Meridian Writer’s Guild By-Laws

(draft)

 I. Membership.

Membership is open to any individual who expresses an interest in joining the Guild. All that is necessary is an interest in promoting writing - fiction, non-fiction, poetry, filk, or some combination thereof - in Meridies. Members may be interested in, and contribute to, a number of areas. These areas include, but are not limited to:

* Bards – those who compose written word that is meant to be performed before an audience (filk, song, spoken word presentations, etc). May participate in entertainment at court, revels, feasts, etc. May cross over into the minstrels and heralds as appropriate.
* Fiction Competitors – those who enter their fiction work into the assorted A&S faires or displays. Not limited to this Kingdom, but would originate here.
* Non-fiction Competitors – those who enter their non-fiction work into the assorted A&S faires or displays. Not limited to this Kingdom, but would originate here.
* Teachers – those who instruct others on the finer points of fiction writing and assist in educating others about the research and documentation side of non-fiction.

II. Officers.

The Officers of the Guild shall consist of the Guild Steward, a Replacement Deputy and various other deputies. Deputies may be appointed by the Principal as deemed necessary to encourage proper functioning of, and promote interest in, the Guild.

III. Steward.

The Guild Steward shall be the Principal Officer of the Guild. It is the Steward's duty to keep the files of the Guild, to hold Guild meetings, to report to the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences, and in all respects to orchestrate the proper functioning of the Guild. As required by Kingdom rules, the Steward shall meet all Kingdom requirements for officers, shall be elected or confirmed by simple majority of the Guild membership at least every two years, and shall serve subject to approval by Kingdom authorities.

IV. Resignations.

In the event of the resignation of the Steward, the Deputy Steward shall serve as Acting Steward until a replacement is elected or confirmed by the membership and accepted by Kingdom authorities as required by Kingdom rules. In the event of the resignation of a Deputy, the Steward shall appoint a replacement as necessary.

V. Property.

The Guild shall hold such property as may be necessary to accomplish its purposes and goals, including files, recordings, prizes, monies, and the like. This property shall be accounted for, reported to, and available for inspection by the appropriate Kingdom authorities. Monies shall be handled in accordance with the instructions of the Kingdom Exchequer.

VI. Voting.

Elections, Charter amendments and By-Laws changes may be voted upon at any meeting which has been announced in the Kingdom newsletter, by mailed notice to members, or by other reasonable means. Voting on other matters (routine business) may take place as the Steward directs. A quorum for voting purposes shall consist of one-fifth of the current regular members, including those members voting by written proxy.

VII. Changes.

By-Laws changes require a 2/3 vote but do not require approval by Kingdom authorities. By-Laws changes may not conflict with the Charter, Kingdom Laws, or Kingdom rules relating to guilds.