

## **Kingdom of Northshield Baronial Advancement and Transitions Policy**

The purpose of this document is to guide, assist, and inform branches in the process of changing group status into a Barony and/or the selection of a new Baron/Baroness. The Kingdom Seneschal and/or the Deputy Seneschal in charge of Transitions and New Groups, (the TANG Deputy), can assist this process with guidance and administrative support. The process is designed to educate and enable all members of a group to readily find answers to any questions and express informed opinions during the transition.

As per Kingdom Law, a formal poll will be conducted by the Kingdom Seneschal or an appointed deputy designated as the TANG Deputy:

### *VIII-100*

The Kingdom Seneschal or an appointed deputy must oversee any appointment or re-appointment of a Baron or Baroness.

### *VIII-200*

The Seneschal or deputy will conduct a poll of the residents of the existing or proposed Barony. The Kingdom Seneschal will provide the results of the poll to the Crown. The Crown will appoint as Baron and/or Baroness those individual(s) deemed most fit to represent the Royal presence in the Barony, provided that the members resident in the Barony do not substantively oppose the selection of the Baron and/or Baroness.

It is important to remember that the formal poll is a tool used to assist the King and Queen in acquiring group feedback and to help determine a Baronage that would best fit all the needs for the Barony and the Kingdom. The formal poll is not an election and the choice of the Baronage is completely at the discretion of the King and Queen as long as there is not substantial objection by the Barony. The formal poll is just one tool of many that are available to the King and Queen in determining the new Baronage.

However, the local group may conduct an internal poll prior to determine this to group consensus and/or to reduce a large field of candidates to a smaller pool.

### **Groups showing interest in becoming a Barony**

In the case where multiple groups will be combining territory and membership as part of the group advancement into a Barony, refer to the plural forms listed.

- I. The group(s) Seneschal(s) will communicate in writing the group's interest in becoming a Barony to the Royalty (the Crown and the Heirs of the Kingdom), the Kingdom Seneschal, the Regional Seneschal, and the TANG Deputy Seneschal.
- II. The following must be published in the local group(s)' newsletter and any group e-mail lists, and announced at local meetings:
  - Discussions of the group status and becoming a barony
  - Internal polls
  - How to format nominations
  - Baronage terms of office and term limits (if any)
  - Group expectations of the baronage
- III. The group(s) Seneschal(s) will schedule a question and answer session for the group(s) with the TANG Deputy. The TANG Deputy will schedule this session with consideration of the availability of the Royalty, the Kingdom Seneschal, and other invitees. Additional Q&A sessions may be recommended or requested. The group(s) Seneschal(s) will announce these sessions in the Northwatch, in the local group(s)' published newsletter, at the local meetings, and on any group email lists.

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- IV. The group(s) Seneschal(s) will provide the TANG Deputy and Kingdom Seneschal an updated list of all the zip codes/postal codes in the group(s). Status change petitions that don't involve multiple groups forming a single Barony must follow the policies and procedures outlined in the Northshield Inter-Group Zip Code Transfers Policy. Any additional possible zip codes/postal codes must be listed separately.
- V. If the local group(s) decide to become a Barony (determined either by an internal poll or some other mechanism to determine a majority of the populace's desire for such), the local group(s) Seneschal(s) will forward a list of nominees with contact information to the TANG Deputy. A ticket will refer to a single nominee or two nominees running as a single entity. The TANG Deputy will contact all of the nominees and determine if they are willing to become Baron/ess.
- VI. The Royalty may choose to interview the nominees and/or hold a public forum with the group(s).
- VII. The local group(s) may hold an internal poll to reduce a large number of tickets to a smaller pool. The internal poll may or may not require SCA membership and/or put an age minimum on who is eligible to vote based upon a group(s) majority decision. The TANG Deputy (or an outside moderator selected by the group and approved by the TANG Deputy) will facilitate any formal nominee/ticket promotion, debates, speeches, and/or discussion activities, and tally the result of the internal poll. In the case of an outside moderator, the results of the poll will be forwarded to the TANG Deputy. The TANG Deputy will forward the top 3 – 6 nominees/tickets (depending on group size, number of candidates, polling mechanism – i.e. tickets vs. individuals, and distinguishable outcome) to the Crown and the Kingdom Seneschal.
- VIII. The group(s) will create a Baronial packet and present it to the TANG Deputy with the following information:
  - a group(s) status transition petition
  - roster of Baronial membership and proof of membership of at least twenty-five members.
  - results of any discussions/majority votes on term limits, terms of office, and expectations of the Baronage
  - any Baronial policies or charters that have been created
  - documentation of a name and device approved by the College of Arms
  - a map and list of zip codes for the pending Barony
  - letters of support from local and/or regional officers;
  - letters of support from at least 3 Kingdom Officers (including Seneschal and Exchequer).

The TANG Deputy will verify that all the requirements for the Baronial packet have been met and forward the packet along with the results of the formal poll to the Royalty and the Kingdom Seneschal.

- IX. The TANG Deputy will conduct a formal advisory poll with the list of tickets determined by the Barony. SCA membership will be required to receive a preprinted membership poll from the TANG as those whom are eligible to vote will be determined based upon the zip code list(s). These polls will be verified against membership lists to prevent duplication of votes. In addition, the Barony may choose to allow non-members to vote in which case the non-member must collect a non-preprinted (nonmember) poll from the Baronial Seneschal and return it sealed to the Baronial Seneschal to be mailed to the TANG. The Baronial Seneschal must validate that the non-member poll represents the opinion of a real participating person within the Barony and track these to avoid duplicate nonmember polls. The TANG Deputy will tally and compile the results of this advisory poll (showing member totals and when applicable non-member totals and overall totals) and present it to the Royalty and the Kingdom Seneschal. The Crown will appoint a Baron and/or Baroness from the list of tickets based upon the poll

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results, interviews They may have conducted, and Their Wisdom. The Crown will then contact the chosen ticket to verify acceptance of the roles and responsibilities of Baronage. The Crown (or the TANG Deputy) may contact the remaining tickets, to inform them of the Crown's decision.

### **For Existing Baronies Transitions of Baron and/or Baroness**

- I. The transition process begins:
  - when the Baron and/or Baroness inform their populace of their intention to step down or
  - when the Crown informs the Populace that the current Baron and Baroness will no longer serve as the Crown's representatives to that group or
  - at least 6 months before the previously defined baronage term limit expires.

The Baron and Baroness should talk with their Baronial Seneschal roughly six months or so prior to the end of their term of office, or their desired date to step down. The Baronial Seneschal will need to communicate the impending change to his/her regional superior, the Kingdom Seneschal, and the Royalty.

- II. Baronial meetings to discuss the status of the group, how to format nominations and internal polls, Baronage terms of office and term limits, and Baronage expectations must be announced in the published newsletter(s) of the local group(s), at the local meetings, and on any group email lists that may exist.

The following must be published in the baronial newsletter and any group e-mail lists, and announced at local meetings:

- Discussions of the group status
  - Internal polls
  - How to format nominations
  - Baronage terms of office and term limits (if any revisions)
  - Group expectations of the baronage.
- III. The TANG Deputy will contact the Baron and/or Baroness and Baronial Seneschal to discuss any specific needs of the Barony regarding to the transition.
  - IV. The Baronial Seneschal will provide an updated list of all the zip codes in the Barony and a list of nominee tickets with contact information to the TANG Deputy. The TANG Deputy will contact all of the tickets and determine if they are willing to become Baron/ess.
  - V. The Royalty may choose to interview the nominees and/or hold a public forum with the Barony.
  - VI. The Barony may hold an internal poll to reduce the large number of tickets to a smaller pool. The internal poll may or may not require SCA membership and/or put an age minimum on who is eligible to vote based upon a group(s) majority decision. The TANG Deputy (or an outside moderator selected by the group and/or by the TANG Deputy) will facilitate any formal ticket promotion, debates, speeches, and/or discussion activities and tally the result of the internal polls. In the case of an outside moderator, the results of the poll will be forwarded to the TANG Deputy. The TANG Deputy will forward the top 3 – 6 nominees/tickets (depending on group size, number of candidates, polling mechanism – i.e. tickets vs. individuals, and distinguishable outcome) to the Royalty and the Kingdom Seneschal.
  - VII. The Baronial Seneschal should provide the TANG Deputy with a Baronage petition that may include letters of opinion or endorsements from the outgoing Baronage, the Baronial Seneschal, and anyone else wishing to submit letters with the petition. The TANG Deputy will forward this petition to the Royalty and the Kingdom Seneschal along with the formal advisory poll results. Anyone choosing to submit letters separately to the TANG to be included in the petition

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may do so but must have those letters to the TANG by the time the Baronage petition is submitted.

- VIII. The TANG Deputy will conduct a formal advisory poll with the list of tickets determined by the Barony. SCA membership will be required to receive a preprinted membership poll from the TANG as those whom are eligible to vote will be determined based upon the zip code list(s). These polls will be verified against membership lists to prevent duplication of votes. In addition, the Barony may choose to allow non-members to vote in which case the non-member must collect a non-preprinted (nonmember) poll from the Baronial Seneschal and return it sealed to the Baronial Seneschal to be mailed to the TANG. The Baronial Seneschal must validate that the non-member poll represents the opinion of a real participating person within the Barony and track these to avoid duplicate nonmember polls. The TANG Deputy will tally and compile the results of this advisory poll (showing member totals and when applicable non-member totals and overall totals) and present it to the Royalty and the Kingdom Seneschal. The Crown will appoint a Baron and/or Baroness from the list of tickets based upon the poll results, interviews They may have conducted, and Their Wisdom. The Crown will then contact the chosen ticket to verify acceptance of the roles and responsibilities of Baronage. The Crown (or the TANG Deputy) may contact the remaining tickets, to inform them of the Crown's decision.
- IX. A barony may request an extension of the current baronage's term for a period of no more than two (2) additional years beyond the original end of that term. This process begins with an internal vote of confidence, taken by and certified by the barony Seneschal to the TANG as representing the will of the Barony. In this event, one of two options are available, at the will of the Crown:
- A formal vote of confidence will be conducted the same as a full poll would be, via the TANG's office. As with a full formal polling, the results of such a vote of confidence are advisory, but the Crown will not extend the baronage's term over a substantial objection of the barony's populace. In the event of the failure of such a vote of confidence, the current baronage's term will still be extended, but only for as long as is necessary to conduct a full polling without undue haste.
  - The informal vote of confidence may be accepted by the Crown as sufficient, and the term extended on that basis alone.

### **General Transition Rules for New and Existing Baronies**

- No one residing in a branch being polled will administer the formal advisory polls.
- A landed Baron and Baroness are officers of the Crown and as such must be a paid member of the society with access to the Northwatch.
- All candidates for Baron or Baroness must be at least 18 years old.
- A Seneschal who is a candidate for Baronial office will be asked to step down for the duration of the selection process This person may re-assume the office once they are eliminated as a candidate or the process is complete (if they are not selected as Baron or Baroness). No one may hold the office of Baron(ess) and the office of Seneschal at the same level concurrently.
- All rules and regulations outlined in 'Article VIII – Territorial Barons & Baronesses' of the Kingdom Laws are pertinent and apply in all cases. These should be reviewed and understood by any candidates, moderators, and Seneschals involved in a Baronial transition process.
- No Baronage will be appointed over the substantial objection of the populace.

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- Society standards for a Barony require a consistent membership of at least 25 members and the group must have a strong record of activity in a variety of fields of Society endeavors.
- A territorial Baron/ess may hold any other Society office for which he or she is qualified, save those of Baronial Seneschal and Baronial Exchequer. but must not allow the duties and responsibilities of such office and the office of Baron/ess to conflict.
- Groups should actively discuss the type of advisory polling mechanism for nominees. If a group decides upon polling for a Baron and Baroness separately, candidates must be aware that they may be paired with someone whom they do not know well or with whom they may not yet have built a working relationship. If a group decides upon allowing nominees to exist on multiple tickets, the group should be aware that poll results may be split and may not accurately advise the Crown on resoundingly popular nominees. Different things will work for different groups, but making certain everyone in the group is aware of the possible outcomes should be discussed and decided upon.

For any additional questions, assistance, or guidelines, please contact the TANG Deputy Seneschal listed in the Northwatch and on the Northshield website (under Deputies to the Kingdom Seneschal).

**Application for Branch Advancement to Full Status Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. – Kingdom of Northshield**

**Branch Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Branch Type:** \_\_\_\_\_

Main City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates:**

- Date established as a new group: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date name passed SCA College of Heralds \_\_\_\_\_
- Date device passed Northshield College of Heralds \_\_\_\_\_  
or Date device passed external commentary \_\_\_\_\_
- Date this application sent to Regional Seneschal \_\_\_\_\_

**Members:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Paid members living in your proposed boundaries  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (non-members)

**Seneschal**

Society Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ SCA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosures**

- Map of area, showing proposed group boundaries and boundaries of adjacent groups
- A complete listing of zip codes claimed
- Group Members roster, including proof of membership for at least five members (this can be of any membership types, not just sustaining) living within your geographic claimed area. Please include membership number and expiration date of membership.
- Complete roster of branch officers, with names, addresses and membership information. Include copies of latest reports.
- Summary of activity, showing the diversity and quality of activities (events, meetings, demos, etc.) that your branch has had as a new group.
- Letters or recommendation from your sponsor and some of the adjacent groups (for cantons, a letter of recommendation from your Baron/Baroness)
- Letter of Petition to the Crown and Seneschal of Northshield, asking for elevation to full status. This should be signed by at least two-thirds of your populace indicating support that your group wants to go to full status.

**As acting seneschal for this branch, I certify this form is accurate and complete to the best of my**

knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_ (modern signature) Date: \_\_\_\_\_