

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Determination of a Quorum by the Secretary
- Election and installation of Officers
- The Chief's Greeting
- *Reading and approval of the 2016 AGM Minutes (see attached print-out)
- *Reports (see below print-outs) :
 - President's Report by Lois Todd
 - Treasurer's Report on the funds received, paid-out and financial state of the organization.
 - Membership Report
 - Convener's Chair Report by Geof Baker
 - Communications Chair Report
 - Scholarship Report
 - Epic Project Report
 - DNA Project Report
- Items of Business: Call for any new business to be discussed and motions to their disposition as it may pertain.
- Meeting Adjourned.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have had a very successful year in 2016-2017 adding new conveners for areas where we haven't had coverage for a while, welcoming back two conveners who have been away for a while for health reasons, and adding many new members. It is satisfying to be ending this year and beginning the next at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games as the Honored Clan and with the Chief as the Honored Guest of the Games! It isn't very often that we have the opportunity to welcome the Chief to our Gordon Tent here in the USA, so we are praying for a good weather year at the festival to enjoy it to the fullest. Of course, a bit of rain won't stop us from having fun, but it does make it a bit of a squeeze in the tent where I am sure we will already be a crowd.

We sent our donation to the Gordon Highlander Museum with Mark Dodd, Convener for KY and TN when he went to visit his daughter in Scotland. We received thanks from Brian Snelling at the museum and I hear from him that they are in fund raising mode right now as much of the corporate business utilizing their conference rooms and facilities has gone away with the depression in the economy over there. I would like to remind our members that if you make extra donations earmarked for the museum through the House, those donations are included on your tax letter from the House at the end of the year. The same goes for the C. O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship Fund and The Epic Project. All worthy charitable efforts.

We did not have anyone members deployed at Christmas time that we were alerted to this past year, so we did not have a Christmas in a Box Project, but we did send out several care packages to deployed members over the course of the year. If you have deployed family, please let us know so that we can send them something to bring a bit of Home from the House to them while they are away from their kith and kin protecting our freedom. And, if anyone will be deployed over the holidays, let us know so we can support their squad, platoon, company or battalion with cards, banners, and Christmas cheer!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As VP, I have coordinated a major revision to the bylaws (2014), and a subsequent narrower revision (2015). I have also helped us come into compliance with California state reporting requirements for nonprofits (2016). On an annual basis, I initiate the Board's compliance with the conflict of interest policy that was introduced with the 2014 revision of the bylaws. In addition, I have participated in a variety of Board decisions, including choosing scholarship recipients and setting funding priorities. I am excited at the opportunity to continue my contribution to the House as an At-Large Board member!

Respectfully submitted,
Evan Rose.

CONVENER CHAIR REPORT

This year we welcomed back Loren & Nola Adams as conveners in Utah, as well as Tom & Sarah Gardenhire in Arizona who had been away for health reasons. We have also continued our efforts actively working on getting coverage in areas that we've not had covered before. Now we have the first ever House of Gordon convener for Montana in Ann Donnelly who recently hosted her first Gordon tent in Great Falls, Montana at the Kilt O' the Falls Festival and did it in fantastic style! Melinda Gordon Proctor is our new convener for Oklahoma, and we are very excited to once again have a presence there. It has been a long time since Rawny Gordon had to step down due to health reasons. We know from all of the comments received in our Facebook Groups that there are Oklahomans anxiously awaiting the return of the Gordon Tent in the Sooner State! I believe the next event coming up is SCOTFEST in Tulsa September 15 through the 17.

Finally, the Mid-Atlantic Region is adding two new games conveners for North Carolina, Megan Todd Faulkner & Marianne Mills Knapp! Megan helped Lois Todd in hosting the Gordon Tent at the Loch Norman Highland Games near Charlotte, NC in April and without her we would not have been able to have a Gordon Tent at this event. Megan and Marianne live near each other and will make an enthusiastic and fun team. Having these two hosting games throughout North Carolina will give our members more opportunities to get together and we look forward to seeing their efforts help to continue to grow membership in the region. Good luck to you both!

Special thanks and kudos to all of our conveners whose hard work, dedication and enthusiasm in the House of Gordon have resulted in a 110.2% increase in membership over last year's numbers, and a staggering 411% over the all-time low reported back in 2012. That is an average increase of 82 percent per year!! Our conveners have continued to make incredible leaps and bounds in generating excitement and interest in joining our wonderful clan family! One of the most exciting trends we've seen over the past couple of years is the increase in younger members joining the House! We continue to move towards becoming the premier clan organization we know we should be!

Robert Gordon, our convener in New England, will be taking on the role of Convener Chair and I don't think we could ask for a better person to take on this responsibility. He has done a fantastic job as convener and will bring great leadership to the group. I will be continuing as a Board Member at Large and look forward to continuing to serve the House in any way I can.

Bydand!
Geof Baker

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 2017

Certified 2017 Voting Members: 477 Number Needed for Quorum: 96

New memberships for this fiscal year: 153

Renewals from members who had been inactive since:

- 2012 - 4
- 2013 - 2
- 2014 - 5
- 2015 - 7

For a Total of 18 Memberships returning to active status from past years.

Memberships paid via Pay Pal : 58

As of June 20, 2017, we have 273 FY 2018 Paid Memberships. We are 51 Memberships ahead of this time last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie G. Linse

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Our main website will hopefully be seeing some changes in the next year. We are looking at ways to bring new functionality and optimization to the website. As computer systems evolve we need to revamp every so often and it is time for us to make some changes. I have one volunteer working on some ideas.

In the meantime, our Facebook groups, and pages are doing well. The House of Gordon USA Group has over 1350 members, Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Oklahoma & Texas have individual pages/groups to communicate with their members on a more local level. Our Facebook Conveners Group has proven to be a great asset giving the conveners a place to share ideas and compare notes. Our Facebook Page is used for making announcements, as is our Twitter account. And lastly The House of Gordon DNA Project Group on Facebook now has 276 members and as you see from the article in this May's *In The House!* on the Gordons of the Carolinas we are making connections and getting a better understanding of our history.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Todd

SCHOLARSHIP & EPIC PROJECT REPORT

We awarded three scholarships this year through the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship to three very deserving recipients:

Emma Schiff of Oakland Park, CA received a \$500.00 cash grant toward returning to the Highland Dance World Championships in Scotland as well as her Masters level degree in coaching.

Megan Ashworth of Simi Valley, CA received a \$250.00 cash grant toward her theory class preparation for her Highland Dance Judge's examination.

Autumn Giancchina of Clearwater, FL received a \$500.00 cash grant toward the Ohio Scottish Arts School for a week-long Highland Dance workshop.

We will award the final \$250.00 cash grant and trophy to the Grade 4 Junior Piper of the Day at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games on Saturday during the AGM.

The Epic Project recipient is Dana Leigh Smith, of Searcy, Arkansas. This young lady is a Highland Bass Drummer with the Lyon College Marching Band. She will receive complete handmade kilt outfits from My Kiltmaker as well as a new bass drum and accessories.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Todd

DNA PROJECT REPORT

We currently have 828 members in the study. Our goals for this coming year are:

- Concentrate on enrolling members from Scotland and Ireland within the next couple of years.
- Encourage members to upgrade their Y-DNA to 67 and eventually 111 markers, especially where they have close matches (genetic differences of 1 to 3). This allow condensation of family trees.
- Encourage members to correspond with their Y-DNA and Family Finder matches and compare trees.
- Furnish all Conveners with a copy of Why DNA? For them to reproduce and use as a handout at Games and Festivals.

In accomplishing the above, we hope to reduce the variety of ancestors to determine the actual progenitor(s).

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gordon

House of Gordon USA Annual General Meeting (AGM) Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, NC July 09, 2016

Federal IRS EIN # 26-0285250

Call to Order: 2:02 PM

Attendees:

Lois Todd
David Todd
Geof Baker

Keith Linse
Bonnie Linse
David Gauthier

Amy Lynn Edwards
Bryan Gordon
Steve Helliard

Membership and Quorum: Bonnie Linse reported the membership at 434 members, with 20% (87 votes) required to achieve a quorum to conduct official House of Gordon business. A quorum was met by the 8 voting members present and 182 proxy votes received from absentee members.

Reading of the 2015 AGM Minutes: Geof motioned this be omitted due to everyone in attendance having a copy in their hand that had been distributed and reviewed prior to the meeting. Keith Linse seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Minutes were approved as written.

Reading of the Chief's Greeting

Lois read the complete text of Granville, Marquis of Huntly's message which reflected upon the turbulent political landscapes both here and in Scotland with Brexit, Donald Trump, Prime Minister May, and Scottish Independence currents creating a great deal of change and uncertainty for us all. He tried to remain apolitical where we are concerned and is very much looking forward to visiting the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 2017. For the full text of his words, go to <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org/AGM2016.html>

Report Summaries:

President's Report (Lois Todd): Over the past 3 years, we worked hard to get House of Gordon USA shipshape. The Bylaws revision is complete. The Social Networking efforts are paying dividends. Tax and legal issues are resolved. The convener and membership bases have fully recovered. Our soaring membership can be attributed to having a good team on the Board, motivated conveners and a clear vision of our future. I'm very proud of the work done to get us to this point.

The increased membership allowed us to bring Susan Gordon Rose's Epic Project under the national umbrella to be part of our scholarship programs and we are excited to be able to help her provide deserving young Highland Pipers and Drummers with the kit needed to continue to compete on the boards and further their talent. Our youths' talent in the highland tradition of performing arts is one of the best ambassadors we have to showcase our Highland cultural and musical heritage. We are so proud of all our scholarship recipients in the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship Program and now also in The Epic Project Program. These efforts support our focus to make our success sustainable by engaging our youth and infusing their energy into our ranks.

In keeping with that youth focus, Our Christmas in July last year went well, and we had a lot of support for the USMC 1/7 who we adopted during their deployment. They made it home in April and greatly appreciated our efforts. If you have a member deploying, please let us know so we can support them with care packages. We have sent out many care packages over the years to members who deploy, but we can only do this when we know about it! We are also looking for a nomination for Christmas in a Box...if you know of a Company or Battalion- who will be deployed over the Holidays let one of the board members know and we will consider them for adoption. It was a huge morale boost for the 101st Airborne in 2014 and the USMC 1/7 in 2015, it would be nice to continue this project supporting our men and women at Arms who selflessly serve and protect us.

For the complete text of the President's Report and all reports from the board, refer to the online Reports at <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org/AGM2016.html>

Vice President's Report Summary (Bonnie Linse for Evan Rose):

Quiet year...Bylaw updates complete and all of our legal requirements met. Celebrate!

CONVENER REPORT SUMMARY (GEOF BAKER):

We continue expanding our convener coverage and working hard to bring in new conveners and some younger conveners to position us for the next generation!

Sheila Mills Bedsole took on Alabama giving us coverage for the first time in that state. She had a very professional welcoming tent at the highland games in Dothan and did a fabulous job increasing Alabama's membership.

Mark Dodd took on Tennessee and Kentucky and was at the Glasgow, KY games and did a great job. After many years without representation, it is great to have a Gordon Tent at that festival and in Kentucky again!

Jen Mills Martin has taken on co-convening Florida with Cynthia Gordon Patrick. Cynthia remains in the lead and will focus on South Florida while Jen will focus on North Florida. Together they are creating a dynamic team to really explode our presence in Florida.

We are working to get help for Rob Gordon in New England similar to what we established in Florida, and we are looking for Conveners to come onboard in the Mid-Atlantic area in the same way so we can better cover Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

We created a private Facebook Group for our conveners so that they can get to know each other, bond, and share ideas. We have had some exciting exchanges and many ideas are in development - a new kid's handout, a handout on some of our more famous Gordons, and some unexpected Gordons of fame that the average person wouldn't readily recognize were Gordons! We are all looking forward to the Chief's visit next year and the conveners are going to play a major part in the planning.

Katy Richards, our convener for Texas, created two new Facebook pages. One for HoG Texas as well as one for HoG Oklahoma/Kansas. We are still looking for someone to come forward and help us with Oklahoma and Kansas.

I applaud ALL of our conveners for their fantastic efforts in driving up our membership 373.3% from the low reported in 2012!! Keep it up and if you need any tools, items, handouts, or any other materials, let us know!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT SUMMARY (BONNIE LINSE):

Certified 2016 Voting Members: 435 **Votes needed for Quorum: 87**

New members this year: 160

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT SUMMARY (LOIS TODD):

Our main website, HouseofGordonUSA.org, continues to serve our membership a forum for ideas and camaraderie, with peak months in April, June, August, October and December. This corresponds to key events, the beginning of the Festival season in April, the AGM, Fall Festival push with several BIG festivals, the December newsletter and beginning of Florida's season in January. The peaks run just ahead or concurrent of these events.

Our Facebook page and Twitter page are getting more notice and we are getting more followers and seeing

re-tweets. I would like to have someone work with me on the Twitter account. I find I have little time to really make this as effective as it could be. Our Facebook Group online community grew by 114.6% over last year and now has over 1200 members.

In The House! featured an article on Abergeldie Castle, which faced flood waters that eroded the riverbank and threatened to topple the historic home into the River Dee this past winter, and an article of A.A. Milne and Winnie the Pooh. Winnie is the official Gordon Tent Mascot at the House of Gordon USA tents, and is always a huge hit with young and old alike. Both received much interest and positive comments from the members. At the request of many members, we also had an article on the Battalion of Marines we adopted and the member who served as our piper for several years that many of you watched grow up. This Battalion, USMC 1/7 out of Twentynine Palms in California, is one with a long proud history of service and Company C, better known as Suicide Charley, won fame in WWII at Guadalcanal & Peleliu. The Battalion and Suicide Charley continue to do well and were written up in an article in Marine Times which we were allowed to reprint as part of our article to give our members an understanding of the importance of the support we give to these fine young Marines & Sailors. The fact that their routine training for their deployment enabled them to send the winning squad with no special preparation to the first Super Squad competition the 1st Division has held in 15 years shows the level of their commitment and skill. This is a well deserving group. Their letters of thanks say it all in telling of the morale boost given to them when they were away over the Holidays serving our nation and protecting our liberties.

6. SCHOLARSHIP REPORT SUMMARY (LOIS TODD):

We awarded two scholarships this spring to deserving young ladies of Gordon Heritage and this morning awarded the final scholarship of \$250.00 along with a trophy to the Grade IV Piper of the Day, **James Campbell**, here at Grandfather Mountain! We also had some dark green t-shirts printed with a color rendition of the Gordon Belted Crest that we are selling to support the scholarship fund.

The two Charles O. Gordon scholarships awarded by application this year went to:

Destiny Swainston of Dunedin, Florida: a 15-year-old Highland Dancer - \$500
Isabel Friedrichs of Escondido, California a 15-year-old Highland Dancer - \$400

The Epic Project scholarship program 2016 recipient is:

Linda Snoddy of Bakersfield College in Bakersfield, CA.

All of the applicants were worthy of consideration and we hope those that did not get selected this year will reapply next year. For more information regarding these recipients, refer to the complete scholarship report at <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org/AGM2016.html>

House of Gordon USA Treasurer's Report Summary FY2016:

Beginning Balance: **\$15,188.47** Ending Balance: **\$17,761.25**
Motion to accept as written (Dave) seconded (Geof) and approved unanimously

See the complete report from this link: <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org/AGM2016.html>

House of Gordon USA Items of New Business:

Scottish Gordon Heritage Charities Fund: Unanimously voted to continue to support

- Gordon Highlanders Museum
- Gordon Scottish Heritage
- Charles O. Gordon Scholarship
- Epic Project

House of Gordon USA Goals: Now that our House is in order, continue what we've been doing

- Expand House of Gordon USA throughout the US by recruiting Convener's in areas as yet untapped and supporting their membership acquisition and retention efforts
- Focus on building sustainability by encouraging youthful involvement in House of Gordon USA and rewarding our youths' cultural heritage pursuits with scholarships and support
- Support the preservation of House of Gordon's historical contributions by charity and education

Adjournment: At 3:23 pm, the slate was clear and motioned to adjourn (Lois), seconded (David), unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
DAVID J. GAUTHIER, Secretary

**HOUSE OF GORDON USA
TREASURER'S REPORT FY2017**

Beginning Balance 17,761.25

INCOME

National

Membership	4,550.00
Additional Directed Donations	325.00
PayPal Interest	0.02
PayPal Membership	45.40
Bank Interest	-
Bank Fees Reversed	-
Misc. Income	0.40

Conveners

Membership	4,953.80
Additional Directed Donations	-

Directed Charity Funds

Gordon Scottish Heritage	2,320.00
GSH- Chief's Visit	748.72
Gordon Heritage QM	116.71
C. O. Gordon Scholarship	2,142.50
Gordon Highlander Museum	917.50
Gordon Troop Charity	-
Gordon Epic Project	260.00

Total Income 16,380.05

EXPENSES

Membership

Membership Secretary	1,164.02
Postage	674.56

Business

Bank Fees	12.00
PayPal Fees	60.99
CA Business Filing Fees	20.00
President	105.28
Treasurer	68.89
AGM	767.86
Conference Calls	32.05
Misc. Expense	-

Communications

Website	207.12
Newsletter	2,768.69

Conveners

Printing (New Conveners)	-
Conveners	1,539.42
Secured GA Fund	395.14

Charities

Gordon Scottish Heritage	3,151.03
GSH- Chief's Visit	358.42
Gordon Heritage QM	-
C.O. Gordon Scholarship	1,250.00
Gordon Highlanders Museum	2,000.00
Troop Care Packages	-
Epic Project	500.00

Total Expense 15,075.47

Ending Balance 19,065.83

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Business Lfunds

National Ledger	2,392.22
Convener Fund	4,524.98
Secured Georgia Fund	2,040.65
PayPal	45.40

Charities Funds

Gordon Scottish Heritage	4,678.58
Gordon Heritage QM	315.66
C.O. Gordon Scholarship	1,884.54
Gordon Highlander Museum	548.50
Gordon EpicProject	285.00
GSH- Chief's Visit	2,350.30

Total Funds 19,065.83