

Barony of Septentira, Kingdom of Ealdormere, SCA Inc.

Succession Policy & Procedures – revised ***.**

The election being coordinated by the baronial seneschal, and overseen by the kingdom seneschal, with the ability to coordinate the election personally if they deem necessary.

I. Qualifications for the Baronial Seat.

Any individual wishing to be considered for the honour of the Baron and/or Baroness of Septentria must:

- A. Be acceptable to the crown.
- B. Be an international or family member in good standing of the SCA Inc..
- C. Be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- D. Be a resident of or an active participant in the Barony of Septentria for a minimum of **three** years before the date of his/her selection to the honour of the Baronial seat (s).
- E. All candidates must meet the requirements as set out by Corpora and Kingdom Law.
- F. Candidates may be an individual or a couple made up of both genders.

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. Only paid members of the SCA, over the age of 16 and residing in the Barony of Septentria are eligible to cast a ballot. The ballot will include a list of all approved candidates to be placed in rank of preference (1st, 2nd 3rd etc...)
- C. Voting shall occur pursuant to Voting Process (Schedule "A")
- D. Unpaid members of the barony will be polled separately to be considered.
- E. Proxy votes will be accepted pursuant to the proxy vote procedure outlined as part of the Voting process (Schedule "A").
- F. Definition of a member of the Barony of Septentria - Someone who lives within the boundaries of Septentria, who does not have a strong affiliation with another Barony. Or a member of the Barony can be someone living outside the borders of Septentria who is active within the Barony and considers themselves a member of the Barony.

III. Candidates for the Baronial Seat(s)

- A. Anyone wishing to run for the Baronial Seats must meet the requirements listed above.
- B. A letter of intent must be given to the present Baron and Baroness and the Baronial Seneschal within the announced time frame.
- C. With the letter of intent the potential candidate(s) must include a copy of their memberships.

IV. Order of events

- A. Approximately ~~6 months~~ before the Baron and Baroness intent to retire the current Baron and Baroness shall announce their intent to retire in a court. This shall initiate the process.
- B. Notification shall be posted in the next issue of The Ursus, The Baronial newsletter or in a special additional Baronial newsletter; stipulating that they will step down and those copies of the letters of intent from the Candidates will be accepted by Their Excellencies and the Baronial Seneschal. At the same time the Baronial Succession Policy shall be published. This information shall also be made available at all meetings, practices, workshops, local events and on the Baronial newsgroup, or by e-mail to anyone who should wish a copy.
- C. At the application deadline, the list of prospective candidates will be sent to the Crown (present and Heirs) and the Kingdom Seneschal for approval.
- D. Upon return and approval from the Royals and the Seneschal, the list shall be finalized and the successful Candidates will be notified.
- E. From time of notification of the candidates, over the next several weeks as outlined by the schedule, will have the opportunity to attend at least one scheduled candidate meeting were the populous can ask them questions.
- F. The Baronial Seneschal will prepare the ballots and the non member polling according to corpora and Kingdom law.
- G. Voting will occur as outlined in the time lines published.
- H. The voting process will take no longer then 30 days.
- I. The Baronial Seneschal, the Baron and Baroness and an agreed upon Kingdom representative shall do a final tally the votes. If any of the aforementioned parties are unavailable for counting the votes on the scheduled date, then they shall appoint a deputy who can fulfill these duties. If the Baronial Seneschal and or the sitting Baron and Baroness are running in the election, then the Kingdom Seneschal shall appoint someone to oversee the final tally of the votes.
- J. Should the Candidate(s) meet with the Crown's approval, then the current Baron and Baroness will step down at an event chosen by the crown, the new Baron and/or Baroness will be invested by the Crown of Ealdormere at their pleasure and in accordance with Kingdom and Society laws.

This version of the Baronial Succession Policy for the Barony of Septentria supersedes all previous revisions.

SCHEDULE "A"

Baronial Voting Process

Voting will take place in each Canton between **** and ****

On Voting Day, the Baronial Seneschal or designate will attend the Canton Meeting to administer the vote.

The Baronial Seneschal, Canton Seneschal and Canton Exchequer (or designate) will be required for counting the ballots at the end of the night.

A designated area will be set aside at the meeting for filling out the ballots in private.

A listing of paid members for the Barony will be used to 'check in' voters. Those not on the list will be added separately. Either the Baronial or Canton Seneschal (or designate) will oversee the check in. **Attendees MUST show their proof of membership.** At this time voters will be given either a Blue Ballot (Paid Members) or a White Ballot (Non paid Members), and directed to the designated voting area.

Voters will assign a number (1 being most preferred, to 4 being least preferred) to each of the Candidates listed on the ballots. The ballot is then placed in the ballot box.

Note that the ballots are anonymous and do not connect the voters on the check in sheet to the ballot.

Once all voters have cast their ballot, the Baronial Seneschal, Canton Seneschal and Canton Exchequer (or designate) will take the ballot box and retire to a private area to begin counting the ballots. Each will do a count of all ballots and complete a tally sheet (provided), and sign off on their count.

The ballots will be placed in a sealed envelope and signed by the three Officers.

These envelopes will be kept secure by the Baronial Seneschal until all voting is completed in the Barony. Once complete, the Baronial Seneschal will tally all votes and provide a summary report to Their Majesties, and Their Excellencies.

Proxy Voting Process

If a voter is unable to attend the voting meeting, they may cast a Proxy Vote via the following procedure:

You may send your vote with another person to the voting meeting to cast a ballot. That person **MUST** have a letter from you that includes the following:

- Your Full Real Name
- Your Sca Name
- Your Mailing Address in full
- Your Membership # (or indicate Non Member)
- Your membership Expiry Date

- Canton you reside in
- Permission for the person (specifically named) to cast your vote
- Your vote on all final candidates
- Your signature and date

The voter **MUST** inform the Baronial Seneschal prior to the vote date that they intend to authorize someone to vote on their behalf.

Proxies that do not have all the required information; or are not submitted by the end of the business meeting at which the vote is being taken will be invalidated. The letter once brought to the meeting and submitted to the Baronial Seneschal will become the persons ballot and kept separate from the ballots (to ensure anonymity) For counting purposes, a ballot will be prepared by the Baronial Seneschal and added to the others, witnessed by the Canton Seneschal.