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SCOTTISH NORTH AMERICAN COMMUNITY CONFERENCE 2025



Organized by the American-Scottish Foundation (ASF), The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA), Scottish Heritage USA (SHUSA), Chicago Scots, the St. Andrews Societies of Detroit & Los Angeles, and the Scottish American Womens Society (SAWS)



Clan Worldwide Announcement

CLAN MACDUBHSITH

“Pronounced mac - doo - shee”

Dear Clan Members Worldwide,

The Council of Presidents is honoured to advise all Clan members worldwide that the Lord Lyon King of Arms is pleased to note and accepts that the Clan has settled upon a single, unifying Clan name under which all can unite. We gratefully received this news 25 August 2025 from Carrick Pursuivant, our Supervisory Officer from the Court of the Lord Lyon. The Clan comprising the surnames MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacAfee, MacFee, MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie and other accepted cognates is now known as Clan MacDubhsith as decided by the Clan. As explained during this process this decision will not require any Society to amend their current Society name which may be retained in its current form or modified if preferred by each Society. Reference to Clan MacDubhsith affiliation is appropriate.



This is an important step. When the Clan selects a single candidate to recommend to the Lord Lyon for appointment as Commander of the Clan it is important that there is a single Clan name which the Lord Lyon can appoint a person to be Commander of and under which name all strands of the Clan are able to rally.

The Lord Lyon trusts that the Clan will now be able to move on to selecting and rallying round a single candidate to recommend for appointment as Commander. The Lord Lyon wishes the Clan well in its search for a suitable candidate who will have the support of the whole Clan.

Additional details about our Clan MacDubhsith name and the process for identifying a Clan Commander candidate for submission to the Lord Lyon will be available shortly on all our Clan Society and Family websites and the Council's website. An announcement regarding the Commander candidate process will be made worldwide.

Respectfully Presented by the Clan MacDubhsith Council of Presidents

Thomas McDuffee, MacDuffee Clan Society of America
Vanessa Duffy, Clan MacFie Society (UK)
Gary MacPhie, MacFie Clan Society of Canada
Jim McAfee, MacFie Clan Society of America
Christer Hemberg, Thoburn-Macfie Family Society (Sweden)
Kris McPhee Marsh, Clan McPhee Society of New Zealand
Barbara McPhee, Macfie Clan Society of Australia



THE SEARCH FOR A CLAN COMMANDER

COMMANDER (CEANN-CATH)

CLAN MacDUBHSITH

The Clan that comprised the surnames MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacFee, MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie and other accepted cognates has settled the Clan name which is now Clan MacDubhsith.

The Clan is without a Chief or a Clan Commander (Ceann-Cath). The search is now on to find a suitable candidate for the vacant post of Commander, who will provide leadership and forward development of the Clan, and drive the process to identify a suitable Chief.

The process for settling the Clan name and identifying a Clan Commander is being led by a Council of Presidents representing all current Clan Societies of Clan MacDubhsith.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland has authorised a Family Convention for May 2026 to be held in Glasgow, Scotland at which nominees for the position of Commander will be considered by the whole Clan for presenting to the Court for final approval.

The Clan needs someone with the right skills-set and knowledge and who is well acquainted with the history of the Clan and Scotland's history and heritage generally. That person must also have the time, energy, ability, resources and enthusiasm to attend Scottish Games and Gatherings and to promote the Clan at these and other public events. The Commander is a crucial leader and ambassador for the Clan as it plans its future. Any Commander must be able to work closely with the various Clan Societies and Associations worldwide.

To this end, the Clan is seeking applications via a Notice of Intent from suitable qualified persons bearing one of the Clan surnames. There is more information, guidance and the necessary documentation at clannameandcommandersearch.com

Contact: Submit email questions to clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com. The Council will respond.

Council of Presidents for Clan MacDubhsith
September 2025





Scottish Heritage Youth & Young Adult Survey

Many groups are reporting that young people are no longer joining societies and membership organizations. We want to find out what makes young people interested in their Scottish Heritage and how we can make Scottish Heritage events and organizations more engaging and fun for young people.



If you have a few moments please consider filling out this survey to assist COSCA in this goal.

The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations is a registered 501c3 charity; founded in 1976 to support Scottish Clan organizations and to preserve Scottish heritage. The Council welcomes all organizations and individuals to join us in our work to strengthen and energize the efforts of all Scottish Heritage Societies.



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COSCA Youth Development Committee Releases Youth Engagement Survey

**Committee Members Emma Sagers and Ethan MacDonald,
COSCA Regional Commissioners**

Declining Membership & the Need for Youth Engagement. Across the United States, many associations, societies, and heritage organizations are reporting a steady decline in membership. COSCA representatives are frequently approached by Clan Societies seeking advice on how to attract and engage younger generations, as their existing membership continues to age.

Those of us who regularly attend Highland Games and Celtic events see a hopeful sign: younger people are coming—participating in athletics, Highland dance, pipe bands, and attending events with their families. The challenge we face is how to turn this presence into ongoing engagement, ensuring that today's youth, young families, and young professionals carry forward the traditions and connections that make Scottish heritage important for the future.

Introducing the COSCA Youth Questionnaire. To better understand what matters to younger generations, COSCA's Youth Development Committee, chaired by Board Member Rhonda Wardlaw, launched its Youth Engagement Questionnaire at this year's Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. It has since been distributed at the Virginia Scottish Games and other events. The goal is to generate several hundred responses this calendar year. Key demographics at which it is aimed includes grade school-aged youth, tweens and teens, and young adults (in the 20's, etc.). The questionnaire seeks to learn:

- How today's youth and young adults view their Scottish heritage
- How engaged and 'heard' they currently feel
- What programs, activities, and opportunities they would like to see more of.

Our goal is to provide clan and family societies and other Scottish heritage organizations with actionable insights they can use to shape outreach, events, and membership strategies that appeal to younger generations. **How You Can Help.** The questionnaire is designed to be quick and easy to complete. We are asking everyone in the Scottish heritage community to:

- Share the questionnaire widely – with your membership, families, and friends
- Encourage youth participation – especially young professionals, young parents, and students
- Promote engagement – use social media, newsletters, and word of mouth to spread the word.

The more responses we gather in the next two months, the more valuable the results will be for the entire community.

Results & Next Steps. COSCA regional commissioners will continue to distribute the survey at other highland games events this season. Findings will first be reported to the wider Scottish heritage community at the Scottish North American Community Conference on December 5, 2025. Thereafter, updates will be reported through the COSCA Website and in future editions of The Claymore.

[Learn about the conference here:](#)

This is your questionnaire – an opportunity to give voice to the next generation of Scottish heritage leadership. Together, we can make sure our culture thrives for generations to come.

Here are the questions being asked of all young respondents:

1. What is your gender?
2. What is your age group?
3. Are you or your family a member of a Scottish Clan Organization or Scottish Heritage Group? (Select all that apply)
4. Do you or your family participate in Scottish Heritage cultural groups? (select all that apply)?
5. How many Highlands Games/Celtic Festivals do you and your family attend over the year?
6. How long do you and your family generally stay at events?
7. If you do not participate in Scottish Cultural Groups, have you ever wanted to?
8. What are your favourite activities at Highland Games/Celtic Events?
9. What type of activities would you like to see more of at events?
10. Do you see yourself participating in Clan Societies or Scottish Associations in the future?
11. How important do you consider your Scottish Heritage to be to you as a person?
12. Do you follow any Scottish Clans/Heritage/Cultural organizations on social media? (select all that apply):
13. Which social media platforms do you use most often to connect with Scottish Clans/Heritage/Cultural organizations? (select all that apply)
14. Do you follow any Scottish Influencers on social media? If so, please tell us which ones:
15. How do you or your family normally hear about Scottish Cultural Events?
16. Anything else about Scottish Heritage, Highland Games/Celtic Events, Societies/Associations, Scottish Cultural Groups you want to add?

THE STANDING COUNCIL OF SCOTTISH CHIEFS

Submitted by Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil
Vice Convenor, Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs

The Standing Council describes itself as “the authoritative body on the Scottish clan system.” It was formed at a meeting held on March 25, 1952, in Edinburgh, with the Earl of Elgin, Chief of the House of Bruce, as its founding Convenor. At the annual meeting this year his grandson, Charles, Lord Bruce, agreed to become the new Convenor, succeeding Sir Malcolm MacGregor. Today, there are more than 135 members of the council, including the heads of almost all the major clans and families in Scotland. In October 1984 the Lord Lyon granted corporate arms to the council, featuring the three feathers in gold on a blue background. By tradition in Scotland only a recognized chief of the name, holder of the undifferenced arms, is entitled to wear three feathers.

The council and its members not only liaise actively with their clan societies but also with umbrella groups like COSCA and Scots of Canada on matters of mutual interest. Back home, the council also works closely with the Scottish Government both in furthering Scottish interests around the world and in raising awareness within Scotland of the vital role played by heritage tourism in the economy. The Scottish Government launched its Scottish Connections Framework in 2023 as a way to reach out to the Diaspora and appointed me to represent the council and by extension the clans on the Scottish Connections Advisory Panel.

Membership in the council is by invitation only and the council reserves the right to decide which chiefs and clans meet the historical criteria, and merit invitation. In recent years the council has become concerned about the growing number of new societies formed around Scottish surnames in the US, which aspire to have a chief, and yet which unfortunately do not have a compelling history of acting as a clan.

There is no other body in Scotland or in the Diaspora which has the authority to act as an arbiter of authenticity in these matters. Lyon has real legal authority, but his role is primarily, even strictly, heraldic. To fill this vacuum, the SCSC recently decided to make use of its three feathers symbol. Any organization (clan society, Games, or whatever) to which it grants permission to display the insignia, can be seen as genuine that the 3 feathers will come to be the public as to the authenticity of the same is already happening of clan-related jewelry and other that whatever they are contemplating related merchandise, has their chief's rendition of their arms. The Standing always enjoyed a close relationship group serving its clan societies in the of the Council, Lord Sempill, Sir Pauline Hunter and I all serve on Together we send our greetings and membership.



and authentic. We expect seen as a way of assuring the groups displaying them. with certain manufacturers materials. Scots need to feel buying, in the way of clan-approval as an accurate Council of Scottish Chiefs has with COSCA as the umbrella United States. Four members Malcolm MacGregor, Madame COSCA's Advisory Board. best wishes to the COSCA

THE LION RAMPANT MISREPRESENTED & MISUNDERSTOOD

Bruce MacGregor Whyte, MD
Editor, Claymore

What you see when travelling to events that are Scottish-oriented, or just want to express love of Scotland, are an abundance of yellow flags with a red lion encircled by a border reaching out to you. This symbol is taken by the general public to mean this to be the official flag of Scotland. It is not! The correct National Scottish flag is the white saltire on a blue background. Clans and Societies use the Lion Rampant flag all the time, but should not. Actually, it is the Coat of Arms of the King or Queen of Scots. It is correctly the official banner of the Sovereign in Scotland.



HISTORY OF THE LION RAMPANT

First used during the reign of King Alexander between 1214 and 1249 when it was found on one of his seals and was referred to as the Arms of the Kingdom of Scotland. Naturally historians beg to differ. Some believe the lion rampant appeared earlier when adopted by King William (aka “William the Lion”) between 1143 and 1214. It was a part of the design of his heraldic banner/flag used in battle, maybe called “The Lion of Bravery”.

THE FLAG

This is not just any old ordinary flag. The specific components making up the flag have not been altered in over 800 years.

These details are very specific and must be adhered to for the flag to be correct. The Lion must appear inside an ornate bordure called a “tressure.” The lion faces the flagpole and the flag is also reversed to allow both sides to face the flagpole at the same time. In olden days the Lion faced forward when on a shield worn on the left arm.



Then further description of the actual flag is highly specific and spelled out in mostly old English terms:

- Well, Lion is a Lion, is a lion, is a lion, even` here;
- The lion is Rampant, which describes the orientation and pose of the lion, meaning it is standing

on one leg with its fore paw raised as if to strike;

- The colors of the Lion are described as:
- Red lion rampant, with blue tongue and claws, within a red double bordure on a yellow background.

The lion flag is only allowed to be flown by a monarch and today is flown at royal residences when the King or Queen is not in residence. When the King or Queen are in residence at Holyroodhouse or Balmoral Castle, the Royal Standard of the United Kingdom is flown instead. Others entitled to fly this flag are the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Lord Lyon King of Arms, the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Lord Lieutenants and other Great Officers.

Now for the shocking parts. According to an act of parliament dated 1672, it is an offense for any private citizen or corporate body to fly or wave this flag. So, this not just a colorful and catching piece of material flying in the breeze from a flag pole. Technically, every piece of cloth, jewelry, cups, saucers, mugs, silver ware, blankets, t-shirts, and much more, (you get the picture, anything that can generate hard cash), and including sports club bars, tourist goods and anything else bearing the Lion cannot be sold, borrowed or otherwise used for profit. The small concession to the private citizens is usually over looked.

But if you insist on flying one at the top of a building or on a flag pole, a special permission is still required today



SAVE ARMADALE CASTLE

(Press Release, “Save Armadale”, The Scotsman, August 25th, 2025)

“We are astounded that OSCR (the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) has established that there are no grounds to intervene in the decision of the charity trustees to sell its landholdings including the Sleat Estate and Armadale property assets, and to find out that OSCR will not be intervening in the sale, given the concerns which have been raised with them.

“We are a growing collective of descendants, historians, families, and friends who believe Armadale is more than just a place—it’s a living link to our roots, our stories, and our shared legacy. In the face of potential sale and loss of access to this historic site, we’ve come together to take action.

“We have learned today coincidentally the CDLT has applied to OSCR to change the charity’s name and charitable purpose. We believe this an attempt to eliminate all the beneficiaries from the current Deeds of Trust from having any further involvement in this charity.

“As a campaign group working on behalf of Clan Donald we are currently looking at our options to appeal OSCR’s decision to approve the change of name and purpose, as well as the decision that there are no grounds for intervention in the sale, as there has been no consultation with the charity’s beneficiaries.

“Our goal is simple but urgent: to stop the sale of Armadale Castle and secure its future for the public good. We aim to restore, protect, and revitalize this historic treasure through fundraising, community engagement, storytelling, and sustainable development efforts. cherished landmark has stood as a symbol of heritage, identity, and connection for generations of MacDonalds, locals, and visitors from around the world.

“Whether you have ties to Clan Donald, a love of Scottish heritage, or a passion for preserving important places, we invite you to stand with us. Together, we can ensure that Armadale remains a place of remembrance, education, and inspiration for generations to come”.



Armadale Castle today (Clan Donald High Council)





PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we wind down another year of highland games events and look forward to the holiday season, there are a number of important developments which deserve our collective attention. Some of these are discussed at length in articles found throughout this edition of *The Claymore*. Other topics touched on below relate to new COSCA housekeeping developments, volunteer opportunities, communications initiatives, and new program offerings.

Scottish North American Community Conference (SNACC 2025) to again be held In Alexandria, VA this December. Now in its 23rd year, the Scottish North American Community Conference (SNACC) will again be held this year in Alexandria, VA--right across the Potomac from Washington, DC—and in conjunction with the annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade (largest Scottish heritage parade on the East Coast), in which over a hundred clan and family societies participate each year. COSCA is a longtime co-sponsor of the conference. This year's SNACC Conference will be held on Friday, December 5, the day before the Xmas Walk Parade, and much closer to the eastern end of Old Town, Alexandria, where the parade is held. Conference planning has been actively under way since the summer. The event will be held at the Lyceum in Old Towne Alexandria, starting at 10:00AM on Friday December 5, and continuing until 6:00PM. Charles, Lord Bruce has been invited as our keynote speaker and sessions are planned to discuss, among other subjects, new developments from a sampling of various St. Andrew's societies and major highland games events from across the nation. Presenters from the Scottish Government, the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the Saltire Foundation, the Scottish Connections Fund, and other Scottish heritage nonprofits will also be heard from. For more details, consult the SNACC Conference website, at www.scottishleadershipconference.com

Highland Echoes still needs our help! In this edition of *The Claymore*, you will again see an appeal for funding support from Highland Echoes, a nationally known and respected Scottish music and dance ensemble which is headed up by Jennifer Licko. Highland Echoes—the program arm of the Scottish Cultural Outreach Foundation, a NC nonprofit—is an Organizational Member of COSCA. A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable nonprofit, it also sponsors Scotland In The Classroom and Scotland in Our Back Yard—award-winning programs about Scottish heritage and culture for grade school kids. As noted in the last edition of *The Claymore*, Highland Echoes has had its funding from the National Endowment for the Arts pulled, despite its excellent reputation and many documented accomplishments. They desperately need support from their friends and colleagues in the Scottish-American Community, as they prepare to launch their annual Christmas holiday season musical program offerings in locations in and around North Carolina. Please consider making a tax-exempt charitable contribution to Highland Echoes so they can continue their important arts and education work.

COSCA Annual General Meeting, via Zoom, set for Sunday, December 14, at 4:00PM (Eastern Time). COSCA will again hold its AGM by Zoom in December. We are looking at the afternoon of Sunday, December 14. The meeting is expected to last 90 minutes, perhaps a bit longer, depending on the final number of agenda items we will need to cover. Officer and committee reports will be delivered to the membership and Board elections will be held for the several At-Large seats coming up for reelection this year. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2025, now's the time to do that, so you can vote at the AGM. You can renew online or by sending a paper check to our Membership Chairman, Scott Swann, whose telephone, email address and postal mailing address are all listed at the very bottom of the COSCA Membership Application, which appears as the last page of this publication.

All Individual Members-in-Good-Standing of COSCA, plus all members of any COSCA Organizational

Member-in-Good-Standing (i.e., mainly the clan and family societies that make up the bulk of our membership) are invited to attend online. However, only one vote on any item up for a vote may be cast by any Organizational Member—that vote to be exercised by the individual selected in advance by that Organization. A meeting agenda will be sent out by me after Thanksgiving, as will a Zoom link (meeting invite) from our Secretary, Charlie Sherwood. Please be on the lookout for both of these items in your Inbox next month.

Our relationship with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC). COSCA's closest Scotland-based partner organization remains the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC). They represent the chiefs while we represent their respective clan and family societies here in the States. There has now been a change in top leadership at the SCSC. My Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor, has stepped down as Convenor after a second term in office and Charles, Lord Bruce has assumed the Convenorship of the organization, effective this past August. Eldest son of the Earl of Elgin, Chief of the Bruces', Lord Bruce is very active and visible in the Scottish heritage community, on both sides of the Atlantic. He is also very involved in the Family of Bruce International (their clan society). Lord Bruce joined us a few of years ago at the SNACC Conference to discuss the SCSC's Heirs Project, of which he is a major proponent. He has been invited to return for SNACC 2025 this December and address the conferees about his plans and vision for the SCSC.

We in COSCA governance look forward to working with Lord Bruce and his management team at the SCSC, which will include Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil, who will continue as Vice-Convenor for the North American Diaspora. (Lord Dunrossil has long served on COSCA's Advisory Board and will continue in that role, as well.) In particular, we look forward to kicking off the long-delayed inter-organizational working group made up of representatives of both COSCA and the SCSC, which will look at a number of issues of mutual concern around the general theme of "authenticity." These will likely include the wide proliferation of sept names claimed by many clan societies which have little or no historical basis. Elsewhere in this edition of *The Claymore* you will find an article by Lord Dunrossil about a new initiative by the SCSC to award a "three-feather badge" to interested clan societies which can meet the SCSC's criteria for authenticity. (More on this whole subject in upcoming editions of *The Claymore*.)

The "Save Armadale Castle" crisis facing the MacDonald Lands Trust. On 24 March 2025, the Clan Donald Lands Trust announced that it would be listing the Armadale Estate, including the castle, museum and 20,000 acres, for private sale, due to reported financial struggles and insolvency. The first listing for 20,000 acres was posted on 26 March 2025. On 14 June, the second half of the listing, involving the heritage sites, was listed. The situation is complex, and there are multiple players involved. Reportedly litigation is in process to try to block the sale, but the outcome is uncertain.

A community-led initiative called "Save Armadale" has been created which is dedicated to preserving the rich history and cultural legacy of Armadale Castle and its surrounding grounds. The goal is to prevent the planned sale of Armadale Castle, and 40 acres of beautiful land, surrounding the castle, located on Skye, which is central to highland history and heritage-- especially to the legacy of Clan Donald. The "Save Armadale" initiative involves fundraising, community engagement, and sustainable development efforts to restore, protect, and revitalize this historic treasure. Given that the Clan Donald Land Trust was largely created and financed several decades ago by a number of "deep pocket" American MacDonald donors, (including Ellice MacDonald, (who was also instrumental in the creation of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games), and faithfully supported financially since then by many other Diaspora donors, the fate of Armadale matters greatly to us here in the States. The overarching concern is the long-term impact on all charitable giving by Diaspora Scots if, after decades of successful fund-raising, answered by many in the Diaspora, an historic property such as this can be sold on the open market by its trustees, with little advance notice, and with no opportunity to intervene in the sale. COSCA will follow these developments as they unfold and report any progress to our membership.

Additional regional commissioners for COSCA needed. COSCA's current five Regional Commissioners have been doing a great job this year for us, raising COSCA's profile at highland games events across the country and recruiting new Individual and Organizational Members for us. Hats off to Bob Heston (Mountain States Regional Commissioner), Ethan MacDonald (Upper Midwest Regional Commissioner), Emma Saggars (Mid-Atlantic Regional Commissioner), Lewis Johnson (Southeast Regional Commissioner), and Mary Irwin (Gulf States Regional Commissioner) for their efforts on COSCA's behalf this past highland games season! And as of this July, James ("Mac") McEwen, a resident of New Hampshire and Northeast Regional Convenor for the Clan MacEwen Society, has agreed to assume the position of COSCA Regional Commissioner for the New England States. Welcome to the team, Jim!

COSCA is still looking for regional commissioners for the Northeast Corridor (NY, NJ, and PA), Lower Midwest, Great Plains, Southwest, Southern California, Northern California, and Upper Northwest States. If you are resident in one of those areas of the country and interested in serving as a COSCA regional commissioner, contact me directly for more information. Our target is to deploy several more regional commissioners in time for the 2026 highland games season.

COSCA grant re-submission to Scottish Connections. Last year, with a unanimous vote of support from the COSCA Board, our Communications Director Bart Forbes submitted a grant application in our name to the Scottish Government's new Scottish Connections Foundation—to develop and implement a Leadership Guide for clan and family societies. Facing heavy competition from other submissions, our grant application was not funded in 2024, though it scored well. After a Board discussion earlier this year, Bart revised the draft Leadership Guide and enhanced the plan for its use before re-submitting the application to Scottish Connections again this year. The COSCA Board had voted last year to provide some seed money to support this excellent project going forward, to complement grant funds from an outside source. We are now awaiting word from Scottish Connections Fund on the success of our revised application. Regardless, we expect to have a product available for use by our clan and family society members in the upcoming months. Stay tuned for updates and further developments on this front.

Starlink pilot test at GMHG this year a success! As planned, and as reported in the last edition of *The Claymore*, COSCA purchased a portable Starlink unit early this year and set it up as pilot test at our Clan & Family Caucus Meeting at GMHG in July. The experiment was designed to see how well Starlink could support a Zoom meeting there, given the difficult topography of MacRae Meadows, on the side of Grandfather Mountain—tallest peak in the Blue Ridge Mountains. I'm happy to report that the experiment was a success (though a sudden rainstorm which pounded down on the plastic roof of the Chieftain's Tent at those games make it very difficult for those listening on the Zoom hookup, as well as those present onsite, to hear the presentations.) Looking at "lessons learned" from the pilot test, next year we will have a free-standing microphone onsite, as well as a larger screen and a way to boost the audio on our speaker presentations.

Top male & female athletes at GMHG again awarded COSCA-sponsored trophies this past July. In 2024 at GMHG we initiated a new practice of sponsoring annual awards in COSCA's name to both the best all-around male athlete and the best all-around female athlete at those games. This practice continued this year and will, we're happy to report, continue into the future. The large COSCA trophies for this purpose which were fabricated by Dan Kain Trophies of Fairfax, VA were put on public display at GMHG this past July. As was the case last year, the two winning athletes each received a pewter plate bearing their name and the award date. As was done for the 2024 winners, their names will also be inscribed on the base of the large trophies, along with the names of all future award winners. Congratulations to our



2025 winners, Mike Zolkolwitz and Kendra Danzer. (This idea was first proposed by former COSCA Board Member Scott McCauley and was brought to fruition by Scott's fellow Board Member David McKenzie, who identified the vendor, finalized the design, and supervised the fabrication process. Our thanks to both Scott and Dave for bringing this excellent idea to fruition.)

COSCA Youth Involvement Survey--next steps. Elsewhere in this edition of *The Claymore* you will find a lengthy article about a new Youth Development Survey drafted by our Talent Recruitment Committee, under the leadership of COSCA At-Large Board member Rhonda Wardlaw. The survey was designed to collect important information from grade school and high school level kids, as well as from young adults in their late teens and 20's, about what draws them to attend highland games events and, hopefully, get involved in their clan societies. Hats off to Committee Members Emma Saggars and Ethan MacDonald for taking the lead in developing this survey instrument and to all five of our regional commissioners for distributing it widely at highland games events this season. Stay tuned for preliminary findings, which will be reported at our AGM in December.

Battle Streamers Still Available for distribution to Organizational Members of COSCA. Last year we began distributing to all our clan and family society members bright yellow 'battle streamers'/'campaign ribbons' suitable for attachment to flag staffs or tent poles and bearing COSCA's name and logo. These proved very popular. While a few of the yellow streamers remain available for distribution, we have now purchased a second batch—this time bright red, but likewise bearing COSCA's name and logo. We had both colors available for distribution at the Clan & Family Caucus at GMHG this past July and later in the season at other highland games events, where COSCA representatives were present. We plan to continue distributing these to our Organizational Members-in-Good-Standing in 2026.



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Exterior of the Lyceum, location of the 2025 SNACC meeting, Alexandria, VA



SCOTTISH HERITAGE USA CELEBRATES A DIAMOND

PINEHURST, NC. Sixty years ago, five founding fathers of today's Scottish Heritage USA filed in New York for incorporation of a non-profit organization to "recognize and enhance original bonds of ancestral and national character among the peoples of Scotland and of North America; to disseminate knowledge of their respective cultural heritages, and to support the preservation of historic sites and maintain of centers of artistic and literary endeavor."

From the genesis of Scottish Heritage USA's founding in 1965, the organization has been committed to supporting a strong relationship with the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). It began with Scottish Heritage underwriting student exchanges between NTS's Threave Gardens in Scotland and Longwoods Gardens in Pennsylvania. In 1974, the board approved \$12,000 for an information center at the Georgian House at No. 7 Charlotte Square in Edinburgh, and later \$30,000 to NTS for Georgian House renovations. That same year, the joint sharing of a tent at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games at MacRae Meadows near Linville, North Carolina. That tradition continues to this day, along with Scottish Heritage USA donating over \$1.5 million to the National Trust for Scotland and its USA Foundation in the intervening years, including \$300,000 for the Culloden Visitor's Center, \$250,000 for renovations of the Dwight Eisenhower suite at Culzean Castle and Gardens, and support for projects such creation of the online Robert Burns Library Collection, St. Kilda and Arran archeology, restoration of Hill House and Falkland Palace, the Glencoe Restoration project and numerous renovations to NTS properties, lands and museums for public access and use.

"Scottish Heritage USA's work has not been limited to National Trust for Scotland projects. The organization has supported many heritage and cultural projects here in the US such as An Crios Greine global piping contest, Blue Ridge Pipes and Brass, Mill Prong Preservation, the Tartans Museum in Franklin NC, The Pipes of Christmas in New York, New Jersey and Boston, and American Scottish Foundation's Tartan Week concerts at Bryant Park," according to Scottish Heritage USA President Peter McC. Wilson IV. "One of our most visible projects in the US has been the sponsorship and management of the Scottish Cultural Village at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games each July. We also set aside a portion of our member funds to support summer camp scholarships for disadvantaged youth in highland dance, pipe and drum and Scottish fiddling."



Scottish Heritage USA held a special Anniversary Gala Dinner on July 13 at the end of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games to celebrate the organization's Diamond Jubilee. A festive dinner, traditional Scottish music and song by Scottish Heritage minstrel Colin Grant Adams and Master Fiddler Jamie Laval, stories of Robert Burns' from the National Trust for Scotland's Learning Manager Chris Waddell, and recognition of Scottish Heritage USA's decades of success made this an evening to remember for all.

Scottish Heritage USA was founded in 1965 to recognize and strengthen the bonds of friendship between the peoples of Scotland and the United States. The non-profit association has members across North America, supporting partnership with the National Trust for Scotland as well as a variety of cultural and heritage programs, places, educational events, and scholarships.



*National Trust for Scotland and
Threave Gardens and Castle,
Jink & Diddle Scholarship students
Rebecca Longhenry and
Paula Desimone, and
the Bachelors Library*



THREE SCOTTISH UP AND UPS

CAMP CALEDONIA, LOON MTN GAMES, HIAWASSEE GAMES

The people who bring you the annual New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival are taking exciting steps to create a permanent home for year-round activities centered on Scottish Celtic culture. NHSCOT has closed on the former Camp Spaulding property in Concord and have launched a campaign to repurpose the 57-acre summer camp into a hub for Scottish culture, events, and activities, called Camp Caledonia.

“As our organization celebrates it’s 50th birthday, we are thrilled to launch a new chapter in our story,” explains Terri Wiltse, Executive Director for NHSCOT. “Once fully operational, this property will cement our legacy as a destination for the next 50 years.”

NHSCOT has launched a \$3.7 million dollar capital campaign to complete the project. It will include many varied activities, such as Scottish music, dance, athletics, Gaelic language programs and more. The facility will also be a destination for events of all types. NHSCOT intends to host workshops and fun activities centered on the Scottish culture.

The Highland Games & Festival will continue to operate each September at Loon Mountain in Lincoln, but the intent of this Concord headquarters will be to enhance the public’s connection to Scottish traditions all year long. “We believe this will boost tourism to the Capitol region and continue to raise awareness around our history,” explains Wiltse. “The property we’ve identified offers a unique and rare opportunity: it is well-suited for our needs, centrally located, and has the potential to be transformed into a vibrant must-see place to visit.”

NHSCOT leaders are confident this will boost tourism, increase jobs through both the construction and operation of Camp Caledonia, and be a welcomed addition to Concord’s creative economy. Located at the corner of Bog road and river road, the wooded property is envisioned to be a welcoming space for visitors and an ideal permanent headquarters for the administrative offices of nhscot. construction and renovation will begin soon with a targeted opening in the spring of 2026. For more information on camp caledonia: <https://nhscot.org/nhscot-capital-campaign/> or contact Terri Wiltse



Terri Wiltse, Executive Director

info@nhscot.org

603-229-1975

BUT WAIT!

THERE'S MORE!

IF YOU ORDER IN THE NEXT 20 MINUTES WE WILL TRIPLE YOUR ORDER

Why subject you to that outrageous advertizing? Well, there are two other success stories in the ongoing struggles faced by organizers of highland games that we are highlighting here.

One event actually closed the gates to their Games the day before their Games! Their explanation was lack of parking. Once the parking was full, that was it. They have 500 parking spots. Attendees obviously know these Games because the average occupancy of each car is 3.4 people/car which would convert to 1,700 attendees. The event is the New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival. This event is hosted by the Loon Mountain Resort,



The third success was found at the far end of the eastern seaboard, Georgia. For 19 years a two day North Georgia Highland Games were held in Blairsville, GA. It has been wildly successful with an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 attendees over the two days for the last five years. Wonderful, except for those working the Highland tents. It was usually hot, humid, prone to sudden drenching thunderstorms, and obviously popular. Eighteen months ago the Blairsville organizers let the community know that their resources were drained each year and the event needed to find a better home. Not an easy task.

However, in the neighboring Towns County was a purpose built fair ground, It sat on 56 acres that projected out into Lake Chatuge. Originally built as a reenactment working facility that had been built in the style of years back. All artisans had “permanent” wooden structures inside of which they could display their wares or work their skills in the original manner. Schools would bring their students to learn of the working man’s role. So, when it rains, as is did while we were there, no worries about your stuff getting wet, it is all under solid cover. And all of this is available to the Games.



In 2025, the number of visitors to the Games excelled the number who had visited the Fair in any one day. As happened in Loon Mountain, they ran out of parking space, but were able to arrange additional spaces.

HIGHLAND ECHOES

SCOTTISH CULTURAL OUTREACH FOUNDATION



The Mission of COSCA is to represent the interests of Scottish clan and family associations and our other heritage member organizations across the USA and internationally - in the process promoting our Scottish heritage and culture through all forms of public education.



We welcome MacAulays of all spellings (such as Aulay, MacAlley, MacAulay, MacAuley, MacAully, MacPhedran, MacPhedron, McCauley, McCallie, McCauley, McCawley, etc.) to be members of the Clan. Clan MacAulay, one of the most active and democratic Scottish Clan Societies in the world today, wants to welcome you to the Clan. Are you yearning to learn more about your MacAulay ancestry and to connect with MacAulay kin worldwide? JOIN US!



The Scottish Cultural Outreach Foundation is a North Carolina based 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization passionately committed to the preservation and promotion of Scottish heritage and culture. Through dynamic performing arts initiatives and a diverse range of educational programs, we work directly with teachers, students, and arts presenters to create meaningful connections with the Scottish diaspora community. This is achieved through a twofold vision:

- 1. all children have the opportunity to engage in learning about Scotland's heritage and migration impact through quality educational and cultural programming; and*
- 2. that the arts community has the opportunity to recognize and engage in the traditional Scottish cultural arts.*



SCOTLAND

**IN OUR
BACKYARD**





North Carolina humanities

scotlandintheclash.com



Scotland in the Class and *Scotland in our Backyard* are taught in 57 schools in North Carolina. Ewan, Unicorn and Chief Piper will lead the way

NC TOUR SCHEDULE CLICK IN DATE

[Dec 10, 2025 - Sunset Theatre
Asheboro, NC 27203](#)

[Dec 11, 2025 - Sunrise Theater
250 Southern Pines, NC 28387](#)

[Dec 12, 2025 - Joslyn Hall
Carteret Community College
St. Morehead City, NC 28557](#)

[Dec 13, 2025 - Oringer
Auditorium
Craven Community College
New Bern, NC 28562](#)

[Dec 14, 2025 - Minnie Evans
Arts Center
Wilmington, NC 28412](#)

HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS
Highland Echoes December
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**WE ARE GIVING STUDENTS
FREE TICKETS
TO THE WILMINGTON DEC
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THANKS TO OUR CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT!



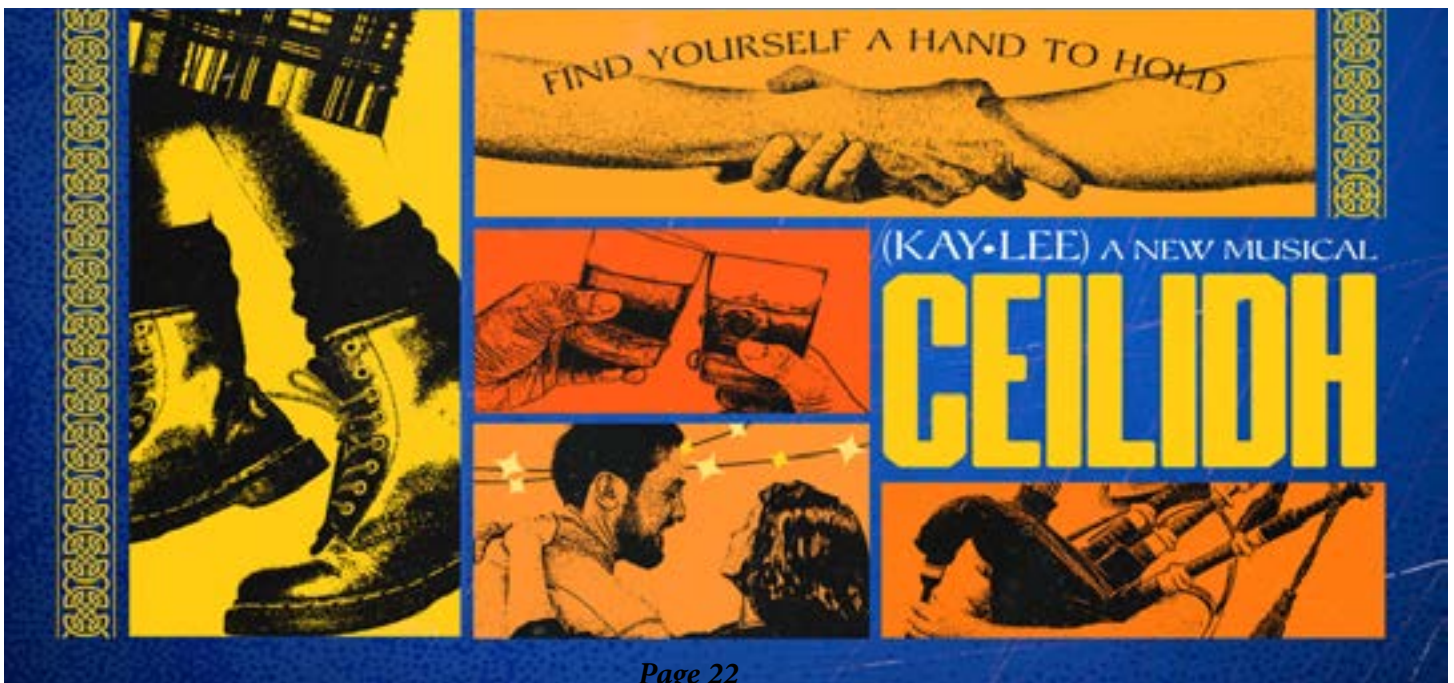
CEILIDH THE MUSICAL

This fall, American theatergoers will get to experience an old Scottish tradition blending music, dancing and storytelling in a brand new, exuberantly theatrical context, when Ceilidh—a show named after the traditional gathering—arrives at the M&T Bank Exchange at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center in Baltimore, MD in early September through late October. The show is expected to move to West Coast venues after the first of the year. Celebrated Broadway director Sam Pinkleton, fresh off his 2025 Tony Award win for *Oh, Mary!*, will helm the piece with both direction and original choreography, and feature an original book, music and lyrics by Scott Gilmour and Claire McKenzie. The duo met at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where Gilmour and McKenzie respectively studied acting and composing; over the past dozen years, under the name Noisemaker, they’ve crafted some 20 shows and earned wide acclaim.

In Ceilidh, actors and musicians are led by a “caller”, a role Gilmour will play in Baltimore, who encourages audience members to learn and partake in dances—set to centuries-old folk tunes and original material—as the narrative weaves a tale linking generations. “The dances are really easy,” Gilmour stresses. “The point is to get up and share a moment with your pals, or with people you’ve never met before.” McKenzie points out that participation isn’t mandatory:

“You can join in the dances, or you can wander around and observe. Ceilidhs in Scotland are like that; I’ve been to one where there was an 80-year-old grandmother sitting on the side, having a great time. “At one of their shows in Scotland, she adds, “We had a mother bring a newborn baby. “Gilmour notes that the goal is to “get a bunch of people to come together in a room, and remember that we have a lot in common with one another—and it’s easy to connect when you let go of the other stuff.

Pinkleton. “The group of big-hearted, brilliant actors and musicians we have assembled—from Broadway, Baltimore, and Scotland—is a collision of talents and cultures that could only happen in Ceilidh. I absolutely cannot wait.” Ceilidh had its first developmental workshop in Glasgow, Scotland in August 2024.



Uachtar reoite



How many of you can truly say, with a straight face, “Scotland has the best ice cream in the world”, or, “We are going to Scotland because their ice cream is the best”. Really! You must be daft. Just consider a normal weather forecast: *in July (summer?) it will be cool, even cold in higher locations, dark gray skies, temperature 60F with drizzle, chance of heavy rain showers, maybe even sleet and snow at higher ranges (40% chance) and if you are lucky winds out of the north at 0 - 12 knots.*

So, with that sort of forecast, you would never consider traveling to Scotland to taste their ice cream, right! Well, think again. Yes, it is just possible that Scotland has rediscovered ice cream. Recently, VisitScotland highlighted Scottish ice cream with 12 ice cream locations and their specialties. They were not ranked.

UACHTAR REOITE NA HALBAN

We've got the inside scoop on some of the best places in Scotland for this well-known and loved treat. As you would expect there are plenty of Scottish seaside towns on the list, but also a handful of farms where you can meet the embryonic ice cream at its earliest stage of growth, at the farms with real coos! The good thing is you're never too far from a delicious ice cream in Scotland. Whatever your favourite flavour, we can all look forward to an ice cream this summer on a big Scottish adventure. So check them out on the next page and for really high quality pictures, [click on this link](#) to be redirected to the pages of ice creams

But, you may ask, why did ice cream become a feature to write about? Quite simple: look at their advertizing. More to the point, see how many of these ice cream shops/parlors show an ice cream of some sort in the marketing. Would you expect to see the actual ice cream parlors, as we used to call them, or ice cream shops on shop fronts or even billboards? There are 12 highlighted ice creameries (compromise term). So which of these ice cream establishments would tempt you to visit one of them? Only six! those with red borders. The other six, with blue borders, offer no suggestion that they deal in ice cream. Walking arm and arm overlooking a nice scenery is fine, but I would not be wanting to buy that, just an ice cream.

- #1 Broughty Ferry, Dundee
- #2 Largs, Ayrshire & Arran
- #3 Musselburgh, East Lothian
- #4 Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire
- #5 Stanley, Perthshire
- #6 Portsoy, Aberdeenshire
- #7 Ullapool, Highlands
- #8 Kirkwall, Orkney
- #9 St Andrews, Fife
- #10 North Berwick, East Lothian
- #11 Cullen, Moray
- #12 Pitlochry, Perthshire

The numbers next to each ice cream on the previous page are for identification purposes only and not a ranking of goodness or taste.

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A 501(c)3 organization created with the goals of:

- Supporting Scottish American Clan and family Societies with training/resources
- Providing education and learning opportunities in Scottish fields
- Building Global relationships with Scotland and the Global diaspora

This news letter does not accept any responsibility for the opinions within,
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Council of Scottish Clans & Associations

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc.

"Service, Education & Advocacy in support of the Scottish American Ancestral Diaspora"

Membership Application form (Membership Year January 1 - December 31)

Date of application: _____

Organizational Membership: \$50 per year

Scottish Clan or Family Association Represented: _____

Yr Founded: _____ Number of Regional Directors (average annual): _____

Number of Memberships (average annual): _____

Number of Scottish Games or Events attended (average annual): _____

Contact Name: _____

(First, Middle, Last)

Contact Position/Title

Contact Address: _____

(No., Street, City, State & Zip)

Home Phone No.: (____) _____ Mobile No.: (____) _____

Email Address: _____ Check enclosed #: _____

Applicant's Signature

Applicant's Printed Name

What can COSCA do for you? _____

(use the back of this sheet if needed)

What can you do for COSCA? _____

Individual Membership: \$25 per year

Contact Name: _____

(First, Middle, Last)

Contact Address: _____

(No., Street, City, State & Zip)

Home Phone No.: (____) _____ Mobile No.: (____) _____

Email Address: _____ Check enclosed #: _____

Clan Membership(s) (use back if necessary)

What can COSCA do for you? _____

(use the back of this sheet if needed)

What can you do for COSCA: _____

No. of Scottish Games/Events attended yearly? _____

Favorite 2 Scottish Games or Events: _____

Would you be willing to Volunteer to staff an information table for COSCA? Yes!

No

Mail to: Scott Swan at COSCA, 1061 Legend Dr, Greensboro, GA, 30642

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