

Grand and Glorious Order of hillbilly Degree



Constitution and By – Laws

Article# 1 Membership

This Organization shall be restricted to members in good standing of a **MASONIC BLUE LODGE and Shriners International**.

Article# 2 Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to promote sociability among members and to provide finances for Shriners Hospitals for Children and the Hospital transportation funds of Clan sponsored **shrine center**.

Article# 3 Officers

The degree has **three** main officers – Raban of Clan – Keeper of Cob – Guardian of still.

They shall be elected for one year term, at the clan annual meeting and may succeed themselves if duly elected. The clan may also have more elected offices. (Keeper of Quill Recommended) **Raban may appoint any officer except the 3 main officers.**

Article# 4 – Duties of Officers

ALL officers are expected to **donate** their time and efforts, **without cost** to organization, to conduct ritual work, and to handle finances and properties belonging to order.

Article# 5 Petitions

New members shall be admitted upon application and presentation of **proof, of current membership in a masonic blue lodge, and the Shriners International** and the payment of the stated initiation fee. Initiation rituals will be conducted periodically by the officers at Clan sponsored fundraisers or Annual Clan meetings only! **(Pictures or Recording of active ritual work is STRICTLY PROHIBITED!!!!)**

Article# 6 Government

All meeting shall be govern by Roberts Rules of Order!

Article 7 Dues

No annual dues shall be required, other than the initiation fee! All members are expected to promote the organization and to assist in any way, the Raban of their Clan to perform his duties!

Annual sustaining memberships may be collected on a volunteer basis!!!

Article# 8 Membership Cards

ALL MEMBERSHIP CARDS are to be ordered from IMPERIAL CLAN (\$2 each) ONLY and run in consecutive numbered order for each clan! A roster must be kept and a copy of membership card numbers and current address, of yearly new members, submitted with required yearly report! **Outhouses must purchase cards from their main clan at a fee established by main clan and provide a new member roster, yearly report to main clan, and registration fee if required!**

Authority for membership cards of new clans with copies of the ritual can be obtained from the Imperial Clan by request from certified Clan Members. (At least three) and payment of the required charter fee.

Article#9 Finance

All monies collected by any clan shall be used for approved expenses. All remaining funds after established yearly startup fund and a one year equal backup fund, shall be donated to either Shriners Hospitals for Children, that is sponsored by Clan Shrine Center or their hospital transportation funds!

An ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT MUST BE SENT YEARLY TO IMPERIAL KEEPER OF COB!

Article#10 Amendments

These by-laws may be amended by a two – thirds majority vote of the membership present at the Annual Imperial Clan Meeting! (Convention) All new amendments, By- Laws changes and proposed changes to amendments and By – Law Changes, must be placed thru Imperial Clan and membership must be informed using the official Hillbilly Publication **three months prior to vote! Only certified members** in good standing and properly registered for convention may vote.

Article#11 Clan Meetings

ALL CLANS must hold **six** or more meetings or fundraising functions per year and **dates sent to OFFICAL** hillbilly publication!

Article#12 Shrine Rules

All Clans, Outhouses and Hillbillies can do **NOTHING** that conflicts with the **Shriners International Laws!!!**

ALL DONATIONS SENT TO THE IMPERIAL CLAN, ARE TAX EXEMPT!!!

Article #13 Official Publication

The Official Clan News shall be consider **“OFFICIAL IMPERIAL WEBSITE or any written publication sanctioned by the Imperial Clan”!!!** All Clans are required to submit an active E-mail address for automatic website update alerts!!

Article#14 Registration fees

All clans and outhouses are required to access a onetime registration fee of \$10, for each new member, on behalf of Imperial Clan!

Article#15 Clan Contact Information

All clans are required to have an up to date regular mailing address, phone number, and an active e – mail address on file with Imperial Clan at **ALL TIMES!!!**

Imperial Clan

Official Interpretations

- 1. Membership:** In the clan permits a hillbilly to participate in actives of any clan. All true hillbillies will extend the hospitably expected for all visiting hillbillies. Any hillbilly in good standing, desiring membership in other clans can obtain a membership card (non – numbered) in that clan for payment of a modest fee (determined by clan) and will not be required to participate in the ritual again!
- 2. Recruiting Members:** Any clan may recruit new hillbilly members from any place in the world, where there is no existing clan. Shrine Center areas are no barrier to the recruitment of new members. **However,** if a clan is established in the Shrine centers area, where recruiting is planned, then their **permission** is required!
- 3. Clan Areas:** There will be only **one** clan in any Shrine Centers jurisdiction! NO other clan can be established!
- 4. Outhouses:** All clans have the authority to create outhouses (Sub - groups) within their shrine centers jurisdiction. They will be **governed by the Main Clan** under which the charter is so assigned. They will be considered the same (unit or Club) as main clan! All reports (same as Main clan) must be sent to main clan

to be combined as one! There may be as many outhouses as the main clan (within their coverage) approves!

5. **Ladies Auxiliary:** All clans, outhouses have the authority to permit the establishment of a ladies auxiliary, providing the following conditions are followed:
 - a. **Eligibility: Must be married to a Noble in good standing or widow thereof!**
 - b. Ladies will neither join the clan, nor participate in any clan's business meeting or mens rituals.
 - c. The ladies auxiliary must work for the same basic principles upon which the clan is established. They May conduct the Ladies rituals, if approved by Clan!
6. **Clan seals:** Each clan and outhouse is hereby **authorized** to obtain a Hand Seal to apply official impressions to documents, membership certificates, etc! These can be ordered from any office supply store! They must include the official hillbilly man, Clan number (outhouse number also) word degree!
7. **Hillbilly Emblems:** The hillbilly degree has three official emblems. The cob, crescent, hillbilly man, and hillbilly women are copied righted by the imperial clan and **each hillbilly clan charter in good standing** are authorized to reproduce these to promote the degree.
8. **New Clans:** Any clans receiving inquiries regarding establishment of a new clan, **must** have inquires forwarded to the imperial clan as soon as possible! The Imperial will answer all inquiries **promptly!**
9. **Reports:** All clans and Outhouses, **must submit** a yearly report containing new members list and total monetary value of total donations for the year, along with registration fee for new members to Imperial Clan, **by March 31st of following year!** **Non Compliance for over 2 yrs, is a violation of article#9, can result in Charter removal!**
10. **Clan Publication:** Will carry ALL official announcements and notices of Imperial Clan and Chartered Clans and their outhouses!
11. **International Hillbilly Convention:** There will be an annual convention of the Hillbilly Degree in October (unless other wised approved by Imperial Clan and voted at convention). Date, time, and place will be announced in the official Imperial Clan Publication. It will be open to all initiated hillbillies in good standing and their hillbilly Gals.
12. **Imperial Business Session:** The Imperial session at the annual convention will be restricted to Noble Hillbilly Members in good standing and **Shriners International, in good standing ,in a Blue Lodge, and approved guests**, seeking to form a new clan!
13. **Internal Revenue Service:** Each Clan can apply for a separate IRS tax exemption, which can be obtained by filing Form: 1025, available at any Internal Revenue Service Office!
14. **Imperial Clan:** Declared by unanimous Membership vote at the 1998 international convention, to be the the sol governing body and copy right holder of the Grand and Glorious order of the Hillbilly Degree! Its officers shall consist of the following: Imperial Raban, Imperial Keeper of Cob, and Imperial Guardian of

Still. Other officers may be added by order of Imperial Raban! All vacancies are to be filled by appointment only, by the Imperial Raban! Their duties to be determined by the Imperial Raban and published on official Imperial Website! **ALL** decisions made by this body, regarding the constitution and by – laws,are to be final! **ALL** decisions on disputes between clans and between cousins concerning hillbilly degree articles can be appealed and outcome of appeal is final. All cousins serving in this clan, must be a legal member in goodstanding of a blue lodge and Shrine Center! Serving in this clan, **DOES NOT REMOVE THEM FROM VOTING OR PARTICIPATION IN THEIR HOME CLAN!!**

Grand and Glorious Order of the Hillbilly Degree

2015

Constitution and by – laws Updates

Signature Approval Record

Imperial Raban: I hereby attest with my signature, that the attached updated constitution and by – laws, have been read and approved by our membership at our 2015 International Hillbilly Convention, Held in Milwaukee, Wi on 8/22/2015

 Date: 8/26/2015

Harry Steele – Imperial Clan Raban

Chairman: Shriner Hospitals for Children:

I hereby attest with my signature, that the attached updated constitution and by-laws have been read completely and approved by the Shriner Hospitals for Children Board Of Directors!

_____ Date: _____

Jerry G Gantt

Chairman – Shriner Board of Directors