

AGM 2007 Brief President's Report

Our very successful 2007 AGM was held on July 14 in the Chief's Tent at the **Grandfather Mt. Highland Games**. It was well attended by officers and members and a quorum was very obviously present. As is our style, we had completed considerable groundwork before the meeting so that reports were concise and did not waste everyone's time. Even with that, however, we had a small amount of business that needed to be concluded at the Valle Cruces picnic Saturday evening.

We led off with the reading of the 2006 Minutes which were easily adopted. In my President's report which followed, I acknowledged that not everything we planned to carry out following that 2006 Organizational AGM went as smoothly as we had hoped. Due to a variety of glitches, it took several months for **Webmaster Lois Todd** to post the National website you see online today. The resignation of Board Member and right hand man Windy Gordon was a blow. We are indebted to Windy and his leadership through some difficult transitional times and we wish he and Heather success and Godspeed as they navigate the difficult waters of new business and higher education. The filing of our 501(c)(3) and Bylaws was a challenge eventually taken up by ourselves and **Ken Hendrix** of Fresno, CA--and Ken was then named Treasurer (with much thanks to **Lucretia Gordon** who handled those chores single-handedly for years). Ken is an accountant and tax professional who eased the paperwork through to where we have our IRS EIN number. Contributions to HofG USA are now tax deductible as permitted by law.

N.B. These are not the official minutes of the AGM, which were kept by Secretary Barbara Wray, but a "short" summation to provide an overview.

The Treasurer's Report was presented physically by Ken Hendrix while Ken, himself, was back home in California. The House is in very good financial shape and Ken is exploring ways of making some of our funds work for us in a very safe environment. The newsletter is currently our greatest expense but will be less so as we have your approval to deliver it via email. Also, the last newsletter will always be a larger, more informative edition as we planned for it to replace the Gordon Gazette formerly published in Scotland. I should tell you that we contacted **Chief Granville Gordon** and asked for some greeting we could deliver to the AGM. We have no reply as of today.

Lois Todd's Communications Committee report was read by her husband, **David Todd**, as she was slaving away at her "real" job. An excellent report that I hope will be available online or will certainly be attached to the Official Minutes.

Membership Chair **Nellie Lowry's** contribution was a glowing report on just how far we've come in one year. From a mere handful of paid members in July 2006 to over 400 (and probably nearer 450) this July speaks so eloquently of the good work you have all done in talking up at Games and representing the Gordons at a variety of functions--and we thank you!

Likewise, **Roger Mill's** Convener's Chair report recounted the several new and newly reactivated chapters across the country. When the three new Commissioners (a new designation of Convener but responsible for an area usually larger than a single state) met with Roger before the AGM, there were very large areas of the country not actively represented by a Gordon. Those areas have been consistently shrinking since then. **Woody**

Gordon was in New England working with the Gordons there as we met, with some fine results, and as late as today September 13 we have been in discussions with a Convener candidate in the state of New York--a nut that has always been hard for us Gordons to crack (and I hope no one takes offense at my imagery)! Roger took pleasure in naming and introducing our new LA/MS Convener **Marcia Gordon McLaurin** to the crowd. We are very pleased to have the enthusiastic Marcia on board!

Stick with me--we are coming to a conclusion here! There are several committees that are in need of appointments and don't be surprised if you get a call to assist with some of these. Nellie Lowry reported on the Gordon DNA Project for Lois Todd. Details will follow.

We decided that there would be dual Scottish charities this year--continuing to support the very fine **Gordon Highlanders Museum** and to add some support for the new **Culloden Battlefield Visitor's Center**. We have followed through on that and have purchased a commemorative stone to be placed in the walk which will have our name (House of Gordon USA) and our motto, Bydand, carved into it. It will be a beautiful and lasting link to this tragic battle where so many Gordons lost their lives.

There was discussion regarding taking this AGM on the road, at least every other year, from GMHG. While there is much interest in this, we agreed that no venue was quite ready for the responsibility and voted to remain at Grandfather for the 2008 AGM. We hope several of you will be ready with suggestions--and concrete plans--to host this august body in years to come. We thank those who made suggestions including **David Nichols** of SC in suggesting the Greenville, SC Games in '08.

The idea of offering a Life Membership was tossed about and a committee will be doing a feasibility study and offering suggestions at the next AGM.

We discussed what is being marketed as "**The Gathering Edinburgh 2009**" by **Lord Jamie Sempill** and concluded that, while certain of our members will wish to attend this event, we should stick to our "usual" every five year rotation and plan another Great Gordon Tour in 2010. Information on The Gathering is available here, however [The Gathering 2009](#)

The slate of officers elected to serve for the next two year term are:

President - John E. Lowry

Vice President - Roger J. Mills

Secretary - Barbara Gordon Wray

Treasurer - Ken Hendrix

Director - Kim Gordon

Director - Lucretia Gordon

This slate was elected unanimously and was sworn in at Valle Cruces by our friend and HofG Member **Judge Alec Lyerly**. The Judge and his lovely wife **Brenda Kate** made the arrangements for a wonderful picnic supper that was enjoyed by all. One final and meaningful presentation made that evening was a Lifetime of Service Award to **Evelyn Gordon**, the most steadfast of the steadfast.

Respectfully submitted.

Bydand,

John E. Lowry, President