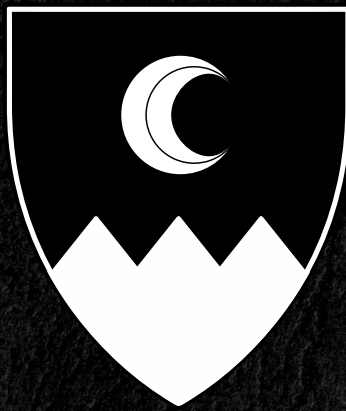


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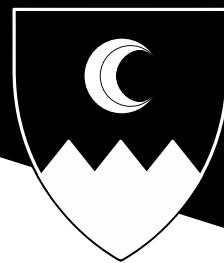
The Neoman



*The Official Newsletter
of the Barony of Bright Hills*



Kingdom of Atlantia



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 7/16/2025

Started At: 6:55 pm

Attended: Baron and Baroness, Gordon and Wanda, Kalloch and Becky, Brigit and Richard, Alexandria, Darby, Chris Le Strange (Royal Archer Champion) and Bri, Clara, William Ringlancer.

Officer Reports

Chatelain: There has been some newcomer activity around the Baronial gatherings; which is great to see. We still have the August demo coming up immediately following Pennsic. I have been tracking people down to have them fill in the volunteer demo list so that they can get in. I still have a few souls missing from my tally that I would love to confirm before submitting to the lead organizer. that being said, I plan on handing over the list the beginning of next week.

The Quarterly Kingdom Chatelain Report has been submitted. Waiting on feedback so i can add some tidbits that came up after my submission. Nothing tragic but some ideas that have been brought up that warrant some follow up over the next few months.

That is all from the Chatelain's corner. See some of you at the war!

Chronicler: Nothing new to report.

Exchequer: Nothing to report.

Herald: This month I have been helping many people with registering names and armory: 1 device redesign, 1 device resubmission, 1 name and device for a newcomer, 1 name and device for a long time member.

I have continued to work on my heraldic regalia project to present to the Crown at Trial by Fire.

I have been conducting research in period protocols for heralds regarding tournaments.

Meeting Minutes, cont.

Herald (con't): I will not be attending Pennsic; I need to get the heraldic tabard and folder to someone to act as herald for Their Excellencies at Pennsic.

Knights Marshal: We held two heavy practices since our last meeting, one on June 29th where we had 6 fighters in armor and last Sunday- July 13th, we had 5 fighters in armor.

TAM: We have had 2 successful archery practices since the last meeting with 16 at the first practice and 12 at the last practice. We have had many new archers at the last few practices and look forward to expanding our numbers in the future. We also have a practice on July 27th run by Eadgyth for those who may not be going to Pennsic. I plan to schedule an August practice soon.

I will see some of you at the meeting tonight and if not maybe I will see you at Pennsic.

MoAS: Cook's Guild met on 7-13 hosted by Jeanne Tenuer de Bec 7 attended discussing up-coming events.

Many artisan have been working on their projects. A few for example:

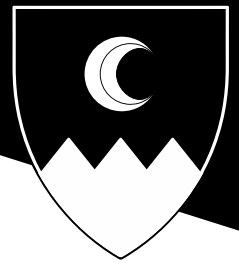
Lady Sindara: See #2856 to see her headdress.

Master Heinrich: See #2860, 2861, 2863, and 2864 to see his Armor.

Lady Brigit had been working on new mead, weaving trim, hosting Bardic this coming weekend.



#2856



Meeting Minutes, cont.

MoAS (con't): Many others getting projects ready for Pennsic.



Meeting Minutes, cont.



MoL: No report.

Web Minister: Society is making some changes to the baronial email policy, more information coming from Gordon when he gets it.

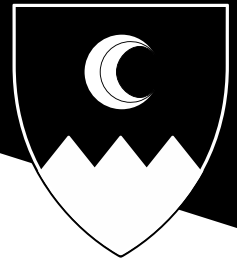
Youth Minister: No report.

Seneschal: No report.

B&B (Baroness): No report.

Baronial Gatherings & Activities

Pennsic Baronial Reception. To be held at Camp Blackstar on Monday of War Week starting at 7ish. If people arrived around Monday afternoon to help set up, that would be lovely.



Meeting Minutes, cont.

Events

Trial by Fire: Scores approved, just waiting to show up.

Birthday: Jill is working on Baronial Birthday and Investiture; it is officially on the calendar.

Old Business

Canvas for the Bowmen. Still working on tarp walls. Gordon spoke to the Bowman, the bowman wanted to know how we would attach the walls to the pavilion, Kalloch said probably about 1/2 inch hooks. Gordon said the bowman would be fine with that.

New Business

Royal Archer. Chris Le Strange requested use of the Bowman to host Royal Archer. He has a date of June 21st weekend, fathers' day/Juneteenth weekend. No votes were had but we advised Chris to reach out to the Baltimore Bowman to make sure the site was useable that weekend. Chris also asked if Bright Hills would sponsor the event. The officers advised Chris to meet with Wanda at Pennsic to look at the old Trial By Fire budgets so he could bring a budget request to the next baronial meeting.

Pennsic Business. Monday Bridge Battle at Pennsic, one of our own will be getting the Silver Osprey. Kalloch requested the baronage be there.

Next Meeting: 8/24/25 3pm at the Baronial Gathering (Baltimore Bowmen)

Adjourn: 7:44 pm

Historical Happenings in August by Brigit Donn

- 48 B.C. Julius Caesar defeated Pompey the Great
- 30 B.C. Cleopatra dies
- 79 A.D. Mount Vesuvius erupted
- 565 Loch Ness first documented in a biography of St. Columba
- 1040 Duncan the 1st was killed in battle by his own men, led by Macbeth
- 1100 King William the 2nd died
- 1346 The English defeat the French at the battle of Crecy
- 1483 Sistine Chapel open for its first mass
- 1485 King Richard the 3 died, became the last English King to die in battle
- 1492 Columbus set sail
- 1572 Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre
- 1587 Virginia Dare, first child born in Roanoke was born

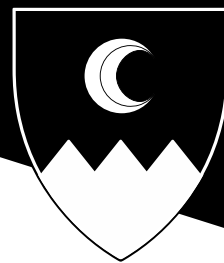
Electronic Connection

The Baronial website is available at:
<http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/>

The new baronial Facebook page is located at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/brighthills/>

The Yeoman On-Line
<http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/yeoman/yeoman.html>

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Baronial Activities and Events

Demo | *August 16-17, 2025*

Armored participation on Saturday | Howard County Fairgrounds, MD

Bright Hills Baronial Gathering | *August 24, 2025, 12:30pm*

Fighter Practice (12:30pm), Archery (1pm), Feasting (2pm), Baronial Meeting (3pm)
Baltimore Bowmen, Glen Arm, MD

Bright Hills Business Meeting | *August 24, 2025, 3:00pm*

In person | Baltimore Bowmen, Glen Arm, MD

Trial by Fire & Lochmere Arrow | *September 26-28, 2025*

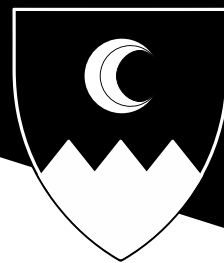
See Atlantian Calendar for info | Baltimore Bowmen, Glen Arm, MD

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Full Baronial Calendar of Events

[https://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/?page\\_id=242](https://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/?page_id=242)

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Full Kingdom Calendar of Events

<https://atlantia.sca.org/calendar/>



Advice for Baronial Coronets

Part 1, By by Chagan Khulan, Baghsi

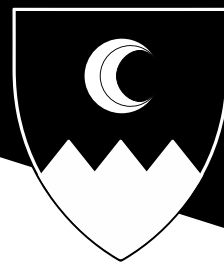
Greetings to the candidates and anyone considering taking on the position of the Baronial Coronets.

From February 1997 to February 2001 I had the distinct pleasure and challenge to be Baroness of Bright Hills. It was quite an experience. However, going into this position with no experience is something no one need do. So, what follows is a collection of advice, helpful hints and suggestions for future Coronets. No term as a Coronet is ever the same as someone else's term but many things are similar, so I'm giving you MY list of the things which Temur and I encountered or found helpful during our four years.

In a nutshell the job combines the needed skills of a Mom, Teacher, Master Sergeant and Confessor. There's even a little Cat Herding. It is a joy, a trial, a challenge and sometimes a headache, but it's worth it.

Herewith are my observations. I hope they will prove useful. Following this is a compendium of additional helpful hints based on the experiences of a number of territorial Barons and Baronesses.

1. Always remember, no matter what you say, do, don't say or don't do, it will be noticed and remembered. It will come back to haunt you at the worst possible moment.
2. You are the HEART of the ENTIRE Barony – not just the folks you like.
3. You are the ears and voice of Their Majesties to your Barony, however, Their Majesties have eyes and ears across Atlantia. Speak for them with care.
4. Everyone in the Barony deserves your attention. Be approachable or you will lose your people.
5. You are not required to like everyone, but you must be able to work with everyone.
6. Never lie. Lies have great nasty teeth and produce litters of ugly rumors. They are faithful and will follow you forever.
7. Have fun with your people, especially the new folks.
8. Always carry spare garb and feast gear. You never know when you'll need it.
9. Be aware that you will lose most of your free time.
10. Be aware that you will travel more – thus increasing use of time, money and stress on your vehicle. May you have AMPLE funds.
11. Be aware that your time at events is no longer your own, try to enjoy your new responsibilities.
12. Find the good in everyone. You might find something special – we did.
13. LISTEN – LISTEN – LISTEN...and pay heed.



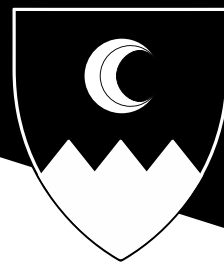
Advice for Baronial Coronets

Part 1 cont., By by Chagan Khulan, Baghsi

14. Don't discount the children. They are the future of the Barony.
15. Courtesies deserve a thank you and you will make someone's day by doing it.
16. Keep your Court interesting, entertaining and as short as possible but don't make it a circus.
17. Realize that you will now have extra items to carry with you to events. May you have a large vehicle.
18. Work WITH your Seneschal. Failure with this is ugly.
19. Realize you will always have a good seat at feast but you may find many foods you don't recognize or like. Be polite.
20. Be prepared to have relationships change – with family, with friends, with total strangers or folks you never interacted with in the Barony. Not all of these changes will be expected or desired.
21. There will always be surprises – roll with the punches.
22. Learn to Smile and be gracious. When you can't – hide and let your retainer handle it.
23. Good retainers are worth their weight in gold. Choose carefully.
24. Never schedule Court to conflict with serving the feast. Don't piss off the Cooks.
25. Never Assume!!!
26. Take notes or have a secretary/retainer do it. No one ever remembers everything they said, did or promised.
27. Reward people for their good works. Handing out awards is one of your most important duties.
28. Learn to let folks “do for you”. It's a welcome treat and they enjoy helping you. It makes folks feel needed, wanted and appreciated.
29. Ask for help or advice – you are neither infallible, all knowing, nor 10 feet tall and great sword proof.
30. THIRTY. In the printing world 30 means it's finished, the end. If you start something, finish it. If you assign something make sure it gets accomplished. Set goals and limits for yourself as well as others. Make your term as Coronets as much fun as possible, achieve something, make your people as special as possible. Enjoy the time before you reach 30 as a Coronet and I guarantee you'll enjoy the time after even more.

In hopes this helps, I remain,

Chagan Khulan (formerly Ekaterina Vladimirovna), Baroness of Bright Hills retired



Advice for Baronial Coronets

Part 2, By Chagan Khulan, Baghsi

Advice for potential coronets part 2; Things I've learned;

Always take your feast gear to events. My first lesson from a fellow Coronet was, "the only right answer when invited to sit at High Table was Yes, Thank you".

Set up a tiered system of necessities for events. Basic box for all events, basic box plus extras for Kingdom one day events, basic box plus extras plus camping gear for weekend events and larger truck for Pennsic. All kidding aside – I found having things in numbered totes made packing for events much easier. It does require you replace the cleaned items back in the correct tote, though.

Always confer with your herald well before Court. A minimum of several hours or the day before if you can manage it. Keep a copy of your Court business – just in case.

Attend as many of the Baronial Guild meetings as possible, preferably more than once a year. The Guilds appreciate it and you get to see first-hand what people are working on for A & S. It's extra time spent but it's fun.

At events – especially Pennsic – make it a priority to get to the various martial activities. If you are authorized in any of the forms – get out there WITH your troops. If not, at least watch them and cheer them on.

Communication, as Syr Richard mentioned, is vital. That includes communication with the Royals, the Officers and your Barony.

A good, clear, understandable speaking voice for court that can be heard beyond the third row is a blessing – do what you can to develop one.

If you feel you are becoming stressed and may lose your temper – take a break, get away from the crowd and hide for a few minutes. Have your retainer fend off everyone for the duration. Don't return till you can look calm and collected again.

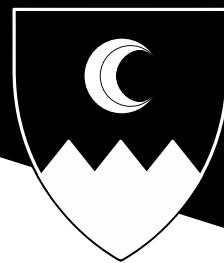
NEVER treat your people with disdain. They are important and deserve your respect. If you don't respect them they will lose respect for you.

Yes, you must attend the business meetings and you should attend the weekly gatherings. It's one more way you will learn who's doing what.

Encourage commentary for awards. Try as you will, you can't be everywhere and see everything.

Remain neutral. Favor no one person or group over another.

If they like you, they'll play jokes on you. Have fun with it!



Advice for Baronial Coronets

Part 2 cont., By by Chagan Rhulan, Baghsi

Do make known any food or health issues so retainers and cooks can accommodate issues when needed.

Being Baronial Coronets is expensive. Budget accordingly and do not spend yourself into bankruptcy. For our time as Coronets we estimated we spent five to seven thousand dollars a year on the SCA. Those are 1997 to 2001 cost estimates. Travel is your biggest portion of those expenses.

Ask, if you aren't sure of some rule or protocol. Assign yourself an advisor if you like.

Develop a system to keep records of all your expenses while you are Coronets (or officers) since many of those expenses are tax deductible. Baroness Cordelia had a separate envelope for every event they attended. The envelope was labeled with event name, date and notes and it held all the receipts for anything connected to that event. It eliminated headaches at tax time.

I was told that, as Coronets, we should limit ourselves to attending no more than 2 events a month. Pennsic equals 2 events. In some cases you must make exceptions. Unevent must be attended, Crown Tourney and Coronation are highly advised if you can make it, any other Kingdom level events and Baronial Investitures and Birthdays are next on the list. However, remember – you have a job in the mundane world, A Barony that needs your attention and laundry and dishes do not wash themselves. Plan carefully.

Be prepared for an occasional odd request or question. Usually these revolve around things you have no control over. You are not required to mend broken romances, broken hearts or resolve personal differences outside of those which affect the Barony. There is, however, a procedure for resolving SCA grievances. Should you have issues USE that procedure. (Yes, Temur did get a call from a lady asking him to make her boyfriend get back together with her.)

You will find you need Favors, gifts or gift baskets and tokens of esteem. Generally these are small things such as rings, pilgrim badges, beads, etc. This is an expense that you pay for. Favors can be a Baronial project with you giving the design for the favor and various members producing them with you. Don't go overboard on favors but they are always appreciated. Gift baskets are generally given to visiting Royals and newly invested Coronets. Make the contents as useful as possible.

A note on gifts. Be very careful giving things that are alcoholic, scented or edible. Most items will be acceptable but always include ingredients for scented or edible items due to potential allergies. Consider asking around to see if an alcoholic beverage is acceptable to the intended recipient.

As to retainers guarding you during a much needed break – some wise advice from Syr Richard; If you set a retainer to keep you secluded, please do two things:



Advice for Baronial Coronets

Part 2 cont., By by Chagan Khulan, Baghsi

1) Choose your guard very carefully. They should be somewhat formidable, both physically and intellectually. They should also be kind and not prone to letting their position make them feel superior (see, I told you to choose carefully).

2) Give your guard a list of who is never to be blocked. This list should include your children, if you have any, the Royals who have a call on you second only to blood as long as you are their Baronage, the Kingdom and Baronial Seneschals(es) and your chiefest advisor should you have one.

The Story:

I once chose a guard who was far more intimidating than forward thinking. At a Crown Tourney in which I was fighting he was told to keep peeps away for a while after I was involved in a very "strange" round. The King, who was also a good friend wanted to speak with me and my guard wouldn't let him in. I didn't know until later when the King asked me, "Are you mad at me?"

It was both awkward and funny.

At events, should there be a problem or a person causing issues, see the autocrat. They are the person who, legally, must deal with event problems. They have the right to remove problem people from the event, you can only oust them from Court.

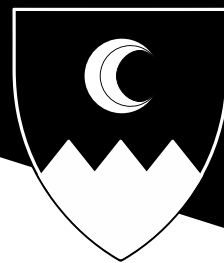
Speaking of Autocrats. You can autocrat your own Baronial events but it really isn't the wisest thing to do. You have enough to do as Coronets. (So sayeth she who did autocrat while being Baroness...once.)

I'm sure you've seen retainers carrying a basket as they follow their respective Royal or Coronet around an event. That basket should contain such things as needed medications, inhalers, pen or pencil, note paper, small first aid kit, tissues, a bottle of water, a drinking cup or goblet, snacky things like crackers, candy or dried fruit, tokens and favors, lists of things the Royal/Coronet has to do, people to see or notes about Court, possibly even a wallet if there is shopping being done, etc. It can have lots of things or only a few things but it should follow you everywhere. If you find a really good retainer - one with a touch of OCD - put them in charge of that basket. You won't regret it.

Do not present a divided house. If you and your spouse are having a difference of opinion on something for the Barony, solve it in private! Do not argue or even have heated discussions in public.

You are the Coronets, but NOT the legal power of the Barony. That job falls to your Seneschal. Item 26 also applies to you and your Seneschal. If there is a difference of opinion, settle that difference in private and show no division between yourself and the Seneschal. Call it an "agree to disagree" arrangement and settle on something middle of the road. You have the power of "I would like" but the Seneschal has the power of "No".

Be kind to your retainers, Champions and Officers. You'd be swamped if it weren't for them.



Advice for Baronial Coronets

Part 2 cont., By by Chagan Khulan, Baghsi

From another source - If you find that you and your spouse/partner are constantly arguing about situations or issues in the Barony - you have a problem! Step back and look at the cause and how you can resolve the issue. If it's really bad, give due consideration to stepping down.

I once was asked if being territorial Coronets changes people. The answer was and still would be "Yes, it does, but those changes vary from person to person." Then they followed with "Oh good, then they'll get better?" I had to tell them there was no guarantee.

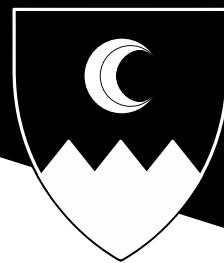
I doubt seriously that this collection of thoughts and experiences is complete. It is not meant to frighten potential Coronets. Every Territorial Baron or Baroness can add something to this list, some funny experience, some bad or painful experience but you learn as you go and the best tool you can have to succeed is Common Sense. Never be afraid to ask for advice from other Territorial Coronets.

I hope this collection of experiences is helpful. I never could find the "How To Be A Baroness" book and when I asked a Royal about it she told me she was hoping there was a "How to be a Queen" handbook.

By my hand,

Chagan Khulan, Baghsi (Formerly Ekaterina Vladimirovna)

Baroness of Bright Hills, retired



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Vacant
~~~~~



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Vacant  
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~~~~~



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Deputy Youth Minister

Vacant
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