



# Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains

## From the President

*Ciamar a tha thu?*

*Lisa and I are honored to take the reigns as co-Presidents from Kathleen Calhoun who has served admirably over the past couple of years. Our desire is to continue the activities and traditions she and the Council have worked so hard to preserve and carry on. Thanks Kathleen!*

*It is not lost upon us we have not been in touch with the broader Clan membership for several months. That is ending now as our greatest desire is to build personal relationships with each of you and strengthen the bonds we already have between us. Our promise to you going forward is to not only communicate often but also to be openly available to everyone. Merriam-Webster defines clan as a Celtic group, especially in the Scottish Highlands, comprising a number of households whose heads claim descent from a common ancestor. In the broader sense, Clan means family...and that is us!*



*I (Jim) descend from a long line of Robertson's and Browns and am fourth generation off the boat from Scotland on both father's and mother's sides. While still in the early stages, I have begun to trace roots and explore genealogy. Family trees previously created by parents and grandparents reveal yet undiscovered direct family somewhere in Scotland! Lisa has been initiated by marriage into our great family through a hand fasting ceremony (tying the knot!) welcoming her into the Clan. She already has all the qualities of a great Celtic woman!*

*Lisa and I, along with our three daughters, visited Scotland this past Christmas and New Year's holidays and had the vacation of a lifetime! If you've never experienced Hogmanay - put it on your bucket list! There is absolutely nothing like Edinburgh during Christmas with the Christmas Market and the ancient city decorated, the torch procession, and the castle aglow. The family had to drag me back to the US kicking and screaming. Lisa and I are returning this August with several of the Council members for the Clan AGM. We hope you can join us!*

*We are very impressed with our new Council members who collectively decided to hold the annual Robert Burns Dinner despite the late planning and pulled it off with flying colors. 2018 is shaping up to be a great year with the event season just beginning. There are many activities planned throughout the year.*

*Our first charge to our Rocky Mountain Society members is simply to get involved. Membership is not valuable unless used. We quickly learned how wonderfully satisfying it is to be part of a great heritage, to learn about family history and connect with the Clan. We invite everyone to come out to the festivals and reconnect with all of us!*

*Sláinte*

*Jim and Lisa Robertson*

## Inside this issue

**\*Upcoming Events**  
Page 2

**\*Council Meetings**  
Page 2

**\*Struan Kirk**  
Page 3

**\*2018 Burns Dinner**  
Page 4

**\*Clan Story/ 2018 AGM Gathering**  
Page 5

**\*Meeting Minutes**  
Page 6-7

## **New Officers/ Council:**

Co-Presidents:  
Jim and Lisa Robertson

Treasurer: Hope Charles

Secretary: Amber Dobie-Grove

Membership: Lisa Flynn

Event Coordinator:  
Heather Hidalgo

Newsletter Editor: Rachel Bessette



# Upcoming Events

This message is long overdue and for that we do apologize. During the past few months, the new Council officers and volunteers have been in communication a great deal and, while we were planning, we neglected those we were planning on behalf of...you!

Lisa and I officially took the reins at our Annual Robert Burns Dinner in January (a great success!), held our first new Council meeting in February to get an initial accounting of where we stood and are ready to take the Clan to new levels. We have capable bodies in most of the key position but are still looking to fill a few – please let us know if you are interested – we need you!

First and foremost, we need everyone to know our position is to represent and guide the Society in the direction the membership wants it to go. We have no personal agenda other than that which will bring us all together stronger and better.

We have many activities this year and while the bulk of the information will be forthcoming in our newsletter, expected to be out by month's end, here is just a sampling. In addition, we will be adding whisky tastings and other events throughout the year. Please let us know if you have ideas.

We want your participation. (Those in red we are/are contemplating setting up a booth)

June 15-17 **Pike's Peak Celtic Festival**  
Memorial Park, Colorado Springs, CO  
[www.pikespeakcelticfest.com](http://www.pikespeakcelticfest.com)

June 30-July 1 **Colorado Renaissance Festival, Celtic Weekend**  
Perry Park Ave, Larkspur, CO  
[www.coloradorennaissance.com](http://www.coloradorennaissance.com)

July 13-15 **Colorado Irish Festival**  
Clement Park, Littleton, CO  
[www.coloradoirishfestival.org](http://www.coloradoirishfestival.org)

July 21-22 **Elizabeth Celtic Festival**  
Casey Jones Park, Elizabeth, CO  
[www.elizabethcelticfestival.com](http://www.elizabethcelticfestival.com)

Aug 4-5 **Colorado Scottish Festival**  
Citizens Park, Edgewater, CO  
<http://www.scottishgames.org>

Sept 6-9 **Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Festival**  
Estes Park Fairgrounds, Estes Park ,  
CO [www.scotfest.com](http://www.scotfest.com)

1 Dec **Yule Party**—Parker, CO

[www.rockymountain Scots.com](http://www.rockymountain Scots.com)

There are several of us who have already made plans to attend the Clans Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Scotland this summer (August 10-19). Our Chief will be turning 85 and celebrating his 35<sup>th</sup> year as Chief. There are numer-



ous events planned across the many days. Checkout the website (<http://www.donnachaidh.com/2018gathering.html>)

## Upcoming Council Meetings

We have determined a more predictable schedule would better serve the membership, especially if published early for everyone's planning purposes. As a rule, Council meetings will be held *the second Sunday of every other month at 2pm*, locations TBA. Our next three meetings are scheduled for:

- June 10th
- July 29th (Due to Scotland AGM in August with most Council officers absent)
- October 14th (SotRM AGM)

Please make every effort to join us – your participation is the only way our Society will remain strong.



# Struan Kirk Purchase

(Excerpt from Clan Donnachaidh Website)

Dear Clans folk,

I'm following up on the appeal letter sent out from our Chief and the Society's Chairman last September and am happy to be able to report very good news. **In summary, enough money has now been committed for the purchase of the Kirk from the Church of Scotland - and the setting up of an independent new Trust to own and preserve it.**

**The Clan Council unanimously recommends approval of the resolutions set out [below] which also have the Chief's full support.**

About three quarters of the total funding needed (our target total is not less than £Stg75,000) has been committed by a small number of Clan-Donnachaidh-related individuals/families as foreshadowed in last September's appeal letter. They prefer to remain anonymous, but all have wholeheartedly agreed the principles on which the Trust is being set up. See below. It is proposed that the balance will be met from a combination of what the Society's membership has already raised (a very big thank you to the many who have contributed already) or will have raised by the end of March (to anyone still hesitating, please don't any longer ! and to all still engaged in branch fund-raising efforts, please don't stop !) plus proceeds of the sale of a small proportion of the Society's stock market investments. This too has been unanimously approved by your Council.



1. The basic elements of the new Trust will be:

- a. Its formal purposes will be to own, manage and maintain the Kirk, principally as a place of worship, but also to preserve its heritage as a building of special historic and architectural interest, to promote its history particularly in relation to Clan Donnachaidh and its member families, and also to provide a facility for the local community to hold events that are sympathetic and respectful to the sentiment of the Kirk as may be approved by its Board of Trustees from time to time. These purposes will be enshrined in the Trust's Articles of Association. The exact wording can be found on the attached formal EGM Notice and Agenda.
- b. It will take the legal form of a Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital. This means that the new Trust will not have shareholders or share capital. The new Trust will have a board of Trustees, who will also be the members of the company (in a legal sense).
- c. There will be up-to 5 Trustees on the board, one of which will be appointed by the Clan Donnachaidh Society, and one of which will be co-opted by the board of Trustees. The remaining 3 Trustees, who currently form the steering group, and are working hard to form the new Trust in order to realize this project, are all individuals who are known to support the formal purposes and some of whom will have been major donors to this project.
- d. Each Trustee will have one vote only, with an 80% majority required for any major decisions to include any departure from its original purposes, or any decision to wind-up.
- e. In the event that the Trust were ever to wind-up or dissolve the assets of the Trust can only be transferred to another organization with similar objects (if the Trust were a charity at dissolution the recipient will require to be a charity).

2. The cost elements which required to be covered are as follows:

- a. the agreed purchase price of the Kirk from the Church of Scotland, by the new Trust, including accompanying legal and acquisition costs;
- b. the expected cost of the early and substantial repair program recommended by our surveyors to put the building into good order so as to keep longer term maintenance costs to an absolute minimum;
- c. the costs of setting up the proposed new trust; and
- d. sufficient money and/or promised support to help the new Trust meet what are likely to be rather modest annual sums

# 2018 BURNS DINNER

## Robert Burns Dinner 2018

This year's celebration was attended by members joining us from several other clans as well as members attending their very first Burns Dinner and we were honored they selected ours. As is tradition, we piped in the haggis, shared the Address to the Haggis and Selkirk Grace, and toasted the lads and lassies. Hope Charles did a superb job throughout the night as Mistress of Ceremonies. A "passing of the sword" ceremony was conducted transitioning the Clan Presidency from Kathleen Calhoun to Jim and Lisa Robertson. Entertainment this year was provided by Celtic progressive rock band *Indigent Row*. Alex Sandridge graced us once again with his spectacular bagpipe playing to include piping in the

haggis. Numerous donated items were auctioned in a successful fund-raising effort for use in Clan activities throughout the year. Additionally, approximately \$500 was raised in support of the Clan's effort to purchase Struan Kirk, the Clans church in Struan, Scotland. The night would not have been complete without the Rocky Mountain Branch's traditional "kilt swing line". Our kilt wearing gents indulged and delighted the lassies with a little fun by showing their "swing and shake it" techniques. The evening concluded with everyone joining in a rendition of Auld Lang Syne.



## *A Bit of History...*



## Treasurer's Report:

**We currently have \$2,758.80 available in the clan account.**

**Expenditures:**  
**\$250 (Pikes Peak Festival)**

**Deposits:**  
**\$100 (Donation)**  
**\$565.41 (Dues)**  
**\$570 (Robert Burns Dinner)**  
**\$340 (Struan Kirk Donation)**

**Hope Charles—Treasurer**

## *The Children of Donnachaidh*

This poem was a contribution to the Ceilidh at the Gathering in 1975 by Jock Reid of the London Branch



And so the clans were scattered From land and sheiling torn  
Their tartan was forbidden And their culture held in scorn.

And then there was the quiet time The years of dark despair  
When the great great family of the clan Seemed broken beyond repair.

Then somewhere in the distant past A pipe was heard and then  
The feet in dance began to stir And the tartan blazed again.

And all the stories of the past With pride were now retold  
Of how the clan was bound by love Of the brave and of the bold.

And children listened and felt the blood That stirred within their veins  
And the clan that once seemed broken Began to live again.

And now the spirit of the clan Is felt in every clime  
And heads are raised in every land Foe now is the gathering time.

And here we meet in happiness And often part in tears  
For in the children of Donnachaidh Flows the love of a thousand years.

## **2018 AGM and Gathering**

Special Clan Donnachaidh Gathering in 2018 to honor our Clan Chief, Gilbert Robertson of Struan, on his 35th year as Chief of Clan Donnachaidh and on his 80th birthday. During the week of August 10 – 19, 2018, many special events, tours, and activities are being planned to interest our members. This will be a special time in the life of Clan Donnachaidh and you won't want to miss it. Several Rocky Mountain society members have already made reservations – please join us!

Find more information at <http://www.donnachaidh.com/index.html>.

# MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 7TH 2018

## Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2018

Meeting was called to order by Co-President, Jim Robertson, at the Celtic House Pub in Parker, Colorado.

**Present:** Jim & Lisa Robertson, Rachel Bessette, Hope Charles, Jeff Kohr, Kathy Robertson, Heather & Jorge Hidalgo and Amber Dobie-Grove. Lisa Flynn by phone.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

The Agenda was distributed.

### **Meeting Agenda:**

**A Toast to the Clan was given by James Robertson.**

### **Calendar:**

A discussion was held regarding dates the times to meet for future meetings. It was agreed upon to hold meetings every other month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 2pm.

Location to be determined.

June 10<sup>th</sup>

August meeting will be July 29<sup>th</sup> due to other commitments by members

October 14<sup>th</sup>

Hope will check into finding a place to hold all future meetings.

### **Emails:**

There is a Cortez Celtic Festival in Cortez, Colorado. Distance is a factor in having a presence there.

A new book on Clan Donnachaidh, titled "Scotland's Clan Donnachaidh Country, Sites, Tales and Legends", has just been published and will be available for purchase at the Clan Gathering in August. The author is Donald Reid, FSA Scot, who is a long term member of the Clan Council and just appointed as Vice Chairman, Chairman of the London Branch, an author, historian, and the current manager of the Clan Donnachaidh Museum. The book is 6" X 8" in size, soft cover, and has 48 pages full of history of Clan Donnachaidh, a tour of the Clan Country with lots of color pictures, and the Foreword by Clan Chief, Gilbert Robertson of Struan. We are considering purchasing several books for a small fund-raising activity however, if anyone is interested in purchasing a copy, please let Jim or Lisa know and we will gladly pick one up at the AGM this summer.

Nancy Bigley offered to stay on as International Liaison however, her recommendation was for Jim and Lisa be primary interface to the homeland. Jim and Lisa will gladly take on the Liaison position

Clan Donnachaidh was able to purchase Struan Kirk.

Point of information: Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains include Colorado, Wyoming and Utah.

### **Fund Raisers:**

A discussion was held regarding ideas for fund raisers. Some suggestion included pint/shot glasses and flasks to sell. Will need to check into buying in bulk and the cost. Another suggestion was to have a Scotch's Tasting event. October 14<sup>th</sup> is a possible day for event.

Minutes Continued.....

**Calendar of Upcoming events: *\*Added to Newsletter***

Colorado Tartan Day – April 14-15. Some members are going but we will not have a booth since no Council members are able to attend and man the booth on Saturday.

Pikes Peak Celtic Festival – June 15-17. We will have a booth there and discussion was held on how many spaces to reserve. Jeff to check into cost and get back with council.

Colorado Renaissance Festival, Celtic Weekend – June 30 – July 1. No booth but will check into marching in parade with our flags.

Colorado Irish Festival July 13-15. We will not have a booth there.

Elizabeth Celtic Festival July 21-21. We will have a booth there. This event is more Clan friendly.

Colorado Scottish Festival August 4-5. It was not decided on whether to have a presence at this festival.

Clan Donnachaidh 2018 AGM August 9-20 in Scotland. We have 7 members going. If any other Rocky Mountain Society members are interested, please let Jim and Lisa know so we can coordinate activities and meet up in Scotland!. There is one opening in the Bed and Breakfast the initial 7 have reserved if interested.

Longs Peak ScotFest September 6-9 We will have a booth there. A discussion was held regarding how many space to reserve but was finalized.

Yule Party December. Cathy Robertson will check to see if her club house is available for either December 1<sup>st</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Other:**

AGM for Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains will be October 14<sup>th</sup>.

St. Patrick's Day Parade in Denver 2019 – Looking for interest in marching in parade with flags

Mardi Gras Parade in Manitou 2019 – Looking for interest in marching in parade with flags

Tent Raising May 26<sup>th</sup> at Jim and Lisa' Robertson's house – we will have a tent raising session to look at material we have, updating it and booth set-up. Scotch will be served!

**Treasurer: Hope**

Hope has opened a new account for clan. She will get paperwork to add Jim Robertson on as a co-signer. Total amount in account is \$5,575.00.

Note – Burns Dinner expense is still outstanding. Amount owed is \$2,816.20. *\*Update-the outstanding amount has been paid*

We will be looking into updating the banner and materials for booth. Cost's will need to be obtained.

**Newsletter: Rachel**

Rachel is working on format and will set deadlines for material submission. Issues will be published January, April, July, and October. All elected and non-elected Council members are expected to contribute.

**Membership: Lisa F.**

Not all members have paid for this year. Lisa will keep Master Membership roster. Discussion held regarding calling former members – dividing up the list and everyone helping. What can we do to boost membership? What do you get when you join? Can we send a welcome new members packet? Idea's for packet might include membership card and a pin plus most recent newsletter. Suggestion made to send birthday cards too.

**Secretary: Amber**

Requests that we find a different location to hold meeting. She cannot hear what is being said due to noise volume at last 2 meetings. Also, please speak one at a time. No smaller group discussions please.

She will keep a back file of membership roster. Will get with Dennis to get hard copies of forms, handouts and membership materials to update. Heather will help.

**Website: Dennis**

Dennis owns the website/pays for it. Discussion on what needs to be done to update website. Dennis will do updates when he receives new material.

**Historian: Rachel**

Articles and History of Clan Donnachaidh septs

**International Liaison: Nancy**

Jim and Lisa will take over the roll of International Liaison from Nancy but will stay in contact for advice and mentorship.

**Games Coordinator:**

Jeff Kohr and Heather Hidalgo have agreed to take charge of this position and will be in touch with Council and membership for future events

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm