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The Customary of the Barony of Borealis

Kingdom of Avacal
The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA)

Version 1.0
May 4, 2015

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Article I. Scope

Section 1.01 This is the Borealis Customary, as permitted by Corpora (I.A), which is intended to aid in the smooth running of the Barony of Borealis, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.

Section 1.02 This Customary is superseded by Federal, Provincial and local Laws and Ordinances, the Governing Documents of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and the Laws of the Kingdom of Avacal. This Customary may be amended by an action of the Baron and Baroness of Borealis in consultation with the Seneschal(e).

Section 1.03 This Customary is not to be construed as law of any nature, but a document of customs, local policy, and implementation procedures for the branch's operation.

Article II. History

Section 2.01 It is the Custom to maintain a history of the branch. It is the policy for the history to be available to all members of the branch and The History is currently located on the website, at <http://www.borealis.avacal.net>, and the Baronial Library. The below are keystone events for the branch.

- a) 1981 - successful in formally becoming a shire of the Kingdom of the West in the Principality of An Tir.
- b) 1983, our name and arms were registered with the College of Heraldry. The arms blazon "Azure, two wolf's heads erased adored and conjoined at the neck argent within a laurel wreath Or" and the badge blazon "Azure, two wolf's heads erased adored and conjoined at the neck issuant from the battlements of a demi-tower argent".
- c) In 1984, Borealis was made a Barony. Conrad was Knighted and He and Cristiona became Baron and Baroness Borealis.
- d) Permission was sought and granted by the Kingdom and the BoD to form a Barony out of Cantons. Thus the Canton of Aquilon (later to become Veraquilon then Vatnsdalr) was formed in Edmonton. Only by having no baronial core group would this arrangement be allowed. Later, Schwanstein and Bordergate dissolved as groups, but Veraquilon, and Stonewolf (Lakeland) still form the Barony.
- e) 1993 - Sir Conrad and Cristiona would step down as Baron and Baroness. Rorik and Helena become the new Baron and Baroness. Rorik was Crown Prince, so the Baronial Champion, Albrecht von Rugen served as Castilian during their Reign.
- f) 1994 - Rorik and Helena stepped down as Baron and Baroness and chose Adeline and Alfheim as new Castilians and later were made the Baron and Baroness.
- g) 1999 - Adeline and Alfheim step down as Baron and Baroness. John Macleod the Black and Kirstin MacBheath then became the new Baron and Baroness. Their Majesties accepted a group in Grande Praire as an Incipient Canton of Vangaard (now Vinjar) as a Canton of Borealis.

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- h) 2001 - John MacLeod the Black and Kirstin MacBheath step down as Baron and Baroness. Magnus and Sidonia step up as new Baron and Baroness.
- i) 2003 - A polling to determine if the people of Borealis still wished to have this unique structure. The Barony is vast.
- j) 2004 - The Barony of Borealis, as it was known as a 3 groups, was dissolved. Three Shires grew from this, Vatnsdalr (Edmonton), Stonewolf (Cold Lake), and Vinjar (Grande Prairie)
- k) 2004 - In July, Vatnsdalr (Edmonton) was officially renamed the Shire of Borealis by the BoD.
- l) 2006 - November, Borealis resumed Baronial status and Vik Vikingsson and Inga the Unfettered became the new Baron and Baroness.
- m) 2008 - Vik Vikingsson won the Crown Tournament and Reme the Burgundian served as Castilian during their reign.
- n) 2011 - Vik and Inga step down as Baron and Baroness. Reme the Burgundian and Divera della Cava would become the new Baron and Baroness.
- o) 2012 - The first Baronial Bardic Championship was held at Yule Feast.

Article III. Structure and Officers

Section 3.01 As in the original charter, it is the custom to have fun. In order to have fun it will be the policy to have an organizational structure with procedures within that structure to enable the populace to have fun.

Section 3.02 General policy for all Officers includes, where applicable, but is not limited to:

- (a) Being a paid member of the Society.
- (b) Contacting the office's Kingdom superior as soon as possible after assuming an office.
- (c) If one's office is a Required Office, ensuring that a trained warrantable Contingency Deputy exists.
- (d) Act as a general clearinghouse of information regarding local resources, instructors, and suppliers for matters relating to the office.
- (e) Each officer is expected to maintain an inventory of the office, including regalia and reference materials. The inventory will be reported as the Chamberlain specifies, and in any case, not less than once a year. All papers, properties, etc. of the office, transfer with that office to the new officer.
- (f) To work with Event Stewards to ensure that the duties of the office as it relates to an event, are fulfilled.
- (g) To have access to a copy of "The Aurora" the official baronial newsletter.
- (h) Ensure that accurate and complete contact information is provided to the Chronicler for inclusion in "The Aurora".
- (i) Providing copies of written monthly report to the Seneschal(e), and the Coronets either by email or at the business meeting.
- (j) Attending the business meeting as often as possible.

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Section 3.03 Term and Office Procedures

(a) Warranting of Baronial Officers: While required Officers of the Barony must be warranted at the Kingdom level, all Officers of Borealis will also be warranted on a Baronial level. Following the example of the laws of the Kingdom of Avacal, Baronial Officers will be warranted for a 2-year term.

(i) 1-year and/or 2-year extensions may be granted upon consultation of the Baron and Baroness with the Seneschal(e) and the Kingdom Officer.

(ii) On expiration of the warrant, other candidates may be considered.

(b) Each opening for a new Officer will include a job description of the office and state that interested parties should apply to the incumbent officer with a copy to the Seneschal(e), the Baron, and the Baroness. Notice will be put in the Baronial newsletter, The Aurora, at least 3 months prior to the warrant expiration, listed on additional official and unofficial publications including electronic media as deemed prudent, and announced at business meetings. Notices will continue to be published in The Aurora, and announced at business meetings until the position has been filled.

(i) If the retiring officer wishes to recommend a deputy who is willing and qualified to fill the office, and there are no other applicants, then input from the populace will be sought. If the Seneschal(e), and the Baron and Baroness concur with the choice, the deputy will be recommended as the successor.

(ii) Other interested parties may submit an application for the position to the incumbent officer (if applicable) and Seneschal(e), and the Baron and Baroness, noting their interest and experience. Applications must also include one copy of the applicant's SCA membership card.

(iii) The Seneschal(e) and the Baron and Baroness may interview all applicants.

(c) Selection of new Officers will be decided by the Seneschal(e) in conjunction with the Baron and Baroness. The successor's name will then be forwarded on to the appropriate Kingdom Officer for final approval.

(i) In the case of the Seneschal(e), the selection process will be identical to other officers except letters of intent are given to the Baron and Baroness.

(d) The new officer will serve on a provisional basis pending confirmation by their Kingdom Superior.

(e) The Seneschal(e) acting with the advice and consent of the Baron and Baroness has the authority to appoint interim officers as needed. (In the event of sudden resignations, death, extreme negligence, or other emergent situations.)

(i) Baron and Baroness, after consulting with others, shall contact the Kingdom Seneschal(e) and request approval of an interim Seneschal(e).

(f) Selection of the Seneschal(e) and Exchequer may have additional procedures as determined by the Baron and Baroness.

Section 3.04 Removal and Resignation Policy and Procedures

(a) Grounds for dismissal by the Seneschal(e) in conjunction with the Baron and Baroness and the officer's superior shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(i) The officer has demonstrated a substantial failure to perform the duties of the office after having been given notice of the nature of the duties neglected and having been given a reasonable opportunity to correct these failures. For example three consecutive business meetings without a report.

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(ii) The officer has willfully abused the office by using it to hinder or annoy others, or to advance some purpose inconsistent with the trust of that office.

(ii) The effectiveness of the officer has been impaired to a substantial degree due to personal reasons or a breakdown in the officer's ability to deal with the Baron and Baroness, and/or the Seneschal(e) the officer's superior, the officer's deputies and subordinates and/or the populace with whom the officer must work.

(iii) The officer has demonstrated a willful failure to abide by governing documents of the Branch, the Kingdom and or the Society.

(iv) If the Officer has been banished by the Crown for any reason.

(v) The Officer has behaved in a manner that would harm the Barony including but not limited to being convicted and imprisoned by a legal court of law.

(b) Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Seneschal(e), the Baron and Baroness and their Kingdom Officer (if applicable). Any such resignation shall take effect as of the date of specified therein, or if no date is specified, the resignation will be effective as of the date of receipt of the letter.

(c) Grounds for dismissal of the Seneschal(e) will be identical to other officers except letters are given to the Baron and Baroness and the Kingdom Seneschal(e). The Baron and Baroness in conjunction with the Kingdom Seneschal(e) will make the final decision.

Section 3.05 Baron and/or Baroness are the direct and appointed representative of the Crown for the Barony. It is the custom for the populace to be ruled by a benevolent Baron and Baroness that listens to the consensus of the populace.

(a) It will be the policy for the Baron and/or Baroness Serving to act as the ceremonial Head of State for the Barony, including, but not limited to, hosting visiting Royalty, conducting such Courts as are necessary for presenting awards, prizes, recognitions, honours and memberships in the Orders of the Barony, also presenting Awards, Orders, etc. delegated to them by the Crown, and providing pomp and ceremony for Baronial events.

(i) The Baron and Baroness serve at the pleasure of the Crown in accordance with Kingdom Law, are allowed to serve up to two consecutive three year terms. As the end of the first term approaches the Seneschal(e) will inquire as to the Baron and Baroness intentions.

(ii) If they wish to remain the Baron and Baroness the Seneschal(e) will co-ordinate a confidence polling of the populace in accordance with Kingdom Law.

(iii) If they wish to step aside, the Baron and Baroness will ask for those that wish to serve. Then follow the process detailed in Kingdom Law.

(b) For the purposes of adherence to Society and Kingdom Policy as well as the Customary Section

3.02, the Baron and Baroness are to be considered as Officers of the Barony and must therefore maintain membership in the Society, among the other duties inherent in all officers with the exception of required deputies.

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Section 3.06 It is the custom and policy to maintain those officers that are required to retain baronial status. Those offices are delineated in Kingdom law and will be referred to as Greater Officers.

(a) The Seneschal(e): It is the custom and policy that the day-to-day operations be managed by the Seneschal(e) in conjunction with the wishes of the Baron and Baroness. The Seneschal(e) is the administrative head and legal representative of the Barony. As such, the Seneschal(e) is responsible for smooth functioning and continued communication between the Officials of the Barony. It is the policy that the Duties and Responsibilities are as described in the Avacal Handbook with the following additions:

(i) Act as Moderator at Baronial business meetings. If unable to attend, ensuring that a moderator acceptable to the Baron and Baroness is present.

(ii) Ensure that business meetings are conducted in accordance with the Customary.

(b) The Herald: Acts as the voice of the Crown, and thus of the Crown's Representative, and the Baronial Baron and Baroness. In the Barony, the Baronial Herald has the title of Pursuivant. Duties and Responsibilities are as described in the Avacal Handbook.

(c) The Marshall: Is responsible for the conduct of Society-legal armored within the Barony.

Duties and Responsibilities are as described in the Avacal Handbook with the following addition:

(i) Supporting deputies, which include the Baronial Armoured Marshal, Baronial Rapier Marshal, the Baronial Archer, and the Baronial Youth Combat Officer.

(d) The Minister of Arts and Sciences: Responsible for fostering the practice of period arts and sciences within the Barony. Duties and responsibilities are as described in the Avacal Handbook with the following addition:

(i) Supporting deputies, which could include the Games Minister and Bardic Deputy.

(ii) Managing and/or supporting any Baronial Arts and Sciences or Bardic Competition(s).

(e) The Exchequer: The Treasurer of the Barony. Duties and responsibilities are as described in the An Tir Handbook with the following addition of overseeing deputies, which include:

(i) The Chamberlain, who is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date inventory of the Barony's physical assets and regalia, their value, condition, the maker, instructions for maintenance, any insurance required, and any other pertinent information.

(ii) Financial Committee Clerk who acts as the fifth member of the Financial Committee who maintains meeting notes and submits the minutes to the Chronicler.

(f) The Chatelaine is the chief newcomers welcome officer for the Barony. Duties and responsibilities are as described in the Avacal Handbook with the following addition:

(i) Supporting deputies, which include: Gold Key Officer.

Section 3.07 Other Greater Officers of the Barony

(a) The Chronicler acts as Editor and publishes "The Aurora." Duties and responsibilities are as described in the Avacal Handbook with the following addition:

(i) Supporting deputies, which include: e-list moderator.

(ii) Keep the Baronial History.

(b) The Webminister. Duties and responsibilities are defined in the Society Webminister's Handbook and include maintaining the Baronial website and ensuring all host/domain name fees are kept current.

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(c) The Baronial Scribe. Duties and responsibilities are as described in the Avacal Handbook with the following addition:

(i) Promoting the scribal arts within the Barony & creating opportunities for learning the scribal arts. Working with the Baron and Baroness in the design and creation of Baronial charters, invitations, announcements and other scribal-related documents. Coordinating with the Baron and Baroness prior to each Baronial event the number of charters that will be needed for the event and ensuring that an adequate supply is available for use. Keeping a list of the active scribes in the Barony.

Section 3.08 It is the custom and the policy to maintain offices in addition to the Greater Offices know as the Lesser Offices. Those not listed above are as follows and may be added to or changed at the Seneschal(e)'s, in consultation with the Baron and Baroness, discretion.

(a) The Chirurgeon: Duties and responsibilities are as described in the Avacal Handbook.

(b) The Families Activities Coordinator: Duties and responsibilities are as described in the Avacal Handbook and are performed in accordance with established Society and Kingdom policies. It is our custom to educate the children of the Barony. The Families Activities Coordinator by policy is not a babysitting service. The Families Activities Coordinator organizes activities for children with parents at Baronial events. This office requires a background check provided by the SCA.

Article IV. Standing Committees

Section 4.01 Financial Committee: A committee that, with consultation of the Barony and following the Baronial Fiscal Policy, decides financial matters.

Section 4.02 Customaries Committee: A committee, that works to keep the Customary current.

(a) The Seneschal(e) in conjunction with the Baron and Baroness will review the customary each February for the purpose of soliciting recommended changes. These recommendations will be printed in The Aurora during the months of March and April. The final decision on the proposed changes will be made at a business meeting in May (either the regular meeting or a special meeting, as determined by the Baron, the Baroness and the Seneschal(e)).

(b) More frequent proposed changes to the Customary may be suggested at any Business meeting and will be printed in The Aurora for two months prior to any final changes.

(c) Copies of the Customary will be available to the populace yearly at the May Business meeting. Note: If someone wishes a current copy of the Customary, it may be obtained from the Seneschal. The current version will also be available on the Baronial website.

Article V. Meetings

Section 5.01 It is the custom to hold the following meetings.

Section 5.02 Financial Committee meeting is held 15 minutes prior to the monthly business meeting each month in the same location as the business meeting and other times as required.

(a) The actions of the Financial Committee are further delineated in the "Fiscal Policy" document.

(b) It is the policy that budgets for proposed events are submitted and questions answered. The Financial committee does not award bids, just evaluates them from a fiscal point of view.

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Section 5.03 The Business Meeting is held once each month or more often as needed.

- (a) At the Business meeting, it is the custom that each Officer is given an opportunity to report on the activities of their office.
- (b) It is the Custom that the Baron and Baroness speak to the Barony about their wishes, concerns and congratulations, and is not limited in subject or scope.
- (c) It is the custom that old and new business be discussed which includes but is not limited to: status of events that have been awarded, awarding events, seeking consensus of the Barony, Office openings, Committee reports, and any other business relating to the operation of the Barony.
- (d) It is the custom to ask for "Oh by the Way" which includes but is not limited to general announcements of interest to the Barony.
- (e) It is the goal of the meeting to be less than one hour; however, the custom is that it will take as long as it takes.
- (f) It is the tradition that the Chronicler compiles notes of the meeting and publishes the reports in the next issue of "The Aurora."
- (g) It is the custom to socialize after the conclusion of the meeting.

Section 5.04 It is the custom to give the populace many opportunities to have fun.

Other additional special interest meetings are listed in The Aurora as they are scheduled.

Article VI. Financial Matters

Section 6.01 These are delineated in Borealis Baronial Fiscal Policy.

Article VII. Events

Section 7.01 It is the Custom for Borealis to hold Events

Section 7.02 Bid Procedure

- (a) Bids may be submitted anytime and are awarded at the business meeting no earlier than nine months before the projected event.
- (b) If only one viable bid is received, it will be awarded.
- (c) If multiple bids are received, first an attempt will be made to reach a consensus of the bidders as to a single bid. If no consensus is possible, the Seneschal(e), Baron and Baroness shall award the bid.
- (d) If the Event Steward is lacking in experience a mentor may be assigned by the Seneschal(e).
- (e) If there is no bid by the award deadline, the event will be awarded to the first group to present a viable bid. At three months before scheduled event time, if no bids have been received, the event may be re-evaluated or canceled.
- (f) It is the policy that the Event Steward is a deputy of the Seneschal(e) and the Feast Steward is a deputy of the Event Steward.
- (g) It is the tradition that each Baronial Officer and each Event Steward work together.
- (h) It is not required that each event extends more than one day nor that it requires a feast.
- (i) It is the custom that no one Event Stewards the same event perennially.

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Section 7.03 The Custom is to hold the following events:

- (a) Yule: an event held in the winter, traditionally in mid December. This event hosts The Baronial Bardic Championship.
- (b) Silverwolf; this event is typically held in the mid-June It is the home of the Armoured Combat, Rapier, Archery, and Arts & Sciences Championships.
- (d) Winter War; traditionally held in late winter/early spring.
- (e) Sergeant's Trials are held at the discretion of the Baroness. This is considered a joint effort by all three Baronies and is considered an Avacal event for calendar purposes only.

Section 7.04 Other events may be proposed as either a onetime event or recurring event.

Section 7.05 It is the tradition that the Barony bid a Kingdom level event on a regular basis, not necessarily annually.

Section 7.06 THUA's are encouraged to be held for the pleasure of the populace as often as is practicable and may be included as part of any event.

Article VIII. Champions

Section 8.01 It is required, that Baronial Champions be paid members of the Society. It is required that Champions swear an oath of either fealty or service to the Baron and Baroness.

- (a) Archery
- (b) Armored Fighter (Heavy)
- (c) Arts and Sciences
- (d) Bardic
- (e) Rapier

Section 8.02

As Baronial Champions are held in high esteem, their site fees are waived at all Barony of Borealis events.

Article IX. Sergeants

Section 9.01 The Sergeants of Borealis form the Baronial Elite exemplars of Chivalry and Knowledge.

- (a) They are selected by rigorous Trials that test their martial abilities and breadth of knowledge in a variety of areas, which includes the gentler arts and courtly behavior. Originally developed to bring An Tirian fighters to the notice of Peers in the West, their role is changing to fit the current needs of the Baronies throughout the Kingdom.
- (b) They are expected to serve as good examples of chivalry and etiquette. They act as advisors and teachers in their area(s) of expertise.

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Section 9.02 The Sergeants of Borealis are focused in different specialties.

- (a) Sergeants, whose area of expertise are armored combat.
- (b) Yeomen, whose area of expertise are combat archery, target archery, and thrown weapons.
- (c) Gallants, whose area of expertise are rapier combat.
- (d) Lancers, whose area of expertise are the equestrian arts and sciences.
- (e) Courtiers and Wardens.
 - a. Courtier Artisans whose expertise are Arts and Sciences.
 - b. Courtier Steward whose expertise are Service.
 - c. Warden Artisans whose expertise are target archery, and knowledge of hunting/tracking.

Article X. Baronial Awards

Section 10.01 One of the privileges of being a Barony was the right to create and bestow Baronial awards. This right has been exercised in the creation of a number of awards and orders to recognize outstanding efforts of members of the populace in both service and the arts & sciences, as well as accomplishments of merit.

Section 10.02 Members of the populace may recommend individuals for any award, both Baronial and Kingdom level. The Baron and Baroness invite and encourage award recommendations of all types as bestowing recognition is one of the chief pleasures of their office.

Section 10.03 Awards and descriptions

- (a) The Order of the Decorated Letter: Presented for outstanding service to Barony.
- (b) The Order of the Wolfs Paw: Given to those who show outstanding performance in, or service to, the arts & sciences.
- (c) The Cup of Borealis: For excellence in persona development. One one member of populace may hold the cup at any given time. It is presented by the Baron and Baroness (who can consult the current recipient), and may be passed on in court by the last person to hold the cup, if the Baron and Baroness so desire.
- (d) Golden Spoon: Given to those who consistently prepare and execute notable feasts for those of the Barony of Borealis
- (e) Brewmeister: Given to members of the populace who have shown excellence in the art of brewing, and donation of such to the Baron/Baroness for use as gifts.
- (f) Order of the Silverwolf: Presented to the Champions of Heavy, Light, Rapier and Arts & Sciences upon completion of their term as champion.

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Article XI. Other Traditions

Section 12.01 Absent Friends: It is the custom within Borealis to recognize and honour those members of the Barony that have passed on.

- (a) By tradition, the Baronial Herald is responsible for asking members present to offer the toasts.
- (b) By tradition, the following toasts should be offered in this order:
 - (i) The King and Queen
 - (ii) The Royal Heirs (if any at the time)
 - (iii) The Baron and Baroness of Borealis.
 - (iv) Any visiting dignitaries at the discretion of the Baron and Baroness.
 - (v) Absent Friends

Article XII. Dissolution

Section 13.01 As prescribed in Kingdom Law and Corporate Policy.