

Moot of Trumbrand and Kaylah November 10, 2007
Feast of the Hare

Opening of business,
Reading of Law 2-1000 – Procedures and Edicts

-The people were asked to bring forward any questions or issues they wished to discuss in the moot

Item -Concerns were raised regarding the application of Kingdom policies and regulations for minor combat vis a vis children's "playtime" and unsupervised children using weapons formatted similarly to youth combat weapons.

-It was felt that as all other martial activities in the kingdom are "supervised" that this activity should be monitored as well.

-The comment was made that children have been "playing at swords" previous to youth combat regulations being passed, and that organizing a "play" activity would lead to equipment being "built up" and that would remove the play element.

-It was noted that the SCA at the corporate level does not regulate "playing with pool noodles"

-The observation was made that if children are playing in their "own" space they should be supervised by their parents, and that parents should be supervising their children's play activities.

-His Majesty noted that a council meeting regarding Youth Combat and "boffers" was scheduled for Winter War.

-The comment was made that if adults were to indulge in "fist fighting" at an event that steps would be taken to prohibit the activity, and that perhaps children "fighting" should be supervised.

No further comments were forthcoming from the floor.

Item - The Kingdom Exchequer brought forward an item of business, to wit:

-The Kingdom of Ealdormere receives funding for the General fund through profit sharing of event income of Kingdom level events (Crowns, Coronations and Kingdom A&S) and through donations.

-Overall attendance at events has decreased, especially at the Kingdom level.

-The current kingdom yearly budget for operating expenses is approximately \$2000, with the Royalty Travel Fund incorporating \$500 of that amount.

-In order to run the kingdom effectively without shortfall the budget would need to increase to approximately \$5000 per year, with the Travel Fund increasing to a minimum of \$1000

-We are expecting Royalty to attend more events, but the kingdom budget has not increased in a significant length of time.

-Currently there are 4 different alternatives being employed through the Known World kingdoms to assist with this issue

- a) A local increase of the Non-Member surcharge (NMS) to \$5, with the two additional dollars going to kingdom funding;
- b) A “per head” tax at kingdom level events;
- c) Mandated profit sharing with groups hosting recurring events;
- d) A smaller percentage from *every* kingdom event going to the kingdom fund.

The question was given to the floor for comment.

-It was suggested that we should pay an equal amount as the American members of the NMS now that the dollar is at parity

-It was noted that the BOD has taken this step

-An additional point was raised by the Kingdom Exchequer that at one point funding shortfalls for the Tidings were covered by the mailing stipend received by the kingdom from the corporate office, as when the dollar was under par we were making some profit on the exchange. The change in the value of our dollar has negated this advantage.

-It was noted that many events are having difficulty “breaking even”, and it would be a large burden on some groups to expect to share what little profit they *are* making.

-It was suggested that groups who expected members of the royal family to attend events should pay an additional amount for that presence to fund the travel expenses.

-It was also suggested that perhaps the Royal Family should not be expected to attend all event.

-The suggestion was offered that most conventions build “guest speaker” fees into their attendance fees, and perhaps Royalty attendance at events could be covered in the same way.

-The observation was made that the debate was not just about the Travel Fund, but about the Kingdom General Fund, which benefits all members.

-It was noted that both the NMS “option” and the “profit sharing” option would be difficult for some groups to manage when struggling with attendance and not losing money at events.

-The return response was that groups who did not make money at an event would not be asked to share the returns.

-The observation was made that the Kingdom should not be funded on the “backs of non-members”. There was some dissent amongst those present who observed that this measure would further encourage attendees at events to purchase memberships, that members hold a leadership role and should be encouraged to promote more membership purchases within the kingdom.

-The suggestion was offered that those purchasing memberships might throw a “little extra into the pot” when they renew or purchase their memberships to assist funding.

-It was noted that “membership” money is sent straight to the Corporate offices and does not assist Kingdoms in the way that Ealdormere currently requires.

-An estimate of our current membership was requested, and an estimate of approximately 400 persons was offered by the Kingdom Exchequer.

-The question was raised that the Baronies might be asked to assist the kingdom financially either through their own funds or through fundraising efforts.

-It was suggested that the Kingdom newsletter be offered bi-monthly to save costs.

-Current SCA policy does not allow for less than once-monthly or electronic versions of the newsletter, but electronic newsletters is a project that is being considered.

-It was noted that kingdom officers are currently not claiming all their expenses and are funding many necessary officer activities (including travel, phone calls and postage) out of pocket.

-The suggestion was made that at events the “cup should be passed” to fundraise, and a “hat passing” was promptly started around the room.

-The generosity of our kingdom and its’ people was noted and thanked by the Kingdom Exchequer, who also pointed out that while “hat passing” was appreciated, the kingdom needed to have a budget upon which it could rely and that “hat passing” would not accomplish that goal.

(Though the donations were gratefully received.)

-The suggestion arose from the floor that a \$1 per head surcharge on all attendees, either at all events or perhaps just “major” events would be easier for more groups to deal with, would allow for more consistent budgeting, and would not rely on if an event made a profit in order to be obtained.

-This suggestion appeared to be well received.

As there was no further comment from the floor, a “show of hands” for the various suggestions was called for to establish what a general consensus might be so that the kingdom could proceed with planning future actions.

Support for the “NMS Surcharge” option – 4 hands

Support for the “Profit sharing across the kingdom” option – 6

Support for the “Profit split of specified events” option – 16

Support for the “\$1 per head” option – Majority of persons present.

- The question was asked how to issue a personal donation to the Kingdom.
- The Exchequer noted that such donations could be made through his office.

The Exchequer thanked all in attendance for their mature and reasonable behaviour during the discussion and for their generosity.

Item – It was noted that there had been a recent improvement of the quality of halls being used for events, and that this was something being very well received by the people in general.

Item – The Lawspeaker requested input on the frequency of kingdom Moots, noting that the “summer” moot often takes place during Trillium War, which makes getting to all groups in the kingdom an option only in the Winter, thus making it difficult to make sure all groups get fair access to the Moot process.

-It was noted that “rotating” the location of both Summer and Winter moots would assist the kingdom in hearing voices who were often not heard.

-The autocrat for the next Trillium War observed that scheduling the timing for the moots was often challenging and it would be “nice not to have to think about it sometimes”.

-It was noted that having the moot at a “stable” event allows for persons who wish to ensure their attendance to plan well in advance.

-The suggestion was made that we have an event strictly to hold a moot.
-it was observed that such an event would not be “popular”.

-The question arose from the floor asking if we require 2 moots a year.
-It was noted that Kingdom law requires one moot per reign, and as we have two reigns per year that dictates two moots.

The discussion was tabled with no further commentary from the floor.

Any further comments or questions from the floor were petitioned.

-The Kingdom seneschal noted that all law changes are submitted to the Tidings for comment *prior* to being passed, but that commentary is frequently not forthcoming until after the law change has taken place. The Seneschal would encourage all people of Ealdormere to send commentary, preferably in writing, to either Their Majesties or to her office so that it may be reviewed prior to laws being passed. It was also noted by the Seneschal that saying “I like it” or “I DON’T like it” is justifiable commentary.

There were no further comments from the people.

The Moot was closed with Thank you's from Their Majesties and the Lawspeaker to all in attendance.