

TASTE OF SCOTLAND FESTIVAL “ALWAYS FATHERS DAY WEEKEND”

P.O. Box 2216
Franklin, North Carolina 28744

April 5, 2023

Dear Members,

The Society has just had its first meeting in preparation for our 2023 Festival and Highland Games. The event will be at the Macon County Fairgrounds for the second time, instead of as a street festival in downtown Franklin, on Saturday, June 17, 2023. Moving the festival to a larger venue was both frightening and exciting. We finally had a large meadow more to the liking of Scott Medlin, the Heavy Athletics Games Coordinator. (He had been worried that a child would run out into the athlete's way, that he could only bring a small number of guys and that the field was too far from the festival administration.) In 2022, he brought two large groups of male athletes and one of female athletes as well. All games were well received by a much larger audience. The Jamestown Pipes and Drums from downstate performed and sincerely liked our set up. This year they will return, and we will have a second band from Grandfather Mountain. A large performing contingent came from the Cherokee Reservation put on a large and varied demonstration. To defray expenses, the Society charged a five dollar per person admission for the first time. We had a name band, "TwathaDea," and several other Celtic groups as well. We also had sheep herding, Scottish cows and a calf too, seminars, a whole air-conditioned room of vendors, Scottish Country Dancing, a parade, clan area, and an evening musicale as well. For the first time ever, we had major groups, full of enthusiasm, offering to come back next year without even being asked.

I am enclosing a membership form in hopes that you will continue to support us as you have in years past. Note our mailing address, that the zip is 28744, not 28734. There is a space for your email so that we can keep you informed. Should you wish to learn more from our new president, Suzanne Bice, her phone number is 292-474-7022 and the festival chair is Jim Gordon whose email is jimandimusic@frontier.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Swift, Membership Chair

P.S. Our most recent event, the Burns Night Supper, was a couple of weeks ago, the last Saturday in January. Although the Society has hosted this popular dinner for over twenty years, we had never attempted to cook the food ourselves! We spread out the traditional menu among seven cooks and served the five courses with the help of a local Boy Scout troop. (There seems to be a question as to whether we served 71 or 107, but you get the idea.) It might have been because we reduced the price, for the same food and entertainment, from \$40 to \$25. And in addition, the folks got to do country dancing as well! Tartan Hall at the Presbyterian Church always provides the perfect setting for our pageantry.

