



CLAYMORE

Service, Education, Advocacy for the Scottish-American Ancestral Diaspora

September 2016

Council of Scottish Clans & Associations, Inc

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization COSCA was founded in 1976 by Dr. Herbert MacNeal and a handful of other dedicated volunteers for the purpose of supporting Scottish Clan organizations and preserving Scottish heritage.

COSCA's founding statement of charter and mission continues today as our current Trustees, members and volunteers continue to work towards the goals of:

- Strengthening the Scottish American community by bringing individuals together with their Scottish Clans and Associations;
- Supporting our member Scottish organizations with training and resources to help them meet their own missions;
- Providing education and learning opportunities in Scottish fields;
- Building relationships with Scotland and the global diaspora.

COSCA is not chartered nor interested in assuming management of individual Clan societies

Council of Scottish Clans & Associations, Inc

2203 Herrington Ct
Arlington, TX, 76018

Membership@COSCA.Scot
www.COSCA.Scot

Note:

This is an electronic newsletter so ALL highlighted links are working, both internal within the newsletter and external.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Lord Lieutenant

Lady Fiona MacGregor was appointed, and recently installed as the Lord Lieutenant of Dumfriesshire.



Fiona Armstrong, Lady MacGregor of MacGregor, is a broadcaster and writer. She has worked as a presenter and reporter for both ITN and BBC news, and made films on subjects ranging from clans, cooking to fishing. She currently presents ITV Border's Border Life, and writes columns for a newspaper and magazine.

Fiona is a patron of Cumbria's Woman

of the Year, and of the Blairgowrie Book Festival. She is also a judge on the Lakeland Book of the Year, and is Chairwoman of the Clan Armstrong Trust. She has worked with children's charities and cancer charities, both in Scotland and Cumbria, and is on the board of the University of Central Lancashire.

Her interests include fishing (she has written 2 angling books), cooking and swimming. She has 1 daughter, 2 dogs, and is married to Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and an advisory Trustee for COSCA.

"I am delighted and honoured to be representing the Crown in such a wonderful part of Scotland"

Annual General Meeting

Council of Scottish Clans & Societies (COSCA)

2:00 PM - Saturday, 9 July 2016

Chieftains' Tent - Games Field - Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
Linville, NC

The President of [COSCA](#), John King Bellassai, convened the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 2:00PM. There were nine other COSCA Board members present—Clark Scott (Treasurer), Bob McWilliam (President Emeritus), Keets Taylor (Membership Chair and newsletter editor), John Cherry, Charlie Sherwood, John McInnis, Russ Harper, Scotty Gallamore, and David McKenzie. A sign-in sheet was circulated. There were 43 members and other persons (honored guests) in attendance, representing 31 clan societies.

The President and the Treasurer gave their reports. The President reported that the Clan & Family Caucus held the previous Thursday at [Lees-McRae College](#) was a success; there were 53 persons in attendance. Dr. Barry Buxton, President of the College, spoke at the opening session and extended a warm welcome on behalf of Lees-McRae College to COSCA and all our attendees. Steve Quillin, Vice President of GMHG, came by the Caucus to offer greetings from the Games Board. He was presented with a [Proclamation](#) from COSCA in honor of the 61st anniversary of the Games, and a check for \$1,000 for COSCA's memorial paving stone, in memory of COSCA founder Herb MacNeal and recently deceased COSCA President Chrissy Harrison, to be included with those of the various clan societies as part of the GMHG 2016 Paving Stones Project. The President reported that Thursday's speaker presentations were all well received. Once edited, these will be posted on the COSCA website for viewing by others who were unable to attend our Clan & Family Caucus this year. Additional announcements were made:



Mike McIntyre at the AGM

- ❑ One of our Thursday speakers, Keith MacGregor, North American Representative on the Board of the [Clan Gregor Society, Scotland](#), has agreed to do one or more webinars for COSCA on how to interpret one's DNA report. These will then be posted on our website.
- ❑ Thanks were voiced to Nicolas Hennigan and Lois Ann Garlitz, for videotaping the entire proceedings on Thursday.
- ❑ The President extended special thanks to Judith and Clark Scott, Russ and Marcia Harper, and Maria Haight for all their volunteer help at the registration table and with the silent auction at Thursday's Clan & Family Caucus. Special thanks were due to Judith Scott for coordinating the planning of the event with the college and for organizing the silent auction, to include soliciting the items and cataloging them. In addition, as COSCA's official photographer, Judith took boatloads of pictures at the Caucus and would do so again at the AGM. (The best of these appear in this newsletter.)
- ❑ The President announced that longtime Board member David Pickens was unable to attend the Caucus and AGM this year and would not be running for reelection. David had recently been involved in a very serious auto accident that left him with multiple cracked ribs and other serious injuries that prevent him from travelling at all in an automobile for the foreseeable future. Everyone was encouraged to contact [David](#) and wish him a speedy recovery.



Nicolas Hennigan, Clark Scott, Bill McWilliam and John McInnis

Next, the assembled members of COSCA heard brief remarks at the AGM from former Congressman Mike McIntyre (D-NC), founder and Co-Chairman (2004-2014), Friends of Scotland Caucus in the U.S. Congress, about the work of the Caucus. They also heard briefly from visiting Chiefs Donald Maclaren of MacLaren and Andrew Durie of Durie—both in from Scotland specifically to attend the GMHG. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions of each of our guests. (After the event, [photos of our VIP guests](#) were taken outside the tent.)

The Treasurer, Clark Scott, reported that going into the weekend, COSCA's treasury balance was approximately \$8,800.00. Many expenses from the weekend had yet to be processed and paid, and incoming revenue from the silent auction (about \$1,000 total) and new memberships enrolled at the Games have yet to be tallied.

The President then gave highlights of the major decisions reached recently at the last two COSCA Board meetings:

- ❑ In its most recent meeting prior to the AGM, the Board voted unanimously for COSCA to rejoin the Scottish Coalition, USA (after three years away).
- ❑ COSCA's new business relationship with [Scots Heritage](#) Magazine--we get a cut of all subscriptions we sell—was announced to the membership, who were encouraged to subscribe online to the magazine, using the special [recruitment code](#) : "COSCA16". The President mentioned that similar formalized business relationships are being discussed with [Family Tree, DNA](#), Inc. of Houston, TX (the industry leader in genetic testing), and with [VisitScotland](#).
- ❑ The President announced creation of a new column for COSCA's newsletter, *The Claymore*, to feature best practices from clan societies and other Diaspora organizations. It will be called [The Members' Corner](#).
- ❑ Board member John Cherry announced plans for the creation by COSCA of a Community Fund that smaller clan societies not wishing to file for their own tax-exempt status with the IRS can access to get tax-exempt credit for donations and contributions made to and by them. (COSCA, as a 501(c)(3), can and will act as their fiscal agent, if requested to do so.) This proposal will be taken up by the Board at its next regular meeting.
- ❑ In addition, John Cherry and Charlie Sherwood have volunteered, upon request, to give some telephone technical assistance to other COSCA member organizations which want to apply for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and need some pointers in how to get started.
- ❑ A new newsletter editor (Bruce MacGregor Whyte) and new Membership Chair (John MacInnis) have been appointed to replace Keets Taylor, who is stepping down to attend to personal career priorities.



**Keith MacGregor, Andrew Durie &
John King Bellassai**

Next order of business: The annual elections were held to COSCA's governing Board, as required by Articles IV and VI of COSCA's Bylaws. (The Bylaws require the current Board to put together a slate of Officers and At-Large candidates for Board vacancies and present it to the membership, While the Bylaws also permit any five or more members to nominate candidates for office by petition, such petitions must be submitted to the Secretary in advance of the AGM; the Bylaws also prohibit nominations from the floor at the AGM.) There being no other nominations received, the President presented the slate to the membership and it was moved by acclamation that the slate be accepted. Specifics were as follows:



Mike McIntyre, former Congressman, Co-Chair Friends of Scotland Caucus in the US House, 2004-2014 & Andrew Durie



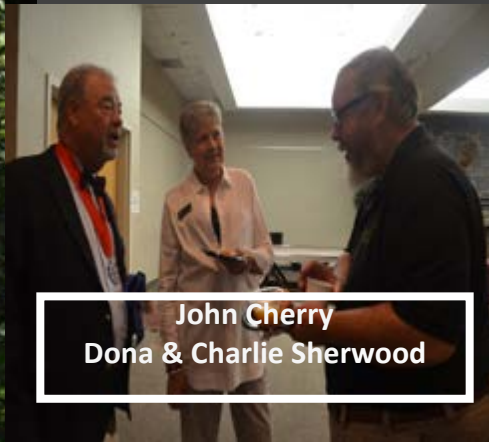
Former Congressman Mike McIntyre and John King Bellassai, President of COSCA



Bob McWilliam



Donald Maclaren, Chief of Clan Laurin (L) Andrew Durie, Chief of Name Durie (R)



John Cherry Dona & Charlie Sherwood



Peter Wilson & Bruce Durie



Clark Scott, Dr. Barry Buxton, Peter Wilson



Keith MacGregor & Andrew Durie

- The membership elected John King Bellasai as President and reelected Clark Scott as Treasurer.
- The membership elected two new officers—John Cherry as Vice President and Charlie Sherwood as Secretary—both drawn from among the current At-Large Trustees.
- Three new At-Large members were added to the COSCA Board—Peter Wilson, Steve Campbell, and Bruce MacGregor Whyte—plus John Cochran, moving over from Secretary to At-Large Trustee. (John is currently on active duty with the U.S. Army, serving an overseas tour in the Middle East.)
- The members also reelected Bob McWilliam, Scotty Gallamore and Russ Harper to additional terms as At-Large Trustees on the COSCA Board and at his request, we moved Dr. Phil Smith to an Honorary Trustee role on the Board from a voting role. (Sadly, Phil's eyesight and overall health are failing and he cannot travel.)
- It was announced by the President that several other At-Large Trustees whose terms were not up for reelection this year will continue on for another year on the Board: Ed Ward, David McKenzie, and John McInnis.



Clark Scott, John King Bellasai, Mike McIntyre, Andrew Durie at the caucus

Upon a motion that was duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45PM.



Donald Maclaren & Mike McIntyre at the caucus



Emigrants Leave by Henry Doyle 1868

We are saddened to report that Danus Skene, Chief of Clan Skene, passed away this past week in a London hospital. Danus was a good friend to all who were given the honor to meet him. He was a great man who accomplished much on an international level. He will be missed by all of us. Our condolences and sympathies go out to his wife, Anne, and his children, Dugald, Hannah, and Abigail.



Danus George Moncrieff Skene was born on 2 April 1944. He is the son of Robert William Dugald Skene and Elizabeth Diana Wolfe Sutherland. He married Anne Audrey Campbell, daughter of Donald Alexander Campbell, on 17 December 1977. He was educated at Eton College and graduated with Bachelor of Arts (B.A.Hons), and a Master's Degree from the University of Chicago (MA), and another from the University of Aberdeen (MEd). In 1966 he served as Tutor, Makerere College, Uganda, and later as Lecturer, University of Durham, 1970–71. He was Director, Action for World Development 1980–83. He stood in 1974 for (Labour) MP for Kinross and West Perthshire and served as (Liberal) MP for North Tayside, 1983, and for Moray, 1987. Earlier, he was Councillor, Perth and Kinross, 1980–84. Recognized by Lord Lyon King of Arms in 1994 as Representer of the Feudal Baronial House of Skene of Skene and Chief of the Name and Arms of Skene.



COSCA - BOARD OF TRUSTEES (DIRECTORS), 2016-2017

John King Bellasai

President

American Clan Gregor Society



John Cherry

Vice-President

Clan MacLachlan Society



Charlie Sherwood

Secretary

Clan Scott Society



Clark Scott

Treasurer

Clan Scott Society



At - Large Trustees

Steve Campbell

Clan Campbell Society Worldwide



John Cochrane

Clan Cochrane Society



Scotty Gallamore

Clan Donald Society



Russ Harper

Webmaster

Clan Wallace Society



John McInnis

Membership Chairman

Clan MacInnis Society



David McKenzie

Clan McKenzie Society



Bob McWilliam

Clan Donald Society



Edward Ward

Clan Stewart Society



Dr. Bruce Whyte

Newsletter Editor

American Clan Gregor Society



Peter Wilson

Clan Gunn Society



Phil Smith

Honorary Trustee



Honorary Trustees

Andrew Morrison

Viscount Dunrossil



James,

Lord Sempill



Sir Malcolm MacGregor

of MacGregor, BT



Dr. Bruce Durie

Shennachie to COSCA



John King Bellassai

President

American Clan Gregor Society



John King Bellassai 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, 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 Cherry

Vice-President

Clan MacLachlan Society



John 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, of which he is CEO and current financial Trustee. Now John serves as the President of the Clan MacLachlan of North America. His focus is on Scottish heritage education.

Charlie Sherwood

Secretary

Clan Scott Society



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.

Clark Scott

Treasurer

Clan Scott Society



Clark has been interested in his Scottish Heritage since the mid-80s. He is a Past Chieftain and Ex-officio Board member of Clan Scott Society. 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 of Richmond.

John Cochran

Clan Cochrane Society



John Cochran (FSAScot) is an active duty service member holding the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4. John discovered his Scottish ancestry in his 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.

Scotty Gallamore

Clan Donald Society



Scotty Gallamore lives in North Carolina. She is a member of Clan Donald Society 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.

Russ Harper

Webmaster

Clan Wallace Society



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 a VP at a bank.

David McKenzie

Clan McKenzie Society



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 Society and Clan Stewart Society.

Bob McWilliam

Clan Donald Society



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 Trustee of the Scottish Coalition USA, and President Emeritus and Trustee of COSCA. He is

a member of the Board of Scottish Heritage USA.

Edward Ward

Clan Stewart Society



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.

Dr. Bruce Whyte

Newsletter Editor

American Clan Gregor Society



Bruce is a medical epidemiological researcher, family physician, HIT consultant and OB, has been Treasurer of the American Clan Gregor Society for 6 years and involved in genealogy for the last 20 years. He is also an Australian, his grandfather was born in Nairn, Scotland and his grandmother was English. Family prior to his grandfather came from the Bonawe/Oban area and worked the Bonawe iron works, the post office and many were

missionaries in Scotland, Samoa, India, Australia and New Guinea. He is also a keen sailor and is partially retired with 2 grandkids living in Kentucky. He is also a member of the Clan Lamont Society of North America.

John McInnis

Membership Chairman

Clan MacInnis Society



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.

Steve Campbell

Clan Campbell Society Worldwide



Steve is Chairman & Executive Director for [Scotfest, Inc.](#) managing Oklahoma's Premier Celtic Music Festival & Highland Games. Born and raised in Aberdeen, Scotland and now residing in Northern Virginia, he is a 20 year program management specialist with comprehensive international humanitarian development experience, a strong skillset and

focus in special event management, operational turnaround and strategic development. One half of whisky tasting hosts duo Rubright & Hardagain providing tasting experiences like no other. When on the rare occasions he finds spare time, is also an avid musician.

Peter Wilson

Clan Gunn Society



Peter McClelland Wilson is a native Scot who studied in America and returned to Scotland in 1979 to work in his father's manufacturing business. His family made it back to Charlotte NC in 1993. Retiring from engineering in 1997, he started an internet retail business called Great Scot International trading as TheScottishGrocer.com and TheScottishWeaver.com. At the turn of century his business moved towards wholesale by taking on the US Distribution for Ingles Buchan Textiles Ltd and importing Scotland's other national drink, Irn-Bru. He is a Director of Scottish Heritage USA and a board member of the Scottish Tartans Authority. He sponsors the Scottish Cultural Village at GMHG. He became an American citizen 5 years ago. His passions are gardening and cooking.

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Andrew Morrison

Viscount Dunrossil



Viscount Dunrossil is Chairman of the Society of Scottish Armigers. We work closely with the Lord Lyon and the SCSC to help educate people about arms and Scottish heraldry and to be a resource for Games, associations and individuals about all kinds of things like lords, lairds, ladies, chiefs and how to address them, flags and banners and who can fly them, feathers and who should wear them, and so on.

James,

Lord Sempill



James William Stuart White-More Sempill, 21st Lord Sempill, is an active member of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and is credited for building strong 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. He served previously in the House of Lords.



Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, BT



Sir Malcolm Gregor Charles MacGregor of MacGregor, 7th baronet of Lanrick and Balquhiddie, is 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.

Phil Smith

Honorary Trustee



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. Previously he worked on development of The International Tartan Index for use as the new "Official Tartan Register" of Scottish governmental Archives.

Dr. Bruce Durie Shennachie to COSCA



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 has spent 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.

I was elected to the Board of COSCA at the 2016 AGM and agreed to take on the duties of Newsletter Editor. I assumed, **bad mistake**, that Keets Taylor, who has done a superb and probably irreproducible job, would produce the next newsletter with me as her *devoted* apprentice. Whoa Nelly, not so fast! Luckily I have done, and am doing, newsletters and am webmaster for several organizations. Hopefully that will help. A little perhaps?

I am a medical epidemiologist researcher, family physician, HIT consultant and OB, have been treasurer of the American Clan Gregor Society for 6 years, involved in genealogy for the last 10 years and am a keen sailor, which probably takes precedence over anything else. In that role I have sailed in many parts of the world and love being off shore, or I guess, incommunicado. I am now partially retired and have 2 grandchildren living in Kentucky.

What I did not realize was that this issue was to be my first and was due out in 2 weeks. Thanks John! Even with Keets behind me it has been quite an undertaking. She and I will have a smooth transition, but if it is not, just withhold my salary for a month or three.

Bruce Whyte

I have agreed to take over the role of COSCA's Maestro of Membership. Fortunately for me, Keets Taylor has done a masterful job this year of reconnecting the dots, updating the broken links and dragging this vital bit of work back from the nearly dead. Thanks, Keets.

She and I will be in full transition mode through August and then I will be hustling for renewals, database updates, donations, targeted gifts and sparechange. It may not be the primary role of this position, but I hope to use the job as the principal resource for the necessary task of funding COSCA.

While we love our social media, 'friending' COSCA on Facebook doesn't pay the bills. Member attrition is a challenge to all Associations. COSCA hopes to mine for new ideas from its members and others on recruiting, retention and reward/share them with you as "Best Practices". I don't profess to know yet what those practices are, but together we can dig some up.

I come to the job with a little bit of experience as I was the Member Services Director for my own Clan Association for four years before becoming Operations VP. So wish me luck and get ready to renew no later than on time.

John McInnis

NOTABLE DATES

1305, William Wallace was executed in London.

1747, another Proscription banned tartans and carrying weapons. The penalty for the first offense was 6 months in jail, the second offense was transportation for 7 years.

1826, Alexander Gordon Laing was the first Christian to reach Timbuctu.

1902, Ronald Ross was the first Scot to receive a Nobel Prize, for dissecting mosquitoes and establishing the link with malaria.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I write this, our Annual Clan & Family Caucus and our Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2016 are both history. If you were with us in NC last month and attended these two COSCA events, you know that by any measure, they were both a success. Our Caucus event, held this year at [Lees-McRae College](#) in Banner Elk, NC—right down the road from the site of the annual [Grandfather Mountain Highland Games](#) (GMHG) in Linville—once again attracted a good turnout. And our AGM, held adjacent to the games field at GMHG on Saturday at those games, also was well attended. College President Dr. Barry Buxton and GMHG Vice President Steve Quillin both came by our Caucus event in the morning to bring greetings and welcome everyone. Founded in 1976 at the GMHG, COSCA has had a long and strong

relationship with these games. In recognition of that fact, COSCA presented a Proclamation to Mr. Quillin and a check for \$1,000 toward the GMHG Memorial Paving stones Project for purchase of a COSCA paving stone, in honor of COSCA founder Herb MacNeal and recently deceased COSCA former President Chrissy Harrison.

Our lineup of guest speakers at the Caucus this year was impressive—all very knowledgeable and engaging presenters. They included former NC Congressman Mike McIntyre, founder, in 2004, and first Co-chairman of the Friends of Scotland Caucus in the U.S. Congress (2004-2014); Donald Maclaren, Chief of Clan Laurin, and Andrew Durie of Durie, both visiting from Scotland to attend the GMHG as honored guests; Keith MacGregor of Redding, CT, North American Representative on the Council of the Clan Gregor Society, Scotland; Janine Cloud, Special Events & Group

Projects Coordinator for Family Tree DNA, Inc. of Houston, TX; and our own Dr. Bruce Durie, Shennachie of COSCA and of the Name of Durie. The entire six-hour Caucus event was video-taped; once edited, it will be posted on the COSCA website for viewing.

Our AGM was also a great success, with 43 persons in attendance, representing 31 clan societies and other organizational members of COSCA. Both visiting chiefs came by to speak to our members and take some questions, as did Mike McIntyre. We got a lot of good photos at both events, many of which appear in this newsletter. Elsewhere in this edition of *The Claymore*, you will find a summary of the business conducted at our [AGM](#) last month, and of the results of our Board elections. Suffice to say, most of our Board members have stayed on, though a few have rotated jobs, and three new ones have been added as At-Large members—Bruce MacGregor Whyte of GA, Peter Wilson of NC and Steve Campbell of CO. John Cherry has now assumed the position of Vice President and Charlie Sherwood that of Secretary. Please join me in welcoming our new Board members Bruce, Peter and Steve, and in thanking John and Charlie for agreeing to step into officer roles for the next two years.

While on the subject of recognition and thanks, the volunteer efforts of a number of our members over the past year need to be publicized and underscored: Keets Farquhar Taylor has served with distinction over the past year as a COSCA Board member, taking on two very demanding assignments that have greatly benefitted our efforts to jump-start responsive membership services here at COSCA—newsletter editor and membership chair.



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

7 July 2016

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Inc. is now celebrating the 60th Anniversary of its Founding.

WHEREAS, the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations, Inc., now celebrating its 40th year, was founded at Grandfather Mountain in 1976.

WHEREAS, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games has established a Memorial Paving Stone Project to honor the commitment to preserving and celebrating Scottish Heritage among the Scottish American Diaspora.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREWITH RESOLVED, to recognize the many contributions of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Inc. with a donation of One Thousand Dollars for a Memorial Paving Stone from the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc., in memory of COSCA's deceased past presidents Herb MacNeal and Chrissy Harrison.

Presented this day the 7th of July Two Thousand and Sixteen at the Annual Clan & Family Caucus organized by the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations at Lees McRae College, Banner Elk, North Carolina.

Signed:

John King Bellasai, President

Clark Scott, Treasurer

Keets is now moving on to tend to her personal career development and has handed off both the newsletter and membership services—the first to Bruce Whyte, the second to John McInnis. (Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read messages to the membership from [Bruce](#) and [John](#) about how they see handling their new assignments.)

Thanks are also owing to a group of volunteer members who each helped out on our 2016 Clan & Family Caucus at Lees-McRae College—Judith Scott, Russ and Marcia Harper, Maria Haight, Lois Ann Garlitz, and Nicolas Henningan. As she has done now for several years now, Judith took the lead in site planning and setup for the Caucus and organizing and managing a silent auction, held in conjunction with the Caucus, which netted us over \$1,000. Judith also took lots of great photos of speakers and honored guests at our two events, the Caucus and the AGM—many of which you will find in this publication. Russ, Marcia, and Maria helped staff the check-in and registration tables at the Caucus event and monitored the silent auction tables. (In their spare time, Russ is our Webmaster and Judith handles our social media—managing our [Facebook page](#)). Lois Ann and Nicolas (who is Bob McWilliam’s grandson) videotaped the Caucus and Nicolas has volunteered to edit the many hours of videotape we now have in order to create a version suitable for posting on our website, to be viewed by the membership. Our thanks to them all!

If you have attended the GMHG in recent years, you know that COSCA always maintains a large “double” tent, right inside the main gate, under a large sign reading, “*Let Us Help you Find Your Clan!*” Longtime COSCA Board member Scotty Gallamore and a team of volunteers staff our tent, armed with reference books, and answer questions from visitors about their possible Scottish roots, then directing them to their clan societies’ tents (and websites) for more information. This year, as in the past, our tent was mobbed all three days, from the time we set up on Friday through the end of the games on Sunday, with hundreds of visitors seeking information about the possible Scottish origins of their surname or other family names.



Activity at the COSCA tent



Clark and Judith Scott

Board members Clark Scott, Charlie Sherwood, John Cherry, John McInnis, Bob McWilliam, plus yours truly, all pitched in to help staff the tent and respond to inquiries, at times being overwhelmed by the sheer number of visitors to the tent, often standing three-deep to get to the front of the line! Keith MacGregor, guest speaker at the Caucus the previous Thursday, also generously helped out responding to inquiries. And we shared our tent space with Janine Cloud from



The Honorable Mike McIntyre

[Family Tree DNA](#), who together with a staff assistant did “a land office business” selling DNA testing kits—suggesting this is a good business pairing (genealogy resources from COSCA together with DNA testing products from Family Tree DNA).

In Board discussions earlier this year, it was agreed that COSCA Board members should make every effort to attend as many of the larger highland games events across the country as is possible, and represent COSCA at those events—if possible, by staffing a table or a tent and doing both member outreach and new member recruitment. This is a tall order, given that everyone at COSCA is a volunteer who juggles personal commitments as well as their involvement in their own respective clan societies. Nevertheless, we now have a larger, more active, and more geographically dispersed Board, so we plan to make every effort to attend and be visible at more games events all across the country—and to partner with Family Tree DNA when we do so. Stay tuned for details.



Keith MacGregor

The benefits of COSCA membership, for both organizations and individuals, continue to grow. Apart from reduced registration fees to attend our Annual Clan & Family Caucus, “battle streamers” bearing the COSCA logo and the words “COSCA 2016” and suitable for attaching to flag staffs or tent poles, are now available to at no charge to clan societies and other organizations which are current members-in-good-standing of COSCA. Available again, for the first time in years! (The first batch of these were distributed at GMHG to member clan

societies with tents at that event. More are available from our new Membership Chairman, John McInnis.) See pictures elsewhere in this newsletter of the new streamer being handed out at clan tents. In addition, important new educational items will be posted on our website over the next several months: Keith MacGregor (who is a TV producer in his day job) has agreed to put together a series of webinars on subjects of interest to our members. Once produced, these will be posted on the COSCA website and accessible to members, for a modest charge to

cover their development and production. These will include a condensed version of his prepared remarks and PowerPoint presentation at this year’s Caucus on *the Dalriadic DNA connection*—the newly confirmed genetic links that prove that those of us, here and in Scotland, with blood ties to the West Highland Clans are in fact truly descended from the Scots of Dalriada, in what is now Ulster—people who emigrated by sea to Argyll in the Dark Ages and from there spread throughout Scotland. Keith, who has long worked with Family Tree DNA, the industry leader in genetic research and testing, will also put together a show-and-tell webinar on how to read one’s personal DNA genome test report. If these features prove popular, others will follow. (In

this regard, we are now in discussions with Dr. Bruce Durie, who among other roles he plays is one of Scotland’s foremost genealogists, about other topics for webinars.)

Newly elected officers John Cherry and Charlie Sherwood have come forward with a plan to offer telephone technical assistance to clan societies which are COSCA members who want to apply for their 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the IRS. Both John and Charlie have had direct experience in this area, working on behalf of their own clan societies, and are willing to share what they know, at no charge to others. While COSCA cannot, for liability reasons, provide either legal or financial advice and will not actually assemble 501(c)(3) application packages for our members, we can and will provide lots of helpful tips, some templates, and directions on how and where to find online resources. In addition, John Cherry has an idea for setting up a “community fund” within COSCA—which is itself a 501(c)(3)—that members not wishing to set up their own 501(c)(3)’s can access in order to collect and disburse tax-exempt donations. In essence, COSCA would act as their fiscal agent. Stay tuned for more details on both of these initiatives, once our Board has vetted and finalized them.



Clark Scott presenting a COSCA ribbon to Clan Graham Society

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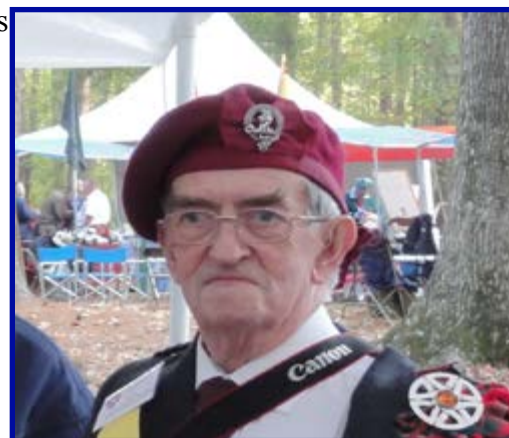
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Starting with this edition of *The Claymore*, we have added a new feature to our newsletter: Called *The Members' Corner*, this guest column will focus on best practices from clan societies and other Diaspora organizations which are members of COSCA. To inaugurate this new column, Lois Ann Garlitz, Chieftain (president) of the [American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.](#), a COSCA member, writes about the development and implementation by their Council (Board of Directors) of a detailed policies and procedures manual (P&PM) for use by the officers, committees, and committee chairs in this large clan society, where the turnover in elected and appointed officeholders is frequent—something which requires stability based on institutional memory and established past practice. ACGS was founded in 1909 and with a current membership in excess of 420 persons, all descended from MacGregor immigrants to America, the ACGS is one of the oldest clan societies in the USA.

Ordinarily at this time of year, right after our AGM, we would feature in our newsletter an article or column from the Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC), COSCA's primary Scotland-based partner organization. (The SCSC represents the clan chiefs and COSCA represents the clan societies—a naturally symbiotic relationship.) Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Chief of Clan Gregor, is the current Convenor of SCSC; separate and apart from that, he is also an Advisory Trustee on the COSCA Board. But several events have transpired to make it hard for Sir Malcolm to write a piece for this newsletter: He has just returned from a visit to Australia with an SCSC delegation; in addition, his mother, the Dowager Lady MacGregor, and Frank Wherrett, longtime Secretary to the SCSC, both passed away quite suddenly, within a few days of each other. Please join me in expressing our collective condolences to Sir Malcolm and his family, and to the SCSC.



The late Frank Wherrett, Secretary, Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs

But that said, Sir Malcolm has shared with me some SCSC news which he has asked me to pass on to our members:

- Sir Malcolm noted that the SCSC held its AGM this year in Scotland, just a week before ours. SCSC members Andrew, Viscount Dunrosil, and Jamie, Lord Sempill—both Advisory Trustees for COSCA—were present and participated. Lord Sepill reported he has been named liaison to Scotland for the 20th anniversary of Tartan Day in 2018 by the Scottish Coalition, USA.



- He has asked me to remind everyone that 2017 is *VisitScotland's* Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. As such, the SCSC is going to work closely with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on their 2017 production, which will have a strong clan & family-based theme. There will be three areas for work--Highlands and Islands, Lowland families and Borderer clans/families. The underlying military theme for the year is the Royal

Navy, which sits nicely with the seagoing clans of the islands. Jamie Macnab of Macnab is taking the lead on this project for the SCSC, and will form a small working group of chiefs to interface with the Tattoo. If all goes well, this could be a very good long- term relationship for the SCSC with the Tattoo and its operations.

- Sir Malcolm and his wife, Lady Fiona MacGregor (nee' Armstrong), travelled to Australia last month, at the invitation of the [Australian Scottish Heritage Council](#). They had a hugely successful visit, during which Sir Malcolm represented the SCSC. He reports that there is great interest in the clan network among both Australian politicians and UK embassy staff stationed there. Lady Fiona and Sir Malcolm had formal engagements with the following:
 - Luncheon with David Elliott MP of the New South Wales Parliament with other clansfolk.
 - Luncheon with the Governor of Tasmanina, the Hon. Kate Warner, and her husband Richard, at Government House.

- Meeting and reception with the Mayor of Hobart, Susan Hickey, and the UK Consul General of Melbourne. (One of the things that came out of the meeting with the Mayor of Hobart was her desire for Hobart to be a sister city with Dundee, Scotland.)
- Meeting with the Premier of Tasmania, the Hon. Will Hodgman.
- Reception in Sydney hosted by Nick McGuinness, UK Consul General in Sydney, with Australian business people in attendance.
- Reception hosted by [The Scottish Banner](#) in Sydney, with UK Embassy and Consulate officials present. (Lady MacGregor regularly writes for *The Banner*.)

Before leaving the subject of the SCSC, I should point out that COSCA has a new business relationship with *Scots Heritage Magazine*, the official publication of the SCSC: In essence, we get a cut of all subscriptions we sell. Members are encouraged to subscribe online to this beautiful, glossy, oversized, coffee table-style quarterly magazine, using the special recruitment code given to COSCA—“*COSCA16*.” (See [promotion](#) for this feature). Currently *Scots Heritage* subscriptions purchased through COSCA are going for \$39/ year—a bargain price under the current, favorable exchange rate. We hope in coming months to enter into similar, formalized business relationships with Family Tree, DNA, Inc. of Houston, TX (the industry leader in genetic testing), and with [VisitScotland](#), which basically is the Scottish Government tourist board.



Ron Christie (Deputy Mayor of Hobart), Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Sue Hickey (Mayor of Hobart), Lady Fiona MacGregor, Frank McGregor (Chairman of Clan Gregor Society, Australia)

as a key player, as well. Over the years, SNALC has had a mainly mid-western orientation, providing speakers and workshops about issues important to the management and administration of nonprofit organizations. More recently, however, SNALC’s Steering Committee has decided to truly “go national”, actively recruiting any and all other Scottish heritage organizations from across the country to join the organization and send representatives to its annual Leadership Conference. In this regard, COSCA last year joined the organization’s steering committee and as President of COSCA, I participated as a speaker at their conference outside Detroit, which was very well attended. And SNALC has begun to broaden its reach in other important ways, too: In 2015, it invited former First Minister of Scotland Henry McLeish to attend as its keynote speaker and for 2016 it has invited Lord Thurso, the new Chairman of *VisitScotland*, to do the same. Once again, COSCA is fully involved in the program planning phase for 2016 and will be well represented on the program, which is now being finalized. COSCA members are strongly encouraged to attend the event, to be held in Chicago at the end of October. ([See the Save the Date! Notice for SNALC 2016.](#))

In recent years, the annual Scottish North-American Leadership Conference (SNALC) has begun to play a more influential role on the Scottish-American scene. Founded some 20 or more years ago by the American Scottish Foundation out of NYC and the St. Andrew’s Society of Illinois (“Chicago Scots”), the St. Andrew’s Society of Detroit (“Detroit Scots”) later got involved



Heather Macleod, Nea McCullough & Donald Macleod, Chief Clan MacLeod of the Lewes, in Sydney

Finally, I am happy to report that in our most recent Board meeting prior to the AGM, the COSCA Board voted unanimously for COSCA to rejoin the Scottish Coalition, USA, after three years away. As many readers know, the Coalition is a loose consortium of seven heritage-oriented national organizations, each a nonprofit charitable organization with its own membership, mission and programs. These include the American-Scottish Foundation (ASF), the Caledonian Foundation, Scottish Heritage, USA (SHUSA), the Living Legacy of Scotland, the Scottish-American Military Society (SAMS), the Association of Scottish Games & Festivals (ASGF), and now—again—the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA). By partnering with other Coalition member organizations, COSCA adds to its visibility and impact in the Scottish-America Diaspora.

The ASF is the oldest of these seven Coalition members, founded in 1956 by Lord Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton and his American-born wife to be a “bridge” between the people of Scotland and those of the USA. Most of the other six Scottish Coalition member organizations, COSCA among them, were founded in the 1970’s: The Caledonian Foundation specializes in supporting the performing arts in Scotland (Scottish opera and the Theatre Royal in Glasgow) and special projects such as the restoration of Abbotsford—Sir Walter Scott’s ancestral home, down on the Borders. SHUSA has long worked in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and makes small grants to Scottish heritage organizations, mainly in the Southeastern states, where it is based and where Scots ancestry is commonplace, but it also makes larger donations to the NTS. The Living Legacy of Scotland, based in Washington, DC, has an educational mission to promote a better understanding of the many contributions made by Scots and Scottish Americans to the formation and growth of the United States. Membership in SAMS, which is essentially a nationwide service organization, is limited to Americans serving in, or who have previously served in, any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Association of Scottish Games & Festivals (ASGF) represents the various highland games organizations scattered across the country, though not all are ASGF members.

Lastly, there is us—the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA)—which is essentially the national professional association for the clan societies in the USA. Working together, these seven Coalition member organizations can make a powerful statement about the priorities and aspirations of the greater Scottish-American community. And COSCA is happy to once again be a part of that effort.

Yours aye,

John Bellassai

John King Bellassai, President
Council of Scottish Clans & Associations
(202) 258-4876 (cell)
j.bellassai@yahoo.com (personal)

Notes from the New Newsletter Editor

This is my first attempt at your newsletter. I have received much great advice from Keets of course, but also many others. I am thick skinned and welcome any and all comments, positive and negative, that will assist in producing a higher quality Newsletter for you. Let me know via [email](#).

I am looking for articles of interest to you, plenty of pictures, jokes and cartoons. You may notice that some of the pictures here are blurred and not clear. Any picture we use needs to be a high resolution picture, the bigger the better. We can always trim them down but we cannot trim up!

This is your newsletter so let’s make it the best we can.

Bruce And The Entire Editorial Team

The Organization of the Scottish Diaspora in America

A Quick Overview

By John King Bellassai*, President, COSCA

[This article appears in abbreviated form in the current issue of Scots Heritage Magazine. It is reprinted here in its entirety with the permission of the editors of that publication.]

When it comes to understanding how the Scottish Diaspora in the USA is organized and operates, our friends and cousins back home in Scotland tend to throw up their hands and roll their eyes, saying it's all hopelessly muddled and chaotic. In fact, when viewed from the top down, rather than horizontally, it is all fairly logical and ordered—certainly to the extent that it can be understood and navigated by an outsider. The purpose of this article is to give the reader a quick, thumb-nail overview of the heritage-oriented organizations which together “keep the flame alive” for the large Scottish Diaspora in America.

Unlike Britain (notwithstanding the ongoing process of devolution in Scotland), America is not a unitary state. From the ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1789, we have enjoyed a federal system of government, with various enumerated powers granted to our national government, but others “reserved” to the (50) states, and yet others to the local (county or even city) level. This sort of decentralized governance is endemic to the America character, and it also shows up in our civil society.

In *Democracy in America*, published in 1835, the noted French writer and traveler [Alexis de Tocqueville](#) wrote of his earlier travels in the USA—at a time when westward expansion and Jacksonian democracy were both radically transforming the young United States. In the process, de Toqueville identified one of the unique aspects of American society—the large role played by voluntary, private associations in the organization of social,

political and economic affairs. Ever a keen observer of the human condition, de Tocqueville thought that through “associating”—the coming together of people for a mutual purpose—Americans are able to overcome selfish desires, thus making for an active and vibrant civil society. As de Toqueville observed,



Alexis de Tocqueville
(1805 - 1859)

“Americans of all ages, all conditions, all minds constantly unite. Not only do they have commercial and industrial associations in which all take part, but they also have a thousand other kinds . . . As soon as several of the inhabitants of the United States have conceived a sentiment or an idea that they want to produce in the world, they seek each other out; and when they have found each other, they unite. From then on, they are no longer isolated men, but a power one sees from afar; whose actions serve as an example; a power that speaks, and to which one listens. . . . Everywhere that, at the head of a new undertaking, you see the government in France and a great lord in England, count on it that you will perceive an association in the United States.”

De Toqueville’s observations about the American penchant for forming and joining a myriad of voluntary organizations remain as true today as they were almost two centuries ago. And this is certainly the case with regard to the organization of the Scottish Diaspora in America.

At the national level, dating back to the mid-1970s, there is [The Scottish Coalition, USA](#)—a loose consortium of seven heritage-oriented national organizations, each in

and of itself a nonprofit charitable organization with its own membership, mission and programs. These include the *American-Scottish Foundation* (ASF), the *Caledonian Foundation*, *Scottish Heritage, USA* (SHUSA), the *Living Legacy of Scotland*, the *Scottish-American Military Society* (SAMS), the *Association of Scottish Games & Festivals* (ASGF), and the *Council of Scottish Clans & Associations* (COSCA). The ASF is the oldest of the seven, founded in 1956 by Lord Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton and his American wife, the former Natalie Scarritt-Wales of Massachusetts, to be a “bridge” between the people of Scotland and those of the USA. ASF puts on a wide range of cultural programs, most of them in and around New York City, where it is based, as well as coordinating the Annual Tartan Day Parade in downtown Manhattan.

Most of the other six Scottish Coalition member organizations were founded in the 1970’s: The Caledonian Foundation specializes in supporting the performing arts in Scotland (Scottish opera and the Theatre Royal in Glasgow) and special projects such as the restoration of Abbotsford— Sir Walter Scott’s ancestral home, down on the Borders. SHUSA has long worked in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and makes small grants to Scottish heritage organizations, mainly in the Southeastern states, where it is based and where Scots ancestry is commonplace, but it also makes larger donations to the NTS. The Living Legacy of Scotland, based in Washington, DC, has an educational mission to promote a better understanding of the many contributions made by Scots and Scottish Americans to the formation and growth of the United States. Membership in SAMS, which is essentially a nationwide service organization, is limited to Americans serving in, or who have previously served in, any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Association of Scottish Games & Festivals (ASGF) represents the various highland games organizations scattered across the country, of which there are currently over 75 (though not all are ASGF members). Likewise, the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA) is essentially the national professional association for the clan societies in the USA, of which there are now about 140 (though again, not all of these are members).

These clan societies have chapters in states all across the nation and among other things, staff tents at the various Scottish games. Most have close ties to Scotland and have established relationships with their respective clan chiefs, who tend to serve as honorary patrons. (For a definitive

list of all the known clan societies active in the USA, whether or not COSCA members, see the list posted on the COSCA website, at www.cosca.scot.) COSCA maintains a very close, symbiotic relationship with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC), which represents the clan chiefs back home in Scotland, while COSCA represents the clan societies here in the USA.

A primary focus of the Scottish Coalition, USA over the years has been to promote the National Tartan Day holiday celebrated everywhere in the USA on 6 April each year—the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath. To that end, the Coalition maintains a network of volunteer State Tartan Day Coordinators, active in over 30 States of the Union. In fact, the Coalition was instrumental in getting 6 April recognized as National Tartan Day by the U.S. Senate back in the 90’s, patterning the U.S. holiday on its Canadian counterpart, which had already been enacted into law north of the border. Each year the Scottish Coalition makes its Tartan Day Award to a deserving Scottish-American, for the past several years doing this in conjunction with the annual Tartan Day celebration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC.

At the local level across the USA, there are close to a hundred St. Andrew’s societies—all independent of each other organizationally, but sharing a common mission going back to colonial times, when Scottish immigration to America was heavy—to provide aid, support and comradeship to Scots and the descendants of Scots. (Their common motto is, “Relieve the Distressed” and most feature an image of St. Andrew, Scotland’s patron saint, or his emblem, the saltire, in their logo or coat of arms). Most St. Andrew’s societies in America were organized in port towns along the eastern seaboard, or along the northern border with Canada—both areas being major entry points for Scottish immigrants in those early years. A number of the older societies date back to the 18th century, some to colonial times, prior to the American Revolution. This is the case for the



**St. Andrew’s Society
of New York**



**St. Andrew’s Society of
Philadelphia**

Philadelphia, PA, New York State, Savannah, GA, and Charleston, SC. St. Andrew's societies, while the roots of the Washington, DC society are almost as old—dating to 1783, right after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War. A number of other St. Andrew's societies—for example those of Baltimore, Detroit and Chicago—were



**St. Andrew's Society
of Washington, DC**

founded soon thereafter, in the first half of the 19th century, during the period of rapid American expansion westward. But new ones emerge even today.

As a general rule, the older St. Andrew's societies tend to be the larger ones; some boast 400 – 500 members, though others are much smaller; regardless

of size, all draw their members primarily from their own locales. Many (though certainly not all) require genealogical proof of descent from a Scottish immigrant ancestor as a condition of membership. Today, most St. Andrew's societies still focus on charitable and educational missions, but now these typically have evolved into scholarship programs to support young Scots who want to study in America and young Americans wishing to study in Scotland. At the same time, these societies invariably sponsor Scottish cultural programs such as Burns Suppers, Tartan Day parades, Scottish-themed lectures—often delivered by visitors from Scotland—and musical programs.



**Caledonian Club of
San Francisco**

Side by side with the St. Andrew's societies in cities and towns across the USA are a plethora of Caledonian clubs and Robbie Burns societies—generally with a more relaxed, social purpose, not geared specifically to Scottish immigrants but to all who appreciate Scottish culture. Some

of these Caledonian clubs have a long history dating back to the mid-19th century, such as those in New York City, San Francisco, CA and Sarasota, FL. The Burns clubs focus even more narrowly on celebrating the life and writings of Robert Burns—especially in the season leading up to the annual “Burns Nicht suppers” held all across the USA in late January and early February.

With the advent of the Internet and now other social media organs such as Facebook and Twitter, it is quite

easy to identify and contact any of these numerous Scottish Diaspora organizations from locations overseas, as well as from anywhere here in the States. (*Google* searches on key words like “St. Andrew's societies”, “clan societies”, or “Scottish-American organizations” generate hundreds of hits.) All but the smallest ones have websites which typically lists their officers and give ways to contact them—mailing addresses, email addresses and often phone numbers. (Unlike the strict privacy laws in the UK which make it hard to get personal contact information, it is ubiquitous on American organizations' websites, usually under the “contact us” tab in the drop-down menu on their respective home pages.)



**St. Andrew's Society of
Chicago**

Most clan societies and many other Scottish-American organizations also advertise in *The Highlander Magazine*; a long list of Scottish societies in the USA and how to contact each of them is always listed in the back of each edition of this popular U.S. publication. Many of these groups have a Facebook Page, too, with extensive followings. Quite a few can be followed on Twitter, as well. Significantly, virtually all of these organizations are staffed by volunteers who serve without remuneration but instead out of that same sense social commitment identified almost two hundred years ago by the visiting De Toqueville as a hallmark of American social enterprise.

In recent years, the annual Scottish North-American Leadership Conference (SNALC) has begun to play a more influential role on the Scottish-American scene. Founded some 20 or more years ago by the American Scottish Foundation out of NYC and the St. Andrew's Society of Illinois (“Chicago Scots”), the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit (“Detroit Scots”) later got involved as a key player, as well. Over the years, SNALC has had a mainly mid-western orientation, providing speakers and workshops about issues important to the management and administration of nonprofit organizations—of which virtually every Scottish-American organization we have focused on is one. That said, participation in SNALC over the years has remained decidedly regional, which has limited its impact and notoriety.

More recently, however, SNALC's Steering Committee has decided to truly “go national”, actively recruiting

any and all other Scottish heritage organizations from across the country to join the organization and send representatives to its annual Leadership Conference. In this regard, COSCA last year joined the organization's steering committee and the St. Andrew's societies of Minnesota and St Louis, MO also became active organizational players. And SNALC has begun to broaden its reach in other important ways, too: In 2015, it invited former First Minister of Scotland Henry McLeish to attend as its keynote speaker and for 2016, it has invited Lord Thurso, the new Chairman of *VisitScotland*, to do the same.

No discussion of the organization of the Scottish Diaspora in America would be complete without mentioning the *Friends of Scotland Caucuses in the U.S. Congress*—one in the Senate, the other in the House of Representatives. Founded in 2004, the House Caucus is by far the more active of the two, with over 50 elected members of Congress from both parties signed up as Caucus members—most of whom proudly claim Scottish descent.



National Capital Tartan Day Committee, Inc.

It hosts visits from delegations of MPs and MSPs, and on occasion sends delegations of its own members to Scotland. On or about 6 April of each year, the House Caucus sponsors an annual Tartan Day Reception, open to the public, to celebrate the National Tartan Day holiday, which is embodied

in standing congressional resolutions of both the Senate and the House of Representatives. To support the efforts of the twin congressional Scottish caucuses and to promote the Tartan Day holiday, a nonprofit educational organization exists in Washington, DC—the National Capital Tartan Day Committee, Inc (NCTDC)—staffed by volunteers who plan and convene educational symposia and open-air festivals to celebrate Tartan Day. NCTDC also co-hosts the annual Tartan Day reception held at the U.S. Capitol, together with the congressional Friends of Scotland Caucus in the House—an occasion which the Scottish Coalition uses to present its annual Tartan Day Award each year to a deserving Scottish-American who has been active in Diaspora activities.

* John King Bellassai lives and works in Washington, DC. His maternal grandfather, John King, after whom he is named, emigrated to New York City from the Loch Lomond-side town of Killearn (of Rob Roy fame) in Stirlingshire, Scotland, in 1910. He is President of the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA) and Vice President of the National Capital Tartan Day Committee (NCTDC). He is also a Past President of the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC and is very active in his clan society, the American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.



[American Scottish Foundation \(ASF\)](#)



[The Caledonian Foundation USA, Inc](#)



[Scottish Heritage USA \(SHUSA\)](#)



[Council of Scottish Clans and Associations \(COSCA\)](#)



[Living Legacy of Scotland, Inc](#)



[Association of Scottish Games and Festivals \(ASGF\)](#)



[The Scottish-American Military Society \(SAMS\)](#)

1. Best Practices

A Policies & Procedures Manual for the American Clan Gregor Society

Any organization composed of volunteers counts heavily on cooperative governance among the officers and members. Whether you are applying for a paid or volunteer position within any business or other group, one of the first things most persons ask about is what will be my responsibilities? What is my job description? A Best Practice I wish to share is a Policy and Procedure Manual (P&PM) which our clan society has developed for all officers and committee chairs—something which was done as an adjunct to a recent, thorough review and revision of our corporate code of bylaws.

But first, a bit of our history: The American Clan Gregor Society (ACGS) is a genealogy-based charitable organization whose members consist primarily of lineal descendants of MacGregors who emigrated from Scotland to America. It was organized in 1909, making it 107 years old

now, one of the oldest Scottish clan societies in the USA. We are a relatively large organization, with in excess of 440 active members and an elected governing Council. Bylaws were written from the beginning in 1909 and changed as needed. Newsletters and yearbooks were published to keep the members in this lineage-based/ heritage preservation society apprised of our activities and progress as a society. We were most fortunate to be advised and mentored by the hereditary Chief of Clan Gregor in Scotland during our early years -- Sir Malcolm MacGregor, grandfather of our current Chief, also named Malcolm. As time went along, the Society became incorporated as a nonprofit charitable corporation and application was made to the Internal Revenue Service resulting in our society achieving 501(c)3 non-profit status.



Until a few years ago, our Bylaws were changed piecemeal, with a slight change recommended here and there. In 2012 a committee of six persons was appointed to review the whole document, including our chancellor (in-house legal counsel), who was well acquainted with the DC law under which we were incorporated. These six officers constituted a Bylaws Review Committee charged with modernizing and streamlining the bylaws, especially with regard to offices and committees. Any change to our bylaws required a vote from the general membership. Policies and Procedures for day-to-day governance operations can be changed by a Council vote. We have begun to hold telephonic meetings rather than face-to-face, as in the past, whenever convenient and necessary, in order to meet administrative needs promptly.

Once the work of the By-laws committee was finished, the next challenge was presentation to the Council (i.e., our board of directors) and then general membership for discussion and approval. The Scribe (Secretary) created an excel spreadsheet with double columns which had the old bylaws on the left and the new draft ones on the right with the suggested changes in red text. This made for easy comparison of both documents on one page and certainly facilitated the approval process.

There was a two year process from the first bylaws committee meeting to final approval by the Council and general membership of the bylaws and another year for writing, presentation and approval of the P&PM, based on the new bylaws.

A Policy and Procedure Statement (P&PS) was thoughtfully crafted for each elected and appointed position, as well as for standing committees, as they were identified in the Bylaws. Input was recruited from the person holding each position by means of a bulleted list of what their understanding was of their responsibilities. Our voting Council members include: the Chieftain, Ranking Deputy Chieftain, Scribe, Registrar, Treasurer, the Immediate Past Chieftain, Chancellor, and three Members-at-Large who serve for a three year rotating schedule. An Assistant Chieftain who serves as our business manager also serves on our Council but is non-voting. Appointed officers include a Chaplain, an Historian, a Librarian, a Newsletter Editor, a Piper, a Webmaster, a Yearbook Editor, and a Merchandise Manager. Committees consist of a Gathering Committee, a Heraldry Committee, a Nominating Committee, a Recognition Committee, a Scholarship Committee, an Audit Committee, an IT Committee, and a Gathering Site Selection Committee. We have three Trustees who oversee the Charity and Education funds, and operate independently from the Council, however do present an annual report to the Council and to

the general membership. Election of Trustees occurs during the general membership meeting. That is a total of twenty seven (27) policies and procedure documents that had to be drafted.

Each document repeated any reference to that position from the Bylaws, and included the full text for that reference. A description of the procedures/ duties of that office were listed as well as what support from the society or other society offices might be expected. The "Find" tool in word processing software is a gem of an idea. Any person in a specific position need only look at his/her own P&P without referring to the 17 page Bylaws to understand his job description, or any other officer's. A schedule to review one-third of these P&P was identified for each year on a rotating basis. Because each office received a number on its title page, such as "04-Scribe", and there were 27 individual P&Ps, each officer would be able to maintain their own 3 ring notebook with 1-31 numbered divider pages. Behind Tab #1 was the Title page, a preface statement, a Table of Contents, as well as a list of current officers/council members.

Tabs# 2-28 were used for each position. Numbers 29-31 could be used for addenda or other reference material as time goes on. When all these P&Ps were approved by our Council, these documents were signed by our Chieftain (i.e., president), scanned into pdf files, and distributed on flash drives, instead of engaging a print shop. A three-ring notebook would allow for easy insertion of changes to a particular document and handed over to a new person who later assumes that office.

This kind of detail may not be required for all organizations, especially smaller ones. But with over 440 members, an active event calendar, including an annual gathering that each year moves to different locations around the country, and multiple offices which have to be filled by election every few years, often resulting in incumbent turnover, it has greatly aided our Society's smooth operations, especially when transitions in officeholders occur. It was our effort to preserve our organizational memory in one location, and to be a guide not only for current office-holders but for new, incoming ones well into the future.

I appreciate the help of our Scribe, Jane Montmeny, in the preparation of this article, and wish to acknowledge her input throughout the process. Inquiries and feedback are most welcome. You may contact me by email (loisann@burgoyne.com) or by [clicking here](#)

Lois Ann Garlitz, Chieftain, American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.



SAVE THE DATE:

2016 Scottish North American Leadership Conference

"Many Voices - One Vision"

Featuring: Lord John Thurso, Chairman of VisitScotland (Friday Keynote)

October 21, 22 & 23, 2016

(The Scottish Home, North Riverside, IL)

Formal Invitation to follow

Visit our website for more information:

www.scottishleadershipconference.org





COUNCIL OF SCOTTISH CLANS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc.

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

Scottish Clan or Family Association Membership: \$50 per year

(Membership Year January 1 - December 31)

Date: _____

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? _____

Applying for Individual Membership: \$25 per year

(Membership Year January 1 - December 31)

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)

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: COSCA, 2203 Herrington Ct, Arlington, TX, 76018

COSCA is a registered IRS Section 501(c)3 public charity incorporated in the State of Delaware, USA.