

The Silver Thistle

Official Newsletter of the Shire of Tir Medoin
September Anno Societatis XXXXII

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Seneschal

Greetings All!

I just received the news that we will be hosting Queen's Champion at the Apache Pass site here in Rockdale November 15-16. It will be a very important - Crown attended - event and so we will need EVERYONE pitching in to do their part. I am so excited to be hosting a Kingdom event! Please make plans to attend!

We are currently discussing changing our meeting date - we currently meet on the 3rd Monday - so please get your input to me. We will be making a decision at the next Populace meeting.

In Service,

HE Meghann der Krieger

Hospitaler

Activities

Date 08/20/2008
Name of Activity Populace Meeting
Number of group members attended 9
Number of inquiries regarding activity 1

In Service,

Lord Kenneth of Tir Medoin

Chronicler

Greetings!

Please note my address change; I got a P.O. Box because getting mail at the old address is going to be unreliable for the time being.

In Service,

Mungentuya

Treasurer

Beginning Balance: \$3,590.55

Income: \$0.00

Expenses: \$0.00

Ending Balance: \$3,590.55

In Service,
Thomas Mcnevins

Heraldic Wills and Blanket Letters of Permission to Conflict

—Coblaith Mhuimhneach
Orbis Herald

Parts V and X of the Rules for Submissions of the College of Arms of the S.C.A. proclaim that different people's names and armory, respectively, must not be too similar to one another, then go on to explain, in considerable detail and often confusing terms, exactly what that means. Unless you're a consulting herald, you don't really need to understand all the rules. But there are two things you should understand about them.

First, if and when you're ready to submit a name, a device, or a badge for registration, they will be applied as your submission is compared to all the names or armory that have already been registered. If it's found to be too similar to one or more registered items, it will be returned for more work unless you have written permission to conflict from the owners of those items.

Second (and this is the part most people don't think about very much), once you've registered a name, a badge, or a device, every name or piece of armory that's subsequently submitted for registration will be compared to it, and anything that's found to be too similar will be returned unless you give written permission to conflict.

(Article continued on other side)

If you registered a device this month, and somebody wanted to register something similar next month, the odds are good she'd be able to find you to ask for a letter of permission. The information in the Ordinary and Armorial would lead her to your kingdom, and the Internal Letter of Intent on which your submission appeared would tell her in which branch you live. But what about next year, or five years from now, or ten? Will you still be in the same area and active in the S.C.A.?

A device submitted today is conflict-checked against devices registered in the 1970s, in some cases to people who haven't been part of the Society for 30 years or more. It's virtually impossible to track them down, and therefore virtually guaranteed that any proposed armory that conflicts with theirs will remain unusable. If they've died, things become even more complicated. Their registered names and armory belong to their heirs, and the only way to get a letter of permission to conflict would be to somehow figure out who those heirs are and ask them. The longer this goes on, the bigger the problem gets, as more and more "heraldic real estate" is taken up. The rules are elaborate, and sometimes devices that really don't look that much alike to the average person conflict on technical grounds. There are frequent discussions among the Society's active heralds about how we might address this problem, but no real indication that anything is going to be done about it anytime soon.

Fortunately, there is action you, personally, can take to make things a little easier for everyone: write a heraldic will, a blanket letter of permission to conflict, or both, so that those who want to register items similar to yours will be able to proceed even if they can't find you.

A heraldic will is, quite simply, a statement from you to the College of Arms about to whom you want your registered items to belong when you have shuffled off the mortal coil. You can leave everything to one person, or leave different names and pieces of armory to different people (your device to your child and the badge you registered for your fighting unit to a unit member, for example). Or, if you prefer, you can simply state that you want your names and/or armory released when you die. If you don't leave such a will, ownership will go to your real-world heirs—not the ideal situation, if your next of kin is neither in nor interested in the S.C.A.

A blanket letter of permission is a letter you can have put on file that states your willingness to allow others to register armory that conflicts with yours. You don't need to worry that signing it will mean someone else will be walking around with your device on her shield. It doesn't eliminate the requirement that no two pieces of armory can be identical. It just redefines "too similar" so that a smaller amount of difference is necessary.

Appendix D of the Administrative Handbook of the College of Arms of the S.C.A. contains suggested standard letters and wills. It is available on the College of Arms' website, heraldry.sca.org. You can use the recommended wording, or consult with an experienced herald to write a more personal document. In either case, when your letter or will is ready, give four copies to your

branch herald (or to your regional herald, if your branch doesn't have one). (S)he will file a copy and pass the rest on to Asterisk Herald for inclusion in an upcoming letter of intent. Don't forget to keep the original yourself. There's no charge, and it's a real, concrete way you can help make things work better for everyone in the Society.

Unofficial Calendar of Ansteorra

September

19-21

Defender of the Fort/Royal Huntsman- Raven's Fort
(Huntsville, TX)

Mooneschadowe Triumphe of the EclipseMooneschadowe
(Stillwater, OK)

26-28

Elfsea Defender- Elfsea (Ft. Worth, TX)

October

3-5

Battle of Three Kings XIV- Send in the Khans - Rosenfeld
(Tyler, TX)

10-12

Namron Protectorate-Namron (Norman , OK)
Tourney by the Loch - Loch Soilleir (Clear Lake, TX)

17-19

Ursae-Lyons- Bjornsborg (San Antonio, TX)
Battle of the Pines - Graywood, (Lufkin, TX)

24-26

Samhain Celebration-Eldern Hills (Lawton/Ft. Sills, OK)
Seawinds Defender- Seawinds (Corpus Christi, TX)
**Central Regional Academy of the Rapier - Rosenfeld and
Dragonsfire Tor** (Tyler, TX)

31-2

Bryn Gwlad Baronial - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)
Brad Leah's Fighter's Challenge- Brad Leah (Wichita Falls, TX)

Editor's Note: As some of these area were recently hit or damaged by Hurricane Ike, some events may be postponed/canceled.