

LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION POLICY BOOK

SECTION NUMBER 9

LHA ICONS AND CEREMONIES

The Organization: The Living History Association, Inc. (LHA) is a not for profit corporation with a nine member board of directors who oversee the educational, historical and fraternal programs as administered by a full time office staff. The organization seeks to help and co-ordinate its volunteer membership in ways that contribute to the continued dissemination of our mutual heritage, through primarily but not solely, the Living History Interpretive Medium. The LHA is composed of ordinary "people bringing history to people."

I. The Living History Association Flag

A. The Flag: The Living History Association flag is one of several symbols used by the Association as a recognizable icon of the organization's existence and contributions to quality programming. It is not intended as an authentic flag to be flown on a reenactment battlefield during historical scenarios, but it is intended for use at social events, memorial services for veterans and/or reenactors, and as an event registration area identification symbol, or an administrative area symbol. It should be used in good taste, when strict authenticity is not an issue, and when the fraternal nature of the reenacting hobby as a whole is an important element of a particular program or ceremony. The LHA Flag is one symbol of the reenactment community's commitment to good historical portrayal, and the reenactor's commitment to assisting each other with research, safety and performance methods. The LHA Flag is a symbol that keeps foremost in our minds that we are not alone in the hobby, but are part of a fraternity that transcends organizational boundaries.

B. The Symbolism: The LHA Flag design is a red edged rectangle, in the canton with a solid white rectangular center, and a single five-pointed blue star in the white rectangle. This is the same color and design as the small banners placed in windows on the American Home Front houses where family members were serving in the armed forces during World War II. The banners had multiple blue stars when more than one person was in the armed forces, one star for each person who served from each household. This design was chosen to symbolize the LHA's respect for the sacrifices of the World War II Generation, and the prosperity that America enjoys due to their efforts, and which has fueled the growth of the living history reenactment movement.

The regular five-pointed blue star has been altered from the original design to a five-pointed blue star of irregular shape. The irregular shaped star was copied from the 1777 flag of Herrick's Green Mountain Boy Regiment which contained thirteen irregular white five pointed stars on a blue canton placed on a solid green field. The

Green Mountain Boy flag is identified only with Vermont, and primarily for its service as the personal standard of General John Stark, of New Hampshire, at the Battle of Bennington, Vermont. While the five pointed star represents every state in America where LHA membership exists, the irregular star of Vermont finds its way to the center of the LHA Flag canton as a subtle and unique symbol of where the organization was founded in 1978.

The letters: **L H A, I N C**, are a symbolic logo of organizational recognition used on many media and publicity announcements of the organization's activities. The initials stand for: Living History Association, Incorporated.

The body of the flag is white, with a large American Eagle and scroll printed on it symbolizing the LHA's purity of purpose, "To Keep Our Ancient Traditions Alive" through the study and presentation of history. The words on the scroll, "People Bringing History To People" remind us that the LHA, like America, is made up of people of all walks of life and all manner of diversity. Each member of the LHA is here to help other members and the general public understand our heritage to the best of their ability. We are simply people, extending our hand of shared and learned experiences, through the most immerse medium in America, "living history," to as many more people as possible.

- C. Protocol** The LHA flag can be trooped on parade, but should not be saluted, as it is always subservient to the American Flag and state flags. The LHA flag should always be placed to the left of the American Flag (from the direction that the flags are facing) in other words; normal U.S. Flag protocol should be followed.

An organizational pledge can be led by those holding an LHA office, or by members attending a function where they feel a pledge would be a welcomed addition to other ceremonies or a social event.

- D. Ceremony:** The LHA flag should always be in a proper position to American and state flags in the room, either as part of a color guard or in a floor stand. The LHA Ceremony should only be performed after the national flag has been pledged. If the national anthem is to be played and a prayer is to be said, then these elements should always come before the LHA Flag Ceremony.

II. LHA Membership Pledge

- A. The Common Pledge:** I pledge to help and assist the living history community, through safe, well researched, and interesting presentations of history. I further pledge to make living history presentations available to schools and the public at large.
- B. Oath of Office Pledge:** Officers of committees, departments, chapters, regional safety officers, LHA Board of Directors, and so on, may take the oath of office pledge as a group rather than individually. Current or outgoing officers in good standing can lead the pledge. The details of how the pledge is made are up to each of the existing committees, departments, chapters, and so on.

The Pledge Or Oath Of Office For Taking Office In An LHA Elected Position:

I (YOUR NAME) a member in good standing in the Living History Association do hereby pledge to fulfill my duties as an elected officer of the Living History Association, and uphold the by-laws, policies, safety regulations, and goals of the organization, to the best of my ability.

III. Living History Association Prayers

The LHA offers the below as suggestions for use at various LHA functions with the full realization that a variety of changes additions and deletions may be necessary. Their content should provide the basis for any prayer created by local clergy for a particular event or ceremony, with an effort to remain non-denominational. A reference to "God" is fine as "God" can be defined in many ways and transcends many religions, but more specific names that reference specific religions are not encouraged unless representatives of many faiths are given equal time. The area where a ceremony is held should be taken into consideration so as not to break any church and state separation ordinances. For those who do not believe in God, the LHA suggests that they be made mindful that these prayers are an open statement of our commitment to each other, whether they care to believe that a higher power is watching us all or not.

A. LHA Standard Prayer:

"Almighty God, Father of Liberty, we ask your blessings on these thy servants assembled, and on those that have gone before us into your keeping. Protect us from harm and guide us with your light, so that the lessons of the past may not be forgotten. Amen." Written by Dave Bernier, Sr. and approved by the LHA Board of Directors, Hotel Northampton, Northampton Mass. Circa 1985.

B. Some other suggested prayers:

1. **A Prayer Before A Meeting:** All LHA meetings are to begin with a pledge of allegiance to our nation's flag as currently prescribed by the U.S. Congress, and then may be followed by a prayer: Oh Lord, look over us as we attempt to interpret our mutual heritage, keep us safe from harm, and diligent in our efforts to assist our fellow members in their historical endeavors. Keep our organization strong, and mindful of its educational value, and purpose. Amen.
2. **A Prayer At An Event:** Oh Lord, keep us and all our fellow re-enactors safe from harm, make each Living Historian his brother's keeper, safe, well disciplined, and void of historical malice or contempt. Amen.
3. **Prayer At A Memorial Service:** Oh Lord, we are gathered here today to remind ourselves of the great sacrifices made by our fellow citizens, those veterans and personnel of the armed services, civilians at home, and at times of greatest peril, those who found themselves on the unintentional and unexpected doorstep of a war. Their struggle has kept us free and in the light of liberty that we so enjoy. Let us not forget their efforts and trial by fire. Let our history keep us strong as a nation, and let our freedom, bought at such high and noble sacrifice, be the light for peace throughout the world. Amen.

4. **For Those in Authority:** O Lord God Almighty, guide we pray thee, all those to whom thou hast committed the government of this nation, and grant to them at this time special gifts of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and strength; that upholding what is right, and following what is true, they may obey thy holy will and fulfill thy divine purpose; through our Lord. Amen.
5. **For Our Nation:** O eternal God, through whose mighty power our fathers won their liberties of old: Grant we beseech thee, that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through our Lord. Amen.
6. **For Those in Service of Our Country:** O Almighty Lord God, who neither slumbers nor sleepeth; Protect and guide, we beseech thee, all those who at home or abroad, by land, by sea, or in the air, are serving this country, that they, being armed with thy defense, may be preserved evermore in all perils; and being filled with wisdom and girded with strength, may do their duty to thy honor and glory; through our Lord. Amen.

IV. LHA Awards, Procedures and Criteria: The LHA has three major ceremonies for Memorials and Awards and the criteria for receiving recognition is laid out below. The ceremonies for these recognitions may vary, but some suggestions are offered per current traditions at the National Headquarters.

- A. Lest We Forget Memorial Service:** This award is offered only to those living historians who have passed away. A plaque is maintained by the National Headquarters with the names of fellow members of the Living History Community who have passed away, as nominated by their fellow reenactors who have supplied the correct spelling of their name, date of death, and a small contribution to defray the inscription costs (currently in 2004 about \$5.00). The eventual intent is to allow regional groups to buy and maintain their own plaques and conduct their own ceremonies.

The plaque is often displayed at event registration desks, and social events. Occasionally there is an evening service or ceremony held at reenactment events, this is particularly the case when several fellow living historians have passed, or a member has passed of great popularity or through some very unexpected means. In many cases non-reenacting family members of the deceased are invited to participate. Ceremonies can be very simple or elaborate affairs, with the member's unit often playing a lead role in the memorial activities. The "Lest We Forget" service can center on those recently passed, but generally all the plaque names are read.

The Formal Ceremony: A table should be arranged in the room or field where the ceremony is to take place with ample room for readers and speakers to stand. The plaques should be arranged on the table, flowers are allowed, and if a particular person (Who has recently passed and whom has never before had their name formally read from the plaque) is being remembered a photo or image of that person is also allowed on the table. (This is allowed only during the year of that person having passed.) Those watching the ceremony should be in front of the table with no spectators to the rear of it if possible. The ceremony should be at a quiet time of day with few if any general public present, and no nearby activities with noisy distractions. If the ceremony is at dusk, those attending should bring period lanterns.

The ceremony might include a color guard, a music contingent, clergy and assigned readers, as well as a master of ceremonies to control the activity. A less formal ceremony can also include only one person to read the names with no other participants or props of any kind. The below is offered as a suggestion of a very formal ceremony:

A table is arranged with the memorial plaques, flowers and a photo of a recently departed comrade. Those attending have arranged themselves in a horseshoe shaped semi-circle in front of the table leaving a large open area in the center. A bell and gavel are also on the table. A color guard and ceremonial party enter, placing themselves directly behind the table and facing the gathered assembly.

The Master of Ceremonies: announces that the assembly will now begin the Living History Association Lest We Forget Memorial Service and shall now pledge

Suggested Prayer Closing: Oh Lord, keep us and all our fellow reenactors safe from harm, make each living historian his brother's keeper, safe, well disciplined, and void of historical malice or contempt. Amen.

- B. Day/Iverson Award:** The award is based on the love of two friends, Ray Day and Ivy Iverson, who joined the Living History Association in its very early days. They loved their country, their fellow man, and the reenacting hobby. They were both veterans of the World War II Pacific Fleet and had personal knowledge of both suffering and sacrifice in the service of their country. One transferred off the Battleship U.S.S. Arizona only weeks before it was sunk by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor, the other, spending two and a half years as a prisoner of war in Burma, after his ship the Cruiser U.S.S. Houston was sunk in Java Straights in early 1942.

Both men traveled with their wives to many historical events, were involved in a variety of programs for Boy Scouts Of America, and were willing to give freely of their time in support roles that were important, but where credit was rarely lavished on them. They were always ready to help, eager to work, and anxious to spread their humor. They added their own brand of creativity to LHA programs and took care of many details. Their selflessness and loyalty inspired this award.

THE DAY IVERSON AWARD CRITERIA

DEDICATION - Candidate must have been involved with living history for a period of years, taken part in various aspects and events, and must have consistently presented to the public and to the hobby an accurate and sensitive portrayal of the period they represent.

KNOWLEDGE - Candidate must have demonstrated excessive knowledge of the times they represent and of their individual portrayal.

PATRIOTISM - Candidate must have demonstrated a love of his/her country, and must uphold the ideals and traditions of that country.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION - Candidate must have demonstrated a willingness to share his/her knowledge and training with fellow reenactors, school children, and the general public.

CO-OPERATION - Candidate must have demonstrated a willingness to fulfill any assignment or duty asked of them and to have carried said assignment out in a proper and selfless fashion.

Unit commanders and LHA officers will be issued nomination forms (from which they may make copies for any LHA member to use). A committee created through the LHA Board of Directors will choose annual awardees from these nominations. More than one award may be given each year, at the discretion of the board of directors who will weigh the merits of each nomination, all extenuating circumstances, and any budgetary considerations. Nomination forms will be issued in November of each year, for awards that will be made no sooner than the following

November. The secretary of the LHA Board of Directors shall make a list of those receiving the award and the year in which they received it.

- C. **The President's Award:** LHA President Thomas Nolan of Arden, New York, began this tradition several years before he passed away. The tradition has evolved that the President in conference with the LHA Executive Board composed of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director would award a single President's Award, when appropriate, to an outstanding individual within the living history hobby. Candidates for the award will be sought through the distribution of nomination forms to LHA officers and to unit commanders who then may make copies of the forms and distribute them as they see fit. The award can be given as many or as few times as deemed necessary, but does not have to be given each year. The LHA Board of Director's Secretary will keep a record of each awardee and the date on which the award was made.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD CRITERIA

Loyalty - The Candidate must show themselves to be loyal to their unit and/or the Living History Association. They must be free of malice toward their fellow reenactors.

Dedication - The Candidate must be dedicated to the perpetuation of their unit and/or the Living History Association, showing a strong willingness to assist in funding drives, paid events, or activities that make significant operational contributions to the group to which they belong.

Knowledge - The Candidate must be knowledgeable about his/her area of participation in promoting the living history medium, either through in-depth knowledge of the history being portrayed, or through a knowledge and strong work ethic in the support services that keep their unit or various historical events operational.

Love of Your Fellow Reenactor - The Candidate must not be an aloof button counter. The Candidate must have not only a willingness, but also an energy for helping other reenactors improve their historical impressions, showing patience rather than aloof criticism. The candidate must keep in mind that this is a hobby and that the learning experience should be not only instructive, but also should be fun, rather than unreasonable and demanding.

Education - The Candidate must be involved in the living history medium so as to better the knowledge of the general public, school children, and their fellow reenactors. A Candidate who only wishes to perform non-public events (and is known to avoid public events or show a significant indifference to the public when attending a public event) is not eligible.

Day/Iverson Award Nomination Form

CLEARLY PRINT THE:

Date of Nomination: _____

Name of Person Being Nominated: _____

Organization Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of the person(s) making this nomination:

Organizational Affiliation: _____ Contact Person: _____

Contact Address; where the award is to be sent: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

If the award is to be presented at a special function or event,

by what date do you need the award to arrive: _____

This award will be given to only a few of those people nominated, but persons may be nominated by several people and for several successive years. All nominations must be submitted by November 1st of each year. All nominations should be mailed to: LHA, PO Box 1389, Wilmington, VT 05363.

On a separate sheet of paper, follow the criteria nomination for this award, and in your own words explain the character of the individual you are nominating for this award, the many activities they have performed, and the reasons you feel they should be accorded this honor. Make a clear concise argument for the nomination, as it will be compared to others from across the country.

President's Award Nomination Form

CLEARLY PRINT THE:

Date of Nomination: _____

Name of Person Being Nominated: _____

Organization Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of the person(s) making this nomination:

Organizational Affiliation: _____ Contact Person: _____

Contact Address; where the award is to be sent: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

If the award is to be presented at a special function or event,

by what date do you need the award to arrive: _____

This award will be given to only a few of those people nominated, but persons may be nominated by several people and for several successive years. All nominations must be submitted by November 1st of each year. All nominations should be mailed to: LHA, PO Box 1389, Wilmington, VT 05363.

On a separate sheet of paper, follow the criteria nomination for this award, and in your own words explain the character of the individual you are nominating for this award, the many activities they have performed, and the reasons you feel they should be accorded this honor. Make a clear concise argument for the nomination, as it will be compared to others from across the country.