

PAGEANTRY SECTION OPERATING GUIDELINES

SECTION I - THE COURT

1. **BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION:** It has been said that among gay organizations, the Court System "is the most controversial, the most misunderstood." This brief history is designed to answer questions commonly asked about the Court and will hopefully clear up some of the misunderstandings.
2. **WHERE DID THE COURT SYSTEM BEGIN?** In San Francisco, which has been known for its outrageous personalities and colorful figures? So it was in that city that Empress I, Jose declared himself the Dowager Widow of the Emperor Norton - Empress of San Francisco and the Protectress of Mexico. Emperor Norton is an actual historical figure of the 1800's, a product of the first wave of gold miners to the Barbary Coast. An eccentric, he made a fortune in gold, lost a fortune in rice, and finally declared himself the Emperor of San Francisco. Jose Sarria was notorious in 1965. He was perhaps the first openly gay political candidate, when he ran for city supervisor in 1961. At the same time he was doing this, a group of gay bar owners were organizing the "Tavern Guild". This organization was designed to provide support in coping with an anti-gay political machine operating in San Francisco at that time. The Tavern Guild sought out a hostess for its functions; Jose was the logical choice.

The standard of fun, glamour and irreverence attracted many. The Court system was growing up and down the West Coast. In Seattle the Queen City Business Guild, a group of gay bar owners had established a Court Ball, with Scotty as Empress I. In 1998 the Court filed for and received from the IRS its 501.c3 status, and became known as The Court of Seattle Organization. The purpose of the Court is to maintain pageantry and heraldry for the Monarchy by means of electing titles and other such positions; to create goodwill; to organize charitable social events; to hold fundraising activities; and to provide for the enjoyment and benefit of its members and for the social community in which it exists.

3. **WHAT DO THE MONARCHS DO?** The Monarchs, known in this Realm as Rainier (aka The Emperor) and Olympia (aka The Empress) serve as titular Heads of State of the Imperial Court of Seattle and its Imperial Family (made up of all Titleholders, both elected and appointed). Much like real Constitutional Monarchies (as in the United Kingdom), the Monarchs have no real control over their Realm, but have many responsibilities that impact the daily life of the Court and Community. They set the tone of their Reign, and the Court year is largely seen as a reflection of their talents and abilities. They are responsible for guiding and mentoring their Imperial Family and Court. The Monarchs have a hand in ensuring that all the activities and events of the Court and its titleholders are successful. As Heads of State, the Monarchs are also expected to represent the Court of Seattle at multiple functions throughout their year, both within Seattle and across the State and other Realms comprising the International Court System. More specific information about the Duties and Responsibilities of the Monarchy can be found in Section III, Part D of the Pageantry Section of the Operating Guidelines.

48 **SECTION II - BOUNDARIES**

49
50 The boundaries of the Olympic and Rainier Empire are open to all. For board of directors
51 offices and voting purposes, the boundaries consist of King and Island counties, Hat Island
52 and the national parks in which Mount Rainier and Mount Olympus are located, including
53 the site of the former Olympia Brewery in Tumwater, WA.
54

55 **SECTION III - TITLES**

56
57 The following are the titleholders of the Court of Seattle.:

- 58
- 59 Emperor – Rainier
- 60 Empress – Olympia
- 61 Imperial Prince
- 62 Imperial Princess
 - 63 Mr. Gay Seattle
 - 64 Miss Gay Seattle
 - 65 Ms. Gay Seattle
 - 66 King of the Seas
 - 67 Queen of the Seas
 - 68 King of Hearts
 - 69 Queen of Hearts
 - 70 Duke of Puget Sound
 - 71 Duchess of Puget Sound
 - 72 Czar of Capital Hill
 - 73 Czarina of Capital Hill
 - 74 Marquis of Magnolia Bluff
 - 75 Marquisa of Magnolia Bluff
 - 76 Count of Queen Anne
 - 77 Countess of Queen Anne
 - 78 Closet Queen
 - 79 Closet King

80
81 **The Imperial Family**

82 The Court is a democratic organization. It is represented by a figurehead monarchy and the
83 imperial family. This monarchy serves primarily in a public relations capacity throughout our
84 court, community, city, county, empire and state. The Imperial Family shall be the elected reigning
85 titleholders of the court. They shall be defined as: The Emperor and Empress (official heads of
86 state); The Imperial Prince and Princess; Mr., and Miss and Ms. Gay Seattle; King and Queen of the
87 Seas; King and Queen of Hearts; Duke and Duchess of Puget Sound; Czar and Czarina of Capital
88 Hill; Marquis and Marquesa of Magnolia Bluff; Count and Countess of Queen Anne; and Closet
89 Queen and King All titles report directly to the Board of Directors. The Monarchs will hold monthly
90 Imperial Family meetings and are responsible for giving the Board an update on all of the title
91 reigns.
92

93 **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Anyone wishing to run for any of the elected
94 positions within the Organization must meet the qualifications defined in the application and as
95 set forth below.

- 96
- 97 1. Titles are individual
- 98 2. Only one (1) person can hold any elected title--precluding such situations as "Co-
99 Emperor," "Co-Queen," etc.
- 100 3. Other qualifications for individual titles are listed in the Business Section of the
101 Operating Guidelines (Section 6)
- 102

103 **A. RESIGNATION FROM TITLE:**

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105 Any and all elected or appointed titleholders may resign their position. Should such a situation
106 occur, resignations would be handled utilizing the following procedure:

- 107
- 108 1. Any titleholder who chooses to resign must submit a letter of resignation .
- 109 2. It must be presented to the President of the
- 110 3. The letter of resignation shall include the title being resigned and the reason for the
111 resignation by the individual.
- 112 4. At the meeting it is presented, the letter shall be read during new business and
113 entered into the minutes. The resignation will become effective immediately unless
114 other action is taken.
- 115 5. The Board may question any letter of resignation and call for discussion with the
116 titleholder.
- 117 6. All symbols of office will be turned over to the Board. If the symbols of office are
118 not turned over, the resigning party will be monetarily responsible to replace the
119 symbols.
- 120 7. Once effective, the resignation is complete and irrevocable.
- 121
- 122

123 **B. LINE OF SUCCESSION**

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125 In the event that an elected title becomes open and unfilled due to death, disability, illness,
126 resignation, termination, and/or any other reason, the provisions of this Section shall apply.
127 There will be no other means, method, or provisions for title succession except as specifically
128 and explicitly stated below:

129

130 **EMPEROR AND/OR EMPRESS:** The College of Monarchs shall retain the right to
131 modify or change the following action(s), with Board of Directors approval.

- 132
- 133 1. If vacancy happens at any time during a reign, the Board, in consultation with the
134 remaining monarch, if any and the College of Monarchs may take one of the
135 following actions:
- 136 2. The surviving titleholder will meet with the College of Monarchs within 30 days of
137 the position becoming vacant to discuss the possibility of regency for that position.
138 If the college and surviving titleholder agree not to fill the position, it will remain
139 vacant till the next election.
- 140

- 141 3. If the College and surviving titleholder agree to a regency, then the process for
142 selection of regent shall be as follows:
- 143 i. Skip the Monarchs that just stepped down
 - 144 ii. Offer goes in descending order of those Monarchs who have held the
145 vacant position according to Olympia or Rainier, and who are in
146 attendance at that meeting.
 - 147 iii. No regency shall be afforded a number.
 - 148 iv. This would not preclude the college awarding a number at the end of
149 their regency.
- 150 2. If no College member accepts a regency offer, then the surviving titleholder
151 and the College may discuss additional options, or leave the title vacant till
152 the next official election for this title takes place.
- 153 4. If vacancy happens in the last six months, the surviving titleholder may or may not
154 request a meeting with the college to discuss regency.
- 155 1. In this event that the reigning monarch wishes to reign alone or that a
156 succession in this manner is not possible, the position will remain vacant until
157 the next official election for this title takes place.
 - 158 2. In case of no candidacy or a candidate not being elected to the position of
159 Emperor or Empress, the above positions for vacancy will apply.
- 160

161
162 **IMPERIAL PRINCE AND/OR PRINCESS:**

163
164 In the event that either of these positions becomes vacant, they will not be filled
165

166 **ALL OTHER TITLES:** In the event that any other elected title (Seattle's, Seas, Hearts)
167 becomes vacant within the first 6 months of the election, the first runner-up will be offered
168 the position. In the event that this is not possible, the Board may choose to authorize an
169 election or leave the title vacant. The granting of another higher number for that position
170 will be dependent upon the circumstances under which the office was vacated.
171

172 **TITLE RESPONSIBILITIES**

173
174 **THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS:** It shall be the duties and responsibilities of the
175 Emperor and/or Empress (hereinafter referred to as "The Monarchs," and addressed as
176 "Their Most Imperial Sovereign Majesties") to:
177

- 178 a. Represent the Board and Membership at all official Court-sponsored, Court-
179 sanctioned, and Court-endorsed functions, insofar, as is practical. The Monarchs will
180 attend, if possible All Imperial Coronations within WA, OR & B.C as well as, The
181 Court of Seattle's sister cities of Denver, Salt Lake City, Alaska and Las Vegas, The
182 Washington State Mr./ Ms. Leather Contest, and Seattle Men in Leather's Daddy,
183 and Daddy Boy's Contest.
- 184
185 b. Attend and preside at all Court meetings, conduct Monthly Imperial Family
186 Meetings, and maintain good standing in the court.
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- c. The Monarchs may not bind the Board or the Court with any financial obligations without the prior expressed and written approval of the Board.
 - d. The Monarchs shall be responsible for the planning, execution, and success of all Court functions. They must also host and plan at least two fundraisers during their year of which the proceeds are disbursed as agreed by the Board of Directors.
 - e. The Monarchs maintain the right to issue titles of office within the Empire, with the Exception of those titles which are elected and those titles that have been retired or restricted.
 - f. Proclamations issued by Monarchs shall become an official temporary part of the Court records which expire at the end of their reign, provided that a written and duly-executed copy of such documents are placed in the hands of the Court/Board Secretary. Such Proclamations shall not affect the operation or financial position of the Corporation or the Court.
 - g. Each monarch is allowed one (1) Declaration with Board of Directors approval presented at Coronation. Declarations have become a permanent part of Court records. On the tenth anniversary of each declaration, it may be reviewed for further inclusion or exclusion by the board. Upon the death of the signatories, all declarations and proclamations will immediately be transferred to the board for review. The exception to the above shall be that declarations of title shall remain in perpetuity.
 - h. When elected to a title, the winners cannot apply for another title in any other Empire, organization or judged contest for the duration of their reign/year.

217 **THE IMPERIAL PRINCE AND PRINCESS:** It shall be the duties and responsibilities of
218 the Imperial Prince and Princess " (hereinafter "Their Most Imperial Sovereign
219 Highnesses,") to:

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- a. Represent the Board and Membership at all official Court-sponsored, Court-sanctioned, and Court-endorsed functions. The Imperial Prince and Princess will attend, if possible, IPP Balls in WA, OR & B.C.
 - b. Attend all Court meetings; and in the absence of the Monarchs, preside at Court meetings, and, maintain good standing in the court.
 - c. The Prince and Princess cannot bind the Court with any financial obligations without the prior expressed and written approval of the Board.
 - d. The Prince and Princess shall be responsible for the planning, execution, and success of those Court functions as directed by the Monarchs. They must also host and plan at least two fundraisers during their year of which the proceeds are disbursed as agreed by the Board of Directors.

- 236 e. The Imperial Prince and Princess cannot apply for another title in any other
237 Empire, organization or judged contest for the duration of the reign/year.
238

239 **THE GAY SEATTLE’S:** It shall be the duties and responsibilities of Mr., Miss & Ms.
240 Gay Seattle (hereinafter referred to as "The Seattle’s" and addressed as “Their Highnesses”)
241 to promote community cooperation and cohesiveness throughout the Empire. Actively enroll
242 new members into the Court, and to serve as the official Hosts of The Empire.
243

- 244 a. Represent the Court and Membership at all official Court-sponsored, Court-
245 sanctioned, and Court-endorsed functions. The Gay Seattle’s, will attend, if
246 possible, city title pageants in WA, OR & B.C.
247
- 248 b. Attend all Court meetings, and maintain good standing in the court.
249
- 250 c. The Seattle’s may not bind the Board or Court with any financial obligations
251 without prior expressed and written approval of the Board.
252
- 253 d. The Seattle’s shall be responsible for the planning, execution, and success of those
254 Court functions as specified by the Monarchs. They must also host and plan at
255 least two fundraisers during their year of which the proceeds are disbursed as
256 agreed by the Board of Directors
257
- 258 e. The Gay Seattle’s are responsible to assist in planning, and for Hosting and
259 execution of Hospitality during Coronation Week
260
- 261 f. The Seattle’s do not maintain the right to issue titles of office.
262
- 263 g. When elected to a title, the winners cannot apply for another title in any other
264 Empire, organization or judged contest for the duration of their reign/year.
265
- 266 h. The Seattle’s may not issue Proclamations and Declarations.
267

268 **KING AND QUEEN OF THE SEAS:** The King and Queen of the Seas will be named at a
269 fundraiser to be held during the month of July close in time to Seafair. The successful
270 contestants will be voted by the attendees at the particular fundraising event
271

- 272 a. Attend all Court meetings, and maintain good standing in the court.
273
- 274 b. The King and Queen of the Seas may not bind the Board or Court with any financial
275 obligations without prior expressed and written approval of the Board.
276
- 277 c. The King and Queen of the Seas shall be responsible for the planning, execution, and
278 success of those Court functions as specified by the Monarchs. They must also host
279 and plan at least one fundraiser during their year of which the proceeds are disbursed
280 as agreed by the Board of Directors.
281

282 **KING AND QUEEN OF HEARTS:** The King and Queen of Hearts will be named at a
283 fundraiser to be held during the month of September.

284 a. Attend all Court meetings, and maintain good standing in the court.

285
286 b. The King and Queen of Hearts may not bind the Board or Court with any financial
287 obligations without prior expressed and written approval of the Board.

288
289 c. The King and Queen of the Hearts shall be responsible for the planning, execution,
290 and success of those Court functions as specified by the Monarchs. They must also
291 host and plan at least one fundraiser during their year of which the proceeds are
292 disbursed as agreed by the Board of Directors.
293

294
295 **CLOSET BALL QUEEN / KING:** The Closet Queen and King pageant shall be a judged
296 community contest, with no commitment to join the Court unless the successful candidates
297 choose too. The only requirement is that they show up one (1) year later to pass on the title.
298 The planning and execution of the Closet Ball, sets, and advertising will be the
299 responsibility of the Reigning Monarchs. The winners will receive a prize to be determined
300 by the Board.

301
302 **SECTION IV - THE COLLEGE OF MONARCHS (see also by-laws Section VII)¹**

303
304 The Imperial Sovereign College of Monarchs of Seattle and the Olympic and Rainier Empire
305 (hereinafter referred to as "The College"), shall act as an advisory unit to the Board, the Court, and
306 the Imperial Family concerning matters of Pageantry, and Crowning Ceremonies at Coronation.
307 The College shall also assist in the planning, promotion and the proper execution of Investiture each
308 year. The College will also define crowning ceremonies for all titles in the Court and will ensure
309 that the appropriate crowning ceremony is used for investing new titles.

310
311 **A. PURPOSE:**

312
313 The College of Monarchs is an established College of past Emperors and Empresses of the
314 Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle and includes the Emperor and Empress Emeritus and
315 Honorary Members of the College as determined by the College of Monarchs. The College was
316 created in 1975 by Declaration of Her Imperial Sovereign Majesty, Olympia IV Dominique St.
317 Laurent. The College is comprised of Rainiers and Olympias who have successfully fulfilled
318 their reign and who are inducted into the College at Coronation. The College is headed by a
319 Dean who is assisted by an Associate Dean. The Associate Dean is elected by the College
320 membership. After serving as Associate Dean for a period of one year, he/she assumes the
321 position of Dean at Coronation and officiates at the Crowning ceremony of the new Monarchs.
322 It is the duty and responsibility of the College to assist, guide and mentor the reigning Monarchs
323 and the Court membership. The College is also responsible for maintaining the history,
324 standards, traditions of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle and the Olympic and Rainier
325 Empire. The College will host at least one (1) annual fundraising event to benefit the
326 J.C./Graytop Scholarship Fund. The College will preside at the Crowning ceremony of the new

327 Emperor and Empress at Coronation. The College is responsible to assist at the polls on voting
328 day for the elections of the new Emperor and Empress.

329
330 The colors of the College of Monarchs are Purple and Silver.

331
332 **B. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEAN:**

- 333
- 334 a. It is the responsibility of the Dean to chair all College meetings.
 - 335
 - 336 b. To be seated on the Board of Directors of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle
337 for the term of office of one year. If the Dean chooses not to sit on the Board, a
338 replacement from the College may be elected..
 - 339
 - 340 c. To attend monthly Board meetings and assist the Board in their endeavors to
341 successfully accomplish their goals.
 - 342
 - 343 d. To Host and help produce the at least one (1) College fundraising event(s).
 - 344
 - 345 e. To assist in the monitoring of the voting station on election day for the Emperor
346 and Empress titles during the hours voting is open.
 - 347
 - 348 f. To give out the JC/Graytop Memorial Award during Coronation week. The Dean
349 will assist in preparing the College for Crowning ceremonies. The new Dean,
350 assisted by the College of Monarchs and President of the Board of Directors,
351 performs the crowning ceremony and then presents the newly elected Monarchs
352 to their people.
 - 353

354 **C. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSOCIATE DEAN:**

355
356 It is the responsibility of the Associate Dean, to assist the current Dean with whatever is
357 required. The Associate Dean takes on learning the duties and responsibilities of the Dean
358 in upholding the history, standards and traditions of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle
359 and the Olympic and Rainier Empire.

360
361 **D. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COLLEGE:**

362
363 It is the responsibility of the College Membership to uphold the history, standards, and
364 traditions of the College and the Court, and to assist the reigning Monarchs during their
365 reign.

366
367 **E. COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP:**

368
369 Membership in the College of Monarchs is automatic upon completion of the reign of a
370 Monarch pending the approval of the College of Monarchs. The induction ceremony at the
371 end of Coronation, just prior to the Crowning of the new Monarchs formalizes this
372 membership.

375 **G. THE STATE CROWN:**
376

377 Donated to the Court by Olympia IV Dominique St. Laurent and affectionately known as
378 "The Lamp Shade", this original crown was retired at the conclusion of Coronation in 2007.
379 The Ric A. Chayka Official State Crown received a blessing of Jose, The Widow Norton at
380 Coronation 2007 and was used to crown Olympia 36. This crown will be used by the
381 reigning Empress during her reign. It is the responsibility of the Empress to safeguard this
382 State Crown and return it to the Court in good condition at the conclusion of her reign.
383 Repairs for any damage to the State Crown are the responsibility of the Empress and must
384 not be done without consultation with the College and Board of Directors and only through
385 an approved vendor. The Empress must provide to the Board of Directors, evidence of
386 insurance coverage to include the full replacement value of the State Crown against any loss
387 or damage during her reign. Proof of such insurance must be provided to the Board of
388 Directors within 30 days of ascension to the title.

389
390 The state crown must be worn with a floor length formal gown. A 2nd crown, referred to as
391 "The Mountain" is provided at Coronation. Considered the personal property of the
392 Empress. If the mountain is damaged, lost or stolen, it is the responsibility of the Empress
393 to repair or replace as needed.
394

395 **H. EMPEROR MEDALLION AND SWORD**
396

397 The perpetual Emperor's medallion is worn by the Emperor at all official functions. The
398 sword is a symbol of the Office of the reigning Emperor and is used in Crowning
399 Ceremonies of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle and can be carried by the reigning
400 Emperor at other times at his discretion. It is the duty and responsibility of the reigning
401 Emperor to insure these articles for their full appraised value against loss or theft. Proof of
402 such insurance must be provided to the Board of Directors within 30 days of ascension to
403 the title by the Emperor.
404

405 **I. THE IMPERIAL STATE ROBES:**
406

407 These robes are used and worn for the Crowning ceremony of the new Emperor and
408 Empress. The Robes are done in the colors of Purple and Silver. They are full length robes
409 that are housed and protected by the Dean of the College. After crowning the robes will be
410 taken and kept in the safe keeping of the Dean. The robes may be worn during the reign of
411 the Monarchs with prior arrangement with the Dean of the College.
412
413

414 **SECTION V - COUNCIL OF IMPERIAL PRINCES AND PRINCESSES**

415
416 The council was suspended upon the change from elected Imperial Prince and Princess to
417 appointed Imperial Prince and Princess as approved by the Board of Directors.

418
419 The Council of Imperial Princes and Princess of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle and
420 the Olympic and Rainier Empire (hereinafter "The Council") shall act as an advisory unit to
421 the Board, the Court, and the Imperial Family concerning matters of Pageantry and Heraldry
422 pertaining to the Imperial Princes and Princess. The Council will be responsible for
423 assisting in the planning, promotion and proper execution of the Imperial Prince and
424 Princess Ball each year.

425
426 The appointed Imperial Prince and Princess shall not be inducted into the IPP Council.

427
428 **THE REMAINDER OF THIS SECTION IS LEFT IN REFERENCE FOR THE**
429 **EXISTING MEMEBERS OF THE COUNCIL OTHER THAN SECTION F & H**

430 **A. PURPOSE:**

431
432
433 The Imperial Prince and Princess Council is an established Council of past Imperial Princes
434 and Princesses. This Council, was created in 1990 by their Most Imperial Sovereign
435 Majesties, Rainier XVI Jack O. and Olympia XX Nasty Weather. The Council is made up of
436 past Heirs Apparent, who have successfully fulfilled their reigns and upon a vote have been
437 inducted into the Council the evening of their step-downs. The Council is headed by a
438 Chancellor, who is assisted by a Vice Chancellor. The Vice Chancellor is elected by the
439 Council membership. Upon Completion as Vice Chancellor for a period of one year. The
440 following year he/she is automatically elevated to Chancellor. It is the duties and
441 responsibilities of the Council to be teachers, guides and mentors to the reigning Imperial
442 Prince and Princess as well as the Court membership. They are also responsible for
443 upholding the history, standards, traditions and Integrity of the Imperial Sovereign Court of
444 Seattle and the Olympic and Rainier Empire. The Council is responsible for hosting an
445 annual show to help raise funds for the Imperial Prince and Princess Promotional Fund.
446 They also assist in the Crowning ceremonies at the Imperial Prince and Princess Ball. It is
447 also their responsibility to assist at the polls on voting day for the elections of the new
448 Imperial Prince and Princess. The colors of the Imperial Council are Blue and White.

449
450 **B. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHANCELLOR:**

- 451
452 **a.** It is the responsibility of the Chancellor to chair all Imperial Prince and Princess
453 Council meetings.
- 454
455 **b.** To be seated on the Board of Directors of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle
456 for the term of office of one year
- 457
458 **c.** To assist the Board in the endeavors to successfully complete their goals.
- 459
460 **d.** To Host and help produce an annual Council Show or fundraiser.
- 461

- 462
463 e. The Chancellor will assist in preparing the Council for Crowning ceremonies and
464 the presentation of them. The Chancellor performs the crowning ceremony and
465 then presents the new Imperial Prince and Princess to the reigning Monarchs.
466
467 f. The Chancellor is responsible for co-producing the Imperial Prince and Princess
468 Ball.
469

470 **C. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR:**

471

472 It is the responsibility of the Vice Chancellor, to assist the current Chancellor with any thing
473 he may need. He takes on the learning of the duties and responsibilities of the Chancellor as
474 he upholds the history, standards, traditions and integrity of the Imperial Sovereign Court of
475 Seattle and the Olympic and Rainier Empire.
476

477 **D. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL:**

478

479 It is the responsibility of the Council Membership to uphold the History, standards,
480 traditions and integrity of the Council and the Court, and to assist the reigning Imperial
481 Prince and Princess during their reigns.
482

483 **E. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

484

485 Membership in the Council is automatic upon completion of the reign of an Imperial Prince
486 or Princess. At this time the Council will elect a new Vice Chancellor.
487

488 **F. THE IMPERIAL PRINCE AND PRINCESS STATE ROBES:**

489

490 These robes are used and worn for the Crowning ceremonies for the Imperial Prince and
491 Princess Ball. The Robes are done in the Council colors of Blue and White. They are knee
492 length capes that are housed and protected by the Imperial Prince and Princess Council.
493 After crowning the robes will be taken and kept in the safe keeping of the Board. They now
494 represent and are part of the crowning ceremonies only.
495

496 **H. IMPERIAL PRINCE MEDALLION**

497

498 The perpetual Imperial Prince medallion is worn by the Imperial Prince at all official
499 functions. It is the duty and responsibility of the reigning Imperial Prince to insure the
500 medallion for its full appraised value against loss or theft. Proof of such insurance must be
501 provided to the Board of Directors within 30 days of ascension to the title by the Imperial
502 Prince.
503

504 **I. IMPERIAL PRINCESS CROWN**

505

506 A crown is provided to the Imperial Princess and is considered the personal property of the
507 Imperial Princess. If damaged, lost or stolen, it is the responsibility of the Imperial Princess
508 to repair or replace the crown.
509

510 **SECTION VI - ELECTION OF TITLEHOLDERS**

511
512 **A. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

513 Anyone wishing to run for any of the following elected positions within the organization
514 must meet the qualifications, as set forth below. Titles are individual, and only one (1)
515 person can hold any elected title--precluding such situations as "Co-Emperor," "Co-Queen,"
516 etc.

517
518 **1. THE EMPEROR/EMPRESS:**

- 519
520 **a.** Complete an application and submit a Letter of Inten for the Board review at the
521 January Board Meeting
- 522
523 **b.** Submit a photograph of themselves appropriately attired in the fashion applicable
524 to the office sought - with the full knowledge that such photograph will be
525 published in the media prior to election; submit an electronically with Picture and
526 Letter of Intent; in addition proof of income and / or proof of sponsorship if
527 applicable and proof of residency in the Empire as evidenced by a utility bill in
528 the applicant's name or valid driver's license or Washington State ID.
- 529
530
531 **c.** Interview with and receive approval of the Board of Directors and the College of
532 Monarchs;
- 533
534 **d.** Pay a non-refundable filing fee, as determined by the Board of Directors;
- 535
536 **e.** Has been a resident of the Empire for at least two (2) full years prior to tendering
537 such application;
- 538
539 **f.** Has been an active member in Good Standing of the Court for one (1) entire year
540 prior to tendering such application (has not fallen out of good standing during the
541 year); active membership shall be defined as participation, attendance or working
542 on committees for at least 50% of the Court activities during the most recent year
543 and must have organized or participated in at least one community service event
544 during the year.
- 545
546 **g.** Not be a reigning titleholder in this or any other Empire;
- 547
548 **h.** Be willing to grant the Board of Directors the right to verify their financial
549 credibility;
- 550
551 **i.** Provide documentation as necessary to substantiate eligibility and qualifications
552 as set forth in this section.
- 553

554 **2. THE GAY SEATTLES/KING & QUEEN OF SEAS/KING & QUEEN OF**
555 **HEARTS:**

- 556
- 557 a. Complete an application for the position of the Gay Seattles;
- 558
- 559 b. Pay a non-refundable filing fee, as determined by the Board of Directors;
- 560
- 561 c. Be eligible for membership in the Court;
- 562
- 563 d. Not be a reigning titleholder in this or any other Empire;
- 564
- 565 e. Provide such documentation as necessary to substantiate eligibility and
- 566 qualifications as set forth in this section.
- 567
- 568 f. Must join the Court within 30 days of ascension to the title and must remain a
- 569 member in good standing during the reign.²
- 570
- 571 g. Must be available during Coronation Weekend to assist in hosting hospitality.
- 572

573 **3. CLOSET QUEEN AND KING:**

- 574
- 575 a. Pay a non-refundable filing fee. This amount will be determined by the Board of
- 576 Directors.
- 577
- 578 b. Not have executed drag before, with the exception of Halloween or turnabout.
- 579
- 580 c. Candidates for Closet Queen and King must have one sponsor who will prepare
- 581 the contestant.
- 582

583 **B. CAMPAIGNING:**

584
585 Campaigning prior to the official campaign period is grounds for immediate disqualification.
586 Committee formation, planning, preparations, discussions, verbal announcement of
587 candidacy and requests for support shall not be construed to be “campaigning” for the
588 purposes of this section. However, any verbal solicitation of a vote will be construed as
589 campaigning. No buttons, pins, pens, key-chains, T-shirts, hats, posters, flyers, or any other
590 advertising gimmick or media shall be permitted until the beginning of the official campaign
591 period, as determined by the Board and specified on the application form. Evidence of
592 proper authorization of use of business or company logos and or written endorsements will
593 be required if used on campaign materials. Said authorization(s) will be given to the
594 Marketing/Advertising Chair. Any advertising material, business card size or larger and / or
595 anything having or requiring the Court Logo and / or Court identification requires
596 Advertising Committee approval. Any candidate due to conflict of interest can not use
597 official court sponsors. In a contested race, Board Members and members of the Imperial
598 Family as defined by the Reigning Monarchs must remain neutral.³The official campaign
599 periods shall be as follows:

600
601 **1. EMPEROR/EMPRESS:**

602
603 Campaigning shall be at least two (2) weeks, but no longer than four (4) weeks in length,
604 prior to Coronation. Exact dates for the beginning and ending dates will be set by the
605 Board of Directors.

606
607 **2. THE GAY SEATTLES AND KING & QUEEN OF THE SEAS: AND KING &**
608 **QUEEN OF HEARTS**

609
610 Campaigning shall begin as authorized by the Board of Directors.

611
612 **3. CLOSET KING & QUEEN:**

613
614 No campaigning shall be permitted.

615
616 **SECTION VII – ELECTIONS**

617
618 **A. VOTING FOR EMPEROR/EMPRESS**

619
620 Voting for these positions will take place at a location between the hours designated by the
621 Board. Voting for the positions of Emperor and Empress of Seattle are conducted only in the
622 city of Seattle. Voters will need proper identification to establish residency in the Empire.
623 Monitoring will be the responsibility of the College of Monarchs, with assistance of the Board
624 of Directors

625

626 All residents of the Empire and those Honorary Citizens as designated by Imperial Declarations
627 may cast ballots. Preprinted ballots will be used and write-in candidates shall not be allowed at
628 any time for any reason. Absentee ballots of members in good standing will be allowed
629 provided that such ballots are voted and tendered to the Board President during their first
630 meeting in February of each year. If a candidate for a particular position is running unopposed,
631 then that candidate will be elected according to a "Yes-No" vote. "Yes" votes must exceed the
632 "No" votes.

633
634 **1. VOTE TABULATION:** an independent accounting and/or law firm as designated by the
635 Board will tabulate ballots cast for the position of Emperor and Empress.

636
637
638 **2.** Prior to election for Emperor and Empress, the Board of
639 Directors will cast a secret ballot which will be used as a tie breaker. This balloting will be
640 the responsibility of the President of the Board of Directors and the Secretary.⁴

641
642 **3.** All persons counting the ballots must maintain confidentiality and not disclose the results
643 before they are publicly announced.

644 **B. VOTING FOR THE GAY SEATTLE'S/ KING & QUEEN OF THE SEAS; KING &** 645 **QUEEN OF HEARTS**

646
647
648 Voting for these positions will take place at the location of the appropriate function between
649 the hours designated by the Board. Voting will be open to anyone in attendance.
650 Tabulation of the ballots will be the responsibility of the Board President and the Board of
651 Directors. Anyone counting the ballots must maintain confidentiality and not disclose the
652 results before they are publicly announced.⁵

653 654 **C. CLOSET KING & QUEEN**

655
656 A five-member non-partisan panel shall judge The Closet Queen / King pageant. Selection
657 of this panel shall be the responsibility of the reigning Monarchs and/or the Board. A ten-
658 (10) point system shall be used in three (3) categories. They are:

659
660 **1. BEFORE AND AFTER:** Judges are looking for the most change, originality, and
661 presentation. Both the sponsor and contestant must be present and on stage to be judged in
662 this category, or lose the points for this category.

663
664 **2. POISE AND PRESENTATION:** Judges are looking for a contestant who is relaxed, has
665 agility in foot attire, and overall attention to detail.

667 **3. QUESTION AND ANSWER:** Judges are looking for confident, original answers. This
668 is a person who may be representing our organization in the coming years. Judges can score
669 each contestant 1 to 10 in each category. The contestant closest to the score of 30 shall be
670 declared Closet Queen. In the case of a tie, the Board shall vote by ballot to determine the
671 winner. Each contestant and sponsor will have one (1) hour to complete the transformation.
672 For safety purposes, each contestant will be allowed to apply their own mascara and
673 eyeliner.
674

675 676 **SECTION VIII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

677
678 The following awards and titles belong to this organization:

679
680 **A. THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** To be determined by the President of the Board for
681 presentation to the recipient during Coronation week.
682

683 **B. THE ANTHONY J SCHMIDT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD:** To be voted
684 upon by the general membership in good standing at their first meeting in January for
685 presentation to the recipient during Coronation week.
686

687 **C. THE EMPEROR'S AWARD:** This is a perpetual award that is given out by the
688 Emperor to a College Emperor from his own College, that has been of great service, help or
689 guidance to the Reigning Emperor. To be determined by the reigning Emperor for
690 presentation to the recipient during Coronation week.
691

692 **D. RAINIER AND OLYMPIA AWARD:** To be determined by the reigning Emperor and
693 Empress for presentation to the recipient during Coronation week. The award will bear the
694 year of presentation rather than a sequential numbering.
695

696 **E. CROWN PRINCE FOR LIFE TO RAINIER:** To be determined by the reigning
697 Emperor for presentation to the recipient during Coronation week.
698

699 **F. CROWN PRINCESS FOR LIFE TO RAINIER:** To be determined by the reigning
700 Emperor for presentation to the recipient during Coronation week.
701

702 **G. THE EMPRESS AWARD:** To be determined by the reigning Empress for presentation
703 to the recipient during Coronation week.
704

705 **H CROWN PRINCE FOR LIFE TO OLYMPIA:** To be determined by the reigning
706 Empress for presentation to the recipient during Coronation week.
707

708 **I. CROWN PRINCESS FOR LIFE TO OLYMPIA:** To be determined by the reigning
709 Empress for presentation to the recipient during Coronation week.
710

711 **J. THE PRINCE TO PRINCE AND PRINCE TO PRINCESS AWARD:** To be
712 determined by the reigning Imperial Prince for presentation to the recipient at IPP Ball.
713

714 **K. THE ALEX GIBSON AWARD:** To be determined by the reigning Imperial Prince for
715 presentation to the recipient at IPP Ball. This award is named after and in the memory of
716 H.I.S.H. Imperial Prince 10 Alex Gibson. This is a perpetual award that is given out by the
717 Imperial Prince to a Council Prince from his own Council that has been of great service,
718 help or guidance to the Reigning Prince. This award is given out at The IPP Ball.

719
720 **L. THE PRINCESS TO PRINCESS AND PRINCESS TO PRINCE AWARD:** This is a
721 perpetual award that is given out by the Imperial Princess to a Council Princess from her
722 own Council that has been of great service, help or guidance to the Reigning Princess. This
723 award is given out at The Imperial Ball.

724
725 **M. THE HURRICAN LOW-RAIN AWARD:** To be determined by the Imperial Princess
726 for presentation to the recipient at IPP Ball. This award is named after and in the memory of
727 H.I.S.H. Imperial Princess XII Hurricane Low-Rain. This is a perpetual award that is given
728 out by the Imperial Princess to a Council Princess from her own Council that has been of
729 great service, help, or guidance to the Reigning Princess. This award is given out at her step
730 down.⁶

731
732 **N. JACK O. AND NASTY WEATHER TASMANIAN AWARD:** This award to be
733 determined by the Chancellor of the Council and given out at the IPP Ball. The Chancellor's
734 Award: This award was named after and in the memory of the founders of the Council.
735 This award is known as the Jack O and Nasty Weather Tasmanian Chancellor's Award. This
736 award is given out by the Chancellor just before crowning to someone the Chancellor feels
737 merits the award. The award is merited by a substantial contribution of help, to the Council,
738 Court or community. The recipient, is chosen by the out going Chancellor. This is a
739 perpetual award.

740
741 **O. THE GRAYTOP MEMORIAL AWARD:** Voted upon by the members of the College
742 of Monarchs at their first meeting in January for presentation to the recipient(s) during
743 Coronation week.

744
745 **P. THE GEORGE RAY AWARD:** Presented by Emperor Rainier Emeritus George Ray
746 during Coronation week each year, at his discretion.

747
748 **Q. COURT MEMBER OF THE YEAR:** Voted on by the general membership and
749 presented during Coronation week each year by the outgoing Monarchs.

750
751 **R. CITIZEN FOR LIFE:** Designated by the reigning Monarchs as they see fit, for
752 presentation during Coronation week.⁷ (Not to exceed one each, and must have Board
753 Approval).

754
755 **S. The "Scott Rodriguez" Business Person Award:** This award is nominated and
756 elected by the court membership in good standing at the first general membership meeting
757 in March for presentation to the recipient at The IPP Ball by the outgoing Prince and
758 Princess

6

7

759 **T. The “Alex Veltri” Business Award:** This award is nominated and elected, in January,
760 by the court membership in good standing and shall be presented to the recipient during
761 Coronation by the outgoing Monarchs or their designees.

762 763 **SECTION IX – PROTOCOL**

764
765 The Minister of Protocol as designated by the reigning Monarchs shall follow Protocol as set forth
766 by them and the following.

767
768 **WHAT IS PROTOCOL?** By Definition: *PROTOCOL n. The rules of diplomatic and state*
769 *etiquette and ceremony. MINISTER n. One appointed to head an executive or administrative*
770 *department of a government.*

771
772 For the purpose of The Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle and The Olympic and Rainier Empire,
773 the Minister(s) of Protocol, as appointed by the Emperor and Empress, shall, as their duties, be in
774 charge of all things pertaining to Protocol. They shall at all times, be aware of all titles bestowed by
775 the reigning monarchs. At all times they should have current and complete lists of titles granted
776 and/or bestowed in their proper order from the least or lowest ranking title, right up to and including
777 the Emperor and Empress, and the full name of the recipient (both given and drag/stage name). So
778 at no time are they in a quandary as to who is the holder of said title or titles.

779
780 They shall be in charge of making the line-up in proper order of any and all entrances by the court
781 in or out of town. If the entrance is out of town, and they are unable to attend, they shall make
782 available for one of the people attending the function, the necessary information so that the proper
783 entrance can be made without any confusion. They shall see that the Master of Ceremonies for the
784 event, or whoever will be making the entrance announcement, has in their possession the cards with
785 all information contained there on for proper introduction of the court and that the cards are in
786 proper order. They should have a duplicate set of cards so that the proper alignment of the court
787 can be made and everyone in their proper places prior to the entrance.

788
789 Out of courtesy to the MC’s, they should have the cards in their possession prior to the event so as
790 to read through them and understand them so if any clarification is needed, it can be made then, not
791 during the entrance. Standard procedure has been that they be on 4 X 6 cards for ease and
792 convenience of the MC’s. It might be wise for the Minister(s) of Protocol to have a master card file
793 in their possession at all times. After determining who is present from the empire, that permanent
794 card can be pulled out from the file and a copy made and placed in the proper order for the line of
795 march.

796
797 Protocol is the manner of acting while in public, and for most instances, within the city. It also
798 covers entrances and the proper line of march. One of the first things which should be remembered
799 is, **“LET COMMON SENSE BE YOUR GUIDE”**.

800
801 One of the easiest methods of embarrassing the Emperor and Empress is for someone to act in a
802 manner, which would reflect adversely upon the entire city or Court. Obviously this is to be
803 avoided at all costs. Perhaps the simplest rule for everyone to follow is **"TAKE YOUR CUE**
804 **FROM THE REIGNING MONARCHS"**. Does that sound a little strange? Well, let us cover a
805 few little examples to let you know what we are talking about.

807 When a situation arises where a member of another court is, for any reason, in disfavor with our
808 own Emperor or Empress, obviously, there is a very subtle manner to show your displeasure with
809 this individual. You simply do not stand when that person makes an entrance. It is certainly not up
810 to you, as an individual, neither to pick a fight with that person nor to show disrespect for them by
811 not standing just because you do not like them. If the Emperor and Empress stand, so do you. You
812 never remain seated at any time when your own Emperor and Empress are standing.

813

814 Another equally important rule of thumb to remember is that you, as an individual, may honor any
815 out-of-town Monarch, either past or present. You do this by giving them the honor of standing at
816 the time they make an entrance. These are the only people for whom you will stand, unless the
817 reigning monarchs for the Olympic and Rainier Empire also stand.

818

819 Perhaps we can break this down even more simply by listing some of the current titles. If your title
820 is lower than that held by the person, you would almost always be right in preparing yourself to
821 stand.

822

823 REIGNING EMPEROR AND/OR EMPRESS - ALWAYS

824

825 PAST EMPEROR AND/OR EMPRESS - take cue from our monarchs, or as you feel
826 necessary

827

828 PRINCE AND/OR PRINCESS CONSORTS - only if they accompany a reigning head of
829 state

830

831 IMPERIAL PRINCE AND/OR PRINCESS - our own equal part should recognize them, and
832 others as they see fit, upon one exception. That exception is at the stepping down of these
833 titles. During their entrance and final walk, it is traditional to pay them the honor of
834 standing.

835

836 PRINCE AND/OR PRINCESS OF THE REALM - only if your title is lower than this one
837 and then at your own option

838

839 REMEMBER that you will never be wrong if you take your cue from the Emperor and Empress. If
840 they pull the boo-boo, that is their problem, not yours. Of course to every rule, there is the
841 exception. For information purposes, it has been decreed within the Olympic and Rainier Empire
842 and most other empires, that if Jose' I and or Nicole The Great makes an entrance, everyone will
843 stand. You will notice that the reigning head of state will pay Jose' and or Nicole The Great the
844 honor of walking more than halfway down the runway to meet Them.

845

846 It has become traditional, within our own empire to use the following form of greeting:

847

848 Males bow slightly from the waist.

849

849 Females - curtsy.

850

851 In nearly all courts, the Minister(s) of Protocol prepares the line of entrance. It is their job to
852 determine who is where from your own court and to ensure that the proper introduction is written on
853 the entrance cards. Protocol also includes being nice to people you don't know or those whom you
854 dislike. You are each a representative of this court, and as such should conduct yourself

855 accordingly. You, from the Emperor and Empress on down, should do nothing, which will cause
856 undue talk among the other empires.

857
858 Surprisingly enough, one of the major items of protocol which is never really talked about, nor does
859 anyone stop to think about; is when out of town, the Emperor and Empress and past monarchs are
860 liable to arrive late. Since they are usually doing the public relations work for the city. It is
861 important for them to talk to and greet as many of the individuals attending a function as they can.
862 For this reason, the members of our own court forget that they are indeed the Heads of State, and
863 should be saved a seat at the table. In our mad scramble for good seating, we often forget to pay
864 this simple courtesy.

865
866 Another area of proper protocol falls upon the shoulders of the All Members. One of their main
867 jobs is the protection of the reigning monarchs. Upon many occasions, a good number of people
868 both within and without the empire, attempt to get the ear of the monarchs. At those times, if the
869 individual has taken too much time, or sees that the monarchs are becoming bored, simply step in
870 and inform the monarchs that there is someone across the room to which they should talk to.

871
872 Each person granted a title should fill out a 4 x 6 card with the following information:

873
874 (Example) PROPER NAME AND TITLE - ROGER DODGER, IMPERIAL DUKE
875 FULL INTRODUCTION TITLE - THE IMPERIAL DUKE, ADVISOR TO THE
876 THRONE OF OLYMPIA AND RAINIER, KEEPER OF THE GARTER, ETC.
877 ROGER DODGER

878
879 Crowns won with title are the Crowns to be worn at all Court Walks during their reign. The
880 exception will be at the Titleholders "Final Performance" they may choose to wear Their Personal
881 Crown.

882
883 In most cases, it would behoove the Minister(s) of Protocol, early in the year, to assess the proper
884 line of entrance and to assign each of the persons with a title a number. That way, each person
885 would then know exactly where he or she is going to be in the lineup, no matter what the entrance
886 and who is or is not there. The less confusion the better.

887
888 Order of entrance is important and should be followed to the letter. Various titles all have a degree
889 of importance and some are greater than others are. An example of a typical entrance follows:

890
891 VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE EMPIRE
892 IMPERIAL HONOR GUARD
893 IMPERIAL GUIDES
894 COURT JESTERS
895 GRANDFATHER OF THE COURT
896 MOTHER AND FATHER OF THE COURT
897 KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF THE REALM
898 GRAND ADVISORS TO THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS
899 LORD HIGH CHAMBERLAIN
900 LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR
901 MINISTER (S) OF PROTOCOL
902 LADIES IN WAITING TO THE EMPRESS

903 CROWN PRINCE AND CROWN PRINCESS
904 VARIOUS ELECTED TITLES OF THE COURT - ELECTED DURING THE
905 REIGN OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS. EXAMPLES ARE - CLOSETS,
906 HEARTS, SEAS, SEATTLES
907 PAST IMPERIAL PRINCE/PRINCESS
908 PAST EMPERORS/EMPRESSES
909 IMPERIAL PRINCE/PRINCESS
910 EMPEROR AND EMPRESS

911
912 Other titles can be inserted where they belong. The proceeding is based on the protocol of the
913 British and French. Titles from other empires should be avoided as confusion results and there is a
914 very fine line between some titles as to which is the greater and the lesser title. The following is a
915 list of the English/French Protocol, and as a suggestion be studied by all incoming monarchs so as
916 to familiarize themselves with the various titles and they're ranking. Corresponding female titles
917 are also noted.

918
919 PAGE – male servant, young man training for knighthood
920 SQUIRE – young aspirant to knighthood serving as an attendant and armor bearer to a
921 knight
922 KNIGHT (LADY) - holder of a nonhereditary title below the rank of baronet entitled to use
923 Sir before given name
924 BARONET (LADY) – inheritable title below a baron and not part of nobility, uses Sir
925 before given name
926 BARON (BARONESS) – lowest hereditary nobility
927 VISCOUNT (VISCOUNTESS) – nobility, ranking between Earl and Baron
928 COUNT (COUNTESS) – nobility, having rank corresponding to that of an Earl
929 EARL (COUNTESS) – nobility, next in rank above a Viscount and below a Marquis
930 MARQUIS (MARQUISE) – nobility, next in rank below a Duke
931 DUKE (DUCHESS) - nobility, hereditary rank immediately below a Prince and above a
932 Marquis

933
934 The job of Minister(s) of Protocol is an important position with the court system. If handled
935 properly can be fun and rewarding job, if not can lead to some embarrassing situations for you, your
936 empire, and to your Emperor and Empress. So stay on top of everything, know when Seattle is
937 making an entrance at an official function and see that all your people are in their place so no
938 confusion results.

939
940 **C. EMPEROR & EMPRESS EMERITUS:** The Titles of Rainier Emperor Emeritus and
941 Olympia Empress Emeritus will be given out only once. Mr. George Ray and Charity will be the
942 only persons to ever have these titles. The College of Monarchs, at their discretion may create
943 Honorary Rainiers or Olympias.

944 **RATIFICATION**

945
946 The Pageantry Section of the Operating Guidelines of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle; the
947 Olympic and Rainier Empire, Inc. were duly ratified by a majority vote of the General Membership
948 meeting on October 23, 2017 at The Cuff, in the city of Seattle county of King, State of
949 Washington.