

## Moot of Their Majesties Edouard and Genevieve

May 20, 2005 at Ragnarok

Greetings from Keja

Reading of Kingdom Law - article 10, creation and advancement of branches

Matters to bring forward

Etaoin - request for Brief of synopsis of Canadian Incorporation Issue

Current Status:

- An oversight group is looking at different provinces to see if there should be a corporation separate from the US
- East coast and West coast are in favour

Comments from the Lawspeaker:

- The majority of Ealdormere seems either apathetic or strongly in disagreement. Keja would like to get a more concise view. Incorporation on our own means we handle everything ourselves memberships, publications, insurance, fees, taxation. There are still several unknown issues:
- Provincial laws are different with regards to incorporation.
- Keja cannot speak for other provinces, most people she's spoken to don't seem to feel that there is an insurance issue, but will it be as inexpensive as our current coverage?
- Taxation laws across provinces are different.
- We would have to incorporate separately as a non profit
- We would have to have own board and affiliation with the US SCA Inc. (Baroness Adrielle: affiliation agreement will need to be signed for intellectual property reasons)
- Concerns were raised about Kingdoms that cross borders, those kingdoms have newsletters, cross border delivered
- Does Ealdormere have an opinion?

Comments:

- We get a bargain - we wouldn't be able to afford staff to pay with the current membership in levels in Canada, which would mean the office would have to be staffed by volunteers.
- Western provinces they feel that they're ignored
- Unless we get more, better, or more worthwhile services as a result of the change, why should we change?
- The comment was made "Why make work for ourselves?"
- Concerns were raised, about what advantages there are to incorporation, and why we haven't heard them yet.
- It was brought forward that if it's the western provinces that want to incorporate, why aren't they leading it? Concerns were raised that the western provinces had not thought through the matter.

- It was noted that those who are spearheading this argument are looking for input..if Ealdormere doesn't say something incorporation will likely go ahead whether we want it do or not.
- It was noted that the BOD is not pushing this venture. The BOD will support us if we go ahead, but there is no possibility of insurance through head office having split off. We would need to obtain our own insurance and the US insurer has made it clear that they would not be interested in adding more not-for-profit groups to its policy.
- Currently there are 2 incorporations out east, and 5 out west
- The comment was raised that there is no proof yet that we can do it better than is done already.
- The question was raised: If the east and west want to do it, why do we have to?
- The suggestion has come forward that it should be a "Canadian" Corporation.
- The corporations that currently exist in Canada violate copyright with the SCA.
- The western corporations have travel insurance but not 3rd party liability.
- It was noted that the current corporations were trying to correct problems they were perceiving with Milipitas by incorporating but did so illegally.
- The question was raised: What is the benefit?
- Is the current movement a gut reaction.not wanting US to have to deal with THEM?

#### Historical reference:

- Many kingdoms are incorporating because they feel that there are issues surrounding the validity to US non-profit status in Canada.
- It was noted that Australia, Finland and Sweden are all incorporated - has anyone talked to them, has it helped?  
(Adrielle: They incorporated out of necessity especially Australia having specific mundane laws that SCA-US does not cover)
- Has anyone investigated insurance, and how it relates to going to events outside our incorporation?  
(Clarification: The SCA insurance is not personal to members.it's 3rd party liability)
- It was noted that this is not a new concept, that this matter has previously been raised and met with limited enthusiasm in the past.
- We would have a reciprocal agreement with the SCA Inc. if we incorporated. Which would mean the following:
  - Memberships will be mutually acknowledged
  - Awards would be mutually acknowledged.
  - We would still have input to corpora, because we are bound by corpora, but no seat on the board. (But we would have our own BoD)
- Concerns were raised about the collection of GST.
- It was noted that organizations that have cash flow in excess of \$50K are legally obligated to collect and charge GST. How would this affect our status as a non-profit group?

- Concerns were raised about PST and how that would enter into the equation as PST is different across Canada.
- All money back and forward might be GST taxable; there would be bookkeeping issues and insurance issues. If a not-for profit organization or Trust receives a large donation, federal law requires that money to be spent within a certain amount of time. How that would apply to us is a question.
- Right now we don't make an impact on Revenue Canada, that would change.
- The comment was raised that instead of putting our energies into incorporation, we should put more effort into putting individuals who will represent Canadian interests on the BOD.  
(Adrielle commented that Canada has good representation at the moment)
- The BOD is on the receiving end of some criticism at the moment because there are people who think we're being forced into it.

A show of hands was requested by Keja:

- Show of hands for incorporation: none
- Show of hands against incorporation: 23
- Show of hands for those who want more information before making a decision: 7

SCA's current operating budget is just under 1million dollars a year. This amount includes: full time employees, part time employees, officers, travel costs for BOD members, office expenses, legal expenses and insurance (insurance costs use almost half of the total budget).

There was a request for a clarification of the concept of 3rd party liability insurance and what it really does cover. The SCA is fully covered under 3rd party liability and is covered in the entirety of Canada. Our limit is \$2 million. This figure also includes BOD member liability.

Concerns were raised about differences between Canadian and American insurance.

There were no further comments from the floor, and the discussion was tabled pending the receipt of further information.

The next subject was the law revision as it appears in the May issue of the Tidings.

As was discussed at Feast of the Bear this past fall, the current law revision would make membership a requirement for all persons over the age of 16 entering into tournaments at events. This would include A&S competitions, Royal Tourneys, Fencing Tourneys and Archery Royal Rounds, IKAC rounds and Royal Tournaments.

The end of May is the deadline for comment.

A synopsis of the current law was given.  
Comments:

- Currently, in rapier tournaments, combatants can be authorized at 14, this revision talks about individuals 16 and over. Would the 14 years olds be legally able to compete in tournaments?
- There is a feeling that this won't accomplish what it's designed to accomplish - because people will feel additionally taxed
- reply - Those who are currently involved in service positions (Event Stewards, officers etc) have to have memberships, why should it be different for anyone else?
- We are spoiled as membership group, we let people be involved without paying for memberships. Very few other groups that will let you walk into the door without one.
- What about Awards???. Should we require membership to receive them?
- Reply: This is not practical because we don't have a database of members
- It was commented that members of the order of the Chivalry, the order of the Laurel and the order of the Pelican should be members.
- The concept of a grace period was raised. There was a reply that a grace period should just be for minors.
- There was some frustration expressed that this move is looking to people like students who are scraping together money as it is and that we are asking them to pay more? It's about taking care of everyone, not just those who pay.
- It was pointed out that the cost of joining the SCA is less than a cost of a case of beer. People should be able to afford it if they can get a [fighting] kit together.
- It was commented that we have to make it easy for people to buy memberships to get them to do it.
- Reply: With the current availability of online membership, there isn't a way to make it any easier.
- Concerns were raised that this would be unwieldy to manage, that it would be too difficult with the ebb and flow of event participants during the day.
- The comment was raised that with respect to awards, everyone should be considered on an equal footing, if they have a membership or not.
- It was noted that most tournaments have a sign up table, so should not be a difficult process to manage.
- The comment was raised that with armoured combat tournaments a check of authorization cards should already be happening, this would not add an additional step.
- Reply: This happens in theory, but it's not always done.
- It was noted that membership checks weren't done for a long time and now it's standard practice across the kingdom.
- It was commented that awards should not be delayed for membership, because many people participate long before they become members.
- What about 16 year olds who don't have the financial ability?
- The question was raised: Would incorporation decrease the cost of membership?
- Reply: Not likely, as our costs would most likely rise.
- It was noted that the point of increasing memberships is to keep the SCA going.
- It was requested that those with concerns should write to Their Majesties please! (Electronic mail is acceptable)

- There were no further comments and the discussion was tabled.

Further comments:

What's happening at Pennsic?

Unbelted champions tourney after opening ceremonies

Ealdormere court has been booked

We're fighting with the Midrealm (we're not going up the hill this year! There was much rejoicing.)

Their Majesties thanked those present for their attendance and comments. It was requested that comments regarding the law change be forwarded to their Majesties as soon as possible, and Award recommendations were also requested.

Keja thanked everyone for their comments and concerns, questions regarding Kingdom law or Incorporation should be addressed to Keja. It would be preferable to have a consensus of opinion within Ealdormere on the subject of incorporation. We will need volunteers to check into various issues.

The moot was ended. Thanks to all.