

## From the President

### *"Clan Donnachaidh is Fierce when Roused!"*

This has most certainly been a banner year for the Society of the Rocky Mountains! Kicking it all off was a wonderful Robert Burns Dinner followed by a very successful event season, several great Council meetings, a successful membership drive that continues, and strong attendance at the Scotland AGM, our family is stronger than ever. We want to thank the Council, Council Volunteers and all members who helped make this a very memorable year so far.

In June, the Pikes Peak Festival in Colorado Springs was a resounding success. This is definitely a growing festival with highland games, many pipe and drum bands, a good variety of food and merchandise vendors and about 50 clans attending. The estimate from the host was about 15,000 attendees. Clan Donnachaidh was well represented and we reunited with many old friends and made

In July, several of us sance Festival, Celtic Colorado Irish Festival in booth for the Elizabeth sounding success. We support the Clan. Infor- how to volunteer can be August was a very spe- members made the the most special AGM in



celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and 35<sup>th</sup> year as Clan Chief. Many more details can be found on page 3. We have memories for a lifetime. Additionally, we participated in the Edgewater Festival which saw the return of this St Andrew's Society tradition to the local area.

In September, our festival season came to a close with an overwhelmingly successful Long's Peak Highland Festival where Clan Donnachaidh took the honors of **Festival Best Clan** and **Best Clan in Field** along with our very own Heather Hidalgo being crowned as **Women's Masters Champion** in one of the largest competitions in North America. None of the festivals would have been nearly as enjoyable if it were not for our Event Coordinators Heather Hidalgo and Jeff Kohr assisted by able-bodied Jorge Hidalgo handling all of our event logistics. The season saw many new members finding a connection to their ancestry and long-time members reconnecting to their Clan family. Lisa Flynn, our Membership Coordinator, has done a wonderful job reconnecting with our current membership and making our new members feel welcome. She has created new member packages including newly designed membership cards. Great job Lisa!

Our treasurer, Hope Charles, has taken control of the Society's finances and keeps a close eye on income and expenditures. She established a new Society account and is helping to automate all of our financial activities. Thanks Hope!

Amber Dobie-Grove has done a marvelous job taking notes, creating minutes of the Council meetings and helping with reestablishing our membership roster. You rock Amber!

And Dennis Smith continued to keep the Society's website up and running and is in the process of re-designing the site with a more user-friendly interface where content can be easily added and edited. Much appreciated Dennis!

There are still a few events yet for the remainder of 2018 including our Annual AGM and Yule Party in November and December. Details are within.

We have had the very best time these past 10 months getting to know many of the Society's members. We hope we will see each of you at the upcoming events. This is your Clan and we are proud to be associated with Scotland's oldest clan!

Sláinte Mhath!

Jim and Lisa Robertson

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## Officers

Presidents:  
Jim and Lisa Robertson

Secretary:  
Amber Dobie-Grove

Treasurer:  
Hope Charles

Membership:  
Lisa Flynn

Event Coordinators:  
Heather Hidalgo/Jeff Kohr

Newsletter Editor:  
Rachel Bessette

Webmaster  
Dennis Smith

# 2018 Festival Season

Clan Donnachaidh, Society of the Rocky Mountains set up our clan booth at the **Pikes Peak Celtic Festival** held at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs on 14-16 June. It was a grand time of socializing with other Clans, inviting them to our Robert Burns Dinner next January, and meeting prospective members. Several individuals joined the Clan on the spot and thirty-seven others requested additional information. The kids were awesome and enjoyed getting their passport stamped with the Donnachaidh Crest and availing themselves with beads and candy! Kathy Robertson started a trend of asking them to try to pronounce our clan name to get the stamp. All of them had great tries but most



importantly learned (along with their parents) how to say our name! Of course, all the kids received our stamp! The Festival Field was filled with the sound of Bagpipes from the massed bagpipe bands of the Western United States Pipe Band Association and Celtic Rock Bands playing all day and into the night. Call of the Clans occurred both Saturday and Sunday! Even though Clan Donnachaidh had only 4-5 members march in the parade, we were by far the loudest response to the clan roll with our battle cry "Fierce When Roused" (at least from our perspective!). We would like more of you members to join us in representing our Clan in the parade!

Visitors got to see world champion Irish dancers and Highland Game Athletes display their talents and feats of strength. Heather Hidalgo, our very own Master's class athlete, competed in the highland games and had a very respectable showing against some world class athletes. We want to do better at getting people to man the booth so more of us can go support her on the athletic field. We updated the look of our booth and Council members showed up Friday morning to set things up. A shout out goes to Amber and Lisa for decorating and designing the booth setup! It was awesome looking. Kathy Robertson also deserves a shout



out for repairing parts of our booth decor and providing her world class Scottish shortbread! I think everyone on clan row got to try her outstanding delicacy. The Clan Claus Society especially enjoyed it (with a wee dram) and sent her home with a coveted bottle of Pennsylvania Dutch Egg Nog which we hope to sample at the Yule Tide party scheduled in December. Thanks to all (Jim and Lisa, Amber and George, Rachel, Kathy, Hope, Heather and Jorge, and Sarah) who manned the booth during the event. Talk about your social dynamos! I think we literally had the most active booth in Clan City. Nancy Bigley, our former President visited us on both days and had nothing but good things to say about our efforts.

This was wonderful to hear and encouraging as most of us had very little experience doing this type of thing. A lot of lessons were learned, but we considered the event a huge success, especially since we had so much fun! We would implore more of our members to come out and join us in the work and fun that goes into celebrating our Scottish heritage.

**2018 Elizabeth Celtic Festival on 21-22 July at the Casey Jones Park in Elizabeth, CO.**

was a hit as well! We got to see old and new friends and just had a good time. This is the first time we set up using our new heavy duty 10 x 20 tent and it worked great (especially during the rain and wind that came in late Sunday just as everyone was trying to pack up to leave! Jim, Jeff and Lisa showed up Saturday morning to set things up. Lisa did her fabulous job decorating and designing the new booth setup! It was awesome looking again. Kathy Robertson again provided her Scottish shortbread



which is soooo good and again was enjoyed by all the clans! They had a British Dog Show that had working dogs that competed working sheep! The funniest was when a ewe escaped the herding enclosure and chased one of the young herding dogs around the encampment! Poor dog was running for his life!



Heather Hidalgo competed in the highland games and did great and we did a better job getting people to go support her on the athletic field. Jim and Jeff even attended the Highland Games Clinic on Sunday and learned to throw a stone, toss a sheaf and yes even toss a caber! We had so much fun and only a few muscles that talked back to us and asked what the heck we were doing! Thanks to Linda and Heather for coaching us through those events. On top of the Clan parades during the day we had a Clan Gathering late

Saturday night. It was special event that allowed each of the Clans to declare themselves to the others and then throw a torch into the fire pit. Of course because of the fire ban, they had to resort to light sticks that the kids had a blast playing with afterwards. Thanks to all (Jim and Lisa, Amber, Rachel, Kathy, Heather and Jorge, and Jeff) who manned the booth during the event. Again a lot of lessons were learned on the use of the new tent, but we considered our second event as successful as the first with plenty of interest and even on-the-spot new members! Again, we would implore more of our members to come out and join us in the work and fun (emphasis on the FUN) that goes into celebrating our Scottish heritage.



**2018 St Andrew Society of Colorado's Colorado Scottish Festival and Highland Games on 4-5 Aug at Citizen's Park in Edgewater, CO.**

The return of the St Andrew's Festival brought all the classic elements of a world class Scottish Festival and Highland Games: Scottish heavy athletics, leaps of Scottish Highland dancers, Scottish country dancing, the stirring spectacle and haunting tunes of pipe bands from around the state, whisky tastings, Clan Village, Colorado's own Renaissance Scots, living history, Scottish food, British Dogs, British Cars, Parade of Clans and so much more! Donnachaidh set up and quickly became the place to be. The "Fun Clan", as we soon came to be known, hosted a plethora of other clan members and festival attendees that brought us several new members and re-connection with many current members. The Clan was well represented at the parade and clan calling and became close to the St Andrew's Council. The second night saw Angus Mohr perform to a rowdy crowd. It was good to have the festival back in town.

And of course, don't forget the season grand finale, **the 2018 Long's Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival 7-9 Sept at Estes Park Fairground and Event Center in Estes Park, CO.** Well...the 2018 Long's Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival held 7-9 Sept at Estes Park Fairground was the grand finale for Clan Donnachaidh! If you weren't there you missed the fun and comradery. Our Clan was voted not only "Clan Best in Field" for our participation in the parade, but our fellow clans voted us "Festival Best Clan"! What an honor for Clan Donnachaidh! Then to top it off, our own athlete Heather Hidalgo won her Masters division on the highland game



field! She placed seven first places and 2 second places out of the 9 events she competed in! Way to go Heather! Of course there was plenty of scotch and Kathy's superb short bread to share with our fellow clans men and women! We also had the pleasure of some of our Air Force Academy students join us for the festivities! The TATOO featuring US 1ST Marine Division Band, Delta Police Pipe Band, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pipe Band, US Army Fort Riley Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, The Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, and many more was amazing! If you didn't go, you missed it! This is a must event if you want to see a Scottish- Irish Festival put on in grand style! Thanks to Jim and Lisa for heading up Thursday afternoon to set up our booth! I believe we broke a record of signing up new members on the spot and obtaining contact information for potential new members! Already looking forward to next year...which is almost here! Get ready to strap on your Kilt and have fun!



# Scotland 2018 Annual General Meeting August 10-19 2018



Several members of the Society of the Rocky Mountains took the voyage to Scotland to attend the Clan's AGM. Jim and Lisa Robertson (Co-Presidents), Jorge and Heather Hidalgo (Events Coordinators and RM Society Athlete), Jeff Kohr (Events Coordinator), Rachel Bessette (Newsletter and Historian) and Kathy Robertson (Council Member) attended the week-long activities with approximately 75 other members from around the world. Representatives from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, England, France and other countries participated in this most special AGM celebrating both the Chief's 80th birthday as well as his 35th anniversary as Clan Chief. The SORM members rented a beautiful AirBnB cottage just outside Pitlochry that could not have been better accommodations and within easy striking distance to all corners of the Highlands.

Alexander Gilbert Haldane Robertson of Struan was born in 1938. He was the youngest of four children, and only son, of Langton George Duncan Haldane Robertson of Struan and his wife, Laurie. He succeeded his father as chief in 1983 and is the 23rd Chief of Clan Donnachaidh. Struan married in 1965 Bridget Kenyon, younger daughter of Ronald and Celia Kenyon. He has one son and two daughters and three grandchildren. His son, Alasdair Gilbert Robertson of Drumachuine, younger of Struan, is his heir. Struan and his family are members of, and actively support, the Clan Donnachaidh Society. The annual general meeting of the Society and the associated weekend of social activities organized by the Society in clan country each year provide a regular opportunity for clanspeople to meet with him and his family.

Festivities kicked off with a social on 10 August where representatives were able to meet and introduce themselves, get to know each other, and meet many members of the Clan Council, International Officers and the Chief himself. Many activities were scheduled for the week including tours of the Clan's former lands, castles and other sites by authors James Irvine Robertson and Donald Reid, who has recently published a book about the Clan and he is selling to raise funds for Clan operations. Several of us participated in a tour of the Culloden battlefield where Government forces (Read: English!) defeated Bonnie Prince Charlie in the final Jacobite uprising. It was a brutal battle employing all the tactics and strategies on how NOT to fight a battle. Looking back, I think we should have visited Bannockburn instead! The contingent from SORM voyaged out many times around the Highlands exploring several distilleries and pubs, Blair Castle, Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle, Lock Linnhe, Ft Williams, Glen Coe, the Rannoch Moors, and many other wonderful historical Clan-related sites.

All SORM members attended the AGM which saw one of the largest gathering of Clan members in many years. Each Society presented their report for 2017. It was interesting to hear how essentially interest in the Clan is primarily supported by Societies outside of Scotland and if it weren't for international membership, the Clan may very well fold up

The week continued with a grand gala event at the Atholl Palace for the Chief's birthday and anniversary celebration. Everyone was "dressed to the nines" as the haggis was piped in, gifts were presented, toasts were made and everyone put into good use the dance lessons we had several days prior. The Rocky Mountain Society made its presence known as we toasted the Chief with a boisterous rendition of "Fierce When Roused" in which the entire audience joined in.

The week's festivities concluded with a heartwarming service at the Struan Kirk under the new ownership of the Clan followed by a luncheon at the Struan Inn where we said goodbye to the Chief and became seriously depressed as our Scotland trip was nearing the end!

# Upcoming Events

## Society of the Rocky Mountains AGM

**When:** 11 November, 3-5pm

**Where:** Darcy's Bistro & Pub

4955 S Ulster St Ste 103, Denver, CO 80237

[www.darcysbistroandpub.com](http://www.darcysbistroandpub.com) (303) 770-0477

The Society of the Rocky Mountain Annual General Meeting will be held November 11th at Darcy's Pub in the Denver tech Center. The AGM is for the general membership. Reports from each of the Council Officers and Clan Committees will be presented. Come and find out what has been going on with your Clan.

## Rocky Mountain Yule Party!

**When:** December 1, 2018, 6pm

**Where:** Anthology Community Clubhouse

18012 Keyser Creek Ave, Parker, CO 80134

**Pot Luck:** Please bring a side dish or dessert. Meat will be provided. **BYOB**

**RSVP:** Lisa Robertson, 719-572-6584,  
lkunesh71@hotmail.com



Don your best Scottish holiday attire and start the Season off right at the Society of the Rocky Mountain's Annual Yule Party! Good friends, good food, plush chairs and a nice big fireplace!

## Announcing the 2019 ROBERT BURNS DINNER!

**When:** January 26, 2019, 6pm-12am

**Where:** Radisson Denver—Aurora

3155 S. Vaughn Way | Aurora, CO 80014

Hotel: 720.857.9000 / [www.radisson.com/denverco](http://www.radisson.com/denverco)

**Cost:** \$50 Members/\$60 Non-members



Our Council is already enthusiastically planning this all-too-important Scottish tradition and January 26th will be loaded with ceremony, entertainment, fun and most of all a gathering of those we call family.

<b>Social Hour</b>	<b>Prizes</b>	<b>Piping in the Haggis</b>	<b>Silent Auction</b>
<b>Sit-down Dinner</b>		<b>Drawings</b>	<b>A Tribute to Robert Burns</b>
<b>Special Toasts</b>	<b>Live Entertainment</b>	<b>Bag-piper</b>	<b>Auld Lang Syne</b>
<b>Kilt Line</b>	<b>Scottish Dancing</b>		<b>Discounted Hotel Rooms</b>

Online reservations can be made at [rockymountain Scots.com](http://rockymountain Scots.com) or complete the form attached to this newsletter, print and mail payment per instructions. Make your reservations by Jan 15th. It promises to be one of the best Burns Dinners West of the Garry River!

# Upcoming Events - 2019

## Clan Donnachaidh, Society of the Rocky Mountains 2019 Event Schedule

*\*\*these are clan sponsored, other events on schedule may be of interest to members and friends*

Jan 26 **\*\* Clan Donnachaidh SRM Robert Burns Dinner**

Raddison Hotel Denver-Aurora  
3155 S Vaughn Way, Aurora, CO 80014  
[www.rockymountain Scots.com](http://www.rockymountain Scots.com)

April 13-14 **Colorado Tartan Day**

Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont, CO  
[www.coloradotartanday.com](http://www.coloradotartanday.com)

June 14-16 **\*\* Pike's Peak Celtic Festival**

To Be Announced, Colorado Springs, CO  
[www.pikespeakcelticfest.com](http://www.pikespeakcelticfest.com)

Jun 29-30 **Colorado Renaissance Festival, Celtic Weekend**

Perry Park Ave, Larkspur, CO  
[www.coloradorennaissance.com](http://www.coloradorennaissance.com)

**July 12-14 Colorado Irish Festival**

Clement Park, Littleton, CO  
[www.coloradoirishfestival.org](http://www.coloradoirishfestival.org)

July 20-21 **\*\* Elizabeth Celtic Festival**

Casey Jones Park, Elizabeth, CO  
[www.elizabethcelticfestival.com](http://www.elizabethcelticfestival.com)

**Aug 3-4 Colorado Scottish Festival**

Citizens Park, Edgewater, CO  
[www.scottishgames.org](http://www.scottishgames.org)

Sep 11-15 **Clan Donnachaidh 2019 Gathering and AGM**

Pitlochry, Scotland  
[www.donnachaidh.com](http://www.donnachaidh.com)

Sept 5-8 **\*\* Long's Peak ScotFest**

Estes Park Fairgrounds, Estes Park, CO  
[www.scotfest.com](http://www.scotfest.com)

Nov 2 **\*\* Clan Donnachaidh SRM 2019 AGM**

To Be Announced, **Officer Elections**.  
[www.rockymountain Scots.com](http://www.rockymountain Scots.com)

**Oct 5-6 Aztec Highland Games and Celtic Festival 2019**

Four Corners, Aztec, NM  
[www.aztechighlandgames.com](http://www.aztechighlandgames.com)

Dec 7 **\*\* Clan Donnachaidh SRM Yule Party**

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

**Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains welcomes and encourages all members and their guests to attend and participate in any of the events.** Please check newsletters, the event's websites and/or our website [www.rockymountain Scots.com](http://www.rockymountain Scots.com) Or contact any of our council members for updates or questions. Dates highlighted in **RED** have not been confirmed.

# Notices



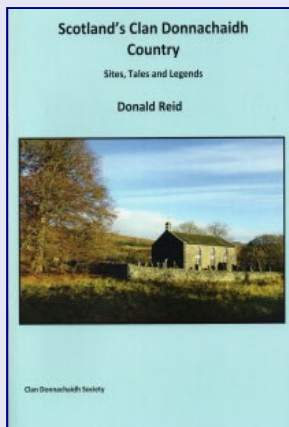
## Wedding Bells!

October 27th  
Sláinte Mhath

to

*Eric Johnson and Lisa Flynn*

*May the best life has to offer be yours!*



**Donald Reid's book, *Scotland's Clan Donnachaidh Country* may be purchased by emailing Catriona at the Clan Office. The price for the Book is £6.99/ USD\$10 plus p&p and must be paid through PayPal.**

[secretary@clandonnachaidh.net](mailto:secretary@clandonnachaidh.net)

## *Grandma Lilly's Shortbread* From Kathy Robertson

Kathy writes: I got this recipe from a great lady named Alice who used to bring shortbread to all the Clan functions many years ago. She called it, "Grandma Lilly's shortbread recipe" - and I have a grandma Lilly as well! Go figure! She experimented before she moved away with chocolate, lemon and lavender flavors, but I haven't been brave enough to try my own experimentation yet!

Preheat oven to 325

4 cups flour

1 cup sugar (I put in 3 additional tablespoons)

2 Tbs Corn Starch

1 pound (that's 4 stick folks!) salted butter

Mix it all together and press into a 9 x 13 metal pan with a flat bottom. Bake for 40 minutes here in Denver. Final color should be evenly cream colored with no dark edges. Cut while HOT - pierce pieces with a fork.

Tips:

I mix all the butter (very soft - but NOT melted!), sugar and cornstarch together first until incorporated. I add 2 cups of flour and stir in. Then the hard part - the final 2 cups of flour! I do a lot of cutting in and mix until I can't see any more flour. Dump it all in the pan - it will be very crumbly - and press uniformly flat with your hands. I have tried a mixer - it HATES the last cup of flour. I have tried a wooden spoon and have broke 2! I use a silicon 1" wide sturdy spatula stick, and only hands will do for pressing into the pan. When HOT - and I mean less than 2 minutes after it comes out of the oven, I use a wide metal spatula to loosen the sides, then use that to cut it into the piece size I want - pressed straight down into the shortbread. Note: A pizza cutter makes a MESS of the hot shortbread! I cut it into pieces then decoratively pierce with a fork for the traditional look. It is much easier to get it out of the pan after about an hour than the next day when it is cool and very firm! And it's delicious served warm!

# Council Reports

## Treasurer's Report

Previous Balance \$2,758.80

### Expenditures:

**\$250 (Pikes Peak Festival)**  
**\$60 (Elizabeth)**  
**\$500 (Long's Peak)**  
**\$700 (Deposit Burns Dinner)**  
**\$403.74 (Clan Tent and Supplies)**  
**\$53.12 (Membership Supplies)**

### Income:

**\$1000 (Transfer from old Clan account)**  
**\$100 (Donation)**  
**\$565.41 (Dues)**  
**\$570 (Robert Burns Dinner)**  
**\$340 (Struan Kirk Donation)**

**Current Balance: \$3056.94**

## Membership Report

**Current Membership: 89**  
**Lapsed Members: 29**  
**International Members: 25**  
**New 2018 Members: 14**

**Membership can be renewed online at [rockymountainscots.com](http://rockymountainscots.com) or fill in the form in this newsletter and mail in a check**

**Lisa Flynn—Membership Coordinator**

# A Moment to Remember



### OUR CHAMPION!

Our very own athlete Heather Hidalgo absolutely crushed all opponents at Long's Peak by taking 1st Place in 7 of 9 events!!

She was officially crowned Women's Masters Champion

Way to go Heather!





# Clan Donnachaidh

Taken from Scotland Magazine, July 2018, with permission

Atholl, lying in the centre of Scotland, is one of the most fertile and beautiful stretches of the Highlands. It enters history as a Pictish kingdom from whose ruling family sprung the royal house of Dunkeld that ruled Scotland from Duncan I in 1034 to Alexander III in 1286. A line of Celtic mormaers, later earls, governed its thousand square miles until the heiress to the earldom was wed to David of Hastings in 1242. The title left its original family and was later granted by the Stewart kings to kinsmen on no less than nine different occasions.

Though the title may have been able to be passed on through the female line, much of the land went down through males. Specifically, through Conan, son of the 3rd Celtic earl, to Duncan (Donnchadh in Gaelic) – who was the first chief of the Clan Donnachaidh and a close adherent of King Robert Bruce. At the request of the king, Duncan named his son Robert and his descendants called themselves the Robert-sons, hence the clan is both Clan Robertson and Clan Donnachaidh. The chief is known as Struan (Gaelic for 'streams'), which is the name of the parish at the core of the clan lands.

The clan first erupted into history in 1379 when, probably as the result of a land dispute, the chief's sons joined with a couple of bastards of the Wolf of Badenoch, the Earl of Buchan, to launch a raid into Angus. The Lowland gentry put on their armour, mounted their warhorses and caught up with the marauders as they drove their stolen cattle back to Atholl.

A couple of fierce clashes high in the heather resulted in defeat for the Angus men. Sir David Lindsay, just back from defeating all comers at a jousting tournament in front of King Richard II on London Bridge, skewered a Highlander with his lance. The story goes that his dying opponent wriggled up the shaft and dealt such a blow that it split the steel covering the knight's foot and left him with a wound most grievous.

The incoming Stewart earls hungered for the Clan Donnachaidh lands with which they were surrounded. In 1451 the chief received a crown charter for them as a reward for capturing the assassins of James I but this protection was insufficient in the anarchic years after the country lost its leaders in the 1513 catastrophe of Flodden. The clan chiefs were children and the earls of Atholl their guardians. Within a few decades the earl had executed one, his cousin, and taken half the clan estate and left the rest laden with debt.

With such a powerful magnate in charge of the regality of Atholl, it could have been the doom of the clan. But the Robertsons were too entrenched. Stewarts came in, but a good half of the earl's vassals belonged to the clan Donnachaidh and they continued to follow their chief. Added to this, the clan's interest in defending their country was shared by the new Stewart inhabitants. So they usually fought together as Athollmen.

In Montrose's campaign in 1644–1645 they were under the command of the Tutor of Struan. Montrose won every battle in which they fought. At Inverlochry, he singled out Duncan Robertson, a blacksmith, for congratulations. He had killed 19 men by himself. In fact, 'The Robertsons of Athole' were long esteemed the best swordsmen in Scotland. A tale goes that Robertson of Lude once cut off the two buttons on his adversary's shirt collar as a hint that his head might follow.



Continued on page 5

From Page 3

The Clan fought in the 1689 Rising. Their young chief, Alexander, 13th of Struan, was the first to raise his sword for King James when he led a troop of horse against his fellow students at St Andrews University when they tried to proclaim William as king. The clan regiment was bounced by dragoons after Klliecrankie and Struan was captured. He escaped, was recaptured, escaped, fled to France and his lands were confiscated. He returned, without a pardon but safe in the midst of his clan. In the 1715 Rising he led a brigade of 500 that the earl of Mar said was the strongest contingent in his army. He was captured at Sheriffmuir, escaped, was recaptured, and yet again escaped to France.

He was back home, illegally, by 1726 and safely cosseted in the heart of the clan. Come the '45 and the old man was out and at it again. The clan was present at Prestonpans, Falkirk, and, like the rest of the Athollmen, suffered terrible casualties at Culloden. Afterwards, the Redcoats devastated clan country and the estate was taken over by the Forfeited Estates Commission. Struan, well into his 70s by this point, was allowed to live out his days and died in 1749.

Of the Robertsons, one 1893 source says: 'The last final migration of the agricultural population took place during the American War, when certain manufactures were started in the villages at the entrance to the Highlands, Blairgowrie, Dunkeld, etc. and the Robertson Clan being the nearest to these villages flocked into them.... The Robertsons are now found in great numbers in the large towns of Scotland and throughout England and the British Empire, but these last can almost all trace back to the time, rarely more than a century ago, when their ancestors lived in Scotland. In all families, whether living in Scotland or elsewhere, the tradition of a Perthshire origin is universal.'

It is worth mentioning that the Clan Donnachaidh chiefs never cleared their tenants from their land. One consequence of this was that the debt each chief inherited from his predecessor eventually meant that all of their land was sold. Another consequence, it could be said, is the strength of the bonds that still hold the 25 worldwide branches of the Clan together. The first clan Society was started in Edinburgh in 1825. After various vicissitudes during the World Wars, it sprang into vigorous life, built its own museum and is now raising money to buy and endow the redundant Clan Kirk at Struan, where lie generations of chiefs and clansmen.

In August this year, a special celebration will be held in Clan country to mark the 80th birthday of Gilbert Robertson, 23rd of Struan, and the 35 years that he has been chief.

# MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 7TH 2018

Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains  
Council Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Lisa Robertson at Darcy's Bristo and Pub in Denver, Colorado.

Present: Lisa Robertson, Jeff Kohr, Kathy Robertson, Hopes Charles, Lisa Flynn and Amber Dobie-Grove

A toast to the Clan was given by Lisa Robertson

## **Minutes:**

The minutes from June 8, 2018 were approved.

## **Reports of Officers, Boards and Standing Committees**

### **Co-President – Lisa Robertson**

We received 1<sup>st</sup> place Champion Best on Field and Best Clan of 2018 Festival (voted on by the other clans) at Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Festival in Estes Park, Colorado. Also, our athlete, Heather Hidalgo received 7 – 1<sup>st</sup> place medals, 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place medals and took home the overall 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy (most points) as winner of Women's Master Class.

We will look at tentatively holding the AGM on November 4<sup>th</sup> but also considering another later date in November. Tentatively, it will be at Rock Yard Brewing in Castle Rock at 2pm. Yule Party will be December 1<sup>st</sup> at Anthology Community Club House, 18012 Keyser Creek Ave. Parker, CO, 80134 It will be a potluck. The Clan will provide the meats and everyone else please bring a side dish.

The Burns Dinner will be held January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson in Aurora. More details to be discussed later in meeting.

### **Calendar – Jeff Kohr**

We reviewed the calendar for this year. The last event is the Yule Party on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The calendar for 2019 was presented. A discussion was held on which events to have a presence and the cost for each event. The events we will be attending are as follows: Colorado Tartan Day, Pikes Peak Celtic Festival, Elizabeth Celtic Festival, Colorado Scottish Festival, & Long's Peak Scottish Festival. We talked about attending the Aztec Highland Game & Celtic Festival (New Mexico) and Moab Celtic Festival (Utah-not listed) but no decision was made on these two events. See attached calendar for 2019.

We are always looking for membership participation in staffing these events.

**Treasure – Hope Charles**

We have \$4,105.68 in the account. The deposit for Burns Supper has already been made but the amount has not come off the account.

A discussion was held on having a dollar amount for each event to buy Scotch, water, ice, candy and beads. It was moved and passed the we budget \$80.00 for this expenditure.

It was approved to buy new material for runners. Kathy Robertson has volunteered to make the new runners and order the material needed. Hope has also volunteered to do some repairs on existing runners.

**Newsletter – Rachel Bessette**

Lisa Robertson stated that Jim Robertson hoped to have the newsletter out by the end of this month.

**Membership – Lisa Flynn**

Lisa has sent out information for all those that indicated interest on the sign-up sheet from each event.

Currently, Lisa did not have actual numbers for Clan membership.

There was discussion about creating a new form for ALL transactions at clan tent. Lisa Robertson will work on this with input from Hope.

A discussion was held on new ideas to boost membership and providing monthly social events for the Clan.

**Secretary – Amber Dobie-Grove**

Amber sent out the minutes to all members after last meeting. Otherwise, Amber had nothing to report.

A discussion was held regarding Amber having copies of forms to include handouts and membership material.

**Website – Dennis Smith**

The website is being updated with a new program. With the new program, there will be links that each elected member can access to post. Example, recent minutes to meetings, updated social events, membership information, etc.

Dennis is looking to step down as webmaster. So, we are looking for anyone that has the interest and skills to continue helping out with our website. Please contact Jim Robertson, if interested.

**Historian – Rachel Bessette**

Temporarily on hold.

**International Liaison – Nancy Bigley**

Nancy was unable to attending meet. We are looking for anyone who is willing to help Nancy and maybe step into the position in the future.

**Games Coordinator**

Discussion was held about asking Heather & Jorge to contribute information about upcoming games and pictures/results from past games. This information couple be included in the newsletter and the website.

**Burns Dinner**

The Robert Burns Dinner is schedule for Saturday, January 26, 2019 at the Radisson Hotel Denver-Aurora. 3155 S Vaughn Way, Aurora, CO. The theme this year will be Music of Robert Burns.

It will be a plated dinner, cost is \$50.00 per person Member and \$60 per person Non-Member.

There will be 15 rooms set aside at the rate of \$89.00, for those that want to spend the night.

Attendees must be 18 years of age or older.

The Venue will include a program of social hour, dinner, toasts, piper, band, Ceilidh dancing (with brief lessons by Kathy Robertson), dancing and silent auction.

**Announcements**

Congratulations to Lisa Flynn and Eric Johnson on their upcoming wedding October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**of**  
**THE CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY**  
**held in The Tryst, Church of Scotland, Pitlochry**  
**on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018 @ 10.00am**

**Members were welcomed**, especially those attending the AGM for the first time, by Gillespie Robertson, Chair. The Chief was in attendance on the podium with Council members and Clan Secretary Catriona Macaulay. Apologies for absence were received among others from Jean Robertson of Struan and from long-time attendee Linda Myers of the Mid-West Branch in USA, to both of whom the meeting sent best wishes for better health: and from Jenny Stark (Chair of Rannoch and Highland Branch)

**2017 AGM minutes** were approved and signed.

**Council Report by Chair.** The Chairman reminded the meeting that 2017 had been a challenging year and that the challenges were still with us. Nevertheless - echoing his remarks in this year's Annual - the Council felt that the good news outweighed the bad.

Because of the loss of rental income from two tenants leaving the Clan centre, and the multiple costs, including professional fees, associated with the resulting changes, we had taken a financial hit of some £40,000 in 2017. This would be seen in the 2017 Accounts which the meeting would be asked to approve later. In the near term our finances would continue to be stretched; but a new long-term tenancy and other arrangements with House of Bruar, including significant improvements to our two buildings at House of Bruar's expense, were positive long-term elements. During the coming 12 months the Council would be focusing on future business plans to take advantage of any and all opportunities for improving both our finances and our Museum.

The major item of good news, after many months of complex negotiations, was the finalisation of the acquisition of Struan Kirk a few days earlier by the new Struan Kirk Trust. The likes of Oliver Cromwell and the Duke of Cumberland might have in the past destroyed such castles as Clan Donnachaidh's chiefs had owned, but the Kirk was and is the Clan's true spiritual home, and its preservation for future generations was hugely important. Approximately a quarter of the Trust's initial funding for the purchase and for estimated immediate/essential repair costs had been provided by the Clan Society and its fund drive with the branches, and the Society was expected to contribute towards future maintenance costs. It is essential that fund drives continue.

In general the Council felt that we had settled in well with our new status as a full Scottish Charity, with a Clan Secretary experienced in charity matters, a series of new sub-committees set up within the Council to address specific/major elements of our activities, and a new Policy and Procedures Manual all in place. The first item in the Manual spells out how we strive to behave towards both the outside world and each other. It adopts wording suggested by Christy Duncan Lange, our IVC: "To give more than we receive."

A very special event for the Society was the handover to us earlier in the week by the Trustees of the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division - a Division of the United Kingdom's armed forces which had a heroic 20<sup>th</sup> century battle record but has long since disappeared through various mergers and rationalisations - their splendid Memorial statue of a piper which stands at the entrance to the Clan Centre at Bruar. It has been given to the Society for permanent safekeeping, together with funds to assist us in future maintenance. The handover reflected the gradual running down of the Trust as the last survivors of its great historical campaigns were dying out.

### **Financial Report followed by Acceptance of Accounts** (copy documentation attached.)

The Chair and Clan Secretary presented a summary of the Society's formal Accounts for Calendar 2017 and spelled out the highlights. Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Duncan Huie, seconded by Tim Duncan and agreed.

Andrew Duncan requested clarification on whether any Trustees/Members of Council other than the Clan Secretary receive any payment from the Society. The Chairman confirmed that applicable Charity law permits payments to Trustees only for specific services of value or for reimbursement of approved expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. All such approved payments are minuted and are recorded in the relevant year's Accounts.

Council were asked from the floor whether we could quantify any increase in the value of Clan Society's property as a result of the work done by House of Bruar. It was explained that accounting conventions require regular valuation of buildings, but this had not been done recently. The Chair undertook to ensure that revaluation would be carried out for our 2018 Accounts and this should give us guidance on the question. It is possible that valuation might be done by a suitably qualified Member as an in-kind contribution; otherwise the Clan will need to cover the cost.

### **Nominations to Council**

All Council Members due to retire in rotation in 2018 had expressed willingness to continue, Anne-Lise Robertson who was due to retire next year wished to stand down one year early: this was accepted reluctantly and Anne-Lise was warmly thanked for all her past work, and also that of her late husband. There were no new nominations.

Donald Reid and Jonn Duncan who had both been co-opted onto the Council in March 2018 were willing to continue, and the Council had expressed the unanimous wish that Donald accept the vacant position of Vice Chair which he was willing to do. Judy Harkin who had also been co-opted in March 2018 was unable to join Council permanently due to other commitments. All of the above Council moves were proposed by Christy Duncan Lange, seconded by Ron Hobson and agreed.

### **IVC Report** (copy attached)

The Chair expressed the members' deep appreciation of the IVC's work and emphasised that she had received extraordinary support from her husband John.

### **Secretary/Membership Report**

Catriona Macaulay spoke about the two new projects that she had instigated with Council support since the last AGM.

**Donnachaidh Stones** had been featured on the website and also in the Clan Secretary's Newsletter at the end of 2017 and in the 2017 Clan Annual. Feats of strength involving The Stones will form part of the Pitlochry Highland Games in 2019, and it is hoped there will be different categories with trophies won for each. A request for help and support in this project was made to enable it to move forward.

**Clan Donnachaidh Award** – launched by the Clan Secretary in the Scottish government's Year of Youth 2018, open to all school pupils in highland Perthshire. Nominations for the award can be made by school teachers, support workers, family members, friends and neighbours. In less than 500 words each person making a nomination has to describe why they have made their choice. This project was given great support by the Highland Perthshire Education Committee. The 2018 winner was Calum Ryder of Pitlochry who was given his award, a Trophy and £100 cash, at his School prizegiving held in the Pitlochry Festival Theatre in June. Calum as part of his prize has also been invited to attend the 2018 Chief's Dinner.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the Secretary's initiatives and the hope that these and further new ideas for raising the Clan's and the Society's profile would attract new memberships and receive continued support from existing members.

It was intimated that Struan Kirk would have the Clan Society's annual service as its first event under its new ownership on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018. There would also be a renewal of wedding vows between Clan Members Rikki and Jennifer Robertson before the church service.

**Clan Annual Report / Journey Home** read by Judy Harkin (copy attached). Appreciation was expressed to Judy for the excellent quality of the Annuals produced under her editorship – see also footnote below.

**DNA** – Tim Duncan gave a brief outline of continuing encouraging progress, with participants in the project now around 2,000 and an outstanding recent success being the identification of our first Chief's (Duncan Reamhar's) DNA.

## **Affiliated Branch Reports**

Reports were presented orally or read out, all to great acclaim, by visiting Presidents/Chairmen or other representatives of the following branches: Arizona, Carolinas, Florida, Gulf Coast, London and Southern Counties, MidWest, New South Wales, North East, Northern California, Pacific N West, Rocky Mountains, Southern California, Spain, Upper MidWest, and West Canada. While a few branches were struggling to maintain or increase interest and memberships, the general tone was positive and encouraging.

## **Subscriptions**

Brian Donaghy proposed that the UK annual membership subscription be increased by £5, with a similar flow-on increase to overseas members joining the parent Society. Discussion followed on the continuing and pressing need to bring in new members, and the view was expressed that increased subscriptions could be a deterrent, especially in the case of overseas members who had to pay local branch fees before considering a subscription to the parent Society. It was agreed that Council would take Brian's comments on board and consider the issue again next year.

## **AOB**

The Chair asked the meeting to recognise the presence of our Honorary Vice President, distinguished Clan historian and previous Clan Annual Editor Dr Jean Munro, who has been an outstanding contributor to the Society's work over many decades.

Christy Lange requested that the Clan Council have an updated photo taken.

The Chair mentioned that as Life Membership is literally for life and some members live for a very long time, older members with Life membership might like to consider making a donation to the Society if they could afford to do so.

**Intimations:** Brian Donaghy intimated he had items which he would be selling after the AGM with proceeds to go to the Society.

**NOTES:** Our Articles of Association provide for the appointment of the Clan Annual Editor at the AGM. This item had to be omitted from the proceedings this year because discussions on this matter were still taking place in Council. Since the AGM, the role has been filled by James Irvine Robertson, a previous Editor and a widely respected expert on Clan history, on the unanimous vote of Council members, with formal confirmation to be included in the Agenda for next year's AGM.

Our Articles also provide for the appointment or reappointment at each year's AGM of our Accountants/ Independent Financial Examiners. This item was inadvertently omitted from the AGM agenda not only in 2018 but also in 2017 and possibly at previous AGMs, probably because Walton Kilgour have filled the role for so many years now. The Council has undertaken to ensure that the point will not be omitted again in future AGMs.

**Date of next AGM: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at The Tryst, Church of Scotland, Pitlochry @ 12 noon**



# Clan Donnachaidh

## Society of the Rocky Mountains

### Membership Application

New Member       Renewal

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary: (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

Communication preference:      email      phone      mail

Clan name affiliation (i.e., Robertson, Duncan, Reid): \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership fees:** Local Rocky Mountain Society is \$30 Annually/International is \$25.  
Duel membership is \$55. Annual dues are from 1 Jan – 31 Dec annually.

**Membership includes spouse and children under 21 years of age**

#### Please check membership option:

**Individual/Family Duel Membership (Int'l and Rocky Mtn) \$55.00**

**Individual/Family, Rocky Mountain Only \$30.00**

Credit Card       Cash       Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Member taking application:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Ensure to provide receipt)

If taking form for decision after event, please complete form and send with check to:

Hope Charles  
Treasurer  
9837 Peakview Ave #2  
Englewood, CO 80111

**Preferred Method:** Visit [rockymountaincots.com](http://rockymountaincots.com), click "Become a Member", fill out the online form, and pay via PayPal/Credit Card



*Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains*

# Robert Burns Night

Featuring

## The Music of Robert Burns

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Radisson Hotel Denver – Aurora

3155 S. Vaughn Way | Aurora, CO 80014



Please  
join  
us!!

- Cost:** \$50.00 per person Member  
\$60.00 per person Non-member
- Menu:** Sit-down Plated Dinner
- Socializing:** 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm (Cash Bar)
- Dinner & Program:** 7:00 pm – 12:00 pm
- Auction/Drawings:** Throughout the night
- Entertainment:** Piper, Live Music and Ceilidh Dancing
- Accommodations:** Discounted (\$89) Rooms Available (Reserve by Dec 26!)  
Phone (720) 857-9000 (Group Code: 1901BURNS1)

Go online & pay by credit card via Paypal at: [www.rockymountainscots.com](http://www.rockymountainscots.com)

**OR**

Complete this form and send with check payable to "Clan Donnachaidh" to:  
Clan Donnachaidh Rocky Mountain Society  
c/o Hope Charles  
Treasurer  
9837 Peakview Ave #2  
Englewood, CO 80111

Names of all attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People in your party: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner Selection:**  Beef  Chicken

**We are looking for donations for the auction**

**Please RSVP by January 15, 2019**

**No tickets will be available at the door**

Questions: Jim Robertson 719-271-3257 or email at [info@rockymountainscots.com](mailto:info@rockymountainscots.com)