

**Barony of Thor's Mountain, Meridies, SCA Inc.**  
**Succession Policy & Procedures**

Revision April 14<sup>th</sup> 2013

**I. Qualifications for the Baronial Seat.**

Any individual wishing to be considered for the honor of the Baron/ness of Thor's Mountain must:

- A. Be acceptable to the crown.
- B. Be a sustaining or family member in good standing of the S.C.A.
- C. Have been a continuous resident of the Barony of Thor's Mountain for a minimum of three years before the date of his/her selection for the honor of Baron/ness. (I.e. maintained a physical residence within any of the zip codes designated by the SCA, Inc., for the Barony. Postal Boxes and mail suites are not a 'physical residence.')
- D. Be a minimum of 21 years of age.

**II. Participation of the Barony's Populace: Populace Poll**

- A. Members of the Barony shall have the opportunity to express to the Crown their consensus as to the choice of the Baron/ness in the form of a written poll. These written poll results shall be provided to the Crown to assist the Crown in the confirmation of Baron/ness but shall not bind the Crown in any manner whatsoever.
- B. Timing of Poll
  - 1. Except in unusual circumstances the Poll shall be held between 5 and 7 months before the date on which the current Baron/ness plans to step down
  - 2. However, in the event that the baron/ness is obligated to step down without giving six month notice, the Vicar, upon consultation with the Seneschal, will immediately assume the duties of the Baronial seat, and the nomination process to select a new Baron/ness will begin at the next Business Meeting, or within 30 days. If the Vicar is also unavailable, then the Seneschal will appoint a new one, to be confirmed at the next business meeting.
  - 3. Should the Seneschal and/or Constable become contestants they will nominate deputies to perform their electoral duties. Such nominations must be ratified per standard voting procedures.

**III. Office of Vicar**

The Vicar shall be selected at each Curia, to serve a one year term (but may succeed self).

- A. Selection shall be by verbal 'Yea or Nay' vote.
- B. Principal duty of the Vicar shall be to supervise the Baronial election.

- C. With the approval of the Crown the Vicar shall have the authority to conduct the business of the Barony in the Baron/ness' absence. The Vicar will relinquish the duties of the baronial seat upon the Investiture of the new Baron/ness.<sup>1</sup>
- D. The Vicar is not eligible for Nomination as a candidate for the Baronial Seat.

#### **IV. Nomination for Baron/Baroness**

- A. Announcement. No later than 2 months before the 'Polling Date' an announcement of Intent to Poll shall be published in the Whetstone and announced in a general mailing (by Postcard and the baronial listserve) to the Baronial populace. The Seneschal shall also notify the Crown, Their Heirs, and the Kingdom Seneschal.
- B. Nominating Forum. The business meeting of the Barony one month after 'Intent to Poll' is announced shall be a forum to accept nominations for the honor of Baron/ness.
  - 1. Any member may nominate any eligible individual(s) (item I). The populace may discuss the qualifications of the nominees. Nominations from the floor shall be taken and seconded, one nomination per member.
  - 2. Candidates present at the meeting may accept or decline nomination at this time, and confirm their qualifications. Nominations of an individual may only be accepted as a Single or as a Couple, but not both. Absent qualified individuals may be nominated. But before the next regularly scheduled meeting, these candidates will confirm or deny their candidacy, and confirm their qualifications for the position.
  - 3. Accepted nominations will be published for the populace to consider in the Whetstone, on the listserv, and on the Baronial website within 7 days of the meeting.
- C. Appeals. Anyone not meeting the qualifications for voting or Candidacy may appeal their disqualification by petition to the Seneschal, Baron/ness, or Vicar, in writing no later than a month before the voting. Their joint decision is final and binding. A result ruling has to be in their hands 2 weeks before the vote.

#### **V. Final Ballot Meeting / Polling Date**

- A. Members present may cast their one (1) vote.
- B. All Votes must be made in person. No Proxy votes will be accepted, with the exception of Active military personnel whose military service duties prevent them from physically being present to vote. In which case Proxies shall be accepted by the Vicar and Seneschal so long as they are signed by the absent qualified voting member and contain a clear indication of a vote.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section III.C – Wording as of the September 24, 2008 Revision was: “The Vicar shall have the authority to conduct the business of the Barony in the Baron/ness’ absence. The Vicar will relinquish the duties of the baronial seat upon the Investiture of the new Baron/ness.” At the April 14, 2013 Business Meeting it was voted to change the wording to add: “With the approval of the Crown,” to the beginning of this section.

<sup>2</sup> Section V.B - Wording as of the September 24, 2008 Revision was: “Proxies shall be accepted by the Vicar and Seneschal so long as they are signed by the absent qualified voting member and contain a clear indication of a vote. Proxies shall be for the initial vote only.” At the April 2, 2013 Business Meeting a motion was presented to [Not allow any Proxy Votes. All Votes must

- C. Vicar and Seneschal, aided by the Constable, shall adjourn to tally the ballots. The candidate/couple receiving 60% or more of the votes shall have a clear majority.
- D. In the case of no clear majority, a run-off vote of the top 3 candidates will be conducted.
- E. If there is still no clear majority, a run-off vote of the top 2 candidates will then be conducted.
- F. If there is still no clear majority, then the names of the 2 Final Candidates (along with the polling data) shall be sent to the Crown for a final decision.
- G. The Crown holds the prerogative to invest the Baron, Baroness, or Baronial couple.

**VI. Definition of Voting Member**

Persons with a physical residence within baronial zip codes and in possession of a current SCA membership card are eligible to vote on the polling date. Presentation of SCA membership card proves eligibility for any persons with a qualifying physical residence address listed in the most recent baronial Farspeaker. Members not qualifying based on the Farspeaker must also provide adequate proof of qualifying physical address.

**VII. Succession of the Baronial Seat**

After ratification by the Crown, the Baronial Investiture shall take place at one of the Barony's regularly scheduled events, or at the Crown's discretion, a kingdom event, such as Coronation.

**VIII. Baronial Tenure**

- A. A review of the office of Baron/ness shall be held at Curia following 2 full years of service. Members may submit written concerns no later than the December Business Meeting and the Baron/ness shall have an opportunity to address them, at Curia, before a vote of confidence is conducted at the February Business Meeting. Signed proxies will be accepted as per V.B. Members present may cast votes in the poll.
- B. Being confirmed by the populace (by a simple majority), there shall be another 'vote of confidence' every three (3) years thereafter.
- C. It is the Crown's sole prerogative to remove an invested baron/ness. A vote of 'No Confidence' by the populace will be recommended to the Crown to await Their ruling to initiate the selection process.
- D. An invested baron/ness shall have the opportunity (at Baronial confirmation dates) to decline another appointment and the necessity for a Vote of confidence.

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be cast in person.] A vote was called and the motion passed 19 to 6. At the April 14, 2013 Business Meeting a motion to add an addendum was brought to the group that allowed for a proxy vote to be cast by active military personnel whose military service duties would prevent them from physically being present to vote. This motion was voted and passed.