

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

For the Reign of King Gannicus and Queen Maegwynn

Held September 20, 2025, at Stone the Crows

Hosts: The Shire of Champcorbeau in Merlin, Ontario.

Lawspeaker: Petra of the Rozakii

The Moot opened with a reading of Kingdom Law I-500, with commentary and minor explanations. The question of whether or not the Seneschal was required to sign updates to Kingdom law was raised: the answer is yes, or they will probably be replaced. One of the reasons for the official signatures is to make it official, and so none of the Seneschal, Consort, or Sovereign may claim they didn't know the law was in force.

What if the law gets discussed in one reign, can it be signed in the next? Yes, but it's better to get it done all in the same reign.

Section 500 doesn't say that Kingdom Law must be updated, but Section VII-103 states the Kingdom Seneschal "shall ensure that changes to Kingdom Law will be made available to the subjects of Ealdormere on the Kingdom Website."

In the old days, hardcopies of Kingdom law were printed for sale, and they only had to be updated once every 10 years.

**Question #1: What does it mean when the board announces that someone is temporarily removed from participation by Society?** This question arose from a declaration of the Board that a specific person was "temporarily removed from participation" while an investigation was ongoing.

This is most concisely answered by directly quoting the SCA Governing Documents, Section B.3:

Temporary removal from Participation precludes the individual from attendance or participation in any way, shape or form in any SCA activity, event, practice, or official gathering for any reason, at any time. This includes a ban on participation on officially recognized SCA social media (Facebook) sites, officially recognized SCA electronic email lists, and officially recognized SCA webpages. This sanction, once upheld by the Board of Directors, continues until the Board makes a final decision in the matter.

**Question #2: Does anyone know where we stand on updates to the Stewards Handbook?**

The current progress status is unknown.

**Question #3: Would it be possible to open early registration for people who need accommodations, for events where accommodations are available?** For example, camping

events with limited cot space, or locations that are closer to the main event space or accessible washrooms.

There was a situation where the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act was reviewed with regards to where to put their tent and trailer. The discussion boiled down to the group needing to be able to provide as much accommodation as possible without undo impact on the group. In this case, it did not seem to be necessary to rearrange where the porta loos were located, but it was certainly possible to reserve a camping location closer to the accessible units. Similarly, early registration to reserve bunk space is a great example of how a group could provide reasonable accommodations.

Suggestions include:

- Better codify in Kingdom laws what we expect events to do in order to follow the mundane rules. Specifically, to reference the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, not to re-state the details.
- We need to honor and include, in a meaningful way, the people who will benefit from accommodations.
- If we want to be an accessible event, we need to publish the accessible options that are available at the event so people can decide ahead of time if the event is accessible for them.
- It would be very useful to have a standardized list of “this site meets the following... this site does not have the following...” such as the East Kingdom’s accessibility checklist.
- Implement a DEI Officer.

The Kingdom Seneschal explained that the implementation of a DEI Officer will have to wait until there is further direction from Society, which has recently appointed a DEI Officer who will be setting guidelines for the rest of Society. Many of the very good points will have to wait until a Kingdom DEI Officer can be appointed, and it is in the works.

#### **Question #4: Is there an update on the not-for-profit status?**

The SCA Canada Working Group is looking into resolving the tax issue and, by extension, how the SCA branches in Canada need to be registered. Progress is slow, but is happening. The Board of the SCA is very much in support of getting the status of the Canadian branches made official.

#### **Question #5: Is there help for running local websites?**

All groups should be shifting their websites over to the Kingdom website.

It was strongly suggested to set up Deputies to help with running the Kingdom website, because it is a huge responsibility. Being a Deputy is also an excellent way to “dip your toes in the water”.

#### **Question #6: Can two events be held at the same time? For example Kingdom A&S and Crown?**

It would require changes to Kingdom law. Additionally, Ealdormere is not a large kingdom. We have white belts who are heavily involved in A&S, archers who fence, and many other

crossovers. It is better for the health of our Kingdom to hold events that are purpose-specific, so people are able to participate in competitions without having to choose between them. Additionally, the Crowns would not be able to dedicate enough time to each area of interest.

Merging Kingdom events would make them very large. Drastically increasing the size of events would reduce the number of groups that could host them - not just due to upfront costs, but mainly due to the lack of available spaces large enough to rent.

“Mega” events work for Kingdom events that go over a weekend. Ealdormere does not have a lot of weekends where camping events are feasible, due to weather.

Right now Ealdormere deliberately rotates Kingdom events around. Holding multiple events allows different groups to make money.

**Question #7: Events and feasts are too expensive. How are the prices determined?**

Events and related feast/boards are priced to break even and maintain a small cushion to hold the next event. Profits are used to pay for weekly site meetings, or loaner gear - for items and services that are of benefit to the hosting group.

Different event sites are very, very differently priced. Location has everything to do with costs. Also, there are no guarantees on how many people will attend, so the gate fee has to be set accordingly.

**Question #8: What are the rules on donating? Who do I speak to?**

Anybody can donate whatever they want. The SCA does not issue donation receipts.

Fundraising conducted by a private citizen, and not published with any reference(s) to the SCA, is none of the SCA's business.

Fundraising can be a messy topic. Please run your specific fundraising ideas past the Kingdom Exchequer. Generally, in-person fundraisers at events are okay.

**Related Question: Would a Canadian affiliate be able to issue tax receipts?**

Highly unlikely. To issue tax receipts in Canada, an organization has to be registered as a charitable organization. The SCA probably does not qualify because it exists to benefit its members. Additionally, the amount and scope of rules and reporting required to maintain charitable status is excessive given the minor potential benefit.

**Question #9: Would it be a good rule to have a transparent budget that shows how close we are to running a zero-sum game?**

Yes. This would be a matter to consider if the Canadian groups form an affiliate.

**Question #10: Is there a limit to how many times an Autocrat can consecutively run events in a row, or annually?**

No. However, if the same people run the same events, it often discourages people from trying new ideas. It can be really hard to let go of an event if you've run it “forever”, especially if it is a

popular event.

You should feel free to discuss future changes to group events, both with the “forever” autocrat and with the group at large. If you are not personally comfortable doing so, discuss the options with other people and see if someone else feels comfortable championing the new idea.

### **Related Question: What if the current autocrat refuses to share?**

It's really hard to let go of that baby that you've run forever, and it works, and people like it, and there are people who love the event - it can be jarring when somebody else is asking if they can participate or change the way it's run.

The best thing to do is to talk with them. It's sometimes difficult, but that's when you find a friend or a Seneschal who's happy to either talk for you or stand there and say, yes, what they're saying makes sense.

Try suggesting a Deputy position first, and accepting responsibility for specific tasks. It is really important that everyone who is interested in a position (autocrat or otherwise) has a chance to be a Deputy first. That's how knowledge and experience is transferred, and that's how the Society keeps going. Having the opportunity to work with someone who knows how it can be done with their eyes closed is priceless because they can share all the tips and tricks for that position.

There is, however, a nuclear option if you run into somebody who just won't let go of an event. If everyone in the group is saying “Hey, we need to change this” or “We need to do this other thing” and the autocrat isn't listening, then your group has the option of not approving the event budget.

Events require budgets, and the budget must be approved by the Financial Committee of the hosting branch. Aside from the Kingdom, and possibly a Barony, the Financial Committee consists of the branch Seneschal, Exchequer, and all members present at a meeting. If you are a paid member of the SCA, you can vote on the event budget. Or not. Remember: this is the nuclear option. It is strongly advisable to negotiate instead, both because the traditional autocrat really does know how to run the event, and sometimes change is difficult. Be patient with the fact that they've got something that works really well from them, and that they may not understand why you see the changes as necessary.

There is always the option to make a new event! Events don't have to be Kingdom-wide, they can be smaller local events with a more focused theme.

### **Question #11: What do we get with membership?**

The obvious answer is that you get insurance. Members do not have to pay the non-member remittance (NMR) at the door. Membership is also used to cover the overhead which is part of running a large organization that keeps the game going by coordinating policies, regulations, financial reporting, and social rules, coast to coast, in multiple countries. Your membership is good at any SCA event around the world, not just Ontario, not just Canada, not just the U.S.

Membership lets you be a voting member of the Financial Committee for your branch.

Membership is required for you to participate in a Crown Tourney. It allows you to hold an office.

In fact, membership is required to be an officer of any sort, including a marshal or a deputy.

**Related Question: Are demos covered?**

Yes, so long as it is a published SCA event. If there is fighting, there must be a qualified marshal. If the event was officially announced to at least the local level, then the insurance covers it. Some venues require additional coverage, which we apply for through the SCA.

Important: the public cannot participate in demos.

**Related Question: Can sanctioned people attend?**

No, but if it's a demo held at a non-SCA event, then they are only banned from participating in the SCA demo in any way.

**Related Question: Can we purchase site insurance from the site?**

The answer to that seems to keep changing. If you run into this scenario, ask the Kingdom Seneschal who will pass it up to the one in charge.

**The next scheduled Moot will be at Winter War.**