

MINUTES OF CLAN GUNN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 2002

STONE MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES

Meeting called to order by Chuck Swann, President. Officers present included:

Chuck Swann, President
 Jimmy Gunn, Past president
 John Swanson, Treasurer
 Burke Wilson, 1st Vice President
 Jeani Jessen, Recording Secretary
 Abb Gunn, Genealogist
 Shannon Maness, Editor of the Salute

Also in attendance were the following commissioners:

Greg and Shannon Maness – Georgia, Host commissioners
 Tom Wilson – Northern Texas
 Jimmy Gunn – Alabama

As honored guests, we welcomed Commander and Mrs. Iain Alexander Gunn of Banniskirk, Commander of Clan Gunn.

The Rev. Yale Gunn opened the meeting with a prayer.

Pres. Swann reminded members of the joint dinner Saturday night, Oct. 19 with Clan Sinclair, and the location of the Clan Gunn hospitality room, which will open prior to and after the dinner.

Results of the recent election were announced, including re-election of Burke Wilson as 1st VP, John Swanson as Treasurer, and Jeani Jessen as recording secretary. It was noted that Al Gunn, our former membership chairman, has been forced to retire due to his health, and Richard Gunn will be assuming the position. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to award Al Gunn a life membership in the Society as a reward for his years of hard work. He will continue to serve as an advisor for membership.

The Clan Gunn Store was discussed, and suggestions are solicited as to how to increase sales of existing inventory.

Burke Wilson, 1st VP, gave us an update on our website. He has been able to decrease the cost of the site, and increase the professional appearance. In addition, the site is linked to a discussion site for those interested in Scottish activities, thru Boar's Head. Lin Robinson is the moderator of this bulletin board. Burke requested that all commissioners publicize the web site and he welcomes suggestions for additions and improvements.

John Swanson, Treasurer, presented his report, and distributed a written report as well. John stated that the Society is "very liquid" and has approx. \$17,000 on hand at the end of September. However, he counsels that the Society needs to continue to be frugal, as membership has decreased, and work on increasing membership. He recommends that the Executive Committee consider our finances and any changes to our bylaws. Chuck Swann commented that the store expenses shown reflect restocking, which will ultimately increase income.

Jimmy Gunn asked that the Ga. Commissioners, Shannon and Greg Maness, be reimbursed for \$68 in bank charges for checks they accepted for merchandise sales last October which were not honored by the bank. John indicated that this would be done.

President Swann stated that the excellent financial position of the Society is due to the prudent fiscal management of John Swanson and former president Jimmy Gunn. He also announced that there is currently \$1,344 in the Westford Knight fund. Chuck also solicited recommendations for use of

the "extra funds"—these suggestions included a standard Games kit for each commissioner. While the commissioners and officers present endorsed this idea, John Swanson advised waiting to see how the Society's financial situation looks in the new year.

Jimmy Gunn suggested that all officers begin contacting "lost members" to get increased renewals.

Lin Robinson reported on the status of the Chiefship of the Clan—basically, nothing has happened or changed, so we continue under the capable leadership of our commander.

Genealogist Abb Gunn reported that he has received and gotten onto computer disc all the parish records for the UK. He has also received many requests for information to be published on the website, but is concerned about privacy issues.

Recording Secretary Jeani Jessen made a motion, which was seconded and passed, that future money spent to honor members who have passed away be made to the Kildonan fund, rather than the tree-planting done previously. A book will be sent to Kildonan by the Society to record these names. In addition, Jeani requested that in the future, the information about departed members sent to her should include address of the member, as well as next of kin so that they can be notified of our donation.

Shannon Maness, Editor of the Salute reported that she is not getting many articles or reports from commissioners, which hampers getting information out to our members. In addition, she asked that the Society address the mailing of the Salute—we currently use bulk mail rates, which means that the Salute often sits in the post office for 2-4 weeks after mailing, before it is processed and delivered. This change may increase postage, but will make the Salute more timely and meaningful for members. In addition, Shannon requested more input from the Society in the UK. Bunty Gunn graciously volunteered to send information and articles to Shannon regularly for the UK Society.

Our Commander, Iain Alexander Gunn, spoke to the membership and noted that this is their 5th visit to the Stone Mountain Games. He extended greetings from the UK Society, and noted that membership in the UK Society has decreased; possibly because there is little chance for gatherings such as we have in the US. He reported to us on the current status of Kildonan Kirk, which will be leased to the Clan Gunn Heritage Center. This will make the Clan responsible for upkeep, and allow us to keep the church as is, but with refurbishment and information on Clan history available. The cost for this rental is nominal, and upkeep is expected to be about £5,000 a year.

Commander Gunn provided us with information about the next International Gathering, scheduled for July, 2003. The gathering will start in Orkney, and will hopefully include a visit to Castle Mey, the home of the late Queen Mother. The cost for the gathering activities is approximately \$470. A list of hotels and further information will be provided to members thru the Salute.

With no further business being presented, President Swann adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jean Williamson Jessen
 Recording Secretary.

BRANCH COMMISSIONERS OF CLAN GUNN

These dedicated members of the Society are available to help answer questions about Clan Gunn and local games. Thank you to all of you for your time and hard work.

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