

## Questions and Answers about the Imperial Court of New York



**Q: What are the requirements for membership in the ICNY?**

A: To become a member of the ICNY, you need to be sponsored by a current member in good standing of the Court, and ratified by a simple majority of the members. Membership is open for three months each year (September, October, and November).

**Q: Can I join after Night Of A Thousand Gowns?**

A: Applications for Associate Membership will be available for one (1) month following The Night Of A Thousand Gowns. Associate Members have all the rights and privileges of full members.

**Q. What constitutes a "member in good standing"?**

A: Membership in good standing status, which carries with it all the rights and privileges of membership as per the enclosed By-Laws, has three basic requirements:

- 1) Payment of annual dues (\$30.00) at the first meeting of the fiscal year (September).
- 2) Attendance at 50% (or more) of the general membership meetings for the fiscal year.
- 3) Plus at least one of the following:
  - a) Participation in at least two (2) Court affiliated fund-raisers/philanthropic events.
  - b) Purchase (or sale) of one (1) advertisement in the annual NOATG Journal (this may be your own ad at reduced members' rate).
  - c) Participation on at least ICNY event working committee (may include NOATG committees, Halloween Dance, etc.)
  - d) Attendance at one (1) or more out-of-town event.

**Q. What are my responsibilities as a member?**

A: Basically, your responsibilities are to uphold the purposes of the Court, as outlines in the enclosed By-Laws.

**Q: What rules are used to make decisions within the Court?**

A: The ICNY is a democratic organization overseen by the nine-member Board of Directors and governed by a Constitution and By-Laws, and Robert's Rules of Order, a classic document which explains parliamentary procedure, the appropriate way to conduct meetings and other such issues.

**Q: *How is the Board of Directors chosen?***

**A:** The Board of Directors consists of the original incorporators of the Imperial Court of New York, and the Officers and Board Members who are elected by the general membership at the beginning of the fiscal year. (For a more detailed explanation, see By-Laws, Section 12.)

**Q: *There are members in this organization who have different "titles." Are they earned or awarded, and how?***

**A:** Titles are administered in a number of ways: Upon membership, all members are given the rank of Lord/Lady. After one year, all members in good standing are elevated to the rank of Baron/Baroness. This is the only automatic elevation. Beyond the Baron/Baroness level, members may be elevated in one of two ways:

- 1) **Elevation by the Board of Directors:** This type of elevation is based on meritorious service to the organization. Board initiated elevations are generally announced at the Victory Brunch following the Ball or immediately prior to the Ball. Board elevations may also be made at any time for outstanding service to the Court, and/or the community at the discretion of the Board. Titles are permanent and for life; that is, they are retained until further elevation or as long as the member retains good standing status within the organization.
- 2) **Elevation by the incoming Monarchs:** The incoming Monarchs traditionally bestow titles on his/her "family" members. These titles must also be approved by the Board of Directors. The purpose of Board approval is to deter favoritism or the capricious elevation of individuals who may be undeserving of additional recognition.

**Q: *What constitutes meritorious service to the Court/Community?***

**A:** A member may serve the Court and the Community in a number of ways:

- 1) Active participation in events sponsored by or attended by the Court.
- 2) Proposing new events for consideration to the Board.
- 3) Sponsoring or chairing Court events.
- 4) Serving on a Standing/Special Committee (see below).

**Q: *What are Standing Committees and Special Committees?***

**A:** Standing Committees are Committees which, once created, will remain in existence from fiscal year to fiscal year. One example would be the Membership Committee, which the Vice President automatically Chairs. Special Committees are those Committees which are formed temporarily, usually for a specific amount of time, at the bequest of the Board of Directors or the President, to fulfill a specific function. The Ball Committee would be an example; after the Ball, the Committee is disbanded until the following year, when it will be reformed.