

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation (7/20/14)

Significant Figures Present:

- King, Styrkarr Jarlsskald
- Queen, Dagrún Stjarna
- Ban-Tanista of Tir Rígh, Lenora di Calizzan
- Kingdom Seneschal, Dame Brighid Ross
- Kingdom Exchequer, Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne

Report by Exchequer Mistress Etienne

Financial adjustments

- The Seneschal's budget needs to be increased by \$300 due to larger than normal travel expenses. Dame Brighid Ross has traveled to 3 of the 5 regions in the past year or so, as well as the Known World Symposium, and has trips coming up to the Summits and Inlands. While these trips are expensive, meeting locally with branch officers in various parts of the Kingdom about every 18 months has a huge positive effect on how well An Tir operates. -- Approved.
- Earl Marshal Sir Einar Knuteson asks that the Lists Minister be admitted free to the 4 Crown events where she is required to run the Crown or martial championship tournaments. -- Approved.

Budget Update

- As of the end of second quarter the Kingdom is in good shape, even though we are actually \$3000 in the red:
 - The change of assets for second quarter shows a \$6487 profit. However, that does not reflect the \$5706 just received from the Barony of Madrone for the Kingdom's portion of May Crown; or the costs of \$6625 we owe in NMS and \$5607 which is being transferred to the regalia fund, plus some other expenses.
 - Non-Member Surcharge arrives in one quarter and goes out in the next. The fourth quarter of the year is our second biggest for events and first quarter our smallest, so between this and the timing of the payments it always looks like we "lost" more money early in the year than we actually did; and then once the tournament season starts the inward flow is higher than what goes out.
 - The bottom line will improve in third quarter once the proceeds from July Coronation and September Crown are received. We still need to be careful about costs, but there's no reason to take additional actions.
- Travel continues to be the single biggest expense at \$8800, but it's necessary to do our job well, and the Kingdom cannot reasonably expect the Crown and officers to pay for this themselves.
- Raven Travel Fund has \$4600 after paying for the trip to Estrella War. Because this is a dedicated account it must maintain a minimum balance.
- Regalia funds: The current total stands at \$12,582. A payment of \$875 to refurbish the orb has been made, and the final cost is estimated at \$1700. The decision about which bid will be accepted for the second pair of crowns will be made at September Crown. The populace is strongly encouraged to submit detailed feedback regarding their preferences to [regalia (at) antir.sca.org].

State of California is auditing the SCA for 2012-13

- This is not because the SCA has done anything wrong, but because the government is choosing to do a routine review of a non-profit organization. This is happening in a lot of states right now as decreasing budgets encourage them to tighten their regulations and look for possible income through fines or changing an agency's designation.
- A number of Kingdoms have incorporated in their own states rather than relying on the SCA's tax status alone, and so they are exempt from an audit like this one. However, An Tir has not yet done this and so California can choose to review the US section of our books as well. (This may cause us to revisit the incorporation decision.) Mistress Etienne is confident we have nothing to be concerned about, but it will take some of her time if it happens.
- At the time of the sexual abuse lawsuit, An Tir had the largest bank account of any Kingdom. The East was next, but still \$30,000 smaller.
- If the state does find the SCA is not in compliance, then there will be some fines to pay.

Financial Proposals

\$20 site fee for Crown events -- One year review

- An Tir raised the site fee to \$20 beginning with May Crown 2013 and we now have data through May Crown 2014 to review.
- Crown events brought in \$19,980 more income as a result of the increased site fee. Of this the Kingdom's portion was \$11,988.
 - An Tir saw a profit of \$95,802.65 from where we ended 2012. However, \$60,000 was reimbursement from the sexual abuse lawsuit, and \$10,000 was profit from running An Tir West War. (This and an additional \$10,000 has been set aside as capital to cover the expense of doing so in 2015.) Thus the actual flexible income was only \$25,802. Thus without the price increase, An Tir would only have seen a \$13,814 profit.
 - While this sounds like a lot, in a Kingdom of this size and complexity, it's really not that much. It only takes one disaster to wipe out this margin and cut into our savings: A Crown event that has to be cancelled due to a natural disaster. A major windstorm that destroys the Kingdom pavilions. Theft of the Kingdom trailer, as recently happened to another branch. Or another lawsuit.
 - 2013 was actually the first time in several years the Kingdom showed a profit, after the sexual abuse lawsuit and the consequences of the recession.
 - A lot of people don't realize it, but An Tir is still benefiting from the tremendous profit we received from running Thirty Year Celebration in 1996..
- May Crown this year had 37 fewer adults, and several fewer merchants, so the income was a little lower.
- Gate staff like the increase to \$20 as it makes their math far simpler, and reduces the need for as much change.
- DECISION -- An Tir will continue to charge \$20 for Crown events.

Proposal not to charge for minors at Crown events -- Presented by Baron Ivon Dreng

- He started the Grand Thing event 9 years ago, and has been the steward for that in many of the subsequent years. Starting 4 years ago they decided not to charge admission for children to encourage more families to come. When Baron Ivon assumed the role of Baron of Stromgard in May 2013 he proposed not charging site fee minors at any of the Barony's events and that experiment has worked out very well.
 - For their one annual feast, minors do not pay to attend the event, and only are charged half the adult fee for the meal.
 - They have noticed far more children at events since this decision was made: At Grand Thing they went from 117 to 161 the first year, and for the past 3 has held at 135-145.
 - Adults are reporting that it is much more likely both parents will attend events, rather than one day tripping for the activities and the other staying home with the children.
- Last week the Shire of Fire Mountain Keep held Dragon's Down and decided not to charge for minors. Adult attendance increased from 75 to 125 from last year, plus there were lots more children present.
- Thus a proposal is being made to stop charging gate fee to minors at Crown events. Mistress Etienne did a comparison of actual income received at Crown events from 2012 to the present, versus what the Kingdom would have received without the fees for youth, and it was a \$4600 loss. However, if more adults come to the events, then that amount can be made up.
- NMS is not charged for minors, so there's no consequence on the Society level.
- Discussion:
 - Dame Brigid Ross proposes starting a test with September Crown and re-evaluating at Twelfth Night 2016 whether to continue the practice.
 - Countess Daedin MacAoidh a'Mhonadh asks if it is possible to specifically count how many parents are at an event, and not just adults. It's not possible to do this entirely accurately but it can be estimated by counting the number of minor waivers that were signed (though some youth have their own membership cards), and by looking at the number of children signing in on the gate sheets and seeing if the ratio of adults to children has changed from the prior year. Events Deputy HL Ysabella Greene can look into changing the event report form to try and track this.
 - An individual asks if not charging for children at events might discourage parents from buying family memberships in the SCA. However, since children are not charged for NMS this is already

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not much of a factor. As King Styrkarr points out, the real advantage to paying the extra \$10 per person is not having to fill out waivers at gate.

- The SCA is working hard to recruit and retain members at this time. Reducing barriers for families to participate is important part of these efforts as not only does it mean more people participating in the present, but children who are excited about being involved in the SCA now form the basis of our future membership.
- The family cap would be eliminated as no longer relevant. This will streamline things at gate. Parents would still sign their children in on the appropriate gate sheet, and complete waivers if they are not members.
- Eliminating fees for children may reduce some of the complaints about the increase in adult fees from \$15 to \$20 last year.
- In British Columbia the age of majority is 19 so for Crown events hosted in that province 18 year olds will enter for free, but in the rest of An Tir they would have to pay. [While the age of legal adulthood is 18 throughout the US, in Canada it varies by province between 18 & 19.]
- **DECISION** -- Proposal approved. The site fee for minors will not be charged from September Crown 2014 through Twelfth Night 2016 and then the Kingdom will decide whether to continue the practice. If Principality or local branches want to make the same decision for their events as well, that would be their choice.

Event Bids

Summary of decisions to date:

- July Coronation (July 18-20, 2014) -- Barony of Three Mountains at the Trojan Park site in Rainier, OR.
- September Crown (Aug 29 – Sept 1, 2014) -- Barony of Lion's Gate at Green Wode Farm in Langley, BC.
- Twelfth Night (Jan 9-11, 2015) -- Barony of Adiantum at the Valley River Inn in Eugene, OR.
- Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic (March 6-8, 2015) at the Baymont Inn in the Barony of Dragon's Laire.
- Twelfth Night (Jan 8-10, 2016) -- Barony of Dragon's Mist. Doubletree Hotel in the Rose Quarter of Portland, OR.

Applications for the following events are being actively sought:

- 2015 = An Tir West War, July Coronation, and September Crown.
- From Seneschal Dame Brigid Ross: If your branch has not hosted a Crown event in the past 5 years, you are doing everyone a disservice. Please team up with other branches to share land and personnel and put in a bid to produce one of these events.

Bid for May Crown 2015 (May 15-17)

- Presented by HL Finn Grim of the Barony of Dragon's Mist. [Finn.Grim.SCA (at) gmail.com]
- This will be a cooperative project between the Barony of Dragon's Mist and the Shire of Hauksgardr. It is suggested they also talk with some of the other branches in the area for additional volunteers: Stromgard, Three Mountains, Vulcanfeldt, and Wastekeep.
- Event Steward HL Finn Grim has held that role for Faire in the Grove, a large annual demo in the Rivers region. He was also Royal Liaison at a prior Twelfth Night. His co-steward will be HL Marco Valentino who has served in that role at a prior Twelfth Night, as well as acting as Black Lion Herald. They are being mentored by Countess Daedin MacAoidh a'Mhonadh.
- The event site will be the Hood River Fairgrounds in Oregon. <http://www.hoodriverfair.org/facilities.htm> .
 - This is 60 miles east of Portland, OR and 150 miles SW of Tri Cities, WA. The fairgrounds are 15 minutes off of I-84.
 - The site is flat with good grass we can drive on. There are permanent toilet and shower buildings we can use. There is water, power, and RV connections on site. There is plenty of free parking.
 - There is a large permanent fire pit that can be used as a setting for bardic activities. There is a concrete amphitheater with seating for court. There is also a covered barn that can be used for archery.
 - Looking at the weather record it has only rained on this weekend three times in 10 years. It can be windy, but the site is far enough off the river to avoid the intense gorge winds.

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- Projected attendance would be 650 adults and 14 merchants. They projected income of \$13,000, and costs of \$6550, resulting in a profit of \$6450.
- Armored MIC will be HL Kerryk Wolfram, the Branch Marshal for the Shire of Hauksgardr. Archery and rapier MIC's are still to be determined. The event is considering whether it will be possible to hold equestrian activities, but this would increase the event costs as we would be using more of the fairgrounds. The Barony of Madrone considered this for May Crown 2013 & 2014, but heard from the equestrian community that they preferred to attend the Hocktide Emprise in May instead.
- A&S activities will be overseen by Desa of Dragon's Mist.
- DECISION = Bid accepted.

Bid for An Tir – West War (July 4th is a Saturday. Event will run July 1-5)

- Presented by Mistress Attia Prima who will also be one of the Event Stewards.
- The team would be from the Barony of Three Mountains who has run this event 3 times in the past.
- Both Kingdoms have a multi-year contract with the site owner for the Lazy J Moore Ranch in Gold Beach, Oregon.
- Finances:
 - An Tir has \$20,000 in a dedicated bank account to pay for expenses.
 - Mistress Attia is waiting on the final numbers from the Kingdom of the West about how this year went.
 - An Tir will not rent a shower truck as this is extremely expensive.
 - The West charged \$40 per adult this year, but An Tir will charge \$30. They will also have a day trip or demo fee to encourage more local residents to come and check out the event as it gets a lot of publicity in the area.
- DECISION = There is another bid pending, and both will be reviewed at September Crown.