

May 24, 1999

Dear Fellow Courtier:

As you may already know, at the May 5 General Membership Meeting copies of the newly-revised By-Laws were distributed. We were disturbed by one of the changes, Article IV, Section A, Paragraph 11, which states:

No two (2) persons of a self-identified family or couple may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time, including the position of Monarch.

We, the undersigned, are opposed to this amendment. We feel it is inappropriate to the needs of our membership for the following reasons:

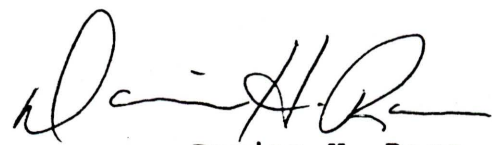
- 1) It takes away our rights as individuals. As members in good standing, we deserve the equal opportunity to serve as Board members if the general membership elect us to do so, regardless of our significant others' status in the organization.
- 2) It takes away our rights as members to choose the Board members we want by limiting our options. Qualified candidates, members whose experience and dedication would make valuable contributions to the Board, will be denied the right to serve based on nothing other than the fact that their partners are also making a contribution. This is a waste of our precious and limited resources.
- 3) It presumes that, because one is a member of a "self-identified family or couple," you lose your individuality and ability to think for yourself. It generalizes that all couples would cause problems on the Board simply by virtue of the fact that they are couples.
- 4) Despite the fact that many other organizations and corporations have similar restrictions, it is also a fact that many others do not. What other organizations may or may not do isn't necessarily relevant to our organization. Regardless of their choices, with the community we represent and serve, we must be especially careful to avoid even the appearance of discrimination.
- 5) It is unnecessary. Remedies for any problems that might have been caused if this amendment had not been enacted already existed. The By-Laws make ample provision for the impeachment of a Board member if a "power block" ever disrupted the affairs of the court.

6) It is ineffectual as well as unenforceable. The ease with which it can be bypassed renders it virtually useless. All anyone need do to avoid its restrictions is to state that they are no longer a "member of a self-identified family or couple." And **who** will challenge them? In the heterosexual world relationships are clearly defined; either you are married or you are not. In our world, however, relationships are more nebulous. Some couples cohabit, some do not. Each couple makes their own rules. That is why it must be the couples themselves, as clearly stated in the By-Laws, who must define their status.


We ask that you immediately sign and return the attached petition urging the Board of Directors to begin the process of repealing this amendment. Please act swiftly. Time is of the essence. By signing this petition, we are not attacking the Board, but only the amendment itself, which we feel violates the spirit of our stated Purpose of Being, and is not in the best interests of the ICNY, which should be inclusive rather than exclusive. It is, quite simply, not fair.

Sincerely,


E. Eduardo Cartagena
H.H. Principe Eddie LaRosa


Damian H. Ross
H.H. Prince Valentine


James R. Palacio
H.G. Duchess Fiona


David T. Wallace
Lord David