

ISRC BOD/MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

Board Members in Attendance – Don Hood, Jim/Hellin, Casey/Monica, Jason/JenuWine, Chance deValmont, Richard Rochelle, Brent/Summer, Mark/Nikki

Members in Attendance – Stephanie Foxx, Keith Scott, Coco Petite Scities, Ryan Brainerd, Eric Posada, Allen Cole/Cheralyn, JJ Carmichaels, Connie Foster, Clinton Maurice, Jordan Byrum, King Sundancer, Carlee Roberts, Miss Inanna Phoenix, Tony J Carmichaels, Jase Clow, Jonathan Hash, Shane Orr, Brue Pierce, Candi Wrapper, Jarrett Clark, Jon Williams, Kourtne Capree, Tina Gee, Charles Hall, Envi Valentine, Laurie Kash, Red deValmont, Babalou, Touche Douche, Donovan Haynie, Maria Peters Lake, Gina Valdez, Kitty KariAll, Sofia Valdez, Daddy Robert Foxx, Jaklyn Michaels, Kimberly Michelle Westwood, Flawless Shade, Daniel Surreal Foxx, Glitter John, Devlin Lynn Phoenixx, Cicely/Harold Strong, Daddy Frank Schreckenberger

***** We welcomed the newly crowned Imperial Prince Royale Glitter John & Imperial Princess Royale Devlin Lynn Phoenixx to their first meeting *****

New Guest Acknowledgments: *Jonathan Hash, Shane Orr, Brue Pierce, Touche Douche*

Speakers:

Nikki Ontolodge Monet – Nikki called up Laurie Kash to the front of the meeting; Nikki explained that Kitty KariAl, who was First Lady to Rose Empress 58 Summer Lynne Seasons, started a tradition with First Ladies. She started the Empresses Emergency Kit, which is to be passed down from the previous First Lady to the new First Lady. Nikki also explained that inside the kit was bobby pins, nail glue, eyelash glue, straws, make remover pads, etc. As Nikki passed the Emergency Kit to Laurie, she also explained that the Empress doesn't use the kit as often as the Princess will. Laurie thanked Nikki for the kit and promises to pass it on to next reign's First Lady.

Gina Valdez – Had a question about the First Gentleman's Crown, why he received a crown and an explanation, if we could please talk a little bit about that. Chance's response – because it pleases me to do so, but seriously. My first gentleman lives on the non-binary and there is nothing in our bylaws and/or Ops Manual that stated he couldn't have a crown. It is only said that the Emperor can not have a crown not any other titles. Chance feels we need to break those boundaries a little and his first lady said she didn't want any symbol of office that her first gentleman didn't have. Gina pointed out that in the interviews for E&E, Chance stated that the was going to stick to traditions as much as possible. One of

those traditions is that no male title holder within the ISRC will wear a crown. Chance stated that he is not a court titleholder he is an invested title that is volunteering his time to help the court and his friends. Gina wanted to know if Chance thought that this was disrespectful in anyway to the Emperor's, Prince's or any other male titleholder? Male titleholders do not wear crowns. Maria Peters Lake asked if everything need to be written down and he is a titleholder within Chance's line and is it fair to the past's that he gets to wear a crown when none of them did? Chance mentioned that Keith Scott wore a crown throughout his year. Keith wore his crown representing the Sweethearts Organization, if he was doing First Gentlemen duties the crown came off and he didn't wear it. Maria is asking for proof that a current or past male titleholder of the ISRC is wearing a crown. Chance requested not to be yelled at, Maria pointed out that it's because they are passionate about the organization and that is why voice might be raised. She also tired of people doing things and asking for permission or apologizing later. Connie Foster was recognized – Chad Hammer was seen at Investitures wearing a crown on his shoulder. It was explained that Emperors can wear shoulder crowns. Connie feels that a mountain was being made of a mole hill, she also feels that the Ops and bylaws should be changed.

Cicely/Harold Strong – Since traditions are being discussed let me start by saying, your majesty, he is a member of your court not an extended member. As for crowns as of the last vote, no crowns for male titleholders, if it is to be changed it is voted on by the monarch's and discussed in a manner like today. It is then voted on and if passed then the college of monarch's pass it on to the BOD to make the change. Traditions are the cornerstone of this organization, more so than the bylaws and the Ops Manual, traditions are passed on to each year, they are what remains consistent from generation to generation. What happens if you break a tradition? Nothing, Cicely is told about it and usually tells the person bringing it to her attention to go and talk to the person that they feel has broken a tradition. Tradition's bind us together.

Moving into the discussion of White Knight, there has never been anything done based on race at all. As the first POC elected into a title in the ISRC, I heard racial slurs everyday of my reign. The title of White Knight had nothing to do with race at all when it was made. The reason for the White Knight title was because Salem or Eugene already had it and we were wanting to align with the rest of the courts. My point today is that if the White Knight title is offensive then maybe we need to change it. As of today, traditions are only changed by a meeting and vote of the Monarch's. Traditions are the foundation that this organization was built, if you have question's please ask me, preferably before the meeting. Also, when the Debutante title was created the Debutante wore white from head to toe, no percentage white or changing halfway thru the evening. They wore white because they were highlighted, you knew who the Debutantes were because they were in all white, they were being groomed to continue in the line of titles.

As a reminder that Thursday is the Grand Opening of the Art Show, we have the room reserved starting at 5pm to 9pm. There will be food and drink there, but the actual sit-down part of the Grand Opening will not start until about 7pm.

Monica Boulevard – Since Harold took us into the White Knight topic, I just want to take a moment and explain the process. The process is, if you have something that you want to be considered for a change to our bylaws or Operations Manual. You submit an Operations Amendment, I have copies of the form here, then they are read out loud; what the proposal is. Which gives us time to inform our membership the possibility of a change and the subject is then discussed at our next meeting. In this case, I know a

lot of you were hoping to have this discussion and change before the upcoming White Knight/Debutante Pageant. Unfortunately, the process would have the conversation literally the day after.

Questions were raised about not being able to speak at this meeting and who would get to vote when this goes to a vote.

King Sundancer – When I made the post, I was defending a friend who got triggered by seeing some posts about the Pageant. She is not from Portland; she has only been here for about 6 months. She comes from a region where the KKK posts advertisements. I'm not going to apologize for my post, Portland is changing, and we should be growing and changing with it. First person to ever say something to me about White Knight and KKK was my counterpart Sugarpill. I'm going to stand strong and am ready to move on and get this done.

Monica Boulevard – Monica explained that this speech should have been made next week, this was only for questions. She asked if King would like a form to fill out. The process has already been outlined on how these types of changes and things happen.

***Things got a little bit out of control and yelling back and forth, however, Monica explained that she is trying to find the best way for everyone to be heard and if they would like to be heard tonight they can come up and speak. But they are going to have to come back next week and say it all over again. The people that signed up to speak chose tonight to speak and will try and be back next week, but hopefully what they have to say will stay with the Board and will carry over into next month's meeting.*

Jon Williams/Coco Jem Holiday – Coco first started by apologizing to King for having to take most of the brunt of everything because most people don't know who she is and wouldn't confront her. Coco stated she is going to speak her truth as a person of color and to please not come at her sideways, it will not take long for her to speak. Started about a post asking what people thought about White Knight, 50% said the KKK, the rest mentioned this organization and some of those responses were disappointing. Coco moved here June 5th from Grand Junction, CO and they had a micro active KKK group. And to correct some people, not negatively but just to be honest and fair. This was never about the color; it was 100% about the name White Knight. When Coco and some of her friends google searched White Knight, they all got back KKK responses. Being a person of color in a same sex interracial relationship, that mattered to her. She believes in court systems and the good they can do with charities and helping people who don't otherwise have an outlet. She does have issue with the title name, Coco has also been told by other POC that this issue, title name, has been brought up to this group many, many times. That's disappointing across the board, with her only living her 6 months, her voice should not have more power or anything above the people that have lived here all their lives. That is disheartening and disappointing across the board. Black people of this community were being silenced by words like traditions, silenced by "this is the way it's always been done", silenced by "we should get over it", silenced by "your being to sensitive", silenced by "it's just a name". As black people, KKK is not just a name, White Knights is not just a name it's a symbol of oppression coming at us. Queer people do not have the ability to reclaim White Knights, black people and POC's have the right to reclaim White Knights. To think that white people have the right to do that is White Privilege in the worse kind of way and I'm not going to go over what White Privilege is, I think we are all educated enough to use google and find out what it means. This should have never gone on this far, the first black person to bring it up should have caused an emergency board meeting or something to change this name. The fact is that this conversation has made me so disappointed in this community in a way that I never thought I would be. I

was a strong black activist in Grand Junction, I put myself on the front lines allowing myself to be called every name in the book to deal with the Clan. I am now sitting in a room on a microphone with a group of people that I mostly know, dealing with an organization I am not even a member of to tell you that something is racist and you definitely need to be listening to people in the community that said it before I did. My last point about this is whether or not you decide to change this or not, this is a very clear warning and a very clear informative stance on this, you really have to take note that even though there are black volunteers in your organization or POC volunteers in your organization and are ok with how things are. This isn't just a Trump America type of thing, this isn't a new issue, the clan has had this name forever and will always have that name. And you have to always remember to consider your black and POC comfortability within your community.

Tajh Jordan/Flawless Shade – First apologize to Chance, I got confused between yours and your partner's comments. I want to apologize to King as Miss Gay Oregon that we had members attacking you. She is new to this organization but there is a generational gap, no one should ever feel uncomfortable to speak. We are family and we need to understand each other, I feel that we all need to apologize to King for what he received online. For us to keep up with our growth we need to have the conversation's. We all matter.

Kimberlee VanPatten – I am Rose Emperor 23; I am not black, but I have been in an interracial relationship for 35 years with Maria and with my previous wife Marilyn was also bi-racial. That doesn't give me right to speak on your behalf, I know that, I would like to say is that I have been involved with this organization since 1984 and this is the first I have ever heard of anyone bringing up the White Knight and KKK association. The idea that we have been just brushing it under the rug is completely invalid, I have sat on the board, I have been an emperor, I rarely miss a meeting. I don't recall ever having this conversation, it's not that we have consciously discriminated, we just may not have ever had a person of color ever run. We had a huge POC membership during the late 80's and 90's unfortunately we lost most of them to the AIDS's crisis. There would be a whole lot more POC's in this room right now if it wasn't for the AIDS's crisis, people I worshipped. This organization is not a racist's organization, come to Peacock in the Park this is the most democratic organization.

Kourtnei Capree Dove – I do not have a stake in this, I hadn't even heard about this issue until a little bit ago. I have always had an interest in this group, but it is because of things like this that I haven't gotten involved. To the board, I appreciate you and I thank you and appreciate you for the tolerance that you have shown tonight for the disrespect that has occurred. It is horrible to see people talk the way that some have tonight to people like the Emperor and Empress. To the POC and black people that I know, the young and the seasoned. We all experience racism differently, we all come from different backgrounds, we were all slaves on different plantations. So, the racism that is young person sees or this older person sees or even that this white woman sees, please keep that in mind. Because what you don't see is definitely happening. Just because its not at your front door doesn't mean its not happening.

Jarret Clark/Sativa GD Jones – I just wanted to say a few things on this subject, I have heard a lot from different people in this organization. They have talked a lot about history and tradition within the organization, I just wanted to remind everyone in this room that this organization does not exist with in a vacuum. We represent a full community that is out there, and we also exist in certain area. While Portland maybe quite progressive let's not be blind to the history of Oregon itself. It was founded as a white only state, it did not change until 1922. We can not be blind to the fact that we live in a racist

society that has been unfair to people of color. And when POC express their opinions or how things are affecting them, let's not come back with this is our tradition and its about the color they are wearing. You are completely ignoring their lived experience. We are here to represent and uplift all of our community, not just our organization. The issue with White Knight was brought to me as Miss Sweetheart, I may have represented by telling them to go to their board meeting or contact the president or monarchs. It's hard to know how to respond when people are talking about things that trigger them to discrimination or how they have been treated.

Carlee Roberts – I come to you as a multi-racial, white passing female. I want to talk about a couple things one is about the traditions and the people that came before us that lived thru the HIV and AIDS crisis and kept our community going. I want to respect that, and I want to also respect the people like Coco, Flawless and Kourtnei that put their identities on the line for us. This isn't a new thing for us we had sundown laws on the books as recently as 2001. When we talk about traditions and things, we have to remember that the KKK had the white knights as a tradition, when we say that traditions shouldn't change, are we talking about all traditions even the ones that are rooted in racism. Monica, I thank you for opening this conversation because we need to continue to have these types of conversations. Jenuwine and Chance, I think you guys are doing a great job, Jenuwine you and I had a conversation a while back about how the Rose Court and be more supportive of Trans and POC and you said something that was very impactful to me. You said we just need to be human beings and treat each other like human beings. And that is what we should be doing, when Coco asked the question online, I told her that I think about this organization and the KKK simultaneously. Not because I think this organization is racist its because those two things have impacted my life a lot. I will be back next month to talk about this because it means that much to me.

Jaklyn B Michaels – This is a topic conversation that I brought up at the beginning of my reign, I to, like Coco, am in a same sex interracial relationship. I did reach out King and other people in our organization to get their opinions. I to as the reigning Debutante am for change, most of the responses I have seen where, this is the first time I am hearing this, or I have never heard that before. I was just at the Emerald Knight Pageant in Eugene last weekend, they were crowning Emerald Knight 46 or 47, which means their Emerald Knight has been around 20 years longer than our White Knight. Eugene did us a favor by naming theirs Emerald Knight, because they knew that it was reflecting on their Empire and their city and I am 100% behind the changing of the name of White Knight to just Knight or Rose Knight. But most of the people's responses I saw online were from a white person or a white passing person. We do not live in the same world that we lived in 25 years ago, we now live in a world where a presidential campaign ignited a world that was not here 3.5 years ago. We now live under the Presidency of a person who advocates for LGBT and POC discrimination and that is not ok. I will be here next month but not as the reigning Debutante but as a person that believes that we are here to represent our entire community. If we do not listen to our community, whom are the people that will be leading our organization in the future, then our organization will die.

Bria Green/Envi Valentine – I just wanted to thank everyone that came forward today and spoke about this, I think its very important that we bring these types of experiences and opinions, especially the POC to the forefront of these spaces. These are experiences that some of you do not have, I really do not want to see these issues be swept under the rug, so I hope that every guest that is here comes next meeting to share those experiences. Because I am moved, I never really thought about this in that way until the post and I am even a little disappointed in myself because I am a part of this organization and

have held 2 titles and I didn't realize until Coco made that post. So, thank you Coco and I do hope that you come back and speak again so this doesn't get swept. I want to see further dialogue and see that this wasn't just something posted on social media or to stay relevant. Because this not an issue that people bring up just to stay relevant or to cause drama or friction.

Monica Boulevard – So King has officially submitted the form to change the Operations Manual. It is worded as the White Knight title is being requested to change the title name, Eugene is the Emerald Knight, so my suggestion would be that the ISRC change the title to Rose Knight. That is all we need to start the conversation and to forward this out to our membership and have a vote and further discussion at our next meeting with is February 3, 2020. King stated that Rose Knight was the most common name he had heard but wanted to make sure we could vote on a name and everything at the next meeting. Monica assured that it could be what ever color we decide, and we can amend the form then. Monica also wanted to assure everyone that this issue was not going to be swept under the carpet, that everyone's opinion and words tonight meant a lot to everyone on this board.

REPORTS:

General Membership – **Hellin/Jim** – As of this meeting we have 43 paid members

Treasurer's Report – **Don Hood** – Allocated funds - \$3207.72, available funds - \$61,299.76; as stated last month we have quite a few large bills that are coming due, ie – BOD insurance and storage unit. Travel Funds – Empress - \$1219.68; Emperor - \$838.04; these will change month to month because of patron memberships. Any patron memberships paid up and above the \$20 membership fee goes into the travel fund to help the Emperor and Empress with travel. IPP/Investitures - \$5646.01 total brought in; \$5680.69 in expenses; \$34.68 loss. Request by Don to extend the White Knight/Debutante Ad deadline to Thursday 2/9/20. Don made a motion to accept the Treasures Report, 2nd by Monica – Passes

As for a deadline for WK/DEB AD's – we never actually approved a deadline so now Monica is making a motion to set the deadline for AD's for the WK/DEB program to Thursday 2/9 at midnight. 2nd by Richard, passes

Secretary's Report – **Nikki/Mark** – Motion made by Nikki to accept the November & December meeting minutes, 2nd by Richard – Passes with 1 abstain

Vice President's Report – **Summer/Brent** – Nothing to report

President's Report – **Monica/Casey** – Nothing to report

Committees:

Traditions – **Cicely/Harold** – Noting to report that wasn't covered earlier

Website – **Kenny, Daniel & Ty** – Everything is good on the website, nothing to report

Advertising – **Sofia, Charles & Summer** – Charles is going to sit down with Carlos and go over things with him and get everything updated. He will be working with Carlos.

Social Media – Richard & Chance – Instagram Account up and running at ISRC_PDX, over 100 followers.

Title Holder's Reports:

White Knight/Debutante – JJ & Jaklyn – Stepdown is 2/1/20 at CC Slaughters, door 4pm and show 5pm. Thank you from both to everyone for everything that they have done for them during their year. Jakalyn has volunteered to join the Traditions Committee and work Cicely.

**Monica stated that when she talked about what to discuss and what not to discuss during the titleholder's announcement it was made very briefly, and she thought everyone understood. Afterwards she realized that that was not the case. So, during you time of announcing what you are doing and not doing and representing your titles. Do not bring up things that you are being paid for, that is your job, this is to discuss your volunteer work. Monica also wanted to publicly apologize to Flawless, she thought that Flawless had been round a lot longer and understood and realized after many conversations with her that she needs guidance just like the rest of us. And Monica's job is to give that guidance, so she wanted to publicly apologize for not realizing that and giving that guidance when needed.*

Gay Portland's – Sofia – Invite for everyone to Extra Generous, a benefit show for Outside In at Barbarella's on 1/12/20 from 3pm to 9pm. This benefit show is being put on by Gay Portland's, Sweethearts and Katya, it will be a tea party and pop up Drag Performances. They will have raffles and silent auctions, the venue Barbarella's has graciously offered to give 10% of all bar sales to the cause also.

Gay Oregon's – Daddy Robert & Flawless – Proposal for Gay Oregon and Gay Salem Show, Salem's BOD has already met and approved it on their end, there is no budget needed for this show. Love, Love, Love at the Southside Speakeasy, Doors at 5pm, Show at 6pm with a \$6 cover. All that is needed from the ISRC is for someone to be there to collect the funds. Monica explained that when we do a 50/50 show if it is done in Salem then Robert will collect the funds and send us our portion and the same is when the show is done in Portland, Don will collect the funds and send to Salem. Send flyer to Summer for approval since logo will be on it.

Prince & Princess – John & Devlin – Save the dates presented – 5/9/20 – Spring Ball and 12/12/20 for IPP/Investitures – Motion made by Monica, 2nd by Summer, Passes. Next, they wanted to present Liaison to be Daniel Surreal Foxx, liaison is not needed for P&P because they are basically part of E&E, however they can have one if they wish, the more communicating the better. Next, they wanted to present their Ball Chair for IPP 2020, Kimberlee VanPatten and Cintronious have agreed to be the Ball Chairs. Motion by Summer, 2nd by Chance, passes.

Emperor & Empress – Chance & Jenuwine – Save the date for 7/25/20 for a joint show with the reigning monarchs from Las Vegas, San Francisco and Hawaii. Motion made by Chance, 2nd by Nikki, passes. First of the Nobility of the Roses change boxes was installed at Little Tacos and Tequila who have chosen the ISRC General Fund as their charity. Jenuwine is having the Airline Tickets Raffle tickets printed this week, they will be \$20 apiece. Jenuwine is encouraging all Imperial Family Members and Board Members to try and sell these raffle tickets. The drawing will be at Coronation, the proceeds from these ticket sales go towards the cost of Coronation. If we sell 500 tickets at \$20 apiece that \$10,000 to help cover the cost of Coronation.

Old Business: As a reminder, the seats on the Board of Directors is up for re-election; applications are due by 2/24 and can be found online. Interviews for BOD seats will be on 03/02/20 and will include an ACE/ICE meeting; announcement of candidates on 03/06/20, place of announcement to be determined. Voting for BOD seats will be on 03/22/20 from 1pm to 4pm at Darcelle's with the Annual Meeting to be held directly after voting.

The Annual Meeting is also the one and only time each year that we can change bylaws. The due date of requests to change bylaws is 1/18/20, if your request is not received by 1/18 then you will have to hold onto your request until next year.

Valentines from Hell will be on 02/09, door at 5pm and show at 6pm. Don is requesting that all titleholders put together an auction basket, they are not doing a raffle this year just the auction items. Summer and Don's husband will be running the auction items, emcees are John D and Ty VanHelsing. The theme of the show is Motown, it's a celebration of all music that came out of Motown during its heyday. It's not a night of gowns and crowns it's a night to come out in your best tough drag attire and looks. Pride of the Roses Scholarship is the beneficiary of this show.

On the back of your treasurer's report is a BOD budget, every year the BOD is required to put forward a yearly budget. Budget is built for what the BOD could possibly need, it can be updated and changed throughout the year. Question was asked if the webmaster fee was included and it is. Motion made by Don, 2nd by Chance, passes.

New Business: Jenuwine is presenting a proposal for an Ops Manual Change – 2 different ones, one is for a typo and the other one is for an actual amendment. Both are on page 29, First one is on page 29, section B – Calling Meetings, Section 5 – Subsection (as listed) b – Need to change this subsection to D, since and A, B, C already exist. The actual amendment is for bullet point 3 in this subsection – the change would be to include email if that is the monarch's preferred method of contact.

Other Amendment that was submitted tonight by Mr. Gay Portland 42 – Ryan Brainard. The Amendment reads – that we change the Ms. title to MX or give the candidates running for a Ms. title to chose either the Ms. Title or MX title. Would also like to see the Empress title be able to choose Emprex title if desired. With our growing Trans and Non-Binary Communities this would open the door for them, and other courts are already having those options. And it would be good for the Rose Court to grow with the community.

Summer Lynn Seasons sent an email to the board earlier asking for a donation and wanted to explain what it is for and everything. As of right now Esther's Pantry and Our House is in a capital campaign to get a new Deliver/Pick up vehicle. The current truck was a gift from Providence about 20 years ago and currently costing about \$2000 a month in repairs. They got a grant from Clackamas County of \$10,000 to get a new truck, but we have to match it. Our House came up with a campaign that any group that would donate \$2500 will get their Logo on

the back of the truck. This would be a natural fit for the Rose Court because the pantry is named after passed empress Esther Hoffman Howard and is currently being ran by Rose Empress Summer Lynne Season and Rose Emperor Bill Spencer. So, what we get with this donation is 10 seats to their annual GALA, along with name recognition throughout the GALA and program. Also the ISRC logo would be on the back of the truck stating “ this truck is sponsored by” as of right now there is only the Clackamas County logo, no other groups have offered to purchase this level of sponsorship and there is only 4 more days to get these sponsorships. Summer is proposing that we donate \$2500 to Esther’s Pantry for the new truck and get the ISRC logo on the back of the truck along with 10 tickets to the Our House Gala. Motion made by Don, 2nd by Hellin, passes with 1 abstention.

Gary Opal – Happy Birthday to Gary – During Chance’s Campaign along with Darcelle and Absolut a dollar of every Absolut sales was to be donated to the ISRC General Fund. Gary sold \$414 and was turning that over to the court tonight, thank you Gary.

Monarch Shout outs

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35pm –