

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGING THE ORDER OF THE LAUREL TO INCLUDE SKILLS

The intent of this proposal is to expand the activities currently covered by the Order of the Laurel. This proposal is offered as an alternative, should the proposal for an additional peerage not be considered acceptable.

The following is from the first Order of the Laurel ceremony in AS II.

“Though it be the prime business of our Society to present such Revels and Tourneys as are pleasing to the populace; and as the prime pleasure of that populace is to see the Great Sport of the Tourney; There are yet those without whom our Society would not be half so pleasant; yet who do not join in the lists and thereby come not to the Glory of Knighthood or the Throne. It is the intention of His Majesty that these persons should not go unrecognized.”

The original intent of the OL was to include all those activities that did not lead to Knighthood or to the Throne.

The following was the definition for the Order of the Laurel prior to the creation of Order of the Pelican.

"a. Achievement -- the candidate must have attained the standard of excellence equal to that of his prospective peers in some art, skill, or area of knowledge, and have made this art, skill, or knowledge available for the service and instruction of the Kingdom, above and beyond that expected of S.C.A. members."

At that time, the OL was not limited to the Arts and Sciences: it also included skills.

If the members of the Order of the Laurel are willing to change back to the original intent of their order, then the current problem of lack of peerage recognition for those that do have the peerage level qualities, but excel in skills not currently covered by the OL, OP or Chivalry, could be easily solved.

This proposal has the advantage of not having to create a new order to include those who display peerage level qualifications and also excel in SCA approved weapon styles, excluding armored rattan tournament combat. These weapons styles could include such activities as rapier, target archery, combat archery, equestrian, siege engines, thrown weapons, and others that might develop in the future.

The current General Requirements and Duties for the OL would remain the same. The only change is in capitals below.

b. The Order of the Laurel: Members of the Order of the Laurel may choose to swear fealty, but are not required to do so. THE CANDIDATE MUST HAVE ATTAINED THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE EQUAL TO THAT OF HIS OR HER PROSPECTIVE PEERS IN SOME ART, SCIENCE, SKILL OR AREA OF KNOWLEDGE. The candidate must have applied this art, science, skill and/or knowledge for the instruction of members and service to the kingdom to an extent above and beyond that normally expected of members of the Society.

I am most willing to work with the BoD to make any changes needed to make this proposal acceptable.

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