

## PRESIDENT'S BLOG



Spring is finally here and it's a real treat to hear the birds chirping and singing each morning. I had almost forgotten how they often wake me up about four thirty each morning.

The 2018 RBANA AGM in Philadelphia was a great success. I and others were particularly impressed to see the involvement of the South Jersey Celtic Society. Their contribution was the icing on the cake. We also appreciated the effort made by many to attend, and here a special thanks to Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF) past president and honourary president Jane Brown, Willie Gibson and most especially, RBWF president Ian McIntyre and his special and lovely wife Moira, who all came over from the Motherland.

I would also be remiss if I didn't pass on special thanks to our 2018 AGM organizers Les Strachan and Bill Fulton. Well done lads!

I am pleased to introduce our new Board. Where I hail from Medicine Hat, Alberta our new Vice President is Henry Cairney, past president of the Calgary Burns Club. The new Secretary Treasurer is Mathew Hill, born in Texas but now a Canadian and active member of the Medicine Hat Burns Club. Our US directors are Ted Hirtz, Houston, Texas, George McClennan, Ellijay, Georgia, and Bill Fulton, Devon, Pennsylvania. Our Canadian directors are Tony, Grace, Calgary, Alberta, Andy Harrower, Yellowknife, North West Territories and Jim Steel, Toronto, Ontario. Collectively our new Board has a vast amount of talent with experience in business and the military, various Burns clubs and other organizations, all are also keen Burnsians. We are very fortunate to have these people involved.

Our new Board will be a working board and will have set objectives and goals. By moving in this direction I believe we will be better able to make our RBANA family grow and thrive, and by extension do the same for the World Federation.

Our top priority at this time is to make a concerted effort to identify other North American Burns clubs and Scottish/Celtic societies. We need to let them know we exist and will be encouraging them to join our RBANA family.

So, for anyone reviewing our webpage, if you represent or are involved with a Burns club or Scottish/Celtic society or even a like minded individual, consider joining the RBANA team. There are many benefits and you are supporting a worthy cause. Any questions let me know ([monty855@shaw.ca](mailto:monty855@shaw.ca)) and I will personally respond.

Yours in Burns,  
Ken Montgomery, President