

## Adiantum Baronial Council Minutes, January 23, 2023

Start time: 7:05

End time: 8:30

Meeting held via Zoom

**Attendees:** , Ailia'ntha of William's Keep, Yseult, Finngall, Brynjarr, Isis, Murchadh, Avina, Katherine, Wulfric, Muirenn, Alejandro Romero, Noanld, Mearwynn, Alan, Gillian, William, Cyeth, Asgerdr, Hrodnavar, John Wayland, Eoghan O Cleirigh, Johanna. Rowen Prowett, Hauk Bjarnarson, Gundahar, Araina Ga'ul, Enid, Thorholfr, Jacob

**WORDS from Their Excellencies Brynjarr and Isis** – Thank you for showing up, 12<sup>th</sup> Night was amazing. We went to TP's event last weekend; it was great.

Thanks to everyone who helped put the window panels away at 12<sup>th</sup> Night. We'll be at Ursulmas next weekend, Their Majesties An Tir & West, and Their Highnesses of three principalities will be there.

**WORDS from the Seneschal** – Looking forward to 3 years with you. Last weekend I was in Polk County at a falconry meet – looking forward to more of that!

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Night final report, Yseult & Emma:**

This is the narrative part of the report. We had about 680 people through gate, which included 16 comps (royals, officers, champions) and 36 minors. Our net income is approximately \$8,387 with Adiantum's share approximately \$3,354.

#### **Challenges - What challenges did you face with this event?**

#### **How would you avoid these challenges?**

- There are too few rooms for everyone attending 12<sup>th</sup> Night to stay at the event hotel, Valley River Inn.

This has always been true at this site (we held 12<sup>th</sup> Night here in 2009, 2011, 2015, 2020). However, the public areas of the hotel – lobby, 3 ballrooms (divisible into meeting rooms), additional meeting rooms, and the post and beam architectural style – are perfect for an SCA event.

**An Tir needs to clarify whether providing lodging at the event site for everyone is a priority for an event bid.** There is nothing in the An Tir Crown and Kingdom Event Policy document available on line that says that a 12<sup>th</sup> Night site must provide any lodging, yet it seems to be common practice to hold the event in large hotels with lots of rooms, hotels that cater to modern, for-profit conventions. And such hotels only occur in the Seattle and Portland metro areas.

**We also need to discuss whether we want 12<sup>th</sup> Night to be like a convention with people in garb walking around in a modern venue with no decorations or an SCA experience in a decorated venue.** This decision needs to be expressed in a clear, and detailed policy that sets accurate expectations for potential event hosts, event stewards, and the populace. Maybe we want some of both, but if so, we need to manage people's expectations so that they are clear which experience is on offer.

If the Kingdom prefers a "convention" style in a large hotel, then the cost of attendance will have to reflect the financial realities of that commitment – per the latest 12<sup>th</sup> Night bid, that's a \$12,000 hotel with \$23 a day parking fee in the greater Seattle area. An Tir will probably need to raise the event fee for 12<sup>th</sup> Night at such a site if it hopes to realize any profit. This will likely make attending the event out of reach of many members of the populace, particularly those who are traveling any distance. High hotel costs cut into the ability of the Kingdom to make money on the event and support itself.

**Another issue that needs discussion is how to manage expectations in order to get people to travel to Kingdom events**, especially 12<sup>th</sup> Nights, outside of the Seattle or Portland metro areas. People in these metro areas are reluctant to drive beyond their immediate areas, which means that we have under-attendance when 12<sup>th</sup> Nights are sited in the Inlands region or in the Summits or Tir Righ – and thus less income for the Kingdom. In fact, Tir Righ seems to no longer host 12<sup>th</sup> Nights.

We received a lot of criticism about our inability to house on site everyone attending the event. In this issue, we are dealing with people's expectations, and **the Kingdom needs to take a more pro-active role in helping to clarify and shape those expectations**. This is particularly pertinent with regard to what is an appropriate expectation of lodging for people arranging, helping with, and attending privately hosted vigils.

Our event hotel, Valley River Inn, released the hotel rooms for registration a day early. This was an error by one human being at VRI who may not even have realized they were making the error, but the event stewards bore the brunt of people's disgruntlement and "conspiracy theories" regarding alleged "you only got a room if you knew someone" and other lovely accusations for four months. (There were also many, many members of the populace who were understanding and supportive, and who cheerfully got on the hotel wait list, even knowing it was a quixotic chance at best that they would get a room.)

Queen Achaxe and Kingdom Seneschal Attia's support of the event team was very much appreciated, but what can we do to work on people's attitudes and lack of manners?? This ties back into the broader problem with expectations mentioned above.

Competition for spaces in the Valley River Inn could be handled by holding a room lottery. There would be no "land grab" rush on the rooms, and everyone would have an equal chance. One room chance per person. The changes necessary would be handled in the same way that the transfers and cancellations of rooms were handled this year, with much less pressure.

- Construction is currently underway on a second hotel at the Valley River location, basically across the parking lot. This could alleviate the reluctance to drive five or ten minutes to a different hotel, depending on costs and contracts.
- The current required calendar page for events is inadequate, ugly, and unhelpful to Event Stewards trying to communicate clearly with the populace. A reevaluation of the User end of the calendar page is urgently needed; the technical side, or the back end, is well done, but does not address the actual needs of the users.

### **What worked well at this event?**

**We delayed the room sign up until after September Crown Tourney** so that people who were on the new retinue would have a chance to get rooms at the event hotel. We would recommend doing this for 12<sup>th</sup> Night in future years. When people sign up for rooms 10 months ahead, there are far more room changes.

We had enough rooms for all the meetings requested, we have space for an indoor fighter practice on Sunday, the hotel set-up staff are a joy to work with, the hotel lets us decorate everything (including the staff who borrowed our Gold Key garb), and the Saturday evening Fête was a resounding success – lots of dancing, and people seemed to really enjoy the table decorating contest.

We had a good number of quality A&S displays from our Summits folk so that people from elsewhere in the Kingdom could see their work. We believe that Emma has developed a suggested 'best practices' system for working with publicity on the Kingdom Event Page and social media, and she will make a separate proposal about that for future events.

### **What would you do differently?**

I would make it clear that people who were not on the take-down crew should not take down the decorations at the end of the event. Although sincerely well-meaning, people taking down the faux stained glass and sorting it by size created 20+ additional person-hours of work sorting out hundreds of pieces that had to be re-matched with their companions before they could be properly stored.

If the hotel continues to be fussy about things like refusing to do the buffet dinners that they had promised us verbally, we will abandon all attempts to provide period food and simply post that there is a restaurant available on site. The chef was quite willing to work with us, but the general manager said that 'corporate' policy didn't allow for buffets unless we guaranteed a certain income from it (which the SCA can't do).

### **Notes on the site**

There is construction next to the hotel, and reliable sources indicate that it will be another hotel. That could solve our problems with the number of rooms available for the event!

### **Suggestions for next time.**

I have made a set of instructions for setting up and taking down the decorations that we use at this site. See above for suggestions about managing expectations on event location and the need for additional housing separate from the event hotel.

### **Etc.**

Our Gold Key officer garbed 9 newcomers and 16 hotel staff who wanted to be in garb in order to participate as they did their jobs. The staff love the SCA because we notice them, thank them, and treat them courteously.

Our Baronial Chatelaine, Dame Johanna, stepped in and ran the Chatelaine meeting when the Kingdom Chatelaine was unable to attend. She said they generated some really productive suggestions for improving the office.

A local TV station, KVAL, visited and filmed the main lobby, A&S displays and Merchant Hall. We had a nice 30 second spot on their 6 and 11 pm news shows – excellent positive name recognition and local publicity.

The Live Stream deputies and crew were made official event staff early on in the planning, making sure they were connected to the latest news and all the resources the event had available, including publicity, and helping to find volunteers.

The Silent Heralds were also invited to the Staff planning, and had access to the event resources that hopefully made their task easier. At the very least, they knew they were seen and valued, and where to turn for assistance.

This kind of connection worked well, and should be considered as a suggested Best Practice for events and event stewards in future events where Live Streaming and Silent Heraldry is part of the programming.

Active communication with the merchants, including publicizing their availability at the event and providing a place for their online presence could be found (if they had one). This appears to have been a successful approach for attendees and merchants alike

**Birthday Bash report, April 15, Wulfric:** OLD NEWS: April 15th, 2023, Primary site is Pleasant Hill Lutheran Church (the Yule site), with Murchadh's property (Birthday Bash 2022 site) as an alternate. Will be set up by the Sergeantry, Wulfric will be Event Steward under Murchadh's guidance. Proposed budget is \$200. Voted and approved in October with unanimous support. The event has been submitted to the Kingdom Calendar and approved, along with the crier. Archery, TW, Youth Archery Championships.

NEW NEWS: PHLC has confirmed that they are willing to have us again. Insurance waiver is being sent. Archery, Throwing Weapons, and new Youth Archery championships will be held at the event.

**Egil's Tourney report, May 26-29, Hrodnavar Hakonson: Steward/Advisor Emeritus:** Yseult of Broceliande **Location:** Lynx Hollow Park, Creswell, OR

With 12<sup>th</sup> Night behind us, Egils planning is ramping up. The autocrat team kickoff Zoom meeting is scheduled for Wed. Jan. 25 at 7PM. Invitations have been sent out.

It is my plan, to be stressed at the kickoff meeting, that each Area Lead and Baronial officer is expected to work the details of their respective areas outside of team and Baronial meetings. The Event Stewards are always available for advice/consultation/arbitration. In the interest of effectively using everyone's valuable time, group meetings should be used to report issues and progress, not thrash out minutiae.

Egils 2023, '24 and '25 are on the Kingdom Calendar. This is as far out as the website would allow.

The Seneschal is working on scheduling meetings with the Parks Office, hopefully to begin soon. The autocrat team is fully staffed except for one position:

Volunteer Coordinator. This person will be responsible for recruiting and tracking volunteers/hours during the event for maintenance chores including (but not limited to) checking trash cans, condition (and cleaning if necessary) of biffies, providing water for fighters, and general gofer jobs as needed to assist the autocrat staff. The lead will also coordinate the volunteer raffle. Anyone interested, please contact Hrodnavar.

While dealing with 12<sup>th</sup> Night's flaming chickens, Dame Yseult has also secured contracts for Egils' water and trash bin (Huzzah!). The water contract awaits the Seneschal's signature. One remaining contract needs to be secured ASAP.

Biffies: In 2022 we had 31 units (+3 sinks) to serve ~680 attendees (many left early due to weather) For 2023 we are planning for 850 attendees (and beautiful weather). In addition, we may be able to clear new camping areas, which may call for an additional biffie location. We propose to include three additional units + one additional sink. If we get them on the schedule now we could scale back the number as time draws closer (if necessary).

For site tokens we will use existing Egils stuff (t-shirts and towels). These are already paid-for, and just taking up space in the Baronial Storage unit. Best to use them up before they get moldy or something. Site tokens had been budgeted for \$500.

Hobbit John is coordinating prizes. Traditionally the main prizes are hand-made by residents of Adiantum. If you have the ability to produce suitable items, or provide a promissory, please contact him. This is a great way to have your skills seen by a Kingdom-wide audience. Link will be on the Egil's Staff Meeting event page.

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

**Open officer positions:** Youth Combat, Youth & Family Activities, Cut & Thrust, Social Media, Lists.

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**Arts & Sciences Aila'ntha of William's Keep:** Arts & Sciences has been inactive this last month, mostly due to my being ill and in part due to scheduling conflict with Yule and the mundane holidays.

I did manage to complete site tokens for 12th Night...barely. there are about 200 left after the event. And I will continue to make another 200 for sale at future events.

The future promises to be busy as I've already got commitments for classes on fabric stamping, Arrow fletching, making mead, singing. and more.

I am actively seeking an apprentice so that i might step down at the end of June.

Meeting will continue on alternate Sundays at 2pm as soon as I am well again. Feb. 5, A&S Social.\ Feb. 12 Scribal Intro by Tori, both in person and online. Info available on facebook and calendar

**Chamberlain, Yseult of Broceliande:** 12<sup>th</sup> Night stewards checked out most of the wall hangings and all of the Little Free Library for 12<sup>th</sup> Night. We will be putting back all of the materials we used at Yule and 12<sup>th</sup> Night on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

### **Pavillions**

We have had three pavillions donated to the Barony since last Egil's Tourney: a 10x14' light canvas pavilion from Master Alail and two car/garage type pavillions from Aila'ntha and my step-daughter – maybe 10x17'.

I propose that Alail's donation be used for classroom/display space for A&S.

I propose that we use the two car/garage type pavillions at gate –one each for gate and lands.

All three need work before they will be usable.

Get poles, ropes and stakes for the pavilion donated to Adiantum by Master Alail.

Acquire and assess the car/garage pavilion Aila'ntha donated to the Barony. May need a cover – approx. \$150?.

Acquire and assess the car/garage pavilion my step-daughter is donating to the Barony. May need a cover – approx. \$150?.

What if one of the car pavillions were re-rigged so that the long side had a rain fly/covered area in front of it so that we could set up 2+ lines for people checking in at gate? The other car pavilion could be used the normal way, with the smaller, open end available for lands check in at the front and the back of it curtained off as a money counting area for gate.

Hrodnavar is offering the barony a Panther pavilion at his cost (\$1500). I think we should seriously consider this for use at Archery. They need more cover for classes and spectators. In recent years archery has drawn more participants and viewers than any other martial activity.

I have several **tasks** ahead of me between now and Egil's Tourney:

Sort out the Barony's stakes from those belonging to others who loaned us pavillions for last Egils.

Work with Nathan Brakefield on getting a new axle installed in the archery trailer and redoing the electrical system. I don't have a cost estimate yet for that. Nathan said: "the cost [of materials] is seriously high. I wouldn't charge for labor, but the materials were outlandish. I will call again and see if they have come down any.."

Get the needed poles, ropes, stakes, and covers for the donated pavillions.

Update the Baronial inventory

Get lists from our officers, champions, and others in the Barony of any and all baronial property in their homes. I have a Kingdom form for this.

Please let Dame Johanna know whether or not you have an officer medallion or whether it needs repair.

**Chatelaine, Johanna Trewpeny:** Well, this was an epic month for the Chatelaine! Kingdom level events are not usually known for their newcomer attendance but ours always has more than expected! Having 12th night in a public space, especially an active hotel including a high end restaurant gave us a steady flow of people who were curious and interested about what we were doing. Even some of the staff were excited to wear garb and newcomer buttons. We had newcomers to the SCA and SCA members new to the area.

At this event I was proud to finally produce my Dream of making an interactive Chatelaine table which could help people even when the Chatelaine is in court or a meeting! Everyone can do their part to impact newcomers in a positive manner!

If you saw people wearing little green sprouts, that was the effect of a newcomer who started back in the summer and has been so excited, bringing people in, had a party where they made the little sprouts, and then started handing them out to people who were asking about them. She said they were “sprouting up” in the SCA! I asked to be an honorary member, and probably wear my little sprout!

There were quite a few visitors who received tours and we received a request for an interview, which then aired on the news. Extra thanks to Mistress Yseult of Brocelinde and Eobhan O’Clairegh who provided the interviewer with information.

In case you receive a request, it is the function of the Seneschal, Chatelaine, and event steward, to host the media. The media cannot wander around events without an escort. By SCA corpora, Royals are not allowed to be interviewed. This is to protect them, as there have been instances of unscrupulous media taking advantage of their graciousness.

I receive a pretty constant stream of people requesting information from the website survey. I thought it might be helpful to the officers to know the information that is being sent out to newcomers. If you have information that you would like me to share with those requesting it, please send it to me as I would be happy to update. Here is what is sent out:

Ahoy!

I am Dame Johanna, the Chatelaine Officer (newcomer greeter) for the Barony of Adiantum, in the Society for Creative Anachronism. Thank you for contacting us and filling out our survey! Welcome to our fun world of hands-on history!

If you're ready to get involved, we are an active, casual, and welcoming group that meets very regularly for all sorts of medieval activities. You do not need to be a paying Member of the SCA to attend our activities and events. However, one of the Membership perks is reduced fees for Events. You are invited to attend any of our Weekly Activities/Practices (no site fee) and while medieval garb is fun, it is not required.

We welcome you to join us at Events. These generally have a site fee, occur on weekends, and do require an “attempt” at medieval garb. Stretching from pre 900-1650 across Europe and known cultures there is a wide range of garb to choose from! We do have Gold Key (loaner garb) available until you get your own. While Gold Key MAY be available on site, it’s limited and first come first serve sort of deal and may be all gone depending on who shows up. The best way is to contact Gold Key at least two weeks before the event to arrange what you will need to be sure. Donations for garb use is welcome. [Adiantum.Goldkey@antir.org](mailto:Adiantum.Goldkey@antir.org)

Our website Calendar lists upcoming events and activities, but Facebook is the best place to get up to date info. We have two Baronial Facebook Groups: This page is the best place to get accurate info on what is happening and when. This group is where we discuss SCA-related topics.

I am best contacted by phone, so my “Personal Herald” is at your service to contact me at 541.556.6619 You’ll hear my nautical greeting: “Ahoy! You’ve reached ‘Shawna’s Phone’..... but shhhhhhhh, that name is a secret. ;) The name I use is a translation of my modern name. Everyone knows me as Dame Johanna in the SCA. You are also welcome to text me questions if that is easier.

During the Pandemic we added ZOOM functions to some of our meetings so check carefully online or contact the person in charge to see if it is an in-person meeting or an extremely anachronistic online meeting. (Just imagine how shocked the medieval people would be that we are spending our technological advances learning about their daily lives!)

We have many Weekly Activities meeting on a regular basis for you to enjoy! Here is the current lineup:

Arts & Sciences night is a great time to get to know people, and learn or practice skills. It is currently Sunday at 2PM in East Springfield.

Scribal happens monthly and is an opportunity for all skill levels to learn the art of illuminating manuscripts by helping make the awards with which our Barony says ‘Thank You’ to its hard working volunteers.

**Thrown Weapons and Archery**, Darts and Atl-atl are held just outside of Dexter at Murchadh’s Farm (pronounced mer-cod)

**Fighter** Practice for armored combatants and rapier (live steel) fighters is also happening in Eugene/Springfield, please check Facebook for current location and time.

Spectators and new participants are welcome at all our martial activities so come check things out and ask questions to get involved! Loaner gear is available for most martial activities but it helps if you make requests ahead of time for heavy fighter gear, rapier gear and archery gear, so that we can be sure someone has it available for you.

We're a pretty fun bunch; come join us! You may contact Dame Johanna directly for more detailed information; I am happy to help.

**Chronicler, Yseult of Broceliande:** I took notes at the December Council meeting and posted them to the baronial chat group and sent them to the Web Minister for posting on the baronial web page. The next BiCranial Bear should be out before next Council meeting.

**Exchequer, Asgerdr Audsdottir:** Bank balance 12/31/22: \$10,598.68 Bank balance Jan. 23: \$16,689.37

12<sup>th</sup> Night: Books are closed and balanced, net profit of approx. \$8,660; our share will be about \$3,460. We're waiting on the PayPal portion being reconciled (by Kingdom), our fee being calculated, and a check cut. Then we'll finalize and send the Kingdom's share to them (about \$5,200). PayPal worked well, about half of the gate fees were paid by card. We'll be using it for Egils, but not using the PayPal pre-reg/pre-pay option.

**Gold Key, Helen Louise Gaskyn:** Gold key helped 10 individual make garb this month and loaned 12 hotel staff and 9 newcomers garb at 12th night.

**Herald, Flngall McKetterick:** My main activity since last Council was to herald the first baronial court of Brynjarr and Isis at Twelfth Night, where they received oaths of fealty and service from those officers and members of the Sergeantry there present.

My inbox is always open for consultation on new or in-progress heraldic submissions, either via Facebook (Michael Ehli) or by email ([mehli@efn.org](mailto:mehli@efn.org))

Looking ahead, we are expecting to welcome heralds from around the Known World to Egil's to attend Their Majesties' elevation of Elisabetta Tomasso di Carducci to the Order of the Pelican. If there are details which may become pertinent to Egil's staff, I will share them as I get them.

**Lists, Acacia:** Nothing to report

## **Marshals**

**Archery, Alan Bowyer:** Nothing to report. Murchadh and Eoghan are working on a bracer as regalia for the Youth Archery Champion.

**Armored Combat, Wulfric Marinus:** One injury was reported from the 12<sup>th</sup> Night practice. Sverre Tjorkillson has submitted the paperwork to Principality Marshal, as well as informed the 12<sup>th</sup> Night steward. I am in possession of a copy of the report sent up. Practices in January have been much larger than the last few months with crowds numbering up to the twenties. No injuries have occurred at Thursday practices.

**Cut & Thrust:** office is vacant

**Rapier, Hauk Bjarnarson:** Happy to see more people out at practice. I personally have been quarantined due to illness more weeks than I would have liked but it sounds like people are having a good time. 1 marshal and approx. 12 active participants in the area.

**Thrown Weapons, Eoghan Ua Cléirigh** - Practices have been held Monday evenings, 4:00 – 7:00pm, and alternating Saturdays 12:00 – 16:00, at the Dexter Range, and are coordinated with Archery practices as weather allows. Practices are also adjusted so as not to conflict with Events. Practices have been well attended: eight to twelve people with several new throwers and a couple active youth throwers. Scores have been reported and no injuries or accidents have occurred. The Baronial Trailer is located in Dexter. All hitch and door locks are on the trailer and Murchadh has custody of the keys. Thrown Weapons is set up both in the barn and outside adjacent to the archery range in Dexter.

**Youth Armored Combat:** office is vacant

**Scribe, Gillian FitzGilbert:** Greetings from the baronial scribe. My main news is that Muirenn O'Cleireigh, mka Katie Kelm, has agreed to be my deputy. Hurrah! Additionally, I am planning my schedule for the next few months. They'll be on Sunday afternoons at 2, alternating weeks with Bonnie's A&S meetings. And I'm planning an Intro to Scribal class to be held on Feb 19th as an A&S meeting.

**Seneschal, Murchadh Monaidh Chroaibhe:** We have another successful 12<sup>th</sup> Night behind us and Baronial succession is complete. We welcome Brynjarr and Isis as Baronial Coronets. For those who missed the opportunity to swear fealty or service at 12<sup>th</sup> Night, there was some confusion as to when Court actually broke for lunch. There will be opportunities at Birthday Bash and Egils for officers, champions, sergeantry, and the populace for oaths.

The last critical piece of transition is the Bank Signature Card, which I am working with the Exchequer to update. As anyone who has been through this will tell you, dealing with the banking processes is always challenging.

I've been in contact with the State Parks and am exploring options to strengthen our relationship with them to ensure our long-term relationship, ensuring Lynx Hollow Park improvements and availability without being priced-out. I had hoped to have a proposal before the populace by the end of the year but finding a good time to meet with the Park manager has been complicated by vacation time and illness. I have received the current contract form for Egils and will continue to pursue a meeting at the earliest opportunity.

As the Social Media Officer is a direct report to the Seneschal, I will include that information in my report until the position is filled.

**Social Media, Murchadh Monaidh Chroaibhe:**

**Web Minister, Katherine of the Lakes:** I have kept the website updated this month. I have also reached out to the Principality Webminister for approval on making an Egil's Website. They have responded that they have reached out to Kingdom and are waiting for a response. I have also reached out to the Barron and Baroness about providing a welcome statement for the home page of the website. I also sent the Seneschal my recommendation for a barony camera.