

The Banner

By-Laws Edition

February 2017

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A note from the Chronicler

As in years past, the Barony of Blackstone Mountain published its regular newsletter, *The Banner*, to inform the populace of the goings-on of the Barony of Blackstone Mountain. This tradition shall recommence immediately and at a rate of once per quarter. As per the current *By-Laws of The Barony of Blackstone Mountain* and at the direction of the Seneschal, THL Ivan Dierrics. the recommencement of the publication of *The Banner* shall begin with the publication of the *By-Laws of The Barony of Blackstone Mountain*. This publication supersedes all other publications, both electronic and in print. As a special note, nothing published to <http://www.facebook.com> is consider an official publication of the Barony of Blackstone Mountain and is not to be held as a matter of record.

In Service,
Lord Andreas di Rossi
(andrew.rouse@gmail.com)

Distribution

The Banner is available online via The Barony of Blackstone Mountain's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/158713750818631/>) and the Barony's official website (<http://www.blackstonemountain.org>).

Disclaimer

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The By-Laws of the Barony of Blackstone Mountain As Accepted on 9/14/2008

The people of the barony do hereby ordain and establish these By-laws, subject to the approval of the Kingdom Seneschal and at the pleasure of their majesties.

These rules and policies apply only to the populace who make their primary residence within the Barony's geographic boundaries. It shall be understood that these Rules and Policies are implemented subject to federal, state, and local, and The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. Order of Precedence of Law Stated in Corpora.

I. Policy Changes

- A. Only an officer of the Barony of Blackstone Mountain, Kingdom of Æthelmearc, or the Society for Creative Anachronism may call for a change in the Baronial By-Laws.
- B. Proposed changes must be read at the regular Baronial meeting and published in *The Banner*.
- C. Vote on said changes will take place at the following regular Baronial business meeting.
- D. Voting is covered under Article III, Section B.

II. Officers

- A. Officers of the Barony of Blackstone Mountain Offices required by Corpora and Kingdom are as follows:
 - 1. Seneschal
 - 2. Exchequer
 - 3. Knight Marshal
 - 4. Minister of Arts and Sciences
 - 5. Herald
 - 6. Chronicler
 - 7. Chatelaine / Castellan
 - 8. Minister of Lists
- B. Requirements to hold Baronial Office
 - 1. Baronial offices are as defined by Corpora and Kingdom law and policy, and Baronial needs.
 - 2. Additional officers are subject to Kingdom approval.
 - 3. All officers must be make their principal residence within the geographical boundaries of the Barony of Blackstone Mountain.
 - 4. All officers must maintain a current sustaining or family membership as defined by Corpora for the duration of their term.
- C. Responsibilities of Officers.
 - 1. Officer's responsibilities shall be those outlined in corpora and Kingdom Law and policy.
 - 2. Additional responsibilities.
 - a. Seneschal, their deputy or an appointed representative, shall hold Baronial meetings at least once a month.

- b. Seneschal, their deputy or an appointed representative, shall hold baronial meetings at a site and time to be announced no later than the previous Baronial meeting.
- c. The Seneschal or designates has the sole right to call a halt to debate when it becomes heated or personal.
- d. Meeting attendance.
 - i. All officers are required to attend or send a representative with a report to all baronial business meetings.
 - ii. Failure to report for two consecutive meetings will be deemed a voluntary resignation.
- f. Each officer is responsible for the promotion of activities inherent to their office.
- g. All officers must submit quarterly updates to *The Banner*.

D. Deputies.

- 1. Any office required by Kingdom Law is required to have a deputy.
- 2. An officer may appoint as their deputy anyone who meets the requirements listed herein for that office.
- 3. Deputies are to be knowledgeable in the responsibilities of the office and prepared to assume these responsibilities at any time.
- 4. Should an officer resign, or become unable to perform he required duties, the deputy shall take over the office until the original officer can resume or until the regular election date.

E. Term of Officer.

- 1. Term of office shall be for 24 months per elected term.
- 2. No officer may serve for more than two consecutive elected terms.

F. Succession of Officers.

- 1. Officer resignation/removal.
 - a. If the office has a deputy, then the deputy shall assume the duties of +-the absentee officer.
 - b. If there is no deputy, the Seneschal may appoint a volunteer to hold office until the regular election date or until the original officer can resume. Individuals must meet the requirements set forth in Article II B
- 2. Officer election procedure is outlined under Article VIII, Section A.
- 3. Whenever an office changes hands it is the responsibility of the outgoing officer to transfer all files and Baronial Property relating to the office to the successor or to the Seneschal, at or before that business meeting and to notify the Kingdom supervisor of the change in office.

III Business Process

A. Meetings

- 1. The Barony of Blackstone Mountain will hold a business meeting monthly except for the month of August due to Pennsic War.
- 2. Meetings shall be held at a set location to be determined at the previous months meeting.
- 3. The location, date, and time of the meeting will be announced on the Baronial List serve and at the preceding meeting.
- 4. Proxy or Absentee votes are not permitted.
- 5. Simple issues may be settled by a show of hands unless objected to by someone in attendance.

- B. All Business meetings shall be open to all comers.
- C. Business may be performed at a meeting only in the presence of a majority of the baronial officers or their deputies.
- D. The Baronial Seneschal has the prerogative to call for closed officer's meetings.

IV. Publication

- A. The Barony will have a newsletter for the dissemination of news and other information of interest to the Barony.
- B. The Baronial newsletter shall be known as *The Banner*.
- C. The construction, editing, publishing, and distribution of *The Banner* shall be the responsibility of the Baronial Chronicler.
- D. Every October on even years these By-Laws of the Barony of Blackstone Mountain will be published in *The Banner* in their entirety. Any addendums will be published electronically between printings.

V. Finances

- A. The finance Committee shall be the Exchequer, Seneschal, and a third officer selected by them.
- B. Expenditures.
 - 1. Expenditures of \$75.00 or less may be authorized buy the Finance Committee.
 - 2. Expenditures of over \$75.00 must be approved by a majority of the baronial officers.
 - 3. All Expenditures must be reported at the following baronial meeting.
 - 4. Events
 - a. Officers will not approve expenditures for proposed events unless they are presented with a written event bid.
 - b. All funds from events must be turned over to the Baronial Exchequer or Baronial Seneschal.
 - c. All funds from events must be deposited to the proper account within 7 calendar days from the end of the event.
- C. Reimbursements.
 - 1. Reimbursements require a receipt or copy of the original invoice.
 - 2. All reimbursements of \$75.00 of less can be authorized jointly by the Baronial Seneschal and Exchequer.
 - 3. All reimbursements of over \$75.00 must be approved by a majority of the Baronial officers.
 - 4. All event related reimbursements must be submitted within 14 days after the end of the event.
 - 5. Any non-event related reimbursements must be submitted within 30 days.
 - 6. All reimbursements must be reported at the following baronial meeting.

- D. Signatures.
 - 1. All Baronial checks will require two signatures.
 - 2. People to be on the signature card.
 - a. The Seneschal
 - b. The Exchequer
 - c. The Kingdom Exchequer
 - d. A third officer of the barony, selected jointly by the Financial Committee

VI. Events

- A. Bids submission.
 - 1. All bids for baronial events must be submitted at a baronial meeting.
 - 2. The Seneschal must call for prospective autocrats to submit a bid for annual baronial events no later than nine months before the event date for events with budgets in excess of \$ 1,000.00 and six months before all others.
 - 3. The deadline for submissions will be set by the seneschal.
 - 4. The choosing and acceptance of an event bid will be decided by a vote as outlined under Article III section E.
 - 5. All event bids submitted in advance of the deadline defined by the seneschal shall be held by the seneschal until the deadline, when all bids will be considered by the Barony members and the winning bid selected.
 - 6. The Bid must be submitted in writing on the kingdom event bid form.
- B. Event finances and reporting are covered under Article V.

VII. Awards.

- A. There shall be baronial orders that may be given at the discretion of Their Excellencies.
- B. Their Excellencies may create additional orders at any time.
- C. Adding an order to these policies does not require a vote.
- D. Orders.
 - 1. Order of the Sable Anvil
 - a. This order is given for excellence in the Arts and Sciences.
 - b. Companions of this Order may display its badge as registered by the College of Arms.
 - 2. Order of the Onyx
 - a. This order is given for excellence in service to the Barony.
 - b. Companions of this order may display its badge as registered by the College of Arms.
 - 3. Order of the Sable Bear
 - a. This order is given for excellence in the Martial Arts.
 - b. Companions of this order may display its badge as registered by the College of Arms.

VIII. Election Procedures

- A. Election of Officers
 - 1. Dates of Elections.
 - a. The officer voting process will be at the September meeting.
 - b. On even numbered years the Seneschal, Herald, Minister of the Lists, and Knight Marshal shall be voted on.

- c. On odd numbered years the Arts and Sciences, Exchequer, Chatelaine, and Chronicler shall be voted upon.
2. Offices not filled by acclamation will be voted upon by secret ballot.
3. The officers not being voted on in the election will count the ballots.
4. To vote you must be able to present proof of paid membership to the Society for Creative Anachronism in the form of a membership card, proof of membership or the mailing label from the kingdom newsletter or confirmation letter from the Society.
5. To vote you must be at least 14 years of age and be able to provide proof of age.
6. The Candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast will hold the office.
7. All other voting procedures are covered under Article III, Section E.

B. Election of the Baron and Baroness

1. General Policies

- a. Baronial election will determine the next titular head of the Barony.
- b. Baronial Elections will be carried out in accordance with kingdom law.
- c. The Baronial polling/election will be a mailed poll requiring a mailed return to the Kingdom Seneschal or appointed representative, postmarked by the deadline stated on the printed ballot. No poll will be accepted by hand delivery.
- d. The Baronial seneschal oversees baronial elections.
- e. The Baronial seneschal may not be a candidate in the baronial election.
- f. The baronial election will also include a poll to determine group status.
 - i. Remain a barony.
 - ii. Become a province.
 - iii. Dissolve into shires
 - iv. Dissolve completely
- g. To vote you must be at least 14 years of age, and be able to provide proof of age.
- h. Any candidate for Baron and Baroness must be at least 21 years of age by the date of the Baronial investiture.
- i. The Candidate(s) receiving a majority of the votes cast will assume the office.
- j. the Baronial polling/election must be completed at least six months before the end of the current Baron/Baroness term.

2. Selection Process

- a. The Baronial Seneschal; will announce the availability of the office of Baron and Baroness twelve months prior to the end of the term.
- b. The announcement will be made at a regularly scheduled Baronial meeting and shall be published in ***The Banner***.
- c. The Baronial Seneschal will ask for letters of intent from those Gentles that wish to become Baron or Baroness. The letter must contain:
 - i. SCAdian Names(s)
 - ii. Mundane Names(s)
 - iii. Address
 - iv. Telephone number
 - v. The candidate's reason for running
 - vi. Proof of current paid Society for Creative Anachronism membership must be attached to the letter.
- d. The letters of intent must be submitted to the Baronial Seneschal within one month of the published announcement.

- e. The Baronial Seneschal will be responsible for sending copies of each candidate's letter of intent to the Crown and the Kingdom Seneschal.
- f. The letters of intent shall be published in *The Banner*.
- g. The Baronial Seneschal will request mailing labels from kingdom and oversee mailing of the ballots.
- h. Ballots will be returned to the individual designated by kingdom.
- i. The Ballots will be mailed no later than two months after the letters of intent have been published in *The Banner*. The deadline will be clearly printed on the ballot and announced at the meeting prior to the mailing.
- j. Counting of the votes.
 - i. The ballots will remain sealed until the meeting.
 - ii. The polls will be counted at the regularly scheduled baronial meeting following the ballot deadline.
 - iii. Status votes of members do not negate their choice of Baron and Baroness.
 - iv. The Kingdom Seneschal, or appointed representative, the current Baron and/or Baroness, and the Baronial Seneschal will count the votes.
 - v. If any of the above are candidates in the election then a replacement shall be selected by a majority vote of the Baronial officers.
- m. Upon completion of the election, a petition must be prepared by the Baronial Seneschal requesting investiture of the elected candidates that shall be sent to crown, and to the Kingdom Seneschal.

3. Obtaining a ballot

- a. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure his or her current address is correctly listed with the office of the registry.
- b. It is the responsibility of the individual to contact the Baronial Seneschal. No later than seven days before the deadline if they did not receive a ballot.
- c. If the individual does not want their second ballot mailed they must arrange to pick it up at the Seneschal's convenience.
- d. A third ballot will not be issued.

IX. Baron and/or Baroness of Blackstone Mountain

This position is subject to the residency requirements for officers set forth in Corpora and Kingdom law and policy and shall serve at the pleasure of the Crown.

A. Rights.

- 1. To give Baronial awards as outlined under Article VII.
- 2. To display the arms of the barony as registered with the College of Arms.
- 3. To Delegate the Carrying of the baronial arms.
- 4. To appoint a baronial Guard who will serve at their Excellencies pleasure.

B. Tenure

- 1. The term of office shall be three years beginning the date of investiture by the Crown.
- 2. No one may run for more two consecutive terms.

C. Resignation/Succession

- 1. The Baron/Baroness has the right to resign at any time.
- 2. When resignation leaves the Barony without a titular head.

- a. Intent to resign must be announced at a baronial meeting.
- b. A written letter of resignation must be submitted to the Crown, Kingdom Seneschal, and Baronial Seneschal.
- c. All baronial regalia must be turned over to the Baronial Seneschal, or an appointed representative.
- d. The Crown can choose to appoint a vicar to manage their lands until a new election and investiture are completed.