

Hawkeye Area Grand Gaelic Isles Society

Preamble

The purposes of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, educational and cultural. The Society's purposes, aims and objectives shall be to foster and exchange cultural, educational and recreational ideas and pursuits between those of Scottish birth or descent, in the State of Iowa. In the pursuit of these aims the Society shall bring to the people and community of the State of Iowa the unique benefits of Scottish and American heritage and tradition. The Society shall endeavor to make vital and significant contributions to the cultural and educational life of the community in the Arts and Sciences, and cultivate an appreciation for all things Scottish in our Associate Members. The Society shall develop plans, programs and meetings to perpetuate the memories, history, customs, music, literature, poetry and folklore of the Scottish and American people. Our meetings shall include the celebration of Saint Andrews Day, the Birthday of Robert Burns and friendly intercourse among members. In carrying out these objectives we propose to be governed by the following Constitution and By-laws.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this Society shall be Hawkeye Area Grand Gaelic Isles Society, Hawkeye Area Chapter of the Scottish Heritage Society of Iowa, Inc., which is a non-profit corporation chartered under the laws of Iowa.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section I (a) - Any person of the age of eighteen years or upwards who is interested in the Scottish culture, traditions, and especially music and dance, not necessarily of Scottish lineage, or the husband or wife of such, shall be eligible to membership in this Society.

Section I (b) - Any person eighteen years of age and under not eligible for membership as per ARTICLE II, Section I (a), may be admitted as an Associate Member, and shall become eligible to hold any office in the Society as well as assuming all the rights and privileges of full membership upon their 18th birthday, assuming all other obligations of membership are discharged and are under no delinquencies or suspensions.

NOTE: All of the above members except under age Associates are entitled to vote and shall pay fees and dues as required by the By-Laws.

Section I (c) - Any person of National reputation, or one whose acts or influence shall be considered to be of great and lasting benefit to the Society, may also be admitted as an **Honorary Member**.

Honorary Members shall not be entitled to vote or hold office and shall be exempt from payment of dues and fees.

If an Honorary Member chooses to pay yearly dues) they will be able to hold all privileges of a regular member including voting and holding office.

Section II - Application for membership shall be made on the regular forms furnished by the Society and this application shall be signed by the applicant. All applications must be submitted to the Corresponding Secretary who shall report on said application at any stated meeting. The officers shall endeavor to welcome and introduce all newly received members in person at a regular meeting.

Section III (a) - Any member may become a **Life Member** upon payment of the Life Membership fee specified in the By-Laws. If they enter as a Life Member, no payment of the entrance fee shall be required. Life Members shall be exempt from the payment of annual dues, but in all other respects shall be subject to the same obligations and shall enjoy the same privileges as other members.

Section III (b) - Life Membership may also be granted for long and faithful service upon majority vote of the membership present at the annual meeting.

Section IV - It shall be the duty of all members to encourage worthy men and women of Scottish birth and descent to make application for membership in the Society, or all others interested in the Scottish, Scots-Irish, or Scottish-American culture, and those interested in the life, works, poetry and philosophies of Robert Burns, regardless of believed personal national origin or ethnic background.

ARTICLE III - Fees and Dues

Applicants for membership shall pay such annual dues as may be required by the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV - Meetings

Section I - The Society shall hold, in the minimum, at least three meetings a year, with the first meeting after the Burns Supper being the annual meeting and shall elect officers for the ensuing 24 months. The President, or in his/her absence or inability to act, the next ranking officer, shall appoint the place of meeting and the Recording Secretary shall thereupon give notice thereof to the members.

Section II - The President, or in their absence or inability to act, the next ranking officer, shall have the power, with the recommendation of the Executive Board) to call special meetings. The Recording Secretary shall thereupon give notice to the members of such a meeting.

Section III - No discussion of contemporary religions or politics shall be allowed at any meeting.

ARTICLE V - The Anniversary Assembly

The Society shall hold an Anniversary Assembly on Robert Burns' birthday, January 25th, or the nearest convenient date suitable for ceremonies and a public gathering.

ARTICLE VI - Officers

Section I - The elected officers of the Society shall be:

President

Vice-President

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary and keeper of the Membership rolls

Treasurer

State Representative to the Corporation, Scottish Heritage Society of Iowa, Inc.

The elected officers shall be elected from the membership by the members present and voting at the annual meeting, and shall enter upon their duties before the close of the meeting after their election. Nominees must be participating members in good standing for a period of one year.

Section II (a) - Nominations shall be submitted at the meeting prior to the annual meeting.

Section II (b) - Election of such officers shall be made separately, beginning with the President, in the order above mentioned. Election shall be by ballot when more than one person is nominated for the same office. A majority of all votes shall be necessary to elect.

Section III - In case of death, resignation or removal of any officer during the twenty-four month period for which they have been elected, the Society shall, at the next stated meeting, choose a successor to serve for the unexpired term.

Section IV - In the case of the misconduct, fraudulent connivance or willful neglect of any officer, the Society may suspend such officer upon motion carried by a two-thirds vote of members present at any meeting. The remaining officers and members of the Advisory Board shall appoint a successor officer to fill the place of any suspended officer until such time as offenses are proven, or dismissed, in which latter case the officer shall be reinstated without prejudice.

ARTICLE VII - President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society, preserve order, put the questions and declare the decisions. They shall, in conformity with ARTICLE IV, call special meetings and shall appoint the place of all meetings. The President shall be the second signature on the signature card for the Society checkbook and other accounts with the Treasurer. The President shall name the **appointed officers** as selected by the Executive and Advisory Boards for a one-year term:

Historian

Piper

Youth Coordinator

Seneschal-if necessary

Scholarship Coordinator

Highland Games Master

And others recommended by the Society.

The President is ex-officio a member of all committees and Chairman of the Executive Board and shall perform such other duties as pertain to the office.

ARTICLE VIII - Vice-President

All duties of the President shall, in their absence or inability to act, devolve upon the Vice-President. Should the Vice-President be absent, or unable to act, such duties shall be performed by the officer next highest in rank, according to the order named in ARTICLE VI, who is present or able to act. The Vice-President shall also perform other duties as designated by the President.

ARTICLE IX - Secretaries

Section I - The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Society; keep on file all reports of committees; have custody of all books and reports relating to the office; keep rosters of all committees; and shall give notice of all meetings.

Section II - The Corresponding Secretary will conduct the correspondence of the Society and faithfully preserve files of same; shall keep and maintain the official membership list; and be responsible for publicizing the affairs of the Society.

ARTICLE X - Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all funds, securities and all other property. They shall receive all monies due the Society and issue proper receipts therefore, and shall deposit such monies in a bank or banks approved by the Executive Board. They shall make disbursements authorized by the Society from its fund upon check counter-signed by the President and shall keep all evidence in support of such disbursements in proper files. They shall keep regular accounts in suitable books, which shall be at all times open for inspection by the membership. They shall prepare and submit at each regular meeting a detailed statement of current receipts and disbursements and a recapitulation of the same for the year at the annual meeting. They shall furnish a good and sufficient surety bond on such terms as approved by the Executive Board, the expense of such bond to be defrayed by the Society. They shall, at the expiration of their term of office, deliver to their successor such books, together with funds, securities and all other property entrusted to their care and lie longing to the Society.

ARTICLE XI - Seneschal

When appointed, the Seneschal shall preserve order during the meetings of the Society and shall carry out such other instructions as the President of the Society may give.

ARTICLE XII - Historian

When appointed, the Historian shall record all items of news and interest of the Society during such term of office in a book provided for that purpose.

ARTICLE XIII - Boards

Section I - The elective officers and the immediate past President shall constitute the **Executive Board** and shall meet upon the call of the President. A majority of the officers shall constitute a quorum.

The Executive Board shall be empowered to act in interim periods between meetings of the Society and shall handle the investments of the Society comprising bonds, certificates of deposit and monies, their realization and reinvestment. It shall select a safe depository for the securities and cash funds of the Society when necessary. The signatures of two members of the Executive Board shall be on file at the safe deposit vaults, one of which shall be the Treasurer of the Society. The signature of the Treasurer, together with that of the other board member authorized to sign, shall be sufficient to obtain access to the box of the Society. The Treasurer of the Society shall be authorized by the Executive Board to meet the annual expense of maintaining a safety deposit box to be used for the securities and other documents of the Society.

The Executive Board shall be authorized to make such payments and disbursements as are within the scope of the purposes and functions of the Society. The Executive Board shall have responsibility for providing leadership and planning in harmony with the Society's purpose and objectives for formulating operating policies and to implement projects and programs as approved by the membership of the Society.

Section II - The Advisory Board (also named the H.A.G.G.I.S. Council) shall be comprised of appointed officers, committee chairs, and interested members as approved by the Executive and Advisory Boards.

Advisory Board members shall attend joint board meetings, and aid in the implementation of projects and programs as directed by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XIV - Program Committees

The Program Chairman shall appoint a Chairman for each of the following events:

The Annual Burns Supper
Summer Picnic
Scottish Customs, History and Traditions
Special Events

Each Chairman shall select and appoint the members to serve on his/her committee.

ARTICLE XV - Amendments

Any proposal to amend the By-Laws of the Chapter, except ARTICLE IV) Section III, shall be made in writing and presented at a regular meeting and may be acted upon at any special meeting duly called thereafter for that purpose, after notification in writing to each member two weeks prior to the meeting. A two-thirds vote of all members present shall be necessary to effect such proposed amendment.

ARTICLE XVI

The Hawkeye Area Chapter elects to conduct its affairs under the Constitution and auspices of the Scottish Heritage Society of Iowa, Inc.

ARTICLE XVII - By-Laws

(Pertaining to Membership, Dues, and Routine Matters of Chapter Government)

- I. **The Annual dues** shall be Thirteen Dollars (\$13.00) for individual membership or Seventeen Dollars (\$17.00) for family membership, payable during the first three months of the year. A member who fails to pay their annual dues within the prescribed time shall be notified by the Treasurer, and if their dues remain unpaid for six months, the member shall be dropped from membership rolls.
- II. **The Life Membership fee** shall be One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) applicable to individuals only.
- III. Members may be reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the Society. All advances must have receipts returned to the Treasurer for purchases made. All advances, purchases, and reimbursements must be approved by the Executive Board.
- IV. The Corresponding Secretary, upon being informed (in sufficient time) of the death of any member, shall give timely notice thereof to the members) so that they may attend the funeral of such deceased member.
- V. **The order of business** to be followed by the meetings of the Society shall be as follows:
 1. Call to order
 2. Calling of roll of officers
 3. Reading and disposing of the minutes of the previous meeting
 4. Applications for membership
 5. Communications
 6. Report of Committees
 7. Unfinished business
 8. Election of officers
 9. New business
 10. Report of officers
 11. Closing
- VI. Any proposal to amend the By-Laws of the Society shall be made in writing and presented at a regular meeting and may be acted upon at any special meeting duly called thereafter for that purpose, after notification in writing to each member two weeks prior to the meeting. A two-thirds vote of all members present shall be necessary to effect such proposed amendment.
- VII. The Society may organize or affiliate with a Pipe Band.