

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE BARONY'S CURRENT WEAKNESS AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS IT?

Sigfuss: I don't think our barony currently has a weakness but I do believe that what we want to address and help progress is the communication between the Baronial Offices and the Populace, which has already been started and established by our previous Baron and Baroness. We want to help foster and grow that to a much stronger and better place.

Freydis: By answering emails and being present.

Sigfuss: and helping to expand the officer positions by getting more people involved.

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS THE SCA FACES IS GROWTH IN NEWCOMERS INCOMING. WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR IDEAS ON DEMOS AND RETENTION?

Sigfuss: I am a big fan of demos and I don't want to see past activities disappear, I'd like to see them pushed to happen more.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO INCREASE MORALE IN THE BARONY?

Freydis: Getting more involved and participating in different aspects, including the online aspects.

Sigfuss: I think also try to convince more of the populace to be more involved. I think the more involved we are as a populace the better we can build relationships with each other.

FREYDIS, AS YOU'RE NOT FROM THE BARONY, WHAT LEVEL OF COMMITMENT ARE WE GOING TO ACTUALLY SEE FROM YOU?

Freydis: So in the last 2-3 years I have traveled weekly to come up here (Montengarde) as well as local and non-local events. Travel back and forth isn't necessarily an issue for me, I actually quite enjoy the drive so I don't see that changing. If we need to do more, I don't think it's going to be an issue.

WHY ARE YOU PUTTING YOURSELVES FORWARD FOR BARON & BARONESS?

Sigfuss: I have two reasons, a selfish reason and a non-selfish reason. I absolutely enjoy this community, this activity, the SCA, and I don't want to see that disappear. So in that sense, in order for that to continue, we need to volunteer and do things within our barony, within our kingdom. So this is another step for me in volunteering for something to help further what I don't want to see disappear. The selfish reason is on a personal level. The one thing that first caught me, that I enjoy the most is receiving an award/recognition and I want to give that feeling to others.

Freydis: I'm pretty similar. I actually like the service aspect of the SCA. This is just my one step up more that I wanted to do. The giving and receiving of awards is amazing to watch.

HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELVES REPRESENTING THE BARONY, BOTH IN THE KINGDOM AND OUTSIDE OF THE KINGDOM?

Freydis: I have already been doing that, and would love to represent Montengarde with grace.

Sigfuss: I think we already represent Montengarde quite well, I think the best option is for us to represent it by sharing, I guess, the communication that we have built within our Barony to the rest of the kingdom and we can do that. And other kingdoms.

WHAT WOULD THE ROLE OF YOUR CHAMPIONS BE, AND HOW BEST WOULD THEY HELP YOU FORM YOUR VISION OF THE BARONY?

Sigfuss: Well, I think the role of our Champions shouldn't be different from how they represent in the avenue they fought for. They're there to represent the Baron and Baroness and the Baron and Baroness are there to represent them as a face to the rest of the kingdom, or voice.

Freydis: And hopefully we can help elevate them there.

ARE YOU IN A POSITION WHERE YOU CAN TAKE ON THE FINANCIAL BURDEN AND THE TIME BURDEN? DO YOU FEEL PREPARED AND READY FOR THAT?

Freydis: As I said before, I do a lot of travelling anyways so I don't see that being any more of a burden than it already is so I think I'm comfortable with it and I think we'll be okay.

Sigfuss: Freydis forces me to go everywhere so financially I can handle everything, still to this day.

Freydis: The online isn't an issue obviously, that's easy to do. With my job, I don't work Fridays or weekends and I get the Stat Holidays off, so I'm free to do a lot of stuff. So it's kind of nice.

Sigfuss: I could stay longer at events if I have to.

LOOKING AT OTHER BRANCHES WITHIN THE KINGDOM YOU SEE A LOT MORE FAMILIES INVOLVED; WHAT PLANS ARE YOU LOOKING AT FOR GROWING THE BARONY AND MAKE US MORE FAMILY FRIENDLY?

Freydis: I have older children, so I can't provide that. I think kids in the community are fantastic, obviously you need them to grow, it's kind of up to you guys.

Sigfuss: I feel we are a family friendly society. I have kids and I brought them to events, unfortunately they no longer have an interest. But I don't know what isn't family friendly.

Freydis: it's really up to the parents to bring their kids, I don't know how to, yeah..

AS A FOLLOW UP, DO YOU SEE THE POTENTIAL OF GETTING "NEWER" BLOOD INTO THE GROUP? DO YOU THINK THAT MIGHT BE SOMETHING THAT WOULD INCREASE THE FAMILIES SO THERE WOULD BE MORE YOUNGER KIDS INVOLVED?

Freydis: Well, yeah. Obviously, demos aren't great for those but yeah, bring your friends in and I don't know.

Sigfuss: I would like to see more people come in, new blood so to speak. I think we would benefit well from families joining.

WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS FOR SUPPORTING NEWCOMERS AS THEY COME INTO THE BARONY OVER THE LONGER TERM?

Freydis: I think that's pretty much what the community is for; like, if someone's interested in the Rapier aspect, that's what the Rapier will get involved in, or Armored or Archery. I think they are pretty friendly to talk to.

Sigfuss: I haven't thought about how to support newcomers just on a personal level. I do agree that it's our job as a community to support individuals. It shouldn't just fall, you know, specifically to the Baron and Baroness.

BECOMING BARON AND BARONESS WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TO HOW YOU PLAY THE GAME, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT HOW YOU ARE GOING TO MANAGE YOUR FIRST YEAR AS BARON AND BARONESS?

Freydis: I think that's something we'll do with Baron Refr and Baroness Adis, to learn from them what they did their first year.

Sigfuss: I've already come to the conclusion that you have to evolve and change. We'll see how that works.

DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE ANY INTERESTING CHANGES? LIKE, IF THERE WAS NO LIMIT (ANYTHING GOES), WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR REIGN?

Sigfuss: We should create the Brute Squad. LOL. You know honesty that's definitely something I think is going to be part of an evolution of us.

AS THE FIRST FACE BARONY THAT NEWCOMERS WILL SEE, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU WOULD BE TO TELL A NEWCOMER ABOUT YOU PERSONAS AND DRESS?

Sigfuss: I am a Varangian in Constantinople, 1054, both at the height and fall of the eastern holy roman empire. My clothing is traditional Swedish clothing because I am a traveler and I haven't been there long. I definitely like the wealth, you know that I get from the job. But on my shield I have a Chi Ro because you know: "when in Rome".

Freydadis: I'm a Norse lady from Greenland, from that same time period.

WHAT SORT OF ENGAGEMENT WITH NON-SCA BUT SIMILAR ORGANISATIONS AS THE SCA DO YOU PLAN TO HAVE?

Sigfuss: I enjoyed when we demoed at the Calgary Expo in 2019. Yes, I know there was a lot of stuff in the background that made it not pleasant. But I enjoyed actually sharing the fight space with the other groups, such as the LARPing community and the Norse Groups and the Calgary Military Museum. I don't see reason we can't interact with other groups. In our SCA, I feel we cross over with many different groups within our own SCA community, and I don't see why we can't continue to share space with other groups.

Freydis: In my earlier life, I've done a lot of anime and cosplay. I used to build weapons and stuff with the kids and go to the Anime Cons. That was a little passion that I've had and I've missed it. This weekend, actually, I'm going to go and camp with the West Richmond Legal Club and see what they do. So, yeah, I'm all for encouraging to go to other community events.

FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH PUBLIC SPEAKING, SUCH AS IN COURT, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR MANAGING THE "STAGE FRIGHT" SO TO SPEAK?

Freydis: I think exposure will help make it less terrifying and having scripts for a little while. I think this is another reason why I'd like to do this, to step up and get over my stage fright.

IF SOMEONE CAME UP TO YOU AND ASKED WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

Sigfuss: The most important job in the barony right now is to represent the Barony, but I think it's also the most important job for all of us to represent the Barony; no one person, not the Baron or Baroness, is more important than anybody else. We're all the same, on the same level.

WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH DIFFICULT ISSUES AND SITUATIONS, HOW ARE YOU PREPARED TO PUT YOUR PERSONAL OPINIONS ASIDE TO ADDRESS THEM?

Freydis: For me, I'm probably going to lean on my Peers and my friends to help counsel me.

Sigfuss: So, I don't think there's any one group that doesn't have issues. If issues are above me then I'm going to direct those involved to the proper channels to deal with those issues. I don't think it's my position, even as a person, to deal with other people's problems. You know, especially when I don't have the knowledge or training or background or even the knowledge of those problems.

HOW WOULD YOU PLAN FOR BALANCING YOUR BARONIAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH MUNDANE RESPONSIBILITIES LIKE WORK, FAMILY OR OTHER HOBBIES?

Sigfuss: Oh, I'm not going to balance my hobbies. I'm going to continue to do the hobbies because my hobbies are in the SCA mostly. My work is the opposite. I don't actually bring my work to the SCA and I don't bring the SCA to my work. I have a government job when I'm done working, I leave that at work.

Freydis: Like I said earlier, I've got older kids, so my responsibilities as a family are small, so I'm free to do anything.

WILL YOU BE TRAVELLING TO THE STATES FOR EVENTS?

Freydis: I don't see why not but probably not.

Sigfuss: So far at this point we've travelled to Whipping Winds. Until things change and get a little bit better, not much further than that.

CAN YOU BOTH ARTICULATE TO THE POPULACE HOW YOU SEE YOUR ROLE AS BARON AND BARONESS AS IT RELATES TO THE CROWN, SENESCHAL, AND POPULACE?

Sigfuss: I think the role of Baron and Baroness is that we're the public face of the Populace and the Barony for the Crown and back and forth.

IF THE CROWN MADE A DECISION THAT YOU FUNDAMENTALLY DISAGREED WITH, HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE THAT?

Sigfuss: I think that would depend on what the decision was and how it affected the populace. If there was a personal disagreement, again that is neither here nor there when it comes to the Barony or the Kingdom. If it involves our Barony, and I disagreed with it, I guess, voicing my thoughts to the Crown would be the first step and possibly the last depending on how they felt about it.

Freydis: I think that's one of the steps that we need to learn.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS ON INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS PLAYING AT EVENTS FOR AMBIENCE AND ATMOSPHERE?

Sigfuss: So, I think as Baron and Baroness, it wouldn't be right to ultimately make a decision on that. It would be something where we would talk and communicate with the populace and getting everybody's thoughts before a decision was made. I think.

Freydis: And those decisions really are like the Event Stewards and their team, what they want essentially. Personally, I like the background music while attending events

WHAT OFFICERS POSITIONS AND SERVICE THAT YOU HAVE DONE?

Freydis: So, I have been Seneschal for Windwyrn for far too long. I've done a lot of their events, yearly, I run those. I coordinated with a Coronation a couple of years ago. Coming up with Samhain, I'm going to be helping with that one. I like service, I do a lot.

Sigfuss: I have been an A&S officer in Montengarde twice. I have been a Feast Steward a half a dozen times. I have co-autocrated an event once or twice. As far as volunteering goes, I would say one of my Feast Stewarding events was a last minute take over at the last minute. At present I am the Captain of the Archers, I don't know if I would be allowed to keep doing that. I'd like to.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE ABLE TO CURB YOUR DESIRE TO VOLUNTEER AND ALLOW THE POPULACE TO STEP UP AND SUPPORT YOU?

Freydis: Yes.

Sigfuss: Yes, I don't want to have to, I am a firm believer that because our Kingdom is so young and small that we need to do as many things as we can in order to help grow it; to show new people coming in that there are all these things that we can do. And then, when we've shown everybody, we can start sharing those roles out. So, it's going to be hard to just sit back and let somebody else do stuff; but, I think that I can do that.

WHAT ROLE WOULD YOUR PEERS HAVE IN YOUR REIGN?

Sigfuss: All the roles, in all seriousness, I'm going to lean on my respective Peer for probably some counsel and wisdom.

Freydis: Yeah, the same.

Sigfuss: Possibly the support I needed. I hope that I have more than just Sir Kiera for that, and I think I do. I think there's a good number of the populace that are going to be there to help me if I have problems or need help.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO TRY AND INCREASE THE VOLUNTEER POOL AND ALSO DEAL WITH THE BURNOUT THAT IMPACTS VOLUNTEERING?

Sigfuss: So, if I had my way, I would counter everything said about curbing my desire to volunteer, I would say "No, I will step in and help the volunteers who can't do it because they are burning out". But, obviously I can't do that. I can't mysteriously just say "oh, I've got Fred, Joe, and Sally over there, who are going to step in and take over. I would like to see, even just officers, I would like to see two deputies for every officer. That's something that I've thought about for a long time, you know, that would alleviate a lot of the work that an officer does, and a lot of the burnout that happens from even those roles let alone the other stuff.

WHAT LEADERSHIP QUALITIES DO YOU ADMIRE MOST AND HOW WILL YOU EMULATE THEM?

Freydis: Having confidence.

Sigfuss: Yes, I agree with that one, confidence for one. There are a lot of our Peers that, over time, have developed confidence whether it's real or not real, whether it's a front or not a front, that confidence is definitely a calming aspect for the rest of us. And that's something, I think, hopefully I can learn that.

AS A BARONIAL COUPLE, HOW WILL YOU SHARE AND OR SPLIT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE SCA?

Freydis: I think that with our stuff, we do a lot of it together.

Sigfuss: We're equal opportunists. We will definitely probably share in all those roles.

THE CURRENT BARON AND BARONESS HAVE LED THE BARONY ONTO THE WARFIELD, HOW ARE YOU PREPARED TO REPRESENT THE ENTIRE BARONY?

Sigfuss: Absolutely, I think we can do that. I've done it before, been a Standard Bearer, so I'm prepared to lead the charge.

HOW DO YOU, AS A COUPLE, HANDLE CONFLICTS BETWEEN YOURSELVES?

Freydis: Definitely talk it out or seek counsel if we need it. But, I think we have good communications between the two of us. We can sort it out alright.

Sigfuss: She tells me if I'm wrong.

BEYOND COURT, WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ASPECT OF THE SCA AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HIGHLIGHT ANY OF THEM?

Sigfuss: I have two favourite aspects. One is just making stuff and the other is fighting. Now, I would suggest that everybody gets into Arts & Sciences; but, I don't know if the populace would agree with that, I think that counters the whole communication thing. But, I think just continuing to build off those aspects.

Freydis: I'm into the Archery, and dabbling a little bit in Arts & Sciences, and will definitely continue with that.

WHAT ASPECT(S) OF BEING BARON AND BARONESS DO YOU DREAD DEALING WITH?

Sigfuss: This right here. Being up in front of people is my worst dread. I've been dealing with quite a bit of anxiety before right now. But, I'm a Stubborn-Janet, so I'm here. As much as I want to run for the door, I'm not going to do it.

Freydis: As far as the job, meetings, I've done those. Sending reports doesn't scare me. I don't dread that, I'm excited to take that on. But, being up in front of people is a dread.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE OR TRAINING WITH CONFLICT RESOLUTION?

Freydis: So, I'm a Security Guard, I do that on my job, so I think that qualifies and confirms that I'm prepared to deal with people bringing their problems.

Sigfuss: Again, if I don't have the knowledge, I'm going to direct them to either the Kingdom Seneschal or Baronial Seneschal, as applicable, or rely on them for help. If I am able to collect relevant facts from more than one party, I can probably help de-escalate any situation.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO ENCOURAGE THE RELUCTANT ARTISTS, SINCE YOU'RE BOTH RELUCTANT ARTISTS, IN THE BARONY WITH RESPECTS TO ARTS & SCIENCES?

Sigfuss: I, yes, on occasion need some arm twisting to enter in A&S competitions. I think that encouraging artists just to keep doing the stuff. Do all the things if you can.

And then potentially maybe direct them to people who could support them in entering competitions.

Freydis: I don't really have plans for that because I'm struggling with that.

ARE THERE ANY PERSONAL PROJECTS THAT YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH AS BARON AND BARONESS, OR IN THE BARONY?

Sigfuss: Yeah, personal projects. I myself am attempting to learn how to cast and maybe some enamel. And then I can see where that leads me within our Barony and possibly our Kingdom. But, I still have unfinished projects on the table.

Freydis: I have like 800 million projects. They'll be there whenever I'm bored.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR?

Freydis: I hope in our time doing this that we come up with something but I don't particularly have an answer for that, but it's definitely something that will be talked about.

Sigfuss: At this point, I only have things I want to be remembered for on a personal level within the SCA and I don't really want to share that publicly. But as Baron and Baroness, hopefully we're remembered at the end of it for, you know, building a stronger Barony that was already started.

WE ARE A SMALL KINGDOM, AS YOU SAID, AND ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS WE DEAL WITH IS ENCOURAGING THE POPULACE TO ACQUIRE SCA MEMBERSHIPS. IN YOUR WORDS, AS POTENTIAL BARON AND BARONESS, IS THE MEMBERSHIP WORTH IT? AND WHY?

Freydis: I think it's worth it because if you go to multiple events, you get the discount. The \$10 NMS is a lot and it builds up, so I highly encourage people getting their membership. Also, it opens up other aspects to them.

Sigfuss: With the membership you can do more within the SCA and if you want to participate more, the volunteering or taking officer positions or vying for championships, that membership makes it worth it. Without that membership, you're limiting your exposure to everything we do. So, why would you want to limit your exposure if you're crazy people like the rest of us?