

## ANNUAL REPORT

### **VICE PRESIDENT, Operations:**

**2024:** As VP, there were two major areas of interest: Budget and Communications. A dedicated communications schedule was not adhered to, technical problems existed on too many occasions and several one-on-one conferences were not effective. In fact, one was disastrous. I rate my 2024 efforts as a “D+”. In 2024 budget management was successful as we are operating in the black. Overall, I grade it as a “B-“ because several RC’s showed awareness and concern in managing their budgets. However, this was not across the board. Several RCs still either don’t understand the budget or ignore it. Correcting this issue is mine to rectify and it also highlights communications weaknesses.

**2025:** The following goals are set for the upcoming year:

- 1) Communication: I would like to talk with RCs more often on an individual basis. I will coordinate with them to set something that is mutually agreeable upon.
- 2) Communication: I will set up a quarterly RC ZOOM conference. Include Regional Commissioners and Convenors.
- 3) Budget: submit a 2025 budget on time. Specially, presented to the Board at the Jan 2025 meeting for approval.
- 4) Budget: Improve RC input, understanding and execution of their budgets.
- 5) Awards: continue overall management of the CHS Awards program
- 6) Order of MacEanruig: train a new Secretary to overall manage the Society including voting and awards distribution,
- 7) Fill Regional Commissioner positions at Great Lakes, United Kingdom, and Mid East.
- 8) Personally convene at two Scottish/Celtic Events. Assist Regional Commissioner, NE with convening at least one additional game.
- 9) Personal: Participate in a Roberts Burns event.

### **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, Central**

There are 18 games and festivals annually in this Region. Newly appointed RC.

### **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, Far South**

There are 20 games and festivals in this Region. No report received.

### **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, Great Lakes**

No report. There was no Regional Commissioner in 2024. As a result, the region has atrophied and there were missed opportunities. There are 20 games and festivals in this Region.

### **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, Mid-East**

No report. There was no Regional Commissioner in 2024. As a result, the region atrophied and there were missed opportunities. There are 35 games and festivals in this Region.

### **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, Mid South**

There 17 games and festivals in this Region. No report received.

### **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, North East**

There was no Regional Commissioner for nine months in 2024. As a result, the region atrophied and there were missed opportunities. The appointment of a new Regional Commissioner for 2025 should show a turn-around in this Regions impact on the Society. There are 35 games and festivals in this Region.

## **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, North Pacific**

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Convened CHS tent at the Bitterroot Highland Games and Gathering in Hamilton, MT
- Convened CHS tent at the Helena Valley Highlanders Games and Gathering in Helena, MT
- Attended Spokane Highland Games in Spokane, WA and assisted Rick Henderson, convenor
- Served as Clan Coordinator for the Helena Highlanders and established positive relationships with Clans from the greater Pacific Northwest. Also started the Shortbread Competition and a Clan quaich for the Honored Clan.
- Attended RC meetings via Zoom.
- Art and Pat Henderson convened in Portland OR.
- Rick Henderson convened at the Spokane Highland Games
- Maintained contact with members in the North Pacific Region.

### **GOALS FOR 2025:**

- Continue contact with members in the North Pacific Region.
- Convene in Hamilton, Helena and one other event yet to be decided based on dates.
- Attend Burns Night celebration.
- Attend RC meetings via Zoom.
- Encourage members in Washington and Oregon to step up and convene, assisting in any way I can.
- Submit 2025 budget.
- Attend 2025 AGM.
- Reach out to Missoula Highland Dance Studio to let them know about the CHS Scholarship program.
- Nominate a member for recognition and award.

There 32 games and festivals in this Region.

## **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, Oz**

### **024 Budget**

2024 - \$0. As for previous years, I have funded everything myself.

### **2024 Events Convened**

Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival - 24th March

Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes - 4/5th May

Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering - 26th October

In 2023 I convened 7 events on the east coast of Aus, the three above, plus Scots Day Out Bridgewater, Hayland Gathering, Brigadoon and Daylesford Highland Gathering. That's something I won't attempt again given the amount of travel involved.

### **2024 Observations**

We always have a good attendance at our Clan tent. Most of the interest is generally on the Collins Tartans Map of Scotland where visitors try to locate their tartan and Clan region. We then refer them to the Scottish Clan & Families Encyclopaedia by Way & Squire for a history of their family name. Most people take a photo of the relevant pages. I have a 29 page Clan Henderson handout which I provide and discuss the contents within, plus sharing details of how to sign up. I have a visitor book if anyone would like to follow up and stay in contact, but so far have only had a couple of acceptances.

### **2025 Outlook**

I will again convene the three events from this year. Not sure at this stage of other events. The **big news** for the Melbourne Highland Games on 23rd March 2025 is that we will be hosting the International Highland Games Federation World Championship!

We have about 50 international athletes plus locals attending, a European film crew for a dedicated heavy games channel, plus various officials and judges. CHS members James Clemmons and Ellen Mallette will be attending and competing, plus several other CHS members attending. Not sure of the details or travel arrangements yet, but it will be the biggest Clan Henderson gathering downunder - ever. Given the number of international visitors next year, our Ceilidh on March 21st will be the biggest ever and we will have to find a new location. There will be a significant Clan Henderson presence at the Ceilidh, and as usual, I will be escorting the Haggis into the hall before the Ode, and drinking the whisky.

### **2025 Awards**

In previous years, CHS presented encouragement awards to dancers competing at the Melbourne event, courtesy of my sister Noela Henderson. In all, she donated \$6,000 on behalf of CHS over three years. Each award was for \$100 to contribute to the recipient's equipment and reimbursed on presentation of the appropriate receipts. This was managed by our local groups, Victorian Scottish Dancers and Glenbrae Celtic Dancers. If there could be an award presented locally, I would like to continue the 'CHS tradition' of supporting our local dance talent through an annual encouragement award.

### **2025 Budget**

\$250 - Public Liability Insurance. This is compulsory for all such events in Australia. To date, I have funded this expense.

\$250 - Printing expenses. This is to cover the cost of producing the handout and business cards.

### **2025 Budget MEGA Wish List**

If we have a number of CHS members arriving next March, I would really like to make them welcome. Some thoughts...

- I am not sure of their accommodation arrangements as yet, but the event will be held in Croydon, about 60 mins east of the CBD.
- The international airport is about 45 mins west of the CBD, so it is a significant trip to Croydon - on top of 24 hours of travel from the USA.
- We have no railway from the airport to the CBD - it's been in the planning stage for about 50 years!
- Having lived in Oklahoma for a couple of years, and travelled back and forth to Aus, I know how stressful that trip is and the last thing they will need is the hassle of public transport.
- I have a truck with only 2 seats, so would like to hire a mini-bus or similar that I can drive to pick our guests up. A quick look on line shows an 8 seater for \$200/day, or 12 seater for \$300/day, \$1400/week.
- Ideally we would have a few days hire so I could show them some of the sights, but as I am on the organising committee for this event I will be extremely busy.
- And before they depart, some form of CHS celebration/dinner/party.

### **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, South East**

The Southeast Region has an average membership of 250. This year, we have represented Clan Henderson Society at 15 Scottish Games. We hope to add several more Highland Games to our calendar in 2025. The 2024 Annual General Meeting in Charleston SC, coinciding with the Charleston Scottish Games, will mark our final event for 2024. We look forward to ending the year by hosting the Clan Henderson Society 2024 AGM. Additionally this year, two Highland Dancers and four Drummers from the Southeast, have been awarded Youth Scholarships.

Presently, there are 14 Bodyguards serving in the Southeast Region. Notably, this year, several of our Bodyguards contributed to Harry Keifer's project, creating a Bodyguard video for our President Louis Russell. Some additional plans for 2025:

- Attend more Highlands Games I haven't been to.
- Attend more Highland Dance, Piping and Drumming Competitions

- Email the Southeast Region more often.
- Recognize more members for their Leadership
- Budget Reports

There are 40 games and festivals in this Region.

## **REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, South Pacific**

### **2024 Budget:**

- Used \$323.50 of \$450 requested , Steve Brock didn't seek reimbursement for Hawaii games and Suzanne only requested reimbursement for one tent so we came in under budget .

### **2025 Budget:**

Requesting the same \$450 for 2025 budget. Factors that may see increase in actual requests will be if Steve decides to seek reimbursement and possible return of Queen Mary Games Where i'm not getting firm answers on the costs of this event . Several previous events that have not had a Henderson Hospitably tent for a few years maybe filled this year.

### **2024 Games:**

- Las Vegas Highland Games
- Ventura CA - Seaside Highland Games ( October 12-13th 2024)
- Costa Mesa CA - Scottish Fest
- Hawaiian Scottish Festival & Highland Games
- Pleasanton CA - Scottish Highland Gathering & Games

### **2025 Games planned:**

- San Diego Highland Games will replace Las Vegas
- Seaside Highland Games
- Scottish Fest
- Scottish Highland Gathering & Games
- Hawaii
- Queen Mary - still not confirmed
- Fresno
- Bakersfield
- Norcal Celtic festivals

### **Concerns/suggestions :**

Concern - I'm constantly getting rejected emails from my membership •

Suggestion - Edit to our Sign in sheet to have credit style boxes to put in emails and names.

Suggestion - Edit to our Sign in sheet ,check boxes for preferred contact method and check box to use other if one fails.

Suggestion - Facebook Marketing to drum up membership.

Concern - Vegas Games : Did not go well and poorly attended event , will not return as we only have 1 member in this region . I had better expectations but apparently the games were at a different venue than years past with better turnout.

### **2024 Highlights:**

- Commissioned Fordel Gargoyle Crest for children's coloring book
- Commissioned Banner to highlight Scholarship Program
- Attended and convened several events
- Attended two Galas of the Socal Scottish Societies
- Assisted the UCR Pipe band with several events
- Sent out several emails to my region with notifications
- Put forward several for the Scholarship program
- Put forward several individuals for well deserving awards
- Received the Order of Chief with Distinction ( Thank You !)
- Appointed South Pacific Clan Piper ( Neil Henderson )
- Have received



commitment from Dennis Henderson and his son to join the Order of Bodyguard and to possibly started convening again. • Appointed Steve Brock to become Hawaii state convener \* Did my duties of Bodyguard at every game attended and did my first walk about with piper . • Hope to put through John and Nellie Lowry for The Order of the Chief with Distinction for their years of service to the Scottish Community and Clan Henderson as this will be there 20th Season hosting the Seaside Highland Games and will turn it over to their daughter to run the operations.

### 2025 Goals:

- Convene San Diego Games again.
- Will have more youth to put forward for Scholarship program.
- Convene Queen Mary Games or find a convener.
- Possibly return to Phoenix Games depending on children's schedule.
- attend several more Galas.
- More walkabouts with our new piper.
- Assist the UCR pipe band .
- Bring back Hospitably tents to the central region of CA.
- Promote Games and schedules through Facebook page.
- Encourage all hospitality tent visitors to Join our vision of a Scottish Society for all .

### REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, South West

Per discussion, a 2024 annual report is not submitted. There are 18 games and festivals in this Region.

### REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, United Kingdom

There was no Regional Commissioner in 2024. As a result, the region atrophied and there are missed opportunities. There are 65 games and festivals in this Region. However, the previous Regional Commissioner is working with the CHS President on a project to improve the grounds and area around the historic Henderson Stone in Glencoe, Scotland. Potentially this project could cost approximately \$14000.

### AWARDS in 2024

There were five members who received an upgrade of their induction into the Order of the Chief, with the addition of being awarded "With Distinction". Awardee's received a blue and yellow ribbon for their medals. Awardee citations can be read here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gmFc\\_B0Tj8uizVXCytghT9EA-XpDYlhvVI0GHxoatic/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gmFc_B0Tj8uizVXCytghT9EA-XpDYlhvVI0GHxoatic/edit?usp=sharing)

There were five members who were inducted into the Order of the Chief. They received a medal with a green ribbon. Awardee citations can be read here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1l\\_hClYmhzfXt0EhE5TqfDJOG-1p2GOFPKc0GZmy59U/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1l_hClYmhzfXt0EhE5TqfDJOG-1p2GOFPKc0GZmy59U/edit?usp=sharing)

Members of the Order of MacEanruig act as "Ambassadors for the Society." The membership is capped at an annual active member total equal to the number of years since the creation of the Clan Henderson Society. In 2024 that number is 36. The CHS Presidents annual selection for the Chief's Prize is automatically inducted into the Order. In 2024 that member is Linda Hendericks. In addition, two other members were inducted. The membership roster of Order of MacEanruig members is here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mQa0xPbfWEa\\_Q9uM3DggKpfWb9yMC7r0/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=117971147917281754055&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mQa0xPbfWEa_Q9uM3DggKpfWb9yMC7r0/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=117971147917281754055&rtpof=true&sd=true)

### AGM-2025

The AGM selection committee recommends that the Seattle Scottish Highland Games, July 25-27, 2025, Enumclaw, WA. be selected for 2025. Early indications are Fordell and his lady will attend. A URL to the event is here: [The Games – Seattle Scottish Highland Games Association](#)

## Games and Festivals

The Games and Festival tab on the website is both a valuable resource for our membership to keep informed on what's happening but also a resource that gets acclaim from other Clans and Societies. Recently, in addition to the listing of Scottish Games and Festivals, the site also accurately lists many Celtic events, important Clan, Scottish and Celtic days and many European and South American festivals. The site's manager, Loiso Beroa, of Santiago de Compostela is commended for his diligence and oversight of the data. Loiso is also a member of a group spearheading initiatives in Galicia to identify a modern Tartan pattern. The National Day for all seven Celtic nations is listed on the site as follows:

Mar 1, National day of WALES and also St. David's Day  
Mar 5, National day of CORNWALL and also St. Piran's Day  
Mar 17, National day of IRELAND and also St. Patrick's Day  
May 19, National day of BRITTANY and also St. Yves Day  
Jul 5, National day of ISLE of MAN and also Tynwald Day  
Jul 25 National day of GALICIA, and also St. James Day  
Nov 30, National day of SCOTLAND and also St. Andrew's Day

Games and festivals can be found on the website and thru this link here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jXPL0LXLA6iuUgJk9e2nf6AGitjteh\\_3/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=117971147917281754055&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jXPL0LXLA6iuUgJk9e2nf6AGitjteh_3/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=117971147917281754055&rtpof=true&sd=true)