

BARONY OF SOUTH DOWNS

PROCEDURE FOR SUCCESSION OF THE BARONIAL SEAT

1. Kingdom Law

Kingdom Law: Section V, Subsection A, Paragraph 1: The Crown shall appoint a territorial Baron and/or Baroness according to the laws and customs of the kingdom when a branch is granted baronial status, or whenever a new Baron and/or Baroness is required. The Barony's opinion on the matter must be requested and received in writing, and the appointments must not be substantively opposed by the populace of the Barony. Territorial Barons and Baronesses are officers and must maintain appropriate membership status.

2. Qualification for the Baronial Seat

Effective **May1, 2011**, any individual wishing to be considered by the Crown for the honor of Baron/ess of South Downs must meet in full all of the following criteria:

- a. The individual shall be a member in good standing of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (the "SCA");
- b. The individual shall be an Active Member of the Barony, as defined in Paragraph four (4) below
- c. The individual shall have maintained **three** (3) consecutive years of Active participation in the Barony before the date of the current Baronage's announcement of their intent to step down. A "year" shall mean an annular period of 365 days and not a calendar designation.

3. Participation by the Barony's Populace

- a. **Populace Poll.** Active Members of the Barony (as defined in paragraph 4 below) shall have the opportunity to express to the Crown their opinion as to the choice of Baron/ess in the form of a written poll (the "Poll"). These written Poll results shall be provided to the Crown to assist the Crown in the choice of Baron/ess but shall not bind the Crown in any manner outside of Kingdom Law.
- b. **Timing of Poll.** Except in extraordinary circumstances, the Poll shall be held a minimum of six months before the date on which the current Baron/ess resigns the honor of the Baronial Seat.
- c. **Conduct of Poll.**
 - i. **Publication of Intent to Poll.** No later than six weeks before the date on which the Poll shall be taken (the "Polling Date"), an announcement of Intent to Poll shall be announced at a Baronial Business Meeting and

published on the Barony's web-site. At this time, the Barony's Seneschal shall also notify the Crown, any heirs to the Crown, and the Kingdom Seneschal of the Intent to Poll and of the proposed Polling Date.

- ii. **Nominating Forum.** The next business meeting of the Barony occurring after the publication of the Intent to Poll shall be a forum to accept nominations for the honor of Baron/ess (the "Nominating Forum"). Any Active Member may nominate individuals for selection to the Baronial Seat. Any Active Member meeting the criteria of Paragraph 2 above may be nominated or may nominate themselves. Electronic nominations are accepted up to 10:00 pm the day before the Nominating Forum, for individuals unable to make the Nominating Forum, sent to the Baronial Seneschal, with all other nominations occurring at the Nominating Forum. The Baronial Seneschal shall vet the nominees to confirm their eligibility and willingness to be nominated and shall inform all nominees of the results of the vetting process one week after the Nominating Forum. All eligible nominees shall be announced at the Question and Answer session. The following Business Meeting shall be a question and answer session allowing the populace to better understand the nominees.
- iii. **The Polling Date.** The Poll shall be held at the next business meeting of the Barony following the Question and Answer Session. Only Active Members may participate in the Poll. The Poll shall be monitored by the representative of the Crown and conducted in a confidential manner. All polling forms shall be collected by the Crown's representative and delivered to the Crown.
- iv. **The Polling Form.** The form to be used during the polling shall include the name of the nominee or nominated couple, a space for comments for each nominee and a simple box next to the nominee. Checking the box next to a nominee constitutes an affirmative vote. More than one box can be checked, however if more than one box is checked, comments must be included. In the event that only a single candidate or couple has been nominated, a simple Yes or No choice will be offered with space for comments. Members who fall under Section 4, Paragraph D below shall send their polling opinion directly to the Crown or Crown's representative via e-mail or Postal mail.

4. **Active Members of the Barony.**

- a. **Definition.** At any given time, an "Active Member" of the Barony shall be defined as one who has supported Baronial meetings, classes, activities and events for a period of *one year* prior to the Baronage's announcement of their intent to step down and has attended at least 8 Baronial qualifying events, 6 of which must have occurred

within the previous 6 months. A “year” shall mean an annular period of 365 days and not a calendar designation.

- b. **Qualifying Event:** Effective May 1, 2011, Qualifying Events shall be any weekly Baronial meeting or fighter practice, Canton Meeting, Music Practice, etc. At each Qualifying Event, members in attendance shall sign an attendance sheet, which sheets shall be placed in the custody of the Seneschal.
- c. **Cantons/Colleges.** Members of any Baronial Canton/College may establish their status as Active Members in one of two ways:
 - i. At the beginning of each quarter, the Canton/College Seneschal may provide the Barony Seneschal a written list of the Canton/College’s Active Members, certifying their status as regular participants in the Canton/College’s business and activities; or
 - ii. Members of the Canton/College may attend the Baronial Qualifying Events and comply with paragraph 4.a. above.

d. **Military/Government Deployment:** Members of the Barony who have been deployed by the military or other government agencies, or companies contracted with the military or government shall be considered an “Active Member” if the requirements of paragraph 4a were met prior to their deployment date. The time of deployment shall **not** be counted as inactive time, but the determination of “Active Member” shall be the previous 365 days that the member was physically within the Kingdom of Meridies from the date the Baronage announce their intent to step down.

5. Appeals from disqualification as an Active Member.

- a. If a member’s attendance at the requisite number of Qualifying Events has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances, he or she may appeal his or her disqualification as an Active Member by petitioning the Seneschal in writing who will consult with the Reeve and Marshal In that petition, he or she may establish his or her standing as an Active Member through such activities as regular attendance at non-Qualifying Events, or any other activities that exhibit the individual’s regular participation in the business of the Barony for a time period at least one year prior to the announcement of the Baronage of their intent to step down. The Seneschal, Reeve and Marshal in their sole discretion, shall jointly decide the outcome of any such appeal.