



# Western States Clan MacLaren Society

FALL 2021  
Volume 6, Issue 4



# The Scottish Thistle



## HIGHLAND FESTIVAL EXCITEMENT

What a great fall it was for WSCMS and for Scottish activities in the PNW! We finally had an opportunity to get out and meet fellow Scots, and most importantly, fellow MacLarens, at two festivals this fall. Norm English also successfully presided over our Annual Meeting in September via Zoom. For the coming year, we are planning to repeat our Zoom version of a Burns gathering—hope to see you January 29. (You will have to provide your own supper, though.) Look for a review of our two games experiences, the meeting minutes, and the announcement about Burns Night inside. And don't forget to send along any news and photos you have to share with members of WSCMS.

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# President's Message



*Norm English*



I'm writing this message to you in the aftermath of the euphoria I felt while attending and helping man the tent, at least on Saturday, for our Western States Clan MacLaren Society organization at the McMinnville, Oregon Scottish Festival and Games in early October.

After an 18-month hiatus from most Scottish events, with a worldwide pandemic wreaking havoc on such activities, it felt wonderful to once again have an opportunity to celebrate our heritage, greet folks I have not seen in quite awhile, hear the welcoming drone of bagpipes throughout the festival grounds, witness the thrill of heavy athletic events being performed to the appreciative cheers of the gathered crowd, and enjoying a nearly constant view of 'men in kilts.' (Well, women too!)

It truly felt like after all that time, that 'we were back.' And we truly were! And those of us who were able to attend were really lucky, too. Not all events in every locality are being held these days, even yet, and some will likely need to wait until 2022 to once again experience, first hand, the excitement of celebrating Scottish heritage up close and in-person.

Without a doubt, at least in this one event that was 'open for business,' people of all ages were eager to be a part of things, participate in whatever they were able to, and showed a tremendous level of excitement and happiness at simply being there, undoubtedly grateful for the chance to once again be 'in the middle of it all.'

Our WSCMS tent, manned so capably by Barbara Gard, and assisted by myself and Tim and Penny McLaren, was blessed with having many visitors who signed our register, asked questions about some of the details of their Scottish heritage, and traced the location of their ancestors on the Scottish map. It truly felt like we were 'there for them,' and gave us workers a sense of accomplishment at perhaps helping visitors trace their roots.

I'd like to give a 'shout out' to the tent set-up crew of Penny McLaren, Karen and Pete Woodall, who also worked with the taking down of the tent after the festival. In addition, WSCMS member Ray Mabey was in charge of running the athletic events, while Chris McLaran, also a member, ran the festival itself. To all of you, your work was so much appreciated. And Penny did a wonderful job of organizing the display inside the tent. What would we ever do without you? And this was not Penny's only event recently either, having also organized and manned the tent for the Kelso Highland Festival in September. Thank you for all you do, Penny!

**Norm English – President**

# *Burns Night is scheduled for January 29*

January may be important because it marks the first month of a new year. But to Scots, January also is the month to remember the birthdate of beloved poet Robert Burns and his legacy.

WSCMS will celebrate the works of Robert Burns with a Zoom presentation and online “party.”

President Norm English announced that the special WSCMS gathering will be held Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 6:30 PM. Join in! Even though the in-person celebrations are generally a Burns Supper, complete with haggis and other Scottish traditions, you will have to provide your own meal and appropriate drink for our Zoom version.

WSCMS will provide the entertainment (either after or during dinner, your choice!). Last year we included recorded music and poetry which was then combined with live readings from members. Barbara Gard provided the traditional talk on Burns, which is always titled the Immortal Memory. A toast To The Immortal Memory usually follows.

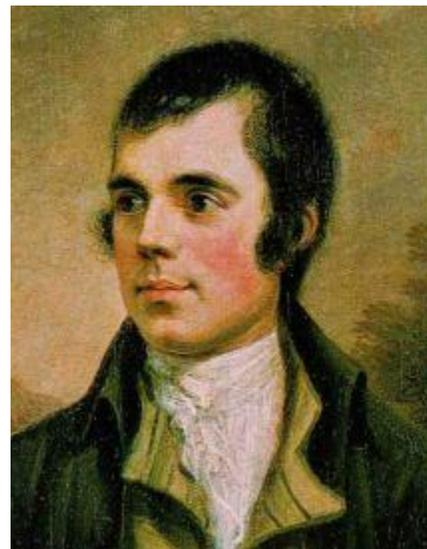
You should receive a Zoom link sometime toward the middle of January. If you don't receive it by email, contact membership chair Tim McLaren. If you would like to take part in the program to share a Burns reading or other contribution, we want to include you. Contact Norm English in the next few weeks with your ideas.

During his rather short life, Robert Burns wrote many, many poems about his beloved country. He wrote in the Scots dialect, so he appealed to all Scots of many walks of life in his time. In January of this year, the Scottish Parliament wrote this statement about recognizing Burns:

“The Parliament welcomes the annual celebration of Scotland’s national poet, Robert Burns, which is held on 25 January each year to mark the Bard’s birthday; considers that Burns was one of the greatest poets and that his work has influenced thinkers across the world; notes that Burns' first published collection, *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, also known as the "Kilmarnock Edition", published in 1786, did much to popularise and champion the Scots language, and considers that this is one of his most important legacies; believes that the celebration of Burns Night is an opportunity to raise awareness of the cultural significance of Scots and its status as one of the indigenous languages of Scotland, and further believes in the importance of the writing down of the Scots language to ensure its continuation through written documentation, as well as oral tradition.” (*Wikipedia entry, attributed to TV, Scottish Parliament, Celebrating Burns and the Scots Language, retrieved 26 January 2021*)

So put the virtual Burns Night on your calendar and plan to join us online Saturday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m. Pacific time.

*Celebrate the legacy left to all Scots by  
Robert Burns at Burns Night with WSCMS*



*And there's a hand,  
my trusty fere!  
And gie's a hand o'  
thine!  
And we'll tak a  
right gude-willie  
waught,  
For auld lang syne*

*For auld lang syne  
My dear,  
For auld lang syne  
We'll tak a cup o'  
kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne*



# *WSCMS annual meeting in September stayed online*

In September WSCMS board members usually traveled to a games or festival to conduct the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Western States Clan MacLaren Society. This year the AGM was held on Friday, September 24 via Zoom.

The meeting was directed by WSCMS president Norm English. You can read the full minutes of the meeting in this issue beginning on page 8.

The AGM is the sole formal meeting held each year to review and conduct the business of WSCMS. The online format was used for the second year in a row instead of the usual in-person gathering. All members in good standing received the link to join the meeting.

The AGM this year would normally have been at the Treasure Valley festival in Boise, Idaho. That location alternates with the McMinnville Games in McMinnville, Oregon, or the Kelso Highlander Festival in Kelso, Washington. Both those festivals were held this fall and are reviewed in this issue.

The Treasure Valley games this year was cancelled for 2021 due to the uncertainties of the pandemic.



## *Membership dues return in 2022*

A motion was passed at the AGM to return to regular operations in 2022 for WSCMS dues. (See the minutes for details.) Membership dues were waived in 2021 due to the pandemic.

When current members renew in 2022, the annual amount will be \$10 for the year. Membership renewal notices will go out after the first of the year. New members will also pay membership dues starting in 2022. If you are not yet a member but you are considering joining, contact membership chair Tim McLaren for information.

**Please share the word about WSCMS**

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



And find us on Facebook:

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

# Kelso Highlander Festival was free and fun for all

When the Kelso Highlander Festival began on Saturday, September 11, it was especially gratifying that after such a long time, clans could finally put up their tents and celebrate Scottish culture.

Except, we did not exactly put up our whole tent. It turned out we had left the tent top in Salem where our clan tent goods are stored by Barbara Gard. However, we put up the frame anyway and hung our displays from that and it worked out fine. It didn't hurt that the weather was sunny and beautiful and stayed that way for the whole weekend.



The festival seemed well attended with an appreciative crowd trying to gather safely. In addition, the city had made several improvements to the parking lot at the park, which included a new sidewalk running the length of clan row in front of the clan tents.

We enjoyed meeting our MacLaren tent visitors. On Saturday we welcomed Derek Patterson from Rainier, Oregon a Patterson and MacLaren. He and Tim had a nice conversation.

Tim also met and talked with Jeanie Walter from Vancouver, Washington. Her family name stems from Walter MacLaren.

Our tent spot was ideal, located directly across from the athletic field. The field was busy with competitors and their athletic challenges. On Saturday we heard the name Patterson being announced. So on Sunday after hearing the name announced again, Penny went to investigate. Who should she meet but athlete Lisa Patterson. Lisa then called over her husband Tim so we could get a photo of them on the field, which you see at top right. They both compete in as many games as they can get to from their home in Seattle. It was great to meet them both.

Thanks everyone for visiting the tent or talking with us at the festival. We look forward to seeing you again and hope you will take part in our activities.



*Athletes Lisa and Tim Patterson competed all weekend*

*At left and right tent displays without the tent (along with Fort Vancouver Pipe Band members in the shade behind).*



*The Wicked Tinkers performed on Sunday and organized a special parade along clan tent row.*

# McMinnville Scottish Festival moves to fall and to fairgrounds

When the McMinnville Scottish Festival was established, it was held in June on the grounds of Linfield College. The pandemic changed all that. Instead, the festival was in October at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds.

What a nice big crew of WSCMS members came. Barbara Gard steered our setup on Friday. She was our guiding light and counsel both Saturday and Sunday to share MacLaren history. She worked on getting everything taken down and packed for storage on Sunday also. Karen and Pete Woodall engineered the setup on Friday and takedown Sunday with Penny McLaren, as well as being on hand Saturday and Sunday at the tent. Norm English attended on Saturday to help greet all our visiting MacLarens at the tent. Tim McLaren attended on Saturday to be on hand to talk to visitors also. Both Tim and Penny McLaren had to do double duty by playing with the Fort Vancouver Pipe Band all day Saturday. So they had to appear in their band kilts instead of showing off their MacLaren tartan.

The McMinnville festival is also highly important to WSCMS because the Festival Board includes two special clan members: Chris McLaran is President, and Ray Mabey is Vice President. We are very proud of both! The festival appeared well attended, and was very well organized and laid out thanks to them. It is a huge undertaking, and they did a great job.

We again got to meet Tim Patterson, the games athlete who we met at Kelso. His wife Lisa did not join him this time for this festival, but we got to meet his sister Meg from Portland when she attended on Sunday. We are always proud of the efforts of our MacLaren athletes, a tradition we have also shared with Ray Mabey and Kevin Halsey and Hal Gard.

Barbara Gard also enjoyed talking with Gracie Mabey, daughter of Ray Mabey, who filled Barbara in on her and her sister's activities.

Many new MacLarens stopped by, too. Barbara greeted and talked to them all, and filled them in on MacLaren history and lore. We hope to see all again. Thanks to all of you for visiting and for signing our log of visitors. Here are the names of some of the people we met and hope we will see again in McMinnville and at other festivals.

Philip Fisher, McMinnville: Family connection McRauri  
Tom, Norma Rankin, Hillsboro: Family connection McLean, MacLaren  
Tina Cox, Forest Grove: Family connection Laurie/Lawrie  
Pam Beyer, Albany: Family connection Kerr, McLaren, Sinclair  
Jody Hildibrant, McMinnville: Family connection Dave Patterson  
Jessi Patterson, McMinnville: Family connection Patterson  
Patrick Ruddiman, Newport: Family connection McClaran  
Daniel Rademacher, McMinnville: Family connection McClary  
Marie Rademacher, McMinnville: Family connection Casserly, Mair  
Loretta Smith, Salem: Family connection MacLaren



*Photos: At top, Ray Mabey showing the MacLaren Challenge Caber; center, Chris McLaran and fellow festival board member Gretchen Yoder; bottom, Athlete Tim Patterson with his sister Meg Patterson visiting the WSCMS tent*

Top right, Ray Mabey visits with Barbara Gard and WSCMS President Norm English at the tent. Below left, Pete and Karen Woodall enjoy visiting with the dogs and a friend at the tent. Below right, MacLaren visitors pin on the white cockade. Bottom left, Barbara Gard enjoys a laugh with Tim Patterson and Ray Mabey. Ray heads the athletic games operations and Tim Patterson competed throughout the weekend in several athletic events. Bottom right, a competitor gets ready to make an attempt at turning the MacLaren Challenge Caber on Saturday.



Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Friday September 24, 2021  
Virtual Conferencing via Zoom

**Attendees:**

Norman English  
Margaret English  
Nina Garcia  
Barbara Gard  
Tracey Martin  
Kris Martin  
Penny McLaren  
Tim McLaren  
Pete Woodall  
Karen Woodall  
Carol Halsey

Quorum was met by 25% of the total membership (26) – 11 Present

The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:36pm PDT

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were included in the newsletter for review. There were no additions or corrections. Barbara moved that the minutes be approved, Nina seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurers Report:**

Kris Martin gave the following report:

Beginning Account Balance:	\$979.24
Income: 90.02	
Expenses: 125.95	
Ending Account Balance:	\$943.31

**Membership Report:**

Tim McLaren reported that we currently have 26 members, which is an increase from 2020. The dues had been waived for 2020 and we gained members. There has been no activity for many months, but it is a challenging environment.

**Newsletter Report:**

Penny reported that she had been having trouble getting interesting material to include in the newsletter, since there have been no activities to cover. She hopes upcoming issues will not present that challenge. The fall issue will include articles covering the clan tent at festivals. After that, she has a few other articles for winter or spring issues that she can write about that highlight people who have a MacLaren name or connection, where there are no other activities to include. A comment was made about how very professional the newsletter looked. Penny also attended the Kelso Highland Games and spoke with a couple of potential members. She took a picture that will be in the next newsletter that is coming out after the McMinnville Highland Games. Let Penny know if you have any articles or stories you would like to be included in the newsletter.

**Website Report:**

Tracey reported that the Domain name was just renewed. As the Highland Games are opening up

in various locations there may be more pictures for the website. Tracey and Kris are considering switching places to give Kris more opportunity to work with the website.

### **Election of Officers/Position Switch:**

President: Norman English is okay with continuing

Vice President: Nina Garcia is okay with continuing

Secretary: Karen Woodall is okay with continuing

Treasurer: Tracey Martin will switch with Kris to be Treasurer for the next two years.

Barbara Gard moved to accept the above by acclamation. Nina Garcia seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Additionally**, the following appointed positions will continue for the next two years.

Newsletter Editor: Penny McLaren

Membership: Tim McLaren

Website: Kris Martin will take over from Tracey Martin

### **Additional Board Appointments:**

Margaret English will continue for another two years

Pete Woodall will continue for another two years

### **Announcements:**

McMinnville Highland Games is in October and we will have a tent set up. Nina will not be able to attend the games in Arizona in March. She will check out the games in Las Vegas and in April she will be going to Texas.

Burns Supper via Zoom was well received and enjoyed by many. More people can participate because one does not have to travel. Need to explore a date to do the Burns Supper again in 2022.

### **Old Business:**

Discussion regarding the dues. It does not seem onerous or cost prohibitive and think \$10 is reasonable. People usually expect to pay dues when they receive the newsletter. There will be costs incurred with the website and also for the AGM. Kris moved to restart the dues for 2022. Tracey seconded, the motion was carried.

How do we move forward and involve more people in our organization, especially the younger ones. Many groups are having similar challenges. We are open to suggestions. Once things open up, let us see what happens.

### **New Business:**

Facebook: What does it mean when a person 'joins' the group on Facebook. Some are confused and think they have become 'members of WSCMS', when they have only become members of the group page on Facebook.

### *Convenor discussion:*

Tracey discussed 'overcoming' the fear of doing a tent. Tracey suggested a group email and a Zoom meeting in January to gather all the information needed to do a tent. Nina and others have talked about putting kits together and cost it out to see what is possible. The kits would include what is needed to set up a tent, such as banner, posters, documents, etc. and what the shipping costs would be to send out to folks. Kits will be discussed at the next AGM.

### **AGM: 2022**

Will be at the McMinnville Highland Games/Celtic Festival in June 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm PDT

## 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. and Canada.

Have you changed any of your contact information? Email, phone number, address? If so, please send any of your updates to Tim McLaren, membership, by phone, email, or postal mail as listed at right.

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.



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## Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc. Officers/Board Members for 2021-2022

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### Board Member

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### Web Manager

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### Newsletter Editor

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### Vice President

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### Treasurer

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### Board Member

Tim McLaren  
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Tim McLaren  
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***Western States  
Clan MacLaren  
Society, Inc.,***

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

***The Scottish Thistle  
is a quarterly  
publication written  
expressly for  
WSCMS members.***