

# Baronial Advancement and Transitions

The growth and development of groups in our fair Kingdom can be a confusing process but we are trying to simplify it. As a group begins the process of deciding to change their status and/or selecting a new Baron/Baroness, the Transitions office can assist with guidance and administrative support. While the process may at times seem cumbersome, it is designed to enable all members of the group to voice their opinions during the transition. The polling process itself must take place according to the polling requirements listed in Kingdom Law and Corpora.

## **The following is a list of the steps involved in a group transitioning to Baronial status.**

1. The group seneschal will communicate the group's wish to begin the process to the Regional Seneschal, the Transition Officer, and the Kingdom Seneschal. The group will be required to provide a "Petition to Transition to Baronial Status" to the Transitions Office and the Kingdom Seneschal. The Kingdom Seneschal shall consult with the Crown on approving the petition.
2. Once the group has received permission from the Transitions Office the group may begin compiling their transition packet. Dates and times of meetings dealing with the transition should be published in the local newsletter. The transition packet should include the following:
  - A copy of the transition petition
  - The groups expectations of the Baron/Baroness
  - A map and a list of zip codes for the group
  - Letters of support from local and/or regional officers and letters of support from kingdom officers
  - Documentation showing the group's name and device has been approved
  - A brief history of the group and their activities
  - A listing of the offices of the group and the officers holding them
  - A copy of the group's charter or standard operating procedures
  - Any other documentation that the group thinks shows why this transition would be beneficial to the group

This packet shall be provided to the Transitions Officer before the polling for Baron/Baroness takes place. This process is likely to take several months time to complete.

3. The Transitions Officer will ask the group seneschal to produce a current list of zip codes for the group. This is very important because every paid member within the group's zip codes is entitled to be polled. This list once verified by the Transitions Officer will also be used to verify membership numbers of the prospective Barony.

4. Once the packet is obtained by the Transitions Office and everything is acceptable the polling for Baron/Baroness may take place. The group seneschal will forward letters of intent from all candidates who wish to run for Baron/Baroness along with copies of their membership cards to the Transitions Officer.
5. The Transitions office will request mailing labels from corporate based upon the agreed upon zip codes. Funds to cover the cost of polling will be requested from the group by the Transitions office.
6. Notice should be published in the Pale by the group stating the tentative polling dates in the following format: The Shire of “Shires name” is petitioning for Baronial status. There will be a Polling to provide counsel to the Crown on this matter and on choosing the first Baron/Baroness if the petition is granted. This will tentatively take place in the month of “i.e. May”. Non member polls will be available on the Middle Kingdom Seneschals website.
7. The poll will be conducted by the Transitions Office in accordance with Kingdom and Corporate Law. Polls will be mailed to all paid members of the prospective Barony. A non-member poll will be provided to the seneschal for any non-paid members or non-group members who wish to participate. A non-member poll will be made available on the Middle Kingdom Seneschals website for the duration of the poll. The poll will include the question,” Do you support the transition of “group” from the status of “Shire” to Barony?
8. The tallied results of the poll, the polls, and the transition packet shall be forwarded to the Kingdom Seneschal and the Crown. Once the Crown has reached a decision on the first Baron/Baroness, a copy of the complete transition packet with the Crown’s recommendations will be forwarded to the Society Seneschal for final approval/disapproval.

**The following is a list of steps for Baronies whose Baron/Baroness are stepping down.**

1. When it becomes necessary for a Barony to select a new Baron/Baroness the group’s Seneschal will, in writing, contact the Kingdom Seneschal’s Office (Group Transition’s Deputy) and notify that office of the need.
2. The Group Transition’s Deputy will, by e-mail or post, notify the Kingdom Seneschal and the Crown of the pending action.
3. The Group Transition’s Office will then contact the group’s seneschal and determine a time, not to exceed 30 days, for those interested in becoming Baron and/or Baroness to submit their intentions in writing to the group’s seneschal. Letters of intent must be accompanied by proof of membership.
4. The Transitions Officer will coordinate with the group’s seneschal to determine the zip codes of the area claimed by the group so that mailing labels for the paid members of the group can be obtained from Society.

5. The Transitions Office will request mailing labels from corporate based upon the agreed upon zip codes from the group. Funds to cover the cost of polling will be requested from the group by the Transitions Office.
6. Notice should be published in the Pale by the group stating the tentative polling dates in the following format: A polling will be conducted to provide counsel to the Crown on choosing a new Baron/Baroness for the Barony of “Barony’s Name”. This will tentatively take place in the month of “i.e. May”. Non member polls will be available on the Middle Kingdom Seneschals website.
7. At the end of the submissions period the group’s seneschal will forward the letters of intent and proof of membership to the Transitions Office.
8. A poll will be prepared in accordance with Kingdom and Corporate law and mailed to all paid members of the Barony. A non-member poll will be provided to the seneschal for any non-paid members or non-group members who wish to participate. A non-member poll will be made available on the Middle Kingdom Seneschals website for the duration of the poll.
9. The polls and the tallied results of the polls will be forwarded to the Kingdom Seneschal and the Crown. Based on the Crown’s good judgment and the council received, the Crown will make their appointment.

#### **The rules for both types of transitions**

- No one living inside a branch being polled will administer a poll. Official Baronial polls will be conducted by the Transition of Groups Office.
- A landed Baron/Baroness is an officer of the Crown and must be a paid member of the society with access to the Kingdom newsletter.
- As an officer of the Crown the Baron/Baroness may be required by Their Majesties to regularly report to them. Officers who do not report may be removed or suspended by the Crown.
- A seneschal who is a candidate for baronial office will be asked to step down for the duration of the process. This person may re-assume the office once the process is complete (if they are not selected as Baron/Baroness). One may not hold the office of Baron/Baroness and the office of seneschal at the same level concurrently.
- No Baron/Baroness will be appointed over the substantial objection of the populace.
- A Barony must contain at a minimum, 30 sustaining and 10 additional associate members of the Society for Creative Anachronism. It should be able to show that it has maintained and will continue to maintain this minimum membership level.