

Official Newsletter -  
September 2021

**Learn How to Speak  
Scottish Gaelic:**

*samhradh*

Summer

## **A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

**New announcements for this month -  
please check out the entire newsletter.  
Thanks!**

Summer is close to ending and it has been one of so many changes. Make sure you are getting vaccinated and getting ready for the new changes that are coming for all of us in the state right now. With the continuous uncertainty that is occurring with the pandemic, it is hard to see where the future of this organization will be, but the board is working hard behind the scenes to make sure we continue with our organization in making it strong, on-going during the various changes.

The SSI online meetings via Zoom are in session each month and if you have access to a electronic device. The meetings take place every 2nd Wednesday of the month will be starting at 7:30 PM EST for social hour, announcements and other items that need to be addressed. Presentation will begin at 8:00 PM EST. Please make sure to keep an eye out for any changes or updates via the newsletter and our social media sites. Our attendance has been steady and the viewing of the recorded meetings have been growing as well. In regards to bringing back in-person meetings - this is an on-going discussion that the board is currently reviewing and does not have a unanimous answer at this time.

Thank you for the support and staying with this organization during these hard times. Stay healthy, stay safe.

~ Sarah Rae, 2021 SSI Trustee  
Member/Presidential Assistant &  
Newsletter Editor



**MEETING DETAILS:** Due to the current pandemic of COVID-19, the SSI Board of Trustees advised that there are NO IN-PERSON meetings and/or gatherings until further notice unless noted. Any updates will be announced in a timely manner through our official newsletter as well as on social media. We want to keep our members safe and healthy until it is the right time to gather together once again. Thank you.  
[Click Here to Check Out Website](#)

### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

For more articles, updates on events and more -  
Like and follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/indyscot.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/771893283583992>

## **PLEASE WELCOME NEW SSI MEMBERS:**

- Alan and Beth Slighton
- Dustin and Kimberly McKinney
- Wanda Miller
- Linda Cassady

## NOTICES FROM THE BOARD



### **\*\*MEMBERSHIP REVIEW\*\***

To those who do not know or were not aware from updates listed near the end of last year, anyone who had a membership in good standings with SSI - your membership crossed over to 2021. No additional payment is needed at this time. If you are needing to pay for fees or are a new member joining, please make sure to pay for your dues. We are having a PANDEMIC SPECIAL for anyone wishing to join the SSI at this time. The fees currently are the following - \$10.00 single/individual membership OR \$20.00 for family membership. This will be good until further notice. Note: We are checking and updating our membership records each month. Reach out to the board if you have any questions. Thanks!

### **\*\*ORDER OF THE UNICORN RECIPIENT\*\***

The SSI Board of Trustees presented a new award that is great service, commitment for above and beyond with the society. This new award was presented to Samuel and Rebecca Lawson. With this special award, they were also presented with a lifetime family membership to the SSI. They were truly surprised and thanked the Board for this honor.

### **\*\*INDY ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING\*\***

Get ready because the Indy RSCD will be back in having their Scottish Country dancing sessions starting on Monday, July 19th. They will be happening at the Latvian Center. Per request of their leadership and fellow dancers, they are requesting that all dancers who attend must be fully vaccinated and must have their vaccine card for proof.

There will be hand sanitizer available for all attendees. If you are sick or possibly under the weather, please do not come and stay at home. Masks are optional if you wish to wear them but they are not required.

**\*\*IRISH FEST 2021\*\***

The festival event of Irish Fest will be taking place this year. The festival will be happening on Friday, September 24 4:30pm-10:00pm to Saturday, September 25 from 11:30am-10:00pm at Garfield Park which is on the southside of Indianapolis. Please advised we are looking for possible volunteers to help at the festival with our SSI booth. Please reach out to the board if you are interested in helping.

**\*\*ELECTIONS FOR 2021 BOARD\*\***

With the fall coming soon around the corner, the board is looking to see if anyone is interested in being a part of the 2021 SSI Board of Trustees. We are looking for new blood to lead the society. Please let the current board know if you are interested - voting for the board will be in November and it will be done in an online fashion - more on this matter to come soon.

**\*\*ANNOUNCEMENT -  
CANCELLATION ON THE SCOTTISH  
HEAVY ATHLETICS EVENT\*\***

As previously announced, the SSI had to cancel the festival portion of the Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games & Festival.

We were looking into continuing to support our athletes in a way to move forward in doing a games only event this year.

However, we have a new announcement to make about the games event.

It is with deep disappointment that we must share with you the decision of the Board of the Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis. at this time, we will not be moving forward with hosting and funding the Indianapolis Scottish Heavy Athletics Invitational this October. There will be no festival, no athletics - just no event at all this year. This was not an easy decision for the Board to make - the discussion was long and emotional. Members expressed many concerns prompted by the increasing spread of COVID-19 and possible new restrictions.

When the Board voted to support the event earlier this year, COVID was on the decline and restrictions were being lifted. We had hope we could still hold a scaled-back event. This has changed, with cases rapidly on the rise and with increasing breakthrough cases among the vaccinated. The risk to health and life is increasing - many of our SSI volunteers are in the higher risk categories.

We have concerns about our ability to adequately host this event. Many of our regular volunteers are reluctant to volunteer amid increasing COVID concerns.

Also of concern is that one of our food vendors has withdrawn and another may be questionable. The vendors are concerned it does not make financial sense for them. It is not likely that we will be able to replace them with similar vendors. That would leave us with limited food options for the athletes and attendees.

Recent fundraising efforts have been unsuccessful. At the earlier votes, the estimated financial exposure was about \$5000. That exposure has now increased to an estimated \$9000 with the possibility of additional expenses. With less than two months before the Games and limited PR value, it is unlikely that we will be able to secure significant sponsors or other underwriters for the event. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the Foundation that cannot be ignored.

Let us stress that the Board did not come to this decision lightly and without concern about the future of the event. We are very aware that this will be a great disappointment to you, the athletes and many others. It definitely is a disappointment to us. We wanted to make this work. However, given the combined risks of increasing of COVID spread, fiduciary responsibility, and our inability to guarantee adequate volunteers and amenities to host a quality event, the Board felt it was necessary to cancel the event. Thank you.

- The Board of Trustees of the Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis Inc. and the Scottish Society of Indianapolis Inc.



AUGUST '21  
MEETING  
RECAP:  
Summer  
Picnic and  
Silent Auction

The month of August was a traditional month for the SSI as we had our annual summer picnic and silent auction. We had many attendees - about 50 people or so - come in person to mingle, spend time together after being away from gatherings due to the pandemic. It was great to have everyone come together again outside at the Latvian Center pavilion area. We had many great baskets and items for our silent auction, along with attendance fees and donations. In total, we raised \$1297.29 - not bad at all. The board would like to say a huge thank you to all the attendees and those who donated some great items for the auction.

COMING UP - SEPTEMBER '21  
VIRTUAL MEETING:  
GENEALOGY 201

If you have attended the virtual meetings before, then you might remember the session about Genealogy 101. This topic was discussed in the March monthly meeting and it was a huge attendance. So, the Board reached out to the presenter Barry Levitt and he stated he would be honored to continue talking about this subject. In the September monthly meeting, Barry Levitt will return to get more in detail about getting past some of the blockers in finding the ancestry and/or history with your family.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 8th at 7:30pm for social hour and the presentation will begin promptly at 8:00pm. Please click [here](#) or [here](#) for the Zoom meeting.

## HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING - PLEASE READ ALL NOTED!

**\*\*Option 1: ZOOM ~** You do not have to a Zoom account to participate/attend a meeting. You will be prompted to download the software after you click on the meeting link. To fully participate, you will need a computer with a camera and a microphone. You can also join by using a smartphone app or calling in to the telephone number in the invitation. If you are needing more information about joining a meeting of any kind on Zoom, [click here](#).

**\*\*Option 2: SOCIAL MEDIA / FACEBOOK ~** The meeting will be live in broadcast on the new Facebook group just for members of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. You can watch it while the meeting is going on or watch it after the meeting is over. [Click Here](#) to join the new Facebook group and/or watch the meeting from there.



**NOTE: ALL CURRENT MEMBERS in the SSI that have a membership, you will receive a link for the upcoming meeting. The link will be in an email with the invitation that will sent 24 hours before the Zoom meeting. Please note: You will not be allowed to share this link to others as we will be keeping record of how many members we have attending the meeting. If you have any questions**

**about this, please let us know. If you are not a current member or would like to invite a guest to join, please reply to the email with the newsletter so the link can be forwarded to you directly. Thank you.**

### **VIRTUAL MEETINGS - COMING IN 2021**

- September 2021: Genealogy 201 with Barry Levitt
- October 2021: TBA, looking for presentation topic & presenter
- November 2021: TBA, looking for presentation topic & presenter
- December 2021: TBA, looking for presentation topic & presenter

**NOTE: The November in-person gathering of the St. Andrews Dinner has been CANCELLED this year. Per the Board, the reasons behind the cancellation of the dinner is due of the continuous changes regarding the pandemic, no set venue location and the monitoring of the health/safety of our membership. Another announcement will be made in the next newsletter.**

We are looking for topics or presentations for the last months of the year. If you are interested in giving a 10-15 minute presentation for the society via Zoom, please notify a board member so the topic can be discussed. Please reach out to the board if you have any suggestions or would like to present something. If there are any changes with the meeting topics and/or if the meetings change from virtual to in-person, we will update this information.