

Original High Plains Regional Rendezvous

An independent rendezvous association holding its annual week-long rendezvous in one of its member states of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas or Minnesota.
Not affiliated with the NMLRA



Date: April 5, 2007

To: Board of Directors
Original High Plains Regional Rendezvous

From: Tod M. Wells, Board Chairman

Re: Flag Etiquette

Members of the Board:

In response to an increasing interest and concern in regards to how the American Flag is displayed and handled at the High Plains, I propose the following as a representative of the Chiefs' Council.

1. In regard to "what" flag should be flown: It is my opinion that the current 50-star flag is appropriate. To decide which historic flag should be used in its place is ludicrous. If we are to attempt to represent all of the time frames interpreted by the re-enactors that attend our events with a flag, we could well have our very own "avenue of flags" at every event. I do not feel this is feasible, and it is an unrealistic burden to place on the Booshway and his staff. Regardless of era or nationality the attendants may interpret, this is America. Our events are held on American soil and we re-enact events that occurred in what is now America.

This does not mean that we should discourage individuals who wish to fly a flag that is pertinent to the era they are representing at their own lodge, nor will we require those individuals to follow the association's guideline. On the contrary, I think that it only enhances one's individual persona when a flag representing their era is flown.

Nor does this mean we should prevent or discourage flags from other nations whose residents might be in attendance. For example, the flag of Canada is often flown next to the American flag. Quite often there are citizens of that country attending our events. They have supported us in our endeavors for several years, not to mention their enthusiastic participation and camaraderie.

2. As to how the flag should be handled: I feel that all of the Booshways and their staff have always handled the flag with respect and the greatest of intentions. Great care has always been taken to make sure that it is flown above all other flags present and that it never touch the ground. For this, they are all to be commended. However, there are certain procedures for handling the flag that have not always been observed and it is to that end that we have this discussion. In an attempt to set a standard for how the flag should be handled, I offer the following:
 - a. The American flag, in addition to being displayed at a higher point than all others present, shall be raised before all others. In turn, when the event is over it shall be lowered after all others.
 - b. Whenever the flag is lowered, it will be folded in the standard method of triangular shape.

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- c. As there does not appear to be any abatement in the rule concerning the illumination of the flag, it will be lowered each night and raised each morning by persons (at least two) designated by the Booshway. There have been valiant efforts by past Booshways to illuminate the flag, but in reality, in a primitive setting, there is no practical way of doing this. (Rule "A" does not apply when only the American flag is being raised and lowered)
- d. The American flag will be displayed on a pole, by itself. It will not be simply the "top" flag in a long succession of flags. It will be the Booshway's discretion on how all other flags are displayed as long as, once again, the American flag is higher than all others.
- e. In regard to state flags, they should be raised and lowered (or hung) in turn, with the turn being the order in which they are the host of the High Plains. That order is: Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota. The host state would be the last flag raised of the group. When lowering the state flags it would go in turn, with the host state's flag being lowered last.
- f. The High Plains flag should be the second flag raised, after the American flag. It will then be the second to the last to be lowered, just before the American flag.

Although I understand that the task before the Chiefs' Council was to create a procedure for the handling of the American flag, I have taken it upon myself to do so for all of the flags. My intent, in doing this, was to build a foundation on which we could create a tradition. I feel that a sound tradition is one of the most profound respects that can be shown to those that have come before us and a gift to those that follow. Perhaps the American flag was initially flown out of some habit. Maybe someone said "we should because, well, we just should". The principle of that mentality is just and good. We fly the American flag at our events out of a duty to honor and respect the people of our nation that have fought and died so that we can "still" fly it and do so whenever we choose. It is also in honor of all of the people of this country who hold dear the belief that we live in the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

I believe that our current flag is the embodiment of all of the flags that have flown over our great nation. To this end, it is my recommendation that the 50 star flag be the one flown at the High Plains, to represent the United States of America.

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Chiefs' Council member
Tod M. Wells