2nd Annual Business Meeting Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER**

1. At 6 O’clock PM, President Wilson Called to order the 2nd Annual Business Meeting of the Saint Andrew’s Society of Lowcountry South Carolina. Our gracious host was member Phil Cromer, who provided an outstanding venue, and a perfect setting of light dinning fare, and a selection of libations.

Mr. Wilson called the meeting into recess for a period while Mr.’s Cousar and Cromer addressed certain technical difficulties. During recess, the members enjoyed the comradery, food, and drink provided by our host. The meeting was recalled to order at approximately 6:20 pm.

There were eighteen (16) members of The Society in Attendance, constituting a quorum. They were;

Tom Burnett, Wayne Cousar, Phil Cromer, Carroll Crowther, Joe Harden, Ron Lambe, Mike Monahan, Matt St. Clair, Nolan Tarrance, Tom Wilson, Jim Atkins, Randy Atkins, Ray Stocks, Wilson McIntosh, Hastings Greene, and John Morrison.

There were twelve (12) members not present. They were;

Charles Aimar, Logan Crowther, Claude McLeod, Tom Moody, Joe Riddle (proxy submitted), Bill Sammons, Mark Henderson (proxy submitted), Ivan Bennett, Frank Gibson, Claude McElveen, Thomas Logan, and Craig Bowman.

2. Chaplain Burnett gave an opening prayer for the Society

3. The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States

4. President Wilson asked those who had become members subsequent to the prior year’s annual meeting to stand and introduce themselves, which they did, and they were enthusiastically welcomed by the membership present. Those new members were Jim Atkins, Randy Atkins, Ray Stocks, John Morrison, Hastings Greene, and Wilson McIntosh.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

Each attending member was given a copy of the minutes from the 30 November 2018 business meeting for their review and approval. Wayne Cousar moved approval, Tom Burnett Seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**REPORT OF THE OFFICERS**

1. There was no secretary’s report, as the Secretary was out of the country at the time and date of the meeting.

2. Mr. Harden, the Exchequer, gave a report on the finances of the Society, and made available to all members the financial books of the Society for their review and information. Of note, the bank balance was nearly the same as it was at this time last year. This was possible only because there are members in the society who donated generously (in excess of two thousand dollars) for the Society’s activities in 2019, including the Charleston Games, and the Kirking of the Tartans service at Old Sheldon church.

3. The President thanked our host, Phil Cromer, for hosting the Annual Business meeting. Mr. Wilson further reported that we had approximately fifteen participants (including guests) both at the Charleston Games and the Savannah games in 2019, but only seven or eight members at each; a level of participation that should be higher. The Society’s new banner, displayed for the first time at the Charleston Games, was displayed for the attendees.

**ELECTIONS**

In the absence of the Secretary, President Wilson conducted the election. There were sixteen members present, and Mr. Henderson and Mr. Riddle had submitted their proxies to the President for this vote; there being a total of eighteen votes, the quorum required by the by laws was met.

As the current slate of officers’ terms do not expire until the end of 2020, only a single “Director at Large” position was up for election. Mr. Wilson nominated our host, Phil Cromer, in recognition of his participation in the Society events, as well as his gracious hosting of both this annual meeting, and also the 2019 Spring Social event. That nomination was seconded, there were no nominations from the floor, and Phil Cromer was elected by acclamation for a three year term as Director at Large

Mr. Wilson confirmed that the Board of Directors would again in 2020 serve as the Membership Committee. A lively discussion on membership followed. Membership is by invitation only. Membership candidates, who must be proposed by at least two active members, are submitted to the Membership Committee. The Committee will investigate those candidates as they deem necessary. The name of a candidate who in the opinion of the Membership Committee meets the requirements for membership in the Society, will be submitted to the entire membership for a vote. Members were reminded that until the entire membership has voted on a potential candidate, that candidate should not be aware that he is being considered.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Matt St. Clair brought the attendees up to date on the status of our commitment to purchase a new set of bagpipes for the Citadel Pipe and Drum Band. This fits our objectives “to perpetuate Scottish traditions and culture” and “to dispense charitable and educational assistance to Scotsmen, their lineal descendants, and others”. Mr. St. Clair advised that we were several hundred dollars short of our goal. After a brief pep talk by Mr. St.Clair, a host of members raised their hands and volunteered each to make a $100 donation, and the shortfall was immediately erased. Mr. St. Clair and Mr. Wilson will forward a letter to the Citadel Foundation on behalf of our Society, along with our gift of eighteen hundred dollars for the new set of Pipes.

2. Mr. St. Clair discussed for the membership the status of plans for the January 25, 2020 Robert Burns Dinner. According to Mr. St. Clair everything is in order and on schedule, and other than a need for a few volunteers, we are ready. He passed around a list for members to volunteer, and only a few slots remain unfilled. The price for the gala will be $65 per person, and there will be a cash bar.

3. Wayne Cousar then led a discussion on the Kirking of the Tartans service held at Old Sheldon Church, believed to be the first church service held within the walls of the church in over 150 years. The service was a spectacular success, and all comments have been positive. Somewhere north of 125 people were in attendance, according to some estimates. Mr. Cousar will have a CD of the service made that will be available for the Society’s use in the future.

The cost of putting on the Kirking service was something over fifteen hundred dollars, although all the bills are not yet in. Mr. Cousar asked for voluntary donations to cover the costs of the porta potties, the bulletins, and the off duty police men. Mr. Randy Atkins, Tom Burnett, and Jim Atkins respectively, seized the opportunity to cover these costs

It is the suggestion of Mr. Cousar that it would provide the Society some benefit to make the Kirkin service an event of St.Helena’s Anglican church, with the Society as organizers and participants, along with anyone else who had a kilt and a banner and an interest in the perpetuation of Scottish traditions and culture. Wayne will be appointing volunteers for next year as well as talking with the clergy at St. Helena about plans going forward.

Mr. Wilson acknowledged Mr. Cousars leadership in the successful planning and execution of the Kirking Service, and expressed the Society’s thanks for his work.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mr. Wilson reported to the members that Frank Gibson and Pam Bailey are looking forward to hosting the Society’s “Spring Social” at Frank’s home, and has floated the idea of a Saturday afternoon event. He also asked for the membership to suggest a date. After discussion, the membership agreed that an afternoon event would be enjoyable, and suggested a date of April 25th. Mr Wilson will relay that message to Frank Gibson.

2. Mr. Wilson advised the membership that the Savannah Games will be held on 2 May 2020, and the Charleston Games in early November. The Savannah Games are a bit smaller than the Charleston Games, a little closer to Beaufort, and with less traffic. Some who have attended both described the Savannah games as more “family friendly”. All members are encouraged to attend them both, at least once. There is a lot to see, do, eat, drink, buy, and learn at both events.

3. Mr. Wilson reminded the members that dues of $50 for the year 2020, were due on or before December 31st. Checks to be made out to “Joe Harden, Exchequer” and mailed to his address.

4. The 3rd Annual Business meeting of the Society is tentatively scheduled for November 30, 2020. Hosting the event is an opportunity to provide a service to the Society, and a volunteer, or several volunteers, are requested.

**ADJOURNAMENT**

Mr. Wilson thanked the members for their attendance, and their generosity exhibited at the meeting, and again welcomed the new members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

The members subsesquently enjoyed a continued period of social discourse, h’orsdeuvres, and libations.