

Unto their Majesties of the East, their baronial Excelencies and my family of the Barony of Dragonship Haven,

I have been a member of DSH for 23 years. DSH has been a part of my life through every developmental stage. Through my youth, my teens and now my adulthood. This barony has raised me.

I see the barony as my home. I see my fellow members and can call them family. To me, that's one of the most important aspects of the SCA, the family it can provide to anyone.

I cant think of a better way to show my elders and those who raised me than to show them the woman I have grown into. Representing DSH with the knowledge and gifts that have been bestowed to me my entire life.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. And I am living proof of that saying. I was raised with the qualities to help others. In every aspect of the SCA.

As a youth I put cloths on tables, set up for dayboards. Waterbearing on the list fields and bringing nourishment to those who dont make it to dayboard. As an adult I have martialed (in training) those fields. I've grown up on the fencing field for 2 decades. I've helped at the MOL tables. I have helped create and run events.... And continue to do so. And now, as Chatelaine, I also sit in a baronial office championing DSH everywhere I go.

Having been raised in the barony has shown me the strength we have and what we can offer to the kingdom and the society.

I work at a senior center mundanely, and the biggest thing its taught me is that it doesn't matter the years in a persons life, but the life lived in those years. To appreciate the values we hold, to respect and learn from those who have lived, and lived in your shoes probably too. But I also know that just as anything, there needs to be change. Change isn't a bad thing. It shows growth and development which is needed to become a stronger, better version of yourself.

I feel as a young adult, I can bring a different outlook and approach to things that my elders may not think about. To show those around us that we have a vision.

I'm a younger generation, but I work with an older one. If not understanding, I have gained respect for those who have come before me. I have a strong foundation here. I'm an emissary between the ages. A bridge between our generations.

We say we need more numbers in our barony but retention is what's needed. Our Barony has gone through a lot in the past few years. Losing many friends and family who were cornerstones of our group. As an organization we need to heal, recover and rebuild.

One of the best ways I can help is by letting people remember "WHY" they joined the SCA. So many of us have lost the "why" along the way. We need to remember "why" we joined in the first place. Everyone has a reason "why" they joined.

The best way for us to renew and keep our membership is to keep our "why" in mind, and encourage new people to share their "why". Every new member needs a why. Why do you want to do this every weekend? THE DREAM. That spark.

If the members we have no longer have their spark, how can we expect new people to have theirs. I'd like you to remember what brought you in. Think back to when you first heard of the sca. What made you come to us?

I ask you to vote me in as your coronet, to show you the amazing things you all have taught me. The tiny dragon egg you raised has hatched and it's time to let me haul the ship home.

Yours in service,

Lady Clarice D'Allaines Le Comte, Order of the Tygers Cub, Order of Gawain, and Order of the Yale.