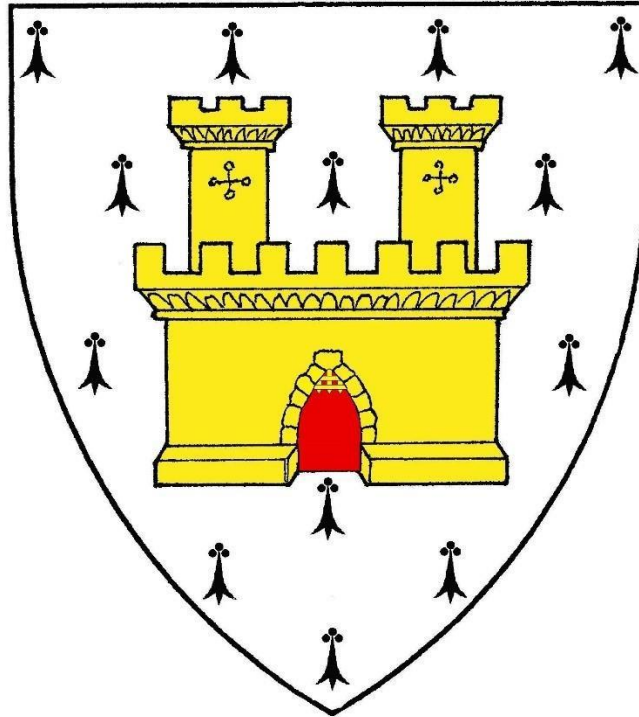


THE CODEX SOCIETATIS
OF THE SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE AGES,
INC.



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THE CODEX SOCIETATIS OF THE SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE AGES, INC.

PREAMBLE – Introduction to the Society of the Middle Ages

Whereas our European forebears in the time between the fall of Rome and the Renaissance, developed a culture worthy of study, emulation, and preservation, and whereas, we, the members of the Society, have found in the re-creation of this history and this culture a source of both edification and joy, we have resolved to continue our pursuits within the framework of this Codex, which is here set forth to provide structure and context to our endeavors.

- A. PRECEDENCE OF LAW Within the Society, in case of conflict among the provisions of the following types of rules, those higher on the list govern over the lower ones:
1. The Code of Federal Regulations
 2. The laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
 3. The Bylaws of the Society of the Middle Ages, Inc.
 4. The Corporate Policies of the Society of the Middle Ages, Inc.
 5. The Codex Societatis of the Society of the Middle Ages
 6. Society Officers' Policies approved by the Board of Directors
 7. Kingdom Law within the kingdom that enacts it
 8. Decisions of the Crown within that kingdom, for the duration of the current reign
 9. Principality Law within the principality that enacts it
 10. Decision of the Coronet within that principality, for the duration of the current reign
 11. Branches, orders, guilds, and other organizations within the Society are encouraged to create charters, which codify their customs and are required for many types of SMA organizations to be official. Unless they are also written into kingdom or principality law, organizational charters do not have the force of law. Branch charters may not be written into law.

B. BRANCHES

1. Borders & Land Claims:

- i. Borders of a geographical branch (unit) will be determined on a first come, first served basis for unclaimed territory. In this case, a prospective group can lay claim to any previously unclaimed territory for the prospective group's branch within a 240-mile radius from the residence of a group member or cluster of members. (Special circumstances for members well beyond a group's population center will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.)
- ii. Designation of Borders: Borders will be designated via the U.S. Postal Service ZIP Codes that are encompassed by a geographical unit. Borders may alternatively be delineated by existing county or state lines as well as natural features, such as a river, lake, ocean, canyon, etc. iii. The borders of a subordinate geographical group that lies within another geographical group (e.g., a borough that exists within the boundaries of a shire), must be submitted to and approved by the chancellor of the group within which the subordinate group resides. A rejection or alteration of the proposed border for the subordinate group may be appealed to the kingdom high chancellor.
- iv. If an area of land is claimed by two or more branches simultaneously, each branch that is making a claim to the territory must make that claim in writing to the high chancellor of the kingdom in which the territory lies. The kingdom high chancellor must then examine each claim and make a ruling as to which group will receive the territory in question. Any such ruling can be appealed to the Society Seneschal with the Society Seneschal being the only and final appeal.
- v. No group may lay claim to land that lies within the established and approved borders of another geographical group. For example, one kingdom cannot lay claim to lands that reside within the borders of another kingdom.
- vi. It is understood that a geographical group may "lay claim" to another group's land as the pretense for a war or other type of event, but it shall be understood that this is not a real attempt to usurp another group's land. (A special exemption may be applied if two such groups appeal in writing to the Society Seneschal after obtaining a majority consensus from both populations via polling/voting and agreement from the kingdom high chancellor(s) and reigning Sovereign(s).)

2. Geographical Branch Definitions

- i. Kingdom (minimum 100 members) - a group of geographically contiguous branches. A kingdom has developed a cohesive culture and is "ruled" by a King and Queen and managed by the High Chancellor, who is the legal representative, and a council of ministers.
 - a. The council of ministers must include the High Chancellor, Minister of the Exchequer, Herald Ordinaire, Earl Marshal, Minister of Crafts & Trades, Chronicler/Historian, and Web Minister as Great Officers of State. The Great Officers of State will also function collectively as the Financial Committee.

- b. Required Lesser Officers of State include the Kingdom Clarke, Hospitaler, and other such subordinate officers as are deemed appropriate for the kingdom culture.
 - c. The minimum number of geographically contiguous branches required for the creation of a kingdom is five, at least three of which must be shire or larger.
 - ii. Principality (minimum 75 members) - a group of geographically contiguous branches, part of a kingdom, “ruled” by an Archduke and Archduchess, and managed by the High Chancellor, who is the legal representative, and a council of ministers.
 - a. The council of ministers for a principality is identical to that required of a kingdom.
 - b. The required Lesser Officers of State for a principality is identical to that required of a kingdom.
 - c. The minimum number of geographically contiguous branches required for the creation of a principality is three, at least two of which must be shire or larger.
 - iii. Province (minimum 50 members): a large local branch or group of geographically contiguous branches, part of a principality or kingdom, and governed by a Chancellor and a council of ministers.
 - a. The council of ministers for a province is identical to that required of a kingdom.
 - b. A province is not required to have Lesser Officers of State but may elect to do so – especially if they are contemplating a future elevation to principality status.
 - c. It is highly recommended that a province has at least one subordinate geographical branch within its borders. However, if the population of the proposed province is concentrated in a single large area (e.g., a metropolitan area), this need not be the case.
 - d. Note that at the discretion of the Royalty and council of ministers of any kingdom, the Crowns may elect to appoint a Viceroy / Vicereine to “govern” the province in the absence of the Royals.
 - e. The viceroy / vicereine is an appointed position rather than a competitive one. Upon the inception of a province or whenever the seat becomes vacant, the Crown appoints a new incumbent following consultation with the populace of the province and with the concurrence of the Kingdom High Chancellor. The seat may be held by an individual or a couple as determined by Kingdom Law.
 - f. The term of office is two years. Should the province elevate to principality status, the term of office terminates immediately upon the elevation of the first Archduke & Archduchess.
 - g. The viceroy / vicereine has precedence immediately below that of archduke / archduchess in the Grand March for the duration of their tenure. Upon stepping down, their precedence reverts to their highest permanent honor.
 - h. The viceroy / vicereine does not receive a title-for-life upon stepping down, although they may be recognized with an appropriate award or membership in an order if they fulfill the requirements for such.

- i. The viceroy / vicereine is permitted to conduct Court in the name of the Crown. In this capacity, any Society or kingdom order, awards, or honors conferred must be approved by the Crown. Informal recognition (such as tokens of appreciation, formal thank you, gift presentations, etc.) may be carried out at the viceroy's / vicereine's discretion. iv. Shire (minimum 15 members) - a local branch or group of geographically contiguous branches, part of a kingdom, principality, or province and governed by a Chancellor, Exchequer, and Pursuivant.
 - a. A shire must have a financial committee made up of the Chancellor, the Exchequer, and one other paid member not residing with or related to either of the other two members.
 - b. A shire may have subordinate boroughs within its borders, but not other shires. If a shire has subordinate boroughs, the boundaries of the shire must incorporate all of the territory claimed by each borough.
 - v. Borough (minimum 5 members): a local branch that is part of a kingdom, principality, province, or shire and governed by a Chancellor, Exchequer, and Pursuivant. A borough is intended to allow the formation of local branches smaller than a shire in areas with sparse population so as to facilitate the conduct of events and other officially recognized activities.
 - a. A borough must have a financial committee made up of the Chancellor, the Exchequer, and one other paid member not residing with or related to either of the other two members.
 - b. A borough may not have any subordinate boroughs within its borders.
3. Non-geographical Branch Definitions. Castle: Any knight may establish a non-geographical branch devoted to a particular aspect of medieval study or re-enactment, or for social support.
- i. There are no minimum membership requirements for castles. Members may be drawn from anywhere in the Society. Who may join any particular castle is strictly the determination of the castle owner. Individuals may be members of multiple castles.
 - ii. Castles are not synonymous with local branches and do not have the authorities vested in them by the corporation to act as a local branch. Therefore:
 - a. There are no requirements for a castle to have warranted officers.
 - b. Castles may not sponsor official events or activities. Castles may host official events and activities if they have the sponsorship of a local branch.
 - c. Castles may not handle official SMA monies. The local branch sponsoring a castle activity will have the responsibility of handling such funds.
 - d. Castles may make no land claims other than real estate that is owned or leased personally by the castle owner. Such claims will have no bearing on the status of land claims associated with local branches.

- iii. Acceptable alternate terms for 'castle' are defined by the College of Arms and may be submitted for registration with the College.
- iv. Castle owners who hold an armigerous title may style themselves accordingly. For example, a knight commander may style themselves "Sir/Dame <Name>, Baron/ess <Castle Name>." A count/countess may style themselves "Sir/Dame <Name>, Count/ess <Castle Name>."

4. Other Qualifications

- i. Every branch must have a name and armory approved by the College of Arms prior to submitting their application for recognition or advancement to the Kingdom High Chancellor. ii. Upon its foundation, and upon seeking to change its status, the officers of a branch will submit to the Kingdom High Chancellor their petition for recognition, accompanied by documentation of the completion of all requirements for the new status. The Kingdom High Chancellor, in collaboration with the Kingdom Herald Ordinaire and other kingdom officers, will certify to the Society Seneschal that the branch has fulfilled all requirements for recognition. The Society Seneschal will then present to the Board of Directors the certified petition. Official recognition of new branches and changes of status is reserved to the Board of Directors. The following information must be included in the petition:
 - a. A new borough or shire just starting out must show that they have warranted officers in the three required positions, must show that they have the minimum number of required paid members, must identify their requested land claim using county lines, ZIP codes, state lines, or geographical features, and must provide evidence that they have registered a name and civic arms with the College of Arms.
 - b. A borough seeking to be elevated to shire status must show that they have warranted officers in the three required positions, must show that they have the minimum number of required paid members and that their membership is relatively stable, and must be hosting a minimum of one local event per year since becoming a borough.
 - c. A shire seeking to be elevated to a province must show that they have qualified/experienced and warranted officers and deputies in all required positions and must show that their membership is relatively stable. All officers corresponding with the Greater Officers of State should have a record of reporting regularly in accordance with their respective office's administrative handbook. The shire must show that they host regular local events a minimum of three times per year and have successfully hosted a minimum of one principality or kingdom level event as defined in the appropriate law since becoming a shire.
 - d. A group of shires and/or boroughs desiring to collectively form a province may submit such a proposal to the High Chancellor. If the proposed province will not bear the name and arms of any of the subordinate branches, they must also submit a name and civic arms to the College of Arms. The various subordinate branches must then show that they collectively meet the requirements in subparagraph B.4.c above.

- e. A province seeking to be elevated to principality status must show that they have qualified/experienced and warranted officers and deputies in all required positions and must show that their membership is relatively stable. All offices corresponding with the Greater Officers of State should have a record of reporting regularly in accordance with their respective office's administrative handbook. The province must show that they host regular local events or actively assist subordinate branches hosting events a minimum of six times per year and have successfully hosted a minimum of two principality or kingdom level events as defined in the appropriate law since becoming a province. The province must submit a copy of their proposed Principality Law to the parent Kingdom Privy Council for approval before they can schedule their first Tournament of Succession.
- f. A principality seeking to be elevated to kingdom status must show that they have qualified/experienced and warranted officers and deputies in all required positions and must show that their membership is relatively stable. All Greater Officers of State should have a minimum of two reporting cycles either in their current position or cumulatively over multiple offices and should be documented as reporting regularly in accordance with their respective office's administrative handbook. The principality must show that subordinate branches within their borders have collectively conducted a minimum of six events per year since becoming a principality. The principality must submit a copy of their proposed Kingdom Law to the Society Seneschal for approval before they can schedule their first kingdom-level Tournament of Succession.
- g. All branch levels seeking to advance above borough status must present a list of paid members and member numbers, as well as proof that the population of the branch was surveyed as to whether or not they wish to advance. The Kingdom High Chancellor and Kingdom Clarke (or the Society Seneschal in the case of emerging kingdoms) will verify that a minimum of two-thirds of paid members of the branch voted with at least half of those voting approving of the advancement in status before certifying the petition. iii. Groups above borough may not "leap frog" in status. For example, a province cannot become a kingdom without first becoming a principality. All groups must perform satisfactorily at each new level before petitioning to advance to the next level, though there is no defined minimum time between petitions.
- iv. New branches, prior to their recognition by the Board of Directors, may be styled "Incipient" while they work to satisfy the requirements for official recognition.
- v. Branches may choose to be styled by alternate names, subject to approval by the College of Arms.

C. ROYALTY

1. Selection

- i. The royalty of kingdoms and principalities are to be determined by an appropriate tournament or contest determined by the sitting royalty. Formats other than one-on-one combat tournaments must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to being scheduled or announced as a Royal Tournament.
- ii. Royal Tournaments must be conducted at an event announced as being for that purpose.
- iii. Announcements for the tournament must be made at least two months in advance in the kingdom website, newsletter (if any) and official social media page(s) if any.

2. Qualifications

- i. Each combatant in a Royal Tournament must be representing a prospective consort who meets the qualifications set forth herein.
- ii. No one may take part in a Royal Tournament, either as an entrant or as a prospective consort, who has any reason to believe that either member of the competing couple will be unable to fulfill the duties of Royalty and bear the expenses those duties incur.
- iii. Each entrant and prospective consort shall have been a member of the Society for at least one year and shall have earned at least the first rank of knighthood in one of the three paths of knighthood. The relevant kingdom or principality shall have the authority to grant a variance for either requirement as determined within their laws for individuals who have otherwise demonstrated their commitment to the Society, however no one person may receive such a variance more than once in any one kingdom.
- iv. Each entrant and prospective consort must have access to the appropriate corporate newsletter, either online or at their place of residence.
- v. Each entrant and prospective consort must hold a valid membership on the day of the Royal Tournament. If the winner and/or their consort's membership is due to expire before the end of their reign, they are required to renew that membership on or before the day it lapses.
- vi. Positive confirmation shall consist of:
 1. A valid membership card, or
 2. Receipt of online membership from the SMA website, or
 3. An email from the Corporate office confirming membership, or
 4. Other verification deemed "official" by the Corporate office.
- vii. Kingdoms and principalities shall ensure that all entrants and consorts in Crown and Coronet Tournaments are aware of and meet the membership requirements for entrants and consorts by the time they register for the Tournament.

- viii. Both the entrant and prospective consort must have a name and arms either registered with the College of Arms or submitted/acknowledged as being in process with the College of Arms.
 - ix. No currently sitting royalty, nor their designated successors, may compete or be represented in any royal tournament anywhere in the Society until the expiration of their reign.
3. Duties
- i. Royalty must know and uphold the laws of their realm and the Codex Societatis.
 - ii. The Royal pair must attend Their Coronation, preside over the Royal Tournament to select Their successors, and attend the Coronation of Their successors. They must also attend such other events as may be dictated by the laws of Their realm.
 - iii. The Crown shall hold court in a manner befitting their royal office and bestow awards and recognitions upon Their subjects as have been duly earned by Their subjects.
 - iv. The Crown shall meet with Their Privy Council at a minimum of two times during their reign. It is the Crown's prerogative to seek the advice of the Privy Council at any time the Crown deems appropriate and may call for a meeting to be scheduled at an official event provided at least 30 days' notice has been provided to the Privy Council. In the event of an emergency, the Crown/Coronet may dispense with the standard 30 days' notice. Meetings may be held remotely if not held at an event.
 - v. Royalty is expected to maintain or improve the regalia of Their kingdom/principality.
 - vi. Royalty shall be the chief examples of chivalry, courtesy, and the other knightly virtues, and shall inspire these virtues in their subjects.
 - vii. The Royalty shall be true and honest rulers who rule with the best intentions of the people of their Kingdoms or Principalities at heart. The expectation should be set that the role of the Crown is one of servant leadership, not for the pleasure or personal benefit of the crowned heads.
 - viii. The Royalty must have a valid physical address and means of contact (telephone and/or email) filed with the Society Seneschal for the duration of Their reign.

D. SOCIETY MINISTERS

1. General

- i. The term “Society Minister” refers to the officers listed below in their administrative roles within the historical structure of the Society. All Ministers of the Society of the Middle Ages (and their respective deputies) are required to be paid members throughout their entire tenure.
- ii. Ministers must have a valid physical address and means of contact (telephone and/or email) filed with the Society or group chancellor for the duration of their tenure as a minister.

2. Responsibilities

- i. Each Society Minister shall conduct the duties assigned to that office.
- ii. Society Ministers may appoint such deputies as may prove necessary. The Society “drop dead” Seneschal must have approval from the BoD.
- iii. The following duties are common to all Society Ministers:
 - a. Coordinating appointment of Greater Ministers of State (the highest level of minister of kingdoms), for their area of responsibility, in cooperation with the Crown of each kingdom.
 - b. Maintain communications with the Greater Ministers of State, the Society Board of Directors and fellow Society Ministers, assuring the flow of information on policies and developments in their area of responsibility.
- iv. Each Minister must provide quarterly Reports to the Board of Directors as well as provide a copy to the Society Seneschal. These reports should be a summary of all activities regarding the status and activities of the kingdoms within their ministry. The deadline for quarterly reports is no later than 15 business days from the conclusion of the previous quarter.
- v. All Society Ministers are required to Submit annual summary reports of this information to the Board of Directors and the Society Seneschal. The annual summary report will be due no later than 15 business days from the end of the year.
- vi. Failure to submit these reports within the prescribed deadline above may result in a board sanction. Failure to submit two consecutive reports within the prescribed deadline, two quarters in a row, may result in the removal of the Minister.

3. Requirements and Benefits

- i. No Society Minister shall hold more than one Society Ministry concurrently unless approved by the BoD. Nor shall a Society Minister hold a kingdom or principality Greater or Lesser Ministry of State concurrently.

- ii. ii. No one who holds a ministerial position, regardless of level (local, kingdom or society), may also serve as Crown during their tenure in office. In order for someone who holds a ministry to participate in, or be a prospective consort for a Crown Tournament, the minister must have an appointed deputy, approved by the Crown who is ready and willing to accept all responsibilities for that office should the minister in question, or the person who participates in the contest for them, win the crown. Should a minister win the contest to become Crown and commit to a reign, they must lay aside the duties of their ministry for the duration of Their reign. Said minister may resume their ministerial position upon completion of Their reign if agreed upon by the interim ministers and the newly reigning Crown. iii. The Board shall ensure that each Society Minister shall have an Ombudsman, assigned to act as the ministry's representative to the Board for matters concerning that ministry. iv. During the initial formation of the Society of the Middle Ages, Society Ministers may also serve on the Board of Directors. In this case, there will not be an Ombudsman for that specific Ministry.
4. Sanctions
- i. Society Ministers may impose Administrative Sanctions within their area of authority, in accordance with the Codex Societatis.
5. Selection, Appointment and Removal
- i. General: It is required that open Society Ministry positions shall be announced as such in all approved media platforms, including but not limited to; Kingdom/Society Newsletters, Kingdom/Society websites, Kingdom/Society Facebook groups, and Kingdom/Society Email Distribution lists. This announcement must be made no less than 90 days prior to the date of the final date in office as determined by the most recently executed warrant of office. ii. All applicants for a Society Minister's position must complete an application, provide proof of membership, and outline relevant experience. Applications shall be submitted directly to the Society President.
 - iii. Appointment: Society Ministers shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the SMA. All such appointments shall be for a period of two years.
 - iv. Warranting: Three Board members and the President of the Society must sign the warrant for all Society Ministers.
 - v. Resignation: Society Ministers may resign by submitting written notification to the President of Society of the Middle Ages. Such notice must be provided through official email. vi. In the event of a vacancy in any Society Minister office, the Board of Directors may appoint an interim minister to serve until a permanent replacement can be selected and installed. Interim ministers serve at the pleasure of the President of the Society and may be replaced by a permanent minister at any time, with or without cause.
 - vii. Removal: Removal of a permanent Society Minister or deputy may only occur under certain circumstances:

- a. Failure to Report as outlined in Section 1, parts d, e and f.
 - b. Fraudulent or dishonest acts, or gross abuse of authority or discretion with reference to the Society of the Middle Ages.
 - c. Creating an unhealthy or dysfunctional working or reporting environment through inappropriate behavior or disrespecting any member of the Board, other Society Officers, or Members of the populace.
 - d. Violating the Society of the Middle Ages code of ethics (see SMA Harassment Policy) or any other written policies thus created by the Board of Directors outlining activities, requirements, or obligations for Society Ministers.
- vii. Notice shall be provided to the Board of Directors by the Society President that removal procedures should be initiated for cause. Said notice shall be provided via official email channels.
- viii. Notice shall be provided to the Society Minister that removal procedures will be initiated for cause against them at the next meeting of the Board of Directors. Notice shall be delivered via official email channels and certified letter to the last known address of the Society Minister.
- ix. The Society Minister will be provided the opportunity to present either written or oral presentations to the Board of Directors prior to the date of the designated meeting.
- x. The Board of Directors will conduct a thorough review of all material presented prior to calling for a vote to remove. Removal will require a 2/3 vote regardless of how many board members abstain or recuse.

E. SOCIETY MINISTERS - DEFINED

1. Society Seneschal

- i. The Society Seneschal is responsible for coordinating the administration of the Society's historical recreation including but not limited to:
 - a. Coordinating the administration of the Society's historical recreation activities
 - b. Directing the activities of the Kingdom High Chancellors and of Society-level deputies
 - c. Interpreting and clarifying the Codex as necessary
- ii. The Society Seneschal may be additionally designated as the SMA Vice President of Operations when that office is active.

2. Society Social Media Officer

- i. The Social Media Officer is responsible for creating and maintaining the social media brand and presence across all platforms approved by the Board of Directors.
 - a. All media platforms must be approved by the Board of Directors before it may be employed by a Social Media Officer; including but not limited to; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, Discord, etc.
 - b. Please refer to the Society Social Media Policy document for further details.

3. Muskatour Sovereign of Arms and The College of Arms

- i. Muskatour Sovereign of Arms is the principal heraldic officer within the Society and the chief executive of the College of Arms.
 - a. Muskatour is responsible for all aspects of the study and practice of heraldry, including but not limited to:
 1. Protocol and ceremony
 2. Orders of precedence
 3. Field and court (voice) heraldry
 4. Research and registration of persona names and armory
 5. Determination of the suitability and registration of names and armory for orders/awards, heraldic titles, offices, royal and noble titles, and civic entities
 6. Determination of reserved and restricted elements including regalia, and designations of landed and titular entities for use in the Society
- ii. Muskatour Sovereign of Arms may create any subordinate office within the College of Arms they deem necessary for the proper function of the College but must advise the Society

Seneschal and the Board of Directors if that office is designated to reside at the Society level.

4. Society Earl Marshal

- i. The Society Earl Marshal is responsible for all activities including but not limited to:
 - a. Combat, live weapons, engineered weapons and equestrian activities.
 - b. Directing the Earl Marshals of the kingdoms in matters concerning the supervision of combat and related activities at Society events
 - c. Working to promote safety in the Society's martial arts
 - d. Working with the University Chancellor to encourage the research of armor, weapons, and historic fighting styles.
 - e. Interpretations and clarifications of the Rules of the Lists

5. Society Minister of Crafts and Trades:

- i. The Minister of Crafts and Trades is responsible for administering and promoting the study and creation of arts, sciences, and crafts within the SMA including but not limited to:
 - a. Fostering and supporting the Studium Generale Societatus and their Chancellor in their efforts to grow the university within the Society. The general function and purpose of the Studium Generale Societatus is to be described in the university's administrative handbook when published.
 - b. Fostering and supporting the Clarke of Guilds in their efforts to promote guilds within the Society. The general function and purpose of guilds is to be described in the Guildmaster's administrative handbook when published.
 - c. Fostering and supporting the Clarke of Deans to provide information and encouragement to their groups. The general function of the Clarke of Deans is to be described in the Dean's administrative handbook when published.

6. Society Chancellor of the Exchequer

- i. The Society Chancellor of the Exchequer reports to the Board of Directors and may be additionally designated as the SMA Treasurer when that office is active.
- ii. The Society Chancellor of the Exchequer shall cause to be kept and maintained adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of all branches and divisions of the Society except those controlled by the Treasurer.

7. Society Web Minister

- i. The Web Minister is responsible for overseeing the websites of the Society, kingdoms, local branches, and any other website the Board may designate.

- ii. The Web Minister serves as a source of web-publishing expertise and advice for the benefit of the Society.
- iii. The Society Web Minister is responsible for collecting reports from Kingdom Web Ministers.

F. THE POPULACE

1. The Paths of Knighthood

- i. The royalty of the candidate's kingdom or principality shall have the right to elevate a person to or within an order of knighthood. Likewise, a higher-level knight who is not royal shall have the authority to elevate people to a lower level of knighthood in their order. In both instances, the candidate must be certified as having met the requirements for the level of knighthood to which they are being elevated. Requirements toward knighthood will be tracked via the kingdom clerk's office.
 - a. Before bestowing the accolade, the senior knight will notify the Crown of the pending action, allowing for verification with the clerk that the requirements for the new rank have been met.
 - b. Once the accolade has been bestowed, the senior knight is responsible for reporting the action to the kingdom herald ordinaire for inclusion in the Order of Precedence. Non scripta non est.
 - ii. Consubstantial orders of knighthood may be established by the royalty of a kingdom to recognize specialization in particular combat forms, particular eras or cultures, or other attributes. Such consubstantial orders shall be organized according to the desires of the royalty, in consultation with their members, but their membership shall be restricted to Knights Banneret and Knights Commander, or else to Knights Commander alone.
 - iii. All knights are required to maintain themselves in fealty to the royalty of their kingdom or principality. This fealty may be sworn directly to the royalty or may be sworn to a higherranking knight who is in fealty, either directly or through another, higher ranking knight, to the Crown.
2. The Path of the Sword is the study of combat throughout our period. Participation in full-contact mock combat with mock weapons, historical combat with steel weapons, archery, thrown weapons, siege warfare, and equestrian activities are all included in the Path of Sword. The order of knighthood in the Path of the Sword is the Order of the Golden Chain. There are three ranks of knight within this order.
- i. The first level of knighthood in the Path of the Sword is that of Knight Bachelor. Knights Bachelor shall have the right to use the title, "Sir" or "Dame". To become a Knight Bachelor, one must:
 - a. Be a paid member of the Society.
 - b. Have participated in or marshaled a combined total of at least five martial competitions of five or more entrants held on separate days, and/or have participated in five separate full days of battles in wars since becoming a paid member. For actual combatants, during the first five years of each new kingdom's existence, tournaments of succession within that kingdom will count toward the required number of tournaments entered regardless of the number of combatants.

- c. Have all of their own equipment for their primary form of combat, with no visible nonperiod elements.
 - d. Have submitted a persona name and personal arms to the College of Heraldry.
 - e. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.
- ii. The second level of knighthood in the Path of the Sword is that of the Knight Banneret. Knights Banneret shall have the right to use the title, "Lord" or "Lady" and are entitled to bear arms in the royal presence. If a Knight Banneret is the leader of a castle, they may be styled, "Sir/Dame [name], Lord/Lady [castle name]". Knights Banneret are encouraged to establish a castle, whose members will look to them for leadership. To become a Knight Banneret, one must:
- a. Be a paid member of the Society.
 - b. Have participated in or marshaled a combined total of at least five competitions of five or more entrants held on separate days, and/or have participated in five separate full days of battles in wars since becoming a Knight Bachelor. For actual combatants, during the first five years of each new kingdom's existence, tournaments of succession within that kingdom will count toward the required number of tournaments entered regardless of the number of combatants.
 - c. Place in the top fifty percent of at least half of the competitions in the knight's primary form of combat (e.g., rattan, steel weapons, live weapons, etc.) entered in the past year immediately prior to consideration of their promotion.
 - d. Train at least one fighter to the level of Knight Bachelor of the Golden Chain. If, for reasons of health or age, a knight must refrain from combat, each required competition in sub-paragraph ii.b and/or ii.c above may be replaced with an additional squire trained to the level of Knight Bachelor of the Golden Chain.
 - e. Have a complete fighting kit for their primary form of combat, free of visible modern elements and suitable to the era and culture of their persona, complete with appropriate heraldic displays and tournament field equipment. Modern elements required for safety reasons, such as a bar grill on an open-faced helm, may be permitted.
 - f. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.
- iii. The third level of knighthood in the Path of the Sword is that of Knight Commander. Knights Commander shall have the right to use the title, "Baron" or "Baroness". If a Knight Commander is the leader of a castle, they may be styled, "Sir/Dame [name], Baron/Baroness [castle name]". Knights Commander are encouraged to establish a castle, whose members will look to them for leadership. To become a Knight Commander, one must:
- a. Be a paid member of the Society.
 - b. Have sponsored and/or conducted at least five competitions (with five or more entrants) and/or led the forces of his branch to battlefield victory at least five times in his or her

primary form of combat since becoming a Knight Banneret. For actual combatants, during the first five years of each new kingdom's existence, tournaments of succession within that kingdom will count toward the required number of tournaments entered regardless of the number of combatants.

- c. Assist lesser knights with the mentoring of multiple knights and squires at all levels of the Path of the Sword. This may take the form of one-on-one training, the hosting or management of martial practices, conducting troops in small-unit tactics drills, or the training/mentoring of new marshals/constables.
 - d. Be authorized and proficient in multiple weapons forms/styles.
 - e. Have achieved at least the first level of knighthood in either the Path of the Robe or the Path of the Quill.
 - f. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.
3. The Path of the Robe is the study of the arts, crafts, trades, and sciences in our period. All practices of the peaceful arts, static and performance arts, crafts, and sciences are encouraged in the Path of the Robe. The order of knighthood in the Path of the Robe is the Order of the Golden Maunche. There are three ranks of knight within this order.
- i. The first level of knighthood in the Path of the Robe is Knight Bachelor. Knights Bachelor shall have the right to use the title "Sir" or "Dame". To become a Knight Bachelor, one must:
 - a. Be a paid member of the Society.
 - b. Have participated in at least five displays or competitions of five or more entrants or taught at least five scheduled classes at events, academies, university sessions, or guild meetings (or any combination of the above) since becoming a paid member. Participation as a principal in performance arts, scientific displays, and the publishing of scholarly papers may count as a display.
 - c. The arts/sciences that are practiced by the candidate must be correct to the historical periods and geographical locations that are recreated in the SMA.
 - d. Have submitted a persona name and personal arms to the College of Heraldry.
 - e. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.
 - ii. The second level of knighthood in the Path of the Robe is Knight Banneret. Knights Banneret shall have the right to use the title, "Lord" or "Lady" and may bear arms in the royal presence. If a Knight Banneret is the leader of a castle, he or she may be styled, "Sir/Dame [name], Lord/Lady [castle name]". Knights Banneret are encouraged to establish a castle, whose members will look to them for leadership. To become a Knight Banneret, one must:
 - a. Be a paid member of the Society.
 - b. Have participated in or judged at least five displays or competitions of five or more entrants since becoming a Knight Bachelor. Participation as a principal in performance arts, scientific displays, and the publishing of scholarly papers may count as a display.

- c. Have recognized skill in their primary art form as determined by advancement to the rank of Journeyman or its equivalent in the appropriate Guild.
 - d. Be skilled in multiple art forms (e.g., costuming or armoring or oral performance and writing of poetry) or in multiple periods of a single art that changed significantly over time or geographical area (e.g., ecclesiastical music vs. minstrel music or iron/bronze metalwork vs. steel metalwork).
 - e. Train at least one artisan to the level of Knight Bachelor in the Golden Maunche.
 - f. The arts, crafts, trades, or sciences practiced by the candidate must be derived from and applicable to the historical periods and geographical locations that are recreated in the SMA.
 - g. Have a persona-appropriate heraldic display.
 - h. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.
 - iii. The third level of knighthood in the Path of the Robe is the Knight Commander. Knights Commander shall have the right to use the title, “Baron” or “Baroness”. If a Knight Commander is the leader of a castle, they may be styled, “Sir/Dame [name], Baron/Baroness [castle name]”. Knights Commander are encouraged to establish a castle, whose members will look to them for leadership. To become a Knight Commander, one must:
 - a. Be a paid member of the Society.
 - b. Have hosted or sponsored at least five displays or competitions of five or more entrants or organized at least five scheduled academy events or university sessions (or any combination of the above) since becoming a Knight Banneret.
 - c. Be recognized as a master of one art form as determined by advancement to the rank of Master or its equivalent in the appropriate guild and be at least proficient in two other art forms as determined by advancement to the rank of Apprentice or its equivalent in the appropriate Guilds. The differing art forms can be completely separate arts or complimentary arts such as different styles/eras of poetry.
 - d. Assist lesser knights with the mentoring of multiple knights and squires at all levels of the Path of the Robe. This may take the form of one-on-one instruction, the hosting or management of displays or competitions, guild-centric training and instruction, or the promotion of other artisans through word fame and/or the gifting of personal tokens in recognition of their talent.
 - e. Have achieved at least the first level of knighthood for either the Path of the Sword or the Path of the Quill.
 - f. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.
4. The Path of the Quill is that of service to the Society and its branches. The order of knighthood in the Path of the Quill is the Order of the Golden Quill. There are three ranks of knight within this order.

- i. The first level of knighthood in the Path of the Quill is Knight Bachelor. Knights Bachelor shall have the right to use the title, “Sir” or “Dame”. Knights Bachelor have the obligation to register their personal name and armory with the College of Arms. To become a Knight Bachelor, one must:
 - a. Be a paid member of the Society.
 - b. Have successfully completed at least one of the following services or more than half of two of the following services:
 - i. Have been on staff of at least five local or higher-level events since becoming a paid member.
 - ii. Have held a ministry at any level in good standing for at least one term of office since becoming a paid member.
 - iii. Aided the Crown/Coronet across a minimum of two reigns with assistance such as:
 - (a) Traveled to and served as royal entourage at a minimum of five events.
 - (b) Construction or procurement of items such as regalia, largess, award tokens, and other paraphernalia used by royalty or provided financial contributions to a royal travel fund or towards the procurement of royal regalia.
 - c. Have submitted a persona name and personal arms to the College of Heralds.
 - d. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities. ii. The second level of knighthood in the Path of the Quill is Knight Banneret. Knights Banneret shall have the right to use the title, “Lord” or “Lady” and may bear arms in the royal presence. If a Knight Banneret is the leader of a castle, he or she may be styled, “Sir/Dame [name], Lord/Lady [castle name]”. Knights Banneret are encouraged to establish a castle, whose members will look to them for leadership. To become a Knight Banneret, one must:
 - a. Be a paid member of the Society.
 - b. Have successfully performed two or more of the following services:
 - i. Have been the event steward or deputy for at least five local events since becoming a Knight Bachelor.
 - ii. Have been a primary member of the event staff for at least three principality, kingdom, or multi-kingdom events, or taken a secondary role in the event team for a week-long or longer event. For the purposes of this determination, a primary member of an event staff would be the steward, marshal-in-charge, site herald, head cook, reeve/sheriff, class coordinator, competition/display coordinator, royalty liaison, and site security.
 - iii. Have held a kingdom/principality ministry or higher in good standing for at least one year.

- iv. Have held a local ministry or a deputy kingdom/principality ministry in good standing for two years.
- v. Have served as a primary member of a royal entourage for at least two full reigns. For the purposes of this determination, a primary member of a royal entourage would include reign coordinator, head retainer, champion, court herald, bailiff/quartermaster/chamberlain, captain of the guard, or other appointed toplevel position within the royal house.
- vi. Construction and/or donation of items such as regalia, largess, award tokens, or other paraphernalia for two different reigns since becoming a Knight Bachelor.
- c. Mentor at least one candidate to the level of Knight Bachelor in the Golden Quill.
- d. Have a persona-appropriate heraldic display.
- f. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities. iii.

The third level of knighthood in the Path of the Quill is the Knight Commander. Knights

Commander shall have the right to use the title, “Baron” or “Baroness”. If a Knight Commander is the leader of a castle, they may be styled, “Sir/Dame [name], Baron/Baroness [castle name]”. Knights Commander are encouraged to establish a castle, whose members will look to them for leadership. To become a Knight Commander, one must:

- a. Be a paid member of the Society.
- b. Have completed one of the following:
 - i. Served as the event steward or deputy for at least three principality or kingdom events or week-long local events since becoming a Knight Banneret.
 - ii. Served as the event steward or deputy for five local events since becoming a Knight Banneret.
 - iii. Have successfully completed one term as a Society Minister, Board member, or officer of the corporation.
 - iv. Have successfully completed two terms as a kingdom great officer of state, lesser officer of state, deputy, or any combination of the above.
 - iv. Have successfully completed one term as a local officer that included the first year of the Society’s existence.
- c. Assist lesser knights with the mentoring of multiple knights and squires at all levels of the Path of the Quill. This may take the form of one-on-one instruction, “shadowing”, training as a deputy, drop-dead, or replacement officer, or instruction on fulfilling the various roles available in event management, royal entourage, advisory councils, or other service-oriented activities.
- d. Be experienced in at least three different fields of service. For the purpose of this determination, fields of service include knowledge-based, IT, creative design,

entertainment, holding office, education/training, childcare, financial services, advocacy, martial support, hospitality, transportation, providing utilities, and personal services.

- e. Have achieved at least the first level of knighthood for either the Path of the Sword or the Path of the Robe.
 - f. Be seen to have consistently behaved honorably at SMA events and activities.
5. Other Honors
- i. The Order of Angelica shall be granted to those who have completed a successful reign as consort of a kingdom or principality.
 - ii. The Order of Vigilance shall be granted to Veterans who served or are currently serving in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force) including the National Guard and Reserve components. The Crown of any kingdom may extend an invitation of membership in the Order to individuals who served or are serving in the Armed Forces of allied nations with the approval of a simple majority of the current active membership within that kingdom.
6. The royalty of individual kingdoms and principalities shall have the right to create awards and honors for their realms, and to grant existing awards and honors consistent with this Codex, the laws of their kingdom and/or principality, and the customs and traditions of their realms. No such awards or orders will carry precedence.
- i. All awards and orders must have their names and associated heraldry (if applicable) registered by the College of Arms before they are bestowed to the populace.
7. Rights
- i. Religious belief and practice having been an integral part of the cultures of the European Middle Ages, the right of members to study, re-create, and express the religious beliefs of their personas shall not be restricted. While members are free to express their religious beliefs or the religious beliefs of their personas, no one can be compelled to take part in or attend a religious service. No one shall be punished for choosing not to attend or take part in a religious service.
 - ii. No member may be sanctioned at any level of the Society, nor discriminated against for any office or honor, on the grounds of their race, religion, sexual orientation, or modern political beliefs/practices.
 - iii. No member may be sanctioned at any level of the Society, nor discriminated against for any office, or honor, on the basis of the content of their social media accounts unless those statements are made as representing the SMA Inc. and/or directly violate the SMA Harassment and Social Media Policies.

G. AMENDMENTS TO POLICY

1. Codex Societatis may be amended using the following procedure:
 - a. Upon determining an amendment is necessary or desired or upon receiving a suggestion from any paid member of the Society, the Board of Directors will publish a formatted version of the proposal on the organizational website for a minimum of 30 days to allow commentary from the membership.
 - b. At the conclusion of the commenting period, the Board will consider the commentary and vote to adopt the proposal as written, adopt a variation of the proposal, or reject the proposal outright.
 - c. The Board may appoint any individual or committee to process proposals and make recommendations to the Board. Such an individual or committee serves at the pleasure of the Board.
2. A proposal is adopted on a two-thirds majority vote of the Board.
3. Once adopted, an updated version of Codex Societatis will be posted to the organizational website within 10 days and an announcement will be made via the website, email, and/or social media announcing the change.

NOTE: The SMA, Inc. has additional policy statements that are published at www.sma-inc.org