



Greetings Friends!

Is that the smell of campfire? That distant din, could it be the sound of merriment and good cheer or maybe the ring of armor? March finds us rapidly approaching the return to outside events. Now is the time to make sure your kit is in good working order – check the tent, check the garb, check the event calendar!

For many of us, preparing for an outdoor event involves more than just packing a bag and hitting the road. It's a meticulous process of ensuring that every aspect of our gear and attire is ready to withstand the rigors of medieval revelry.

First and foremost, let's talk about the tent. Whether you're a seasoned camper or a novice, now is the perfect time to inspect your shelter for any signs of wear and tear. Check the seams for loose stitches, examine the poles for signs of damage, and make sure that all zippers and closures are in good working order. A leaky tent or a broken pole can quickly put a damper on your event experience, so it's worth taking the time to make any necessary repairs or replacements.

Next up, let's turn our attention to garb. As we shed the layers of winter clothing in favor of more period-appropriate attire, it's important to ensure that our costumes are up to snuff. Take stock of your wardrobe and assess whether any garments need mending or alterations. Pay particular attention to items like shoes, belts, and accessories, which can often be overlooked but are crucial for completing your ensemble.

Finally, don't forget to check the event calendar! With outdoor events poised to make a comeback, there's no shortage of opportunities to immerse yourself in the magic of the SCA. Whether you're interested in attending a local fighter practice, a weekend-long camping event, or a grand tournament, now is the time to mark your calendar and start making plans. Reach out to friends and fellow SCAdians to coordinate travel arrangements and ensure that you don't miss out on any of the action.

So, polish your armor, mend your skirts, and sharpen your swords – the return to outdoor events is just around the corner, and it promises to be an experience like no other!

In service and anticipation, See you next issue, Hamelin

AVANTGARDE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an event? A story, news, recipe or a research article that needs to be shared? The Avantgarde has room for your submission! If you would like to submit content, please email chronicler@avacal.org and include your SCA name with you submission. Also, linked below are the release forms that may need to accompany it. Deadline for submissions is the 7th of each month.

SCA MODEL RELEASE FORM:

https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Release-Model.pdf

SCA CREATIVE WORK COPYRIGHT ASSIGNMENT/ GRANT OF USE FORM:

https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/ReleaseCreativeFillable.pdf

Avantgarde



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As the winter trudges on and the stubborn cold winds continue to bite, I am reminded of a passage I once read a long time ago...

"Winter will pass, the days will lengthen, the ice will melt on the pasture pond. The song sparrow will return and sing, the frogs will awake, the warm wind will blow again. All these sights and sounds and smells will be yours to enjoy. This lovely world, these precious days."

The cold may be abundant and the daylight hours are few but have hope and make ready, the season is changing. We all look forward to the melting of the snow and ice and the promise of the warm days to come. To some the seasons changing will mean the crafting of new items, to some the sharpening of skills with sword or bow, but to all it is the chance to feel the warm sun on your face once again.

As I write this our Crown Tournament approaches. The great warriors of Avacal will come to meet in this, the grandest of tournaments to vie for the Crown. From across the Kingdom they will come and the will fight, with Honour and Valour. I know these fighters, I know their names. I have crossed swords with them, trained with them, stood shoulder to shoulder with them on the battlefield. I know whoever stands victorious at the end of the day will serve Avacal with dignity, wisdom and grace.

Thus is the strength of our kingdom. When we stand together no one stands alone and TOGETHER WE CONQUOR!

Thank you Avacal for all your strength, for all your determination.

So say I, Ellias, King of Avacal

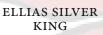
So say I, Kiera, Queen of Avacal





KINGDOM AND COURT ROYALTY, AVACAL







KIERA THE SHADOWED QUEEN

CHAMPIONS OF AVACAL:

Champion of Sword

Champion of Arts & Science

Champion of Arrow

Champion of Bardic

Champion of Rapier

Champion of Youth

intaarde

Skane Tyrsson

Tova Asketill

Adam of the Camp

Aran of Ayresgarde

Gunther Rorikson

Vesla

COMING EVENTS

Skald the Hall, March 2, 2024, Barony of Myrgan Wood Winter War, March 15-17, 2024, Barony of Borealis A&S and Bardic Championship & Grand TUA, April 28, 2024, Myrgan Wood Ferret's Feast, April 13, 2024, Shire of Valley Wold Spring Coronation, May 24-26, 2024, Barony of Montengarde

https://newavacalwebtttwo.avacal.org/calendar/

SKALD THE HALL

When: March 2, 2024 Where: Sutherland Hall 1112 Central Ave, Saskatoon, SK S7N 2H1 Site Hours: To be Announced Price: \$30 (\$25 with membership) 17 and under free. Event Steward: Tonegawa no Keiran (Stacy Simpkins, webminister@

myrganwood.org) There will be Myrgan Wood's Bardic Championship, Myrgan Wood Youth Championship, a Feast and Revelry.

Official Myrgan Wood webpage for the event: https://myrganwood.org/ skald-the-hall-2024/

A&S AND BARDIC CHAMPIONSHIPS & GRAND TUA

When: April 28, 2024 Where: Museum of Antiquities, University of Saskatchewan, 107 Administration Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N5A2 Site Hours: 8am to 11:45pm Price: \$30 (\$25 with membership) 17 and under free. Event Steward: Roxanne Delaroche (roxanne@dartwalker.ca) & Kathryn inghean ui Ailbhe (loca37@ hotmail.com) In partnership with the Museum of Antiquities at the University of Saskatchewan we offer a spectacular atmosphere to host the Championships of Bardic and Arts & Sciences and space to LEARN ALL THE THINGS! Displays, merchants, &

OFFICIAL EVENT POSTING

FERRET'S FEAST

When: April 13, 2024 8am - 11pm Where: Church of Our Lady 566 Vaughan St, Moose Jaw, SK S6H 6L3

Price: \$25 (\$20 with membership) 17 and under free.

Feast Adult \$20/12-17\$10/<12 Free Event Steward:Jacinda of Valley Wold (Jacinda Tyndall, j.k.tyndall@ gmail.com)

At Ferrets Feast you will have no problem finding something to do. We will have our Heavy defendership tournament, our Rapier tournament, and our Arts and Sciences defendership. In case none of that interests you, stick around for a fabulous feast and entertainment!

Winter War: Rally for Glory!

As the frosty grip of winter slowly loosens, the Barony of Borealis calls upon all noble warriors, artisans, bards, and seekers of adventure! The time has come for Winter War, a grand gatheringwhere we shall clash in the spirit of camaraderie and competition.

Date: March 15-17, 2024

Location: Co-op Place (Formally Wetaskiwin Civic Centre Twin Arenas)

Hear ye, hear ye!

Spring approaches, and Borealis, ever bold and unyielding, stirs with the fervor of battle. The winds of change whisper tales of glory, and we stand ready to cast off winter's icy embrace through deeds of valor and skill. Will you answer the call?

Engage in Glorious Battles:

Participate in heavy fighting, rapier duels, and showcase your prowess in archery. Rally your allies, sharpen your blades, and leave your mark on the field!

Compete for War Points in Various Disciplines:

Arts & Science: Craftsmen and artisans, unveil your masterpieces.

Bardic: Let your voice echo through the ages with tales and

songs.

9 teaching streams. Hosted by the

Barony of Myrgan Wood.

Volunteer Hours: Contribute to the community and earn your place in history. Youth Activities: Nurture the next generation of champions.

Registration Details:

Adult Event Registration: \$25 Adult Member Discount Event Registration: \$20 Youth Registration (0-17): \$0 Camping in the Hall: Pitch your tents within the hall's embrace and revel in the camaraderie of fellow warriors. Let the night be filled with tales and laughter. Event Stewards: Camulius the Lost Viking: <u>camuliusthelostviking@gmail.com</u> Fionnghuala ingen Chellaig: <u>wickedfairy59@gmail.com</u> Nesta the Bright: <u>Purplefeatherwig@hotmail.com</u>

Prepare for Glory!

Mark your calendars, muster your allies, and let the drums of war herald your arrival! Wintermay be fading, but the fires of battle burn eternal. Winter War awaits – will you seize your placein its legendary tapestry?

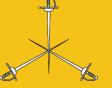


AVACAL ON VIGIL

AVACAL ON VIGII











Gwenyfher of Sigelhundas ORDER OF THE PELICAN PROTEGE TO: Sir Fergus of Carlisle ELEVATION & VIGIL: Grand TUA VIGIL ORGANIZING: Sir Fergus of Carlisle



Bjar the Blue MASTER OF DEFENSE ELEVATION & VIGIL: Winter War 2024 VIGIL ORGANIZING: Bjar the Blue

Known World Dance & Music Symposium

July 4-7, 2024 Danville, Indiana, USA www.kwds.org

Avacal Kingdom Job Posting



AVACAL KINGDOM CHRONICLER - SR. OFFICER POSITION

The Kingdom Chronicler is responsible for ensuring the publication of the Avantgarde on a monthly basis, without exception. Ideally, the perfect candidate would pursue the creation of a team of deputies, which they head. The hours it takes vary from month to month and with experience, but expect to spend about 10-15 hours per month on the newsletter to start. I found two weekday evenings and one weekend day was sufficient. I am willing to train anyone with enthusiasm and remain as a deputy until you feel comfortable. A knack for desktop

publishing skills and computer/email prowess is highly recommended. Any interested parties are asked to reach out to Hamelin L'Archier, the current Chronicler (chronicler@avacal.org) and Renee Carr, Kingdom Seneschal (seneschal@avacal.org). This position reports directly to Society and does not issue regular reports to Kingdom.



AVACAL CONTAC'

Royalty King crown@avacal.org Ellias Silver (Paul Cote) Queen crown@avacal.org Kiera the Shadowed (Leaha Maisonneuve)

Baronets of Avacal Borealis (Edmonton, Alberta) http://borealis.avacal.org Baron: Aman Brennan (Zach Blanchette) Baroness: Sarah of Tarragon (Sarah Hamilton) borealis.bandb@avacal.org

Montengarde (Calgary, AB) <u>www.montengarde.org</u> Baron: Refr Bjarnarson (David Laney) Baroness: Adis Ulfsdottir (Suzanne Laney) <u>excellencies@montengarde.org</u>

Myrgan Wood (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) http://sites.avacal.org/Myrganwood Baron: Alexios Mavros (Cody Redekop) Baroness: Amya Mavros (Terri Redekop) BandB@myrganwood.org

Baronial & Branch Seneschals Ayresgarde (Cranbrook BC, Kimberly BC) Medb Polestripper (Amanda Gueguen) ayresgarde.seneschal@avacal.org

Bitter End (Red Deer, AB - Shire) IN ABEYANCE seneschal@avacal.org

Bordergate (Cold Lake, AB - Shire) Volchok Vikingsson (Clint Zajic) bordergate.seneschal@avacal.org

Borealis (Edmonton, AB - Barony) Philippe de St. Denis (Anne Harwood) borealis.seneschal@avacal.org

Montengarde (Calgary, AB - Barony) Kathryn inghean ui mhaunaigh (Carrie Mooney) montengarde.seneschal@avacal.org

Myrgan Wood (Saskatoon, SK - Barony) Svava Suanhuita (Candice Lejeunesse) seneschal@myrganwood.org

Sigelhundas (Regina, SK - Shire) Gwenyfher of Sigelhundas (Jenifer Ulriksen) sigelhundas.seneschal@avacal.org

Valley Wold (Moose Jaw, SK - Shire) Geoffrey Lawrence (Jeff McKibben) valleywold.seneschal@avacal.org

Vinjar

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(Grande Prairie, AB - Shire) Adamar di Donadei di Pietro (Craig Cruikshank) <u>vinjar.seneschal@avacal.org</u>

Windwyrm (Lethbridge, AB – Shire) Freydis Birthesdottir (Sonja Hunter) Windwyrm.Seneschal@avacal.org

Incipient Shire of Myrgardr (Fort Saint John & Dawson's Creek, BC) Lady Aurora of the Feast (Loranne Shields) loranneshields@gmail.com Kingdom Officers Seneschal Contacts Seneschal Renee Carr (Wanda Edel) seneschal@avacal.org

Contigency Deputy Roxanne Delaroche (Tracy Walker) seneschal@avacal.org

Calendar Medb Pollstripper (Amanda Gueguen) calendar@avacal.org

Exchequer Contacts Exchequer Ruqayyah bint Abbas al-Ifriqi (Joanne MacDougall) exchequer@avacal.org

Herald Contacts Sanguinaris Herald (Kingdom Herald) Sadb Jófreysdóttir (Vicki Feyrer-Foster) herald@avacal.org

Scribes & Illuminators Contacts Gules Signet Scribe (Kingdom Scribe) A'isha Rayhana al-Karim (Lisa Bealy) scribe@avacal.org

Earl Marshal Contacts Earl Marshal Fergus of Carlisle (Murray MacGregor) earlmarshal@avacal.org

Arts and Sciences Contacts Minister of Arts and Sciences Morrigan (Jude Harrison) artsci@avacal.org

Web Team Contacts Web Minister Roya Khuvö Tavilan (Nicole Roth)

web@avacal.org

Web Team webteam@avacal.org

University of Avacal (TUA) Regent Philippe de St-Denis (Anne Harwood) tua-regent@avacal.org

Chatelaine Contacts Chatelaine Richard D'Hauke (Brad Sparks) chatelaine@avacal.org

Chronicler Contacts Chronicler Hamelin L'Archier (Kevin Lavoie) chronicler@avacal.org



SCA Information: Society Seneschal/ Vice-President for Operations: Lis Schraer (Elasait ingen Diarmata) 314-941-0831 seneschal@sca.org

Next Board Meeting: April 21, 2024 Quarterly Board Meeting – Virtual (Tentative) Mt. Olive Lutheran Church 1989 East Calaveras, Milpitas, California, 95035. QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS All quarterly board meetings have a 10:00 am start time unless otherwise stated. Depending on "safer-in-place" regulations in effect, meetings may be handled by VoIP rather than in person.

COMMENTARY REQUEST - SCA Commentary Request – Draft Corpora Wording – Omnibus Peerage Proposal

Currently approximately 8000 people around the Knowne World actively participate in target archery, combat archery, siege weapons, thrown weapons and equestrian martial activities. While no ultimate decision has yet been made the Board believes that a proposal of a path to peerage for these individuals is worthy of deep consideration.

Having received advice from the Peerage Committee, Directors have discussed the matter and following some minor amendments to language which align the proposed draft of Corpora wording to the existing patent orders, the Board feels that the proposal has matured to the point where commentary on the proposed Corpora wording from members is requested. This commentary will assist the Board in forming further decisions relevant to its consideration of this matter.

The draft Corpora language approved for commentary is: VIII.A.4:

e. The Order of <Name>

(i) Members of the Order of <Name> may choose to swear fealty but are not required to do so. The candidate must have attained the standard of excellence in skill and/or knowledge equal to that of their prospective peers in a pre-17th century martial pursuit as practiced in the SCA, including, and limited to, target archery, combat archery, thrown weapons, equestrian activities, and siege engineers. The candidate must have applied this skill and/or knowledge for the instruction of members and service to the kingdom to an extent above and beyond that normally expected of members of the Society.

(ii) The duties of the members of the order are as follows:

- (a) To set an example of courtesy and chivalrous conduct on and off the field of honor.
- (b) To respect the Crown of the kingdom; to support and uphold the laws of the kingdom and Corpora.
- (c) If in fealty, to support and uphold the Crown of their kingdom.
- (d) To enrich the kingdom by sharing their knowledge and skills.
- (e) To enhance the renown and defend the honor of the peer's Lady or Lord.
- (f) To advise the Crown on the advancement of candidates for the Order of <Name>.

(other sections re-numbered as needed)

Knowing exactly what the people who work, study, and play in the Society want a potential new peerage to achieve and do will be key to moving forward in this discussion. The Board welcomes any additional context that people feel may be of use to the discussion.

We are looking for your feedback – as you begin to type up your comments please feel free to include your thoughts on the following questions:

Does this language fill the gap I personally feel exists in the paths to peerage, why or why not? What is my ideal vision of a new peerage and its members? What virtue will they embody? EDIT: If you are a financial member of the SCA, please include the relevant information.

The expertise of our community is invaluable, and these responses will contribute significantly to an outcome that positions our Society to meet its goals and future opportunities.

Corpora, including the By-Laws, can be found in its entirety here: https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/govdocs/. Please email all commentary to SCA-Comments@sca.org and use the title "Omnibus Peerage Proposal" in the subject line. NOTE: Do not use attachments in your commentary. Attachments will mark your message as spam and it will be rejected by the server.

You can also send commentary by mail, Postage-Prepaid, to:

Avantgarde

Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. RE: Omnibus Peerage Proposal P.O. Box 611928 San Jose, CA 95161

Commentary regarding this proposed Corpora change, must be received by the Board no later than April 2, 2024.

COMMENTARY REQUEST - SCA

Membership Fee Increase Effective February 15, 2024

The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.) is announcing an increase in membership fees and non-member registration fees for events.

This decision comes after careful consideration and extensive discussion among the Board of Directors, office staff, and Corporate officers. The effects of inflation across all sectors of operation, as well as other factors impacting the organization's operational costs, including insurance premiums, legal expenses, and general business expenses, necessitated a comprehensive review of membership rates.

Annual membership fees have not been adjusted in over a dozen years, and non-member registration fees have not increased in over 15 years.

In response to the evolving financial environment, the organization streamlined operations during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and significantly reduced corporate expenditures. The relocation of the office to San Jose, CA resulted in an annual savings of over \$35,000, and upgrades to software and CRM systems have netted a further savings of over \$100,000 annually. While membership numbers have rebounded post-pandemic, operational costs continue to rise.

SCA, Inc. Corporate is solely funded by membership fees, including the Non-Member Registration fee, and does not currently seek operational funds from its Kingdoms or subsidiary organizations, including those overseeing Pennsic and Gulf Wars.

At the January 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board approved the following changes, effective February 15, 2024:

Raise the Sustaining membership price from \$45 a year to \$55 a year (This represents an \$0.83 cents permonth increase over the previous monthly rate.)

Raise the Associate membership price from \$30 to \$40 a year. (This represents an \$0.83 cents per-month

increase over the previous monthly rate.)

Raise the Family membership price from \$10 a year to \$15 a year, per person. (This represents an \$0.42 cents per-month increase over the previous monthly rate.)

No changes to Canadian or International memberships have been announced at this time.

Note: this change will take effect for all renewal transactions processed on or after February 15, 2024. Renewal transactions prior to that date will be processed at the previous rate, regardless of membership expiration date.

The Board also approved the following changes to Non-Member Registration fees, effective April 1, 2024:

Raise the Non-Member Registration Fee from \$5 to \$10 per event. As always, this only applies whenever there is an actual event fee charged.

Both Sustaining and International Membership allow subscriptions to printed publications, as well as the ability to add Family memberships.

It should be noted that these increases remain less than the cumulative U.S. inflation increase of 36.5% which has occurred since 2011. (Data calculated using the US Inflation Calculator).

SCA, Inc. emphasizes its commitment to transparency and sustaining a vibrant community. These fee adjustments aim to ensure the organization's fiscal health, support ambitious initiatives in 2024 and beyond, and keep the Knowne World thriving and dreaming for years to come.

For more information, please contact John Fulton at president@sca.org.



SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM INC.

Box 611928 San Jose, CA 95161 800-789-7486 or 408-263-9305 Fax: 408-263-0641

SCA Member Services Office & Registrar: Louise Du Cray - ext. 202

Administrative Assistant: Nataalya Urosevic - ext. 204 nataalya@sca.org

Stock Clerk (SCA Marketplace) Nataalya Urosevic - ext. 204 stclerk@sca.org

Insurance: Louise Du Cray - ext. 202 insurance@sca.org

TI Advertising: Louise Du Cray - ext. 202 tiadvertising@sca.org

Board Recruiting Director Gabrielle Fisher recruiting@sca.org

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE:

VIRTUAL, QUARTERLY MEETINGS ARE HELD ON SUNDAYS. LIVE, QUARTER-LY MEETINGS ARE HELD ON SATUR-DAYS TO ACCOMMODATE NECESSARY TRAVEL. SATURDAY MEETINGS WILL STILL BE BOTH STREAMED LIVE AND RECORDED FOR VIEWING AT A LATER DATE. ALL MEETING DATES ARE TEN-TATIVE AND SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE CHANGE.

Groups interested in hosting a meeting should contact the Executive Assistant (ea@ sca.org) for information on meeting requirements and how to submit a bid.

April 21, 2024 Quarterly Board Meeting – Virtual (Tentative) July 21, 2024 Quarterly Board Meeting -

Virtual (Tentative) October 20, 2024 Quarterly Board Meeting – Virtual (Tentative)

MID-QUARTER CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULE: TBA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chair

Mark Faulcon Martin Lochner mfaulcon@director.sca.org (President, Society Seneschal, Corporate Office, Executive Assistant, Financial Officers, Financial Committee, Census Committee) Vice-Chair Gabrielle Fisher Adrielle Kerrec gfisher@director.sca.org (Avacal, Drachenwald, Lochac, Board *Recruiting*) Director Pug Bainter Phelim Gervase pbainter@director.sca.org (DEI, Heralds, Aethelmearc, East, Gleann Abhann, Trimaris) Director Krista Capps Bricca di Ghelere kcapps@director.sca.org (Atenveldt, Atlantia, Middle, Ealdormere) Director Jennifer Krochmal Kalisa Aleksandrovna jkrochmal@director.sca.org (Calontir, Communications Committee, Information Technology (Webminister and Webmaster) Northshield, Outlands,) Director Director Megan O'Shea (Sumayya al Ghaziyya) moshea@director.sca.org (A&S, Ansteorra, Artemisia, Meridies, Publications (TI, CA, Chronicler)) Director KT "Shep" Sheppard Ulrich von Brandenburg ksheppard@director.sca.org (An Tir, Caid, Marshal, Peerage Committee, West)



CORPORATE AND SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President

John Fulton John the Bearkiller 901-452-9881 (Please no calls after 9 p.m. Central Time) president@sca.org **Communications / Society Social Media** Brigid Costello 614-351-5226 communications@sca.org **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Officer** Chuck Burk Charles de Bourbon equity@sca.org

Society Seneschal Lis Schraer Elasait ingen Diarmata 314-941-0831 seneschal@sca.org Society Seneschal – ER Deputy Stacy Hall Gwennodolynn ni hAilleachain er-seneschal@sca.org Society Chatelaine Michele Hays Jeanne-Marie la Verriere chatelaine@sca.org Society Youth Activities Officer Michelle Santy *Amytis de la Fontaine* youthactivities@sca.org Manager of Information Technology Sam Davis Thomas Blackmoore it@sca.org Society Webminister: Nicholas Milano Iain MacArthur webminister@sca.org SCA.Org Webmaster: Marla Lecin Jessa d'Avondale webmaster@sca.org Registrar / Vice President for Corporate Operations: Louise Du Cray Society for Creative Anachronism Box 611928 San Jose, CA 95161 800-789-7486 or 408-263-9305

Fax: 408-263-0641 **Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors** Leslie Luther-Fulton Jane Falada of Englewood 901-452-9881 (Please no calls after 9 p.m. *Central Time)* ea@sca.org **Publications Manager:** Gloria Woodard Honor of Restormel 804-243-6874 pubmanager@sca.org **Tournaments Illuminated Editor:** Dar'C O'Neal Riordan MacGregor (310) 320-8808 tieditor@sca.org **Tournaments Illuminated Art Director:** Joyce Morris Gwendolyn of Amberwood tiart@sca.org Society Chronicler Krystal Smith Cecilia Blythe 843-245-7551 chronicler@sca.org **Compleat Anachronist Editor:** Ellen Rawson Ariel of Lindisfarne 3 Campion Way Lymington Hampshire S041 9LS United Kingdom caeditor@sca.org **Compleat Anachronist – Art Director** Sue Gilbert Elashava bas Riva caartdirector@sca.org **Quarrels and Quivers – Editor** Deborah Preston Mairin O'Niallain QandQ@sca.org Society Archivist Travis Schenck Ramon De Javier Travis Schenck 318 South 100 East Spanish Fork, Utah 84660 archivist@sca.org Society Archivist – Deputy for Digital Formats David K. Bodman Daoud al-Bodmani daoud.al-bodmani@outlook.com Treasurer

Ireasurer

Caroline Richardson

Tetchubah of Greenlake treasurer@sca.org Society Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonnie Stringer Marcel Orillion 228-493-2029 exchequer@sca.org Society Chancellor of the Exchequer – ER Deputy Rebecca Riney Octavia Gaillard 602-714-0811 Laurel Sovereign of Arms: Jennifer Smith Emma de Fetherstan 405-428-3662 laurel@heraldry.sca.org Pelican Sovereign of Arms Jillian M. Johnson *Elizabeth Turner de Carlisle* 541-760-2962 *pelican@heraldry.sca.org* Wreath Sovereign of Arms Michael Case Iago ab Adam wreath@heraldry.sca.org Society Marshal Melissa Midzor Arabella da Siena marshal@sca.org Deputy Society Marshal – Special Projects Kerry McSaveney Angele de Savigny Deputy Society Marshal – Armored Combat Warren Capps William Hauke of Effingham 210-744-2187 armored@sca.org Deputy Society Marshal - Target Archery Adam Burnham Vioi Hovdestad combatarchery@sca.org Deputy Society Marshal – Thrown Weapons Jon Libby Pandaulf thrownweapons@sca.org **Deputy Society Marshal - Equestrian** Stacey O'Flynn Doe Flynn 541-217-5142 equestrian@sca.org **Deputy Society Marshal - Youth Combat** Jeffery A. Currie Germanicus de Atlan

817-729-2003 youthcombat@sca.org **Deputy Society Marshal - Siege** Conrad Crews Sean O'Neill 205-515-5290 siege@sca.org **Deputy Society Marshal - Rapier** David Whitford Robert MacPharland 346-243-8329 rapier@sca.org Deputy Society Marshal - Rebated Steel Michael Bolt Michael of Bedford 919-245-1358 rebated@sca.org Society Minister of Arts and Sciences: Sarah M. Noble McGee Hildegard Bergerin scamoas@sca.org. 251-295-4267

COMMITTEES:

Communications Committee Brigid Costello – Chair communications.sca.org Peerage Committee Greg Regnier - Chair peerage@sca.org Census Committee Julia Smith – Chair census@sca.org

KINGDOM SENESCHALS:

AEthelmearc:

Patrick DeWind Padraig O'Branduibh 716-812-1421 seneschal@aethelmearc.org

An Tir: Christina Grant Alessandra Giancomo 250-299-2170 seneschal@antir.sca.org

Ansteorra: Vallie Copley Margherita de Mantua 405-990-1200 kingdom@seneschal.ansteorra.org

Artemisia

Dan Watson Bartholomew Hightower 435-770-4315 seneschal@artemisia.sca.org

Atenveldt Joshua Harrison Edward Harrison 623-308-6577 seneschal@atenveldt.org

Atlantia: Craig Dooley Cian mac Cellacháin hUí Dublaich 803-422-9534 seneschal@atlantia.sca.org

Avacal Wanda Edel Renee Carr 780-573-7547 seneschal@avacal.org

Caid: Greg Wylie Laertes McBride 818-846-3013 seneschal@sca-caid.org

Calontir: Nicolette Deplazes Giulia Isabella da Venezia 651-470-7987

seneschal@calontir.org

Drachenwald:

Marina Hagg Tova fran Attemark +31 0702089489 seneschal@drachenwald.sca.org

Ealdormere:

Heather Bogart Lucia de Moranza 226-979-0682 seneschal@ealdormere.ca

East Danielle Hunt Audrye Beneyt 207-458-7312 seneschal@eastkingdom.org

Gleann Abhann: Alex Kolassa Gwynn Bleyne 662-617-2937 seneschal@gleannabhann.net

Lochac: Ray Gleeson Gomez de Crecy seneschal@lochac.sca.org http://lochac.sca.org/seneschal

Meridies: Nicholas Cheimis Nikoslav Mikolaevich 404-906-4638 seneschal@meridies.org

Middle: S. Louise Smithson Helewyse de Birkestad 419-509-1964 seneschal@midrealm.org

Northshield: Sarah Oldenburg Garcia Sorcha Bhuidhe 715-497-9767 seneschal@northshield.org

Outlands: Kathleen Tingley Ays'e al-Rumiyya 6143521715 seneschal@outlands.org

Trimaris: Thomas Mitchell Tomas Mac Odhrain 913-924-7722 seneschal@trimaris.org

West: Tammera Gulliver Katrina Yarbrough 916-757-8769 seneschal@westkingdom.org

SANCTION:

Unto the Kingdom of Avacal,

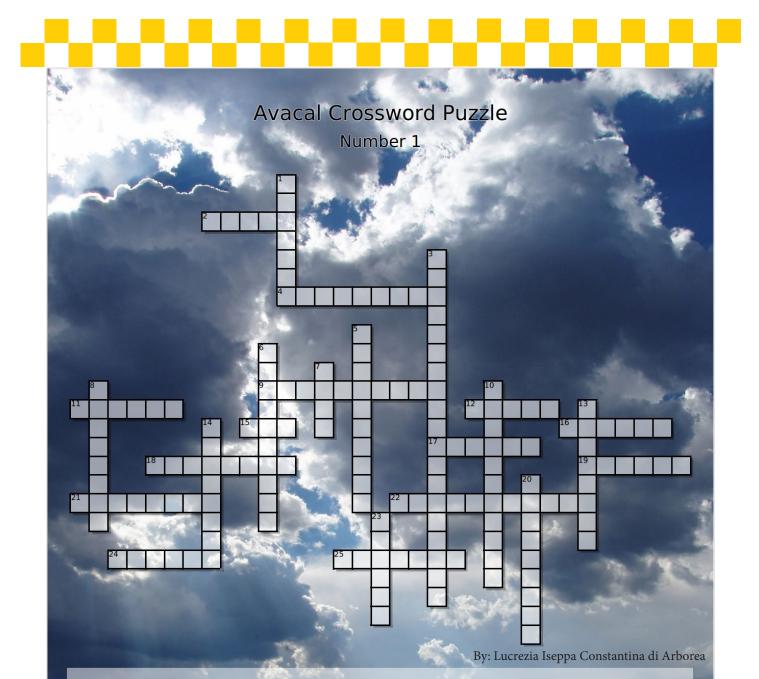
On this date, December 13th 2023, We, Ellias and Kiera, Crown of Avacal, have issued the sanction of Temporary Removal from Participation in the SCA against Stuart Kuechle, known in the SCA asRoatan El Guanaja Utila.

In service,

Ellias and Kiera

King and Queen Kingdom of Avacal

antgarde



ACROSS

- 2 Lavish meal
- 4 don't mess with the money!
- 9 monthly Avacal publication
- 11 Norse seafarer
- 12 meeting at kingdom events
- 15 The University of Avacal (acronym)
- 16 its foliage is a symbol of peerage 17 where pints are poured
- 18 of the middle ages
- 19 bowl-shaped drinking vessel

T<mark>he Avantgarde</mark>

- 21 siege weapon
- 22 another name for the kingdom herald
- 24 the nickname for our gryffin (kingdom heraldry)

25 it may be drawn in a forest

DOWN

- 1 a stew of vegetables and sometimes meat
- castle (2 words)
 medieval trading centre of East Africa made of coral stone. (2 words)
- 6 game exported to Europe to become chess
- Quechuan people
- 8 used by Marco Polo to reach Cathay (2 words)
- 10 another name for the Kingdom Scribe (2 words)
- 13 gifts for event volunteers
- 14 medieval courtesy
- 20 Not Noah's Arc (p.15, Jan 2024)(2 words)
- 23 Genghis Khan, i.e.



AVACAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL

Avacal is seeking 2-6 people for the position of Advocate Council. The Avacal Advocacy Council will address situations when a member of the populace needs help understanding their options should they feel they are being mistreated. The role of the Advocacy Council is to support the populace member in addressing their concerns respectfully to support a healthy culture within Avacal. This support can help members to navigate kingdom laws and policies, listen to concerns, offer advice such as SCA policy and procedure options, and assist with conflict resolution.

One member of the Advocacy Council shall be the Avacal DEI officer.

Responsibilities of the Advocacy role: • Be willing to be approached during events, meetings or outside SCA formal events to assist with managing interpersonal conflict between populace members in an advisory role. • Actively listen to the concern of the populace member and validate facts by asking clarifying questions.

• Offer feedback, where appropriate, and, if needed, support the design of scripting to address conflict by focusing on facts and the situation's impact.

They may be present with the populace member when they approach the other party in the efforts to resolve the conflict.

Considerations for this position:

• Be considered by others to be approachable, open and willing to engage in dialogue.

• Feels confident to partner with the DEI office, as required.

• Comfortable with conflict, the ability to be objective, listen for facts and assumptions, and offer coaching to address the issue at hand.

• Enhanced interpersonal skills and the ability to manage conflict without creating barriers

· Be non-judgemental and keep the confidence of the people involved

• Receive direction from the Kingdom Seneschal as per the grievance procedure/bullying and harassment policy requirement, etc.

Dependable access to email and phone.
 Strong ability to build and maintain relationships across all peerages.

• We are skilled at working collaboratively with all leadership across Avacal, including the Crown, Kingdom Seneschal, Baron and Baronesses, all group-level seneschals, etc.

 Attend training to become skilled in Advocacy Training which includes: active listening, effective feedback, and managing conflict.

All officer positions must be paid by members of the SCA.

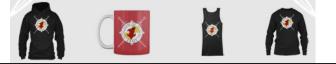
Please submit your mundane and SCA resume to the Kingdom Seneschal at seneschal@avacal.org.



MERCHANTS OF AVACAL



KINGDOM OF AVACAL ARMY CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES https://sir-gunther.creator-spring.com

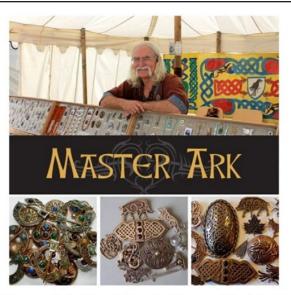




With the sun shining and summer in full bloom, have you been eager to set up your encampment but can't seem to find all of your tent pegs or S hooks? Has your spouse been saying they'll get around to making you a trivet but keeps going a Viking or chasing the goats in the field? Or are you looking for a new tripod to give your fire that special something ? Well look no further because here at Iron Sunset Forge lady Thora Volundsdottir is here to help with all your iron needs. We even make flint strikers to get your fire going. Feel free to contact us at ironsunsetforge@gmail.com (fb:iron sunset forge)

Schmett Yrlynska Blacksmith, Chokecherry Forge.

www.chokecherryforge.com



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Cover: St Blaise was a 4th century Armenian bishop who was flayed alive. The naked figure in the sculpture above wears a bishops mitre whilst two torturers stand on either side. Feast Day is February 3rd. Capital at Chartres Cathedral. Photograph public domain.

