

## THE 2015 AGM

### RISING ABOVE THE CHALLENGES, THE WILD AND MIGHTY KENNEDYS PAY HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO “LC”

After nine long months which can aptly be compared to a long, arduous labor to a child who is breech-born kicking and screaming, the Kennedy Society of North America survived the “Murphy’s Law” gauntlet to have an AGM that came off without a hitch, one fantastic weekend. With Bill and Terry Kennedy, along with Paul and Ann Key as co-conveners, the 2015 AGM was held Labor Day weekend at the Virginia Games, at Great Meadow Event Park, in The Plains, VA. On Friday afternoon, several of us gathered to erect and decorate our tents, preparing food/beverage tables, AGM meeting area, and most importantly the Memorial Tribute to Lord Charles area of the AGM. We managed to get 99% of our pre-AGM work complete, when Mother Nature intervened, bringing the impending threat of a severe thunderstorm, no stranger to the bald meadow. We quickly tarp and secured the tables and made for the Wyndham Garden Manassas hotel, where we renewed old Kennedy acquaintances.

Bill and Terry Kennedy met us at Philadelphia Tavern in Manassas for our Dutch-treat “meet and greet.” A good crowd attended, good libation and food abounded as did conversations of Kennedys catching up on the past year’s events.

Games day dawned with the rains gone. The tent looked beautiful, personal touches of all those who contributed to the décor. The LC memorial was Terry’s tablecloth draped in modern Kennedy tartan, Lynn’s banner and memorial boards, Ann’s floral arrangement and photo, and memorial album, and Kona’s special Lord Charles shadow box and LC’s standard – truly a labor of love.

The registration and sales tables were busy all weekend, with the recruitment of 6 new members and 2 renewals. Scholarship coffers were boosted with sales of t-shirts, beer glasses, and key fobs.

Preceding the annual meeting, wee drams of scotch and home-made port, contributed earlier in the summer expressly for the memorial toast to Lord Charles by Ed and Krissy of Colorado, were distributed and a toast to our patron of over twenty years, was given.

The AGM elected Leo Kennedy as President/Chief; Lynn Grant as Vice-President/Deputy Chief; Amy Carrick as Treasurer and Frank Kennedy as Secretary.

The banquet for which Terry and Bill Kennedy deserve the lion’s share of credit was perfect. Floral arrangements which included Stella bottles surrounded by fresh cut flowers, and memory photos of LC with members, adorned the tables. There were individual M&M jars for ice breaker games, and door prizes.

As one member so aptly said when describing our hotel-catered buffet, “this was no rubber chicken banquet meal!” The food was delicious, the entrees complimented each other and the service was attentive. Capping off the meal was the “memorial” birthday cake.



Terry Kennedy and Kathy Gant set up the snack table.



Leo receives a congratulatory handshake from Paul.



New officers – Frank Kennedy, Secretary; Leo Kennedy, President/Chief; Lynn Grant, Vice President/Deputy Chief; Colleen Caldwell, Membership Chair



## THE 2015 AGM

(continued)

LC always liked to celebrate with Kennedys. We know that he was watching us party from above.

Yes, LC, “We came not to plunder, but to party, “in your memory.”

Following the meal, installation of officers was held, gifts were exchanged and our new “Chief” Leo gave a few closing remarks.

Sunday’s events were abbreviated. The officer’s met. And members who had come from New England, the Mid-Atlantic, the Great Lakes, North Carolina, Georgia, and even as far away as Iowa and Nebraska, said their goodbyes, going forth to convene their tents, recruit new members, and looking forward to the next AGM. It was a tiring, yet exhilarating weekend, with old Kennedy family friendships renewed, and new ones made. We all left with confidence that our new officers will serve us well and will continue the proud tradition of “wild and mighty” Kennedys. In fear that we will forget someone, we merely say thanks to each and every one of you who made this weekend such a success!

Submitted by your co-conveners,  
Bill and Terry Kennedy; Paul and Ann Key



Paul and Ann Key receive Society gift of appreciation



Board Meeting

## MINUTES OF KSNA ANNUAL MEETING

September 5, 2015

Paul L. Key, President/Chief of the Kennedy Society of North America called the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held in the Honored Clan tent at the Virginia Highland Games, to order at - 2:00 p.m. on September 5, 2015

Following distribution of wee drams of scotch and wine, donated to the KSNA by Rocky Mountain Chieftain and wife, Ed and Krissy Kennedy, of Colorado, a toast was offered to the memory of Lord Charles Kennedy, the Marquess of Ailsa, who was our Society patron for over 20 years.

Ann Blackmore Key, KSNA Secretary, authenticated membership present, with 22 voting members and 21 proxies received, therefore stating that a quorum was met. She then distributed copies of the Minutes of the 2014





## MINUTES OF KSNA ANNUAL MEETING

(continued)

AGM, previous published in the Kennedy Gazette and on the Kennedy website, as required by society bylaws.

Following solicitation for additions or corrections, a motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted by Chris Kennedy and seconded by Ken Freshley. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report from Amy Carrick—in absentia— was given by Ann Blackmore Key. The balance sheet cash flow, prepared August 9, 2015 showed an increase of \$3,000+ in the past year. AGM expenses were incomplete as of the report because expenses for meals, etc. were still to come. Chief travel is only half accounted for, Paul's. Leo's is still to be submitted.

Budget to actual, the costs of the newsletter will no longer be subsidized by Chris and Sue Kennedy. In the future the KSNA newsletter needs to be self-sufficient.

Ann Blackmore Key then submitted the Proposed Budget for 2015-2016, pointing out that travel by the Chief and hereditary chief, or another member of the family, has reimbursement limited to \$1500 each per year. Also, as noted in the Treasurer's report, newsletter production is limited to \$425 per issue, for 4 issues per year. This cost is deferred by the society. Shipment of tent kits should be used with discretion, with kits being carried to games as often as possible and kits developed by local conveners for use in regions as soon as is feasible. AGM costs for dinners and lunches are assumed pre-paid or Dutch treat.

A motion to approve the 2015-2016 budget was made by Ken Freshley; seconded by Bill Kennedy. Vote to approve was unanimous.

### **Reports by Regional Chieftains**

Since Kona Gant had left before the meeting, his reports were deferred to the Officers' meeting schedule for Sunday.

Nina Eppes, New England Chieftain, reported that she had assisted Brian Penney, who convened his first game at Quechee, VT; that there will be more games in her region – the New Hampshire games at Loon Mountain (with Leo); and Leo's two games in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Bill Kennedy, Mid Atlantic Chieftain, reported that his 2015 schedule had been abbreviated due to illness, but that he plans to do 5 festivals in the Mid-Atlantic region in 2016; and to attend 2 games in Florida. He communicates on a regular basis with Kennedy members in his region.

Paul Key gave the report from Ed Kennedy, Rocky Mountain chieftain - in absentia. Ed apologized for not being present, but stated, "That while we are not there in body, we are



New Member Gail Kern from Frederick, MD



New Member Hope Hanes from Purcellville, VA



New Member Kathy Martin from Guilford, CT



New Member Katie Kennedy from Medford, NJ



## MINUTES OF KSNA ANNUAL MEETING

(continued)

certainly there in spirit, and we will honor those of you gathered there with a toast here.”

Ed continues that it has been a busy year in the Rocky Mountain region, having staked a few new “Kennedy” claims. Kennedy has seen encouraging growth and intense interest in the Society and in the Celtic community as a whole. While Ed is always looking for a new member to connect with, he is also very excited about the renewed enthusiasm and increased commitments from current and longtime members. He reminded KSNA that its success is only as a team. With the influx of new members, an active and engaged social program, and healthy dose of good old fashioned elbow grease, the Wild and Mighty Kennedys are taking the Rocky Mountain region by storm.

Paul also gave the report of Mike Kennedy, our Western Region chieftain - in absentia. Mike, as we were meeting, was geared up and manning the Kennedy tent at Pleasanton’s 150th Scottish Gathering and Games in California. This is “the big one” as Mike told us. The Caledonia Club of San Francisco sponsors this game, and a crowd of 100,000 visitors was predicted to attend. Mike said that he was grateful that the weather was expected to only be in the 80’s. Several people were among the ranks to help. One, however, was not. David Holmes, who took Lord Charles zip-lining in the redwoods last year, suffered a terrible accident and shattered his left leg in a rock climbing accident. Mike stated that the Kennedy tent will have a fitting memorial display to both Lord Charles and to Sid Kennedy, former Western chieftain who died in July.

Paul then gave David’s version of his accident. In an email to Paul, “My publicist has been doing a very good job. The embellished story is that I was “rock climbing.” The truth is closer to the fact that I was on a rock climbing wall but still high enough to shatter my knee, break my leg in two places, and severely sprain my ankle. That’s the bad news - the good news is that I didn’t land on my neck or head and should be ok with time and a lot of physical therapy.”

### **Reports by District Directors**

Paul gave David Carrick’s report. Representing Tennessee and South Carolina, David recounted that the Marysville games were hosted by Rob and Karen Kennedy, who not only are active in KSNA, but also with Maryville College. They were involved in the renovation of Anderson Hall on the campus. Dave and Amy hosted the Greenville games in May; Dave attended Loch Norman; and both attended Grandfather. They, along with Chris and Sue Kennedy will host a tent at Charleston, SC in September, and plan to attend the Stone Mountain games.

There was no report from Neil Brussard, Florida district director.

Sue Kennedy gave the report for Georgia, that Chris and she are thinking about doing Blairsville again, convening at Savannah, and at Stone Mountain. “Georgia is alive and kickin,” she told the members.



New Member Lenore West  
from Ashburn, VA



New Member Sean Carrick  
from Warrenton, VA



New Member Terry Kennedy  
from Yorktown, VA



Officers and Chieftains - Kona  
Gant, Chris Kennedy, Paul Key,  
Leo Kennedy, Bill Kennedy,  
Nina Eppes



## MINUTES OF KSNA ANNUAL MEETING

(continued)

### Reports of Committees

Sue Kennedy reported that the newsletter is well received. She did 5 issues this year – 4 regular ones and a memorial Lord Charles issue, for which Nathan Lamonde, a KSNA honorary member and design professional, donated his time. Sue emphasized that the Gazette is the only contact that many of our members have with the Society. Therefore, as coordinator, she attempts to keep each issue interesting and relevant. Her written report to the Chief states that the newsletter total expense for the year was \$1687.48, within the budget set for newsletter expenditure.

Mary Lynn Grant, KSNA membership chair, submitted her report, as of August 28, 2015. At that time KSNA had 284 members on the roster; 34 new members for 2015. The count for non-renewal for 2013 was 31. Non-renewal for 2014 was 47. Lynn attributed these latter numbers to the fact that several large games are still to be held in the fall and that many members wait to renew at the tent. Lynn turns the membership chair position over to Colleen Caldwell, our new membership chair from Morgantown, WV. "I know that Colleen will do a good job," Lynn said.

Ken Freshley, KSNA webmaster, from Willoughby, OH, reported that the Society now has three domain names – kennedysociety.net; kennedysociety.com; and kennedysociety.org. Ken will be adding more items to the merchandise page as we get more items to sell and will be giving the website a new look. Ken was the ever present photographer recording not only the meeting but all events of the weekend.

Once again Kona Gant's report on the development of the new Order of the Dolphin award was deferred to the Officers' meeting.

Bill Kennedy, responding to the importance of each region developing a kit of its own to save on shipping costs, reported that his kit was nearly complete except for tartan flags and parade banner. Later in the meeting, he was pleased to announce that a donation by Elaine and Walter Wood, of Woodridge, VA had just been made in the amount of \$130, enough to defray the costs of obtaining flags.

Chris Kennedy, nominating chair, announced that the KSNA

election slate contained 3 candidates who were running unopposed – Leo Kennedy, for President/Chief; Amy Carrick for Treasurer; and Frank Kennedy, Secretary; and that there were two candidates for Vice President/Deputy Chief – William Kennedy and Mary Lynn Grant.

Ann Blackmore Key, distributed ballots (one vote per membership family).

Chris and Sue Kennedy tabulated the votes. While tabulation of the votes was occurring, Paul Key placed in nomination, the name of Denis Reid, of Ayrshire, Scotland, long-time friend of Lord Charles and the Kennedys, historian and tour guide, for honorary membership in the Society. Leo seconded the motion. Vote to approve was unanimous. Paul will notify Denis of his honorary membership.

Paul also recounted efforts to see our former Western Chieftain, and Pearl Harbor survivor, John "Sid" Kennedy, during the summer trip west. Unfortunately Sid, age 94, died two days before the visit. Paul moved that KSNA donate \$100 to the charity of the family's choice – Leo seconded the motion. Vote to approve the expenditure was unanimous. Paul will contact Amy to make the donation on behalf of the Society to the Inland Northwest Honor Flight, Spokane, WA.

Also, as the election ballots were being tabulated, Paul Key made his Chief's Annual Report to the Membership. He expressed his opinion that his tenure had been one of loss and celebration, with the tragic loss of Lord Charles and also with the successes that had been achieved during the brief time in office.

Paul was able to train three new tent conveners – Ed Kennedy in Colorado, Nathan Bishop in Michigan, and Katy and John Kennedy in Charlotte, NC – all by long distance phone calls and emails. All three were lauded by the Chief for their willingness to serve, enthusiasm and dedication. Because of the rapid growth in the Rocky Mountain region, Ed was promoted first to district director, then to Rocky Mountain Chieftain. In 2015 Ed and his wife Krissy are hosting 7 events with Kennedy tents, and greatly increasing the membership rolls. They have set high standards for themselves and are raising the bar for Kennedy participation in the region. ▶



## MINUTES OF KSNA ANNUAL MEETING

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Nathan Bishop convened a tent for the 2nd year in Kalamazoo, MI and plans to have a tent at Alma, MI in 2016 – co-convening with Kona Gant.

Katy and John Kennedy, convened for their first time at Scotland County in North Carolina. Unfortunately, they had to make a job move to Jacksonville, FL. North Carolina's loss can be Florida's gain if utilized.

Brian Penney, had joint tutelage in his first year at Quechee, VT. Leo, Nina and Paul helped get him ready by long distance, and Nina helped him set up on the day of the games.

This account of new conveners in no way diminishes that of KSNA's whole team of volunteers in all regions. Mike Kennedy and his contingent gave Lord Ailsa a fantastic welcome at Pleasanton; Kona Gant did the same at Niagara. Kudos go to Frank and Suzanne Canada for their leadership in organizing the Titusville Celtic Festival. Our Kennedy Honor Guard distinguished themselves by traveling to Culzean for the gala, giving memorial tribute to Lord Charles in Winter Springs, and escorting his coffin to the plane for a final trip home.

Paul emphasized that his Chieftains, district directors, fellow officers, and committee chairs, were instrumental to the successes he achieved. "You are the backbone of a successful society," he said. However, he outlined the challenges that are faced by the Society – the fact that there are still not enough tent kits to equip growing areas; the fact that his presidency had to be cut short with much left to be accomplished; the need to cultivate more members, especially younger ones; and to develop more fund-raising projects to contribute to scholarships and other needs of the Society. Finally, he thanked all present for the opportunity to serve.

### **Results of Elections**

Chris Kennedy, nomination committee chair, announced that Leo Kennedy had been elected President/Chief of the Society; Amy Carrick, Treasurer; Frank Kennedy, Secretary. And, stating that the election was close, Chris announced that Mary Lynn Grant is the newly elected Vice-President/Deputy Chief of KSNA.

Chris also announced that ballots would be kept for one month's time by the KSNA secretary. Barring any objections to the election, they would be destroyed after that date.

Paul then turned the meeting over to incoming President/Chief Leo Kennedy who gave a brief report of items of interest to the membership. The society has received tour proposals from a couple of companies, with good pricing. A decision on the next Kennedy tour will hopefully be made by the end of the year.

Preliminary planning will begin for the 2016 AGM, in Charleston, SC. Leo also wants to know the membership's feelings about coming to Rhode Island for the 2017 AGM.

He also announced plans for Kennedys to gather at Savannah, GA for the St. Patrick's Day Parade; and possibly a Kennedy cruise to Nova Scotia.

He asked Ann if it would be possible for members to purchase copies of the Lord Charles memorial photo album. Ann will check into how members can set up their own Snapfish© accounts and take advantage of its coupon system to purchase the albums.

In other items of new business – Chris Kennedy informed the membership that the Kennedy Honor Guard is in need of a banner, this need to be addressed at a future Officers' meeting.

Sherry Short told the membership of her intention to possibly convene a tent at the new Wilmington, NC highland games, in its 2nd year in 2016. She also mentioned that there will be an attempt to set a world record, "men and ladies" in kilts right before St. Patrick's day, in Raleigh, NC. (more information to come.)

With no further business to be discussed, Ken Freshley, made the motion to adjourn; Terry Kennedy seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
9/7/2015 1:20 p.m.

Ann Blackmore Key, Kennedy Society of North America  
Secretary 2014-2015



## A MESSAGE FROM LORD DAVID

Since my last message to you we have had a very damp summer, many dull days interspersed with the odd day of brilliant sunshine. It was on one such day that Anne, Archie, two friends and I took a trip out to Ailsa Craig. The sea was as calm as a millpond and the island was magnificent.

We took a picnic, and on landing climbed up to the old castle where we had a glass of wine and some homemade focaccia. After a slight rest Archie and I struck out for the summit while the rest of the party enjoyed the view from the castle before heading down to the shore where we eventually all gathered for a sumptuous picnic in the August sunshine. We were sad when it came time to leave the island but have a great day to look back on.

It was the Maybole Gala on the 27th June at which Anne and I had the delightful task of crowning the Gala King and Queen after driving them down the high street in our 1935 Rolls Royce Sports Saloon behind the marching Maybole Pipe Band.

On the 15th August I had the pleasure of opening the Kirkmichael Garden Fete. My job was the easy one. Anne was asked to be the judge for the highly contested Pet Competition! Her decision was final and there were no ugly scenes, so we were able to stay and enjoy the day. The Fete took place in the immaculate Manse garden where there were stalls selling homemade baking, ice cream, preserves, as well as garden produce, second hand books and bric a brac. There were also afternoon teas and a barbeque. The day made over £3000 for the Kirkmichael Church.

Harvest here is very late, the spring barleys are about three weeks behind their normal maturity date and the wheats likewise. In a normal year combining would be coming to a close in early September but this year it will barely have started.



Our daughter Kitty after successfully finishing her degree course at Leeds University has spent August working at the Edinburgh Book Festival. Before starting at the Festival she spent some time responding to full time job adverts in publishing, and I am very proud to say that she has been offered and accepted a job in London with a small publisher that specializes in children's books called Nosey Crow.

Archie having spent most of his summer break working as a castle guide in Culzean, a job he does regularly and thoroughly enjoys is now holidaying on a small Greek island with friends before returning to York University to continue his studies.

Anne, Kitty and Archie join me in wishing you all a pleasant autumn.

Lord David





## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

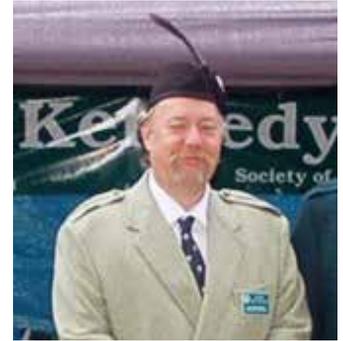
I want to thank everyone that attended the Kennedy AGM last month. It was an exciting time for Sandy and I. I truly appreciate the support and faith you showed in electing me your Chief.

Sandy and I enjoyed making new friends and renewing older relationships at the AGM in The Plains. The event was run superbly and the set up for the dinner was by Bill and Terry – well done! Thank you both so much for all your work and for Bill assisting me in judging the car competition called “the car you would most like to tour Scotland in”. A nice MG won, although they would not let me take it for a spin.

Congratulations to Lynn and Frank on you elections and to Amy for your reelection. Also I congratulate Colleen on taking over Membership Chair – thank you. - Paul is now not only a District Director (in NC) but the Chief First Class, Retired, as well. Thank you - Paul for all that you and Ann have done and continue to do for the Kennedy Society.

We are growing stronger and the future is looking good for the Kennedys. Please watch the Kennedy website for a link to merchandise for sale. T-shirts, limited edition challenge coins and more will be available online and at tents. If you are setting up at a game and are interested in obtaining Kennedy merchandise to sell, contact Bill Kennedy at [wmbillkennedy@aol.com](mailto:wmbillkennedy@aol.com) or myself.

As of the election, Sandy and I have a few more games this year and are already setting up for Florida in January. This article will be published after the Loon Mountain games in NH and around the time of Scotland, CT games, one of Sandy’s and my favorites. In Scotland, CT last year it was 33 degrees in the morning. That will wake you up wearing a kilt! We do hope to see many of you at games this year and early next season.



In March, Sandy and I will be in Savannah GA for the St Patrick’s Day celebration. I know a few Kennedys are coming and we hope to see many more of you join us!

If I can be of assistance to any of the members, I can be reached on my cell 401-447-8445 and by email at [HDViking@aol.com](mailto:HDViking@aol.com). I look forward to seeing you in my travels.

*slàinte mhòr,*  
Leo Kennedy, Chief

## ADDENDUM TO THE 2015 AGM MINUTES

The following Ailsa Craig awards were given for 2015:

CHRIS KENNEDY; SUE KENNEDY; KONA GANT; KATHI GANT; NINA EPPES; BILL KENNEDY; TERRY KENNEDY; FRANK KENNEDY; LYNN GRANT; CURTIS BURROW; SHERRY SHORT; JOHN FLOWERS – IN ABSENTIA; DAVID CARRICK – IN ABSENTIA; AMY CARRICK –IN ABSENTIA; SID KENNEDY – PRESENTED Posthumously to Marcy Kennedy IN SPOKANE, WA JULY 9, 2015; ED KENNEDY – PRESENTED IN COLORADO, AUGUST 1. 2015; KRISSY KENNEDY – PRESENTED IN COLORADO, AUGUST 1, 2015; MIKE KENNEDY – IN ABSENTIA; PAULA KENNEDY-IN ABSENTIA; SUZANNE CANADA- IN ABSENTIA; FRANK CANADA - IN ABSENTIA; HARRY GANT – IN ABSENTIA; NATHAN BISHOP – IN ABSENTIA; HEATHER BISHOP – IN ABSENTIA; DAVID HOLMES – IN ABSENTIA; KATY KENNEDY – IN ABSENTIA; JOHN KENNEDY – IN ABSENTIA; FATHER DAVID KENNEDY – Presented in Absentia by Chris and Sue Kennedy; DENIS REID – IN ABSENTIA.



## GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES 2015 CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games for the Kennedy's for 2015 was a wonderful year. This year marked GMHG's 60th Anniversary and to mark the occasion there was no rain all weekend. The games allowed women to participate in the heavy athletics for the first time, and GMHG's marked the occasion with a whiskey vendor who did tastings, and the Highland Brewery Company's beer. The games also remotely taped most of the games via remote control helicopter. It was an exciting time of change.

Lord Charles was honored at the Sunday Church Services and was missed by all present. The Fantastic Four ran the tents again this year; Suzanne Huff, Samantha Dodson, Karen Kennedy and Sherry Short; and a great time was had by all. All help was appreciated as well. As we have made new friends this year, I asked about starting a longbow competition at Grandfather. We have even been asked by the games to come up with a proposal for a longbow competition that may be started in 2016 if accepted. So, everyone get your bows out and get them ready.

Although we did not garner any new members, there was a great interest in the Society by a few, who I am sure we will see again. Many new friends were made and contacts remain intact for future meetings.



Grandfather Mountain



Lord Charles Memorial

### Board of Governors

Leo F. Kennedy III  
President/Chief  
43 Beverly Circle, Greenville, RI 02828  
Hm: 401-949-1780  
hdviking@aol.com

Lynn Grant  
Vice President/Deputy Chief  
199 E. Houstonville Rd.  
Harmony, NC 28634  
Cell: 704-661-9583  
Hm: 704-546-2589  
mylyn919@yahoo.com

Paul Key  
Chief First Class Retired  
PO Box 305, Richfield, NC 28137  
Hm: 704-463-5745  
Cell: 704-622-2453  
heelanhound@carolina.rr.com

Amy Carrick  
Treasurer  
2434 Hudson Rd., PMB 171  
Greer, SC 29650  
Cell: 864-915-5505  
glenn.kennedy@rsmi.com

Frank Bernard Kennedy III  
Secretary  
2122 Conne Mara Drive  
Davidsonville, MD 21035  
Ph: 410-507-0751  
fbkroc@aol.com

Mike Kennedy  
Western Chieftain  
5518 Deep Purple Way  
San Jose CA 95123  
Hm: 408-226-5813  
Cell: 408-747-7890  
1kennedymys@gmail.com

Kona Gant  
Great Lakes Chieftain  
33145 Hawks Nest Ct  
North Ridgeville, OH 44039  
Cell: 440-725-2107 (preferred)  
Hm: 440-738-3545  
santakona@gmail.com

Nina Eppes  
Northeastern Chieftain  
31 Norma Drive, Nashua, NH 03062  
Hm: 603-880-0603  
Cell: 508-320-3469  
nina.eppes@gmail.com

Bill Kennedy  
Mid-Atlantic Chieftain/Merchandise  
202 School Lane  
Yorktown, VA 23692  
Hm: 757-851-2689  
Cell: 757-508-2080  
wmbillkennedy@aol.com

Ed Kennedy  
Rocky Mountain Chieftain  
957 W. Briarwood Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80120  
Hm: 303-472-9732  
Its\_a\_kilt@yahoo.com

Collen Caldwell  
Membership Chairman  
2115 Pierpont South Estates  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
Ph: 304-594-0695  
caldwellkids@earthlink.net

Sue Kennedy  
Newsletter Coordinator  
6415 Barberr Hill Drive  
Gainesville, GA 30506  
Hm: 770-844-9916  
Cell: 770-533-1529  
kenn6633@bellsouth.net

Scholarship Committee  
Sue Kennedy  
kenn6633@bellsouth.net  
Howard Kennedy  
aviselafin@hotmail.com

Carver Kennedy  
Genealogy  
365 Wood Creek Lane  
Fayetteville, GA 30215  
Hm: 770-716-9886  
martykennedy@bellsouth.net

Father David C. Kennedy  
Society Chaplain  
7231 Hearthstone Ave.  
Boynton Beach FL 33472  
Phone: 561-364-2997  
frdkennedy@aol.com

David Carrick  
Regional Director, SC/TN  
25 Crosswinds Way, Greer, SC 29650  
Phone: 864-918-2505  
dcarrick@sportsclubsc.com

Neil Brussard  
Regional Director, Florida  
11091 McFadden Ave.  
Englewood, FL 34224  
Phone: 941-460-8146  
njb\_0317@hotmail.com

Chris Kennedy  
Regional Director, GA  
Chief, KSNA Honor Guard  
6415 Barberr Hill Drive  
Gainesville, GA 30506  
Hm: 770-844-9916  
Cell: 678-313-7013  
ckennedy@homemedpro.com

Paul Key  
Regional Director, NC  
PO Box 305, Richfield, NC 28137  
Hm: 704-463-5745  
Cell: 704-622-2453  
heelanhound@carolina.rr.com

Ken Freshley  
Webmaster  
4287 Windsor Ave.  
Willouby, OH 44094  
Phone: 440-942-2559  
ken@freshleys.net



## GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES 2015 (continued)

Kudos need to go out for Samantha Dodson who has just graduated receiving her Masters in Engineering, and still finding time to help at the tent. And Karen and Suzanne for taking wonderful pictures at the games.

Sherry Short



Karen Kennedy, Samantha Dodson, Sherry Short, Suzanne Huff

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TITUSVILLE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (KENNEDY) HONOR GUARD

On June 17, 2015, Titusville Fire & Emergency Services (Kennedy) Color Guard attended the Fire Academy Graduation at Eastern Florida State College where they were accorded the honor of presenting the colors for the ceremony. Impressed with their performance, the Color Guard was asked to again present the colors at the Academy's graduation to be held in December 2015.

The Fire Department Color Guard consisted of Captain of the Guard Frank Canada, Color Sergeant Jeff Harris, Platoon Guide Tiffany Callahan, Flag Bearer Bobby Crocker, Color Guards John Hustoles & Shawn Holbrook, and Guardsmen Adam Vaknin and Matthew Johnson.



On July 31, 2015, Members of the TFES /Kennedy Honor Guard attended a Care center and read to children as part of their Heroes Reading Program. Ten children and

teachers attended the event. TFES/HG members were Lt. Jeff Harris and Driver Operator Oliver Harper.

In mid-August 2015 the Titusville Fire and Emergency Services Department obtained a piece of I-beam steel from Tower One of the New York Trade Towers. This piece is significant in the fact that it not only came from Tower 1, but it was also a piece that withstood the first bombing in 1993.

On Sept 11, 2015 the Titusville Fire and Emergency Services (Kennedy) Honor Guard formally presented the artifact in a ceremony honoring those lost the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001.



Society members Frank and Suzanne in front of steel beam



### **Birth Announcements:**

Adam Michael Eli Vaknin, Jr  
November 9, 2014  
son of Candice and Adam

Troy Vincent House  
July 23, 2015  
son of Beth and Jeremy

Ansley Nicole Lengefeld  
June 29, 2015  
son of Lindsey and Jason



## THE 15TH ANNUAL 96 HIGHLANDERS JAMESTOWN CELTIC FESTIVAL AND CALLING OF THE CLANS AUGUST 2015



It was a beautiful day on the shores of Lake Chautauqua, New York. The temperatures were in the low 70s. This was the first time that the Kennedy's had participated in this Celtic Festival. We had set up for the previous 9 years with Clan Claus. So it was great fun to be there with so many familiar friends. While this is a fairly small Highland Games and Festival, it is a well-connected group that shows up and enjoys the camaraderie and the privilege of sharing a gorgeous Saturday together.

One of the highlights of this festival is that each pipe band plays for 10 minutes in the center of the Clan Village. It creates an incredible atmosphere and adds to the experience for the visitors to the Clan tents. This was the first Celtic Festival for our new puppy, Scooter! He was not too sure about those bagpipes being so close to him at first! But he soon warmed up to the music.

The organizers for this festival, Pam and Doug Clark had only met Lord Charles once. (last year at Olcott, New York) The 96 Highlanders are the Band that Kona arranged

to come and play Happy Birthday to Lord Charles. However, when they arrived Lord Charles had left the building. So it was a bit of a surprise when they contacted us and said they wanted to do some type of memorial service for Lord Charles at their closing ceremonies. It speaks to what an impression he made on everyone who met him!

For the memorial service they did a traditional sword ceremony. After all seven pipe bands took the field, Kona, carrying Lord Charles' Standard was piped on by a single piper for the sword ceremony. Kona was escorted on to the field by 12 of the clans -six in front and six in back with their clan swords raised. The announcer read Lord Charles' obituary. You could hear a pin drop. Then the bands played Amazing Grace and the clansmen lowered their swords in unison till they touched the ground. Kona was escorted off the field again by a single piper and the clansmen with their swords. It was an incredibly moving ceremony.



Kona and Kathi Gant



Kona with LC's standard



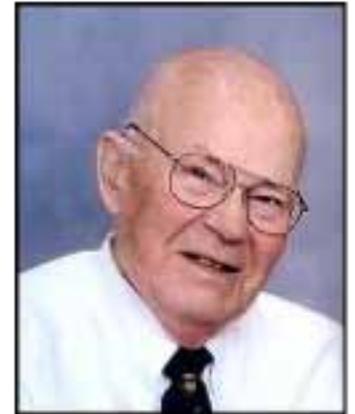
Lord Charles' Memorial



## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

John Sidney Kennedy (01/18/1923 – 07/06/2015)

We regret to inform our Kennedy Society membership of the passing of “Sid Kennedy” of Spokane, WA. Sid was 92. He was descended from the earliest settlers of Spokane and had traced his Kennedy family ancestry back to the 1300’s, coming from Ayrshire Scotland to America in 1699. At 23, he married Dorothea Louise Whitfield in 1946. They had two children: a son, Gordon Edward and a daughter, Marcy Dee. After Sid retired from the Navy in 1960, he and Dorothea settled in San Lorenzo California where Sid worked as a sales manager at Telsta Corp., and then as a regional manager for Roper Manufacturing. Sid was an accomplished carpenter, author of 3 books, a very active member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Assoc., a 50 year member of the Fleet Reserve Association, a Master Mason, and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. However, for the Kennedy Society, he was our Western Chieftain for many years. Sid and Dorothea were a wonderful team for 67 years until her death in 2012.



Please see below the loving thoughts of individuals who knew him well.

## A TRIBUTE TO JOHN SID KENNEDY

As I recall, it was the summer of 1999 when I met Sid Kennedy. He was at the Pleasanton games in California, representing the Clan Kennedy tent. It was there that I found out I was a Scottish Kennedy and not Irish. Intrigued with this news, I contacted my father, Jesse Carl Kennedy, and found out my grandfather had spent one year in Scotland in the late 1940’s. Through the translation of Gaelic bibles, he traced our family bloodline to 840 A.D.



Sid and I in Scotland 2005

Sid was very interested in this information. Using his own genealogy maps, he was able to fill in some of the gaps of my family tree. I was hooked! This man was a wealth of information and I now wanted to be more involved with the Society.

Over the next two years, Sid was unable to attend all the games he had planned due to his wife’s declining health. It was then I decided to fill in for him when needed.

It was about 2005 when Sid contacted me and asked if

my wife Paula and I would escort him to Scotland for one last trip. As luck would have it, Lord Charles Tours was run by the hereditary Clan Chief himself along with his good friend Denis Reid, a reenactor for the Edinburgh Castle. Denis was the official family historian to Lord Charles and his master of arms. What an honor it was to be with these three gentlemen.



Sid Kennedy, Lord Charles, and his mother Lady Mary

This was not Sid’s first trip. He had been to Scotland many times and was good friends with Lord David, Lord Charles father. I was just along for the ride, and what a ride it was!

During our trip with Sid to Scotland, we attended a gala event at Culzean Castle to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the donation of Culzean to the care of the Scottish trust. It was a grand affair with numerous dignitaries in attendance. Most notably Susan Eisenhower, the granddaughter of Dwight D. Eisenhower. Also present was Professor Roger Wheater, Director of the National Trust of Scotland.



## A TRIBUTE TO JOHN SID KENNEDY

(continued)

During the evening, Lord Charles proclaimed, "It's time for a family photo". The following photo was taken on the first floor of the grand staircase foyer of Culzean Castle.



Front row: L-R Lord Charles, John Sid Kennedy, Lady Mary, Susan Eisenhower, Professor Roger Wheater  
Second Row: L-R Michael Kennedy, Lady Elizabeth, Lord David  
Third Row: L-R Paula Kennedy, Lady Alicia, Lady Rosemary, Lady Ann

The trip gave me the knowledge to now step in so Sid could respond to other needs. He and his wife, Dorothea moved back to Spokane Washington to be closer to family. We were very saddened to see them leave.

Sid led a very full life. A Pearl Harbor survivor, he served in the navy for 20 years. From his retirement in 1981, Sid devoted his time to the Kennedy Society and was a large contributor to our clan's growth and development.

With the news of his recent passing, it is my wish to continue Sid's goal of providing Kennedy families with their background and connection to one another.

Avise La Fin, rest in peace my friend, John Sid Kennedy

Michael Stewart Kennedy  
Kennedy Society of North America  
Chieftain, Western Region

I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Sid Kennedy. I have fond memories of Sid at Cassillis with Lady Ailsa and he was a good friend to my father. He did amazing work on the genealogy of the Kennedy's in America and was a strong member of our Kennedy family having been our chieftain for a few years, and beyond as if I remember correctly he was involved with the California clans of the highlands.

Please pass on our sympathies to his family he will be missed. He now can rest in peace with his wife Dorothea whom he greatly missed.

Lady Rosemary

I was deeply saddened this morning to receive an email from Mike and Paula Kennedy advising that Sid Kennedy passed away yesterday. It is hard to believe that the Kennedy Society have lost two of their most stalwart sons within such a short few months. I first met Sid in person on the 2005 Kennedy Tour and he, Paula and Mike spent a lot of time with May and I. Through my contacts with Historic Scotland I was able to arrange a VIP visit to Edinburgh Castle for the three of them. Sid was overcome with the treatment and respect he received from the Executive Manager and his staff at the Castle that day

He very kindly gave me his Pearl Harbor Veterans badge when he left and I have worn it ever since in the lapel of my kilt jacket. In fact it was there in place on Wednesday last when May and I attended the Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood in Edinburgh. It was a wonderful day and we saw the Queen Prince Philip and Princess Anne.

Sid also sent me a signed copy of his book on the genealogy of the Kennedys in America which I treasure. He was a most wonderful and clever old gentlemen.

May and I send our deepest condolences to the Office Bearers and members of the Kennedy Society.. I will pass on the sad news to the Kennedy family here.

Yours Aye,  
Denis Reid



## JUST LIKE THE CRAIG YOU ARE THE ROCK! THE AILSA CRAIG AWARD - 2015

JOHN FLOWERS  
FATHER DAVID KENNEDY  
MIKE KENNEDY  
SID KENNEDY  
ED KENNEDY  
NINA EPPES  
CHRIS KENNEDY  
BILL KENNEDY  
KONA GANT  
SUE KENNEDY  
KATHI GANT

TERRY KENNEDY  
LYNN GRANT  
CURTIS BURROW  
SHERRY SHORT  
DAVID CARRICK  
AMY CARRICK  
FRANK KENNEDY  
KRISSEY KENNEDY  
PAULA KENNEDY  
SUZANNE CANADA  
FRANK CANADA

HARRY GANT  
NATHAN BISHOP  
HEATHER  
BISHOP  
DAVID HOLMES  
KATY KENNEDY  
JOHN KENNEDY  
DENIS REID



**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
EACH OF YOU!**

## KALAMAZOO SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AUGUST 2015

The 23rd annual Kalamazoo Scottish Festival and Games fell on August 22nd this year and it was a beautiful (although a bit windy) Michigan day.

This being our second year as Kennedy tent conveners, we had a much better handle on what to expect and how to prepare. My mother, and Kennedy Society member Cindra (Kennedy) Bishop, helped out at the tent again this year as well.

One of the highlights this year was the number of athletes that attended, which was over 50, twice as many as last year! Besides the games there were border collie demonstrations, a Harpers Circle and the Kalamazoo Pipe Band playing beautiful music. Demonstrations by the Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Royal Scottish Country Dancers!

The festival organizers read a short article about our beloved Lord Charles and held a moment of silence during the parade of clans. It was an

extremely touching moment for which we were very grateful. We also had a table set up with a photo of Lord Charles, a copy of his obituary and the memorial book produced by the Kennedy Society after his passing.



As you can also see in the photo, I wore a Hot Rod t-shirt in memory of world famous wrestler Roddy Piper who passed away on July 31st 2015. I grew up as a fan of Roddy Piper in the 1980's, I even got to see him wrestle at Wrestlemania III. It was

his Scottish persona that first got me interested in learning more about my Scottish heritage. His was the first kilt I'd ever seen and I'd wanted one ever since. The Hot Rod t-shirt ended up being a fitting tribute as it was a great icebreaker and led to many conversations with attendees and other clan tent conveners. It was great to see that he had been as much of an influence on them as he had been on me.

We had a great time again this year and are looking forward to next year's festival, and we are looking toward hosting a tent at the Alma Michigan Scottish Festival as well. We hope that as the Kennedy Society becomes a greater presence in Michigan that we will see more of you come to visit our great state!

Nathan and  
Heather Bishop  
Tent Conveners





## YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THESE GAMES!

Would you like to meet Lady Rosemary (Lord Charles' oldest daughter?) How about meeting and seeing the Kennedy Honor Guard in action? Are you thinking that a trip to Florida would be well deserved after the holidays? Does the chance to avoid some of your cold weather at home appeal to you? Would you like to be a part of the Kennedy Society being honored clan at the biggest games in the state? **Well then we have the games for you!!** Come join us at the 39th Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, January 16 -17, 2016 in Winter Springs, Florida. Make a week out of your visit! It's the perfect time of year to visit the Orlando area theme parks in a lower attendance time frame. If that's not your thing, it is the best time to see wintering manatees as well as hundreds of migratory birds. There's something for everyone to do before or after the Games. Here's a link to the Games website: <http://www.flascot.com/> or search for the Central Florida Scottish Highland games. You may also contact the tent conveners at [Suzanne.Canada@gmail.com](mailto:Suzanne.Canada@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!



Submitted by Frank & Suzanne Canada

## SCOTTISH GAMES IN PLEASANTON CALIFORNIA



As for the Games out here in California, Pleasanton held its 150th Scottish Festival this past Labor day. There were a reported 50,000 people in attendance. We were fortunate to have Mike and Liz Malinao, Russell Kennedy and Ian Kennedy as participants again this year. It was nice to see David Holmes despite his serious injury earlier in the year. He is now on the mend and walking on crutches. This is the same David who took Lord Charles zip lining. We Kennedys are full of adventure.



The weather was kind with temperatures in the upper 80's for most of the weekend. We had quite a few visitors, most of them new to us.

We had 25 guestbook signatures and 1 new member Barbara Lawrence-Emanuel. We hope to see you all next year!

Michael Kennedy, Chieftan Western Region



## OUR SUMMER VISITS WITH KENNEDYS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

BY PAUL AND ANN BLACKMORE KEY

During our summer Heelan’ Hound sales tour and visits to national parks, we had the opportunity for special visits with Kennedys in several states. We had made prior arrangements with several, but one encounter was by chance.

We scheduled our route to include a 4th of July visit with Marianne Elaine Heskett in the tiny Kansas community of Mankato. We couldn’t take her to lunch as planned, because all of the restaurants in the town were closed for the holiday, so we picked up some picnic foods at the local grocery and had a picnic in the park, for a delightful meal, followed by her personal tour of her home town. She updated us on news of her son, former Rocky Mountain region chieftain, Randy Peterson, who now lives in a Kansas City suburb and works with the U.S. Post Office.



Paul and Elaine in front yard of her Mankato KS home

For several months prior to our trip, we had been in contact with Marcy Kennedy, daughter of former Western chieftain and Pearl Harbor survivor, John “Sid” Kennedy, to arrange for a visit with the elderly Kennedy who was in failing health. We had planned to present him with an Ailsa Craig award in honor of his service to the Society. Unfortunately for us all, Sid passed away two days before we were to have arrived in Spokane. Even in her grief, his daughter Marcy agreed to meet us for lunch as we traveled through Spokane.



There, Paul presented her with “the rock” posthumously in memory of her father, and requested that she wear it in memory of all the fantastic work of the late Kennedy.

After completing our Heelan’ Hound sales tour, we headed toward Colorado to meet Ed Kennedy, the current Rocky Mountain chieftain, and his family.

Ed Kennedy, his wife Krissy, family and Colorado Kennedys gave us a royal welcome – Ed and Krissy treated us to a wonderful dinner in a local restaurant; Ed and his son Chris took us “off-roading” at the 11,000 foot elevation to a beautiful alpine lake in the Rockies, and then the family and local Kennedys, both Scottish and Irish, their children and their pets, gathered at a local park for a delicious BBQ lunch.

It was at this time that Paul had the pleasure of officially giving Ed his “chieftain’s feather,” since Lord Charles is not present to do so, and also presented both Ed and Krissy with Ailsa Craig awards in honor of the tremendous job they are doing in their region. Enthusiasm abounds in Colorado and membership is rapidly growing thanks to their dedication. It was an honor to have had this chance for a brief visit.



Sierra, Ed, Krissy, Chris Kennedy



Paul presents Ed Kennedy with his “chieftain’s” feather



Ed and Krissy with Ann who gave them Ailsa Craig awards



Kennedys at picnic watch as awards are given



More Kennedys at the picnic



## SWAMPFIRES

“The Kennedys” have their very own potters! Gwenn and Susan Kennedy will be showing their wares at the Stone Mountain Games under their business name - SwampFires. Having been in business six years and vending mostly in the state of Florida at Renaissance Faires, Art Shows and Celtic Festivals, Stone Mountain Games will be their first show in Georgia. On display and for sale are such items as stoneware tankards, mugs, quaichs, bread & brie bakers, yarn bowls, and shaving bowls. Many of their items feature Celtic, druid and pagan themes. Clan badges can be incorporated on custom orders. They also have artisan soaps, including shaving soaps, and hand-poured soy wax tarts and votive candles. If you are coming to the Stone Mountain Games, make sure you stop and check out SwampFires! If you can't make it to Stone Mountain, go to [swampfires.com](http://swampfires.com) where you will find some unique Christmas gifts.



## THE TARTAN

Here's to it.	The Fair have Sighed for it
The Fighting Sheen of it	The Brave have Died for it
The Yellow and Green of it	Foeman Sought for it
The White and Blue of it	Heroes Fought for it
The Swing, the Hume of it	Honor the Name of it
The Dark and Red of it	Drink the Fame of it
Every Thread of it	<b>THE TARTAN!!</b>



## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THERE WILL BE A KENNEDY TENT OCTOBER 1, 2015 - FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Oct 17/18 Stone Mountain Highland Games,  
Stone Mountain Park, GA

Oct 24/25 Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games,  
Richmond, VA

Nov 7/8 Moab Scottish Games, Moab UT

Jan 16-17 Central Florida Highland Games,  
Winter Springs, FL  
**\*KENNEDYS ARE HONORED CLAN\***

Jan 30 Sarasota Highland Games, Sarasota, FL

Feb 27 Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games  
and Festival, Green Cove Springs, FL



# The Kennedy Gazette

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## **DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE:** DECEMBER 4

Please submit copy and pictures for the winter issue no later than December 4th.  
Submittals, comments and questions may be sent to:

Sue Kennedy  
Newsletter Coordinator  
6415 Barberrry Hill Drive  
Gainesville, GA 30506  
Hm: 770-844-9916  
Cell: 770-533-1529  
kenn6633@bellsouth.net