

In-Person Brunch Notes

Date: Oct 30, 2022

Special thanks to Mael Eoin for attending to share his experience, both as the EK new group's deputy and as a former landed Baron of Bhakail.

Discussion Topic= No one at the meeting had additional topics to bring up, so we talked about a topic that came up on the Discord chat a few weeks ago, the topic of how local groups decide who to give awards to.

- Baronial awards are a chance to bridge kingdom recognition. It is a good idea to put baronial awards before Order of High Merit kingdom-level awards. (ie: don't make baronial awards harder to get than a kingdom award). However, they should likely be given for a bit more than just "participating."
- However, don't let the fact of whether a person has a kingdom-level award or not influence the giving of a baronial award.
- The coronet is responsible for the Theater of an event.
- The Coronet is a cheerleader for their people, so in addition to giving baronial awards, they should be making efforts to see their members acknowledged separately at the kingdom level. Part of the power of the Coronet is the influence they now have to help people get recognized. The Coronet should check their people on the order of precedence to see what everyone has: <https://op.eastkingdom.org/>. Coronets can use retainers to help them write notes about who to look up or recommend after an event is over
- The local herald should report baronial awards to the kingdom to be added to the Order of Precedence:
- Baronial awards have no set criteria. They are what we make them. They can be given for "making the barony look good" or for contributing to the barony.
- Baronial awards can be specifically given for art/service/martial prowess done in or on behalf of the barony. This is one way to make baronial awards different from kingdom awards. (E.g.: If someone makes a lot of favors for the barony, fights at Baronial events and practices, helps run Baronial events, etc.)
- The Baronial seat can rely on tokens to show recognition in many cases. They show appreciation. The giver should state their reason when giving a token. Tokens are best given "in the moment" ie: coronet walks through the kitchen, and gives tokens to staff.
- These baronial tokens should be recognizably from the "barony" (blue/yellow color and associated heraldry). When a person assumes the baronial seat they are in a sense giving up their identity to that of the barony. However individual coronets could augment/personalize them as long as it is clear it is a baronial token. Tokens should not be given out in court (takes too much time).
- If someone has already been recognized for something multiple times at the kingdom level maybe hold off on giving them the baronial award for a bit. Focus on the people who are ready for the award right now. A new barony will have a huge backlog of

awards, don't try to fill them all at once making court last forever and putting a lot of pressure on your scribes.

- The baronial seat could also ask to give out awards at other events (with permission of the local baronial seat), or give out awards during the day and not in court. Pennsic is also a great place to have a baronial court and give awards. FYI: For a court to count it must be at a published event.
- Officers don't have to swear fealty to the coronet, but often coronets will call up officers to thank them.
- It is ultimately the coronet's job to give out awards. They can seek feedback from their populace/ask their populace to nominate people, but, baronial orders should not be polling orders; avoid that level of politics in a local group. Keep things simple and trust the baronial seat.
- Before investiture, the coronet elect should do a review of the OP to see what awards shire members might be due for, or if anyone is overdue for an award, and use the occasion of the investiture to get their people recognized.
- Typically investitures don't hand out a lot of baronial awards. Maybe the premier of each baronial award can be given?
- Scrolls should be made optional so as to not burn out our scribes, but keep records of all awards given, and some sort of token should be given out with an award if a scroll is not given.
- Random Regalia Thoughts: 1) Include "care instructions" with regalia, and 2) for the heavy and rapier champ regalia, make things similar, but add a slight difference (a rapier v.s. a heavy sword handing from the antlers, or something like that...