



Unto Their Royal Majesties, the Coronets of Blatha an Oir, the Seneschal and Populace of Blatha an Oir, do Honorable Lord Nels Ulfger i Jaren and Dame Elizabeth FittzWilliam of Carlisle give greeting.

With this missive, we formally request consideration to be the next Coronets of Blatha an Oir. As Sergeants of Blatha an Oir, as well as experienced officers of the Barony, we understand Kingdom Law and Society Corpora; and how they affect the functions of the Society. Elizabeth served as Baronial Seneschal for three and a half years and mediated the use of the grievance procedures on several occasions. Nels served as Baronial Marshal for three years, facilitated changes in armor requirements at Kingdom and Society level; and is still an active Heavy Combat fighter and a Senior Marshal. Nels and Elizabeth were also founding officers of the Stronghold of Rath an Oir (now in dormant status). Nels was the Stronghold's first heavy marshal and a Defender of the Stronghold. Elizabeth was the first herald of the Stronghold and was instrumental in getting the name and arms of the Stronghold passed (thanks, Countess Elisabeth!), as well as creating a banner with the arms of the Stronghold.

We genuinely believe that every one of us is a chatelaine and that we all start somewhere. As members of The Sergeantry of Blatha an Oir, we feel that the Sergeantry maintains the knowledge, pageantry, and soul of the barony, and that the Sergeantry can answer any questions from the populace and new-comers and help foster any interests someone might have. We want to encourage more members of the populace to consider joining the Sergeantry, and the Sergeantry to be more involved in furthering their knowledge and skills.

We would like to put aside the attitude of 'fringies'/fringe players and embrace that we all have something to contribute to the SCA. We work hard to meet and encourage a wide variety of populace members and would like to encourage more inclusion and less 'gatekeeping'. We believe that, often, people do not feel welcome because their "interests" do not seem to fit; we would encourage them, ask them to teach about their interests and bring others into the fold. Gatekeeping undermines the very foundation of the Society, which is primarily an educational group, to teach, and to learn. Every member has something they can teach; we must simply create a safe place to bring forth that knowledge. We welcome cultural diversity and the sharing of a wide variety of histories outside of Europe.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are an important part of the health and growth of our Society, as are the anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies. Each participant holds a responsibility to speak up when they see something that counters those policies. We strongly feel that as the Coronets we must support and uphold the policies and procedures of the organization; and can best do so by supporting those who feel they cannot speak for themselves. We understand how difficult it can be for many to speak up against bullying or mistreatment, especially when the others involved may be seen as 'higher-ranking' in the organization. We would offer support, encouragement, and education on the process. We plan to have an open-door policy for any who need assistance and offer to mediate any such discussions while continuing to uphold policies.

Modernly, both Nels and Elizabeth have the means and capabilities to fulfill the roles as Coronets of the Barony. Nels is an upper-level manager with seniority and support staff, has schedule flexibility and sufficient vacation time. Elizabeth's work schedule is four days a week, with Friday through Sunday available, as well as adequate paid time off.

We thank you for your consideration, and in service.