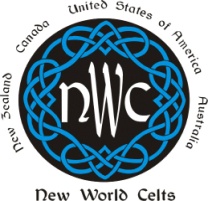
 New World Celts, Inc. 

Minutes from the Sep. 5th, 2015

Semi-Annual EC meeting

The meeting was held at the Garden Room in Winter Garden, Fl. in conjunction with the Orlando Chapters Bagpipes, Bangers & How Green was my Valley on September 5th, 2015.

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 and began with a welcome speech by George

Houston, President of the Executive Committee of the New World Celts. George began the meeting with apologies for the membership cards being sent out late and the dues checks being late due to the fact that Barbe Miller, Exec. Secretary was in the hospital from end part of January to the 2nd week of March 2015.

Barbe advised she had a stack of cards & for chapter officers to meet with her after meeting & she would hand out the membership cards she had.

Chapter Presidents from Dunedin, Orlando, St. Pete and Volusia were there as well as representatives from Brandon & Bradenton chapters. The Charlotte, NC & Asheville, NC chapters were at an event and let us know ahead of time they would not be calling into the meeting. No one from the Charlotte, FL chapter was present and they were missed.

* The first order of business was for us to vote on making the Charlotte NC chapter (Hornet’s Nest) an official chapter.

Becky Motioned, Andrew seconded.

Vote called and approved for Charlotte, NC to become a full chapter.

George told Dawn to cut them a check for their seed money in the amount of $250.00

* The next order of business was a happy one as one of our original New World Celt Kids turned 18!!

George presented Patience Walat, (daughter of Dawn & Andrew Evans), of the Tampa chapter with a balloon & certificate of Achievement stating:

Patience Walat has successfully completed “*THE TRIALS OF BEING A NWC KIDS AND IS NOW OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS AN ADULT.”*

# Membership Drive

* George reminded everyone that the Membership drive starts on October 1st and goes through January 31, 2016 for the dues rebates.
  + The rebate amount will be dependent on how many renewals or new memberships you get during this time period.
  + 2014/2015 Was supposed to be the start of “The Point System” to determine how much of the 25% rebate each chapter would get back but due to Barbe’s illness we were not able to keep current on everything.
* 2015/2016 will be the start of the point system.

**Just to review the point system. The following points are awarded:**

* + Officer lists with Names & Contact info tow NWC EC by Dec 31st = 1 point
  + Meeting minutes to Executive Committee Secretary by the end of each month of the current year = 1 point
  + Treasurer Report to the Executive Treasurer by the end of each month of current year = 1 point
  + 9 members or more renewing in the Chapter by Dec. 31 for the year (2015)=1 point
    - Example: chapter’s total rebate is $100.00
    - 1pt. ¼ $ = they actually earned back $25.00
    - 2 pts. ½ $= they actually earn back $50.00
    - 3 pts. ¾ $= they actually earn back $75.00
    - 4 pts al # = they actually earn back $100.00
    - All this information is in the chapter manual
      * ELECTIONS-GEORGE & BARBE
  + Chapter elections are to be held the month of November on your normal chapter meeting night.
* The information below on elections is directly from the Chapter Manual

Chapter Elections **(Section 4 covers the elections)** POLICY

The following information is from our NWC By-laws, you can see them in their entirety at the NWC website

**ARTICLE 5 – CHAPTERS**

**Section 1** – Qualification and Operations: A minimum of ten (10) voting members in good standing is required to establish and maintain a chapter. All chapters shall be established, maintained and operated in accordance with these Bylaws and any policies or agreements set forth by the Governing Board.

**Section 2** – **Chapter Officers**: Chapter officers shall consist of a **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer**, and Immediate Past President. *The duties of Secretary and Treasurer may be handled by one person.* Chapter officers are responsible for NWC activities at the chapter level, and provisions of these Bylaws relating to the parallel positions on the Governing Board are applicable at the chapter level. The Chapter President shall concurrently serve as a Director of the Governing Board. The Immediate Past President shall serve in this position for one year.

**Section 3** – **Term of Office**: Chapter officers shall serve **one-year** **terms**. *Each officer is eligible for re-election up to four (4) consecutive terms.* Any officer having served four consecutive terms shall be required to step down for a period of one full calendar year, prior to consideration for a new initial term.

**Section 4** – **Chapter Elections**: Chapter elections shall be **held** **annually by the last day of November**. *Only those members in good standing who have designated a chapter as their ‘home chapter’ may vote in that chapter’s elections.* Neither an honorary member nor an organization member may hold office at the chapter level.

**Votes must be cast in person, \*\*by mail or electronic means, and members may cast no more than one vote per candidate.**

**(\*\***If using email voting then you need to notify the EC Secretary of the name and position of each candidate and the date of the chapter elections. The cutoff date will be determined between the EC Secretary & the Chapter President so the votes can be forwarded to whoever will be counting the ballots at the meeting. This person, obviously, will not be running for any office, preferably an officer who isn’t running this term or an EC member who is a member of the chapter. If none of these is available, let the EC Secretary know so other arrangements can be made.)

The candidate(s) receiving the greatest number of votes shall be duly elected. **Officers so elected shall take office on the first day of the next fiscal year.** *Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.*

**Quorum:** A quorum shall consist of 51% of the Chapter Officers.

# Executive Committee 2015 Semi Annual Report

# Ending Balance (8/31): $5994.95

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Description | Dues | Sales | Other |
| Jan | Deposits  Tip Money  Beer Money | *$2445.00*  *$1525.00*  *$2200.00* | ----------------- | ----------------- |
| Feb | Deposits | $1390.72 | ----------------- | ----------------- |
| Mar | Deposits | $2183.00 | ----------------- | ----------------- |
| Apr | Deposits | $776.00 | ----------------- | ----------------- |
| May | Deposits | $187.50 | ----------------- | ----------------- |
| Jun | Deposits | $644.99 | ----------------- | ----------------- |
| Jul | Deposits | $155.00 | $35.00 | ----------------- |
| Aug | Deposits | $112.72 | ----------------- | ----------------- |

* Total Deposits in all: $14,360.69 ($11654.93 + $2705.76 (paypal) )

**Total Expenses: $7,132.00**

**Total money given back to the chapters came to $5,696.25**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Vendor | Scholarships/grants | Office Exsp | Meeting Exsp | Merch | Misc. | Games Exps | Travel Exsp | total monthly expenses |
| Jan | expense | $1,000.00 | $749.91 | ----------- | -------- | ------ | ---------- | $166.88 | $1916.79 |
| Feb | expense | -------------- | $530.97 | ----------- | -------- | ------ | ---------- | ---------- | $530.97 |
| Mar | expense | -------------- | $699.69 | ----------- | -------- | ------ | ---------- | ---------- | $699.69 |
| Apr | expense | -------------- | $95.88 | ----------- | -------- | ------ | ---------- | ---------- | $95.88 |
| May | expense | -------------- | $0.00 | ----------- | -------- | ------ | ---------- | ---------- | $0.00 |
| Jun | expense | -------------- | $1450.3 | ----------- | -------- | ------ | ---------- | $200.00 | $1650.34 |
| Jul | expense | -------------- | $402.49 | ----------- | \_\_\_\_\_\_ | ------ | ---------- | --------- | $402.49 |
| Aug | expense | $860.00 | $160.84 | ----------- | -------- | ------ | ---------- | --------- | $1,020.84 |
| Sep | expense | ------------- | -------- | $815.00 | -------- | ------ | ---------- | --------- | $815.00 |

Total Expenses in all: $7,132

Total money given back to the chapters came to $5,696.25

# 2015 Draft Budget – NWC, INC

**Beginning Balance** as of 1/01/15 - $7769.47

Travel expenses for 2015 so far $ 366.88 and have been paid

Beer Money and Dues Rebate have been paid totaling $5696.25

**Current obligations:**

**Dan Callahan Scholarship** - $500 - Scholarship recipient: Rylan

**Running Total $ 500**

**Office expenses** (including website/ Dept. of revenue/postage/P.O. Box /Supplies, etc.) $2651.15

Expenses could change if costs for supplies go up or down.

**Running Total $ 3151.15**

Future Travel Expenses - $200, if not used carry over into next year

**Running Total $3351.15**

NWC Scholarships – Last year $1400. Last Year Budget proposal was 25% dues. This year that would be $ 1800 split by 10 chapters $180.00.

**Running Total $5151.15**

Reserve $600

**Running Total $5751.15**

* Reminder about Amazon.com rebate program, especially with holidays coming up. This year we earned $75.00 from the program so; Earn the Celts a little money while doing your shopping on line.
* EC Scholarship update- George & Dawn
* The Executive Committee has given out $1860.00 in Scholarships.
* All chapters except for Brandon have given us the name of whomever they want their EC Scholarship money to go to.
* George advised them (Brandon Chapter) to just send us an email with the name of recipient, address and what it is for & we can send them a check.
* NWC Website**-**Barbe

We are working on updating the website to allow for an easier format for us to manage and to make room for new projects underway.

Barbe had a rough view of the new site that has not gone live yet and asked for feedback from those present and to make sure it was easily understood & workable. A couple of good ideas came out of the feedback & will be worked into the site. The changes & new look will go live hopefully by the middle of October.

# Website links

* Tampa Chapter brought up the idea of putting a link on our website of some of the schools, etc.… as well as seeing if they would put our link on their website for scholarships: for example for Margaret’s Dancers in Dunedin. This way the parents & students would be able to link to the scholarships or just a link to our scholarship application directly with a space for “Which chapter is closest to you?” so when IEC receives it we can route it properly.
* Much discussion ensued about the possibility of placing links on the school pages.
* George asked Becky how Dunedin does their web page and Becky said they have what is called a “Circle of Friends” where for a fee of $50.00 the Business can add their name to the Circle of Friends & a link is added to the Dunedin Chapter website.
* This would create a new revenue stream.
* It was also mentioned that a Business/Organizational membership is the same price and if we should include that as one of the “perks” of membership.

It was decided to table this till the next meeting in January of 2016 for a vote so more research can be done on it.

* Orlando Games-Mike O’Neil

The Orlando Games will be January 16th & 17th of next year.

We will need many members for beer pouring! Right now they are still deciding on how many beer tents, 3 or 4? Once the number of beer tents and locations are determined we will get the info out to the chapters to sign up for shifts. It was discussed that the shifts will be 2 hours each and to get in free to the games and have a free lunch you must work 4 hours.

* NWC Kids update-Dawn Evans
  + Dawn had a sketch of what the new kids’ t-shirts will look like and everyone seemed very pleased with them.
  + Dunedin mentioned they no longer have a NWC Kids.
* Chapter participation in Non-Celtic community Events-
  + Brandon Chapter-Sheryl Hickle, Treas. from the Brandon Chapter brought up the question of whether or not the NWC can participate in charity events at schools or other nonprofits and this would enable us to the NWC name out there a little more.
* Sheryl mentioned they would like to participate &/or challenge the other chapters in the “Hands across the Bay”
  + There is a Gold/Diamond sponsorship
    - We would be promoting their non profit
    - While promoting the NWC
    - We will have a community round table-all non-profits and sponsorships at next meeting.
* Sunshine from Orlando chapter mentioned they had been interested in doing the “Relay for Life” but that isn’t “Celtic”
* Becky from Dunedin said what they do, if they can’t find a relevant Celtic history for an event, is the chapter just takes a vote on it to see if they want to participate.
* George mentioned, the more we get out into our Communities, the more we can represent the Celtic Culture.
* Becky asked if it has to be a Nonprofit and George said No.

We are now past the toddler stage where we had to stress that everything be of a Celtic nature to get or keep us on track. We are now at the “Tweener” stage where we can start to stretch out more, explore other alternatives and do more with the Communities we live and work in.

A **motion** to let a chapter participate in events that aren’t Celtic if the chapter votes to do so was made by Becky from Dunedin & seconded by Andrew from Tampa. Vote was unanimously in favor and **passed**.

# Discussion on inactive Charlotte Fl. chapter and guidelines

* + What do we do when a chapter starts to fall apart?
  + No meetings
  + Not doing anything
  + Less than 10 people/members

One person cannot do it all.

* Becky, Dunedin said if they don’t have 4 officers, they should be shut down.
* George said No; the chapter manual does state that the Sec/Treas. Position can be combined.
* Becky motioned that we need to add this to the chapter manual and I (Barbe) verified that both by laws & chapter manual contain this wording.
* Andy Evans, Tampa said he thinks that the chapter in question should be put on probation
* This brought up discussion about what would need to be done and how.
  + Angela, Volusia said they should meet at least once every quarter and must submit Minutes & a Treasurers Report
  + Andy, Tampa asked if we want to keep it that they have to have 10 members? (more discussion)
  + Gerry, Tampa said if they don’t send in minutes/treas. Rept for 3 months, send them a letter
  + Bob Hinkle, Brandon motioned
    - If after 3 months the chapter doesn’t comply with will be put on probation
    - If after 6 months they still are not complying then at the Governors (bi annual) meeting we can vote & decide.
    - A question was also raised of what happens to the members of the chapter if it is disbanded. It was explained they can either move their membership to another chapter or become Wild Rovers.
    - Need communication from someone other than the Exec. Secretary for the letters to be sent since Nag O’Grams have gone without response.
    - Andrew, Tampa Seconded
      * **Motion carried.**
* Jane from St. Pete mentioned she didn’t realize the duties she was responsible for as President so she reached out to Brian Hall & Dawn Evans of the Tampa Chapter for help. They attended one of the St Pete meetings and sat down & explained what was needed, they were a big help.
* NWC history database/presentation –Dawn for Collin King
  + The new database is almost finished.
  + It will be connected to our history site
  + Contact EC to add more info to it.
  + George also explained that these are published articles and Collin was approached to see if we could house it.
  + There is tons of information by many different contributors.

# Who will host the next meeting?

* + Dunedin will be hosting the 1/9/16 Semi-annual ECmeeting at the SAS hall in Dunedin. More info (address & time) will be sent out as we get closer to the meeting date.
  + Angela has said the Volusia chapter is volunteering to host the **Summer 2016 meeting**

# 2015 Dan Callahan Scholarship Winner: Christa Hixon

Christa thanked the NWC for the scholarship and said she was honored & shocked that she got it. She used the money to secure field time for the Hurling team.

She said the Orlando team was starting to die out and she wanted to use the scholarship money to reserve fields so people could see them play and generate interest in the sport. Sometimes she was able to secure free field time and she also used the funds to purchase equipment and supplies.

* She used some of the money for the Camogie Women’s team
  + meet up to meet new people and gets them to try the game,
  + business cards
  + practices for tournament with players across the state of Florida.
* She has used the money to generate interest and help to support teams
* More women are interested and going to Nationals.
* Palm Coast also supporting them and she still has some money left over!

**Chapter updates**

**Volusia Chapter**

**February** – We had a Kilt Night at Ohm Bar in New Smyrna Beach. Brought in the band *Kilt the Messenger* from Brevard County. Turn out wasn’t as good as we had hoped, but we did make a little profit from the evening. The band was great and donated the sales from their CD from that night to the chapter.

**March –** We decided to get chapter T-shirts in different colors. We got an assortment in Blue, Green, Yellow and Pink after requests from members for less “hot” colors for the April Ormond Beach Festival. The month of March was spent preparing for the Ormond Beach Festival with a big gathering to build raffle baskets.

**April – Ormond Beach Festival**, this was the fourth year of the festival and we had a great turn out. Most of the Volusia Chapter members who were in attendance also volunteered to be MCs for the 4 stages that had performers, but we were still able to keep the tent manned fully for the entire weekend. The colored T-shirts were a big hit and we had the largest T-shirt sales in the history of the chapter. We also had the largest raffle sales in the history of the chapter as well.

**May –** We used the proceeds from the beginning of the year to award 8 youth scholarships totaling $1200. 6 Irish Dancers, 1 up and Coming Bag-piper and our first young Athlete. We also used these proceed to donate $300 to the Tartan Museum in Franklin, NC after a vote by our membership.

**June –** We had dancer from Hendrick’s School of Irish dance and many of our current and past Scholarship winners come in to dance for our cultural presentation. This was a pretty quiet month with many of our members being on Vacation.

**July -** We had a Kilt nigh at the Orange Kilt in Ormond Beach. Again turnout was small and we just broke even with the raffle basket. The band that came in was *Kilt the Messenger* from Brevard County, who traveled an hour and a half to play that night. We split the proceeds from the raffle with the band to help cover their expenses.

**August –** We had our second **Kilted Bowling** event. Everyone who attended had a great time and the Bowling alley was incredible receptive to having us. We had door prizes and raffles, but again because attendance was not what we had hoped for we just broke even on this even.

**Upcoming events –** We are currently working on our Oct 24th Celtic **Zombie Pub Crawl**. This is to be held in downtown Deland and we will crawl to 4 pubs, with a possible 5th. We will have prizes and raffles at each stop. This was a really big success last year and we are hoping that we will have a big turn out this year as well.

**Dunedin Chapter**

Scholarships: $5,980.00 (YTD) 39 (includes Sandy Keith Scholarship & EC Scholarship)

Sponsorships: Greg McGrath Scholarship Fund = $250.00

Dunedin Highlander Middle School Band Boosters = $500.00

City of Dunedin Bagpipe Sponsorship = $1,195.00 (YTD) Goal: $1,500 - $1,600

2015 Income: $5,513.68 (YTD)

Sources: Brown Bag Raffles, Garage Sale, Scottish Breakfast, Three Kilt Nights, Dunedin Highland Games Whisky Tasting, Dunedin Highland Games Raffles, Dunedin Chapter Royal T-Shirt Sales, and Anonymous Donations

Member Participation: Four Highland Games, Spring General Meeting, Four Pinellas Trail Clean-Ups,

Three Kilt Nights, Spring Ancestry Day, Marched in Four Parades

Volunteer Hours: 488.5 (YTD)

Education: Imbolc Stand-Up Bagpiper Craft Project for Children

Celtic Brittany The Celts Origin: The History of Gaul

An Irish Story: Céad Míle Fáilte Dunedin’s Celtic Orange Heritage

Scottish Attire: What To Wear &When DNA and Genealogy

Scottish Coloring Pages for Children History of Shortbread and Recipe for Children

Shepherd’s Pie Recipe for Children How To Make A Sporran for Children

Potato Putty Celtic Journal Craft Project for Children

Community: Escorted the King and Queen at the Dunedin Mardi Gras Parade

Escorted the Chieftain of the Day at the Dunedin Highland Games

Received Tartan Day Proclamation from the City of Dunedin

Received Community Support Award from Dunedin Highlander Middle School

Escorted Pin-Up Girls at Dunedin Orange Festival

Donated 41 Books and 17 CD’s to Dunedin Public Library (Scottish Section)

New Projects: -2016 Inaugural Robert Lee McFarlin & Helen Rayburn McFarlin Scholarship for Dunedin’s Elementary Bagpipe/Chanter Program

-2016 Scotland / Ireland Trip Raffle

Social Media: Twitter: 102 Followers NewWorldCeltsDunedin@NWC\_Dunedin

Instagram: 19 Followers nwc\_dunedin (#dunedinnwc)

Website: <http://www.dunedinnwc.org/>

Facebook: 535 Followers

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-World-Celts-Dunedin-Chapter/125451117543406>

S **Upcoming Events:**

October 10th, 7 pm Kilt Night for DPB Bagpipe Sponsorship, Flanagan’s Irish Pub

October 17th, 11 am, Ancestry Day, Dunedin Library

October 24th, 7 pm, `Mead Tasting, Black Fox Meadery

November 8th, 11 am, Celtic Cornhole Toss, Dunedin Brewery

November 18th, 7 pm, Fall Whisky Tasting, Flanagan’s Irish Pub

November 21st, Dunedin Celtic Music and Craft Beer Festival, Highlander Park

December 12th, 4 pm- 9 pm Dunedin Old Fashioned Christmas and Holiday Parade,

January 9, 2016, 1 pm – 3 pm, EC Meeting, Dunedin Scottish American Society

January 9, 2016, 7 pm, Kilt Night, Flanagan’s Irish Pub

**Orlando Chapter**

**St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Winter Park**

Large turnout (at least 40 people) for the Winter Park St. Patrick's Day Parade and to Frank & Stein's where we had a large section reserved for us. It was a great time as always. We were able to get the word out about the NWC to a lot of people that day.

**Volusia donation**

We have a very close relationship with the Volusia Chapter and in March we donated 2 of our raffle baskets to them to help them out since we have a much bigger chapter & to see them succeed. :)

**Scholarships**

In June we gave $2125 in scholarships to 10 people (+ the $175 from IEC) for Highland Dancing, Piping, Drumming, and to assist in purchasing Highland Games Athletic Awards.

**Visit from Kathleen Cavanagh from SE Tionól**

Kathleen Cavanagh of the SE Tionól School was at our meeting. This is a workshop for uilleann pipers, fiddlers and concertinas. We have donated money to them several times and she came to thank us and also to join our after meeting jam. She plays the uilleann pipes.

**Kilt Night at Crooked Can**

We had a Kilt Night for the grand opening of the Crooked Can Brewing Company in Winter Garden. There was a packed house, we had a raffle basket and some of Rosie O'Grady's pipers played as well as a combination of McIntyre and Hard to Port.

**Kilt Night at Paddy’s**

In June, we had a kilt night at Paddy's in Winter Park, where we practically took over the place. Our own Oddbins played and as usual, we all had a grand time.

**Kilt Night at Wing Shack**

In July we held a Kilt Night at Wing Shack. It was a huge success. We had a lot of members attend and we talked to a number of people who had never heard of us before & are interested in getting involved with NWC. This location is very close to our meeting place; hopefully they will come check us out.

**Activity Day**

We held our annual activity day in August where we put together more than 20 raffle baskets, many of which you can see today. We also planned the quilt we will make for next year's Central Florida Scottish Highland Games. This quilt will feature sheep.

**Bagpipes, Bangers and How Green Was My Valley**

Our biggest fundraiser of the year; Bagpipes, Bangers and How Green Was My Valley. This is our 7th annual summer movie event. Money from raffle baskets will go to more scholarships and sponsorships.

**Winter Garden Music Fest**

We are gearing up for the Winter Garden Music Fest which will be held right outside here on Plant St. Oct 9, 10 & 11. This is always a great event where we meet many potential new members. Rosie O'Grady's always plays and we sponsor them for it. Off Kilter will be playing there this year.

**Membership-**We have been told we are the largest chapter now. We have more than 300 on our email list, but of course, they aren't all paid members. We are getting ready to push 2016 memberships and hope to stay at or near the top of the chapter list. :)

**St Pete Chapter**

29-30 OCT **SPIFFS**: - these are school days and for children only.  
31 OCT-01NOV: SAT/SUN **SPIFFS:** - public days for anyone.

Our chapter volunteers at the Scottish Heritage Society's tent; coverage is for all 4 days.  
 06 NOV **Kilt Night:** at Nolan's in Safety Harbor. We will be holding a 50/50 raffle.

**Bradenton/Manasota Chapter**

* 3 Kilt Nights
* Summer Solstice cookout June 21st at the Gamble Plantation Pavilion was a success.
* Sondra mentioned they were still looking for a new home pub as the one they are meeting at now, the patrons are complaining about the pipers and dancers making too much noise during their performances.
* They are debating at this point on just meeting in someone’s home since they have a small chapter
* They have given out a $150.00 piper scholarship
* $130.00 to the Gamble Plantation as a Sponsorship
* $120.00 for a tent at the Sarasota games, next one will be 1/30/16

**Upcoming events:**

* J.J. Smith will be at McCabe’s 3 & 4 October from 7:00 to 10:00. Note. J.J’s band has been renamed “Tarbolton”
* We will meet at MacAllister’s at 5:00 PM October 10th.
* Meet at Sutton Land Park at 08:30 AM November 11th for the Veterans Day Parade & picnic.