



President's Corner, February 2017 – February 5

HAPPY CARNIVAL SEASON! We won't be having a meeting in February because it's too close to the mayhem at the end of the season, so we take this time to wish you a very Happy (and SAFE) Mardi Gras and we'll see you after the madness has settled down into the calm of the Lenten season.

The January meeting was a terrific get-together as I presented a PowerPoint on the Order of the Thistle, and members voted on which of the original 1687 knights they thought my portrait might be. The vote was evenly divided between 6 of the 8 possibilities, so we're no closer to solving the mystery! Thanks to all those who brought the excellent refreshments!

Virginia Dowager Urquhart of Urquhart, Wendy Grub and company did an amazing job with organizing and putting on the 43rd Annual Burns Night Dinner! We were just about filled to capacity at the beautiful Southern Yacht Club, and what a good company it was, with Trudy Burkart & Virginia greeting guests as they arrived to music by the New Orleans Strathspey & Reel Society and piping by Bob Grubb and Rob Martin. Guests then found their way to the tables, which were adorned with beautiful arrangements by Lance von Uhde and programs by Beverly & Doug Hall.

Glenn Raby acted as Emcee, and after a greeting by yours truly, the action never stopped. Dave Grissett gave the Burns Grace, followed by the Presentation of the Haggis as Scott Bond, Tom Mungall and Andy Weir carried in Wendy's presentation haggis, which was not only beautiful, but VERY tasty, as we found out during dinner! Rick McConnell gave his usual excellent rendition of Burns' "Address to the Haggis" and while the delicious dinner was being consumed, we were serenaded again by NO Strathspey & Reel Society.

Instead of having the Immortal Memory during dessert, we were treated to David McConnell's "Toast to the Lassies" & wife Susan McLellan's "Response to the Laddies" – both were utterly charming and there were smiles and laughs all throughout! Trudy helped us remember those members and loved ones who left us throughout the past year as Bob played "Flowers of the Forest."

Scottish Country Dancing was next on the program, and it served as a springboard into the excellent "Immortal Memory – Burns the Lyricist" given by Virginia. Her research and presentation was absolutely top-notch, and then came a surprise – we were part of the activity! A sing-along booklet was included in the program, and Wendy & Bob's daughter Catherine Grubb Poddar led the songs as Virginia shared information about each one. We were blown away by Catherine's beautiful voice – her wide range of talents never ceases to amaze us! The final song was of course "Auld Lang Syne" as we joined hands to pay that final homage to Burns. It just couldn't have been a better evening, and we thank the excellent SYC staff, all who worked so hard, and all who gathered to honor dear Rabbie.

Hae a guid day! Christyn

Member and Society News

We were relieved to see Margaret Lott was feeling well enough to come to Burns Night – it just wouldn't have been the same without you!

If you have any family news you would like to share, please give Christyn a call at (985) 886-5502 or send her an e-mail at mje.cmr@att.net.

Flowers of the Forest

Life Emeritus member Susan D. Ordemann passed away peacefully on January 14. A memorial service was held at Trinity Church on Saturday, January 28. The Trinity Choir, of which she was a member for many years, performed some of her favorite songs. Those of us who have been in the Society long enough remember with great fondness the dulcimer group in which both Susan and her husband Marshall played at our Christmas Ceilidhs, proudly wearing their Santa caps.

I was not able to attend her memorial service but other members were there to represent us and give their farewells to this lovely lady and friend. Her legacy page was inscribed with a note from the Caledonian Society. To read her obituary and sign her legacy page, please go to this link:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theneworleansadvocate/obituary.aspx?n=susan-davies-ordemann&pid=183703853>

New Members

We were thrilled to welcome new members Derek & Myra Robertson Ewart in person at the January meeting! Derek is a native Scot who met Myra on a cruise and their love story has gone on from there. The biggest surprise of the night is that Myra is a distant cousin to Glenn and me! We're in the process of sharing genealogical information and look forward to getting to know our "new" cousin and her charming husband better! Their directory information will be added to this newsletter either by attachment or included in the mailed copy.

Newsletter, Website and Membership Directory

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. Scott uploaded his great pictures from Burns Night as well, so check it out!

As they occur, updates to the directory will be sent by e-mail and post to members only. **This directory is for our use only**, so please do not share it with any other people or organizations!

Committees

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

Membership: Sally Rice

Website: Scott Bond

Sunshine: Vilma Pinero

Publicity: Cathie Groh-Tamasi/Ren Alexander

CCCC Movie Group: Louie Greer

Refreshments: T. Diemer/Trudy Burkart – they will need help with the March meeting, so please call T. or Trudy to volunteer refreshments!

Upcoming Scheduled CSoNO Meetings / Events:

NO FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING due to Mardi Gras!

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 – Regular Monthly Meeting: 7:00 PM at The Christopher Room at 6254 Vicksburg Street. **Program:** Dr. Connie Rodriguez, Department Chair of Classical Studies at Loyola University and President of the New Orleans Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, will present a program on archaeology in

Scotland, focusing on Clan Urquhart's Castle Craig, a 16th Century fortified tower, and Kirkmichael, both of which are located on the Black Isle on the shores of Cromarty Firth.

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 – Regular Monthly Meeting: 7:00 PM at The Christopher Room at 6254 Vicksburg Street. **Program:** Mark Romig, President and CEO of the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, will talk to the Society and guests about the upcoming Tri-centennial celebrations planned for New Orleans in 2018. Now's your chance to find out what is planned for the big event and perhaps where we as a Society can help make the city more aware of Scottish contributions to the growth and development of the city.

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 – Annual Business Meeting: 7:00 PM at The Christopher Room. If you have any items to present, please let a Board Member know. **Program:** TBD - IDEAS??

Other Upcoming Events

Tartan Day – Remember to wear Tartan on April 6th! We will be deciding on how to celebrate the day and let you know about upcoming plans. If you have any suggestions or ideas, by all means let one of the Board members know.

Scottish Country Dancing – is continuing at Carrollton United Methodist Church at Freret and S. Carrollton at 7:00 PM. Contact Wendy Grubb at (504) 866-2220 or wgrubb52@gmail.com for updates on February and March schedules – she tentatively plans to meet on February 10 & 17, but NOT on Feb. 24. Check with her for final plans!

New Orleans Strathspey & Reel Society

The group plays at the Irish House and at other venues, so if you want to catch a set, contact leader Jim Gunter at nosrs_08@yahoo.com for more information.

Caledonian Society of Baton Rouge – For upcoming Spring, 2017 events, go to <http://csbr.org> or address inquiries to CSBR's secretary Janice Wise at jirvingwise@gmail.com.

Baton Rouge Scottish Country Dance Group – Monday nights from 7-9 PM at Broadmoor Presbyterian Church, 9340 Florida Blvd. in BR. Contact instructors Morgan McGlone (225-803-7021) or James Mungall (225-278-1577) or email at TBRSCD@gmail.com.