

MASCOUTIN SOCIETY OF CHICAGOLAND

SPONSORS OF THE

O-SA-WAN ANNUAL FALL POW WOW

CONSTITUTION

Adopted October 1956

Revised March 15, 1961; March 12, 1968; May 9, 1972; May 11, 1999; June 12, 2001; (Corrected Sept. 2006)

Revised August 12, 2008; Revised December 6, 2008

Article I Name

The Mascoutin Society of Chicagoland, Inc. (Here after 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 purpose of this organization shall be:

- a) To bring together persons interested in cultural and educational life of the American Indian.
- b) To foster an interest in Native American Lore, craftwork and to help preserve the customs and traditions of the American Indian.
- c) To sponsor gatherings of Native American Lore enthusiasts for the purpose of friendly get-together to dance and mingle with other interested persons, and to exchange ideas and knowledge on the subject of Native American Lore and craftwork.
- d) To provide to Native American students of higher learning, emergency funds for educational uses only.
- e) To disseminate information relative to craftwork, ceremonies, dancers, Pow Wows, and information on the procurement of materials pertaining to Native American Lore and craftwork.
- f) To encourage members to attend Pow Wows, Fairs and activities pertaining to Native American culture.
- g) To especially encourage Native Americans to participate in Mascoutin Society activities, meetings, Pow Wows, etc.

Article III Membership

Section 1

Application for membership in 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 American Indian shall be eligible for membership in this society.

Probationary Member - Applicants for membership in this SOCIETY shall be required to serve a PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP of no less than three (3) months before their eligibility is determined by the EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Active Member – Anyone desiring an affiliation with this society and has 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

Applicants for membership in this Society shall not be required to pay dues during the time they are fulfilling their PROBATIONARY requirements and such membership dues shall not be accepted until after their induction as active members.

Section 3

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

Section 4 Neither membership in, nor 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, 1st Vice-President, 2nd 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 The 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 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 VIII Legislation Procedures

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

Section 2 The privilege of voting on any issue 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 quorum 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 or 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 IX 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 properties and monies shall be donated to one or more non-profit organizations designated by the Executive Board and approved by the remaining members in good standing.

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 and 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

SPONSORS OF THE

O-SA-WAN ANNUAL FALL POW WOW

BY-LAWS

Article A

Membership

Section 1

Applications for membership shall be reviewed only semi-annually 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 the discretion of the Executive Board for any of the following reasons:

- Non-payment of dues
- Lack of interest
- Lack of cooperation at meetings or Mascoutin 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 1st through December 31st. These dues shall be payable annually, prior to February 28th.

Section 2

Members requiring Postal Mail notices shall pay an additional Six Dollars (\$6.00) to cover the cost of postage for the same period as outlined in Section 1 above.

Article C

Executive Board Members & 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 that 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 Mascoutin Society of Chicagoland, Inc. 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 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, recommendation of the name of a person or persons to be elected a permanent member member-at-large to the Executive Board by a 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 of the Society’s activities.
 - To keep records of past and present activities in presentable form readily accessible.
 - To keep records of all Mascoutin 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 to:
- 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 these 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.
- Section 13 Pipe Keeper. *“Ceremonial pipes were used for prayer and meditation and it is believed that it will give the keeper great powers as long as he lives an honorable life, if not, the powers will leave. It is believed that as the smoke tendrils rise upwards that prayers are delivered to the Creator. One does not own a pipe but rather is the keeper of the pipe, reflecting the Native belief in responsibility rather than ownership.” Author Unknown*
- The Executive Board shall appoint a Pipe Keeper whose responsibilities shall be to:
- Maintain the integrity of the Pipe and its surroundings.
 - Keep the Pipe, un-assembled, in its Society Enclosure.
 - Have the Pipe available at all Society Pow Wows, Induction Ceremonies and Special Society Activities.
 - Only assemble the Pipe on direction of the Society Grandfather.
 - Maintain and keep fresh the four sacred ingredients consisting of Tobacco, Sweetgrass, Sage and Cedar.
- 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 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 major approval of the committee.
 - Votes cast should be by secret ballot.
 - Awards to be presented only at a Mascoutin 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 receipt 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 Winter Benefit Pow Wow or Summer O-Sa-Wan Powwow.

Section 16 The Executive Board shall appoint a Bobby Past Memorial Award Committee at the National Powwow (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:

- Bob Past was the 1st Head Man Dancer for the 1st National Powwow in Denver, CO in 1969. He was a superb craftsman and a fine dancer.
- He always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. Bob Past had a fine sense of humor and on more than one occasion demonstrated sincere sportsmanship.
- Bob traveled the Powwow circuit extensively and was largely responsible for the spread of good, contemporary “Fancy Dancing” in the Eastern part of the United States.

He died in an automobile accident in his twenties. The Mascoutin Society of Chicagoland, Inc. presents the Bob Past Memorial Award to some outstanding dancer at the National Powwows held every three years.

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 1st Vice-President (Sergeant-at-Arms) shall:

- Assist the President in the 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 2nd Vice-President shall be responsible for:

- Maintaining the Society membership list
- Maintaining a master mailing list
- Mailing of 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 Vice-President 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 1st 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)
- Section 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 chair person 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 chair person 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 chair person.
- Section 3 **Communications Committee.** The Communications Committee chair person 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).
- Section 4 **Society Store.** The Society Store chair person is appointed annually by the President of the Society. The store will place orders for craft supplies and other items as deemed necessary for members of the Society. The store may sell supplies to 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 than 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, 1st Vice-President, 2nd 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 1st, 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 meeting after the Winter Benefit Pow Wow or March 1st, and may succeed himself in this office only once. After a lapse of one year a former President may be re-elected to this office and again serve for two consecutive years.
- Section 6 The 1st Vice-President shall be elected for a term of one year subject to the same terms and requirements as defined for the President as sated in the above paragraph. (Section 5). There is no limit to the number of succeeding terms.

- Section 7 The 2nd Vice President shall be elected for a term of one year and may succeed them selves for as many terms as elected.
- Section 8 The Corresponding Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year and may succeed themselves for as many terms as elected.
- Section 9 The Recording Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year and may succeed themselves for as many terms as elected.
- Section 10 The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of one year and may succeed themselves for as many terms as elected.
- Section 11 Special elections due to vacancies in the 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 Installation can all commence at this meeting.
- Section 12 A President or 1st 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 this 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 members of the Mascoutin Society. The decision in this respect shall be left to the judgment of the Executive Board and based upon a quorum of that board.
- Section 4 The society may also hold a training workshop currently known as the “Lakota Workshop” in the spring of each year for the purpose of exposing young adults in other youth programs such as the 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.