

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL ITALIAN HONOR SOCIETY

Article I: Name and Purposes

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the **Società Onoraria Italica** for Secondary Schools (public, private, and parochial).

Section 2. The purpose of this organization is to stimulate interest in the study of the Italian language, to give recognition for distinguished achievement in Italian, and to promote an understanding and appreciation of the Italian culture and civilization.

Section 3. This organization is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI).

Article II: Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be restricted to students enrolled in classes of Italian beyond the second year.

Section 2. Candidates must have achieved an average of 90% or above in Italian for the three semesters of high school prior to invitation. Also, they must have maintained a general scholarship average of 80% or above.

Section 3. The number of candidates shall not exceed 30% of the students enrolled in Italian at the time of selection.

Section 4. Students may continue their active membership for one year after the termination of their study of Italian.

Section 5. Italian instructors of each school chapter must be members of the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI).

Section 6. A chapter which does not submit a list of initiates during a period of two years may be considered inactive. To regain active status, the chapter must resubmit an application accompanied by the fee which shall be the same as the original charter fee.

Article III: Administration

Section 1. The national officers of the organization shall be a president, a vice-president, and a secretary- treasurer.

Section 2. The president of the **Società Onoraria Italica** shall act as liaison officer with the American Association of Teachers of Italian, shall promote the establishment of new chapters, and shall be responsible for the welfare of the organization. The position of the president is not subject to term limits.

Section 3. The secretary-treasurer of the **Società Onoraria Italica** shall keep accurate records of chapters and members, collect the charter and membership fees, and manage all the expenses. The secretary-treasurer shall render annual accounting of the financial status of the organization.

Article IV: Recognition

Benefits of the **Società Onoraria Italica** are as follows:

1. Students receive a certificate of membership, a pin, and/or a medal.
2. Newly elected members are published in the AATI Newsletter and in the local newspaper.
3. Instructors may place a photograph of members in the yearbook.
4. Counselors include membership on student's transcript.
5. Schools honor the new members at an induction ceremony.
6. Italian instructor presents an award to the Outstanding Student of Italian at graduation.

Article V: Amendments

1. If a member of the **Società Onoraria Italica** does not maintain an average of 90% or above, the Italian instructor may terminate the student's membership.
2. Suggestions for amendments may be submitted by all chapters to the president of the **Società Onoraria Italica**.

Information about the Society

How to start a chapter of the *Società Onoraria Italica* in your school

1. Obtain permission from your Principal. (Note that for the schools of New York City Board of Education, permission has been obtained from the Bureau of Students Activities and from the Bureau of Foreign Languages.)
2. Select a name for the chapter, preferably honoring an Italian person, such as "The Nicolò Machiavelli Chapter" of the *Società Onoraria Italica* at Eastchester High School.
3. Apply for a chapter certification by sending the initial fee of \$10.00.
4. Determine the possible candidates for membership (students whose average grade in Italian is 90% or over).
5. Ascertain that the possible candidates have an overall scholarship record of 80% or above.
6. Collect each new student membership fee: \$2.00 for the initiation fee and for the membership certificate.
7. Order membership pins and medals. The cost of each pin is \$4.00 and of each medal is \$8.00.

II. Electing New Members

1. Candidates must be enrolled in the third semester of Italian courses or above at the time of election.
2. Candidates must have an average of 90% or above in the study of Italian.
3. Candidates must have an overall scholarship average of at least 80% at the time of election.
4. Number of students elected in any single year shall NOT exceed 30% of all students studying Italian in your school.
5. Names and addresses of newly elected members must be forwarded to the president
6. of the ***Società Onoraria Italica***.

7. Collect each new student membership fee: \$2.00 for the initiation fee and for the membership certificate. (Student membership fee is required in order to be inducted into the **Società Onoraria Italica**).

III. Activities

The constitution of the **Società Onoraria Italica** does not impose specific activities. Therefore, each chapter can establish its local activities for its members. Some suggestions are:

1. **Cultural:**
 - a. Organize special readings and memory recitals.
 - b. Arrange meetings with guest speakers on cultural topics.
 - c. Plan excursions to museums, special libraries, theaters, monuments, etc.
 - d. Coordinate discussion sessions on cultural topics.
 - e. View films on Italy and Italian civilization.
2. **Social:**
 - a. Plan and conduct regular meetings.
 - b. Conduct an induction ceremony.
 - c. Organize school gatherings/outings or inter-chapter gatherings with members of near-by schools.
 - d. Have students correspond with pen pals in Italy.
3. **Service:**
 - a. Invite members of the **Società Onoraria Italica** to coach and/or tutor students in Italian.
 - b. Encourage members to act as “buddies” to students newly arrived from Italy. Request that members write articles for departmental publication.
 - c. Encourage members to maintain a bulletin board in Italian.

All inquiries and fees must be forwarded to:

**Prof. Lucrezia Lindia 32
Meeting House Road
Greenwich, CT 06831**

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