



The Tattler

Spring 2018 Edition

Words from the President

Officers & Directors

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|---------------------|---|
| President | Colin Harris |
| Vice President | Ken Montgomery |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Janet Thompson |
| Past President | Robert Boyd |
| Canadian Directors: | Tony Grace
Andy Harrower
Henry Cairney |
| U S Directors: | Ted Hirtz
Leslie Strachan
George McClellan |
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Jack Mann
Jim Cunningham
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The Robert Burns Association
of North America

Affiliated with the Robert Burns
World Federation Ltd
Kilmarnock, Scotland
Club #1024



In the words not of Burns, but a poet from the Ottawa Valley in Canada (and Los Angeles):
“And now the end is near, and so I face the final curtain.”

The Philadelphia conference, at which I turn the President’s badge over to my successor, and take my leave of office, is, suddenly just a month away. After Dallas, and Medicine Hat, I am looking forward to experiencing what Les and Bill have organized for us in Philadelphia. (And using the opportunity, as well to checkout two of the most famous cities in the world, Washington and New York.)

I would encourage those of you who have not yet done so, to register before the end of the month to attend. Our annual gatherings are always a good opportunity to meet up with old friends, and meet new ones, make contacts that will strengthen the links between our Burns Clubs and Societies, not just here in North America, but across the ocean as well, as Federation President Ian McIntyre will be leading a number of old friends from overseas who enjoy the camaraderie that flows at these events.

We will of course remember old friends who are no longer with us, especially our friend Jack Hume (which gives me one final chance to remind you that the deadline for the poetry competition is April 1), and thank those Directors who are retiring from service.

It is gratifying to know that while some have chosen to move on, others have come forward and offered themselves as Directors. The full roster of nominees is within the pages of this special edition of the Tattler. I would also commend to your attention the proposed amendment to the constitution (on page 3) which will affect the elections which will follow.

Les Strachan and Bill Fulton have put together a good programme for us and deserve our thanks, and our support.

I opened with Paul Anka, I will close, appropriately, with Burns:

Adieu! a heart-warm fond adieu

Yours Aye
Colin Harris
President

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John (Jack) Hume 1929 - 2018



Jack was born in Greenock, Scotland on January 11th 1929. He emigrated to Houston from Scotland in 1955 with his wife Phemia Davin Hume, deceased 2004. He leaves behind to celebrate his life his wife Guida, whom he married in 2008, daughters Margie Carmichael (Tom) and Mary Hume Thompson (Darwin), three grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Jack as a new immigrant joined the Heather & Thistle Society in 1955 and served two terms as its Chieftain. He formed and led the Heather & Thistle Robert Burns Club and was Chairman of Hermann Park Robert Burns Memorial Project which in 2003 donated the beautiful

Bust which now stands in the park. In 2016 he presented the Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) with the Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Trophy for original poetry written in the style of Burns and was extremely gratified with the success of that competition in its first two years. He was known nationally and internationally as a Robert Burns scholar, lecturer and speaker of Burns's works. He was a Past President of the Houston Grampian Association and of the Houston Highland Games Association.

Jack was the well-loved face of the Scottish community in Houston. A celebration of Jack's life was held on Sunday, February 18, when over 150 of his family and friends gathered to remember him. Everyone was comforted to know that our Robert Burns Bust stands as a memorial to the Bard, but now also to Jack himself.

Memorial donations in Jack's name may be made to St. Jude's or the Robert Burns World Federation.

**An honest man here lies at rest
As e'er God with his image blest;
The friend of man, the friend of truth,
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so informed:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.**

Proposed Amendment to Constitution to be considered in Philadelphia

The following proposed amendment to the constitution has been submitted in full compliance with Article IX (2) of the RBANA Constitution. As it affects the Nominations and Elections it will be considered at the AGM prior to the Nominations. It must pass with a minimum two-thirds majority of those attending, and voting.

NOTICE OF MOTION - CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Whereas Section 4 of Article VII, Nominations, currently states that:

“Nominees for positions of Officers must further have been a Director of RBANA and must belong to a member Club that is a member of the Robert Burns World Federation in good standing, or otherwise shall become an individual member of the Robert Burns World Federation”,

it is proposed that this Section be amended and reworded as follows:

4. Nominees for the positions of President and Vice President must further have been a Director of RBANA and must belong to a member Club that is a member of the Robert Burns World Federation in good standing, or otherwise shall become an individual member of the Robert Burns World Federation, and the Secretary/Treasurer may only be a member of a member Club in good standing.

Motion made by Ken Montgomery, VP RBANA, and
Seconded by Les Strachan, US Director, RBANA



New Board to Take Office in Philadelphia

With the end of the Philadelphia conference, a new Board will take office for the coming two years. Nominations having closed 45 prior to the meeting, there are acclamations for the all positions, with one vacancy at U.S. Director. The nomination for Secretary-Treasurer is contingent upon passage of an amendment to the constitution.

The Tattler presents the following profile of the incoming RBANA Board nominees:

President

Ken Montgomery



1898 the family then moved to Western Canada. Ken,

Ken Montgomery was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta with roots back to the Mull of Kintyre in Argyllshire. In 1769 his family immigrated to the British colony of St. John's Island (later renamed Prince Edward Island) and claims that island's famous authoress, Lucy Maud Montgomery (Anne of Green Gables) as a distant cousin. In

the oldest of five boys, and the father of three more boys served with the Edmonton Police Service. Retiring as a detective in 2000 he and his wife Brenda then relocated to the smaller city of Medicine Hat, Alberta establishing a court agent and paralegal business. Ken, a longtime attendee to the annual Edmonton Burns Club dinners, when living in Edmonton, has had an interest in Scottish culture and Burns since a wee lad. On arriving in Medicine Hat he was disappointed to learn there was no Burns club, and so, with a few like-minded individuals, took steps to create one. He is a past president and remains involved as the Club's secretary.

Vice President

Henry Cairney



Currently Canadian Director, Henry is Immediate Past President, and an active member of the Calgary Burns Club. Born in Kilwinning Ayrshire, Henry grew up in Burns country where he met and married Shona in 1973 before emigrating to Canada in 2006. An Engineer by profession, he is a musician and composer influenced by an immersion in

Robert Burns from his schooldays and a producer for the Calgary Burns Club singers, including 2 of their CDs, and produces the CDs and DVDs of the Calgary Burns Suppers. He is also edits and publishes The Claver, the CBC newsletter.

The father of 2 (Martyn and Lesley) and grandfather of 5 has played semi professional soccer, golf, is a judo black belt, managing two clubs and has attended and presented at Burns Suppers in both Scotland and Canada.

Secretary - Treasurer Matthew Hill



Mathew spent his childhood in both Arizona and California before heading to Anchorage, Alaska, where he attended and graduated high school from Bob "E.L." Bartlett High School.

Following high school, Mathew attended and graduated

from Northern Arizona University where he graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts in Philosophy. Soon after graduation and quickly realizing that his chances of obtaining a job with a degree in philosophy were less than a friendly snowball fight in Hell, Mathew returned to school where he earned an Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies (Arizona). Following this successful bout with schooling, Mathew followed his heart and moved to Germany where his girlfriend lived.

3 years later, following work with an international law firm and separating from his German wife, Mathew returned to the United States where he intended to earn a Law degree. It was at this point in his life, though, that Mathew had a change of heart and decided instead to pursue an MBA degree and switched his focus to the coffee

New Board (Continued)

Secretary - Treasurer **Matthew Hill** continued

industry, coffee always being a personal passion. Following his graduation with an MBA, Mathew embarked on a 14-year-long career in coffee as a manager and as a coffee-roaster. He has been published 4 times in industry publications, was a member of the Roasters' Guild for 6 years and is a 2-time veteran presenter at the Canadian Coffee and Tea Expedition - Vancouver (2006 and 2010). Currently, Mathew, who also speaks fluent German works

as an occupational/physical therapy assistant in Medicine Hat, Alberta. While continuing to work on a contract-basis for the local coffee-roastery, he turned his interests in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) recovery and rehabilitation to a Diploma from Medicine Hat College to a personally satisfying career working in rehab. In this role, Mathew is currently the Registrar for the Therapy Assistant Association of Alberta, a member of the Board of Directors for Brain Injury Canada and an active and standing member of the Medicine Hat Burns Club.

Mathew spends his spare-time exercising, running marathon and half-marathon races and reading or watching science-fiction. And, of course, enjoying the occasional wee dram....!

US Director **George McClellan**



An incumbent seeking a second term, George G. McClellan describes himself as a restless man of adventure. He is an army veteran and a retired Special Agent of the NCIS. He has a long background in law enforcement including five years with the California Highway Patrol, and one year with the International Police Task Force in the former Yugoslavia. He is a writer, amateur historian, bagpiper, motorcyclists and world traveller.

He is a member of a number of organizations, among them, the Robert Burns Club of Atlanta, and the Robert Burns World Federation. A writer, McClellan has a biography on Robert Burns in the editing - publishing process. McClellan and family, natives of California, have lived in the Philippines, Florida, Hawaii, and the United Kingdom. He and his wife have resided in Ellijay, Ga. since 1999.

US Director **Bill Fulton**



Working with Les Strachan as one of the organizers for the Philadelphia conference, Bill Fulton is a Retired Urban Planner (35 years); Past President of Scottish Historical and Research Society of Delaware Valley (PA); Member, South Jersey Celtic Society; Member, RBANA; Member, Scottish Heritage USA; Member, Robert Burns World Federation; Ayrshire and Borders Heritage; Past president Virginia and Pennsylvania rugby clubs/unions. He resides in Devon, Pennsylvania with his wife Mary Jim.

Canadian Director **Tony Grace**



An incumbent seeking a third term, Tony's interests in things Scottish started during his first trip; to attend the University of St. Andrews. He lived in Scotland for over 8 years and it was there that he met his wife. On emigrating to Canada, he spent most of the next 30 plus years in Fort McMurray in northern Alberta, where he gravitated toward Scots ex-Pats. His Scottish wife joined the Burns Club there, but due to their constitution allowing no more than one member per family, Tony watched from the sidelines as it were, attending their functions and in particular the annual Burns Suppers, giving him an excellent grounding in Scottish literature generally and the Burns works in particular.

Retiring to Calgary in 2001, he soon joined the Calgary Burns Club as well as the Schiehallion Scottish Cultural Society, serving on the committees, and as President of both. He has been an active member of the Calgary Burns Club Singers who have published a number of CDs and was part of the group that performed at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2009. He is also a member of the Club's Carnie Group which meets regularly to discuss aspects of Scottish Literature particularly around the times and works of Robert Burns.

Canadian Director **Maj Andy Harrower**



An incumbent seeking a second term, Andy was born in Alva, Clackmannanshire, Scotland, where most of his family still reside. Joining the army at 16 as an apprentice mechanic, he worked his way up the ranks to commission in 1999 as an electro-mechanical engineer. Completing a further 12 years

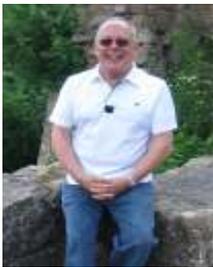
New Board (Continued)

with the British Army, Andy transferred to the Canadian Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers in 2012 and is still serving, currently in Yellowknife, NT.

Andy developed an interest in Robert Burns during his early years with the forces and has attended and organized many Burns events ever since; Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and Morocco being some of the more obscure locations amongst them. He joined the Medicine Hat Burns Club in 2008 and has been an active member of the committee in various roles and was one of the founders of the Jolly Beggars. His move to Yellowknife has afforded him the opportunity to introduce Robert Burns to the military community up there and he has already become involved with local Burns enthusiasts on the 2017 program north of 60!

Andy is an avid skier which he claims to do well, and a keen golfer, which he admits to being very poor at! He is married to Kim and they have five daughters.

Canadian Director Jim Steel



Jim Steel emigrated to Canada in 1967 and settled in Toronto and worked in the Graphic Arts until retiring in 1998

In 2007, he accompanied a friend to the RBANA AGM in Winnipeg where I met Chrys and Ron Ballantyne who invited him to attend a meeting at the Halton Peel Burns Club which started him on a fascinating journey into the life of The Bard.

He has served on the Executive Board of Halton Peel the last 4 years as Club President.

Past President

Colin Harris



Colin Harris is a well kent name and face at both RBANA and Federation meetings. A Past President, and Honorary Life Member of the Winnipeg Robert Burns Club, he has served as its Secretary, Webmaster, and Newsletter Editor for the past several years. He served as Chair of the club's Supper Committee for several years, and as "wise elder" for the past three years. He has Addressed the Haggis on numerous occasions, for the club, and other organizations. He was involved with the planning committees for the 2007 Federation Conference and the 2011 RBANA Conference.

With RBANA he has served as Canadian Director, Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President (twice) and is completing his term as President. He has also served as Editor of the Tattler since 2010, succeeding the late Frank Campbell

