

Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.
Barony of Black Diamond
October, 2011

Branch Financial Policy

1. This Policy

1.1 Purpose:

This document will provide financial policies and controls for the Barony of Black Diamond in accordance with the laws of the land, regulations of the Society and of the Kingdom of Atlantia. It shall serve as our operational protocol for financial matters.

1.2 This policy is superseded by: Kingdom Exchequer Policy, Kingdom Financial Policy, Kingdom Law, Society Exchequer Policy, Corpora, State, and Federal Law. This policy replaces all previous financial policies.

1.3 This policy may be reviewed at any business meeting. As each Seneschal takes office, and each January thereafter, the populace will review and re-ratify the Financial Policy. Changes to this policy must be enacted by a majority of the populace as defined in 2.6 (below). The proposed change must first be published in any form deemed by Kingdom to be "official", and in any other forms necessary to reach the majority of the populace. Approved changes made to this Financial Policy shall be announced in the next publication of the Baronial Newsletter.

1.4 The current Financial Policy will be published annually in the Baronial newsletter.

1.5 The operating copy of the Financial Policy shall be made available on the Baronial website.

1.6 The Exchequer shall maintain the signed and dated original copy of the policy. This signed copy will be considered the binding document in the case of a dispute. The Seneschal must also receive and retain a copy of the signed document.

1.7 Clarification of terms:

1.7a Baronial "member" is defined as currently paid member(s) in good standing of the society.

1.7b "Budget" refers to an annual budget, event budget or fund raising budget.

1.7c "Committee" or "Committee Member" always refers to the financial committee or a member thereof.

1.7d "Business Meeting" refers to the monthly Barony business meeting, not to a committee meeting.

1.7e "Exchequer" refers to the Baronial Exchequer unless otherwise qualified.

1.7f "Seneschal" refers to the Baronial Seneschal unless otherwise qualified.

2. Financial Committee

2.1 The group Financial Committee shall consist of the Exchequer, the Seneschal, and a third person to be elected annually by the populace at the first business meeting of the year, or as a replacement is needed. Each member of the Financial Committee must be a paid member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc, and be at least 18 years of age.

2.2 Members of the Financial Committee shall have one vote and recuse themselves from voting on any financial decisions in which there is a conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety. In the event that someone must recuse themselves, the remaining Baronial officers and the Coronets present, all voting as one, will fill that role.

2.3. A. The Financial Committee may meet at any time in person, over the telephone, or by email to conduct business. Every member of the financial committee MUST be informed of all financial matters and MUST be included in all votes taken as a committee for a vote to be valid. The Exchequer shall report to the populace any business conducted by the Financial Committee during their regular report at the next business meeting.

2.3. B. In addition to 2.3.a, every member of the financial committee MUST be able to respond to questions and financial matters within 72 hours of initial contact. Phone calls and electronic communication (e-mails) are official forms of communication; and therefore, committee members must have valid working phone numbers and email addresses with this information available to members of the committee.

2.4 The Financial Committee shall review all proposed expenditures and may authorize any expenditure up to \$200 or 10% of the group's unallocated funds, whichever is less.

2.5 The Financial Committee shall refer to vote by the populace any requested expenditure in excess of its permitted maximum; they may refer to vote by the populace any requested expenditure below their permitted maximum.

2.6 All populace votes to approve or disallow expenditures shall be in accordance with Black Diamond voting policy of every paid member that resides in the Barony and is present at a regularly scheduled business meeting will receive one vote, provided that a minimum of seven paid members are present and a simple majority will decide. For the purposes of this policy, residency in the Barony includes students that are enrolled at a school located within the Barony's zip codes. Proof of membership may be required in any form generally acceptable within the Kingdom of Atlantia (Acorn, Membership Card, etc.) Votes will be taken by holding up proof of Membership. In the event of a tie, the motion being voted on will not pass because there is not a MAJORITY vote to pass the motion.

2.8 Committee members may designate another member as an alternate to represent their office and/ or vote as their proxy at a Financial Committee meeting. Such designation must be communicated in writing (e-mail acceptable) to the Seneschal in advance of a scheduled meeting.

Baronial Financial Committee Responsibilities:

2.9 The Committee is responsible for reviewing the financial policy and proposing changes for the Barony, approving financial activities, and keeping the populace informed of any changes or decisions made from month to month.

2.10 The Committee will be responsible for creating a budget annually which will provide guidelines for financial activities and the creation of any permanent or temporary funds.

2.11 The members of the committee have the responsibility to report an impropriety or any violations of law or of Society, Kingdom or Baronial policies and controls to the Baronial Exchequer and Seneschal or to the Regional deputy Exchequer and Seneschal as deemed appropriate.

3. Non-Event Spending:

3.1. As of May 2011, "small expenditures" are defined as \$200 or less, "large expenditures are defined as \$500 or more, and "intermediate" is anything in between those values.

3.2 Small expenditures may be approved by:

1. The Financial committee, not to include the person requesting the expenditure, OR

2. By bringing forth a motion at a business meeting. The motion may be voted on if requested, or the Seneschal may declare it approved by General Consent.

3.3 Intermediate expenditures are to be presented for discussion as new business at a business meeting. They may be voted on at the meeting in which they are presented, or the Seneschal may table the motion for further discussion and/or publication, and defer the vote to a future meeting.

3.4 All large expenditures to a single vendor are to be proposed as new business at a business meeting, and the opinions of the populace solicited. The motion must then be published, in any form deemed by Kingdom to be "official", and in any other forms necessary to reach the majority of the populace. Following publication, the motion may be voted on by the Financial Committee at any subsequent business meeting.

3.5 For any expense where a cash advance form is used, the purchases should be made within 30 days and the receipts are due at the next business meeting. The financial committee may grant a one month extension to this requirement.

4. Emergency Spending:

4.1 An emergency expense is defined as any intermediate or large financial transaction which, if NOT entered into, would cause the group harm, and which must be concluded before the normal procedure for that type of expense can be enacted.

4.2 An emergency expense must be approved by the financial committee members and two additional officers. The Baronial financial committee members along with the additional officers on the emergency committee must be in agreement and the Exchequer will keep a record of the expense, the reason it could not wait for normal procedure, officers contacted and their responses, and shall announce this information at the next business meeting, and publish it in the minutes and in the first available issue of the Edicts and Epistles.

4.3 The person requesting an expense, or any person for whom it may constitute a conflict of interest, may not be one of the five voting officers.

4.4 The emergency financial committee may not spend/ allot funds equal to or greater than 40% of the Barony's unallocated funds.

5. Budgets:

5.1 The Financial Committee may elect to allot funds for the use of various activities within the Barony. Any member of the populace may present a Budget Proposal at any business meeting, for consideration by the populace. The Proposal must then be published, in any form deemed by Kingdom to be "official", and in any other forms necessary to reach the majority of the populace. Following publication, the Proposal may be voted on as outlined in 2.6 at any subsequent business meeting.

5.2 The Proposal shall specify what activities we wish to provide with funds, the dollar amount for each, the time period for which funds will be available, and name one or two people to be in charge of the

funds for each activity. The allotted funds will be considered to be small or intermediate expenditures pre-approved for the named persons, so long as all expenditures are allowable under all applicable SCA policies, and appropriate to the activity involved.

5.3 What is an "allowable" expense is determined by the Exchequer, by consulting policy. If the appropriateness of the proposed expenditure is dubious, the decision whether to reimburse it will be made by the Financial Committee at a business meeting.

5.4 Allotted funds are available for a maximum of 6 months, at the end of which time all unused funds will return to the Baronial General Fund. Shorter time periods may be specified in the Budget Proposal.

5.5 No single allotment shall exceed the defined limit for an intermediate expense.

5.6 No budget shall allocate funds reserved for other events as per Kingdom and Society policy and all other contractual and operating obligations.

5.7 If at any time the Barony finds itself short of funds in the General Fund for necessary expenses, a motion may be made at any business meeting to reduce the budget currently in place in any way the Financial Committee may agree upon. Such a motion need NOT be published before being voted upon.

6. Events:

6.1 The Event Financial Committee shall consist of the Financial Committee as stated in 2.1. The BID selection process must also include the Coronets.

6.2 An Event is defined as any organized gathering where Baronial funds are used or at risk and the event is published in the Kingdom Newsletter (The Acorn).

6.3 All Event Autocrats must be paid members of the SCA.

6.4 Because an autocrat is a deputy of the Seneschal, they must be trusted and acceptable to the Seneschal. This should not be construed as permission for the Seneschal to personally "handpick" all Autocrats, but rather a veto power to be used only rarely.

6.5 Since Reservationists and Gate Keepers are deputies of the Exchequer, the Exchequer reserves the right to reject or request modification of the proposed reservationist or Gate Keeper. This should not be construed as permission for the Exchequer to "handpick" all Reservationists or Gate Keepers, but rather a veto power to be used only rarely.

6.6 Although individuals should be allowed to work in a manner that best suits them, ultimately the Exchequer has the right to determine what systems, forms or procedures are used by Reservationists and Gate Keepers to ensure appropriate controls and adherence to policies and best practices.

Event Bids

6.7 An event bid shall consist of a general plan for the event including proposed dates, site, activities and staff described at a high level. It shall also include a line item budget.

6.8 Event bids shall list Event staff needed (include all that apply to the event): Marshall in Charge, Minister of the Lists, Head Cook, Reservationist, Gate Keeper, etc.

6.9 Event bids shall be reviewed in a Business Meeting and voted on by the Financial Committee promptly after this review.

6.10 In some cases such as to complete a Kingdom bid or otherwise respond to a Royal request, it might be in the Barony's interest to move on an event bid so quickly that waiting for a review before the Business meeting would have the effect of negating the bid. In that case, the Committee can approve the bid with a unanimous vote by first announcing to the populace on a form of communication deemed by Kingdom to be "official" the event date, site, autocrat, and reason for taking action prior to a business meeting.

6.11 No funds shall be dispersed for an event until the budget has been approved. Any funds in excess of the amount listed on the related budget line item by greater than 10% or \$100, whichever is smaller, shall require another approval vote.

6.12 Fund raising efforts shall also have budgets and when done in conjunction with an event, must have a member in charge who is not the Autocrat, Reservationist or Gate Keeper and who is capable of handling funds, is familiar current with policy, and is a good standing member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

6.12 Event budgets shall enumerate gratis attendees who are expected to attend.

6.13 Event budgets shall specify attendance, camping and feast fees and any discounts for minors or cost caps for families. It shall also specify the budgeted cost per seat for feast.

6.14 Any expenditure in excess of the stated budget must be approved by the Event Financial Committee in advance. The Committee is not required to reimburse over-budget amounts that were not pre-approved, and may offer a receipt for donation instead.

6.15 A Cash Advance Form should be presented to the Exchequer before the event to obtain funds for the cash box. Autocrats and Trolls are reminded that:

1. Under no circumstances should personal funds be used to seed the cash box
2. All money for expenditures MUST be obtained through the Baronial checking account (never the cash box)
3. Only currently paid SCA members may handle SCA money.

6.16 The following positions may be admitted without charge to a Black Diamond event, including feast: the King and Queen of any Kingdom; the Crown Prince and Princess of any Kingdom; the Sovereign Prince and Princess of any Principality; the Baron and Baroness of Black Diamond; the Autocrat and Head Cook of the event; site staff affiliated with or required by the site itself rather than the SCA, and children as designated by age. A collection may be taken up outside of SCA funds to cover the fees, including non-member surcharge, of any other persons to be invited as guests. The autocrat may include in the event budget extra funds to allow for a pre-determined number of extra people invited to eat feast at high table.

6.17 After check-in closes at an Event, the Autocrat and/or the Head Troll, and at least one member of the Event Financial Committee or their designated representative, shall verify the dollar amounts of the cash and checks received, and all witnesses sign and retain a copy of that information. All monies must be deposited to the Baronial checking account within the next five business days and all receipts for the event must be turned in no more than ten days after the event, unless alternate arrangements are approved by the Exchequer of Seneschal.

6.18 The Autocrat shall present an Event Financial Report to the populace at the first regular business meeting after the event books have been closed, and provide copies for the Seneschal, the Exchequer,

and the Baronage. This report should include the original event budget, an accounting of attendance, and all income and expenses. All receipts from the event are to be attached with the event financial report. It will be forwarded to the Chronicler for publication. If this report is not available at that time, the Exchequer will report this to the Event Financial Committee and to the business meeting.

6.19 All deposits shall have a reconciliation sheet listing the date, check # and check amount, plus deposit totals for balancing to event sheets.

6.20 It is the responsibility of the Exchequer to ensure that the Reservationist and Gate Keeper are familiar with and will comply with all relevant policies, and best practices for cash controls.

6.21 An individual's canceled check shall serve as the receipt for all reservation or gate fees paid by that individual, including NMS fees. Receipts shall be issued at the gate for cash received only if so requested by the attendee.

6.22 All reservation logs and gate sheets are confidential information and care must be taken to protect the personal information of all attendees and portions of this information should be shared on an as needed basis only.

6.23 All gate fees are to be turned over to the Exchequer or other designated Committee member at the close of the Event.

6.24 Reservation funds shall be held without deposit for no more than two weeks after they are received. All Event funds shall be deposited within the first three business days following the close of the Event.

6.25 "Requests for refunds should be received in writing within seven days after the event. They will be considered individually by the Event Financial Committee, and will be issued after the event books have been closed and all checks have been deposited and cleared by the bank." All such requests should be forwarded to the Exchequer, and will be paid from the Baronial account. The information in quotes, or its equivalent, must be included in the event flyer.

6.26 All Baronial events must have a gate sign in sheet that is submitted to both the Baronial Exchequer and Seneschal in addition to the event report.

7. Baronial Property

7.1 A deputy position to the Exchequer (the Quartermaster) is established to oversee the control of all property owned by the Barony. If the barony has no Quartermaster, the Exchequer will be in charge of the property and the duties of managing it.

7.2 Any damage to Baronial property during normal use shall be reported to the Exchequer within 7 days of the incident.

7.3 Durable goods and non-perishable supplies or expensed items purchased for use at Events are to be returned to the Quartermaster to be included in the Baronial Inventory.

7.4 The Quartermaster may destroy or dispose of any expensed items that cannot be stored in the unit without spoilage, attracting vermin or causing damage to other items at his/her discretion.

7.5 The Quartermaster will report to the Exchequer any items not returned within the allotted time, as well as any items discarded or damaged after use.

7.6 The Quartermaster shall conduct a complete physical inventory of all property belonging to the Barony of Black Diamond annually and provide a copy to the Exchequer and the Seneschal.

8. Borrowing Baronial Property

8.1 Baronial Property may only be borrowed for uses which are in line with the purposes of the SCA. The Seneschal and Exchequer must give their approval for any such request.

8.2 Anyone wishing to borrow Baronial Property must contact the Quartermaster at least 10 days in advance so arrangements can be made for acquisition of the item.

8.3 Any individual borrowing Baronial property must sign for all items borrowed and assumes the responsibility for the condition and safe return of those items to the Quartermaster.

8.4 All Baronial property borrowed must be returned within 14 days after its intended use; extensions may be granted/ approved for situations requiring a longer time frame.

8.5 Any borrowed Baronial property lost or damaged due to misuse will be replaced by the borrower and at their cost, within a negotiated time frame set by the Committee.

8.6 At their discretion, the Seneschal, Exchequer or Quartermaster may specify conditions of use, such as having a trusted contact person in charge of set up and tear down of equipment.

Approved

Date: **October 12, 2011**

Seneschal:

(name) Lady Oliva Isabelle

(member #)

(sign)

Exchequer:

(name) Baroness Margaret Obrolchan

(member #)

(sign)

Baronage (sign): Mac Con mac Rodain

Gracia Esperanca de Sevilla

Others (sign): Lady Juliana Grene
