PRESIDENTS REPORT

We send our greetings to all throughout the Empire. What follows is a rather long and complicated array of issues We have been dealing with, many of which involve action items in the agenda (see Crown Business Items).

Charters

We began our reign by suspending charters of inactive Shires. We are happy to say that new Shires have formed, some of the suspended Shires will be returning, and some existing are expanding. The only recently incipient Shire of Thatuna has grown to the Duchy of Caerleon already; their Charter now before Us. The Charter for Ekaterinegorod is now before us to be elevated to Duchy status and with proposed boundaries revisions, which they have worked with the people in Caerlon to coordinate. In Minnisota the Shire of Borealis requests Charter status. We have inquiries from Alba to either reinstate or possibly start anew. Georgia is beginning anew again as well. The Charters ready for approval are attached in the Appendix A2 for review.

On the Crown Business Items…

It is natural, as we grow and test our rules and laws, to recognize the need for revision and clarification. Untested, they are speculative. Tested we sometimes find them lacking for reasons the original authors might never have anticipated. The important thing is to take the responsibility, as an organization, for taking to heart the need for changes; while keeping in mind the need for balancing what we do with real world law and recognizing the difference of where one begins and the other ends. There are several items under the new "Crown Business" section on this agenda. They are action items called for by this Crown Report. We listed them specifically under the new section to call attention to them as obvious "action items". We have found that, on review, in the past action items buried in a report have sometimes failed to make it into law. We hope this will remedy the situation, making it clear to all presented with the agenda what items within it constitute proposed changes to the law.

Imperial Law Estates Writ B.7 THE WRIT FOR PROTECTION OF MINORS AND MEMBERS AND ARTICLE III

Sir Nicolai has, on our behalf, put forth a proposal (under Crown Business CB1) proposing changes to this writ based on recent experiences and frustrations with invoking this law. Writ B.7 provides for the time from which a person is reported to the Crowns as potentially being engaged in "any improper sexual or violent activity" until a legal action occurs. It is intended to protect our members while protecting the civil rights of those charges as well. We found, in it's use, the Writ to be either weak or simply incomplete in some areas. The accumulated proposed changes are intended to address the following issues:

> (a) Writ B.7, as currently written, does not provide for restricting a person's ability to sign as a guardian for a minor based on the information that they are under investigation for alleged misconduct. We limit the person's overnight event privileges based on them representing a threat to our membership. It seems incongruous then to accept them as a minor's guardian.
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> (b). Under current Adrian law there is no ability to revoke membership based on knowledge of criminal record or activities unless they specifically happen in conjunction with an Adrian event. Thus, after invoking Writ B.7 We find ourselves in the position of, once the allegations are proven true, unable to take any action thereafter if the crime(s) didn't happen specifically at an Adrian event. Adria needs to have the ability to tell persons we find to represent a threat to our membership (as in, for instance, a convicted murderer?) that they are not allowed membership. The need to invoke this should be rare, and should never happen without ability to appeal the decision based on relevance. *[Note: under "mundane" law as a membership organization we legally have the right to deny membership based on the decision that someone creates disharmony, represents a threat to our members, or simply does not share our goals or fit our mission statement, etc. This can sometimes be confusing, as it differs from laws regarding the workplace.]*
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> (c) Writ B.7 does not provide specific guidance to the Crowns regarding their responsibility to pass on the information they've received. It has become obvious that notification, in order to

prevent later misunderstandings, should be in writing with specific copy of B.7 attached and give specific instructions to the notified Crown regarding their responsibility to transmit the information to their successor. Additionally, the responsibility to transmit that information should be legally required, in order to prevent any misunderstandings.

(d) Laws regarding registered sex offender information access and dissemination of information about them vary from state to state. Adria has the problem of needing to inform Crowns "across state lines" about members when Writ B.7 is invoked. While every citizen is guaranteed the right to access the databases, there are limitations on how the information is disseminated that vary from state to state. In all cases you must gain authorization from a "duly authorized law enforcement agency". The intent here is to resolve the problem of being in compliance with every state's laws without the Imperial Crowns having to research them all (the laws also change, California just renewed Megan's Law with new parameters on access allowing minors to view the database now). If we require in our law that each Crown must check their state's database upon notification of allegations or investigation this problem is circumvented, and maybe more importantly, they can speak to their populace with first hand knowledge. Additionally, the proposed revision requires that they pursue gaining authorization from their regional law enforcement agencies to distribute the information in accordance with their state laws.

(e) Currently, though it is not in law, we require information from minors regarding age and who their onsite guardian is. Currently any adult can sign the form as the guardian, and we have no way of knowing if their parent(s) are even aware much less has approved the guardianship. We propose an amendment that only legally designated guardians be allowed, as with most organizations, to be acting guardian for a minor signing up at an event. Lacking that requirement there should be, at the least, a signed statement form from the parents themselves authorizing said legal guardian for the weekend. This has severe implications regarding medical treatment release ability and other areas of responsibility. Legal guardians have the responsibility and capability to act in the parent's stead as authorized. Unless we wish to become the legal guardians, as an organization, of these minors on site (like a day care provider is) then there has to be a legitimate legal guardian for said minor present if we accept them on site as participants. The only way for a minor to escape this requirement is for them to be declared an emancipated minor – a whole other topic.]

Imperial Event Planning, ARTICLE VII

Crown Business CB1 also proposes formalizing a Ministry Warden's office. Crowns spend a good deal of time at events "in audience" with members and Ministers resolving ongoing business and reviewing issues of law, which is important. Site autocrats are besieged by site layout issues, extended sign-up hours, event schedule arbitration and administration. While the Chivalry will, and should, always be there to call on for assistance We believe that it is time to have a Warden to oversee the general operations and administrate enforcement of security and safety requirements. On the Imperial level, as many of our manuals tend to overlook, required Imperial Events are "plural" now. There are two sites, two site coordinators/autocrats, and two event autocrats for every Imperial event. Not every one of them has done it before, either. Coordination and communication can be a real challenge, especially if there are any last minute changes in personnel or arrangements. This coincidentally completes a project already begun; a proposed event planning guide for use by Imperial Event Autocrats outlining required and recommended considerations, planning information, and helpful checklists for procedure. Essentially a Users Manual for how to put on an event. *[As Director of Operations and Vice President in charge of Planning for a 1500 member reenactment organization for three years, the Empress has worked with such a guide before. The event planning guide covering what was needed, both physically and procedurally, made it possible to stage eight events a year with from 500 to 1300 participants in attendance with a different site coordinator and location for each one every month! Everyone was on the same page, because they all had the same page to work from. It's a valuable tool.]*

The other important element outlined in CB1 is the creation of a Minister of Children, either as a stand-alone office or subordinate to the Warden's office. Essentially to date we have had individuals who have voluntarily served in such capacity at some events, though no regularly designated individual. We are not,

and should not pretend to be, licensed day care providers. We can and should, however, promote through education and activities the safety, fun and good welfare of our children. Parents everywhere should help contribute to this effort, and those who once were children might consider anteing up as well.

Miscellaneous Crown Business

A quick summary of what's going on follows. Those interested in contributing ideas or resources to these efforts please contact us.

Some new things put into practice:

- Web posting the Imperial Steward's list of processed memberships by subdivision, allowing local ministers and members to cross check records more easily. Members' addresses (electronic or otherwise) will not be included. [For those wondering, the membership list is a matter of public record for tax and other legal reasons – we will not sell or give out contact information to those not holding official offices within the Empire]

Things we are working on into practice:

- Videotaping of collegiums, to make them more accessible to new starting subdivisions and to encourage sharing of information.
- More reliance on east and west coast Deputy Ministers, who can serve their respective offices at the east and west coast Imperial events and promote bi-coastal collegiums related to the conduct of their offices.
- Development of a privacy policy (published) regarding member's personal information. The Imperial Crowns are working with the Imperial Webmaster to define our policy, which should be listed in the newsletter and on the website.
- Making archival copies of the Adrian Herald available, and increasing the web availability of past documents such as minutes of meetings. This is an ongoing effort. Some things must be scanned, etc.
- Creation of an Adrian Court Journal, a summary simple log listing in chronological order cases filed, etc that can function as an index for future Crowns and Chancellors. It would also help enormously in turnover of government for continuity.

We thank all who journey to these meetings, and all those who labor from afar to review, discuss, and participate in this important process of government.

In Service,

Elisabeth Imperatrix Erik, Imperator