

Charter of the Province of Tree-Girt-Sea

Preamble

The Province of Tree-Girt-Sea wishes to establish this Charter in order to document procedures for managing the official business of the Province. We wish to promote the orderly transition of officers, and provide guidelines as to their duties and our expectations.

We assume that all participants in Tree-Girt-Sea activities are honorable people with good intentions who would prefer to act in good faith and courtesy toward one another. Nevertheless, it sometimes happens that honorable people can have misunderstandings over expectations, fairness, or proper procedure. This document is intended to reduce those misunderstandings by providing a clear set of guidelines which the Province has agreed to follow.

This charter is as binding as we choose, however it does not have the force of law. If it is in conflict with Kingdom Law or Society Policy in any area, Kingdom Law and Society Policy take precedence.

Officers

We expect that the people holding offices will change regularly. The first meeting after Spring Coronation is designated as the regular officer selection meeting. The first term for all officers will be two years. If, after that first term, a person wishes to continue in the office, they may stand for selection again, but all terms after the first will be for one year. There is no limit on the number of consecutive terms a person may serve, but they will stand for selection annually after the initial two year term.

People who take office out of cycle (i.e. not at the first meeting after Spring Coronation) are to be considered interim officers, serving until the next officer selection meeting. At that time, they may stand for selection, and then serve a normal (two year) first term. We note that Kingdom Law and Society policies do not differentiate between interim and any other kind of officer. The only reason we wish to designate them as interim is to maintain an orderly change of office holder at a specific time of year.

Selection

The officer selection process will begin 3 months before Spring Coronation. Starting at this time, announcement will be made at each meeting and newsletter publication which officer terms are expiring, so everyone knows what is happening.

People interested in taking an office must announce their interest no later than two meetings before Spring Coronation. This includes incumbent officers with an expiring term who wish to remain in office. That allows for discussion, interviewing, campaign speeches, or whatever other means, if any, the populace deem appropriate for determining the suitability of someone for office at the meeting before Spring Coronation.

At the meeting after Spring Coronation, the Seneschal will run the meeting to determine the group consensus for each office, according to policies set out elsewhere in this document.

Expectations

We have these expectations of our officers:

- ◆ All officers will read and follow the Kingdom Law and Society Policies that apply to their office. Kingdom Law and Society Policy supersede anything in this Charter.
- ◆ All officers must read this Charter between the time they announce they are interested in an office and the officer selection meeting. Deputies and people who take office outside the normal officer selection process are expected to read this Charter within their first month in office.
- ◆ People holding offices which are required by Kingdom Law or Society Policy must have an emergency deputy. The emergency deputy is not expected to hold the office any longer than necessary to select someone to fill the office in an orderly manner.
- ◆ Officers are at liberty to choose their own deputies. There is no limit to the number of deputies an officer may have.
- ◆ Officers will report to the populace on the state of affairs appropriate to their office at each regular group meeting.
- ◆ The Seneschal will ensure there are at least 9 monthly meetings per year.
- ◆ The Herald will maintain and make public a local Order of Precedence.

Unmet Expectations

If members of Tree-Girt-Sea are dissatisfied with an officer's performance, the issue should be resolved as soon as possible. The mechanism selected for reconciling performance issues is expected to take a conciliatory approach. The responsibility of resolving the issue will rest upon all members of Tree-Girt-Sea.

Officers who are unable to meet expectations should step down.

Events

Bidding

An event bid should be in writing, and address these topics:

- ◆ a proposed date for the event
- ◆ a proposed site or sites for the event
- ◆ who the autocrat will be
- ◆ a general description of the event's theme, content, and possible activities
- ◆ proposed event staff covering major positions based on the planned activities
- ◆ a rough budget estimate, recognizing that site rental may be an unknown at this point

Progress Reports

Once an event bid has been accepted, a report on the event is expected at each regular group meeting until the event occurs.

Contracts

All contracts signed on behalf of the Province shall be reviewed before signing, by at least three people: the Seneschal, the event Autocrat (if there is one), and at least one other person.

Populace

Membership

Membership in Tree-Girt-Sea is self determined. People who declare they are members of Tree-Girt-Sea will be considered members except when Kingdom Law or Society Policy requires a determination by ZIP code. People who accept an officer position in groups other than Tree-Girt-Sea are considered to have declined membership in Tree-Girt-Sea for the duration of their tenure.

Communication

Electronic communication is suitable for discussion, but decision making may happen only at publicly announced meetings. In case of emergency, the seneschal, in consultation with officers and others as seem appropriate, may make decisions on behalf of Tree-Girt-Sea, but must explain and justify the decision to the populace of Tree-Girt-Sea as soon as reasonably possible.

Group Decision Making

We prefer to make group decisions through a consensus building process. The seneschal should use their best judgment as to whether the preference of the group should be taken with an anonymous poll or by a show of hands. In the case of an anonymous poll, the aggregate results (totals) will be made public. In all cases, a written proxy will be honored.

Amendments

The text of a proposed amendment to this Charter shall be published three months before voting, and will be reviewed at each monthly meeting between the time of publication and the meeting at which a vote occurs. Amendments must be passed by a majority vote to be accepted. Written proxies will be honored.

Appendices

Contract Review Overview (Phebe)

Event Planning Aids (???)