

END OF YEAR REVIEW - 2017

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

This year has passed quickly and time for the holidays has arrived. Personnel at the Clan Donnachaidh Centre in Bruar has changed. Catriona Macaulay has taken on the positions of Clan Secretary and Membership Secretary. The "Little House" shop has closed at the Clan Centre, and the Museum has moved to the larger space formerly occupied by the antique shop. Duncan Huie retired as Clan Council Chairman at the 2017 AGM and Vice Chairman, Gillespie Robertson, is our new Chairman.

Two members have been asked to join the Clan Council, Judy Harkin from North Carolina and Jonn Duncan from Alabama.

Judy Hardin Harkin will again take on the massive job as the Editor for the 2018 Clan Annual. Judy has announced that articles and reports are due by January 31, 2018, and should be forwarded to: donnachaidhannual@earthlink.net Please submit reports in Word format (no PDF), .doc or .rtf document, and photos in JPEG, with high resolution. Judy provided guidelines for the branch reports, advertisement sizes and costs, and a Reservation Form from your branch which were emailed to Branch Leaders on November 7 and 13. If you did not receive this message, please let me know.

This year we welcomed Official Representatives in three new areas for Clan Donnachaidh; Magnus Robertson in South Africa, Emilio Ferrero Guevara in Spain, and Lewis Blackwell in the US state of New Mexico. Also we have a new group of leaders at the Carolinas Branch with Scott Robertson as President, and the Texas Branch has a new President, Dave Robertson. We send each of them our very best wishes for success.

The exciting current project for all of us is the purchase of our clan chapel, Struan Kirk. It is reported from the Clan Council that "the Society has negotiated with the Church of Scotland to accept a purchase offer from the Society of £35,000. Short-term repair and maintenance costs, based on our own professional advice received, might add £25,000 to the above £35,000, meaning we need to raise a total of at least £60,000. Individual donations received as of November are approximately £3,500, with more in the pipeline meaning this should shortly be closer to £5,000, leaving approximately £15,000 as a target for further general fund-raising. U.S. and other members outside the U.K. are pursuing a variety of fund-raising efforts, with year-end and other tax-efficiency-related donations probably being a significant consideration to some.

Agreed by Council that the Society should proceed by asking the Church of Scotland for a formal offer to sell to the Society at £35,000 with target completion date end March 2018. The solicitors will draft a resolution to be put to the entire Membership, in accordance with our Memorandum and Articles of Association, as soon as possible. A vote is planned to be taken at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) with the usual proxy voting for those unable to attend." More information on this will be forthcoming.

Please review the information regarding this project on the society's website at this link: <http://www.donnachaidh.com/kirk.html> Also, a page is available which indicates the methods of fund raising used by the Branches: <http://www.donnachaidh.com/kirk.html> If you have not yet shared the ways your branch is participating, please send a message to our Webmaster, Brian Robertson, so your branch can be added to our list: brian@thebuilding.site

The unique Clan Gathering in 2018 to honor Chief Gilbert Robertson of Struan on his 35th year as Clan Donnachaidh Chief and his 80th birthday has been scheduled for August 10 – 19, 2018. The activities schedule is now available on the society's website at this link: <http://www.donnachaidh.com/2018.html> This Gathering will include a coach tour to the Culloden Battlefield, to the Highland Folk Museum, and tours throughout the clan country, along with many other events which will be of interest to all.

Several offers have been put into place which should help with accommodations:

- The Acarsaid Hotel in Pitlochry has reserved 10 rooms, B&B, at reduced rates for Clan Donnachaidh members. Offer available until February. For more information, please send an email to: mail@acarsaidhotel.com Be sure to state that you are a Clan Donnachaidh member. Great hotel situated on the main street in Pitlochry with a welcoming staff and delicious food. Book now!
- The Northlands B&B, Pitlochry, owned by a Clan member, offers rooms at a special rate to include a laundry service. Offer available until the end of March. Email: stay@northlandsbandb.com Hurry!
- Council member, Suzi McNutt, has arranged for a clan member discount on car rentals. The Scottish company, Celtic Legends, has offered a 5% discount on rental rates or a free GPS but you must provide your Clan Donnachaidh membership number in order to receive the discount. Contact William Wallace at: <http://www.celticlegend.co.uk/car> This offer is good for the entire year of 2018.

Let's review some issues which will help us in communications with each other and with the Clan Centre in Scotland.

1. Reminder that it is now time to prepare your Branch Report for the 2018 Clan Annual. Forward your report by the deadline of January 31, 2018 to: donnachaidhannual@earthlink.net If you have any questions, please send a message to Judy.
2. Judy has also provided the ad reservation form and ad sizes needed to submit the advertisement from your Branch for the 2018 Clan Annual. Please discuss this with your Board/Council to determine that an ad will be placed by your branch, size of ad, and content for the ad. The prices have remained the same for many years. Your members will enjoy seeing an ad from their own branch in the Annual, and this is a good way to provide support for the Society in Scotland.
3. Brian Robertson, our Webmaster, has continued to update information interesting to the Clan Branches on the website. Please visit the website often so you can be kept up to date on all the news. Also, he emails a newsletter and has asked to include the activities from each branch. Please forward information or inquiries to Brian at: brian@thebuilding.site We thank Brian for his great ideas and fine work on behalf of the Clan Donnachaidh Society.
4. The amount of the Clan Society (Scotland) annual subscription/membership has not changed in many years. The fee for all of the "overseas" branches (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, US) is \$25 per person and in the U.K., the dues are £20 per person. The "Family Membership" is available which includes two people who live at the same address. This is used successfully at many of our Clan Branches. This fee for members at the "overseas" branches is \$35 and in the U.K. at £30. Each person will have a vote at the AGM with one Clan Annual mailed to the address. Please encourage your members to support our Clan Society in Scotland.

Subscription totals for 2018:

Individual:	<u>UK Members</u>	<u>Overseas Members</u>
	1 yr. £20.00	\$25.00
	5 yrs. £80.00	\$100.00
	Life £500.00	\$750.00
Family Membership:		
	1 yr. £30.00	\$35.00
	5 yrs. £120.00	\$140.00

5. The guidelines and sample forms for submitting collected Clan Society memberships from your branch to the Membership Secretary in Scotland are available on the Society's website under the "Branches" tab. Please review the three page document at this link: <http://www.donnachaidh.com/subs-submit.html> and be sure to email your list of paid members with their contact information to the Clan Secretary. Our Webmaster, Brian Robertson, has made it easy to pay your membership dues by using the PayPal option at this link: <http://www.donnachaidh.com/joining.html>
6. As you are in communication with your members during the year, and sadly you are notified that a member has passed away, please notify the Clan Secretary so the records can be updated. Also, we will again provide an obituary list, as was printed in the 2017 Clan Annual, so please send a message to me with a full name and home city/state/country of the person who has passed. This list is also included in the Struan Kirk service during the yearly Clan Gathering in Scotland and read by Rev. James Reid, Clan Chaplain.
7. If your branch provides a newsletter to your members, please notify Judy Harkin, our Journey Home Consultant, as she often writes interesting articles specifically for our newsletters. She would like to include your branch on her contact list. Contact Judy at: journeyhometoscotland@yahoo.com We now have a list of 14 branch newsletter editors who exchange newsletters and share articles. If your branch is not our list, please notify me so that your editor can be added.
8. As you are preparing to receive 2018 memberships at your branch, please ask your members to provide their current email address. This method of communication is an extremely valuable contact with your members. If your branch has not already done so, please ask one of your officers to collect the members' e-mail addresses and set up a contact list on his/her computer. This way a message may be quickly and efficiently sent to your members. Be sure you have permission to share their e-mail address with the clan office in Scotland, if applicable.
9. For those of you who are Facebook users, please visit our page, [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](#) (cover photo is a drawing of the Clan Centre in Scotland). The picture at the top of our page is a great photo taken in Clan Donnachaidh country with a view of the mountain, Schiehallion, and Loch Rannoch in the foreground. This is a great site for people who post requests for information on our clan and many have been directed to a nearby branch or received directions on how to become a member of the clan society. The current number of users is 1880.

Clan Donnachaidh Branches which have their own page on Facebook are: Texas; Gulf Coast; Pacific Northwest; Arizona; Ontario, Victoria, Australia; Upper Mid-West; Florida; South U.S.; Southern California; and the Carolinas.

10. On two occasions during the year, I will request from your branch the current total number of paid members. The first will be prior to the AGM for my report to the Clan Council (in August for 2018) and the second will be an end-of-year number. Please notify the Officer at your branch who maintains the membership roster and request that the information be reported on a timely basis. Two numbers are needed for my report; 1.) the total number of current members at your branch, and 2.) the total number of submitted memberships paid to the Clan Society in Scotland through your branch. Your end-of-year numbers are requested in the message accompanying this email and are due to be reported to me by December 20.

11. Please make it a regular practice to visit the Clan Society's website. Take a look at the Donnachaidh Branches page, under the "Branches" tab, to see if any changes are needed for contact with your branch. This is one of the best ways for anyone worldwide to find a contact at the Clan Donnachaidh Branch near their home. Forward any changes or updates to Brian.

It is important that we encourage our members to support the Clan Centre and Museum for 2018. Our dues and donations are needed to help support the Clan Donnachaidh Museum where hundreds of ancestral artifacts must be preserved for our children and grandchildren and for the future of Clan Donnachaidh. A nicely decorated collection jar at your clan tent will encourage your members to drop in their coins. All donations are welcome at the Clan Centre at any time during the year.

Thank you for your faithful leadership and dedication to your Clan Donnachaidh Branch. I sincerely appreciate the time you share with me as we work together to grow Clan Donnachaidh worldwide. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me any time. I love hearing from you.

My family sends greetings to your family for a joyous Christmas and a prosperous, healthful New Year.

Best wishes to all,

Christy Duncan Lange
International Vice Chairperson
December 8, 2017
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