

## President's Annual Report

Given this year's challenges of a post pandemic era I am pleased to announce that Clan Henderson is better and stronger than ever. We are continuing to make great strides towards achieving our stated mission and objectives as well as continuing to grow the Society. This year we budgeted \$4000 for scholarships and another \$2000 for grants to organizations with similar goals and objectives as our mission statement stipulates. The Society, under the leadership of Mark Henderson, VP Members, has acquired over \$7400 in donations. The financial report to be provided by the CHS Treasurer will show a 501c3 that is in good fiscal condition.

One of the key objectives of this office is to promote communication within our Society, and in these objectives we have also made great strides. The principal criterion for the selection of a Regional Commissioner is the capability and the desire to communicate regularly with members of their respective regions. While there are still regions where the communications effort could be greatly improved, overall the number and quality of communications continues to improve each year. I have also been very pleased with the progress we have made with our website as it continues to provide a vital resource for our membership, as well as non-members seeking information about our Henderson ancestors in general and our Society in particular. Our social media outlets, specifically the facebook page managed by former CHS President, Larry Henderson is also very robust, as are the Genealogy page and the Hendersons Down-under page. These social media sites have greatly enhanced our international stature.

This year saw some extraordinary efforts to expand the programs within the Society, and to include more members in its participation. Among these is the Society's Blood Drive Program, initiated by the Red Cross's Board Member (and CHS member), Mitzi Perdue, and coordinated through VP Members, Mark Henderson. We also had an extremely successful Christmas Card Program lead by the Director of Corporate Outreach, Louis Russell. Louis was also successful in identifying at least one corporation to make a sustained charitable contribution to the Society.

The Genealogy/DNA Program continues to provide a most valuable contribution to our Society, receiving and responding to many requests for assistance. The excellent genealogy program continues to provide one of the greatest assets of the Society, encouraging many new applications for membership. Funds for the program are also being allocated for the future by transfers to the long-term investment program.

The completion of the digital archive program is a major success for the Society. Under the leadership of the VP Operations, Steve Henderson, all of the hardcopy documents that were on file at the Odom Genealogical Library, were successfully delivered to our archivist, Nels Henderson, who digitized all the hundreds of documents provided, and the hardcopy documents have been subsequently returned by Steve Henderson to the Odom Library. This was a huge undertaking, but hopefully generations of future CHS members will never have to say, "All those documents were lost in a fire!"

This year's selections of nominees for elected office in the society are the strongest ever. I have great confidence that if this team is elected, the Society will continue on its upward trajectory. A key element in the growth of the Society is to recognize that in its capacity of a not-for-profit 501c3 corporation,

leadership, in addition to devoted service to the Society, also requires a business acumen that establishes long-term objectives, and maintains a steady course to achieve these objectives. In this context we have established a long-term investment strategy designed to provide the financial basis for a strong society for many years to come. The principal objective of these investments is to provide sustained support for both scholarship and genealogy programs.

Regarding key positions in the Society: Mike Pollini is appointed the new South West Region Commissioner, and Buzz McEldowney has been appointed Commissioner Emeritus for the region in recognition of his many years of loyal and faithful service. He has been a tremendous asset to the Society and we look forward to his continue guidance in the future. The Commissioner of the Mid-South Region (Lee Henderson) has requested the search begin for his replacement. Given the outcome of the elections for corporate CHS, we will also need to find a replacement for the South Pacific Region. Overall, the appointed Regional Commissioners are doing an outstanding job.

While the Society has made great strides during the past year, there are areas where improvements are needed. There are areas where additional resolutions need to be implemented in order to clarify certain procedures. These include, but are not limited to, directions to specific committees to clarify procedures, the establishment of a Board of Directors and the establishment of specific authorities independent of the Executive Board, and rules governing soliciting funds and procedures for coordination. Each person participating on a committee should be provided pertinent documents governing the committee or activity. While the current ByLaws permit the expenditure of funds other than those that were formally budgeted for a given purpose, there is a need for a policy statement that clearly defines an approval process.

We have tremendous success in attracting new members, but retention still is the biggest drawback to our growth as a Society. The Society needs to explore a technical solution to the problem of requiring members to personally renew their membership each year. Membership renewal should be an automatic process until the member notifies us otherwise.

The Chaplain Corps concept is in need of new leadership, someone who will be proactive in identifying additional personnel who are willing to provide this valuable service to the Society, and other members of the Scottish heritage community when requested.

In conclusion: much has been achieved during the first half of the fiscal year, but there are opportunities to achieve more during the second half. I look forward to finishing out my tenure as President with the continued support of the leadership team to improve our policies and procedures.

V/R,

Leon Hicks  
President  
Clan Henderson Society  
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