

ing a Lion of An Tir, members of each of the peerage orders, and newcomers to the area.

Dame Arwen McDougall Lioncourt, OP, is volunteering as a leader in maintaining the momentum of the movement, and can be reached via email at <srberry@teleport.com> or by phone at her phone number

Other people are also acting as contacts in local Shires and Baronies, so if you're interested in getting more information, ask around.

To join in the discussion list regarding creation of a Crown Principality, send request to <rafaella@easystreet.com> or visit:

<http://www.castle.org/mailman/listinfo/riverscp>

You may also enjoy reading the website that has been put up to explore and promote the idea of Principality in this area. Visit

<http://www.currentmiddleages.org/principality/> for additional information and links. We are aware there are differing points of view regarding making this area into a Principality and we wish for you to make an informed decision when lending your support to this movement. The website contains information concerning the pros and cons of Principality status we hope will answer any questions or concerns.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in promoting the idea of principality in this area, please join the email discussion list if possible. Much of the discussion and planning will take place in that forum. If you don't have email, feel free to contact Dame Arwen or for information about principality-related activities and events.

You will also want to attend the many open meetings, socials and work parties that will be planned and announced in the future months. Bring a friend!

Word of mouth is the best kind of support you can give to this movement. Talk to people about the benefits of principality - be enthusiastic and positive. You can visibly demonstrate your support for the idea of a principality by flying a green banner with the letter "P" (for principality) in gold. Additionally, we encourage you to make and wear simple armbands, belt favors, or baldrics in the same design. Make some extras and give them to anyone you talk to who supports the idea. Give them a copy of this flyer and encourage them to talk about it with friends and acquaintances.

INTRODUCTION TO PRINCIPALITY

A Principality is defined in the Society for Creative Anachronism governing documents as "... A part of a kingdom which has the right to select a reigning Prince and Princess by armored combat." As a principality is also a full branch of the SCA, it is subject to the rules defining a branch, such as having "established borders enclosing a single contiguous area."

There are multiple requirements that must be met before an area is granted full principality status. These requirements include: a name and device registered with the College of Arms, a body of law, at least 100 paid members and sufficient talent to fill the required offices, have a decent turnout for a coronet tourney, and foster the development of the skills represented by the various peerage orders.

Crown Principality status is an intermediate step and is conferred to an area at the discretion of the Crown, in consultation with the Kingdom Seneschal, when that area has demonstrated support and commitment toward the advancement of full principality status.

BENEFITS OF PRINCIPALITY STATUS

Full principality status conveys an intermediate level of pageantry, play and opportunity to serve between local branches and the kingdom. We would have our own awards structure, laws, events, champions and officers. Those members

of the populace who are limited from participating at a kingdom level due to a variety of factors would have another level of play available to them.

Principalities bring Royalty closer to those branches that rarely have the opportunity to host the Crown of An Tir, especially branches that do not have a ceremonial head. Locally-centered Royalty would also facilitate local resolution of inter- and intra-branch problems before they attract the attention of the Crown, saving time and embarrassment for all concerned. Royalty with ties, homes and friendships in the area would be able to concentrate their efforts locally, bringing an assured Royal presence and the probability of timely recognition of individual contribution. It removes some of the award load at the Kingdom level as Princes and Princesses are able to convey Award of Arms at Their own discretion and Grant level awards with the concurrence of Their Royal Majesties. Moreover, the populace will have increased opportunities to participate in the pageantry associated with Royalty and to serve as both Royalty and retinue.

Principalities act as training grounds for Kingdom officers, offering a more experienced and skilled pool from which to draw, improving the health of the kingdom. Artists, archers, fencers and equestrians all have the chance to test their skills against a wider field of competitors for the honor of serving as a principality champions before setting their sites on the

kingdom championships. Heavy armored fighters will have to opportunity to test their skill at arms in a Principality Coronet tournament, and if victorious, serve as Prince or Princess. Event sites that might not be suitable for Crown events may be utilized for the principality, and our autocrats will be able to receive additional training on organizing mid-level events.

Working toward principality status will have the added benefit of bringing us closer as an area, providing many opportunities to work and play together. Bonds of friendships will be forged as we work toward a common goal and a greater intimacy and awareness of each branches particular flavor will enable increased communication and more informed decision-making on events that affect us all.

BRANCHES POTENTIALLY INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF A PRINCIPALITY

The preliminary idea of creating a principality in NW Oregon/SW Washington involves those branches who were designated as part of the former Rivers Region without the branches now part of Summits. There is still much work to be done to determine if there is sufficient interest in each of these branches for inclusion in a potential principality, thus this list should be viewed as a starting point, other branches may be added or removed dependant on the wishes of the majority: Shire of Dragon's Mist, Shire of Fire Mountain Keep (possible northern

border), Shire of Heron's Reach (possible western border), Shire of Mountain Edge (southern border), Shire of River's Bend (possible northern border), Barony of Stromgard, Barony of Three Mountains (eastern border).

PROCESS OF CREATING A PRINCIPALITY

Currently, we are conducting research into whether there is sufficient support and commitment in this area necessary to petition the Crown for Crown Principality status. This information gathering process will take the form of discussion in person and via email with the populace living within the borders of the proposed principality. Meetings, socials, and work parties will be announced to take place at local events, and in the homes and encampments of interested parties. These activities are open to anyone with an interest, whether for or against, a movement toward principality.

Eventually, and only with the support of a majority of the populace, we would like to move toward full principality status. Much work remains to be done, however. We are just beginning this journey.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

The principality interest group is growing at a surprising rate and is made up of individuals from across all the area branches. There is already a great deal of support from individuals with diverse levels of experience and expertise includ-