

House of Gordon USA Annual General Meeting
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC
July 14, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
Federal IRS EIN # 26-0285250

Call to Order:

The annual House of Gordon meeting (AGM) was called to order at 5:05 p.m., by Roger J. Mills, President. In his opening remarks the President informed the Membership that the Secretary, Laura Whiteside was unable to attend the AGM. Barbara Gordon Wray, Past Secretary offered to fulfill the duties of Secretary and started the sign-in sheet for members. The President appointed her Secretary for that meeting per Bylaws Article 3, Section 5.

Roll Call of Council Members:

The President called the Roll of the Council Members. The President was the sole Officer present. Directors John Lowry and Lucretia Gordon, Lois Todd, Communications Chair, and John C. Gordon, Quartermaster, were present.

Quorum: The President informed the Membership that from an earlier discussion with the Treasurer, 116 members were paid as of the June 2012 deadline, making a quorum (20%) 23 needed attendees. This number was questioned by Lois Todd and Bonnie Linse, as the numbers did not correspond to the treasurer's report which had been circulated to those present. The Sign-in sheet was returned to the President who reviewed it and noted 16 members present. The President declared that there was not a Quorum and notified the Membership that no official business could be conducted. He further indicated that he intended to proceed with the Agenda as an "informational session" for the Good of the Order so the various reports could be collected and any inquiries from those present could be addressed. He noted that those Reports would be forwarded to the Communications Chair for Website publication.

New Members: New member Jeffrey and Michelle Kuso had found out 8 years ago that he was a Gordon after meeting his biological mother. He had been adopted as a baby. He was encouraged write an article on his experience for Lois Todd to use in a future newsletter.

Announcements: No Valle Crucis picnic will be held this evening. The President had talked to David Todd and found that the camping Gordons were planning a pot luck dinner in the camp grounds with other campers for that evening.

Chief's Message: There was no Chief's message available for this meeting.

Reading and Approval of the 2011 AGM Minutes: Barbara Wray read the Minutes of the 2011 AGM. With no quorum, the Minutes could not be approved. Discussion of the Minutes: Lois Todd indicated she had questions regarding the minutes. She indicated that she was told the \$6000 referred to in the minutes was never mentioned by Kim Gordon regarding pricing for a viable software option that the board was considering to purchase for use. The top figure she recalled from the board meetings discussions was \$4000 for a full membership program while it was in the research phase only. John Lowry concurred that those figures were not viable options as discussed by the board. Lois Todd also had questions about the Membership numbers, as reported in the minutes. The figure reported as active for determining the quorum did not sync with the membership records or the treasurer's report of membership dues paid. The number of votes recorded was also questioned as were the number of proxy votes counted. It was pointed out that each family membership is one vote, and that proxies must be received by the secretary at least 10 days prior to the AGM according to the Bylaws.

Reports:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Roger Mills gave his Report. John Lowry commented that sadly the House of Gordon USA donation check for the Gordon Highlanders Museum had not been delivered do to illness of the person who was to have hand delivered it. John has it back and will be mailing it.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Lowry reviewed Nellie Lowry's Report in her absence. There was a question on the clarity on the membership amount of \$3150. What actual membership and what time frame does it reflect? Treasurer's report attached.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Arlene Adams' report as of June 2012 indicated 403 paid from July 2011 thru June 2012. Discussion on Membership: Roger Mills noted that the membership records have historically been done on personal computers. But we want it to be on line so that the state conveners and others can access the information on members they were responsible for. He said that his goal was that conveners should have this access so that they can contact their members to verify in formation such as email changes and remind them with they need to pay their dues. John C. Gordon said he just got his 2012 card. Lu Gordon said we had 5 new members today that wanted to know when they would receive their membership cards. Lois also indicated that she paid for all three of her sons, writing one check, but was told

that they had not paid. Bonnie Linse indicated the membership form should have a date indicating a start date to end date; i.e. July 1st to June 30th. It should be something that is clearly marked for the fiscal year. All states should be consistent as written in the by-laws.

CONVENER COORDINATOR REPORT: John Lowry indicated that we have a new commissioner for the Mid-Atlantic Region, David Todd. He indicated that Morris Gordon had resigned and he wanted to thank Morris for his past service. We also recently lost Lynn and Woody Gordon from the Southwest region. They are moving to Colorado. At this time, there are only 2 people in Colorado doing 5 to 6 festivals in that state. We have a new lady in Oregon. Turpin Ballard is convener in Georgia.

DNA PROJECT REPORT: Lois Todd provided the DNA Project Report. She indicated that the project currently has 437 members participating up 139% over last year's numbers. Report will also be available on line.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: Lois Todd indicated that the process for the Scholarship application was moved to open on November 1st annually with submissions closing on March 24th this year. The GMHG Grade 4 Junior Piper of the Day received a \$250.00 grant and a trophy, which was awarded earlier today. Jonathan and Hannah Wolff of the exploratory phase only and it was never an option that the board considered. Huntersville, NC are joint recipients of a \$500.00 award. They are brother and sister ages 16 and 18 and are dancers with the Charlotte Scottish Country Dance Society and members of the Royal Scottish Dance Society. Isabelle Young of Waxhaw, NC is the recipient of a \$500.00 award. She is a 17 year old Scottish and Irish Fiddler with the Ceilidh Players and started violin lessons at age 11 and has applied her classical training to her studies in Celtic music. She will be attending Berklee College of Music in Boston. Azure Davis of Richmond, VA is the recipient of a \$250.00 award in dance.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Lois Todd indicated that the last Annual version of the newsletter was smaller in size bringing the cost reduction to \$1.24 each or 50% of previous edition. The President applauded the new format and noted that it was similar to the Scotland Gordon Journal that is no longer produced. The House of Gordon USA Facebook Group currently has 548 Facebook members. And a new House of Gordon USA Facebook Page was launched. She encourages YouTube submissions from all. Our website currently has over 9000 visits per month. Lois indicated that a new data base will help with membership numbers as emails are a problem.

Standing Business Agenda

DISCUSSION OF AN AGM SITE for 2013: There was discussion about the sequencing of AGM locations. It has been practice to hold the AGM at Grandfather Mountain every other year but alternate around the country the sites that were not Grandfather Mountain years. It is the "off Grandfather" year that has held the Election of Officers and Directors. The question was asked what the Bylaws really required. Upon review, the Bylaws states: "To the extent practicable, the annual meeting location will be rotated among major Highland Games and Gathering sites." Those in the discussion agreed there was flexibility in setting AGM locations notwithstanding whether it was a designated election year or not. Lois Todd suggested the 2013 AGM be during the 2013 GMHG. The Members present agreed but without a quorum present the President accepted the consensus as a recommendation.

GOALS FOR 2013: Roger Mills indicated that we need to get membership on line and make sure it is accurate and available to conveners, commissioners and all board members.

New Business

John Lowry indicated that the Ann Forbes book could be bought by the clan starting with 50 copies to be sold at various Games. Lois Todd indicated that there is a link for her book on the House of Gordon USA website. Barbara Wray has obtained a very nice silk/wool blend Gordon Dress men's jacket, size 39 Reg. She indicated that it is available at the Gordon Clan Tent to be let to the 'highest bidder' with the proceeds going toward the Charles O. Gordon Scholarship Fund.

Adjournment

The House of Gordon USA Bylaws places the protocol and conduct of Meetings under Robert's Rules of Order. To that end, the Membership attending the 2012 AGM conducted one of the few business options permitted without a quorum and adjourned the meeting. Bonnie Linse made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jenny Gordon seconded. All voted. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Gordon Wray
Acting Secretary