

# MASCOUTIN SOCIETY OF CHICAGOLAND

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

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Adopted October 1956  
Revised March 15, 1961  
Revised March 12, 1968  
Revised May 9, 1972  
Revised May 11, 1999  
Revised June 12, 2001 – (Corrected Sept. 2006)

### Article I

#### Name and Objectives

##### Section 1

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 LITTER FIRES."

##### Section 2

*Article II*

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 Indian Lore and help preserve the customs and traditions of the American Indian.
- c) To sponsor gatherings of Indian 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 Indian Lore.
- 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 material pertaining to Indian Lore.
- f) To encourage members to attend Pow-Wows, Fairs and activities pertaining to Indian Culture.
- g) To especially encourage American Indians to participate in Mascoutin Society activities, meetings, dances, Pow Wows, etc.

### Article II

#### 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.

- a) 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.

- b) Active Member – Anyone desiring an affiliation with this society and has been approved by the Executive Board and has paid their yearly dues.
- c) Honorary Member – An honor bestowed by the Executive Board.
- d) 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 Dance, or at specific times as approved by the Executive Board.

**Article III**

**Officers and Executive Board Members**

**Section 1**

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

**Section 2**

C-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 are active members.

**Article IV**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Officers**

**Section 1**

D-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**

D-2

The Vice-President (Sergeant-at-Arms) shall assist the President in the carrying out of his/her duties and shall assume the duties of the President in the event of his/her absence.

It shall be his/her responsibility to be in charge of Security and all security personnel required at Mascoutin sponsored activities. It shall also be his/her responsibility for securing the refreshments for the monthly meetings.

**Section 3**

D-3

The 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president shall be in charge of maintaining the Society membership list, master mailing list, mailing of pow-wow flyers, and in charge of registration at SOCIETY functions.

**Section 4**

D-4

The Recording Secretary shall keep and record 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. It shall also be the responsibility of the Recording Secretary to perform all other duties normally associated with this office.

Section 5

D-5

The Corresponding Secretary shall mail notices of meetings, bulletins or information to all members in good standing, as well as to those serving probationary membership. It shall also be the responsibility of the Corresponding Secretary to perform all other duties normally associated with this office.

Section 6

D-6

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the keeping of accounts and recording all income and disbursements of the Society, and maintain Society property records. Also responsible for paying approved expenses.

Section 7

D-7

In the event that neither the President nor the Vice-President are present at any meeting, any member of the Executive Board in attendance may preside.

**Article V**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Board**

Section 1

C-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 2

C-4

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

Section 3

C-5

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to review the Society's financial activity and implement those controls it deems necessary. The Executive Board has the power to over rule any person or committee action that was appointed by a previous president.

Section 4

C-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 I Section 2, Paragraph C.

Section 5

C-8

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 6

C-9

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

Section 7

C-10

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 8

C-11

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

C-12

The Executive Board has jurisdiction over awarding and presenting special

honors such as given for outstanding service, honorary membership, life membership, etc.

Section 10

C-13

The Executive Board may make, as they deem necessary, recommendation of the name of a person or persons to be elected a permanent member of the Executive Board by a vote of the general membership.

**Article VI**

**Procedure**

Section 1

VIII-1 H-1

There shall be NO established rules of order nor any authoritative text for the proceedings of meetings other than this constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2

VIII-2

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

Section 3

-3

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

Section 4

-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.

Section 5

-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

-6

The President shall not make any motions, nor vote unless to break a tie.

**Article VII**

**Finance**

Section 1

IX-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

IX-2

All checks or vouchers shall be signed by the Treasurer and maintained as defined under Article VI, Section 6.

Section 3

-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 VIII**

**Election of Officers and Terms of Office**

Section 1

G-1

The nomination of all officers shall take place during the October meeting, with election at the December meeting. Nominees for President, 1st 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

G-2

Newly elected officers shall assume the duties and responsibilities of their respective offices at the meeting following February 1.

Section 3

G-3

The election of officers shall be by secret ballot.

Section 4

G-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

G-5

The President shall be elected for a term of one year, effective from February 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>, 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

G-6

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall be elected for a term of one year subject to the same terms and requirements as defined for the President as stated in the above paragraph. (Section 5)

Section 7

G-7

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President shall be elected for a term of one year and may succeed themselves for as many terms as elected.

Section 8

G-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

G-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

G-10

The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of one year and be subject to the same requirements as defined for that of Secretary as stated in the above paragraph. (Section 8)

## Article IX

### Amendments

Section 1

X-1

Amendments to this Constitution and its By-Laws shall become effective upon approval of a simple majority of the members present at a regular meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 2

X-2

No amendment to this Constitution and its By-Laws may be acted upon during the meeting in which it was introduced.

Section 3

X-3

The Executive Board shall compose any and all amendments to this Constitution and its By-Laws as defined in Article V Section 5.

# MASCOUTIN SOCIETY OF CHICAGOLAND

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

### BY-LAWS

#### Article I

#### Name and Object

##### Section 1

J-1

Gatherings shall be held for the purpose defined under Article I, Section 2, Paragraph C of this Constitution.

##### Section 2

J-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 Indian Lore organizations and individuals and not limited to persons holding Mascoutin memberships.

##### Section 3

J-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 and their units. The decision in this respect shall be left to the judgement of the Executive Board and based upon a quorum of that board.

#### Article II

#### Membership

##### Section 1

A-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

A-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:

- (a) Non-payment of dues
- (b) Lack of interest
- (c) Lack of cooperation at meetings or Mascoutin sponsored activities
- (d) Non-attendance at meetings
- (e) Moral considerations

##### Section 3

A-3

##### MILITARY SERVICE

Any member called into 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-4

A copy of the Constitution and its By-Laws is to be presented to each newly inducted member.

#### Article III

#### Officers and Executive Board Members

##### Section 1

IV-1

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

**Section 2**

C-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 are active members.

**Article IV**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Officers**

**Section 1**

D-8

The President may fulfill the vacancy (pro-tem) of Vice-President, Secretary or 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President personally or by appointing an active member, in good standing, to fill such vacancy.

**Section 2**

D-8

The President shall have the right to appoint the Chairman or members for any committee he/she deems necessary.

**Section 3**

D-10

All former Presidents shall retain the title of President and shall be regarded in that respect.

**Article V**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Board**

**Section 1**

~~A-7~~

Refer to By-Laws Article II, Section 1.

**Section 2**

C-7

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

**Section 3**

C-14

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, also records of Mascoutin Society properties and their locations.

**Section 4**

C-15

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

1. A Society member in good standing of 5 years. (Need not be consecutive)
2. Active on committees and/or participation in Society activities.
3. Be knowledgeable in some form of "Indian Ways"
4. Done service for the good of the whole Society not only for personal gain.
5. Honorable, not self-centered, dealing fairly and above board with all persons and situations.
6. Receive major approval of the committee.
7. Awards to be presented only at Winter Dance and/or Summer O-Sa-Wans.

**Article VI**

**Procedure**

**Section 1**

C-16

When a controversy arises as to the interpretation of this Constitution and/or By-Laws, the problem shall be decided by the Vice-President, upon request of the President, or by a motion being presented and seconded on the floor.

**Article VII**

**Finance**

Section 1

B-1

All inducted members shall be required to pay Membership dues of Five Dollars (\$5.00) 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.

Section 2

B-2

Associated members dues are \$5.00 annually.

**Article VIII**

**Election of Officers and Terms of Officer**

Section 1

G-11

Special elections due to vacancies in the Office of President or Vice-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 2

G-12

A President or Vice-President serving an unexpired term of office shall not constitute a term of office when that term is less than a year.

**Article IX**

**Amendments**

Section 1

I-1

All changes proposed shall be presented in written form.