

Baronial Business Meeting

January 4, 2018

Officer reports are verbatim, meeting notes are paraphrased.

Unto the most noble Barony of Dragon's Laire, Baron Conchobar, Proconsul Augusti and Baroness Eilidh Proconsula doth send greetings.

As the old year fades, and a new one begins, we hope the New Year brings you great things filled with light, love, success, and happiness. May all the trials and heartaches of the old year fade in your memories, leaving only the strength of character and hard won knowledge behind.

Yule was simply amazing. The site, the food, the company, and the generosity shown in the results of the sock drive only serve to illustrate what a sparkling jewel Dragon's Laire is in the Crown of An Tir. Your King and Queen expressed delight and sincere appreciation for you Their populace, for your hard work, for your ready smiles and good company, and for the health and prosperity of YOUR barony. Well done Dragon's Laire. Once again you humble US, your Baron and Baroness with your good grace, talent, and enthusiasm. Thank you.

The cold winter is upon us, as the season of feasting begins to wane, it is time to turn our attentions to the finer crafts of Arts & Sciences and Bardic. It is time to choose new Champions to further the fame and glory of Dragon's Laire. We call all those with willing hearts and hands to take up the challenge. It is the deepest desire of this Barony, and the Laurels within it to foster interest, knowledge, and talent. Please don't feel you are unworthy to put your name forward, and take up the challenge. There are so many people eagerly waiting to answer your questions, and ease your anxieties. Just to name a few, Countess Elizabeth, Dame Gwen, and Mistress Alienora are excellent resources. Talk with them, take their classes on documentation, be brave and stretch beyond your comfort zones. Letters of intent should be submitted by 12th Night.

If Champion is not your current goal, please consider entering the Novice A&S Tourney. It is a great way to get some experience, and confidence in A&S. It is also a chance to show off your new interests and geek out with like minded individuals. Deadline to declare your entry is also 12th Night.

If you find your fingers unwilling, but your mind is buzzing with ideas, and information, then a Scholar's Paper is for you. Write a paper about the recent "rabbit hole" you found yourself in. A basic and competent research paper with citations, and bibliography on the subject of your choice is perfect for a scholarly paper. This is not a "competition", but there are basic standards you must achieve in order to be made a Scholar. More details can be found on the Candlemas page of the Baronial website. Letters of intent due by 12th Night, and completed papers are due by January 20th.

In addition, Her Ladyship Pernell is working hard on getting classes organized to keep you busy and out of trouble. There will be many opportunities to learn new skills and refresh old ones and find what you love to do.

Please join us. Candlemas is a great opportunity to support your Barony and the arts and see the many presentations which will be given on so many varied and interesting topics. We have amazing artisans and scholars in Dragon's Laire and many topics to explore.

We will be attending 12th Night and Ursulmas. If you want to tag along and be retinue or just keep us company, please feel welcome to do so. Bring your armor to 12th Night for the Sunday practice. It is a good chance to fight those you don't normally get the opportunity to.

We will be hosting a potluck in our hotel room Saturday evening of Ursulmas. We are staying at the Evergreen Inn & Suites in Monroe. Please feel free to come by and hang out. Bring something to share, or not. Either way please come. We will have a crockpot of something to share for dinner (likely a beef stew and bread) and some hot cider.

In Joyful Service to the most Honorable Barony of Dragon's Laire. Baron Conchobar & Baroness Eilidh

OFFICER REPORTS

Seneschal

THL Ciar ingen Fiachnae

Greetings Mighty Barony! Thank you all for the wonderful YULE! A well-attended event with much pleasant feedback received! It was lovely to see so many from the Barony as well as neighboring branches.

To the future! Candlemas! WOOOHOOO! This is actually one of my favorite events, all the geeking!

If you would like to get involved with an event or activity but don't know where to start, come talk to me! I can connect you with people or we can just chat about options.

On to business!

- If you are responsible for running a practice or class – A&S, heavy, rapier, thrown, archery, siege etc. – and are cancelling due to weather, attendance, holidays, what have you, please remember it NEEDS TO BE POSTED. You are welcome to message me via Facebook or email and I can handle the posting for you.
- Baronial activities and Facebook groups. Per Society Social Media Policy and the Dragon's Laire Customary (in process), if you have an official Facebook group related to a Baronial activity – the official DL Scribal Guild for example – the Seneschal and one other Baronial Officer must be administrators on the group. If being a member of that group is the only way to learn about that group's activities, it must be an open group. If you cross-post your activities to the Dragon's Laire Group page, your group can be closed.

Note: If you have a private group made up of mostly DL people where you discuss SCA activities, but it is not the "official" group, these rules do not apply to you. For further clarification, you can chat with me or review the Society Social Media policy.

- Society's new bullying and harassment policy. To some extent this has always been the rule: Bullying and harassment is anathema to chivalric behavior but many of us have been involved or been witness to situations that seemed off or were completely inappropriate.

Society has chosen to put the policy in writing, in part because a written policy becomes an enforceable policy. Now the discussion moves to safe reporting and training for how to handle the situation. If you have concerns about this policy or would like more information, please speak with me or Their Excellencies.

Ciar ingen Fiachnae Seneschal

From the meeting:

The Social Media Officer is a deputy position under the Seneschal. The Social Media Officer's duties are to promote the Barony (events, social media, marketing, etc). There are rules about marketing on social media.

Marshallate

Baronial

Lord Stuart of House Awry

Greetings mighty Barony,

We continue to hold our normal weekly practice at the VFW and it's well attended all things concerned. I have a question for our fighters, how many of you have old gear laying around, should we organize a buy, sell, trade day?

YIS, Stuart of House Awry, your friendly baronial marshal

From the meeting:

Fight practice at Yule was well attended and was a good time. There will be fight practice at Candlemas if people want it and the weather cooperates.

Regarding waivers, each type of martial activity has its own waiver form, and practice and event waivers are sent to Kingdom quarterly.

Rapier

No separate report at this time.

Archer

Lord Stephen of House Awry

Practices continue as usual on Sundays (weather dependent). There will be no practice on January 28th, as the majority of our archery community will be in Aquaterra for Ursulmas.

Last Chance this year will mark the end of my term as Chief Archer. If there is anyone who would be interested, please feel free to come and talk with me.

IS, HL Stephen of House Awry Chief Archer of Dragon's Lair

Thrown Weapons

No separate report at this time.

Siege

No separate report at this time.

Equestrian

On hiatus. No separate report at this time.

Arts & Sciences

Countess Elisabeth de Rossignol

The high point of the Arts and Sciences in Dragon's Lair in December was the Yule Feast. There we had a display of original scrolls organized by Lady Ela which was very well received, a competition in edible heraldry won by Lady Kosem with an amazing 3D representation of the dragon on the baronial arms, a dance class and ball led by Countess Judith, and live music for dancing and background by the Camp Fromage Party Band as well as Master Leith, Mistress Alysandre, Dame Elizabeth Piper, and Dame Eleanor of Eccleshall. There were bardic presentations by Lord Morgan and Lady Andromache during the feast. This all made for an excellent display by Dragons Lair's artistic community and friends.

There were only two weekly classes this month, because of the winter holidays. These were a roundtable discussion on the basics of medieval clothing, and a presentation on period food and drink. The class schedule has already been set for January, and with Dame Gwen's assistance we are getting more classes together for the future. Focus has now shifted to Candlemas in February, in preparation for the baronial A&S championship, bardic championship, and Scholars papers. There have not yet been any letters of intent received for A&S or bardic, though we are expecting some before the deadline of January 14. As of this writing there have been seven letters of intent for Scholars papers, which is very encouraging.

Ongoing plans including preparation for the spring A&S Day Camp and June Faire are already under way.

I will be stepping down as A&S Minister effective July 1, 2018. I will be glad to assist the seneschal and baronage in finding a replacement in any way I can, and be available to answer any questions applicants might have.

Countess Elisabeth de Rossignol, OP, OL, etc. Dragons Lair A&S Minister

Chronicler

THL Sayako Enoki

Greetings Mighty Barony of Dragon's Lair,

I have nothing to report this month. Life is still large as I grapple with modern projects and other SCA commitments, so The Flames must slumber still. I do not foresee my schedule becoming lighter until the spring, so I must content myself for now with meeting notes and reports in this

simple format rather than as a formal newsletter. It remains on my mind, however, so fear not that The Flames shall rest eternal. It shall not.

YIS,
THL Sayako

**Herald/Golden Dragon Pursuivant
Murakami Tsuruko Sensei**

Greetings,

There were both Royal and Baronial courts at Yule. The court report is included at the end of this report. OP updates have been sent to Dexter Gauntlet. Countess Elisabeth is available for heraldic consultation at most fight practices. I did some consulting on a few devices at fight practice last month.

YIS, Murakami Tsuruko Golden Dragon Pursuivant

Court Report for Yule 2017 (December 9, 2017)

Thank you to Lady Isabelle and THL Ajax for their help at court. Their Excellencies welcomed everyone to the event. Children attending the event were invited to choose a book from the box of books appropriate for young people provided by Magister Arion the Wanderer. The populace was reminded to pick up their scrolls from the scroll display. Master Renart made the usual Event Steward announcements. Their Excellencies thanked the event steward and feast steward. Her Excellency thanked the Barony of Wealdsmere for their donation of 60 pairs of socks and announced that over 450 pairs of socks were collected for the sock drive. His Excellency observed great chivalry during fight practice earlier in the day. He noticed a particular lady, THL Rotrude who was especially chivalrous and presented her with a Kingdom duffle bag for her gear. There were two bardic presentations during court: THL Ermenrich told the Anglo-Saxon Legend of Mistletoe and THL Talia sang a song from Even Yule Fest.

The following awards were given:

Snapdragon:

Skalla of House Awry Hans "Moose" Dalheim (dated June 4, AS 51)

Gabrielle de Cameron (dated June 3, AS 52)

Bumblebee:

Maenach na Caille Gabrielle de Cameron

Chatelaine
THL Jess of the Roving Irishmen

Good afternoon mighty Barony,

December brought new faces to our Barony, specifically, several new faces to Yule. We had a set of sisters who had never attended an SCA event before (and didn't really know much about the SCA) cross the sound to join us. We also had a family who wanted to experience a medieval Yule attend just for the ambience and to cross it off their bucket list. And while she wasn't able to attend we had a lovely teen from DD who found us and is excited to get involved and learn more about the SCA. I'd like to thank everyone who made our new comers feel welcome and accepted as part of our society.

This will be my last report as your Chatelaine. Isemay Makenzie will be taking over for me. She is excited to take on the office and will be a great asset to our new comers. I will stay on as her deputy for the time being to help her get the hang of the office. I have enjoyed my time as Chatelaine and will continue to help where I can as I truly believe that we are all Chatelaines. Thank you to those who encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and take on this office. It has been a wonderful experience.

In very humble service, THL Jess, Chatelaine

Exchequer
Gabrielle de Cameron

The Barony's bank balances are as follows:

Checking: \$46,449.77

Savings: \$24,284.96

CD: \$10,234.02

Total: \$80,968.75

The Yule Feast event report not quite ready, but we took in \$4559.65, after expenses, with a profit about \$1400 with 173 adults attending.

We need to pay rent for the VFW hall, but we will need to do a little research to find out how much we customarily pay. That amount will be available at the next business meeting.

Steward
Master Arontius of Bygelswade

Inventory of the storage unit is near complete. I needs to know what you have at your house. It doesn't need to come back to the Barony, but it needs to be accounted for.

Gamesmaster

Position open

No separate report at this time.

Lists

Position open

No separate report at this time.

Webminister

Máenach na Cailled

Greetings,

And a happy New Year to those who follow the reckoning of Pope Gregory XIII! By my personal reckoning, December was at least a month and a half long...

Reminder:

I'm not spending a whole lot of time on Ye Olde Book of Faces these days due to Ye Olde Real Life. With that in mind, it really helps to either tag me (Christopher Willis-Ford) or email webminister@dragonslaire.org if you're sharing information that you'd like me act on. This applies to anything you'd like me to add, remove, or change on the DL web site of course, but also the DL calendar, email aliases, and any of my other responsibilities. Thank you!

General Updates:

Most of the work I did in December was related to Candlemas, with a little bit of June Faire and general A&S support thrown in here and there. I'm also continuing to lay the ground work for an upcoming redesign of the DL site. I've begun experimenting with a package called Polymer which should make it easier to make sweeping changes rather than hand-redesigning a page at a time.

There were a couple other odds and ends, like fixing accented letters (and non-ASCII stuff in general) on the reports forms and finally figuring out how to send reports to the DL email list without admin intervention or anyone receiving duplicate copies. (kudos to Thomas of Salisbury for providing information which led to the capture and execution of this bug!)

Populacity:

You may also recall me mentioning that I was considering making the monthly report form smarter so that it could fill in the default information for a particular position. That project has grown a bit. I'm now designing a way to consistently and correctly refer to individuals across the site. This will make sure that a person's name is spelled correctly (or, at least, the same way) everywhere on the site, and they're not "Sir" on one page but "THL" on another, and so on.

(There are certainly times when it needs to be different in some context, but in general consistency wins.) Anyway, the first baby-step toward this is that I can now easily link to a person's entry on the OP and load their device as an image. You can see a small demo of this in the sidebar on the Candlemas page.

My report is all on line why is that oh no ahhhhh!

Finally, it has become apparent that Markdown is not the right format for monthly reports. If you're not sure what Markdown is, that's fine, you can just think of it as the thing that makes monthly reports look like they're all on one line. I had hoped to replace this before January reports started coming in but didn't quite make it. I'll try to replace it before the end of January.

Statistics:

As I mentioned last month, I've added Google Analytics to the Dragon's Lair web site in order to collect general statistics about how people are using the web site. The first months' worth of numbers have come in, and it's good news! All the browsers being used on the site support the fancy features that I'm eyeing for upcoming design work.

The major browsers used for visiting our site in December, and their share of visits:

49% - Chrome

23% - Safari

15% - Firefox

5% - IE 11

The remaining visits came from various tablets and other devices, and generally used the browser built into the device.

I can use this information directly when coding for the web site. It tells me which features I can and cannot use. I'll keep collecting these statistics over time and will use them to make decisions as we begin to redesign the web site.

Change log

2017-12-01: e9a3a57 Add Google Analytics

2017-12-03: 67ea1d6 Use scheme-agnostic URL for html5shiv

2017-12-05: 0020469 Add merchant registration info to June Faire page

2017-12-05: 05846ba Add Parsedown for parsing Markdown

2017-12-06: 230e98c Report submission: pacify email list, use markdown. Reports may now be formatted with Markdown!

2017-12-06: 70843ce Fix bad link on June Faire page

2017-12-06: 046317d Fix encoding errors on report & award forms

2017-12-28: b95f8f8 Fix Candlemas event steward & test OP link-maker

2017-12-28: b9a5d47 Add December business meeting notes

2017-12-28: fa29ede Update Candlemas info from An Tir event page

2017-12-29: a0d95f5 Rearrange Candlemas content for better flow

2018-01-01: 0c84e2d Update Tuesday class schedule for early 2018. Also, make it easier to add/remove/modify classes

2018-01-01: 9497bec Normalize DL A&S page code formatting

2018-01-01: 5768873 Fixed schedule for Arontius' classes in Jan & Feb

2018-01-01: b784a78 Add championship & scholar info to Candlemas page

2018-01-01: 22749af Add Dame Gwen's class PDF to competitions page, plus misc. cleanup on the page

YACs

Position open

No separate report at this time.

Scribe

Rhiannon of Eaglesflight

The charters for Yule were delivered and completed by my deputy HL Ela. I have several painted Scholar charters ready for Candlemas. Due to shoulder surgery, I am unable to drive and thus am not attending socials or the monthly meeting. As usual, I am available by email, FB or phone for questions or information.

Librarian

Lady Ela Pennayth y Ynis Dewi

No separate report at this time, but new books have been donated to the Barony.

YAFA

On hiatus.

GUILDS

Bardic

No separate report at this time.

Culinary & Spiritmakers Maitre Renart le fox de berwyk

Welcome to 2018!

The Culinary-Spiritmakers Guild puts its knowledge together to help with the feast at Yule, and what a spectacular feast it was. The kitchen was a well-oiled machine and HL Ciar and her team orchestrated beautiful music. We did not hold a meeting at the end of December. There has been some conversation concerning a meeting to be held in January and the subject(s) that we will pursue. Keep an eye on the group on the Book of Faces and we will continue to work towards a plan. If you are interested in food in period and are not yet involved in the group, come and talk to me.

Renart

Costumers THL Jess of the Roving Irishmen

Greetings awesome Barony,

A garb round table was held December 5th to discuss garb for our new (and not so new) players. A great discussion was had and much knowledge was shared. If you have any specific garb questions or need assistance with making garb please don't hesitate to ask. If I can't help you I'll find someone who can.

In Service, THL Jess, Costumer's Guild Mistress

Scribal Lady Ela Pennayth

No separate report at this time, but there was a good showing at Scriptorium with four new active painters and one new calligrapher.

Textile

No separate report at this time.

DRAGON'S LAIRE EVENTS

Candlemas (February)

Baronial Championships for Arts & Sciences, Scholars, and Bardic

Planning is progressing well. We need volunteers to managing parking, which will be across the street, and signage. We would love to see more entrants into competitions, especially Arts and Sciences, and Bardic

In the future, we may need to let the A&S and Bardic Championships go as there is currently very little interest in them. There is a natural ebb and flow to interest in A&S, but it's likely that we need to rethink our approach to what has been the status quo.

Arts & Sciences Day Camp (Spring)

No bid for Spring 2018 A&S Day Camp yet. It may be a more class-driven format.

Junefaire (First Weekend of June)

Annual Flagship Event, Open to the Public

Event Steward: Kloe of Thira

We have begun the major push to get merchants signed up. Word is also being spread about the A&S village. So far we have 7 merchant applications.

Upcoming things that will need to be done include the second Poulsbo sign which we need artwork for to give to Laurallen, repainting all the road signs, and the preliminary site walk through.

Once we have PayPal up and running we will begin learning the ins and outs of that for pre-registration.

We are also beginning to work out what sensory Sunday will look like.

Last Chance (September/October)

Baronial Martial Championships

No bid for 2018 Last Chance yet.

There is no Last Chance as we have known it at the moment. The weekend that the Port Orchard Saddle Club is available is the weekend before September Crown, and we are hosting September Crown.

We have a few options. We don't necessarily need to hold a Last Chance if we can't find a site for the event. The current champions can be extended for one more year and we can forego Last Chance altogether this year. Other options may be booking the saddle club for the equestrian portion only, and holding the other championships elsewhere and on a different day. We could

even hold the tournaments, minus equestrian, at the VFW Hall. It may also be possible to hold the equestrian portion at September Crown. Branches piggybacking branch tournaments onto larger events is not unheard of, but we would not know if this would be possible for us at September Crown until May.

More discussion to come as more information becomes available.

Arts & Sciences Day Camp (Autumn)

No bid for Autumn 2018 A&S Day Camp yet.

Yule (December)

Annual Baronial Feast

No bid for Yule Feast 2018 yet.

OTHER EVENTS

September Crown (September 2018)

Tournament to Determine the Next King & Queen of An Tir

Master Arontius of Bygelswade

No separate report at this time.

PROPOSALS, OTHER, and Oh-By-The-Way's

Proposals

Proposal for the Financial Committee

Financial Contribution to the Kingdom

A feasibility analysis for a financial contribution to the Kingdom has been completed. The recommended operating reserve for branches is two years' worth of operating expenses. Annual expenses for the Barony, including the cost of producing events, are roughly \$30,000 per year, meaning that Dragon's Lair should maintain an operating reserve of approximately \$60,000.

An operating reserve is an accumulation of liquid assets (cash) that is held as a "rainy day fund". The purpose of an operating reserve is for the branch to remain solvent (able to meet all its expenses and continue to operate), and to have the ability to accept risk and absorb losses due to temporary changes in the environment.

Right now, the Barony has about \$80,000 in liquid assets (cash assets in checking, savings, and certificates of deposit), which well meets the threshold for maintaining a two year operating reserve of approximately \$60,000.

The proposal is to gift \$3,000 to the Kingdom at Twelfth Night, and to gift an additional \$3,000 to the Kingdom at July Coronation.

The consensus of officers and the consulted populace is that the idea of supporting the Kingdom and Kingdom events is highly favorable. However, the consensus is that funds donated by Dragon's Lair should be earmarked for specific use. In particular, Dragon's Lair funds will be earmarked to support Kingdom events by acting as a reserve to cover losses should Kingdom events fail to generate enough income to meet the cost of producing the event.

Dragon's Lair funds will be added to the Kingdom general funds. However, earmarking is a principal of nonprofit accounting and reporting. Earmarked funds must be itemized within the general fund as funds with restricted use. Any deductions from earmarked funds must qualify, therefore, gifted Dragon's Lair funds may only be used to cover production losses for Kingdom events. If Kingdom events do not suffer losses, gifted Dragon's Lair funds will remain in the Kingdom general funds.

There is no expectation, nor will there be a future expectation, that Dragon's Lair will continue to gift funds to the Kingdom. The practice of tithing branches has long been discontinued. Any future gifts of funds will be proposed and decided upon at the monthly business meeting according to our current practice.

Baronial Officers are still encouraged to put in bids for expenses and goods. Gifts to the Kingdom will not be made at the expense of Baronial needs and wants.

The proposal is approved. Please spread the word about the contribution that the Barony will be making at Twelfth Night. A large retinue of Baronial members to present the check to Their Majesties is strongly encouraged.

Final Report for Purchasing Feast Supplies

We may need 2 more bins, but we have everything on the purchase list, plus wish list items, and all under budget. Two dishes broken, three chipped at Yule, but they are cheap. We have been asked to make supplies available for Kingdom Feast.

Open Officer Positions

Lists Master/Mistress

Games Master/Mistress

*Youth Armored Combat (YACs)** – this position requires a background check.

*Youth and Family Activities (YAFA)** – We are putting this position into abeyance. Dragon's Laire youth and children are mostly preteens and young children. The lack of age diversity means that it is very difficult to plan activities for age groups, and then engage them in those activities.

We will still plan for youth and family activities, but they will no longer be coordinated through a designated officer.

** Positions that work with youth must meet additional requirements, including a background check and additional supervision. Adult participation in youth activities must meet the "Two Deep" rule, meaning that two adults must be present for youth activities. The second adult need not participate, but instead may simply be present, and must not be of the same household as the first adult, nor be the parent of the child. For more information on youth requirements, please contact the Seneschal.*