

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- Twelfth Night (1/10/16)

Significant Figures Present:

- King Eirik Daegarsson
- Kingdom Seneschal Magistra Julia Sempronia
- Kingdom Exchequer Master Arontius of Bygelswade

Report by Exchequer Master Arontius of Bygelswade

Current Financial Status

- As of 1/7/16 the Kingdom has an asset total of \$125,033.78. Balances in the individual accounts are:
 - Primary Checking: \$36,430.44
 - Savings: \$14,668.77
 - CD 1404: \$13,252.86 CD 4949: \$13,377.03
 - CD 4950: \$17,005.01 CD 4953: \$15,476.30
 - CD 4957: \$14,823.37
- The Kingdom Seneschal and Exchequer still need to review the bank statements from September – November 2015, and sign that they are correct. They also need to review and approve the Account Reconciliation Statement for third quarter (July –Sept), and the monthly reconciliation statements for October & November.
- Major changes since Crown Council in November include:
 - September Crown 2015 provided a profit to the Kingdom of \$2,366.36.
 - Fluctuations in the checking account due to NMS payments coming in from events and then going out to the Society each month.
 - Payment of travel expenses from officers. It really helps if receipts are submitted immediately.
 - Payments to reframe An Tir's Principality and Kingdom scrolls, and for award tokens. This was the largest single expense for the Kingdom in fourth quarter.
 - The annual payment to Master Jean Louis Chambertin to host the Kingdom website has been made. (\$557.70)
- Raven Travel Fund had a balance of \$4216.88 coming into this weekend, and the Shire of Ambergard presented a check for \$1000 yesterday. This fund has received more donations lately, which will be needed for our Monarchs to travel to 50th Year Celebration in June.
- Special Fund Accounts
 - NMS is currently at negative \$211.37 due to record keeping delays. In calendar year 2015, An Tir collected \$34,888.62 in NMS funds, and paid out \$40,906.57 to SCA, Inc.
 - Kingdom Feast: The November event realized a profit of \$2500. As a result there is now \$5302.42 reserved in the same account as the Crier newsletter for future renditions of this event. Now that we've had two successful editions of this feast and the plan is to hold it again in 2016 (see page 6), a separate bank account will be opened specifically for this purpose; just as An Tir maintains a separate account for when we host An Tir – West War.

Budget for 2016

The proposed budget for 2016 was presented and accepted at November Crown Council, 2015. The following budget changes were approved as part of that plan:

- Earl Marshal: Increased by \$250 to a total of \$750 so that the Earl Marshal could make additional trips to support Principality events and address some issues throughout our large Kingdom.
- Symposiums: \$1000 was allocated so that the Kingdom Seneschal and Exchequer can attend the Known World Symposium for their departments in Florida on the weekend of February 12-14. After this event they will be traveling around the Kingdom sharing what they have learned.
- Officer Training: \$2000 was set aside for additional officer training activities. Dame Brigid Ross is putting together a proposal for a training session at Fort Flagler, WA; and other proposals may also be submitted.
- Extraordinary Travel: An additional \$1000 has been allocated to cover the costs of officers and/or display items making the trip to 50th Year Celebration in the Middle Kingdom from June 17-27, 2016.

Shire of Earnrokke -- As of December 2015 this chapter on Whidbey Island, WA was put into abeyance for the next 2 years. This means that on a practical level it no longer exists: The remaining funds in the Shire's bank account (\$492.27) were moved to the Kingdom account. The property owned by the Shire was moved from their storage unit to the Arontius' garage. He and Julia are working on a plan to give the eric set-up supplies, Gold Key garb, and similar items to other small branches in the Kingdom who need such items; or to find another suitable home for these materials. Despite these steps, An Tir is not going to petition the Board to officially dissolve the branch at this time, in case there is a resurgence of interest in that locale.

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Non-Member Surcharge

As of July 1st, 2015 branches have 10 business days to submit the NMS they collect at events to the Kingdom. (This is based on the postmark date, which particularly helps our Canadian chapters.) Kingdoms then have until the end of the month after those events to send the NMS payments to the Society. E.g. January events must be paid by 2/29. Previously the money was due after each quarter. Chapters who don't follow the new system can lose their status.

The Society Exchequer, Kathy Palmer, is currently working on a FAQ document to define what NMS is and when it must be collected. This should be released after the Known World Seneschal and Exchequer Symposium in February, 2016. However, since November Crown Council, 2015, the SCA main office has issued some clarification on when NMS must be collected:

- YES
 - Any time an event is advertised in any SCA publication, either at Kingdom level or branch level, if the event charges a fee to attend, and the SCA insurance is in effect.
 - The new definition has been expanded to specifically include any event where awards of any nature are given. This includes what An Tir refers to as "Tier 2 events" which are not listed in the Crier, but on a branch's website. Under this definition, An Tir will have additional events at which NMS applies.
- NO
 - At fight, dance, or similar practices, A&S project nights, business meetings, or other gatherings which where people typically do not come in garb and no awards are given or ceremonies conducted. Typically no gate fee is charged for these types of activities which would mean no NMS. However, we are still awaiting confirmation because sometimes these activities do request a donation from participants to cover the cost of renting the space.
 - NMS does not apply to gate fees for minors. (This is a long standing rule.)

In late summer, the Society informed An Tir that they must pay additional NMS fees beyond what we previously sent as their documentation of what was collected at events is different than ours. While An Tir believes that it has acted in good faith since the NMS requirements were first implemented in 2003, and that we have already paid everything we owe from our events. Thanks to the hard work of An Tir's NMS Deputy Mistress Elonda Bluehaven and others An Tir has solid documentation of the amounts previously paid from its Tier 1 events, and this answered some of the Society's questions during the audit in late July. However, based on the Society's new explanations that would include Tier 2 events, Elonda looked at our records again and estimated that we might owe approximately \$3800 more. Following encouragement from the Board, and an application by the Kingdom of The West, we have been encouraged to 'make an offer' of paying Society back NMS owed. At the November Crown Council our Financial Committee discussed whether we would pay part of all of that amount immediately, and decided not to do so. Instead, we are going to wait until there is further explanation at this topic at the February Known World Symposium. Arontius will draft a letter to the Society stating this position. This situation is going to have be resolved to the Society's satisfaction before An Tir would be eligible to use Pay-Pal for gate fees.

Once the Kingdom officers understand how the new NMS system is supposed to work, this will be a key topic for local Seneschal and Exchequer training throughout 2016.

Minors attend Crown level events for free

Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne and Maestra Althaia filia Lazari have compiled a chart showing the Kingdom's share of the profit from Crown events in 2013-2015. The experiment with minors started at September Crown 2014.

	2013	2014	2015
12 th Night	\$6,800.00	\$8,127.15	\$5,353.27
Arts, Sciences & Bardic Championships	\$449.18	\$2,261.48	\$564.53
May Crown	\$6,452.64	\$5,706.17	\$3,814.73
An Tir – West War	\$10,000.00	0	\$10,000.00
July Coronation	\$5,497.82	\$6,072.81	\$4,420.88
September Crown	\$5,900.00	\$3,000.74	\$2,366.36

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Kingdom Feast	\$2,402.00	0	\$2,500.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$37,501.64</i>	<i>\$25,168.35</i>	<i>\$29,019.77</i>
<i>Total without War or Feast</i>	<i>\$25,099.64</i>	<i>\$25,168.35</i>	<i>\$16,519.77</i>

Observations:

- An Tir makes more in odd years when it hosts the war and feast, than in even years.
- Gas was around \$3.50 in the US in 2013 through fall 2014, but then dropped by about a dollar through 2015.
- Canadian dollar was about at parity with the US dollar in 2013, but dropped to \$0.90 by the end of 2014, and \$0.75 at the end of 2015. This makes it harder for Canadians to attend US events.
- Avacal became independent in June 2015, likely pushing attendance up at events the year prior, and down for the remainder of 2015.
- All Crown events in 2015 brought in less profit than their counterpart in 2014, but how much of this is due to the "minors get in free" policy and how much is due to the above factors, (plus the general state of the economy and the location of the event), is impossible to say at this point.
- Arontius is now working with several parties to compile information about Kingdom events over a longer period of time so we can more accurately assess the situation.

Discussion by those in attendance today:

- Baron Ivon Drengir = He is the one who proposed the experiment based on the good results they have had in the Barony of Stromgard with this approach at local events. He continues to actively support the plan.
- Magistra Julia Sempronia (Seneschal) = A year isn't sufficient time to see the actual impact on attendance, or especially finances. There are so many other factors which influence both. At the same time, we do want to encourage families to attend both now and for the sake of future recruitment, and feedback from the community says this is helping.
- Jarl Styrkarr Jarlsskald = If we were going to lose a major amount of money with this plan, we would have seen it in the first year, but it will take longer to detect smaller changes. If we're only experiencing a minor loss, we should still allow minors to attend for free. He believes we should make this a permanent part of policy now. We can always change it in the future.
- King Eirik Daegarsson = Families are important to the SCA, and we are a non-profit organization. If we're not losing a significant amount of money, we should continue the practice.
- Unknown = Financial factors aside, the experiment has been very popular: It's simpler for gate staff to implement, families say they feel more welcome and it's easier to attend, and there appear to be some increases in the number of people through gate.
- Unknown = While the idea was to make it simpler for parents to bring their own children, we're also hearing reports of teens bringing more friends because neither set of parents has to pay for the teens to attend.
- Duchess Hlutwige Wolfkiller = She supports the idea, but points out we do need the option of making an exception if the landowner insists on charging for every person on site, which is the case with many fairgrounds and some other sites. Julia responds that the Kingdom could choose not to accept these bids or to talk with the owner about making an exception as we have been able to do at Nix Ranch. In some cases even if the owner is charging per person they're only counting adults to start with.

Decision = This practice will be written into An Tir's financial policies for all Crown events. This only applies to gate fees and not any feast that may take place. Julia and Arontius will work on the exact language. -- Tir Righ is also going to make this change in their Principality financial policy for that level of events. Many local branches have adopted the practice as well, but some cannot afford to do so, and that is their choice.

Other Discussions in today's Financial Meeting

New Budget Requests

- Scribe: HL Sarra the Brave has requested \$650 so that she might attend the Known World Heraldic & Scribal Symposium. This would cover her air fare, lodging, and site fee. -- Committee approves this today.
- Scribe: Sarra requests \$200 to pay for 2 banners to mark the scribal tent at outdoor events. -- This request is set aside as a larger conversation needs to take place about how to mark all of the officers' tents.

Kingdom Regalia

- Crowns:

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- The second set of crowns were presented to the populace in court on Saturday with much excitement and appreciation. Master Torfin Torgulsson will be sending the invoice for the final amount to the Exchequer soon.
- We had anticipated that the second set of Crowns would cost approximately \$6000 and that refurbishment of our long-standing pair would cost \$4000. Thus we expected that the \$10,092 in our account dedicated to this purpose would be sufficient. However, silver costs rose faster than expected, and the preliminary assessment is our existing crowns may need even more work than originally thought. Thus we should raise another \$4000-5000 for this purpose.
- Scepter
 - This disappeared around the time of September Crown. If anyone has any leads on what happened to it or where it might be now, please notify TRM and the Kingdom Chamberlain. Viscount Matheus Bane has photos which he will give to Arontius so announcements can be made on various social media sites. There will also be an announcement in court at Ursulmas.
 - Does a police report or insurance claim need to be made?
 - How long do we want to wait in hopes of recovering this scepter before commissioning a new one?
- Thrones -- The large versions for the King and Queen each collapse into a box, but are requiring more and more maintenance. We should determine whether a major overhaul would minimize this, or whether it would be better to craft replacements which are smaller and lighter. Those at Crown Council were in favor of the latter. Bids from the populace will be requested once Arontius establishes a process with the Chamberlain.
- Champions' Tokens -- At September Crown, Her Majesty Mary Grace, Seneschal Julia Sempronia, Exchequer Arontius of Bygelswade, Chamberlain Sigivald Garansson, and Baroness Cristiana de Huntington met to discuss how best to provide tokens to the past Kingdom Champions in all disciplines. Another discussion of this topic was held during the November Crown Council financial meeting.
 - Master Torfin Torgulsson presented an initial design with an estimated cost of \$25-30. While he does amazing work, the Society told us this past summer that that cost exceeds the "modest fee" the IRS considers appropriate for an organization like ours. (Branches also need to look at this question for tokens they give out.)
 - A conversation was held with Torfin this weekend and he agreed to make a simpler design that can be produced for a lower cost. He would then be willing to sell the more elaborate tokens directly to past champions if they wished to purchase those directly.
 - The core Financial Committee is also still considering whether to ask the populace for other bids for this purpose. Perhaps if several artisans were willing to join on a single design, they could be produced for a smaller fee. Or at least we could clear the backlog of tokens owed more quickly.
 - Another option that has been used in similar situations is for an elaborate token to be given to the champion as she steps down to carry for the next year until the next champion steps down and then it is passed to that individual. Champions further back in time then either receive a small token from the Kingdom or are left to purchase one with their own money.
- Proposal from the Exchequer: Can we have all of the Kingdom regalia formally appraised, and then an appropriate insurance policy purchased for these items? We have created a number of amazing and expensive items in the past few years, and no one at the meeting is sure if these have been appraised, or when the last review was done on the older regalia.
 - Since our Monarchs change every 6 months and the Seneschal and Exchequer often every 2 years, it would be difficult to have a "personal articles policy" with individual people's names on it.
 - Could we get a policy in An Tir's name as an organization? Maybe not since we're not a separate entity from the SCA Inc.
 - The SCA's corporate insurance covers pavilions, but not regalia.
 - There are also issues about depreciation of items.
 - We need to talk to some experts in this field. Arontius and Julia will research options.

Kingdom Pavilions

- Arts & Sciences Pavilion needs repair -- At September Crown this tent sustained a tear on one corner of approximately 18 inches by 18 inches, which is more than a simple seam repair or patch will fix. (Arontius has photos.) The initial proposal at November Crown Council was \$500, but before the tent could be fixed a more specific bid and repair plan was needed. Mistress Tuirrean dal gCais says she tried to reach Chamberlain Sigivald several times by email, but received no reply. She and Arontius will call him so hopefully the tent can be fixed by May Crown. Otherwise they will need to borrow another tent for that event.
- Re-allocation of existing tents:
 - Seneschal's Pavilion -- The red 25x20 foot tent which has provided many years of shelter for these officers is now beyond repair. Thus they will now use the tent that had previously been designated for

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- Family Activities. (This is 15x25 plus ropes, but has no walls.) The latter group can use the identical tent previously designated for youth armored combat.
- Marshal's Pavilion -- Several years ago when new tents were purchased for many officers the marshals decided they did not want one as their staff find shade in the lists tent or with the branches. However, times have changed, and this group of volunteers would now like their own space. Last season, the Kingdom Earl Marshal set up his personal tent for this purpose, but now they will receive the former surgeon's walled pavilion which is 10x20 without ropes.
 - Buying additional tents is not an option at this time as the Kingdom trailer is currently at full space and weight capacity.
 - There is some repeat today of past discussions about who is responsible for setting up and taking down officer pavilions at Kingdom events:
 - Officers really would like assistance, but event teams have few volunteers available.
 - The Teamster is a volunteer and we need to respect their time, but it would greatly help if it was clearly announced when they would arrive on site, and that that time was well before dark. It's easier to get volunteers if the event team knows the exact time they will be needed. We also need to know when everything must be stacked for re-loading.
 - All of the canvas, ridge beams, and associated objects need to be labeled again to clearly reflect who is currently using them. These labels need to be clear even if a new team is setting them up in the dark.
 - Use of officer pavilions at Kingdom events:
 - We're going to watch this season and see how these are actually being used throughout the weekend, and then re-assess the plan for the future. If the tent is not being actively used for working volunteers, classes, or meetings, then they should be publically announced as open for populace seating. Alternatively perhaps some officer tents should be moved to another location off of the erics so that there is more space for branch pavilions.
 - Different offices could share space in each other's tents, staggering times for meetings and classes.
 - The List Field Set Up Guide for Events explains everyone's spatial needs and the order of priority in deciding who is allocated space. <http://antir.sca.org/Pubs/forms/ListFieldSetUp.pdf> -- We no longer need a spot designated for Avacal, but branch tents keep getting larger so the total space issues aren't changing much.
 - Banners for the tents: The Kingdom Seneschal and Earl Marshal now have banners for their pavilions. Plans are being developed for the other offices so the populace can more easily find the correct personnel.
 - Next steps: Arontius will set a separate meeting with interested parties to discuss this topic in more detail.

EVENT BIDS

Summary of decisions to date:

- Twelfth Night (January 8-10, 2016) -- Barony of Dragon's Mist. Doubletree Hotel in the Rose Quarter of Portland, OR.
- Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championship (March 4-6, 2016) -- Barony of Glymm Mere. Shilo Inn at Ocean Shores, WA.
- May Crown (May 20-22, 2016) -- Barony of Vulkanfeldt and the Barony of Wastekeep will jointly host at the Toppenish Rodeo & Livestock Association grounds (WA).
- An Tir – West War (July 1-4, 2016) -- West is hosting this year.
- July Coronation (July 15-17, 2016) -- See below
- September Crown (September 2-5, 2016) -- Shire of Hauksgardr. Hood River County Fairgrounds in Hood River, OR.
- Kingdom Feast (October 28-30, 2016) -- See below
- Twelfth Night (January 13-15, 2017) -- Barony of Wyewood. Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac, WA.

July Coronation 2016 (July 15-17) -- A bid is presented by the Shire of Danescombe this morning, and accepted by the Committee, and so those details are being recorded here. Unfortunately, within 2 weeks the plans to rent the site fell through, and instead plans were made with the Barony of Stromgard to host the event. Originally the Shire of Corvaria had also prepared a bid, but they withdrew it after the landowner sold the site to someone not interested in working with the SCA at this time.

DANESCOMBE BID by Event Steward HL Taliesin ap Hafgan.

- Event website http://antir.sca.org/Upcoming/index.php?Event_ID=3611

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- Site is the Shylynn Ranch which is a private 60 acre property along the Salmon River, 20 minutes north of Vernon, BC.
 - We will use a 12 acre fenced section of the site with access to one covered building for activities if it rains. Parts of the site are flat wheat field and others have a small slope. There is a lot of shade available on site, as well as potable water at designated points. We will have access to showers and there is space for RV's. There is space for horses, although typically we haven't done those activities at Coronation. Food and garbage must be totally contained as bears are in the area.
 - The site is easily reached from northern Tir Righ and Avacal. It's about 3.5 hours north of the US border on Hwy 97. (This goes through many towns which adds to the travel time.)
- Finances:
 - They are projecting 450 attendees due to the location, even though the lowest in the past 5 years was 670. Income thus should be \$9000, with costs expected at \$6650, and a profit of \$2350.
 - Danescombe will pay the \$1000 necessary to reserve the site.
 - The local portable toilet company has submitted a preliminary bid of \$1400. They are 30 minutes away & could do an additional pumping if necessary (\$450). They're excited about the business.
- While Danescombe is taking the lead in running this event, they are specifically planning to enlist help from the Shires of Krakafjord and Ramsgaard to teach them how to run a Crown event so they could do so on their own in the future. The 3 shires will split their share of the profit equally. This type of partnership and mentoring is one of the Kingdom's goals.
- Duke Owain ap Einar and HL Elen de Vere from Ramsgaard will coordinate the eric area. Gate will be done by Krakafjord. Tentative marshals in charge are Master Kieran Gunn & Lord Gustav man Lorne.

STROMGARD PLAN

- Event Steward will be Sir Justin de Leon, assisted by Sir Kjartan Daegarsson. .
- Site will be the same one they use for Storm Gods which is the Zumstein Family Farm in Woodland, WA. (Exit 21 off of I-5). There is very limited shade on this site and participants must bring their own water.
- Land reservations HL GaeiRa Runfastsdottir. Interim Gate Coordinator Baron Finn Grim. Merchant liaison HL Stanton MacLlyr. Marshal in Charge will be Sir Einar Knuteson.

Kingdom Feast & Bardic Celebration 2016 (October 28-30) -- Barony of Dragon's Laire. Event Steward is HL Renart le fox de Berwyk. *This bid was awarded this morning!*

- Event website http://antir.sca.org/Upcoming/index.php?Event_ID=3978
- The 2013 and 2015 events were both a success and everyone wants to do this again.
 - Given the commitments that many of the key personnel have to managing food at Sport of Kings in August of odd numbered years, and An Tir also hosts the war with the West in odd years, the plan is to move the feast to even numbered years. While Halloween weekend might reduce attendance, it's what the convention center has open in fall 2016.
 - Attendance was projected at 225 for 2014 and turned out to be 237. It was also slightly higher this past fall at 267 instead of 250.
 - The 2015 event realized a profit of \$2500. As a result there is now \$5302.42 reserved in the same account as the Crier newsletter for future renditions of this event. A separate bank account will be opened specifically for this purpose; just as An Tir maintains a separate account for when we host An Tir – West War. An Tir's leadership will also consider making this an official Crown level event.
 - Estimated attendance for 2016 is 265 which would result in \$6625 for income. Estimated costs are \$5886 (including a site deposit of \$1100), which would yield a profit of \$739.
- Site will again be the Ocean Shores Convention Shores in Ocean Shores, WA. There are multiple hotels within blocks, including the Shilo Inn which just hosted Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championship.
- Renart already has some new cooks interested in a leading teams, so they won't be burning out the same crew. In addition to 6 courses of food spread throughout Saturday, there will be many other activities:
 - Bardic performances all weekend will be organized by HL Skamp Widegrin.
 - Scribal and other arts & sciences displays will organized by Marquessa Laurellen de Brandevin.
 - There will be a masked ball on Saturday night, and a rapier tournament that afternoon.
 - Baroness Francisca de Montoya will oversee the games room.
- We have the Convention Center on Sunday as well for no additional cost, so if the Kingdom wants to hold Crown Council activities there again, that is possible.
- Pre-registration of \$25 per person is required and can be done through Sept 19th via: www.antirkingdomfeast.org/feast_registration.php Dame Madrun y Gwehyddes will handle this.