

## **President's Report:**

Sadly we lost our past president and board member Lu Gordon in November, and we have accepted four resignations. We also have good news and sad news to report. Yesterday morning we were informed that our long-time member and good friend, Art Wilson, passed on Friday, July 4th. After suffering two mini-strokes on Wednesday week, he went to sleep and never woke, and his passing was a peaceful one. It was a fitting date for Art to pass from this realm to the next as he was one of the original Navy Seals having graduated in the class before Class One. He never talked to me about his WWII service, I knew he had been a Navy Vet and a Seal, but I found out yesterday that he had served in UDT under my father in WWII. Such a small world, and to find he had spoken to some of his military buddies of my father was amazing to me. We are all saddened at his loss but remember him well and hold him dear as we celebrate his life. Lu was the most loyal of friends and her energy, wit, and advice are sorely missed. She was such a fun person to be with, she could be totally straight faced and handing out sound advice and sharing memories of how things went in the past one minute and cracking a zinger with her dry wit when least expected. She was passionate about the Gordons and about her family and her friends. Those who knew her best always looked forward to the fun that could and usually did ensue. She was also passionate about the scholarship program and followed in Charlie's footsteps in helping out many young folks along the way. Thursday night at the torchlight ceremony we paid tribute to her and to Charlie's memories and symbolically passed the torch along to the next generation. It is our duty to ensure that their example lives bright and our younger generations are shown the way to keep the clan alive and well and doing good wherever we go throughout this century and into the next. The good news is that earlier today we were rewarded the Best Clan Tent Award! Such a celebration as Gordons were literally dancing and shouting, "A GORDON! A GORDON!" in clan row and we all knew that Lu was not only smiling down from heaven, but on the other side dancing a jig right along with us!. As you already know Nikki Gordon Middleton found that the demands on her life at this time just did not allow her the time she needed to continue to serve as secretary. Garth Gordon has resigned as convener in Michigan, David Nichols as convener in South Carolina, and Micah Wentzel in Pennsylvania. Geof Baker who had already agreed to take on the position of Convener Chair was appointed by the board to take over Lu's member at large position on the board and David Gauthier has been appointed by the board to the secretary position. Geof and I are looking for people to take over in these three divisions.

We were contacted last summer by Annie Hughes at Gordon's School in Woking, Surrey, England, asking for our support in their restoration efforts of the Gordon Camel Statue. This school is the National Memorial to Major-General Charles George Gordon, C.B., founded in 1885 by Queen Victoria, and this statue has significant historic value having been commissioned by the Royal Corps of Engineers to commemorate General Gordon and having stood in Khartoum where he died. The statue was returned to England in 1958 shortly after the Sudan became independent and since early in 1959 has made its home at the school. We were pleased to be able to contribute to this worthy project that honors our kinsman. It was kismet that I had already begun research

on General Gordon and working on an article for our May 2014 issue of In the House when Annie reached out to us. Being part of the restoration effort of this statue and other charitable efforts that help promote and keep our Gordon heritage alive is, in my opinion, one of the best parts of being a member of the House of Gordon USA Clan Society!

Evan Rose and the other members of the Bylaws committee worked hard this past fall and winter to revise the bylaws as you will have read in the May newsletter. This was a long and laborious task. After our publication of the proposed revisions, we had a new member in Georgia, Jason M. Shepherd, who is an attorney send instructions with his proxy regarding the Bylaws changes. He had some very good points that we had missed. A few are minor amendments that under Robert's Rules of Order may be included under the motion to the proposed changes published and we will make that motion on his behalf later in the meeting. Other items he saw as potential problem areas will require further changes next year after publication of proposed changes can be made. His points were exactly on target catching items that had been missed in areas that could become points of misunderstanding and contention. Our whole purpose in this endeavor is to avoid future divisiveness, and so Evan and I have asked him to join the Bylaws Revision Committee and he has accepted.

John & Nellie Lowry are in Scotland this month with their whole family. He was in Aberdeen on July 2nd and hand delivered a check to the Gordon Highlander Museum as we continue our support of their wonderful organization and work. The museum posted pictures and an update on the event to our Facebook Page from their page! Needless to say John's family was treated to the VIP tour!

I have created a new version of the belted crest and Geof & I have come up with some new banner designs which we have used in our display in the Gordon tent on clan row! The overhead, sept and belted crest banners will make up the standard banner set going to new conveners. We will order Wall of Honor and parade banners for those divisions who wish to buy them out of their operating budgets

Things are looking up for the House in the USA. The board is working well together and we are seeing some very encouraging results. I have high hopes for this coming year to see more growth.

Lois Todd, President  
House of Gordon USA