



# Western States Clan MacLaren Society

FALL 2019  
Volume 4, Issue 3

## The Scottish Thistle



### NORMAN ENGLISH ELECTED PRESIDENT

The Western States Clan MacLaren Society elected officers at the AGM held in conjunction with the Scottish festival in Boise in September. These members will take office on January 1, according to the society bylaws. Here are the new officers:

President: Norman English

Vice President: Nina Garcia

Secretary: Karen Woodall

Treasurer: Kris Martin

Congratulations, and thanks to all. More information about the meeting can be found inside this issue.



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# Annual General Meeting yields successful election

It was a ground-breaking meeting in September when board members met to convene the Annual General Meeting for WSCMS. Ground-breaking, because board members met via a state-to-state teleconference.

The meeting was held Friday, September 20 in conjunction with the Treasure Valley Highland Games and Celtic Festival in Boise, Idaho. The festival was held the next day on Saturday.

Circumstances made it difficult for some board members to get to Boise this year. So, those that could, gathered in Boise, and others gathered at the home of Barbara Gard in Salem, Oregon.

“It truly shows that the hard work of running an organization goes on no matter where the leaders have to be,” commented Norman English, who was elected as the new president.

President Nina Garcia convened the meeting in Boise with herself, Tracey Martin, and Kris Martin in attendance. Those attending in Salem were incoming president Norman English, Margaret English, Barbara Gard, Karen Woodall and Pete Woodall. Membership chair Tim McLaren and newsletter editor Penny McLaren had a previous commitment at that time on Friday and on Saturday and could not attend.

Using the technology to conduct the meeting proved to be easy for both sides. Since Barbara Gard has long been able to conduct meetings by teleconference in her past career with the California Psychiatric Association, she was able to manage the administration with her usual efficiency.

The minutes for the meeting are reprinted on the following pages.

The AGM is held in alternating locations each year. For 2020, the meeting is planned for the second weekend in June at the McMinnville Scottish Festival in Oregon.



*Above, Norman English was elected president beginning in 2020. He and Margaret English were in Salem for the AGM.*



*Below, from left, Margaret English, Karen Woodall, Barbara Gard and Pete Woodall attended the AGM from the Salem location.*

Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Friday September 20, 2019  
Salem, Oregon & Boise, Idaho

**Attendee/Proxy Report:**

For the record, those attending the meeting in Boise, Idaho are:

Nina Garcia  
Tracey Martin  
Kris Martin

Those attending in Salem, Oregon via teleconferencing are:

Barbara Gard  
Norman English  
Margaret English  
Peter Woodall  
Karen Woodall

Seven of the eight are current Board Members/Officers of WSCMS, satisfying the by-laws requirement that there be at least three Board Members/Officers in attendance at Annual Meetings.

In addition, there are two signed proxies, naming Nina Garcia as the proxy, received timely from active WSCMS members, so the total of ten attendees/proxies satisfies the by-laws requirement that 25% of the 23 active WSCMS members be represented at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:02pm PST.  
Those present, see above.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. Norm moved that the minutes be approved as written. Barbara seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer Report:**

Tom Martin was not present, however he submitted his report for our review.

Beginning Balance: \$724.25

Income: 654.57

Expenses: 569.90

Ending Balance: \$808.92

Karen moved that the report be accepted and Pete seconded. It was approved.

### **Membership Report:**

Tim McLaren was not present, however he submitted his report. Discussion regarding the loss of six members and the addition of three new members for a total of 23 members. Barbara will contact some of the lost members to see if they would like to renew. Barbara moved the report be accepted, Pete seconded and it was approved.

### **Newsletter Report:**

Penny McLaren was not present and had not submitted a report but Barbara has talked with Penny. Penny needs news articles, pictures, events, items for the newsletter. To date there have been two newsletters and another is planned for the end of the quarter.

### **Website Report:**

Tracey Martin has updated the website and it is fully our own now making it easier to find us when people are searching the web. Neil Martin will be working with Tracey to learn the position of webmaster. Thank you Tracey for all your hard work on the website. It is very much appreciated and vital for an organization to have a presence.

### **Election of Officers/Board:**

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 the following Officers and Board Members have each been approved:

President: Norman English

Vice President: Nina Garcia

Secretary: Karen Woodall

Treasurer: Kris Martin

Board Member: Pete Woodall to replace Barbara Gard

### **Old Business:** Non-Profit Donation

Discussion regarding the number of blankets and pillows that we still have on hand and what has been sold. Nina does not have any. The donation was made to Battle Buddies, however, there was no acknowledgement from them regarding the donation. Discussion regarding the coming year donation. Barbara moved and Karen seconded that we wait until next year to decide what would work best. It was approved. Everyone will be thinking of ideas for the best use of the dollars.

### **New Business:** 2020 WSCM Annual General Meeting

Barbara moved that the meeting take place at the McMinnville Highland Games in June and Margaret seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm PST.

## An End of the Beginning – and the Start of a New Chapter:

As this was an election year for us, there were a couple of changes. As most of you know, I served two terms as president as we negotiated our way through building a legally viable organization. I want to thank all of you for getting us off the proscenium of that other organization, putting us right on center stage of our own.

It was a frustrating but rewarding experience, and everyone should be proud of our achievements. It is not easy starting something meaningful from the disrespect and disappointment we experienced. But we persevered, and here we are – a bona fide organization. I am grateful for the part I played in bringing WSCMS into being, and I am humbled by your support in allowing me to direct us to this point.

Norm was elected president at our AGM, and I am happy to turn over the presidency to him. Since we are small, I will take on the vice president's duties for now. Norm has a vast knowledge in organizational leadership and is perfectly suited to move us from start-up, to worthwhile entity. We are past the inception hump but must still work diligently as we enter our new period. Please help Norm as you helped me. Congratulations Norm – we have your back!

You can still reach me at my email address (listed in the newsletter) or via messenger from our Facebook page. I will still be available to cause trouble, put wind up a MacGregor, or just to chat about things Scottish –

Love you all. – Nina



**Thank you to Nina Garcia!  
Founder of WSCMS  
and first president**



## Remembering...In Plain English!

*Chronicles from the Past of Day-to-Day  
Triumphs, Tragedies and Mirth in Small-  
Town America*



Norman Lee English

*Remembering...In Plain English!* is an autobiographical sketch of a small-town youngster's early years, as he is born into a working-man's family as the youngest of three boys during the closing days of World War II. Real-life examples of this family throughout the 50s are described in detail, as his family, as well as the rest of the country pulls itself out of the 'lean years' of the Depression and wartime. Though never financially well-off, this boy and his family enjoy a life replete with love, humor, and devotion to neighbors, family and friends, especially in their close-knit neighborhood. But, there always seems to be food on the table. This lad receives an extra large dose of humor from his father, who often uses laughter to help get the family through those meager times. Those day-to-day experiences help him cultivate an inner strength and determination - in spite of hardships and sorrow - becoming a conduit for succeeding in church, school and community. Getting through these challenges helps him later, as he raises three children of his own. Interwoven into this story are a number of historical references to other happenings within the small Northwest community of Silverton, Oregon, and even in the greater world. The author describes how those events directly affected him and his family as they all experienced them. This seemingly ordinary individual (in his own eyes), eventually receives special recognition within the community for his volunteer efforts 'on many fronts,' in trying to make the world a better place, or at least one small part of it.



A view of Silver Creek, looking north from the Main Street Bridge in Silverton, Oregon



Norman Lee English was born and raised in Silverton, Oregon, a third-generation native son of the community, where he continues to live in his retirement years.



Book covers,  
front and  
back

## Remembering...In Plain English!

*An Autobiography  
by Norman English*

This autobiography was written by WSCMS incoming President and current vice president Norm English. The work is the culmination of nearly 4 1/2 years of research and writing. Inspired initially as a means to describe his life and personal happenings to his kids and grandkids, this 414-page book was self-published in 2019.

The book is a personal sketch of one small-town youngster's early years, as he is born into a working-man's family as the youngest of three boys during the closing days of World War II. It contains real-life examples of his family's experiences throughout the 50s, described in down-to-earth detail ('Plain English'), as the family pulls itself out of the aftermath of the 'lean years' of the Great Depression and then wartime.

The setting is in the small Northwest community of Silverton, Oregon. The true recollection illustrates at every turn how a family who is never financially well-off, nonetheless is able to enjoy a life replete with love, humor and devotion to their own family, neighbors and friends. And, amazingly, somehow there was always sufficient food on the table, proper clothing to wear, and a warm bed to sleep in.

Getting through those early years and the day-to-day challenges of the times - in spite of hard-

ships and sorrow along the way - became a conduit for succeeding in church, school and community, especially as he carried on the task of raising a family of his own. Interwoven into the story are a number of historical references to other happenings outside the community and in the greater world, as the author points out how those events directly affected him and his family at the time.

The book contains more than 50 photographs, as well as a four-page Silverton, Oregon History Timeline.

### ***One reviewer of the book describes it:***

"As a newcomer to Silverton, reading **Remembering...In Plain English!** acquainted me to the small city, its history, and Norman English's imprint in it all. His life story guides the reader through a simpler time where shared family experiences, happy and sad, speaks volumes."~

***Nancy Jennings, Freelance Writer/Copy Editor***

# GAMES REPORT

Kelso Highlander Festival and Scottish Games  
Tam O'Shanter Park, Kelso, Washington  
September 14-15

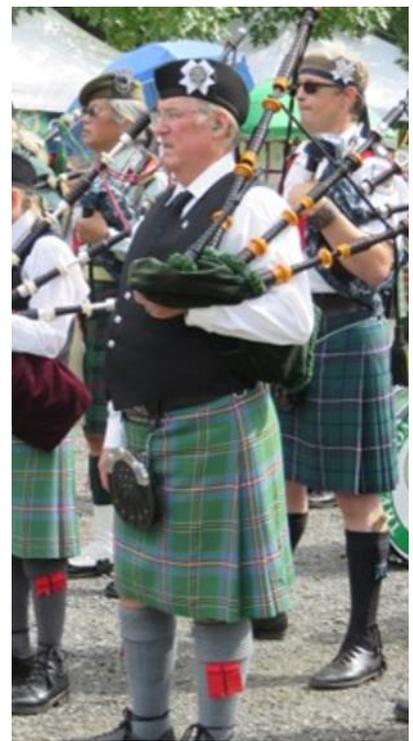


*Norm and Margaret English greet friends at the WSCMS tent in Kelso.*

A beautiful sunny day greeted festival participants in Kelso on Saturday, September 14. Norman and Margaret English came from Silverton, Oregon to work at the WSCMS tent, along with Penny and Tim McLaren from Vancouver.

Things were a bit out of place this year. The city of Kelso incorporated new infrastructure into Tam O'Shanter Park before the festival—an additional covered exhibit area, new restrooms, and more paved parking. Among the clans there was talk that the city will be completing additional improvements next year. The only trouble was, they didn't deliver on their promise to be finished with this year's improvements to a point that the field could be usable for the athletic events. So the athletes were in a totally different area across the parking lot at the high school sports fields, and the people attending had to move between the areas. The sound system also did not work for the midday ceremony, so only those closest to the announcer could hear the names of the clans announced and dignitaries introduced. Still, one could say that's part of the games.

The program listed 50 clans attending, along with related groups such as the Scottish American Military Society. Entertainers were Men of Worth,



*Above, Tim McLaren waiting to pipe in the band for the midday ceremony. Below, Margaret English and Penny McLaren at the tent.*



and the Wicked Tinkers on Sunday.

Pipe bands in attendance were the Fort Vancouver Pipe Band and the Tacoma Scots. Tim and Penny McLaren performed with the Fort band both at the midday ceremony and at the featured band performance with a 15 minute program of tunes.

We talked with many members of other clans and groups, but didn't meet any new MacLarens. Hope we can see some familiar faces and greet some new members next year. *Penny McLaren*

# GAMES REPORT



*Pictured at left is new member Jerry Lawson, flanked by Tracey and Kris Martin (left) and Nina Garcia (right) at the Boise games. Pictured below, Nina Garcia meets father and son athletes who competed in Boise in MacLaren tartans.*



## Treasure Valley Scottish Games Expo Idaho, Boise, Idaho September 21

The Treasure Valley Games in Boise, Idaho, were organized just a little differently this year. Instead of the athletic events being pushed off to the side, they had center stage with two large competitive areas. All the tents were arranged around the competitive areas, and we had a great view of the hammer throwing and caber tossing.

When it was time for the pipe bands, the athletic activities paused so no one was distracted. All of the dancing was over in the back by the Irish lasses this year, but we didn't mind too much, because we got to watch the laddies!

One new member joined, paying for next year, and we told him he could have the remainder of this year free. He is recently retired Air Force. I have tried to reach out to him, but I can't read his handwriting so I am not sure he is actually getting my messages – I will keep trying.

We also met another potential new member.

He and his young son were competing. Again the handwriting left a wee bit to be desired – both were Lawsons – so we are hopeful we'll connect again.

This was the largest Boise games in a while. We had several first-time clan tents, and new food vendors. The naughty ladies of the tea tent were up to their usual shenanigans at the Bonnie Knees contest, too, so everyone had a good time.

Thanks to everyone who attended the AGM in conjunction with the festival. Although Norm asked us to get him a photo, we did not (we will be better prepared next time). Despite that, I think the entire process went quite well. —*Nina Garcia*

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**Please share the word about WSCMS**

Website: [www.maclarenclan.org](http://www.maclarenclan.org)

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/maclarensofidaho/>

## WSCMS MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thanks for being a member of WSCMS. We hope you will share information about this group with others who want to get together with MacLarens in the western parts of the U.S.

Please contact Tim McLaren, via the contact information at right, if you would like him to send information to a prospective member, or if you have any questions. Dues are \$10 per year.

Have you changed any of your contact information? Email, phone number, address? If so, please send your changes to Tim McLaren, membership, at the contact information listed.

### Welcome new members

**Chris McLaran, McMinnville, Oregon**

**Kris Martin, Fairfield, Idaho**

**Neill Martin, Fairfield, Idaho**

**Jerry Lawson, Boise, Idaho**



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## Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc. Officers/Board Members beginning January 1, 2020

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***Western States  
Clan MacLaren So-  
ciety, Inc.,***

***WSCMS, is a duly  
registered non-  
stock, non-profit  
organization incor-  
porated in 2015 un-  
der the laws of the  
State of Idaho.***

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