

Who is in Charge?

When you are at an SCA meeting or event, you will notice a variety of folks going about taking care of various activities. In this myriad of goings on, you may wonder who is in charge of things. The SCA splits the duties of running the organization into a number of areas, each with an officer responsible for a particular area and then an "overall" officer who makes sure the other officers are able to handle the duties assigned to them. These officers help create the medieval atmosphere at our activities.

Local Officers

In Calontir, local groups are required to have a minimum of three officers. It used to be that these were the Seneschal, the Exchequer and the Herald. That has been revised so that the three officers now required are the Seneschal, the Exchequer and at least one of these three offices: Herald, Minister of Arts & Sciences or Knight Marshal. Of course a group can have more offices than this and are encouraged to develop to the point of needing officers to oversee additional areas. Following are definitions of the offices that a group may have.

Shire / Canton / March / Stronghold / Etc

Seneschal: The head of the local SCA group. (Equivalent to a club's President.) This officer oversees all the group's other officers. They are also the legal contact between the SCA group and the modern authorities.

Exchequer: The treasurer for a group. Responsible for handling the group's financial reports and the managing the group's bank account.

Herald: The officer in charge of overseeing the heraldic needs of a group. These including helping people develop and register names & heraldic devices, and with making announcements at events and courts.

Minister of Arts & Sciences: The officer who oversees the art and science activities of a group.

Knight Marshal: The officer in charge of combat who certifies that combat procedures and equipment are safe.

Archer Marshal: The officer in charge of archery who certifies that archery procedures and equipment are safe.

Chronicler: The officer who publishes the local group's newsletter.

Web Minister: The officer in charge of the local group's web presence.

Castellan / Chatelain / Chatelaine/ Hospitaller: The officer who acts as a group's "greeter", making sure that new members and visitors informed of activities, are introduced with group members who share similar interests, and many times acts as the group's demo coordinator.

Historian: The officer of a group who maintains the historical records of the group's activities. In some groups this officer also records the minutes at official meetings.

Minister of Children: The officer who is in charge of children's activities for a group. **THEY ARE NOT A BABYSITTING SERVICE.** They only oversee the activities aimed at children, not the children

Gold Key: The officer who keeps spare garb (clothing) for new people to borrow until they acquire their own. Sometimes they will also have extra feast gear, etc. This officer works with the Castellan/Chatelaine office.

Quartermaster: The officer in charge of keeping track of items, equipment, etc that belongs to the group as a whole. They do not have to store it all themselves, merely have recorded who is storing what.

Games Keeper: The officer in charge of medieval game activities for a group.

Dance Minister: The officer in charge of dancing activities for a group.

Chirurgion: (Sometimes spelled Chiurgeon; both spellings pronounced Ki-ur-jon) A certified first-aid officer; handles minor injuries. A series of educational classes and an observation period must be undertaken from the Kingdom Office before being allowed to hold this office.

Fool: The person in charge of jesting and foolery within a group. Only a few groups have this office.

Barony

A Barony is required to have the same officers a shire is, but also have the following positions:

Baron: (Also called a Landed Baron or a Territorial Baron.) Title for the male noble who oversees a barony. As a representative of the Crown, his duty is to make the local activities more “regal”.

Baroness: (Also called a Landed Baroness or a Territorial Baroness.) Title for the female noble who oversees a barony. As a representative of the Crown, her duty is to make the local activities more “regal”.

Baronage: The term used when referring to both the Baron and Baroness of a group.

Deputies

Besides the regular officers, a group can have deputy officers. A deputy is someone who is assisting the regular officer with the duties and responsibilities of that position. Many times becoming a deputy is a good way for a new person to get involved and learn how to be a regular officer. There is no requirement that a deputy officer has to take over the position from the regular officer (when the regular officer is done)...but many times a deputy has “learned the ropes” to that particular office and has an interest in serving as a regular officer. It is also permissible (and even encouraged) that a regular officer take on multiple deputies.

Kingdom Officers, Royalty & Nobility

The Kingdom has an officer who oversees the activities of the local officers of all the groups in the kingdom. They receive regular reports from the local officers, so they can watch for any potential problems, and to find good ideas to share with other groups. They also advise the Crown and help formulate new policies for the kingdom. Many times these officers will have deputies to assist with handling the workload of their respective offices.

Besides the kingdom-level officers, there is the Royal Family. This consists of the King and Queen (plus the Prince and Princess when such are in preparation to become the next King and Queen). The King and Queen rule the kingdom. Together they are referred to as “The Crown”. Every six months, new successors are determined via a special combat tournament, called Crown Tourney. The successors become the Prince and Princess, then when the King and Queen have completed their reign, the Prince and Princess “step up” and are coronated as the new King and Queen.

In addition to the Royalty, there is also the Nobility. The Nobles are individuals who have earned the right, through having ruled previously or having done other notable deeds, to have a special title and to wear a coronet. These include Counts and Countesses who have ruled as King and Queen once previously. (Sometimes they will use the alternate title of Earl or Graf.); Dukes and Duchesses who have ruled as King and Queen twice or more times previously; Barons and Baronesses who either are serving as Crown representatives of a large group (Barony) or previously have served in that function or who have been specially noted by the Crown for outstanding service to the kingdom and thus granted the special title.

Society Officers

The Society has an officer that oversees the activities of the kingdom officers, They receive regular reports from the kingdom officers, so they can watch for any potential problems, and to find good ideas to share with other kingdoms. They advise the SCA Board of Directors and help formulate new policies for the SCA as a whole.

Other Folks in Charge

Besides the officers of a group, many times in the SCA a person may be put in charge of a particular event or activity. These jobs usually have a particular title associated with them. Some of these include:

Event Steward (aka Autocrat): The person in charge of a particular event.

Feast Steward: (aka Feastocrat): The head cook in charge of the feast at an event.

Inn Keeper: The person in charge of running an inn at an event.

List Minister: The person in charge of running the elimination tree of a fighting activity.