

**NWC January 9th 2016**

**General Meeting Minutes**

The meeting started at 1:13pm at the SAS Hall (Scottish American Society) in Dunedin, Fl.

Greeting/Welcome – George Houston welcomed everyone and introduced Amber Caldwell, the new Dunedin Chapter President, who started the meeting off with a toast.

We determined the Volusia chapter had driven the furthest to join us and the Asheville, NC chapter was skyped in to join us.

We went around the room and each chapters officers that were present introduced themselves, many being new officers. We met:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dunedin** | PresVPTreasSec. | Amber Caldwell,Ray Southworth, Dave Stewart,Becky Holt | Brandon: | PresTreasSec. | Shawn BrownSheryl HickleShelly Burke |
| Tampa: | PresVPSgt Arms | Collin KingColan HaysAndrew Evans | Volusia: | PresVPTreas | Angela Hart-HinkleDylan KleinhansDavid Lammers |
| Bradenton  | PresVPTreas | Carol SensbachSandra Conlen Gillian Conlen | St. Pete | PresSec/Treas | Jane Grice Nicole Saarikko |
| Orlando | PresVPSec. | Michelle MorneaultJim CarrAlison Marsh | Asheville, NC | Pres | Bri Lohr(skyped in) |

And it was announced that Volusia has the 1st Woman Sgt at Arms, Bonnie Beal

Membership drive started Oct 1, 2015 –Barbe & George

George reminded everyone that the membership drive ends 1/31/2016

* Barbe handled the Membership card distribution
* George explained Scoring for rebate
	+ **2014 was the start of “The point system” was reviewed.**
	+ **A point system for chapters with the following points awarded:**
		- Officer lists with Names and Contact Info to NWC EC by Dec 31st – 1 point
		- Meeting minutes to Executive Committee Secretary by end of every month of current year – 1 point
		- Treasure report by end of every month of current year – 1 point
			* need Treasurers report from chapters
		- 9 members or more renewing in the Chapter by Dec 31 for the coming year – 1 point
			* Example: chapter’s total rebate is $100
			* 1 pt. ¼ $ = they actually earn back $25
			* 2 pts. ½ $ = they actually earn back $50
			* 3 pts. ¾ $ = they actually earn back $75
			* 4 pts. all $ = they actually earn back $100
	+ *All of this information is in the chapter manual*

Central Florida Highland Games Beer Pouring Update – Mike & George

* George explained we will have a Beer 101 for those who haven’t poured before
* Stickers for pitchers will already have numbers on them
* This year the cups will also have the Brewery logo on them

For those arriving at Will Call:

* Pick up ticket at the gate
* Make sure to sign in & out to keep hours straight. 75% done last year, try for 100% this year
* Don’t abuse the free beer
	+ If not working, no free beer
* We are on a stage while doing this, everyone needs to be on their best behavior
* More fun you have while pouring, the bigger the tips. Interact with customers!
* Tip money will be skimmed hourly
* This year there will be dry camping for $85.00 for Friday thru Monday
* Info flyer for parking---get there early to get a decent spot
* Beer wench-Heather, long red hair is the only other person who can keep her tips

Treasurers Report– Dawn Evens (see attached report)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Beginning balance |  | $5,994.95 |
|  | Total Deposits |  2,777.95 |
|  | Total Expenses |  2,295.79 |
| Ending Balance (12/29/15) |  | $6,477.11 |

George reminded everyone again of the reason there were some discrepancies with the previous Treasurers report, mainly being due to Barbe Miller’s being in the hospital for several months and Dawn had to jump in and try to figure things out since Barbe was out of commission

* The complete list of transactions from 8/22/14 through 12/30/14 as well as a breakdown by month of deposits and expenses from January 2015 through September 2015 were given to the Governing Board.
* George commented that if this information was not sufficient, we can hire a CPA to review the books, which we do not have a problem with, however Hemmie stated the cost would be approximately four to five thousand dollars.
* The general consensus was that the information given is acceptable and no CPA needs to be hired.
* George reminded everyone of the [Amazon.com](http://amazon.com/) rebate program
	+ Dawn explained we received a rebate check of $11.31, not much but every little bit helps.

NWC website update – Barbe

* The new website is up and active, it has gotten lots of positive feedback.
* The only negative feedback was that many of the pictures were VERY old; I asked each chapter for new photos to add to the site.
* There were also questions about using the online store and Manatee Printing Company for purchasing T-shirts.
	+ No, you don’t have to use Manatee Printing/our Official Online NWC store for shirts but check the prices first, you may get a better deal there, if not, use whoever will give you a better price.
* The biggest change is that the most often used things, like scholarship applications are right on the front page and it is much easier to see where to go for new memberships and renewals.

NWC Kids update – Dawn Evans

 The Sarasota Games will have a kids area, if help is needed in the kids area, let Dawn know and she will either help or get assistance for you.

 Dawn is creating a contact list, per chapter, to see who will be willing to help out at events

# Scholarships

**$100.00 EC Sponsorship**-*Palm & Thistle Dance competition*- Dawn

 Dawn brought several programs from the competition and reviewed that the Tampa chapter had done an add to pay for our own Josh Adams to be piper for the event & he also won the “Golden Ghillies” award for the best male, non-dancing dancer, who raised the most money for the event.

 There were lots of folks there, next year we were thinking about having an information table there, and to see if we could get each chapter to donate so we can get a bigger ad in the program instead of 3 or 4 small ones.

**$500.00 Dan Callahan Scholarship**- George

For those who didn’t know Dan or were not aware, Dan was our Bard of the NWC. He was like a walking encyclopedia of Irish songs & lyrics. Many a professional musician commented that when they had forgotten words to a song and they would contact Dan to see if he knew them, they were never disappointed. Dan Callahan died in 2010, he was 69 years old

Dan also wrote the words to our New World Celts March which Lisa McIntyre then set to music.

* Deadline on June 1st 2016 & presented to/winner of the Dan Callahan Scholarship for Irish music, dance, language or athletics will be announced on July 15th 2016
	+ Motion to update the Applications and change the date of deadline & receipt by Collin King
	+ Seconded by Amber Caldwell

**Motion unanimously carried**

# Scholarship Committee update

A paper was sent around for whoever wanted to be on the new scholarship committee. Bri Lohr, Asheville was the first to offer, via Skype. The following are the rest of the committee:

Shelly Burke, Brandon Collin King, Tampa

Jane Grice, St Pete Ken Lockheed, Orlando

 Mary Sloan, Dunedin Angela Hinkle, Volusia

It was decided the scholarship would be sent out to the committee as they are received and that they would have a month to review them.

EC/chapter Scholarships, ---George

Charlotte, NC has a fixed amount for their scholarships, all other chapters will have $180.00 minimum for Scholarships per chapter with a 12/31/16 deadline.

Motion made by Shawn, Brandon

Seconded by Jane, St Pete

 Unanimously approved

The EC will write the check in the recipient’s name and it will be mailed out to them OR

If the chapter wants to do a presentation it will be mailed to the chapter with recipients name on the check.

George asked how many chapters needed the passwords on their chapter emails reset, St. Pete, Tampa and Bradenton asked for resets.

New email--- We now have ONE email address for you to use when you want all 4 of us to be able to answer questions or problems, or to contact us without having to type in all 4 email addresses, it is:

* EC@NewWorldCeltsInc.org

# Inactive or closing chapters

* Last August we had tabled how we were going to proceed with the Charlotte County FL chapter.
	+ The good news is, we don’t have to continue that discussion.
	+ The bad news is, they have closed.
	+ The reason that Charlotte County Chapter has closed is the same reason that the St. Augustine chapter did. No one wanted to step up for a leadership role.
	+ Dawn has a list of supplies from the Charlotte chapter. There is a signup sheet going around, let us know what you need and we will see if it is on the list.
	+ If more than one chapter wants the same thing, the Sgt at Arms will meet at sunrise of the Summer Solstice to battle it out. (Not really)
	+ Any paid members from the Charlotte, NC chapter will become Wild Rovers.
		- Upon review of the membership, there were no members that joined after June of 2015 so there would be no roll over or change of member status.

# Summer 2016meeting

Volusia will be the hosts for our Summer Meeting, the date is yet to be determined. Looking at July 9, 16, 23, 30 and will look at getting a host hotel the will work a deal on rates on the beach or and RV park on the beach.

* They have promised that it will be an air conditioned venue
* It will be an all-day event to make the travel worthwhile
* There will be evening events also for those local and staying overnight
* Given a budget of $750.00
	+ Budget - Motioned by Shawn, Brandon
	+ Seconded by Amber of Dunedin
	+ Unanimously approved

Winter 2017

* Brandon chapter will be hosting the Winter 2017 meeting.
* Possible dates thrown out were in Feb. for Fam Jam or the weekend of the Highland Fling at Renaissance Faire
* Will discuss dates further or have a date by the Summer meeting.

# Addressing the list of Questions presented from the Dunedin chapter

See the attached list of questions/comments.

 Agenda Items for the General Meeting on January 9, 2016

Submitted by the Dunedin Chapter 2015 Board

Disbursement of Remaining Budget allocated to Host Chapter (Dunedin)

The Dunedin Chapter was allocated $750.00 to use for the General Meeting. This money could be used for anything from room rental to hiring a band. As only $50.00 was used for the hall rental, the 2015 Board of the Dunedin Chapter would like to propose that the remaining $700.00 be evenly split up between the ten active chapters ($70.00 each).

*It was decided that instead of giving $70 to each chapter that the NWC will make a 3 year commitment to Tartan museum (200.00 each year) for a total of $600. The remaining $100.00 goes back into general account to go towards next general meeting.*

EC Tents

At the 2015 Dunedin Highland Games, it was mentioned that the two tents owned by the EC were missing. Have they been located? If not, are there plans to purchase replacements?

*No tents are missing. Yes, we have two 10X10 tents one in George in Orlando (being repaired from wind damage to one of the legs), other is with Dawn.*

Scottish Tartan Museum Banner Project

If not already in the meeting agenda, please include an update on where we are with the Banner Project.

*George is working on it now.*

Chapter Manual Nominations Procedure

The Chapter Manual states that during the October meeting, nominations of officers will be made to the chapter. Based on information from the Executive Committee, this is incorrect. The Executive Committee has advised that nominations are open from the October meeting all the way through and including the day of the elections at the November meeting. This would also include write in names of members who want to announce their nomination at the November meeting immediately before the vote. The Chapter Manual should be updated to reflect these changes and also should contain a sample ballot showing the blank lines available for write in nominations for each office.

*After much discussion, it was decided that the Chapter Manual would not be changed. Chapters were to set the guidelines for their elections and let the EC know of their procedures. EC strongly encouraged that flexibility should be considered and not to forget that we are* ***all*** *volunteers should not put up obstacles but instead promote positive outcomes to encourage participation.*

Criteria for Background Check to be placed in Chapter Manual

The criteria that the Executive Committee uses for background checks should be placed in the Chapter Manual. If an elected candidate is unaware of the details of the background check prior to the election and is found to be ineligible after taking office, this would be a very embarrassing situation for them. Disclosure of this criteria would alleviate anyone feeling uncomfortable or unacceptable in the chapter, as they would be able to determine if their past life experiences could prevent them from being a chapter officer before they announced their nomination.

*After discussion, it was decided that language in the Chapter Manual is sufficient. If there is any concern/questions for possible future elections, then a chapter or member will contact the EC for clarification.*

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes at General Meetings

Minutes from the previous General Meeting should be addressed at the beginning of the next General Meeting to see if there are any corrections or additions. Once that is addressed, they should be approved by the Governing Board (Chapter Presidents).

*It was decided that since a draft of the minutes goes out to the governing board for comments, that was sufficient.*

Treasury Report for 8/31/14 to 2/07/14

At the General Meeting on February 7, 2015, Dawn Evans reported a balance of $7,769.00. Due to Barb Miller’s recent illness, she said that the actual hardcopy of the treasury report would be sent out in the next couple of months. This report has never been received. When asking about this report at the September 5, 2015 General Meeting, the response was that the report would probably never be sent out. It is now requested that this report be created and distributed to all Chapters. In addition, creation of this report will assist with accuracy of subsequent treasury reports.

*This item was discussed and addressed during the treasurer’s report*

Treasury Report for 2/07/15 to 9/05/15

At the Dunedin Chapter Meeting in December, Dawn Evans advised that the corrected and balanced treasury report would be sent by Monday, December 14th or Monday, December 21st at the latest. This report has not been received. The request for a balanced treasury report was initially made on September 20th. While one revision was received (with the PayPal correction), it was still not balanced as of October 14th. (Approx. minus $3,300.00) Please forward the corrected report prior to the General Meeting so that everyone has a chance to look at it. With so much information being addressed at the meeting, there is no way for anyone to review it during the meeting.

*This item was discussed and addressed during the treasurer’s report*

Future Treasury Report Distribution and Approval

Similar to the manner that Chapters submit their Treasury Reports to the Executive Committee on a monthly basis, it is proposed that the Executive Committee generate and distribute their treasury reports to all the Chapter Treasurers on a monthly basis as well. Should discrepancies arise, they will be able to be dealt with immediately. In addition, when the General Meeting is held, all chapters will already have reviewed the information and be ready to discuss the Treasury Report at the meeting.

*This item was discussed and addressed during the treasurer’s report*

Approval of Treasury Reports at General Meetings

The current Treasury Report should be addressed at the beginning of the next General Meeting to see if there are any corrections or additions. Once that is addressed, the Treasury Report should be approved by the Governing Board (Chapter Presidents).

*This item was discussed and addressed during the treasurer’s report*

## Chapter Updates

* Asheville New officers, WNC in June & Celtober
	+ 2 $500.00 Greg McGrath scholarships given out on Irish Weekend or Celtic weekend
	+ March 1 winners 2b announced
	+ 13yrs of age & up
	+ Brandon-
	+ Shawn & Shelly Burke engaged!
	+ Athletics
		- Brian Anders??? & Ching Going/went to World Masters
		- Athletes practice every other week at Teamster Union Hall by the fairgrounds And Ken Corsak helps out. They have 6-7 athletes
			* Rob Gourlay got a good deal on Cabers, if your chapter needs one/some, call Shawn
	+ Donations/Scholarships for dancers
		- Donation to the Tampa Bay Palm & Thistle
	+ Whiskey tasting fell through
	+ Ren Faire (BARF)
		- Highland Fling -February 20th & 21st
		- Shamrocks & Shenanigans- March 5th & 6th
			* Need help working the tent, at least two people at all times
			* You can get in free at the back gate, get there early!
			* Kilt Nite at O’Brien’s for St. Patrick’s Day-Ren Faire/BARF joining us

Coming Up

William Wallace Whiskey Tasting

Cake Toss

Doggy Dress up event

* Dunedin
	+ See attached notes
* **Charlotte NC Hornets’ Nest**.
	+ We are going to be a contact for the Asheville Sister Cities as they try to get a Sister City in Scotland.
	+ Accepting applications for the Greg McGrath Memorial Scholarship for the Exploration of Celtic Heritage until February 15.
	+ Historic Latta Plantation Celtic Festival March 11-13, 2016
	+ Trying to get in the Charlotte NC St. Patrick's Parade March 19th. Will advise.
	+ Being invited to participate in Tartan Day South Festival April 2nd
	+ Loch Norman Highland Games April 15-16, 2016
	+ Concentrating on getting ready for the WNC Highlands Celtic Festival in June.
	+ We are continuing to work with the Charlotte Chapter to help them grow.
	+ We are encouraging the formation of another chapter in Franklin, NC.
	+ We marched in two parades.  Asheville and Black Mountain.
	+ We will be getting another Tartan Day Proclamation from the city of Asheville.
* Orlando
	+ New officers are getting their bearings
	+ The annual BBH was a hit, allowing Orlando to give almost $900 in sponsorship's to Rosie’s O'Grady's Highlanders and the Orlando Hurling Club (OHC).
	+ Winter Garden Festival in Oct., 7th year in a row
	+ NOVEMBER-raised $600.00 for new Shirts to Orlando Hurlers
		- From the chapter, EC and private donations
		- DECEMBER: We supported the OHC at the Tom Mollohan Invitational Hurling Tournament. Tom was an Orlando NWC and OHC member, who passed away too soon from pancreatic cancer. We had a tent, handed out information about NWC, and helped them with their raffle which raised almost $300.
		- $500.00 SAS Giant Standing Stone for Central Winds Park with Placard
			* Next year 40 year anniversary at the 2017 games
		- Picture of all (Orlando Chapter) in Sept. was in the Games Program.
		- Right now main focus is the Games!
			* Bring some food & we will have some food & water at the tent
			* Hang out
			* Smokers tent
			* Need help manning the tent
			* raffle quilt, swords, claymores
			* memberships
			* 3 raffle tickets for signing up
			* 1 ticket for every hour you work
			* MARCH 17-19: St Patrick’s –Crooked Can Brewery wants NWC involved with their 3 day Celtic festival, in planning stage now
			* June 18th-*Off Kilter* CD release party in Winter Garden will keep everyone posted
* Manasota/Bradenton
	+ Small Chapter
	+ Palmetto Veterans Day Parade
	+ McAllister’s will be new meeting place
	+ Pulling back into Bradenton to try to build the chapter back up
* St Petersburg
	+ Kilt Nite at Nolan’s
	+ Marched in the Dunedin Christmas Parade
	+ Co-host Caloosahatchee with Tampa
	+ Gave out $650.00 in scholarships
* Tampa
	+ Collin King-Sponsored Piper at Palm & Thistle Competition
	+ Still working on the living history for website
	+ Living history at Mt Dora by NWC
	+ Looking for our niche, more towards culture (history, language, etc…)
	+ Mt. Dora & Fam Jam will be our babies
* Volusia
	+ Zombie Pub Crawl $400.00 made
		- Everybody dressed up
	+ Kilt Life 1of 4 tents in Jax area to award athletes
	+ Greg Rogers (?) Scholarship
	+ New Officers
	+ Celtic Hospitality-food for folks
	+ Coats for kids-2 bags full
	+ Walked in long Orange City Christmas parade
	+ Kilt nite –all over city, to get people involved
	+ Kilts n Kriters
	+ Gave out 6 Scholarships
		- * 2 Irish Language
			* 2 Dancers
			* 2 Athletic

# Open floor

Bob Peirson, Sr., A Founding Member

 17 years ago started NWC (2000) as a fun organization to help the community learn or realize that our cultural heritage is our kids

 We started out with 10, and then grew to 30, hoped for 50, and never dreamed of several hundred. We are keeping the dream alive

Thank you and all members and remember ideas have validity

Sheryl Hickel-Brandon Chapter

Thank you to St Pete sponsorship for her daughter. This allowed her to help pay for a @1500.00 used dress and also helped her pay for private lessons. She wanted to say thank you from the bottom of her heart and that she appreciates it.

Motion for meeting to adjourn made by Amber and firmly & favorably agreed to by all.

 Meeting ended at 3:34pm

Minutes submitted by:

Barbara A. Miller

Executive Secretary

New World Celts, Inc.