

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- September Crown 9/4/16

ATTENDANCE:

ROYALTY

King Kjartan Daegarson
Queen Sha'ya Kjartanskona
Crown Prince Stykarr Jarlsskald
Crown Princess Dagrún Stjarna
Summits Prince Sverre Bjornhjarta
Summits Princess Breaca Flanure
Tir Righ Prince Ieuan Gower

KINGDOM & PRINCIPALITY OFFICERS

Seneschal Julia Sempronia
Exchequer Arontius of Bygelswade

Curia Clerk Althaia filia Lazari
Crown Events Deputies Francisca de Montoya and Ana de la Sera
Summits Seneschal Piaras mac Toirdhealbhagh
Black Lion Herald Oddr Thiálfason
Scribe Sarra the Brave
Family Activities Alizand Thorgeirsson nee LeFevre
Earl Marshal Einar Knuteson
Martial Authorization Officer Luaithrend inghean Uilliam
Cut & Thrust Deputy Feradach mac Tralín mec Domongairt

OTHER INDIVIDUALS

Alessandra da Montefeltro (Baroness of Wyewood)
Attia Prima
Conchobar MacEoin (Baron of Dragon's Laire)
Dalla in Fagra (Financial Focus Committee)
Eilidh Keldelth (Baroness of Dragon's Laire)
Elizabeth de Rossignol
Etiennette de Montagne (Financial Focus Committee)
Finn Grimm (Baron of Dragon's Mist)
Ivon Drengir (Baron of Stromgard)
Katherine of Akornebir (Baroness of Wastekeep)
Lenora Truble
Liadain ni Sheanachain (Event Steward for 12th Night 2017)
Miranda Faoltiarna
Phelan Tolusmidr

Savaric Coeur-de-Lion (Financial Focus Committee)
Steven Desjardin (Event Steward for MC 2017)
Thorkell Palsson
Ysabella Greene
Ysolt Tayler of Windhill

Approximately 5 others, names unknown

Report by Exchequer Master Arontius of Bygelswade

Fall Crown Council at Collegium in November -- There will be a Financial Committee meeting at this event. Officers should be prepared to discuss any changes to their 2017 budget plans that event, or contact Arontius separately to discuss this.

Current Financial Status

- All amounts reported throughout these notes are in US dollars.
- The Kingdom currently has an asset total of \$136,747.47. The savings account and CD's are all up to a very small extent compared to Coronation, while the checking account has decreased by about \$6000.

Primary Checking	\$48,051.25		CD 4950	\$17,061.19
Savings	\$14,670.73		CD 4953	\$15,488.69
CD 1404	\$13,259.06		CD 4957	\$14,833.26
CD 4949	\$13,383.29			

- The Kingdom Seneschal and Exchequer need to review the July 2016 bank statement and sign that it is correct.
- Major changes since July Coronation include:
 - Profit from July Coronation \$4668.89.
 - Fluctuations in the checking account due to NMR payments coming in from events and then going out to the Society each month. The summer tournament and camping season is our busiest in this respect with nearly \$11,000 being paid to the Society in June and July alone.
 - Payment of travel expenses for officers, and for Royal travel to 50th Year Celebration, An Tir – West War, and Avacal Coronation.
 - Payment for major repairs to the Kingdom trailer at \$720. An estimate is being obtained for the royal trailer for some preventative maintenance done on the wheels and axle bearings, and also a new lock for the cargo compartment.
 - Starting funds for the new Kingdom thrones of \$1300.

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- Special fund accounts
 - NMR is currently at \$4081.52.
 - Raven Travel Fund has a balance of \$4091.52. We have been fortunate that the larger than usual outflow from this account has been balanced by a healthy number of donations this year, keeping the overall total from dropping as much as we feared it might.
 - Kingdom Feast: Currently there is \$5402.42 in reserve for this event. The amount is starting to grow as people pre-register for this fall's event.
 - Reminder: Accounts set up for specific purposes, such as the Raven Travel Fund and the Crown Fund, have specific rules on how the funds within those accounts can be spent. Please double check with the Exchequer about any plans you have for these funds before requesting an advance, or spending funds which you expect to be reimbursed.
- Status of officer budgets: The Royals and most officers are well within their allocations. Arts & Sciences is the only office which is overspent this year, and the Heralds are very close to the limit.

Non-Member Surcharge

- Please see prior editions of the Financial Committee notes for a detailed explanation of when NMR applies and the timelines for it being submitted. In addition, a copy of the FAQ on this topic is available on the Society Exchequer's website at <http://www.sca.org/officers/exchequer/#nms>. It is crucial that An Tir adhere to these rules, particularly if we wish to be eligible to use PayPal for gate fees at future events.
- After much effort and discussion between An Tir officers, and the Society Exchequer, Treasurer, and NMR Deputy, an agreement was reached about what NMR is owed from events prior to 10/1/15, which is \$4,077.50. (Since October 2015, An Tir has been in compliance with the NMR requirements as far as we know.) The core Kingdom Financial Committee agreed in a phone conference on 8/31/16 to authorize that payment and the check is being cut this weekend.
- One branch has not paid NMR fees in several years, despite several attempts by Kingdom officers to address the subject. An email was sent in late August and will be followed by a registered letter in a few days, advising them that all amounts due for events held since 10/1/15 is due by 10/1/16. The core Kingdom Financial Committee will be discussing actions to take if this branch does not comply.

Updates on ongoing projects:

- An Tir – West War -- Arontius and Seneschal Magistra Julia Sempronia will talk with their counterparts in the West, and then contact the landowners, Lyle and Diane Dishner about renewing the contract to host the event on their Gold Beach property for 2017-2020.
- Minors attend Kingdom level events for free -- While this hasn't been formally written into the Exchequer's policy manual, An Tir has now been operating under this principle for two years. Arontius is still working on a more thorough analysis of the impact the decision has had on attendance and revenue for events.
- Status of the Kingdom pavilions -- The Teamster and Chamberlain are working on an assessment of the condition of all our current tents, so we know what must be repaired or replaced. We would like to plan ahead to handle this in phases rather than being caught off guard by multiple problems.

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 policies and minors attending Kingdom events for free. Arontius will have a rough draft of the new handbook finished by Collegium in November, and submit the final draft for approval at Twelfth Night.

2017 Budget: Kingdom officers should start thinking of their 2017 plans: Did your needs match your budget this year? Are you planning for extra travel or a symposium next year? Further discussion will happen at Fall Crown Council.

Financial Committee Discussions

Earl Marshal: Sir Einar Knuteson is requesting permission to buy a helm for cut and thrust so they can test it against various weapons, as part of the process to write new rules which accommodate An Tir's style of performance. Einar will speak with the Exchequer and Seneschal more about this privately.

Web Minister Proposal -- Duke Ulfr Blodfotur Fallgrson has requested funding for three items:

1. New Kingdom Website \$1000: Ulfr, HL Istvan Gyori, and HL Tomyris di Cavallino have finished the "proof of concept" stage of the new Kingdom website, and tested it using Wordpress on a LAMP (Linux, Apache,

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MySQL, PHP) platform. They are now working to finalize additional design details. They would then like to hire someone to do all of the programming for the actual site as the team is too busy with other tasks to do this themselves in a timely fashion. Istvan would oversee that work which should take 1-2 months.

2. Office 365 subscriptions to support Kingdom officer positions beginning with the King, Queen, Seneschal, and Exchequer. Cost would be \$54 per year. (Not everyone has this software on their home machine, and other programs are not necessarily compatible with the documents that must be exchanged with Society officers.) Mistress Ysolt Tayler of Windhill had offered at May Crown to use her Microsoft employee discount to purchase this software which could be loaded on 5 computers, rather than paying an annual subscription fee. She was willing to donate this to the Kingdom. She, Arontius, and UlfR need to coordinate on this topic.
3. Survey Tool: An Tir now has an account on one of the survey websites which can be used to poll the populace via email on a variety of topics. This has already been used by the Arts & Sciences Minister to conduct a survey of that community. The account costs \$228 Canadian a year (about \$300 US). UlfR says that we used it for even a couple of Baronial Pollings in a year, the Kingdom would make back that amount. -- Financial discussion: The challenge is that the tool exports the data to Excel, which is great for numbers or answers to multiple choice questions, but not for narrative comments which are a key component of the Baronial Polling process. We've also never allowed those comments to be viewed by more than the Monarchs. The Kingdom will add this item to the 2017 budget, but more discussion is needed about how the tool will be used, or whether another program might work better, before the funds are spent.

Royal Ready Pavilion

- A discussion took place at July Coronation about obtaining a new pavilion for use by the Royal retinue at major events. This would give them a designated and enclosed space to hold meetings, sign scrolls, assembling largess, planning out the agenda for court, or other tasks. Most likely this would be set up in the Royal encampment, but at a given event the Royals could speak with the event team about setting it up on the erics, perhaps attached to the Royal pavilion.
- Our current Monarchs and Heirs both have tents within their households that they can use for this purpose, so this isn't an urgent need, but it could be helpful to future rulers.
- Crown Prince Styrkarr Jarlsskald offered to make this pavilion for the cost of materials, which he's estimating at \$900. It would be a 20x40 dragon-wing that also could be converted to a wall tent, just like the one he has for his household.
- Alternatively we can spend \$3000 for a new Panther pavilion of the same design and 16x20 size of our current officer tents. That's obviously more expensive, but they are rugged and many people are familiar with how they go up and down. (There are also directions online.) Handing this tent over to a new corps of volunteers every 6 months will be a lot of wear and tear.
- 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.
- Their Majesties and Their Royal Highnesses will discuss this topic further outside of the meeting.

Royal Regalia -- Master Charles de Bourbon is the Chamberlain.

- Crowns:
 - Many Kingdoms have "travel crowns" which are smaller, lighter, cheaper versions for the Monarchs to wear when they are walking around camp all day, or to take on trips to distant events. At July Coronation, the Financial Committee decided that An Tir wanted to explore this idea. Kingdom Chamberlain Master Charles de Bourbon has published a request for artisans to submit bids for this project. If you are interested, you can obtain a copy from him or from Arontius.
 - Carry boxes for our current crowns: Viscount Matheus Bane's bid was accepted at May Crown to create these for \$150. They were due to be delivered this weekend.
 - Master Torfin Torgulsson is still assessing whether it will be possible to repair our long-standing pair of Crowns as the damage is considerable. He will submit his report by Twelfth Night. There is \$4902 remaining in the dedicated account for this purpose, but additional fundraising will likely be needed.
- Thrones -- At July Coronation the Financial Committee accepted HL Alasdair Mac Roibeirt's bid to craft two new thrones for \$1300 by Twelfth Night. His design is 13th century Gothic in concept and maintains the general profile of our current thrones. The thrones would be constructed from durable white maple wood, and there would be a cheque gold and silver gilding under lacquer on the backs. 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 -- There is no new information about the one that went missing circa July Coronation 2015. While there is some interest in replacing this piece or regalia, the Kingdom has several other priorities right now.
- King's Signet Ring -- This silver ring had a miniature version of the Kingdom seal embossed in it to be used on scrolls where the normal seal would fit. Unfortunately it was lost in late 2015. At May Crown, the Financial Committee authorized Magister Arion the Wanderer to create a small conventional seal as a quick solution.

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(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 de Bourbon has put out a request for bids for a new ring, based on the specifications he had from the original design. Once we have a specific proposal, the Financial Committee can decide whether we wish to authorize this expense.

- Champions' Tokens -- No new information.
- Insurance for Regalia -- The first items that need to be appraised are our current Crowns. Mistress Attia Prima thinks she knows of someone in Portland who is certified by an insurance company to do this work, which would be convenient to our current Monarchs. The Chamberlain and Exchequer are also researching options. We will need a policy that will cover items if they are in the possession of a Canadian resident. (This most often applies to the Crowns and the Champion's sword.)

Financial Focus Committee Update

Presentation by Savaric Coeur-de-Lion. Other team members are Countess Dalla in Fagra, former Kingdom Seneschal Brigid Ross and former Exchequer Etiennette de Montagne.

The intent of this committee is to provide long term continuity and information retention regarding financial matters in An Tir. Our current royalty and officers are focused on the day to day management of the Kingdom, and don't have a lot of time to look at the bigger picture. There was also concern that some decisions were being made too quickly, in response to current, temporary factors or without enough historical or contextual information. This committee can make sure ideas are not lost between reigns, and advise us against repeating things that have previously failed. They will also accept projects from the Monarchs, Kingdom Seneschal, or Kingdom Exchequer, which affect the long term health of our community. Those may require additional team members, or another special committee to be formed. The Financial Focus Committee isn't going to interfere in the work of the Kingdom Exchequer, or make decisions about how to spend the Kingdom's money. They are an advisory board, while decisions will still be in the hands of the our current Financial Committee.

The current committee has existed for a year, and they want to start thinking about how to stagger subsequent changes in their membership, again with the priority on preserving long term continuity in information and planning. Most likely the current Monarchs would appoint each new team member. The intent is to have one former Count or Duke, one former Countess or Duchess, a former Kingdom Seneschal, and a former Kingdom Exchequer. Other members may be added at a future date depending on the team's needs. They are not a voting body, so an odd number of individuals is not a requirement.

The committee is currently conducting a survey with all of the Landed Barons and Baronesses, Branch Seneschals and Exchequers, and current Kingdom and Principality Royalty asking them for what their goals are. Once a list is created, the same group will be asked to rank the priority of these items. This information will then be given to the main Financial Committee to use as a reference point when making decisions about our entire community's values and spending priorities going forward. (Those of the populace as well as the Royals.)

Other projects the team is working on include:

- A document to advise new Royals on their responsibilities when it comes to financial matters.
- An explanation of how profits should be shared between branches when they team up to host a Crown Event.
- Creating a list of suggestions on how money can be spent to recruit new members, such as paying for print media, or having a recruitment video created.
- Figuring out a plan for the safe, long term storage of retired regalia items.

Event Bids

Summary of decisions to date:

- 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 Laire. Ocean Shores Convention Center in Ocean Shores, WA.
- An Tir Collegium (November 11-13, 2016) -- Barony of Wastekeep. Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, WA.

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- Twelfth Night (January 13-15, 2017) -- Barony of Wyewood. Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac, WA.
- Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championships (March 10-12, 2017) -- Barony of Dragon's Lair.
- 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:

- 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.

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

- Event Steward will be Master Arontius of Bygelswade.
- Kingdom Arts & Sciences Minister, Dame Cristiana de Huntington, has inspected the site and said it is suitable. The location is the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, WA. (North of Bremerton.) <http://www.clearwatercasino.com/hotel/>
- The hotel was not available on our traditional weekend of March 3-5 so the event will take place on the following weekend. This is the opening weekend of Gulf Wars, but that's only a conflict for a few people. Estrella War is 2 weeks earlier so that's not a conflict.
- DECISION: Bid was approved by the core Financial Committee in their phone call on 8/31/16.