

# **Mori Family International Newsletter**

## **# 1 – 3, January – March, 2016**

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### **Welcome to the Mori Family International Newsletter**

With this issue, the Mori Family International, formally founded in 1995, begins the publication of this newsletter. In addition to pursuing the objective of keeping family members informed about various events that are regularly organized, it also seeks to document them so that they are preserved for history. It will include inquiries into the history of the family that began with the arrival to Puerto Rico in 1854 of the immigrant Corsican, Ignacio Francisco Mori Romani (1828-1894). By means of his 16 children, he founded the Mori Family of Puerto Rico. Today, its branches reach various locations outside of Puerto Rico such as Hawaii, California, New York, Florida, Texas and the Dominican Republic, among others.

Quite possibly the newsletter will adopt a name in the future. If it did, we would like to happen with the participation of its members. Suggestions welcome. We will report later on this process.

It has adopted the shield of the family as one of the two symbols that appear at the header of the newsletter. The shield includes maps of Yauco and Corsica. Corsica, an island in the Mediterranean Sea in Europe, was the home of Ignacio Francisco Mori Romani, from where he migrated to the town of Yauco, after stays in Martinique and Mayaguez. The other symbol is known as *Cabeza del Moro*, a symbol of Corsica related to an event in the history of the island on which we will abound in an upcoming issue. In the Puerto Rican version, the typical Moor bandana has been redesigned with elements of our flag. In addition, it wears a neck coquí. The design used here appears in some of the shirts that the organization has designed for members.

We hope that this monthly newsletter will circulate both electronically and in print and will normally have 2 pages. This first number is double in size and triple in the number of months covered. Roberto Mori Gonzalez and Bienvenido Caraballo Mori of the Editorial Committee produced the texts of this number.

We will continue communicating through this medium. Send us your notes and collaborations as well as your recommendations. The address is: [rmori@podersocialpr.com](mailto:rmori@podersocialpr.com).

### **Mori family celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup>. Annual Meeting in 2015**

In 1994, family descendants of Ignacio Francisco Mori Romani were cited to meet each other. About one hundred (100) people from different towns of Puerto Rico and the United States attended this first meeting.

There emerged a claim to perpetuate our meetings and to extend ties with relatives who live outside of Puerto Rico. It was the desire of the family members who attended to establish an annual meeting of all Mori descendants, so that they meet and interact. So it was decided that each year, on the first Sunday of September (just before the Labor Day holiday), to meet in Yauco, Puerto Rico, the town where the Mori family started.

That was how on Sunday, September 6, 2015, the 21<sup>er</sup>. annual meeting of Mori Family International was held at the local Rotary Club of Yauco from 11:00 am on.

The quorum of the Assembly was constituted with the members present. In this assembly they should receive nominations to elect a new Board of Directors but because attendance was low, it was proposed that the nominations be held in the Christmas activity in January 2016. The assembly accepted the proposal and the nominations were postponed until then.

After considering other issues, the meeting ended with an artistic presentation by Peter Torres Mercado, great-grandson of our Patriarch Mori and in which family members shared with others. This can be observed in the photos accompanying this article (p. 2).

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### **Amendments Committee revises organization rules**

A special committee was created to revise the original rules created in 1996 when the organization was incorporated as a nonprofit organization at the Department of State of Puerto Rico.

The members of the committee—in its final version—appointed by the Board of Directors were the following:

Angel A. Mori (Tony), President  
Bienvenido Caraballo Mori  
Livia R. (Kelly) Ortiz Mori  
José Lito Velázquez  
Nancy Pacheco Mori  
Roberto Mori González

The committee met on the following dates to fulfill the objectives entrusted to it by the Board: June 14, July 19, October 25 and October 29, 2015.

The committee's report was submitted to the Board, which then shall summon an Amendments Assembly after discussing the report about the proposed amendments.

The draft includes amendments in almost all sections of the original rules.

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### **Election of Directors and Christmas celebration in Villalba**

As agreed at the Annual Meeting in Yauco on September 6, 2015, an assembly of the organization was held in order to nominate and elect the members of the new Board of Directors. It was held at the Finca La Calma in Villalba.

Board member Eva Mori welcomed the members of the current Board of Directors and all Mori families and friends who attended. She then informed that on this day, nominations would be received in order to elect the new Board.

Bienvenido Caraballo Mori reported that a nominations sheet had been prepared and, on it, each family member could nominate up to nine (9) candidates (as). He also informed that,

according to the present Rules, the Board of Directors is composed of the following nine positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian and Communicator as well as four (4) other Members or Directors.

The first nine candidates who obtained the most votes would be elected to the new board. The rules provide that at the first meeting, new board will elect from among themselves the different positions.

After the counting of votes cast, Eva Mori reports the results. The following members were elected to the Board of Directors:

1. Bienvenido Caraballo Mori - 26 votes
2. Angel Rodriguez Mori A. (Tony) - 26 votes
3. Benjamin Rodriguez Mori (Harry) - 23 votes
4. Livia R. Ortiz Mori (Kelly) - 21 votes
5. Marta Eva Mori Galarza - 18 votes
6. Nancy Pacheco Mori - 18 votes
7. Roberto Mori Gonzalez - 17 votes
8. Harry Irizarry Mori - 16 votes
9. Andrés Mori Caraballo - 16 votes

After the assembly, a Christmas celebration ensued with a delicious lunch that included a roast pig *asado a la vara*, courtesy of Benjamin Mori, host of the activity. With the animation of Peter Torres' music, we enjoyed a pleasant holiday celebration with a large attendance of members of our family. Family members posed and danced joyfully to the tune of Peter's rhythms.

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## **New Board of Directors of the Mori Family**

At its first meeting, held on February 7, 2016 in Moca, the Board of Directors was composed under the current Regulations as follows.

Bienvenido Caraballo Mori: President  
Angel A. Mori (Tony): Vice President  
Livia R. Ortiz Mori (Kelly): Treasurer  
Harry Irizarry Mori: Vocal and Acting Secretary  
Eva Mori Galarza: Vocal  
Nancy Pacheco Mori: Vocal  
Andrés Caraballo Mori: Vocal  
Roberto Mori González: Absent

Benjamin (Harry) Mori, a family member elected to the Board, announced that he could not at this time accept membership as such, so there was a vacancy. This issue and that of the board member who would occupy the position of historian and communicator, issues would be discussed at the second meeting.

At this second meeting, held on March 6, 2016 in Yauco, the formation of the Board was completed with the appointment of Roberto Gonzalez as Historian and Communicator and Andres Rodriguez Mori as a substitute to Benjamin (Harry) Mori. Andrew was one of the two

with the most votes after the first 9. Another one, Aned Mori, did not accept to belong to the Board at this moment.

The Board also approved, together with the Work Plan for 2016 (see below), the creation of various committees:

1. Visiting Committees for approaching and inviting members of Mori to join the organization (recruitment areas: Metropolitan Area, Southern Areas 1 and 2 and Western area)
2. Editorial Committee (Publications)
3. Finance Committee
4. Activities Committee
5. Rules Amendments Committee.

## **Board of Directors adopts Work Plan for 2016**

At its meeting on March 6, 2016, held in Yauco, the Board of Directors discussed and approved the 2016 Work Plan proposed by President.

The plan includes several goals to be carried out this year as described in the following scheme:

### **1. Growth**

Increase the number of members.

Increase the attendance of members and nonmembers in the activities of our Organization.

Visit the homes of family members and other descendants of the Patriarch Mori who have not joined the organization

- 1) Plan to visit to the homes of family members who have not joined the organization.
- 2) Holding Board meetings at the homes of family members who are not attending the Annual Meeting.
- 3) Hold a family day activity on July of every year somewhere in the Aguas Blancas or Naranjo wards of Yauco.
- 4) Celebrate a late Christmas activity (*octavitas*) in Aguas Blancas.
- 5) Pilot plan for holding meetings in various areas in Puerto Rico such as North - East-South - West. Investigate whether those living outside of Puerto Rico are organized and how.

### **2. Communication**

Create a regular means of communication

Update the list of postal addresses.

Make a telephone directory.

Make a E-mail Directory.

Create an official Internet page for continuous communication of the Mori Family.

### **3. Finance**

Prepare a list of members who pay and do not pay the fee.

Open Checking and Savings accounts for the organization

#### **4. Legal Status of the Corporation**

Reincorporate Mori Family International at the State Department.

Investigate whether there are penalties due for this action.

#### **5. Amend the Rules of the Organization**

Make a call for the Assembly

Reproduce and circulate the draft of the Amendments for discussion and approval.

Hold an Amendments Assembly.

\* Malia Reyes, a Mori family member from California, initially translated the text of the bulletin. Our thanks to Malia.