

About Structure and Purpose -- Orientation of Assemblies

By Anna Von Reitz



People new to our Assemblies are often like lost ducklings, feeling uncertain about "What's next?" and "How does this work?"

Many fall back on their prior experience with hierarchical systems and try to rebuild such a structure, at least in their minds, in the Assembly. They ask -- "Who is in charge?"

During the assembling phase, and until the Assembly is fully functional and on its own, the Coordinator is in charge of making sure that the Assembly members are properly declared and recorded as Americans, and that the four functions that are common to all American Assemblies are up and going. Once the Assembly is organized and fully functional with these basics in place, the Coordinator's position sunsets.

Each Assembly has four basic functions and all Assemblies have at least these four functions that they ultimately need to provide:

General Assembly handles in-state business. Business Assembly handles out of state business. Jural Assembly handles court services and issues. Militia Assembly handles militia services.

The State Assembly which is the embodiment of these sub-assemblies is a Committee of the Whole.

So what does that mean? It means we have no "positions of authority" that are executive in nature. We don't have a Chief Executive Officer, like a President. Our Assembly Chairmen are Spokespersons. Stop a moment and consider the difference that this implies.

Free people endowed and enabled to act in the fullness of their individual sovereignty don't take orders from anyone, and an assembly of such free people does not assume that any member is less or more important, except that some among us may have more skill or more learning to share, and thereby become leaders in various areas by merit and proven trustworthiness --- not because they occupy an office.

Such offices as we have, are offices of service. The Assembly Chairman is the Spokesman for the Assembly, and similar to an American Common Law Judge, the Chairman speaks for the people according to what the people have as a Committee of the Whole expressed to him. He has his opinions like everyone else and he may sometimes disagree with the will of the Assembly, yet it is his duty to pronounce it---- and the Assembly has its free will, except that it is accountable to the Public Law and Custom of our country.

It is not possible, for example, for an American Assembly to adopt Communism as its form of government. If it were to do something like that, it instantly becomes something else --- not an American State Assembly and not acting with the lawful standing of an American Assembly. Likewise, if an Assembly were to elect to incorporate itself, it would instantly lose its lawful standing and cease to be an American State Assembly.

All the other functionaries of the Assembly, like the State Recording Secretaries, have accepted the burden of learning skills and employing those skills to perform services for the Assembly--- and it's all volunteer at this point. In our system, it's respect for the good will and effort that these people make to help other Americans correct and record their political status that we owe--- not respect for an office per se.

Ditto our Justices and our Court Clerks, Notaries and everyone else. We are all equal as Americans, and these Americans are respected for their knowledge, their heart, and their work. Not because they hold an office.

At one time it was common throughout America to call Assemblymen by another name --- "Committeemen" --- because the Assembly functions as a Committee of the Whole and uses Committees to form work groups and do projects.

For the present, we are using the more familiar (though often incorrectly used) "Assemblyman" language to underline the fact that Americans have and hold the right to peaceably "assemble".

The true purpose of all Assemblies is to provide the people of this country with a voice, both a voice about in-state issues, and a voice in international affairs.

Thus, we have the General Assembly composed of State Nationals and State Citizens to handle in-State business, and the Business (sometimes called "International") Assembly composed of State Citizens to handle international issues.

Note: because our States are nation-states, the words "international" and "interstate" are synonymous.

Again, sometimes there is confusion and assumptions that some kind of hierarchy is involved, with State Citizens being "above" State Nationals, because they get to vote on international questions---- but this is not the case.

Our Forefathers, in their wisdom, used a system of checks and balances throughout the government structures they created. They were also ever-vigilant against conflicts of interest. As a result, they ordained that there would be a

separation of jurisdiction between the County Government and the State Government.

The County has absolute authority over local law within the county borders, subject only to the Public Law and Customs of our country as a whole. Our County Sheriffs elected by each County Assembly is the highest elected peacekeeping official in America. Within its borders, each county is an island unto itself, and it's only access to the outside world is via its participation in the State Assembly.

This was done to prevent foreign powers from coming in and forming alliances with the County Governments and picking them off one-by-one with promises of emoluments or pleas to cultural and political affiliations.

Similarly, the State Assembly has plenary authority over State-level issues, both in-State issues, and international issues.

As part of their vigilance to prevent conflict of interests, the Founders decreed that only State Citizens --- the "People" in "We, the People" who willingly serve the State Government and who have no other allegiance --- can vote on international questions that come before the State Assembly, and only State Citizens can serve as commanders in the State Assembly Militia.

This again helps prevent foreign powers from seducing State Governments away from serving the best interests of their States and the people living there. It also helps forestall the possibility that the State Militia could be turned against the people it is meant to serve or otherwise be misdirected.

You can all see the logic and common sense involved here, and also see that the only "superiority" implied by State Citizen status is that of service and unique allegiance.

Americans who work for the Federal Government or serve in the U.S. Military are in fact serving in foreign capacities and can't serve two governments at once, so until they fully retire and leave Federal employment they can't serve as State Citizens. Retirees and Pensioners can serve, but not Active Duty or Reserves.

In all these ways and more, our Assembly-based American Government is built around the individual people who ordain its existence, and its sole pre-eminent goal is to protect the people of this country and their assets --- a goal that is within our reach the moment we wake up, stand up, and accept the responsibilities of self-governance.

Go to: www.TheAmericanStatesAssembly.net and get started.

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