

Minutes of the Imperial Estates Meeting (2013)

Meeting Conducted on December 14, 2013

I. ROLL CALL

A. **Members of the Board of Directors**

1. **President:** Adam Barnhizer **(Present);**
2. **Vice President:** Justin Ashcraft **(Proxy);**
3. **Treasurer:** Jon Green **(Present);**
4. **Secretary:** Stacy Diegel **(Present);** and
5. **Sergeant of Arms:**

B. **Members of the Imperial Estates**

1. **Kingdom of Galandor:** HRM Sir Kheldar **(Present);**
2. **Kingdom of Vega:** Lady Dame Megana Vite **(Present);**
3. **Imperial Peer:** Dame Emlyn Vigamor Enke Ulfhud **(Proxy);**
4. **Imperial Peer:** Dame Ginevra della Cascata **(Proxy);**
5. **Imperial Peer:** Contessa Dame Chimera **(Present);**
6. **Imperial Peer:** Baroness Dame Kyrie Mc Kay **(Present);**
7. **Imperial Peer:** Baron Sir Otto de Bear **(Present);**
8. **Imperial Peer:** Al-Amir al-Faris Mikha'il Ibn 'Abdullah al-Nur al-Din **(Absent);**
9. **Imperial Peer:** Baron Sir Paul de Marseilles **(Present);**
10. **Imperial Peer:** Baroness Dame Isabeau Needlemyer **(Absent);**
11. **Imperial Peer:** Lord Sir Richard "Rabbit" Kirk **(Absent);**
12. **Imperial Peer:** Baron Sir Dae Nadel von Wermacht **(Present);**
13. **Imperial Peer:** Contessa Dame Valdis Hertogafru **(Present);**
14. **Imperial Peer:** Earl Sir Ian Michael Pact **(Present);**
15. **Imperial Peer:** Duke Sir Lassidor Vandolini **(Present);** and

16. **Imperial Peer: Earl Sir Gaelen O'Flaharty (Present).**

C. Quorum

Quorum was met for this Imperial Estates Meeting.

II. OFFICER'S REPORTS

- A. Arts and Sciences**-Things have been progressing well this year.
- B. Combat**-There has been no report of any problems within any of the Territories. There has been some new weapon testing in both Vega and Galandor with mixed results including a realistic boffer which is currently in second level testing.
- C. Exchequer**-Our operating costs are down very slightly from last year due to a small decrease in the cost of insurance. However, our income is down drastically due to the drop in renewing memberships.
- D. Rolls**-Membership cards have been sent out for the Kingdom of Vega. Imperial Rolls has been working with the Rolls Officer in the Kingdom of Galandor.
- E. Sovereign of Arms**-There have been twelve approved submissions over the last year. There have been no significant problems this year.
- F. Webminister**-Things have been working well and nothing negative has happened over the last year.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Proposal No. 1: Creation of the Role of Peerage Secretary**
Submitter: Contessa Dame Valdis Hertogafu

Body of Proposal: Change clause VII.A.5. Create Section VII.B.1.c, Create Section VII.K

5. The Sovereign(s) will notify the appropriate Peerage secretary in that tier Combat, Arts, or Ministry, and rank 1st, 2nd or 3rd who shall contact the member and inform them that they are qualified to have a peer circle called to consider them for advancement as stated in section VII subsection B.

c. The responsibilities of the Peerage Secretary shall be:

- i. To schedule or coordinate Ministry Project or Masterwork pre-approvals for fitness of the project as the appropriate quality hurdle to the peerage
- ii. To coordinate judge selection for judging Ministry Projects and Masterworks, and coordinate selection of a knight combatant for a trial by combat
- iii. To notify the members of the peerage of petitioners to the peerage
- iv. To schedule and coordinate meetings of the peerage in person, print, or electronically - whatever is deemed appropriate by the Peers. Peer circles must be held within 45 days of notification of a qualified and approved petitioner. Barring any objections to the prospective's advancement by the Peer Circle, the prospective shall receive notification of the decision after 30 days of uniform receipt

(after all Peers receive the Perspective's case) but no later than 60 days.

v. To notify the petitioner and sovereign of the decision of the peerage

K. PEERAGE SECRETARY

1. All Kingdom Peerages shall have a Peerage Secretary who will have the responsibility of the smooth functioning of the Peer Circle for business purposes. Specific duties are outlined above in section VII.B.1.c. Peerage Secretaries who are not upholding these duties may be replaced by the Sovereign. Replacement must be upheld at the next Kingdom Estates meeting.

2. The Peerage Secretary shall be elected by the members of the peerage and shall serve for a term of one year. This election shall coincide with the selection of the new Kingdom Sovereign. There is no restriction on the number of terms a Secretary may serve as long as he or she has the approval of the peerage. In the event that no Peer volunteers, the Sovereign shall appoint a member of the Peerage.

3. This is not a Kingdom office. However, it may be awarded ministry points and considered for a Ministry Project following rules outlined elsewhere in this document as deemed appropriate by the Sovereign(s).

SECTION VII: ADVANCEMENT & KNIGHTHOOD

A. Knighthood in the Empire of Chivalry and Steel is an Earned Privilege based on merit and proper demeanor. Knighthood is offered, not requested, and as such it is the duty of the Crown to offer Knighthood to all qualified individuals.

1. Knighthoods of the First and Second Level are Kingdom-Level awards. Third level Knighthood is an imperial level award.

2. Prior to accepting the title of Knight, members must have their personal device submitted to the territorial Sovereign of Arms.

3. The Prospective Peer maintains the right to construct a unique ceremony. While the prospective Peer may choose any knight to present to them the buffet and regalia of Knighthood, the Sovereign Crown remains the bestower of knighthood.

4. The Minister of Rolls shall keep records of every member and notify the Kingdom Sovereign(s) when a member is eligible for advancement.

5. The Sovereign(s) will notify the appropriate Peerage secretary in that tier Combat, Arts, or Ministry, and rank 1st, 2nd or 3rd who shall contact the member and inform them that they are qualified to have a peer circle called to consider them for advancement as stated in section VII subsection B.

B. Kingdom and Imperial Peer Circles

1. In the case of advancement to any of the Ranks of Knighthood, the appropriate Peerage of that Tier and Rank shall hold a Peer Circle.

a. For the first and second ranks of Knighthood, the Peers of the Kingdom where the petitioner resides shall sit in Circle to determine the petitioner's eligibility for advancement. The petitioner shall have the right to present their case for advancement to this Peer Circle, this can be done in person, print, or electronically - whatever is deemed appropriate by the Peers. Any approval of a candidate must be made by 2/3 majority of the Peers in attendance either in person, by phone, or by proxy. The votes of all Peers not in attendance shall be considered as abstentions. Abstentions are not valid votes, Abstentions do not affect the outcome. In the case of advancement to third level, the Prospective must write a letter and pass it on to a current third level Knight. This will be disseminated to the Imperial Peers. Barring any objections to the Perspective's advancement by the Peer Circle, the prospective shall receive notification of approval after 30 days of uniform receipt (after all Peers receive the Perspective's case), but no later than 60 days. Any objections will lead to a Peer Circle discussion, in some format, after 30 days of receipt of the Perspective's argument, but before 60 days as well.

b. For the third rank of Knighthood (Imperial Knight: Knight Champion, Knight Doctor, Knight Premier),

the current Imperial Peers (of all tiers) shall sit in Circle to determine the petitioner's eligibility. This Grand Peer Circle shall be held in accordance with Section VII.B

c. The responsibilities of the Peerage Secretary shall be:

- i. To schedule or coordinate Ministry Project or Masterwork pre-approvals for fitness of the project as the appropriate quality hurdle to the peerage
 - ii. To notify the members of the peerage of petitioners to the peerage
 - iii. To schedule and coordinate meetings of the peerage in print, and or electronically - whatever is deemed appropriate by the peer circle, and must be announced 14 days prior to the meeting in at least 1 official form. Peer circles must be held within 45 days of notification of a qualified and approved petitioner. Barring any objections to the perspective's advancement by the Peer Circle, the prospective shall receive notification of the decision after 30 days of uniform receipt (after all Peers receive the Perspective's case) but no later than 60 days.
 - iv. To notify the petitioner and sovereign of the decision of the peerage
- d. Decisions of a Peer Circle can be appealed in the following manner:
- i. Decisions of the Kingdom Peerage; to
 - ii. Decisions of the Imperial Peerage; to
 - iii. Imperial Estates

D. STANDARD AND GUIDELINES OF CHIVALRY TO BE USED BY ALL PEERS OF THE EMPIRE OF CHIVALRY AND STEEL

1. All Peers shall be courteous to all persons regardless of rank or station during general event attendance.
2. The Peerage shall be the Champions of the Populace, protecting their interests and upholding the rules and laws of the Empire to the best of their ability in all matters;
3. The Peerage shall support, uphold and defend the decisions of the Officers, which are officiating at an event.
 - a. If a Peer believes the Officer to be incorrect, they have the responsibility to take the issue to the Sovereign Crown and ask for their support to correct the Officer.
4. Peers shall maintain and present a good example to the Populace and Spectators of appropriate courtly grace, language (no swearing in the presence of children) and control of public display of abusive emotions.
5. During combat Tournaments, all members of the Combatant Peerage will give Chivalry, or a warning that they do not, to all combatants.
6. During Melee Combat, Combatant Peers may choose to exhibit Chivalry as noted above but are not required to.
7. All other items under General Event Attendance apply to Combatants even while on the Field.

K. PEERAGE SECRETARY

1. All Peerages, including the Imperial Peerage shall have a Peerage Secretary who will have the responsibility of the smooth functioning of the Peer Circle for business purposes. Specific duties are outlined above in section VII.B.1.c. Peerage Secretaries who are not upholding these duties may be replaced by the Sovereign. Replacement must be upheld at the next Kingdom Estates meeting.
2. The Peerage Secretary shall be elected by the members of the peerage and shall serve for a term of one year. There is no restriction on the number of terms a Secretary may serve as long as he or she has the approval of the peerage. In the event that no Peer volunteers, the Sovereign shall appoint a member of the Peerage for the Kingdom Peerages

L. NON-RANKING TITLES

1. The title of Page may be accorded to any person under the age of 10 by any Noble or Knight. The duties of a Page are defined in their Oath of Service.
2. The title of Squire may be accorded to any member at least 10 years of age by any Knight. The Squire will serve the Knight as defined in their Oath of Fealty.
 - a. The Knight's minimum responsibility is to train the Squire in the Knight's areas of expertise.
 - b. A Squire is entitled to wear a red belt, mantle, or baldric as determined by the Knight and Squire.
3. The rank of Apprentice defines a non-binding student-teacher relationship Between any two members of the Empire that does not rise to the level of Page or Squire. As such, an apprentice may be such to a multiple number of teachers

RESULTS OF VOTING: PASSED by the Imperial Estates with the friendly amendments as outlined above. Baron Sir Paul de Marseilles volunteered to be the first Imperial Peerage Secretary. His request was granted by the Imperial Estates. , **Unanimous**

B. Proposal No. 2: Proration of Membership

Submitter: Duke Sir Lassador Vandeloni

Body of Proposal: B. Change section 2 b as follows:

B. DUE DATE FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES

The date for payment of all memberships will be no later the March 31. Any individual membership received after that month will be pro-rated in the following manner: $\$3.00 + \$3.00 * \#$ of months remaining until March $\$3.00 \times \#$ of months remaining until March = total prorated amount due. (At no time will an individual be charged more than \$30.00 per year). Family Memberships will be prorated in the following manner $\$2.50 + \$2.50 * \#$ on months remaining until March ($\$3.00 + \$1.25/\text{family member}$) $\times \#$ of months remaining until March = total pro-rated amount due. (At no time will a family member be charged more than \$25.00 per year)

Ammend the imperial membership form and online payment system to reflect the change.

RESULTS OF VOTING: PASSED by the Imperial Estates. Unanimous

C. Proposal #3: Changing of Age Requirements for Fighters

Submitter: Duke Sir Lassidor

Body of Proposal: C. Change L. I. section VII. E. 1.

- a. Yeoman- A yeoman is a fighter who is not eligible to participate in official Shinai combat due to age (13 11 or under) but may engage in the training of Shinai at official practices supervised by a warranted marshal, with a completed parental consent form.
- b. Man at Arms (1 0 to 49 points) is a fighter qualified by a Marshall who is entitled to participate in all shinai combat and Rapier combat as per the Imperial Manual of Combat.
- c. Guardsman (50 to 124 points) is an experienced fighter entitled to be qualified in Rapier combat as per the Imperial Manual of Combat. Steel combat as per the Imperial Manual of Combat.

- d. Sergeant (125 to 299 points) is a seasoned Combatant entitled to:
- i. be qualified in Steel combat as per the Imperial Manual of Combat;
 - ii. cannot participate in Shinai tournaments; and.
 - iii. wear a black baldric to denote their rank.

Change IMoC Section 1.

D) Age Limitation

- i) The minimum age for a fighter shall be 13 12 years of age. They must have turned into the Lists Officer or Crown Marshal a signed and NOTARIZED form of consent from their parents or legal guardians until the age of majority (18 years of age) has been reached.
- ii) No underage fighter shall be allowed to advance to Rapier until the age of 16 14 years has been reached.
- iii) No underage fighter shall be allowed to advance to Armoured Combat until the age of 18 16 years has been reached.

RESULTS OF VOTING: *REJECTED* by the Imperial Estates.

D. Proposal #4: Reinstatement of Former Members

Submitter: Baroness Dame Kyrie McKay, Terra Norte

Body Of Proposal:

4. Former members may be reinstated upon application in a satisfactory form to the Territorial Estates where the member currently resides.

iv. If a former member fails to renew within the above time frame they lose all points and titles, which may be returned by a 2/3 or better majority vote by the kingdom estates save knighthood which has the additional requirement of passing all appropriate peer circles.

b. These provisions do not apply to anyone who has voluntarily requested a refund of their membership dues.

New Proposal for iv:

If a former member fails to renew with the above time frame all points and titles will be automatically restored once membership has been paid unless member was under orders from a Court of High Justice or banishment. If so, the punishment will still be in place and resumed at time of renewal for points and titles are restored. Knighthoods has the additional requirement of passing all appropriate peer circles.

RESULTS OF VOTING: *The Alternative proposed was PASSED* by the Imperial Estates with amendments which read as follows: "If a former member fails to renew within the time frame, the Sovereign(s), knowing no reason not to approve, may restore all points, titles and knighthoods or may send the Petitioner to the Estates and/or the appropriate Peer Circle(s) once membership has been paid unless the member was under orders from a Court of High Justice or banishment. If so, the punishment will still be in place and resumed at time of renewal before points and titles can be restored"

D. Restoration of Imperial Points and Titles

Upon passage of the above proposal, the King of Galandor restored all ranks and titles of Earl Sir Gaelen O'Flaharty. The Imperial Estates PASSED his request for restoration of Imperial Knighthood.

E. Decisions on Letters of Intent

Several letters of intent were submitted for consideration. Sir Ian Michael Pact's letter of intent for President of the Board of Directors for the 2014-2016 terms was accepted by the Imperial Estates. The Imperial Estates accepted the letter of intent from Devon Gordon / Earl Sir Matthaia of Glen Devon for the position of Vice President. Squire Sven Sorenson's letter of intent for Sergeant of Arms for the Board of Directors was rejected by the Imperial Estate. He does not meet the qualification of the office. Baroness Dame Anne of Brackley's letter of intent for Imperial Mistress of Arts and Sciences was accepted by the Imperial Estates. Jon Green / Duke Sir Lassidor's Letter of Intent for the position of Treasurer/Imperial Exchequer was accepted by the Imperial Estates. Contessa Dame Chimera's letter was accepted for the position of Imperial Sovereign of Arms and Earl Sir Vladimir's letter was accepted for the positions of Board of Director Secretary and Imperial Minister of Combat. As no one had applied for the position of Imperial Rolls, Duke Sir Lassidor volunteered and was accepted. All other positions remain unfilled and will be handled by the incoming Board of Directors.

G. Changing Territories for Membership

Members changing territory's or kingdoms all members are assumed to be part of the territory the physically reside in unless they are granted a change by the sovereign(s) with the consent of any involved territorial heads.

Members cannot hold office or count towards size of any territory they do not physically reside in but may still hold kingdom and imperial offices.

V. DISCUSSION

There was no significant discussion.

VI. ADJORNMENT

The Imperial Estates meeting was called adjourned by the President of the Board of Directors.