

January 2008 Shire Meeting Minutes

Attendees:	Snaebjorn
Jason	Etain
Grimolfr	Richard
Hrefna	Katherine
Marianna	Beth
Jolene	

Officers Reports

Exchequer – Lady Hrefna Ulfvarinnsdottir - Bank balance is \$4221.38. Grimolfor, Snaebjorn, and Hrefna went to Lowe's to purchase the storage shed. There had been a price increase since I did the shopping in October. We notified the seneschal and decided that the price was still good and proceeded with the purchase. The shed is at Snaebjorn and Marianna's now. We are planning to put it up in the spring.

Arts and Sciences – Lady Elizabeth Coney – Beth says we're gonna do stuff! The temari class that was cancelled in December will be rescheduled sometime in January or February. Petr offered to do a class on edible plants if there is enough interest. Jason reported on the last scribal class. He said we have several budding scribes in our midst. Etain, who serves as the Region 1 Arts and Sciences deputy reported that our shire is one of the most active in the region.

Chronicler – Lady Hrefna Ulfvarinnsdottir – This is my first issue of the newsletter as chronicler. I have added several new columns that I hope will entertain and educate. I have also changed the name and will be accepting suggestions for a new name then we can vote. Those in attendance decided to take a vote at the meeting and the name of the newsletter is officially The Apple Press.

Youth Marshall – Lord Dagr Snaebjorn Bjornarson – Fighting and fencing at our indoor site is going well. Marianna says everyone should stop by just to watch the spectacle of people watching us when the fighters are outside in the parking lot. We had several people stop and ask questions. We are going to look at moving outdoor fighter practice to a more visible location. Snaebjorn will talk to Mariia about getting youth practice started back up.

Herald – Lady Marianna Molin di Salerno – Heraldry is loud and clear – We had a great heraldic display at the Christmas parade and it was well received. There are several individual submissions in the works.

Webminister – Laird Grimolfr Ormolfsson – Web site is up. The newsletter can now be accessed online through the website at <http://sylvanglen.org/>. There is web based version and a PDF version for downloading. Grimolfr also announced that he is working on and order of precedence to put on the website. If you have heraldry send it Grimolfr for display. He also let folks know that he will be working on a Dark Pages directory for the shire and will have forms available at the shire 12th Night event.

Jason has become the “official naysayer” for the shire. He feels that we all get along too well and has decided to vote the opposite of what everyone else at the meeting does.

Siege Report – Lady Hrefna Ulfvarinnsdottir – Kierstan would like to move Siege to the Jefferson County Fairgrounds so we can offer equestrian activities. She is going to get pricing info for us. Highland Foorde has decided not to co-sponsor Siege this year so Marianna and I have developed a new theme for the event. There is some interest from Abhainn Iarthar about being involved with the event. We are waiting to hear back from them.

Old Business

Troll Box – There has been no progress on assembling all the supplies for troll in one box.

Old day shade – This should probably be turned into a smaller 10 x 10 in Beth’s opinion.

It is large and cumbersome in it’s present form.

Cash boxes – We still need to buy 2.

Aethelmearc Academy – We haven’t heard anything back from the Chancellor of the Academy about Sylvan Glen hosting this event.

Twelfth Night is approaching. Room will be opened at noon for decorating. Festivities will commence at 4 pm and end at 8 pm.

Senechal – Lord Richard de Mercia – This is Richard’s second to last meeting as seneschal. At the February meeting will take a vote on the new seneschal. The only candidate at this time is Marianna.



Shire of Sylvan Glen Budget 2008

Income

Event Siege of Glengary	\$2410
Miscellaneous Income (Fundraisers, donations)	\$390

Expenses

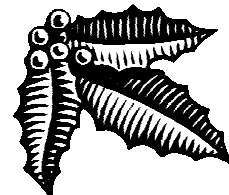
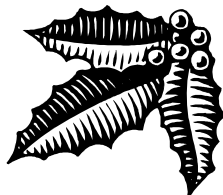
Officers' Funds	\$2.50/month x 12 months = \$30 x 15 officers	\$450
Newsletter	\$40/month x 11 months	\$440
Website		\$20
Events – Siege of Glengary		\$1745
Arts and Sciences \$25/quarter		\$100
Total		\$2765
Projected Income for 2008		\$35



Jason after a long day of naysaying



Katherine and Earl



Newcomers' Corner

What's a persona and how do I get one?

You have discovered the Society for Creative Anachronism. You may have even been to an event or two. You are excited about the SCA and have decided you want to know more, but then you start to realize just how much there is to learn about being in the Society. The first thing to do is remain calm. While it is true that the SCA is a big place with lots of stuff going on, there are lots of friendly people who are able and even eager to help you on your journey of discovery.

One of the most confusing aspects of our hobby for newcomers can be how to choose a persona. This is our word for the person you will create based on historical records and the role you will assume within the Society. The SCA covers a lot of territory in terms of time (600-1600 c.e.) and has an emphasis on European history although Asian and Middle Eastern personas have grown in popularity over the years. Such a wide range of choices makes the task of choosing just one persona seem rather daunting. Take a deep breath. It's not all that bad.

The first place to start when trying to choose a persona is with you. Take a look at what you are interested in. Did stories of Viking raiders fascinate you when you were young? Do you like the look of Italian architecture? Have you ever oohed and aahed over the clothing in an Elizabethan portrait? By looking at what you are interested in first, you should be able to narrow your selections down somewhat. The answers to such questions can help focus you on a culture and a time frame for your persona. To further refine your choices, there are a few basic things you should consider next.

Take a look through historical costume books or online photo galleries of SCA events or simply observe the gentles (people) at an event. Get a feel for what you like the look of and think you would be comfortable wearing. Then figure out if the garb (costume) you like is something that you would be able to sew already or be able to learn to sew. Don't worry if sewing isn't your thing. There are plenty of merchants to purchase garb from in the SCA. An important thing to know at this step is that we are all presumed to be members of the aristocracy. This doesn't mean that you can't be a peasant if you really want to, but the clothes for an aristocrat are a lot more fun!

Now that you've got a culture, a time period and some garb in mind for your persona, the next step is to start considering names. The process of choosing a name should be approached with some care. Many newcomers get caught up in all the fun and excitement and want to pick a period name so they can join in too, but be patient with this aspect of building your persona as the first name you choose may very well stick regardless of what you may want to be called at a later time.

In choosing a name, stay away from baby naming books. These books are not very accurate in historical terms. Instead turn to period resources. You want something that will help provide a date for when the name was in use. Search the internet. There are lots of great places to go name hunting or ask a herald about appropriate resources you may consult. Good documentation of your name choice is important should you ever want to register your name with the College of Heralds.

Once you have figured out the basics of culture, time period, garb, and name, you have a persona in place. There is no need to go any further with the development of your persona if you don't want to. I have been in the SCA for 10 years and have never gone beyond these basics. However, if you want to fill in the details about the life you would've lived, a persona development worksheet can be very helpful in this. Examples of some of the types of questions you may want to research include the following:

1. What is your name? How were names given in your culture? Some cultures had specific ways of giving or constructing names so sometimes simply choosing from a list may not be enough.
2. Where do you live? Are you from a particular region, city, or town or do you live in the country? What are the physical and social characteristics of your area?
3. What kind of building do you live in? How was it constructed?
4. What is your station in life? Are you a noble, peasant, or other? How is your station assigned? Are you wealthy or poor?
5. Are your parents alive? Do you have brothers and sisters? Who is in your extended family? What kind of friends do you have?
6. Are you married? If so, to whom? Do you have children? When, why, & how do people get married?

7. What do you do with your time? Do you have a job? What are your daily responsibilities? How do you get paid? Do you have leisure time? What do you do for leisure?

8. What do you wear? Do you make your own clothing? Does someone make it for you? Where does your fabric come from? What do you wear everyday? What do you wear for special occasions? Do you wear underwear? What kind?

9. What do you eat in a typical day? Do the seasons change the way you eat? How & where do you get what you eat? How is your food cooked, preserved, and served?

10. Are you educated? Is education available to you? Can you read or write? Did you go to school? If so, what did you study? How did you learn to do your work? Who taught you?

11. Do you live in a time of peace or a time of war? Do you fight? If so, under what circumstances? What armor and weapons are used in your time and place and how are they obtained? How has peace or war affected the way you live?

12. What kind of government and legal systems do you live in? Who makes the laws? What happens to those who break them? How are government officials chosen? Do you pay taxes? Who collects those taxes?

13. What holidays and special occasions do you observe? How and why do you celebrate them? What religious or spiritual beliefs do you hold?

14. What language(s) do you speak? Do you have contact with people outside of your culture? What types of communication exist in your time and place?



Joshie and his new teddy bear



Marianna surveys her handiwork