

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- May Crown (5/18/14)

Significant Figures Present:

- King Eirik Daegersson
- Queen Driffina Ulfarsdottir
- Crown Prince, Styrkarr Jarlsskald
- Crown Princess, Dagrún Stjarna
- Kingdom Seneschal, Dame Brigid Ross
- Kingdom Exchequer, Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne

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Report by Exchequer Mistress Etienne

Financial adjustments -- None.

Budget Update

- The annual report for 2013 has been completed for the US branches and is nearly done for the Canadian ones.
 - Gross income for the year was \$697,067.18 and expenses were \$601,264.53. This means An Tir has a profit of \$95,802.65 from where we ended 2012. However, there are some important notes to go with this: \$60,000 was reimbursement from the sexual abuse lawsuit. (\$27,000 to Canadian branches, and \$33,000 to US entities.) There is also \$10,000 from hosting An Tir – West War which has been set aside in a dedicated account for when we do so again in 2015. Raising the site fee for Crown events to \$20 for adults definitely helped.
 - Non-Member Surcharge arrives in one quarter and goes out in the next. The fourth quarter of the year is our second biggest for events and first quarter our smallest, so between this and the timing of the payments it always looks like we “lost” more money early in the year than we actually did. So far this year we have received \$8456 in NMS, but had to pay out \$14,426. The balance will equal out once we are into the tournament season.
- First Quarter: The Kingdom’s status as of the end of March is better than it has been in several years. Net income was \$5480. \$3500 of that was a donation from a citizen of the Barony of Madrone for the second set of crowns. Twelfth Night and Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championships were both profitable events at \$8100 and \$2200 respectively.
- As of this weekend all of the officers are well within their budgets. The Seneschal and Exchequer have been busy attending the Known World Symposium, and the administrative retreat in Avacal in March. They did Tir Right in late 2013 and will hold a session in the Summits later this year which will use up most of the remaining \$800 in this budget line. While these trips are expensive, meeting locally with branch officers in various parts of the Kingdom about every 18 months has a huge positive effect on how well An Tir operates.
- Raven Travel Fund has \$4600 after paying for the trip to Estrella War.
- Mistress Etienne informs their Royal Highnesses they have \$500 for travel between now and their coronation. Receipts must be submitted within 120 days.
- Pavilions for family activities and youth combat were purchased for \$1600 and were set up this weekend. The Kingdom trailer is now at its weight limit.
- Second pair of crowns: As of this week we have raised about \$5400, and are expecting another \$2000 by August between various fund raisers and a promissory from Microsoft. If this trend continues we should have the approximately \$10,000 by the time we need to pay the artisans. However, additional funds may be needed in order to completely refurbish our current crowns so that they will remain usable in the future.

Pay-Pal Experiment -- ACCEPS is a good idea, but it is run by volunteers and they cannot manage the demand for this service. There is now an experiment taking place in certain locations using Pay-Pal for pre-registration, and hopefully this will be implemented on a wider scale in 2015. Because the SCA operates under a single tax ID we cannot use multiple credit processing companies.

Movement to EFT -- Europe is no longer using checks and Canada will eliminate them in 2015. Instead all business is conducted by electronic funds transfers, but how do you create the necessary safeguards within volunteer organizations to handle money this way? There are also new bank fees involved when doing EFT

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especially across international borders, but at least An Tir is with Bank of America which has international offices. The Society is going to have to revise its financial policies to accommodate these changes.

Auctions, raffles, gambling, and other complex definitions -- These have become hot topics since we are conducting so many fund raisers right now for the second pair of Crowns.

- Don't ever use the word "gambling" when speaking or writing about SCA activities.
- There are 3 elements which define gambling: You must pay a fee to buy in. There is a prize to be won. The winner must be chosen by chance. Remove any one of these elements and you are safe. The Buy-a-Life tournament this weekend initially broke these rules, but once the tangible prize was removed and replaced by bragging rights, it was fine.
- Auctions cannot cross state lines which means they cannot be conducted online. However, you can announce that there will be an auction at X event. You can even ask for suggested starting bids for particular items. But all actual bidding, the payments, and the hand-off of the articles must occur within a single state's boundaries. This means that whoever is coordinating the publicity for the auction has to be extremely careful in the words they are using, and correct anyone who implies something which breaks the rules.
- Selling items across state lines is fine. The difference between this and an auction is that the item has a fixed stated price which is the same for everyone who wants to purchase it.
- Raffles are tricky: Under one interpretation of the rules as a non-profit organization the entire SCA can only do one of these each year. The Kingdom Exchequer and Seneschal are researching this further, and will be talking to the Society's lawyers. One challenge is that An Tir is not incorporated as a separate entity in any of its states or provinces, and thus we fall under the Federal rules, not state or provincial ones.
- If you have any type of fund raising plan other than directly selling an item for a fixed price and donating the money to the Kingdom, please ask the Exchequer and Seneschal for approval first. The fines are really big if we do something wrong and we don't want to have to pay them.

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Event Bids

Summary of decisions to date:

- May Crown (May 16-18, 2014) -- Barony of Madrone at the fairgrounds in Toppenish, WA.
- July Coronation (July 18-20, 2014) -- Barony of Three Mountains at the Trojan Park site in Rainier, OR.
- September Crown (Aug 29 – Sept 1, 2014) -- Barony of Lion's Gate at Green Wode Farm in Langley, BC.
- Twelfth Night (Jan 9-11, 2015) -- Barony of Adiantum at the Valley River Inn in Eugene, OR.
- Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic (March 6-8, 2015) at the Baymont Inn in the Barony of Dragon's Laire.
- Twelfth Night (Jan 8-10, 2016) -- Barony of Dragon's Mist. Doubletree Hotel in the Rose Quarter of Portland, OR.

Applications for the following events are being actively sought:

- 2015 = May Crown, An Tir West War, July Coronation, and September Crown.
- From Seneschal Dame Brigid Ross: If your branch has not hosted a Crown event in the past 5 years, you are doing everyone a disservice. Please team up with other branches to share land and populace.

New Event Bids -- There are none this weekend. Dame Brigid Ross says one is in the works for May Crown 2015 and she hopes to do a formal presentation on this at July Coronation.