

The Houston Scot

Chieftain's Letter,

Heather & Thistle Society



Chieftain Dr. Robert Boyd

Volume 8, Issue 8
April, 2008

Newsletter Editor:
Jim Monteith

Officers:
Chieftain – Dr. Robert Boyd
SubChieftain – Rev. Melvyn Douglass
Sgt.-at-Arms – Ardeth Brodie
Secretary – Carmelita Orr
Treasurer – Dr. Walter May

Committee Chairs:
Sunshine-Eileen Moore
Membership-Eileen Moore
Past Chieftains-Cheryl May
Burns Supper-Jim Monteith
Publicity-Melvyn Douglass
Programs-Gordon Macleod



I'm honored to be your Chieftain for 2008-9. I'm also proud to be the first Scots-born Chieftain since Bob Gilbert in 1982-3. My family and I came to Houston directly from the U.K. just over twenty years ago, and it was a great move for us. We've been made so welcome here, and being members of Heather and Thistle and its Burns Club since 1988 has been an important part of our settling here permanently.

My goal for the coming year is to try to boost our membership numbers and attendance at our monthly meetings. I'm confident this can be done, especially with the able assistance of my new team of office-bearers, which I think brings an excellent blend of youth and experience. I'm delighted that Ardeth Brodie has taken on the difficult role of Sergeant-at-Arms, and Carmelita Orr will bring new enthusiasm to the Secretary's job. It is great that H&T veterans Melvyn Douglass as Sub-Chieftain and Walter May as Treasurer will be able to keep us on the right track. I'm also pleased to welcome fellow Ayrshire Scot Gordon Macleod as Program Chair.

At the April 28th meeting, H&T member David Hutton will entertain us with an evening of Scottish songs. Those of us who heard him for the first time at our Burns Club meeting last month know what a treat is in store. So please do come along and bring as many friends as you can.

The Society is once again pleased to support the Houston Highland Games, being held May 17-18 at the Farm & Ranch Club at Bear Creek Park. We need volunteers to man our booth at the games on both days. Please sign up at the April meeting. We are also once again sponsoring the Individual Open Piping Competition and donating the prize money of \$1,000.

I look forward with anticipation to a challenging but good year, and yes Past Chieftain Ken, I accept your challenge to wear the kilt at every available opportunity!

See you all on April 28th.

Robert Boyd

Chieftain

Tartan of the Month

Robin Mills our web-master has come up with what I think is a great idea. The tartan background of the H&T website www.heatherandthistle.org will be changed each month. For example in honor of the new Chieftain the background has already been changed to Boyd. Other ideas are Texas Bluebonnet, Burns, etc. or as a special thank-you to anyone who does something for the Society. Comments and suggestions on this are welcome.

RB

The H&T Society wishes to thank member Mark Monroe for his year long stint as Program Chairman. We greatly appreciate your effort to bring us quality entertainment and recognize your generous donations to the performers we enjoyed so much.

National Tartan Day Celebration

Members of H&T attended the Houston City Hall Celebration of National Tartan Day on April 11, 2008 from 11am till 1 pm. Sia Beaton coordinated the event with Houston City Hall and the Scottish community in Houston. H&T tartans and flags decorated the location of the event at the north entrance area of City Hall. Entertainment was provided by Hugh Morrison and Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Highland Dancers from St. Thomas Episcopal School, Pipers and Drummers from St. Thomas, and the group Celtic Chorus. Houston Mayor Bill White issued a proclamation in honor of "The Tartan Days of Texas". Texans Mascot Toro attended the event wearing a new kilt. The City Hall Visitor's Center in cooperation with the Texas Scottish Heritage Society featured a special display dedicated to Scottish Heritage. This display will be at City Hall through June.

Heather and Thistle Membership

We currently have 77 members that are past due on their membership renewals. Please remember to send in your renewal dues. Annual membership renewal is in March of every year. Dues are \$15 per year for single member and \$20 per year for a family membership. Our new Treasurer Dr. Walter May will be accepting payments to 6143 Sienna Arbor Lane, Houston, Texas 77041-6038. Please enclose the membership application on page 3 of this newsletter. Your dues help pay for this newsletter and the operating expenses of our Society.
Dues must be current by September 30, 2008 in order to purchase 2009 Burns Supper tickets at the H&T member price. 2009 Burns Supper tickets will be going on sale this year to members on October 1, 2008.

Heather & Thistle Society – Minutes March 24, 2008

The March meeting began at 7:41pm with the piping in of our new slate of officers by The Houston Highlanders. Seven members of the Highlanders honored our Society by leading in our new officers.

Jack Hume performed the Officer Installation ceremony beginning at 7:43pm. Dr. Walter May was sworn in first as our new Treasurer. Ardeth Brodie was next as our new Sgt.-at-arms. Melvyn Douglass was sworn in third as our new Sub-Chieftain. Our new Chieftain Dr. Robert Boyd was the last one sworn in for the night. Our newly elected Secretary was unable to attend and will be sworn in at a later date.

Chieftain Dr. Robert Boyd spoke briefly to the members and guests. Dr. Boyd has been a member of H&T for over twenty years. His wife, Irene Boyd, in honor of the occasion, donated a silver chain to hang the Chieftain's Medal from while being worn by H&T Chieftains.

The Houston Highlanders played five Scottish tunes to the delight of members and guests. The meeting was adjourned briefly at 8:05pm for refreshments.

Chieftain Dr. Robert Boyd called the business meeting to order at 8:21pm in the St. Thomas Episcopal School Theater. The motion was made and passed to accept the February 25, 2008 minutes as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer Report: Dr. Walter May reports checking account balance is \$3,145.65. Burns Supper account balance is \$18,483.63. PCC Contingency Fund balance is \$1,412.75. The motion was made and passed to accept the treasurer's report.

Membership Report: Eileen Moore reports 98 family, 43 single, 33 life, 40 exempt, and 4 complimentary memberships for a total of 218 members. 141 members are paid up and 77 members are past due on their membership dues. The motion to accept the membership report was made and passed.

Committee Reports called for by **Sub-Chieftain** Rev. Melvyn Douglass

Burns Club: Jack Hume reported that 69 people went on the Burns Cruise and all had a great time. Next year the annual conference of the RBANA will be on a cruise ship out of California. Jack thanked the Boyds for contributing greatly to the success of the cruise. The World Conference will be in New Castle, England.

Burns Supper: Jim Monteith reports that the host hotel will be requiring pre-payments for the 2009 Burns Supper. Jim thanked 2008 Burns Chairwoman Cheryl May for a great job.

Past Chieftains: Dr. Walter May reports no meeting has been held so far this year. Becci Himes is slated to become Chairman of the PCC Committee this year.

Programs: Chieftain Boyd reports Gordon Macleod will be our new Programs Chairman.

Sunshine: Eileen Moore reports Maryann Munroe had eye surgery in March. Jim Monteith requested that member Jim McDaniel be sent a card for injuries he received while hunting.

Newsletter: Editor Jim Monteith thanked Chieftain Boyd for recent articles he sent.

Houston Grampian: Bob Gilbert reports the trip to Aberdeen is coming up.

Houston Highland Games: Jeanette Douglass reports the games had 42 clans and societies represented at last years games. Requests members contact clans and societies to participate in the games. The games this year will be held the third weekend in May. H&T will be sponsoring the open piping competition again.

RSCDS: Reece Wyant reports they are dancing weekly at King Dance Studio at 5200 Bissonett on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Their website is www.HoustonRSCDS.com.

Houston Highlanders: No report.

Sergeant-At-Arms reports 23 members and 11 guests present.

Old Business: None

New Business: Sia Beaton request the use of some of H&T's tartan banners, stands, flags and poles at an upcoming Houston City Hall celebration of National Tartan Day on 4/11/08. There was a discussion about outside groups using our banners and equipment at non-H&T events. Cheryl May suggested that it should be discussed at a PCC meeting. Ardeth Brodie discussed the wording of the H&T ad to be used in the HHGA program for the upcoming games. A full page ad was chosen for the program.

Chieftain Boyd reports that 21 people attended the Burns Club Burns Supper at Jack Hume's residence.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Heather and Thistle Society Membership Application

Date _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____

Spouse First Name _____ Home Phone (____) - _____ - _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business/Profession _____

Email Address: (Needed for monthly newsletter email) _____

List Children under 18 if application for family membership. Children 18 and older must have their own membership.

Interests and Hobbies _____

Clan Tartan _____

Sponsor: _____

Shall we list you in our directory? Yes No

Are you interested in serving the Society in some capacity Yes, please contact me. No, not at this time.

Membership type: Family - \$20.00 per year Single - \$15.00 per year

Includes family members under 18

New Member

Renew Membership

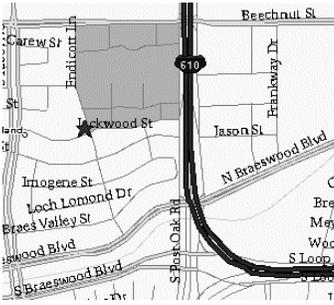
Please bring completed application with membership fee to the next monthly meeting held at 7:30pm on the fourth Monday of the month, September through June, or just mail it to Dr. Walter May, 6143 Sienna Arbor Lane, Houston, Texas 77041-6038.

Heather and Thistle Society meets at the St. Thomas Episcopal School 4900 Jackwood, Houston, Tx. 77096

Applicant's Signature _____

Check No. _____ Amount Paid \$ _____ Date Paid _____ Date posted to database _____

Heather & Thistle Society Statement And Membership Information



Meeting Information

Meeting Place:

St. Thomas Episcopal School
4900 Jackwood
Houston, Texas 77096

Date and Time:

Fourth Monday of the month
7:30 pm

The Heather and Thistle Society was founded in 1953 by Scots living in Houston who wished to “cultivate an interest in and fond recollections of Scotland, its history and traditions, its literature and ideals, its minstrelsy and song, its customs and amusements, and to provide opportunities for good fellowship and social contact through typically Scottish functions, so that the blessing of our Scottish culture may never die in our new homeland”.

The Heather and Thistle Society meets 10 times a year, September through June. Programs include music, singing, dancing, lively lectures, slide shows and movies about Scotland. The Heather and Thistle Society puts on the annual Robert Burn’s Supper and Ball in late January of each year. We are an organization that promotes our Scottish heritage, in various ways.

The Heather and Thistle Society’s monthly newsletter, “The Houston Scot” is published from September through June. Original articles, information about Scottish or related events are welcome and should be sent to the editor, Jim Monteith, at 15703 Mound Road, Hockley, Texas 77447 or 936-931-2588.

Membership in the Heather and Thistle Society is open to all with an interest in Scottish heritage and culture. Annual dues are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family membership. Applications for membership may be obtained from our website. <http://heatherandthistle.org/documents/membership.doc>

Dues are due at the beginning of the fiscal year, March 1. Completed applications and membership fees should be mailed to: Dr. Walter May
6143 Sienna Arbor Lane
Houston, Texas 77041-6038

The Heather and Thistle Society
P.O. Box 270030
Houston, TX 77277-0030



www.heatherandthistle.org

We're on the Web