



St. Andrew's Society of Mid-Maryland State of the Society Report

March 10, 2017

Dear Society Member,

I am writing to provide you with the first in a series of periodic reports on how we are doing as a group and to check in with you to see what kinds of ideas you might have that you would like to see instituted as a part of the life of the St. Andrew's Society of Mid-Maryland. I know we are all busy, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't each be thinking of more ways to live out the expressed purposes of our Society to enhance our shared interest in Scottish heritage and culture.

2017 has seen us experience a major overhaul in leadership, since I am the only member of the Society board that has retained an elected position from among our elected 2016 Board members. First and foremost, I would like to thank Marianne Elliott, Marty Munroe, Barbara Collins and Charly MacFarland for their time of service to the Society. We certainly miss you on the Board but appreciate seeing you remaining active in other Society events.

Our February Burns' Night Supper was a well-attended event (we even made the newspaper!) and we were able to explore ever further the connection between ole Robbie Burns and the heritage of Scotland. David Ricklis received this year's Dorothy Jean Petrie Penders Spirit of Scotland award due to his years of service to pipers and drummers around our region over a more than 50 year career. David remains our Drum Major for the Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival, so we know we will continue to see him involved in our events as well.

February also saw the resurrection of the SASMM Book Club. We will be meeting on a monthly basis and will have one member of the club leading the discussion each month about a book of their choosing. Several Society members were on hand for the February meeting and many others have expressed a desire to be a part. Just so you are aware, the March meeting will take place at the home of Chris and Dawn Spruill on March 24 beginning with cocktails at 6:00 and one of our newest members, Meagan Reinhardt will be leading the discussion of "The Occupied" by Greg Parshall. Interested

members are welcome to attend and are asked to please read the book in advance as well as bringing a pot-luck food item to share for dinner.

Planning meetings for the Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival continue to be held at the home of Marianne and Bill Elliott on the second Sunday of each month and start at 2PM. Marianne is this year's chair for the festival and she has a cadre of members and friends of the Society helping her as well as having contracted with some outside individuals to help with patronage and publicity. The Patron Package is once again available for this year, which includes a family membership to the Society (2 voting members) through June, 2018 as well as Patron name badges, Festival admission for 2 and an invitation to the Friday Night Open House. You will also have access to the VIP Hall on the day of the festival with complimentary food and drinks and INDOOR FACILITIES! It is definitely worth the \$100 purchase price. Please see the Festival website (www.midmarylandcelticfestival.com) for more information about this year's Festival events.

This year's Spring Kirkin will be held on Sunday, April 30 at Frederick Presbyterian Church at 10:30 in the morning as a part of their regular Sunday worship. Society members are highly encouraged to attend and bring a piece of tartan to be blessed as a part of the event. Members of the Frederick Scottish Pipes and Drums will also be participating in this event.

You can expect to receive another "State of the Society" letter in June where I will be reporting on the results of our annual festival as well as on my family's first-ever trip to Scotland! In the meantime, I would ask for you to be thinking about the kinds of events that you would like to see us using to engage the membership of the Society. If you have ideas about an event that you would like to see happening, please contact me or a member of this year's Board of Directors. Speaking of the Board, we are meeting every other month on the Second Wednesday of the month, currently at the Mt. Airy Public Library. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings, which are held at 6:30. Our next meeting will be on April 12.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and I hope to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Chris Spruill
2017 President
St. Andrew's Society of Mid-Maryland