

Minutes Clan MacLeod USA Council Meeting
Holiday Inn, Alexandria, VA.
Dec. 2, 2016 - 1 pm

- Weeden Nichols called the meeting to order.
- John W. McLeod gave the invocation.
- Council Quorum was achieved with 14 present, 4 proxies with signed conflict of interest statements.
- The agenda was adopted.
- Minutes of the AGM and Council meetings, Merritt British Columbia, Canada - July, 2016 were approved.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

President - Weeden Nichols (President's message in meeting packet)

Planning reciprocal floor time for the US and Canadian members is important for a NAG. This includes presentation time at banquets for such awards as Clan Person of the Year as well as facetime with guests of honor.

National Secretary – Sandy McLeod

Conflict of Interest documents must be signed annually for council member's vote to count. These will remain on file with the National Secretary.

Treasurer - Richard MacLeod (included in meeting packet)

Society has \$32,025 in unrestricted funds and \$76,245 in life members reserve.

Attachments include balance sheet, budget versus actual, proposed budget 2017.

Past President - John Norman MacLeod

Regret John Stuart MacLeod's death as well as Jeanne MacLeod's illness. New England needs a RVP.

Publicist - Judith MacLeod (included in meeting packet)

The Highlander has a history of Clan MacLeod in January/February issue written by a MacDonald.

Migration Director - Ann McLeod (included in meeting packet)

Database is still growing approaching 50,000 names. People want to have their families in the database and that has become a good reason to become a member. Password is changed every 6 months in the newsletter to encourage renewal. There was an issue with Ancestry.com deciding not to support Family Tree Maker. However, this was resolved. Grateful to the Dunvegan Foundation for their financial support.

VP of Membership – Anne L MacLeod (included in meeting packet)

Latest count of membership is 900 which is 16 more than the previous year mostly due to fewer dropped memberships. Have total of over 6000 names of people who have been members in the past. These are available to RVPs.

Newsletter - Dorna Caskie (included in meeting packet)

Email message read during meeting. Newsletter delayed due to personal reasons.

VP Regional Coordinator – Robert McLeod (included in meeting packet)

Identifying your replacement is a priority. Will give hard copy packets as resource to new RVPs.

Youth Coordinator – Sasha Macleod (included in meeting packet)

Report read at council meeting. Stickers will be made available to RVPs to promote the Facebook sites. Newsletter will have a youth craft related to the fairy flag.

Awards – Franklin Wyatt III (included in meeting packet)

- The awards committee is Franklin, Jack Lewis, and Robert Lewis.
- We need to locate the 13 trophies which constitute the McCrimmon award for Grade 1 amateur piobaireachd piping. Missouri Valley region's trophy seems to be missing. Each year each region needs to report who won the trophy to Jack Lewis who distributes the McCrimmon medals. John Stuart MacLeod region should have one which had been given at the Moon Mountain game.
- Bob McLeod should ask previous RVPs where the trophies may be. Also, need write up on how to present the trophy as well as who/how to inform the Clan.
- Want to create special McCrimmon award web page. Any photos should be sent to the web.
- The awards committee wants to promote an active interest in dance. Any region giving a dance award should tell the committee.

Internet Editor – Ian Good (included in meeting packet)

- Web site now converted to new version.
- 77% of new access is by 18-24 year olds.
- Majority of repeats are 55-65 year olds. Currently 771 users/month.
- RVPs need to update web with 2017 event schedule. Will work with individual RVPs to customize region's page.
- It is possible to use Paypal for AGM through the web site. Will ask for approval from council via email when have summary outline for this proposal.

Dunvegan Foundation – John B. MacLeod

There is no electronic report. The foundation approved over \$30,000 in grants. Clan MacLeod is the only clan which has this type of charitable branch. Clan MacLeod Heritage Trust have asked for monies dedicated to them. It has a cooperative treasurer who is working with the Dunvegan Foundation.

Legal Council – John Tutterow Esq.

Thank you to John from Clan MacLeod Council for providing the Conflict of Interest documents and revised bylaws.

Chaplain – Robert Lewis

Flowers of the forest – Spoke with John Stuart and his wife during his last days. 14 sympathy/get-well cards were sent to members.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

2019 AGM, 2020 NAG – Robert McLeod

The Canadians have already questioned where the next 2020 NAG will be held. Due to illness/death the New England RVP position is vacant and some other RVPs are new. The rotation of regions needs adjustment. Suggestions for 2019 – 2020 included Savanna Georgia and a cruise which could start in Galveston/Houston or Baltimore to Bermuda. Need a physical presence to coordinate event in a city. Give ideas to the committee which includes John Norman MacLeod and Franklin Wyatt III. Will contact each RVP independently.

REGIONAL VP REPORTS:

Southeast – Ann McLeod (included in meeting packet)

- Traded Dothan, Alabama with Gulf Central region.
- Southeast website has been allowed to expire. Focus on Facebook.

Upper Midwest – Eugene McLeod (included in meeting packet) Read at meeting

Mid-Atlantic – Stephen MacLeod (included in meeting packet)

- Brian Glover will be a commissioner for the Richmond, Virginia games

Gulf Central – Jack Lewis (included in meeting packet) Read at meeting

Missouri Valley – Tom Macleod (included in meeting packet) Read at meeting

Carolinas - Franklin Wyatt III (included in meeting packet)

Great Lakes - Judith MacLeod (included in meeting packet)

South Central – Tex McCloud (included in meeting packet) Read at meeting

Northwest - Scott Lewis (included in meeting packet) Read at meeting

Pacific – Tammie Vawter (included in meeting packet) Read at meeting

Vacant - New England Southwest Northeast

Motion for reports to be approved made by Franklin Wyatt III. Seconded by Judith MacLeod. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2017 AGM – Carolinas – Franklin Wyatt
Plans are moving ahead. Formal agenda will be published in the spring.
Monday registration. Tuesday workshops and speakers. Wednesday council meeting and Moores Creek. Thursday AGM meeting and banquet. Get hotel reservations early. Make sure you tell them you are with the MacLeod AGM. Will consider using Paypal to collect registration fee.
2. Renewal of COSCA membership – Weeden Nichols
This proved not to be a good investment of funds. Judy will not renew membership.
3. Funding for North Room- Sasha Macleod
Providing funds to individuals for the North Room through Clan MacLeod USA is a suspect practice. Neither the Dunvegan Foundation nor Clan MacLeod USA want to aid in this practice. People who wish to earmark funds for an individual or for the support of the North room should do this through the ACMS or directly to the individual. This is not tax deductible in the USA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Compensating members for one time lost, destroyed or missing items at games due to weather or guests – Weeden Nichols
Discussion centered on whether RVPs think that compensation beyond the yearly stipend could be fairly distributed. No RVP at the meeting felt that this was possible without additional questions on fairness being raised. The motion was withdrawn.
2. Youth membership scholarships and/or additional awards for the Veteran Adaptive Highland Athletics division– Robert Lewis (see Chaplain motion in Other Reports section of meeting packet)
The suggestion was Clan MacLeod USA provide free membership to youth who are wearing Clan MacLeod tartan and participating in Scottish events such as dancing, piping etc. Problems with the way the proposal was stated arose during the meeting. It was suggested that it needs more detailed implementation plan since it is based on excess CMS funds. It needs more explicit timing for dividing funds among regions and a clearer time span for renewal of the free membership.

The motion was tabled and a modified proposal should be submitted at the next meeting. Other council members should submit suggestions and questions.

3. Treasurer's position – Weeden Nichols

Richard MacLeod is resigning the Treasurer's position. The nomination committee will pursue a replacement.

4. Long Term investment of monies – Richard MacLeod

Funds incoming to Clan MacLeod USA consists of current membership annual payments and life members. The life members' component is \$76,000. This is earning approximately 1 ½ % which does not really cover the cost of membership annually. However, given the time frame, part of this money could be invested with a more long term commitment which would serve the society better. The bylaws give conflicting statements on required flexibility. The question of what amount would be considered a conservative level to maintain at lower interest and what amount could be invested long term needs to be answered? Also, does the current bylaws support long term investment or need amendment? Amounts available for different investment types need to be expressed in other than specific dollar amounts. Franklin Wyatt III, John Tutterow, and the acting Treasurer need to determine the course of action.

5. SOP, Winter Meeting Planner – Steve MacLeod

For the last 26 years, the Scottish Walk has been part of the optional council meeting. The hotel that has been used is showing wear. Steve made a motion:

- a. Propose move the hotel to one on King Street, specifically the Hilton near the metro shuttle.
- b. Need free rein for the contracting a meeting room and hospitality suite which is the minimum requirement. The booking may or may not include rooms for individuals. Individuals may need to book separately without the normal group rate.

The motion for placing the meeting planning in Steve's hands was seconded by Ian Good and approved by council.

6. Interim RVPs – Weeden Nichols

- a. Bonnie Denka is the acting RVP for the Northeast replacing Jeanne MacLeod who is ill.

Bonnie MacLeod Denka
8005 Trina Circle
Clay, NY 13041-9158
Telephone (315) 569-4623
Email bdenka513@aol.com

b. Timm Herrod is the acting RVP for the Southwest Region.

Timm Herrod
16235 E. Summit Fox Ave.
Parker, CO 80134-3189
Telephone (303) 795-3406
Email timmh@pipersnook.com

Weeden moved that these names will be placed on the slate of RVP officers for the 2017 AGM. Ian Good seconded. Approved.

Departure prayer was given by Chaplain Robert Lewis.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McLeod