

Financial Meeting Notes September Crown 2011

See the financial spreadsheet from January 2011 that was handed out.

Their Royal Majesties Thorin and Dagmaer are present. Their Royal Highnesses Ieuan and Gwyneth had to leave the night before. None of the territorial princes or princesses are present.

Next Financial Meeting will be at Crown Council on 11/12/11 in Wyewood if more event bids are received. If not, then it will be at 12th Night.

Kingdom Seneschal is Baron James Llewellyn ap Gruffydd

Kingdom Exchequer is HL Elonda Blue Haven. Her successor is also present and will step up in October: HL Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne. There were some recent problems with Bank of America losing the signature cards for the change-over, but this has now been resolved.

Kingdom Financial Policy -- Copies are given to TRM and the Kingdom Seneschal to review. They must be ratified by the Society Board of Directors, and the plan is for this to happen when the board is in Seattle on 10/15/11 for their quarterly meeting.

- The changes are mainly clarifications to the existing policy.
- The one significant change is moving the language about admitting certain individuals to events free from Kingdom Law to the financial policy manual.
 - Champions are already admitted for free to any event where their attendance is required, not solely Crown level events. Language will be added allowing them to be compensated for postage and other reasonable expenses related to their duties.
 - His Majesty spoke with the new Heirs last night about what they can be compensated for.
- Her Majesty suggests inserting a reference in the policy to the sections in the Exchequer's and Seneschal's Handbooks which cover the requirements for exchequers to report, and the consequences for not doing so. (A reference only, not repeating the text.)

New exchequers need to be trained when accepting this office at any branch level. It is not particularly difficult, but there is some specialized knowledge related to the combination of non-profit, accrual, and cash accounting peculiar to the SCA. Kingdom Exchequer Elonda created a training manual with quizzes, it just needs to be posted online. Someone else says that this tool would also be helpful for prospective exchequers to use in deciding if they have the skills to take on that role in the future.

A number of events have reported problems using the Accops system, particularly in getting lists of pre-registered individuals and then the payments in a timely fashion. If this continues An Tir may look at another system.

Reporting Difficulties -- This starts as a discussion of exchequers not reporting, and then moves to the issue of branch officers reporting in general. Solutions proposed include:

- If a branch does not have an officer in a given position, or that officer is not reporting, then it is the Seneschal's duty to report. Seneschal's need to be reminded of this.
- Kingdom Exchequer recently went to a branch to teach them about reporting after they had several changes in officers.
- Kingdom, principality, or regional officers can send out a reminder to their local officers when reports are due.
- Create standardized "fill in the blank" report formats to make it quick and simple to provide the necessary information. Post these as templates that can be filled out on the web. The Seneschal's office has already done this.
- Tir Righ posts by branch which reports are in, as a public example of what should be happening.
- Perhaps there can be a competition for which branch or region can achieve the highest rate of timely reporting.

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Raven Travel Fund -- It was about \$7000 at 12th Night and now is \$5400. TRM are happy with the slow and steady donations towards this, including \$300 from Café Press and \$150 from the cake this weekend. Also a silent auction her Majesty is running.

Riderless Horse -- The Ladies of Rose would like to set up a fund to pay for the tassels and the upkeep of the barding. People have been donating towards this and that money has been given to whoever bought supplies last, but it needs to be more organized and transparent. The amount is \$100-200 per year.

- Exchequer says that it is easy to set up a way of tracking this money in the main account. Setting up a dedicated account for it is more complicated. Exchequer will work up a plan for this for Fall Crown Council.
- There needs to be terms in Kingdom financial policy saying that if the account is dormant for a certain period the money will flow into the general fund.

Sponsoring Events

- Per the Society Exchequer, events should be sponsored by a principality or branch, not the Kingdom. However, the Kingdom can provide money up front to a branch to host a Kingdom level event.
- Her Majesty and the Kingdom Seneschal disagree with this idea. Their chief example is that with so few branches stepping up to host Kingdom level events, the Kingdom needs the option of hosting the event themselves.
- An Tir – West War has also been hosted by the Kingdoms in recent years as the local branch is too small to do so. After further discussion the solution agreed upon is to create a joint committee with the Kingdom of the West to run the event, with its own dedicated bank account in that local area. (Chase is the best option.) This is how other inter-kingdom wars are run.

Bid for May Crown 2012 by Shire of Dregate -- More information requested. Event remains open to other bids.

- See handout. Presented by Dame Brigid Ross, Kingdom Events Deputy.
- Event Steward would be Julia Sempronia [julillasempronia@mac.com]
- Location would be in Tonasket, WA on 80 acres in a very rural area on the east side of the Cascade mountains near the Canadian border. This is a desert climate, normally dry and 73 during the day, and 44 at night.
- This would be the first time the non-profit association has hosted an SCA event, but they have worked with similar groups before. There is drinkable water on site. Fire regulations will depend on forest service rules at the time. Equestrian activities are possible.
- There are hotels in Omak about a half-hour away. Seattle is a 6 hour drive and Spokane 4 hours.
- The consensus is the bid has merit, but there are a number of questions raised about the proposed budget, and the supplies for and size of the erics. Also the listings for officers in charge of activities need to be updated. Dame Brigid Ross will work with the Shire event team to revise the bid by the end of Sept and re-submit it for consideration.

Bid for 12th Night 2013 by Barony of Three Mountains -- Accepted

- See handout. Explanation by Event Steward HL Selene Trioros. [Selene_Trioros@comcast.net]
- Location would be the Doubletree Hotel in central Portland next to the Lloyd Center mall. It is on the public light rail and bus line to the train station, airport, and Powell's bookstore, for under \$3 each. The hotel has hosted a science fiction convention and other fannish events before, and are accustomed to the type of demands our community can present.
- Projected attendance is 800 people although only 500 are needed to break even. Gate fee would be \$15 plus NMS.
- There are 477 rooms available. If none are filled, then the meeting space will cost \$4900. If 280 room nights are occupied, then meeting space will be free. (Sliding scale in between.) Rooms are \$119 a night for double occupancy, and \$10 for each additional person.

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- Free, secure parking will be available for all attendees, not just those staying at the hotel, with a token handed out by SCA gate.
 - Event arrangements:
 - Court and the Queen's Rapier Championship can both be held in the main ballroom which can seat 750 people.
 - The exhibit hall has more than adequate space for merchants and arts & sciences.
 - There are 7 meeting rooms that can hold approximately 75 people each. Many are on a single hallway where access can be limited.
 - Arrangements can be made for vigils to be held in the meeting rooms, as well as a meeting room for evening socializing to reduce hallway noise. A discussion will need to be held with the hotel about attendees bringing their own food into these spaces.
 - A discussion still needs to be held with the hotel about space for an armored fight practice.
 - Discussions are also needed with the hotel about being able to rapidly and affordably feed large numbers of people through a reasonably priced simple buffet or other options. There are other food options within walking distance.
 - Kingdom funds are available to help with this event:
 - \$500 for site tokens which should be something special given it will be the end of An Tir's 30th anniversary celebration. Perhaps a household will want to assist with this project.
 - \$1000 which could be used for the Friday night ball.
 - Event team should consider holding the Queen's Rapier Championship tournament on Saturday evening after court to increase participation and spectators versus waiting until Sunday morning. This worked well at 12th Night 2011.
 - It may be appropriate to do the change in Baronial leadership for Three Mountains at this event.
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