

Unto Their Majesties, Their Royal Highnesses, Their Highnesses Kenric and Dagmar, Their Excellencies Braun and Cempestra, and the populace of the Barony of Winter's Gate, do Lord Hans Shaeffer and Lady Elena Verch Rhys send warm greetings.

This letter shall serve as our honest intention to put ourselves forward for consideration as candidates for the next term of service as Baron and Baroness of the Barony of Winter's Gate. We feel we can best serve our Kingdom, Principality and our Barony by offering ourselves for this position of territorial baron and baroness.

We believe we would be an excellent fit for the duties and responsibilities of Baron and Baroness of Winter's Gate. According to corpora territorial barons and baronesses are responsible for being representatives of the royal presence within the barony; working with the Crown, Coronet, and baronial officers; and presenting non-armigerous awards to the populace. We believe that we have the energy and personality to represent the royal presence within the lands of Winter's Gate. While neither of us have had experience as award-granting royalty or nobility, we know that positive reinforcement is integral to maintenance of the Barony of Winter's Gate, and believe it is the duty and privilege of the baron and baroness to recognize and reward the good works of the populace.

We believe that joy and fulfillment of the populace's individual pursuits within the society is important to maintain the health of the Barony of Winter's Gate. As Baron and Baroness, our focus would be to foster those individuals in the populace in their pursuit of getting the most out of their SCA experience. If selected, we plan to continue baronial family nights that Baroness Cempestra and Baron Braun have initiated, as well as plan Arts and Sciences nights, continue encouraging additional fighter practices, and inspire the populace of the barony to explore new and interesting pursuits within our society.

Within the next two years, we hope to encourage Winter's Gate to field an armed force that includes a mix of archery, heavy, and rapier fighters in order for Winter's Gate to be more visible at larger events outside of the Principality. While at the last Great Western War, we were able to field four Winter's Gate heavy fighters in service of the Crown and Oertha. We feel with coordinating attendance at large and increased encouragement to attend said events, Winter's Gate could expand our fighting levies to increase the number of soldiers we field outside of the principality within two years. It is important to us that the Winter's Gate populace is encouraged to experience kingdom level events more often than they have in the past. While local tournaments and practices help to improve our martial skills, the experience gained beyond our principality borders is without measure and would help the populace of Winter's Gate expand their SCA experience. As Baron of Winter's Gate Hans would encourage and coordinate not only populace members that routinely attend such events, but those individuals who have not yet been able to make the journey south beyond the borders of Winter's Gate.

In order to provide well rounded leadership, the Baron and Baroness chosen should have some experience in the three core pillars of the SCA which are Service, Arts and Sciences, and Combat Arms. Hans has found fulfillment in heavy combat, service, as well as a fondness of Arts and Sciences. Elena has been active within both A&S and service while actively supporting both her Lord and other fighters both on and off of the field.

Hans has been active in Winter's Gate for five years and has been both an event steward as well as the recipient of several baronial level tournaments and contests including Captain of the Winter's Gate Militia and Fool of Winter's Gate through his conviviality. Hans has been active as a guard on both Baronial and Principality courts, displaying chivalry and courtly behavior. Hans believes that

merriment and joy are integral to the health of Winter's Gate and the Kingdom. He recently traveled south to participate in the October Crown tournament as well as Great Western War.

Elena has been active in the Society for seven years and is an apprentice to Mistress Annora de Montfort of Shadowood and protégé to Mistress Margery Garret. Among her recognitions, she was awarded a Leaf of Merit and was a Heart of Winter's Gate. As an apprentice, Elena is interested primarily in costuming and illumination, but enjoys many other arts and sciences. Philosophically, Elena believes that learning and teaching are a foundation of the arts and sciences. These foundations should be encouraged within the Barony of Winter's Gate to allow our members to grow and find new endeavors that fulfill their dream of the society. As a protege, Elena has been an event steward at both baronial and principality level events. Elena enjoys providing supplemental income to Winter's Gate and Oertha through fundraiser meal endeavors. Elena also finds joy in serving as a Lady of the Chamber, and believes that serving the Royalty helps preserve the curiosities and traditions that make the experience within the Society more enriching. We believe that as Baron and Baroness we would lead by example in courtesies, customs, and traditions that should be observed within the society and are a positive representation of the Crown and Kingdom of the West.

In mundane life Elena works managing a sales team, which requires her to be goal oriented, gregarious, and charismatic when dealing with both her team and the public. This skill set will be an asset to her as Baroness by attracting new members and reinvigorating those that may require guidance in discovering their search of the dream. Due to Hans' mundane experience as a mental health counselor, he is adept at handling delicate situations and diffusing difficult incidents with empathy and patience.

Hans and Elena both believe that children are the future of our society. Having a small child themselves (Calliope, age 2), they understand how important it is to have opportunities and activities that allow youth to develop themselves within the Society and find the same fulfillment their parents do. Hans and Elena would like to encourage the growth of organized youth activities such as youth centric arts and sciences, youth martial activities, as well as opportunities for the youth to serve the Barony, Principality, and Kingdom.

By our hands this 1st day of November in the fifty-first year of the Kingdom of the West.

Pray know that we remain your humble servants,

Lord Hans Shaeffer
Lady Elena Verch Rhys