



The Althing

A quarterly publication of the
Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands
in the
Kingdom of Æthelmearc

Located in these modern times in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

Upcoming Events

Business Meetings

First Wednesday of even months, 8pm

See debatablelands.org for Zoom link

Baronial 50th Birthday

5/25, Baden, PA (see p 4)

Equestrian event/Guild Hall

6/8, Beaver Falls, PA (see p 5)

From the Seneschal

Hi all,

I just took over as Seneschal for our Debatable Lands last month. Why? Yeah, I've been asked that, including by myself! Seriously, it's because I love our barony. And it's been clear since I joined the SCA 19 years ago that we run on service. If I want us to stay this awesome, it's my turn. And it's something I can do.

But I can't do anything without all of you. Please, I want to hear from you, about what's great and about what's not great. Yes it's a platitude, but we are what we make ourselves as a group. If you want to be more involved, but aren't sure where to start, we can talk. There are so many many things happening and plenty of opportunities for service, community, and fun.

Here's one area for participation that isn't talked about much. Our business meetings happen every other month, on the first wednesday. The next one is this week, April 3rd. The details of the zoom room will be shared that day on Storfrettr, our web blog. Who can participate? Anyone. If you have new business to bring up please talk to me ahead of time. Who can vote? Usually everyone, although there are a few things, per policy, that will be specified as officer only votes.

I am also looking for deputy seneschals. If you are interested in helping keep things running, please talk to me.

So, in summary- please talk to me! And if it takes several times before I remember your name, I'm a bit face blind and bad with names- it really isn't about you.

Salve Acolens! Hello neighbor!

Ceindrech

From the Exchequer

There are several news items from the exchequer. First we had two profitable events in the last quarter, Agincourt and Investiture. I am currently working on the Q4/year-end financial report for the Barony. Thanks to folks who filled turned in inventories. I haven't received all the inventories that I should have and will nag the responsible parties for those inventories.

There will be the annual budget meeting in April so you should consider what budget requests to make for loaner equipment, sites for practices or meeting, equipment or supplies that need to be replaced.

I am looking for one or more person to train to be an exchequer, I have more than a year left in my current term, so there is plenty of time to train someone. The basic qualifications are that you should have access to a computer and can handle filling in spreadsheets. You are required to keep accurate records, to collect receipts, nag people yearly for inventories of Barony property, to fill out checks, get second signature, deliver checks in person or by mail, and to file event reports, and financial reports ON TIME. You do not need to run troll for events, but you do need to check the totals and money collected by troll and reservations and deposit those funds in a timely manner. You also need to run or help run the annual budget meeting where folks review the requested funds and the financial committee votes on the items and amounts. If you are interested in learning more, please contact exchequer@debatablelands.org.

Speaking of requested funds, that brings me to the next item. What can the SCA pay for and what can't the SCA pay for? Gifts and booze is the short answer, but there is a little more that I should say. Because of IRS regulations on gifts, the SCA policy is that no money can be spent on gifts or the materials that are made into gifts. This is why scrolls and other award items are donations. In addition the gifts to newcomers are donations. Site tokens are not gifts if they are paid for by the event's budget. Hospitality baskets for royalty are gifts.

For more information on the SCA gift policy see

<https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/giftgiving.pdf>.

So to finance gifts, especially scribal work, private fundraising is the recommendation. Private means that the fundraiser is identified as private not SCA fundraiser and the funds are not deposited to SCA account.

The SCA cannot buy alcohol that will be drunk, but it can pay for alcohol that is used in cooking a dish. The SCA also cannot pay for an alcohol site fee. Policy for alcohol is discussed in the SCA seneschal handbook:

<https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Seneschal-Handbook-0421.pdf>.

More now regarding inventories, which I mentioned earlier. If SCA money is used to buy an item, then it becomes SCA property. Likewise if an item is donated to the SCA it is now SCA property. Note that donations must be approved. SCA property must be inventoried yearly with name, quantity, condition. If the item location is not in the keeping of Baronial officer or post, the full contact information for the person holding items must be recorded. For details on inventory requirements see

http://bmdl.org/resources/policies-and-forms/downloads/BMDL_Financial_Policies_FINAL_Dec2023.pdf.

Court Report: Debatable Lands Twelfth Night

January 27, AS 58 (2024)

Debatable Lands Twelfth Night

Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands

The report of the Court of Baronessa Violeta and Praetoria Prima, ninth Baronage of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, held on the 27th day of January Anno Societatis 58 at the celebration of Twelfth Night in the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, as recorded by Gwendolyn the Graceful, Brehyres, Meistr-y-gân, Comet Pursuivant, with the assistance of Lord Sebastian Mora.

Their Excellencies greeted Their Majesties and thanked the populace for attending, and all the event staff for their efforts to make the day a success, including in no particular order, and not limited to: Lady Arthes MacLeod and The Honorable Lady Elss of Augsburg, event stewards, Lady Elinor Walden for running the Arts & Sciences display and Baronial Championship, Cadence and Lady Dorothea Stark Schutze for tending the potluck, the Brewers' guild for the bar, The Honorable Lady Ceindrech for organizing the Snowball Fight and Salted Fish frivolities, Lord Skjoldr Bjorn for support and assistance, as well as running the bardic circle, Master Alaric for organizing musicians and Brehyres Gwendolyn for running dance. Lord Niall Mac Raedwulf for running the Auction of Desirable Things, Hara-Shonagon Kikumatsu for running troll, the entertainment of The Debatable Choir and i Genesii (the greatest Commedia del' Arte troupe in the Known World!), and many others who served throughout the day.

Their Excellencies then gave leave to The Honorable Lady Elss of Augsburg to address the populace. Her Ladyship announced the winners of the categories in the Cookie Competition: for Populace Choice: Vanilla Coconut Chai Meringues; for Their Excellencies' Choice: the Butter Mochi; His Majesty's Choice: Great-Grandma's Sugar Cookies; and Her Majesty's Choice: the Peanut Butter Turtle Bombs. The Honorable Lady Silence de Cherbourg, chronicler, encouraged all the bakers to submit their recipes to the Althing.

Following this, Their Excellencies asked Lady Elinor Walden to speak about the Arts & Sciences display. The Honorable Lady Silence de Cherbourg was recognized for her dyed yarns as the Populace's Choice. Her Excellency Violeta spoke of the difficulty in choosing an Arts and Science champion due to the excellent quality of all the entries, and indeed Praetoria Prima revealed that the

choice had been a source of argument between them. Though it was a difficult decision, Their Excellencies arrived at a compromise, and therefore asked Alric Smið to serve as Their Champion, and The Honorable Lady Lisabetta de Rossi to stand as second.

Next, Their Excellencies received Morikawa Rei, and recognized her by mutual consent, a citizen of the Barony. Scroll illumination by Ishiyama-Shonagon Gentarou Yori'ie with calligraphy by Master Christofano Vecchione upon words by Her Excellency, Baronessa Violeta de Valencia.

Their Excellencies next sought Don Robert MacEwin of Thornhill and awarded him a Hematite Comet (martial) in recognition of his continued excellence in fencing. Scroll by The Honorable Lady Rachel Daliceux, upon words by Baron Alaric MacConnal.

Following this, Their Excellencies sought The Honorable Noble Katerina das Vogelein, and recognized them with a Lapis Comet (arts & sciences) for their service as Arts & Sciences champion and their skill and industry in the arts of blackwork and Landknecht men's fashion. Scroll by The Honorable Lady Lisabetta de Rossi.

Their Excellencies then invited Lady Elinor Walden and Hara-Shonagon Kikumatsu to address the populace about all the upcoming events within the Barony: Coronation (April 13); Barony 50th Birthday (May 30th), Equestrian Champs & Guild Hall (June 8), and Seven Pearls (August 24). All were encouraged to attend and to seek out Hara-Shonagon or Lady Elinor with any questions about how to help.

Finally, Their Excellencies thanked all scribes, wordsmiths, and largesse makers who contributed to the evening's court, and all retainers and guards who had served that day.

There being no further business, the Court of Their Excellencies was closed.

Faithfully submitted,

Gwendolyn the Graceful, Brehyres
Comet Pursuivant

Event Announcement: Baronial 50th Birthday

April 6th was the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands. To celebrate, we are planning a birthday party full of tournaments, displays, history, food and drink, entertainment, and a cookie table. We invite our populace, our friends, and neighbors to share the day with us. The birthday party will be held on Saturday May 25th at the barn at Old Economy, 5 Forcey Drive, Baden, PA 15005. The site is open from 9am to 9pm. Troll will close at 2pm.

Baronessa Violeta and Praetoria Prima want to choose their heavy, fencing, archery, and thrown weapons baronial champs that day. We are welcoming everyone to participate in the tournaments, but the winner of each tournament must be able and willing to be the barony champion at the Seven Pearls event.

In addition to the martial competitions, there is a Arts and Sciences display. See the post from Lady Elinor Walden.

We plan to have some birthday games, a sing-a-long, fabric dyeing, and a birthday pageant.

We plan to have a history display with video, pictures, memorabilia, and plenty of people with lots of stories about the good ole days. For all the retired officers, barons, baronesses, champs, and long time participants we welcome you to come and share your stories.

Now with all this activity you might work up quite a hunger and thirst. Not to worry. Master Alastar Scott MacCrummin and the Honorable Lady Elss of Augsburg have been planning a day of food from morning to evening. Our brewers are planning to ensure that we do not go thirsty.

See the event announcement:

<http://bmdl.org/events/2024-05-25%20Debatable%20Lands%2050th%20Birthday.php>

We will post more information as we make our detailed plans and have a schedule.

We look forward to seeing you at the celebration of 50 years of hard work and good fun.

Event Announcement: Equestrian, Guild Hall, and Japanese Iris Festival

There is a Barony 50th birthday party celebration on May 25th. There is another event just two weeks later. On June 8th there is an Equestrian, Guild Hall, and Japanese Iris Festival event. It will be held in the horse arena (F) and picnic shelters 2 & 3 at Bradys Run Park, 121 Brady's Run Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 (park map). There are two equestrian rings and trails for horses and riders to enjoy and compete with mounted archery, baronial equestrian champs, and jousting, weather permitting. You must contact Gesa von Wellenstein if you plan to bring a horse or participate in equestrian games gwellenstein@yahoo.com.

We are also inviting local and kingdom guilds as well as individual artists to fill our guild field. Bring your craft to share, demo, and teach. If you have a make and take project to offer, please come share that. The site has a big shelter where lunch will be served. That shelter has one 20 amp electric circuit that must be shared. There is also a water pump next to the lunch shelter. There are a number of shady spots and lots of room for pop-ups, tables, chairs, tarps or drop cloths and parking around the field for easy load and unload of your equipment and materials.

Here are a few activities that will be there:

There will be a Japanese metalworking class on sen-zogan, offered by a relative newcomer to the area. There will be woodworking make and take where you can make a wooden token. There will be a spinning demo where you can try spinning and learn more about it. An embroidery demo where you can embroider on a large framed piece. Brewers doing brewer stuff. I am not sure if they will be brewing, bottling, sharing and tasting, or all of the above. The archery guild will be there and the clothiers guild will both be there.

We invite more artists and guilds to join us. The class & guild coordinator is Lady Finé Failain. If you want to join us, please fill out this form so we reserve space for you. Contact information for Lady Finé is listed on the form if you have additional question.

THL Elss of Augsburg is preparing a bento box lunch. Contact Elss of Augsburg, elss.of.augsburg@gmail.com, by June 1st with any dietary restrictions or requests for gluten free, vegetarian, or vegan meals. The autocrat for this event is Hara Shonagon, Sharon Booth, 1105 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232, 412-441-1607, sbooth@sbooth.net. This is a land line, no text. The event announcement on barony website will have a detailed site map and schedule closer to the day.

Their Excellencies of the Debatable Lands

Baronessa Violeta de València
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Praetoria Aurelia Argentia Prima
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Their Royal Magesties of Æthelmearc

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Queen Juliana Delamere
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Their Royal Highnesses of Æthelmearc

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Princess Rioghnach ní Rose
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Officers of the Debatable Lands (Term End)

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Comet Pursuivant (8/24)
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Knight Marshal (10/25)*
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Arts and Sciences Minister (4/25*)
Ishiyama Gentarou Yori'ie
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Exchequer (6/25)
Hara Shonagon Kikumatsu
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Chronicler (12/25)*
Silence de Cherbourg
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Webminister (4/25)
Niall Mac Raedwulf
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Master of the Lists (2/24)
Skjoldrbjorn (interim)
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Chatelaine (6/24)
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* - second term; cannot renew

Baronial Positions and Deputies

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PUBLICATION

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SUBMISSIONS

Any gentle wishing to submit articles, artwork, poetry, etc. to the Althing is invited to do so. Please send your work to the Chronicler. All material in the Althing is copyrighted to the individual contributors. The Chronicler reserves the right to edit, refuse, or reprint any submissions. The Althing's submission deadline is generally the 15th of the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December). Send your contributions to chronicler@debatablelands.org for inclusion in the next issue.