The Captain's Corner

Captain Format & Community Newsletter

In the Cargo Hold

Here's what is in this issue

- **Candidates' Introductions:** On Pages 2-4 you will find where our candidates introduce themselves to the wider Captain format community. If you know the basics of the format, but don't yet know the individuals running in the election, that is a great place to start.

- **Questions and Responses:** Starting on Page 5 you will find the candidates' answers to the three standard questions we sent out to them. If you would like to find out more on their positions, we encourage you to reach out to them on our Discord.

Navigator Guide

Here is where you can find us

https://discord.gg/PGAREPnBJq

@PlayCaptainMTG

reddit.com/r/MTGCaptain/

facebook.com/groups/mtgcaptainformat

Special Edition

Elections are this week

This is a special election edition of the Captain's Corner. This weeks' elections are for the governing body of the Captain format, with elections for the positions of Elected Administrator and Scribe taking place. As such, to help promote an informed electorate, this edition of the newsletter will focus entirely on the elections. Firstly, let's address some commonly asked questions.

What do the Elected Administrators (EA) do? There are seven Elected Administrators in total that help maintain Captain's democracy by collectively filtering, organizing, and processing proposed rule changes and bannings/unbannings. They serve for two year terms and are limited to only two non-consecutive terms. If you would like to learn more, please read our constitution that can be found on the Captain website, or click here: (http://mtgcaptain.cards/Constitution.html)

What does the Scribe do? The Scribe is part of the Elected Administrator government body, though they have no veto or voting power. Their responsibilities include recording the EA's discussions on propositions, keeping those discussions focused, updating official Captain documents when a change is made, and publishing their records to maintain complete EA transparency.

Where do I vote? You can find the vote on our website: **http://mtgcaptain.cards/EAandScribeVote**

Let's Meet the Candidates

We asked each candidate running for the position of Elected Administrator or Scribe to write an introduction for themselves so that the community can get to know them better. These are arranged below in alphabetical order.

Ammo37#1317

"I was on the ground floor at the creation of this format. Sat through meetings and philosophy discussions before we had any kind of structure within discord. Helped collate people after the diaspora. I've always put the format first above my own feelings and ideas and I will continue to do so. I firmly believe in the ethical core of Captain, transparency and [a] community-led format. I have my own ideas I'd like to champion and discuss, but I am not married to my own ideas. I will uphold that anything we do must be thought out and discussed, and have reasoning behind it. I will act as a foil for others' ideas to explore their merit and refine them. Above all I wish to see this format grow and thrive as I know it can. We have already accomplished something amazing, now we just need to keep it going."

Furry Combat Wombat#4959

"Hello, my name is Furrycombatwombat, and I'd love to have the honor of being one of your elected administrators. I have been playing MtG for around 10 years. I have experience in nearly every format at many competitive levels.

As such, I have a firm understanding of how card interactions can either be healthy or toxic to the fun of the game for all players. Feel free to dm me with any questions :D"

Joats#2694

"My screen name is Joats or saJoats. I've been a MTG player since 2011. I play mostly FNM at [my] local game store. Standard, pauper, and Commander. I play Commander with my local group on the weekends. While not playing, I work as a designer/architect, create gaming content for fun, speedrun Hitman (2018), participate in gaming competitions, and enjoy exploring other creative endeavors."

Loller#3896

[No introduction has been received at time of publication]

Mekkis#8195

"I'm nominating myself for EA.

A bit about myself: In my two decades of Magic, I have been a good magic player. Then an L2 Judge. Now I am neither :)

I am a firm believer in evidence over anecdote, and results over hyperbole. I will try to ensure proposals are based on documented evidence.

I am willing to accept that the Captain format may sit in a lull for some time, but needs to be ready for the next influx of interest when WotC inevitably makes Another Bad Decision.

To this end, I believe that we need to largely maintain compatibility with EDH, and display cohesion and community to prevent a rehash of the Previous Discord Server.

As a player in the APAC region, I hope to counter the apparent US-centric bias that we have seen.

If you have any questions on where I stand, please message me and I'll try to get back to you."

RawHawk#1093

"Hello, I would like to enter this role as an Elected Administrator. My education, certificates, diplomas, and real life experience in administration would give me the skills to enact popular demand into reality.

With a decade of experience as a Senior network, systems, security, and infrastructure administrator I have the disciplines to see a demand and implement it in a way that not only functions but also serves a purpose greater to the many over the few.

Since October 2003 I have been actively playing Magic the Gathering starting as a Vintage player eventually branching out to Modern, EDH, Standard, and now Captain. With these 17 years of experience in the community I have seen many shifts and changes. One thing always stays the same: Wizards of the Coast is a company and we are buying their product. But the product is not what we remember. It is the times enjoying the product with the people we care about. Winning, losing, and sometimes turns taking so long we run out of time to play. Smiles, forehead wrinkles, head scratches, asking 'Will you pay 1 for that?'.

Protecting the time spent and quality of gameplay is why I am running. Whatever the community demands, I will enact.

If the community mass-demands something I do not want, I will be the first person to volunteer to code the web page to announce the new changes the community wants. It is us working together democratically that will bring balance back to this game.

It is the purpose of an EA to push new changes across without bias. I will enforce the Constitution and will demand rigid guidelines all EAs must follow with complete transparency."

Shushir#4597

"Hey all, Shushir here. I'm announcing my candidacy for the position of Elected Administrator. I view the position of Administrator as a | conduit to reflect and carry out the will of the Captain community at large, which I believe should take precedence over my own opinions on any specific changes to the format or Constitution. I am confident that my years of leadership experience in both logistical and executive roles in multiple organizations will serve the community well and help carry out their will effectively and efficiently. While I believe that the community's will at large should carry precedence over any of my own positions as an individual, I would like to take steps to help increase deck and playstyle diversity within the format of Captain, including steps to make aggro a more viable archetype in a format where combo and control decks seem to reign supreme by numbers. I hope that the community will choose to put me in a position in which I'm able to best carry out my primary goal, which is to help the format grow and prosper, and to build a strong, interconnected community. If anyone has any questions about my opinions on any specific format issues, I will freely discuss them."

SillyHalfOrc#5235

"I know this format cannot survive as a Commander derivative. We need to experiment with new rules, bold changes and better ban list

management. As an EA, I promise to be open to crazy and radical departures.

I see the blacklist as a direct obstacle to our democratic intentions and our evolution. I think that if the community wants to play with silver border cards, conspiracies or even BABs they should be able to. The way it is structured to be resistant to change is frustrating as the community is capable of self-regulation.

Above all, the will of the community is the most important thing. Regardless of what I want, the community comes first."

That.Schrade#5566

"I nominate myself, That.Schrade, for the position of elected administrator. I am fairly new to the game as I have only been playing for around 4 years. I originally got into Commander because of the opportunity for multiple different and unique play styles and decks. As an EA, I will be looking for all crazy and unique ideas that the community has. I think for Captain to grow and evolve into something separate from Commander, it has to be open to new suggestions and various ideas coming together. My dms will always be open to those who have ideas or just want to ask me about something."

Xenagos#6969

"Hello my name is Xenagos and I'm here to officially announce my candidacy for EA. I've been active in the creation of the Captain format since the beginning, and a Magic player for nearly a decade. I want to help elevate the voices of the community while maintaining transparency and reasoning in my decisions. Most importantly, I vow that I shall not be cringe. I look forward to serving the Captain community. If you have any questions about my platform, do not hesitate to reach out."

YinsoTheAkuma#9229

"I nominate myself, Yinso the Akuma. The Captain Format is chiefly a democratic endeavor run by the community. The role of EAs is to facilitate the will of the community and strictly obey the Constitution as-written. It's not a position that requires conventional political agendas and it does not carry any power, only duties to serve, to be eminently answerable to the community, and to hold other EAs to that same standard. As a member of the community, I think Captain is in trouble. We've lost a lot of inertia and morale is low. We need to create ways to engage our existing community, demonstrate value to potential members, and distinguish ourselves from Commander. Captain conludia est."

The Scribe Candidates

HobbitWhoCould#4068

"I've just entered my name in for Scribe this very moment. I tried to put it off until the last minute to give anyone interested a chance, but it seems there is nobody. I believe my qualifications and past experiences here speak for themselves, but I'm happy to answer any and all questions on the subject matter.

I will add that I have spent nearly a third of my life studying governance and political theories, and my position at a large corporation often involves meetings with 45+ people. While we do not follow Robert's Rules of Order in the business world, it is a subject I'm well versed at, and to this day I'm extremely proud at how well the ConCom meetings went."

Footnmouth#0607

"For the record I would like to state that I have ZERO experience as a Scribe. I know no Robert's Rules. I've never held a ConCom meeting. And I'm usually pretty shy when it comes to keeping order in general, especially during Voice Chat."

Question 1: What are some feasible ideas that you and your fellow elected peoples can do to increase community size and activity, both short- and long-term?

Ammo37#1317

"Engaging in town halls with community members, and holding 'for fun' tournaments."

Furry Combat Wombat#4959

"I believe that the most important thing for us is that we find someone very popular in the MtG community to endorse us, either through casual outreach, or possibly through some sort of sponsorship. Our largest amount of momentum was in the weekend of the inception video of the format. Since the dumpster fire that was the first few days, everyone thinks we are dead.
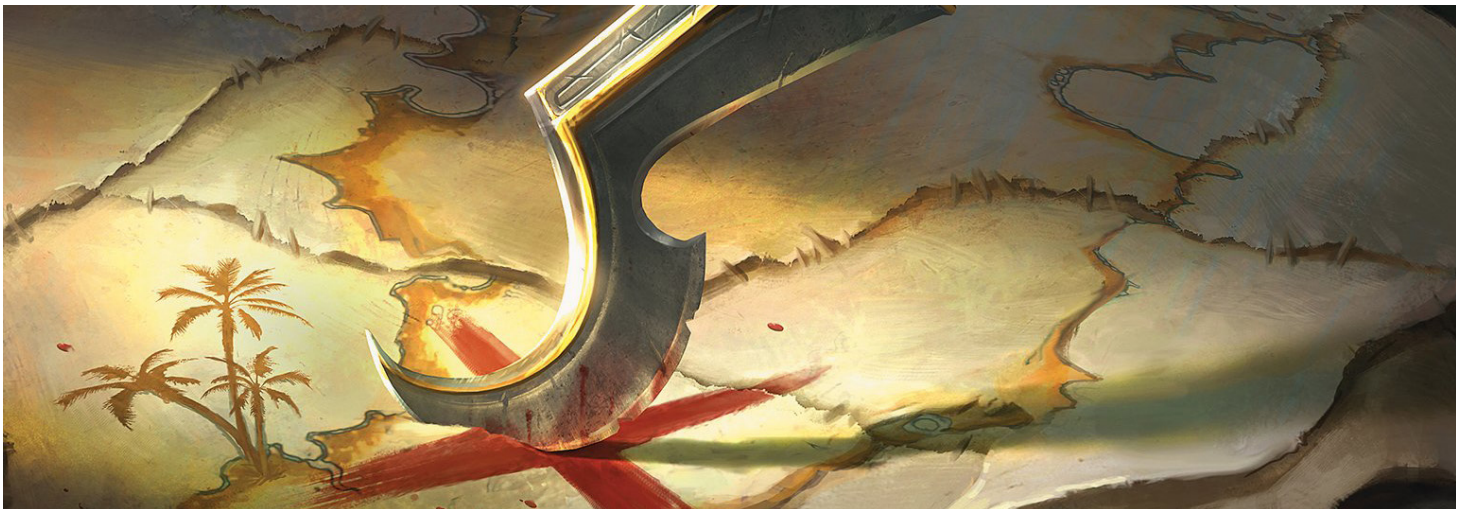
I have talked to people at my LGS and online playgroups about captain. All of them associated the name with the other group. We need to change that through word of mouth of our playerbase. Thus, I believe it is the responsibility of everyone in this community to work together, and especially the EAs and Social Media team to spread awareness of who we are, and what we stand for."

Joats#2694

"We all know that the card shops and everything have been closed down for a while. It's hard to actually go out and spread the word, I have been telling my playgroup that I play with in my house regularly. They're on board with Conquest and whenever voting gets out for this [Captain] they'd be interested as well. Short-term I'm going to be realistic, I'm in the middle of a move this month. But occasionally I am part of the gaming community for The Hitman series and I stream occasionally. So, I'd be up for having public discussions on my thoughts and feelings during any of those streams, which will be going to twitch. Look me up or go on to YouTube and look me up. You can find me on the same name, I just opened up a Twitter account as well as a Facebook account."

Loller#3896

[No answer has been received at time of publication.]

Mekkis#8195

"I figure that the best way to increase player numbers is to keep Captain compatible with EDH, and act as an alternative when Wizards inevitably makes another unpopular move."

RawHawk#1093

"Find a means to gather finances, and use this to advertise. Specifically use keywords and tags on algorithms so that people searching for similar content will find us as the top result.

Push our image to the top of the boards in a positive manner. I would also like to find a means to gather more volunteers in addition to general players. I would like to grow internally but also automate. It takes more effort in the beginning to automate but it means there is less overhead in the long term.

This duty is separate from other tasks as it requires EAs to perform without plans or actions of their own. Rather they push others' ideas across the finish line. IT would be the ones to automate and reduce work over all, [and I feel] I should state I believe Social Media is the voice of Captain"

Shushir#4597

"If someone is not interested in growing the format and taking in new members and making them feel welcome, they shouldn't be an EA, period. I think the social media and IT folks actually have the largest role to play in community outreach. While we as EA's should be doing whatever we can to reach out through content creation (like gameplay videos, etc) the nuts and bolts of managing the format's technology and social media are crucial."

"...I'd regularly canvass and participate in community outreach while in executive positions in the past. The more participation the better, especially as volunteers will not always be available"

SillyHalfOrc#5235

"This isn't something I am particularly good at. I am more than happy to aid the fellow EA's in their efforts, but I find my skill of persuading people to join things to be lacking. I will say that we need to, 'pull a stunt', to get back in the public eye of the wider community, though what exactly that would look like I am a bit fuzzy on. Long-term growth will be a byproduct of how the format is run and how fun it ends up being to play."

That.Schrade#5566

"I think to get the community to grow and get people active we need to find mtg 'celebrities' or use EAs as 'celebrities'. Just speaking of using the EAs as 'celebrities', they are probably the closest thing the format has to the face of the format. I think doing stuff like events where the EA play against each other and play decks voted on by the community could get people to return being active and get people join the community as there will be stuff going on again for them to be a part of and really start enjoying playing the format.

This will probably need help from the Social Media and IT Teams in order to get this publicized for it to be really effective "

Xenagos#6969

"I think the most important thing both short and long term is to show that the democratic system we have set up works. Not just that the community has the ability to advocate for and make changes to the format, but also that said changes make the format better. Captain was created because people weren't happy with how the RC was handling things, we need to show that we have the better system, and people will come to us."

YinsoTheAkuma#9229

"In business, you want the shortest route from a customer's wallet to your wallet. Here we want the shortest route from 'Why should I play Captain?' to the sound of cards shuffling. So I'd propose as objectives outside of the EAs' remit: A 'Golden Road' which leads new players to our landing pad which explains why Captain is fun, to a set of rules, and then to a game; continued outreach not just by the Social Media team but by the community to loudly and publicly play Captain but especially to be friendly and receptive to feedback--no matter how crude--from folks outside of the community, and a shift away from the Discord

and to the website and other social media."

[YinsotheAkuma in reply to HobbitWhoCould] "IT, SM, and Moderator Roles; My chief concern is always with EAs being transformed by a general conflation of 'elected' with 'power-holding' into positions of actual power. EAs serve the community, serve-serve, as in a subordinate role. The Constitution's requirement that EAs be active in the community is not a requirement of celebrity, but of being a member of the community who happens to be active. Giving all powers not allocated in the Constitution to EAs is a formula for the toxic specter of powerful EAs to manifest. The powers of EAs are strictly defined by the Constitution and the community must find a way to manage those other powers itself or--as a last resort--codify them in the Constitution, preferably separate from those of the EAs."

The Scribe Candidates

HobbitWhoCould#4068

"I think engagement is, and always will be, key. Being active on Discord, social media, etc, and being present within the community. I believe having games between the Elected Peoples streamed on a regular basis (at times, using proposed rule changes) will be of great help to the community. I have been striving to steer us towards a Magic-focused community by playing games with fellow members, and will continue to do so. My current project has been to organize a Monthly Captain League (with prizes and, hopefully, to eventually aid in charitable causes) and will continue to work on this project. I believe it will be a key move in driving engagement, bringing in new members, giving us good publicity, and overall being a good thing to do for the world."

Footnmouth#0607

[No answer has been received at time of publication.]

Question 2: Will you passively record community opinions or actively seek them out?

Ammo37#1317

"I plan on a combination of active and passively receiving community opinions. Having a way for the community to leave feedback directly with EA's is paramount to me, as well as having times where we actively discuss with the community and ask them questions. Polls and referendums are part of passively seeking community opinion as well"

Furry Combat Wombat#4959

"As an EA, I would do a combination of both. My DMs will always be open if any community member wants to talk to me about their opinion. Additionally, I already do, and will continue to actively seek out opinions on certain subjects, most prominently while playing."

Joats#2694

"We all know that the card shops and everything have been closed down for a while. It's hard to actually go out and spread the word, I have been telling my playgroup that I play with in my house regularly. They're on board with Conquest and whenever voting gets out for this [Captain] they'd be interested as well. Short-term I'm going to be realistic, I'm in the middle of a move this month. But occasionally I am part of the gaming community for The Hitman series and I stream occasionally. So, I'd be up for having public discussions on my thoughts and feelings during any of those streams, which will be going to twitch. Look me up or go on to YouTube and look me up. You can find me on the same name, I just opened up a Twitter account as well as a Facebook account."

Loller#3896

[No answer has been received at time of publication.]

Mekkis#8195

"I do not intend to actively seek out proposals. I will use existing in-person and social networks to get a community feel, however."

Shushir#4597

"Actively seeking them out is important: whether it be through word of mouth, polling, or preferably both, we should actively involve the community in our thought processes while we're coming to conclusions and how we decide what we do on different topics."

SillyHalfOrc#5235

"I am prone to lurking for excessive amounts of time. I literally just made a Reddit account to post a Jeweled Lotus meme (despite lurking on mtg memes for like 3 years). I initially joined the Captain discord with the express intention of just lurking to see what was happening. Odds are pretty good I'll stumble across a proposal somewhere, take a screenshot and share it at the EA meeting if it doesn't come up. I did something similar during the ConCom meeting where I brought criticism of the Captain name I saw on Reddit (yes, before I made my account) and offered it on their behalf. Beyond that, I am always happy to join conversations when I am not in lurking mode to offer suggestions and feedback."

That.Schrade#5566

"My personal philosophy is to find all of the weird and out there ideas, as you can't solve a problem or make an informed idea, without knowing all sides. So as an EA I would probably first state my personal opinions to the community so that those who want to change my mind or make me see a different opinion can formulate their thoughts better. But I don't think necessarily everyone will be willing to put out their thoughts or ideas on every opinion, so it might be needed for the EA and SM/

IT team to work on giving the community multiple opportunities and really incentivizing it to them"

Xenagos#6969

"I think it's the job of EAs to be actively searching out the opinions of the community. I plan on having town halls where I can talk to members of the community at scheduled times, and I plan on being active on social media and the discord talking to community members about their feelings on the format, especially before votes."

YinsoTheAkuma#9229

"In the unlikely event it's necessary to solicit opinions from the community, I would seek them out. It's also important to consider members of the community who may not be as active or vocal. It's important to actively seek those members out and understand their perspectives."

The Scribe Candidates

HobbitWhoCould#4068

"I will absolutely seek out community input and advice, as I have already done. A decent amount of measures in The Constitution were ideas mentioned by community members. I diligently read through chat to add things people mentioned to the agenda, and actively ensured every voice was heard and respected. I will continue to do so, without pressuring any individual or attempting to sway them. Any voice I have will be as a member of this community and on equal footing with every other member. I have and will champion the voices of every member that chooses to join our fantastic community."

Footnmouth#0607

[No answer has been received at time of publication.]

Question 3: In the event a vocal minority puts forth a proposal that narrowly fails the vote, do you feel it is the EAs informal duty to assist those who put forth the measure, to tweak it, so that it might pass next time? Would you let your personal bias influence which proposals you assist, or would you help those you didn't personally agree with?

Ammo37#1317

"I will do my personal best to examine every proposal that gets put forth, and work with people to discuss the merits of them. Generally ideas aren't strictly bad or good, they are nuanced. If we can work out why people want a change, and why others don't, it's possible to find a different solution that tackles the issue."

Furry Combat Wombat#4959

"I believe that these sunset proposals would also be an effective means of banning/unbanning cards with a lot of support on both sides. For example, The community could vote to unban Biorhythm for a (1 or 2) month period then vote again. (The latter of the votes requiring 66% to unban) And these sunset proposals would be one way I'd encourage less supported ideas to tweak. Honestly, it is nearly impossible for our implicit biases to not get in the way of that. For example, if someone proposes to allow 4 copies of each card, I personally would probably be less likely to assist in the formation/revision of that proposal than others"

Joats#2694

"I suppose that's highly dependent on what that vote was on. There may be a need to tweak it or there may be a need to just have a revote on the same proposal next time. But whatever it is it does call for further discussion. I'm not against changes being put on a watch list of sorts but as long as the proposal was publicly out in the open and votes

were publicly shown to be at a certain percentage, that in itself should initiate more conversation. If it's something that I don't agree with, that I am personally biased against, rest assured it's not going to be kept in secret. But I feel like if people voted for me they would vote for me based off of what stances I would want to push forward and what I would want to hold back. If it becomes apparent that a majority of people don't agree with that, well that is why we have temporary holds in office. I don't want to restrict people from playing with the vast majority of cards available in magic but I do believe that a majority of cards that wizards has pushed can make the format unhealthy. One of those might be jeweled lotus from the commander legend set. I'm also against cards like liesa, shroud of dusk that cheat commander tax although it is not as powerful as some of the other cards that cheat commander tax. But I feel that wizards is ignoring an element of the game in order to push cards to push products. I hope it doesn't get worse. There are a lot of things I like in commander and a lot of things that I'm hating, but anyone can ask about my current opinion through a dm, twitter, or on stream if I am doing that. Thank you"

Loller#3896

[No answer has been received at time of publication.]

Mekkis#8195

Would you let your personal bias influence which proposals you assist, or would you help those you didn't personally agree with? If a proposal narrowly fails the vote, I feel that it needs more than "a little tweaking" to get it to pass. We don't want to alienate 5% of the community, let alone 45%

RawHawk#1093

"I would not modify the question or questions, I would not modify the poll in any way, without getting the community to discuss and come up with changes to the barely-failed poll. I feel it is my responsibility to assist in either direction, but ultimately let the community determine its own direction. If there is a vote that fails to pass which I would want to fail on a personal level, I will still work with those who wanted it to pass successfully in order to perhaps capture something on their end that was missed. I would do this as it is my hope an EA would do the same for me. If there is a vote that fails to pass which I would want to pass on a personal level, I will still treat it with no greater or lesser urgency than if it went the other way. My stance on all duties will fall somewhere between lawful neutral and true neutral, depending on the subject at hand.

Shushir#4597

"I firmly believe that if a proposal failed or apparently failed due to mechanical issues when it goes before the EAs, it likely indicates a failure on the EAs' parts to properly interpret the will of the community members that put it forth. It's every individual EA's duty to interpret the will of the community and account for that in the mechanical wording of proposals between when the community puts them forth and when they go before the EA's for a vote.

The same should typically hold true for proposals that pass through the EA's and go back to the community for a final vote, and for similar reasons. When it comes to making sure that the wording of any given proposal is mechanically sound and conveys the intent of the community members that put it forth, personal bias should 100% not play a role in whether or not an EA should assist with making sure the proposal is mechanically sound at each stage they interact with and interpret it."

SillyHalfOrc#5235

"The way I see it is the EA serves as a barrier to mob rule. That is their 2nd most important

function. The first function is as 'the power' of the constitution manifested. That means the EA has to be able and willing to vote against community wishes when appropriate. This also means that the EA's can bring such proposals to the floor, provided that they aren't at capacity. It is also important to create spaces in the community for proposal feedback so that people can tweak before submitting. To speak to my bias and how it affects my votes... If it's bad for the format, it shouldn't happen even if I personally want it. For proposals I don't like (but are neutral or maybe even good for the format) I would probably send them to a community vote and campaign against them. I don't know why I wouldn't personally like something that is good for the format, but I don't rule it out as a possibility."

That.Schrade#5566

"I think that if there was a proposal I was against but there was a good part of the community that wanted it to be passed, I would probably get into communication with those in favor of it and try to see their full opinion on the issue. If they can convince me then I would help them but I'm still a member of the community and if I have heard all arguments and don't agree with a point, I have done the most I can to support that proposal"

Xenagos#6969

"My support on a proposal is going to be different than my votes on them. I may help work to gather community support for proposals that I agree with, and likely will push against proposals I don't agree with, or push to change them so I do. That being said, I'm not going to vote against the community as an EA, unless the proposal has glaring issues (I.E., banning Counterspell while Mana Drain exists). I believe that proposals should pass or fail through the community, not the EAs, unless it is an extreme circumstance."

YinsoTheAkuma#9229

"As long as the proposal is soundly delivered in such a way that EAs can--because EAs aren't allowed to change community proposals--present it to the community, I'd support it."

The Scribe Candidates

HobbitWhoCould#4068

"I believe this question is better suited for me than any other. I have an extensive background in writing formal documents, governmental documents, and 'legal-ese' in general. As the Scribe, who does not have a vote, I consider it my duty to give up a lot of my voice in order to help others find theirs. I do not believe a lack of experience in writing formal documents should hinder good ideas from being heard, taken seriously, and implemented. My door is always open, and should anyone ever require assistance in writing proposals I will do my due diligence to help form their proposal, without interjecting any of my words or opinions into it. I repeat: I seek to elevate the voices of the community at the cost of my own - which means abdicating from any personal bias on proposals to ensure they are as proper as I can. I believe I demonstrated this by implementing aspects of The Constitution in a proper way, despite not personally agreeing with some. Fun fact: I may be running as Scribe, but I was against the position's existence at first. Once proposed, I suggested it be an appointed position from the EA. The Community spoke, though, on what they wanted and how it should work, and I followed through by finding the proper way to integrate it into the system. So here I am, running for a position that I didn't intend on existing - and I will use my limited abilities to help create positive change and elevate every single voice, even if it's one I disagree with."

Footnmouth#0607

[No answer has been received at time of publication.]