

Unto Their Royal Majesties An Tir,
King Ulfgar Hjartar Bani Thorvaldsson and Queen Juahara al Azin,
and Their Royal Highnesses An Tir,
Prince Eirik Daegarsson and Princess Brynhildr Ansvarsdottir,
and Their Excellencies Dragon's Lairé,
Baroness Kloe of Thira and Baron Arion the Wanderer,
and our Seneschal,
Marquesa Laurellen de Brandevin,
and the An Tir Polling Deputy,
Baroness Ana de la Sara,

Greetings and Health!

We, Máenach na Cailled and Ciar ingen Fiachnae, hereby convey our intent and put ourselves forward as candidates to serve as Baron and Baroness of Dragon's Lairé. We would be honored to serve and represent the Barony of Dragon's Lairé and her Populace, and by extension, An Tir, in this capacity.

We joined the Barony of Dragon's Lairé and our Society just over ten years ago. Since then, we have engaged in diverse pursuits, including target archery, culinary arts, scribal activities, and more. The backbone of our participation, though, has been service to the Barony, Kingdom, and Populace. Ciar worked with our close friend Furia Dommitia to run June Faire this year and currently serves as Kingdom Waivers Deputy, Baronial Chronicler, and head of our Baronial Culinary and Spirit Makers guild. Máenach is our Baronial Webminister and works closely with Caterina da Savona, once a Webminister Deputy and now our Social Media Officer, to project our Barony's bountiful presence into the ethereal realm and to support our officers, our populace, and our Misty Ridge friends in their digital pursuits.

Our Misty Ridge friends are in a complex situation. While many of their challenges fall within the domain of Seneschals, any future Dragon's Lairé coronet will serve an essential role in responsibly helping Misty Ridge navigate our Kingdom as they grow and mature organizationally. The recent success of Beltane is a significant milestone along a lengthy path toward the rich SCA experience that the participants of Misty Ridge deserve.

The word "unprecedented" has perhaps been overused since 2020, but Baroness Kloe and Baron Arion have seen the Barony through some of the most complex and varied circumstances of the modern era. While our Dream may remain steady and strong, our Game is not insulated from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, our political environment, and economic conditions in our modern society. These have had a real and lasting impact on our Populace. We are proud of our Baroness, our Baron, and our Barony for coming together to weather this ongoing storm to the best of our ability.

Our Seneschal, Marquesa Laurellen, regularly reminds us that "many hands make light work." In recent years, we have seen fewer hands assisting with events and activities within the Barony. Dragon's Lairé is not unique in this, of course. Whether due to the pandemic itself, other social or economic pressures, or simply a changing modern society, this trend has been observed, to varying degrees, in nearly every form of club or volunteer organization. We believe this to be one of the primary challenges facing our

Society, and working to re-engage with our wider Populace is perhaps the most vital task for our next Coronet.

One way we intend to address this challenge is by encouraging greater connection between those in our Barony who have extensive experience and those who have the energy and enthusiasm of the Newcomer, or even those existing members of our Populace who might want to engage more deeply but are not yet sure how.

Communicating knowledge and experience through mentorship and classes is vital, and we must increase our efforts. Even more important, though, is strengthening the social connections that hold our Barony together. A class or demo can spark the tinder, and individual conversations can ignite the kindling, but in isolation, that flame will go out. It's only by providing an environment of ongoing camaraderie and support that our combined embers can keep the Dragon's heart aflame.

Our heavy fighting community is exemplary in this regard; we must mimic their success in other disciplines and, further, across disciplines. The divide between our "inside" and "outside" groups at our Tuesday social & fight practice has softened in recent years; we should work to continue this trend.

Baroness Kloe and Baron Arion renewed the Dragon's Lair Sergeantry program, which will help establish new pillars in our community. We intend to continue this program and encourage the Sergeants to engage with our wider Populace to not only spread inspiration but also promote the SCA as an active, participatory pursuit. Future event teams and officers must understand that they are, today, an integral and valued part of the Barony. Our events, activities, and daily business are planned and conducted by us all – there is no "them" here.

We believe that the foundation of the role of the Coronet is to guide and encourage the Populace – the whole Populace – toward The Dream in its many forms. We hope to serve and represent Dragon's Lair as Baron and Baroness, but even if we do not, we will continue to serve the Barony and the Kingdom as proud members of Dragon's Lair, An Tir, and this great Society.

In Service and Gratitude,

Lord Máenach na Cailled and Lady Ciar ingen Fiachnae