

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- Twelfth Night 1/15/17

Attendance:

ROYALTY

King Styrkarr Jarlsskald
Queen Dagrun Stjarna
Summits Princess Alina of Folkstone
Tir Righ Prince Ieuan Gower
Tir Righ Princess Gwyneth Gower

KINGDOM & PRINCIPALITY OFFICERS

Seneschal Lenora Truble
Exchequer Arontius of Bygelswade
Curia Clerk Althaia filia Lazari
Chamberlain Charles de Bourbon
Crown Events Deputy Francisca de Montoya
Crown Events Assistant Ana de la Sera
Earl Marshal Einar Knuteson
Martial Auth. Officer Luathrend inghean Uilliam
Chatelaine Landinn de Marest
Scribe Sarra the Brave
Seneschal Contingency Deputy Julia Sempronia
Black Lion Herald Oddr Thiálfason
Approximately 7 others, names unknown

OTHER INDIVIDUALS

Ysolt Tayler of Windhill
Ysabella Greene
William Tarrell
William McKenna (Collegium 2017 Steward)
Thorkell Palsson (Twelfth Night 2018 Steward)
Steven Desjardin (May Crown Steward)
Rowland Greene
Phelan Tolusmidr
Octavia Laodice Hybrida Africanus
Marco Valentino (September Crown 2016 Steward)
Liadain ni Sheanachain (Twelfth Night 2017 Steward)
Kjartan Daegarsson
Katherine of Akornebir (Baroness of Wastekeep)
Ivon Drengir (Baron of Stromgard)
Finn Grim (Baron of Dragon's Mist)
Emma la Rousse d'Argentan
Ciosa Leonara Fioravanti
Attia Prima (An Tir – West War Deputy Steward)
Alianora Greymoor
Alessandra da Montefeltro (Baroness of Wyewood)

Report by Exchequer Master Arontius of Bygelswade

Current Financial Status

- All amounts are in US dollars unless specifically stated otherwise.
- The Kingdom currently has an asset total of \$127,112.32. Details are:

Primary Checking	\$38,389.68		CD 4950	\$17,069.74
Savings	\$14,671.22		CD 4953	\$15,494.89
CD 1404	\$13,262.15		CD 4957	\$14,838.22
CD 4949	\$13,386.42			

- The majority of our income is generated by Crown and Kingdom event attendance fees. Most of the rest from donations by branches and individuals, and much of that is earmarked for the Raven Travel or regalia funds. Our budget for 2017 is nearly \$47,000, which means we have about two years of operating expenses, and this could be severely impacted by a single disaster.
- The Kingdom Seneschal and Exchequer need to review the September, October, and November 2016 bank statements, and sign that these and the corresponding Monthly Bank Reconciliations are correct.
- Major changes since July Coronation include:
 - Profits from September Crown and Kingdom Feast, and a loss from An Tir Collegium.
 - Initial payment of \$4300 for a pair of "travel crowns" for the King and Queen.
 - The usual demands of Royal and officer travel, as well as NMR passing through the checking account.
- From the total in the Kingdom's accounts, \$27,000 is in the following dedicated accounts for specific projects:
 - NMR is currently at \$355.14, but this fluctuates substantially each month.
 - Raven Travel Fund has a balance of \$5081 which is a healthy amount for now, but it takes a constant stream of donations to maintain that status.
 - Kingdom Feast: There is \$7017.31 in the account to be used for the 2018 event.
 - Crown Repair: There is \$4902 in the account to create our current crowns and refurbish our long-standing pair. The former has now been completely paid, but the latter may require additional funds.
- In 2016, we allocated \$36,500 for potential operating expenses, but only spent \$22,150 of this. Our income from Kingdom events, individual and branch donations, and financial credit for volunteer hours was \$23,989. The small difference between those two amounts shows how essential it is that we operate our Kingdom in a financially attentive manner, and how much we appreciate the generous donations of our citizens.
- For the last year or so the exchange rate has been about \$0.75 US to \$1.00 Canadian, which has made it hard for Canadians to come to US events, and this has pushed down attendance. On the other hand, it's a great time for Americans to enjoy events in Tir Righ or visit our friends in Avacal.

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Non-Member Registration

- Please see prior editions of the Financial Committee notes for a detailed explanation of when NMR applies and the submission timelines. It is crucial that An Tir adhere to these rules, particularly if we wish to be eligible to use PayPal for gate fees at future events. So far we have completed 5 months towards qualifying to do that. It might be possible to start using PayPal at events by late summer, but a lot of implementation details must still be worked out. Please contact Arontius if you would like to be part of that committee.
- For the most part local branches are mailing their checks for NMR within 10 business days of their events as is required. An Tir then has until the end of the following month to submit the total to the Society. When a branch is late in paying, An Tir is temporarily covering the amount so as to stay in compliance with Society rules, even though at times this means the NMR account will show a negative balance.
- For more information about NMR requirements and the plan to implement PayPal, see the Society Exchequer's page at <http://www.sca.org/officers/exchequer/#nms>.

Proposed Budget for 2017 -- This was distributed to the Royalty and officers at Fall Crown Council and formally approved by the Committee today. The total allocated is \$46,657.94, which is \$10,000 higher than last year. Major changes include:

- Kingdom Waiver Storage Unit: Increased to \$1200 as costs have increased substantially.
- Seneschal's Office: Increased to \$900 primarily due the travel expenses for our new Seneschal, Viscountess Lenora Truble. She lives on Vancouver Island and each round from the island costs approximately \$143. As her attendance is required at all Crown and some Kingdom level events, additional funds are needed.
- Herald's Budget: Increased by \$500 to partially defray the cost of Black Lion Herald, Oddr Thiálfason, attending the Known World Heraldic Symposium in Tennessee in June 2017. Oddr will pay the other half himself. (Customarily these trips are only approved every other year.)
- Youth and Family Activities: Increased by \$500 for printing and other supplies associated to implement the new Society YAFA program. This is still in its infancy and we don't know what the actual costs will be.
- Web Team: Increased by about \$1000 to pay a company to program our new Kingdom website and to purchase survey software that can be used for various purposes.

Revising the Kingdom Financial Policy manual -- The current edition was created in May 2012 and there have been a lot of changes since then, most notably on NMR and admitting children to Crown and Kingdom level events for free. Arontius plans to have a draft ready by Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championship and the final copy ready for signature by September Crown. The current policy is at <http://www.sca.org/docs/finpolicies/AnTirFinPolicy.pdf>

Financial Committee Discussions

Teamster Position -- Magnifico Talentus del Albergo will step down no later than July Coronation. He is examining the description for his job to make sure it's current, and to see what could be eliminated or assigned to someone else. The goal is to make the job more appealing and manageable so we can find a new person to handle it for a couple of years. Talentus will discuss this subject more with the Chamberlain and Their Majesties in the coming weeks.

An Tir Collegium 2016 -- This was the first time An Tir had tried an educational weekend focused on the arts and sciences, and the unique nature of this event meant it was very difficult to predict the costs and attendance. The hotel also unexpectedly added 19% in taxes to the \$5000 hotel rental fee. The result was that the event experienced a loss of \$2756.70. The Kingdom had loaned \$5000 to the Barony to pay initial expenses for the event. Wastekeep is asking that the Kingdom forgive the deficit on the event. They will then repay the balance of \$2243.30 on the loan, plus make a donation of \$1000 to the Raven Travel Fund. -- Request granted today by the Financial Committee with compliments to Wastekeep for doing a great job in running an interesting new event.

Twelfth Night 2018 -- This will be at the same Red Lion in Pasco where Collegium took place two months ago. Event Steward HL Thorkell Palsson has submitted a revised budget for this event now that he knows that hotel will most likely add 19% in taxes to the \$5000 site rental costs. The event team has re-worked their budget to accommodate the tax and still is showing a profit, albeit a smaller one. Changes approved.

Status of the Kingdom pavilions

- Unfortunately the tears in the roof of the gold-dagged pavilion which occurred at September Crown 2015 are not yet fixed, although \$500 was allocated at Fall Crown Council 2015 to do so. So far we've had enough tents by officers sharing or the hosting Barony loaning one of theirs. The Teamster and Chamberlain need to

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assess the situation to either get that pavilion repaired or purchase a new one. The heralds also want to know if the ridge pole for their green-dagged tent has been repaired.

- At July Coronation we decided to authorize funds for a new pavilion for use by the Royal retinue at major events. This would give them a designated and enclosed space to hold meetings, sign scrolls, assemble largess, plan out the agenda for court, and other tasks. Most often this would be set up in the Royal encampment, but the Royals could also speak with the event team about setting it up on the erics, perhaps attached to the Royal pavilion. -- Project on hold as other tasks have priority.

Web Team Projects -- At September Crown 2016 Duke Ulfr Blodfotur Fallgrson submitted a proposal for three items:

- Software for Kingdom officers: The Society uses Microsoft software for officer and financial reports, database management, and other functions. However, not all Royalty or Kingdom officers have this on their personal computers. The cheaper version of Open Office or Apple products don't work the same way, which creates problems in editing files and getting the correct amounts on spreadsheets. Ulfr stated he could get an Office 365 subscription for \$54 a year for 5 computers. Mistress Ysolt Tayler of Windhill can use her employee credentials to obtain subscriptions at \$5 per person, and is willing to donate this amount herself. Arontius will continue talking with both Ysolt and Ulfr about this subject.
- Website Development: \$1000 Canadian or \$750 US to pay a company to program the Kingdom's new website. Given the skill set and free time of our current IT volunteers, we will obtain a better quality product in far less time by paying professionals to do this work. -- Approved at September Crown 2016.
- Online survey tool: The proposal is for \$228 in Canadian dollars. The Financial Committee previously agreed to set aside \$300 in US dollars pending further research into what type of tool would work best. One has now been chosen which can poll people via email on any type of question the Kingdom wants to pose. This could even be used for Baronial polling, but more research on that idea is needed.

Minors attend Crown and Kingdom level events for free

- Baron Ivon Drengur proposed the idea at July Coronation 2014, and An Tir agreed to an experiment from September Crown 2014 through Twelfth Night 2016. Data about attendance and event profits was presented at September Crown 2015 and Twelfth Night 2016; and a further analysis is ongoing. So far this shows a small loss of revenue for the Kingdom, but it's difficult to determine if this is due to minors attending for free or other factors such as the varied locations of Kingdom events, Avacal becoming independent, and the fluctuations in gas prices and the ratio of the US and Canadian dollars. On the anecdotal side, people love the policy: Some events are showing more children attending. Families are reporting that they are able to come to more events with their own children, and for their teens to bring their friends which makes it more likely a family will participate. Gate staff like the plan because it's simpler to calculate what is due, and they don't need as many small bills for change. Thus as long as the losses are minor, An Tir will continue this policy as we believe strongly in encouraging family participation and recruiting the next generation of members.
- The change was read into Kingdom Law at May Crown 2016 and will be added to the new Kingdom Financial Policy manual this spring.
- While the law change technically only applies to Crown and Kingdom level events, Tir Righ has written into its financial policy that the same principle should be applied whenever site costs permit. The Summits is not charging site fees for Principality level events for children ages 9 and under. Many local branches are also now admitting children and teens for free when site costs and their current financial status make it feasible.

Royal Regalia Projects

Crowns:

- Travel Crowns: These would be less elaborate and lighter weight versions that could be comfortably worn during day while walking around event sites in An Tir, or more easily transported to events in distant lands. They would also provide an alternative for a Monarch who was seeking a different fit for their head or their persona. An extensive discussion was held at Collegium about the bids that were submitted to create these crowns, and the design by Master Sigmund and Master Ugo de Mori was approved using silver as the primary material. An initial payment of \$4300 has now been sent to those nobles to begin construction. Delivery is expected in time for TRM to travel to Pensic. To follow the development of this new regalia, check out the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/newantirtravelcrowns/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf.
- Current Crowns: These are celebrating their first birthday this weekend. Last May Crown Viscount Matheus Bane was given the commission to create boxes to transport these crowns and he delivered those to our prior Monarchs, Kjartan and Shay'a a few weeks ago. They have the An Tir cheque pattern on the top in two different colors of wood.

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- Refurbishing An Tir's long standing crowns: Master Torfin Torgulsson finished the assessment and it's worse than we hoped. He has three or four ideas on how to restore the crowns to a usable condition, but it will take a lot of time and probably more than the \$4902 currently set aside for this. The core Financial Committee will review the situation further and likely make a decision by May Crown.
- The crowns that most An Tirians are familiar with, and believe are our "first set", are actually the second pair in our history. Viscount Matheus Bane is currently conducting a search for the original set. He has photos and would welcome any leads as to where these are stored. Neither the Chamberlain or anyone else who has been asked has any information about who last had custody of these crowns.

Thrones:

- At July Coronation the Financial Committee accepted HL Alasdair Mac Roibeirt's bid to craft two new thrones for \$1300 by Twelfth Night; and those were delivered on time and revealed at Friday Night court. Alasdair used a design called "high box thrones" that were common in 14th & 15th century England, Scotland, France, and Brittany; and which have the same general profile as the thrones An Tir has used for many years. Hardened white maple was used for the primary construction. There is gilding on the arches and trefoils which decorate the chairs on the backs and below the seat respectively. Under each seat is a compartment that will store a book in which Kings and Queens can write their thoughts for their successors to read.
- HL Angharad ver' Reynulf donated new bags she crafted to carry the thrones. Our existing seat cushions are still in good condition and fit the new chairs.
- The new thrones will be in many photos from this weekend's event, and those wishing to learn more about their construction can do so at <https://www.facebook.com/New-An-Tir-Thrones-1542002872770303/?fref=ts>
- \$1300 was paid to Alasdair previously to cover the materials and initial construction expenses, and the balance will be paid shortly.
- Our long standing thrones (AS 17-51) were given to Viscount Matheus Bane to convert into 229 separate items in 6 different categories. This includes the boxes for the travel crowns, 4 wooden books for the Pelicans, 4 jewelry boxes for the Laurels, and 4 batons for the Masters of Defense. The metal throne parts will be made into 65 tokens to be given to each Monarch who used the chairs, while the remaining wood will become 150 shield board tiles which members of the populace can purchase. (That money will go into the regalia fund to create new items.) Matheus is also turning An Tir's current banners into 4 new ones for the populous.

Scepter -- Viscount Ulfgar Hjartar Bani Thorvaldsson and Sir Rennick have been advising on this project. The artist which created the prior scepter is willing to make a new one, and could make a new rod using the same model as well. He still needs to submit a formal bid proposal however. This time he won't put a knife inside as it generated too many problems crossing the US-Canada border or when TRM flew to events. It was also distracting in court as people cannot resist pulling it in and out.

King's Signet Ring -- An Tir used to have a silver ring with a miniature version of the Kingdom seal embossed in it for use on scrolls where the normal seal wouldn't fit. Unfortunately the ring was lost in late 2015. At May Crown, the Financial Committee authorized Magister Arion the Wanderer to create a small conventional seal as a quick solution; which he delivered prior to Collegium. Chamberlain Charles de Bourbon requested bids for a new signet ring in late summer, but he received no responses and so he will send this information out again by month's end. Artists will be asked to submit plans either for a ring that can be worn on a chain, or a seal that can be attached to several simple rings in different sizes. Once we have a specific proposal, the Financial Committee can decide whether to proceed with the commission.

Goblets for Their Majesties to use for toasts -- Funds were approved at July Coronation. A request for bids will be published by the end of January.

Tracking and Insuring Regalia:

- Master Phelan Tolusmidr is leading the insurance project. The crowns will hopefully be appraised soon, and then we'll make plans to do the other regalia. Each appraisal is likely to cost around \$25. Phelan has located 2 or 3 companies which could insure these items, and the premiums to cover the crowns range between \$250-\$1000. That policy must cover the crowns and the armored champion's sword residing at different times in both the US and Canada. The other policies must cover cross-border travel, but we might be able to save money by storing the items in only one country.
- Kingdom Chamberlain Master Charles de Bourbon is creating a spreadsheet to track all of our Kingdom property, including the regalia and new projects. There are a lot of items in a lot of hands, and keeping track of this is a challenge. He is investigating attaching GPS trackers to some of the most valuable items to aid in retrieving them if they are lost or stolen.

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Decommissioning of Regalia -- Viscount Matheus Bane is leading the development of a comprehensive plan for items that are no longer being used, rather than allowing them to disappear into some well-meaning individual's attic, as has happened too often. What should be stored in its original form? How do we keep that item at least periodically in public view so we all can remember the role it played in our history and the people associated with it? What pieces could be incorporated into new projects? (E.g. the first Kingdom Champion's cloak that was turned into barding for the Riderless Horse ceremony.) What could and should be sold as mementoes? (This is more about sharing our history than the money it would raise for the Kingdom, although the latter is appreciated.)

Event Bids

Summary of decisions to date:

- Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championships (March 10-12, 2017) -- Barony of Dragon's Laire. Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, WA.
- May Crown (May 19-21, 2017) -- Barony of Madrone. Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake, WA.
- An Tir – West War (June 30 to July 3rd, 2017) -- Dishner property in Gold Beach, OR.
- July Coronation (July 14-16, 2017) -- Shire of Danescombe. Salmon Arm Fairgrounds, in Salmon Arm, BC.
- Twelfth Night (January 12-14, 2018) -- Barony of Wastekeep. Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, WA.
- Kingdom Feast (Oct 12-14, 2018) -- Barony of Dragon's Mist. Ocean Shores Convention Center in WA.

Bids Sought: All 2018 events except for Twelfth Night & Feast. It's also time to start looking for hotel space for Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championships in 2019. Remember the Event Steward website has a ton of good information about running events of all sizes. It also has historical data about attendance and similar topics from past Kingdom events. <http://currentmiddleages.org/autocrats/welcome/>

An Tir – West War 2017 (July 4-9) -- Dishner property in Gold Beach, OR. Event Steward is Meisterin Elsa Naherin van Aurec from the West, assisted by Domina Attia Prima from An Tir, plus many volunteers from both Kingdoms.

- Event website http://antir.sca.org/Upcoming/index.php?Event_ID=3618 and <http://www.antirwestwar.org/>
- The contract with the Gold Beach landowners, Lyle and Diane Dishner, has been renewed for 2017-2020. This provided us with a generous rental rate, of which we pay part of the amount in advance each year, and then the balance afterwards based on the number of attendees.
- While in the past when July 4th has fallen in the middle of the week the preference was to use the weekend before to take advantage of many citizens having vacation time for Canadian Independence Day, this year the Monarchs of An Tir and the West aren't available on that weekend, and so the second one is being used.
- At Collegium there was an extensive discussion of this event since no one had stepped up from An Tir yet to lead the team. The 2016 Event Steward, Elsa Naherin van Aurec from West Kingdom, had offered to repeat her role if An Tir would supply other team members. Subsequently, Their Majesties, and the Kingdom Seneschals and Exchequers worked out some additional details, and event planning is now underway. Arontius has additional information on the plan for anyone who is interested.

September Crown 2017 (September 1-4) -- Barony of Lion's Gate. Event Steward is Duke UlfR Blodfotur Fallgrson

- Event website http://www.antir.sca.org/Upcoming/?Event_ID=3620
- This event will be a partnership between the Shire of Thornwood supplying the land and some local volunteers, and the Barony of Lion's Gate supplying the experienced leadership and additional volunteers. Hovander field is a site An Tir used four times for Crown events between 1998-2006. It's close to I-5, flat, and has plenty of space to meet our needs. However, there's no shade or potable water onsite. (Note: There was a subsequent change in the event location which will be addressed in the May Crown notes.)
- Attendance is estimated at 1000 people, which would yield a profit of \$12,000.
- Martial team: Duke Ieuan Gower (armored). Archos Ts'ai T'ien-pu (archery). Master Guillaume de Garrigues (equestrian). Don Warwick Drakkar (rapier and cut & thrust).
- DECISION: This is a solid proposal and we're out of time to wait for others, so the bid is accepted.

An Tir Collegium 2017 (November 10-12) -- Barony of Wastekeep. Event Stewards are HL William McKenna and HL Gudrun Saebjarnarsdottir.

- Event website http://www.antir.sca.org/Upcoming/?Event_ID=4172
- Another branch was considering hosting the event, but then changed their minds, and so Wastekeep agreed to host again. However, they need another branch to agree to shadow them soon, and then host in 2018 if we're going to have a solid event with a consistent format from year to year.

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- The Red Lion Hotel is in “downtown Richland”, about 10 minutes closer to the Cascade Mountains than the site used in November. <https://www.redlion.com/richland> They have a free shuttle to the nearby airport.
 - The hotel has 149 rooms and will give us 80 for the initial block. Rates will be \$99 a night regardless of the number of people in the room. Reservation information will be on the Kingdom website shortly.
 - There are two more hotels and several restaurants within walking distance, and a mall nearby.
 - Space will cost \$5000 plus most likely 19% in taxes. (That isn't confirmed yet, but the team is budgeting for it after the surprise this past November.)
- Budget Discussion:
 - The Barony has \$7000 set aside to host this event so far.
 - Either we need to significantly increase attendance beyond the 255 paid adults who came in November, or the fee will need to be \$25 as it is for Kingdom Feast. The event team intends to do even more promotion of the event this year to draw people in, and is also considering culinary and administrative tracks to attract more attendees.
 - The thumb drives with all of the presentations came out to \$4.43 each, but they were really cool. Perhaps instead attendees could pay separately for these, or the presentations could be put on the website for people to download if they wish.
 - The Tri-Cities and similarly sized areas like Eugene, Oregon have very few hotels capable of hosting conventions and so they can raise their rates without fear of being undercut. They are also dependent upon earning all of their income on hotel space itself, rather than the I-5 corridor hotels which also gain income from their restaurants and parking.
 - HL Marco Valentino asks why making a profit is essential for an event like this that forms the core of what the SCA is? Especially in the first couple of years while it gets established. It would also be ideal if the SCA could find other ways of acquiring income beyond gate receipts.
- DECISION: Bid is accepted. Gate fee will be \$25 for members and the thumb drives optional for \$5. Wastekeep needs to work hard to publicize the event and to recruit a branch to host 2018.

Twelfth Night 2019 (January 11-13) Event website http://www.antir.sca.org/Upcoming/?Event_ID=4164

BID ONE -- Barony of Three Mountains. Event Steward Mistress Selene Trios.

- This bid was discussed at Collegium, but the Financial Committee wanted to wait and see if another branch would submit a proposal as Three Mountains has hosted this event several times.
- Site would be the Doubletree Hotel in the Rose Quarter of Portland, OR; where Twelfth Night was held in 2013, 2015, and 2016. <http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/oregon/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-portland-RLLC-DT/index.html>
 - Room rates are \$115 (single bed) or \$149 (two beds) per night. We have 250 rooms reserved for the initial block. Selene will check on whether an additional block is possible, but many hotels have corporate rules about reserving a certain number for business clients or airline personnel. Reservations would open in January 2018.
 - Our cost for the conference and ballrooms would depend on the number of room nights reserved, but based on past years, it will end up being free. (In 2016 all of the rooms were reserved within 24 hours.) If no one rented a room, then the public hotel space would cost \$4000, reducing the projected profit with 900 attendees from \$13,100 to \$9100.
 - This hotel suits our needs at Twelfth Night very well, and we have a good relationship with their staff. Demand for convention space is very high in Portland so we're not going to find a better rate and we need to lock in a contract quickly.
- Merchants fee will be \$10 each, with space for 30 vendors.
- Costs for the event other than hotel space are budgeted at \$4900. This includes \$800 for decorations, including what they've done in the past to make the Merchant's Village appealing. However, given how much An Tir now has in decorations in storage, the actual cost will likely be 1/3 of the allocated amount.

BID TWO -- Barony of Adiantum. Presented by Mistress Yseult of Broceliande.

- Site would be the Valley River Inn in Eugene, Oregon. We used this site for Twelfth Night in 2009 & 2011.
- Gate fee would be \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members to safely cover costs, and hopefully achieve a \$5000 profit.
- The hotel is willing to give us free rein with decorations, and only charge us if we needed their staff to use the high lifter to hang something.

DECISION: The Committee accepts the Three Mountains bid, and asks that Adiantum re-work their proposal for the year 2020.