

It was a very busy Burns season for this RBANA, and Burns Club of Atlanta Director this year. Among the many activities.

First, USA Director, George McClellan, FSA Scot, participated in five Burns Dinners in the Atlanta, Georgia area this month.

First was giving the Toast to the Immortal Memory for the St. Andrews Society of Atlanta with fifty members in attendance. The venue was the Tennis Athletic Club, a first rate pro-tennis facility with an excellent kitchen and staff.

Second, was the sixth annual Burns dinner held in the North Georgia Mountain community of Ellijay, Ga., the home of Director McClellan, who organized the fete and made the Address to the Haggis.

The venue was in the splendid new George Link Jr. Playhouse, a facility of the Gilmer Arts Association. Thirty people were in attendance including two contributing members of the Burns Club of Atlanta, Mr. Mark Ferguson, a native Scot and retired executive of the Coca Cola Corp., who gave the Toast to the Immortal Memory, and Mr. Keith Dunn, Scottish fiddler who provided Celtic music entertainment for the occasion.

Also participating were several members of the Gilmer Scotch Whisky Society of which director McClellan was a co-founder in 2011.

The third event was to pipe in the haggis for the Sandy Springs, Ga. Masonic Lodge in their first endeavor to appreciate the remarkable story of Robert Burns and his Masonic affiliations.

Forth was strictly a commercial dinner organized at the Olde Blind Dog Irish Pub in Milton, Ga.. This was their 9th Burns Dinner and Director McClellan's eighth where he always gives the Address to the Haggis.

This event grows annually and this month's dinner found sixty plus patrons in attendance, most for their first Burns Dinner experience. A mixed Celtic band provided rousing Burns tunes that truly infected the guests with sing-alongs, hand clapping, and the odd dancer well lubricated by strong drink. The organizer, Mr. Michael Stewart, is a local police officer long involved with the area's Scottish community.

Finally, the Burns Club of Atlanta's event where Dir. McClellan gave the Toast to the Immortal Memory. eighty-four people were in attendance including special guests Mr. Shane Stephens, Counsel General for the Republic of Ireland and Mr. Jeremy Pilmore Bedford, Counsel General for Her Majesty's Government of Great Britain.

Submitted by George G. McClellan, USA Director