

Minutes Clan MacLeod USA Council Meeting held at Hilton Embassy Suites Old Town, Alexandria, VA. Dec. 6, 2019 - 1 pm

The meeting was called to order by John W. McLeod President.

Opening Prayer was given by John W. McLeod.

Council Quorum was established with 7 proxies and 14 in attendance.

The agenda was adopted with a motion from Franklin Wyatt seconded by Ann McLeod.

Approval of Council Minutes, Las Cruces, New Mexico, April 25, 2019 and reopened Council Minutes April 27, 2019 was moved by Robert McLeod and seconded by Jeff McLeod.

REPORTS: Written reports from each council member are available on
= <http://www.clanmacleodusa.org/members.html>

Only additional, verbal information is documented in the minutes.

REPORTS: President – John W. McLeod

Council Reports

Vice President – Franklin Wyatt – Electronic media usage has improved communications.

National Secretary – Sandy McLeod - The grant given to Old Dominion Library is used to purchase books on Scotland. The link from the Clan MacLeod Website goes to a limited part of the special collection displaying only the indexes of the boxes of the Clan MacLeod papers. More information such as historic notes are available by accessing through the main library site. However, some of this information is blocked requiring a login. The librarian indicated a login would be provided to a representative of the Dunvegan Foundation. None of the Dunvegan grant goes to the indexing of the boxes. This is done by students as part of a curriculum possibly scholarship requirement. If the older photos were made available digitally, they could be leveraged by Facebook and other electronic media, Clan MacLeod sites.

Past President – Weeden Nichols – Comments on Old Business later.

Publicist – Judy MacLeod – Neil Kennedy Ray the editor of the Highlander magazine continues to be supportive of our articles, such as the new Macleod piping band formed by Tim MacLeod and Michael McClure's fossil collection. Suggestions for articles are welcomed.

Migration Director – Genealogy database continues to grow.

VP of Membership – Anne L. MacLeod – Membership counts show current, new, and dropped members. The P.O. Box was changed to Anne's home address to save money. Fewer people were using the mail system to renew. When dropped or new memberships occur after a bulk magazine mailing, Anne L. MacLeod uses a discount provided by her workplace to send the most recent issue. Membership is about in the same count, but there are a lot of dropped memberships each year. It may be that people join to use the genealogy then once they have the information drop membership.

Newsletter – Robert Lewis - The editor would like 2 hard copy newsletters issued in 2020. The printed newsletter is an important membership benefit, recruitment tool as well as a tangible reference which can be used by all members. A large part of the USA does not have inexpensive, reliable internet. Of the 624 email newsletters recently sent out, 365 were opened and only 46 clicked to get more information. Also, the free email publishing systems are limited to 3000 words (6 pages). Anything more will cost at least \$120 for an upgrade.

VP Regional Coordinator – Robert McLeod - We have 13 regions and 13 RVPs. Congratulate new RVPs, Dale Lewis, Robin Ingram, Jeff and Cindy McLeod who have hit the ground running, doing a terrific job.

Internet Editor – Ian Good - New contributions of information is needed to keep the website from becoming stale. Ian suggests that Dunvegan add a Donate button to the website.

Dunvegan Foundation – John B. MacLeod - The Wall Street Journal last week had an article "How to look cool in plaid pants" with a picture of Sammy Davis Junior in MacLeod of Lewis pants. There was also a picture of MacLeod of Harris pants. This year the Dunvegan Foundation granted \$35,000. The endowment has grown to over \$700,000. Dunvegan Foundation confirmed the donation of \$5000 for restoration of the Raasay/Lewis grave site in Australia. Because this does not have to go through the Scottish Clan MacLeod Heritage Trust, this will be recognized as a direct contribution from Clan MacLeod USA at the Clan MacLeod Gathering in conjunction with an ACMS Council meeting hosted by the Clan MacLeod Society of Australia, April 14 – 18, 2021.

Awards – Franklin Wyatt II I - 39 people were recognized as contributing time to the Clan MacLeod Society. There was no clansman of the year in 2019 because of insufficient nominees, less than 10, from council members causing a lack of consensus. 35 people are sent letters requesting individuals for nomination and generally get back about 12-15 or about a 1/3.

Regional VP Reports

Carolinas - Franklin Wyatt III - Chief John of Raasay has accepted the invitation to the Grandfather Mountain games in 2022. If you want to contribute, send donations to Franklin Wyatt III.

Northeast – Bonnie Denka is working on the 2021 AGM. The logistics of having the meeting at Fort Ticonderoga is problematic for travelers as the nearest airports are either in Vermont 2 hours away by car, or Albany which is 3 hours. NYC's obstacle is hotel rates. She is looking into New Jersey for affordability with day trips to NYC.

Great Lakes – John MacLeod - Two members of Clan MacLeod passed away this year; Harry Boyes, Charlene Boyes' (Dunvegan Trustee) father, and Cindy MacLeod, Richard MacLeod's (Dunvegan Trustee) wife.

Southwest – Dale Lewis - There is a link to an obsolete website. If anyone knows who set this up, please get back to Dale Lewis.

South Central – Robin Ingram – Social media is not a substitute for personal contact at games. Social media reaches out to people who otherwise would not be aware especially the younger demographic. It is also a speedy means of mass communication.

Gulf Central - Jeff McLeod - Jack Lewis, Jay McClure and Gordon Lewis visited the Smoky Mountain games. Jack is content with piping rather than being regional RVP.

Appreciation

Weeden Nichols was presented a plaque in appreciation for serving the Clan MacLeod Society as President from 2015-2019.

Old Business

Indemnification policy – Weeden Nichols – See attachment to minutes

Tex was RVP for the South Central region who resigned because of exposure to liability risk. His spouse was getting a degree in non-profit administration. As an organization we are not equipped financially to protect the board members. Weeden believes the risk is the same as walking out the door, though there is increased risk when alcohol is involved. Recommends dropping this and keep on trucking with enthusiasm.

Stephen MacLeod – RVPs should have D&O coverage. If the organization does not supply this coverage, the individual should be made aware that it is up to themselves to cover liability and have a personal umbrella insurance or an excess liability policy to cover their risk. An excess liability policy may cost \$300 per year. In the case of event insurance, the Alexandria hotel wants evidence that Clan MacLeod Society has liability coverage for the 3 day event. This cost \$188 for a 2 million dollar policy for an event where there will be alcohol. Stephen submit the bill to the treasurer for reimbursement. Question was raised to ask the Treasurer if the society could give the RVPs an extra stipend so that they could get insurance.

Steve also raised the question of having young volunteers at the tent. Sandy McLeod stated that there was a Volunteer Protection Act passed in 1997 which was to be strengthened in 2017. This was designed to protect volunteers acting in a normal manner and indicating that the organization is responsible. Robin Ingram agreed to investigate this federal act. Also, Mr. Tutterow should advise us on what he knows about this act, as well as the liability of individuals and the organization in light of the fact that all games require signing a waiver to get a tent slot. RVPs need to understand the liability to themselves when they sign a game waver.

2020 NAG – Judy MacLeod

This wil take place in Livonia Michigan on July 29 – August 2, 2020 with the theme “Looking forward, looking back”. Activities will include workshops including making fascinators for the ladies to wear at the banquet. A poll during this meeting indicated a minority interest in a Clan Whiskey Tasting during the NAG. There is a whiskey tasting at the games. Tickets to the highland games on Saturday will not be included in the NAG event price allowing people to opt for other attractions in the area like the Henry Ford museum or Greenfield Village. There will be a ceilidh on Saturday night to entice people to stay. The same hotel rate is extended the day before and day after.

MacCrimmon Medallion Purchase – John W. McLeod -

We are out of medallions to award the winner of the MacCrimmon quaich trophy. Using the same design as in the past, we can get 100 made at \$25.45 each plus a \$280 set up cost with a life-time die. With tax that comes to \$3037. If we had a tax exempt number, this cost would be reduced. Motion to purchase was made by Robert McLeod, seconded by Franklin Wyatt III. Approved. Expect this to take 6 weeks.

PayPal Usage – Anne L. - See attachment in Reports

124 people paid by using PayPal. The cost of using PayPal is passed to the user. They pay \$25.87 for the \$25.00 Clan MacLeod membership.

New Business

Awards committee reconstruction – Franklin Wyatt

The 2016 bylaws require 3 members of council to be on a committee which is cumbersome. Recommendation to dissolve the awards committee and have different individuals responsible for the tasks. Motion to dissolve and appointments for these tasks will be tabled until the next meeting.

Newsletter submissions – Robert Lewis

Robert Lewis will create a SOP for Newsletter submissions. Thank you to Robert for getting out the electronic newsletter.

Scottish Walk - Stephen MacLeod distributed information on where to gather for the Scottish Walk on Saturday and other details for the 11:00 start of the parade.

Treasurer 's report was read. The 2020 proposed budget is a \$3006 loss. Motion was made to accept the proposed budget with the addition of the medallions (\$3037) and 2 printed newsletters (\$2900) bringing the budget loss to \$8943. Motion to approve budget with additions. Approved with one no. The agenda for next meeting will include discussing raising dues.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jeff McLeod, seconded by Anne L. MacLeod. Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McLeod
National Secretary

Addendum to Report on Insurance Efforts – Weeden Nichols

In brief, in our mode of operation and at our level of funding, we are not equipped to protect ourselves, our treasury, our officers, and our board.

It is unfortunate that we have come to this. We have operated in good faith and good fellowship in this clan society and within the greater Scottish-American community. However, the larger American Society, within which we must exist and function, has become increasingly litigious, and greed, opportunism, and mendacity seem, more and more, to prevail. Can we protect ourselves adequately and still operate as we have, with reasonable dues and a modest budget, joyfully and in an atmosphere of trust and good faith? That is the question, and the probable answer is depressing.

As VP, President, and now as immediate past president, Rosalie and I have traveled from venue to venue, lending what support we can to our conveners, and (little Johnny Appleseed) carrying ideas from convener to convener. I have discussed the insurance problem with presidents of other clan societies. One idea was that a significant risk lies in representation of a clan society that is too alcohol-centered. I have seen only one egregious case of this on the part of CMSUSA. That may have been a liability risk, but it also was bad representation.