

COLORADO EMERALD SOCIETY

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By-Laws

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Article I – NAME

Section 1. The name of this Association will be:

COLORADO EMERALD SOCIETY

Section 2. The Society shall have a seal, which shall be in the following form:



Section 3. The Association may at its pleasure by a vote of the membership body change its name.

Article II – PURPOSES

Section 1. The following are the purposes for which the Colorado Emerald Society has been organized:

- a. To develop the spirit of fraternalism and fellowship amongst its members.
- b. To encourage active participation in community activities.
- c. To encourage and enhance professionalism, within the public safety professions, to better serve the community.
- d. To engender exemplary deportment on the part of its Public Safety Officer's thereby creating respect and goodwill for law enforcement, fire & emergency medical services.
- e. To provide a family oriented, social, and cultural atmosphere within the public safety community.
- f. To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.
- g. To inculcate and preserve in its members the heritage of their Gaelic culture.
- h. To recognize and promote the accomplishments and contributions of our ancestors and fellow Gaelic-Americans.
- i. To promote positive public sentiment towards law enforcement, fire & emergency medical services.
- j. To communicate and educate the public of the virtues and accomplishments of law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services.
- k. To develop an atmosphere in which the Public Safety professions and the community work together to prevent the loss of life and property, and reduce crime.
- l. To aid and assist all worthy or needy members that is in the best interest of the Society.
- m. To promote legislation beneficial to law enforcement, fire, & emergency medical services.
- n. To aid Active members' families in the event of a line-of-duty death.

Article III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be five (5) classes of membership:

1. Life
2. Active
3. Associate
4. Honorary
5. Auxiliary

Section 2. Life Membership

- a. Life membership shall be open to any member in good standing in the Society at the time of applying for Life Membership.

Section 3. Active Membership

- a. Active membership shall be open to all active and retired paid sworn law enforcement personnel, paid / career firefighters and paid paramedics of Gaelic descent whose sound character is proven to the satisfaction of the members of the Brehon Council (Board of Directors) hereinafter established, and whose patriotism and pride encourage the welfare and security of the United States of America, and to those who profess to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America.
- b. All members shall be eligible to vote on matters pertaining to the Society, except for Brehon Council election. Associate and Auxiliary members shall be eligible to vote for their respective representatives to the Brehon Council.

Section 4. Associate Membership

- a. Associate membership shall consist of civilians of Gaelic ancestry.
- b. Associate membership entitles the holder to participate in meetings and social activities of the Society.

Section 5. Honorary Membership

- a. Honorary membership shall consist of such individuals as shall be recommended to and approved by the Brehon Council (Board of Directors),
- b. Honorary members shall have no vote and no voice in the affairs of the Society.
- c. Honorary members are entitled to attend meetings and social activities of the Society.

Section 6. Auxiliary Members

- a. Auxiliary membership shall consist of Non-Gaelic paid law enforcement personnel, Non-Gaelic paid/career firefighters and Non-Gaelic paid paramedics who possess the Irish Spirit.
- b. Auxiliary membership is also extended to all Armed Forces/Coast Guard members and Veterans possessing the “Irish Spirit.”
- c. Auxiliary members are entitled to participate in meetings and social activities of the Society.

Article IV – MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meetings

- a. The annual membership meeting of the Colorado Emerald Society shall be held in the month of November and not on a day of a legal holiday. In that event, the Brehon Council (Board of Directors) shall fix the day but it shall not be more than two weeks from the date fixed by these by-laws.
- b. The Secretary shall cause to be mailed to every member, in good standing at his or her address as it appears in the membership roll book of the Colorado Emerald Society, a notice telling the time and place of such annual meeting.

Section 2. Regular Meetings

- a. Regular meetings of the Colorado Emerald Society shall be held quarterly, commencing in the month of January annually. Normally, there will be no membership meeting during the months of June, July, and August (Regular meetings will be held during the months of January, April, September, and November).

Section 3. Quorum

- a. The presence of not less than 12 (twelve) members shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of the Colorado Emerald Society; but a lesser number may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than 10 (ten) weeks from the date scheduled by these by-laws and the Secretary shall cause a notice of this scheduled meeting to be mailed to all members who were not present at the meeting originally called. A quorum as hereinbefore set forth shall be required at any adjourned meeting.

Section 4. Special Meetings

- a. Special meetings of the Colorado Emerald Society may be called by the President when he or she deems it in the best interest of the Society. Notices of such meetings shall be mailed to all members at their addresses, as they appear in the membership roll book, at least 30 (thirty) days before the scheduled date set for such special meetings. Such notice shall state the reasons that such meeting has been called; the business to be transacted at such meeting, and by whom called.
- b. At the request of 2 (two) members of the Brehon Council (Board of Directors) or 5 (five) members of the Society, the President shall cause a special meeting to be called but such request must be made in writing at least sixty (60) days before the requested schedule date.
- c. No other business but that specified in the notice may be transacted at such special meetings without the unanimous consent of all present at such meeting.

ARTICLE V – VOTING

Section 1. Procedures

- a. At all meetings, all votes will be via voice, except that for election of officers. For election of Officers, ballots shall be provided, and there shall not appear any place on such ballot any mark that might tend to indicate the person who cast such ballot.
- b. At any regular or special meeting, if a majority so requires, any question may be voted upon in the manner and style provided for election of officers and directors.
- c. At all votes by ballot, the chairman of such meeting shall immediately prior to the commencement of balloting appoint a committee of three (3) who shall

act as “Inspectors of Election” and who shall at the conclusion of such balloting certify in writing to the chairperson the results, and the certified copy shall be physically affixed in the minute book to the minutes of that meeting.
d.. No “Inspector of Election” shall be a candidate for office or shall be personally interested in the question voted upon.

Article VI – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. Order of Business

- a. Roll Call
- b. Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting
- c. Reports of committees
- d. Reports of officers
- e. Old and unfinished business
- f. New business
- g. Good and Welfare
- h. Adjournment

Section 2. All meetings shall follow the most recent edition of “Roberts Rules of Order.”

Article VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BREHON COUNCIL)

Section 1. Board of Directors (Brehon Council)

- a. The business of the Colorado Emerald Society shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of four (4) or more members together with the officers of this Society.
- b. The directors to be chosen for the ensuing year shall be chosen at the annual meeting of the Society and they shall serve for a term of two (2) years.
- c. The Board of Directors (Brehon Council) shall have the control and management of the affairs and business of this Society. Such Board of Directors shall only act in the name of the Society when it shall be regularly convened by its chairman after due notice to all the directors of such meeting.
- d. Two (2) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum and the meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held regularly during the months of January, April, May, July, September, and November.
- e. Each director shall have one (1) vote and such voting may not be done by proxy.
- f. The Board of Directors may make such rules and regulations covering its meetings as it may in its discretion determine necessary.
- g. Vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be filled by a vote of the majority of the remaining members of the Board of Directors for the balance of the year. The President shall make the nomination to the Board of Directors.
- h. The President of the Society, by virtue of the office, shall be chairperson of the Board of Directors.
- i. The Board of Directors shall select from one of their number a secretary (if the officer, elected as Secretary by the membership, is not available).
- j. A director may be removed when sufficient cause exists for such removal. The Board of Directors may entertain charges against any director. A director may be represented by counsel upon any removal hearing. The Board of Directors shall adopt such rules, as it may in its discretion consider necessary for the best interest of the Society, for this hearing.

Article VIII – OFFICERS

Section 1. Brehon Council will also be known as the Board of Directors.

The Officers of the Society shall be as follows:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. 2nd Vice President
- d. Secretary
- e. Treasurer
- f. Trustees (two (2) Active members and one (1) Active/Retired member)
- g. Associate Delegate (Once a minimum of five (5) Associate members are accepted into the Colorado Emerald Society)
- h. Auxiliary Delegate (Once a minimum of ten (10) Auxiliary members are accepted into the Colorado Emerald Society)
- i. Past President (Once it applies)
- j. Chapter President(s) (Once a Chapter(s) is/are formed in Colorado)

Section 2. President

- a. Shall preside at all membership meetings. By virtue of the office, is chairperson of the Board of Directors (Brehon Council).
- b. Present at each annual meeting of the Society with an annual report of the work of the Society.
- c. Appoint all committees, temporary or permanent.
- d. See that all books, reports and certificates, as required by law, are properly kept or filed.
- e. Be one of the officers who may sign the checks or drafts of the Society.
- f. Have such powers as may be reasonably construed as belonging to the chief executive of any Society.
- g. Shall vote only in case of a tie.

Section 3. Vice President

- a. Shall, in the event of the absence or inability of the President to exercise his or her office, become acting President of the Society with all the rights, privileges, and powers as if he or she had been duly elected President.

Section 4. 2nd Vice President

- a. Shall aid and assist the President in conducting meetings and perform other such duties directed by the President.
- b. In the absence of the President and the Vice President, the Second Vice President shall preside over meetings.

Section 5. Secretary

- a. Shall keep the minutes and records of the Society in appropriate books.
- b. File any certificate required by any statute, federal or state.
- c. Give and serve all notices to members of the Society.
- d. Be the official custodian of the records and seal of the Society.
- e. Present to the membership, at any meetings, any communication addressed to the Secretary of the Society.

- f. Submit to the Board of Directors (Brehon Council) any communications, which shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Society.
- g. Attend to all correspondence of the Society and exercise all duties incident to the office of Secretary.

Section 6. Treasurer

- a. Shall have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the Society
- b. Be solely responsible for such monies or securities of the Society.
- c. Be one of the officers who shall sign checks or drafts of the Society (no special fund may be set aside that shall make it unnecessary for the Treasurer to sign the checks issued upon it).
- d. The Treasurer shall render, at stated periods as the Board of Directors shall determine, a written account of the finances of the Society and such report shall be physically affixed to the minutes of the Board of Directors of such meeting.

Section 7. Trustees

- a. Shall consist of two Active and one Active / Retired members.
- b. The incumbents shall ensure that actions of the board are in the best interest for the Society and are legally sound.
- c. Upon request, the incumbents shall have access to records of the Society.
- d. Annually they shall conduct a review of all assets, liabilities and disbursements of the Society.

Section 8. Associate Delegate

Once a minimum of five (5) Associate members have been accepted in the Colorado Emerald Society, this position on the Brehon Council will become active at the next election.

- a. Shall endeavor to maintain participation in the Society by all others of Gaelic ancestry.
- b. The incumbent shall be responsible for keeping Associate members apprised of Society meetings and activities.
- c. He or she shall strive to garner support for the Society from the community.
- d. Only an Associate member in good standing may hold this position. He or she shall have full voting rights along with the other Board of Directors.

Section 9. Auxiliary Delegate

Once a minimum of ten (10) Auxiliary members have been accepted in the Colorado Emerald Society, this position on the Brehon Council will become active at the next election.

- a. The incumbent shall be responsible for keeping Auxiliary members apprised of Society meetings and activities.
- b. He or she shall strive to garner support for the Society from the community and public safety agencies.
- c. Only Auxiliary members in good standing may hold this position. He or she shall have full voting rights along with the other Board of Directors.

Section 10. Past President

- a. Shall be the immediate Past President of the Society.
- b. He or she shall have full voting rights along with the other Board of Directors.

Article IX – SALARIES

The Board of Directors shall hire and fix the compensation of any and all employees, which they in their discretion may determine to be necessary in the conduct of the business of the Society.

Article X – COMMITTEES

Section 1. All committees of this Society shall be appointed by the President and their term of office shall be for a period of two (2) years or less if sooner terminated by the action of the President.

Section 2. The permanent committees shall be:

- a. Activities / Social Committee
- b. Elections Committee
- c. Membership Committee
- d. By-Laws Committee
- e. Pipe Band Committee
- f. Merchandise Committee

Article XI – DUES

Section 1. Life Members

The dues of Life Members, as defined in Article III, Section 1 shall be:

- Ten times (10) the amount of their dues, at the time of applying, plus one hundred dollars (\$100)

Section 2. Active Members

The dues of Active members, as defined in Article III, Section 2 shall be:

- \$30 (Thirty dollars) to join at any time of the year, and \$30 (thirty dollars) per annum -payable on the first day of January, annually.
- \$20 (Twenty dollars) to join at any time of the year, and \$20 (twenty dollars) per annum - payable on the first day of January, annually, if the member is retired.

Special Dues to attain and retain Charter Membership:

Active member, as defined in Article III, Section 2 has the opportunity to attain and retain as Charter Members of the Colorado Emerald Society. This status will be restricted to the first one hundred (100) Active members to apply, and the dues shall be:

- \$50 (Fifty dollars) to join, and \$40 (forty dollars) per annum - payable on the first day of January, annually.
- \$40 (Forty dollars) to join, and \$30 (thirty dollars) per annum - payable on the first day of January, annually, if the member is retired.
- Charter Membership is closed.

Section 3. Associate Members

The dues for Associate Members, as defined in Article III, Section 3, shall be:

- \$30 (Thirty dollars) upon joining at any time of the year, and \$30 (thirty dollars) per annum - payable on the first day of January, annually.

Section 4. Auxiliary Members

The dues for Auxiliary Members, as defined in Article III, Section 4, shall be:

- \$30 (Thirty dollars) upon joining at any time of the year, and \$30 (thirty dollars) per annum - payable on the first day of January, annually.
- Twenty dollars (\$20) upon joining at any time of the year, and twenty dollars (\$20) per annum - payable on the first day of January, annually, if the Auxiliary Member is retired.

Section 4. Arrears

Active, Associate and Auxiliary members shall pay per annum dues. Such members who become arrears in dues of four (4) months shall not be a member in good standing and forfeit his or her membership and therefore shall not be entitled to any benefits or participate in any functions of the Society, unless under extenuating circumstances approved by the Board of Directors.

Article XII – AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than twenty (20) members of the Society.

Article XIII – SOCIETY BUSINESS

Section 1. The President, cooperating with the Brehon Council, shall conduct the Society's business between meetings.

Section 2. The membership shall be informed of the business conducted and the decisions made.

Section 3. Business and decisions shall be in the best interest of the Society, and in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws.

Article XIV – ELECTIONS

Section 1. Terms of office for the Board of Directors and officers shall be for a two (2) year term beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31.

Section 2. During an election year, in the month of July, the President shall appoint an "Election Committee." Members of the committee shall not be running for office.

Section 3. Nominations for office will be taken during the month of September, with the election held in the month of November.

Article XV – SUSPENSIONS

Section 1. Cause

- a. A member may be suspended or expelled for good and just established cause.
- b. Charges against any member shall be thoroughly investigated and reported to the President.
- c. The President may convene a special meeting during which the concerned member shall be entitled to
 1. be present
 2. be represented by a personally retained counsel, and
 3. introduce and cross examine evidence and witnesses

- d. After a majority vote of the Brehon Council, a member may be suspended or expelled; however, the member may appeal to the membership.
- e. A majority vote of the membership voting will annul/confirm the Council's decision.

Article XVI – BENEFITS

Section 1. Death Benefit

The Colorado Emerald Society shall provide a \$1,000 death benefit to an Active member killed in the line of duty.

Death benefit will be dispersed as soon as possible by the Colorado Emerald Society Brehon Council upon notification of such line of duty death.

Section 2. Scholarship Fund

The Colorado Emerald Society will provide scholarship monies in an amount to be determined yearly by the “Brehon Council.” The yearly Colorado Emerald Society Golf Tournament will fund such monies.

Article XVII –MERCHANDISE

- a. Purchase, set pricing for, and delivers merchandise for Society member and public consumption, in accordance with the approval of the Brehon Council.
- b. Maintain detailed purchase/sale records, receipts.
- c. Assist Brehon Council with pertinent merchandise information to supply to members via newsletters and to update the CES website.
- d. Attend/Assist with Merchandise Booths at various Social Functions as required.
- e. Report activity and financial status to Brehon Council.

Article XVIII –PIPE BAND

- a. The Pipe Band exists to support Firefighting and Law Enforcement communities, activities within those communities, and their parent organization, the Colorado Emerald Society. The Pipe Band will continue with these efforts being the primary focus of the band.
- b. The Colorado Emerald Society is hereby recognized as the Pipe Band's parent organization even though they will continue to both exist under independent leadership. The organizations shall be joined with a commonality of reporting as follows:
 - 1. The Pipe Band's appointed treasurer shall provide a quarterly accounting of all monies received or spent to the Brehon Council.
 - 2. The Pipe Major or officers will appoint a delegate to attend Society meetings for scheduling purposes of both Society and Pipe Band needs.
 - 3. The Pipe Band delegate will be allowed to make formal requests of the Society in an amount determined by the Society.
 - a. Such monies will be used to cover in or out of state functions or other activities occasionally arising.
 - b. Such monies shall be pre-approved whenever possible.
 - c. Reimbursements will be submitted for Brehon Council review and may or may not be approved.

Article XIX - CHAPTERS

(The Colorado Emerald Society, at the inception of these by-laws in August of 2000, has yet to determine the need for Chapters under the Colorado Emerald Society. Should this become necessary, the Board of Directors may establish guidelines – such as the geographical area, number of members required, Chapter President, etc. – of any Chapter formed under the Colorado Emerald Society).