

CLAN DONALD USA SOUTHEAST REGION MEETING

January 12-14, 2007

“Sanibel,” Edisto Island, South Carolina

In attendance: Al and Hubie Manning, Nadja Hudson, Amy Magurno, Charlie and Bonnie Safrit, Rodney and Diane Allen, Bob and Dixie McDonald, Brenda and Brian Jackson, Walter (Bubba) and Caroline Pitts, Travis McDaniel, Maureen and Bill McDaniel.

Bill set the theme of the meeting and the next three years as “THE REGION IS THE THING”. While each state has its own identity within the region, we are a regional family. Each state is asked to attend, support and work the tent at Games in other states within the region. The Southeast Region is the strongest region in Clan Donald. Several of us have been asked by other Regional Commissioners what we do to have so much unity within the Region. Some Regions in Clan Donald USA are trying to use some of the methods we utilize here in our Region. Clanranald and Sir Ian of Sleat both commented to Charlie and Bill what a good job the Southeast is doing. The Chiefs enjoy coming to the Southeast. Let’s make our theme our motto and live by it.

High Commissioner Al Manning appointed Bill McDaniel as the new Southeast Regional Commissioner and a member of the Clan Donald USA Board of Directors. Al then appointed Rodney Allen as the new Southeast Deputy Regional Commissioner.

Al then thanked and complimented Charlie Safrit for his leadership as Regional Commissioner for the previous three years. Al then presented Charlie with his “Medallion Kit” and bestowed upon him the title of Southeast Regional Commissioner Emeritus.

Bill McDaniel then made the following appointments:

Maureen McDaniel	Treasurer SE Region
Amy Magurno	SE Regional Convener
Bubba Pitts	Georgia Deputy Commissioner
Diane Allen	North Carolina Commissioner
Bob MacDonald	North Carolina Deputy Commissioner
Brenda Jackson	South Carolina Commissioner
Brian Jackson	South Carolina Deputy Commissioner

Bill presented Nadja Hudson with a signed framed picture that will need to be signed by other Clan Donald members and thanked her for her hospitality and service as Commissioner. Bill also thanked Charlie, Jim McKeithen and Rodney Allen for their years of service.

Charlie Safrit as outgoing SE Region Commissioner presented service awards to Diane and Rodney Allen, Bill McDaniel, Nadja Hudson, Brenda Jackson, Jim McKeithen, Amy Magurno (Personal Advisor). He also thanked his bride Bonnie and Al Manning for his support and

guidance.

Nadja Hudson and Brenda Jackson presented the SE Region with monies made from the raffles at the Ceilidhs of South Carolina Games.

Bill presented Brenda Jackson with the SC Commissioner Sword that was given by Andy McGeachie to Clan Donald South Carolina to be presented to each new South Carolina Commissioner and shared the history of the gift.

Bill presented the roster of the officers and their mailing addresses and asked for verification. Changes were made where needed.

The group was asked to work on a “Mission Statement” for SE Region to be voted on at the end of the two day meeting.

Under the topic of regional goals Bill challenged each state to show a net increase of ten members each year for the next three years. This would also include of re-instating inactive members along with new members.

Membership Retention was then discussed with the group and some selling points were focused upon:

- Armadales Clan Centre is open to all Clan Donald members and should be considered as theirs.
- Reference Materials at Tents
- Reference Materials at several libraries housing Clan Donald materials
- Family Atmosphere
- Genealogy
- Newsletters
- DNA Project
- Scholarships
- Chief's Tour
- Clan Donald Website
- AGMs

Al encouraged Nadja Hudson as part of Clan Donald Foundation to update the guide-lines for the scholarship requirements as soon as possible.

Duties of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners and Conveners were given to the group and discussed. In the Responsibilities of Conveners, it was agreed to change the wording from “must” to “strongly encourage “.

Bill asked Amy and the commissioner to take time out during the weekend and look at revising the convener responsibilities. He will ask Carl McAllister, Clan Donald USA Convener if he would like some assistance in his task of updating the Convener Manual.

Al was asked to contact each of the regional commissioners for suggestions in the revisions.

Al Manning is working on the revision of the AGM manual and will be available soon.

There was some discussion relating to Bill's suggestion of having each state have their own inventory of tent sales items. He was advised that this would be a bookkeeping nightmare. It was agreed to keep it with the regional commissioner. Nadja offered to keep some inventory at her home. Regional Quartermaster???

Bill presented the 2007 Games and Festivals calendar and additions as well as corrections were made. Each game was discussed as to the need to have a Clan Donald tent and presence at the function. Attendance, new member sign ups and tents sales was discussed. Several Games in the Southeast are on a watch list and 2007 performance will be evaluated.

Bill opened up the group to discussion of money making projects for the SE Region. Many items were discussed and it was agreed to not consider selling of items that are similar to other region's sale items. It was decided to look at large golf umbrellas with the Clan Donald Logo and "Turvis Tumblers" with the logo. Maureen, Bill and Nadja will research these items. Once we have the items we will place the items in By Sea By Land have available for sale at the Southeast Games.

Tent Etiquette was a topic of discussion and guidelines were discussed. When you are a guest and visiting from another state you are asked to help out and not direct. Each state has their own individuality in their tent set-up and one state should not criticize another's methods.

Each person bringing food to the tents is responsible for seeing that their food is put for lunch as well as putting away. The Conveners and food coordinators cannot be expected to retrieve food from the member's cooler to place on the food table. While we do not want to have lots of food left over at the end of the day, we need an adequate amount to accommodate those who are dining with us. Everyone who uses the tent as a base for the Games are asked to contribute some amount of food for the table. It is not the responsibility of a few to feed the masses.

When you are going to do a "walk about" please let someone know and try not to stay away too long if you are responsible for manning the tent. Diane also suggested that the State Commissioners be advised of how many tables and chairs are allowed with the tent rentals in advance for planning purposes. Charlie also suggested that "staying under the tent all day to work is not being considered a must. This should be a shared responsibility by all officers and members.

Bill asked that each commissioner look at their conveners for renewal of the position and consider new appointments where needed. A letter or personal contact was suggested by the State Commissioners in thanking or asking if they are willing to be an active state representative. Everyone has to realize that we are all volunteers and may not be able to attend every Game. The

Conveners cannot be forced to carry out their responsibilities or told they must do this or that. Explain the duties of a Convener to them and ask if they think they can commit to the duties.

Qualifying People for Membership at the tents was a topic for discussion. If it is determined Clan Donald is not the correct clan, please take the time too direct the person to the genealogy tent or correct tent. If time permits, walk the person to the correct clan and introduce them.

If you are not sure they qualify to be a member, ask them to get back to us with additional information they have obtained. We are not in this for the numbers where we do the Clan and the individual a disservice.

It was suggested that we ask Jim McDonald to arrange for a workshop on working the tent and how to use the reference material while assisting those needing information. While we have an abundance of reference material many are not sure how to use the material.

Parade of Clans Protocol guidelines were given to the group. After much discussion all agreed to research it further. Al and Bill were asked to seek some guidance from Clan Donald USA. At that time the correct "Protocol" will be passed to us all.

It was agreed by the SE Region that we would bid for the 2009 AGM. We would have in Stone Mountain, GA around the time of the Stone Mountain Games. More information will follow.

Travis McDaniel updated the group on the DNA project and walked us through an "in-service" on the information to have at the tent at the games. The DNA Project presentation is fairly self explanatory and only needs someone to assist the inquirer. No one needs to know how DNA works to talk about this with someone.

On Sunday morning before the meeting was adjourned a SE Region Mission Statement was approved by the Regional Officers.

The purpose of Clan Donald Southeast Region is: to preserve and promote the customs, traditions and heritage of Clan Donald, to support the Scottish activities in our region and abroad, create goodwill and clanship within the Scottish community.

Maureen McDaniel
SE Treasurer