

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY **OF FLORIDA, INC.**

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2025

Florida Branch President, Bobby Bethel, welcomed the members and thanked all who worked to make the 2025 Central Florida games a huge success for the Florida Branch. A total of 13 members joined together for the 2025 Annual General Meeting and Family Dinner at the Perkins Restaurant, Winter Springs, on Saturday, January 18, 2025.

An invocation was shared by Vice President, Pamela Knock.

1. Call to Order:

President Bethel officially called the 2025 Annual Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. An attendance sheet was circulated among the members.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting:

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were displayed on the clan website and provided in the Spring 2024 newsletter, Donnachaidh Doings.

Motion by Kevin Robbie: To accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Raya Roberts. Vote called. All in favor.

3. Reports:

A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Bobby Bethel

Welcome all to the Clan Donnachaidh Society of Florida, Inc., 2025 Annual General Meeting. I want to thank Christy for arranging our meeting here at the Perkins Restaurant in Winter Springs. Regretfully, due to health issues, I was only able to attend one of our games in 2024. I was thankful that Vice President, Pamela Knock, presided over our mid- year Board of Directors meeting, where plans were finalized for the upcoming year of 2025.

We have vacancies in several of the Area Director positions throughout Florida, limiting the festivals we will be attending. We are looking for leadership positions in the south, central, northwest and east Florida areas. Please contact me if you would consider stepping into one of these leadership positions as Area Director. In this way we can continue to have success with the Florida Branch of the Clan Donnachaidh Society.

B. VICE PRESIDENT, Pamela Knock

This past year involved much travel from Pensacola in the panhandle to attend four Scottish Highland Games and festivals in Florida. As always it was a great time sharing stories about fellow Clan history and listening to personal family backgrounds.

One of our goals has been to get more young folks involved with our Clan activities. We were fortunate to meet Joseph Cox at the Orlando games who will now be our west coast of Florida Area Director, and Kevin Robbie in the north Florida area. Also, with Caleigh's increasing interest through Instagram and Facebook, should help with getting younger people involved with Clan Donnachaidh Society of Florida.

Every event we attend has its own flavor such as the Northeast Florida games in Green Cove Springs with its large arena flanked by Clans and no Scotch whisky served (dry county) versus the long wooded path at Dunedin with wee drams served, but both equally enjoyable due to the friendships of those working and visiting the booths.

The Panama City Beach Festival was a great success. We took first place for our booth, which wasn't that elaborate, but the judges were entertained by the "enthusiastic presentation of Scottish histories" while attending our booth. As a result, we will be the Honored Clan for 2025.

The 2025 Panama City Beach Scottish Festival is February 28th, Friday, starting at 3:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., there will be a "Calling of the Clans" ceremony where each clan is announced on stage, with a representative sharing a brief history of the clan. Then a full day on Saturday, March 1st.

Also, this year we will proudly display the Reid Green Tartan sashes for purchase through the hard work of Christy Duncan Lange who worked on obtaining Clan Council permission to use the Reid tartan as well as finding a weaver and seamstress to make the sashes from our Reid Green Tartan fabric. We have remaining uncut fabric that can be purchased.

As a Scottish organization it's important to promote Scottish heritage. We sponsored Avery, a young Highland dancer, to attend the Ohio Scottish Arts School. Avery wrote:

"Ohio Scottish Arts School was amazing! I met new friends, learned new dances and even found out that one of my cousins is a famous fiddler & instructor at Ohio Scottish Arts School. The one thing I really loved about OSAS was the group choreography that they do every year. You get to learn new steps to dances or steps you didn't know at all. Learning the caleigh dances was so much fun and the caleigh too, we learned "strip the willow" and a couple others. I feel OSAS helped me grow into a better dancer and has taught me so much about the technique and style of highland dance. I greatly appreciate Clan Donnachaidh for giving me a scholarship so I could attend the Ohio Scottish Arts School and how Clan Donnachaidh supported me at every competition. I hope to attend again this year!"

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

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

Compliance:

A. The renewal fees for the 2024 Branch Incorporation were paid on 2/26/2024.

B. The Conflict of Interest documents were signed by all attending Officers and Directors during a brief Board of Directors meeting at the conclusion of this Annual General Meeting.

Treasurer's Report 1/01/24 to 12/31/2024

Beginning Balances: 01/01/2024

TD Bank: \$371.86

PayPal: \$1,047.45

TOTAL:

\$1419.31

Income 01/1/24 to 12/31/2024

Memberships:	Florida Branch	\$1,170.00	
	Scotland	\$680.00	
Donations (IN):	Florida Branch	\$1037.87	
	Scotland	\$85.00	
	Struan Kirk	\$100.00	
	Sponsorship	\$300.00	
Merchandise Sales:			
T-shirts:		\$1,330.00	
Other merchandise:		\$564.00	
Refunds – Insurance/Games		\$686.24	
Total Income:			\$5,593.11

Expenses 1/1/24 to 11/30/24:

	T-shirts (Cotton/M.W.)	\$0.00	
	Tartan Sashes	\$557.35	
	Business Expenses	\$361.02	
	Sponsorships	\$775.00	
	Storage	\$1,718.64	
	Van Rental/Towing	\$640.38	
	Games Fees & (equipment repairs)	\$1,922.99	
	PayPal (Zettle) Fees	\$89.77	
	State Filing Fee	\$70.00	
	Transfer to Scotland/Memberships/Donations	\$680.00	
Total Expenditures:			\$6,815.15

Ending Balances:	12/31/2024		
		TD Bank:	\$1499.91
		PayPal:	\$577.18
			\$2,077.09

I certify that the funds in the amount of \$1,499.91 represents the total held in the TD Bank account and \$577.18 represents the total amount held in the PayPal account. Both of which are registered under the name Clan Donnachaidh Society of Florida, Inc.

John Lange
2024 Clan Treasurer

Motion by Caleigh Gilfillan: To accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted to represent income & expenses for the year 2024. Seconded by Pamela Knock. 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

The Florida Branch membership for 2024 was 85. 38 members paid Clan Society membership dues to Scotland, including two Life Members. Branch memberships included 47 families and 38 individuals. 74 members live in Florida, with 2 in Tennessee, 2 in Georgia, 1 in Kentucky, 1 in Nebraska, 1 in Alabama, 2 in Maryland, 1 in Wisconsin, and 1 in Ohio. There are 23 members in the central area, 18 in the north area, 5 in the south area, 24 in the west coast area, 9 in the northwest area, 24 in the west coast area, and 6 in the east coast area.

Prior to this meeting, total current membership for 2025 was 21 with 26 received at the festival today.

At the 2024 Board of Directors meeting in August, it was planned to attend five Scottish festivals in Florida for 2025. We will scout the newer festivals in Tallahassee and Sarasota for possible support in 2026. We have several Area Director positions which are vacant, and we are searching for members to step up to leadership in the central, east, south, and northwest areas. When we have a full staff of Area Directors, we should be able to schedule attendance at additional festivals in the future.

The 2025 Clan Donnachaidh Gathering and AGM in Scotland is scheduled for August 21 – 24. Visit the clan society's new website for more information: www.donnachaidh.com

The minutes of this meeting will be printed in the 2025 Spring "Donnachaidh Doings" newsletter and posted on the website: www.donnachaidhflorida.com.

E. HISTORIAN'S REPORT: Anne Stokes Moore

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Historian of this organization this year. In 2024, I attended the Central Florida Games and the Dunedin Games and plan to do so this year. I have written two articles for the newsletter, the first on the Scottish colony in Central America and then on a Duncan family in captivity in Canada during the American Revolution. I am passionate about continuing to investigate Duncan, Reid, and Robertson immigration to the American colonies. I am currently researching the Scottish founding of New Smyrna Beach, Florida: Sir William Duncan was granted 20,000 acres to plant a colony there along with Dr. Andrew Turnbull. Robertsons and Reids, exiles of the Battle of Preston, came to Charleston, South Carolina, and our surnamed individuals also came to North Carolina. I am also researching the professions of our clansmen in the Old World. My plan is that you will be reading about this soon!

F. AREA DIRECTORS REPORTS:

For 2024, we had Area Directors for three areas:

North Florida area: Kevin Robbie

I became the Area Director for north Florida in January, 2025, taking over from Stanley Reid. I will be attending the Central Florida games in Winter Springs in January. In February, I will, of course, be the director at the Northeast Florida/Jacksonville games. In addition, I will attend the Tallahassee games in February and submit a report regarding my observations and recommendations for clan participation in 2026. Their 2024 games only had a handful of clans present as the focus for those games was athletic competition.

In June, 2024, local clan members attended a get-together at Fionn MacCool's restaurant. Another event will be scheduled for Summer 2025 and possibly a Spring get-together, too. My wife is making bead bracelets to offer for sale (if agreement is present) at the upcoming games in order to raise funds for the clan. She will bring them to Winter Springs, too. I sent out emails to local members as reminders of the upcoming Florida games.

Central Florida area: Caleigh Gilfillan

In 2024, the Central Florida games, January 13 – 14, were a great success. We had a four tent area with lots of items of interest to our members plus room for everyone. I attended the Mt. Dora festival on Saturday, February 17. On June 22, a large group of members and guests joined together for a clan gathering in the Central Florida area, at the Castle Pub in downtown Orlando. The atmosphere and pub food were great, and we celebrated Christy's birthday.

West Florida area: Anne Moore

The clan attended the Dunedin Highland Games in April. Tents managed by John Lange and Pamela Knock, assisted by Christy Lange and Gary Knock.

Northwest Florida area: Vacant.

South Florida area: Rob Gibson

No report. Rob notified us that he would not continue the position of Area Director in 2025.

East Florida area: Vacant

G. WEBSITE REPORT: John Lange

At our mid-year meeting in August, we confirmed that member, Michael Miller, was willing to take over the direction of our website. We sincerely thank Mike for his work and leadership.

Motion by John Lange: To grant an honorary membership to Michael Miller in our Clan Donnachaidh Florida Branch for 2025. Seconded by Kevin Robbie. Vote called. All in favor.

H. FACEBOOK REPORT

Currently the page has 319 users. Caleigh Gilfillan has taken over the administration of our clan's Facebook page and she has created a clan page in Instagram. Caleigh will take the lead with these media platforms with Christy assisting with Facebook.

4. APPROVAL OF GAMES TO BE SUPPORTED:

A. Support for 2026:

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

Motion by Kevin Robbie: To approve this list of festivals/games for support in 2026, but eliminate the festival in Chipley. Seconded by Joseph Cox. Vote called. All in favor.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Review of approved festivals in 2025:

A discussion took place on the weather reports for the next day at the Central Florida games as thunderstorms and rain were predicted for Sunday, January 19. All were in agreement that we meet between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. the next morning to take down our tents. Stormy, windy weather is a threat to destroying our tents, displays, and equipment. Members were notified on Facebook that the clan would not be at the Central Florida games on Sunday.

It was agreed that we would not attend the Mount Dora Festival this year. It is a small festival, not well situated, and our members do not attend.

We will attend for this year:

- Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games & Festival, February 22, Green Cove Springs. Tent management by Area Director, Kevin Robbie
- Panama City Beach Highland Games, February 28 – March 1. Tent management by Vice President Pamela Knock. Clan Donnachaidh will be the “**Honored Clan**”.
- Dunedin Highland Games, April 5. Tent management by Joseph Cox, Area Director

We will not attend for this year:

- Southeast Florida Scottish Festival, Ft. Lauderdale/Miami, March 1. No leadership in that area.
- St. Augustine Celtic Music Festival, St. Augustine, March 8-9. Low emphasis on Scottish clans.
- Suncoast Scots, Sarasota Highland Games, Sarasota, February 1. Area Director, Joseph Cox will attend this new festival and report back to the Board.
- Ormond Beach Celtic Fest, Ormond Beach, April 12-13. Caleigh Gilfillan will attend and report back to the Board.
- Tallahassee Highland Games, Tallahassee, February 8-9. Area Director, Kevin Robbie will attend and report back to the Board.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Appointments to Member Area Director for 2025

Director – Kevin Robbie, north Florida

Director – Joseph Cox, west Gulf coast

President Bethel approved these appointments according to our By-Laws for our Board of Directors.

B. New position appointment :

At the mid-year Board of Directors meeting, it was determined that we need someone who can manage our media platforms and to be a liaison with our Webmaster to assist in providing news and updates to the website. Position, Media Coordinator. These qualifications fit perfectly with our member, Caleigh Gilfillan. Caleigh agreed to accept the position, and she was officially appointed to this position by President Bethel at this meeting.

C. Clan Annual ad for 2025

Secretary, Christy Lange, explained that each year in the Clan Annual from Scotland, the clan branches provide an advertisement. The ¼ page ad proposed for use in the 2025 Clan Annual will be the same as the previous year with updates.

Motion by Joseph Cox: To repeat the ad used in the 2024 Clan Annual for the 2025 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)

7. Election of Officers for 2025:

President, Bobby Bethel, read the Proposed 2025 Slate of Officers. The following members were nominated and indicated approval by accepting the nomination:

Bobby Bethel *President*

Pamela Knock *Vice-President*

John Lange *Treasurer*

Christy Duncan Lange *Secretary*

Anne Stokes Moore *Historian*

Nominations from the floor were requested but none were proposed.

Motion by Castro Stevens: To approve the Slate of Officers for 2025 as provided. Seconded by Caleigh Gilfillan. Vote called. All in favor.

8. Questions/Comments:

None

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be the 2025 mid-year Board of Directors Meeting to be held in August/September 2025. Place and time for the meeting will be announced.

10. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Duncan Lange
Secretary
Clan Donnachaidh Society of Florida, Inc.

Attachments for the file

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, John Lange, Joseph Cox, Kevin Robbie, 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 2025. 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 8:30 p.m.



From left:

Anne Stokes-Moore, Historian; John Lange, Treasurer; Christy Duncan Lange, Secretary; Bobby Bethel, President; Pamela Knock, Vice President; Joseph Cox, Area Director, Kevin Robbie, Area Director.