

The New SCA Media Policy: What It Is & What It Means To You

Introduction

The new Media Policy will require little action from the majority of SCA members. For most, the only requirement will be to direct reporters to the Seneschal or Media Officer if the press shows up at an event or practice.

We all have an obligation to support this policy, and for the general membership, this will require only a slight change in attitude and emphasis.

Background

SCA Culture has changed surprisingly little from the time of my first SCA event in 1970. Our population was so meager in those early days that events were often held in an area smaller than the hardsuit eric at today's Aten fighter practices.

We covered the cost of the fighter practice site, and other event sites, by passing around a helm. We would all drop in some money, and the helm kept circulating until it held sufficient money to meet the debt.

I recall only four officers, and if memory serves, one person was filling two of them. We had no membership, no insurance and no legal representation. The three directors of the brand new Corporation were all related, lived in the same house in Berkeley and were demanding that we all address them as "Your Serenity". Fighter practices were backyard affairs, and Officer Meetings and Curias were held in the Prince's living room; which was also the living room of the previous Prince, the Seneschal, the Earl Marshal, and three early Aten Kings.

This stroll down memory lane has a point: When the SCA was a tiny club composed mostly of students and a few adult science fiction fans, our world and the larger world were simpler places. Both of those worlds have changed beyond recognition in the 38 years since Ironstead brought the SCA to Arizona.

The wider world has become more litigious, politically correct, bureaucratic and generally complex. In the meantime, the SCA tried to remain that same little club none of us ever expected to last. The Corporation is facing crises that demand change on all levels of the Society if the Organization is to survive. In short, as we note how much the 42-year-old SCA has grown out, it's long past time for her to grow up.

Why Make Any Change?

A large part of the membership has historically tried to ignore the fact that the outside world even exists. Because of that attitude, we have existed for decades in what a previous SCA Media Officer called a "Bermuda Triangle of blind luck." We aren't generally perceived as malevolent, but our public image has been likened to that of "carnies". Not exactly dangerous, but a bit irresponsible and greasy around the edges. Some people have perceived us as a teensy bit sinister.

So it could be worse, but really, it should be so much better. Especially because it isn't accurate! While a few of our members might even have liked it, this negative image has a powerful effect on our ability to function that manifests itself in the following ways:

1. *Obtaining and keeping insurance policies:*
If we can't maintain insurance coverage, we can't hold events and will eventually perish as an organization. Government agencies, public parks and site owners rightly insist that we prove we have in-force liability coverage. We also need to indemnify our officers, or the best people will understandably refuse to serve.
2. *Securing venues for events:*
If property owners see us as a gang of thuggish barbarians, or even just as irresponsible idiots, they aren't going to rent to us. Thus, as we grow ever larger, the number of usable venues is constantly diminishing.
3. *Recruiting new members:*
When even one talented, intelligent, creative person is lost to us because of our negative media image, the entire Society loses. Further, many enthusiastic young people who could benefit from the Society and become wonderful members and officers may never be able to join us because of their parents' media-fed perceptions of the SCA.

4. *Relations with governmental agencies:*

If you are ever involved with running one of our larger events, you will be astonished at the various licenses, permits, inspections, etc., that are required. If we have a positive public image, we have an easier time developing good relationships with government personnel and procuring approvals with less stress and strain for everybody.

We also need to be aware that a bad public image could very well lead to those very permits, licenses, etc., being denied. If that were to happen in Florence, Arizona, for instance, Estrella War wouldn't happen.

5. *Relations with law enforcement and emergency services:*

In my experience, once police and fire personnel attend an event and talk to our members, they love us. In fact, many have joined the SCA. If we come into an area pre-perceived as a nice historical group and behaving like the normal, law-abiding citizens we are, it is easier on us and those whose emergency services we must have to function.

6. *Public recognition:*

The last time I checked, the SCA was the largest living history group in the world. In spite of this, and while the general public is now cognizant of the hobby of historical reenactment, few have heard of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Too many who have heard of us have heard wildly inaccurate information about us. Relations with the wider community are infinitely easier when they know who we really are and what we really do.

7. *Flow of accurate information:*

We've done a spotty job of educating our members and the result is that many of our members lack accurate knowledge of the purposes and practices of the SCA, Inc. It's imperative that the Media and general public be given accurate information. Therefore, we need to start doing a better job of educating our own members.

What Triggered These Changes?

A large part of the movement toward change has come from the evolution of the Corporation towards responsible, professional management and the rise to Corporate Office of members with professional skills and a clearer vision of the Corporation's position and future. In the wake of that trend, a number of unfortunate events have generated negative publicity for the Society, making public relations an urgent priority for the Corporation.

Like the Boy Scouts of America, many churches, various schools, etc., the SCA has attracted predators who take advantage of organizational trust, naiveté and perceived authority to prey upon our most vulnerable members. The most infamous of these incidents resulted in the 2005 conviction of Ben Schragger, ("Lord Ben the Steward"), a former East Kingdom Dean of Pages. Schragger was convicted of molesting 11 children, and is serving a 60+-year sentence for his crimes. Schragger's membership in the SCA was also revoked and denied. (For more information see *Resources and References* section below.)

The case has received a lot of publicity; local, national and international. Most of it has portrayed the SCA in a very negative light, and that has badly hurt the entire Society, especially the East Kingdom. It's unfair, but given our poor media image and lack of attention to press relations, it was inevitable. Now, we find ourselves playing a frantic game of catch-up as the parents of Schragger's victims are suing the SCA, Inc., resulting in more publicity that is negative.

What Exactly Has Changed?

The first changes in this direction happened a few years ago when the Corporation created a new office to handle media contact and general public relations. Previously, media issues had been handled through the Office of the Chatelain. We now have an initial Media Policy in place and most Kingdoms have Media/P.R. Officers.

The first thing we need to do is to control media access to the SCA to the appropriate Kingdom or local officers. In some cases that will be the Media Officer and in others it will be the Kingdom or local Seneschal. If a reporter simply shows up and a Seneschal isn't present, the senior or most capable officer present should handle the situation.

The second is to get our story out to the public by making sure that the reporters learn the truth about the SCA. The third is to make sure that our members understand what the SCA is really about and how it actually functions.

What's Expected of You:

Members:

1. If a reporter contacts any member about doing a story, you must contact the Media Relations Officer and notify the Seneschal. **Do NOT grant an interview without their permission and instruction.**
2. Never contact any media outlet or reporter directly. That is the Media Officer's job.
3. Report contact with a reporter regarding SCA within 7 days of the contact. Do not accept **any** solicitation from producers, casting directors or other production company or news organization staffers to participate in any television show as a member of the SCA, without consulting the Kingdom Seneschal and Media Officer. This restriction includes participation in documentaries and "reality" shows. The Society Media Relations Officer has the final say on member participation in television, radio and other broadcast media.
4. If you want to publicize an event, you must contact the Media Officer and Seneschal.
5. Notify the Media Officer and Seneschal if you become aware of media coverage regarding the SCA, be it negative or positive.
6. Before scheduling a demo, you must consult your local Seneschal (if you have one), or the Kingdom Seneschal. (See the *SCA Demo Policy*, below.)
7. Choose demo participants carefully and discretely.
8. Use real names unless you are discussing personae.
9. Never discuss the following topics with the media or during demos:
 - o Religion
 - o Lewd behavior
 - o Alcohol—Making, preparation, studies, distribution, sales, etc.
 - o Households
10. Don't use the words *mundane* or *medieval* during a demo, with the general public, or with any media representative. As the new Media Policy says, the word *mundane* is often considered insulting and patronizing. Use more accurate terms such as *modern-era*, *non-members* and *contemporary*.

While there is nothing wrong with the word, *medieval* (French= *middle period*), ignorance is always with us and many will absorb only last two syllables and come up with *evil*. So, awkward as it may be, refer to our era as the *Middle Ages*²² instead.
11. Be certain that words unfamiliar to general public, or those that might be confused by the public, are fully explained. For instance, many people have never heard of a *rapier* and the least well informed might only hear the first syllable and confuse it with *rape*. Some people will even hear the word *craft* and associate it with Wicca/witchcraft, etc., or something else they've seen in a movie. Make absolutely certain that you give a context for these words: Everybody knows what *fencing* is, and you can describe metalwork, weaving, etc.

Officers: All of the Above, Plus:

1. Make sure you and/or anyone in your jurisdiction who might be dealing with the media have press kits, and/or any other useful, approved materials.
2. Keep your Hospitaler/Gold Key Officers in the loop, as they are a common point of first contact.
3. Be sure that anyone who speaks for the SCA has the following qualities:
 - o Clean cut appearance & professional style
 - o Thorough knowledge of the rules, purpose and policies of the Society for Creative Anachronism
 - o Skill as a public speaker
 - o Skill at avoiding unfortunate topics
 - o Ability to accurately describe our organization without using jargon or "SCA-speak"

Example: It once happened that I was the only SCA Officer yet present at a Barony of Atenveldt fighter practice, when a local television station's reporter/camera team showed up. They were there to talk to people about allergies and high wind advisories, so we were a bonus. This happened in the same week that the Atenveldt Gold Key Officers' Yahoo Group was discussing the very topic. I related the incident along with some advice to the rest of the group. (The official report of that incident is in the documents section that follows the main body of this handout.) But first, here is a portion of that post that led to this class:

Advice portion- Gold Key Officer Yahoo Group Post:

- If the media contact you, direct them to your local Seneschal. If the Seneschal isn't able to do so, you must also contact the Kingdom Media Officer.
- Do not tell a reporter: "I'm not supposed to talk to you!" Simply and calmly introduce the reporter to the appropriate officer.
- *Never* contact the press directly yourself.

When media contact can't be avoided:

Be very careful if you are forced into media contact, as you don't know what a particular reporter's agenda might be. All too often, they are looking for something sensational and will go out of their way to paint us as wierdos.

- It might be a good idea to find out whether your local "fringie"s are SCA members. Most of the time they aren't, and this is useful for the Seneschalate/Media Office to know when talking to the press.
- The SCA doesn't require membership for participation and reporters ALWAYS go directly to the looniest looking ("Look at me!") fringe folk in pirate hats and chain mail bikinis. When you are the sole responsible party present, your biggest obligation will be to steer the reporters towards a correct perception.
- Be as brief as possible and stick to the facts:
 1. We are a tax exempt (501.c.3), educational Corporation dedicated to recreating the arts and culture of the courts of the Middle Ages. Our period is roughly from the fall of Rome through the reign of Elizabeth I of England, and our scope is Europe and lands with which Europeans had true cultural contact.
 2. We have strict combat and child safety standards.
 3. We are a responsible part of the wider community—just regular folks with a historically based hobby.
 4. Don't discuss anything that could be construed as loony or cultish. Telling them about courtly love and our efforts to practice the high standards of the chivalric ideal is great. Tales of drunken parties and scandalous behavior are not.
 5. Use real names unless discussing personae.
 6. Once again, be brief. Anything beyond the above should be referred to the Seneschal or Media Officer.

Is There Anything Else I Need to Do?

Participating at every opportunity in sanctioned interactions with the wider community would be very helpful, especially when we are assisting a charity. Showing good citizenship is not only good Public Relations, it's part of the chivalric ideal.

The most important thing our members can do is to help change attitudes within the membership. As a grown-up, 21st-century, educational corporation, the SCA can't be all things to all people. When you talk privately about the Society to friends and acquaintances, talk about what the SCA is, not what you think they want it to be. (The official definition from Corpora is included in the Documents section.)

But most of all, every one of us has to personally acknowledge that the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., is a (501-c-3) educational nonprofit, hobbyist organization, and part of the real world as each of us is individually a part of the wider community.

None of this will stop any of us from doing what we came here for, or lessen our fun. Being responsible will protect us all while insuring that we can keep enjoying the Current Middle Ages for many decades to come.

We all care about this club and want to do what's best for it. Here I leave the modern world and speak to you as not as a modern lecturer but as a Peer of the Aten Realm:

Good Gentles,

Recall your duty in courtesy and honor to follow this policy. Be mindful also, that as each Sovereign and Great Officer swears to uphold the laws of the Society, so do we all when we swear our fealty, allegiance and service. In all honor I urge you, hold fast to that duty.

In fealty to the Crown and Kingdom of Atenveldt I remain,

Banntheegn Alianora da Lyshåret, O.L.

SCA DOCUMENTS

Society Seneschal's Policy: "Media Relations and External Publicity"

I. General Policy.

It is the policy of the Office of Society Seneschal and Vice President of Operations that specific guidelines pertaining to interactions with modern media organizations and staff will be set forth in this document and subject to regular review in accordance with the needs of the Society and our ever changing modern environment. This policy crosses into both the 'game' side of the Society, and into modern era operations. The General Policy is to have a unified, professional approach to informing the Media of our purpose, activities, and when necessary, a position on relevant topics and events. To this end, the Society Seneschal and Vice President of Operations will appoint via formal warrant a Deputy Society Seneschal and Assistant Vice President for Medial Relations. Duties of this deputy include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Maintaining and monitoring the Media Relations Policy to ensure it is within the confines of customary modern era public relations Best Practices.
- ◆ Monitoring Media Relations Activities—as defined below—to ensure that the best possible image and 'face' is shown to modern era, organized news media.
- ◆ Assisting the Society Seneschal in ensuring that qualified persons fill a similar role within each Kingdom level branch.
- ◆ Assisting the Society Seneschal in ensuring that each Kingdom level branch has sufficient policy in place to ensure that each is in compliance with Corporate media guidelines.
- ◆ Assisting the Society Seneschal in developing for the President and the Board of Directors official statements that best meet the current and long-term needs of the Society.
- ◆ Developing Publicity Materials and Basic Press Kits—as defined below—for use by local, Regional, and Corporate officials when interacting with media, site owners, educational facilities, and governmental entities.

II. Execution of Policy.

The conduct of Media Relations at Corporate, Society, Kingdom, and local branch levels will be performed in accordance with the Media Relations Plan, at Appendix I of this handbook.

Appendix I - Society Media Relations Plan

1) Definitions:

Deputy Society Seneschal and Assistant Vice President for Media Relations: An official representative of the SCA, Inc., warranted by the Society Seneschal and the Board

of Directors for the purpose of accomplishing the duties outlined in Section One of this policy document. This official reports directly to the Society Seneschal, with matrix responsibilities to the President and the Board of Directors.

- ◆ Organized News Media. This includes but is not limited to major television news networks and local network affiliates, published newspapers, periodicals, print and online media outlets and syndicated publications, radio stations and their networks, and local free press and/or college outlets
- ◆ Media Relations activities. Activities involving information gathering and distribution through organized news media, whether the SCA, Inc., is approached by a media representative or the media participation is sought out by our organization via an individual, branch, or other Society representative.

i. Reportable media event. Any event or happenstance in which one or more of the following occurs:

ii. Media representative contacts the SCA for the purpose of doing a news story, column, or media presentation.

iii. SCA Branch or representative wishes to publicize an event or activity in modern media venues.

iv. Unfortunate occurrences that might result in media coverage, such as:

- ◆ Severe Injury or fatality
- ◆ Incident resulting in official law enforcement being summoned to an SCA activity.
- ◆ Negative news resulting in the organization being displayed in an unfortunate light—e.g. destruction of property, prominent member retained on criminal charges, etc.
- ◆ Image to the outside World. The image we wish to portray to the outside world should reflect our goals, purpose for existence and the finer aspects of achievement. To this end, people asked to speak to the media should show the best of:
 - ◆ Clean-cut image
 - ◆ Professional style
 - ◆ Knowledge of the rules, purpose, and policies of the Society For Creative Anachronism.
 - ◆ Skill at avoiding unfortunate topics.
 - ◆ Skill as a public speaker
 - ◆ Use vocabulary that is both meaningful and palatable to the public:

i.) Avoid the word “Mundane.” Never use it with the media—it’s patronizing and insulting. A better term is “Modern-era.”

ii.) Never discuss the following topics with the media:

- ◆ Religion
- ◆ Lewd behavior or anything that could be perceived as a form of sexual harassment.
- ◆ Alcohol making,
- ◆ Preparation, studies, distribution, sale, etc.
- ◆ Households.

2) Media relations at the local branch level.

- ◆ Materials to be used. Basic press kits will be created, maintained, and distributed to Kingdoms and the Corporate office by the Deputy Society Seneschal for Media Relations and be made available for download online. It is always acceptable to obtain and distribute these to the media and any interested body.

- ◆ Additional, Event/Occurrence based materials. Additional materials may always be requested to better meet the specific needs of an Event, occurrence, or particular media interaction. At a minimum these must be approved by the Kingdom-level media representative. If the interaction is with major mainstream Media venue, such as CNN, History Channel, etc., then the Deputy Society Seneschal for Media Relations is the approving authority for content and format.
- ◆ Reporting. Local individuals, branches, or other entities should report within 7 days a media interaction to their Kingdom representative and the Seneschalate whenever one or more of the following is true.
 - i. Outside Media Venue requests material for a story.
 - ii. Outside Media Venue arrives unannounced at an SCA event or activity.
 - iii. Outside Media Venue contacts the SCA regarding an ongoing news item.
 - iv. A story—positive or negative—regarding the SCA appears in an outside media publication.

3) Media Relations at the Kingdom level.

- ◆ Kingdom level Media Relations representative. Each kingdom will have a designated representative responsible for compliance to this policy. This person may or may not be an already-existing officer—that is left to the Kingdom to decide and manage. This person should meet the criteria contained in Image to outside world. When appointing this official, the Kingdom Seneschal should route the candidate information to the Society Seneschal and Deputy Society Seneschal for Media Relations. In the event a Kingdom has no appointed representative, the responsibility for compliance lies within the office of Kingdom Seneschal.
- ◆ The Kingdom level Media Relations representative will be responsible for distributing press-kit materials to local groups and individuals.
- ◆ The Kingdom level Media Relations representative will ensure all reportable events are communicated to the Seneschalate as well as the Deputy Society Seneschal for Media Relations.
- ◆ Kingdoms will ensure that events projecting either attendance in excess of 2000 participants, or known attendance by major media organizations are covered by the Kingdom level Media Relations representative.

4) Reporting.

The Media Relations deputy will report through appropriate supervisory channels as follows:

- ◆ Quarterly report of all media relations activity
- ◆ Incident reports whenever there is an occurrence of an incident involving items in or similar to the list under Reportable Media Event of this Policy.
- ◆ Copies of stories, articles, newscasts, and/or televised features should be forwarded through channels to the Deputy Society Seneschal for Media Relations for retention in the Knowledge Base. As appropriate, these materials will be added to the press materials available to all branches via hard copy or the Society Seneschal Website.

Sample Media Contact Report

Atenveldt Kingdom Media – Barony/Shire/College of _____

Initial Contact Date:

Date Submitted:

Contact Person: (Include name and contact information for any media person who contacts you. That way the Kingdom Media Officer can follow up with them directly if necessary)

Description of Incident:

Submitted by: (Include your complete contact information, so the Kingdom Media Officer can follow up if more information is required)

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**An Actual Media Contact Report**

**Incident Report – Atenveldt Kingdom Media – Barony of Atenveldt**

**Date Submitted:** April 15, 2007

**Initial Contact Date:** April 11, 2007

**Contact Person:** Veronica Sanchez, Channel 12 News, Phoenix

**Description of Incident:** Ms. Sanchez and her camera woman showed up at Encanto Park on Wednesday evening at about 6:30 looking to interview people with allergies to discuss coping with the then current high wind and pollen advisories in the Phoenix area.

I was the only Officer yet present and spoke with Sanchez briefly about my personal allergy problems, and explained also briefly what the Society is and what we were doing. They stuck around and got shots of the fighting, and later did a live feed during the weather report that included about 20-30 seconds of my interview about allergies.

**Submitted by:** Sandy McDaniel, Hospitaler, Barony of Atenveldt

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Society Seneschal's Handbook

Appendix E: Demo Policy

- I A demo (“demonstration”) is an organized educational effort to teach and/or display activities of medieval interest in general, and SCA interest in particular, to the general public. They are the primary way of introducing and finding new recruits for the SCA. However, not all demos are the type that results in new members. An elementary school demo is fun, but the likelihood of recruiting new members is low. A university or Renaissance Fair demo is more likely to attract new members, but does not necessarily contain the educational information of a school demo. Both are important, and a group should find a balance between them.

- II In order to be covered by SCA insurance, demos must be approved by the sponsoring group’s Seneschal and the branch may restrict who may represent them to the public. Restricting participation should be done with extreme caution and care. A demo may also be an “event” if it meets the requirements for an event as outlined in Corpora. At any demo, a paid SCA member must be present and in charge of the demo.

- III Demos where there are no combat-related activities do not require waivers unless they are held as part of an SCA “event.” Therefore, if there is no combat, and the demo is not held at an SCA event, waivers are not required. Waivers may be completed individually, or a roster waiver may be used. It is not required that spectators at demos sign waivers, as long as they don’t become participants.

- IV As with all martial activities, an authorized marshal of whatever forms are being displayed must be present if there is fighting at a demo. SCA combatants must be authorized in that weapons' form/style in order to perform at the demo.
- V Demo organizers should pay particular attention to site/host restrictions regarding SCA and live steel weapons. In general it is not a good idea to allow the general public to handle live steel weapons at a demo and live steel weapons must never be left unattended. SCA weapons (non-live steel) must not be left unattended and in plain sight and access of the public. (They may be stored unattended in tents, trucks, etc.)
- VI Since observers of SCA demos are generally not familiar with SCA combat activities, special care for safety must be taken. Boundary ropes are strongly recommended, and sufficient safety personnel must be provided to ensure safety of combatants and observers.
- VII A member of the SCA may not hit a member of the public with any weapon regardless of whether the member of the public is in armor and gives consent. Adult members of the public who wish to try armored combat should be referred to the nearest SCA group for instruction. (Note: target archery is not considered a "combat-related activity," and so waivers need not be signed for that activity, but be certain that all appropriate safety procedures are taught and followed.)
- VIII With specific safety restrictions, supervised children age 12 and under may hit an armored SCA fighter with youth approved weapons only, not rattan weapons. Waivers are not needed from the parents of children who take part in "fight-a-knight" activities. Minimum safety standards include keeping unarmored observers at least 10 feet away from the armored fighter and child. Individual Kingdoms may make more restrictive policies.
- IX Whenever a demo is done with children present, a minimum of two unrelated adults must also be in attendance at that demo. "Children" refers to anyone under the age of legal majority.
- X No one may bring weapons of any kind onto the grounds of a school without prior knowledge and consent of the school officials.
- XI There is no SCA policy that prohibits an SCA group from charging a "demo" fee to the organization requesting the demo. However, most groups accept donations rather than charging a set fee. With either a donation or a "demo" fee, all monies should be in the form of a check, payable to the "SCA, Inc., [group name]." Under no circumstances should an individual receive cash or a check made out to them personally. SCA site fees may not be charged at a demo unless the demo is held as part of an SCA event.
- XII Assuming appropriate safety precautions are in place, and with any necessary instruction, participation is a highly effective method of educating the demo guests—and fun for both the SCA member and guest.

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**Resources**

**Contacts:**

**Society Media Relations Officer**

Sir Guillaume de la Belgique (Scott Farrell)□

619-449-1407;

[media@sca.org](mailto:media@sca.org)

<http://www.sca.org/officers/media/welcome.html>

**Kingdom Media Officer**

Bannthegn Alianora da Lysharet, O.L.

602-230-7427

[media@atenveldt.org](mailto:media@atenveldt.org)

## **Kingdom Seneschal**

Baronessa Isabeau della Farfalla, O.P. (Leslie Vaughn)

Cell: 602-758-0079

[seneschal@atenveldt.org](mailto:seneschal@atenveldt.org)

Please, no calls after 9:00 PM

### References:

*SCA Demo.com*

<http://www.scademo.com>

Newcomers Are Nice: A Guide for Established Members

<http://www.sca.org/officers/chatelain/NewcomersAreNice.pdf>

Our Medieval World in the Media Eye (A *TI* article on SCA Media Relations)

<http://www.sca.org/officers/media/mediarecognition.html>

The Society Seneschal's Page

<http://www.sca.org/officers/seneschal/welcome.html>

CNN article on the Ben Schragger case:

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/Northeast/11/12/abuse.sleepovers.ap/>

SCA Releases Statement on the Schragger case:

<http://www.legiodraconis.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=1529&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0&POSTNUKESID=936c3375b0785e3f246a3f2f0a1a01c8>

SCA Instituting Background Checks for Youth Officers:

<http://scatoday.net/node/8438>

Announcement from the Board on Background Checks:

<http://scatoday.net/node/8654>

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### **Real World Vocabulary**

( This term is a proper period word. This term is a preferred term for SCA use as well. Drop this word entirely from your real world and SCA vocabulary.)

#### SCA Jargon

#### Comprehensible Modern English

*Autocrat*

**Event Manager, Coordinator or Steward**

*Chirurgion*

**First Aid**

*Eric*

**Field, fighting field, field of honor, list field**

*Exchequer*

**Treasurer**

*Feastocrat*

**Cook**

*Kingdom*

**Region, Regional Chapter**

*Medieval*

**Middle Ages, Gothic era, SCA period, etc.**

*Mundane*

**Modern era, contemporary, real world, non-members, etc.**

*Newbie*

**New member, newcomer**

*Populace*

**Membership**

*Seneschal*

**Regional, chapter or local president**

Sheriff/Constable

**“The Watch”**

Always call modern items by their proper names:

**Boom Box** - not - *bard in a Box*

**Broadsword & shield** -not- *sword & board* or *hardsuit*

**Car** -not- *dragon* or *firewagon*

**Children** or **Youth**- not - *smalls*

**Computer**, -not- *magic box*, *philosopher’s stone*, *scribe machine* etc.

**Costume, Period Dress, or Historical Clothing**- not- *garb*

**Event Registration, Check-in** or **Gate**, not *troll*

**Fighter** or **man-at-arms** -not-*stick jock*

**Norseman, Norsewoman or Scandanavian** -not- *Viking* (*Viking is a verb*)

**Telephone** -not- *farspeaker*

**Voice Mail** - not- *mechanical Scribe*

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Definition of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. from **Corpora:**

“ *The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Society) is a nonprofit educational organization devoted to study of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Most of its activities take place in the context of a social structure adapted from the forms of the European Middle Ages, which allows participants to take a first-hand look at various aspects of the life, culture and technology of the times under study.*”

For Society members, most of the world, and all of the centuries prior to the 17th, can serve as a source for personal research. However, the further you go from the core of Medieval and Renaissance Europe, the less the environment we offer will resemble what someone of your time and country would find natural or homelike.”

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**About the Author:**

*Sandra Bonds McDaniel is a former Law School Librarian and freelance writer. She lives in Phoenix with her husband of 32 years, Attorney Joseph C. McDaniel. (Count Joseph the Good).*

*Alianora da Lyshâret is a 12<sup>th</sup> C Norse/Irish noblewoman. She has served in a number of offices, including Co-founder and founding Seneschalle of the first SCA College, 4<sup>th</sup> Baroness of Atenveldt, Co-Main Steward of Estrella War XXI and is currently serving Kingdom of Atenveldt Media Relations Officer.*

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