**The Constitution and Bylaws of the**

**Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica**

**Young Women’s Leadership Academy**

**Las Adelitas Chapter**

**Fort Worth, TX**

**Article I. Name and Classification**

*Section 1.* The name of this organization is the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, also known as the Spanish National Honor Society, or the Portuguese National Honor Society, and shall be referred to in this document as "the Society".

*Section 2.* The purpose of the Society is to recognize high achievement in Spanish by students of the Young Women’s Leadership Academy and to promote continuity of interest in Hispanic studies.

**Article II. Qualifications for Membership**

*Section 1.* To be eligible for the Society, students must meet all of the following criteria.

* Student must be a sophomore, junior or senior and actively enrolled in an upper level Spanish class.
* Student must never have failed a class due to attendance.
* Students must be of good character and not have had recorded incidents of cheating, plagiarism, misconduct, insubordination or intentional dishonesty.
* Honorary memberships may be granted to exchange students from Spanish-speaking countries, non-traditional heritage speakers, and faculty members.
* Student must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.
* Student must have a cumulative Spanish average of 3.5 or higher from all previous courses.

*Section 2.* Eligible students will be determined as those in Spanish III or above with an overall cumulative 3.0 grade point average or higher, as well as an “B+” average in Spanish III, IV, V or VI; or an overall cumulative 3.25 grade point average or higher, as well as a “B” average in Spanish IV or V and passing the Spanish AP Exam with a minimum score of three (3). Spanish teachers will solicit grade point averages from guidance counselors. Those eligible will then complete the necessary application materials by the established due date. Students are expected to follow the guidelines and due date requirements.

**Article III. Application and Initiation**

*Section 1*. Eligible students will apply for membership during the specified time. The timetable will be established by the chapter sponsors.

*Section 2*. Potential members must fill out an application for admission and complete accompanying information. These items are to be presented to the Acceptance Committee by the date determined by the sponsors.

*Section 3*. The Acceptance Committee will be composed of a combination of Language teachers and the current Society officers.

*Section 4*. Spanish teachers will receive a list of all candidates and will have the opportunity to comment on each student’s character and academic work ethic.

*Section 5*. The application packet is to made up of the following elements:

A personal statement to include interest in Spanish communication, personal qualifications, and the student’s commitment to the betterment of the YWLA and world community.

*Section 6*. Notification of acceptance for Induction:

* + Acceptance letters will be delivered to students.

*Section 7*. Members and inductees must participate in the Induction Ceremony or must present (in writing) any extenuating reasons for their absences.

**Article IV. Qualifications for Continued Membership.**

*Section 1*. Each year members must engage in one activity from each of the following categories: Academic Commitment, YWLA, and Global Commitment.

*Section 2*. Academic commitment may be defined in part as the following: current enrollment in a Spanish class and maintenance of an overall “B+” grade in Spanish, and a 3.25/3.50 GPA overall.

*Section 3*. YWLA Community Commitment may be defined in part as participation in an official school activity and/or event.

*Section 4*. Global Commitment may be defined in part as participation in the following: participating in local community activities and/or events; food drives, tutoring, etc.

*Section 5*. Students must continue to show academic integrity and character as noted by no recorded incidents of cheating, plagiarism, misconduct, insubordination or intentional dishonesty in any of his/her classes.

**Article V. Dues and Fees**

*Section 1*. Initial dues of twenty dollars ($20.00) at initiation, and yearly dues of $10.00. Dues cover Senior graduation cords, activities and induction supplies.

**Article VI. Elections and Duties of Officers**

*Section 1*. There are five officers of the Society: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian.

*Section 2*. Officers are elected by a simple majority of active members present during the final meeting of the year.

*Section 3*. The duties of the officers are as follows: attend all meetings, serve as exemplars for other members of the Society and the YWLA community, choose a poem for the initiation ritual, and direction of Society activities and programs.

*Section 4*. The role of the President is to preside at meetings, and serve as student spokesperson for the Spanish Department.

*Section 5*. The role of the Vice President is to support the President and other officers in completing their duties. In addition, preside at meetings in the absence of the President.

*Section 6*. The role of the Secretary is to keep the ledger of initiates, keep the ledger of active members and their membership qualifications and attendance, keep the ledger of current officers, and to keep record of all meetings, service projects and correspondence of the Society.

*Section 7*. The role of the Treasurer is to collect dues and keep the financial records of the Society.

*Section 8*. The role of the Historian is to maintain a book of all pertinent information, such as the year's officers and award winners.

**Article VII. Meetings**

*Section 1*. Each member must attend 90 % of the meetings.

*Section 2*. Meetings are to be regularly scheduled by the sponsors and officers.

*Section 3*. The last meeting of the year (2nd meeting of May) will take place to elect officers for the following year.

**Article VIII. Awards and Recognition**

*Section 1*. Upon induction, new members will be awarded a certificate of membership for the Sociedad.

*Section 2*. Graduating members will also receive red and gold honor cords to be worn at graduation.

*Section 3*. Sponsors of Active Chapters may award the Certificado de Excelencia to initiated members, winners in the National Spanish Examinations, or to the initiated member who has achieved the highest grade point average in Spanish for that school year. Duplicate certificates are awarded in case of ties. The number of awards is limited to ten percent of current initiates.

*Section 4*. Sponsors of Active Chapters may award the Certificado por Servicios to recognize initiated members who have rendered meritorious service to their Chapter. The number awarded is limited to ten percent of current initiates.

*Section 5*. Sponsors of Active Chapters may award the Premio de Honor to the best graduating senior of the Chapter. The certificate may be obtained from the National Director of the Society at no cost, and will be sent upon receipt of the student's name. The names of both the student and the Chapter sponsor will be printed in ¡Albricias! if sent by the deadline. Each Chapter may receive only one certificate each year.

**Article IX. Insignia**

*Section 1*. The insignia of the Society is the official one of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), as represented on the medals which may be awarded for excellence in Spanish and Portuguese.

*Section 2*. The seal of the AATSP is the official seal of the Society, and it may be used in conjunction with any other seal upon approval of the National Council.

*Section 3*. The motto of the Society is: ¡Todos a una!

*Section 4*. The colors of the Society are red and gold.

*Section 5*. The flower of the Society is the carnation.

**Article X. Emergency Bylaws**

*Section 1*. Additional regulations for facilitating the government of the Society and the activities of the Chapter may be prepared by the National Council whenever the exigencies for such regulations may arise.

*Section 2*. Dues may be initiated at the beginning of each year, to be determined by the Sponsor and officers.