

## **Questions Submitted to the Candidates from the Populous**

### **1. What do you see as our baronies strengths?**

*Our biggest "Baronial Strength" is our members. We have such amazing talent in our fighting, fencing, archery and thrown weapons community. They are chivalrous, honorable and a force to be reckoned with. Our Arts and Sciences folks are without equal as well. Our members are hardworking, energetic and enthusiastic and everyone gets along and supports the Barony and all of its endeavors. We host 2 events per year that are very popular, extremely well attended and something that folks in the East look forward to every year. Other strengths include our hospitality and our amazing and delicious food that we serve at our events. We have had many out of barony people come up to me and comment most favorably on both.*

### **2. What do you see as our baronies weaknesses?**

*This was one of the tougher questions for us to answer; we discussed it for a long time and were hard-pressed to come up with an answer. We don't think our Barony has any "weaknesses" per se, but places we could improve. We would like to see all of our officers have at least one deputy (more is even better...) and have those deputies be interested in eventually taking over that position.*

*Also, we would like the saying "Balfar's Challenge runs itself" to be completely banished from everyone's thoughts. We believe our most beloved Baron Adhemar coined that phrase and it may still linger in the ether. Balfar's Challenge takes a Herculean amount of time, work and effort and seems to be getting more so with every year. (Possibly in part due to the huge amount of attendees)*

*As all baronies, shires, etc. do; we also need to work on bringing new members into the fold and retaining the ones that we have. This retention includes new folks AND our old timers that have helped to form the barony.*

### **3. If you are elected what will your work be focused on?**

*If we are so honored in being chosen as your Baronesses we would like to focus on many things that we consider important. These include, but are not limited to; new membership, retention, and involvement. Encouraging more "cross-over" and "pollination" between our members and their different communities. Encouraging our members to take on roles/offices/jobs/interests that are new to them. Giving our full support to our hardworking (and amazing) officers. Continuing our very popular events, but perhaps hosting new events. We would like to have some smaller events again, with the focus on OUR barony, having small Champions Day or Baronial Birthday - something along those lines. By making them small and simple, we can enjoy one another's company and not have them be hard work for anyone, so everyone has time to relax and shmooze a bit. As your Baronesses, we would attend Kingdom events, so that Dragonship Haven always has a presence there and would make it a point to swear fealty to all Majesties on behalf of Dragonship Haven.*

*Attending Curia, so that we can bring back to our members any law changes or news that may affect us.*

#### **4. What's your platform?**

*We don't have a platform per se, we are hard-working and dedicated members of the Barony that feel this is a next step for us to be able to serve our Barony and the East Kingdom. In addition to the goals listed elsewhere we'd like to note we believe one of the most important things we can do as Baronesses is to promote our people in the wider SCA. We will make it our business to write our members in for awards when appropriate and speak up on their behalf on the polling orders where we can. We would like to see our members shine whenever and where ever possible.*

#### **5. If you are a member of a given household, in the Barony would you treat all members of the Barony equally and fairly, and not put your individual household first ahead of the Baronial populace?**

*If Wurm and I are chosen as Baronesses of Dragonship Haven, I (Rhode) will be giving up all household ties by giving my apprentice and protégé belts back to my peers. It is important to me as Baroness that the barony be my focus and that every member get my attention and time equally no matter what their household ties are. We give you our word that we will treat ALL members equally, fairly and with kindness and love. We have both been seneschals and during our time in that office have always dealt with everyone in this way. We have never played favorites and believe EVERYONE should be treated with respect and affection.*

#### **6. Pennsic: would you be able to attend and camp with Barony (if the Barony again becomes a group at Pennsic) rather than staying home or camping only with your individual household?**

*Wurm - A most emphatic "YES" to this question.*

*Pennsic has and always will be very dear to me, for many reasons. The two closest to my heart are; a chance to visit and spend extra time with Baronial members that the two weeks of Pennsic affords and marching with our Barony in Opening Ceremonies.*

*Spending time with fellow Baronial members. If/when the Barony becomes a group at Pennsic again I will ALWAYS camp with my Barony. At Pennsic it seems like many members are "scattered to the four winds" and that is certainly understandable and oftentimes the way SCA affiliations and relationships work out. Perhaps the closest thing we have right now to a Baronial encampment at Pennsic is Christoffel and Izzy's group, S.O.R.D.? I say this because the majority of folks that USED to camp in the Dragonship encampment are now camping there. I am happy that I am camping with them this Pennsic and really looking forward to it. Regardless, if I am lucky enough to become one of your next Baronesses I promise to always camp with Barony; wherever and "however" the Baronial encampment may be. Folks will always know where to find me, and I can support, encourage, assist and champion our members. And get to*

spend extra time with you all! My function and purpose for attending Pennsic will be for this Barony.

*Opening Ceremonies. I have been going to Pennsic for almost 20 years. When at Pennsic I have never missed Opening Ceremonies. I have marched with Dragonship Haven as a member of the Barony and also marched in the role of your Seneschal. It gives me great joy and fills me with immense pride every time! My most fond memories of Pennsic are of this. Especially the years when Ed Dragonslayer sang our marching song with us as we slowly made our way through the streets to the gathering field. I promise you that if I am honored with becoming your Baroness I will not miss marching with my beloved Barony.*

*Rhode - I have every intention of attending Pennsic as Baroness, because I cannot see the future, I cannot guarantee work/finances/health/family won't prevent me from doing so. Because I will not have a household, camping with the Barony could be an option. If I choose to camp elsewhere, I would support a baronial encampment with a ghost and my time. I understand a baronial presence at Pennsic is important to many people and because of that, whether we have a Baronial Encampment or not I would like to encourage the Barony to work together to host a Runnymede dinner, as far as I am aware DSH has never hosted one. I will also always attend Opening Ceremonies when I am at Pennsic, it is a wonderful and fun way to show who we are and how proud we are to members of the Barony and the East Kingdom.*

**7. Will you be available as an impartial "ear" to concerns in the Barony, and do your best to address any issues in a fair and equitable manner?**

*We are confident that we can/will always be an "impartial ear" to all baronial members, as seneschals we both have had to have had to be fair and equitable and make decisions based on what is best for the Barony and what is fair for our people, as Baronesses we will do the same and be available for our whole populace. We also promise to hold any confidences and we have always been discreet in every way. We feel strongly that trust is an essential quality in all relationships and communications. We will be approachable and available to everyone and will always listen with empathy, fairness and open-mindedness. And will strive to assist in resolving any issues, concerns, problems that may arise.*

**8. Wurm and Rhode, you haven't listed any orders or honors you may hold. What orders and honors do you hold?**

*In our letters of intent we did not list our honors or awards intentionally, while they are important to us as individuals, they do not change who we are as people and the kind of job we'd perform as Baronesses. After some conversation we can understand concerns about what polling lists we can actively speak up for our people on. Between the both of us we can promote our baronial members on these lists; Pelican,*

*Laurel, Order of Golden Rapier, Maunche and Silver Crescent. If you would like a full list of awards for each of us, please take a look at the East Kingdom Order of Precedence, unfortunately neither are complete.*

*Wurm: [https://op.eastkingdom.org/op\\_ind.php?atlantian\\_id=2392](https://op.eastkingdom.org/op_ind.php?atlantian_id=2392)*

*Missing the following: A.O.A., Order of the Worshipful Company of Artificers, and Blue Tyger Legion (given to Eastern Army at Pennsic by King Kelson)*

*Rhode: [https://op.eastkingdom.org/op\\_ind.php?atlantian\\_id=2486](https://op.eastkingdom.org/op_ind.php?atlantian_id=2486)*

*Missing the following: Order of the Companion of the Yale, Order of the Worshipful Company of Artificers, Order of Freya's Cup*

**9. If you are honored with the seat of the barony, in what ways would you hold the office similar to previous coronets. In what ways would you do it differently.**

*We have a very special place in our hearts for all the Barons and Baronesses that have come before. They have all brought something special to our Barony that is uniquely their own. They have each helped to shape the Barony and left a part of themselves that gives this barony it's own special personality.*

*Ann of Hatfield was our first Baroness and had a lot of "groundbreaking" to do. She did it with grace, bravery and confidence. Baron Joe and Baroness Arwen were always very friendly, warm and welcoming. Baron Adhemar served our Barony with wit, elegance and style. And our current Baron and Baroness; Joe and Brose are dedicated, tireless and passionate.*

*If fortunate enough to be elected, we would try to incorporate all the best qualities of our former Barons and Baronesses and of course "bring to the table" our own attributes and traits as well. With our personalities we would hope to bring balance between our voices and believe our strengths will complement each other. If we wear the Baronial coronets, we will speak with one voice but bring to bear something from each of us.*

**10. How long have you lived in the Barony?**

*Wurm - Well over 22 years, but can't remember the exact times/dates*

*Rhode - Since 2004, 14 years*

**11. What is your favorite tradition that you'd like to see brought back and why?**

*Wurm - This question is a fun one!*

*I would definitely like to see some traditions brought back, I miss them terribly.*

*I miss the singing! Many years ago there was more of a culture of singing in Dragonship Haven. Ed Dragonslayer, Wenna, Cheryl (forgot SCA name), Briece, Kenneth the smith, were a few people I remember having beautiful voices and singing for our barony. Some of them were in the Phoenix Consort. The Consort was amazing. I miss the music!*

*Also, I would love to have dance practice again. Any kind of dance.....Middle Eastern or European. I miss small, intimate events. I would like to encourage us all to*

try and possibly hold 1 or 2 small, low key events each year. Maybe with a fun theme. We have had "Puntathlons" and an event that focused on secret gift-giving and had a "love" theme. I can't remember the name of it, but it was wonderful! (It was held at the Whitneyville Church)

Rhode - I would like to see small focused events brought back. My first Dragonship event was a Baronial Birthday! I really enjoyed events like our Champions Day, in which we focused on our Barony and its people.

A tradition that hasn't ended but I would like to continue with, is the Dessert Revel, we've been doing this at St. Eligius for many years and we will be doing it at Investiture, I think it's a great way to get together for a short reprieve and congeniality before court and cleanup.

### 12. What is your least favorite tradition and why?

We don't really have an answer to this, maybe the least favorite is we've got so few, we'd like to encourage more traditions to be brought back, started, and continued.

### 13. What 3 qualities make you uniquely qualified to be the Baron or Baroness?

Wurm's qualities; gentleness of spirit/kindness, patience, devotion

Rhode's qualities; diplomatic, organized, confident

By combining these qualities we feel that we would make a couple who would have "all the bases covered"; an additional quality we both possess is that we have many long years of service to the barony, therefore we have much experience with all aspects of the barony and its members.

### 14. What events outside of Barony do you feel are "must attend" events (barring real world issues)?

Any of the following that are a day trip (3 hours or less drive one way) Coronation, Crown Tourney, Champions Tournaments that members are competing in, events in surrounding Baronies (BBM, Bridge, Bergental) to help build our relationships with nearby groups.

### 15. What do you feel are the duties and responsibilities of a Baron/ess (besides those listed in Custom or Law)?

If we become your Baronesses, we feel that to act AT ALL TIMES with honor, courtesy, kindness, warmth, and pride is essential. At times, we may be "the face of the barony" outside of Dragonship and would be ever mindful of this and always behave in a manner that is above reproach. We feel it would be our duty to promote, support and encourage our barony and its members (and act as your most attentive cheerleaders!!). To always be accessible to everyone. To offer support and encouragement to our officers. Our entire SCA focus would be for all of you.

### 16. What prior officer positions have you held?

Wurm - Fencing Marshal (5-7 years can't remember for certain), Seneschal (10 years), Autocrat

*Rhode - Chatelaine, Chronicler, Mural Herald (EK), Deputy Seneschal, Seneschal, Chronicler/Web Minister, Autocrat*

**17. What is the one big thing you'd like to accomplish as Baron/ess?**

*We have several small approachable goals we'd like to strive towards.*

- *Encourage new members and work on retention of those new members.*
- *Promote and support our members.*
- *Create new traditions and continue with our existing ones.*
- *Be the people other people feel comfortable talking with and to be accessible to everyone.*
- *Create and strengthen relationships in and out of the barony.*
- *Encourage folks to work on the business of the barony as officers, autocrats, mentors, etc.*
- *Create some new and varied awards/orders within the Barony.*

**18. Will you bring back meeting with the orders or the Principals or at least requesting suggestions from the orders for new members?**

*At large events it has been difficult to do an order meeting because of all of the hustle and bustle. If we could bring back small events like Champions Day or Baronial Birthday, it would be a great time to have order meetings, we believe it is important to get the input of the order in person and face-to-face whenever possible.*