

Notes

West Kingdom Brewers' Guild Newsletter—Special Edition



Beltane AS XLVJV

Original Charter Text

Notes

Purpose:

The purpose of the Brewers' Guild is to encourage and aid the populace in the brewing of homemade period beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. This includes the research, re-creation, and instruction of period brewing techniques and recipes.

Membership:

Membership is open to all members of the populace who express an interest in brewing. Membership is not required to participate in Guild activities.

Rankings:

There is no requirement to participate in the Guild's ranking system in order to be a member of the Guild. The requirements for the rankings are as follows:

Apprentice - Anyone who wants to play and participate in Guild activities. (Is entitled to wear the Guild badge on a green field.)

Journeyman - Someone who is proficient in at least one style of brewing and has performed at least one public service work. (Is entitled to wear the Guild badge on a blue field.)

Craftsman - Someone who is proficient in at least two styles of brewing, and has performed at least three public service works. (Is entitled to wear the Guild badge on a red field.)

Master Brewer - To achieve this rank you must have attained the previous rank of Craftsman, be nominated by your fellow Craftsmen, and be approved by the other Master Brewers. (Is entitled to wear the Guild badge on a purple field.)

Definitions:

Style - The Guild recognizes five official styles: beer, wine, mead, cordial, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Thank you Master Johann. I was putting together a

- > reply saying much the same as yours when I got your email.
- >
- > I agree with your views and add the note that
- > the Equestrian Guild of which I am a member and Marshal-in-Training does not charge dues and has
- > only just jumped through enough hoops after several
- > years to get an in-guild exchequer and be ALLOWED to raise and hold monies within the guild. Add in the legal ramifications of 'Production/Distribution of Alcohol' and it becomes a HUGE 'can of worms' I think is best left sealed.
- > Besides, both of these groups can be very expensive
- > hobbies and I would not be a member at all if it required fees/dues above my Society membership and
- > site fees. I would simply continue my activities outside the Guild with more time at events to do the myriad other things in
- > which I have an interest.
- >
- > I like the 'Guild Warden' as an alternative title. It will avoid much confusion and arguments. Any other alternates out
- > there?
- >
- > As to "ranking system" and the bestowing of ranks: I like the 'consensus of those already at or above the rank' method. Many years ago we butted heads on such issues in the Cynaguan Bardic Guild and finally opted to avoid the more hide-bound ways being pushed by one of our Misty friends.
- > (Yes it was 'Cynaguan' but we were not that picky/exclusive. The only reason for the separate Principality Guilds was
- > that, at the time of formation, the Mists bardic ideal treated Cynaguans as 'rustic second-class/second-rate back-woods cousins' that would never be quite good enough
- > to be 'real' bards.
- > I also support the 'Unreconstructed Westy"
- > viewpoint.
- >
- > In Service to The Dream,
- > -kemnon-

Public Service Work - Teaching a workshop, submitting articles or art to newsletters, holding a contest or tasting, judging a competition, helping to host the A&S tent when it is our turn, helping to run the Silent Auction, supplying brew for taxes, etc. (Winning a competition does not count toward public service works, as we do not wish to tie advancement to entering competitions.)

Proficiency - Competence in a style, as judged by fellow brewers from a sampling of at least three different brews.

Chapters:

There will be three chapters of the Guild, one for each of the three Principalities of the West: Mists, Cynagua, and Oertha. Each chapter will be overseen by a Representative chosen by the Guild Chancellor. Each chapter will abide by this charter, and the laws of the Kingdom.

Meetings:

The Guild shall meet as directed by the Chancellor, and its chapters shall meet at such times as their Representatives direct, as required to further aid in the development of brewing knowledge or member recruitment. The legal age to drink alcoholic beverages at Guild meetings, competitions, or gathers will be strictly enforced, and dictated solely by the legal age of that mundane location.

Responsibilities to the Crown of the West:

The Guild shall provide period beverages, alcoholic or non-alcoholic, as requested by the Crown and within a time period sufficient to produce a beverage worthy of royal attention. The Guild shall provide "taxes" to the Crown in an amount provided by members at that time.

Officers:

Chancellor: The administrator of the Guild shall be known as the Chancellor. The Chancellor will make reports to their Majesties as requested, and provide information to the Greater Offices of the West Kingdom Seneschal or Exchequer as it pertains to Guild business, upon their request. The Chancellor shall solely, or in consultation with other members, rank individuals of the Guild using the guidelines listed above. The Chancellor shall be sole appointing authority for all three Representative positions of the three principalities of the West as well as the position of Chronicler and Web Minister.

Representatives: The three Representatives, having authority within their three respective principalities, shall organize brewing events as needed or as directed by the Chancellor. They shall promote period brewing and encourage the populace in its study and enjoyment. Representatives shall be chosen by the Chancellor based on their brewing experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm.

Chronicler: The Chronicler shall be responsible for the West Kingdom Brewers' Guild newsletter. The newsletter will be produced as article submissions and information allow. Newsletters will be distributed at major Kingdom and/or Principality events and available online.

Web Minister: The Web Minister shall be responsible to create and update the Guild Web site as needed or as requested by Guild members.

Officers may appoint deputies for themselves for whatever reason, such as to assist with a portion of their responsibilities or to learn the responsibilities of that office. A deputy may serve for any period of time as required by the officer they report to. Deputies are not heir-apparent to the offices which they serve.

Officers may step down at any time, and for any reason. A courtesy note to the Chancellor is requested but not required. Once an office is open, eligible candidates may contact the Chancellor for consideration for the appointment. Deputies may likewise step down at any time, for any reason.

Charter As Revised by Crystal

Purpose:

The purpose of the Brewers' Guild is to encourage and aid the populace in the brewing of homemade medieval and renaissance beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. This includes the research, re-creation, and instruction of historical brewing techniques and recipes.

Membership:

Membership is open to all members of the West Kingdom who express an interest in brewing or beverage making. SCA Membership is not required to participate in Guild activities.

> > We also need something in there about the book keeping of the guild and the record keeping. The carter has the chronicler responsible for the newsletter, but nowhere is anyone responsible for the record keeping. I have started a book that will have all the personal information of the members of the

> Principality of The Mists Brewers Guild. In that book will have their contact information, their membership number as well as their ranking status and all the pertinent information for that person.

> >

> That's a good point. I would think that the responsibility for record-keeping lies with the Chancellor, or to whatever deputy he or she may appoint for that purpose. Perhaps some language should be added to the charter about the Chancellor maintaining a roster of guild members and their rankings. Presumably, this record exists anyway, so adding it wouldn't present the Chancellor with more duties.

>

> FWIW, I'm one of those unreconstructed Westies who thinks that the whole business of membership cards, numbers, dues, and the like are at best a necessary evil and at worst are contrary to the original spirit of the SCA. What determines "membership" is participation, not being on somebody's list somewhere or paying somebody some money. In a way, I hate to bring it up here, but it does bear directly on our different perceptions of what our Guild is intended to achieve. For more information on this point of view, talk to me, or to Flieg.

>

> --Johann von Drachenfels

>

> Guilds use the terms like "master" or "craftsman" or "journeyman" or "apprentice" in their own way, to denote skill rankings in the guild but usually not for offices.

> There is currently a sort of uneasy truce here, as guilds continue to use the terms their way without the Peerage orders complaining about it too much as long as it's clear about which sense the terms are used. The

> title of Grandmaster is, AFAIK, never used at all in

> an SCA context, and its use as a title of office is bound to cause confusion. As broken as this system is, I would hate to replace it with one that compounds the confusion rather than dispels it.

>

> There is another perfectly good term for a subordinate to a guild head ... a guild warden (in the original sense of the

> head of a "ward" or subdivision of a municipality or government agency like a city's "Fifth Ward"). I'd have no objection to adopting this term instead of "representative."

>>

>> I would also like to see some better clarification for the guild ranking system, if it needs to change altogether so be it. Who can promote people in the guild? I believe it should be any one of the guild masters. The reason why is, we can not expect members to travel to an event to find only the Grand Master. Just imagine if you had to travel to Alaska to get to Journeyman status, however, if the individual Guild Masters could do it than you would only need to go to your local event.

> I see no reason why a candidate has to be physically present at an event to achieve a ranking. And the charter doesn't require it, either. All that's required is that the people of a given rank are in communication with each other so that they can tell the Chancellor that "Yeah, this person is ready for this level. Let's do it." And

> I'm a little queasy about putting the power to promote anybody to any level in the hands of just one person.

>

Definitions:

...

Public Service Work - Teaching a **class or** workshop, submitting articles or art to newsletters, holding a contest or tasting, judging a competition, helping to host the **West Kingdom Arts & Sciences** tent when it is our turn, helping to run the Silent Auction, **or** supplying **items** for taxes. (Winning a competition does not count toward public service works, as we do not wish to tie advancement to entering competitions.)

Proficiency - Competence in a style, as judged by fellow brewers from a sampling of at least three different brews **in that style**.

Chapters:

There will be three chapters of the Guild, one for each of the three Principalities of the West: Mists, Cynagua, and Oertha. Each chapter will be overseen by a Representative chosen by the Guild Chancellor, **and approved by the Crown or Coronet**. Each chapter will abide by this charter, and the laws of the Kingdom.

Responsibilities to the Crown of the West:

The Guild shall provide period beverages, alcoholic or non-alcoholic, as requested by the Crown and within a time period sufficient to produce a beverage worthy of royal attention. **(hooboy! what happens when no-one volunteers?)** The Guild shall provide "taxes" to the Crown in an amount provided by members at that time.

Officers:

Chancellor: The administrator of the Guild shall be known as the Chancellor. The Chancellor will make reports to their Majesties as requested, and provide information to the Greater Offices of the West Kingdom Seneschal or Exchequer as it pertains to Guild business, upon their request. The Chancellor shall solely, or in consultation with other members, rank individuals of the Guild using the guidelines listed above. **The chancellor will keep accurate records of all participants' progress, and pass that record to the next Chancellor.** The Chancellor shall be sole appointing authority for all three Representative positions of the three principalities of the West as well as the position of Chronicler and Web Minister. **(The Crown or Coronet traditionally approves new Chancellors and Reps, although kingdom law does not require they do so.)**

Representatives: The three Representatives, having authority within their three respective principalities, shall organize brewing events as needed or as **requested** by the Chancellor. **Each** shall promote **historical** brewing and encourage the populace in its study and enjoyment. Representatives shall be chosen by the Chancellor based on their brewing experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm. **(IMHO, you do not have to be a good brewer to be a good guild rep.)**

Chronicler: The Chronicler shall be responsible for the West Kingdom Brewers' Guild newsletter. The newsletter will be produced as article submissions and information allow. Newsletters will be distributed at major Kingdom and/or Principality events and available online. **(What about the money it takes to produce paper copies? Does our website cost anything?)**

Web Minister: The Web Minister shall be responsible to create and update the Guild Web site as needed or as **reasonably** requested by Guild members.

Some online discussion notes

> Angino wrote:

> >

> >

> > Hello Leon, in regards to the charter. I would like to see
> > something about each principality having some
> individual sovereignty about them. What I mean by that
> is, like the SCA we have one main body, than it is broken into
> smaller groups, each responsible for themselves. Why I feel this is
> important is that if we as a principality guild decide to vote
> on having dues, than that money collected for the principality
> brewers guild belongs to no other. If we decide to have membership
> cards, than those membership cards are for the principality of
> origin. So the membership cards would say something like:
> "Kingdom of the West, Principality if the Mists Brewers Guild."

> I really don't see the benefit of this. As the
> Cyanguan representative of the Brewer's Guild, I have no interest in
being the "Head of the Cynaguan Branch of the Brewer's Guild," or
issuing

>> membership cards for my "branch" or collecting money for it. If
you want to run the Principality branch that way, have at it, but I
see little purpose in codifying it so that other branches have to do
it, too.

>

> In fact, we can't collect money for it anyway; there are rules in
place in the SCA for who gets to collect money for what,
> and the issue is particularly tricky for anything involved with
> alcohol. Basically, the rules (which were put in place by our in-
surance company, as a condition for coverage, and not by legisla-
tion or from the Board) are that we, AS A GROUP, can't collect
money that directly results in the production of alcoholic bever-
ages. (We can collect money for regalia and publications and stuff,
but even then we'd have to do it through our branch Chancellors of
the Exchequer.) There's nothing wrong with individuals or house-
holds buying whatever they want, subject only to mundane law,
but it has to be on this informal basis, and not run through official
SCA channels. So this is an area where we have to tread
> lightly. For details, talk to your local Chancellor of the
> Exchequer and Seneschal.

>

> What would the benefits be? What purpose does it serve to sub-
divide the guild this way? Would it tend to disenfranchise those
who don't live in a principality, or choose not to play with their lo-
cal principality?

> >

> > The other thing I would like to see go away is the "Title" of
> > representative. Let's just call him/her a Guild Master that is
> > what we are, with you being a Grand Master. I am in enough
"Real life Guilds" to know who and what a Grand Master is, and
your it buddy.

> >

>

> Well, the SCA's ranking system has always been sort of broken
here, because originally the term "Master" or "Mistress" was re-
served for peers (although these were not peerage titles in period).
Similarly, the term "apprentice" has a distinct definition in SCA cul-
ture of a teacher and student in a formal relationship, often with
contracts written up and fealty oaths exchanged. Meanwhile, the