

Order of the Pelican

HERALD

Their Majesties command the presence of all Masters and Mistresses of the Order of the Pelican.

The Pelicans assemble, kneeling before the Throne to either side, leaving a center aisle.

It has long been recognized that there are those among us who are much deserving of high honor but who, by reason of the nature and direction of their services and achievement, come not to the glory of warrior or throne, yet without whom our kingdom would not be half so blest.

For a kingdom is supported by three things: valor, art, and service. And without any one of these, the kingdom topples.

Therefore was created the Order of the Pelican, to recognize those who, possessing all the other skills, virtues, and attributes appropriate to members of the Peerage, shall also have distinguished themselves by sustained and exemplary service to the Society.

And the symbol of this Order is a medallion bearing a Pelican in her Piety. For it was believed in ancient times that the Pelican would, when necessary, revive her young with blood from her own breast. Hence, the Pelican represented sacrifice, and in time became the symbol of the good servant. And this Order ranks in precedence with the Order of Chivalry, the Order of the Laurel, and the Order of Defense, and carries with it a Patent of Arms.

If the Candidate does not choose an escort, the herald calls the Candidate forward.

Their Majesties call forward *N*.

The candidate comes forward and kneels before the thrones .If the candidate has chosen to be escorted, the escort will here say:

ESCORT

Your Majesties, having consulted with the Order, is it your desire to increase our numbers at this time?

KING

It is. Please bring the candidate forward.

The escort and such other Pelicans as the candidate will have selected, stand and walk to the candidate, who will be at the rear of the hall or otherwise have arranged to easily come forward. As they escort the candidate forward, the herald announces the candidate's name. The Candidate comes forward and kneels before the thrones. (As an OPTION, representatives from each of the bestowed peerages and a Royal Peer, usually a Lady of the Rose, may be prompted by the herald to speak for the candidate.)

KING

***N.*, that the assembled court may know your worth, we would hear from a member of each of the Orders.**

HERALD

Is there here a Companion of the Pelican who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Pelican speaks)

Is there here a knight of Caid who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Knight speaks)

Is there here a Companion of the Laurel who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Laurel speaks)

Is there here a Companion of Defense who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Defender speaks)

Is there here a Companion of the Rose who will speak on behalf of this candidate?

(Pause while Rose speaks. End of OPTION.)

KING

N., right mindful of your achievement and service to our realm, and responsive to the wishes of your peers, we are minded to create you a Master of the Pelican. Will you accept from us this honor, and the badge of your achievement, and will you swear fealty to this, our Crown and Realm?

CANDIDATE

I will, Your Majesty.

QUEEN

Will you, to the best of your ability, continue in the cause of service, as you most surely have until now, and seek to increase your labor and talents nobly, as befits a nobleman, and train any dependents you may have to do likewise, so far as is within your powers?

CANDIDATE

I will.

KING

Let the scroll be read.

The herald reads the scroll (or promissory, if no scroll is available. If preparing the ceremony beforehand and there is no scroll, use the standard scroll text from the College of Scribes. Promissory text appears below).

HERALD

To all and singular unto whom these presents shall come, *K.* and *Q.*, undoubted King and Queen of the Sovereign Realm of Caid, bid you greetings. In acknowledgment of (his/her) untiring and selfless devotion to the welfare of Our Kingdom, and after consultation with the members of the Order, We hereby elevate Our subject, *N.*, to the Most Noble Order of the Pelican of the Society for Creative Anachronism, and affirm by these Letters Patent (his/her) exclusive right to bear the arms (Blazon). In token whereof, We grant (him/her) the privilege of displaying above (his/her) shield, in whole or in part, the achievement proper to the Order: to wit, a cap of maintenance gules turned up plumetty argent gouty de sang, set upon a silver helmet, with mantling (Color) doubled (Metal). This have we done on this [date] day of [month], Anno Societatis [SCA year], which is [AD year] of the Common Era. In witness whereof We here set Our hand and seal. *K.*, Rex Caidis, *Q.*, Regina Caidis.

He hands it to the Crown, who hands it to the candidate. (It may be given to one of the candidate's entourage, or back to the herald, for safekeeping if necessary.) The King then receives the medallion from that member of the Order who is providing it.

KING

N., take from our hands this token of your achievement and our esteem.

The king places the medallion around the candidate's neck. As an OPTION, a cap of maintenance may also be presented.

HERALD

The cap of maintenance is also a symbol of the Order, for just as the cap of maintenance supports the crown and makes it easier to bear, so the Pelican supports the Kingdom and eases the burdens of its rulers.

End of OPTION.

KING

With what sword do you wish to be dubbed?

The candidate answers. The king receives the named sword. If the king is not a member of the Order of the Pelican, a member of the Order places a hand on the hilt of the sword. The king lightly strikes the candidate thrice with the flat of the blade: first on the right shoulder, then on the left shoulder, then on the crown of the head.

Henceforth be *Master/Mistress N.* in this our realm.

As an OPTION, the Order may present the new Pelican with a robe of the Order. The robe bearers come forward and place the robe on the candidate's shoulders.

QUEEN

As this robe folds you in warmth, so does the Order of the Pelican enfold you in companionship.

HERALD

Place your hands between Their Majesties', for the oath of fealty.

NEW PELICAN

Prompted as needed by the herald.

Here do I swear by mouth and hand fealty and service to the Crown and Kingdom of Caid: to speak and to be silent; to do and to let be; to come and to go; to serve and to teach, in such matters as concern this Realm; in need or in plenty, in peace or in war, in living or in dying, until the Crown depart their throne, or death take me, or the world end. So say I, N.

KING AND QUEEN

And this do We hear, *Master/Mistress N.* And We, for our part, swear fealty to you and to all your household; to protect and defend you against every creature with all Our power, until We depart from the throne, or death take Us, or the world end. So say We, K., King of Caid.

And so say We, Q., Queen of Caid.

The King raises the new Pelican.

KING

Congratulations, *Master/Mistress N.* Go now to your peers.

The new Pelican joins the rest of the Order.

KING

Thank you, my lords and ladies. You may retire.

The Pelicans bow to the Throne and retire while the herald exhorts cheers from the populace.