the event that a member of the Executive Board is absent for three (3) consecutive regular or special meetings without a valid excuse acceptable to the majority of the Board, the President may suspend said Officer and otherwise act in accordance with Article IX Section 1 sub. e.
- d. Upon election, each Officer shall serve a term of two years, subject to the provision described above.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

1. In November of every two-year interval, the Nominating Committee shall meet to establish a list of candidates running for Office. The existing Officers may be re-nominated and re-elected.
2. Every member of the Society will have an opportunity to nominate candidates who then must be seconded by another member.
3. A member may not be nominated for an office unless such member is a life member or has been an active member of the Society for at least one year.
4. Only members who have been nominated and seconded will be eligible to compete for election.
5. All candidates must declare that they will accept the position they are seeking and must be present at the nomination and election meetings.
6. At the December meeting, the elections will be held by secret ballot whereby the candidate who receives the majority vote will be declared the winner.
7. The newly elected Officers will take office on the first day of January and their duties will last a total of two (2) years.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

Membership meetings will be held once a month, except for the months of July and August, and only members will be allowed to attend. However, special guests may attend a meeting when approved by a majority of the Executive Board. The date of the meetings will be determined by the availability of the Board and/or by the disposability of a majority of its members.

Special meetings may also be called at any time by:

- a. The President; or
- b. A majority of the Executive Board; or
- c. A requisition signed by not less than ten (10) members. The requisition shall be address to the President and/or the Secretary of Correspondence specifying the business to be discussed and/or action to be taken, and the President will set the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX – DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1 – The PRESIDENT shall perform all duties pertaining to the President’s Office and shall:

- a. Preside at all meetings, keep order at the meetings, open them, suspend them, adjourns them when he thinks is proper and will regulate the discussions.
- b. Have a vote in every deliberations or elections and will cast a second vote in the event of a tie, after a brief conference with the Executive Board.
- c. See that the By-Laws and the constitution of the Society are observed and that the officers perform their duties diligently.
- d. Nominate committees according to need and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. (see Article XII, Sec. 1 Sub. g). He shall appoint a Chairperson for all other standing committees.
- e. May suspend Officers who are negligent in their duties or incapacitated and then reports this action to the members, at the next general membership meeting, during which time the majority of the members present may remove such Officers from the office to which they were elected. The President then can make a temporary appointment to fill the vacant office until the next election. The President can also make a temporary appointment to assist an elected Officer if needed due to an illness or for other justifiable reasons without removing the Officer from the elected position (see Article VI, sub. c)
- f. Open a meeting only if a minimum of five (5) members are present, excluding the Officers. Thereupon, a next meeting must be re-scheduled with fourteen (14) days notice to the general membership and that meeting can be held regardless of how many members are present.
- g. Sign all minutes recorded by the Corresponding Secretary during the general membership meeting once they have been read back and approved by the membership.
- h. Be custodian of the flags, the Society’s banner, and the gavel used to Officiate the meetings.
- i. Retrieve the mail and correspondence from the Society’s P.O.Box and/or main headquarters.
- j. Take a Roll Call of the Officers present at a meeting, which will be recorded in the minutes.

Section 2 - The VICE PRESIDENT shall:

- a. Be present at all meetings.
- b. Assist the President in the work of his office.
- c. Perform all duties in event of absence, incapacity, or death of the President.
- d. Perform such other duties, as the Executive Board requires.

Section 3 - The TREASURER shall:

- a. Collect membership dues at meetings.
- b. Upon receiving the money collected, deposit it in a bank or safe deposit box, which will be designated to him by the Executive Board.

- c. Not keep any amount of money outside said bank or safety deposit box without previous agreement from the majority of the members.
- d. Not spend any money without the consent and instructions from the Executive Board.
- e. Substitute for the Secretary of Finance in event of absence, incapacity, or death.
- f. Fill-in for the President and /or Vice President in event of absence, incapacity, or death.
- g. Be the custodian of the Society's seal, and stamp any documents, letters or mandates requiring such.
- h. Keep a record of all monetary transactions and keep financial books updated to include income, expenses, payments, fines, taxes, etc.

Section 4 - The SECRETARY OF CORRESPONDENCE shall:

- a. Keep records of all the members of the society.
- b. Update the mailing list of all Members and Officers.
- c. Send mailings to each member notifying them of the monthly meetings, society events and special announcements.
- d. Take notes and transcribe the minutes of membership meetings.
- e. Keep paper records of all correspondence to and from members.
- f. Keep original member's applications.
- g. Read the minutes taken at the next regular meeting, or at any other time when requested by the Society's members or Executive Board, to be approved by the membership.
- h. Retrieve the mail and correspondence from Society's P.O.Box and/or Main Headquarters.
- i. In the event of the death of a member, make every effort to notify the members and provide them with the name of the deceased, the hour, day and the place of the funeral and burial.

Section 5 - The SECRETARY OF FINANCE shall:

- a. Assist the Treasurer in collecting dues during meetings and as necessary.
- b. Give the money collected to the Treasurer, obtaining a receipt for same.
- c. Substitute for the Treasurer in case of absence.
- d. Be responsible for notifying members who are delinquent in their annual dues.
- e. Inspect and monitor the financial books.
- f. Prepare financial reports: quarterly, semi-annual and annual.
- g. Report all infractions to the Executive Board.

Section 6 - The TRUSTEES shall:

- a. Insure that members adhere to all rules and by-laws of the Society.
- b. Inspect the Society's financial and investment books each month or as necessary.
- c. Verify the quarterly, semi annually and annual reports.
- d. Make sure that the money is properly collected and deposited on a regular basis.

- e. Check disbursements in all accounts.
- f. Report infractions to the Executive Board and to the membership.

Section 7: The COUNCILORS shall:

- a. Verify the accuracy and qualifications on the applications of candidates for membership.
- b. Represent the members of the Society to the Executive Board.
- c. Take an interest in the membership's concerns and claims, and relay these matters to the Board for consideration.
- d. Have general supervision over the property and funds of the Society.
- e. Visit or contact the sick or needy members to determine their needs.
- f. Report all information and needs to the Board and to the membership.

Section 8: The SERGEANT at ARMS shall:

- a. Keep order at meetings and special events.
- b. Be at the disposal of the President for the maintenance of the peace and quiet at meetings.

ARTICLE X – MEMBER'S DUTIES & OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 1 – DUTIES:

- a. The members are instructed to advise the Secretary of Correspondence of any changes of address, telephone number, marital status, etc. Reporting changes will be the responsibility of the member.
- b. It will be the duty of each member of the Society to respect and maintain the by-laws that governs it. The prosperity of the Society is based entirely upon the union, brothership, love for our native lands and the honor of it's membership.
- c. Each member will strive to be well mannered and protect the interest and dignity of the Society and of its members. Violent behavior, threats, profane language or insult will not be tolerated during the meetings. It will be the President's right to make use of the Sergeant at Arms to dismiss a member from any meeting who will not abide by these by-laws. In event the violation of this law happens three (3) times, the Executive Board may expel this member from the Society's membership.
- d. At meetings, a member may not take the floor more than three (3) times on the same subject.
- e. Each member is obligated to inform one of the Officers upon learning of the death or sickness of a member or a relative of a member.

Section 2 – OTHER PROVISIONS:

- a. No person who, for any reason, ceases to be a member of the Society may claim any refund of money, which was previously paid.
- b. A member must remain in good standing and in accord with the Society's by-laws. A member behind in his dues payment by six (6) months and who has

not complied with the demand to meet the payment within a month will be declared delinquent and cancelled from the Society's membership roster and mailing list. The member will have the right to obtain an extension not exceeding one month after giving reasons deemed justifiable by a majority vote of the Executive Board. At the end of this period, the member will be expelled from the Society and will lose all benefits.

- c. If a member resigns, said member will also lose the right to all benefits and entitlements.
- d. When a member resigns from the Society and applies to re-join at a future date, a new application has to be prepared and re-submitted by such member, and will be subject to the election requirements contained in Article V.
- e. If a member was admitted into the Society through false information or engages in conduct so improper as to disgrace the Society, upon a written report by the Executive Board, said member may be expelled by a majority vote from the members present at the meeting.

ARTICLE XI – OTHER BENEFITS

In addition of having an opportunity to enhance the educational, social and economical status of its members and the opportunity to associate with Italian Americans from the Province of Piacenza, and others, members will also be entitled to:

1. College Scholarships for their children:
 - a. The member (active or deceased) must have been a member, in good standing for a minimum of three (3) years (see Appendix "E" sec. 1, sub. a.) upon application for the scholarship and must remain in good standing throughout the years the children are receiving the benefit.
 - b. Scholarships are for a maximum of four (4) years of undergraduate studies only.
 - c. Student must be in the High School graduating class of the year the application was submitted and must be enrolled in a College. However, a student can still be eligible for a scholarship at a future date if the student decided to postpone the college education for a few years upon graduating from High School. SAT (or equivalent) scores must be submitted.
 - e. A student can receive a partial scholarship, for the remaining years of undergraduate studied, upon the member satisfying the Association's membership requirement (see sub. a, above).
 - f. All applications for scholarships must be submitted to the Chairman or Co-Chairman of the scholarship committee by June 1st of same year the scholarship is requested.
 - g. The number of scholarships to be awarded in any given year will be determined by the Scholarship Committee.
 - h. Not more than three (3) scholarships per year will be awarded to students from non-members and, these students must also submit their SAT scores.
 - i. The dollar amounts to be awarded may be modified by a two-third vote of the Executive Board and finalized by a majority of members present at the

- regular meeting (see Appendix “C”).
- j. The student must: be registered as a full-time student, show proof of registration each year and must remain registered in the university or college to qualify for the award.
2. Death Benefit, as listed in Appendix “D”.
 3. Life Membership, see Article V Section d and Appendix “A” sub. b.
 4. Newsletter, mailings and correspondence.
 5. A Society pin, upon becoming a member.
 6. Participation, in all activities presented at meetings.

ARTICLE XII – COMMITTEES

Section 1: Standing Committees and duties:

- a. Scholarship: as per Article XI Section 1, is responsible for submitting and collecting applications from prospective scholarship recipients; gathers all information from the chosen recipients and submits it to the Journal committee for publication; collects funds in conjunction with the Journal committee chairperson; prepares certificates and any other duties as required.
- b. Journal: selects a Printing Company; gathers writings, photos and other documents, in conjunction with the Scholarship committee chairperson, to be submitted to the Printer; collects and distributes the journals.
- c. Dance: selects the catering hall, music and entertainment; provides all necessary assistance at the dinner dance.
- d. Raffle: have books printed, distributed and collected; distribute awards.
- e. Investment: recommends Banks and other investment products it considers proper and beneficial to the Society, which must be approved by the Board.
- f. By-Laws: promulgates and recommends amendments to the by-laws as necessary, which are then voted upon by the membership (see Article XIII).
- g. Newsletter/Website: create, copy and distribute newsletters to the members as necessary.
- h. Nominating: the members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Society and the person receiving the most votes becomes the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall ascertain the willingness of each candidate for office to accept nomination and serve if elected. The Committee shall meet at least two (2) weeks prior to the November meeting to prepare the slate of Officers for election at the December meeting.
This Committee distributes and collects ballots for the election, and tallies the results that determines the winners.

Section 2: The Chairperson of each Standing Committee shall:

- a. Be an Active or Life Member of the Society.
- c. Appoint members, minimum of three (3), as needed to perform the required duties by the Committee.
- d. Submit all information gathered to the President and /or Executive Board for approval and prior to the next general meeting.
- e. Present facts, results and recommendations to the membership at the general meeting.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws of the society may be amended during a meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting body present at any general meeting or any meeting called for this specific purpose.

Any member wishing to make a proposal must submit such proposal in writing to the President or the Corresponding Secretary at least thirty (30) days in advance of the next general meeting. The members will have to be informed that an amendment will be proposed during that meeting and the member, making the proposal, must be present and provide an explanation and the need for such change.

No proposal can be deliberated upon unless another member seconds it. After a period of deliberation deemed reasonable by the President, the members will be asked to vote on the proposal.

ARTICLE XIV – MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1: All checks and drafts against Banks and other deposited/invested funds shall be signed and countersigned by persons specified by the Board.

Section 2: The Board may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, in addition to those specified in these by-laws, to enter into any contract, execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Society. This authority may be in general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board, no officer, or agent shall have any power or authority to bind the Society by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

Agent or agents so authorized to enter into a contract, agreement or representation, who is brought into a legal proceeding because of the person's participation in work for the Society, shall be indemnified by the Society, except if such contract, agreement or representation is for self dealing, willful misconduct or tax liabilities. (see Appendix "E" sub. c.)

Section 3: The Executive Board shall determine the fiscal year of the Society.

ARTICLE XV – DISSOLUTION

The Society may be dissolved only by the vote of two-third of the members of the Society in accordance with the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law. Upon the dissolution of the Society, the assets, both real and personal, shall be dedicated to an appropriate governmental body or agency so devoted to purposes as nearly as practicable the same as those to which they were required to be devoted by this Society. In the event that such dedication is refused acceptance, the assets shall be granted, conveyed, and assigned to any not-for-profit society, corporation, trust or other organization to be devoted to purposes as nearly as practicable the same as those to which they were required to be devoted by this Society.



Societa' Val Trebbia e Val Nure, Inc.
P.O. Box 1893, G.P.O.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

Societa' Val Trebbia e Val Nure, Inc.
P.O. Box 1893, G.P.O
Brooklyn, NY 11201

APPENDIXES: (For Informational Purposes)

Appendix "A"—DUES, regular membership dues for an Active Member shall:

- a. Be thirty (\$30.00) dollars per year, regardless of age. This fee must be paid by:
 1. New Active members upon acceptance into the Society.
 2. For a minimum of 10 years.
 3. On or before January 1st of each year thereafter to age 65.
- b. After the member's 65th birthday, and having paid regular membership dues for a minimum of ten (10) years, the fee will be reduced to fifteen (\$15.00) dollars. This fee will be paid to age 75 and the member will qualify for Life Membership, see, Article V Sec.1 sub. d, of the by-laws.

Appendix "B"—INITIATION FEE, the Initiation Fee shall be fifty (\$50.00) dollars for each new Active member.

Appendix "C" – SCHOLARSHIPS:

- a. The total monetary amount awarded to each scholarship recipient is currently at: \$4000.00 for 1st prize winner, \$3600.00 for 2nd prizewinner and \$3200.00 for the remaining recipients, except for the random recipients who will receive \$2800.00 dollars. (see Appendix E sub. a.)

Appendix "D" – DEATH BENEFIT, entitled to all Active and Life Members:

- a. Membership of less than 2 years, entitle to flowers.
- b. Membership of two (2) but less than ten (10) years, flowers and \$250.00 dollars.
- c. Membership of ten (10) but less than twenty (20) years, flowers and \$500.00 dollars.
- e. Membership of twenty (20) years and over, flowers and \$700.00 dollars.

Appendix "E" - AMENDMENTS:

- a. The Scholarship awards were amended in 2006.
- b. Article V, sec.1, sub. a, was amended 12/10/06 which required a new member to be present at the general membership meeting of his initiation however, this requirement was reversed, to its original rule, of not needing his presence, at the March 22, 2009 meeting and approved by 100% of members present.
- c. Article XIV, sec. 2, was amended (added) Jan. 18, 2009.
- d. Article XI, sec. 1, sub. a, was amended March 22, 2009, from 2 years.

All of the above figures are subject to change and were all in effect, as stated, when the By-Laws of Societa Val Trebbia e Val Nure were amended on September 7, 2003.

Membership Card

