

The Scottish Society of Louisville

APRIL, 2023

VOLUME XXVI

ISSUE 4



Jill Baker (Mr. Pennington's illustrator), Robbin Goodin, and Lee Pennington, our speaker at the March membership meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS				
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President	Bruce Wilson			
Vice President	Dianne Holland			
Secretary	Linda Wilson			
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COMMISSIONERS				
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THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF LOUISVILLE

Established in 1993 as a nonprofit organization to enrich the cultural lives of members in the Kentuckiana area.

The Society offers exposure to Scottish heritage and preserves, enhances and fosters pride in our Scottish ancestry.

The Society sponsors local and regional activities and is a nonsectarian organization with no religious or political affiliation.



Cover



Photo by Steve Goodin

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Outgoing President Wilson's Remarks, March 28, 2023

This has been a rewarding four years for me, but I have to admit I am looking forward to my last duty as President of the SSL. April's meeting is always special, as this is when the new officers or commissioners take the Oath of Office and take up their duties. As soon as the new officers are sworn in, I can take my place as an ordinary member and volunteer again.

You notice I said "volunteer", not just member. We all need to pitch in to help in whatever way we can. Do not hesitate to ask the Board members what kind of help they need. They always need help. At large events like Kirkings, the dinner/auction, and Burns' Night we need lots of help setting up tables and chairs, decorating, carrying flags and helping in other ways. Even at meetings, bringing and setting out snacks or helping the presenter get set up for the program. And volunteers are always welcome at our World Fest booth on the Belvedere, at our tents at the Highland Games in Columbus, IN and Eminence, KY; and other Scottish or Celtic events.

I have enjoyed my time on the Board. I have learned a great deal about how the SSL works and what this group stands for. I have had an opportunity to meet and get to know many of our members and other people in the greater Celtic network in our Kentuckiana area. I am looking forward to continuing to increase my Celtic knowledge and supporting the Scottish Society of Louisville.

Slainte mhath! (Scottish for "Good health")

Membership Meeting Minutes by Secretary Linda Wilson

Election of Officers and members of the Heritage Committee:

President Wilson presented the nominees to the members present, and ballots were handed out. He reminded us that write-ins were permitted, and that only 3 persons need to be elected for the Heritage Committee, though 4 are running.

Jack Bowling and Annie Rivers counted the ballots. Officers for 2023 to 2025 are

President Dianne Holland, Vice President Gary Schweitzer, Secretary Linda Wilson, and Treasurer Cheri Eskridge (left to right).

Heritage Committee members are Archie Cunningham, Laura Doll, and <u>Victoria Snelling</u> (far left).



Biographical Information, April program — Lee Pennington

LEE PENNINGTON is the author of 23 books including *I Knew a Woman* (1977) *Thigmotropism* (1993) and *Appalachian Newground* (2016)--each nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in poetry. His book, *Daughters of Leda* (2017) was selected as a finalist for "Best Book of Poetry published in 2017" by the American Book Fest. His *Songs of Bloody Harlan* was reprinted and re-released in 2019. His most recent book (2019) is *Segovia's Fingernail*. He has had over 1300 poems published in more than 300 magazines in America and abroad. He has had nine plays produced, wrote the script for *The Moonshine War* (MGM, 1970, starring Alan Alda, Richard Widmark, etc.), and has published thousands of poems, articles and short stories in everything from *Playgirl* to *MountainLife and Work*. His novel, *Moment of the Butterfly*, will be released by Hydra Publications in 2022.

Beginning in 1990, through his video production company, JoLe Productions (joleproductions.com), Lee, along with his late wife, Joy, produced 21 documentaries including *In Search of the Mudmen* 1990, *Wales: History in Bondage* (1995), and *Secret of the Stones* (1998), *Eyes that Look at the Sky: The Mystery of Easter Island* (2001), *The Mound Builders* (2001), *The Serpent Fort: Solving the Mystery of Fort Mountain, Georgia* (2005), *Let Me Not Drown on the Waters: Fred Rydholm, Michigan's "Mr. Copper."* After Joy's death, Lee produced five more documentaries for a total of 26: *Some Days You Clean, Some Days You Litter: The Amazing Warner Sizemore*, 2012; *Room To Fly: Anne Caudill's Album*, 2013; *Bosnian Pyramids Hidden History*, 2015; *Seafaring Strangers: Vikings in America, Part I*, 2016; and *Gunung Padang: Monument to Atlantis*, 2017.

Lee is a graduate of Berea College in KY and the University of Iowa. He holds two Honorary Doctoral degrees: Doctor of Literature from World University, and Doctor of Philosophy in Arts from The Academy of Southern Arts and Letters. He taught for nearly 40 years, the last 32 as Professor of English and creative writing at University of Kentucky Jefferson Community College until he retired in 1999. In 1983 the Kentucky State Legislature named him Poet Laureate, a lifetime appointment.

He has traveled extensively (in all the United States, in all the Canadian Provinces except two, and in 93 foreign countries). For the past fifteen years, he has served as president of the Ancient Kentucke Historical Association, a group dedicated to the study and research of pre-Columbian contact in the Americas, especially Kentucky.

In 2013 the University of Louisville opened the *Lee and Joy Pennington Cultural Heritage Gallery,* named after Lee and his late wife. The gallery contains U of L's most valuable works including the likes of first editions of Galileo, Copernicus, and Newton. It will house all of Lee's writings, films, and many artifacts he has collected traveling around the world.

Two films are presently in the works about Lee: one, a documentary on his life, and the second, a movie about his Harlan County, KY teaching experience where he was run out of town and had contracts taken out on him--all because of a book of poetry his students published in 1967!

He presently lives in Kratz House, a designated historic home, in Middletown, KY with his lady, Jill Baker, an artist who has illustrated several of his books.

Membership Meeting Minutes by Secretary Linda Wilson

Program and Education Commissioner Robbin Goodin introduced our speaker, Lee Pennington.

The Case for Prince Madoc and King Arthur in America

Mr. Pennington has researched this topic for many years, and shared some of his findings that support the idea of the Welsh, and specifically Prince Madoc and King Arthur, as being in America as early as 500 AD. He started by telling us that there has been a long-running coverup of Welsh history, extending throughout the United Kingdom and the United States. During the reign of Edward I, the king deliberately set about to destroy all Welsh records. He tried to conquer Wales, but the people vowed to never follow a king who had not been born in Wales or had ever spoken English. His response was to have his pregnant wife travel to Wales to give birth. The resulting son was raised in Wales, and never taught to speak English so that he could legally rule Wales.

This cover up has continued for hundred's of years, making it difficult to find older Welsh books and even songs and poetry. Mr. Pennington found King Arthur's tombstone stored in a shed with other headstones. It was clearly marked and easy to read. He asked several museums if they were interested in showing the headstone and information about how it was found to the public, but museums showed no interest.

He showed us a great many pictures of artifacts and writings that he believes prove that Madoc and Arthur were in America, and that Arthur was killed here and his body taken back to Wales for burial. He says there is evidence that some Indian tribes spoke Welsh along waterways the Welsh were supposed to have traveled along.

He told us that there are over two hundred books and articles written about the Welsh in America.

Here is a short list of some of these books:

America Discovered by the Welsh in 1170 AD, by Rev. Benjamin F. Bowen

They All Discovered America, by Charles Boland

Traditions fo the Earliest Visits of Foreigners in North America, by Reben Durrett

The Chrildren of Firstman, by James Alexander Thom

Prince Madoc: Founder of Clark County, Indiana

Mr. Pennington explained his theories and why he believes that Madoc and Arthur were in America, as well as other Welshmen.

There was a wealth of information, much of it in pictures, and the only way to truly enjoy his program would have been to be present. He was happy to answer questions and tell our members where to look for information.

Next month we will have the installation of officers at CCUM, where we hold our meetings.

Membership Meeting Minutes by Secretary Linda Wilson

The word Welsh means wallische in German, or "stranger". There were two major migrations of European peoples to Britain, one in about 500 BC, and the other in 1500 BC. Identical artifacts have been found in Troy, in Greece. These migrations are thought to have begun in Greece.

He showed us a list of artifacts from the United Kingdom and America from the 6th century.

- 1. The Paleo-Hebrew alphabet shows up every place the Khumry (Weslh) travelled.
- 2. Many identical artifacts in both areas
- 3. Identical stone works
- 4. Welsh-speaking Indians
- 5. DNA matches
- 6. A mural found hidden in Britain shows King Arthur being killed and his body being returned to Wales.

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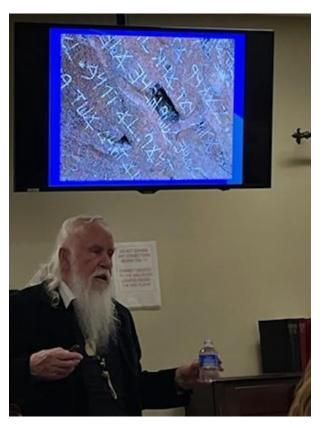


This chart was hard to make out, there is so much information on it. It includes family lineages for several important people, including Arthur, Madoc, and several of their relations.

Photos for Lee Pennington's Program by Robbin Goodin



Lee investigating the heavily engraved Lunas stone.



A closeup of the Paleo-Hebrew (ancient Welsh) engraving on the stone.



A picture of the awen symbol, found frequently on buildings, bridges, tombstones and many smaller artifacts. This symbol was used often, since ancient initiates were not allowed to speak the name of God.

Membership Meeting Minutes by Secretary Linda Wilson

President Wilson opened the business meeting by asking if there were any guests present. There were several; Mark Powers, Tim Preston, Betty Clark, Scott Latchett, and Linda Nolan. Mr. Wilson thanked them for coming and told them they were welcome to stay during our business meeting.

He announced the April birthdays next; Janice Abell 1st, Christopher Rivers 3rd, Janice Beatty 18th, Dot Scott 19th, Archie Cunningham 21st, Scott Blome 24th, Damien Burns 25th, Patty Smith 25th, Kathleen Anderson 26th, Mark Johnson 27th, Marye Dillon 27th, and Janie Blome 28th.

Mr. Wilson called for the February minutes to be approved. The motion to approve the minutes as written was made and seconded, and approved by the members present.

Mr. Wilson than asked for the Board reports.

Vice President Dianne Holland said we have had one new request from the Heritage Fund, which is in consideration.

Treasurer Cheri Eskridge reported about \$200 made after expenses for Burns' Night. Dues are rolling in now.

Secretary/Newsletter Editor Linda Wilson had nothing new to report. She counted 45 people present for the March meeting, a very nice turnout.

Spring is here and the events are starting up!

Regional Celtic Report by Jack Bowling

Jeffersontown contacted me concerning the Jeffersontown Art and Culture Fest in April. They advised me that they have a new mayor who wants the event to be strictly an Arts and Crafts only festival. So the SSL will not be setting up at that event.

The SSL has been invited to set up a table at the Chancey Elementary School on Thursday, April 20 for their World Fest. The school is located on Murphy Ln. in the East End. The event will be open from 6pm to 7:30pm and we will be able to set up around 5:30pm. They normally have about 200 families attending their World Fest.

The International Fest at IUS in New Albany usually happens during March or April. I sent an email asking for set up information and **Dr. Kok Cheow Yeoh** (pronounced 'coke chow yo'), Associate Professor of Fine Arts and Director of Study Abroad and Global Awareness (SAGA) emailed back to let us know that the International Fest will not be taking place this year. He has just recently been put in charge for this event and due to his short time in charge, they will not be able to have it this year. Hopefully, it will be back next year.

The How To Fest at the Louisville Free Public Library will take place on May 13, 2023. This is the Saturday

Regional Celtic Report by Jack Bowling, cont.

after the Derby. I spoke with David Kniss and he informed me that this year they were interested in having a piper to play once or twice outside of the library on that day but they were not interested in having people setting up information tables. He also said that someone at the library knew of a piper that they would be asking to play. He also told me that they would keep us in mind for next year. So we need to think up a Scottish demonstration or How To for next year.

In June, we expect to be doing the Battle of Bannockburn with dinner at the Scottish Rite. I will touch base with John Adkins, Knight Commander, to see what is needed for this event.

September will be a busy month with 3 events in a row.

September 2 World Fest on the Belvedere Louisville KY

September 9-10 Columbus Scottish Games Columbus IN

September 16-17 Central KY Highland Games Eminence KY

October 3 days Southern IN Renaissance Fair Charlestown IN

The September and October events are aways out and I do not have all of the information about them. I will let you know when I get everything together.

For the multi day events, we will have to have plenty of help for setup, assisting at the tables and take down on Sunday.

If you hear of any events that the SSL could be part of, let me know and I will check them out.

Jack Bowling

Communications Commissioner Holley Holland reminded us that dues are due this month.

Membership Commissioner Susan Lucas was introduced at this meeting. When a commissioner's position is vacated before the end of their term in office, the Board has to appoint someone to take the position.

Member At Large Pat Schweitzer had nothing new to report.

Electronic Services Commissioner Damien Burns was absent.

Hospitality Commissioner Melissa Ingram had nothing to report, but the refreshments were very tasty.

Mr. Wilson asked if there was anything else to discuss, and seeing that there was nothing, he adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.

SSL Programs 2023 by Robbin Goodin

• Updated program

April 25– Installation of officers at CCUM and society members speaking on a variety of interesting Scottish topics, for instance Tartan Day, Scottish fashion, Highland Games, Scottish food, Q and A

May 23 – Jim and Arch - Scottish Trivia

June 27– Janet Abell– Scotland travelogue

July 25-Lorna Bolton

August 22 – Mindy McIntosh

September 26 – Pat Schweitzer – Seven Celtic Nations

October 24– Theatre Students doing a performance (AHS or Bellarmine)

November 28 – Dinner/Auction - Strathmoor Church

December – NO general meeting – Happy Holidays to all!

Scottish Society member

North America resident



Buttercups in bloom in Linda Wilson's flower beds.



THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF LOUISVILLE

Celebrating the Scottish American Heritage of Kentuckiana Since 1993

Greetings Scottish Br'aithrean agus Peathraichean (brothers and sisters),

I hope the past year found you with many blessings, few worries, and nothing but health and happiness at your doorstep.

I'm writing today to invite you to renew your membership in The Scottish Society of Louisville (SSL). Yearly membership in our society is very reasonable at \$24 per individual, \$36 per Family and \$240 for Lifetime. Your continued membership helps bring programs and activities promoting Scottish and Celtic heritage to our community. The past few years have been challenging for all of us, but thankfully SSL has been able to adapt and has continued to bring speakers, programs, and Celtic related gatherings to our membership. Some of last year's presentations included: Scottish Heraldry by The Right Honorable the Lord Lyon, King of Arms—The Court of Lord Lyon; Ephraim McDowell (a Kentuckian) in Scotland; The Art of Funerals and Mourning from 1760–1820; and Jewish Roots in Scotland. Our activities included events such as participation in festivals, Scottish Trivia Night, ings, and of course our annual Burns' Night Gala (a good time was had by all).

This year some of our topics include:

- Princess Diana and Her Family Ties (to Scotland, of course)
- Prince Madoc and King Arthur in America
- Scottish Trivia Night
- **Scotland Travelogue**
- **Scottish Samhain Traditions**

We're really excited about these excellent programs but we need membership in order to continue. As such, I'm asking you to please renew your membership today. I've attached the renewal form for your convenience, or you may renew online at https://scotsoflou.com/membership/.

The Scottish Society of Louisville is a great group, and once again, we are so pleased that you have joined us. I look forward to seeing you someday soon. Please feel free to reach out if I can be of further assistance. PS: Don't forget to follow us on Facebook at The Scottish Society of Louisville, or check www.scotsoflou.com for additional information.



Holley A. Holland Membership/Communications Commissioner scotsoflou@gmail.com



THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF LOUISVILLE

Membership Renewal Form

Date:					
Membership Type:	Individual: \$24	Family:	\$36	Lifetime:	\$240
Name(s):					
Address:					
Phone:					
Email:					
Birthday(s) (M/D):					
Clan Affiliation(s):					
Interests:					

Renew online at scotsoflou.com/membership

P.O. Box 32248 Louisville, KY 40232-2248

www.scotsoflou.com

Kirkings by Judy Stubbs

A Kirkin' O' the Tartans was held on Sunday, March 19 at Ascension Lutheran Church in Louisville to celebrate their Celtic Music Sunday. The following members were flag bearers: Janet Abell, Janice Beatty, John Dickson, Jenny Dickson, Jeff Forbes, Jim Hughes, Dan Johnson, Dr. Victoria Snelling, Judy Stubbs, and a minister at the church, The Rev. Aaron Flynn, Youth Director, who is a MacDonald. Four of them were Past-Presidents! We were piped in by Karen Brumley and drummer Rick McKenzie, members of The Louisville Pipe Band.

The service was excellent and included a wonderful variety of Celtic music, a skilled musician who played a variety of Irish Tin Whistles, a full choir, a poignant sermon of healing, Readings of "The Origin of the Kirkin' O' the Tartans," "A Calling of the Clans" of members present, "A Presentation of the Tartans," and "The Dedication and Blessing." An outstanding reception was held after the service that included a performance by The McClanahan Irish School of Dance pupils. The reception continued a Celtic theme with lemonade, cookies & cupcakes with a green touch! A set of our books was available to assist many people find their Scottish ancestry and Tartan.

The ministerial staff and members of the congregation were so thrilled to have us present with them, and I received an abundance of thanks for organizing our part. Their sanctuary was filled with the attendance of many of their members, who came to experience their Celtic Music Service and our presence. Members of the congregation were grateful and excited to chat with us and were very welcoming!!! I'm grateful for the extra set of hands to help with The Society's supplies from Gary and Pat Schweitzer, and the members of The Society in attendance! You made everything so easy for me to get ourselves ready!!! A big thanks to everyone who helped!

A wonderful time was had by all, the gratitude given to us was heartfelt and an invitation to return again next year was offered. Please consider being part of this celebration with us. Until then....

Slainte Mhath! Clan Leslie Judy Stubbs

Flags being carried by Jim Hughes, Jenny Dickson, John Dickson, and Jeff Forbes (in the far right back), members of the SSL.



Kirking Pictures



Piper Karen Brumley, Director of Music Todd Hildreth, and Christian Casey, who played a variety of Tin Whistles.

Piper Karen Brumley and drummer Rick McKenzie lead the procession of the flags.



Kirking Pictures



Piper Karen Brumley and Drummer Rick McKenzie, Flag bearers were: Janet Abell, Janice Beatty, John Dickson, Jenny Dickson, Jeff Forbes, Jim Hughes, Dan Johnson, Dr. Victoria Snelling, Judy Stubbs, and The Rev. Aaron Flynn, Youth Director, who is a MacDonald, and Pastor Ken Boehm

Dancers from the McLanahan Irish School of Dance performing at the kirking.

Photo by Janet Abell



Tartan Day by Pat Schweitzer

The SSL met at The Raven in Louisville on April 6, 2023 to celebrate Tartan Day. Pat Schweitzer gave a short educational program about Tartan Day, even bringing Angus (her tartan model) to show off the Kentucky tartan. There were about 22 members in attendance, and I can attest to all of us having a very good time!



Angus, in his Kentucky tartan finery

Pat Schweitzer giving an entertaining and educational program about Tartan Day for us.





Outgoing President Bruce Wilson, Angus, and Pat Schweitzer wearing their respective tartans.



Piping to the tartan!



Do our members know how to have a good time? Good food, good drink, and good company!





19





Tartan Day was well attended and enjoyed by all!

April 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3	4 The First Frontiers- men, online program	5	6 Tartan Day	7 Good Friday	8
9 Easter	10	SSL Board Meeting	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 SSL Installation of officers	26	27	28	29
30						

April Birthdays: Janet Abell 1st, Christopher Rivers 3rd, Robert Glass 13th, Janice Beatty 18th, Dot Scott 19th, Archie Cunningham 21st, Scott Blome 24th, Damien Burns 25th, Patty Smith 25th, Kathleen Anderson 26th, Mark Johnson 27th, Marye Dillon 27th, Janie Blome 28th





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 SSL Board Meeting	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 SSL Member Meeting	24	25	26	27
28	29 MEMÔRIAI DAY	30	31			

May Birthdays: Ron Kemper 2nd, Hardin Gregg 6th, Kay Glass 9th, Mark Robinson 12th, Christian Kreipke 14th, Kathy Kessinger 16th, Richard Bolton 21st, Annie Rivers 21st, Carlos Perez 31st

Celtic Organizations in our Area

Ancient Order of Hibernians Indy's Irish Fest Louisville Pipe Band

<u>www.louisvilleirish.com/</u> <u>www.indyirishfest.com</u> <u>www.louisvillepipeband.org</u>

The Caledonian Society of Irish Society of Kentuckiana McClanahan School of Irish Dance

Cincinnati www.irishkyana.org www.Mcclahanirishdance.com

www.caledoniansociety.org

Columbus Scottish Festival KY Highland Renaissance Festival Ohio Valley Celtic Society

<u>www.scottishfestival.org/</u> <u>www.kyrenfaire.com</u> Steve Thomas

208 East Second St.

KY United Pipes & Drums (KUPD) English Speaking Union Madison, IN 47250

<u>www.kentuckyunited.org</u> www.esuus.org www.thomasfamilywinery.us

Contact our Cheer Person

If you are aware of an illness, family death, or any other such situation a member is facing, please contact our Cheer person, **Jean Hughes**, by calling her at (502)438-9811.

Ongoing Events

The Louisville Pipe Band meets from 2-5 on Sundays at St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 2233 Woodbourne Ave, Louisville, KY 40205. Contact the band at info@louisvillepipeband.org or visit www.louisvillepipeband.org.

The Louisville Fire & Rescue Pipes & Drums meet from 6-8pm on Tuesday evenings at the Frazier International History Museum, 829 West Main St. in Louisville. Contact Carolyn Cook at (502)551-2732, or visit www.lfrbgpipes.org.

Change of Address and other Information

Help us keep our records updated! Changes to your address, telephone, and so on, should be sent to the Scottish Society of Louisville, Commissioner of Member Services, PO Box 32248, Louisville, KY 40232 or email Holley Holland at scotsoflou@gmail.com.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Publication deadlines: Please submit all Information to me by the 28th of each month for the next monthly issue. If there are problems or questions contact me at 812-948-9324 or eMail me at

tomatoladyone@yahoo.com.

Place your ad here for \$36 per year.

Call Cheri Eskridge
at (502) 693-2235
or email her at
scotsoflou@gmail.com

Information For Our New Members

Welcome to our new members. Coming into a new group can be a little scary, but know that if you have any questions, just ask. The people in the SSL are some of the friendliest you would ever want to meet. Here is a little bit of information to get you started:

- Read the newsletter and the website. All upcoming events will be listed both places. If you want more information, you can contact any of the board members.
- All meetings will have a business meeting, some time to socialize, and a program.
- January/February brings our Burns' Night Dinner. You won't want to miss this! There will be food, drink, raffles, entertainment, and an all-around good time.
- May starts our "Event" season. The Society sets up a booth at many local and state Scottish and Celtic events, and
 even a couple of out-of-state events. Don't be afraid, jump on in and help us in our booth. It's not hard, and everyone will help. It is a great way to get to know some of the members and recruit new members.
- November is a really fun meeting. We have a dinner and an auction. Members will be informed of what type of dish to bring according to their last name. The auction is so much fun. Everyone is asked to bring at least one item to donate. Now, you will find that a lot of the items are things you would love to have, but some are "White Elephants" that circulate among the members. Proceeds benefit the Heritage Fund, which helps promote Celtic relat-

Heritage Fund

The Heritage Fund Committee is accepting applications for the dispersal of scholarship funds. The Fund helps support the efforts of SSL members to pursue studies of the many different aspects of Celtic culture, which may include music (piping, drumming, fiddling, etc.), art (dancing, weaving, etc.) language (Gaelic) and athletics (Highland Games). This fund can also support a person's interest in an educational program or project that furthers the understanding of Scottish culture and history.

Scottish Society members in good standing can apply for funds or can sponsor non-members for scholarships.

The application form and guidelines can be picked up at the monthly SSL meetings from the Heritage Fund Committee Chairperson, Dianne Holland, or by email at scotsoflou@gmail.com.

Find us on the Internet

Webpage: http://scotsoflou.com/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ScotsofLou

Facebook: www/facebook.com/The Scottish Society of

Louisville

On our Facebook page, you are welcome to add pictures from Society events, to post/share some Scottish history or information, or just say "Hi".

Life Membership

Our Society offers a Life Membership Program. You can attain this status by paying a one-time membership fee of 10 times the current dues rate. At this time, a single life membership is \$240, and a family life membership is \$360.

Please see the Membership Commissioner, Holley Holland, or for more details email her at scotsoflou@gmail.com. All new life members are acknowledged at the Burns' Night Gala.