

Minutes of the CFSNA Annual General Meeting held at Gatlinburg, TN 17 May 2008

around \$300 / year to maintain, plus it was very complicated and required an attorney with his associated costs. The Chairman stated that at one time CFSNA was a registered non-profit organization, but that status was allowed to lapse as not being cost effective nor worth the effort. No action beyond discussion was taken on this subject.

At 9:00 PM we were required to leave the banquet room or pay an additional fee, so the meeting adjourned to room 121, our designated Hospitality Room. While the membership slowly assembled it was realized that many of the attendees were at other venues.

The meeting was not resumed and Agenda Items # 7 & 8 were not covered.

The meeting was ended at 9:15 PM by general consensus among those present.

Action Items:

Dave Lovett: Ascertain sizes and color mix of next tee-shirt order.

Vice-Chairman and Don Fraser: Place solicitation in *The Nessy* for Conveners, Hosts, Sponsors for Games Tents.

Don Fraser and David Cox: Place copy of Bylaws on the CFSNA website.

Don Fraser: Extra copies of *The Nessy* for Conveners / hosts to have available at games.

Submitted this 20th day of May 2008 to the Committee and mentioned members for review, corrections or additions.

Ronald Gemmill
Secretary CFSNA

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4. Conveners: Vice-Chair Julie Fraser reported that she had contacted all of our known Conveners by phone. The result was those further to the West, often felt ignored or left out of the mainstream. She also reported two ex-Conveners that had many tent supplies (decorations, banners, books, etc) in storage at their homes and they would gladly pass these items on to active, but less endowed Conveners. No exact inventory is currently available.

Julie also asked if, perhaps, we should be actively recruiting Games Tent Hosts as well as State Conveners? She found people who would not mind hosting or staffing one particular game, but did not want the added duties of a State Convenir.

Susan Whitney recommended we place an item in *The Nessy* asking for Conveners and volunteers who may want to host or just staff a particular game and stating what assistance would be available from the Clan. Don Fraser said he would take that for action in partnership with the Vice-Chairman.

Susan Whitney requested that Conveners and hosts receive extra copies of *The Nessy* to pass out at games. Don also took that for action.

By this copy of the minutes, Julie would like to remind all Conveners and hosts to keep their contact info current with the Secretary and in *The Nessy*.

5. Website: The Chairman introduced our new Webmaster, David Cox of Fleetwood, NC. David currently maintains several other sites and is a welcomed addition to CFSNA staff, receiving a round of applause from those present. He was particularly welcomed by our Treasurer, who has graciously worn the Webmaster hat in the interim since the loss of our previous Webmaster and has done yeoman service.

6. Regional Commissioners: Bylaws Art XII covers Regions of CFSNA. Currently we have only one RC, Blake Fraser – Southeast Commissioner. A general discussion ensued regarding chain-of-command, duties and responsibilities, and even the question of whether or not having Regional Commissioners is a practical idea at this point in time. Don Fraser made a case in favor of having Regional Commissioners in order to divide some of the workload of managing Conveners and hosts. Susan Whitney argued that given the current size of Clan Fraser, additional layers of administration might be counter-productive at this time.

This item was deferred for further thought and discussion at some future, but unspecified, date.

During discussion, it was recommended that the Bylaws be published on the CFSNA website. Don Fraser said he would see that the new Webmaster received a PDF copy for that task.

7. Membership dues and finances: Since dues have remained constant at \$20 / year since the inception of CFSNA (1975) over 30 years ago, the question of a dues increase was raised by the Chairman in order to build a base from which to draw funds to support Conveners and hosts with the costs of space rental, supplies, etc

Dave Lovett stated that the reason to raise dues was to offset a falling money reserve and since we were still, relatively, solvent, it made no sense to increase dues at this time and to wait until we could see a money pinch looming in the future. Julie Fraser recommended a dues increase to offset general price increases in society in general that are effecting our costs. Don Fraser addressed the ever increasing cost to Conveners and tent hosts of normal supplies to stock a clan tent, to say nothing of rising transportation costs.

Susan Whitney mentioned that Gatlinburg clan space was increased \$20 this year. She put forth the idea of soliciting Clan Tent Sponsors, who would pay for the space and some as-needed supplies, but would not be required to man the tent on games day(s). She added that she knew of other clans that did this.

This item was deferred for further thought and discussion at some future, but unspecified, date.

Dave Lovett asked about the feasibility of becoming a 501.c.3 non-profit corporation.

Jim Williams said he had some experience in setting up partnerships and small corporations. He stated the cost would be

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Attending: Douglas Fraser – Chairman; Julie Fraser – Vice-Chairman; Jim Williams - Treasurer; Ron Gemmell – Secretary; Donald Fraser – Editor *The Nessy*;
Barbara Gemmell, Ginny Lovett, David Lovett, Lyle Sim, Jan Sim, Chris Williams, Barbara Williams, Douglas Ikelman, Loretta Fraser, Lyle Fraser, Marguerite Fraser Brace, Gary Fraser, David Cox, Susan Cox, W Allen Simpson, Sandy Simpson, Westley Simpson, Melissa Simpson, Susan Whitney, Carol Greene, John Greene, Lea Fraser, Cameron Fraser, Judith Fraser Guthrie, W Dean Guthrie.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 8:03 PM in the Banquet Room of Calhoun's Restaurant, Gatlinburg, TN.

Treasurer: Passed out copies of his report and made explanatory comments and answered one question from the floor pertaining to cash on hand. The report was accepted without comment by the members present.

The Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting at Stone Mtn Games 21 Oct 2007, were published in the April 2008 issue of *The Nessy*. Jim Williams moved they be accepted as published. Second by Don Fraser. Minutes accepted by voice vote without discussion.

Secretary: Reported current membership numbers: Life Members – 17; Paid thru 2009 – 9; paid 2008 – 98; total = 124. Plus those carried from 2007 – 60, for grand total = 184. We have 9 first time members join so far this year.

The Secretary also reiterated Bylaws Art VIII.C which states in part that all applications, renewals and dues monies be sent first to the Secretary who will forward the monies to the Treasurer. He requested Conveners and tent hosts to have an application filled out for all new applications and renewals for use in verifying database accuracy. Any other monies collected from sales, donations, etc. will be sent directly to the Treasurer.

Conveners and tent hosts were directed to retain games tent sign-in sheets to use, at their own discretion, for contacting prospective members.

Agenda Items:

1 & 2. Edinburgh Gathering 2009 and Fraser Group Tour: The Chairman put forth a tentative Group Tour for Fraser members which would culminate at Edinburgh for the 2009 Gathering of the Clans. The Chairman touched on Fraser history and explained that side trips to Skye were included for variety even though not truly Fraser connected and because of apparent interest. In reply to a question from Ginny Lovett regarding tour cost, a tour price of approx. \$3500 was quoted. Lea Fraser explained that the tour cost did not include travel to and from Scotland. In addition, Edinburgh Gathering costs (room, board, 'Passport', etc) would be above and beyond the tour cost. The Chairman's request for a show of hands of those who might be interested in the tour and attending the Gathering resulted in 9 hands raised. This was about 1/3 of those present.

3. Tee Shirts: Dave Lovett, our tee-shirt coordinator, reported on acquisition and sales explaining our cost of purchase and selling price. Our original selling price for tee-shirts was was thought to be too low, so was raised to \$20 each. Dave reports that we have sold +/- 37 shirts at the various games tents and 18 mail order. Due to brisk sales, he has ordered 48 more shirts which will be parceled out to the various games in the Southeast as requested by Conveners and tent hosts. Dave stated he can ship up to 3 shirts for \$5 or 6 to 8 shirts for \$9. Individuals desiring a Fraser tee-shirt that the tent host does not have on hand, may order from Dave for \$20 plus postage. Our next replenishment order will contain sizes up to 2XL, due to many requests. Dave requests input as to other sizes and colors the membership might want.

Christine Williams moved that Convener's and host be allowed to give tee-shirt price breaks as an incentive to prospective new members. There was no second.