

The Whistle

April – June 2026

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Fellow Scots,

Believe it or not, we're nearing the end of March already. It's one of my favorite months for a gathering, because the Scottish Country Dancers take to the dance floor. I enjoy watching their twisting and twirling as they show off their moves. And I really appreciate their patience when they invite us to join in on the fun for the last dance. For non-dancers such as myself, it's usually stumbling and tripping, and a whole lot of fun.

I am grateful to the board of trustees for ensuring a successful Tasting of the Mist during the February gathering. Vice-President Matthew Douglass has perfected "open bottle & pour", so I know you were in good hands while I was on vacation. I look forward to a wee dram of the Water of Life at all our gatherings.

At so many of our gatherings, we hear about Scottish men. Great men, such as William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, and more. Jodie Minniear will present on *Scottish Women* at the April 8 meeting. Plus, we'll have a Taco Bar, with meat dish provided by Tammy & Rob McKechnie. You won't want to miss it!

Every board meeting this year has included a lot of thoughtful discussion about the Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival. Our last three festivals (2023, 2024, and 2025) have been well-attended. However, due to higher costs since coming back from COVID, our operating fund has taken a beating. Festival Chairperson Lauren McNabb has assembled a small, but dedicated, committee to plan a quality event. We continue to explore options and hope to have more information for you soon.

Additionally, we were behind in filing paperwork required by the Indiana Secretary of State and the Internal Revenue Service. Working closely with Treasurer Greg Bowers, I am pleased to say the Society and Foundation are current in their filings. We will put into place a process to prevent future lapses in filing.

And speaking of being in place, the Society again marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Friday, March 13 in downtown Indianapolis. Community events such as this help promote the Society and Scottish culture throughout central Indiana.

Until next time, I hope to see you at one of our monthly gatherings.

Yours aye,
Steven Johnson
President



From the desk of the President





Calendar

SSI events are **bold**.

April

- 1** SSI Board of Trustees Meeting, Matthew & Lise Douglass' home
- 8** SSI Monthly Meeting, *Scottish Women*

May

- 6** SSI Board of Trustees Meeting, Deneice & Robin Jarrett's home
- 13** SSI Monthly Meeting, *Scottish Trivia*

June

- 3** SSI Board of Trustees Meeting, Deneice & Robin Jarrett's home
- 5** Kilt Night with Hogeye Navy, Aristocrat Pub & Restaurant
- 10** SSI Monthly Meeting, *Topic to be announced via email*



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.

	April	May	June
Date	Wed, Apr 8	Wed, May 12	Wed, June 10
Meat Dish	Taco Bar (Ground Beef & Shredded Chicken by Tammy & Rob McKechnie)	Please sign up to bring a meat dish at IndyScot.org.	Please sign up to bring a meat dish at IndyScot.org.
Program	<i>Scottish Women</i>	<i>Scottish Trivia</i>	<i>TBD</i>

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.

Recent Gatherings

January 2026

Our year started off much like past years, with a Celebration of Robert Burns. It's our own take on the traditional Burns Night with speeches, music, toasts, and good food. Rick Blacklidge prepared not only Shepherd's Pie, but haggis fit for its own toast by Samuel Lawson. And who better to educate us about Burns than retired teacher Deneice Jarrett? Hopefully the notes you took during her Immortal Memory will serve you well during May's Scottish Trivia!

February 2026

Matthew Douglass and Arnie Lewin brought their years of dedicated whisky tasting to the February meeting. The annual Tasting of the Mist is always enjoyable as well as educational. Jamia Jacobsen and John Herder provided fried chicken.

March 2026

The March meeting has regularly been country dancing, and we are grateful to the Indy Scottish Country Dancers for continuing this tradition. They entertained us with several demonstrations and then welcomed those in attendance to join them on the dance floor. A generous helping of patience and a lot of laughter filled the evening. Linda Cassady provided home-cooked corned beef and cabbage.



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. *Becoming a member is a two-step process of making payment and completing the membership form.* Please see Greg Bowers, Treasurer, with any questions.

Bulletins

Kilt Nights

We have a kilt night planned for Friday, June 5 at the Aristocrat Pub & Restaurant, 5212 N. College Ave., Indianapolis. Local favorite Hogeye Navy will perform from 7 – 9 p.m. This won't be any old kilt night, because it's Halfway to Hogmanay! (Not that we need a reason for a party.) 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. 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.

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!



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:	Pro-rated Membership for first year only:
_____ Individual (\$25)	(\$13 when joining in July – September)
_____ Family (\$35)	(\$18 when joining in July – September)
_____ Student (\$10)	(\$ 5 when joining in July – September)
_____ Senior [Age 65+] Individual (\$21)	(\$11 when joining in July – September)
_____ Senior [Age 65+] Family (\$30)	(\$15 when joining in July – September)
_____ Life Member Individual (\$250)	
_____ Life Member Family (\$350)	

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? _____