



Thistle 'n Dixie

www.caledoniansocietyofneworleans.com



Volume 46, Number 1

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September 2017

President's Corner, August 2017 – August 22

We hope all of you have had a good summer. The End-of-Year party at Thistleway was a lovely way to end our fiscal year, and we were thrilled to see so many of you there. Thanks to Jim Gunter, Tony Calandria and other members of the Strathspey and Reel Society for sharing their musical talents as well as Bob Grubb for his excellent piping. Thanks too to all the members and guests who brought such wonderful food and desserts. It was a special delight to have Life Emeritus member Hilary Clark join the party and climb the stairs to the Great Hall, showing her sturdy Scottish determination! Since then, the Elliott household has had a difficult summer, but more on that later. Our new fiscal year planning Board Meeting was on Sunday, August 13th and below is a wrap-up:

The CSoNO Board discussed the following: Minutes from previous Board Meeting (May 16) waived as Secretary Beverly Hall was out of town; Treasurer's report accepted. Old Business: Discussed updated membership directory and summer changes. The Tri-Centennial and Louisiana Highland Games and Celtic Festival donations (\$300 and \$750) were taken care of by Treasurer Louie Greer. Discussion on Cameron Gamble Scholarship tabled until later this fall. New Business: The Board approved payment to Bob Grubb for piping services at member's funeral (see Flowers of the Forest). Program ideas discussed and meeting dates already arranged for through Bob Clavier at the Christopher Room. Virginia reported on status of efforts with City Park for Scottish music & dance presentation. Failing that, other venues were discussed. The Pot-Luck Dinner was discussed.

Our upcoming 46th year has some great events planned, so we hope you will be able to join us for some of them. See the Upcoming Scheduled Events for more details.

Hae a guid day! Christyn

Upcoming Scheduled CSoNO Meetings / Events:

Sunday, September 10, 2017 – Pot-luck Dinner and kick-off meeting: 4:00-6:00 PM at the Christopher Room located at 6254 Vicksburg Street.

Members are asked to bring a covered dish entrée or vegetable, salad, dessert, or bread. The society will provide all drinks and dining necessities. There will be no formal business, but we will be having a short memorial for Life Emeritus Member Margaret Ronquillo Lott, who passed away in July.

Tuesday, October 17, 2017 – Monthly Meeting:

7:00-9:00 PM at the Christopher Room located at 6254 Vicksburg Street. Program: Member Emma Pierson will discuss and do readings from her newly published book.

Tuesday, November 21, 2017 – Monthly Meeting:

7:00-9:00 PM at the Christopher Room located at 6254 Vicksburg Street. Program: Guest speaker Connie Rodriguez of Loyola University will present information on the ongoing archaeology project she is involved with in Scotland

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. Mark your calendars!!!

Flowers of the Forest

Some people seem indestructible, despite many health problems and life events. Life Emeritus member Margaret Lott was in that category, so it was a great shock to learn from her granddaughter Brandi Lott Glover that she had slipped away from this life on July 31, 2017. Many CSoNO members attended her funeral service to pay homage to her memory, and the Society gifted the family with the piping of Bob Grubb, as having a bagpiper was one of Margaret's wishes. We were offered the chance to take part in her funeral service on Saturday, August 5th at the conclusion of the Catholic service. Bob played "Amazing Grace" then President Christyn Elliott shared with the gathering how proud Margaret was of her Scottish heritage and how she had instilled that pride in her grandchildren Lester Lott and Brandi Lott Glover. Christyn then read the prayer Margaret had written a year earlier for Rev. Don Rice, and Bob

finished out our portion of the service with a rendition of “Danny Boy” at the request of Margaret’s husband Leon. We offer our sincere condolences to Leon, Shannon Lyell and Brandi Lott Glover and family. Cards were sent to the family and the on-line guest book was signed on behalf of the CSoNO. This is the link for Serenity Funeral Home where you can read Margaret's obituary and leave condolences: <http://www.serenitycovington.com/>

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.

Sally Rice has settled into her new home in Cleveland, OH very nicely over the summer. She has rejoined her former church and found out that one of the choir members is a Scottish Country Dancer! So Sally has danced right into a great SCD group, and the church where they meet is only a few blocks from her apartment. Several people from the New Orleans metro area have joined Sally’s church, so there is an active “Yat Pack” there to visit with when she gets nostalgic for good old New Orleans. Sally hopes to join us for Burns Night in January and sends greetings.

The summer has been very difficult for Michael, me and Glenn. With the aggressive turn of Michael’s esophageal cancer, we had to cancel our UK trip, which was a horrible disappointment. Michael was started on a chemo/radiation treatment regimen on July 31 and it should end on Sept. 7. With his immune system suppressed by the treatment, he will not be able to attend the early fall meetings. Glenn has been a godsend to us throughout this time! The prognosis is good, but the road to getting there is going to be very hard, so please keep Michael in your thoughts.

Membership Directory

The membership directory was updated this summer, and all members who receive the newsletter by e-mail will receive an e-copy. A hard copy will be given to those members without e-mail/printer capabilities at the fall meetings. Members whose dues had lapsed for a full year were removed from the directory and postal mailing list if they did not respond to the reminder letter they received over the summer. Those lapsed members receiving the newsletter by e-mail were moved to the courtesy e-mailing group.

This directory is for our use only, so please do not share it with any other people or organizations!

Newsletter and Website

CSoNO members receive the newsletter by e-mail or post. A complimentary e-mail newsletter is also sent to non-members who have expressed an interest, so if you know of someone who would be interested in receiving our newsletter by e-mail, please send their information to me for inclusion in the courtesy e-mail group. All mass e-mails are sent to recipients “bcc” for privacy.

The Society has an excellent website which includes the newsletter. 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 – will resume sometime in September 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 for actual start-up dates.

Louisiana Highland Games and Celtic Festival – Saturday, Oct. 28 at Zachary Youth Park in Zachary, Louisiana from 10:00-5:00. The Core Committee for the Games has been hard at work over the summer to finalize plans. They are depending on the various Celtic societies for help in the way of volunteers, heritage booths, donations and attendance. If you can help in any way, PLEASE CONTACT Wendy Grubb or Christyn Elliott as soon as possible so we can get you in the schedule. **We must all pitch in if this effort is to succeed!**

You have already been sent membership applications several times and we’ve had them at the meetings, so please consider joining – all dues go directly to the Highland Games. Any donation, no matter how small, is of vital importance. Helping hands are another way you can contribute, so please consider ways to participate. Hard copies of member applications, donation forms and volunteer needs will be available at the Pot-Luck Dinner on Sept. 10.

PLEASE PUT THIS EVENT ON YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT!!!! It will be here before we know it!