



## **Alaskan Scottish Club Annual General Meeting Agenda Sunday, March 23, 2025, 2pm**

**Member Attendance:** Emma Park, Mark Ransom, Panu Lucier, Candace McDonald-Kotyk, Tony Laux, Tim and Kayse Burke, Dale Carlough, Kevin Hall, Anne Freitag, Craig Johnston, Elise Manolas, Laurel Osborne, Randy Steen, Dorothy Willworth,

**Board Members:** David Wallace, Christa Wallace, Maggie Wallace, Cathy Steen, Tonda Scott, Jeni McDaniel, Christina McCoskey (via zoom), Sherri Borchert  
Nelson Alger (Approved absence), Michael Miller (Approved absence)

**Call To Order:** 2:10 pm

**Welcoming Remarks:** Cathy Steen, President begins with a Land Acknowledgment to the De'naina People that the meeting is taking place on unceded land at the Anchorage Library.

**Approval of the 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes:** The 2024 Minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Reports:**

- **Treasurer's Report:** Christina McCoskey gave a report via zoom. All attendees had a copy of the report.
  - 2024 was a great year with extra money in the pot
  - Hopefully the 2025 budget will show a profit at the end of the year.
  - The highest percentage of the profit is generally from the games.
  - A question from an attendee referenced any income from the golf tournament. Jeni will be giving an update regarding this question during her executive director report.
  - Jeni has been looking into a cancellation insurance policy. She will report more about this during her executive director report.
  - Budget approved unanimously.
- **Executive Director's Report:** Jeni McDaniel
  - She commented that it was a great year with the budget and a lot of fun things happened.
  - The Tea Tent was taken over by the Scottish Club in 2024 and was well received.
  - Bands have been confirmed for 2025 (Albannach, House of Hamill, and The Harp Twins).
  - Graham McTavish has been confirmed. Discussion continues for planning of activities with his involvement.



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- Event cancellation insurance - This has become a concern based on a couple of potential environmental occurrences, such as volcanic eruptions and fires that could impact whether we are able to have the games as planned.
- Road construction - will be starting soon, and detour signs may be posted.
- Volunteering – There are some lead positions available and to contact Jeni if interested.
- There was a question about the timing of the Haggis Eating contest and those that ate lunch before the contest. That may not change but can be looked at.
- Kiddie Passports – Last year there was only 10. It was suggested that these passports could be handed out at the entrance gate or added to the event guide. Jeni will accept other suggestions about how to get more participation with the passports.
- Community Outreach – The club has done many outreach activities/events this past year. It is the plan to continue with several of the events that focus on events that gets the club noticed. A few may be deleted due to lack of returns in investment. Some events seemed good, but not a lot of feedback. One such good one was the “honored school programs”. This year, the Butte Elementary School is being looked at. Notify Jeni if you have any ideas and/or questions. She would be open to smaller events as well.
- Tartan Tourney – Jeni gave a brief history and timeline of the golf tournament. The first 4 years, a portion of the proceeds would have to go to Settler’s Bay. The 5<sup>th</sup> year we get most of the proceeds. The golf tournament is getting more popular each year. Sponsorships for the tournament has been hard to obtain. The plan is to continue with this and move forward. At previous tournaments, there has been fun events at most of the holes and if anyone wants to volunteer at the event, please contact Jeni.
- The next highlands games planning meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **By-Laws:**
  - The bylaws are looked at each year. We will have a vote on a bylaw change at this meeting regarding membership.
- **Burn’s Night:** Sherri Borchert
  - Sherri stated that Burn’s Night seemed like a great success and was a fun event.



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- **Membership:** Tonda Scott
  - Tonda thanked all who came to the meeting. She provided some explanation as to what the membership changes were and hoped all would vote in favor of the changes.
  - A question referenced incentives for joining. The board summarized some of the incentives, such as new members receiving a token of appreciation in the mail, and all members receiving 2 free tickets to the games. If there are any suggestions, please let a board member know.
- **Scholarship:** Christa Wallace
  - A few highlights from last year were provided. Georgia Barkwood was given some funds to compete in a Spurtle Challenge contest in Scotland.
  - Scholarships can also be used to support those who want to pursue a college or academic class with the idea that it would be related to Scottish culture/tradition experiences. One such idea would be for a piping and drumming scholarship.
  - Christa did explain that the amount of funds provided in a scholarship does not cover travel to and from overseas schools but may help with other expenses.
  - Contact Jeni or Christa if interested.
- **St. Andrew's Night:** David Wallace
  - The event was held at the King Street Brewery this year.
  - The timing of the event was held earlier than previous years.
  - One of the highlights was a 13-year-old piper who did very well.
  - The silent auction was good.
  - The event for 2025 is slated for November 30<sup>th</sup>. More information to come during the year.
- **Tundra Thistle:** Cathy Steen
  - A change was made as to how often the "Thistle" was sent out to members. It is now quarterly instead of monthly.
  - If an event or some important notice occurs in between the quarterly newsletters, members will be notified via an email.
- **Hogmanay Grams:** Maggie Wallace
  - All 100 boxes were sold.
  - The theme was "Castles of Scotland".
  - If anyone has any ideas about a theme for this year, please contact Jeni or Maggie.
  - A question was asked about the meaning of Hogmanay and the boxes and the history of them was given.



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**New Business:** A couple of questions relating to the membership change was asked.

- What is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class of membership? It was explained that businesses would only be allowed one vote by one person of the business. It may be unlikely that businesses will attend meetings, but they have the option to do so.
- What will the membership fee for a business? The answer was \$100.

**Voting:** A nomination from the floor was made, but the nominee declined at this time. Ballots were submitted and results announced. Current incumbents were all re-elected.

**Meeting Adjourned:** By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.