

# CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY OF FLORIDA, INC.

## 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2023

Florida Branch President, Bobby Bethel, welcomed the members and thanked all who worked to make the 2023 Central Florida games a huge success for the Florida Branch on a very cold weekend. A total of 15 members joined together for the 2023 Annual General Meeting and Family Dinner which were held at the Patio Grill, Sanford, Florida. All had fun and enjoyed getting together.

A blessing by member, Ron Boykin, was shared as invocation for the meeting.

### **1. Call to Order:**

President Bethel officially called the 2023 Annual Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. An attendance sheet was circulated among the members.

### **2. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting:**

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were displayed on the clan website and provided in the Spring 2022 newsletter, Donnachaidh Doings.

**Motion by Stanley Reid: To accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Caleigh Gilfillan. Vote called. All in favor.**

### **3. Reports:**

#### **A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Bobby Bethel**

In 2022, we found ourselves getting back to normal allowing us to have successful Scottish festivals throughout Florida. I want to thank each of our Area Directors and Officers for making this possible.

Going forward in 2023, as your President, I would like to focus on how we can better support our Area Directors in having equipment, supplies, and help available to provide a great experience in promoting our Scottish heritage. With our increase in membership and attendance at the festivals, I feel this is possible.

I hope you share my excitement as Clan Donnachaidh gathers together for another great year of kinship at our Scottish games.

#### **B. Vice President, Pamela Knock**

I had the pleasure of attending five games in this past year, 2022. It is always great fun to share our heritage and see familiar faces each year.

I have kept in touch with a clan member I met at the 2021 Chipley games, and he attended the Panama City games in 2022. As I have moved to the northwest Florida panhandle area, I will work with the Area Director, northwest Florida, to meet with clan members in that area.

**C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, John Lange:**

1. Branch Incorporation, Non-profit status, Conflict of Interest. **Compliance:**

- A. The renewal fees for the 2022 Branch Incorporation were paid on January 13, 2022.
- B. The Conflict of Interest documents will be signed by all attending Officers and Directors during a brief Board of Directors meeting at the conclusion of this Annual General Meeting. Non-attending Directors will submit the signed documents as soon as possible.

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*Fiscal Year 2022 (1/1/2022 – 8/27/2022)*

**Beginning Balance TD Bank Account (as of 1/15/2022) \$6262.51**

**Beginning Balance PayPal Bank Account (as of 1/15/2022) \$1335.47**

**Income 1/1/22 to 8/27/2022:**

Local (Dues \$1490.00: Donations \$315.93)	\$1692.81
International (Dues \$630.00: Donations \$175.00)	\$ 805.00
Struan Kirk Donations	\$ 75.00
Merchandise Sold	\$1509.00

**TOTAL INCOME: \$4,119.93**

**Expenses 1/1/22 to 8/27/2022:**

Supplies – printing, mailing, banking, rentals & storage	\$1365.78
T-shirts purchase, March	\$1235.85
Games – NE FL, Cen. FL, St. Aug, Dunedin	\$ 424.00
PayPal Fees	\$ 86.70
Transfer to Scotland through PayPal(Subs/Donations)	\$ 805.00
Payment for ad in 2022 Clan Annual	\$ 95.95
Sunbiz.org Filing Fee	\$ 70.00

**TOTAL EXPENSE: \$4083.28**

**Ending TD Bank Account (as of 8/27/2022) \$4690.66**

**Ending Balance PayPal Acct. (as of 8/27/2022) \$2409.71**

**Total Accounts \$7100.37**

I certify that funds in the amount of \$4690.66 represents the total held in the TD Bank account and funds in the amount of \$2409.71 represents the total held in the PayPal account as of 8/27/2022, both of which are registered under the name of Clan Donnachaidh Society of Florida, Inc.

**John Lange**  
**2022 Clan Treasurer**

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## FY 2022, as of November 25, 2022

Current Balance, TD Bank: \$ 4,418.93

Current Balance, PayPal: \$ 2,383.72

### Income:

#### Memberships

International society: \$ 00.00

Florida Branch: \$ 00.00

Merchandise sold: (T-shirts\$00.00 Other\$300.00) \$ 300.00

**TOTAL INCOME:** **\$7,102.65**

### Expenses:

#### Business Expenses

Supplies (printing, mailing, banking, rentals & storage) \$ 00.00

T-shirts purchase—March \$ 00.00

Games registration (Cen FL, St. Augustine) \$ 285.00

PayPal fees \$ 9.64

Transfer to Scotland through PayPal (subs/donations) \$ 00.00

Payment for ad in 2022 Clan Annual \$ 00.00

Sunbiz Florida filing fee \$ 00.00

**TOTAL EXPENSE:** **\$ 294.64**

**Ending TD Bank Account (as of 11/25/2022)** **\$ 4,418.93**

**Ending Balance PayPal Acct. (as of 11/25/2022)** **\$ 2,383.72**

I certify that funds in the amount of \$4,418.93 represent the total funds held in the TD Bank account and funds in the amount of \$2,383.72 represent the total held in the PayPal account as of 11/25/2022, both of which are registered under the name of the Clan Donnachaidh Society of Florida, Inc.

**John Lange**  
**2022 Treasurer**

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### State Filing:

Annual Report and Uniform Business report was filed with the Department of State for the State of Florida on January 10, 2023, \$70. Clan Donnachaidh Society of Florida Inc is certified as a Not-for-Profit Corporation through December 31, 2023. Consumers Certificate of Exemption was previously filed with the State of Florida and is current through 9/30/2025.

**Motion by Bobby Bethel : To accept the Treasurer's Reports dated August 27, 2022, and November 25, 2022, as submitted, to represent income & expenses for the year 2022. Seconded by Stanley Reid. Vote called. All in favor.**

All reports are on file with the Secretary and available for review upon request.

#### **D. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Christy Duncan Lange**

Florida Branch membership for 2022 was 93, for 2021 was 61, 2020 our total was 84. In 2022, 37 paid Clan Society membership dues to Scotland. Branch memberships included 46 families and 47 individuals. 85 members live in Florida, with 1 in Tennessee, 2 in Georgia, 1 in Texas, 1 in Maryland, 1 in Virginia, 1 in Ohio and 1 in Scotland. We lost long-time member, Ruby Ferguson from Birmingham, Alabama, in October 2021, and we have lost track of another long-term member, Elaine Bardsley, from St. Petersburg. Both are members at age 90+. The Florida Branch has a total of 4 Life Members of the Clan Donnachaidh Society in Scotland.

Total current membership for 2023 is 18 with 18 received at the festival today.

The Christmas newsletters this year had a problem with the mailing process. I was notified by several members that their newsletter arrived mostly shredded. I re-mailed 6 copies and emailed a few. See example attached for the file. We may need to mail the newsletter next year in envelopes.

The Clan Gathering & AGM in Scotland this year was held for five days in August. Struan and Bridget attended the meeting and Gathering. Our Florida Branch submitted a request to the Clan Council regarding a Reid tartan which can be used by our members. More on that later in the agenda.

The 2023 Clan Gathering has been scheduled for August 15 – 20, with the AGM planned for the 18th and an excursion to Scone Palace, the crowning place of Scottish Kings, on the 17th.

The minutes of this meeting will be printed in the 2023 Spring “Donnachaidh Doings” newsletter and posted on the website: [www.donnachaidhflorida.com](http://www.donnachaidhflorida.com) .

#### **E. HISTORIAN'S REPORT: Pam Bethel**

2022 was a great year for our Clan with many new and renewing members as well as visitors at our tent during the festivals. It was exciting to about our Scottish history and helping new members and visitors find their roots.

The Did You Know column continued in the Donnachaidh Doings with 3 articles written. “So, what’s the big deal about Haggis?” was discussed in the Summer. This was in response to a question as to why the haggis such a big deal. The Burns night dinner with celebration and presentation of the haggis was addressed as well as the legend of the two types of wild haggis.

Autumn brought the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. It was during a report on her death that the Stone of Destiny was mentioned. The Did You Know reported on this ancient symbol of Scotland’s monarchy and how it is connected to our Scottish heritage.

Winter 2022 Did You Know discussed a mountain that is special to our Clan. Schiehallion, also known as Fairy Hill of the Caledonians, is the heart of Clan Donnachaidh land in Perthshire.

#### **F. AREA DIRECTORS REPORTS:**

For 2022, we had Area Directors for five areas:

North Florida area: Stanley Reid

We attended 2 festivals in the north Florida area, Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games & Festival, and Saint Augustine Celtic Festival. We were notified our clan will be the Honored Clan at the NE FL

games in 2023. Since our chief wouldn't be able to come, we decided to ask the International Vice Chairman of Clan Donnachaidh, Jonn Duncan, to speak and to march with us. We're very happy he has accepted.

Central Florida area: Caleigh Gilfillan

As the Central FL. Director, I think we have opportunities to have more events if I can plan enough in advance. I hope to plan for more captivating events or something that people will enjoy! We were able to plan a successful get-together last year in Lake Mary with at least 10 people there. Having so many places so close to our backyard, I will search further for somewhere new and exciting that's within distance. Last year's Central FL Highland Games and the Mount Dora Highland Games were a lot of fun, so I look forward to Mount Dora next month and tomorrow as the last day of the Central Florida games.

I still plan to create an Instagram account but neglected to reach out to our website creator, Brian Robertson in England, about an email so I will make sure to do so that way we can be on social media. I would like to make the account focused on history, tradition, our local events with games and get-togethers, and ways to capture younger audiences like myself. Looking forward to that account and will share once created!

Northwest Florida area: No report

South Florida area: No report

East Florida area: No report

West Florida area: Vacant

**G. WEBSITE REPORT: John Lange**

Brian Robertson is the website manager and will be happy to post any photos or articles which a member would like to share on the website. Brian is retiring but will continue to update our website.

The Branch is seeking a member interested in participating to serve as liaison with the website manager to provide content via reporting on games or contribution of material and ideas of how to keep the website fresh and relevant. Caleigh said she will help with updates to the website.

**H. FACEBOOK REPORT, Stanley Reid**

Currently the page has 268 members. Director, Stanley Reid, manages the page and uses special care to be sure that no inappropriate content is posted. Please contact Stanley if you have a post you would like to share.

**4. APPROVAL OF GAMES TO BE SUPPORTED:**

**A. Support for 2024:**

Central Florida (Winter Springs/Orlando), Sarasota, St. Augustine, Dunedin, Mount Dora, Northeast Florida (Green Cove Springs/Jacksonville), Panama City, Southeast Florida, Chipley.

**Motion by John Lange: To approve this list of games for support in 2024, with the exception of the the Sarasota games. Seconded by Caleigh Gilfillan. Vote called. All in favor.**

## **5. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **A. Storage of clan equipment**

It was agreed to continue the storage at the same location in Longwood.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Appointments to Member Area Director for 2023**

1. Member, Anne Moore, spoke to the group on her work experience with clans and requested to be appointed as the Area Director to west coast Florida.
2. Caleigh Gilfillan, central Florida  
Anne Moore, west Florida  
Evan Knock, northwest Florida
- Stanley & Linda Reid, north Florida  
Rob Gibson, south Florida  
Sherri & James Wagner, east Florida

**President Bethel approved these appointments according to our By-Laws for our Board of Directors. Rob Gibson and Sherri & James Wagner were not at this meeting, so their appointments are provisional until they meet the requirements of the position.**

### **B. Support/attend new festival in Tallahassee, February 11 – 12 at Apalachee Park:**

Pamela Knock said she would try to attend this festival and report back to the Board.

### **C. Clan Annual ad for 2023**

Secretary, Christy Lange, explained that each year in the Clan Annual from Scotland, the clan branches provide an advertisement. The ad proposed for use in the 2023 Clan Annual is the same as 2022.

**Motion by Ron Boykin: To repeat the ad used in the 2022 Clan Annual for the 2023 edition. The Florida Branch will submit and pay for the same ad at the ¼ page size, in color, at the cost of £75. Seconded by Pamela Knock. Vote called. All in favor.**

(Clan Society ad form & ad sample attached for the file)

### **D. Clan Council in Scotland approved Reid tartans for use by clan members. Shall we order a new flag for use at our tents in the Reid tartan – green or brown?**

President Bobby reported that the Clan Council in Scotland had approved for use two Reid tartans. Christy showed an example of each to the group. Our Reid families are very eager to have this tartan and to use it to represent their heritage. Christy explained the process of allowing the Council to have control of how we obtain the tartan, at this point, and she will check with IVC & Clan Secretary to learn their plan. “Let’s not step on the toes of the Clan Council”. This is the first time in all of Clan Donnachaidh history that they have allowed members to use a Reid tartan, so let’s be patient. Our Branch can be proud of participating in this significant accomplishment.

A vote was taken among the members deciding as to which of the two tartans would be preferred to have a flag made for display at our tents. Vote taken. 14 prefer the Reid Green and 1 for Reid Brown.

### **E. Appointment of new Clan Piper**

Member, Brian Duncan Samosky, Titusville, has many years of experience as a piper and competes at the Scottish festivals in Florida. At the Central Florida games on Saturday, Brian came to our tents, and through conversation with Pamela and Christy, we learned that he would be willing and honored to be

named “Clan Piper” for our Florida Branch. He could not attend this meeting because he felt he must attend his daughter’s birthday party, but he wrote a note requesting that our President appoint him as our Clan Piper. Brian said he is available for a special performance, if needed. He requested a name badge.

**President Bobby Bethel officially appointed Brian Duncan Samosky as the Clan Piper for the Florida Branch of Clan Donnachaidh.**

**7. Election of Officers for 2023:**

President, Bobby Bethel, read the Proposed 2023 Slate of Officers. The following members were nominated and indicated approval by accepting the nomination:

<b><u>Bobby Bethel</u></b>	<i>President</i>
<b><u>Pamela Knock</u></b>	<i>Vice-President</i>
<b><u>John Lange</u></b>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<b><u>Christy Duncan Lange</u></b>	<i>Secretary</i>
<b><u>Pam Bethel</u></b>	<i>Clan Historian</i>

Nominations from the floor were requested but none were proposed.

**Motion by Caleigh Gilfillan: To approve the Slate of Officers for 2023 as provided. Seconded by Russ Coley. Vote called. All in favor.**

**8. Questions/Comments:**

None

**9. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be the 2023 mid-year Board of Directors Meeting to be held in August/September 2022. Place and time for the meeting will be announced.

**10. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Duncan Lange  
Secretary  
Attachments for the file

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**Board of Directors Meeting:**

Following the Annual General Meeting adjournment, President Bethel called to order a brief Board of Directors meeting. Those present: Bobby Bethel, Pamela Knock, Christy Lange, Pam Bethel, John Lange, Caleigh Gilfillan, Stanley & Linda Reid and Anne Moore.

The Officers and Directors reviewed and signed the forms as required for the Conflict of Interest and annual report to the IRS. The signed documents will be kept on file for Incorporation and Non-Profit status for 2023.

All Officers and Directors present posed for a photo which will be added to the clan website.

President Bethel thanked everyone for their service and dedication to Clan Donnachaidh and to the Florida Branch. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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