

Moot of Their Majesties – Aaron & Rustique
Wassail – December 15, 2001

Law: Article IX – Honours of Ealdormere

Words from Their Majesties Aaron & Rustique

Greetings and Welcome. The Kingdom's budgeted expenses per year are about \$500 more than current income. We need ideas on fundraising as a Kingdom for the Kingdom. Thanks must be given to the Barony of Ramshaven who have been donating half of the profits from all of their events, not just those run as Kingdom events. An idea which was suggested was adding \$1 to all site fees to be given to the Kingdom.

Rules of the Moot from the Lawspeaker:

If you wish to make a comment, raise your hand and wait to be added to the order of acknowledged speakers.

Clarification on fundraising from the Kingdom Exchequer:

We have been fundraising together for the special purpose funds of the Kingdom. However we have not been fundraising for the Kingdom General Fund which pays for the year in year out expenses. I have asked each of the Barons and Baronesses to ask their Baronies to commit to raising \$200 for the Kingdom future fund. I would like to see us aim to raise about \$1000 year for the general Fund, plus \$1000 for the future fund, plus continue to fundraise for these special purpose funds.

The general discussion raised the following points:

- possibility of recognition of those who do fundraising
- we should all be fundraising
- Exchequer letter in the Tidings each month thanks people & groups who fundraise
- tangible thanks work better
- we need to set up ongoing fundraising, like the proposed \$1 fee per event
- organizations give either tax writeoffs or recognition, because that is what they can give
- we should be thinking of creative ways to fundraise. Auctioning services, physical items, anti-auctions, where you get things for your money. There may be mundane possibilities as well
- can the consolidated Balance Sheet for the Kingdom showed all of the groups having a problem or just the Kingdom itself
- the overall (all groups) cash position and assets grows better each year. It is the Kingdom which is decreasing
- membership – challenge the members to write cheques to the Kingdom (*clarification from the K. Seneschal that we cannot require this)
- Pont y Saeth used to split their event profits 25% to Barony and 25% to Kingdom
- moneys raised for the Kingdom could be split 50-50 between the Kingdom and the Royal Travel fund

- called for the attention of the people talking in the merchants area; pointed out we were discussing a levy of \$1 on all events

The Kingdom Lawspeaker asked if there was consensus on this idea – answer from the people present was yes, however, the Kingdom Exchequer clarified that the Kingdom cannot impose this. Groups could implement this on a voluntary basis.

- groups keeping good balances should consider donating to the Kingdom
- wee shires cannot do as much

The Kingdom Exchequer pointed out that the Kingdom was grateful for the donations we receive, we're not asking groups to put themselves in hardship.

Wrap up:

Think about Fundraising for the General fund;
Autocrats should think about adding \$1 to their site fees and put in the flyer that they have done so

Return to a previous topic: Events in the Kingdom on the same day

Currently, events may not conflict with Kingdom Events however there is no restriction regarding other conflicts. The only current control is the booking of the event through the Kingdom Calendar Secretary. A proposal was put forward that 12th nights should be allowed to conflict, local events & their traditional dates should be considered sacrosanct, or their permission should be needed for another event to conflict, all other events should be first come first serve.

It was pointed out that distance requirements should come into consideration for any change to future laws regarding conflicts. It was suggested that we should support events by bringing money into their areas, we should have one event per weekend, or hold events on different days on the same weekend. However, Shires are competing to get people to attend already, and shouldn't have more competition against them. Exclusivity makes events more successful according to experience.

The Kingdom Lawspeaker inquired of the Baron and Baroness of Skraeling Althing to whether or not having more than one event affect attendance at a Skrael event. The answer was that it depended on how far away the conflicting event was being held. If it was in Windsor, then no effect was usually felt, but if it was in the heartland such as Eoforwic, there probably was a decrease in attendance. It was pointed out that there are 35-40 groups in the Kingdom, about 40 weekends per year suitable for events. This limits each group to one event per year.

The consensus was that instead of changing law a guideline should be developed in the form of a policy to allow for conflicts in certain situations, such as events with widely differing themes (except 12th nights). The guidelines could include things such as distance or time restrictions, but it needed to be reasonable.

Site conflicts may often limit dates and make double booking a necessity. Groups must be more considerate of each other and work together. It was pointed out that the current policy requires

that groups who want to conflict must discuss it and both agree before the Calendar Secretary could book it, but that doesn't seem to be working. The guidelines must allow for flexibility, and groups should try to think beyond the traditional form of events. It was also pointed out that there are many events on the calendar. Perhaps groups that have more than one traditional event should cut back in favour of younger smaller groups. Perhaps the answer is to change our expectations of what is a 'successful' event and plan for smaller events, meaning that a conflicting event of a different theme or in a different area will not 'break' or 'ruin' an event that wasn't expecting over 200 people to begin with.

Closing Comments:

Their Majesties thanked the populace for attending, and agreed that the Council will visit the idea of 'conflicting events' in the future.