

Moot Minutes at Winter War, February 29, Anno Societatis 54, Reign of Kaylah IV and Trumbrand IV.

Present

TRM

TRH

Nicolaa - Lawspeaker

The Lawspeaker opened the meeting by reminding all to remove their symbols of rank, and stated that there were three agenda items suggested ahead of time. Anyone wishing to speak should raise their hand and she will put their name on the list. Sciath is taking minutes, and the session will be recorded. Minutes will be available in a couple of weeks.

TRM

- Thank you to everyone who came out to the event
- Some may be arriving late, hopefully they may be accommodated
- There will be a brief court after the moot to give the children assignments

Lawspeaker

- Not reading the law to start, so that we may be more concise in this session (have only 45 minutes)
- In an Icelandic Moot ,one third of the laws would be recited each year.

First Topic - Comic-Con, FanExpo, etc.... demos

- They have been done in various places across Ealdormere, Ottawa, Niagara, Toronto, Hamilton
- Question - How do we pay for this? Do we want to have a fund to help pay for this effort? Are these demos worthwhile?

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Kol

- As a kingdom we've seen some good practice and new members
- The associates that I have in the con crowd, that are not in the SCA, travel to cons. So, we can't leave the cost to individual branches. This can get expensive, so it makes sense to have funds from kingdom

Percival

- I know that it's hard to track, but is anyone tracking the new members?

Trumbrand

- There is some tracking. Rising Waters has three new members from a recent con

Elizabeth

- I first heard of the SCA through a comic-con
- You might not see immediate returns on con involvement, but repeated presence at cons does pay off, but needs kingdom involvement

Runa

- I agree with the proposal of a fund from kingdom. The people coming to the con are not necessarily in our area, but we're playing for the booth/table at the con, which is expensive.
- It's nice to have a fund to help with the entirety
- We don't get a return right away, it does take time, and it's a lot to go out with little to come back in right away
- It's about a five-year timeline before we see folks coming back
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Dmitri

- I think it's good because just judging on the numbers we have immediately, it's not a lot right away
- We're seeding the SCA in the community
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Rylyn

- How is the money going to go into said kingdom fund?
- The PC/Kingdom budget is already tight, and adding another fund is my concern. How does the PC determine if something is worthy of support from this fund?
- The other alternative is self-funding. Ppl raise money specifically for the purpose, and a council for that area determines how to spend that event.
- If we're looking at a kingdom fund, we will need to raise more money at events for kingdom

Kaylah

- The idea is to create a fund that people could donate to that could be used for demos.
- And fundraise for, like the commissariat, and the scribal college

Isabel

- I have a unique perspective as kingdom chatelain, I pushed for them, and then made them happen as kingdom seneschal at FanExpo. At FanExpo, the community booth was free, although individuals had to pay for themselves. We feel that's part of our volunteering
- For fundraising ideas: groups should also remember that holding events is to fund activities like this (fight practice, events, etc...).
- Skrael has been running the Geek Market for years, but they run smaller demos for a fee throughout the year to support the cost of the bigger demo. (e.g. Upper Canada demo)
- We need to think of ways to offset the cost of the larger demos
- Brand is negotiating to have the cost of Niagara Con lowered

Summary by the Lawspeaker: People believe that Comic Cons and the like are worthwhile to raise the level of knowledge about the society, to get exposure, to have a long-term plan to expect people. Yes, let's fundraise for it, but we need to figure out a way to raise funds to

participate in a comic con. We need track people from all over attending the con, to get a better idea of the potential impact across the sca

Rattanicus

- 100 000 ppl go through comic con go through the doors at FanExpo - that's a lot of exposure

Gema

- They are expecting double the attendance as last year at Niagara Falls Comic Con this year.

Topic 2: Fundraising

Lawspeaker: Not just for ComiCons;, fundraising, in general. Runa suggested the topic, she is the fundraising genius in Rising Waters. We want to hear from other people about what they're doing to raise funds in their group - local or kingdom. What have you done, what we can't do?

Runa

- Talking about comic con, we know fundraising has to occur. Fundraising may need to be at the kingdom level to have someone who can lead groups in fundraising. There are Society rules and kingdom rules, and I'm new to all of this, and I'm trying to figure out my way through all of it., There are limitations in these laws, and in Canadian laws.
- They don't like us reaching out for donations, but that's what I've been doing
- I'd like to see someone at kingdom level who understands the different rules around fundraising - falls under four different offices - seneschal, exchequer, chatelain, and media.
- Right now, there's a lot of delay in taking advantage of opportunities, without guidance in place

Orla

- Can there be a handbook to be available for all groups to use?

Kol

- I've been an exchequer at all levels, and I'm a cross-border chartered accountant
- In Canada, we are registered as a not for profit. We can accept donations, but cannot provide a receipt for tax purposes.
- For small donations, it's not usually a concern. The only restriction we have is around vehicles, items requiring legal registration, there are problems. However, cash donations are not an issue

Kaylah

- What I'm hearing is that we require a handbook. This would require someone as a deputy to Exchequer to write the handbook.

Kol

- Our fundraisers are a mess. We are our audience
- I get frustrated with raising funds where there are no purposes

Gerard

- Every time i look up a raffle or fundraiser, and the rules seem to fluctuate on how the rules are consistently applied

Runa

- The rules did change. We are allowed to have live auctions but no online auctions, or raffles where a gambling license is required.

Rylyn

- Bryniau Tywynnog's primary means of raising funds is to hold events. We've been lucky to get event sites at reasonable costs.

Rhys

- The problem I see is that we're bleeding our members dry in fundraisers. I'm currently working with VV on a fundraiser, who will pay us money for donations. This is the type of fundraising we need to explore, to get funds from outside our membership

Kol

- The reason society rules are opaque, is because Society encompasses countries across 57(ish) jurisdictions. What will apply in one place, won't apply elsewhere.
- Even though the SCA is a corporation, and we're a non-profit in Canada - we have to be careful to be sure that we are still within our rules

Runa

- We're trying to make it for the purpose of the group

Kol

- We have to be careful of IRS rules, as well. I'm not saying it can't be done.
- Coming up with a handbook may not answer all of the questions for individual cases

Dmitri

- Organizations don't really care about intention; they care about the paper. As a person who works in law enforcement, the level of scrutiny

Kol

- Because of the IRS rules, we had to change the rules of funding royalty room food/drink. Now this cannot be on an event budget.

Lawspeaker: Summary - the CRA and IRS are evil (laughter)... Having a person in kingdom familiar with fundraising, or a handbook (which could evolve over time, as necessary), would be good things to have at a kingdom level to help with fundraising.

Topic 3: Bringing in Outside Experts

Lawspeaker: Some discussion lately about funding outside experts. For example, a group found a Norse food expert willing to prepare feast, but found it was expensive. Is there an outside or kingdom fund to help pay for experts and speakers?

Rylyn

- There's a self-funded teachers fund. You'd have to ask how much is currently there. The committee is comprised of the seneschal, exchequer, and A&S Minister

Orla

- Is there a listing of the content for this fund available?
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Catriona

- There's supposed to be a list every year of what is in this fund.

Orla

- It would be good for this be front of mind for groups

Rhys

- When we talk about reaching out to officers to ask questions, but my personal experience is that I don't really get an answer when I've asked via email.

Lawspeaker: To summarize, I think we've answered this question. This is a self-funded fund. It would be good to communicate how to better access, and improve the communication. We are all volunteers, so we need to keep this in mind.

The theme for this moot is definitely money, what we can spend it on and how we can get it..

Any last topics?

Rhys

- I would love to propose 8/20 kingdoms who use e-payment. (Rylyn laughed out loud). The kingdoms who use it have guidelines with step-by-step directions

Isabel

- We can't until we have direction from Society, and part of the difficulty is cross-border payments. The problem is rules in Canada. We have to send a bank draft to the SCA Office in the US, because of these rules.
- Now we need to use square in some cases, but we cannot proceed before that.
- The SCA doesn't want to pay for fees. The cost absorbs funds raised at events. There would have to be multiple accounts for each group

Rhys

- A PayPal account would be at the kingdom level, local branches are separate. Money goes to kingdom, which should then review the income and allocate the funds to the appropriate branch

Trumbrand

- This was a topic at the last PC meeting. The cost of each transaction was \$12

Lawspeaker: To summarize, sometimes being in Canada sucks. Society is built around the US, some places have it a bit easier. It remains an open question for a long time. It's a legitimate question.

Any last questions?

Rhys - the website is beautiful

The Lawspeaker thanked everyone for attending.

Kaylah - I think Runa has homework to write a handbook, and Elizabeth is going to eat chocolate bars

Moot closed at 11:32am