



CHIEF: ROBERTSON OF STRUAN

**NORTHEAST DONNACHAIDH DOINGS**

**CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY OF THE NORTHEAST**

Volume XXVII

Number 1

Winter 2016

# **Announcing New Venue for the Northeast Branch Annual Meeting and Dinner Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Please Join Us – All Are Welcome!**

After 15 years of holding our annual meeting and dinner at the Wachusett Village Inn and Conference Center, the Council has had to find a different location for our annual event. Late last summer we received word from the Inn that the business had been sold and would no longer be run as an event center. In a newspaper article, provided by Suzanne Duncan, we learned that the Inn had been struggling since the beginning of the current recession to make a go of it and as a result, had been offered for sale. The article also stated that a sale was pending to an organization that would convert the buildings into a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.

The search then began for another comparable facility that could meet our needs and ideally available on our previously published date. Thanks go to Christy Atsales and Bob Duncan who directed us to the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center in Sturbridge stating that they thought this might be a suitable possibility. Doug and Sue Newton stopped by for a look-see on their way back from a trip to Virginia and found it quite comparable in meeting facilities, in available rooms and in menus. The hotel has considerable experience with events such as ours.



It is just a mile or two from the intersection of I-84 and the Mass Pike, in Sturbridge, Mass. Hence, it is quite convenient to find

and centrally located for most of us. Rooms are also available for overnight stay at a group rate (just mention you are with Clan Donnachaidh). The new venue is also very close to Old Sturbridge Village, 1830s Living History Museum, which is open on Saturdays at this time of the year.

Brochures will be going out very soon. It should also be mentioned that we are looking forward to terrific entertainment this year that will be provided by Fellswater. Many of you may already know of this group as they regularly perform in the Massachusetts area. The group also was one of the headliner groups at the New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain last fall. Andrew McIntosh, son of our own Wendy McIntosh, is a member of the ensemble, playing Scottish small pipes and border pipes.



Please come and join us this year and help celebrate our inaugural (if we all like it) event in our new venue. As always, the Annual Dinner Party will feature great food, a Social Hour with your clan “cousins” and their guests, a live auction of fabulous items, and live musical entertainment! We will be especially interested in your feedback regarding the new venue.

The Annual General Meeting will be held prior to the Social Hour. It is important for members in good standing to attend this meeting. There will be a change

of by-laws as well as slate of Officers and Representatives to be voted on, plus updates of Clan Activities. Your attendance is strongly encouraged. Please come and support your Clan Society!



### Dinner Will Feature Live Music Performed by



### Fellswater

The live musical entertainment this year will be Fellswater, Boston's dynamic Celtic music ensemble: We play a wide range of music from Traditional to modern compositions that draws from the heritage of all the Celtic nations, especially Scotland, Ireland, Brittany and Canada. Our instrumentation changes depending on the musical selection and includes vocals, whistle, Irish flute, guitar, octave mandolin, violin, Scottish smallpipes and border pipes.

#### Fellswater Members:

Betsy Ketudat— fiddle and hardanger fiddle  
 Andrew McIntosh—Scottish smallpipes and border pipes  
 Sarah MacConduibh— whistle and Irish flute  
 Diane Myers - vocals  
 Chris Myers - guitars (6- and 12-string) and octave mandolin

#### For additional information:

Venue: <http://www.sturbridgehosthotel.com/>  
 Old Sturbridge Village: <https://www.osv.org/>  
 Fellswater: <http://fellswater.com/>



### OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Clan  
 Donnachaidh Society Northeast Branch,  
 Inc. will be held prior to the Spring Dinner,  
 Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference  
 Center, Sturbridge, MA

Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

## Proposed By-Laws Changes

*by Doug Newton, President*  
*Clan Donnachaidh Society Northeast Branch*

According to the By-Laws, any proposed changes in the By-Laws must be provided to the membership in advance of the meeting where the changes will come up for discussion and a vote. The Council is suggesting the changes printed below. These changes will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, Mass. at 3:00 P.M. on April 2, 2016.

#### Rationale and explanation of the proposed changes:

As the Council began to plan for the up-coming Annual Meeting, it was realized that the schedule of elections for officers and state representatives does not foster balance on the Council when changes occur. As a result, we are proposing a change in the scheduled terms of office so that in any given year, only two officers and only half of the state representatives will change. Establishing this balance will ensure that there is stability on the Council. In addition, institutional knowledge will be preserved.

The specific wording changes are limited to Section III- in Paragraph 3 and refine the wording to include identifying two state representatives for New York State. The other change is to add Paragraph 5 to delineate the schedule for electing officers and state representatives.

Neither of these proposed *changes* makes alterations to the intent of the by-laws.

### III. OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

1. The governing body of the Society is the Council. Membership of the council shall consist of the Officers and the State Representatives. The Council shall be empowered to conduct all Society business and shall appoint all committees as may be required.

2. The Officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. Each office shall be elected to serve 2-year terms. Term of office shall begin at the Annual Meeting in the year elected.

3. Each New England State, New York/Long Island, *and* Up-State New York shall elect a state

Representative to serve as a member of the Council. Each representative shall be elected to serve 2-year terms. Term of office shall begin at the Annual Meeting in the year elected.

4. Officers and State Representatives shall be elected by ballot to take place at the Annual Meeting. A slate of officers and state representatives shall be mailed to all members with the notice of the Annual Meeting. Elected officers and state representatives shall assume office after the ballot at the Annual Meeting. The slate listing nominations for Officers and State Representatives shall be prepared by the Nominating Committee and shall include the names of any nominations submitted by petition of three members. Election of any contested position shall be by simple majority of ballots cast at the Annual Meeting.

*Add the following paragraph to Section III:*

5. *Beginning at the Annual Meeting at which this paragraph is adopted, the election of Officers and State Representatives shall be staggered in the following manner:*

*Even Years:*

*Officers: Vice President, Treasurer*

*State Representatives for New York/Long Island, Up-State New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts*

*Odd Years:*

*Officers: President, Secretary*

*State Representatives for Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont*

*In subsequent years, Officers and State Representatives shall be elected for 2-year terms as explained in Paragraph 2.*

### Flowers of the Forest

We are very sorry to report that longtime Clan member Bob Pragoff died suddenly of a heart attack on December 18th, 2015. He was a firefighter, and a bagpiper who had served as our Branch's Clan Piper in the past. Our sincere condolences go to his family, friends and loved ones.



### Proposed Slate of Candidates for Elected Positions:

**Vice President:** Diana Nothe-Taylor (incumbent)

**Treasurer:** Scott T. Duncan (incumbent)

**State Representatives:**

**MA:** Beverly Duncan (incumbent)

**NH:** Open

**NYC/LI:** Michael A. Reid (incumbent)

**NY State:** Justine Crowley-Duncan

### Friendly Reminder: Dues are now Due!

*Now accepting [PayPal](#)*

We are passing along a gentle reminder – if you have not yet sent in your 2016 dues, please take a moment to locate your dues notice and mail it in. For your convenience, we are now able to accept dues payments online via PayPal (payment to stoutdtreas@gmail.com). If, for any reason, you do not have your dues notice, please contact Susan Newton by email at [dlnewton@roadrunner.com](mailto:dlnewton@roadrunner.com), or by US Mail at 18 Baldwin Road, Sebago, ME 04029. Thank you.



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## Clan Donnachaidh Northeast Branch Clan Council Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2015

Beverly Duncan's home in Hudson, MA

The Clan Council met at the home of Beverly Duncan in Hudson, MA, those in attendance: Scott Duncan, Meg Richardson-Duncan, Michael Reid, Herb and Mary Ann Dobbins, Bob Duncan, Beverly Duncan and Doug and Sue Newton.

Sue read the minutes of the Spring Council Meeting. Scott talked us through the treasurer's report. He told us that Christy Atsales really enjoyed helping the Clan by auditing the books. It was voted to send a formal thank you to Christy. We also thanked Mary Ann for her 10 years of service as Clan Treasurer.

The Bylaws were discussed in connection with elections of State Representatives and Officers. The Council voted to propose adjusting the election divisions from the current form:

### ODD YEARS

State Representatives: CT, ME, RI, VT

### EVEN YEARS

Officers, State Representatives: NY/LI, NY, NH, MA

To:

### ODD YEARS

President, Secretary, State Representatives: CT, ME, RI, VT

### EVEN YEARS

Vice President, Treasurer, State Representatives: NY/LI, NY, NH, MA

Notification of the proposal will be in the Winter newsletter.

Herb was appointed to the nomination committee and will ask Jim Roberts and Christy Atsales to join him on the committee. We talked about State Representatives for Up-State NY – Ryan has resigned; Vermont – the Council voted to ask Amanda Root to take over for Cindy Robertson.

The Annual Meeting and Banquet will be at The Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA. The date will remain the same – April 2 – and the entertainment will be provided by Fellswater

at \$100/member for a total of \$600. Dinner will also be provided.

Doug brought up the Clan Celebration in Scotland in September of 2018, encouraging everyone to plan to go. The council also discussed giving a gift to the Chief from our Clan Branch.

Meg discussed the Newsletter and the unauthorized use of an image. Mike Robertson has added a counter so we know how many people are accessing our webpage. It was also suggested that a Branch membership makes a good gift! Tentmasters need to remember to write a report for each Games that they attend and send it to Meg to be published in the newsletter. She also welcomes pictures and other articles.

Doug asked for tent inventory lists so we can re-stock where needed.

The Council also discussed Games sites – is it worth continuing to go to the ones that don't bring in new members and /or sales. No decision was made to discontinue representation at any games we currently attend. We will continue to monitor these Games.

The Council talked about scholarships and voted to send Ally a check for \$150. We have had a hard time connecting with recipients for our scholarship donations. Some suggestions of contacts that have students who could use scholarships are:

- Dunlap Highlanders  
George Pulkkinen  
[boatpiper@maine.rr.com](mailto:boatpiper@maine.rr.com)
- Saint Andrews Highland Dancers of Vermont  
Kristin Kirkpatrick, President  
[kkirk802@yahoo.com](mailto:kkirk802@yahoo.com)

Two other Vermont possibilities:

- Saint Andrews Pipes and Drums  
Catamount Pipes and Drums

We want to thank Beverly for again hosting our Fall meeting and for providing delicious soups for our potluck lunch!

Sue Newton, Secretary  
Clan Donnachaidh Society Northeast Branch



# Clan Donnachaidh Society Northeast Branch

## 2016

### Officers

**President**

Douglas Newton  
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Susan Newton  
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**Treasurer**

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 Contact through Doug Newton

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Clan Donnachaidh Society Northeast Branch covers the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

### State Representatives

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Open

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Open

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You are encouraged to contact your state representative for information on Games or to answer any questions you might have about our activities. Please do not hesitate to pass along any ideas or suggestions for improving your society.

Branch website: [www.stoutduncan.com](http://www.stoutduncan.com)

Official Site of Clan Society: <http://www.donnachaidh.com>



**Clan Donnachaidh  
Northeast Branch**

*Northeast Donnachaidh Doings*  
Meg Richardson Duncan, Editor  
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West Hartford, CT 06119

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## UPCOMING 2016 EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Spring Annual General Meeting and Dinner Party will be on April 2, 2016**

Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA

<http://www.sturbridgehosthotel.com/>

Great entertainment by Fellswater

<http://fellswater.com/>

Live Auction of unique handmade treasures and many Scottish themed gifts

Watch for brochure with additional information about all that is taking place on that day.

Don't miss this fun and fabulous event!



**Tartan Day Parade – Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in New York, New York**



<http://nyctartanweek.org/>

