

KINGDOM OF THE WEST
FINANCIAL POLICIES
April 2017 Update

A. ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE KINGDOM EXCHEQUER

- I.** The Chancellor of the Exchequer presides over the Council of the Exchequer (Kingdom Financial Committee), which meets between each Crown Tournament and the following Coronation. The Council consists of the Kingdom Seneschal, the Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Crown, who shall together have one vote. Terms on the Council are through the term of members' warrants or the Crown's reign.
- 2.** Decisions of the Council of the Exchequer to exceed the discretionary spending limits set forth below must be unanimous. Changes to the Financial Policies of the West shall be approved by the Council unanimously.
- 3.** The Chancellor of the Exchequer sits on the Royal Commission for Regalia.
- 4.** At the Kingdom Officer's Meeting closest to the month of April, the Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer shall present an up-to date roster of all Exchequer Officers within the Kingdom to the incoming King and Queen who shall sign the roster to indicate approval of the officers listed in the roster.
- 5.** The Chancellor of the Exchequer reports to the Society Exchequer according to the schedule specified in the Society's Financial Policy.

B. LIMITS ON SPENDING

- I.** All spending should be approved in advance, either by approval of each transaction before it is made or by inclusion in a budget for the year as approved by the Financial Committee (Council of the Exchequer). If the former method is used, approval should be given within a reasonable time given the nature and urgency of the request (usually within two weeks). In either case all transactions must be approved as set out below.
- 2.** All checks will be made to corporate entities or to individuals. Checks to "Cash" are not permitted to be written on any account within the West Kingdom.
- 3.** The guidelines below must be observed in all spending. (All amounts given are in US dollars.)
 - a. *Branch and Guild Exchequer guidelines:***
 - i.** All branches and guilds shall have a Financial Policy as defined in the Society's Financial Policy. It will define the Financial Committee and give guidelines for the fiscal conduct of the group.
 - ii.** All reimbursements to individuals (whether individual approvals or for budgeted expenses) will require a completed reimbursement request along with original (preferred) or copied receipts. All payouts must be approved by the branch Seneschal and Exchequer or by the Financial Committee prior to disbursement.
 - iii.** Up to \$50.00 may be reimbursed for any reasonable and appropriate purpose directly related to the branch's or guild's activities, subject to approval by the branch Seneschal and Exchequer.
 - iv.** Amounts above that limit may be disbursed for payment of venue fees, deposits, and other expenses directly related to a scheduled event. These expenses should be paid directly to the site owner or other vendors.
 - v.** Branch expenditures above \$100.00 which are not directly related to a scheduled event and guild expenditures above \$50 must be approved by the branch's/guild's Financial Committee. As an alternative, if the group holds regularly scheduled meetings, the expenditure may be approved by a majority vote of the members in attendance at the meeting. If the expenditure must be

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made prior to the next scheduled meeting, or if one or more members of the Financial Committee are unavailable, the expense can be approved by the branch seneschal and exchequer plus either the Kingdom Exchequer or the Kingdom Seneschal. This Kingdom-level authorization may be obtained by email once the branch officers are in agreement on the need for an urgency of the expenditure.

vi. • For Principalities whose law does not otherwise specify the composition of the Financial Committee/Exchequer's Council, the Council shall consist of the Principality Exchequer, the Principality Seneschal, and the Prince and/or Princess (who shall vote as one).

• For Baronies who do not otherwise specify the composition of the Financial Committee, it shall consist of the Baronial Exchequer, the Baronial Seneschal, and the Baron and/or Baroness (who shall vote as one).

• For Provinces and smaller branches who do not otherwise specify the composition of the Financial Committee, it shall consist of the branch exchequer, the branch seneschal and the other designated officer for the branch required to maintain the status of the branch.

• For Guilds who maintain their own funds and do not otherwise specify the composition of the Financial Committee, it shall consist of the Guild Principal, the Guild Exchequer and the Kingdom Seneschal or another seneschal designated by the Kingdom Seneschal.

vii. • Local groups with low activity and small bank balances may elect to have funds held by the next higher-level group. Cantons roll up to their Barony; Shires, Provinces, Colleges, and any other groups roll up to their Principality; or directly to Kingdom if not within a Principality.

• The Financial Committee for both the group rolling up funds and the higher-level group holding the funds must approve having the funds rolled up. These funds will then be held as dedicated funds tracked on the higher-level group's ledger. Expenditures of the rolled-up funds must be approved by the financial committee of the group the funds belong to, not the group holding the funds on their behalf.

b. Kingdom Exchequer Guidelines:

i. All reimbursements to individuals (whether individual approvals or for budgeted expenses) will require a completed reimbursement request along with original (preferred) or copied receipts. All payouts must be approved by the branch Seneschal and Exchequer or by the Financial Committee prior to disbursement.

ii. Up to \$250.00 for any reasonable and appropriate purpose directly related to the Kingdom's activities may be spent.

iii. Amounts above \$250.00 may be disbursed for payment of venue fees, deposits, and other expenses directly related to a scheduled Kingdom-level event.

iv. Expenditures above \$250.00 which are not directly related to a Kingdom-level event must be approved by a unanimous vote of the Kingdom Financial Committee.

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- v. Reimbursement for roses for the Roses Tourney will be up to \$200.00 per reign. Reimbursement will be made upon submission of a completed reimbursement request along with original (preferred) or copied receipts.
- vi. Reimbursement for Queen's Cyphers will be up to \$250 per reign. Reimbursement will be made upon submission of a completed reimbursement request along with original (preferred) or copied receipts.
- vii. Site fees for each Kingdom-level event will be determined based upon the total costs of the site, the projected gate numbers and a modest profit.
- viii. If Merchants will be present at an event, each Merchant must pay a Merchant Fee of \$20.00 to the Kingdom. The Merchant Fee is separate from individual site fees.
- ix. Any funds designated for special purposes, if unused after five years, are subject to review by the Financial Committee. The Financial Committee may elect to continue holding the funds for the designated purpose or have them revert to the Kingdom general fund.

C. REGALIA LEASE AGREEMENT

I. The Kingdom Exchequer will be responsible for updating the regalia lease agreement for each reign. The Kingdom Exchequer will maintain records of the signed lease agreements and provide copies to incoming Royalty at Coronation.

D. TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FUND

1. Kingdom Travel Assistance Fund

- a. The Kingdom Travel Assistance Fund is intended to reduce the financial burden of royal and/or official SCA business travel and is not a reward for holding office or winning a tournament.
- b. All travel expense reimbursements shall be dependent on the financial state and cash reserves of the Kingdom at the time of the request.
- c. These guidelines represent maximum allowable expenditures and are not mandatory minimums.
- d. The Kingdom may refuse any travel reimbursement request even if it falls within these guidelines.
- e. All travel expense requests must be approved in advance by the Financial Committee.
- f. Travel reimbursement requests made after the travel has been completed shall be denied.
- g. Nothing in this policy prevents or prohibits fund raisers to defray the costs of travel not generally reimbursed by the Kingdom if such fundraisers are clearly identified as to purpose in all announcements and at the time of donation; all funds raised for this purpose must be held and disbursed by the Kingdom Exchequer.

2. Travel Assistance for the Crown

- a. The Kingdom will reimburse receipted costs of travel by the Crown to attend events more than 200 miles from their home listed below. These costs may be for airline tickets or may be for the costs of gas as verified by receipts.
- b. Submission of an expense reimbursement form with original (preferred) or copied receipts is required for disbursement of travel funds.

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- c. The maximum reimbursement per reign will be \$2000.00. \$1500 will be simple reimbursement which will not require fund-matching on the part of the Royalty; the remaining \$500 will be matching funds.
- d. In the event of unforeseen financial need by the Crown, the Kingdom Financial Committee will convene at the Crown's request to determine whether "travel assistance for the Crown" can be used to cover the full cost for allowed travel covered under the \$2000 maximum; the intent is to cover a situation in which an unforeseen financial need of the Crown would reasonably require the removal of the matching funds requirement.
- e. Branches or individuals may donate additional funds to further defray the unreimbursed costs of the Crown for travel to their locale.
- f. The Crown is encouraged to hold fundraisers to supplement the travel fund. This money will be held by the Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer in a special fund for said use. Any funds raised in one reign that are not spent in that reign shall be made available to the Crown in subsequent reigns.
- g. The Crown may use Kingdom Travel Assistance funds only to conduct official Kingdom Business and only for travel to specific areas and events outside the central Kingdom, to wit: Principality of Oertha, Barony of the Far West, Estrella War, Gulf Wars, West-An Tir War, Pennsic War, and Great Western War.
- h. The Kingdom does not reimburse for hotel, rental car, site fees or food expenses incurred in connection with Crown travel unless exceptional approval is obtained in advance from the Financial Committee.
- i. In the event that exceptional travel is necessary, the Kingdom Financial Committee will meet to decide whether additional travel assistance will be offered.

3. Travel for Kingdom Officers

- a. The Kingdom shall reimburse the full cost of the hotel and airfare OR actual receipted gas expenses for Kingdom Officers for approved Mandatory Travel.
- b. Mandatory Travel is travel required by the Society superior officers or the Board of Directors for meetings, symposia, etc.
- c. The Kingdom may reimburse full or partial airfare OR actual receipted gas expenses for discretionary travel made for purposes of conducting official business, such as training.
- d. The Kingdom does not reimburse for rental car, site fees or food expenses incurred in connection with officer travel.

4. Travel for Kingdom Regalia Trailer

- a. The Kingdom shall reimburse the actual gas receipts for towing the Kingdom Regalia Trailer to Kingdom Crowns and Coronations, to the West-An Tir War, to the Great Western War, to Estrella War and to Pennsic. For the trailer to be towed to any other event, advance approval is required.
- b. For Pennsic only, an amount up to \$600 may be reimbursed for transport of regalia items by means other than towing the Kingdom trailer. Expenses over this amount must be explicitly approved by the Financial Committee.
- c. The Kingdom does not pay for mileage incurred when a person brings items of Kingdom regalia with their personal gear to an event.

5. Local Branch, Barony and Principality Travel Funds

- a. In general, these branches do not have the need to establish travel funds.

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- b. Should a branch Financial Committee vote to reimburse an extraordinary travel expense, such reimbursement shall be limited to one half of the airfare for an airline ticket per reign OR actual receipted gas expenses for one trip.

E. MONEY MANAGEMENT

All funds must be deposited in the bank within fourteen days of receipt.

1. Gate Functions

- a. A paid member of the SCA must be in charge of the gate functions at any event where money is collected in the name of the SCA. Site owners may additionally oversee the gate operations, but the final responsibility for the funds collected in the name of the SCA must remain with an authorized paid SCA member who does not have a financial or material interest in the ownership of the site itself.
- b. At least two unrelated people must be present to count and verify all cash and funds received.
- c. All event-related money collected must be reconciled and reported in a profit/loss statement for the event. The records shall include all sources and uses of money for the event: site charges, event expenses, ancillary fees, and any other receipts or expenditures.
- d. Kingdom and Principality Royalty may be comped admission to events. Non-member participants may not be comped admission.

F. BRANCH REPORTING

1. Bank Account Reconciliation

Internal records (checkbook register or other ledger) must be reconciled to the bank statements received. In no case shall reconciliation occur less than monthly. The reconciliation must be signed by the preparer (in most cases, the branch Exchequer) and the reviewer (in most cases, the branch Seneschal)

- a. Acceptable documentation of bank reconciliations may consist of a copy of a bank statement that includes a reconciliation section (signed by the preparer and the reviewer), OR a copy of the signed bank statement and a separate reconciliation document (both signed by the preparer and the reviewer).
- b. Copies of signed monthly bank reconciliations should be sent to the Principality Exchequer if the branch is located within a Principality (Mists, Cynagua, Oertha); branches in the Marches and Principalities should send reconciliations to the Kingdom Exchequer. Electronic (.PDF or .jpg format) copies or paper copies are acceptable but must be legible.
- c. Copies of signed monthly bank reconciliations must be received by the Principality or Kingdom Exchequer no later than the last day of the month following the statement month. For example, the reconciliation for November must be received by December 31st.
- d. Copies of signed monthly bank reconciliations should be retained with the branch's financial records.

2. Financial Reporting

Branches must submit a financial report quarterly, consisting of the appropriate report form and copy of the bank statement for the last month of the quarter.

- a. Reporting schedule:

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- 1st quarter reports (January – March) are due NO LATER than April 30th;
 - 2nd quarter reports (April – June) are due NO LATER than July 31st;
 - 3rd quarter reports (July – September) are due NO LATER than October 31st;
 - 4th quarter/Domesday (cumulative report for the year) reports are due NO LATER than February 15th.
- b. For the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter's reports, if there was no financial activity such as events or fundraisers, it is acceptable for small branches (Shires, Provinces, Cantons, Colleges, Ridings, Guilds, and offices) to send an email stating, "No activity during this period" in lieu of a full report. All other groups (Principalities and Baronies) must submit a Financial Report. Domesday reports MUST consist of a full Financial Report and December bank statement copy.

3. Non-Member Registration (NMR) Remittance

Non-Member **Registration** (NMR) must be collected with the site fee at gate at all events to which the NMR is applicable, as defined by SCA NMR Policy.

- a. Branches must remit the total NMR collected for the event to the West Kingdom NMR Deputy's office OR to the West Kingdom Chancellor the Exchequer NO LATER than 10 business days after the event (postmark), with a form or statement that gives the total number of attendees for the event, the total number of non-members attending, and the total amount of NMR being remitted.
- b. The Palatine Barony of Far West (Pacific Rim) and its branches are EXEMPT from the Non-Member Registration fees, per the variance approved by the Board of Directors, to wit:

"D Treasurer -- Tom Bilodeau (Tirloch of Tallaght)

(A) Requests for Board Action:

(1) At the April Board meeting, I had asked the Board to grant a NMS variance I gave to the Kingdom of the West with regard to the Barony of the Far West. At the meeting, the

variance was voided and returned to me for additional information.

Subsequently, I received the information that was requested from the Kingdom of the West's

Exchequer, Mistress Kiriana. Detailed email correspondence from Mistress Kiriana is included at the end of this report. I have re-issued my NMS variance to the Kingdom of the West on 21 April 2005, and I ask the Board to approve this variance.

Motion by Lis Schraer to uphold the Society Treasurer's Non-Member Surcharge variance for the Barony of the Far West in the Kingdom of the West, to be reviewed at the January 2006 quarterly

meeting. Seconded by Jeff Brown. In favor: Jeff Brown, Dena Cady, Tom Hughes, Shawn Reed, Lis Schraer, Gabrielle Underwood. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

By consensus, Chairman Williams directed the Society Exchequer to review the Barony of the Far West's cash-handling policies and procedures. "

- c. Non-participants may not be comped admission unless contractually mandated per SCA financial policy. Non-participants who wish to view the event may be charged a discount rate upon approval by the Exchequer in Charge.

G. POLICY CHANGES

1. Kingdom

The Kingdom Financial Policy will be reviewed in January of each year. Any financial policy changes, after having been discussed and voted on by the Exchequer's Council, must be forwarded to the Society Exchequer for review and approval, before being sent to the Board for final approval.

2. Principalities

Any financial policy changes that are to be enacted at the Principality level, after having been discussed and voted on by the Principality Exchequer's Council, must be forwarded to the Kingdom Exchequer for review and approval, before being sent to the Crown for final approval.

3. Baronies, Provinces, Shires, Colleges, and Cantons or Ridings

Any policy changes must be forwarded to the Kingdom Exchequer for review and approval, before being sent to the Crown for final approval.

H. PAYPAL POLICY

1. Requirements

- a. Each group wanting to use PayPal for accepting reservations must submit a request form that has to be approved by both the Kingdom Exchequer and the Deputy Kingdom Exchequer in charge of PayPal. This request must also include the event copy for the event. Those not up to date with financial reports and NMR will not be considered.
- b. The Kingdom has created a specific PayPal email alias: paypal@exchequer.westkingdom.org. The alias will be used as the email address of the PayPal account owner. This alias must cascade to at least two officers' email addresses in separate (modern) households. The standard protocol will be the Seneschal, Exchequer, and PayPal deputy.
- c. The Kingdom has created a business checking account specifically to handle PayPal funds using the email alias, and a secure, robust password. Knowledge of the password is restricted to the Kingdom Exchequer, PayPal Deputy Exchequer, and Kingdom Seneschal. The password must be changed every time any these officers changes.
- d. The Kingdom must have a warranted Deputy Exchequer for PayPal. This ensures a check & balance system regarding electronic funds. Transfers will require approval of the Kingdom Seneschal and the Kingdom Exchequer before transfer can occur.
- e. PayPal supports the creation of subsidiary user accounts & passwords so that individuals can process payments without having access to account settings. This will allow us to set up individual users prior to each event and then deactivate them 24 hours after the event is over. Either the PayPal Deputy Exchequer or the Kingdom Exchequer will set up these individuals. At no time will anyone other than the Kingdom Exchequer, PayPal Deputy Exchequer and Kingdom Seneschal have administrative rights to the PayPal account.
- f. The Kingdom PayPal Account will be set up to transfer proceeds to the SCA Group account about 10 days prior to an event and immediately after an event that PayPal was accepted.
- g. The Kingdom's PayPal account is linked to the Kingdom's PayPal bank account, so that money collected can be automatically transferred from PayPal to this Kingdom

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account. The PayPal Deputy Exchequer will submit an approval request to both the Kingdom Seneschal and Kingdom Exchequer via email to transfer any funds from PayPal to the Kingdom bank account.

h. If an attendee disputes a transaction, PayPal can withdraw money from a linked bank account to credit back to that attendee pending resolution of the dispute. The linked checking account will maintain a negligible balance and funds will be moved out of that account promptly to remediate that threat.

i. Refunds to attendees will be given by the Hosting Group's paper check. Request for refund of pre-event credit card payment must be made via email or US mail and should be made or postmarked 48 hours prior to the start of the event. A valid mailing address must be included with the request.

j. If a group miscalculates an attendee's gate fee there will be no penalty on their refund.

2. At-event payments

a. Gate staff will need a smartphone or tablet, Internet connection (via either cellular or wireless Ethernet, a hotspot, a tethered smartphone, or other), and a PayPal card reader. The person processing the payments will log onto PayPal, enter the amount to be charged, then swipe the customer's card through the reader. The user will see and approve the amount to be charged, decide if they want a receipt (which will be texted or emailed to them by choice), and sign the screen with their finger. A transaction-reporting email will be sent to the account's email address. At no time may a credit card number be typed (manually entered) into PayPal.

b. Each individual accepting payments must have a current SCA membership, will have their own unique login and shall be responsible for all transactions created with the login. Logins will be disabled within 24 hours after the close of the event.

c. Per PayPal policy, those individuals must be at least 18 years of age.

3. Pre-reservations

a. Reservations can be accepted through PayPal. A link will be created on the event page that will allow a reservation request to be submitted to the PayPal Deputy Exchequer. The request shall contain only: Modern name, SCA name, membership number (if applicable) and an email address plus the request for services (event fees, feast, etc.).

b. The West will maintain a log of who paid via PayPal, and the amount charged; the log shall be reconciled with the emails and the transaction history. Further testing will be required to identify the best 14 of 14 practices for identifying the purpose of payments (not only who they are from, but what they are for; if one account processes payments for all groups in a kingdom, some standardized tracking process needs to be in place.)

4. Event Copy

a. Event copy should state if the Host Group will be accepting PayPal. Attendees should have a backup payment plan in case there is a malfunction with phone service or internet service. For Kingdom-level events, anyone wishing to pay via PayPal will waive any early registration discounts. This must be included in the copy. For a local event, the hosting group has the option to not allow an early registration discount.

b. The Kingdom Exchequer shall review the account on a regular basis for unauthorized transactions. Such review shall occur no less than monthly.

5. Records

a. Records may be stored electronically as long as there are 3 or more backups of these records.

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