

**MASCOUTIN SOCIETY OF CHICAGOLAND, INC.**  
**SPONSORS OF THE**  
**O-SA-WAN ANNUAL FALL POW WOW**  
**CONSTITUTION**

**ADOPTED OCTOBER 1956**

Revised March 15, 1962; March 12, 1968; May 9, 1972; May 11, 1999; June 12, 2001; (Corrected Sept, 2006)  
Revised August 12, 2008; December 6, 2008; September 13, 2011; February 14, 2012, July 14, 2015

**Article I Name**

The Mascoutin Society of Chicagoland, Inc. (Hereafter known as the SOCIETY) is a non-profit organization chartered by the State of Illinois. The name Mascoutin means “THE PEOPLE OF THE PLACE OF THE LITTLE FIRES.”

**Article II Purpose**

The SOCIETY is an organization exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code or federal tax section of any future federal tax code. The SOCIETY will obtain and disseminate information on Native American culture including its arts, dress, habits, singing, dancing and related information on Native American traditions, religions and life styles. The SOCIETY will sponsor cultural gatherings of Native Americans and their supporters to disseminate and educate attendees as noted above. The SOCIETY will also conduct outreach services to support indigent Native Americans in order to connect them with various support services and programs.

These include:

- To bring together persons interested in cultural and educational life of the Native Americans.
- To foster an interest in Native American Lore, craftwork and to help preserve the customs and traditions of the Native American’s.
- To foster an interest in Native American Lore enthusiasts for the purpose of friendly get-togethers to dance and mingle with other interested persons, and to exchange ideas and knowledge on the subject of Native American Lore and craftwork.
- To provide to Native American students of higher learning, emergency funds for education uses only.
- To disseminate information relative to craftwork, ceremonies, dancers, Pow Wows, and information on the procurement of materials pertaining to Native Americans Lore and craftwork.

- To encourage members to attend Pow Wows, Fairs and activities pertaining to Native American culture.
- To especially encourage Native Americana to participate in SOCIETY activities, meetings, Pow Wows, etc.
- To have food drives to help those within the Native American community that are in need.

### **Article III Membership**

Section 1 Application for membership in the THE MASCOUTIN SOCIETY OF CHICAGOLAND, INC. is open to anyone. There shall be no discrimination whatsoever in race, religion, sex, etc. Any person eighteen years of age or over, and having an active interest in the history, culture, social life, craftwork or dancing activities of the Native Americans shall be eligible for membership in this SOCIETY.

**Active Member** – Anyone desiring an affiliation with this SOCIETY and been approved by the Executive Board and has paid their yearly dues.

**Honorary Member** - An honor bestowed by the Executive Board.

**Life Member** – An honor bestowed on an active member by the rest of the Life Members.

Section 2 Induction for eligible applicants shall take place at any SOCIETY’s sponsored activities such as the Summer O-Sa-Wan Pow Wow, Winter Benefit Pow Wow, or at specific times as approved by the Executive Board.

Section 3 Neither membership in or services provided by this SOCIETY will be denied to anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental handicap, age, sex, sexual preference, ancestry, or medical condition.

### **Article IV Officers**

Section 1 The officers of the SOCIETY shall consist of a President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2 The terms of office are for one year.

Section 3 Officers are nominated from the general membership and are elected at a general meeting. Elections are held at the last general meeting of the fiscal year.

### **Article V Advisors**

Section 1 Advisors of the SOCIETY shall be referred to as the Executive Board.

Section 2 It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to direct the organizational management of the SOCIETY as encompassed by this Constitution and its By-Laws.

Section 3 The Executive Board shall review this Constitution and its By-Laws annually for revisions.

Section 4 The Executive Board shall hold this Legal title to all property and monies of the SOCIETY as trustees for its members.

## **Article VI Meetings**

Section 1 General membership meetings shall be held monthly.

Section 2 Executive Board meetings shall be held semi-annually.

Section 3 Special Meetings of the general membership can be called at any time by the president of the SOCIETY.

Section 4 Special Meetings of the Executive Board can be called at any time by any active member of the Executive Board.

## **Article VII Quorum**

Section 1 The Quorum for any regularly scheduled membership meeting will consist of a simple majority of those active members in attendance.

Section 2 The Quorum for an Executive Board meeting will consist of a simple majority of the current active members of the Executive Board. See Article VII, Section 1 of this Constitution.

## **Article IX Legislation Procedures**

Section 1 There shall be NO established rules of color or any authoritative text for the proceedings of meetings other than this and By-Laws.

Section 2 The privilege of voting on any shall be reserved to inducted members in good standing.

Section 3 Absentee votes in writing will be permitted at regular, special or Executive Board meetings.

Section 4 A quorums of the SOCIETY's voting membership body shall be present at any regular or special meeting of the general membership to conduct business. See Article VII, Section 1 of this Constitution.

Section 5 A simple majority vote of those members present at any special of Executive Board meeting shall constitute a legal transaction of business.

Section 6 The President shall not make any motions or vote unless to break a tie.

## **Article VIII Finance**

- Section 1 The SOCIETY shall be a non-profit organization and all financial or other receipts from its sponsored activities shall be used to meet its expenses or as a benefit to the organization as a whole.
- Section 2 All checks or vouchers shall be signed by the Treasurer and maintained as defined under Article D, Section 6 of the By-Laws.
- Section 3 In the event of the dissolution of the SOCIETY all assets will be distributed for one or more of the exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code or corresponding sections of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to the state or local government for public purpose. The Executive Board along with the members in good standing will determine the distribution of assets based on the above rules.

## **Article X Amendments**

- Section 1 Amendments to this Constitution and its By-Laws shall become effective upon approval of a simple majority of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- Section 2 No amendment to this Constitution or its By-Laws may be acted upon during the regularly scheduled meeting in which it was introduced.
- Section 3 The Executive Board shall compose any and all amendments to this Constitution and its By-Laws.

# MASCOUTIN SOCIETY OF CHICAGOLAND, INC.

## SPONSORS OF THE O-SA-WAN ANNUAL FALL POW WOW

# By-Laws

### **Article A Membership**

Section 1 Application for membership shall be reviewed by the executive Board and the eligibility of the applicant accepted or rejected by this body.

Section 2 DISQUALIFICATION AND LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

Any membership may be considered disqualified and dropped from the roster as a member of the Mascoutin Society of Chicagoland, Inc. upon discretion of the Executive Board for any of the following reasons:

- Non-payment of dues
- Lack of interest
- Lack of cooperation at meetings of SOCIETY sponsored activities.
- Non-attendance at meetings
- Moral considerations

Section 3 MILITARY SERVICE

Any member called into active military service or serving in that capacity shall retain full membership rights, and during this period shall not be required to pay his/her dues.

Section 4 A copy of the Constitution and its By-Laws is to be presented to each newly inducted member, along with an embroidered SOCIETY Patch and printed History of the SOCIETY.

### **Article B Dues**

Section 1 All inducted members shall be required to pay Membership dues of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) to cover the fiscal year from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. These dues shall be payable annually, prior to February 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Article C Executive Board Meetings & Responsibilities**

Section 1 The Executive Board shall consist of all actively presiding officers, historian, members at large, and persons having previously served a minimum of one complete term as president and who are active members. There are no additional term requirements for the Executive Board.

- Section 2 It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to annually elect a Chairman of the Board, taking into consideration his/her past record and the services performed by him on behalf of the SOCIETY.
- Section 3 The Executive Board of the SOCIETY shall meet no less than twice each year, the time and place of such meetings to be determined and established by its chairman.
- Section 4 It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to review the SOCIETY's financial activity and the SOCIETY's property listing provided by the Historian and implement those controls it deems necessary.
- Section 5 The Executive Board has the power to overrule any person or committee action that was appointed by a previous president.
- Section 6 It shall be within the scope of the Executive Board to approve or disapprove the time, date, and location of all meetings or assemblages as defined in Article VI of the Constitution.
- Section 7 It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Executive Board to outline and draft all amendments to this Constitution and its By-Laws and present them to the membership at any of the general membership meetings.
- Section 8 It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Chairman of the Executive Board to preside at all Executive Board meetings and to assume all responsibility for the work and management of that body.
- Section 9 The Executive Board has jurisdiction over awarding and presenting special honors such as given for outstanding service, honorary membership, life membership, etc. as defined in Article C, Sections 14, 15 & 16 of these By-Laws.
- Section 10 The Executive Board may make, as they deem necessary, recommendations of the name of a person or persons to be elected a permanent member, member-at-large to the Executive Board by vote of the general membership.
- Section 11 Historian. The Executive Board shall appoint a Historian whose responsibilities shall be:
- To keep an historical record of all the SOCIETY's activities.
  - To keep records of the past and present activities in presentable form readily accessible.
  - To keep records of all SOCIETY properties and their locations.
  
  - To present these records for review at all Executive Board meetings as defined by Article C, Section 4.
- Section 12 Grandfather. The Executive Board shall appoint a Grandfather whose responsibilities shall be:

- Develop and implement an Induction ceremony in accordance with all of Article II and Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution; and Article A, Section 4 of the By-Laws.
- The Induction ceremony must be in writing and approved by the Executive Board.
- Help new members feel welcomed and comfortable in order to better assimilate into the membership.
- Act as the official Greeter for Guests, new and prospective members at SOCIETY meetings and activities.
- The grandfather will be responsible for keeping all items used for society ceremonies. These items shall be kept and stored in a proper and respectful manner. If the grandfather is unable to keep these items he may appoint an appropriate substitute approved by the Executive Board to do so.

Section 14 The Executive Board shall appoint an Outstanding Service Award Committee consisting of those who have received the award to judge all proposed recipients. The committee shall use the following regulations:

- A SOCIETY member in good standing of 5 years.
- Active on committees and/or participate in SOCIETY activities.
- Be knowledgeable in some form of “Native American Ways”.
- Perform service for the good of the whole SOCIETY not only for personal gain.
- Honorable, not self-centered, dealing fairly and above board with all persons and situations.
- Receive major approval of the committee.
- Votes cast must be by secret ballot.
- Awards to be presented only at a SOCIETY gathering.

Section 15 The Executive Board shall establish a Life Membership Committee consisting of those who have received the award to judge all proposed recipients. The committee shall use the following regulations:

- A SOCIETY Member in good standing of 5 years after being a recipient of the Outstanding Service Award.
- Active on committees and/or participation in SOCIETY activities.
- Be knowledgeable in some form of “Native American Ways”.
- Perform service for the good of the whole SOCIETY not only for personal gain.
- Honorable, not self-centered, dealing fairly and above board with all persons and situations.
- Receive a two thirds majority approval of the committee.
- Votes cast must be by secret ballot.
- Awards to be presented only at the Winter Benefit Pow Wow or Summer O-Sa-Wan Pow Wow.

Section 16 The Executive Board shall appoint a Bobby Past Memorial Award Committee at the National Pow Wow (every three years) consisting of those who have received the award along with at least two active members appointed by the Chairman of the Executive Board to judge all proposed recipients. The committee shall use the following considerations:

- Recipient should be a good dancer and travel the pow wow circuit.
- Recipient should be a good craftsman.
- Recipient should conduct themselves in a positive manner towards others and shows good moral character.

Section 17 When a controversy arises as to the interpretation of this Constitution and/or By-Laws, the problem shall be decided by the Executive Board.

## **Article D Duties and Responsibilities of the Officers**

Section 1 The President shall preside at all regular or special meetings of the SOCIETY it shall be his/her duty and responsibility to help correlate and execute all activities of the SOCIETY.

Section 2 The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President (Sergeant-at-arms) shall:

- Assist the President in carrying out of his/her duties.
- Shall assume the duties of the President in the event of his/her absence.
- Be in charge of Security and all security personnel required at Mascoutin sponsored activities.
- Securing the refreshments for the monthly meetings.

Section 3 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall be responsible for:

- Maintaining the SOCIETY membership list.
- Maintaining a master mailing list.
- Mailing the Pow Wow flyers.
- Registration at SOCIETY functions.

Section 4 The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for:

- Keeping and recording the minutes of all regular, special and Executive Board meetings.
- Copies of these minutes to be given to the SOCIETY Officers and the Executive Board Chairman.
- To perform all other duties normally associated with this office.

Section 5 The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for:

- Mailing notices of meetings, bulletins or information to all members in good standing, as well as to those serving probationary membership.
- To perform all other duties normally associated with this office.

Section 6 The Treasurer shall be responsible for:

- Keeping of accounts and recording all income and disbursements of the SOCIETY.
- Responsible for paying approved expenses.

Section 7 In the event that neither the President nor the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Present is present at any meeting, any member of the Executive Board in attendance may preside.



- Section 8 The President may fulfill the vacancy (pro-tem) of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Secretary or 2nd Vice-President personally or by appointing an active member, in good standing, to fill such vacancy.
- Section 9 The President shall have the right to appoint the Chairman or members for any committee he/she deems necessary. (See Article E of the By-Laws)
- Article 10 All former Presidents shall retain the title of President and shall be regarded in that respect.

## **Article E Committees**

- Section 1 **Scholarship Committee.** The Scholarship Committee Chairman and members are appointed annually by the President of the SOCIETY. The total number of members must be an odd number. The committee will follow the guidelines outlined separately.
- Section 2 **Pow Wow committee.** The Pow Wow Committee Chairman and members are appointed by the President of the SOCIETY for each Pow Wow. This is not a standing committee and may be changed at the discretion of the President or the appointed Chairman.
- Section 3 **Communication Committee.** The Communication Committee Chairman and members are appointed annually by the President of the SOCIETY. Their responsibility includes but is not limited to the SOCIETY Newsletter (The Pipesmoke) and the SOCIETY's website ([www.mascoutin.com](http://www.mascoutin.com)).
- Section 4 **SOCIETY Store.** The SOCIETY Store Chairman is appointed annually by the President of the SOCIETY. The store will place orders for craft supplies for members of the SOCIETY for the cost of the items plus any applicable taxes paid and shipping. The store may not sell supplies to non-members of the SOCIETY for less the 25% of the suggested retail price plus taxes and shipping.
- Section 5 **SOCIETY Library.** The SOCIETY Librarian is appointed annually by the President of the SOCIETY. The SOCIETY Library is a collection of Native American craftwork and cultural materials that are available for checkout by SOCIETY members in good standing for a limited time of 30 days after which it will be returned to the SOCIETY Librarian.

## **Article F Elections**

- Section 1 The nomination of all officers shall take place during the November meeting, with election at the December meeting. Nominees for President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and Treasurer must be twenty-one (21) years old and have a membership in good standing of one (1) year to be eligible for office.

- Section 2 Newly elected officers shall assume the duties and responsibilities of their respective offices at the regularly scheduled meeting following the Winter Benefit Pow Wow or March 1<sup>st</sup>, whichever comes later.
- Section 3 The election of officers shall be by secret ballot.
- Section 4 A member in good standing cannot be elected into an office without having been nominated for that office and that nomination seconded. The nominee must give oral or written acceptance before a nomination can be voted on.
- Section 5 The President shall be elected for a term of one year, effective from the March meeting, and may succeed themselves in this office for as many terms as elected.
- Section 6 The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall be elected for a term of one year, effective from the March meeting, and may succeed themselves in this office for as many terms as elected.
- Section 7 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Presidents shall be elected for a term of one year, effective from the March meeting, and may succeed themselves in this office for as many terms as elected.
- Section 8 The Corresponding Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year, effective from the March meeting, and may succeed themselves in this office for as many terms as elected.
- Section 9 The Recording Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year, effective from the March meeting, and may succeed themselves in this office for as many terms as elected.
- Section 10 The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of one year, effective from the March meeting, and may succeed themselves in this office for as many terms as elected.
- Section 11 Special elections due to vacancies in Office of President can be called only with the approval of the Executive Board. This special election can occur at any regular SOCIETY meeting. Nomination and Election and Instillation can all commence at this meeting.
- Section 12 A President or 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President serving an unexpired term of office shall not constitute a term of office when that term is less than a year.

## **Article G Events**

- Section 1 Gatherings shall be held for the purpose defined under Article II, Paragraph c of the Constitution.
- Section 2 One of these gatherings shall be held during the late summer or early Fall and shall be known as the O-Sa-Wan, meaning "Arrows". This gathering shall be open to other Native American organizations and individuals and not limited to persons holding Mascoutin memberships.

- Section 3 Another of these gatherings may be held during the mid-winter and may or may not be limited to the members of the SOCIETY. The decision in this respect shall be left to the judgement of the Executive Board and based on the quorum of that board.
- Section 4 The SOCIETY may also hold a training workshop currently known as the “Native American Workshop” in the spring of each year for the purpose of exposing young adults in other youth programs such as Girl & Boy Scouts to the culture of the Native Americans. The workshop should be a “hands on” experience for the participants where they can be exposed to the crafts and culture of the Native Americans.

Officers

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