



Clan Cameron

BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH OF CLAN CAMERON (A BRANCH OF THE WESTERN REGION OF THE CLAN CAMERON ASSOCIATION NORTH AMERICA)

REVISED: MAY 2009

ARTICLE I - NAME

A. This Chartered Branch shall be named "The Southern California Branch of Clan Cameron", hereinafter referred to as the "Branch" and is within the auspice of the Western Region of the Clan Cameron Association North America.

B. By the authority granted to Louis M. Clark on 17 November 1975, by the XXVI hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron, Colonel Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, K.T., C.V.O., T.D., Scotland, and confirmed by letter dated 15 December 1975, the Southern California Branch is part of the Western Region of Clan Cameron North America. Therefore, the Branch shall adhere to the organizational structure set forth in "Section I" of the attached document entitled "Guidelines for the Establishment, Constitution, and Operation of Clan Cameron Association North America", (hereinafter referred to as "CCNA Guidelines") as ratified on 19 May 2000 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

C. While the Southern California Branch shall be affiliated with the Western Region of Clan Cameron North America, which in turn is an entity of Clan Cameron Association North America, it shall operate independently, being responsible for its own legal and financial integrity, in keeping with United States law, as well as the laws of the State of California. (Article I, Section 4, CCNA)

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

A. The purpose of the Southern California Branch of Clan Cameron shall be cultural and educational, promoting friendship among Americans and Scotsmen who enjoy a distant kinship. This kinship shall be encouraged through education concerning the history, language, art, music and folklore of their forbearers. The Branch will also sponsor and promote games, competitions, concerts and gatherings, which further demonstrate our Scottish culture, heritage and tradition.

B. The Branch shall be non-political. Clansmen, who are American citizens, owe their political allegiance solely to The United States of America. Members who may be citizens of another country owe their allegiance to that country. No member of the Branch shall take part in any political activity involving the internal affairs of Scotland, the United Kingdom or any other foreign government on behalf of the Branch.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership shall be open to all persons of Scottish descent who bear the name Cameron, or one of the septs of Clan Cameron, or whose mother or grandmother bore the name Cameron or one of the septs of Clan Cameron. Members shall pay yearly dues, are entitled to vote at the annual or additional meetings and may hold any Board Membership of this Branch.

B. These recognized Septs of Clan Cameron are from the 1980 Guidelines and are a guide only to the major families which make up Clan Cameron and are not meant to be exclusive.

Chalmers	Leary	MacKail	MacSorlie
Chambers	Lonir	Mackell	MacUlric
Clark	Macaldowie	Maclear	MacUlrig
Clarke	Macalonie	MacClery	MacVail
Clarkson	MacChelrich	Maclerie	MacWalrick
Cleary	MacChlery	MacMartin	Martin
Clerk	MacClair	MacOnie	Paul
Dowie	MacLeary	MacOstrich	Sorley
Gibbon	MacGillery	MacOurlie	Sorlie
Gilbertson	MacGillonie	MacPhail	Taylor
Kennedy	Macildowie	MacSorley	

C. The Branch may confer Associate Membership upon a person who does not meet the above requirements, but who has demonstrated enthusiasm for the history and traditions of Clan Cameron and has enriched the proceedings of the Branch by their presence, activities and support. Such Associate Member status shall be conferred by majority vote of the members of the Branch, on the recommendation of the President. Associate Membership may also be conferred on those who have served in The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders / Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth & Camerons). Associate Members so elected shall pay membership dues, have voting privileges at the annual and additional meetings, hold any Board Membership, but shall not be eligible for the office of President or Vice President. The number of Associate Members may not exceed ten (10) percent of the overall Branch Membership.

D. Honorary Membership may be conferred upon a person who has furthered the interests of this Branch or who has honored the Branch with their presence or activities. Honorary Members shall not pay dues or vote. Honorary Members may be asked to serve on the Board in an advisory capacity. Honorary Membership may also be conferred ex officio upon the Presidents of other branches or other clans. The number of Honorary Members may not exceed ten (10) percent of the overall Branch Membership.

E. The Board will pass on the acceptance or rejection of all applicants. Membership may be granted or denied an applicant only on the basis of the requirements of Article III, Sections A, B, C, and D of this document. Membership may not be denied on the basis of religion, race or creed.

F. Each new member, or member couple, shall be given a copy of the By-Laws.

G. Membership shall be valid as long as yearly dues are paid and the requirements of the By-Laws are met. Members with paid-up dues will be considered members in good standing.

H. Membership may be involuntary terminated by a majority vote of the elected officers if any member continues to act in such a manner as to bring disgrace upon the Branch after being warned officially. The Secretary shall promptly inform the member, in writing, of the termination action. Unused dues will be returned. Application for reinstatement by a terminated member must be approved unanimously by the elected officers.

ARTICLE IV - DUES

Annual dues per member, per year, shall be set by a majority vote of the Board. Dues are payable on January 1st and are delinquent on April 30th. Members whose dues remain delinquent after June 30th will be placed in the inactive membership list and will not receive the Branch Newsletter and correspondence.

ARTICLE V – USE OF DUES AND MONIES COLLECTED

A. All monies collected shall be used for Branch expenses; e.g., postage, stationery, telephone, newsletter, and other administrative costs. Any funds not required for administrative costs, shall be used for the Branch's specific purpose. Contributions to non-profit organizations which further the specific education or charitable purpose may be approved by the Board.

B. Officers or Committees shall be reimbursed reasonable amounts for expenditures on behalf of the Branch's specific purposes. However, travel expenses shall be borne by the officers and committee members individually.

ARTICLE VI – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE VII - GOVERNING BOARD (THE BOARD)

A. The Board shall consist of elected officers and appointed directors. Elected officers (The Executive Committee) shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the immediate Past President. The President shall have held at least one position on the Board prior to election. The Vice President and Treasurer shall have been Branch members at least one (1) year prior to taking office. All Branch officers and candidates must be at least twenty-one (21) years old.

B. Duties of the executive committee shall be as follows:

- **President:** Presides at Branch and Board meetings, is ex-officio member of committees, and appoints and/or removes committees. The Branch newsletter shall be the responsibility of the President or the President's designee.
- **Vice President:** Assumes duties of the President in the President's absence. The Vice President is custodian of all tangible Branch property. The Vice President is responsible for the transportation, erection and staffing of the Branch tent and related equipment at recognized Scottish gatherings.

- **Secretary:** Serves as historian, maintains Branch records, keeps minutes of all annual and additional meetings, generates all official Branch correspondence, official membership list of all standing committees, Branch membership lists, the master copy of the By-Laws, and prepares an annual roster of Regular, Associate, and Honorary members.
- **Treasurer:** Custodian of funds, collects all monies, issues all receipts, pay all bills, gives financial reports at board and annual meetings, prepares written financial report at the end of each term of office. A committee appointed by the President shall audit books twenty (20) days before the end of each term of office.
- **Past President:** The immediate past President shall act in an advisory capacity to the executive committee. The Past President will be a member of the Board vested with full voting rights.

C. Directors of specific committees must be Regular or Associate members of the Branch in good standing and shall be appointed by the President for terms of varying lengths. Each appointed director shall have one vote to cast at the Board meetings.

Duties of the appointed directors shall be as follows:

1. Regularly attend meetings of the Board and scheduled Branch functions.
2. Chair and/or staff various Branch committees as requested.

D. With prior notification, any member of the executive committee may be relieved from office, for cause, by a majority vote of the members in attendance at a properly announced meeting. The executive committee shall appoint a member in good standing to the vacated office to serve until the next election. Any action to remove any Board member must conform to Section 5341 of the California Non-Profit Corporation Code.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

A. An annual general meeting (AGM) shall be held on the fourth Saturday in May at a reasonable time and location. Members in good standing shall be notified by first class mail, e-mail, telephone, or by Branch newsletter no less than twenty days prior to the AGM. This notification shall include the date, time, location, and agenda.

B. Additional general meetings may be called as needed by the Executive Committee. Members in good standing shall be notified by first class mail, e-mail, telephone, or by Branch newsletter no less than twenty days prior to the AGM. This notification shall include the date, time, location, and agenda.

C. A petition, signed by at least five (5) members in good standing, may be directed to the executive committee to schedule an additional meeting.

D. In addition to general meetings, where the entire membership is asked to attend, business meetings will be scheduled, as required, by the executive committee and the various working committees. No prior notification of the general membership is required for these meetings. Members in good standing may be apprised of these meetings by contacting the Secretary.

E. All business shall be conducted and acted upon by the majority of the members in good standing present at any announced meeting. The members present at any announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.

F. All meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised. The President may, at his/her discretion, appoint a parliamentarian.

ARTICLE IX - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A. Term of Office:

1. Executive Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote to hold office for a period of one year.
2. Executive Committee members may succeed themselves or be elected to any other office. If the President elects to serve more than one term, the last President, or a member in good standing appointed by Executive officers, will serve as the Past President.
3. Executive Committee members (Elected Officers) shall assume the responsibilities of their respective offices on the first day of the month following the election.
4. If there is only one nominee per office, a majority vote of the members present at any announced meeting can be taken to elect new officers.

B. Nominating Committee:

1. The nominating committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall consist of not less than three (3) persons, one (1) of which must not be an Executive Committee member.
2. The nominating committee shall submit a slate of nominees to the Executive Committee at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting.

C. Floor Nominations:

In the case of nominations from the floor during the annual meeting, a majority of the members present is required to place that responsive candidate's name in nomination. If two or more candidates compete for one office, a secret ballot system shall be used.

ARTICLE X - BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

The Branch By-Laws can only be amended by a majority vote of the members in good standing in attendance at any announced AGM or additional meeting.

ARTICLE XI - PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

The Branch shall not engage in an act of self dealing (Internal Revenue Code Sec. 4941) or fail to distribute income (IRC Sec. 4942) nor retain excess business holdings (IRC Sec. 4943c) nor make investments which jeopardize charitable purposes (IRC Sec. 4944) nor make taxable expenditures which might jeopardize the Branch's non-profit status (IRC Sec. 4945d).

ARTICLE XII - DEDICATION DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

The property of this Branch is irrevocably dedicated to recreational and educational purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this Branch shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon dissolution of this Branch, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of the Branch shall be distributed to The Clan Cameron Association North America, or to a non-profit group, fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for recreational or educational purposes and which has established its tax status under 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code.