

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation 7/17/16

Significant Figures Present:

- King Kjartan Daegarson
- Summits Princess Breaca Flanure
- Kingdom Seneschal Magistra Julia Sempronia
- Kingdom Exchequer Master Arontius of Bygelswade
- * Queen Sha'ya Kjartanskona
- * Tir Righ Ban-Tanist Gwyneth Gower

Report by Exchequer Master Arontius of Bygelswade

Announcements

- A teleconference will be scheduled with Their Majesties, the Seneschal and Exchequer, and other key parties in August to discuss some topics that cannot wait until September Crown Curia. A summary of these decisions will be given in that meeting. Topics include bids for Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championships, possibly allocating funds for a pavilion for Royal retinue and how pay the Society for the additional NMR An Tir owes to do the new definitions of "events".
- Kingdom officers need to start thinking about their 2017 budgets: Did your needs match your budget this year? Are you planning for extra travel or a symposium next year? Arontius will bring the first draft of the budget plan to September Crown for discussion.

Current Financial Status

- *All amounts reported throughout these notes are in US dollars.*
- As of 7/9/16 the Kingdom has an asset total of \$142,660.18. We had \$23,456.01 in income for the first six months of the year, and \$10,360.60 in expenditures.
- Balances in the individual accounts are all up slightly compared to the May Crown report:

Primary Checking	\$54,004.45		CD 4950	\$17,056.90
Savings	\$14,670.23		CD 4953	\$15,485.59
CD 1404	\$13,257.51		CD 4957	\$14,830.78
CD 4949	\$13,381.72			
- The Kingdom Seneschal and Exchequer still need to review the bank statements from May and June 2016, and sign that they are correct. They also need to review and approve the Account Reconciliation Statement for second quarter (April through June).
- Major changes since May Crown include:
 - Profits from Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championships \$1442.78 and May Crown \$5384.72.
 - An Tir – West War also made a profit this year for the Kingdom of the West. More often they have lost money on this event while An Tir has made a profit. The current Seneschal of the West has expressed questions about what An Tir does differently that the West could copy; and also how we could perhaps recruit Caid or Atenveldt to participate. An Tir has been hoping for conversations like this. Both Kingdoms also need to talk to the Gold Beach site owner about renewing the contract to host the event on his property for 2017-2020. Arontius and Magistra Julia Sempronia will talk with their counterparts in the West, and then contact the landowners, Lyle and Diane Dishner.
 - Fluctuations in the checking account due to NMR payments coming in from events and then going out to the Society each month. (An Tir collects and pays out approximately \$50,000 in NMR each year.)
 - Payment of travel expenses for officers. The largest portion of which will be the Known World Heraldic Symposium. Royal travel to 50th Year Celebration, An Tir – West War, and Avacal Coronation also resulted in higher than normal expenditures this year.
- Special Fund Accounts
 - NMR is currently at \$13,016.56, but we're about to pay out \$10,000 of that for spring and early summer events.
 - Raven Travel Fund has a balance of \$4089.36 which is up \$680 from May Crown. Their Majesties are hoping to attend Great Western War and an event or two in Avacal, but can only use the Raven Travel fund if Monarchs from two other Kingdoms are present. Otherwise, they must use the regular travel budget.
 - Kingdom Feast: Currently there is \$4667.42 in reserve for this event.

Minors attend Kingdom level events for free

- An initial report was made to the Financial Committee at September Crown 2015, showing that this policy resulted in a small loss of revenue for the Kingdom. Records of income for several years are being collected and analyzed to better explain the factors involved and the resulting trend in profits. Tentatively this information will be presented at September Crown. However, in the interim this practice has been written into

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation 7/17/16

An Tir's financial policies for all Crown events, as we believe that as long as the losses are minimal, the value we place on encouraging families to participate is more important. This rule only applies to gate fees and not any feast that may take place. Julia and Arontius will work on the exact language.

- Tir Righ has also written 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.

Kingdom Financial Policy -- The handbook on this topic needs a major overhaul. A number of items have changed over the past few years that are either not in our manual or no longer correctly explained in that book, including NMR and minors attending Kingdom events for free. Arontius will have a rough draft of the new handbook finished by 8/15/16, and submit the final draft for approval at September Crown.

Non-Member Registration

In early 2016 then Society changed how it wants everyone to refer to gate fees at events: The posted fee should assume that attendees are NOT members, and then state that members will receive a \$5 "membership discount". The idea is to emphasize to everyone one of the benefits of becoming a formal SCA member. They've also changed the term from "Non-Member Surcharge" to "Non-Member Registration".

The Society has issued a FAQ explaining when NMR applies, how to collect it, and the timeline for paying the money to the Society. Key points in this include:

- Branches have 10 business days to submit the NMR 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 NMR payments to the Society. E.g. July events must be paid by 8/31. Previously the money was due after each quarter. Chapters who don't follow the new system can lose their status.
- Situations where NMR must be collected:
 - 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.
 - This 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 has additional events where NMR applies.
- Activities exempt from NMR:
 - 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. While no formal gate fee is collected for these activities, sometimes participants are asked to make a small donation to cover the cost of renting the space. The Society clarified in mid-2016 that NMR *does not apply* in these situations.
 - NMR does not apply to gate fees for minors. (This is a long standing rule.)
- A copy of the FAQ on this subject is posted on the Society Exchequer's website at <http://www.sca.org/officers/exchequer/#nms>. Educating branches about these new requirements is a key topic for local Seneschal and Exchequer training throughout 2016.

After some discussions with the Society's NMR Deputy and some other officers, An Tir now acknowledges that using the new definition of when NMR must be collected, the Kingdom does owe some additional funds. (Approximately \$3800.) The Kingdom Exchequer will speak with the Kingdom Seneschal and Their Majesties in the August phone call to formalize a proposal to Society to pay off this debt and 'clear the books' so that we can start fresh and work towards implementation of PayPal for events in our Kingdom.

NMR and Waivers at public demos

- When we are invited to a school, scout troop, or community fair to showcase what we do to spectators, then it's very clear it's a demo. However, we have several events which are both designed for and advertised to the general community, as well as being fun weekends for our members. (E.g. Ursulmas, June Faire, and An Tir – Avacal War.)
- Using a literal interpretation of the NMR rules, these mixed events would require all modern guests to sign a waiver and pay the NMR fee. That additional cost would reduce attendance, and completing the waivers would result in long lines at gate.
- An Tir is going to submit a request to the Society office prior to September Crown, to exempt modern guests wearing modern clothing, and who will not take any kind of active, hands-on part in our activities from the

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation 7/17/16

waiver and NMR requirements. This way we can keep barriers to our activities low and continue to recruit in the way that has traditionally been very successful in the past. (There are definitions in the Society's [Seneschal's Handbook](#) explaining the difference between observer and participant. Chapter XV on demos.)

- If an observer did want to borrow medieval garb or try their hand at archery, then they could pay the fee and sign the waiver at that time. (Many modern entertainment centers work on similar principles: You pay the general admission to the zoo or county fair, and then additional fees if you want to feed the goats or ride the roller coaster.)

Financial Committee Discussions

New Budget Requests -- None this weekend.

Office 365 for Kingdom Officers

- The Society uses Microsoft Office products for most of its administrative functions such as officer reports, financial reports, and database management. Several Kingdom officers, including the Seneschal and Exchequer do not have Microsoft Office on their personal machines, and the version of Open Office that they are using is not compatible with the Society's software.
- At May Crown Arontius asked that the Kingdom pay \$300 a year for an Office 365 subscription that would allow officers to use the same software as the Society officers. However, Mistress Ysolt Tayler of Windhill said that since is a Microsoft employee she can buy a current edition of Office which can be installed on up to 5 machines for a minimal cost, and she would be willing to pay that herself and donate the software.
- Arontius is coordinating with Ysolt to obtain the software and install it on the relevant officers' machines.

Kingdom Pavilions

- Master Talentus del Albero (Talon) is the current Kingdom Teamster.
- Talon and Chamberlain, Master Charles de Bourbon, will do a thorough assessment of all of the pavilions between now and the end of September: Is the canvas in need of repair? (We're still waiting on the repairs to be made to the tent with gold dags.) Do poles, ropes, or stakes need to be replaced? What should we proactively plan to replace so we're not caught with lots of broken things at once? Is there room in the trailer for additional gear? This is a spending priority for the Kingdom.
- The marshals are still hoping to have a pavilion allocated for their use at Kingdom events, while the scribes have loved having a work area as well. We want to move away from each office having a dedicated tent to themselves at every Crown event in a certain spot on the eric. Instead officers should consider: "What does my group specifically need at X event? Who could I share my space with so we can both meet our needs without taking up more room on the erics?" We want officers to have the workspace they need, but we don't want tents sitting empty much of the weekend.
- Royal Ready Pavilion -- There's been some informal discussion of obtaining a new pavilion that could be set up at major events for use by the Royal retinue so they have a designated and enclosed space to hold meetings, work on scrolls, assembling largess, planning out the agenda for court, or other tasks.
 - Some Monarchs have had a spare tent of their own, or someone in their core retinue has had one, to use for this purpose; but often that tent is also serving other purposes in camp as well. Or the retinue is trying to do all of this organization in the back of the Royal pavilion. They really need a dedicated and private space where they can work, or wait until they are needed for another task.
 - If this tent was the same design and 16x20 size as the other Kingdom pavilions then we wouldn't need to buy walls for it, as we rarely hang walls on more than 2 sides of the tents we already have so there are spares. This would also mean the poles would be interchangeable and the footprint on the erics would be consistent. (Although it's more likely this tent would be set up in the Royal encampment or back behind the Royal pavilion.)
 - Jarl Styrkarr Jarlsskald said he has a tent which he used when he was King that could be set up as a 10x15 or 20x30 tent, or as a dragon-wing awning depending on their needs and the available space. He would be willing to build a second tent like this for the Kingdom for the cost of the materials. He will speak with Charles about the details.
 - The big question is how this tent would be transported: The Kingdom trailer is currently full and its unknown if there's space in the Royal trailer.
 - No formal bid to create this tent has been presented.
- Remember if you are an officer and you would like your pavilion to be on the erics at a Crown event, you absolutely must contact the Kingdom Teamster and Event Steward 1-2 months before the weekend to make this request. If you would like the event team to set it up or take it down for you, you must explicitly ask for

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation 7/17/16

this, and be aware the event team may or may not be able to assist. It really does help if you can find the volunteers from amongst your own community to do this work.

Royal Regalia

- Master Charles de Bourbon is the Chamberlain. He obtains monthly reports on the status of various projects and will share this information in Curia meetings.
- In addition to paying for necessary tent repair, other spending priorities are the new thrones, signet ring, and scepter.
- Crowns (primary sets):
 - The final payment for the second set of Crowns was made in early 2016 and there is \$4902 remaining in this account. Master Torfin Torgulsson has custody of the first set and is assessing their condition and what it will take to refurbish them to a useable condition. Most likely additional fundraising will be required to do that work.
 - Carry boxes for the second crowns: Viscount Matheus Bane's bid was accepted at May Crown to create these for \$150. He is on track to deliver the boxes at September Crown.
- Travel Crowns: This idea was proposed during the discussion that additional fund raising would likely be needed to refurbish our current crowns. Some Kingdoms have a set of "travel crowns" which they use for far away events, or other situations where a less elaborate (smaller and lighter) and less expensive version of this regalia is preferred. Does An Tir want to ask for bids for travel crowns of its own? Today's discussion is very brief: The idea meets with enough positive response that the Chamberlain will publish a request for bids to the populace. However, the Kingdom has a lot of other regalia it's trying to repair or replace right now, so this may not be a funding priority.
- Thrones -- Earlier this year the Committee acknowledged that the current large versions for the King and Queen have reached the end of their lifespan and must be replaced. Bids were requested for four months, and only one was received from HL Alasdair Mac Roibeirt who would be assisted by Baron Dunstan M'Lolane.
 - The thrones must be easy to transport, set-up, move short distances, and disassemble. They also need to handle being sat on rough ground.
 - Alasdair's design is 13th century Gothic in concept and maintains the general profile of our current thrones. There would be a cheque gold and silver gilding under lacquer on the backs.
 - His bid was a concept suggestion, and he expected changes to be made by the Committee now and as the work progresses. He proposed a cost of \$2500 but said it could be lower. However, His Majesty Kjartan is a professional carpenter and thinks the actual cost will be closer to \$3000 particularly if wood prices change again. The plan is to use white maple as it's light and durable.
 - Alasdair said he could deliver the new thrones at Twelfth Night if the Committee agrees to the bid today. However the Committee is fine with the project taking longer as we have the travel thrones to use for now, and we want the new ones to be done well. Alasdair is willing to insure his work and make any necessary repairs.
 - The current throne pillows would fit on the new chairs. HL Angharad ver' Reynulf is willing to sew and donate bags for the new thrones.
- Scepter -- This was last seen at July Coronation 2015. Past Monarchs Havordh and Mary Grace need to file police report about this loss. When time permits a discussion should take place about whether to use the prior scepter on a long term basis, or to request proposals for a new design and then begin fund raising efforts to pay for that to be crafted.
- King's Signet Ring
 - The ring worn by the King was lost in late 2015. This ring had a miniature version of the Kingdom seal embossed in it, and was used to apply that seal on scrolls where there wasn't space for the normal large seal.
 - There was discussion at May Crown about whether to replace this item. Everyone agreed a small seal is needed, and so Magister Arion the Wanderer was authorized to create this in the traditional format. (Approximate cost \$300.) The group was divided on creating a new ring version, with those who have ruled before feeling strongly about the symbolism of having this item. Charles has the original bid paperwork which will be helpful in setting the design parameters for a bids for a new ring. Once we have a specific proposal, the Financial Committee can decide whether we wish to spend the money in that fashion.
 - Kingdom Scribe, HL Sarra the Brave, will return the signet ring a citizen donated at Twelfth Night with the intention it could be attached to the new seal.
- Insurance for Regalia: The first items that need to be appraised are the second set of Crowns. The Chamberlain and Exchequer are researching options to find an individual who is certified to do such work for insurance companies. (Typically there is a \$25 fee per appraisal.) Other regalia will be appraised in the coming months. One unresolved question is how to find a policy that will cover items if they are in the

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- July Coronation 7/17/16

possession of a Canadian resident. (This is especially crucial for the crowns as they remain in the hands of the Monarchs for the duration of their reign. The Armored Champion usually holds on to the sword as well, while the other items could be left with custodians on the US side of the border.)

- Retired Regalia: There are many items from An Tir's early history which have already been lost. For example, we don't know where our very first set of crowns from the 1980's are now. There are banners, photographs, and soon our thrones to think about. Typically someone has agreed to store these items for a time in their home, but as the years past and officers change, the information about who, what, and where is lost. As our members pass on, we also risk these items being lost entirely if their home is cleaned out by family members who don't understand the objects' significance. This topic is going to be assigned to the Financial Focus Committee so we can figure out a better plan.

Champions' Tokens -- Per instructions from the Society's Exchequer, Treasure, and tax expert, branches are limited to a token amount of \$5-10 for award medallions. Previously Master Torfin Torgulsson presented a design that would cost \$25-30 for each of the past Kingdom Champions. While he does amazing work, we need a cheaper alternative. Several discussions have resulted in the following 3 options:

- Solicit bids from artisans for tokens under the \$10 limit and choose one of these to use in the future.
- Inform past champions that if they want a token they must pay the entire cost themselves.
- Inform past champions that they can choose a craftsman to make their medallion, and allowing that individual to charge the Kingdom for up to \$10 of this cost, while the champion pays the balance.
- More discussion is needed on this topic before a final decision can be made. This has not yet occurred.

EVENT BIDS

Summary of decisions to date:

- July Coronation (July 15-17, 2016) -- Barony of Stromgard. Zumstein Family Farm in Woodland, WA.
- September Crown (September 2-5, 2016) -- Shire of Hauksgardr. Hood River County Fairgrounds in Hood River, OR.
- Kingdom Feast (October 28-30, 2016) -- Barony of Dragon's Lair. Ocean Shores Convention Center in Ocean Shores, WA.
- An Tir Collegium (November 11-13, 2016) -- Barony of Wastekeep. Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, WA.
- Twelfth Night (January 13-15, 2017) -- Barony of Wyewood. Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac, WA.
- May Crown (May 19-21, 2017) -- Barony of Madrone. Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake, WA.
- July Coronation (July 14-16, 2017) -- Shire of Danescombe. Salmon Arm Fairgrounds, in Salmon Arm, BC.
- Twelfth Night (January 12-14, 2018) -- Barony of Wastekeep. Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, WA.

Bids are being sought for:

- Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championships (March 3-5, 2017) -- See below
- An Tir – West War (June 30 to July 3rd, 2017) -- It is An Tir's turn to host, and we really need a leadership team to step forward to start planning soon. Kingdom Events Deputy Baroness Francisca de Montoya will post on the e-lists and Facebook asking for volunteers. Arontius will get the specific details about costs and attendance from the West for this year's event.
- September Crown (September 1-4, 2017)
- An Tir Collegium (November 2017)
- All 2018 events except for Twelfth Night.
- Twelfth Night (January 2019) -- A bid will be presented at September Crown from the Barony of Adiantum.
- Tir Righ Ban-Tanist Gwyneth Gower said that members of her Principality are thinking hard about what they can host in the next couple of years.

Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championships (March 10-12, 2017) -- Barony of Dragon's Lair

- Event Steward will be Master Arontius of Bygelswade.
- Site would be the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, WA. (North of Bremerton.) The hotel is more expensive than we would prefer and they are not available on our traditional weekend of March 3-5 so the event would have to occur on March 10-12 instead. <http://www.clearwatercasino.com/hotel/>
- The Kingdom Arts & Sciences Minister, Dame Cristiana de Huntington, wants to inspect the site before agreeing to this plan. Parties are also still hoping another bid will be submitted, but we cannot wait much longer.
- DECISION: The Financial Committee will consider this bid in more detail in the August phone call.