**HERALDRY COMMITTEE**

**POLICY: A Policies and Procedures Manual, subject to the approval of the Council, will be maintained and will contain adequate instructions to insure consistent compliance with both the letter and the intent of the Society’s Bylaws.**

**REFERENCE: based on the current ACGS Bylaws (2024)**

**Article IV: Organization, Indemnification**

Section A: Organization:

Subsection 2: Members of the Society will comply with these Bylaws and perform their duties in accordance with the Society’s governing documents and applicable laws. No member of the Society will receive any salary or compensation from the Society other than reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

Section B: Indemnification

Subsection 1: The Society will, to the fullest extent permitted by law, indemnify each person who serves at any time as a Council member, officer, trustee or other official of the Society against all expenses and liabilities, including, without limitation, counsel fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement payments, incurred or imposed upon such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding in which he or she may become involved by reason of his or her service in such capacity; provided that no indemnification will be provided for any such person with respect to any proceeding initiated by such person against the Society, a Council member, an officer, a trustee or another official of the Society or any matter as to which he or she will have been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best interests of the Society; and further provided that any compromise or settlement payment will be approved by a majority vote of the Council members at a meeting at which a quorum is present. The indemnification provided hereunder will inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of persons entitled to indemnification hereunder. The right of indemnification under this Article IV, Section B will be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which any person may be entitled.

Subsection 2: This Article IV, Section B constitutes a contract between the Society and the indemnified Council members, officers, trustees and other officials of the Society. No amendment or repeal of the provisions of this Article IV, Section B that adversely affects the right of an indemnified Council member, officer, trustee or other official under this Article IV, Section B will apply to such Council member, officer, trustee or other official with respect to those acts or omissions that occurred at any time prior to such amendment or repeal, unless such amendment or repeal was voted by or was made with the written consent of such indemnified person.

**Article X: Standing Committees**

Section E: Heraldry Committee. The Heraldry Committee will be appointed by the Chieftain and approved at the annual Council Meeting for a two (2) year term. The committee will consist of three (3) members, the Chair to be selected by the committee. The committee will be responsible for oversight of the Grant of Arms from the Lord Lyon, Pursuviant, King of Arms for the Society and for recommendations to the Council on all aspects of the arms/heraldry including the usages and restrictions of the Society’s heraldry.

**PROCEDURE:**

A Heraldry Committee will be appointed by the Chieftain, the Chair to be selected by the committee. The Committee members will serve for a period of two years and can be reappointed.

*This Committee has responsibility to:*

* Be responsible for recommendations to the Council and the Chieftain on all aspects of the arms/heraldry including the usages and restrictions of the Society’s heraldry.
* Research Scottish legal and traditional usages of corporate arms and brief members of Council.
* Submit an annual report to Council which may include activities of the past year related to our Grant of Arms and recommendations for future usage.
* Accept custodianship of the Letters Patent, in possession of the Society, which are comprised of the actual painted document on a large sheet of vellum, and will be maintained in accordance with the legal documents of the Society of this nature.
* The Letters Patent is framed and has a case suitable for transport, but the display and use will be limited to milestone Gathering events, and events where the Clan chief is to be present, or dignitaries present that would benefit the Society from the display of the Letters Patent.
* There will be proper care to the safety of the Letters Patent in storage in a climate-controlled area such as with our Library at the University of Baltimore, and will be documented as part of the archived documents of the Society.
* The Letters Patent and its storage/shipping case will be conserved as a complete unit, and when shipped to a location by secure means, it will be insured for any damage. At all times the safety and care of the document will be at the highest practical means.

*Corporate Arms:*

* The corporate arms belong solely to the American Clan Gregor Society and not to the individual members of the Society. The usages will be within and not to exceed the use of Corporate Arms as per the definition and use provided by The Court of the Lord Lyon. Use of the artistic rendition of the Arms in its whole or in its parts will be determined by the Chieftain, and Council within the guidelines provided by the Court of the Lord Lyon, our hereditary Chief and upon advice of the Heraldry Committee. Thus, the usages will be tightly controlled and will not be used in any way other than those listed below:
  + Official stationery of the ACGS: The full Coat of Arms (Shield, Helm, Mantling, Crest and Motto) or the Small Arms (shield and motto only) will be reserved for Official Documents of the Society. Any correspondence that is to be signed by anyone other than the Chieftain and/or Assistant Chieftain will be coordinated with them for prior approval.
  + Badge of Office for the Chieftain and Past Chieftains
  + Certificates will use the full Coat of Arms for:
* Membership documents
* ADC appointments
* Recognition program award documents
  + - Artist painting of the Full Coat of Arms Library Plate sized and any prints made of the Coat of Arms.
* Flags and/or Banners using the Arms:
* Area Deputy Chieftains to be authorized to fly “tent flags” (smaller and less expensive versions of the Society’s banner, bearing the Society’s arms), at highland games and other authorized events in their respective locales. These tent flags will bear only the arms from the shield (i.e. the galley under sail, bearing the Chief’s arms on the sail, etc.), and not the helmet and crest.
* The authorized size of the flag/banner can be determined by standard practice. However, it must be rectangular, proportioned 5 x 4 and comprised of the Arms of the Society.
* Usage size to be determined by the Chieftain upon advice of the Heraldry Committee.
* The Flag when used in a Parade with National or State flags will be carried according to flag etiquette.
* ACGS Flag for display (9-foot pole is suggested for carrying or in a suitable stand for display).
  + - * At annual ACGS Gatherings.
      * At clan tents on a pole in a stand or as a hanging banner, either interior or exterior
* Brochures and advertisements, outside publications such as: ‘Scottish Banner” and ‘The Highlander Magazine’
* It is suggested that for small advertisements a black on white line drawing of the full Coat of Arms (Shield, Helm, Mantling, Crest and Motto) or the Small Arms (shield and motto only), or the small arms within a golden circlet bearing the name and foundation date of the Society (1909), as is now used on the Society’s membership pin, and for larger publications the version determined appropriate but in full color.
  + Items depicting the partial or full Coat of Arms either in the line drawing or full color to be acquired or commissioned by the Council for use by or sale to the membership or the Society. The use of the Arms must be in good taste at all times. New merchandise is to be approved by Council and are to be sold to and worn by members only:
    - Lapel pins
    - Tie pins
    - Cuff links
    - Ladies brooches
    - Golf or polo shirts
    - T-shirts (crest only, may be sold to general public)
    - Sweat shirts (crest only, may be sold to general public)

*Of Heraldry Note:*

* There will be occasions when the Chieftain will be required to represent the Chief in person. The heraldic representation is denoted by a flag called the Pinsel which was presented to the ACGS in 1984 by our then hereditary Chief Brigadier Sir Gregor MacGregor of MacGregor, Bt.
* The Pinsel is a flag used to denote a person (normally the Chieftain ACGS) to whom the Chief has delegated authority to represent him on a particular occasion and the event is of such significance the Chief wishes that representation. It will not be flown when the Chief is present. However, the Chieftain will always have immediate access to the Pinsel at events in case the Chief is unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. Will clarity be required over representation, the Chief must be contacted in the first instance, taking into consideration the tact and diplomacy required at some events.
* The Pinsel will be displayed, as appropriate, at the ACGS annual Gathering.

*Society Support for the Committee:*

* Carry out timely communication of Society business that requires action by the Committee

**APPROVED**

**Approved by ACGS Council and AGM October 2024**

**Periodic review by ACGS Council: 2027**