





John King Bellasai lives in the District of Columbia. He is a member of the DC Bar. Always interested in his Scottish heritage, John is a member of the governing Council of the American Clan Gregor Society (ACGS), Past-President of the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC, a founding member of the National Capital Tartan Day Committee and Secretary of the Living Legacy of Scotland.

John D. Cochran, FSAScot is an active duty service member holding the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3. John discovered his Scottish ancestry in his late 20's. He serves Clan Cochrane as a Commissioner in North Carolina and is the Shennachie to the Chief of Cochrane, 15th Earl of Dundonald. In this capacity he works closely with Lord Dundonald and the Clan Cochrane leadership

Clark Scott, has been interested in his Scottish Heritage since the mid-80s. He is a Past Chief-tain and Ex-officio Board member of Clan Scott. He is a member of the National Capital Tartan Day Committee. He was appointed liaison for the Friends of Abbotsford Trust campaign while a Trustee of The Caledonian Foundation, USA He is a member of the Pan American Historical Foundation and the St. Andrew's Society

Keets F Taylor has volunteered in the Scottish community for more than forty years. With a background in fine art, graphic design, marketing and public relations, she was the administrator and later executive director of a Scottish heritage society that organized a Highland Games and managed an historic property. Currently she works for the Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem.

Scotty Gallamore lives in North Carolina. She is a member of Clan Donald and a Trustee of Clan Morrison. She has been involved with COSCA, recruiting, organizing and training volunteers to staff COSCA hospitality tents at Highland Games around the country for EVER and really needs no introduction here.

John Cherry, Jr. had served the people of Michigan for more than 20 years as a State Representative and as State Senator before he became Michigan's Lieutenant Governor in 2003. He has served as Chair of the North American Scottish Leadership Conference hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit. Now John serves as the President of the Clan MacLachlan of North America. His focus is on Scottish heritage education.



## President's Letter:

Founded a little over 40 years ago at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) in NC, COSCA is essentially the national professional association for the clan societies and other Scottish heritage groups from across the USA. According to our Bylaws, COSCA's core mission is to promote the customs, traditions and heritage of the Scottish people by means of public education, and to provide services to the various clan and family associations in the Scottish-American community. This is our core mission and our core constituency, and going forward we are strongly committed to advancing these twin priorities.

Over the next year, COSCA will be focusing increased energy on raising its profile both here in the States and in Scotland, and on growing our membership. Coming out of our annual General Meeting (AGM) at GMHG last July, we now have a new, stronger Board of Trustees, having added a number of very experienced individuals with long track records of successful management in the governance of their respective clan societies and other Scottish heritage groups. (Their identities and short bio summaries are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.) Working together as a team, I, my fellow officers and our new Board are all pledged to more transparency in COSCA governance and to encouraging more membership involvement in our priorities and programs. We value your input and want to hear from you!

The benefits of COSCA membership are real and growing. They include receiving our revived e-newsletter (you're reading it now!); attendance at our annual Clan & Family Caucus at reduced rates for members; meet clan chiefs and other honored guests visiting from Scotland; and access to technical assistance services when going about incorporating your organization or applying for tax-exempt status. As dues-paying members, you will also have the opportunity to attend our AGM; participate and make your voice heard; and run for elective office in the organization. And because COSCA is a 501(c)(3)-certified tax-exempt organization, your membership dues are fully tax-deductible!

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Photo: L to R - David Pickens, Jamie MacNab, chief of the MacNabs, Scotty Gallamore, Francis, Lord Napier, Chief of Clan Napier, Clark Scott and John Bellassai at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games at the COSCA AGM.



## President's Letter continued:

I mentioned raising our profile here and in Scotland. These efforts, begun several years ago, are continuing and expanding. In this regard, we are building on our existing relationship with our primary Scotland-based partner, the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC). This is a natural, symbiotic relationship, as SCSC represents the clan chiefs and COSCA represents the clan societies. The current Convenor of the SCSC, Sir Malcolm MacGregor (who happens to be my Chief and is also an Advisory Trustee for COSCA) is committed to continuing to work closely with us to bring more clan chiefs to America from Scotland and when they visit, to encourage them to attend COSCA meetings and functions. A good example of this collaboration was the attendance of Francis, Lord Napier, Chief of Clan Napier, and Jamie MacNab, chief of the MacNabs, at our AGM last July. (See Sir Malcolm's comments about the importance of this relationship to the SCSC, elsewhere in this newsletter.) Working closely with the SCSC and with Dr. Bruce Durie, another of our Advisory Trustees, our Secretary, John Cochran is launching a Small Clans & Lowland Families Initiative at COSCA which is designed to bring more attention to these smaller organizations and to feature their chiefs at COSCA events whenever they are stateside.

Together with the American Scottish Foundation out of New York and the St. Andrew's societies of Chicago and Detroit, COSCA is now a cosponsor of the annual Scottish North-American Leadership Conference (SNALC)--an event held each year in the Mid-west. (The SNALC will be held in Troy, MI, outside Detroit, this coming weekend. The theme this year is strength through collaboration. As President of COSCA, I will be among the presenters. See a description of this event elsewhere in this newsletter.) In addition, COSCA is now represented on a key policy advisory committee convened by Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Government's Tourism Minister. This is an important opportunity for COSCA's President to make our collective voice heard by Mr. Ewing, by VisitScotland, and by others over there, in order to make sure the wishes and expectations of Scottish-Americans are taken into account when travelling to Scotland, as many of us often do.

In July 2016, our AGM will again be held at the GMHG in Linville, NC. COSCA's relationship with GMHG is long and strong, and will continue going forward. Because those games are always so well-attended by so many clan societies, it is only natural that we continue to convene our AGM there. This coming year, we will also be holding our annual Clan & Family Caucus event in conjunction with GMHG--once again at Lees -MacRae College in nearby Banner Elk, which was the locus for this event on a couple of past occasions. While the program for this event is still being developed, I am pleased to be able to announce that our keynote speaker will be former Congressman Mike McIntyre (D-NC). A longtime member of Congress, Mr. McIntyre retired last year and is now practicing law in Charlotte, NC. In 2004 he founded the bipartisan Friends of Scotland Caucus in the U.S. Congress and for a decade he co-chaired it, together with Congressman John Duncan (R-TN). At our 2016 Clan & Family Caucus, Mr. McIntyre will talk about the history of the Friends of Scotland Caucus and why it was founded, some high points of his years as co-chairman, and its continuing importance in relations between the U.S. and Scottish Governments. In future years, COSCA's annual Clan & Family Caucus will likely move around, and be held at other locations, in conjunction with other highland games events. Over the next few months, the Board of Trustees will be looking into several possible locations for 2017. Suggestions in this regard are most welcome.

Before leaving the subject of raising our profile, I want to announce that COSCA officers and Board members will be representing the organization at an increased number of highland games events in 2016. Rather than set up a COSCA tent and be tied to staffing it, instead we will be roving the games fields, visiting the various clan society tents, to promote membership in COSCA and to gather member feedback. Nor will these efforts be limited to east coast games. A number of our newly elected trustees are from the West and Mid-west and they are committed to flying the COSCA flag at games events in their parts of the country, too.

Yours aye,

*John King Bellassai*  
President, COSCA  
(202) 258-4876 (cell) [president@cosca.net](mailto:president@cosca.net)

### ***What Do American Scots Really Want from Their Cousins Back Home in Scotland?***

by *John King Bellassai* This article, with permission of Scots Heritage Magazine, will be available on the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations <https://www.cosca.scot/> web site in November, 2015.



## **The COSCA & SCSC Relationship – Why It Matters.**

The SCSC was formed some 60 years ago by Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk and the Lord Lyon, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney. There were a number of reasons as to why this occurred in 1952. But the most important, in my view, was due to the expansion of overseas clan based societies, particularly in the USA. The post WW2 economic recovery and the advent of air travel gave this phenomenon a greater reality. My grandparents made their first overseas clan trip to Washington DC in 1954, taking part in the annual Gathering of the American Clan Gregor Society. The journey took some 36 hours from Lochearnhead, Perthshire, and was considered to be a great adventure.

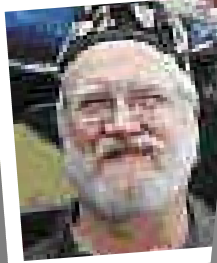
COSCA was formed some 20 years later. Many of the joining clans did indeed have chiefs but there was no real hook up between the two organisations, until the 2009 Clan Convention, in Edinburgh. 2012 saw the first joint COSCA & SCSC caucus in Atlanta, coinciding with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stone Mountain Games. There were some 10 chiefs at the Games, and we all got to know COSCA over the weekend. At last, two major bodies that represent clans were really talking to each other and seen to be so.

This is important for a number of reasons. First, the Standing Council has more influence and gravitas in Scotland, if it acts in concert with other clan based organisations. Second, this shared relationship, based on clan experiences and culture, becomes a force multiplier. Third, the views and instincts of the overseas Scots are as important as those on the Scottish home front. Fourth, more of our work, at the business end of clanship involves the Scottish Government and associated bodies such as the tourist board. We have to speak with one voice and, what we say must be in unison.

It is of considerable significance that COSCA and indeed the Scottish Australian Heritage Council are now represented on the Scotland based Clans Forum, chaired by Fergus Ewing, the Minister for Business, Tourism and the Economy. The COSCA voices are being heard, which means that the SCSC voices are heard as well – in tandem. So thank you COSCA and thank you for your help and counsel since 2009.

Sincerely,

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor  
Convenor  
Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs



Russ Harper has been on the Board of COSCA for eight years. He serves as President of Clan Wallace Society. His Scottish enthusiasm comes from his Paternal Great Grandparents who both came over from Scotland. He and his wife, Marcia, travel in their RV all over the eastern and central United States attending 15 to 20 games a year. They reside in Lewisville NC. He is currently employed by a large bank as a VP.

John McInnis served on the Arlington, Texas School Board from 1988 until retiring in 2004. He was President of the Texas Association of School Boards in 1999-2000. He retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. He is a former Scoutmaster with a National Scoutmaster Award of Merit. He has been active as a convener since 1988 and is President of the International Association of Clan MacInnes.

David Stewart McKenzie is the Sergeant-at-Arms of the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC, and VP of the VA Scottish Games. He is responsible for operation of the St. Andrews Society's annual Kirkin of the Tartan ceremony. He is director of MASA which hosts heavy athletics at 18 games in the mid-Atlantic region. He is a Life Member of Clan MacKenzie, American Clan Gregor Society and Clan Stewart.

David Pickins is a member and Past President of Clan Cunningham International from the mountains of Tennessee. He plays with The Good Thymes Ceilidh (kay-lee) Band. This group shares their love of Scottish music and performs repertoire that illustrates the shared influences on the old time traditional music often enjoyed in Appalachia and beyond.

Charles Sherwood lives in Colorado. He is the immediate past Chieftain of the Clan Scott Society, past president of the Scottish Club of Tulsa, and a former board member of the Oklahoma Scottish Festival. He was one of the key people in Clan Scott's effort to become a 501 c 3 corporation. He has a JD degree. He is licensed to practice law but has spent his career in the oil and gas exploration business.

Ed Ward is the Treasurer of the National Capital Tartan Day Committee, Inc. and life member, Clan Stewart Society. He is a member of the DC St. Andrew's Society, the Scottish Heritage Society of North Central West Virginia, the American Scottish Foundation, and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. He is certified by the National Tourist Office for Scotland as a SCOTSagent and is enrolled in a post graduate course in Scottish culture.

## The 13th Annual Scottish North American Leadership Conference, Kilgour Scottish Centre in Troy, Michigan, Friday, October 30 – Sunday, November 1, 2015.

The conference is an opportunity for those of us in the Scottish-North American community to share views, values, experiences and best practices. The conference aims to raise awareness of Scotland and Scottish culture; to develop a better understanding of the roles, objectives and operations of the various government, academic, non-profit and private sector organizations that operate in the Scottish-North American community and to identify opportunities to enhance communication and collaboration within the community.

The conference is presented by founding partners, the Chicago Scots and The American-Scottish Foundation® in association with hosting partner, the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit and additional co-sponsors, Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA) and the Toronto, Ontario-based Scottish Studies Foundation.

The theme of this year's conference is "Strength Through Collaboration. We will focus on how all the various groups within the Scottish-North American community can work together to

strengthen each other's efforts and the community in general, as well as how we can more effectively engage and develop the next generation of leaders in our Scottish-North American community. The topics we will discuss at the conference include: cooperation or competition, sponsorship and social media. Panel discussions will involve members of our target audiences and be led by specialists in each area.

As in the past, the Scottish government, VisitScotland and other key Scottish and Scottish-North American organizations have been invited.

One of the topics of focus at the 2013 Leadership Conference was the Homecoming Conference originally planned for 2014, however, because of sensitivities surrounding the referendum, the conference actually took place in March of 2015 in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was hosted by RBS at its Gogarburn Conference Centre, and the conference title was "Building Bridges." At the conference in October there will be a short briefing on the outcome of the Homecoming Conference.



Andrew Morrison, 3rd Viscount of Dunrossil is President of the Society of Scottish Armigers, a leading lay association of Scottish Armigers and those interested in Scottish heraldry and history. A register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, has been maintained since 1672. The Society was founded to help people understand the art and science of Scottish heraldry.

James William Stuart Whitmore Sempill, 21st Lord Sempill is an active member of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and is credited for building stronger links between the Council and the international clan community. With over 32 years in marketing and communications he directed The Gathering 2009, centrepiece of 2009 Homecoming Scotland program.

Sir Malcolm Gregor Charles MacGregor of MacGregor, 7th baronet, of Lanrick and Balquhider, 24th Chief of Clan Gregor. Sir Malcolm is the Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC). The SCSC is the authority for information on the Scottish Clan System. A landscape photographer by profession he is a retired British military officer and President of the Scots Guards Association."

Dr. Bruce Durie is a professional genealogist, writer, educator and broadcaster based in Edinburgh, Scotland, but a frequent visitor to the USA. In 2016 he will be spending 7 months in North Carolina on a Fulbright Senior Scottish Studies Scholar award, researching Lowlands migrations to America. Bruce is Shennachie to the Chief of Durie. He teaches Genealogy, and Heraldry.

Philip D. Smith, Jr., is a Professor Emeritus of Languages and Linguistics. He is Past President of the American branch of The Scottish Tartans Authority, a member of the Guild of Tartan Scholars and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He is working on development of The International Tartan Index for use as the new "Official Tartan Register" of Scottish governmental Archives.

Bob McWilliam has been involved with the Scottish American community since the 1970s. He is the past President and a current trustee of the Caledonian Foundation USA, President Emeritus, and a Trustee of the Scottish Coalition USA, President Emeritus, and Trustee of COSCA. He is a member of the Board of Scottish Heritage USA. See COSCA web site for full bio.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ADVISORY TEAM**

**Tanja Bueltmann, PhD.** Principal Lecturer in History, Northumbria University Newcastle

**Jenni Calder, PhD.** Retired, National Museum of Scotland

**Professor Edward J. Cowan, PhD.** Professor (Emeritus) of Scottish History University of Glasgow

**Professor Bruce Durie, PhD, FSA Scot.** Chief Genealogist and Historian, MacDonald & Rees

**Caroline McCracken Flesher, PhD.** Professor and Chair, The Department of English, University of Wyoming

**Joy Fraser, PhD.** Associate Director, Folklore, English Department, George Mason University College of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Eliot Pattison, J.D.** Author and Lecturer Scottish American historical fiction

**Philip D. Smith Jr., PhD.** Professor Emeritus of Languages and Linguistics West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

### **From Scots Heraldry, A practical Handbook on the Historical principals and Modern Application of the Art and Science by Sir Thomas Innes**

At the time of the Union in 1707, Scotland with a population of about one and a quarter million people, had 154 peers (one peer to 8,000 people), while England, with five and a half million people, had only 164 (one peer to 32,000 people). Out side of the peerage, England's titled aristocracy consisted of a few Baronets and Knights, but in Scotland the territorial Barons, the Clan chiefs and a large portion of the landed-gentry all habitually used picturesque designations, founded on Scots law and which the Crown and courts recognized as "titles." Of these there were upwards of 10,000 who along with their wives and heirs, used these styles, so that in Scotland approximately one out of every forty-five people was either of, or at least immediately related to, some such "house" and more than half of the population considered themselves part of the Scottish aristocracy, a situation unprecedented in any other country.

### **Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc.**

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