



LATEBEARER

Anno Societatis LI Being June 2016 CE

*The Barony of
Wiesenfeuer*

A Statement from the Members of Wiesenfeuer

You may have heard about us from a friend, found us on a web search, saw our displays and demos at the Norman Medieval Fair or any number of local events or schools. Regardless of how you've found us, we're glad you did. The Barony of Wiesenfeuer is part of an organization called the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). It's an international organization dedicated to the researching and recreating the arts and skills of pre-17th century Europe. The "arts and skills" of Europe, and any people that Europeans had contact with, are far reaching in scope and depth. Arts include everything from making soap or butter, to making of instruments, woodworking, ... the list goes on. Anything that was made or done in the Middle Ages or Renaissance is fair game. Skills would include fighting, fencing, archery, thrown weapons, and all manner of games and talents played and practiced in six hundred years of history.

The SCA is a hands-on participation based way to learn about history. Hit your (armored) friends with rattan sticks, fence like a musketeer or pirate, or learn to shoot a bow like Robin Hood. Learn any number of arts and crafts from people that have developed skills and techniques for making and doing things the way they were centuries ago.

Beyond the competitions and projects, the royalty and ceremonies, the SCA is all about having fun. The Society is a great place to meet people with similar interests, make new friends, and be involved. So come out to an event, go to a meeting, or contact our hospitler at <http://wiesenfeuer.ansteorra.org>.

Welcome to Wiesenfeuer!!

Personal Testimony from the Chronicler

You may pick up a newsletter printed in the past and see the words written above and wonder how true they are. You may wonder if these people are just a bunch of weird people running around playing at swords. I've been a member of this organization for 6 months now. These people are some of the best people you will ever meet. The people in it learn, share, and teach everything you can think of. They practice those skills that they learn. They invest time and energy into making those relationships that better everyone from the old to the new. You cannot really appreciate it until you see and then do. You can spend as much or as little time as you like participating, this will be the most exhausting and exciting hobby you will ever have. Welcome to our ever expanding world of friends.

Donnán Ó Néill
October 2015

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Missive from the Baronesses



Welcome!

June is here and it will hopefully be a bit drier than May.

Thank you in advance to the Canton of Myrgenfeld for a great demo! Thank you to all who came out and helped with the day's activities. I know you all rocked it! . Stay tuned for more on the demo.

Please remember that bids for this years' Yule are due by June 30.

Events in June! Myrgenfeld Demo on the 4th at Mineral Wells Park in Guthrie, come out and support the Canton and Regional practices!

King's College in Namron Saturday June 11th, there are over 80 classes on the schedule so there is something for everyone! Come out and take a class or two!

Starting June 17th through June 26th is the SCA 50th year takes place in the Kingdom of the Middle. I know there are lots of Ansteorran folks who are going so have a blast for those of us who can't make it! We want to hear all the epic stories when you get back!

We'd like to start on a few baronial projects and we want to hear from you! We have tons of talent within the barony and want your input on what you think the barony should have to spiff up the baronial presence at events. If you have an idea Valia and I would love to hear it! Send your ideas to .

Until next month,

Dee and Valia

Baronesses of Wiesenfeuer

Care and feeding of Dee and Valia

Dee-

No sodas please. Sweet tea, flavored waters (Sparkling Ice) the orange colored ones are the best. No lemons please.

Healthy snacks, trail mixes, fruit.

No known food allergies but cannot eat anything with roses in it.

Valia-

No sodas please. Lemonades, flavored waters, and sweet tea. COFFEE

Healthy snacks, trail mixes, jerky, fruit.

NO Shell fish, allergic!

Best method for contacting Dee and Valia-

Text Dee at 405-397-7649 or email at will respond within 24 hours or sooner and more than happy to pass along a message for Valia if needed.

Valia's phone number is 405-875-1945, not able to respond until after 6 pm Monday – Thursday.

Date night/Night off – Tuesdays. Please avoid contacting (calls, texting) unless it's an emergency. We are open to moving date night if we are needed on a Tuesday.

Please no contact (calls, texts) after 9pm. Unless you are bleeding it can probably wait till the next day. If you aren't sure contact the Seneschal first.

Guards-

Ahlanna A'Becket

Aldric de Kerr

Godfrey of Del

Rainah du Bois

Skjoldulfr Hildabjarnarson

Lord Wilhelm Meis

Ladies-in-waiting-

Caterina Giovanni de Gilead

Ermergerd

Meabdh inghean Rois

Lady Ainier of Patrin-Or

Sainte du Bois

Shanna Camber

Weasels (Baronial version of pages)-

Cainnear Lylle

Steven



Words from the Seneschal



Dirwrnod da (good day),

I hope everyone had a great May, Brad Leah hosted a fantastic event, our Queen has a new Champion, our friends in Northkeep have a new Baron and Baroness, the demo in Haldtre was well attended, and finally our Barony continues to be awesome!

As we move into June look forward to a regional practice hosted by Myrgenfeld good time with good food, Kings College hosted by the Barony of Namron, and for those who want to go out of Kingdom Lilies War and the SCA 50th year Celebration.

Looking forward to seeing everybody at the Day of Awesome in Myrgenfeld there will be Chivalric practice, Rapier Practice, and a whole list of other sweet SCA activities. All at the gorgeous Mineral Wells park in Guthrie Oklahoma. Set up starts at 8:00 am June 4th. Also the pot luck dinner will be amazing as the food we have been testing has been loved by those who have eaten it. See you there!

Iarll Owen ap Aeddán

Marchog of Ansteorra



Message from the Minister of Arts and Science



Greetings!

We have exciting news in the Arts and Sciences! Although our guest speaker from Rose State College was taken ill and unable to speak to us on Anglo-Saxon forestry and beekeeping last month, we managed a well attended and well received impromptu class on the practical aspects of beekeeping. We have upcoming classes on double-faced card weaving and an introduction to heraldry, and our guest from Rose State College has offered to reschedule his appearance! The June class will be Thursday, June 9 at 7PM at the Camp Dakani Nature Center, and the July class will be Thursday, July 14 at 7PM (same location). Stay tuned to the Barony of Wiesenfeuer Facebook group to learn which class will be which, or just come every month and enjoy learning a new thing every time!

For those who are unfamiliar with Camp Dakani: Take I-35 to the Hefner Rd exit and turn west on Hefner Rd. Camp Dakani will be on your right, just past the access road leading to Frontier City. The first gate you see will be Gate 3, but stay on Hefner Rd until you reach Gate 1. Enter Gate 1 and see the main hall straight ahead. This is not the Nature Center. Follow the road to the right, and it will lead you to another large building. This is the Nature Center. Parking is more plentiful at the pavilion just downhill from the Nature Center, but it does involve a climb. Please be careful as there may be ruts and stumps near the road.

In Service to the Dream,

HL Wilhelm Meis

Minister of Arts & Sciences, Barony of Wiesenfeuer



Message From the Chronicler



I'm hoping we are all looking forward to a great and busy summer. At officer's meeting we brainstormed a few possible changes to the newsletter.

First my incredible new deputy AJ had the idea of branding the newsletter. What I tried to do when I took over was to come up with a different flame theme for the front cover. Right now it is a low resolution populace badge with a wonderful drawing by Issac Bane for the title. I'd like to have a better front cover. Either a better drawing of the badge or an original drawing that would reflect the idea of being a light in the lives of other.

Another suggestion Rainah Du Bois was to put in a word search (which now that Abigail is feeling better I might have some time to get those in). She also came up with the idea of getting stories from members. This is a kind preserve the history type of article. Sir Owen sent me the first story for this section.

AJ also had the idea of getting an interview with each of the baronial champions. Her first interview is with our current archery champion HE Mistress Adena Terricsdottir.

As I was sitting here thinking about all of this I was wondering how to achieve it all. I think the best way is to come up with a populace vote. If I can use my budget for prizes I will. If not I'll come up with some tangible prizes on my own. Here is what I'd like to do. I'd like to have a prize for best real life story, bardic submission (story, song, poem, ...), best original artwork (cover image), best instructional article, then a drawing of the people that voted. I'd like to have the winners announced at yule. I'll consult Thier Excellancies as to how they would prefer to have this done at court or maybe we could do it during the festivities.

I'd love to hear everyones' opinion on this (preferably by email) so I can tweek this if needed. As I come up with some prizes I'll let people know what I've planned or acquire. However most of the communication will be here.

Thanks for all the support and help I've been given the past year as I've started my journey with you. I hope to continue with you for a long time.

Minister of Children

Greetings!

Sunday's in the Park have gotten off to a fantastic start! As the weather is getting warmer we will be changing the time to the evening hours and beginning at 7pm to take advantage of the cool of the day. We have some awesome classes coming up so watch the Book of Faces for more info!

We have also had a very busy event season! Castellan was awesome! The kids built their own catapults and had a blast laying siege to a castle. Then the Myrganfeld demo was a lovely laid back event that saw a small group of kiddos but they still had a lot of fun.

Yours in service,
LadyLiadan

A Bride's Price

The bride price negotiation and marriage of Lord Owen ap Aeddán and the Lady Dagmar Keldelēth of Bohemia as recalled by Iarll Owen ap Aeddán. After courting the lovely Lady Dagmar for many seasons, we were blessed with the news that she was going to provide me with an heir, her blindness giving her sight into things others could not see she had already informed me that it would be a son. As she had proven that she could provide me with heirs I began the arrangements to settle the bride's price and so that we could be married. I had secured my Grandfather Beorhtlic Folwinesone as my advocate during the bride price negotiations for me to wed the lovely Lady Dagmar, her lands in Bohemia were blessed with silver mines she was a Lady of fine standing within the Crown's court and was beloved by many. She had secured the mighty House Wolfstar as her advocate. We agreed to meet following the Crown's business in the lands of the shire of Gnomán Vale as we were both going to be in attendance at the grand event they held called Margrave/Vormund event as I was stepping down as the Margrave of the group. His Excellency of Wiesenfeuer Sir Burke was the Crown's representative who presided over Court for Their Royal Majesties and the negotiation of the bride price.

I had brought considerable resources to bare for I wanted her family to know she would greatly benefit becoming my wife. I had a sample of all of the crops that were grown on my lands, sugar that was processed at my facilities gold and silver enough for the bride's price and the share that would be claimed by the Crown. I had brought my best men with me Lord Jean Paul de Sens, Lord Alarich langard von Thorn, Lord Barendger, Lord Dunolf, Lord Cormac, Lord Bjorn and a contingent of 30 armed men to make sure the contract that was decided on was held too. Now when we had setup for the negotiations the men I had guarding the items I had brought were from several Irish clans and not accustomed to the civilized dealings let much of what I brought to pay the bride price with get stolen slowly while the negotiations were ongoing, much to my dismay. We discussed much that night and late did the discussions go when the Lady Dagmar stepped away with only a single female escort to take her leave. A couple of my armed men intercepted the Lady Dagmar and the Lady Meadhbh inghean Rois and promptly took them to a safe place for the duration of the rest of the negotiations.

Once I was able to inform my advocate that we were now in possession of the Lady Dagmar and Lady Meadhbh the negotiations suddenly went far more favorably for my estate. We agreed to the following terms, I would pay to release her tailor from a bit of a gambling debt he had gotten himself into, I would provide workers for her silver mines for a percentage of the silver, I would claim before the Crown that the child she was carrying was my heir according to the laws of my people laid out by Hywel ap cadell also known as Hywel Dda. She would manage my estates so I could focus on other things, She would care for our heirs and ensure they were properly raised, she would bring her considerable talents to bear to improve my presence on and off the field, she would will her lands in Bohemia to me as I would arrange for my lands in Gwynedd and outside of Jaffa in the Kingdom of Outreimer, to her.

My men and I celebrated into the wee hours of the morning the success of the negotiations. As my time of a single Lord was drawing to a close I needed to say good bye to it properly. After a bit of time to recover from the many libations consumed I was dressed in my new finery and ready to go and claim my bride. I arrived with 35 armed men and The Baron of Wiesenfeuer to my gorgeous bride whom I had courted for a most agreeable time. She was dressed stunningly and glowed on this most auspicious day. Our party met no resistance as we headed to the field we had arranged to be married in. I drove what would become our family sword into the ground and we were lashed together and our public vows given!

A son was born to me as she predicted and strong and well did he grow, a second son and heir was provided to me by my beloved Dagmar. True to her word she did manage my estates and many tournaments did I win with her honor inspiring me. To everyone's surprise, especially hers, I outlived Lady Dagmar Keldeleth. Her death was hard on my sons and I and I do not wish to dwell on it much for things were said to me that speak ill of her and I do not wish to speak ill of the dead. On how I met my second wife the even more gorgeous Countessa Genevria de Betto de Adriano is a tale for another time. I will never forget the parts of that night I can remember and I hope the wisdom of it is not lost.

By my hand
Iarll Owen ap Aeddán
Marchog of Ansteorra



Bookmarks

So let's talk about bookmarks:

We have received our bookmarks that we have ordered! We will be handing out bookmarks to everyone at populace. We expect you to keep one if you want, however please hand out the rest. Where should you put them well here are a few places:

Bookmarks:

If you buy books at a book store place a book mark in the next one on the shelf.

If you are at a Library you can leave a stack of them at the checkout desk.

When you buy your favorite beer put one in the next six pack of beer, on the shelf.

These can also be used in other locations like craft stores, liquor stores, and gaming supply stores.

The idea is to place this recruitment tool someplace where someone who has interest that match with the interests of an existing SCA member. We are working on getting a nice wooden display stand so we can place some at the libraries throughout the OKC metro. If you think of a location that could use a display stand please let me know. If you have any questions about what to do with the bookmarks please let me know.

Iarll Owen ap Aeddán
Marchog of Ansteorra

Officers Positions Open

Besides the Knife, Axe, and Spear Marshal which is currently open, there are several positions that are going to be open in the next year and many open deputy spots. One way you learn is by doing. We respectfully ask if there is a position you can help with to please ask to be a deputy to someone. Especially if you are thinking about becoming an officer in the future. Being a deputy is the best way to learn how. With that said below is the list of available spots. Please contact the appropriate officer, Seneschal, Baroness, or Baron if you are interested.

Please help out your Barony by turning in applications today!

Baroness

Mistress Deirdre ni'Raighailligh
Kim Friend
405-397-7649
(texts ok, calls between 6p – 10pm, please)
baroness@Wiesenfeuer.ansteorra.org



Deputy Chronicler

AJ Robinson
ajrobinson0824@gmail.com
405-659-9943

Minister of A & S

HL Wilhelm Meis
Darren W. Mize
405-655-0676
MoAS@Wiesenfeuer.Ansteorra.org



Baroness

Mistress Valia of the Mists
Lesia King
405-875-1945
texts ok, calls between 6p - 10 pm, please
baroness@wiesenfeuer.ansteorra.org

Webminister

Lady Sainte du Bois
Catherine (Cathy) Evans
508-331-6727 (texts ok)
6908 Lyrewood Ln #167
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
Webminister@Wiesenfeuer.Ansteorra.org



Deputy Minister of A&S

Alicia Blackdragon
Stacy Cullum
405-623-7790
hotlady@gmail.com

Seneschal

Owen ap Aeddan
Eric Jackson
414 R Grant Ave
Guthrie, OK 73044
405-606-9559
seneschal@wiesenfeuer.ansteorra.org



Knight Marshal

Godfrey of Del
Jeffery Brown
4816 Trina Dr
Del City, OK
405-474-0501 (no texts)



Minister of Children

Lady Liadan of Patrin-Or
moc@wiesenfeuer.ansteorra.org

Equestrian Contact

Lucais du Belier

Deputy Seneschal

Burke Kyriell MacDonald
SirBurke@cox.net

Deputy Knight Marshal

Skjöldúlfr Hildibjarnarson

Rapier Marshal

HE Don Elric Dracwin
rapier@Wiesenfeuer.Ansteorra.org

Reeve/Exchecquer

Aileann ni Raghailigh
4317 SW 22nd St Apt #616
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
918-949-8152
Reeve@Wiesenfeuer.Ansteorra.org



Archery Marshal

Phaedra Valeriana Pavo
Archery@Wiesenfeuer.Ansteorra.org

Deputy Reeve

Lady Aubrey Ericsdatter
Aubrey Cole
405-316-6095
aubreyericsdatter@gmail.com

Knife, Ax, & Spear Marshal open

Youth Combat
Maureen Cheithernag

Herald

HL Grimolfr Einarsson
Kevin Valliquette
16013 Big Cypress Dr
Edmond, OK 73013
Herald@Wiesenfeuer.Ansteorra.org



Hospitaler

Ahlana a'Becket
Heidemarie Brandes
12104 Victoria Pl
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
SCAOKC@gmail.com



Deputy Hospitaler

HL Rainah Du Bois
Dawn Marsee
4200 Franklin Rd
Norman, OK
918-918-0372
No calls after 10pm
Rainahdubois@hotmail.com



Deputy Herald

Centurion Alexander

Chronicler

Donnán Ó Néill
Robert Schaefer,
405-396-6592
Chronicler@Wiesenfeuer.ansteorra.org

Baronial Champions

Chivalric – Sir Vladislav Strelec
Rapier – Don Trevor MacRae
Archery – Mistress Adena Terricsdottir
Knife, Ax, and Spear – Fegrog
Middle Eastern Dance – HE Alannah A'Becket
Middle Eastern Drum – HE Donnchadh Beag Mac Griogair
Arts and Sciences – HE Mistress Adalaide de Burbon
Bardic – Arnulf Iron Skull

Youth Champions

Youth Archery – Adair ap Owen
Youth Chivalric – Sheamus
- Adair ap Owen
Youth Middle Eastern Drum – Lillian of Wiesenfeuer
Youth Middle Eastern Dance – Cainnear Lylle
Youth Bardic - Evangeline Blanchfleur
Youth Arts and Sciences - Natalie Garrett & Cainear Lylle
Youth Subtilties – Madeline Starling & Sarah

Royal Liaison

Cadhla Ua Cellachain

Wiesenfeuer Meetings and Events

There are many activities within the Barony. Whether you are interested in Fighting, Arts and Sciences, or Just learning about the times and people we are striving to recreate, there is always something to do. Many Friendly members in our populace are willing to show their craft or help out with whatever you may have interest in.

See the calendar page and the meeting schedule list for the scheduling of practices, scribal nights, arts and science meetings, and other activities. Come out and join in the fun!

Populace Meeting June 6

Date: First non-holiday Monday of each month Place: Ingrid's Kitchen¹

Time: 7pm

Populace Meeting is the business meeting for all members of the barony and other interested persons. Meeting include officer reports, policy statements, announcements, general pomp, circumstance, and fun.

Officers Meeting June 20

Date: Third Monday of each month Place: TBD

Time: 7pm

The officers meetings are held at 7pm on the third Monday of each month. Non officers may attend. There will be an open floor at the end of the meeting.

Archery Practice TBA

Time: 2 - 4 PM

Place: Practice Field⁴

Target archery practice for the barony to practice. This is held as resources are available. Check facebook, mailing lists, and website for updates on times and dates.

Arts and Sciences Meeting June 9

Date: Second Thursday

Place: Dakani Nature Center²

Time: 7pm

This month we have a special guest speaker coming to talk about medieval forestry and bee keeping. Come learn about life in the middle ages.

Chivalric Practice June 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

Date: Wednesdays Time: 7pm Place: Taylor Recreation Center³

SCA heavy weapons fighting is based on the medieval ideal of the knight. All SCA combat is real and unchoreographed. The weapons are made of rattan. Loaner gear is available. a donation of \$2 per person per session is required.

Scribal Meeting June 7, 14, 21, & 28

Date: Tuesdays Time: 7pm Place: Check Facebook for locations

Calligraphy and Illumination painting. A donation of \$2 per person per session is required. Loaner paints and brushes available.

Rapier Practice June 7, 14, 21, & 28

Date: Tuesdays Time: 7pm Place: Taylor Recreation Center³

Practices are sometimes cancelled due to weather or overlapping activities. Light weapons combat is an SCA form of combat used toward the end of the Middle Ages. Loaner gear is available. A donation of \$2 per person per session is encouraged.

Youth Combat June 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

Date: Wednesdays Time: 7pm - 8pm Place: Taylor Recreation Center³

Youth combat is for boys and girls are 6 to 15 years. They fight with foam-padded weapons. There are 3 age divisions within the program; 6-9 years, 10-12 years, and 13-15 years. The armor requirements and the strength of blows allowed increase as a child progresses through the levels.

Beginning Equipment for Youth Combat:

Each new youth fighter should wear long pants, a long-sleeve shirt, closed-toe shoes, lightweight gloves, and groin protection. A parent or an adult designated by the parent needs to be present throughout the practice.

There is some loaner armor but anything you can provide yourself is helpful. Armor requirements vary by age but all ages will need a helmet with face guard (such as a hockey or lacrosse helmet) and a gorget (medium-weight leather with ½ inch closed-cell padding). Knee and elbow pads are required for the older kids and helpful for the younger. The full armor and weapon requirements and rules for combat may be found in the Complete Participants Handbook. This is available on the Kingdom Earl Marshal's website at <http://marshal.ansteorra.org/armored>. Of course feel free to contact your friendly local marshal with any questions!

¹ Ingrid's Kitchen, 3701 N Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK

² Dakani Nature Center, 3309 E. Hefner Rd., Oklahoma City, OK 73131

³ Taylor Recreation Center, 1115 SW 70th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73139

⁴ 5102 Woodhollow Rd, Oklahoma City, OK 73121

Myrgenfeld

Populace - 1st Thursday at 6:30 PM at the Guthrie public Library
Arts & Sciences - 3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM at Finn's house in Edmond
Bardic Guild - 4th Thursday at 6:30 PM at Finn's house in Edmond

Sunday Celebration - The 1st and 3rd Sunday at 2 PM at Highland Park. This includes chivalric, rapier, and youth practice as well as other populace activities.

Haldtre

Officers

Seneschal – Ly. Cáelainn inghean ui Dhorchaidhe (mka Echo Constable), 580-303-1355
Deputy Senescal - Kizzy, haldtrenewsletter@gmail.com
Reeve – haldtre.reeve@gmail.com
Minister of Arts & Sciences – Ly. Julian de Clare, haldtre.moas@gmail.com
Archery Marshal – Hitoshi
Chronicler – Kizzy, haldtrenewsletter@gmail.com

Activities

Haldtre Folkmoot occurs on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM.
Meet at Town Hall, Foss, OK - Between 1st and 2nd on west side of Broadway.
Wearing period garb is encouraged.

Chivalric Practice: Check Facebook , 580-303-1905

Archery Practice and Knife, Axe & Spear Practice held at the home of Hitoshi & Cáelainn at 409 W. 5th St., Foss, 580-303-1905, Time TBD

Ansteorra Kingdom Calendar

June 2016 (A.S. LI)

- 3-5 Emerald Tourney - Emerald Keep (Waco, TX)
- 10-12 King's College - Namron (Norman, OK)
- 17-26 50th Year Celebration - Kingdom of the Middle
- 30 [Summer Crown Tournament Due](#)
[Summer Round Table Bids Due](#)

July 2016 (A.S. LI)

- 1-3 Kingdom Fiber Arts College - Eldern Hills (Lawton, OK)
- 8-10 Crown Tournament - Bjornsborg (San Antonio, TX)
- 15-17 Roundtable - Kingdom of Ansteorra hosted by Canton od GHlaslyn
- 22-24 Ansteorran Heraldic & Scribal Symposium - Raven's Fort (huntsville, TX)
Unofficial Event: Laurel's Retreat - Laurel's of Ansteorra
- 29-14 Pennsic XLV
- 31 [Fall Coronarion/King's Champion Bids Due](#)
[Fall Queen's Champion Bids Due](#)

August 2016 (A.S. LI)

- 14 Pennsic XLV
- 5-7 A Big Problem - Chemin Noir (Bartlesville, OK)
- 13 A Summer's Dance - Haldtree & Myrgenfeld
- 19-21 Steppes Artisan - (Dallas, TX)
- 26-28 Glaslyn Artisan - (Denton, TX)
- 31 [Laurel's Prize Tourney/Fall Arts Bids Due](#)
[Fall Royal Lancer Bids Due](#)
[Fall Royal Huntsman Bids Due](#)
[Kingdom Middle Eastern Dance Bids Due](#)
[Eisteddfod Bids Due](#)

Waivers available upon request. All clip-art is used with permission. All the badges were made by Emma de Fetherstan and provided by the Kingdom Chronicler for use in kingdom newsletters. Wallpapers were made by the Baronial Chronicler (me) from baronial device provided by the senechal and used in previous newsletters as well as on the cover of this newsletter. The Flamebearer art on the cover was provided by Issac Bane.

Recruitment & Retention

The Ultimate Guide

Recruitment and Retention is everyone's job! Every participant in this fabulous game needs to recruit and retain. Towards this end, the first thing that everyone playing SCA needs to do is stop spending so much time on the negative parts of the SCA. We need to remember why we are playing this game we need to make our own fun. Everyone has 10 positive stories about the SCA for every one negative story. Yet people tend to focus on the negative. This is poisonous for both recruitment and retention. I am looking at recruitment into the SCA as marketing the SCA, with marketing; you are more successful if you target your marketing to the audience who is already predisposed to the SCA. Everyone who plays SCA has some fundamental things that we all have in common. For example most people who play SCA have played roleplaying games and or collect comic books so putting a come check the SCA out sign at a Gaming shop is a good idea. Like a good story the marketing needs to be tailored to the audience. Here are some of the tools I use, and my thoughts on how best to use them.

Recruitment ideas:

Demos:

Need a pre planning meeting treat them like a mini event, make sure everyone who is coming understands this is our best foot forward good impression time. Tailor your layout and people placement to best work off of the abilities those who attend. You would not put the shy introvert at the front handing out business cards etc.

Recruitment posters:

They should be placed in libraries, bookstores, game shops, liquor stores and any place the group meets at. (This one should have when the group meets on it at that location). They should look really nice and be catching to the eye. They should have enough information that after looking at the poster they can make contact with someone in the group.

Business cards:

Great for SCA players who enjoy walking up and talking to anyone, small easy to carry every extrovert in the group should have some. They should look nice and have enough information on them to make contact with the group simple. They can be given out anywhere. They should have a blank space on them so the person handing it out can put their contact info on it. This small gesture helps establish the connections to keep people interested in our game.

Bookmarks:

If you buy books at a book store place a book mark in the next one on the shelf.

If you are at a Library you can leave a stack of them at the checkout desk.

When you buy your favorite beer put one in the next six pack of beer, on the shelf.

They should look nice and have a way to contact the local group easily.

These can also be used in other locations like craft stores, liquor stores, and gaming supply stores.

Give 10 to each member of the populace and tell them to give them all away before the next meeting.

You can also tailor the bookmark for where you are planning on having it placed.

Flyers:

Great for demos, needs to look good and have a ton of information with each section having links to send people to.

Raffle item:

Best used at demos and monthly activities. Have a small nice SCA thing that people have to fill out a contact information sheet to earn a raffle ticket for the nice SCA thing. (Pouch, cloth belt, feast gear etc etc etc) to get the ticket their contact info needs to be legible. At the end of the demo draw a ticket match it to the contact sheet send the winner the prizes as well as a coupon, everyone else send them a letter that says sorry you did not win the SCA thing but here is a coupon. Now the coupon is for a free something i.e. please come to this activity we will make you a tunic or a dress, come to this activity and you get a pouch but have them RSVP. The person that they need to contact should be on the coupon. This will give the people running the activity an idea of what to expect. The letter that goes out should invite them to the next thing on your group's calendar and list what else is going on that month. Every activity creates a raffle opportunity.

Contact List:

Usually gets name address phone email and interests usually used at a Demo. Before anyone puts info on a contact list an email that thanks them for the interest, and inviting them to the meeting and listing the different activities. It needs to be ready to send before the demo even happens. If you have a three day demo then when the demo shuts down on day 1 an email goes out to anyone on the contact list. Day 2 ends send out the same email to those people who filled out the contact list on day 2. Then on day 3 after the demo is done send out the email to the day 3 people. After the demo have a team split the contact list into activities and send a second email directed at the activities they have shown interest in.

Meeting places:

Public neutral locations are best for meetings and group activities. Libraries, hobby stores all have places to hold A&S classes and meetings. The benefits to this are a neutral location that will help advertise your class and give you the opportunity to also recruit new members. Also it shows you are part of the community which will help if you are trying to use a community center or a park.

When the meeting is over have a restaurant that everyone goes to afterwards, this helps with group comradery and spirit de corps.

Mini Events:

We have a full Kingdom Event Calendar; however when you are brand new to the SCA the idea of driving several hours out to the middle of nowhere and spending X amount of money may be intimidating. However if you have a mini one day event with a little bit of everything (A&S, fighting rapier and chivalric, archery, knife, ax and spear) have a feast and songs and stories. You get the chance to train newer established members on how events run and how to do a feast and the newest members get a small taste of the magic that is an SCA event.

Retention:

Everyone who leaves the SCA has a reason for doing so, but the main reason people stay is because of the relationships. So one of the best ways to retain members is to nurture those relationships, keep in contact with the people you have made connections with, call email and visit, check on them, make sure they know they are missed, and invite them to activities. If you go to a meeting and you don't see someone that you expected to see, check on them it is really easy to lose SCA participants because they feel they have lost that connection. Finally we must make our own fun this awesome hobby is time and resource expensive make sure you are having fun while you do it, because if we are all having fun then we will attract the people who are looking for the good time that is the SCA.

I cannot stress enough how excited I am to go on this great journey with all of you, it will be awesome!

Iarll Owen ap Aeddau
Marchog of Ansteorra