

A Proposal for a New Patent Order

from
the Board Peerage Committee

The SCA Board of Directors has received from the Peerage Committee a proposal for a possible new pan-activity patent order in the SCA and a framework for future orders, should the need arise. The proposal calls for recognizing those members who are already acting as peers in an endeavor but cannot be considered for elevation to one of the existing peerage orders because that endeavor or endeavors fall outside the areas considered by those orders. It also outlines how activity-specific peerages might be formed out of this shared peerage only when it is clear that the activity has achieved a level of participation and maturity within the Society to warrant its own peerage order.

The proposal is divided into two separate parts, the first of which can be implemented without the second.

Part 1

Under this model, Crowns would be allowed to elevate those members who are acting as peers in areas not considered by the existing peerages into a shared peerage order that has no specific unifying factor. This shared peerage order would not be limited to martial pursuits -- the focus would be on recognizing people who are peers, albeit unrecognized by the existing orders. This peerage order would be a consulting order, just as the other peerage orders are, and would advise and assist the Crowns in finding new candidates, just as the other orders do. There would be no restrictions on the Crowns in elevating new members of this order, just as in the other existing orders.

In the context of this document, this order is termed the Order of <Name> or O<N>. The name, badge, and regalia are to be determined at a later time, if appropriate.

Part 2

The Order of <Name> would have the ability to spin off (with Board approval) a truly new peerage order, to be populated with a portion of the companions of the Order of <Name>, who would in the process irrevocably convert their peerage to the new activity-specific peerage. The process for this would be that members of the O<N> would determine from internal polling whether or not they had met Board-specified requirements for creating a new order. For the purposes of discussion, let us say that the Board specified that at least 10 companions of the

O<N> in all but at most two of the kingdoms would be needed to split off and form a new peerage Order, and that the O<N> through a process of internal polling believed they could meet those requirements for the new order.

The Secretary of the Order of <Name> would inform the Board, which would then work through a committee to determine a suitable name, heraldry, regalia, and Corpora wording. Public commentary and commentary from the O<N> would be sought, and the resulting proposal would be returned to O<N> in the form of a “sign and you go” petition. If the final numbers on the petition could be met, and the Board approved, then the order specific to those peers would be created, and signatories of the petition would have their peerages irrevocably converted to it, leaving other members of the O<N> to incubate potential future peerage orders as they are conceived.

The motivation behind this framework is that all the stakeholder groups have an input to the process. The populace gets a chance to vote with their feet by assembling within an endeavor and making it strong enough to produce individuals who might be considered peers. The Crowns get to say who they believe the peers are, by recognizing them for their work and dedication. The Board gets to set the conditions for allowing the O<N> to spin off a new peerage. And the peers of that new order get a say in what that order encompasses and when that community is strong enough to support it.

The Board seeks commentary on this proposal. Please send your comments to sca-comments@lists.sca.org on or before **June 21, 2021**. **Nothing in this proposal is final at this point in time.** Additionally, the Board will in the coming weeks issue a poll on this proposal using its survey module at <https://members.sca.org>. Be watching for it on the SCA Announcements email list, at <https://www.sca.org/news-events/>, or on the SCA Facebook page.