

Vice President's Report 2010

I would like to thank you all for coming to Grandfather Mountain and for being a part of our annual general membership meeting. I'd also like to mention and welcome our new conveners, Michael Hilden and Julie Bowman, co-conveners for Minnesota, and John Gordon, convener for southern Illinois & Missouri. John has also graciously accepted the newly created position of the House of Gordon Store Quartermaster, which is a Board member level position. This means we now have 9 voting board members.

As you may remember from last years AGM, we've discussed the creation of the House of Gordon store as a way for us to be able to provide an additional resource for our commissioner and conveners. As we move forward with the roll out of the HoG store, more items will become available for purchase showing our Gordon pride, from tee shirts and clan pins to a variety of additional items like small banners and other assorted things for sale bearing the Gordon Crest for sale at our tents at the various games as well as available from the website. The profits generated from this will go to our Heritage fund. This is also the beginning of our standardization of a "Conveners Kit" to help our new conveners and also develop a "Brand Standard" for the HoG clan tents for the festivals and games.

As the Vice President and Director of Commissioners and Conveners, I'd like to take a minute and talk about a few things relating to our commissioners and conveners.

First, it has come to our attention that there may be some states which are collecting dues for just their state organization membership. This is not acceptable for a couple of reasons, first and foremost are the IRS implications and the potential loss of our 501(c) non profit status. As the states are not individual entities and are bound by the same IRS provisions as National under our same charter, it is imperative that we all operate under the same rules and guidelines. As such, all membership dues must incorporate the monies to be sent to national for those members to be duly bound members in the House of Gordon, with all rights and privileges as afforded to dues paying members.

Second, I understand that there may be some gaps and/or misunderstandings as to the role and responsibilities of the positions of commissioner and convener. We are working to develop a good set of guidelines as to the expectations from both sides of the house, from the board's side of the house to that of the conveners and commissioners. We hope to roll this document out before the end of the 2010 festival season.

Third, national (Lois Todd and I) is planning on attending the Central New York Highland Games and Celtic Festival in an effort to bring a convener on board for that region. We have also been notified we will be losing our convener in Oklahoma due to health reasons. We hope that one of our members in that region will accept the post a convener to help us maintain a good presence in that area.

We have made a commitment to increase our membership in the House of Gordon by 25% this year. We look to all of our members to join us in this endeavor and help us meet this goal. As a part of this, National (Lois & Barbara) went to the Greenville, SC Games and we've already a couple of membership applications so far. We had 4 pages of sign in sheets from all of the visitors to our tent. We are hoping more people will be signing up soon.

Thank you all for attending and we look forward to making this a banner year for the House of Gordon USA.

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Geof K. Baker