

Imperial Sovereign Empire of Arizona

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BYLAWS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT OF ARIZONA, INC.

PREAMBLE

We, the members of *The Imperial court of Arizona, Incorporated*, join together, knowing there exists in our realm a true need for serendipitous acts of goodness, kindness, love and charity. It is to these purposes that we shall gather our collective resources. It is to these purposes that we shall dedicate those resources, which will enable us to act as a focal point for channeling needed monies to worthy organizations. During these endeavors we shall be ever mindful that goodness, kindness, love and charity are virtues beyond measure, and that our means to these ends are to have fun, receive donations, and disperse those assets for the betterment of those people living within the realm.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Imperial Court of Arizona, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization striving to unite the Gay, Lesbian/Transgender, Bisexual and Heterosexual communities through charitable fundraising events to meet the needs of all.

ARTICLE I: Name and Authorization for Governance, Ownership

Section 1: The official name of the organization shall be The Imperial Court of Arizona, Inc. (Corporation)

Section 2: The social branch of the Corporation shall also be known as The Imperial Sovereign Empire of Arizona. (Court)

This organization has the prestige and honor of being recognized throughout the United States and internationally as being the only court in the State of Arizona. (Empire)

Section 3: Its Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, Imperial Proclamations, and such other actions as the Board of Directors (Board) and/or membership may make, shall govern the Corporation.

Section 4: Ownership of tangible, intangible and intellectual property by The Imperial Court of Arizona, Inc. shall include, but not limited to the following.

Subsection A: Trade Names and Trademarks

A1 – All use of trade names and trademarks belonging to the Imperial Court of Arizona must be approved by a majority vote of the Board.

Subsection B: The Court Seal

B1 - The Official Seal of The Imperial Court of Arizona, Inc. is not to be altered except by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the Board of Directors for the Corporation present at any Board meeting.

B2 - Use of the Official Seal is limited to the official court business and the Emperor and/or Empress. The seal may also be used by the Corporation/ Court for promotional purposes. The Board of Directors shall govern all other uses of the Seal.

ARTICLE II: *Location and Boundary*

- Section 1: The Corporation shall serve the geographical area known as the State of Arizona.
- Section 2: The Corporation shall have jurisdiction over only that area covered by Article II, Section 1.
- Section 3: The Corporation shall execute its duties and purposes on a worldwide basis with no boundaries whatsoever to impede it.

ARTICLE III: *Purpose of the Corporation*

- Section 1: The Corporation shall have as one of its principal goals, the betterment of relations within the communities of Arizona, with particular emphasis between organizations and community. The Corporation has another principal goal, that being the betterment of public relations between the Gay, Lesbian/Transgender, Bisexual and Heterosexual communities.
- Section 2: The Corporation shall also work toward the promotion of the Court as a Court of great beauty and opportunity, emphasizing Arizona's entertainment, recreational, business, and other attributes.
- Section 3: To conduct activities in the best interest of the community.
 - Subsection A: To conduct activities for the express benefit and/or pleasure and entertainment of the community.
 - Subsection B: To conduct activities for the good of and education of the community.
 - Subsection C: To conduct activities for the benefit of charities.
 - Subsection D: To conduct activities to raise funds for the Corporation.
- Section 4: The Corporation shall engage in any activity approved by the Board of Directors, which does not violate or interfere with either the Constitution of the United States of America, the Arizona Revised Statutes laws of Arizona, , and Article III of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV: Board of Directors

Section 1: Composition – The Board of Directors shall be composed of nine (9) permanent positions and such other positions from time to time as determined by the Board of Directors as needed for the benefit of the Corporation.

Subsection A: The Officers of the Board of Directors shall be:
President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Subsection B: The Monarch(s) to be known as the Emperor and Empress shall automatically be on the Board for the year of their reign.

Subsection C: All other Board Members shall be Members at Large.

Section 2: Members of the Board of Directors may only be removed by:

Subsection A: Any member of the Board may resign his/her position at any time by submitting his/her resignation in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Subsection B: Any member of the Board who is judged unfit by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board.

Subsection D: Any accusation proven by the Board of Director's investigation, when presented by any person(s) or organization.

Subsection D: Any board member who compiles more than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences in any fiscal year will be considered as having voluntarily resigned.

Section 3: Life Time Board Member – The Founder of The Imperial Court of Arizona, Inc. shall be an honorary member of the Board for life. This is to preserve the integrity and validity of the Corporation/Court, true to its founding principles. Only his resignation, retirement, death or actions spelled out in Section 2 above can remove him.

Section 4: The Board and they alone shall be the highest court in the land with reference to all internal matters.

Section 5: The Board is required to have at least ten (10) called meetings during the Corporation's Fiscal Year.

Subsection A: Special (emergency) meetings: All members of the Board must be notified with as much time as possible in view of the unusual circumstances.

Section 6: Voting and Quorum

Subsection A: A quorum of the Board of Directors is 2/3 of the active members.

Subsection B: A simple majority (50% +1) of the Board is required for a Board motion to pass unless otherwise noted in these Bylaws.

Subsection C: The President of the Board shall not have a vote except to act as a tiebreaker.

Subsection D: Honorary Board members shall have no vote and will not count towards a quorum.

Subsection E: Emergency Votes: The president will instruct the secretary to contact ALL board members and conduct an electronic vote (i.e. phone or email) in case of an emergency matter and presented at the following Board meeting, to be included in the amended minutes. When electronic voting is utilized, Board members will have 48 hours to respond to the vote. No response to the electronic vote will count as an abstention.

ARTICLE V: *Finances*

Section 1: Administration of Funds

Subsection A: The Corporation shall be empowered to accept, deposit, and acknowledge any and all donations.

Subsection B: The Corporation shall have the power to engage in any activities that are within the scope of Article III of these Bylaws and set an appropriate fee for participation in said activities.

Subsection C: All funds raised under the umbrella of The Imperial Court of Arizona, Inc. shall be accounted for, put in the deposit bag by the Treasurer and witnessed by one (1) other Board Member.

Subsection D: The Corporation shall maintain a checking account at a Phoenix, Arizona bank only. The Board shall determine the location and name of the bank.

Subsection E: The Board shall arrange to have a double signature set up on the Corporation checking account. The Corporation shall require two (2) signatures on all disbursements of Corporation Funds. Those signatures shall be that of the Treasurer and the President of the Board.

Subsection F: The Board shall instruct the Treasurer to maintain proper and complete financial records detailing all income and expenditures.

Subsection G: The Corporation shall maintain an open book policy and any Court/Corporation Member and/or the public may request to review the financial records of the Corporation.

Section 2: Expenditures and Disbursement of Funds

Subsection A: The Board, including reigning monarch(s), current Imperial Court titleholders and members shall be required to submit an itemized budget proposal for any expenditure to the Board for approval prior to the execution of the expenditure.

Subsection B: Due to unforeseen occurrences in regard to disbursement of funds, the President of the Corporation shall be allowed to commit funds not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100).

B1 – Any funds distributed by the President shall be read and entered into the minutes during the following meeting.

B2 – Any disbursements in excess of the one hundred dollar (\$100) limit may become the personal responsibility of said President.

Subsection C: All funds collected in the name of the Corporation must be first routed into the Corporation checking account.

Subsection D: All funds raised at a benefit shall be dispersed to the beneficiary of choice for that event once the tax ID has been acquired.

Subsection E: All funds raised at a fundraiser for the Corporation shall be deposited and may be allocated to any area of the Corporation's general ledger system.

Section 3: Misappropriation of Funds

Subsection A: Any member of the Corporation found guilty of misappropriation of funds shall be permanently removed from the Corporation and all titles, rights and privileges shall be stripped from said individual(s) in perpetuity plus one (1) day, upon completion of an investigation and $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by the Board.

ARTICLE VI: *The Imperial Monarch(s) and the Court*

Section 1: The official titles of the chief public representatives of the Court shall be the Emperor of the Imperial Sovereign Empire of Arizona and/or the Empress of the Imperial Sovereign Empire of Arizona.

Section 2: These representatives shall be selected in accordance with the rules in this article.

Subsection A: The Board of Directors shall cause an election to take place each year on the weekend prior to the annual Coronation Ball.

Subsection B: Voting is open to all Arizona residents showing a valid/current State of Arizona issued driver's license, Arizona ID card, or proof of Arizona residency. The

Imperial Sovereign Empire of Arizona is a closed voting community in perpetuity.

Subsection C: Voting stations shall be set up across the state in major cities as the need and interest arises.

C1 – Said voting stations shall be secured and approved only by the Board.

C2 – Voting stations shall be manned by the Board when possible and/or by court members in good standing.

C3 – Each station will be supplied with pens/pencils, ballots, tables, and an official locked ballot box.

Subsection D: The selection of the Monarch(s) shall be determined by the accumulative popular vote.

Section 3: Purpose of the Imperial Sovereign Monarch(s).

Subsection A: The offices of the Emperor and/or Empress are expressly created to serve as the official representatives of the Court, executing the expressed goals of the Corporation already set forth.

Subsection B: The term of the Imperial Sovereign Monarch(s) shall be for approximately one (1) year beginning the moment following the crowning and ending the moment of the crowning of the successor(s) on the date of the following Coronation

Subsection C: Furthermore, they are to serve the entire community in whatever way possible, to the best of their abilities, as long as those activities are not in violation of the Constitution of the United States of America, laws of Arizona, and Article III of these Bylaws.

Subsection D: The Emperor and/or Empress must reside in the State of Arizona during their Reign.

Subsection E: Prince Royale, Princess Royale and all line titles given during a reign shall continue their terms until investiture of the next reign.

Section 4: The Express Duties of the Imperial Sovereign Monarch(s).

- Subsection A: The Emperor and/or Empress are expected to be present at all functions or activities held by the Court or Corporation whenever possible.
- Subsection B: The Emperor and/or Empress are expected to promote Arizona and the communities of Arizona, whenever possible.
- Subsection C: Attendance by the Emperor and/or Empress at events within the boundaries of the Empire shall take precedence over any conflicting events outside of the Empire whenever possible.
- C1 – The Emperor and/or Empress may delegate another court member to attend a function outside of the empire as their representative.
 - C2 – The Emperor and/or Empress shall draft a letter of regrets to be delivered by the designated representative
- Subsection D: All reigning Monarch(s) must dress according to gender title at all Coronations and Court Investitures for entire length of attendance at the function unless the court voted to attend in camp attire or special theme attire.
- D1 – If a conflict occurs where the reigning Monarch(s) cannot attend a Coronation or an Investiture in the Title of their Gender they must call the President or Vice-president of the Board of Directors for approval.
- Subsection E: Any reigning Monarch convicted of a felony charge shall be removed from office and the organization after a completed investigation by the Board and a vote of the membership.
- Subsection F: The Monarch(s) at the end of the reign are entitled to make one (1) proclamation each and (1) joint proclamation having said proclamation approval by the Board before being proclaimed publicly. The Board has the express right to make the proclamations into

by-laws. Additional proclamations shall be made upon approval of the Board.

F1: By-laws and/or proclamations shall be reviewed annually at the said by-laws meeting. At that time, discussion of the incorporation into the existing by-laws will be done at the Board discretion.

F2: The Secretary of the Board of Directors shall record and keep a list of all proclamations made.

Section 5: Vacancies to the Monarchy/ Regencies

Subsection A: If a vacancy occurs, or in the event a sole reigning Monarch is elected, the Board will determine if the vacancy needs to be filled. The Legendary Firebird College of Monarchs (College) will select a potential Regent Monarch to submit to the Board for approval/ratification. Qualifications of a Regent Monarch will be determined as outlined in these By-laws.

Subsection B: A Regent Monarch may be considered for elevation by the Board to full Monarch status, when appropriate, at the end of the Reign.

Subsection C: When a reigning Monarch passes away, the Board has the right to keep the position vacant for the remainder of the reign in honor and memory of the deceased.

Section 6: Line Titles

Subsection A: The Emperor and/or Empress shall select all members of their Line and Imperial Family without further ratification or approval of their choices except as stated below:

A1 – The chosen court member(s) for Prince Royale, Princess Royale, King Father, and Queen Mother must be approved by the Board prior to being invested.

Subsection B: This Empire does not recognize self-appointed court titles.

Subsection C: Any member of the Line judged to be unfit or negligent in their duties by the Monarch(s); may after consultation with the Board, be removed from the Line and be stripped of their Title.

Subsection D: Any line member failing to attend at least (1) out of every three (3) monthly court meetings is subject to not walking with their title at the next Coronation in any Empire, subject to the decision of the Emperor and/or Empress.

Subsection E: All line and family members must dress appropriately according to the gender of their title at all Coronations unless the court votes to go in camp attire or special theme attire that would change their member title gender.

Section 8: Candidacy rules for Emperor and/or Empress

Subsection A: Requirements to Apply

- Must have resided in Arizona for at least twelve (12) months prior to applying
- Must have been a member of the Court for at least one (1) year
- Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age
- Imperial Court Titles are open to both male and female applicants for either position.
- No Candidate will be accepted with a felony charge conviction.
- No two (2) persons shall be allowed to apply for one single title. (i.e. Co-Emperors or Co-Empresses)
- No person will be allowed to run for both the offices of Emperor and Empress within the same year.

Subsection B: Applicants for Candidacy

- Persons denied by the Board in any one year may re-apply any following year.
- Any Board member that is accepted as a candidate for Emperor or Empress shall relinquish their voting privileges on the Board pending the outcome of the coronation weekend.
- Any Monarch who is removed from office by the Board will not be accepted as a candidate for the title of Emperor and/or Empress. The Board may re-evaluate

this removal should this monarch express desire to be a candidate in a future monarchal election.

- A past or present Monarch from outside the Empire may run for the title of Emperor/Empress if they have served this Corporation for (1) consecutive year or at the discretion and approval of the Board. The Monarch(s) shall relinquish usage of any and all prior Imperial Title(s) for the period of their reign. Upon approval of the Boards, said Monarch(s) may represent their past Imperial Title(s) only when attending the origin of said Imperial Title.
- A Past Monarch of the Imperial Sovereign Empire of Arizona who chooses to run for a second term of office, after waiting a (5) year period following their step-down, may do so if the Board approves his/her candidacy.

Subsection C: Conduct of Candidates

- Open declaration or publicizing of one's candidacy for the office of Emperor and/or Empress will not be permitted prior to Candidate Night. Failure to heed this subsection may result in disqualification of the Candidate.
- Candidates shall not publicly acknowledge sponsorship
- Candidates must comply with these By-Laws
- An applicant for Emperor/Empress or an accepted candidate may be disqualified at any time by the Board for unbecoming conduct.

Section 11: Removal of an Emperor and/or Empress (Past or Present) Executive Officer/Board Member, Co-Founders and any Court Title holder for just cause.

Subsection A: The Board shall have the right and the responsibility of removing from office any member of the corporation charged with violation of these bylaws and/or laws or for just cause.

Subsection B: Any person, persons, or organizations may present accusations against any member of the Corporation. The Board is then charged with the duty of investigation on the facts. If said facts appear to justify the charges against the

individual in question, then formal charges shall be set in writing and sent to the accused.

Subsection C: A letter shall be addressed to the accused and shall be delivered by registered mail with a return receipt. An alternative delivery method may be by an in-person delivery of the letter by two members of the Board. The accused will have 30 days to respond and/or appear at the stated Board meeting to dispute the charges. If the accused fails to respond or appear, the Board can opt to suspend or remove their title.

Subsection D: The Board shall be the Highest Court in the land with reference to the internal affairs concerning the Imperial Member(s) of the I.S.E.A.

ARTICLE VII: The College of Monarchs

Section 1: The official name for the College of Monarchs shall be hence known as the Legendary Firebird College of Monarchs.

Section 2: The composition of the College shall be: all duly elected former Emperors and Empresses of the Court.

Section 3: The College shall be responsible for and involved in the three (3) following events each fiscal year.

Subsection A: Candidate Interviews

Subsection B: Candidate(s) announcement.

Subsection C: Crowning Ceremony at Coronation

ARTICLE VIII: Corporate Sponsorships Annual and Event

Section 1: The Corporation shall set forth in their Policies and Procedures the levels of sponsorship by individuals, businesses and other organizations that wish to support the mission of the Corporation.

Section 2: The Board will establish these levels of sponsorships along with annual and event levels by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Board.

Section 3: These sponsorship levels will be reviewed from time to time for additions and adjustments by a committee appointed by the Board.

ARTICLE IX: Contractual Obligations

Section 1: The Board may enter into contracts with independent contractors and/or businesses as they deem appropriate to carry out the business of the Corporation, when the Corporation cannot provide the particular service within their own ranks.

ARTICLE X: Amendment of By-laws

Section 1: These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at the appointed monthly membership meeting.

Section 2: The Board shall hold an annual By-laws review, to be completed no later than the 31st day of August. The By-laws Committee Chairman will present recommendations to the Board. The Board shall vote on presenting the recommended revisions to the General Membership for a final vote or return the By-laws back to the By-Laws Committee for further revision.

Section 3: The general membership shall vote yes or no to ratify the revised By-laws. The By-laws shall immediately become effective upon successful completion of the ratification process.

ARTICLE XI: Affiliation

Section 1: The Board of Directors is affiliated with the International Court System.

ARTICLE XII: Indemnification

Section 1: Officers, directors, employees and agents of the Corporation shall be indemnified for any costs, expenses or liabilities necessarily incurred in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceedings in which they are made a party by reason of being or having been a member serving in an elective or an appointed capacity. No member or employee shall be indemnified when adjudged in the action or suit to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty.

ARTICLE XIII: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Corporation in all cases to which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules or order the Corporation may adopt.

ARTICLE XIV: Dissolution

Section 1: The Corporation may be dissolved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board. In the event of dissolution, the Board, after reconciling all debts, will distribute the remaining assets to the local charities as named by the Corporation and current reigning monarchs.

ARTICLE XV: Ratification

These Bylaws were ratified by the properly noticed and held meeting of the membership of the Imperial Court of Arizona, Inc. on this date, August 21, 2011, in Phoenix, Arizona.