

Charter for Barony of Caer Gwynt

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Preamble

We, the members of St Carol on the Moor and the Shire of Wurm Wald, do desire to come together in unity to foster cooperation, growth, and solidarity in the East Central region of the Midlands in the Middle Kingdom of the SCA Known World. In this spirit, we wish to form a new Barony for this region.

As this Barony is a branch of the SCA, Inc., we are mindful of the responsibilities incumbent upon us toward the Society as a whole. As such, we freely acknowledge that we and all our people are subject to the relevant regulations and laws of the SCA, Inc., and the Middle Kingdom and that in the event of a conflict, Society rulings supersede Kingdom rulings. Furthermore, we also acknowledge our responsibilities to civil authority and recognize that civil law shall supersede both Society and Kingdom regulations. Below, we therefore detail out these rights and responsibilities.

This so follows:

For the purposes of this document, the term Baron(s) will refer to either one or both, of either gender, of the seated Baron(s) and/or Baroness(es). This is for brevity only and not a reflection of preference.

ARTICLE I -- Defined Arms and Geographic Area of the Barony

1. The Baronial Arms of the Barony of Caer Gwynt shall be as registered with the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, here blazoned:
 - a. The Badge of the Barony of Caer Gwynt shall be as registered with the Laurel Sovereign of Arms, here blazoned:
 - b. The Baronial Arms and Badge may be borne as stated in governing sections of Middle Kingdom Law and the Corpora of the S.C.A. Inc.

2. The Geographic Area for the Barony of Caer Gwynt shall consist of the following zip codes:

60901 60902 60910 60911 60912 60913 60914 60915 60917 60918 60919 60922
60924 60926 60927 60928 60930 60931 60932 60933 60935 60936 60938 60939
60940 60941 60942 60944 60945 60946 60948 60949 60950 60951 60952 60953
60954 60955 60956 60957 60959 60960 60961 60962 60963 60964 60966 60967
60968 60969 60970 60973 60974 61727 61735 61749 61750 61773 61777 61778
61801 61802 61803 61810 61811 61812 61813 61814 61815 61816 61817 61818
61820 61821 61822 61824 61825 61826 61830 61831 61832 61833 61834 61839
61840 61841 61842 61843 61844 61845 61846 61847 61848 61849 61850 61851
61852 61853 61854 61855 61856 61857 61858 61859 61862 61863 61864 61865
61866 61870 61871 61872 61873 61874 61875 61876 61877 61878 61880 61882
61883 61884 61913 61919 61929 61936 61941 61953 61956 61910 61911 61912
61914 61917 61920 61924 61925 61928 61930 61931 61932 61933 61937 61938
61940 61942 61943 61944 61949 61951 61955 61957 62011 62080 62247 62401
62411 62413 62414 62418 62420 62422 62423 62424 62427 62428 62431 62432
62433 62435 62436 62438 62440 62441 62442 62443 62444 62445 62447 62448
62449 62451 62454 62458 62459 62461 62462 62463 62464 62465 62467 62468
62469 62471 62473 62474 62475 62477 62478 62479 62480 62481 62534 62553
62565 62571 62838 62857 62880 62885

ARTICLE II - Baronial Membership

1. Barony of Caer Gwynt membership is self-determined by declaration, except when Society or Kingdom law requires a determination by zip code.
2. Membership shall be self-declined if a person accepts an office in a different group which shall last for the duration of their time in office, unless both groups approve of this action. In which case, membership in Caer Gwynt is continued.
3. Barony of Caer Gwynt membership does not require any sort of fee or that a person be a paid member of the SCA, Inc. In accordance with Corpora and Kingdom law a person must be a paid member of the SCA to hold an office.

ARTICLE III - Amendments to the Charter

1. This Charter and its contents will be modified, contravened, or negated in whole or in part to comply with any changes to Middle Kingdom Law or Society for Creative Anachronism Inc. corporate policy without discussion or vote process.
2. This charter and its contents will remain in force and can be modified with the following procedures providing the changes do not conflict with Article II.1:
 - a. At any quarterly Baronial meeting any member can call for an amendment.

- b. A second must be received from another member present.
- c. If such an amendment is called for and seconded it is then open for discussion for a suitable period of time.
- d. The amendment then must be publicized to members not present in all other possible relevant venues (in the group newsletter, on the group electronic discussion list, and social media). The final vote date and time must also be published at least one (1) month in advance of the vote.
- e. At the next quarterly Baronial meeting a vote on the amendment will be held.
- f. The amendment will need a two-thirds majority of members present to pass.

ARTICLE IV - Baron(s)

1. The Baron(s) of Caer Gwynt shall reign in the name of the Crown and in accordance with the bylaws and corpora of the SCA, Inc. They are the ceremonial head(s) of the Barony. The appointed Baron(s) must comply with Corpora and Middle Kingdom law, specifically Article XV in its entirety.
 - a. The term of the baron(s) shall be 3 years.
 - b. After 3 years, there will be a vote of confidence called at the Yule meeting to extent to 5 years. This vote is by simple majority to approve the vote of confidence.
 - c. If the vote of confidence fails, the Barons step down for any reason, or the current Barons reach a 5 year term, the Seneschal will start the procedures to conduct a new polling for Barons.
2. The Barons are responsible for the following:
 - a. Fostering cooperation amongst the populace. This can be achieved in a variety of ways, but at the least the Baron(s) should facilitate the creation of Baronial Guilds for a variety of interests.
 - b. Promote recognition of worthies with the Barony. This will be achieved through Baronial awards, Baronial championships, and recommendations to the Crown of worthy individuals.
 - c. Enable participation at a higher level. This can be achieved through inter-Barony challenges and participation in Kingdom events.
 - d. Serve as the voice of the Barony to the Kingdom and the voice of the Kingdom to the Barony.

3. Duties of the Baron(s) shall include:

- a. The Baron(s) shall make every effort to be in attendance at all Baronial business meetings, activities and events. The Baron(s) shall each be in attendance for at least fifty percent of the business meetings per calendar year. They may or may not be the same meetings.
- b. As per Kingdom law, Baron(s) must swear fealty at least once per reign to the Crown of the Middle Kingdom on behalf of the Barony.
- c. The Baron(s) will make brief written reports to each new Crown on the occasion of their coronation, concerning the state of the Barony, and make them available to the populace.
- d. The Baron(s) must hold Baronial Court at least two times per year.
- e. The Baron(s) may not hold any major Baronial office that would hamper the performance of their duties as Baron.
- f. The Baron(s) may not perform any duty at a Baronial event that would hamper the performance of their duties as Baron.
- g. The Baron(s) may not hold the offices of Baronial Seneschal or Baronial Exchequer. In addition, a Territorial Baron may not be a signatory on any Baronial bank account.
- h. The Baron(s) may give Baronial awards to members of the populace in accordance with Baronial policy and as they see fit at any Baronial Court.
- i. The Baron(s) shall report all awards given at Baronial Courts to the Chronicler for publication in our newsletter, email list, social media, etc. This may be delegated by the Baron(s) but it is ultimately the Baron(s) responsibility to ensure it occurs.
- j. The Seneschal and Pursuivant (or their deputies) shall be at the side of the Baron(s) at all times when Court and other public Baronial business is being conducted.
- k. The Baron(s) may appoint a Chamberlain to help with the logistics and planning of their term of service.
- l. The Baron(s) may appoint ambassadors or other ceremonial positions.
- m. Baronial Championships may occur once a year. The event may include heavy weapons, rapier, archery, equestrian, Arts and Sciences competitions, and other champions as determined by the Baron(s). They need not be held at the same event. The Baron(s) shall preside over the competitions and determine the methods of selecting a champion in each category.

ARTICLE V - Baronial Officers

1. The Baronial Council will consist of the Baron(s) and the following officers (referred to as Great Officers): Seneschal, Exchequer, Pursuivant, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Knight's Marshal, Chatelaine, and Chronicler. This is the financial committee for the Barony.
2. To hold a Great Office in the Barony of Caer Gwynt, a person must be at least 18 years of age. This can be waived if agreed upon by the respective Regional and Kingdom officers. ALL officers MUST be able to provide proof of SCA, Inc. membership.
3. Other potential officers include: Rapier Marshal, Archery Marshal, Webminister, Minister of Youth, and Chamberlain.
4. Rules for Baronial officers
 - a. All officers (Great or otherwise) shall have a budget of \$100 per year as discretionary funds for the work of the office.
 - b. All baronial officers must be members in good standing as defined in Corpora.
 - c. Baronial officer business meetings will be held once per month. These meetings can be attended either in person or via call-in, video, etc. **Quorum for officer meetings shall be 4 of the Baronial council, 5 once we have Barons (as per VI.3)**
 - d. All baronial officers are required to have a fixed mailing address, reliable email, and reliable working cellphone/telephone access. Approved social media access is strongly encouraged but not mandated.
 - e. Baronial Great Officers shall serve a minimum of two years in that office. They may resign early at the discretion of the Baron(s).
 - f. As per Kingdom law, all officers will send reports as required by Middle Kingdom Law and policy to their Kingdom and regional superiors with a courtesy copy of their reports to the Baron(s) and Baronial seneschal.
 - g. As per Kingdom law, the failure to send in required reports can be held to serve as a resignation from office by the Great Officer of State that the office reports to.
 - h. All Baronial Great Officers shall maintain a minimum of one deputy, who will be prepared to take over the requirements in the event of the officer moving, quitting or being otherwise unable to complete his/her duties. Other officers may have deputies as they choose.
 - i. Most officers may serve as deputies for other officers. The exceptions are: Seneschal may not be deputy to the Exchequer. Exchequer may not be deputy

to the Seneschal. The Baron(s) may not be either Great Officer or deputy to: Seneschal, Exchequer.

- j. **Removal of an officer:** Removal shall be brought up at any monthly meeting, and voted on at the following monthly meeting. Notice shall be posted immediately following the first meeting in the minutes and on standardly used media to allow populace to be present for discussion and vote. 2/3 of all present at the second meeting must vote for removal for the motion to pass.

5. Definition of Baronial offices

- a. **Seneschal** -The seneschal acts as the administrative head of the group and leads business meetings, and is responsible for reporting, as directed, to the regional seneschal.
- b. **Exchequer** - The exchequer, or treasurer, handles the financial matters for the Barony and is responsible for reporting, as directed, to the regional exchequer. The Exchequer is also responsible for maintaining a catalogue of items belonging to the Barony.
- c. **Pursuivant (Herald)** - This officer is responsible for serving as heraldic consultant to the populace of the Barony, heralding Baronial Courts, coordinating field and court heralds for Baronial events, maintaining the Baronial Order of Precedence, and for reporting awards given. The herald is responsible for submitting reports, as directed, to the regional herald.
- d. **Knight's Marshal** - The combat supervisor, the knight marshal administrates Armored Combat (rattan and armor) activities for the group and submits reports to the regional marshal, on behalf of the Barony, as directed. In the absence of marshals for other martial activities, the Knight's Marshal serves as the point of contact for them as well.
- e. **Minister/Mistress of Arts and Sciences** - This office coordinates arts and sciences activities for the group, arranging classes and demonstrations, and leading participants to others who work in fields of their interest. This office shall be responsible for submitting reports to their regional officer, as directed.
- f. **Chronicler** - This office is responsible for publishing the Baronial newsletter, and taking and distributing minutes from business and Baronial meetings. The Chronicler is also responsible for maintaining the history of the Barony.
- g. **Chatelaine** - This office is responsible for the introduction and education of new and prospective members in the culture, customs, and courtesies of the Society. This office is also charged with outreach activities, fostering community relations, and maintaining the Baronial Golden Key loaner garb.
- h. **Webminister** - This office is responsible for maintaining the Baronial website and for ensuring regular updates of the same. The Webminister is also responsible for the maintaining and creating any online user groups, listservs, and social media needed by groups within the Barony. The Webminister reports to the Chronicler and may serve as that office's primary deputy.

- i. **Rapier Marshal** - This office is responsible for assisting with marshaling fencing activities at Baronial events and acting as fencing marshal-in-charge for the Baronial Fencing Championship. This office reports to the Knight's Marshal and may serve as that office's primary deputy.
- j. **Archery Marshal** - This office is responsible for assisting with marshaling archery and thrown weapons activities at Baronial events and acting as archery marshal-in-charge for the Baronial Archery Championship. This office reports to the Knight's Marshal and may serve as that office's primary deputy.
- k. **Minister of Youth** - As per Kingdom law, this office must pass a background check and produce this background check as requested. This office is responsible for the promotion and encouragement of youth activities in the barony. The Minister of Youth reports to the Seneschal and may serve as that office's primary deputy.
- l. **Chamberlain** - While not a voting office, this office is a point of contact for the outside world with the Baron(s), responsible for coordinating the Baron(s) appearances at events, coordinating retainers for the Baron(s), and serving as a general dogsbody as needed for the Baron(s).

6. Baronial Meetings

- a. There will be general Baronial meetings, called moots, once per quarter. In general, these meetings should be Lady Day (March), Midsummers (June), Michaelmas (September), and Yule (December). Half the meetings should be in the Champaign area and half in the Charleston area. A potluck format is desired but not mandated. Public votes are taken on issues and finances, Baronial court held, and champions are chosen at these meetings. Any changes to the Charter will take place at the Quarterly meetings.
- b. Outside of the quarterly meetings, there will be monthly business meetings to give progress reports, acquire signatures, plan events, etc. Any member is welcome to attend the monthly meetings. These meetings may be held electronically.

7. Selection of Officers

- a. The Baronial year will start at the Lady Day Moot.
- b. The term of officers shall be 2 years. Officers may stand for re-election after their 2 year term.
- c. New officers will be voted on at the Yule Moot.
- d. Any officer desiring to step down should announce before December 1 of the year they wish to end service. The announcement should appear in both the minutes, on the website, and on social media.
- e. If a step down must occur before a new officer is elected at the Yule Moot, the primary deputy for that office takes over until the vote.

- f. Nominations for new officers will occur at the Michaelmas Moot meeting. Any member of the populace may nominate anyone for any office.
- g. The vote on officers will proceed by majority rule.
- h. Resignation from baronial office is without prejudice. All change of officer forms must be turned in to all recipients as per kingdom law.
- i. The Barony acknowledges that the Crown and Curia have the right to approve or disapprove any local officer. The 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.

ARTICLE VI - Voting Procedures

1. Members (as per II) in the Barony are permitted to participate in votes/consensus except as proscribed by Kingdom Law or other extenuating circumstances.
2. The format (show of hand, ballot, etc.) for votes/consensus shall be determined by the Baronial Seneschal except where otherwise indicated. The Seneschal may call for a vote via Borda method if s/he feels the result will need a high degree of consensus or the issue is divisive.
3. In order for any meeting to proceed, Quorum must be achieved. Quorum is defined at 50% of the Great officers + 1 present (or 4 great officers, 5 once we have barons). In the event that Quorum is not achieved, the only motion and business that can be conducted is to adjourn.
4. Deputies may be counted for quorum if their officer cannot be present; with the stipulation that one office only gets one vote (officer or deputy) and likewise, one person can only vote as one office (cannot vote as officer for one office and deputy of another).

ARTICLE VII- Baronial Succession

1. Baronial succession shall adhere to the poll requirements outlined in Corpora and Middle Kingdom Law.
2. Potential successors to the sitting Baron(s) shall be nominated at or near the Lady Day quarterly meeting.

3. The Baronial Seneschal shall be responsible for contacting the Kingdom with the need to request a polling.

ARTICLE VIII - Baronial Expenditure Procedures

1. Baronial expenditure processes will adhere to the requirements and laws outlined by Corpora and Middle Kingdom Law.
2. As stated in Article V.1, the Great Officers and Baron(s) comprise the financial committee. The Exchequer acts as the chair of the financial committee. Financial committee meetings can and usually do run concurrent with regular business meetings.
3. All financial decisions will be made at official monthly business meetings (see Article V.6.b). Results of these decisions will be reported in the official minutes of that meeting.
4. As per Kingdom law, the exchequer has a veto for any un-allowable activities the Barony might engage in. The Exchequer does not have a veto for any allowable activities, even if they are undesirable activities. See the Branch Exchequer Handbook p 22 for examples.
5. The financial committee is responsible for vetting all submitted bids for events at least 1 month before those bids are submitted at a quarterly baronial meeting for approval.
6. The financial committee is responsible for vetting any purchases in excess of \$100 at least 1 month before they are considered at a monthly business meeting for approval. The vetting can be waived in emergencies by a 2/3 vote of those present at the monthly business meeting.
7. Monies collected at any Baronial activity will be collected by the Autocrat or person in charge of the activity and then given to the Baronial Exchequer at the earliest available opportunity. The person in charge of the activity will independently report to the Seneschal the amount of funds and date the funds were given to the Exchequer.

8. Anyone wanting to review the Barony's financial documents may contact the Exchequer for a one on one review. The Exchequer will have a copy of the check register at every meeting.
9. This policy will be reviewed once per Baronial reign.

ARTICLE IX - Baronial Champions

1. The current Champion in each area is in charge of competitions for Baronial Championships in their respective areas. They may participate in the activity they are supervising, and may elicit any assistance they need to execute the competition, but are not eligible for the Championship title. Exceptions may be made in extreme situations, at the discretion of the Baron(s).
2. The principal duties of Baronial Champions are to foster the practice of their activity in the Barony and to represent the Barony in their area of expertise. Baronial Champions serve at the pleasure of the Baron(s) and have the honor of attending them at ceremonial functions.
3. The format of competitions for Baronial Championships and the selection of the Champions shall be at the discretion of the Baron(s), in accord with IV.3.m above.