

Significant Figures Present:

- King Savaric de Porte des Lions
- Queen Dalla Hjalbaadsdottir
- Crown Prince Havordh Aettarbani
- Kingdom Seneschal Magistra Julia Sempronia
- Kingdom Exchequer Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne

Note -- Avacal will be become an independent Kingdom on 6/27/15! This is an exciting time for their residents and the rest of An Tir. It will also mean a lot of changes for everyone, including the financial portrait of both areas.

Report by Exchequer Mistress Etienne

FIRST QUARTER OF 2015

- This is always our leanest quarter, but this one was better than last year's. Our net worth is \$142,170.71 which is up \$1803.73 for the quarter. This is in large part because of \$6848 earned between a very profitable Twelfth Night and donations to the Raven Travel fund.
- Of the \$3795 in expenses this quarter, 90% was for travel.
- There was \$5807 in non-member surcharges paid to the Society this quarter for events that took place in October-December 2014.

STATUS REPORT FOR 2015: January through mid-May

- Income:
 - Twelfth Night was more profitable than average this year at \$5353 for the Kingdom. Last year it was \$10,000, but that was extraordinary.
 - Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championship brought in \$565 for the Kingdom, which is a typical amount.
 - Raven Travel Fund: There have been \$1704 in donations so far this year. The only expenditure was related to Gulf Wars. (Someone donated airfare for the Monarchs to travel there which reduced the normal cost.) This puts the balance at \$4827.
- Expenses:
 - Travel is our biggest expense as always and will continue to be so in second quarter. Then Avacal becomes independent and those costs will drop to some degree. However there is a reason why An Tir allocates a lot of money for travel reimbursement.
 - All of the receipts through the reign of Styrkarr and Stjarna have been reimbursed.
 - The waiver storage bill has been paid for May 2015 – April 2016 at \$696.
 - The storage fee for the Kingdom trailer for July-December 2015 will be paid shortly. This now costs \$100 a month. We can talk in fall about finding a less expensive alternative.
- Adjustments: The Monarch's travel budget will be increased by \$500 to cover their costs for traveling to Avacal. The Seneschal's travel budget will also be increased by \$500.
- Other travel related to Avacal's independence: There is \$4000 allocated in the budget, of which \$679 has already been spent to cover the Earl Marshal and Lists Minister traveling up to run their Crown tournament.
- Youth attend Crown events for free: This experiment began at September Crown 2014 and the plan is to continue it through Twelfth Night 2016. Etienne will have the first analysis ready at July Coronation, but general chatter indicates it is resulting in increased attendance. Gate staff also appreciate that it makes their job much simpler. While officially this plan only applies to Kingdom events, the Principalities and many local branches have also chosen to implement it with a significant number of their events. Even if the plan does not result in increased income for

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the Kingdom, if it is leading to better recruitment and retention of our populace, it may be worthwhile to continue.

OVERALL PICTURE

- Membership in An Tir has increased about 11% from an average of 3149 in 2013 to an average of 3511 as of the first quarter of 2015. However, about 550 of the latter are Avacalans.
- Even though we have been charging \$20 per person for Crown events for 2 years now, the Kingdom's share of the profits have not risen because the costs to hold events have also gone up over this same period.
- The sexual abuse lawsuit 2 years ago was a huge blow, costing An Tir \$40,000 even after the insurance company agreed to reimburse the SCA for much of the fines. The Kingdom leadership decided it was more important to reimburse the branches for what they had contributed, so a deficit was left in An Tir's coffers.
- Yes, we have money in the bank, but we must remember that it would only take one major disaster to push the Kingdom deep into its savings. E.g. the Kingdom trailer being stolen, or a major weather event that destroys the officer pavilions. While these items are insured, the reality is they have depreciated to the degree that an insurance settlement would not cover the replacement costs.
- Despite the above warning officers do have budgets allocated for their work which they are encouraged to spend responsibly. Letting money sit in a bank account doesn't help us do the work we need to, in order to do fun things we want to for many years to come. If claiming reimbursement for travel to an event helps you meet with your local officers and have conversations to improve practice, then do so! While traditionally educational retreats have only been held by the seneschals, exchequers, heralds and scribes, any Kingdom officer can organize one. So put together a plan!

FINANCIAL POLICIES

- The Society is publishing their new financial policies this week, so the Kingdoms will also have to amend theirs accordingly. Etiennette plans to do this before she steps down at July Coronation.
- NMS submission time frames are now shorter: As of July 1st, branches will have 10 days to send the non-member surcharge amount they collect at events to the Kingdom, and the Kingdom will then have 30 days to send this to the Society. (Currently this is paid out quarterly.) While these are going to be tough timelines to meet, it will mean that the 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. Branch seneschals and exchequers have been informed of this change.
- Kingdom Champions:
 - While writing Avacal's Kingdom policies, An Tir learned that the Society does not allow champions to have their 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 pay for their travel expenses by moving the \$750 we already have set aside for them over to those budget lines. The same change would need to be made in Principality financial policies.
 - Currently champions rarely claim travel expenses, but it's good to have the option available to them.
 - 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.
- Composition of the Financial Committee
 - Currently the committee is made up of the King and Queen (with one vote together), the Kingdom Seneschal, and the Kingdom Exchequer. However, since the Monarchs change twice a year perhaps it would make sense to have another 1-2 voices at the table for greater consistency. These individuals could also help the Kingdom create and implement a long term vision for how we want to operate and what we want to be as an

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organization: "What do we want An Tir to look like in 5 years? How do we manage our budget to reach those goals?"

- We must keep an odd number of voting members so clear decisions can be made, but the additional members of the committee don't necessarily need to have a vote.
- If there is a new person it would be good if they served a 3 year term that didn't coincide with changes in Seneschal and Exchequer. (Currently those are changing in January and July of this year, and are 2-4 year terms, but it varies on the individual.) As a point of comparison, the Board of Directors members have a 6 month training period, and then serve a 3 year term.
- Decision: After some discussion today the tentative conclusion is there will be an addition made to the financial committee. The Royal Monarchs and Heirs will discuss the details with the Seneschal and Exchequer. If you have any thoughts you would like them to consider, please send these to Etiennette.

PAY-PAL EXPERIMENT

- As of 4/19/15 the Society terminated further use of the ACCEPS system for event pre-registration due to security concerns. Events already in the system were allowed to finish their process, but no new events can use it.
- The initial pilot project with PayPal through 12/14 went well, but the SCA is still analyzing the data in detail. At this point they do not plan to authorize use of the system until early 2016. Then which Kingdoms will be allowed to use it will depend on the health of their budget and how prompt they are at paying NMS and sending reports. (Thus why it will be very important for everyone to comply with the new NMS timelines above.)
- Things the SCA still has to figure out:
 - Kingdoms cannot see or record an individual's credit card information, so these transactions will have to go through a separate bank account.
 - Who will be responsible for paying the transaction fees? (In ACCEPS it was the customer.)
 - Financial policies have to be changed to allow for electronic funds transfers.
- Discussion: An Tir would like to see the data from the pilot project so we can plan accordingly. In today's world people are far more likely to preregister for events if they can do so online, versus mailing a check. PayPal works in Canada, and is more widely accepted than many credit cards, so they are excited about this option.

REGALIA PROJECTS UPDATE

- Second pair of crowns
 - A donation of \$2380 was recently received as a result of the generosity of an anonymous individual in Madrone and a match from Microsoft. This brings the fund raising total up to about \$14,000, which is more than adequate, and thus fund raising efforts should move in new directions.
 - \$4000 was paid out in December for Master Torfin Torgulsson and his team to start their work on the second pair of crowns, but there's been no update on the project in a few weeks. An additional \$4000 will be due when the crowns are completed.
 - There is a separate \$4000 set aside for repair of our current crowns, plus another \$4000 allocated for other regalia maintenance projects.
- Provisions still need to be made for a box to store both the second set of crowns, and the Heir's circlets. Containers for regalia need to be simple, durable, and as compact as possible. They should not be works of art that need an additional box to protect them.
- Sword of State: There was a bid submitted for the new scabbard and the regalia committee asked for some changes, but there's been no further word. His Majesty will speak with Viscount Matheus Bane about an update.
- The new throne pillows have been completed.

EVENT BIDS

Summary of decisions to date:

- May Crown (May 15-17, 2014) -- Shire of Hauksgardr and the Barony of Dragon's Mist at the Hood River Fairgrounds in Oregon.
- An Tir – West War (July 1-5, 2015) -- Mistress Attia Prima and Viscountess Nadezhda Volynskaiia will lead the team at the usual site at the Lazy J Moore Ranch in Gold Beach, OR.
- 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.

Twelfth Night 2017 = One bid was submitted a month ago, but returned with questions. Another was received two days ago, but Kingdom Events Deputy Mistress Ysabella Greene hasn't been able to evaluate it yet.

Applications are being actively sought for everything beyond Twelfth Night 2016! Announcements have been made at the past two Crown events in the seneschals' meetings. Mistress Ysabella Greene is also reaching out to individual branches to talk with them about hosting.

- Advantages: The branch retains a share of the profit from the event. It's a great way for your group to gain experience in event running. It also attracts a lot of attention to the service and arts that the local group is doing.
- Challenges: The concept of doing something this big is unfamiliar and scary. Volunteers are increasingly hard to come by even for local events where they have a set site and action plan. Costs associated with running events keep going up.
- How can we instruct more people on how to write a bid and then run the event?
 - Ysabella is happy to talk to people one on one, to host a class at an event, or to run mini-classes in the Seneschal's tent at Crown events.
 - Other individuals who are willing to travel and teach include: Mistress Attia Prima who has been the Event Steward for An Tir – West War four times. HL Sarra the Brave who was Event Steward for May Crown 2013 & 2014. Some individuals from Aquaterra who have run the very large Ursulmas event.
 - Mistress Vivian nic Uldoon has a great website for event stewards at www.CurrentMiddleAges.org with instructional materials, data from past events showing site layouts and budgets, etc. If there is something you think stewards should know, send her an article for the site.
 - We are encouraging branches to collaborate to run Crown events, but it would be helpful to have some models available of how they can divide the labor, expenses, and profits.
 - Maybe an online class using Google Hangout or a similar service could be set up.
 - Those who have run a events in the past (especially at the Crown or Principality level) should take some time to share their wisdom with new people looking to accept that challenge. If you are working on an event, recruit deputies and explicitly teach them about what you are doing so they can do it themselves in the future.
 - Royalty, Barons, and Peers are encouraged to talk with their students about taking on roles running events at all levels.