

The Steppes Letter

February 2018



Missive from our Excellencies

Greetings, loyal populace of the Steppes,

We would like to start by saying thank you to everyone who made 12th Night such a great success. It was a time of great music, dance, fun, and camaraderie. Many people worked long hard hours to make this event the extravaganza it was. A sincere thank you to everyone!

Another big thank you to everyone that helped make Roundtable a great success! You guys just jumped in and helped- many without even being asked.

By the time you read this we will have had our annual Dreaming and Ideas meeting. We will use the information gathered to plan our coming year- so stay tuned for next month newsletter so see what adventures are in store for our great barony. If you were unable to attend you can still contribute your thoughts and opinions by emailing us at: Baroness@steppes.ansteorra.org or Baron@steppes.ansteorra.org.

So let's talk about Gulf War!!! We are planning another great Steppes Gulf War camp this year. We will once again be next to Elfsea. Remember that electronic early registration closes on February 15th. You must preregister to get camping land. Please remember to put down Ansteorra and Steppes for camping. We will also have a separate Google form to fill out and a Facebook group. As always continue to be the great Barony you are,

Vivat!

Peter and Sarah
Baron and Baroness



OUR OAKEN EXCELLENCIES
Baron Peter Rhys Connor
baron@steppes.ansteorra.org

Baroness Sarah Fynn Connor
baroness@steppes.ansteorra.org

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Words form our Seneschal

Greetings Mighty Oakwood,

It looks like we have started off the New Year running

As you can see Baron Peter and Baroness Sarah have helped us to get the New Year going strong with hosting a wonderful Twelfth Night event.

Seeing so many people there at the dream meeting filled my heart with pride at knowing that the Steppes is definitely one of the reasons Ansteorra shines so bright. I know that this will cause a bit of trepidation in some, change always does, but there is nothing wrong with a fresh breeze to remind the old roots why they are needed.

War is coming!

Steppes looks to have a great encampment this year next to our sister Barony Elfsea. This will give us the opportunity to be with neighbors we trust....to a point. It's time to make sure your gear is sound, your kit is together, and your transportation reliable.

As always take care of yourselves and each other.

We are a Mighty Oakwood,

We are Family,

We are a Barony,

WE ARE STEPPES!

YIS,

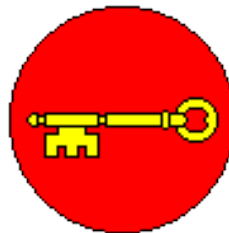
HL Aurelia Yverneau

Seneschal, Barony of the Steppes



OUR SENESCHAL
HL Aurelia Ylvernau

seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org



Words from our Officers

Greetings, Steppes!

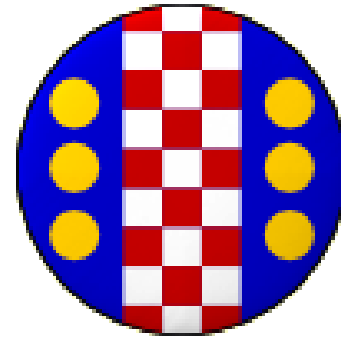
We've had a busy month of January but 2018 is getting off to a great start. We've placed the funds from Kyngescreke into a dedicated fund until 1 January 2020. They currently total \$2582.92. The Steppes account, not including the Kyngescreke funds, was at \$17,044.74 at the end of the year. Thank you all for getting your reimbursement checks cashed on time.

Twelfth Night went well; the barony lost \$0.20 (yes, less than a dollar) on the event, with a total attendance of 184 people.

As a reminder, there is still a position open on the Financial Committee (FC) for an at-large member of the populace. We've had no one apply yet, so the position will remain open until someone does. If you would like to apply to be on the financial committee, please fill out an Ansteorran Officer Application form (from the Ansteorran website) and send it to me and our seneschal.

We are still looking for a place to store our Baronial trailer; if you run across any likely places please let me, Dragos, or Aurelia know.

In Service,
Cristiana d'Avranches



EXCQUER

Lady Cristiana d'Avranches
excquer@steppes.ansteorra.org

I would like to have loaner garb available at all events, but I NEED some deputies willing to help with that. I'm also looking for deputies to help me shepherd newcomers and help acclimate them at their first few events.

We've had inquiries during the business meeting at Half Price Books, at Archery Practice and at Populace in the Park in Carrollton, even while at the Perth Street shopping field trip.

In Service
HL Alexandra Notte Claire



HOSPITALER

HL Alexandra Notte-Claire
hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Words from our Officers

Happy February to the great Barony of the Steppes

I've had several people come forward with an interest in stepping up to serve as Steppes Rapier Marshal when my tenure ends. Your interest is appreciated as it is encouraging. This change is still several months down the road, so more details and official application instructions will be forthcoming at the appropriate time. If you're interested in this position and haven't let me know yet, please do so. If you think you may be interested but want to know more about the office, please, feel free to call me at (214) 773-5415 or contact me privately. We can always use good deputies as well.

Having lost our indoor venue, we've had to cancel some practices due to weather. We're actively looking for a permanent place and hopefully one that is indoors so that Mother Nature doesn't get to dictate when we get to stab each other. In the mean time, we have moved back to Tietze Park for practices. Tuesday at 7:00 pm is still the time, but you'll have to watch for list emails or posts to FB for the place. If you're not already a member you may wish to join Steppes Rapier Practice and/or Barony of the Steppes FB groups and you can add yourself to the official Steppes email list by going to Ansteorra.org and then following the Social tab.

I will try to call each practice by Monday night, but this is Ansteorra where the weather can be quite unpredictable so please stay tuned. If I find a better place to hold practice I'll be posting that and probably shouting it from the rooftops.

Yours In Service,
Lord William Swindell
Steppes Rapier Marshal



RAPIER MARSHAL
Lord William Swindell
rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org



Words from our Officers

Hello Steppes fighters!

We are yet again overhauling heavy practice! We are trying to get more regular activities and lessons going.

Due to the loss of Marsh Middle School as our practice site, we have been on the search for a suitable location. We believe that Heights Park in Richardson near Custer and Arapaho road will provide plenty of light, parking, and restroom access for our fighters and spectators. We are still working on finding someplace inside, be that at the Heights Recreation Center or elsewhere. If you know of a location indoors that would allow chiv and rapier practices to meet for minimal or no cost, please let us know! If you have any other comments or questions, let us know those too.

Until then chivalric practice will be meeting at:

Heights Park, 801 N Floyd Rd, Richardson, TX 75080 7:00 pm

So come on out and lets have practice!

Loaner gear is always available, but if you let us know you are coming we may be able to bring better sizing.

YIS

Diderik von Schatten
Steppes Knight Marshal



CHIVALRY MARSHAL

Diderik von Schatten

marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings Steppes!

I hope this finds you all well. My time in the Steppes Office of Herald is coming to an end in March and we need someone to step in and take my position. If you are interested please contact me, or the Baron and Baroness with your interest. We will be happy to speak with you about the position and how to apply for the job.

Also, we will be sending out on the Steppes Mailing List an award questionnaire requesting information on The Steppes Baronial awards you have received. Please fill this out as soon as possible as we will be using this information to update the Baronial Order of Precedence. If you have any questions regarding the questionnaire, you can email me anytime.

Finally, if you have questions, or need to register your name and or device, please send me an email and I can give you the information you need to get started.

Yours in Service,
Lord Dragos
Oakenwald Pursuivant
Barony of the Steppes
herald@steppes.ansteorra.org



HERALD

Lord Dragos

Herald@steppes.ansteorra.org



Words from our Officers

Greetings Steppes!

Again, a new issue of the newsletter is ready for your reading. Thanks to all who have submitted articles and pieces for publishing, it is always nice to see all the knowledge and memories from the barony. Keep them coming!

As a friendly reminder, any new content for the newsletter must be submitted by our A&S meeting (2nd Thursday, 02/08) and any regular content by our Business meeting (3rd Thursday, 02/15)

Also, as a side note, remember to use our mailing list, steppes@lists.ansteorra.org for any official announcements. You can subscribe at <http://www.ansteorra.org/social.php>. If you have any problems, send me a message to get it solved.

In Service

Lady Safiya Spizega
Chronicler of the Steppes



CHRONICLER

Lady Safiya Spizega

chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings from the Office of Minister of Arts and Sciences!

As is Steppes tradition, the business meeting will be held along side the A&S nights, so there will be basic repair work to get ready for events. The second Thursday of the month falls on Feb 08 @ Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1333 Belt Line Rd, Garland, TX 75040 beginning at 7 pm. Contact moas@steppes.ansteorra.org for further information.

Boyarynya Kiriena Pevtsova

Minister of Arts and Sciences, Barony of the Steppes



ARTS AND SCIENCES

Boyarynya Kiriena Pevtsova

moas@steppes.ansteorra.org

Words from our Officers

Greeting Steppes,

Youth Boffer has not had much interest lately as many of our youth have aged up or are extremely busy. Loaner gear still available as needed. Always looking for new youth to get involved and new parents to authorize as marshals. There's lots of great events coming up this fall, don't miss out!

Youth Rapier is practicing on Tuesday nights at the same time as adults. Practice is sometimes overwhelmed with youth and sometimes we have none. Loaner gear available!

In Service

HL Alexandra Notte Claire

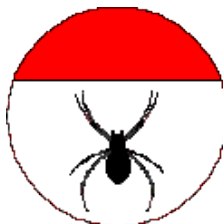


YOUTH MARSHAL

HL Alexandra Notte-Claire

hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Please welcome Lord Hakkon the Blacksmith as our new Webminister!
I'm sure he will have exciting news as he gets settled into the office



WEBMINISTER

Hakkon the blacksmith

webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org



Words from Glaslyn

Greetings Glaslyn!,

Weather and health permitting, we will return to having Monday night fighter practices in the coming weeks, so please keep an eye out for our Facebook posts in case of inclement weather!

We're beginning to start thinking about Glaslyn Defender here in a couple of months, and will be accepting bids until our February business meeting.

In Service,
Lady Alhdryð ceorlstrange



SENESCHAL OF THE CANTON OF
GLASLYN

Lady Alhdryð Ceorlestrange
(Caroline Clavell)

seneschal@glaslyn.ansteorra.org

Non-guild announcements

Steppes Bowyer and Fletchers Guild

Greetings,

With war season starting up soon I felt we should begin with a combat archery preparedness workshop. Be prepared to bring your combat archery kit and let's make sure your kit is in good repair and working order. Nothing is worse for a combat archer discovering you have an equipment problem at command of "lay on"! Even if you are not currently a combat archer there will be a lot to learn and much to do. So, come join us for a fun evening of shared tasks and tales of glorious battles past and more yet to come as we inspect & repair our combat archery kits!

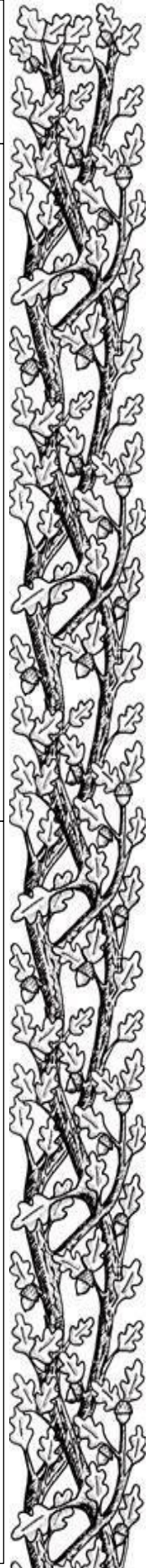
Hope you shall join us!

Regards,

HL William Black Dragon aka "Ironwyrn"

Steppes Music and Vocal non Guild

The Steppes Music Guild has two established working groups, the Instrumental Music group that meets on the first Sunday of the month at 2421 San Paula, Dallas 75228, starting at 2:00PM, and the Vocal Music Group that meets at 302 Sweetgum Dr., Cedar Hill, TX on the third Sunday of the month also at 2:00PM. Both exclude meetings on major holidays or the weekend of local events, and will change meeting locations to Populace in the Park or other activities when applicable. Since there's a minimum number of folks needed to have an effective music group, please contact the appropriate person if interested in attending. You don't have to be a highly trained singer or instrumentalist to join us, and we welcome all skill levels. For more information about the guild as a whole contact Herr Marcus at seafox@gypsyheir.com or Master Llywelyn at todd@twmarsh.net. For information about the specific groups, Herr Marcus is the contact for the instrumental group, while Master Llywelyn runs the vocal group. The instrumental group also tries to provide a musical presence at all Steppes events, so if you're unable to make the guild meetings but want to join in at an event contact either one of the folks referenced above to get the music sources used by the guild. And if you're interested in learning the courtly grace of music the guild has folks who can teach lessons.



Da'ud Bob Movie Review: Little Big Soldier



So this one looked interesting; a Chinese-made movie set in the Warring States period of China's long history, beginning about 475 B.C.E. and ending with the Qin state's conquest and annexation of the last of the remaining independent states in 221 B.C.E. Promising to be a "comic martial arts extravaganza," the film is based on an original story by a well-known – even here in the West – martial arts actor. So how could I resist it? Period setting, in one of China's more interesting historical periods, martial arts, comedy, and a rare look at a Chinese view of Chinese history. So I grabbed my usual "let's watch a movie fare" (normally, a Dr Pepper and a bowl of M&Ms), ensconced myself in my big La-Z-Bubba recliner, and hit the "Play" button on the remote. And so it is that this month,

Da'ud Bob reviews for you 2010's Da bing xiao jiang, or as it is known here in the West, Little Big Soldier.

Starring Jackie Chan as the Soldier, Leehom Wang as the General, Sung-jun Yoo as Prince Wen, Peng Lin as the Songster, Rongguang Yu as Captain Yu, Song Jin as Lou Fan Wei, and Ken Lo as Guard Yong, the story begins with the clash of two armies from different warring states resulting in the almost complete annihilation of both armies. None survive but a young general from a royal house on one side and a farmer foot soldier on the other side who ties up the fallen leader to take him back home and claim a reward. Many obstacles stand in their way, more than just the distance that has to be traveled: an abandoned songstress, the noble's own murderous younger brother, desperate beggars, rough slavers, and the pair's own differing agendas. Through it all, a bond forms between the two, and what will happen at journey's end becomes anyone's guess.

Good points: Jackie Chan's special usage of martial arts, something I can only think has to be based on a form known as "drunken master." The armor. The beautiful, and sometimes fantastic, Chinese landscapes. There is a lot of humor to go along with the sheer slaughter that occurs.

Bad points: The specifics may not be all that true to the historical record.

Zero breasts. One gallon of blood. 1,069 dead bodies. (I told you the two armies were almost completely annihilated, and they showed a lot of the aftermath on the screen.) Arrow fu. Sword fu. Flagstaff fu. Spear fu. Ax fu. Kung fu. Rock fu. Stick fu. Mini-crossbow fu. Bolo fu. Whip fu. Rope fu. Water buffalo fu. Horse rolls. Horse's rider rolls. Gratuitous fighting over a flag. Gratuitous sparrow. (Or was it?) Gratuitous bear. Gratuitous slave dealers. Gratuitous field of canola flowers. Academy Award nomination to Jackie Chan as the Little Big Soldier for his special comedic style of martial arts, for regularly finding life to be "Marvelous" no matter what negative things have just happened to him, and for believably portraying a man who is cowardly, optimistic, good natured, and just dreams (and sings) about getting home. A 47 on the Vomit Meter. Three stars. Da'ud Bob says, "The reward you receive may not be the reward you're looking for. But it's marvelous just to be alive. Or to be watching this movie. Check it out!"

February 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	29	30	31	01	02	03 Provincial Games Candlemas
04 Instrumental guild meeting	05 Glaslyn Practice	06	07	08 A&S Meeting	09	10 Kingdom A&S and Eisteddfod
11 Glaslyn Practice	12	13	14	15 Business meeting	16 War College	17 War College
18 Vocal guild meeting War College	19 Glaslyn Practice	20	21	22 Scribal Meeting	23	24 Bjornsborg 's Enclave of Artisans Emerald Tournament
25 Glaslyn Practice	26	27	28			



Calendar Details

- ❖ **Mondays 6:45 PM**— Glaslyn Chivalry Practice at North Lakes Park 2001 W. Windsor Dr. Denton, TX
- ❖ **Sunday 04, 2 PM** – Instrumental guild meeting at 2421 San Paula, Dallas 75228
- ❖ **Thursday 08, 7 PM**—A&S Night at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1333 Beltline Road Garland, TX
- ❖ **Thursday 15, 7 PM**—Business Meeting at Half Price Books. 5803 Northwest Hwy, Dallas
- ❖ **Sunday 18, 2:00 PM** – Vocal guild meeting at 302 Sweetgum Dr., Cedar Hill, TX
- ❖ **Thursday 28, 6:00 PM**—Scribal Meeting at 3168 Catamore Ln, Dallas
- ❖ **02/04 – Candlemas-** 445 E. Morrow Street Georgetown, Texas, 78626.
- ❖ **02/04 – Provincial Games** - 4518 Expo Cir E, Stillwater, OK 74075
- ❖ **02/10 – Kingdom A&S and Eisteddfod** - 1100 N 6th St, Abilene, TX 79601, USA
- ❖ **02/16 – 02/18 – War College** - 321 Dorrell Rd, Huntsville, TX 77340, USA
- ❖ **02/24 – Bjornsborg 's Enclave of Artisans** - 12301 US-87, La Vernia, TX 78121, USA
- ❖ **02/24 – Emerald Tournament** - 1633 Greig Dr, Waco, TX 76706



Opportunities

Steppes Business Meeting

3rd Thursday of the Month - 7 PM until 9 PM

Is held in the Community room of the Half Price Book Flagship Store and open to the Populace! If you have topic to discuss and you are not able to come, please send them to our Seneschal to update the Agenda. Officers, the same goes for you.

The Financial Committee Meeting is after Business meeting

A&S Nights

2nd Thursday of the month - 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1333 Beltline Road Garland, TX 75040-3267 This is on Beltline, at N Garland Rd.

You will see a large sign for a car wash. Parking is behind the church. This is a monthly meeting, held the second Thursday of each month, for sharing in our interests in the arts and sciences. There are several tables, so bring a project if you have something you want to work on.

Early Instrumental Music Guild Meeting: Once a month—2:00 PM at 2421 San Paula ave, 75228, Dallas. Doors open at 1:30 PM, come early if you need to tune up your instruments. Please contact seafox@gypsyheir.com for more specific directions.

Early Vocal Music Guild Meeting: Once a month—2:00 PM at 302 Sweetgum Dr., Cedar Hill, TX. Please contact seafox@gypsyheir.com for more specific directions.

Scribal and Illumination Meeting: 4th Thursday of the month—6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

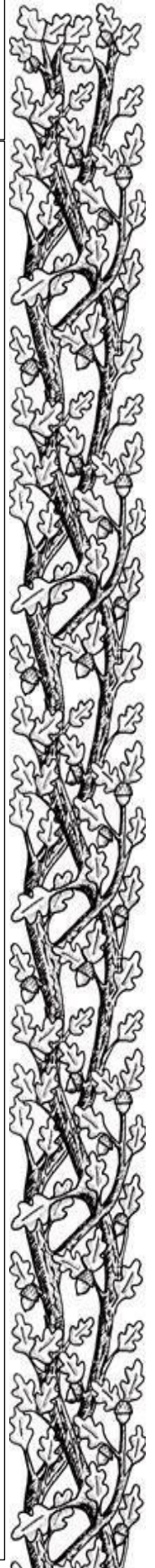
Hosted by Mistress Honour du Bois. Every Scribal night will have open charter painting for those who wish to paint our awesome charters as well as some structured classes ranging from beginning to advance techniques as well as original scroll work. We will be planning and working on scrolls for our baronial events too, so bring your ideas.

Glaslyn

Mondays 6:45pm – 10:00pm (Except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve)

North Lakes Park 2001 W. Windsor Dr. Denton, TX

Directions: From I-35 E in Denton, Texas exit University Drive (Hwy 380). Go east on University Dr. Go north on Bonnie Brae St. Go east on Windsor Dr. Just past the baseball fields, turn left (north) into the parking lot. Continue around as if you are going to the soccer fields. Practice is in front of the basketball court on your right, soccer fields on your left.





Other Places to find great things

There are many sites on the Web and Facebook for SCA interests. Below are a few. This is in no way an endorsement for any of the groups listed, or a final list. It is just a way to direct people to groups that they might not know about, that may be of interest.

Web:

sca.org
ansteorra.org
steppes.ansteorra.org
calendar.ansteorra.org
hospitaler.ansteorra.org
heraldry.ansteorra.org/honors (Awards)
ansteorra.org/links

Facebook:

Barony of the Steppes

Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA)- <https://www.facebook.com/currentmiddleages>
The official Facebook page for the SCA.

Legion of Swashbucklers: This group is open to all rapier fighters

Steppes Cooks: This group is for those interested in cooking

Steppes Calligraphers and Illuminators Guild

Canvas Castle Showcase- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/471086229603006/>

Canvas Castle Showcase: Show off your tent, camping furniture, or anything that makes your camping experience more homey

Elizabethan Costume- <http://www.facebook.com/groups/29374273995/>

For those people fascinated with the clothing, accessories, hairstyles, cosmetics, etc. of the 16th century. Although the name says "Elizabethan," anything from the Tudor period (1485-1603) is fair game for discussion.

Garb for Sale - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/130311470376509/>

For selling clothing, camping equipment, feast gear, period books and services

SCA Runway - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/460750480615188/?ref=ts&fref=tsA>

Place for showing off SCA fashion.

Tudor Conversations- <http://www.facebook.com/groups/TudorWorld/>

An on-going conversation among like-minded enthusiasts of the 16th century exploring the world of the Tudors, with occasional excursions among the early Stuarts

Viking Clothing <https://www.facebook.com/groups/279611679205/>

For all clothes Viking!

Vikings of the SCA - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/244158265607631/>

Group for those interested in all things "Viking" related in the SCA.

SCA Equestrian - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/34623283817/>

For those interested in Equestrian Arts in the SCA

SCA Garb - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/scagarb/>

A group for discussion of researching and making all types of garb for the SCA

Offices and events open for bids

Local Offices:

The current local offices are open for application. Please send a copy of your application to the current officer, Seneschal, and the Baroness. Applications can be downloaded from the Kingdom website.

Office	Deadline
Knight Marshal	Feb 27
Ministry of Children	Until Filled
Archery Marshal	Until Filled

Kingdom and Society Offices:

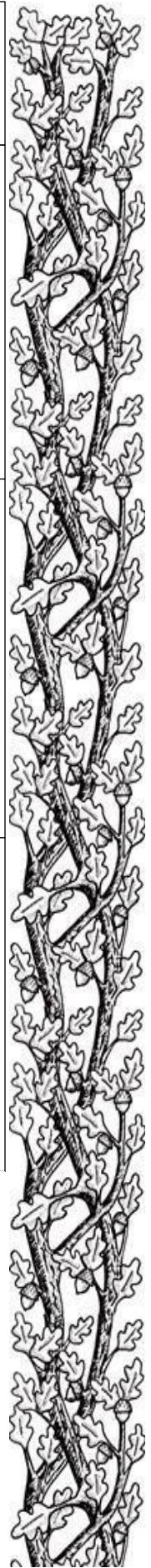
The following Kingdom and Society offices are open for bids. Please contact the officer for questions concerning application information. Applications for Kingdom offices can be downloaded from the Ansteorra Website.

Office	Deadline
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Baronial and Kingdom Event bids:

The current event bids are open for application. Please send a copy of your bid and budget to the Seneschal, and the Baroness.

Event	Deadline
Spring Royal Hunstman	February 28
Spring Royal Lancer	February 28



Disclaimers and Copyrights

This is the **January 2018** issue of the Steppes Newsletter, a publication of The Barony of the Steppes of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Steppes Letter is available from Francisca Moreno: chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Incorporated, and does not delineate SCA policies.

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