

ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

We hope that most of you will see a need for the association and support it by joining. Included with this newsletter is your copy of the "PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS", an application for membership (as one of the founders) and an information sheet needed from each applicant. Each Founding Member will receive a membership certificate suitable for framing and a membership card.

Only those persons who were on our mailing list as of January 1 1987 will be eligible to qualify as a founder of the association and given *founding membership*. We do plan to invite about 8000 other Alford families to join as charter members. After that all memberships will be just regular memberships subject to the desires of the membership. Everything, including the name is tentative. Since it is your association you will have the option to make changes in name, constitution, registration fees, dues etc. The "Membership Applicant Information Sheet" is the starting place for that. We need each of you to not only join, but to consent to hold one or more offices should you be nominated and elected. The form also asks for your input to several other bits of important start-up business.

It is my intention to keep my Alford work completely separate from the association and as it is able to take over on its own to step completely back in the organization. I do intend to eventually donate all of my material (and probably a computer system) etc to the association. You will notice that the association has a separate mailing address using a different zip code, and this can be changed to one of your addresses as the association gets operational. I am also opening a separate bank account, just for the association maintaining detailed and complete financial records and will turn this all over to a treasurer as soon as one is operational.

As you might expect the association is being started on something less than a shoe string. Membership registration fees and dues will not cover the initial expenses of organization and we sorely need donations from those who can afford to make same. To give some encouragement in this regard, I agree to match the highest donation (up to \$500) made during the year. If one of you should give \$100 I'll also give \$100. If later someone else gives \$150, then I'll add \$50 to the \$100 I originally donated. I will not match each and every donation given, but will make a donation equivalent to the largest given by any member in 1987. A donation slip is enclosed for your convenience in sending a donation.

THE SCHEDULE FOR GETTING THE ASSOCIATION OPERATIONAL IS AS FOLLOWS:

1987 Contact most Alford's of the USA inviting them to become Charter Members; solicit volunteers for office or committee's; solicit comments on the constitution; solicit recommendations for how the association (family) should be divided, and recommendations for time and place of our first national meeting.

1988 Appoint a nominating and elections committee and provide them results of solicitation for volunteers etc. Appoint an ad hoc constitution and by-laws committee and provide them with the recommendations of the membership. Appoint an ad hoc family divisions committee and furnish them the recommendations of the membership along with information on the membership, their locations and ancestral lines. Conduct an election by mail for officers required to be elected. Officers and committee members to assume office and serve until the next annual election.

1989 Hold the first annual meeting, or if this is not possible, hold the second annual election by mail. Membership will review and vote on constitution and by-laws. If possible register the constitution with the appropriate Secretary of State. If a full scale family meeting cannot be scheduled then attempt a meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.