

## **Minutes of the Kingdom of Ealdormere Moot**

For the Reign of King Evander and Queen Marioun

Held September 14, 2024 at Stone the Crows

Hosts: The Shire of Champcorbeau in Merlin, Ontario.

Lawspeaker: Petra of the Rozakii

The Moot opened with a short speech about the Lawspeaker being a Deputy of the Kingdom Seneschal, who does not answer to the Crown, but to the Populace.

As required, a section of law was read. Article IX, focusing on the responsibilities of the Lawspeaker of Ealdormere, was reviewed.

The Lawspeaker reminded attendees that the Lawspeaker is an ombudsperson for the populace, to help people manage personal issues. Issues arising from conduct on the field are automatically the purview of the marshalate. If someone broke a civil law, then the Seneschals need to know but it's a matter for the police.

Nika, speaking as a former Lawspeaker, clarified that the Lawspeaker is there to step in and offer guidance, mediation, and to encourage people to talk with each other. It's only if discussion fails that you start going up the chain of Kingdom Courts, and if they can't sort things out to everyone's satisfaction then it goes up to the BoD.

The Lawspeaker invited Brand to speak about an issue he had previously mentioned.

First he regaled us with tales of old, recalling a program which was meant to engage the youth of our Kingdom. However, it was overly complicated, so it never became popular.

Brand then went on to mention his recent trip to the Midrealm where they have this "weirdly chill" Page Program, that is applicable society-wide because the service doesn't have to be done at Midrealm events. Here's how it works: a youth says they want to be in the Page Program. Then they get called up in court and given a purple belt. Then there's an online Google form that parents, marshals, autocrats – pretty much anyone – can go in and record the number of hours and type of service the youth did for the SCA. When you reach a certain number of hours they are called up into court and given a scroll saying they've reached a new level in the Page Program.

In the Midrealm there are five levels and a very long instruction book. Brand proposes three levels, and a much shorter set of guidelines. Also, some of the level names that the Midrealm uses are already in use by other organizations in Ealdormere ("Scholar", for example), so Ealdormere would have to come up with its own levels.

Brand volunteers to assist the Minister of Youth to develop this program, but does not have the time to maintain it.

Yolisha of Lichfield suggested maybe a deputy just to get it going.

Brand has a copy of the Midrealm handbook that he was given with the intent that Ealdormere use it as a basis.

There was a discussion regarding recognition, including that it would give youth some adult-like recognition to also get scrolls for awards. It would also give them cool things to put up on their walls.

Which led to a digression from several people: the Minister of Youth would like to step down. He has been doing an incredible job, and it is time for someone new to take on the position.

There was a question from Thomas the Pardoner: would there be a minimum age for this new Page Program?

Brand answered, using the Award of the Wolf's Cub as an example which has a maximum age, but no minimum age. In general, there is no minimum age for Kingdom level awards, because some youth grow up in the SCA and have put in significant effort by the time they're fourteen.

When it comes to awards not reserved for the under-eighteen set, the SCA judges people considered to be "youth" on the same scale as adults. A fourteen-year-old might do significantly more than someone who is forty, and each will get the recognition they deserve.

There was a discussion about whether or not the hours would count towards Ontario Ministry of Education high school volunteer hour graduation requirements. The conclusion was that it would depend on the school, as each seems to exercise slightly different standards.

Yolisha brought up that Pennsic is starting a mentoring program, and that it might be worth setting up some older youth as deputies for this program, to give them experience in both the business side and the fun side; both giving back and volunteering. This would be one way to build the future officers of the SCA.

Nika brought up the Yomen of the Wolf, which is similar for archery and thrown weapons. Any time that you shoot or throw, assist with the range, do research – Yomen earn points and there are levels. You get a badge as you progress, and each level has a title. Youth start at Yoeman, then Yoeman Corporal, Yoeman Sergeant, and Yoeman Captain. They are also encouraged to do group projects and develop cool shoots. Nika fully supports the custom of awarding scrolls at every level.

The Lawspeaker asked if anyone had any further questions or comments regarding the laws and how the Kingdom is run, and there were no hands.

As Kingdom Seneschal, Lucia de Moranza made one more request for a replacement for the current Minister of Youth, who has held the position for far longer than initially agreed to, and who is more than willing to help out the next person to hold the office.

There being no further business, the Moot was closed.