

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation (7/19/15)

Significant Figures Present:

- King Havordh Aettarbani
- Queen Mary Grace of Gatland
- Prince & Princess of the Summits Tryggr Trysson & Temperance Trewelove
- Heirs of Tir Righ Vikingr & Lishinia
- Kingdom Seneschal Magistra Julia Sempronis
- Kingdom Exchequer (outgoing) Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne
- Kingdom Exchequer (incoming) Master Arontius of Bygelswade

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### Report by Exchequer Mistress Etienne

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The role of Kingdom Exchequer is changing over. Mistress Etienne stepped down in court yesterday and Master Arontius assumed her responsibilities. Etienne says it's been an honor to serve An Tir in this fashion for the past 4 years. She grew a lot in the process and was able to work with some amazing people. The Crown and officers thank her for her service. The Society Exchequer is visiting An Tir next week to review our books and will sign Arontius' warrant then, and after that the checkbook will be handed over. (The last review was 4 years ago.)
- Avacal became an independent Kingdom on 6/27/15! This is an exciting time for their residents and An Tir. It means a lot of changes for everyone, including the financial portrait of both areas.
- Budget planning for 2016 needs to happen in October, so start thinking ahead.

#### SECOND QUARTER OF 2015

- We are in the negative for \$1600 since the start of the year. An Tir was down about \$11,000 in second quarter for several reasons:
  - There was \$7400 in non-member surcharges collected in second quarter. That check will be sent to the Society office tomorrow.
  - May Crown proceeds earned the Kingdom \$3800. This was received in third quarter.
  - There was \$3900 in exceptional travel that the Kingdom budgeted for the Royals, Kingdom Seneschal's Deputy, Earl Marshal, and Lists Minister to travel to Avacal to run their first Crown tournament and oversee their Coronation ceremony. (Havordh and Mary Grace have not submitted their expenses for traveling to Avacal, but they can as there is \$500 in the budget allocated for this.)
- Last year the loss was \$4000 in second quarter, but then we didn't have the Avacal transition.
- Despite the negative numbers, Etienne is not worried: An Tir always spends more than it makes in the first 6 months of the year. The big income is in third quarter with An Tir – West War, July Coronation, and September Crown. We still have reserves in the main bank account and we haven't had to touch our cd's.
- Etienne is still working on re-writing An Tir's financial policy with the new NMS rules and language allowing electronic transfers. (Although the latter will need to be refined again once An Tir is able to use Pay-Pal for gate fees.) She plans to finalize these within the next month, and ask for them to be signed at September Crown.

#### BUDGET UPDATE

- Adjustment: Scribal budget is increased by \$250 "for the care and feeding of Floyd". Or phrased another way: To reimburse the individuals who were involved in transporting Avacal's new Kingdom scroll between some of the 9 people who created it and ultimately to the event.
- Chamberlain:
  - Their Majesties will do an inventory of the cargo container An Tir stores at Pensic when they travel to that event next month. The storage fee for this is due soon, and likely some money will have to be spent on new batteries and propane tanks.

## AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation (7/19/15)

- It may be necessary to increase the Teamster's budget in the near future as many of the poles for the Kingdom pavilions need to be replaced, and the Kingdom trailer needs some repairs. At least the new license plates have finally been received. The old ones expired last September and the new ones were missing for several months.
- Chirurgeons: The Society is closing this office in all Kingdoms on 8/10/15. Their major asset in An Tir is a pavilion which can now be reallocated to another office. (Further discussion below.) Most of their medical kits are personal property, and these cannot be turned over to the SCA.
- Chronicler: There is \$17,000 in the bank for this office that has accumulated since nearly everyone receives the Crier online. This has been loaned as seed money for the Kingdom Feast in 2013 & 2015, but it should be re-allocated on a permanent basis to some other project(s). Arontius will talk to the Kingdom Chronicler about this subject. (Komtessa Octavia Laodice)
- Kingdom Champions:
  - While writing Avacal's Kingdom policies, An Tir learned that the Society doesn't allow champions to have their travel expenses reimbursed, which we have been doing. However, if we want to designate them as deputy officers to the Earl Marshal and Arts & Sciences Minister, then we can continue to reimburse them by moving the \$750 we already have set aside over to those budget lines. The same change would need to be made in Principality financial policies. Etiennette and Arontius will verify this plan with the Society Exchequer this week, and it will likely become official with the 2016 budget.
  - Our champions rarely claim travel expenses, but it's nice to have that option available.
  - Champions are only admitted free to Crown events. In order to be comped into local events those branches would have to change their financial policies. This might encourage the champions to travel more.
- In order to use the Raven Travel fund there must be Monarchs from 2 other Kingdoms present, so it usually won't be available to visit our closest neighbors.

### NON-MEMBER SURCHARGE

- NMS submission time frames are now shorter:
  - As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, branches now have 10 days to submit what the NMS they collect at events to the Kingdom. Etiennette just clarified with the Society that the rule applies to the postmark date and not when the payment is received. That helps our Canadian branches since it takes more time to receive things through their postal system. Branch seneschals and exchequers were informed of this change prior to May Crown. Chapters who fail to follow the new system can lose their status.
  - Kingdoms then have 30 days to send the NMS payments to the Society. (For example July events must now be paid by 8/31. Previously the money was due after each quarter.)
  - While these will be tough timelines to meet, it will mean that our balance sheets will show more accurate information because the NMS amounts won't be sitting on the books for long periods of time, which particularly makes things confusing early in the calendar year.
- The Society NMS officer just stepped down and a new one has not yet been appointed. The prior officer had claimed that tier 2 events had to pay NMS as well, which is inaccurate. (A tier 2 event is listed on the Kingdom calendar, but not in the newsletter.) The Society had claimed that An Tir failed to turn in NMS for 40% of our events, but as of this week there was actually only 1 event missing from Avacal in 2014. The fees from 2 other events were sent late. HL Elonda Blue Haven has been essential in managing NMS payments for An Tir and very carefully documenting everything to show to the Society when they ask.

### KINGDOM PAVILIONS

- There are a total of 8 tents in the trailer and it cannot hold any more:
  - Royal Pavilion
  - Seneschal
  - Lists (black trim)
  - Heralds have 1 for their voice team, and a second for name and device consultations (green trim).

## AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation (7/19/15)

- Chirurgeons: This tent can now be reallocated. (Red trim)
- 1 each for Family Activities and Youth Armored Combat. Both were purchased without walls to maximize visibility of the children.
- Who has priority for the surgeon's pavilion?
  - The arts & sciences office has been using it at the past couple of events and would like to continue to do so.
  - The marshals are also asking for it since they have been using the Earl Marshal's personal day shade for the past year. (Note: When the Kingdom pavilions were purchased about 5 years ago the marshals decided not to have their own at that time as volunteers had no trouble finding space under other tents which were closer to the field they were working. It would also be one more tent on a crowded eric and another responsibility to set up and take down. However, different decisions can be made now.)
  - The YAC and family activities tents have not been set up in a few events, maybe they can share and the marshals take the other tent. A&S needs walls to protect the projects the volunteers are working on.
  - TRM will consider these issues more in the coming months. They do want to see more family activities occurring on the main erics. It's also important that ALL of the tents be actively used throughout the day: If there are not meetings or classes occurring at a given time, then the space should be clearly designated as open to the public.

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### Long Term Planning & Advisory Committee

Presentation by Kingdom Seneschal Magistra Julia Sempronia. She handed her written proposal to the Royalty who were present and to the Exchequer, and then provided a verbal presentation to those attending today's meeting.

Concept: We are not seeing significant growth either in SCA membership or event attendance, thus our income is also not growing. The costs of hosting events is steadily increasing, we're having a harder time attracting younger members, and our world now offers far more competition for the free time of individuals who might be interested in the SCA. Thus we need to look at some long term solutions.

Scope of the project:

- Oftentimes in our lives and our organizations "the urgent crowds out the important". This is an opportunity for a team to step back and take a broader look at the latter.
- Magistra Julia has a list of topics for the committee to look at in the beginning. However, they can go anywhere they want in their thinking after that: The intent is to take a broad look at the functioning and future of An Tir: reviewing An Tir financial records, looking at the attributes in the 2010 SCA census, talking with participants, etc.
- The team may suggest some obvious improvements, but they'll also be encouraged to "think outside of the box".
- Finances are an obvious topic to look at, but so are volunteers: How many do we have and what are our expectations of them? Is what we are asking of our volunteers something they can and want to do, or how do we need to change things? How do these answers compare with other organizations?
- His Majesty Havordh says that when he was in the Kingdom of Atlantia, they saw a huge increase in attendees after a couple of feature media stories. An idea to consider here.
- The committee would submit a preliminary report after the first year and a full report after the second. Crown Council sessions would be a good time for updates on the committee's progress.
- If some of these ideas are applicable to the SCA as a whole, we can pass them on to the Society leadership, but they may or may not use the information.

## AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation (7/19/15)

Committee members:

- Initially the thought was to have this project be part of the Financial Committee. However, the Monarchs change every 6 months and the officers serve 2 year terms, and all of them have a large number of other responsibilities. If this committee is going to be effective it needs to be made up of people who can really focus on the relevant topics for long periods of time, which means a separate team.
- Since they aren't voting on anything, an odd number of members is not necessary.
- The initial members would be Dame Brigid Ross and Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne, since as recent Kingdom Seneschal and Exchequer they have a lot of knowledge of these issues. Count Savaric de Porte des Lions and Countess Dalla Hjalbaadsdottir have also volunteered since this idea started under their reign and they feel strongly about participating. It may also help to add someone to the team who has experience with long term strategic planning as part of their modern resume.
- In the future, team members would be selected for 2-3 year terms, staggered so that only 1 person changes each year. Again, a deep and extended focus is going to be essential if this committee is to be effective.

Decision: The plan will be enacted.

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EVENT BIDS

Summary of decisions to date:

- July Coronation (July 17-19, 2015) -- Shire of Midhaven at the Northern State Recreation Area in Sedro Woolley WA.
- September Crown (Sept 4-7, 2015) -- Barony of Glymm Mere at Nix Ranch in Chehalis, WA.
- Kingdom Feast (November 6-8, 2015) -- Barony of Dragon's Laire at the Ocean Shores Convention Center (WA).
- Twelfth Night (Jan 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) -- Two bids were just received. The Events Deputy will confer with the Crown shortly about these.

May Crown 2016 (May 20-22)

- Barony of Vulkanfeldt and the Barony of Wastekeep plan to join forces to host this event at the Toppenish Rodeo & Livestock Association grounds (WA). This is the same site that Vulkanfeldt and Madrone hosted Crown at in 2013 & 2014. It's about 3 hours from Seattle, Spokane, and Portland; and 5 hours from Vancouver, BC.
- Event Stewards would be HL Katya Kazimirova Hrafensfuri von Salza and Mistress Ysabella Greene. Armored MIC will be Lord William McKenna. Archery MIC will be Archos Ronan MacKay. Other personnel still to be determined.
- Site cost has gone up by about \$1000.
- Merchants: Rather than them paying a direct gate fee the plan is to ask them for a donation to the Kingdom largess trunk, or to be put into a silent auction for the Raven Travel Fund or another purpose. Many merchants prefer this approach as they have more product than spare cash.
- The bid review team had no concerns about this proposal, and the Crown accepts it today.
- An Tir site http://antir.sca.org/Upcoming/index.php?Event_ID=3609

July Coronation 2016 (July 15-17)

- Site would be Green Wode Farm in Langley, BC. This is the same site as was used for September Crown 2014. It is an hour SE of Vancouver and a mile of the small US border crossing that's about 40 minutes north of Bellingham.

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation (7/19/15)

- Event Steward would be HL Cassandra Wineday who oversaw the last event at this location.
- Concerns: In some ways this is a beautiful site, but the parking lot was too small and the layout does not lend itself well to large household camps. There are also personal challenges between the event steward and site owner. The team that ran the 2014 event was small and inexperienced, so they would need to recruit more help this time. The Crown Events deputies have some plans to train people in this regard.
- Decision: This bid is declined. The Kingdom wants to see some events in Tir Righ, and Lion's Gate is welcome to submit another bid for this event or a different one, but they need to find a better location.

September Crown 2016 (September 2-5) -- Mistress Desiree Aurelia Chiarestella and Master Godfrey von Ravensburg are looking at a site in the Shire of Lionsdale (east of Vancouver, BC). However, the owners won't commit to a contract until December, which is too little time to actually plan the event. They'll keep working on another option.

Twelfth Night 2017 (January 13-15) -- There are two bids:

- Bid #1 from the Barony of Dragon's Laire
 - Site would be the Suquamish Clearwater Casino & Resort on Bainbridge Island, WA. This is a 35 minute crossing from Seattle. <http://www.clearwatercasino.com/>
 - Event Steward would be Master Arontius of Bygelswade. HL Renart the Fox makes the presentation today.
 - Assuming an attendance of 900 adults at \$20 and a site cost of \$8525, the profit would be over \$10,000.
 - Room rates are \$100 a night. Currently the hotel has 183 rooms but they in the middle of building another wing, which should yield another 200 rooms by the time of this event. There are about another 400 rooms available in neighboring hotels with a free shuttle between sites.
 - Concerns: The new rooms might not be ready by the date of the event, and even if they are, how will reservations be made in advance on something that is not finished? The event team wants to rent a truck to bring everything from the Baronial storage unit to the site rather than coordinating multiple trips in personal vehicles. This is atypical for Crown event bids, but it's been done before. The allocation for incidental costs is high as the hotel will likely supply much of this.
- Bid #2 from the Barony of Wyewood
 - Site would be the Doubletree hotel in SeaTac, WA. This is the same site as was used for Twelfth Night in 2002 and 2014. It's located 5 minutes from the airport and 30 minutes from downtown Seattle. <http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/washington/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-seattle-airport-CTAC-DT/index.html>
 - Event Steward would be HL Liadain ni Sheanachain.
 - This is a huge hotel so there's no risk of running out of rooms, although sometimes the parking lot fills up. Room rates have gone up some from 2 years ago and there is an additional fee for parking. There are multiple other hotels and parking lots within blocks.
 - Assuming 600 adults at \$20 each, and that we rent 405 room nights, the profit would be \$10,280. If no room nights are rented then the profit would drop to \$864 because we would have to pay for the function spaces. The attendance was estimated based on averaging the last 5 Twelfth Night's and then reducing that by 20%. Likely this is low given the location, but now that Avacal is independent it's hard to guess.
 - Concerns: The Financial Committee has some unspecified questions based on how Wyewood ran their last Twelfth Night event.

Decision -- TRM are going to consider both bids and make a decision within a few days. It is suggested that perhaps the group that is not chosen for 2017 maybe could host in 2018. The Wyewood representative is more confident this would be possible than Dragon's Laire, but both could look into the idea.