



BARONY OF SKRAELING ALTHING BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE

These By-Laws, in general, pertain to matters of baronial organization not covered by the [Laws of the Kingdom of Ealdormere](#) and the [Corpora, By-Laws and regulations](#) of the Society for Creative Anachronism, and are made pursuant to those governing documents.¹

DEFINITIONS

"**Members**" means those who meet the requirements of [By-Law 3](#).

"**The barony**" refers to the [Barony of Skraeling Althing](#).

"**The council**" means the committee of those persons meeting the requirements of [By-Law 6.1](#).

BY-LAW 1:

CHANGES TO BY-LAWS

1.1 These By-Laws may be amended at any baronial council meeting. Approval of proposed amendments requires advertisement of such amendments to the membership for comment for at least 60 days, and a two-thirds majority of the entire baronial council.

2.2 All proposals for amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the Baronial Seneschal, to then be presented to the council. Any member of the Barony may submit proposed amendments.

BY-LAW 2:

BARONIAL BOUNDARIES

The following is a description of the proposed baronial boundaries. This section will need to be amended once the boundaries have been finalized.

The Barony shall be all lands inscribed by:

- The Ontario-Quebec border on the east
- The Canada-U.S. border on the south
- The western border of the Lennox and Addington County on the west, continued north to include the eastern half of Algonquin Park
- The town of Mattawa on the north

Counties contained wholly within the Barony:

- Frontenac
- Lanark
- Leeds and Grenville
- Lennox and Addington
- Ottawa
- Prescott and Russell
- Renfrew
- Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

[Map appended.](#)

¹ This web version posted June 2015. The official document rests with the Baronial Seneschal.

BY-LAW 3:
MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Every paid member of the SCA Inc. located within the boundaries of the Barony shall be a regular member of the Barony.

BY-LAW 4:
RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

4.1 All members shall be eligible to hold office, nominate members for positions on the baronial council, have access to the financial records of the Barony, propose amendments to the By-Laws of the Barony, and participate in the polling for Baron and Baroness (if the member is 16 years of age or older).

BY-LAW 5:
FINANCES

5.1 Fiscal Year The fiscal year of the Barony shall be the calendar year.

5.2 Expenditures The baronial council shall expend such monies as it considers necessary for the conduct of the business of the Barony.

5.3 Bank Account The Barony shall maintain an account in the name of "SCA Skraeling Althing" at the financial institution of its choice for the deposit of the funds of the Barony.

5.4 Signatures Financial transactions shall require the signature of any two (2) of the recorded Signatories. A written account shall be kept of all expenditures, in keeping with Society Financial Policy. The Signatories for the account shall include but not be limited to:

- The Baronial Exchequer
- The Baronial Seneschal
- A kingdom representative, designated by the Kingdom Exchequer
- A seneschal of a canton within the Barony.

BY-LAW 6:
BARONIAL COUNCIL

6.1 Composition The baronial council shall be composed of the following voting positions

- The Baronial Seneschal
- The Baronial Exchequer
- The Baronial Chronicler
- The Baronial Pursuivant
- The Baronial Chatelaine
- The Baronial Minister for Arts and Sciences
- The Baronial Marshal
- The Baronial Webminister
- The Seneschals of each canton within the Barony.

The following positions shall be heard in all cases but do not vote.

- The Baron and Baroness²
- Youth advisor(s)

6.2 Deputies The following positions shall have Warranted Contingency Deputies:

- The Seneschal
- The Exchequer

² (Territorial)

- The Webminister

All other positions may have deputies, warranted or not, as they deem fit.

6.3 Term of Office The term of office shall generally be two (2) years.

6.4 Meetings The baronial executive shall meet as frequently as is required, but at least twice a year. Meetings shall be open to the public, and generally held during events held within the Barony.

6.5 Quorum A quorum shall be the Seneschal or warranted deputy plus one third of the voting members of the baronial council. Quorum for financial decisions (budget approval, extraordinary expenses, etc.) must include both the Seneschal and Exchequer. The Baron and Baroness do not count towards quorum.

6.5 Voting Council Members may register their vote by proxy through written communication with the Seneschal on any given issue. Financial decisions must be made during an in-person council meeting. Other decisions can be made online via the email group for the council.

Votes shall be made by a show of hands for those in favour. A vote is considered passed if the votes in favour (from attending members of the council plus proxy votes) are strictly greater than the votes against. Ties shall be decided by the Baron and Baroness, who together will have one vote on tied subjects only.

6.6 Vacancies

6.6.1 Unexpected vacancies in positions with warranted contingency deputies shall be temporarily filled by said warranted contingency deputy, until a process can be completed to find a permanent replacement.

Unexpected vacancies in positions without warranted contingency deputies may be temporarily filled by an existing deputy. If none exists, the position will remain vacant until a process can be completed to find a replacement.

6.6.2 The process for selecting members to fill council positions (excluding the Baron and Baroness) is as follows:

- The Baronial Seneschal will publish a call for applications to all canton email lists, as well as the baronial email list. The call for applications should be added to the website, when time permits.
- The call for applications will describe the duties of the position that is available and include a deadline for when applications must be received.
- All applicants will then be discussed by the council.
- A vote will be held to select one if more than one application is received. If only one application is received, there will be a vote to confirm the acclamation.
- The successful candidate will be notified by the Baronial Seneschal.

6.7 Duties

6.7.1 The Seneschal:

- Shall call and preside at all meetings of the council.
- Is responsible for publishing minutes for council meetings.
- May appoint deputies as required.
- Is responsible for conducting selection processes for council vacancies.
- Shall report as required by the [Seneschal's Handbook](#).
- Shall preside over the baronial selection.

6.7.2 The Exchequer:

- Shall maintain the financial records of the Barony as required by [SCA Financial Policy](#)
- Present a budget for the next fiscal year at Feast of the Hare.
- Shall issue disbursement cheques as required and requested.
- Shall report as required by the [Exchequer's Handbook](#).

6.7.3 The Chronicler

- Shall publish an issue of "[The Skraeling Althing Chronicle](#)" roughly once per quarter, but not less than four times per year.
- Shall offer "The Skraeling Althing Chronicle" in PDF format.
- Shall ensure "The Skraeling Althing Chronicle" is provided to the Skraeling Althing Webminister.
- Shall report as required by the [Chronicler's Handbook](#).

6.7.4 The Chatelaine

- Shall actively seek opportunities for promoting the SCA within the Barony
- Shall facilitate the integration of new members into the Barony, including by introducing new members to their canton Chatelaine.
- Shall report as required by the [Chatelaine's Handbook](#)

6.7.5 The Webminister

- Shall maintain the [Skraeling Althing website](#), including updating information on a regular basis.
- Shall maintain the email aliases when changes are required.
- Shall report as required by the [Webminister's Handbook](#).

6.7.6 All other positions shall undertake projects as they see fit or as requested by the council or The Baron and Baroness, and shall report according to the schedule set out by their kingdom level counterparts.

6.8 Committees The council may establish committees as necessary, with terms of reference and membership to be decided at the time of establishment. Copies of committee reports shall be filed with the Baronial Seneschal. Committees shall be dissolved by decision of the council.

BY-LAW 7:

SELECTION OF BARON AND BARONESS

7.1 The Process The traditional term for a Baron and Baroness is five years, though shorter terms are permitted. This selection process is initiated at the discretion of the Baron and Baroness.

In conjunction with the Baronial Seneschal, the Baron and Baroness will develop a time line of the process, a polling strategy, and a communications strategy, as well as assemble a selection committee. The selection process includes the following steps:

- Official announcement in court
- Request for letters of intent
- Review of applicants by Their Royal Majesties
- Official introduction of candidates in court
- Candidates' meetings
- Polling
- Counting of the ballots
- Advising Their Royal Majesties of outcome of poll
- Decision by Their Royal Majesties
- Notifying candidates of Their Majesties' decision

- Announcement of Heirs in court

7.2 The Selection Committee shall be composed of the current Baron and Baroness (except in the case where they are running again), the Baronial Seneschal and the Kingdom Seneschal.

7.3 The Request for Letters of Intent shall be published on all email lists within the Barony, as well as on the website and in the Chronicle (if time permits). It shall include an explicit deadline for when letters are due to be submitted to the selection committee. This deadline may be no less than four weeks from the date the request for letters is published. Letters of Intent should include scans of the candidates' membership cards, as well as the candidates' SCA resumes.

7.4 Candidate Meetings shall be held in each canton, to allow the members a chance to engage the candidates to aid the members in making their decision. Scheduling of candidate meetings will be at the discretion of the Cantons, not the candidates. All candidate meetings are open to everyone, and members may attend as many as they choose.

An explanation of how the polling will be conducted shall be handed out at each meeting.

7.5 Ballots shall list all candidates in alphabetical order by the SCA name. Each candidate will be listed in the following manner:

- In cases where the candidate is two persons of opposite gender, the name of the male person shall be used to determine ballot order.
- In the case where the candidate is two persons of same gender, the person whose name is alphabetically first shall be used to determine ballot order
- In the case where the candidate is an individual instead of a couple, their name shall be used to determine alphabetical ballot order.
- Next to each candidate on the ballot, there will appear underlined spaces for the membership to indicate their opinion.

An example of a ballot [is attached](#).

7.6 Polling shall be conducted in each canton within a specified period of time. The polling in each canton shall be conducted by the local seneschal and a member of the selection committee. If the local seneschal is a candidate, a deputy shall be appointed by the canton to take on this duty.

Members must show their membership card and sign into a polling station to ensure that each member is eligible and votes only once: one person, one ballot. There is only one round of polling. All ballots are put into an envelope that is sealed at the close of the polls. The persons in charge of the polling station will sign the envelope once it is sealed. Members must be at least 16 to be eligible to participate in polling.

An explanation of how the polling will be conducted/instructions on how express one's opinions in this voting system shall be handed out to each member voting along with the ballot.

The voting system used shall be the system called "Range Voting". Please see <http://rangevoting.org/> for more information.

Members will write in the space provided a score for each candidate between 1 and 10, or X for "no opinion".

Members may register their ballot in advance. To do this members must request a ballot from the selection committee, then seal their completed ballot in an envelope with their name, canton and membership number written on the outside, which is then sealed in a blank envelope. The envelope is then given to their local seneschal. The selection committee is required to track who requested an advance ballot to ensure that all advanced ballots are included in the final count.

7.7 Tallying of the ballots will be conducted by the selection committee.

Scores for each candidate are tallied then averaged. An "X" score, for no opinion, is not counted; therefore it does not affect the average. For example, if there are five ballots, and Candidate A was given the scores: 9, 5, 6, 4, X; their average score is: $(9+5+6+4)/4=6$.

The overall average shall be calculated, as well as each candidate's average in each canton.

The results, averages and raw data, shall be presented to Their Majesties.

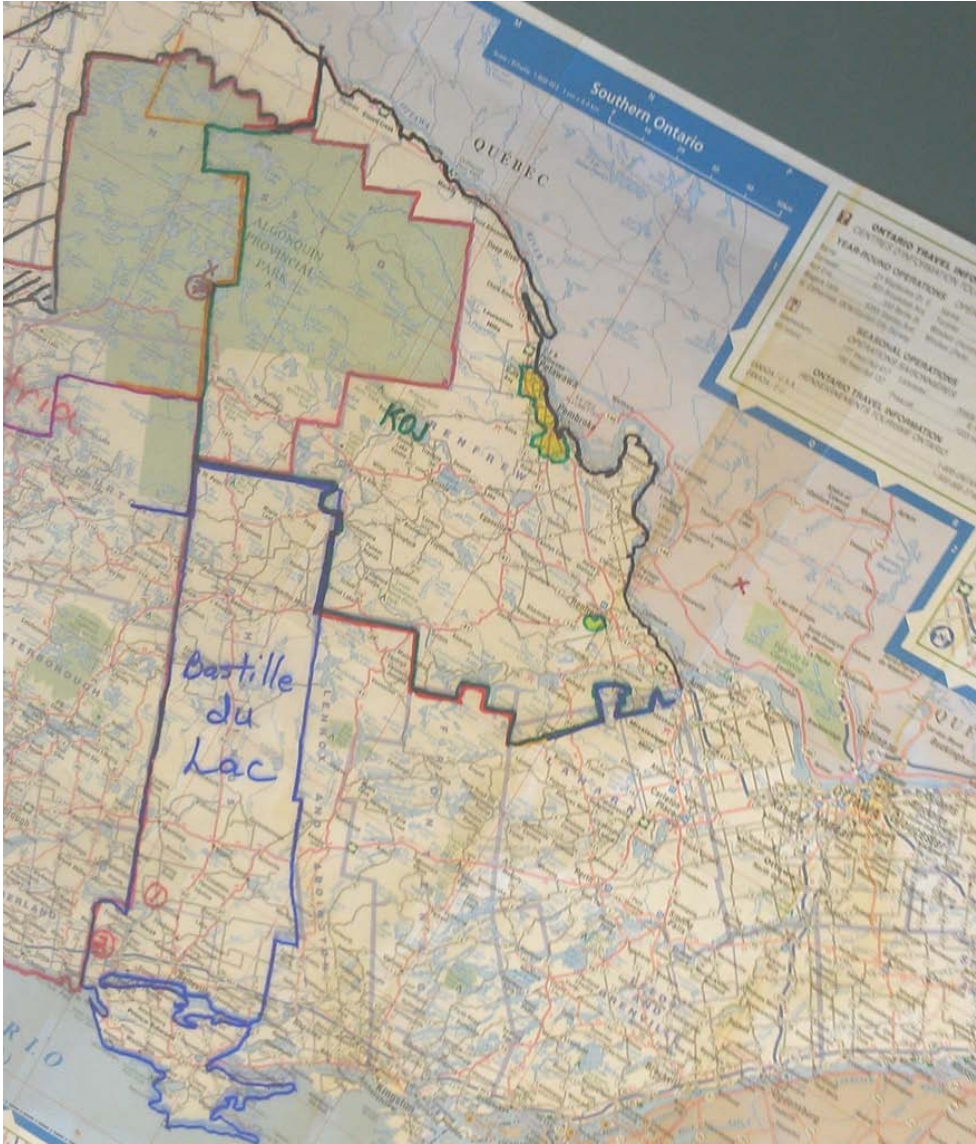
7.8 Access to Polling Results Polling results shall be sealed and confidential. No member may have access to the results of the poll. No exceptions can be made to this rule (i.e., candidates also may not have access to the results).

BY-LAW 8:

CONTEXT AND GENDER

In this Constitution and By-Laws, expressions in the masculine or feminine gender, in plural or in singular, may be substituted to give effect to the true meaning of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Appendix 1: Map



Appendix 2: Ballots

Ballot for Hypothetical Baronial Selection

Lord Aaron of the Tales and Lord Yusuf the Fabricated _____

Baroness Enid Aurelia of the Tin Isles _____

Master Nikolai the Weaver and THL Abigail Dyer _____