

Minutes of the Kingdom of Ealdormere Moot

For the Reign of: King Crispin and Queen Anne

Held on: March 29, 2025, at Kingdom Arts & Sciences

Hosts: The Shire of Trinovantia Nova

Lawspeaker: Petra of the Rozakii

Summary

This Moot introduced the new “one seat per customer” law, discussed the Ealdormere website, reviewed the current status of the Page Program, then deliberated on the issue of how to improve accessibility at events.

Reading of the Law

This is a revision of an existing law about who can hold how many offices while sitting on Privy Council. It basically says that if you want to serve on Privy Council the limit is one seat at the table per customer.

There is a misconception that you cannot hold both a local office and serve at the Kingdom level. This is not true, so long as you do not wind up reporting to yourself (or might wind up reporting to yourself). For example: you can be both local group marshal and also serve as Kingdom Waiver Secretary.

The following law was read into the Moot:

Section VI-500 Officers of State may not hold any other Corporate or Kingdom office, nor may they serve as a drop-dead deputy of another Kingdom Office of State. Officers of State may hold a local office, provided that office does not report to the Kingdom office they hold.

And this is why: A “Kingdom Office” is a position on Privy Council. The Kingdom Officers are: Kingdom Seneschal, Trillium Principal Herald, Earl Marshal, Kingdom Minister of Arts & Sciences, Kingdom Exchequer, Kingdom Chronicler, Kingdom Clerk-Register, and Kingdom Chatelaine.

Every seat on Privy Council gets one vote when deliberating Kingdom business. The Sovereign and Consort get one vote each, the Heirs share a vote, and the Lawspeaker does not vote.

A few examples of Kingdom business are: advising the Crown, law changes, approving Kingdom event bids such as Coronations, Crowns & Kingdom A&S, as well as approving officer handbooks.

Q: Can I be Kingdom Earl Marshall, and also Kingdom Chatelaine?

A: Nope. Not only would it be a lot of work, but you would be holding two votes on Privy Council.

Q: Can I hold a local office, such as local group Marshal and still be the Kingdom Earl Marshal?

A: Yes, but you can't be the local group Herald because you'd be reporting to yourself, and that's not allowed. You can't be your own boss.

Q: Can I serve on the Board of Directors at the Society level and also be Kingdom Seneschal?

A: No, you cannot.

With the law being read, and no questions being asked, the Moot moved on.

Ahead of the Moot, the populace was asked to contribute topics so the appropriate experts would be on hand to provide answers.

First Topic: The Ealdormere Website

What's up with the Ealdormere website? To be clear, this is a very, very large responsibility. But the website and Wiki aren't up to date, and this is where we are sending newcomers. On social media there is a lot of misinformation. An out-of-date website is a problem, if it can't be relied upon to be a true reference for what's going on.

Laura spoke to mention that she is applying to the job of website management and would like to improve it. She is open to suggestions.

Dietrich is one of the moderators for the Ealdormere Wiki. The Wiki is updated on a volunteer basis, so if you would like an update if you need to the Wiki moderators. There's a perception that the problem is that nobody wants to do the updating, but Dietrich is enthusiastically happy to do the updating if you let him know what needs updating.

Skya added that the Wiki is consent-based, so it won't be updated unless you ask for it. People need to ask for their information to be updated, because no one knows what you want on there unless you tell them.

Laura added that, regarding the website, Penda has been doing a lot of background stuff in terms of swapping out our servers to a less expensive thing, and changing some of the stuff behind the scenes. Improvements have been happening, but they aren't visible on the website itself. It's all back-end stuff.

Joan suggested that, if there are a number of people who might be interested in taking on the job next, it might be a good idea to split it into smaller components, so there is more progress and you get more people reviewing.

Seamus challenged attendees at the Moot. If you do not have a Kingdom Wiki page, why not? It's a good way of letting all your new friends know who you are.

Brand responded that he would like to remain an "international man of mystery" on the Wiki. His preference is to talk to people in person and sometimes publicly. He emphasized that this was a personal opinion, but that adding information to the Wiki felt like bragging, and one more thing to have to worry about.

Alisha argued that the Wiki is a way of making yourself recognizable and saying "This is stuff I know about. Come see me. I'm approachable. I'm willing to talk to people."

It was mentioned that a Wiki page doesn't have to be a CV, but people are welcome to treat it like a creative writing exercise to develop their persona.

Ashland brought up that there is a problem relating to communicating event information. Specifically, that sometimes critical information is only being shared to the Facebook group. As we have an increasing number of members who aren't on Facebook, that becomes a problem and, in fact, has been an issue regarding submission deadlines for a recent event.

There was some discussion regarding that point.

Lasorfina discussed her experience with under-promoting on the (popular) Kingdom Discord group. With mundane experience in the field, Lasorfina would be happy to work with setting up event communication guidelines.

As part of the discussion of maintaining websites, the Lawspeaker interjected, adding that there are some websites in Ealdormere which are not attached to the Kingdom website. The Lawspeaker strongly urged groups to migrate over to the Kingdom web presence.

Bridget suggested that it would be a good idea to add a communications section to the Ealdormere Event Steward Handbook.

The Lawspeaker reminded people that there is an Ealdormere Event Handbook that is very helpful and is an easy read.

Helena highly recommended moving websites to the Kingdom server. Helena went on to ask about email management, stating that the free Gmail option has a major downside in that there is a limited number of free addresses. It is also tied to an individual, not the Kingdom (not even the group).

Brand answered that free and ease of use is why the Kingdom uses Gmail, and that there is a plan to improve things. Ealdormere is getting pressure from Society to set up a consolidated web presence that includes email. Setting up an email is dead easy and cheap. What is not easy is spam filtering. The minute we put out on a website the email seneschal@ealdormere.ca, the account is bombarded with spam. Google has great spam filtering, but group accounts are not cheap. We are working on getting not for profit recognition – which would decrease the cost significantly.

Laura added that Penda is currently working with Society to sort out our not for profit status in Canada, with regards to Google.

There was a discussion about mailing groups, and it was determined that having a Google Workspace would make managing mailing groups very straightforward.

There is also the option of setting up an RSS feed for newsletters.

Second Topic: Is there an update on the Page Program?

Marion stated that, as they just became the Children's Minister, they have not had a chance to get started on anything but thinks Brand has a great idea about the Page Program. Marion would be very willing to support making it happen.

Brand said that we need purple belts. They can be fabric, ribbon, leather – anything reasonable to use as a belt. The program needs various sizes to fit everyone from a tiny toddler to a teenager after a growth spurt. Someone immediately spoke up, saying they have three belts at the event, ready to donate. Brand needs four more and as soon as he has collected them, he'll hand them off to Marion.

An explanation of the Page Program was requested.

Brand explained that this will be a simplified version of programs available in other Kingdoms. Ealdormere does not have the population to go with a complicated setup. The page program, as it exists in a couple other Kingdoms, starts with a kid who says "I want to do stuff." Then they come up in court, get a purple belt that shows they're part of the page program, so they have some public recognition that

they're volunteering, and then they report anything they do. When they hit a certain number of hours they get called into court and are given a scroll to recognize that they reached a new level of the page program. It's to give kids a chance to participate and be recognized for their efforts, with an upper range of 18 years old. This does not stop children from receiving other awards! To start the program we need eight belts, a two-page handbook, and then we will make an announcement at an event.

Third Topic: Accessibility

Will future event sites be accessible for mobility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers, etc., and friendly to those with breathing issues regarding fragrances, for example: asthma, or multiple chemical sensitivities? Can those with medical and mobility issues have the first opportunity to register for bunk lodging or other location accommodations at camping events?

Lassarfhina stated that this is a really important point and that we continue to prioritize these issues. Ealdormere has a diverse community of folks with various support needs and the whole thing that we lean on in this community is "come and be welcome". We are queer welcoming. We welcome folks with disabilities, both cognitive and physical. Lassarfhina emphasized that it's absolutely vital to prioritize accommodations when possible. Also, it is incredibly difficult to find a site that suits every single need. It is not possible to book a site that is all things for all the activities that can take place at an SCA event. Sometimes there are compromises. It is vital we communicate when there are key accessibility issues, and when they can and cannot be met. This would also include quiet spaces, where the ramps are, and extra parking. It is important the event stewards ask the community explicitly what the needs are in advance of the event, to see if accommodations can be arranged in advance.

A couple of years ago, while setting up Practicum, Constance related that they came across a surprising rule. They were told that the local group cannot make health and safety rules for the SCA. That means an SCA group cannot make a rule that bans perfume at one of our events or requires people to wear a mask. The site has to require it. This Kingdom A&S is scent free because the church requires it, so that's okay, but only because the site requires it.

Constance stated that the mobility issues are somewhat covered by Ontario law, but implied that the bar is very, very low. Constance pointed out that we all personally know someone with mobility issues, and that is going to be an issue for more and more of us.

Sciath stated that Rising Waters now has an Accessibility Officer and their role is to go on walkthroughs of all our new venues, so that they can identify what accessibility we're able to manage and where we need to have accommodations in place. She then described some common issues with our event sites: sometimes the event is very spread out, or is happening in only a few very loud rooms. Having an Accessibility Officer has been really helpful in keeping these issues in focus, not just for events, but also practices meetups. Things like that to make sure that we are, you know, keeping this in mind.

Sciath went on to describe the problems groups are having with booking event sites. Among other issues, places are treating basic accommodation issues – such as access to elevators – as à la carte.

Joan brought up the issue that it would be unfortunate to lose a beautiful site because it has three or four steps or something. An example was given of how accommodations can be managed: at this event, because the main doors open outward and there is no way to prop them open, the event staff planned

for someone to stand at the door and hold it open while people are coming and going carrying all their equipment.

Joan also suggested seeing if the Society law about not making accommodation requirements (such as scent sensitivities and masking) could be addressed by someone who understood the issues, and maybe get it changed.

It was suggested that the Event Handbook be updated with details from this Moot. Constance volunteered to assist.

It was discussed that the considerations for a camping site vs. an indoor site are going to be very different. But of ultimate importance is being aware that accommodations are not a want, they're a need. It's a privilege that those with able bodies to be able to access any site, and we need to make sure that we are welcoming to all.

Lassarfhina suggested thinking about cost in a completely different way. We need to think about what we prioritize as a community, and sometimes folding into our budget recognition that it will cost some extra money to provide some essentials and to communicate when we are not committing certain. It would be very helpful to have explicit guidelines.

Deitricht stated that this should fall under DEI at the society level.

Lucia outlined the chaos that's currently going on at Society level, regarding appointing a DEI officer, who then became the corporate DEI officer, but there isn't currently one at Society level.

The Lawspeaker said but that doesn't mean local groups can't have DEI deputies.

RW Baroness let us know about the Rising Waters DEI Officer. However they've had no other SCA DEI officers to work with, so it's been really hard to determine what resources would be useful.

Lucia said that Society is discouraging DEI officers at levels lower than Kingdom, and that it's been a challenge in many places, due to current political issues.

Anne said that DEI is a very important. It should not be forgotten.

The general consensus was that the office should remain, even if it becomes unique to Ealdormere.