

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, DECEMBER 13, 2017
HOTEL BLACKHAWK, DAVENPORT, IOWA

GOOD EVENING TO YOU, OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, MEMBERS, AND GUESTS

WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2017

WE HAVE ENJOYED A VERY PRODUCTIVE PAST 12 MONTHS AND MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE.

THE SOCIETY'S EVENTS HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED, EVEN THOUGH WE DID POSTPONE PARTICIPATING IN 2 EVENTS THIS PAST YEAR. DUE TO INSUFFICIENT MEMBER PARTICIPATION WE DID NOT ENTER THE BI-STATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE OR THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL OF TREES., IN CONTRAST, WE ENJOYED A VERY GOOD TURNOUT FOR THE GOLF TOURNAMENT AND THE SOCIETY BENEFITED FROM THE EXPOSURE AND FROM A VERY NICE DEPOSIT IN THE BANK. WE ALSO HAD STELLAR PARTICIPATION IN OUR 40TH ANNUAL ROBERT BURNS' DINNER, WITH 200 MEMBERS AND GUESTS TURNING OUT. IN ADDITION WE HAVE HAD NEW FACES VOLUNTEERING FOR THE HIGHLAND GAMES, AND MANY MEMBERS HAVE GIVEN THE SOCIETY NEW AND VALUED THOUGHTS AND IDEAS.

5 NEW BOARD MEMBERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THE BOARD, MEMBERS-AT-LARGE, WHO ARE OFFERING THEIR VOICES, IDEAS, HANDS, AND EFFORTS FOR YOUR BENEFIT, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY.

THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS AND EXPERTISE IN LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE, PUBLICITY, MEDIA RELATIONS, AND EVENT PLANNING AND COORDINATION, THE SOCIETY WILL BE WELL PREPARED TO BECOME THAT ORGANIZATION OUR 501c3 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION STATUS ADVERTISES THAT WE ARE, THAT WE ARE A SOCIETY WITH SUBSTANCE AND VALUE TO THE QUAD CITY AREA.

WE ARE A SOCIETY WITH A SCOTTISH HERITAGE AND AMONG OUR GOALS IS THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF OUR HERITAGE. WITH THAT IN MIND, YOUR SOCIETY MADE A \$1000 DONATION TO THE ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL IN HOUSTON FOR HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF. THE ST THOMAS SCHOOL HAS ITS OWN BAGPIPE BAND AND HIGHLAND DANCE TROUPE. BOTH WERE AFFECTED BY HARVEY AS THE SCHOOL WAS FLOODED, AND THE DONATION WAS USED TO CLEAN UP AND REOPEN THE SCHOOL AND CONTINUE INSTRUCTION IN PIPING AND DANCE. WHILE IT IS COMMENDABLE THAT WE WERE ABLE TO REACH OUT TO HELP OUR FELLOW SCOTS, WE MUST ALSO LOOK WITHIN OUR OWN LIVING AREA FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE SCOTTISH ARTS AND HERITAGE. IN THAT VEIN THE SOCIETY FUNDED THE TROPHIES AND MEDALS FOR THE HIGHLAND DANCE COMPETITION AT THE 2017 HIGHLAND GAMES IN DAVENPORT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO PROMOTE AND ASSIST IN INCREASING AWARENESS OF SCOTTISH HERITAGE IN OUR OWN HOME AREA.

WITH THE ADDITION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND BENEFITING FROM THEIR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS, THE SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN ORGANIZATION WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE IN AND PROMOTE.

WE ARE ALSO REACHING OUT TO FORM MUTUAL RELATIONS WITH OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOR, H.A.G.G.I.S., THE HAWKEYE AREA GRAND GAELIC ISLES SOCIETY, OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA. THEY WILL BE PROMOTING OUR BURNS' NIGHT, AND WE WILL BE PROMOTING THEIRS, AND SEVERAL OF OUR MEMBERS WILL BE ATTENDING THE JANUARY 20TH CELEBRATION IN CEDAR RAPIDS. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE A FORCE FOR SUSTAINING AND GROWING BOTH OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

EARLIER THIS YEAR THE BOARD HELD A FOCUS GROUP SESSION WITH SOME OF YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS- THE RESULTS OR ENCOURAGING IN THAT YOU FEEL GOOD VALUE FOR YOUR DUES, MORE THAN 1/2 OF YOU ENJOY OUR ACTIVITIES, ALMOST ALL OF YOU ENJOY THE SCOTTISH HERITAGE AND SENSE OF FELLOWSHIP SHARED WITH YOUR FELLOW SCOTS, AND SOME OF THE FOCUS GROUP NOTED THAT THE SOCIETY NEEDS TO GROW, REACH OUT, ATTRACT YOUNGER MEMBERS, AND EXPAND THE NUMBERS OF HANDS HELPING OUT AT SOCIETY EVENTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REFER TO THE RESULTS OF THIS FOCUS GROUP AND PLAN ON FOLLOWING UP AT A FUTURE TIME.

THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD DO APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT, AND IN THE STRONGEST LANGUAGE POSSIBLE, ENCOURAGE YOU TO STEP OUT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE AFFAIRS AND ACTIVITIES OF YOUR SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY, BECAUSE IT IS ONLY THROUGH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US PARTICIPATING THAT THE SOCIETY WILL BE HERE IN 1, 5, 10, 20, 40 OR MORE YEARS. IN RETURN FOR YOUR TRUST, SUPPORT, AND GOOD FAITH, WE THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WILL STRIVE TO BE RECEPTIVE, TRANSPARENT, AND RESPONSIVE TO YOU, THE MEMBERSHIP.

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TONIGHT.