

AYRETON BARONIAL CHARTER

Effective 23 November, 2014

I. Preamble

Whereas the purpose of a Barony is to provide new opportunities for fun in the SCA and to create new traditions, let it be known that the Barony of Ayreton claims no jurisdiction over the internal activities of the Cantons, specifically the activities involving Canton events, officers, and financial decisions. The Barony of Ayreton will respect and honor the traditions and customs of the Cantons. All participation in the Baronial activities is strictly voluntary and cooperative.

II. Baronial Curia

- A. The Baronial Curia is composed of the Baron, Baroness, Seneschal, Exchequer, Pursuivant, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Knights Marshal, and Chronicler.
- B. A Quorum of the Baronial Curia shall consist of the Baron/Baroness, Seneschal, and two additional members of the Baronial Curia. A quorum is required for all decisions made by Baronial Curia.
Written proxies may be counted to achieve a quorum for decisions.
- C. Additional officer positions may be established by the Baronial Curia, and such additional officers will not be members of the Baronial Curia.
- D. Officers
 1. All Officers are expected to send copies of reports required by their office to the Baronial Seneschal and to the Baron and/or Baroness.
 2. Officers are expected to present a briefing on their area of responsibility at every Baronial Meeting, either in person or through a designee.
 3. All Officers are encouraged to select and train an emergency replacement deputy, and should pass along all materials and files of the office to their successor.
- E. Officer Transitions
 1. Officer selection will be done annually at the Summer Baronial Meeting. Those selected will take office at the next Baronial Curia Meeting.
 2. Officer selection is done by either voice vote or a show of hands, at the Seneschal's option, unless someone requests a secret ballot. If a secret ballot is requested, a paper ballot will be collected and counted.
 3. Offices that become vacant out of cycle will be filled by the Baronial Curia on an interim basis.

4. People interested in taking office or stepping down from office are encouraged to announce their interest at the Spring Baronial Meeting. Further, they are requested to submit an application in writing to the appropriate Baronial officer, with courtesy copies to the Baron and Baroness and the Seneschal.
5. The Barony acknowledges that the Crown and Kingdom Curia have the right to approve or disapprove any local officer. This procedure for selecting an officer is how we choose who we will recommend that Kingdom approve, but Kingdom has the right to accept or reject our recommendation without comment.

F. Term of Office

1. The term of office for Baronial Curia will be two years, which may be extended annually with approval of the Baron/Baroness.

III. Decision making

- A. When a decision is required of the Baron and Baroness, it must be made with the agreement of both individuals. When both are not in agreement on a matter which requires resolution, either individual may refer the matter; to the Crown for resolution of an external matter, or to the Baronial Curia for resolution of an internal matter.

IV. Meetings

- A. The members of the Barony shall meet at least quarterly.
- B. The Baron and/or Baroness will conduct the Baronial Meeting, or they may delegate the Seneschal to conduct the meeting on their behalf.
- C. Proxy voting
 1. An officer or member of the Barony of Ayreton who wishes to vote on an issue when they cannot physically attend the meeting may provide a written proxy to a specific individual covering a specific topic. A proxy vote must be in writing. A hard copy of a written electronic communication is acceptable. The written proxy shall be given to the Seneschal for inclusion with the records of that meeting.
 2. An officer or member of the Barony may also attend a meeting electronically, for example via telephone or videoconferencing, if the officer or member makes the appropriate arrangements at his or her own expense.

V. Changes and Amendments to the Charter

- A. The Ayreton Baronial Charter shall be reviewed by the Seneschal or designated deputy at least once during each Baronial tenure. The review process should be scheduled so as to be completed prior to Baron and/or Baroness investiture or renewal.

- B. All proposed changes and amendments to the Baronial Charter must be published for comment at least once in the Zephyr. The commenting period must then be open for at least 30 days, and any changes or amendments must be discussed at a Baronial Meeting before being approved.
- C. Approval of changes or amendments to the charter shall be by a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority of the members attending the Baronial Meeting at which it has been announced that decisions are to be made on proposed changes and amendments. Proxies will not be accepted for Charter change or amendment decisions.

VI. Ceremony

A. Awards and Orders

- 1. The Baron and/or Baroness will create, name and bestow awards and orders as they see fit. These awards and orders will be created primarily to encourage and recognize achievement, as well as to foster group identity and ceremony.
- 2. A **Baronial Award** may be given repeatedly to the same recipient.
 - a. The Award of the Pleiades of Ayreton is given to an individual for any form of general service to the Barony.
- 3. A **Baronial Order** may be given only once to a single individual.
 - a. The Order of Atlas of Ayreton is a high service honor, given to a person for any form of service to the Barony.
 - b. The Order of Ursis of Ayreton is a martial arts order, given to a person who excels in any form of martial art.
 - c. The Order of Leo of Ayreton is an arts and sciences order, given to a person who excels in any field of the arts and sciences.
 - d. The Order of Scorpius of Ayreton is an archery order, given to a person who excels in the field of archery.
 - e. The Order of Réalta Ríáin (also known as The Order of Ríáin's Star) is a youth order, given to a person for service and dedication to the youth of the Barony and/or Society.

B. Champions

- 1. Baronial Champions are chosen by the Baron and/or Baroness and serve at Their discretion.

C. Regalia

- 1. The Baron and/or Baroness are responsible for the design of Regalia, with the sage counsel of the Baronial Curia.

VII. Events

- A. Upcoming Baronial Events will be announced sufficiently in advance to allow all members of Ayreton the opportunity to submit an Event Bid for running the event.

- B. An Event Bid shall include the proposed date, location, Event Steward, Feast Steward, and budget.
- C. Baronial Events will be approved by a simple majority of members in attendance at a Baronial Meeting at which the final bid is presented.

VIII. Guilds

- A. The Barony of Ayreton supports its artisans in their Arts and Sciences endeavors. To that end, the Barony encourages the formation of Guilds. Approval by the Baronial Curia is required to use the name "Ayreton" in the name of any Guild.