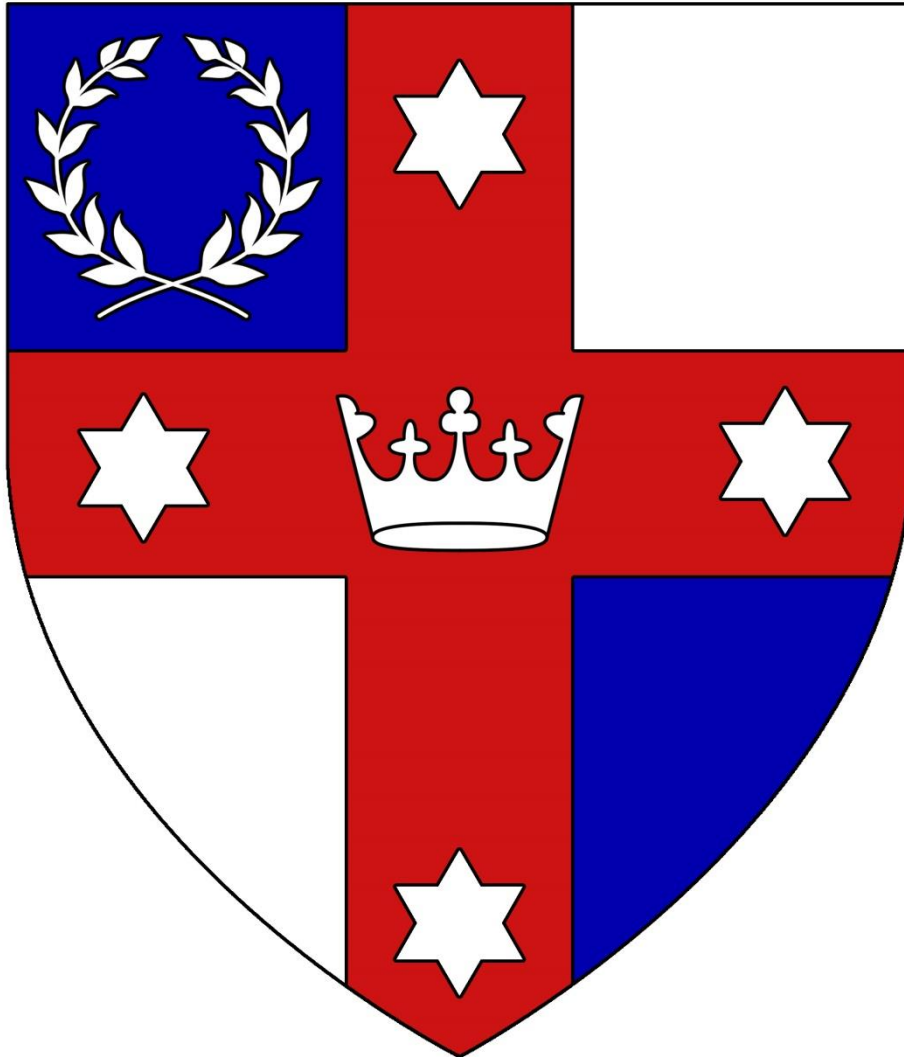


Baronial Selection Process



AS XLVIII

Updated October, 2013

Introduction

The following process is intended to allow the non-political polling of the populace by the Crown so that they can make an informed choice from the available candidates. It should be noted that this process is not a vote and the Crown is under no obligation to select the most popular candidate. Any variations to this procedure must be agreed on beforehand with the Crown and the Kingdom Seneschal.

Process

1: The current Baron and Baroness announce first to the Crown and then to the populace of their Barony their intention to step down. In the event that there is no incumbent Baron and Baroness, the Vicar or, if there is no Vicar, the Seneschal, shall make the announcement.

2: The schedule for the process shall be agreed at this point with the Crown and/or Heirs. Note that since the succession of a Baron and Baroness requires the presence of the Crown under no circumstances shall the date of the Baronial succession be announced without the Crown and/or Heirs' express permission. Note that the Crown may commit their Heirs to a particular date only if this is announced as a condition of fighting in the Crown Tournament to choose those Heirs. It is usual for the Crown performing the investiture to make the final decision so it may be that the Crown Prince and Princess will end up overseeing this process instead of the current Crown.

The schedule should allow:

2-4 weeks for nominations

½ -1 week for the Crown to consider nominations

2-4 weeks for people to meet the candidates and make an informed decision

1-2 weeks for the poll itself (during which people can still meet and ask questions of the candidates)

½-1 week for the Crown to make Their decision

2-6 weeks for the incoming candidate(s) to prepare for their elevation

That's 6-12 weeks for the selection process itself with some time for the incoming couple to prepare afterwards, or 2-4½ months from announcement to investiture.

This timeline can be adjusted to suit, bearing in mind suitable events for the announcements and meet and greet sessions, to allow the Heirs to get involved at the appropriate point if They will be performing the investiture, and to allow for the Barony's newsletter publication schedule.

3: A call for nominations must be made in the Baronial Newsletter. It should be repeated on the Baronial website and mailing list and any other appropriate communication tool. Announcements should be made at baronial events to ensure that the message reaches as much of the populace as possible. The announcements will also include the timeline for the process including any deadlines.

4: During the nomination period nominees are to discuss with the incumbent Baron and Baroness their roles, plans and fitness for office. Nominees may withdraw at any time within this period. All nominees must provide a letter of intent describing themselves and giving a brief history of their time in the SCA and their plans should they be selected to take office as Baron and Baroness, which will be published to the Barony.

NB: Nominees must be paid members of the Society when they take office. Nominees do not have to be resident within the boundaries of the Barony so long as they can show that they can fulfil the duties of the office and can demonstrate a history of active participation within the group. The rest of this process must still be followed even if there is only one nomination.

5: The Crown ask the Baronial Seneschal or Baron and Baroness to publish a final list of Nominees, and their letters of intent, to the Barony in the local newsletter and on the website and mailing list.

This announcement must also include instructions for responding to the poll – the email address to send responses to, the location of the online poll, paper forms with a postal address, as appropriate. If for any reason distribution by newsletter is considered insufficient or untimely, a special mail out of all of this information can be made to baronial members.

6: Nominees meet the populace. At any Baronial event or at a special meeting just for this purpose, the populace is given the opportunity of a Q&A session with the nominees. This should happen at least one week after the list of nominees and their letters of intent have been published and at least one week before the poll closes. Instructions for responding to the poll should be made available at this meeting.

7: The poll should collect the following information:

SCA Name (or mundane name if there is no SCA name)

Age if under 18

An indication of SCA experience (offices held within the group, SCA awards)

Preferred contact details (in case the Crown wish to clarify anything)

Either a rating for each candidate (e.g. 1 is excellent, 5 is poor) or a ranking in order of preference.

An indication of whether or not the person would support each candidate if they won (yes or no)

Comments on each candidate including their strengths and weaknesses in relation to the office.

8. Polls have been conducted on paper, via direct email to the Crown, using forums and with Survey Monkey. Any system that gets the information to the Crown in a reliable, timely *and confidential* manner is acceptable. The option to send responses on paper through the post should always be available. None of the nominees may be involved in any part of the running of the polling process.

9: Who can fill out a polling form? Answer: Anyone. The Crown will give the following precedence to the responses when making their consideration: paid SCA members within the Barony, SCA members outside the Barony and non-members who play within the Barony, other non-members. The views of under-eighteens who fill out their own polling forms will be considered by the Crown.

10: Paper Polling Forms may be sealed and collected by a nominated local official. This should usually be the Seneschal or the incumbent Baron and Baroness or Vicar. Responses are forwarded unopened to the Crown.

11: The Crown will read the responses and send a list of those people who have responded to the Baronial or Kingdom Seneschal for confirmation of membership status and official group of residence. All poll responses will be kept for a minimum of six weeks after the decision is announced to allow for any disputes to be resolved.

12: The Crown will consider the content of the responses. They will then contact the incumbent Baron and Baroness or Vicar and group Seneschal, if appropriate, and discuss the results before reaching a decision. The Crown will notify all nominees before making Their decision public. The Crown's decision will then be announced at the next appropriate Royal Court and then published in the Barony's newsletter.

Relevant Laws:

Corpora and Lochac Law both cover the appointment of territorial Barons and Baronesses.

Baronial Charters may be followed as long as they do not conflict with Corpora or Kingdom Law but they are not binding on the Crown.