

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- Crown Council (11/8/14)

Significant Figures Present:

- King Styrkarr Jarlsskald
- Queen Dagrún Stjarna
- Avacal Prince Kviðr Ivarsson
- Avacal Princess Svava Suanhúta
- Tir Rígh Princess, Lenora di Calizzan
- Kingdom Seneschal, Dame Brigid Ross
- Kingdom Exchequer, Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne

NOTE: This meeting is conducted online with participants having a chance to contribute both verbally and by typing comments in the chat box.

Words from Their Majesties -- They are currently trying to increase the total in the Raven Travel Fund for their successors, and would welcome donations or fund raising activities which furthered this.

Request -- If you have any receipts you need to submit, or if you receive a Kingdom reimbursement check between now and the end of the year, please send or deposit this immediately. The fewer outstanding items which cross the calendar year dividing line, the easier it is for the exchequers to balance the books.

Financial Update by Exchequer Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne

- Her third quarter report has been completed, and we are in the negative by \$1450 after mailing a \$10,000 check to the Society for NMS, and setting aside all of the money dedicated to regalia projects. However, with our savings we are doing alright.
- Travel continues to be the biggest expense between how much our Monarchs are traveling, multiple symposiums for officers, and efforts to prepare Avacal for independence.
- Etienne really needs budget proposals from all of the officers by 12/1, especially if they are looking at changes for additional travel, symposiums, educating the populace, etc. It is much easier to approve all of this at once in the new budget than have to discuss and approve changes item by item later on.
 - \$4000 is being set aside to refurbish the current crowns.
 - Without a definite date for Avacal's independence it's hard to make plans, but officers should consider that they may need to make some trips to assist with this process.
- The Teamster just lost the free place he had to store the Kingdom trailer and now needs to pay \$100 per month to do so. This is within his current budget and so new approval is not needed.
- Electronic Funds Transfer: Changes in the modern financial world are making it increasingly difficult to use checks. Thus An Tir and the rest of the SCA need to figure out new rules to transfer money electronically while still keeping the necessary approval safeguards.
 - Most officer expenses are one time incidents (e.g. travel) or annual items (e.g. PO boxes). However there are two significant recurring monthly expenses for storing the Kingdom trailer and hosting the website. It would be nice to make arrangements for these amounts to be automatically paid out from the Kingdom account, rather than having to issue reimbursements to the officer each month.
 - Etienne is drafting some new rules on this topic for everyone to review at Twelfth Night. She'd like a plan in place before she steps down next July.

Regalia Projects Update

- Orb: The additions to this have been finished and the final payment made.
- Sword of State: The scabbard has degraded to a point where it's dangerous to handle. The metal decorative pieces can be re-used, but the main body must be replaced. Master Sigismund Helmschmead is working on an estimate for a replacement. Viscount Matheus Bane will check with him about this so that Etiennette can write it into the new budget.
- Second pair of Crowns: His Majesty has been speaking regularly with Master Torfin Torgulsson about the artistic aspects of the process, but no one had heard anything further about payment. His Majesty will contact Torfin today and ask him to contact Etiennette to discuss when he needs his first payment installment.

Event Bids -- None at this time. The Kingdom is seeking bids for everything beyond Twelfth Night 2016.

Discussion of the Kingdom Trailer & Officer Pavilions at Crown Events

Key participants:

- HL Sigivald Garansson -- He took over as Teamster this summer. He is not on this call.
- Maestro Talentus del Albero (Talon) -- He was the Teamster for the preceding two years.
- Viscount Matheus Bane -- He is the current Head of Retinue and has a lot of experience with the trailer.
- Mistress Ysabella Greene -- Crown Events Deputy and advisor to those event stewards.

How it's supposed to work:

- The Teamster brings the trailer to the Crown event and supervises the unloading and distribution of the officer pavilions and other equipment to the designated locations. The Event Steward needs to supply some volunteers to assist with this.
- Each officer is responsible for finding volunteers to set up their own tent; while the Royal Retinue handles the Royal pavilion. If the event team can supply some additional volunteers it is always appreciated.
- At the end of the event each officer is responsible for taking down their tent and putting it into a neat pile by the designated time.
- The Teamster will load the trailer with assistance from event team volunteers.

Comments from the officers on this call:

- There have been a lot of changes in officers since the last time the topic was thoroughly discussed and not all of them are familiar with what is expected of them. Nor do all of them feel competent in setting up their tent.
- Event Stewards for July Coronation and September Crown at least did not provide much in the way of local volunteers to assist with unloading and loading the trailer. The A&S pavilion was never found for either of those events. Talon was very proactive in reaching out to the stewards a few months in advance of the event to explain the plan, and then doing a reminder a couple of weeks before the event, and that usually resulted in sufficient volunteers. Sigivald did not respond to Ysabella's requests for information since he took over the teamster job, and may not be making the same efforts to reach the event stewards.

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- Officers are frustrated at not having their pavilion available to them at the beginning of the event. The heralds and lists need their pavilions up until late in the event as they are still running tournaments, but sometimes they have been pressured to drop these early.
- Officers need written instructions (ideally with pictures) showing how to set up their tents: What size ridge pole, how many side poles, what color of trim on the canvas? Some hands on instruction would be helpful as well for those unfamiliar with this style of period pavilion.
- Timing: It's easier to specify when the teamster will arrive on site and thus have volunteers available. It's harder to know when the event will end but some estimate can be made. (If not a specific hour, then something like "30 minutes after the last tournament ends".) The task of loading the trailer should not be left to whatever volunteers are still onsite in the late afternoon, and the teamster needs to be able to leave the event at a reasonable hour.

Issues related to the trailer and its contents:

- The trailer has exceeded its capacity in terms of weight and effective space for items.
- While the side poles, stakes, and ropes are the same for all of the pavilions; the ridge poles and canvas are not. The canvas is color coded by office, but not everyone knows the system. There is also some disagreement about whether the canvas and ridge poles are labeled; particularly in a manner visible to novices who may be setting up a tent in the dark.
- Some of the side poles need to be replaced. At September Crown it was hard to find enough stakes and ropes to set up all of the tents, but it's not clear if these were somewhere else onsite or if the Kingdom needs to buy more.
- The trailer is very unorganized. Equipment is sometimes loaded haphazardly which makes it hard to find what one is looking for at the next event. Viscount Matheus Bane says it was very challenging at September Crown to sort everything out for the inventory. It would be helpful if all of the equipment was labeled, as well as labeling the trailer as to which item goes where.

Please: Communicate, communicate, communicate! The more everyone talks to each other about what the plan is and what is expected from the other parties, the better things will work.

Next steps:

- Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne and Mistress Ysabella Greene will speak with HL Sigivald Garansson about the next steps in resolving these issues. Maybe an in-person conversation at Twelfth Night would be preferable to doing this on the phone or via email. Dame Brigid Ross reminds everyone that while many can assist, it is ultimately the Teamster's responsibility to take the lead and resolve these issues.
- Sigivald, Matheus, and the trailer are in Portland. Talon is willing to drive down there on a weekend to assist with an inventory, reorganizing the contents, and developing a plan for instruction sheets. This needs to be done outside of an event.
- Matheus offers to take photos of all of the pavilions once they are up at the next May Crown.
- Ysabella will remind the current event stewards of their responsibilities, and add these instructions to her checklist for future stewards. .