

2016 AGM Minutes June 18, 2016 Chicago

The AGM was called to order at 5:50 pm by President Rich Gunn. There were 45 in attendance. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Rich Gunn made introductions of the following attendees: Rich introduced himself as the current President of the Society and said the our new Chief, Iain Gunn also made him High Commissioner of North America; Abb Gunn, Genealogist; Jeff Growell, Commissioner of the Great Lakes Viking Branch who then introduced Dave Ziemer; Jon Yuds; Andy Martin; and the Mann family.

The 2015 minutes which were published in the Gunn Salute were approved after a motion by Dave Ziemer and seconded by Woody Williams.

A message was sent from Chief Iain Gunn. Part of the message read as follows: " I am most grateful for the congratulations and messages of support from members of the Clan worldwide on my recognition by the Lord Lyon King of Arms as Chief of Clan Gunn. There had to be some discussion on what the undifferenced arms of the Chief should be as there is no record anywhere of the arms. It has been agreed that they should be a red three masted galley with flags furled on a white background and the supporters should be a Norse warrior and a Pictish woman bearing a sprig of juniper, the plant badge of the Clan, representing our descent from Sweyne Asliefsson and the Pictish Mormaers of Caithness.

The Lord Lyon has agreed to present the matriculation of arms to me at a ceremony at the Merchants' Hall in Edinburgh before the St Donan's Day Dinner on 16 April which I hope as many as possible will be able to attend. I am particularly glad that Colonel James Gunn and Rob Kamp Gunn who were responsible for organizing the petition to the Lord Lyon hope to be at the ceremony and that Rich, the President of the Clan Gunn Society of North America, and Linda Gunn and Todd Wall, the past President of the Clan Gunn Society of New Zealand and his wife Sheila will also be present to represent their societies along with members of the Clan from France and Nova Scotia.

I intend to re-appoint Rob and Rich to be my High Commissioners for the Netherlands and North America and to appoint Todd as my Commissioner for New Zealand on his retirement as President of the Clan Gunn Society of New Zealand."

The Membership Secretary reported that there were 771 members down from 957 in 2015. There were 33 new members in 2016 but only 15 new members in 2015. The largest branch was Florida with 98 members, followed by Northern California with 86.

The Nova Scotia Society sent notice that they may disband. Their members were invited to join the North American Society with their first years membership free.

The Treasurer reported that there was \$9300 in the bank with \$1800 in outstanding debt, so a net of \$7500. The dues were increased from \$20 to \$25. It did not seem to reflect lost memberships. Many older members have died. An on line dues renewal has been initiated. The Membership Secretary was told to purge non-paying people and to send the list to their respective branches. Commissioners are asked to contact these people and see why they have not renewed.

The Store Keeper reported that there were many of the new Clan Gunn pins sold, many as gifts to others. The postage rates were raised so the profit has been slightly lower because there was no raise in merchandise prices. 2016 has sold a little less than 2015 but the year is not over yet.

Abb Gunn, Genealogist reported that the Archives have over 200,00 names of Gunns or sept names. There has not been as many inquiries. Abb stressed that there not everyone is related to the Crowner. Also that sept chart names may or may not be related to Clan Gunn. They can usually be verified by the location of where the ancestors lived. He also said that the Scottish records were usually good back to the 1720s but rarely before that time.

Rich announced the elections results for the 2017-2020 officers:

Dave Ziemer-President, Charlie Kehm-1st Vice President, Chuck Franz-2nd Vice President, Jerrod Gunn-Treasurer, Anne Gunn- Recording Secretary, and Alise Erickson-Membership Secretary. He wished them all good luck in their term .

Rich announced that new members can now join on line where it has been only for renewals. It has only been up a short time but there has been 6-7 new members join already. The payments are through PayPal, noting that the store purchases are through ProPay.

With the push for the Gunn Salute to be emailed since this is the biggest expense, it appears to be working as the cost of the Salute is down from \$1800 to \$1500. Rich encouraged members to update their emails if they wish to receive the Salute on-line. It will still be mailed to those who want it.

Rich gave an update on the Cheifship. It has been 230 years since the last Gunn Chief. Last July there was a Family Convention headed by John Malden, Unicorn Persivant to determine 2 things. One, does Clan Gunn want a Chief? Two, who does Clan Gunn want as their Chief? Rob Kamp Gunn proposed that the Clan Gunn wanted a Chief and that it be Iain Gunn, who has been their Commander for 43 years. This was seconded by James Gunn. It was an almost unanimous vote to approve both. This petition was sent to the Lord Lyon who recognized Iain Gunn as the new Chief of Clan Gunn. An Investiture was held on April 16, 2016 in which Iain Gunn of Gunn received his Arms and pinsels. Three of the pinsels were given to his appointed High Commissioners to represent the Chief at all Clan gatherings. Rich Gunn's pinsel was on display at the AGM.

Clan Gunn has informally supported the Kehm Memorial Scholarship for bag piping. This year enough money was raised for 3 full scholarships and 2 half scholarships. This is in memory of the Florida Commissioner Charlie and Alexis Kehm. Alexis Malcolm Kehm also has a kilt making business. Clan Gunn and Charlie and Alexis purchased the ancient Gunn tartan material and Alexis made our Chief a new kilt to wear for his Investiture.

Rich thanked Jeff Growel I and Dave Ziemer and the rest of their crew for their enthusiasm and this AGM. Rich received a round of applause for the many years he has served as the Clan Gunn President. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunn