

Minutes

House of Gordon USA Annual General Meeting Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

July 12, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Federal IRS EIN # 26-0288250

Call to Order: The annual House of Gordon meeting (AGM) was called to order at 1:18pm, by John Lowry, President. The meeting was delayed due to a scheduling conflict with another group who were also sharing the Chief's tent to conduct business. There were 31 members present who signed the roster.

Introduction of Directors, Officers & Distinguished Guests: John introduced the directors. Ken Hendrix was the only director who could not be at the AGM. Then John had long time friend, Travel Agent Kate Graham give a talk about putting together another "Gordon" trip to Scotland. This trip will be sometime in July of 2010. Kate has done four other tours with the Gordons in the past. This trip will start out in the Northern Ireland with us flying into Belfast. We will spend four nights then catch a ferry to Scotland and spend another six nights. We will leave from Edinburgh to come home. Currently she is looking at using either Continental or Aer Lingus. Since the trip is two years out, exact dates and airfare will be determined at a later date.

Reports:

Secretary's 2007 AGM Minutes – Prior to Secretary Barbara Wray reading the minutes, Lois Todd made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes due to the limited amount of time that we had for our meeting due to the late start. Kim Gordon seconded it. All voted in favor and a copy of the minutes will be published in the next newsletter.

President's Report – John Lowry – In John's President's Report, he wanted to thank everyone for coming and for all the hard work everyone has done during this first year as a 501(c)(3). He especially wanted to thank Lois Todd for all the hard work she has put into our website and The "In the House" USA Newsletter. Due to our limited time at the meeting he wanted us to continue with the director's reports.

Treasurer's Report – Ken Hendrix sent copies of his financial reports. He provided an Income Statement for the year ending December 31, 2007 and a Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2007 and another Income Statement for the first 6 months ending June 30, 2008 and a Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2008. This financial report runs on a fiscal year basis. Copies were passed out to the membership and we looked them over. Kim Gordon made a motion that we accept the financial report as presented and Turpin Ballard seconded it. Vote was unanimous to accept the Treasurer's Financial

Reports and a copy will be filed for audit. Also a copy will be filed on our National website.

Convener's Chair Report – Roger Mills started by saying that we have lost our Colorado Convener, Dick Milne and our Ohio Convener, Rick Neidert. We are looking for someone to take over in Colorado as Diana Milne, Dick's daughter, indicates she needs help. Lori Neidert, Rick's wife, will continue to do as many games as she can in Ohio. Dr. Norval Marr is our Florida Convener, Tom and Sara Gardenhire are our new North Carolina Conveners and Turpin Ballard is Georgia Convener. Morris Gordon is our Northeast Commissioner and Tom Adams our Southwest Commissioner. We are sorry to say that Kenny Prather has stepped down as Commissioner of the Texas area. Marsha Gordon McLaurin was named our MS, LA and TX Commissioner and will oversee Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well.

Communications Chair Report – Lois Todd reported that the website usage is up 335.27% over the same period last year and has already surpassed last year's usage! We have one of the most extensive listings of Scottish Events on the web and she is asking that we refer people to our listings rather than other sites like US Scots. The website has expanded to include a new Gordon Kid's Corner with coloring pages, puzzles, fun facts and such for our kids to learn about their heritage, and she is asking members to submit any recipes, craft projects, puzzles and fun facts that they feel would be kid friendly. The goal for this coming year is to expand the genealogy sections on the website.

The newsletter, "In The House", has been well received and any member who would like to submit articles for publication is welcome to do so. Lois is proposing that we sell advertising to offset the cost of publication so that the Annual can be printed in full color. Finally, in order to assist our new conveners build their tent resources, Lois has created a resource CD with the Wall of Honor, Kid's Corner items, Clan Documents, and a Tent booklet, pamphlet, and other informational resources. This will provide an inexpensive way for our conveners to create and build an open, inviting and exciting tent display.

Membership Report – Nellie Lowry provided a copy of the membership report. Since last July at our AGM we have added 137 new members. We currently have around 600 members with 469 in good standing. We have 133 renewals. Fifty-four were dropped who haven't paid in the last 4 years and 8 we've lost due to bad addresses. Southwest area has 150 paid members, Virginia area has 32 members paid, North Carolina with 42 members, LA, MS and TX with 17 members and New England are has increased from 3 to 15 members.

Old Business:

Life Membership Feasibility Committee Report – Turpin Ballard of GA indicated that they have a "Georgia-only" life membership in place. Turpin and his committee have been unable to resolve complications of Life Membership with our current "two-tier" state and national membership. Kim Gordon made the motion to table discussion on life membership at this time. Tom Gardenhire seconded it.

Gordon & Septs DNA Project – Lois talked about the DNA Project and how we can trace our heritage. We have had several Gordon's do the DNA Project. (Morris Gordon mentioned he had done the 37 marker level and as a result has found a direct match. This proved to find a distant cousin who shares the same great-grandfather.) Nellie Lowry asked if we could set aside some money toward the project. Lois said we could help defer some of the costs. Nellie made a motion to set aside \$1000 toward the DNA project. David Todd seconded it. Prior to a vote, Morris Gordon mentioned that we should only apply this money towards the first 25 marker tests. He made an amendment to the original motion. We voted unanimously. John recommended that we form a committee with Tei and Jim who are now currently doing DNA Projects to work on this.

Due to our time in the tent being up, Jim Gordon made a motion to adjourn the meeting and resume at our picnic later that evening. Morris Gordon seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10.

At the picnic, around 7:15, we picked up on our agenda at:

Convener's Manual/Tent Guide – Lois Todd has worked very hard to put together a CD for new conveners to have to start up in their respective states. In this CD is everything needed to inexpensively create and build an exciting tent display including The Wall of Honor, Kid's Corner Resources, Clan Documents and Informational Pamphlets and a Tent Booklet/Convener's Guide with the information most requested at the tent. Lois passed out several CD's at the meeting.

Old Business:

Choice of fiscal year 2009 Scottish Charity (ies) – The Gordon Highlanders were amalgamated into the Queen's Own in 2004 and now all of the Scottish Regiments have been combined into one super regiment, the role of the Gordon Highlander Museum is ever increasingly important to the mission of keeping our heritage alive. It is still the Scottish charity to which we donate annually. Kim Gordon moved that we continue to support the Gordon Highlander Museum with a \$1,000 donation. Dr. Marr seconded it. All voted unanimously in favor. There was further discussion in regard to Kenmore as to whether it is being preserved by the National Trust for Scotland or the other body known as Historic Scotland. Huntly Castle is under the Historic Scotland. Culloden, Haddo House and Fyvie Castle are all under the National Trust for Scotland. Kim Gordon will do some more investigating on this subject.

House of Gordon 2010 British Isles Tour - Most of us will be planning to go on the 2010 tour rather than go to "The Gathering" at Edinburgh 2009. Kim Gordon plans to go to "The Gathering" 2009 tour. Granville Gordon has indicated that he plans to have a great spot for the Gordons along the Royal Mile.

Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship Awards – This year we honored two North Carolina boys, Jeremy and Nathaniel Atkinson with \$250.00 each for piping. (Lee

Atkinson is their dad.) A group picture presenting them with the award was taken at the Clan tent on the field earlier that day.

Future AGM Locations (2009 and beyond) – Kim Gordon made a motion to have the next AGM meeting in 2009 at the Richmond Highland Games next October. Roger Mills seconded it. All voted unanimously. The 2010 AGM will be held in Scotland while we are on tour there. It was recommended that we come back to GMHG in 2011 and that maybe Tom Adams and the Southwest Gordons will host the AGM in 2012. Place to be determined later.

John will be selecting a nominating committee for the 2009 Election of Officers later.

As a thank you, John Lowry asked David and Lois Todd to stand up front while he presented them with a very nice Gordon plaque. He also had Tom and Sara Gardenhire come up to receive a pin and Barbara Wray was presented with a “Haggis Whistle”. She plans to blow it at the Williamsburg Games this year when the Clan ladies compete in the traditional “Haggis Hurl”! Maybe we can come in first instead of second, this year. Hopefully, the whistle will bring us good luck!

Norval Marr made a motion to adjourn the continuation meeting. Roger Mills seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gordon Wray, Secretary
House of Gordon, USA