

# **LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION POLICY BOOK**

## **SECTION NUMBER 6**

### **PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP**

#### **6A.) TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS AND THEIR COST:**

See the enclosed current, up to date, membership application for details of Membership Levels and their cost on brochure panel two (inside front page) including information on the availability of the L.H A. insurance policy.

Membership in the Living History Association is available to all interested individuals, groups, businesses, historical societies, reenactment groups, clubs, etc.

The schedule of fees shall be determined at the annually held General Membership Meeting in early November by recommendation of the Board of Directors

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The following is presented as a guideline for individual and unit behavior at Living History events. Adherence to the Code of Ethics will enhance the enjoyment and accuracy of historical portrayals for Living History Association members and spectators.

#### **6B.) CODE OF ETHICS:**

1. It is the LHA Members' responsibility to interpret their chosen historic role in an accurate manner within their capabilities while meeting the standards established within the time period they are depicting. History should not be altered to match an interpretation, the interpretation should be altered to match history. It is the interpreter's responsibility to document his/her sources.
2. It is the LHA members' responsibility to relate to the public honest and documented information on events being portrayed or their role relating to those events. Tall tales, falsehoods and embellishments may awe spectators, but they do not enhance our reputation as historians. Documented folklore, folk tales and humorous anecdotes can be an asset when the spectator is made aware of what is fiction and what is fact and where the information is found.
3. It is the LHA members' responsibility to be friendly to spectators. If asked a question a reenactor should answer it to the best of their ability.
4. It is the LHA members' responsibility to treat others the way they wish to be treated. Respect the customs of other reenactors time periods and the way of life they portray.

5. It is the LHA members' responsibility to squelch malicious gossip. The spreading of rumors and innuendoes hurts everyone. If you feel an inaccuracy is evident, discuss the matter with the other party.
6. It is the LHA members' responsibility to report any observed safety violation to the appropriate officer.
7. It is the LHA members' responsibility when portraying the role or unit for which others have already established a standard or quality level to meet or exceed the existing standard.
8. It is the LHA members' responsibility when acting as the host of an event, either individually or as a unit, to do everything in their power to provide what they promised. If it cannot be provided let the command personnel know what is unavailable and why, as soon as possible, so changes can be made to accommodate all personnel. Be reasonable and fair in all distribution of amenities.
9. It is the LHA members' responsibility when attending an event to assist the host and do their part to make it a safe and successful event. An ethical reenactor will take care to prevent sowing dissent or deviating from the scenario.
10. It is the LHA members' responsibility to maintain self control. Bad temper, intoxication, and arguments all adversely affect the safety and enjoyment of the event for everyone. It also creates an unfavorable image for the spectator.
11. The study and interpretation of history is an art and not a precise science. The exchange of ideas and points of view based on proper documentation should be encouraged. The interpretation of a role or time period should be founded on the best and most accurate sources available. Materials used by reenactors should be as close as possible to authentic materials. avoid "struggles to the death" over minute points as these inhibit the freedom of expression.

**6C.) PRIVILAGES OF MEMBERSHIP:**

**6C.1) RIGHT TO VOTE:** Each dues paying member has the right to a single vote at all General Membership Meetings, mail ballot elections, or other meetings where votes are to be cast. If a family takes a membership or a reenactment group takes a membership, both are still entitled to only one vote, regardless of the number of members in the family or reenactment group.

**6C.1a) BALLOT ELECTIONS:** The nine Board of Directors will be voted upon in alternating elections with four Board Members voted upon in one election and five Board Members voted upon in the next held election. Board Members will be nominated to appear on the ballot during the General Membership meeting. There is no limit to the number of nominees possible. From those nominated the TOP FOUR or FIVE vote getters (depending on the year) will be the next members of the Board, elected to speak and vote on the business of the corporation during Board Meetings. The next three vote getters will be elected as alternates and as such they may attend meetings, voice their opinions, but with no vote on

business matters. The alternates can be appointed as full members to the Board of Directors, in order of the number of votes polled on their behalf, if and when a resignation or death occurs on the Board, or if a Board member is removed for some reason such as a lack of attendance at Board meetings or misconduct.

**6C.2) RIGHT OF PETITION:** An individual member has the right to petition the Board of Directors so that he/she can be heard on a specific subject of concern to that member or a perceived concern of the membership at large. Once petitioned, the Board of Directors must give said petitioner the ability to appear before the Board by warning their next meeting to the petitioner no less than thirty days in advance. If the petitioner cannot come before the Board at that time they may submit their thoughts or concerns in writing at the next Board meeting. If that is impossible the petitioner may submit their thoughts in writing to the President, who as the voice of the membership, will make every effort to present the subject matter before the Board of Directors at the very next meeting, in the most favorable light possible.

For petitions to create Committees or evolutions to Department status see sections number 4. - 4C.1e

**6C.3) RIGHT TO GRIEVE A DEPARTMENT OR COMMITTEE DECISION:** To voice a disagreement with decisions made on behalf of the membership the members have the right to petition the Board of Directors or the President. The President can speak on their behalf at Board meetings. The Board will act as final arbitrator between the grievances of members and the decisions made by Departments or Committees. If the grievance is against the Board of Directors it can be brought up during the business meeting portion of the General Membership Meeting by the parties involved or through the President and the matter can be discussed, motions made and voted upon as needed. See petitions, 6C.2.

**6C.4) BENEFITS:** Benefits of membership include receiving the “Living Historian” newspaper at least four times a year. Receiving a membership card, parchment, a voice in the organization, newsletters, sales program information, tour offerings, ability to attend good quality events hosted by the Association, social events, schools of instruction, conventions, free on site use of the Association library, discounts on program fees and entrance to the New England Plantation, and a unit liability insurance program are all benefits of membership.

To identify which benefits relate to categories of membership see the enclosed membership brochure.