

Baronial Questionnaire 2020 - Dragon's Laire

Responses by Dame Gwenllyen Potter and HL Richard
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1. It's traditional that the Coronets attend weekly social for 1.5-2 hours, starting at 6 PM. Is this a commitment you can keep?

Our intention is to be available for opportunities to meet and greet with the populace. Attending the weekly social is just one of these opportunities. One of us will normally be available to attend most functions. Unfortunately, we may not be able to attend all of the numerous activities in which our very busy Barony participates, but we will do our best.

2. What are your plans for encouraging new players and reaching out to those Scadians who have left for one reason or another?

The best way to encourage new players is to be available... be there ready to talk and introduce people to others who may share their interests.

People leave the SCA for many reasons, most very personal. One must have the interest in playing with this organization, changing with it as time goes on. Some people just grow away from it...and that is okay. We will be there to talk to anyone who needs a sounding board.

Do you have specific plans for increasing active participation in the Barony? Describe these plans.

As this is a hobby and individual participation is voluntary, there are limitations on how you go about increasing involvement. Individuals need to have personal motivations for doing volunteer work. Our job as Coronets will be to recognize those individuals performing various volunteer work and provide a means to encourage others to do the same in whatever way we can, including active participation ourselves, and recognizing those who do the work.

How do you make new members comfortable and help them understand the Society and what is entailed in actively playing?

As a Barony, we have tried various means over the years of helping new members...from hosting new member socials following June Faire to holding a picnic event with SCA 101 classes. Overall, it is a combined effort by the whole Barony to develop and bring in new members. Think back to when you first were aware of the SCA, then recognize what brought you back. As a group we need to collect those Origin stories, and utilize them to generate ideas on how to attract new members.

3. The barony has historically swung between being Arts and Science focused and combat oriented. Do you plan to maintain a balance of support between martial focuses and Arts and Sciences?

We, as a couple, bring aspects of the Martial Arts, the Arts and Sciences, and Service in our participation. We are advocates for our areas of passion and have both volunteered to host events for development of these areas. All aspects of participation are important, and we plan to lead by example, and encourage interest in all areas.

4. Are you familiar with the 'Omnibus Martial Peerage' proposal? If so, what is your position on it?

This process has been under discussion for some time. We encourage development of this idea. We have already seen changes with the recognition of Masters of Defense. It is a logical step to see this progress in other areas of the marshallate as well.

If you support it, what steps will you take to move it forward?

Understanding the barriers to progression. This is a cultural shift, it is difficult to move against the tide of history. Driving this forward requires understanding, planned dissemination of information, passion, excitement and commitment. It is not just making a lot of noise...it is preparation and presentation. Becoming Peer is more than just talent and this proposal needs to address that.

If you do not support it, why?

5. To the Respected Candidates for Baron: Each of you have stated in the past that you are not the most social, outgoing people. How will you overcome this to be successful in representing the Barony both internally and to the Kingdom at large?

(Richard) We believe each of the candidates have areas where their ability to be social and outgoing will be challenged. Accepting the position requires making yourself available. For myself, I have an issue with PTSD due to my time in Iraq. It has been a difficult process, identifying those triggers and working to overcome those areas that cause my PTSD to flair-up. My ability to be friendly, outgoing and social has changed, not gone away. I look at the challenge as a strength. I understand not wanting to be in the spotlight. Not everyone wants or needs to have that put upon them. It is a character trait that I am proud of, even if it did take a few years to .develop.

6. What do you think the Barony's strengths are and where would you like to help the Barony grow?

We could spend the next hour typing out all the strengths of this Barony. Some specific areas include: our leaders and Peers, and the guidance they provide; Our Archery / Thrown Weapons Community, its strength within the Kingdom is well known and respected; Our Arts and Sciences, development of Artisan classes, the Artisans' Village at June Faire, and development of community events; the Rapier & Heavy Armored Combat community are friendly and talk to people. These are our personal passions within the Barony. This Barony is a group that comes together and makes things happen. We serve, and encourage service in those that participate and play with us.

Of all the areas that we succeed in, one area we would like to see improvement is the development of more leaders. It is a skill set not always brought forward. We have a strong support team and need to develop a larger support team. How to lead a team is a skill that must be developed and the process of being a leader is hard for some people. We know that as a Barony, we could do better in providing guidance to individuals taking on new roles and want to see the Barony improve in helping encourage and train individuals to take on the challenge of running an event or filling a staff position. This also will help encourage earlier participation and obligations for volunteers at various events or social gatherings as the need becomes better understood.

7. Have you thought about baronial retinue? If chosen, how much retinue? Guards? What help do you believe you will need or want to incorporate?

Retinue is a very important part of a Coronet team. The Coronets need to have trustworthy aides to assist them in their endeavors, and temporary retinue that volunteer for service at events. The number of retinue depends on the event.

Guards lend a lot of pageantry to events, we are all for having guards during court, and at other times. It really depends on who would like to volunteer. The call will be put out when either guards or retinue are needed.

When we first started playing in the SCA, participation as retinue provided an opportunity to see the workings behind the scene at court. It was a great learning opportunity that we want to encourage. Our needs will vary dependent upon those who wishes to participate and the size of the event.

8. Do you play on having any emphasis on Sargeantry?

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Sargeantry is a remnant of a time early in the birth of the Kingdom. Its purpose then and its purpose now has changed significantly. The only way that Sargeantry can work now is if there is enough interest and support for it within the Barony. Past Coronets of Dragon's Laire have attempted to encourage and develop the Sargeantry, with mixed results. If members of the Barony want to put themselves forward to challenge for Sargeantry, we would be open to discussion.

9. What do you plan to do to support youth engagement in the Barony?

The future lies in the engagement of the youth in the SCA. If we are not finding ways to engage the youth, we are not creating a means to provide for the survival of our Barony. This cannot be the providence of one individual though, it has to come from the group as a whole. Visibility of Youth Activities and direct support for these groups are aspects that we support.

Any plans on expanding outreach for youth combat, youth archery, and youth thrown weapons?

Yes, and Yes and More. If we have participants and opportunities to develop youth activities in all aspects, Service – Arts & Science –Marshallate, we want to encourage and increase awareness of these areas.

10. What role do you see Dragon's Lair playing as a nonprofit in Kitsap County? Do you think we need to do community outreach and volunteering? Should we focus solely internally on the SCA? Why or why not?

This is part of what makes the SCA work as a whole. Our nonprofit status requires community involvement. What that involvement covers are only limited by the desires of the members of the Barony. We would love to see more outreach and volunteering within the community. Members of Dragon's Lair already serve in the community. Some are known to do this as individuals more than representing the Barony. There should be some opportunities throughout the year where, as a group, we provide ways to give back to our community.

This outreach and volunteerism have a secondary purpose: getting the word out about the SCA and Dragons' Lair. If we wish to grow as a Barony, it is important that people know that we are here. This whole process requires the support of Dragons' Lair. We have been a part of demonstrations and displays in the past that have had limited participation or fell to one individual to coordinate and complete. This is not fun or a good reflection of the Barony. We would support any activity that helps promote the Barony.

11. How important is it to you to stay informed on how the Kingdom operates

administratively? Do you regularly attend Curia meetings? Will you do so as Coronets? What is your familiarity with the SCA Corpora, Kingdom and Baronial rules and regulations? How important do you believe knowledge of these is?

Of course, in the role of Coronet, it is extremely important to stay informed on Kingdom administration. We are ruled by the Kingdom and are required to follow the policies set forth. If we become the new Coronets, we will attend Curia, and any other Kingdom meetings as required, or have a proxy attend if we are available. We are familiar with SCA Corpora, Kingdom Laws, and Baronial Customary. Our knowledge is specific to areas that we have had interaction with the past. Working closely with the Seneschal and the Peers of the Barony help

to ensure that we abide by Corpora, Kingdom Law and Baronial Customary. It is always important to refer to the guiding documents when attempting new processes or to provide assurance that current policies are within those guidelines.

12. What is Dragon's Lair's role in the Kingdom?

Dragon's Lair's role in the Kingdom is the same as all branches: to support the SCA the best that we can, through volunteerism, support of the arts & sciences, marshallate activities, in whatever context participation falls under. We are An Tir.

The Barony is where we play and provide support locally or regionally. It does not prevent supporting or hosting events for the Kingdom if members of the Barony wish to pursue that. As Baron and Baroness, we are the representatives of the Crown within our local group. We have obligations to the kingdom but the populace of the Barony decide at what level they wish to participate.

13. What are you excited about in the Barony and what would you like to promote?

The people of the Barony are what excites us. Watching their enthusiasm in their endeavors, the awards that they receive from both Kingdom and Branch. We want to promote enjoyment in our hobby.

14. Some of the populace prefer an atmosphere of levity, while some prefer an

atmosphere of formality. What is your preference in this?

Both. Different situations call for different responses. We enjoy filk around a bardic fire, and a formal court with procession. There is something for everyone.

15. How will you make yourselves accessible to the populace?

By being there, by encouraging conversation. By having the Baronial pavilion at

events and welcoming the populace under its shade and protection. We think it is important to remember the position is symbolic. Our ability to facilitate that image for the group is only possible because of the support of the group. If we do not provide opportunities to host conversation, we cannot successfully lead.

16. What does "inclusiveness" mean to you?

Inclusiveness means welcoming all, regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual preference, age, persona, areas of interest, etc. We embrace all, we welcome all. And we expect the same of the Barony.

17. If you don't receive the bid for B&B what will you do to continue to promote your

vision for the barony to support the new B&B?

By being there and being active. We can easily support the other couples who have put their hats in the ring. We will work with the new Coronets, and with the Barony.

18. Given the SCA is a 21st century institution recreating a historical past, what do you think the role of the Baron & Baroness in using modern technologies, especially social media, should be?

Social media has been a great benefit to spreading information, announcements, conversations...and especially now, with the crisis the nation faces. Since we are not able to meet in person, it is the way we keep connected. Our job will be to keep the Barony informed and involved, and social media is a great way to do it.

19. Do you participate in SCA combat? If not, how would you lead and inspire Dragon's

Laire's forces upon the field?

Richard will actively participate in marshalling activities and development of Dragon's Laire forces upon all fields. Gwen will offer her support as inspiration, and provide assistance, not only to Richard, but to all who participate.

Will the Dragon's Laire war band still be the Legio

Draconis?

Legio Draconis is a title generated by the current Baron of Dragon's Lair based on his persona. Warbands are not transferred to a new Baron. Warbands are individuals of like mind that fight as a unit. We would be happy to have the support of several warbands for the Barony. Our personas treat warbands as levees under the banner of their Lord. We as Baron and Baroness will sponsor warbands or individual fighters that wish to fight under the banner of the Barony of Dragons' Lair. We support development of fighting units of not just heavy fighters, but for archery, rapier...all aspects of the marshalle.

(...and of the ARTS!! - Gwen)

20. What are your top priorities for your entire term as Coronets?

To have fun, recognize and promote, increase membership, support and develop martial skills, service and the arts & sciences, and to develop leadership within this Barony. To promote the Barony and its people at the Kingdom level.

21. Conflict is bound to happen. What is your strategy for dealing with conflict between

members of the populace that do not directly involve you? For dealing with conflicts that do directly involve you?

We support the established grievance procedure. We are not here to judge, only provide guidance and work to resolve differences at the lowest level possible. The Seneschal is also there to assist.

The first step is discussion. Richard can provide advice and draw upon his work history in conflict management.

For conflicts that directly involve us individually...We are not perfect and would ask that if you have a conflict with us, talk with us first.

The bottom line is we are adults participating in a hobby. We expect everyone to respect each other and follow the golden rule.

22. Do you have non-SCA commitments that will prevent you from attending events

both in and outside the Barony that the Coronets are expected to attend? If so, how do you plan on handling those conflicts?

Our priority is Family, Work, Hobby. In case of conflict in schedules, Gwen and I agree that if we both cannot, that at least for one of us will try to attend. If we are unable to do that, then we would notify every one of the conflict and work to resolve any issues as needed. We are making a commitment to be available, and we plan to stand by that commitment.

23. For some it is the Pageantry of the SCA that really evokes the ambiance of a

'Camelot' or 'Medieval' style. How do you feel about pageantry? How will you include it in your Courts, your Camp, retinue, progress, etc.?

A big part of the SCA is the pageantry. We plan to utilize as much of it as we can. There is nothing more inspiring than flags and banners flying, and a field of period tents. We want to encourage a period presence on the fighting field, in personal encampments, in dress, in armor. This is what we joined the SCA for, it is what it is all about. Banner making classes, garb classes, event tent classes all help encourage others to reach for that next level.

We will have our personal pavilion in the Dragon's Lair encampment and look forward to the evening revelry.