

The Thistle

January – February 2026

Fellow Scots,

**Scottish Society
of Indianapolis
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I am honored to have been elected President for 2026. When my previous board service ended in 2019, I knew that I would likely serve again. I thought that it would be years in the future. While that is technically true, I did not know it would be only five years. The time was right for me to serve once more, and I hope to meet your expectations.

In turn, I ask you to get involved. Attend our monthly meetings, volunteer in our booth at events, and recruit members. To survive and grow, our Society needs members who are active and involved.

We have many exciting programs already planned for this year, with more in the works. Our January program is of course the celebration of Robert Burns. You know *Auld Lang Syne*, *Ae Fond Kiss*, and *A Red, Red Rose* because of him. Our annual Tasting of the Mist in February is always well attended. I will miss the Tasting this year, as we will be cruising the Panama Canal that week. To round out the first quarter, the Royal Scottish Country Dancers will be showing off their dancing skills in March. I always look forward to this program, especially their final dance when they invite all of us to take part!

We held the election for the Board of Trustees during November's St. Andrew's Dinner. From the trustees elected, I have appointed board positions as follows: Matthew Douglass, Vice-President; Linda Cassady, Secretary; and Greg Bowers, Treasurer. At-large members elected are Armand Hayes and Robin Jarrett. At the evening's conclusion, Deneice Jarrett volunteered to fill the vacant trustee position. I consider myself lucky by having two former Presidents serve with me this year, as well as a past co-chair of our highland games and festival, along with the continued board service of Armand, Greg, and Linda. As we look to the future, I extend my appreciation to founder Carter Keith and former treasurer Risa Stockton for their service to the Society.

The board has spent considerable time reviewing the 2025 Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival, in addition to making plans for future events. I have appointed Lauren McNabb as chair of the festival committee. Lauren has attended our games and festival every year since it began, volunteered on the committee since 2023, and served as vice-chair of the committee in 2025. Lauren's appointment as festival committee chair means she joins the Trustees on the Board of Directors for the Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis along with the Society's Board of Trustees. The foundation is our 501(c)3 subsidiary allowing for donations to the festival to be tax deductible. Your support, financially and otherwise, makes the festival possible.

I hope to see you at a monthly gathering this year as well as at one of our Scottish and Celtic events.

Yours aye,
Steven Johnson
President



From the desk of the President



Calendar

SSI events are **bold**.

January

1 **Membership renewal due from members who joined prior to October 1, 2025**
7 **SSI Board of Trustees Meeting, Deneice & Robin Jarrett's home**
14 **SSI Monthly Meeting, *A Celebration of the Life of Robert Burns***
23 Indianapolis Scottish Rite Robert Burns Night, [eventbrite.com/e/2026-burns-supper-tickets-1979879438698](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-burns-supper-tickets-1979879438698)
24 The 42nd Royal Highlanders Burns Supper, 42ndrhr.org/burns.php
24 Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington Burns Supper, bloomingtonscots.org
24 Scottish Society of Louisville, Burns' Night Gala, scotsoflou.com

February

4 **SSI Board of Trustees Meeting, Deneice & Robin Jarrett's home**
11 **SSI Monthly Meeting, *A Tasting of the Mist***

March

4 **SSI Board of Trustees Meeting, Deneice & Robin Jarrett's home**
11 **SSI Monthly Meeting, *Scottish Country Dancing***
13 St. Patrick's Day Parade, indystpats.com

Recent Gatherings

October 2025

Julie Riker shared stories and pictures from her trip to Scotland with her father, where they explored their Clan Pringle heritage. We hosted a chili cook-off for dinner. The clear winner was (again) Mary Thompson, who made white chicken chili. Paula Hardesty sponsored the prize, a selection of Scottish goods.

November 2025

Our annual meeting is called St. Andrew's Dinner, in honor of the patron saint of Scotland. We held it at the Old Oakland Golf Club, and it included a parade of flags with piping by John Holcomb. We enjoyed a delicious dinner followed by the election of our 2026 Board of Trustees. Jeff McIntosh received the Tommy Thompson Award for Excellence, in recognition for his service on the Highland Games and Festival Committee. Armand Hayes and Risa Stockton received President's Awards, for their service to the Society.

December 2025

Our end-of-year meeting was purely for fun and socializing. Linda Cassady provided ham and we had 46 attendees. Samuel Lawson and Jeff Kestin entertained us with music and laughter. We closed the evening with everyone singing *Auld Lang Syne*.

Of Note

Membership Dues

Membership dues support the Society's events & community outreach. You can join or renew your membership at our regular meetings or online at IndyScot.org. If you joined any time since Oct 1, 2025, your membership continues through Dec 31, 2026. Becoming a member is a two-step process of making payment and completing the membership form. Please see Greg Bowers, Treasurer, with any questions.

Take Part!

Members can get involved in many ways! You can help set up and take down our monthly gatherings, contribute to The Thistle, give a presentation, and more! Please see President Steven Johnson or any board member to get involved.

Did You Know?

The first *Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival* was at the Latvian Center. It had many of the same activities that we have every year and was much smaller due to the size constraints of the property. We used the parking lots of every church and school nearby.



Whisky Review

Bruichladdich Distillery – The Classic Laddie

Unpeated Islay Single Malt Scotch



This “Classic Laddie” expression from Bruichladdich features Scottish barley, distilled in copper pot stills, and aged in a variety of casks including bourbon, sherry, and wine casks. It’s a delightful whisky that captures the essence of Islay’s rugged coastline and maritime influence.

Nose: Bright, with scents of strawberry salt-water taffy, and citrus.

Palate: Malty, salty, with a slight taste of graham cracker, and honey. The taste fades into a fruity combination of strawberry, coconut, and a hint of salt. A good bright taste.

Finish: Reminds you of sea air and builds the warmth but does not get hot. As it morphs, the taste of salted seafood, sweet cream, and a slight amount of vanilla. Reminds you of an early summer day on a patio in the garden.

What goes better with good whisky than bad humour? Read on...

Scottish Humour

Q. Why do pipers walk while they play?
A. To get away from the noise!

Q. What's the difference between a bagpipe and a lawnmower?
A. You can tune a lawn mower!

Q. What kind of whiskey does a rabbit drink?
A. Hopscotch!

It's true that whisky gets better with age. The older I get, the more that I like it!

Monthly Gatherings

Social Time: 6:30 PM Dinner: 7:00 PM Program: 8:00 PM

Location: Indianapolis Latvian Community Center, 1008 W 64th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260

Cover charge per person to pay for the meat dish and hall rental:

Members \$5; Returning Guests \$10; First-time visitors may attend at no charge.

	January	February	March
Date	Wed, Jan 14	Wed, Feb 11	Wed, Mar 11
Meat Dish	Shepherd's Pie (Rick Blacklidge)	Fried Chicken (Jamia Jacobsen & John Herder)	Corned Beef & Cabbage (Linda Cassady)
Program	Celebration of the Life of Robert Burns	Tasting of the Mist	Scottish Country Dancing by The Indy RSCD

Please visit IndyScot.org to sign up for your side dish. To ensure we have enough food for everyone attending, please bring at least 3 servings per attending family member.

Scotch whisky is available at \$5 per shot.

Please be sure to bring your own plates, flatware, beverages, and serving utensils.

Bulletins

Kilt Nights

We are looking for venues to host. A Kilt Night is where several members – if not all – show up at the scheduled time and place, wearing their Scottish attire and hand out information or answer questions about the Scottish Society. A band usually performs, making it a lively evening. The Society, the venue, the band, and others hand out prizes. Kilt Nights are a great opportunity to raise awareness of the SSI and gain prospective members. For more information, contact Armand Hayes at 317-533-9099 or by email at mrgoodnews53@gmail.com.

Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival

Plans are being made for the Fourteenth Annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival. The games will include Scottish heavy athletic competition, bagpipes, Celtic bands and vendors, and authentic food and drink. Lots of more information to come!

The Thistle Articles Needed

The editor wishes to thank to everyone who is contributing articles for the SSI Newsletter. The Feature Article, Clan Spotlight, and most of the short articles and notices are contributed by members. Send them to Armand Hayes at mrgoodnews53@gmail.com. Anyone attending Scottish, Clan or related events is encouraged to write a brief article describing the event and to enclose a photo or two. Feature Articles are also needed, about 3/4 page (600 - 700 words) plus a graphic or photo. These can be about any Scottish social, historic or cultural topic. We are also looking for recipes or articles on music!

Clan Spotlight

Clan Campbell Society (North America)



Clan Campbell Badge



Clan Campbell Tartan

Motto:

Ne Obliviscaris (Do not forget)

Clan March:

The Campbells Are Coming

Plant Symbol:

Bog Myrtle

Historic Seat:

Argyll

Clan Chief:

Torquhil Ian Campbell, 13th Duke of Argyll; Colin Campbell of Cawdor, 7th Earl Cawdor

A Short History of the Clan Campbell Society in North America

(Excerpts from ccsna.org)

Founding: On August 01, 1929 the "Clan Campbell Association of America" received its first member and was formally organized on December 15, 1929. The National President was the remarkable Mrs. Mary Latham Norton of San Francisco, CA. The annual membership subscription in the Association was \$1.00 per year, later raised to \$2.00. The official publication of the Association was *The Highlander*. As far as can be determined, only two issues were published -- Issue No. 1 on December 01, 1930, and Issue No. 2 was printed as "THE HIGHLANDER, 1937-'39, No. 2. [Oakland, Cal., Clan Campbell Association of America, c1942.]". Which explains some confusion on the time line. Mrs. Norton also served as the National Chair of the fund-raising effort for the "Campbell Memorial Belfry Tower" that was being built in Inveraray, Argyll, Scotland, by Niall Campbell, 10th Duke of Argyll and Chief of Clan Campbell. She was appointed to that post by the 10th Duke of Argyll in 1927. While the Belfry topped out in April 1931, the project was still in debt as late as June 1937. In its hey-day, the Association had about 200 members, which was a good-sized organization for its time. Given the economic conditions of the Great Depression, the Clan Campbell Association of America did an amazing job raising approximately a quarter of the funds to help pay for the £21,750 (approx. \$2,293,355 USD 2023) project. The Clan Campbell Association of America remained active until shortly after the end of World War II c.1947. For the next twenty-five years there was no active national Clan Campbell organization in the United States. However, many early members of the Clan Campbell Society (USA) were past members of the Clan Campbell Association of America, and knew Mrs. Norton well and spoke most highly of her. And as many of our first members had been members of the Clan Campbell Association of America, we include the Clan Campbell Association of America as part of our direct lineage and heritage in North America.

Rebirth: The Clan Campbell Society as we know it today was conceived July 8, 1972 at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games by the late J. Boylston Campbell (Malvern, PA), the late Judge Hugh Brown Campbell (Charlotte, NC) and the late Dr. Bobby Blackburn Thompson, Ph.D. (Athens, GA). These men became the founding officers (President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer) of "The Clan Campbell Society (USA)" the following July 7, 1973 at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG).

Milestone Event: On October 19-23, 2023 in Peachtree Corners, Georgia, USA the Clan Campbell Society (North America) celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the CCSNA's reestablishment in 1972. In recognition of this milestone, the Clan Campbell Society established a new Honor with the Order of the Bog Myrtle as the "Hall of Fame" for lifetime of "Honor, Devotion, Heritage" and service to the Clan Campbell Society (North America). Fourteen (14) distinguished members were

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis

inducted into the Order from the 20,000+ members over the past 50 plus years. Nearly a hundred Clan Campbell Society members and guests from across North America and Scotland attended the induction ceremony. Many more visited the Clan Campbell Society tent at the Stone Mountain Highland Games over the celebration weekend. The Hon. Mike Mason, Mayor of Peachtree Corners, GA presented an Official Proclamation of the city, proclaiming that October 20, 2023 was “Clan Campbell Society (North America) Day.” This was presented to the Board of Trustees during the Executive meeting.

Surnames/Sept:

Arthur, Bannatyne, Breadalbane, Brealdalbain, Burnes, Burness, Burnett, Burns, Caddell, Cadell, Cattell, Calder, Camp, Campbell, Cattell, Caudle, Cawdor, Connochie, Conochie, Conochiey, Cutlelle, De La Campana, Denoon, Denune, Dermaid, Demid, Gibbon, Gibson, Harres, Harris, Hastings, Hawes, Haws, Hawson, Isaac, Issacs, Iverson, Kellar, Keller Kissack, Kissock, Lawden, Lawers, Lorne, Louden, Loudon, Loudoun, Lowden, Lowdon, Mac Artair, Mac Arthur, Mac Carter, Mac Colm, Mac Colmbe, Mac Conachie, Mac Conchie, Mac Connechy, Mac Conochie, Mac Dermid, Mac Dermott, Mac Diarmid, Mac Eller, Mac Elvie, Mac Ever, Mac Gibbon, Mac Lasrich, Mac Gubbin, Mac Gure, Mac Isaac, Mac Iver, Mac Ivor, Mac Kellar, Mac Kelvie, Mac Kerlie, Mac Essack Mac Kessock, Mac Kissock, Mac Laws, Mac Lehose, Mac Nichol, Mac Nocaird, Mac Onachie, Mac Oran, Mac Owen, Mac Phedran, Mac Phun, Mac Tause, Mac Tavish, Mac Thomas, Mac Ure, Moore, Muir, Ochiltree, Orr, Pinkerton, Taweson, Tawesson, Thomas, Thomason, Thompson, Thomson, Torrey, Torrie, Torry, Ur



Unique Places to Visit in Scotland

Ruthven Barracks. Located near Kingussie in the Scottish Highlands off of the A9 (which runs from Edinburgh to Inverness, Ruthven was a small fort with Barracks that the English used to control the Highlands. It is on the old General Wade's Military Road. In the mid 18th century, it was where troops were stationed to control the Highlands at the time of the Jacobite Rising. Though Prince Charlie's successful captured the fort and Barracks, it was lost back to the English Troops with the Scottish lose at the Battle of Culloden. It eventually fell into ruin and is free to visit.

Or if you wish to visit Islay, go to the “**Singing Sands Beach**”. You will find the beach shares with you a singing sound as you walk across the sand and rub the sole of your shoe against the sand. It is also a great place to have a picnic or lay on the beach soaking up the rays on a beautiful summer day. Though the water is too cold to swim comfortably, the water is clear and will share with you the magical feel of relaxation. It is near Carraig Fhada Lighthouse, the only square-shaped lighthouse in Scotland!

At the base of Loch Tay stands the ruins of **Finlarig Castle**, mostly surrounded by forest. Being built by the ‘Black’ Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy in the early 17th Century that mistreated his and other nearby Commoners. He was considered evil to all those around him. It was one of the castles visited by Rob Roy.

If you wish to go to Glencoe, consider “**Callendar House**” for an afternoon visit. In the 14th Century, this French chateau house was owned by one of the richest families of power, the Livingstons; to be more precise, Alexander, 5th Lord Livingston who was one of the guardians of Mary Queen of Scots. At his house, Mary Queen of Scots and Francis II completed and signed their marriage agreement and also features a portion of the Roman Antonines Wall, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The house tour is free.

Scottish Society Membership Application/Renewal

*Please complete this form and send it with your check made payable to the
Scottish Society of Indianapolis. You may also pay online or at one of our events.*

Membership: New Application Renewal **Date:** _____
Annual membership ends December 31.

Annual Membership Rates:

- Individual (\$25)
- Family (\$35)
- Student (\$10)
- Senior [Age 65+] Individual (\$21)
- Senior [Age 65+] Family (\$30)
- Life Member Individual (\$250)
- Life Member Family (\$350)

Pro-rated Membership for first year only:

- (\$13 when joining in July – September)
- (\$18 when joining in July – September)
- (\$ 5 when joining in July – September)
- (\$11 when joining in July – September)
- (\$15 when joining in July – September)

Name(s): _____

Please list up to 2 adults living in the same household.

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Addresses: _____

Please print clearly – thanks!

The e-mail list is for Scottish Society and Foundation use only.

Clan or District: _____

Scottish ancestry not required.

Children: _____

Age 22 and younger, living with you, included in family membership.

I can volunteer in the following ways (select all that apply):

- Help in our booth at Scottish, Irish, or International festivals
- Write articles for the newsletter
- Email announcements and/or website updates
- Bring the meat dish or appetizer for a monthly meeting
- Sell 50/50 raffle tickets for the scholarship fund
- Serve on a Society committee (finance, membership, nomination, special events)
- Serve on our Scottish festival committee
- Fundraise for our Scottish festival
- Volunteer at our Scottish festival
- Other _____

How did you hear about the Scottish Society of Indianapolis? _____

Would you like to order a membership badge? _____