

HL Refr Bjarnarson and HL Ádís Ulfsdóttir (David and Suzanne Laney)



To Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellency and Friends,

Though in our 20 plus years in the SCA we have had the privilege of becoming friends with many of you, we appreciate the opportunity to introduce ourselves specifically as candidates for Baron and Baroness of Montengarde.

I (Adis) have served Montengarde in the past as a Herald Officer, Court Vox, Champion of Arrows and Champion of Bardic. I have also served as both a Kingdom Bardic Officer, Principality Heraldic Officer and on a plethora of Retinues as a Royal Script Writer. Mundanely, I am a Teacher with a Major in Theatre, described as having an energetic, boisterous and approachable personality. I am the entertainer in this Baronial partnership. I tackle problems with a combination of logic, humour and tact.

As a past Seneschal, and Knight's Marshall for the Shire of Stan Wyrn in Artemisia, I (Refr) bring practical thinking, a background in leadership and excellent problem-solving skills to the table. I am more of a calm, quiet soul than my gleefully loud wife, which I feel makes us approachable as a team. As an Airplane Maintenance Technician, I approach problems logistically and like to find solutions step by step. Both Adis and I prefer a team approach handling problems but are decisive when action is needed immediately.

We have put our names forward for Baron and Baroness for a variety of reasons. Having both been involved for over two decades, we want to give back some of that energy and joy that we ourselves have gained from being in the SCA. We absolutely are who we are because of the friends and family we have made and the skills we have gained by living alongside you playing the Dream. With Covid having forced us online, it's time to step back into the sunlight while continuing to benefit from being connected to those far away or less physically mobile. With Refr being mixed blood Cherokee and members of our family being part of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, it is important to us that we ensure that the Barony continues to prioritize inclusivity for all. A Baron and Baroness should be kind, gentle and caring.

Baron and Baroness is an essential, multifaceted task, rewarding in that Barons have the honour of making people feel welcome and in celebrating the skills and accomplishments of others. It can also be a job fraught with trials, struggles, and interpersonal conflict where we may receive the brunt of people's displeasure or be asked to assist with others' conflicts. We are prepared to address these concerns with empathy, respect and professionalism.

With Adis' theatrical background, we are confident in our ability to be either regal or amusing as needed during the Ceremonial aspects of being a Baron and Baroness and we both enjoy chatting with newcomers and helping connect them with experienced folk with similar interests. Our volunteer background on Retinues shows that we are experienced with and enjoy working with a variety of Royal personalities.

As the representatives of the Crown, the Baron and Baroness are not Officers and it is important for us to guide from the side when asked so that Officers can shine in the positions they have volunteered for without being micromanaged. It is our job to communicate and advocate for the needs of our people to the Crown, bring back word once decisions have been made by the Crown, and then support those Crown decisions at the local level. When we act as Baron and Baroness for the Barony, we will not be advocating for what WE think the Barony needs and wants. It is our job to represent the People and Council and we consider pushing our own personal agendas the ultimate disservice to both the Barony and the Crown. We will encourage the group to work as a team together to run the business side of the Barony, but it is important for us to remember that the Baron and Baroness are simply one vote among many.

We look forward to serving you, as either Baron and Baroness or as members of Council supporting the Baron and Baron.

Yours in Service,

Refr and Adis