



# The Clishmaclaver

Newsletter of the Clan Donnachaidh Society Upper Midwest

May 2018 Issue

## Unique Curling Rink Provides Clan Council Meeting Place

By James Robertson Ward, Editor, *The Clishmaclaver*

Members of the Upper Midwest Branch of Clan Donnachaidh met at the Chicago Curling Club in suburban Northbrook for their Spring Planning Meeting on April 8th. The courtesy of the location was due to the Club membership of Branch President John Reid.

“I thought our Council members would enjoy the setting and see curling live, instead of watching it on Winter Olympic TV screens,” Reid said. And correct he was, as is reported in the meeting Minutes. Detailed below are the game locations, dates, and member assignments for 2018. Be Sure to plan to attend, and help is always wanted at the tent!

<b>Location</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>2018 Date(s)</b>
Alma,MI	Luke Robertson	May 26-28 (Memorial Day WE)
Milwaukee WI	Bill Reid	June 2
Chicago (Itasca) IL	Jesse & Russ & Mike Reid	June 15-16
Waukesha WI	Jesse & Russ Reid	Sept. 1-3 (Labor Day WE)
Davenport IA	Ben Kuhl	Sept. 15
Eagen MN	Jon Carlson	July 20-21
Livonia MI	Luke Robertson	August 3
Columbus IN	To Be Announced	Sept. 8 -9
Indianapolis IN	To Be Announced	Oct. 14



### Inside this issue:

Games Locations	1
Council Minutes	2
Council Pics	4
Burns Milwaukee	6
Scottish Foods	5
Kirk Church	8
Pres Message	10

# Council Meeting Minutes-April 8, 2018

By Liz Reid, Secretary Pro-Tem

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by President John Reid followed by a brief welcome speech. Those in attendance were: John Reid, Liz Reid, Mike Reid, Mary Jane Robertson, Robbie Robertson, Jesse Reid, Russ Reid, Ben Kuhl, Tiffany Kuhl, Brenda Robertson, Dick Robertson, Jim Ward, and guest Jeannine Warkow.

The minutes from the AGM were approved as published in the Clishmaclaver.

**President's Report:** The Struan Kirk purchase is moving along. Completion of the sale will be finalized April 27, 2018. There will be a write up regarding this project in the May edition of the Scottish Banner and the June edition of Scotland Magazine. Clan Donnachaidh Society Upper Midwest placed a ¼ page ad in the Annual Report and included birthday wishes to Struan on his 80th birthday and congratulations on 35 years as Clan Chief.

**Book About Our Clan:** A new book Scotland's Clan Donnachaidh Country, Sites, Tales, and Legends is scheduled to be printed shortly. This book provides a history of the Clan and a tour of Clan country, with lots of color pictures. It will contain 48 pages and will cost \$10. We have had a request for a "guesstimate" of the number of copies members of our Branch would like. Jim Ward requested six and Robbie Robertson three. It was decided to order at least 24, the remainder to be sold at Highland games or for purchase by other members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Mike Reid reported that our Checking Savings and Pay Pal accounts were all in good shape. It was suggested that since our Savings account is making us only 24 cents a year that we might investigate other ways of controlling it—keeping in mind we don't lose our "free checking" privileges. Mike Reid will report when he has a suggestion.

## No Trustee's Report

**Quartermaster's Report:** Russ Read reported that there are 12 bottles of Scotch in inventory to serve at the tents during Highland Games. The new aluminum flagpoles, authorized at the 2017 AGM have arrived. The old wooden poles will be kept as backup. Storage of Quartermaster items is currently in the Read basement; since they are planning on moving, a more permanent solution to storing Clan equipment may be needed.

One suggested solution would be a trailer; Russ' current car is not adequate to carry all the Clan gear in one trip, so some items are shown only at local (greater Milwaukee area) where he can make two trips. Jon Carlson in Minnesota and Luke Robertson in Michigan have Clan items for games in their respective states. Russ has priced a 5'x8' trailer at Lowe's for \$2,000 and a

Continued on next page

# Meeting Minutes Continued

6'x8' for \$2,300 . (Russ prefers the larger.) "Make My Trailer" has cheaper models, but their Georgia location makes pickup expensive. Russ will continue to study the issue and make further recommendations.

Our T-shirt supply is currently sufficient, with various colors and sizes. Sales last year were scarce as a limited supply was able to fit in Russ' car. John volunteered to assist with transport to 2018 games he plans to attend. The Quartermaster's report was approved.

**Membership:** (Patricia Wilber unable to attend—Reported by e-mail) Renewal letters have been sent in February, resulting in \$130 in dues forwarded to the Treasurer. Pat requests that a receipt book be purchased for the Membership Secretary's use. The purchase was authorized by unanimous vote and Jesse will make the purchase. Pat also announced she will be retiring from this position after 2018, so a replacement will be needed. The Wilber's will be selling their home soon and are housing Clan merchandise. The items will need to be relocated when they sell.

**Website/Database:** Ben Kuhl reported that he is still working on setting up the membership database (on line reporting, tracking). He will work with Patricia in the next few weeks.

## Old Business – None

**New Business:** Struan Kirk Donation—the committee has enough funds to start the purchase, but will need additional funds to complete the renovation. Our Branch had set aside monies to assist the expense of a planned visit by Struan and his wife. Since he didn't come, the money is still available. Jim Ward moved that \$500 not used be donated to the Kirk Fund and include an additional \$100 donated to the Clish by an appreciate reader. We will also send a letter to all Clan members requesting funding as individuals. John Reid will work on the letter, as well as exploring the possibility of the gift being tax deductible. Jesse Read added to the original motion that we set a deadline of the end of June. The motion passed unanimously.

**Clishmaclaver:** Jim Ward reported that only 10 members received the printed copy of the Branch newsletter. An attempt will be made to get them to accept the electronic version.

**Michigan Recruiting:** Luke Robertson, Michigan V-P, has suggested we try to interest more members in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan. This will be investigated at the Alma games and Luke Robertson urged to take the initiative in the planning.

## Games Schedule (see page 1)

**Adjournment:** Motion made, seconded and approved; potluck dinner was served.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Reid, Secretary Pro tem.

# Chicago Curling Club Provides Cozy Atmosphere for Spring Clan Council



Blazing fire warms the meeting room



Club trophies line the shelf



Competitor ready with the "broom"



Curler gives the "stone" a toss

# Spring Clan Council Pictures Continued



Briella Kuhl protests awakening from a nap



Jess Read is pleased with Council decision



Quartermaster Russ Read reports Clan assets



Mike Reid gives the Treasurer's report

President John Reid competes with Augusta golf



# Milwaukee Burns Report

Report taken directly from <https://www.rbana.org/> with permission from Author

The Robert Burns Club of Milwaukee, founded in 1986, held its annual Burns Supper at our usual watering hole, Klemmers Williamsburg Inn in West Allis, Wisconsin, on Sunday, February 11, 2018. The city had been plagued by snow during the past week and many places closed on the previous Friday. But our intrepid dinner patrons trudged through the frozen tundra to enjoy Robert Burns, haggis, dancing, and sangs and clatter.

Wisconsin is known for its happy cows, and fish-filled lakes and rivers, so diners had a choice of whiskey marinated sirloin or Cod Almandine (although vegetarian and medical diets are accommodated). And barley soup, haggis (of course), tatties and neeps (of course), and shortbread and chocolates for dessert.



President Priscilla Kucik blundered in the President's Address, welcoming "ladies and gentlemen--and the rest of you" and then stopped in horror at her un-Burnsian solecism addressing people by social status. So she started again with "Lassies and Laddies", noting the our humanity in the world of Robert Burns made everyone equal. Then, admitting that her mind was so clean because it was changed so often--she declared that one person was better than us all and dedicated the evening as Wendy

Wilson Uhl Appreciation Night, honoring a founder and charter member of the club who has been the worker bee behind the scenes. People were encouraged to kneel and kiss her hand, strew rose petals in her path, or, just say "Hello".

The Selkirk Grace, led by Wendy Wilson Uhl, started the Burns Supper.

Tony Palese piped in the haggis.



Vice President Ian Day performed his signature dramatic rendition of Burns' "Address to a Haggis", with flying knife blades and a resounding "bethanket hums" belch.



The colorful, exceptionally beautiful program was designed by Janet Kerr Carroll, daughter of the club's founder, William Kerr. She is a published Burnsian and emergency medical technician (although she does not work in the Burns Unit).

## Milwaukee Burns Report—Continued



The Toast to the Immortal Memory was given by Linda Daly, noting Robert Burns' concern for the Common Man (and especially, Woman) at the mercy of the Great Ones still resonates today. Many of Burns' political concerns are still relevant.

Russell Read sang (literally) the "Toast to the Lassies", to the tune of "The Parting Glass" ("Sae gie tae me the pleasant cup/ That nae sma' drink I maun offer up") and his guidwife Jessie Read sang "The Lassies' Reply", "Ae fond kiss, and then we shiver/Aye sweet glint, and then deliver"),



A popular raffle highlights the Milwaukee Burns Suppers and has made it possible to hold the ticket price steady for \$25 for almost 20 years. Like the thrifty (by necessity) Robert Burns, we too "suffer the supreme curse of making 3 guineas do the work of 5". Raffle items included the usual books and bottles but also featured jumper cables, gift certificates, and Scottish antique dishware and vintage postcards.



The Caledonian Scottish Dancers gave an educational introduction to each Scottish dance before performing it. The renovation of Klemmer's included the removal of the middle chandelier that has plagued the taller dancers in previous years and tonight they

danced with a renewed sense of security .



Tony Palese piped. Then, "the night drave on wi' sangs an clatter".

The evening reluctantly ended with a circular singing "Auld Lang Syne", with Wendy Wilson Uhl in the middle, as "she has run circles around us; now we return the favor."

Guests, laden with fond memories, satisfied palates, and treasured raffle prizes, went out "roamin' in the gloamin' " until next year.

## Struan Kirk Report



Dear Clansfolk,

I'm following up on the appeal letter sent out from our Chief and the Society's Chairman last September and am happy to be able to report very good news.

**In summary, enough money has now been committed for the purchase of the Kirk from the Church of Scotland - and the setting up of an independent new Trust to own and preserve it - to go ahead at the end of March 2018. This is subject only to the Society's membership giving approval to the proposals, at an**

**Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) which will take place in Edinburgh on 3rd March, for its share of the funding.**

**I now attach the formal Notice & Agenda for the EGM which details the two Special Resolutions that we are proposing to the Ordinary Members.**

**Your Council unanimously recommends approval of the resolutions set out in the attached documentation, which also have the Chief's full support.**

**Ordinary Members overseas don't need to attend the meeting, as we are confident of attendance by enough U.K.-based members to meet the formal requirements for the necessary *quorum* in our Articles of Association, and to get the resolutions passed. However, proxy support is of course welcome. Hence the attached paperwork, which should be self-explanatory, if you wish to vote.**

**The resolutions require to be passed by no less than 75% of the Ordinary Members present, in person or by proxy, at the EGM.**

About three quarters of the total funding needed (our target total is not less than £Stg75,000) has been committed by a small number of Clan-Donnachaidh-related individuals/families as foreshadowed in last September's appeal letter. They prefer to remain anonymous, but all have whole-heartedly agreed the principles on which the Trust is being set up. See below. It is proposed that the balance will be met from a combination of what the Society's membership has already raised (a very big thank you to the many who have contributed already) or will have raised by the end of March (to anyone still hesitating, please don't any longer ! and to all still engaged in branch fund-raising efforts, please don't stop !) plus proceeds of the sale of a small proportion of the Society's stock market investments. This too has been unanimously approved by your Council.

Continued on next page

## Struan Kirk Report Continued

1. The basic elements of the new Trust will be:

- a. Its formal purposes will be to own, manage and maintain the Kirk, principally as a place of worship, but also to preserve its heritage as a building of special historic and architectural interest, to promote its history particularly in relation to Clan Donnachaidh and its member families, and also to provide a facility for the local community to hold events that are sympathetic and respectful to the sentiment of the Kirk as may be approved by its Board of Trustees from time to time. These purposes will be enshrined in the Trust's Articles of Association. The exact wording can be found on the attached formal EGM Notice and Agenda.
- b. It will take the legal form of a Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital. This means that the new Trust will not have shareholders or share capital. The new Trust will have a board of Trustees, who will also be the members of the company (in a legal sense).
- c. There will be up-to 5 Trustees on the board, one of which will be appointed by the Clan Donnachaidh Society, and one of which will be co-opted by the board of Trustees. The remaining 3 Trustees, who currently form the steering group, and are working hard to form the new Trust in order to realise this project, are all individuals who are known to support the formal purposes and some of whom will have been major donors to this project.
- d. Each Trustee will have one vote only, with an 80% majority required for any major decisions to include any departure from its original purposes, or any decision to wind-up.
- e. In the event that the Trust were ever to wind-up or dissolve the assets of the Trust can only be transferred to another organisation with similar objects (if the Trust were a charity at dissolution the recipient will require to be a charity).

2. The cost elements which required to be covered are as follows:

- a. the agreed purchase price of the Kirk from the Church of Scotland, by the new Trust, including accompanying legal and acquisition costs;
- b. the expected cost of the early and substantial repair programme recommended by our surveyors to put the building into good order so as to keep longer term maintenance costs to an absolute minimum;
- c. the costs of setting up the proposed new trust; and
- d. sufficient money and/or promised support to help the new Trust meet what are likely to be rather modest annual sums for future maintenance.

The figure of (up to) £20,000 in the first resolution for the EGM is the amount which the Society would be donating now toward these costs.

I hope this is all clear.

**CATRIONA M MACAULAY**  
Clan Secretary

## Presidents Message

“Let the games begin”. Spring is here (I hope) and the season for Highland Games is upon us. We have the games and a lot more coming up in the next few months. Memorial Day weekend we have the games in Alma MI. followed by Milwaukee and then Chicago. I hope to see many of you at the games. As many of you probably know, Struan, our Clan Chief is celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this summer. While at the games be sure to stop at the clan tent and sign the card we will be sending to him later this summer.

Another major thing going on this summer is that the clan is in the process of purchasing and rehabbing Struan Kirk in Scotland. James Ward has written an appeal to all of you that tells you all about this project much better than I could have. He says: “You have read in the Minutes that the Branch Treasury will be making a gift of \$500 and individual gifts will be added to complete the purchase and renovation of Struan Kirk. This truly is a financial crusade to sustain the sacred structure and graveyard of our clan.



Members of Clan Donnachaidh want to take pride that the traditions and history are alive in this historic piece of stone and ground which will be a landmark into 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond. Clan Chiefs over the years have rested here and your gift will show respect and honor for their leadership.”

Here is how to address your check: **Clan Donnachaidh Struan Kirk Fund**. Although the Clan Society in Scotland is a non-profit organization, it is authorized as such by the United Kingdom. We are working on options to channel your check through a U.S. non-profit. I am currently in the process of trying to establish our branch as a non-profit. The Treasurer will be setting up a separate account with the branch’s bank for your checks. We are also investigating other means of making your donations tax-deductible. Please be generous as this is the one time you can buy into a piece of land that honors your family ancestry and will be a monument in time.

Mail your check to:

**Clan Donnachaidh Society**  
**c/o John Reid**  
**104 Plumtree Road**  
**Deerfield, IL. 60015**

*John W. Reid*

John W. Reid  
 Branch President

### CLAN OFFICERS

JOHN REID, PRESIDENT  
MIKE REID, TREASURER , V.P.-ILLINOIS  
PATRICIA WILBER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  
LYNN WOOD, SECRETARY  
BOB ROBERTSON, V.P.-ILLINOIS  
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JAMES ROBERTSON WARD , NEWSLETTER EDITOR

### CLAN TRUSTEES

JESSIE READ  
TIFFANY KUHL  
PATRICIA WILBER

### CLAN COUNCIL

CLAN OFFICERS & TRUSTEES, PLUS  
DICK & BRENDA ROBERTSON  
MARY JANE ROBERTSON  
LIZ REID

### Clan Donnachaidh Society Upper Midwest History

Clan Donnachaidh Society Upper Midwest (CDSUM) was established in 1986 by Gordon and Patricia Wilber along with Joanne Reid and Phillis Anderson. They initially gathered about 12 people the Wilber's town house in Hoffman Estates to begin the task creating Clan Donnachaidh Upper Midwest.

The first thing they did was man a table at the Scottish Fair in the Irish American Center in Chicago. There more people signed up. By the end of 1986 the by-laws were written and Clan Donnachaidh Society Upper Midwest was officially established!

Clan Donnachaidh Society, Pacific Northwest donated 3 dirks, which were raffled to raise funds for the newly established society. Since that time, the clan created the Clishmaclaver for all Clan members to keep up to date with Clan activities. Gordon and Patricia also began the "Taste of Scotland" at their home. This gave everyone a reason to get together, sample authentic Scottish foods, and of course, a dram or two of single malt scotch.

In February 1990, Gordon and Patricia along with Marge Hale and the rest of the CDSUM members hosted the North American Conference of Clan Donnachaidh Presidents in Chicago. Alexander Gilbert Haldane Robertson of Struan (Chief of Clan Donnachaidh) found out about the event and wished to participate, which he did. Struan also returned in February 1993 for a 5 branch tour to kick off the centenary year. Our members represented CDSUM well during the Celebration in Pitlochry Scotland.

CDSUM turned twenty five in 2011 with a celebration dinner on the Milwaukee River. The event was arranged by Russ and Jessie Read. This year we celebrated our Thirtieth anniversary with a luncheon cruise on the Illinois River at Peoria.

Since its founding, CDSUM has continued to grow. We have active members in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. We currently man CDSUM tents at nine games across our territory.

Clan Donnachaidh Society Upper Midwest  
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