

Østgarðr Commons Minutes Feb. 2023

The Province's monthly commons meeting was held on February 15.

Attendance

Officers:

- Angelica di Nova Lipa, Vicereine
- Sofya Gianetta di Trieste, Vicereine
- Nagashima Ichiro Ujimichi, Seneschal
- Alienor Salton, Exchequer and Seneschal of Whyt Whey
- Drasma Dragomira, Herald
- Friderich Grimme, Webminister
- Zahra de Andaluzia, Chronicler
- Albrecht Anker, Chatelaine and Social Media Officer
- Ervald LaCoudre Edwardson, Armored Combat
- Alexander MacLachlan, Fencing Marshal and Deputy Seneschal
- Vitasha Ivanova doch', Minister of Lists
- Kunigunde Wedemann, Chancellor Minor
- Mathghamhain Ua Ruadháin, Historian
- Arnora Ketilsdottir, Seneschal of Brokenbridge
- Iola Wulfsdotter, Seneschal of Lions End

Populace:

- Francisco de Braga, Deputy Exchequer
- Lada Monguligan
- Hanya Vladimirovna Polotskaya
- Gibbs Moryss
- Jenna Childslayer
- Branimira of the Isles
- Marion of York
- Perez ben Meir Gershon
- Oliver de Bainbrig

- Ragnarr Bliskegg
- Simon the Tanner
- Buenaventura Miguel Rivera

Overseas Guests:

- Andrea Noelle Bathory, An Dubh
- Michele the Ubiquitous, An Dubh
- Robert D'Whitmont, An Dubh
- Esnede O'Murrin, Stonemarche

Absent Officers:

- Brandr Aronsson, Arts & Sciences

Opening

Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm.

Harassment & Bullying notice and the SCA Core Values were displayed and read.

Vicereines' Comments

Barleycorn, September

This was discussed last month, but the selection of the date happened after the meeting, so we'd like to confirm that we really want to agree to it. The site rental is only \$200, but we still need to draw up a budget for the other expenses. We also need an event steward, or preferably two.

Populace: Overwhelming consensus in favor.

Possible Crown Tourney Bid, May 6

Royals have asked for help. They need bids to host their crown tournament. Veterans' Memorial Park is available and we've got a temporary hold on the site. The bids were due in January, but the only one received was for a date that didn't work out, so they're now looking for a new bid ASAP.

We're looking for volunteers.

- Brandr is willing to cook.
- Arnora has volunteered to be steward for this event or Barleycorn.
- Mathghamhain would be glad to be co-steward, or help in whatever way is needed.
- Lada is willing to co-steward if needed, or help out as requested.
- Perez has offered to help with cooking.
- Albrecht can help support the tournament.

Albrecht and Perez handled streaming for coronation, and could do so again, although that would pull them away from other duties. There are also some other people scattered around the kingdom who have experience in this area. We can mention the possibility of streaming in the event bid, but let's not fully commit to it until we're sure we've checked all of the details, including connectivity, and power, and release-form requirements.

Populace: Overwhelming consensus in favor of submitting a bid.

Arts & Crafts Night, February 16

Being held tomorrow, by Zoom, with Li Xia of Avacal, on making largess.

Bear's Tavern, March 4

This event is coming up soon. Typically the spaces are sold out by this time, but this year we're only at half capacity.

Oliver would like to have basic gold key garb on site, enough for four people. Albrecht is holding some of these supplies, but hasn't inventoried it. Oliver is to email chatelaine@ to coordinate selection and delivery.

Oliver also needs a bunch of the standard kitchen and feast gear used for provincial events. Uji has placed some of this in storage. Francisco has other pieces, which Uji would like to have added to storage.

Arts & Crafts Nights for March and April

Sofya needs someone else to host March and April A&S while she is handling family issues. Perhaps more banner work?

Lions End Schola and A&S Championship, May 20

Will be held May 20 Saturday 11am-5pm. Staff can enter at 10. Must be done and off-site by 5:45.

The event is free. EventBrite signup. Food will be by potluck. People can bring sterno or very limited electric hot pot.

Jenna explained that the event site is her local library. Just a minute's walk from the LIRR station. Site is accessible.

Uji is organizing teachers. Michele will show wool. Harry will teach basic chaine maile. There will be an intro to kumihimo class. Maybe a vinegar tasting.

Jenna reported that last year's Schola was only attended by 12 people. And that this year some people would not be able to attend because it conflicts with LI Trek. Uji noted that in years past, the Schola had forty attendees.

Ragnarr read the announcement for the A&S competition. Includes four competitive categories. There will also be an option to display A&S work without competition. Folks who would like to can enter as a team, or with a mentor.

This is a dry site — brewers note that no alcohol samples are allowed on site.

Brew-U, April 14

Oliver reports that there are only six registrations for this event so far. In the past there have been years where the event had to be canceled due to lack of participation.

Alienor suggested that offering PayPal registration might facilitate signups. Sofya suggested additional publicity work to inform people of the event.

Alec asked about the minimum and maximum numbers. Oliver says the event would break even with somewhere around 30 people, and maximum capacity is in the vicinity of 40.

Oliver will reach out to Fiona and the Brewers to inform them that if they don't have enough people sign up by mid-March, we will cancel the event.

Sofya suggested asking Fiona to join us at next month's commons meeting.

Special Meeting

A meeting will be held regarding the provincial seneschal on Friday 24. Everyone can attend, two minute limit on comments, officers first. Voting to follow via email, organized by the kingdom polling deputy.

Lions End Proposed Expansion

Sofya noted the very brief mention of a possible expansion of Lions End during January's meeting and wanted to bring it to the populace's attention for discussion.

Uji has prepared a list of ten zip codes that includes the area east of I-678. (This is around 45% of Queens.) Whether or not to proceed with this proposal is undecided.

This idea is being considered because Lions End is struggling to fill officer positions. Iola pointed out that there are not many people who can run an event, given that she and Uji, as seneschals, are not supposed to do so. Even for the schola in May they might need to ask for out-of-area volunteers to run the gate.

The recent loss of the canton's exchequer to deal with personal issues had caused a crisis. Uji stepped up as acting exchequer because he was already a bank signatory. They are waiting for approval of Alec as their official exchequer. They have submitted paperwork to update the signatory list, which currently includes the former

exchequer, her deputy, and Uji. Alienor pointed out that you do not need to already be a signatory to start serving as an exchequer.

Albrecht suggested a promotional effort to engage the populace in the area.

Uji reported that the expansion would move approximately ten registered members into Lions End, although it's unsure how active some of them are. Iola mentioned that she was specifically interested in getting the border extended to include her son and other family members, as her son had previously been involved in Acre and might be willing to serve as an SCA officer. Alienor pointed out that cantons can have officers from outside their territory, and only need approval from the kingdom for those people to serve as seneschal or exchequer.

It is assumed that the people in the area to be annexed would be given a choice about this decision, although the mechanics of such a polling have not been determined.

Mathghamhain suggested that if canton boundaries were being reconsidered, we take a wider view. Why not add all of Queens to Lions End, such that there was a large population with numerous people who were very active and could serve as officers? While we're at it, why not add Staten Island to Brokenbridge, and the Bronx to Appleholm, so that every resident of the Crown Province also lives in a canton, and the cantons can act as "farm teams" that give people a chance to get experience serving at the local level before moving on to provincial service, if that fits within their Society growth path.

Albrecht noted that this discussion presented lots of questions which required more discussion, and suggested forming a working group or temporary committee to workshop these ideas, which Sofya agreed was a good idea.

Commendations

Zahra's work on the provincial newsletter during 2022 earned a Blackfox award as the second-based overall newsletter in the entire known world.

Mathghamhain was elevated to the rank of Herald Extraordinary for service to the College of Arms and Eastern Heralds.

The vicereines thanked Abu Darzin, Lada, and Þorfinn for teaching classes at Imbolic schola.

Seneschal's Comments

Storage and Inventory

A storage unit was rented earlier this month in Mount Vernon, and we are working on moving things into this unit and updating the inventory records.

If you have any property of the province, mail Uji about it — including event equipment, office or championship regalia, gold key garb, feast gear, loaner gear, etc — even if it's not going to be held in this storage unit.

There aren't currently any shelving structures in the unit to organize the gear, but anyone who wants to suggest a solution is invited to mail photos to the seneschal along with a budget.

Other Event Ideas

Uji noted that there's been a lot of tumult in recent months — let's get back to having fun. There's an active email thread circulating with event ideas; please contribute, and consider volunteering as an event steward.

Mailing Lists for Provincial Orders

Uji noted that the Order of the Silver Lantern recently requested mailing list for its members; would any other orders like such a list?

Albrecht pointed out that some kingdom orders use Facebook groups, and asked if that would be useful. Lada pointed out that the provincial orders are not polling orders.

Alienor reported that the Silver Lantern order had specific responsibilities and goals in mind for the list, and advised against creating additional lists unless groups explicitly

ask for them. Friderich noted that mailing list discussion of potential candidates has leaked in the past and caused hurt feelings. Sofya concluded that it would be better to wait on creating additional lists for now, pending requests from other orders.

Other Upcoming Events

Northern A&S Gathering, April 8

Oliver has been working on ideas for the A&S event in the New Rochelle library. There are three people lined up to teach. Unsure if we need more teachers, more classes.

Friderich asked if this was a formal event (in garb, with event reports to kingdom) or a casual workshop in modern attire? Sofya reported that her original intention was an informal workshop, but that the idea had grown. There seemed to be a consensus in favor of making this an informal, casual gathering.

Appleholm Local Gatherings, Every Weekend

Appleholm is organizing lots of local activities: Morgan Library for Mesopotamian women this Saturday; dance studio time this Sunday and the following Sunday; Bard Gallery the first Sunday in March for period manuals on table settings and dining etiquette.

Scribal Workshops, March 19, April 16

Lada reports that the scribal workshops have been a success. They're held on Sundays from 2-4 pm at City League Coffee and Cowork in Bay Ridge. Zahra has been helping with new scribes. The last workshop had ten people present!

Viking Day, May 20

Arnora reports that the representative for Brooklyn's Viking Day reached out about their annual festival in Owl's Head Park. Unfortunately, this is the same day as the Lions End schola, and also a local marathon.

The results of this demo in prior years have been mixed. In some years we have managed to engage a new member through this event. They also provide a \$400 stipend. (Several years ago they had some financial difficulties and we never got paid but that wasn't a problem last year.)

Ragnarr reports that last year he and a handful of other people attended, and put on demonstrations of fencing, but he won't be available this year because of the Schola.

If we wanted to tackle it this year, we'd need someone to step up to run the event.

Sofya said she was reluctant to divide our efforts between the Lions End Schola and Viking Day, but if there were a handful of people who weren't going to the schola and wanted to represent the SCA at Viking Day, that might be worth it as an outreach opportunity.

Odds and Ends

Albrecht is working on a proposal for making our Discord instance a "community server" to facilitate new people joining, and will bring it up for next month's meeting.

Zahra is working on the next newsletter and invites submissions before the end of the month.

Closing

Meeting was called to a close as of 8:52 pm.