

## **ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Qualification for Membership.** Membership shall be open to all persons and their spouses who are able to trace their family origin to any of the divisions as defined in Section 2 that constitute Lagos State, Nigeria, reside in the State of Minnesota, USA and signifies the intention to become a member by fulfilling the membership requirements as prescribed by these by-laws and shares the purposes for which this Organization was created and willing to promote and advance its cause.

**Section 2. Divisions of Lagos State.** The following are the divisions that constitute Lagos State.: Badagry, Epe, Ikeja, Ikorodu and Lagos.

### **Section 3. Requirements for Membership.**

- A. All prospective members shall complete an application form for record and attend at least two consecutive meetings as a pre-condition for membership.  
There shall be a non-refundable application fee of \$50.00.
- B. The application shall be reviewed by the Membership Committee and a recommendation for acceptance or rejection shall be made within a suitable period.
- C. The recommendation shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the general meeting.

**Section 4. Membership Application Form.** A membership application form shall include but not limited to the following information:

Name

Address

Division of Origin

Curriculum Vitae

**Section 5. Rejection of Application for Membership.**

- A. All applicants for membership are subject to qualification screening by the Membership Committee and will notify the applicant in writing within ninety (90) days of receiving the application whether membership is approved or disapproved.
- B. EKO Club International-Minnesota, USA, Inc. reserves the right to reject any application for membership without explanation.

**Section 6. Membership Dues.**

- A. There shall be a one-time non-refundable fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for all members. This fee is subject to change at the discretion of the general meeting.
- B. There shall be an annual membership dues of two hundred and forty dollars (\$240.00) per family (person) and can be paid on a monthly basis at twenty dollars (\$20.00) per meeting. The monthly dues are payable at the each meeting.
- C. The non-payment of dues as stated in sections 4a and 4b shall result in inactive status.
- D. All dues are non-refundable.

E. The Executive Committee shall propose at any time to the meeting during the fiscal year of the Organization a change in membership dues. This may be due to inflation rate, cost of running the Organization or for any other reasons not herein provided for.

**Section 7. Member in Good Standing.** To be a member in good standing the following obligations shall be fulfilled:

- a. Membership dues paid in full.
- b. Attend at least two-third of the meetings (9).
- c. Contribute positively to the Organization.

**Section 8. Suspension of Membership.** Any member may be suspended due to unexcused absences from the general meetings. Any suspended member willing to come back to the Organization shall pay a thirty dollars (\$30.00) fine in addition to all funds owed during absence.

**Section 9. Censorship of Membership.**

- A. Any member, elected or appointed is subject to a vote of censure by members of the Organization.
- B. Such a vote can only be requested and granted for the following reasons stated below:
  1. Corruption
  2. Embezzlement
  3. Ineffectiveness

4. Participation in any activity considered by the Nigerian government, the State of Minnesota and/or the United States to be illegal.

**Section 10. Termination of Membership.** Any person's membership may be terminated through any of the following ways:

- A. By serving a notice of intent to withdraw membership on the Secretary General, at least, thirty (30) days before the effective day of proposed withdrawal.
- B. Any member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive monthly meetings without requesting permission shall be suspended for thirty days and placed on probation for a period for three (3) months from the first meeting attended since absence. Failure to attend general meetings for six (6) consecutive months shall result in termination of membership.
- C. Any member who fails to meet financial obligations to the Organization.
- D. The Organization in a meeting may by two-third majority of votes cast, pass resolutions as to what may constitute other grounds for membership termination.