

## **How to Build an Assembly - Section 11: The General Assembly**

**Welcome to the General Assembly! So...What is a General Assembly?**

The General Assembly is an organized population of land owners, public and private, who together hold the General Jurisdiction of a State and who exercise the rights and powers of the sovereign State in the Public Interest.

And what does that mean?

The people of each State, those who live within its borders, and who are physical beings within the physically defined State, are the natural owners of the State and its resources. Each member of the General Assembly embodies the substance of the State. Each member has an interest in the public lands and facilities of the State. Each member has, or can have, a physically defined parcel of land and soil which they own by acquisition or inheritance — free and clear and unalienable.

The land and soil belong to the members of the General Assembly and by our law and custom only those who belong to the General Assembly or who are eligible for such membership by right, are able to own land and soil within the borders of the State.

All others are foreign residents welcome to live among us under the terms of the Residence Act, but required to enter any private land parcels they acquire into a State Trust, such that they become tenants and mortgage holders, until such time as they pay the mortgage off and become holders of a presumptive lease-purchase agreement to be exercised at some undefined time in the future.

The foreign residents characterized as **U.S. Citizens** or **Municipal citizens of the United States** can't own land in this country but as Federal Dual Citizens they can choose to claim their birthright political status as American State Nationals (assuming they were born in a State of the Union) and preserve their Constitutional Guarantees. Upon severance from Federal employment, they can retire and be land owners and full members of their State General Assembly.

The General Assembly controls everything physical within the State borders, and as such, has a pre-eminent and paramount claim on the physical land, soil, water, and air resources of the State.

In international terms this is sometimes described as exclusive legislative jurisdiction or territorial domain, which is one of the requirements of a sovereign state, which exercises the unique pre-condition of eminent domain.

As long as their are **Americans** living as **American State Nationals** and as **State Citizens** of their respective **States of the Union**, our country is not abandoned property, and is not subject to commercial claims otherwise.

Your General Assembly provides the living, breathing proof that we are still here, and our substance is part of the State as well as the ownership of the State.

Your General Assembly has the power to create Law, save lives, restore the American Common Law Courts and do justice by the American people.

What are you waiting for?



## Bringing the States into Session

The information in this section applies to both State and County level General Assemblies unless specifically noted otherwise.



The General Assembly is where the people on the land gather to address state (or county) level issues. During the assembling process, the main focus of the General Assembly is to educate and inform the people so they have the proper tools to become fully standing, self-governing communities.

General Assembly meetings are, generally speaking, public meetings. If the General Assembly wishes to conduct any private or sensitive intrastate business, they simply divide the agenda and close that portion of the meeting, so that only State Nationals and State Citizens participate. All State Nationals and State Citizens must be allowed to attend all General Assembly Meetings. Regular Assembly Meetings are scheduled and posted in advance. Adoption of respectful governance for the conduct of meetings is highly encouraged. Publication of an Agenda at least a week prior to all regularly scheduled meetings is also highly recommended.



Public Meetings are open to everyone. Your State Assembly should resemble a family gathering, because in essence, that is what it is and what it is intended to be: an extended family of friends, relatives, and neighbors working together for their mutual long term security and benefit.

## Who is Eligible?

American State Citizens are automatically a part of the Assembly...because they chose to be Citizens. American State Nationals may choose to join their assembly, but are not obligated to do so. Public Meetings are open to everyone.

## **Officers of the General Assembly**

### **Meeting Moderator**



The meeting moderator's job is to open and close the meeting and ensure that the agenda is followed. The moderator acts as a neutral party ensuring that all voices are heard as is appropriate in the context of the meeting. The moderator works with the Marshal at Arms to enforce any participation guidelines that have been set. A good meeting moderator speaks very little other than to keep the meeting on point and guide the discussions back to the items on the agenda.

### **Elected/Appointed**

The meeting moderator is elected by the General Assembly and if necessary, can be removed by a simple vote.

### **Eligibility**

The Moderator can be either a American State National or an American State Citizen.

### **Qualities of a Good Moderator**

Is fair and impartial when giving people time to speak

Remains neutral during meeting discussions

Can remain calm when things get heated and knows how to deescalate situations

Exercises restraint when speaking and does not dominate a meeting

Sets good boundaries and conduct for the meeting

Will assist the Marshal at Arms in enforcing them

## **Marshal at Arms**



The Marshal at Arms ensures the safety and decorum at all meetings and events, providing safety and security of the meeting place itself and the people at the meeting.

He or she trains others to handle the security of all the Assemblies and the people who work for the Assembly.

He or she cares for the flag and works with the Elections Committee to secure ballots.

A State level Marshal serves as a “committee chair” for all of the County Marshals at Arms as a collective. Or, think of it this way: every county level Marshal at Arms becomes part of a state level team or “committee of the Whole, Marshal at Arms” for which the State Marshal at Arms acts as “chair”. The Marshals all work together, sometimes even with the Federation Marshals to handle larger security issues.

## **Elected/Appointed**

The Marshal at Arms position may be elected or hired. In either case they are required to serve in good faith and adopt American State National or State Citizen status as condition of employment.

## **Requirements**

- ◆ Knowledge of public safety procedures
- ◆ Firearm competency
- ◆ Communication skills that include the ability to diffuse heated situations
- ◆ The means to travel easily to areas requiring protection (a working car for example)

Don't mistake a land jurisdiction Marshal at Arms for their Sea-going counterpart! Our guys are not Naval Officers or part of any Territorial Service.

Land Jurisdiction Marshals, employed by the State Assemblies work together with their own State Militia leaders to ensure safety for the Assembly. They also network with local Sheriffs and other Peacekeeping officers and LEO's.

There are County level Marshals whose interest is local and centered on security for County Assembly meetings and events. They interact with the Sheriff and other Peacekeeping officers, but also may call upon the Continental Marshals if there is a problem concerning international issues.

### **Qualities of a good Marshal at Arms**

Is a natural protector

Is strong without being egotistical

Is patient and not easily triggered

Knows how to deescalate situations

Maintains composure and poise in difficult situations

Remains neutral and unbiased

Is well-trained in self-defense, community protection and arms use

Can work well on a team with other Marshals when necessary

## Treasury/Banking



The Treasury/Banking Committee handles the financial needs of the Assembly, collecting and depositing any funds received, distributing outgoing payments and maintaining an accurate and up-to-date ledger. Men and women are vetted to be signatories on the Assembly's bank account for funds distribution throughout the State. The Federation requires one primary point of contact to work with them directly for Sign In America and Assembly seed funds.

## Elected/Appointed

This is a State Citizen position elected by the General Assembly and requires professional knowledge and competency to do the job in good faith.

## Requirements

- ◆ Knowledge of how to keep a ledger, whether on paper or via bookkeeping software
- ◆ Knowledge of **carriage accounting**, (simple ins and outs) contrary to double accrual accounting used by corporations.

### Qualities of a good Treasurer

Trustworthy

Diligent

Good with numbers

Maintain current numbers

Understands basic principles of carriage accounting (ins and outs)

Is timely with all deposits and disbursements

## **Assembly Secretary**



The Assembly Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at the Assembly meetings and assisting the Coordinator with administrative tasks, overseeing records and archives returned by the Assembly.

### **Elected/Appointed**

This position is elected by the General Assembly based on character and skills. The Assembly Secretary keeps and manages the Agenda and oversees all other records and archives retained by the Assembly.

### **Eligibility**

The Assembly Secretary serves in good faith and is elected by and can be removed by a simple vote of the General Assembly.

This position is more of a traditional Secretarial/Archivist job than the Recorders, SIA Coordinators or Court Clerks.

The Secretary keeps the Agenda for both the General Assembly and International Business Assemblies, keeps the Minutes and/or transcripts or recordings, oversees archives returned by the General Assembly, oversees and organizes reference books, instructional videos and educational materials.

The Secretary can stand in as the Chairman if the Assembly Chairman is sick or absent and can chair meetings of the General Assembly if need be.

### **Qualities of a good Secretary**

Takes great notes!

Has good word processing skills

Is good at organizing information Is easy to work with



## **Record Keeper/Assembly Recorder**



The Record Keeper holds a very important position in the Assembly by safeguarding our records for not only our own use, but for the benefit of all historians of the future! We are making history here, and it is important that everything be documented and saved. They need to be very trustworthy because they will have direct access to all members personal information.

Called by various names, the Assembly Record Keepers work with the elected State Assembly Secretary to log, organize and securely archive all digital, audio, or paper records returned by the Assembly.

As the Assembly develops a library and archive for historical documents, one or more Record Keepers may be tasked as the Assembly Archivist or Assembly Librarian.

County level Record Keepers maintain the records for their county. State Record Keepers maintain a duplicate copy of all records from all counties on their state. So yes, there are two copies of everything... just in case!

The Record Keeper maintains neat, organized and easy to find records of the following:

- ◆ Paper copies of all status correction documents (with the exception of birth certificates) including baby deeds.
- ◆ Paper copies of all meeting minutes
- ◆ Digital copies of all meeting recordings

It is recommended that a very safe place be allocated for record keeping. When starting out on a county, a single fire proof file cabinet may be all you need for a while. And if it is a lockable cabinet stored in a secured home, that could be just fine. But as you grow, you may require a large space such as a fireproof vault or highly secure storage facility.

## **Elected/Appointed**

The Record Keeper is a State Citizen position elected by the General Assembly.

## **Eligibility**

The position of Record Keeper, whether at the state or county level, is a State Citizen position.

## **Other Requirements**

- ◆ File cabinet(s), preferably fire proof, stored in a secure area
- ◆ Computer with backup for storage of digital information
- ◆ Printer

### **Qualities of a good Record Keeper**

Trustworthy

Extremely organized

Doesn't mind filing... lots of filing!

Has room to store multiple file cabinets

## **Pillar Chairs - One for each of the Four Pillars**

The Chairman or Chairwoman acting as Spokesperson for the International Business Assembly occupies the same role as the General Assembly Chairman, only on behalf of the smaller, more specialized International Business Assembly.



The Chairpersons or Directors don't get to pick and choose who is a member of the International Business Assembly or the Militia or the Jural Assembly.

In our Government there is no positional authority, only functional authority.

Offices are functions and those holding them are functionaries in our system of government; they have the right and responsibility to do the job they have been elected to do, but they did not, like the Pigs in Animal Farm, become "more equal" than anyone else by virtue of being elected.

As such, those we entrust with the duties of office, are constrained to protect the individual rights of every member of the group and cannot secure for themselves any special authority apart from the duties and customs of their office.

The Chairman or Chairwoman of the International Business Assembly is simply a Spokesperson for the International Business Assembly as a whole. They don't get to pick and choose who can be a State Citizen, nor do they get to pick and choose which State Citizens take an interest in the IB Assembly and shoulder the work.

The leader of the State Assembly Militia has the responsibility of coordinating and implementing State-level deployment of assistance to local counties and participating in interstate rescue and relief efforts. They did not die, become God, and rule as emperors over all they survey.

The Chairman of the Jural Assembly is responsible for organizing the Courts, Jury Pools, and working with the Elections Committee to conduct elections for Justices and other Court Offices. The Chairman may also ramrod educational programs about the Common Law we practice and other

topics of interest. The character of their office is that of an executive administrator. They aren't here to lord it over anybody; like the rest of us, they are here to get a job done.

## Committees

This section lists recommended committees that may be useful during the assembly process. Each State may have different needs which may change over time. In general, specific rules as to the number of members etc. can be determined on each state or county.



### Committee Chair



Committee Chairmen or Chairwomen are responsible for calling, hosting and moderating committee meetings. This includes setting/determining the agenda, making sure notes are taken and recordings are kept, and sent to the record keeper if you have one. All General Assembly Committee Chairs are typically elected by the General Assembly. The eligibility depends upon the specific committee.

### **Remember - any Assembly man or woman can form a committee!**

However, it is wise to determine the current relevancy of the committee with regard to where an Assembly is actually at in its reconstruction process. For example, you don't want to start a committee to elect Delegates to the Continental Congress if your Assembly is not yet fully seated.

If your Assembly is still early in the reconstruction process, you don't need a committee Chair in order to have a committee! You just need a man or woman to be a moderator and able to run a productive meeting, keep an agenda and minutes or recording. Chair elections can come at a later time when you have more people and resources.

The most important work on Committees is that you are actually doing the work! It doesn't have to be formal structure - just roll up your sleeves and get the job done! Remember - there's only us chickens here.



### **Recommended Committees**

American State Nationals or State Citizens can participate unless otherwise indicated.

### **General Education Committee**

Produces educational materials and programs for the General Membership and Public.

### **New Member Orientation Committee**

Provides support and educational guidance for new members to overcome prior indoctrination and fear and dependency issues.

### **Events & Publicity Committee**

Plans and executes events, live meetings, and election set-up assistance (see General Elections and Quorum Committee below for more about elections). This is a Happy Committee that plans social events of all kinds, explores and brings forward public awareness opportunities and ad campaigns.

### **Records Committee**

Assists and oversees the Record Keepers & recording security functions and supports all record keeping activities. This committee ensures that there is a specific, consistent format for keeping all records. For example, the naming conventions and content of files are consistent across all counties within a state. The Marshal at Arms ensures that there actually are records being kept and verifies the safety of those records.

### **Banking Committee**

Assists and oversees banking functions for the state/county. Includes the Treasurer and the multiple signatories, accountants, fiscal officers, credit union and bank officers, etc. The Treasurer position is described in the previous section. Signatories are elected by the General Assembly. There will be one Federation single point of contact for the Banking/Treasury.

## **Oversight Committee**

Provides general oversight for Assembly functions and a forum for complaints. Works with each of the other committees to ensure that they are operating with integrity and honor. Reviews complaints pertaining to the operation of a committee and presents to the General Assembly but may not be abused for political purposes.

## **Ombudsman Committee**

Provides conflict resolution and arbitration services. A highly functioning Ombudsman committee prevents the courts from being overloaded because they help bring resolution to perceived harm before it becomes a court issue. Provides arbitration services, general resolution services, negotiation services, etc.

## **Vetting Committee**

Approves membership and reviews candidate eligibility for elected positions, including background checks and “interviews” applicable to the positions being applied for. This committee requires at least 3 members to function properly, but it is best to have more. The Chair is elected by the General Assembly and members are unelected volunteers.

## **General Elections Committee**

Handles notices and candidate publications, sets dates, promotes participation in elections, provides ballots, poll watchers, and ballot security arranges for the public ballot count and ballot counters, announces results, arranges for publication of results, public affirmation and acceptance of office ceremony.

## **Outreach Committee**

Provides timely responses (mainly via email) to the many inquiries that come in to the Assembly, mostly to the Coordinators. Uses resources of both

Education Committees.

### **IT Committee**

Provides IT assistance, maintains Assembly website and other IT tools utilized by the Assembly. Creates new technologies and tools to benefit the Assembly as well as any applicable instruction manuals or procedures. The Chair is an American State Citizen elected by the General Assembly. Members are volunteers.

### **Standing Committees**

Standing Committees are those that continue to operate even when the State Assembly takes a recess or is otherwise not in Session.

Standing Committees are like the Old Wives tending the coals, waiting to light a new fire. They keep the embers alive until the State Assembly roars to life again, like a fire being rekindled.

Because the Standing Committees preserve the life and energy of each State Assembly during recesses and adjournments, they are vital to our American Government and way of life.

State Assemblies were never designed to be in constant Session. They are meant to come into Session seasonally and then retire homeward, having conducted their business and issued their instructions.

That we are here today is owed to the Standing Committees of the Federation of States, which held the embers of our American Government for over a hundred years.

### **So what are the Standing Committees?**

They are the Committees that take care of any urgent business while the General Assembly is out of Session, and the ones that are called up (in normal circumstances) to bring the Assembly back into Session.



## **The primary Standing Committee is the Sessions Committee.**

The Sessions Committee continues to operate no matter what and is the Committee to contact when either the Federation President or a quorum of nine

States call a Special or Regular Session of the State Assemblies, in the normal course of business.

The Sessions Committee normally has a roster of Coordinators (historically Circuit Riders) ready to ride — to established places, dates, and times for the State Assemblies to meet.

These Circuit Riders renamed Coordinators normally work for the Sessions Committee and it is their job to summon the State Assemblies into Session.



Of course, this is much easier when we have a well-oiled machine and people already educated and ready to go, everyone knowing their part and doing it from the start.

The present circumstance is like a cold emergency start of an engine that has been left to rust year in, and year out, for decades.

Indeed, it was never too seriously contemplated that the Federation of States and the hereditary Head of State would ever have to act to call the State Assemblies into Session, nor was it a welcome thought as it implies that there is no President and no quorum of States ready to act as the Summoning Authority.

In the normal course of business the President of the Federation calls the States into Session, or a quorum of nine (9) States working through the Sessions Committee — but we are not in a business as usual setting now.

None of the State Assembly Sessions Committees survived the 160 year hiatus. Only Texas remained in perennial Session and they had largely forgotten the history.

Our Public Elections process ended in 1872 and has not yet resumed. All we've had to save our bacon and recall our States were the members of the Federation Sessions Committee and the heir of the Head of State office.

This should give you an idea of the vital importance of having a Sessions Committee and ensuring that its members are among the best educated and most faithful of all the members your Assembly has to offer.

The members of the Standing Committees should be your best and brightest and most knowledgeable and determined members. In as much as possible they should undertake the task of teaching their own children and the children of The Assembly in general, the history and the tasks set before the Standing Committees.

The Sessions Committee stands by ready to expedite the process we are currently engage in — the assembling of the Assemblies to conduct State business.

The Treasury Committee tracks the assets and the credit disbursements approved by the Assemblies — that is, the spending of the assets and credit during the time that the Assembly is out of Session, so Treasury is a Standing Committee, too.

The Judiciary Committee also continues to stand while the State Assembly is in recess or otherwise out of Session, so that urgent questions posed to the Common Law Courts can be researched and conserved in a timely manner between Sessions.

The members of your Standing Committees must be kept your best and brightest, you most committed and determined.

We do not know when a Session ends when it may resume again, as clearly demonstrated by the present circumstance.

Who could imagine that when the Confederation members and the State Republics adjourned in March of 1861, that it would be 160 years before the General Government of the States would be recalled and be in Session again?



It is only a miracle of love, loyalty, courage, and faith, that makes this possible.

And Standing Committees that stayed “Standing” decade after decade, one generation to the next.