

Caldrithig Meeting

4 pm, Sunday March 9

**Attendance:**

Amalthea, Yael, Lori Halfper, Cristabell, Cydny, Sanna, Duncan, Gina, Leanne, Michael Corviser, Paul R., Philomena, Elsebeth, Ross Weaver, Lydia, Eleanor of Bonwicke

**1. Feast of the Hare 2025 Bids discussion (vote on April 13, 2025)**

Amalthea – Celestial Quest, Secrets of the Medieval Sky. Inspired by this year's taxes to bring Their Excellencies the stars. Theme comprises key events, legendary figures, discoveries through the Middle Ages. Will have a Nordic Hall, Bazaar, Tudor Hall. Activities include astrological readings, astronomical viewings, fortune telling, intro to medieval astronomy, Tudor feast, Eastern Bazaar, dance and music, A+S competition, Rapier and Armored combat. Proposed date Nov. 22, 2025.

Philomena – what are you most excited about?

Amalthea – Community Building

Cydny – Exploring different cultures

Philomena – Potential limitations?

Cydny – It is ambitious. Trying to keep the cost low. We're lucky to have a lot of eager volunteers.

Amalthea – We're lucky to have had time to plan. Biggest concern – FOH comes after Crown Tourney in the same area, might not get as many attendees. Putting the date later might mitigate that risk. Will put together a strategic plan to communicate the event after the vote.

Amalthea – shared bid spreadsheet with staff information, schedule, and budget.

Editor: Note that bid spreadsheet and slides have already been shared with the populace via the Canton mailing list.

Aiming for a profit of \$400 with 80 attendees. Cost \$20/member, feast \$25, Servers \$12, Lunch \$12, Drinks \$1.

Michael Corviser: Change drink cost to \$1.50 to mitigate possible price increases.

## **2. Practicum report/summary – Yael**

Was successful despite the weather, had 8 teacher cancellations, had a few random additional classes. 88 attendees, 77 adults, made just over \$400, site tokens were well received. Had a great time.

Michael – Loved the site tokens.

Amalthea – Yael did a great job on her first event. We saw a lot of newcomers.

## **3. Hunt Club Curling Club (HCCC) demo brief report**

Amalthea – Feb 21 HCCC medieval magic themed event, activities that fostered community engagement. Had 12 volunteers, were paid \$300, had live music, A&S table, live dance and instructions, Rapier demo, Armoured Combat demo, well balanced approach, me and John set up decorations. HCCC were pleased. Unforgettable event. Points for consideration: alcohol was present. Keep activities less complicated. Acoustic issues with singing. Food options and availability. Higher honorarium/trade for space usage or lowered rental rate.

## **4. Future Business – seeking bids for discussion for Practicum 2026 by the April Canton Meeting (April 13, 2025)**

## **5. Officer Reports**

### **Exchequer -- Lady May of ye Wolde (in absentia) --**

- Q4 (Domesday) exchequer report was submitted: only a minor correction was noticed & made at the next level (1 cent, probably due to a rounding error with prepaid expenses); I was able to start the 2025 ledger with that updated information.

- Last bank statement received has our bank balance at \$10,169.49 at the end of January; after making deposits on February 22 (Practicum + rapier donations), balance was \$11,384.23

- I would like to take a long view of our cash flow (i.e. which months have the highest expenses, such as site rentals) to form a picture of what our minimum healthy bank balance should be. The goal is to help us with long-term planning, and also to see how much cushion we have to deal with increased site fees, should the City of Ottawa extend its Jack Purcell fee structure to its other facilities. I probably won't have time to do that work before July.

- TD bank sent info that they have updated their policy for persons depositing to business accounts who are not signatories: TD now requires those persons to set up a profile. If you are an activity leader and it would be more convenient for you to make cash deposits to the canton account yourself vs meeting up with the Exchequer to hand over cash for deposit, please ask me for information about getting this set up.

### **Chatelaine -- Lady Amalthea**

- a lot of new people at Practicum were added to the mailing list. Looking forward to their engagement. One would like us to give a visual notification for newcomers, and would also like chatelaines/deputies to be easily identifiable.

Leanne – old group officers had badges.

Eleanor -- Some offices have chains of office.

Cristabell – Gold key?

Amalthea – Gold key badge

Gina – it's nice to give a newcomer something that doesn't distract from their outfit like green brooch.

Leanne – this has connotations, but maybe an arm band?

Duncan – a goblet symbol? Reminiscent of people getting a goblet at their first event.

Yael – at Blue Dragon they gave people pins for chatelaines, it was nice.

Sanna – love the idea of a goblet, maybe also a rabbit? Could add it to the site map/handout.

Amalthea – Some people attended Newcomers Corner zoom meeting. Helen and Dan would like to hold a mini meeting about camping in late March/early April. Tuesday nights are an option. Google poll?

Eleanor – yes, to confirm enthusiasm about the idea, and then for best time and date

### **Minister of Arts & Sciences – Yael**

Monthly A&S meetings going well. 12 attendees January and February. Quite a range of projects. Raised \$58 in Feb., more than I expected. A quarter's worth of fees

are covered. Should we still ask for \$4? We are booked through June. Summer meetups?

### **Clerk-Register -- Dame Elsebeth Ffarbryn**

Added discord buttons to web page.

Ashlee – the site owner for the curling club accidentally emailed Duncan from a web page link,

Duncan – maybe they went through the Althing website? The email hasn't been passed on.

Elsebeth – I'll look into it.

Amalthea – Baronial Chatelaine approached Ren Faire. Not great.

Yael – Still haven't heard back from them.

Duncan – Had brief contact with them. They were interested in the siege engine.

Philomena – Can we know more specific things than bad vibes?

Amalthea – briefly summarized the email about lack of responsiveness and other issues.

Elsebeth – back to email. Baronial email says it's vacant. Checking the redirect.

Leanne – spoke with Joffr, Baronial Chatelaine office is open.

### **Archery – Baron Duncan**

Hope to run archery at Spring Coronation. Would like to start archery practice in early April. We need a range day. Could make TW targets at the same time.

Dance – Lady Cecilia (in absentia) – Dance is going great

Rapier – Wilhelm

Rapier is going well, numbers are steady at 7 attendees. Practice every second Friday at Smiths Falls.

### **Quartermaster – Sanna**

Now that the weather is nicer will replace the faulty shelf. Will inventory and audit the feast kit. Some things look rough. Will ask people to do creative searching. Can we get rid of things?

### **Social Media Officer – Lydia**

Canton Discord settling in well. Tips and tricks guide is complete, is on website, can email me for it. Facebook mod team is in place. Dame Elsebeth is working on making me an email address. Want to set up additional accounts such as Reddit, Instagram to increase engagement. Setting up an image archive/library. Does anyone have experience with photo archiving/metadata?

Elsebeth – photos need a waiver and approval from subjects.

Amalthea – meeting and image archivist, can talk to them.

Lydia – wants a Canadian vendor and offline backup.

### **Armoured Marshal – Not present**

## **6. Around the Room**

Philomena – Email?

Eleanor – I will read it next meeting.

Leanne – At Tournoi I was approached by Genevieve to put on an event for the Barony. The timing puts a lot of demand on the Canton. How far are people willing to travel, i.e. Smiths Falls?

Yael – Coronation is near Smiths Falls

Cristabell – Did you ask in Fencing practice?

Leanne – Yes. All day classes and fencing tournament for September.

Duncan – recruit non fencers for staff positions.

Leanne – recruiting many people.

Cristabell – Fighter practice space?

Leanne – No, too small. Want three lyst fields.

Cristabell – need help finding a site?

Leanne – Yes. Indoor space, need a kitchen.

7. In depth HCCC and general demo discussion – hosted by and notes by Amalthea

Purpose of the HCCC Demo deep debrief:

- Cover any points not raised in the report provided during the Canton Meeting
- Brainstorm ways in which we can streamline demo efforts in the future

Amalthea opened up to comments from those at the meeting:

Eleanor:

- Saw that people in the volunteer thread mentioned that 300\$ money wasn't "enough" for the efforts of the volunteers

Christabell

- Quality of presentation, good price, people hours of preparation not a great place.
- We are offering a volunteer service, not a fee for service
- It's not just about money, can also be overall enjoyment
- Fundraising is a possibility, but might not meet everyone's needs

Duncan

- Look at what the purpose of the client is that's hiring us
  - o i.e. if raising money for some other purpose, then we can judge whether we're taking a fee or not
- this was a party, they are making money off of it, so we should as well
- if purely educational endeavour, again part of our purpose is education, so that can effect what we might charge for a demo
  - o i.e. if we come in to Glengarry Ren fair, so we should get money for being hired for it, but different if a school, etc.

Lydia

- for this particular demo, we were 12 people
- So that came to 25\$ a head, for what we were performing/providing, doesn't include behind the scenes work
- More experience of volunteering at Demos under our belt is a real plus

Yael

- Prepare an event report for Demos
  - o Amalthea mentioned that this has been done

Christabell

- Offers to make a spreadsheet that can be populated by various Canton volunteers:
  - o who offers what skills and
  - o under what conditions are they willing to support a demo
- To help us see who's available and ask people a streamline

Amalthea

- Will do a year long view of the available demos from past years and prepare an annual calendar for group consideration

Christabelle proposes a round the room question "what do people think demos are for and/or enjoy about demos?":

- Amalthea: public engagement
- Eleanor: recruitment
- Lydia: sense of a community
- Ducan: community awareness, recruiting, education on SCA/history
- Wilhelm: gaining membership (can be gained through awareness/demos, at paid opportunities sure, but not necessarily) membership can be the "long game" investment