

B THE BERSERKER

Yule 2011

This up-coming year we will be voting on a new Baron/Baroness. Do you know who the candidates are? Do you know what they think they can do for the Barony? If not, read on.

Candidates
(in the order received)



Eleanor MacCarthaigh, OL

Per fess purple and sable, a stag trippant argent, attired Or and in chief a decrescent argent. Motto: Fac quicquid ames, ama quicquid facias (Do what you like, like what you do)



The Baronial Coronet is not light nor should it be taken lightly. In all truth, it's been my experience that the person in that position can have a greater impact on a group's individuals than even the Crown. The Barony is where people start, a training ground for further explorations into Regional and Kingdom affairs and a place to come home to. The Baron and/or Baroness are the face to the people outside the Barony and the face of the Crown to the people inside its boundaries. The Baronial Seat recognizes the pride of the Barony and relays that pride everywhere it may be heard. Maintaining traditions old and new, supporting and inspiring group efforts, and acting as mediator when necessary are all part of their responsibilities. In full knowledge of the struggles, duties and pleasures of the job, I present myself as a candidate and would love to serve Bergental as Baroness. Bergental is the smallest Barony in the Kingdom, and yet our fame reaches far and wide. To date, every effort I have made for our events and encampments has been to contribute to this fame. It's not about me, it's not about awards, it's about people throughout the Kingdom coming to Bergental with anticipation and leaving it well satisfied or visiting our encampment and being jealous of our community. In such a small group, every person adds to Bergental's strength and makes us the pride of the Kingdom. Our guests have fun because we do and because we work together. It is my hope to continue our communal efforts and

flex to support the Barony's dynamics by establishing a formal privy council and expanding our award structure, while continuing to maintain the solid base of traditions that have kept Bergental steady and fun!

In Service to the Crown of the East and the Barony of Bergental,
Eleanore MacCarthaigh, OL



Lord Rob McMinn and Lady Emma McMinn



We have been married for over 22 years and are both teachers outside of our SCA lives. We have been part of Bergental for nine years and have both held positions as Greater Officers. As such have seen what makes the Barony run successfully. The same can be said of how well we work together as a couple. We are quite comfortable declaring our opinions while listening to the other's point of view. We know that having the honor of representing the group that we love would require mutual aspirations and commitment. It is with that in mind that we have stepped forward together to declare our candidacy for Baron and Baroness of Bergental.

We have both been involved with nearly every event run over the last seven years or so and in such a capacity have seen the dedication the great people of Bergental as you make our events shine and our good reputation grow. As Baron and Baroness, we hope to suit the spirit and good will of the Barony. Given the opportunity, we can think of no greater honor than recognizing and honoring your efforts in an official capacity while also representing you throughout the Known World.



Baron Cedric of Armorica and Mistress Annastrina Ruth O'Carney



Cedric of Armorica joined the SCA in 1985 in the now defunct Shire of Falconshire (now the Shire of Coldwood) in upstate New York. He moved to the Barony of Concordia of the Snows in 1986 and since that time has moved several times and to several kingdoms.

1986-1993 Barony of Concordia of the Snows (served as Knight Marshal and Seneschal)

1993-1997 Barony of Thescorre in the then Principality of Aethelmearc

1997-2000 Barony of Wurm Wald in the Middle Kingdom

2000-2002 Barony Beyond the Mountain

2002-present Barony of Bergental (served as Knight Marshal)

Notable awards - Court Baron of the East Kingdom, Member of the Order of the Tygers Combattant and Silver Crescent

Annastrina Ruth O'Carney started playing in the SCA in 1989 and joined shortly thereafter in the Shire of Coill Tuar while attending college at SUNY New Paltz up until she graduated in 1993. Her travels mirror those shown above from 1993 onward.

Notable awards - Mistress of the Laurel, Member of the Order of the Maunche.

We are the proud parents of Zadia (age 10) and Adelia (age 7).



Answers to Questions submitted by You

Membership & involvement

Eleanore MacCarthaigh

I believe we need to make a strong push to attract new membership to the Barony, as our core group has shrunk in the last few years and we truly need more people to move forward. We have lost many active players to graduations, so I think it prudent to produce flyers that may attract young people to our activities and events and represent us in the colleges. I also think we need to find other groups to do demos for or to send flyers to so that we can attract post-college adults that may find interest in our activities and event efforts.

Involvement: Encouraging members to get more involved is one of the hardest things to do in any organization, just ask the Lion's Club and the Shriners. Service is fun for me, but it's not fun for others - I know it can be scary to see the amount of work some people do to pull off events and feasts. What we would need to show them is that no one has to put in that much work to contribute to the Barony's efforts. I would like to promote a culture of "30 minutes of service" for each event to help support those people who dedicate their time to run them. The theory being if each person gave 30 minutes of their time before, after or during an event the resulting effort would make a VAST difference. In fact, if I can't run a feast due to the duties of the Coronet, it is my plan to stand up afterwards and help with cleanup... hopefully taking people with me.

Lord Rob McMinn and Lady Emma McMinn

Before we discuss how to bring in more new people, we think it is also important to discuss how to bring back those people who are not as active anymore. These people are a hidden treasure to our Barony with a lot of insight as to what has kept them away, what would bring them back, and further, what would help us attract new members. Furthermore, by bringing these people back they may encourage their friends and acquaintances to test the SCAdian waters, and possibly even jump in!

We also know that our number of Demos has dropped over the last few years. We have the Ventford Hall Demo now, and there are several people in our Barony that make a pilgrimage to the Demo run by our neighbors in BBM, but we think it would definitely help our numbers if we were able to show off our wonderful organization more frequently to the general populous such as college campus', museums, local organizations, and area schools. The most reliable method of finding where to do these demos AND the most valued resource for recruiting new members is word of mouth from the good people of this Barony.

Involvement:

How to encourage more existing members to get more involved, etc.? This is an ongoing conundrum that exists in groups throughout the entire Known World! We have heard this discussed over and over again - - including, and especially, in our own corner of the world. We don't believe there is a set solution to this that lies solely within the responsibilities of the Baron and Baroness; HOWEVER, we do believe it's a good place to start.

The first place we would start is with our Baronial awards. First we would ask the populous to speak up when they see someone whom they think deserves an award. We're sure the current

and past Baron and Baroness' can tell you how they wished people would speak up more often. We have heard people hesitate because they don't know if someone has received a certain award or not, so perhaps a published Order of Precedence on our website would help.

Secondly, we feel there may be room for more awards or addendums to current awards. Why can't someone who received a Fountain long ago be recognized again in some way because they continue to work as hard or harder or in a different capacity?

Before we go on, perhaps we should say that by NO MEANS do we think that people ONLY do good work in this Barony, or elsewhere in the Known World, solely to get a "cookie" or any kind of special recognition. However, we believe encouragement comes in many forms and levels, and awards are but one of them.... not only for the recipient but also those involved in the creation, recommendation, and

presentation of said awards.

Thirdly, and, we believe, the strongest and most valuable encouragement for existing members lies in the extra effort of everyone in this Barony - - including the Baron and Baroness - - in how often we recognize good work of others away from Court. Have you ever received, or seen someone else receive, a small trinket or verbal compliment where other people could hear and see? For example: a young man receives a brass button from a woman who saw him hold the door for people entering the building.... without being asked; someone compliments a lone musician in the corner for helping create a wonderful atmosphere; someone introduces a new helper to the King or Queen and boasts of their good works. The more frequently we thank someone for good work, the more likely they are to contribute more and thank someone else for their efforts. Pass it on!



Baron Cedric & Mistress Annastrina

What priorities do you have outside the SCA that would prevent you from attending an event or meeting?

First and foremost in our lives is our children. Everything else takes a back seat to them. We have discussed this and agreed that if a conflict arises, if at all possible, one of us at least will be attending all Baronial meetings and events.

What do you feel are your best qualities as a leader? A willingness to work with other people and see all sides of an issue.

Why is this position important? The local Baron/Baroness are the ceremonial heads of their local group and provide a link from the populace to the royalty. They are the local focus for the pageantry that a lot of us look for and enjoy in the SCA.

Why is this position important to you? It would enable us to give something back to the SCA and the East Kingdom at a higher level, to pay back all of those gentles over the years, that made the SCA so enjoyable for us.

Eleanore MacCarthaigh

Rules and Regs: The only changes to the current charter I would encourage involves language to clarify the positions of the officers on the Grand Council and to clarify the \$50 expenditure rule, which I think is not being followed as written - not to say that anyone is at fault, I believe it's just been mis-remembered over the years (I certainly did). As far as governance changes I would like to make two additions, I would like to expand our awards base and introduce a privy council (that is, a council or court for the Coronet). The former would be instigated after an open forum

discussion with the populace to determine their thoughts about what we as a Barony would like to encourage in our members. The latter would be a small group of people to help with the mundanities and practicalities of the Baronial Seat, i.e. ladies/lords in waiting, the Champions, a Secretary/Ministre/Chamberlain, Head Lady/Lord in Waiting and an open spot for lords/ladies to be invited to serve at court (for the purpose of training/acclimating them for further service to the Crown).



Eleanore MacCarthaigh

Most Favorite/Least Favorite things about the Barony of Bergental: My very favorite thing about this Barony is the culture of friendliness and welcome that everyone has. We are the pride of the Kingdom in this respect! There are people who travel many miles to visit and are amazed at our culture and community of cooperation. Newcomers and Crown Heads know when they come here they can relax and have a good time without worries.

My least favorite thing I know is temporary, as it's addressed in the words above... we are the smallest Barony and we have a tiny base of people doing everything right now. We as a group must make a choice regarding how we want to be and how we want to be seen in the future. If we want to ride the wave of our current successes, we must pull together and each do our best to contribute – no one can do it alone!



Lord Rob McMinn and Lady Emma McMinn

Rules and Regs:

Do we need to change the Baronial charter? While we do feel it needs to be updated in a few areas, we do not see an immediate need. That being said, we would ALWAYS be open to suggestions.

What are your priorities for the Barony?

To continue the reputation of our Barony as a reliable resource for our Kingdom while still bringing the sense of adventure, exploration, and fun to our neighbors and friends in the organization we hold so dear.

As far as encouraging Officership in our group..... we think that lies in the hands of the officers who currently serve. Perhaps we need to first make them more recognizable (Badge? Pin? Hat?). We also need to help them speak up about their duties more often and inform our members that holding an office is not only painless but rewarding. Our officers are the reason we ARE a Barony, and remain a Barony full of awesome endeavors, equipment, and events. We are the Barony of awesomeness, after all!



How will the polling happen?

1. After November 1, 2011, the Seneschal requested mailing labels for the paid SCA members of the Barony of Bergental. She will also put together the polling response page at this time. When the mailing labels are received, the polling response pages will be mailed out to all paid members of the SCA, along with an addressed envelope in which to send out the response. You will be mailing your response to a kingdom officer outside the barony for counting.

We have not determined the date yet for when your polling response is due, but I expect we'll do that at the next business meeting. We have to allow for in case our first request to SCA headquarters goes astray somehow, in which case we have to make a second request (this has happened before).

2. Once the polling response deadline arrives, the responses will be counted and the results delivered to the Seneschal. Assuming the King and Queen of the East approve the people's choice (I haven't known them to do otherwise, but it's in the kingdom law), the barony then works with the royalty on setting a date for investiture of the baronial successor(s).

PLEASE NOTE!

In order for this effort to succeed, we need 75 members, or 2/3 of the members (whichever is smaller), to respond, even if you decide to abstain (yes, that will be one of the choices). Because Bergental has only a little over 80 members, we will need to have a 2/3 response. Each and every one of your responses will be very important! If we have an insufficient response to the polling, our status as a barony will be called into question.

So far, every time we've had to go through this process, we've had a good response. But because it is so important, you will likely get reminders from us, the Seneschal, and other officers to please send in your response in time to be counted.



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