

September 16, 2018

To your serene Majesties,

I am Baroness Marie-Therese Normand. I would like to be considered for Baroness of Ponte Alto. I believe I am a good choice because in the 18 years I have participated in Ponte Alto I have seen the barony flourish and dwindle, the fighting community, the arts, and the service sector wax and wane. I think with myself and Naran Numuchi as Ponte Alto's Baron and Baroness that we would bring aspects to the barony that have not been central to its growth before such as encouraging more women to fight, growing the archery community, and encouraging diversity.

So let me tell you a little bit about my SCA career. I started at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1986 with a group called MEAD (Medieval Education and Dance) that met once a week to discuss everything from dance to fighting to costuming. I was entranced by the fighting, and after a very memorable practice in 1988 where I got to swing a stick against a wooden street pole and have it bounce back into my face I decided I wanted to fight. It was my first fighting injury and I was hooked!

From that point on I began fighting and for nearly 10 years in the Richmond, Virginia area I participated in both Care Mear and Yarn Vid as Baronesses Champion to Baroness Leslin in Care Mear for a year, Knight Marshal of the College of Yarn Vid for 2 years, and Autocrat of Ice Axe on 2 occasions, as well as a representative of the baronial fight community by going to every event up and down the East coast for those 10 years. Then in the later part of 1999 I moved North for a better job and found Ponte Alto. In the 18 years that followed I served as support for the 6 separate baronial representatives on the fighting field, sewing, and as retainer for the various baronial courts. I have also retained for Kings and Queens, raised money for the Kingdom Travel Fund and stood in court to support Atlantia's Majesties when necessary.

Since coming to Ponte Alto I have held the office of Deputy Chronicler to both Wulfwyn and Brennan and then Lead Chronicler for the Barony for a combination of 4 years', I've been Seneschal for two years, Marshal and Deputy Marshal for 19 years, Warlord, Baronial Champion, and cheerleader. I've led 65 troops on the Pennsic war field and participated in East Kingdoms War Council and strategy meetings, as well as, led our current years' levy of fighters while mostly keeping everybody in one piece. I've kept the fighter practice going through lean times and encouraged numerous people through their enthusiasm to give back to the Barony or find their love in their arts, science, service and fighting communities. I believe there is a place for everyone and everyone should be made welcome. In that way I believe myself and my consort, Naran, can bring aspects to Ponte Alto as Baronial representatives that no other couple can. We see the SCA through very different eyes and can help others find their love of this Barony and this club.

If we are chosen I want to encourage more of every aspect of the SCA, more youth participation, more fighter classes both in the barony and on a Kingdom level, I want to see arts and sciences practiced and taught at events as educational tracts, I want to see gaming tents, and other amusements such as dance and bardic classes and competitions as a focus for event, not just off to the side.

We need multiple officers/deputies in case an officer gets sick or life happens, because it takes everyone to run a barony much like it takes a village to raise a Viking, it takes multiple individuals to run a club.

The end result is that I think the position is about the barony and as long as we keep that in mind and encourage the populace to be excited, participate, and enjoy their time with us we will grow and gain from the experience, and I think Naran and I can do that for the barony.