



Thistle 'n Dixie

www.caledoniansocietyofneworleans.com



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November 2017

President's Corner, November 2017 – Nov. 7

Greetings to all of you! We have had two activities since the last newsletter which were really enjoyable with good attendance from our members.

Our October meeting was such a delight, as member Emma Pierson shared selections from her book. I had thoroughly enjoyed the entries when I got and read her book, but to actually hear Emma read them aloud in her beautifully measured voice hitting just the right rate and rhythm was simply sublime! Judging from others' reactions, they felt the same way and it was a magical evening. Thanks to all who brought food offerings – John Mullane, PLEASE send me a written recipe of your incredible vegetables! They were to die for!

Although it rained the night before and delayed set-up, the day of the Louisiana Highland Games and Celtic Festival was absolutely glorious. For those of you who made the trek to Zachary and helped man the Society tent as well as assisted at both Clan Elliot and Clan Urquhart tents, we cannot thank you enough! Our members who were involved were: Bob and Wendy Grubb as officers of the Core Committee (Treasurer & Secretary) were everywhere handling whatever came their way as well as Wendy directing the dancing. Virginia, Dowager Urquhart of Urquhart, along with daughter Vicki Castay and son John not only manned the Clan Urquhart and CSoNO tents, but brought photo boards to let attendees take pictures of themselves as a piper, highland dancer, Heilan coo, and Nessie – a big hit! Newest member Connie Rodriguez and friend Karen Rosenbeck were invaluable in setting up and manning the Urquhart, CSoNO, and Elliot tents. John and Lilian Mullane, T. Diemer and Hilary Clark all manned the CSoNO tent. Rick McConnell was there in his resplendent garb and weapons and Michael and I floated between CSoNO and Clan Elliot tents. Joe and Ann Campbell were all over between his duties as MC and their joint duties at the Clan Campbell tent. Brandi Lott Glover and children enjoyed the dancing and other activities. Toni Calandria shared her musical talents via the New Orleans Strathspey & Reel Society and Tex Stevenson stopped by the tent before going off to enjoy a wee dram at the Whisky tasting. Also thanks

to Nemesh & Catherine Grubb Poddar for working so hard at the entrance tent!

As a proud member of Clan Donnachaidh of the Midwest, I am so happy to report that representatives of the Branch who came from Oklahoma and Arkansas and from Lafayette did such a wonderful job with the displays and manning of the tent that they won “Best Clan Tent” this year! Thanks to Virginia, Dowager Urquhart of Urquhart and the Clan Urquhart Foundation for sponsoring this award and congratulations to the winners (House of Gordon 3rd place and Clan Gregor 2nd place). The cash prize will be used in the Clan fundraising efforts to purchase the old Struan kirk in Scotland. Glad to see friend and former CSoNO member Hugh Robertson among the Clan Donnachaidh faithful!

Our next meeting is going to be wonderful with Connie Rodriguez presenting new and exciting information on her ongoing Scottish archaeological adventures. We look forward to seeing all of you on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20th at the same time and place** (please note that there was a necessary change in the meeting day because of a conflict at the Christopher Room – more below).

There will be a Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 at Virginia's house to deal with upcoming activities. Don't forget the Highlands & Islands Celtic Music Festival and Scottish Highland Games this weekend – see below for details.

Hae a guid day! Christyn

Dues are Due!:

Our fiscal year runs from September to June, so dues are now due. Family membership is \$25, single membership is \$20, and full-time college students below the age of 26 may join for \$10. Send dues to Treasurer Louis Greer at 747 West William David Parkway, Metairie, LA 70005. Thanks to all who have already paid.

Upcoming Scheduled CSoNO Meetings / Events: **MONDAY, November 20, 2017 – Monthly Meeting (NOTE DAY CHANGE!!!!!!):**

7:00-9:00 PM at the Christopher Room located at 6254 Vicksburg Street.

Program: Member speaker Connie Rodriguez of Loyola University will talk on the ongoing archaeology project she is involved with in Scotland. Contact Refreshment Chairman T. Diemer to bring finger food/snacks if you would like to contribute.

Sunday, December 10, 2017 – Christmas Party:

4:00-6:00 PM at the Christopher Room located at 6254 Vicksburg Street. Details to be decided later this fall.

Saturday, January 20, 2018 – Burns Night

Dinner: Venue is Southern Yacht Club – details will be presented at a later date. The New Orleans Strathspey and Reel Society has agreed to provide the music. Mark your calendars!!!

Member and Society News

If you have any member news to include in the newsletter, please let Christyn Elliott know at her e-mail address or home phone number.

Myra's son Byron is continuing to make a truly miraculous recovery, and we are so happy for him, Myra and the family.

Michael is continuing treatment for esophageal cancer and he will be switching over to the St. Tammany Cancer Center in Covington. This will enable us to have all the doctors and treatment in one place close to home, which will be a huge help.

Welcome to New Member

What a joy to have Connie Rodriguez join our ranks at the last meeting! We had a Board meeting on the spot to formally approve her membership, so please welcome her to the family! As you know, Connie is a professor at Loyola University in New Orleans and although she doesn't claim Scottish descent (yet), she is just enthralled with all things Scottish. Come and hear her talk this month!

Flowers of the Forest

We said our final farewells to our darling Jamie – James (Jim) David Starling Fergusson left this earthly realm on October 20th for a much-deserved eternal rest after a very long and debilitating illness. His memorial service was on October 24th at Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home. Jim and Ribby (who was carrying daughter Louise at the time) were charter members of the Caledonian Society of NO and were Scottish Country dancers for many years. They were later granted Life Emeritus status in the Society. Jim has been a dear friend to so many of us and he leaves us with wonderful memories of a deeply devout, avidly Scottish, food & drink-loving

friend who so enriched the lives of those around him. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Ribby, daughters Elizabeth and Louise and son-in-law Ruben and their children as well as the other family members who will miss him sorely.

Eternal rest grant unto Jim, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Membership Directory, Newsletter and Website

The membership directory was sent out to all members either by e-mail or post. Please continue to update it as notices are given. **This directory is for our use only**, so please do not share it with any other people or organizations!

CSO/NO members receive the newsletter by e-mail or post. A complimentary e-mail newsletter is sent to interested non-members. If you would like anyone to receive it please send their contact information to me for inclusion in the courtesy e-mail group.

The Society has an excellent website maintained by Scott Bond. Be sure to take a look!

Committees

If you are interested in any of these activities or have information for them, contact the following:

Membership: Wayne Gordon

Website: Scott Bond

Sunshine: Vilma Pinero

Publicity: Cathie Groh-Tamasi/Ren Alexander

CCCC Movie Group: Louie Greer

Refreshments: T. Diemer/Trudy Burkart

Other Upcoming Events

Scottish Country Dancing – held at Carrollton United Methodist Church at Freret and S. Carrollton on Friday evenings at 7:00 PM. Contact Wendy Grubb at (504) 866-2220 or wgrubb52@gmail.com.

The Caledonian Society of Baton Rouge has many exciting events for the fall. Check out their website at: www.csbr.org. Coming up next is the beautiful St. Andrew's Day Brunch at Houmas House Plantation the Sunday after Thanksgiving. They are taking reservations, so if you want to go, get in touch with them via contacts on the website.

Highlands & Islands Celtic Music Festival and Scottish Highland Games November 11-12:

<http://www.mshighlandsandislands.org/2017-festival-info.html> H & I is excited to be returning to the Harrison County Fairgrounds at 15321 County Farm Rd. in Gulfport, MS (exit 28 on I-10 East) this

year. Activities at the Festival and Games will include musical performances, jousting, heavy athletics (Sunday only), sheep herding, food and wares vendors, petting zoo with a Highland cow, Irish dancing and displays and activities by the Society for Creative Anachronism. I've read that Clan Donnachaidh is the Featured Clan at the games, so all you Robertsons, Reids, Duncans et al, go visit them!

Prices are: \$10 for one-day pass, \$15 for weekend pass, \$8 for military w/ID and seniors +60. Children 12 and under are free.

I really dropped the ball in promoting these games. I don't know yet if we will have a tent since I didn't arrange it earlier, but please do go out and support our fellow Celts. There were some H & I representatives at our games and we need to reciprocate!

A View From the Louisiana HG&CF:



Vickie Castay Urquhart, John Urquhart, Virginia Dowager Urquhart of Urquhart



John and Vickie Urquhart Castay at the Urquhart tent



The prize-winning Clan Donnachaidh of the Midwest tent - Larry McConkey on L, Dennis Robertson and Dean Robertson (back to camera)



Hugh Robertson (ctr) with Clan Donnachaidh of the Midwest President Dennis Robertson (L) and Vice President Bill Ogden (R) in front of the Clan Elliot tent



CSoNO President Christyn Elliott with John U. at CSoNO tent