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# Newsletter

May 2012

**Serving the Celtic Communities of: Wales, Isle of Man, Cornwall (England), Galicia (Spain), Brittany (France), Scotland and Ireland**



Mark those calendars

## Upcoming Events

- June 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Dr. Jim Byrne's office on Canyon Lake Drive. 7PM
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> Midsummer Eve Bill & Sally Knight's house
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting

Sorry about getting the newsletter out so late. Some of the information will be dated. I'll do better in June, God willing. John

## President's Message



President Gary Hamilton

### May 2012

By now you should have received a special email from me seeking your vote for the merger negotiations with Dakota Celts. This vote is whether to proceed with merger negotiations. The results of the negotiations and an agreement will be brought back to the membership. Based on the terms of the agreement there will be a final vote by the membership of both organizations whether to finally merge. PLEASE attend the May general membership meeting or vote by email. This is

important to the future of Celts in the Black Hills Region.

Many of you have not been involved in any discussion of the merger. You probably have many questions about the form of the merger, disposition of assets and respective events calendars. SIS board discussions and two meetings with SIS members have brought light to many of these issues. I can assure you that both groups are very similar in by-laws and annual event schedules. We have much in common and can greatly benefit from a single, larger membership to draw on for volunteers and for participation at events. In my opinion this is a win-win.

If you cannot attend the meeting to discuss and vote, feel free to contact me personally with your questions. Then please vote by email.

Our next big social event is the Mid-Summers Eve party at Sally and Bill Knight's house. This is always a highlight. Plan to attend on June 23.

As summer approaches participation at SIS meetings tends to fall. Due to other events we skip June and August meetings. We will let you know by newsletter and on the website what is happening in July. The Gathering of the Clans Street Festival is scheduled for July 14. We may skip the membership meeting in July.

I will close on another reminder. From the member survey in March we would like to try organizing some special interest groups. Give it some thought. Volunteer to lead a group. No rules, it is your group. Recruit other members and pursue your interest on your own schedule. Genealogy, history, cooking, Celtic clothing, ... etc. If and when your group is ready, offer to make a presentation at a general membership meeting.

Thanks for being a member of SIS and I hope to see you at the next meeting.

*Yours aye,  
Gary Hamilton*

## Membership

It is with regret that I must tell you that Carole Conrad's husband, Jim Erickson, has passed away.

Please help watch for the obituary in the paper. I will let you know as I receive updates on the arrangements.

Gary Hamilton

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## Meeting Notes

May Board Meeting  
Office of Jim Byrne  
May 1 2012

**Treasurer's Report:** \$3,291.89 in checking. Carole passed out a profit and loss sheet which showed a profit of \$1,505.78 this year.

**Old Business:** Minutes from last month were read. No corrections, no changes.

The merger of Dakota Celts continues to progress. Gary reviewed last month's meeting with Dakota Celts and updated the Board.

According to the member survey, SIS is in favor of merging. The next step would be for the members of Dakota Celts to vote on the merger. Now that the two groups have met, exchanged ideas and bills the next step would be to obtain legal advice to merge the groups. Carole has an understanding of most of the requirements and legalities. The approximate cost at this time is about \$450 which should be split by both groups. Once everything is formulated and written then all members will vote again. A committee has been formed to expedite the process which consists of: Susan Peterson, Pat Hamilton, Gary Hamilton, and Carole Conrad. A motion was made by Bill Knight to proceed with the above. Marlene seconded.

Celtic Street Faire Updates: None. Sally will contact Siaryn about upcoming meetings. Jim has applied for the state food permit.

**New Business:** A dear friend of Susan Kains has passed away from an injury. Many of you may know Emerson who was always quick with a smile or a joke. He helped out with several of SIS's events and attended dinners. Sympathy cards will be mailed to Susan and Emerson's family.

Many members mentioned an interest in genealogy and Celtic history. Previously the Board thought that special interest groups could be started which might lead to programs. This will be brought up at the May general meeting. Sally has started a welcoming committee if anyone is interested, contact her. The Board will be making calls to remind members of the May meeting at the McGillicuddy house. June Beason with the Genealogy Society for genealogical research contacted Gary to see if the groups may be interested. June will be at the McGillicuddy house during SIS's meeting.

Pat is developing a calendar to help remember important items, agendas, etc. This will now be a part of SIS's meeting agenda.

**Upcoming events:** Midsummer Eve on June 23. Celtic Street Faire on July 14. Picnic at the Burkes in August. Date to be set later.

Sally Knight, secretary.

Scottish and Irish Society  
BOARD MEETING

# Celtic News

NEWS FROM CELTIC PRESS

Gaelic Month of May in Nova Scotia  
The month of May has been designated as Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) language month in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia and the area is celebrating by organising various events and activities to promote the language.

On their website Comhairle na Gàidhlig (or the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia) write that for nearly two hundred years speakers have been discussing how long the Gàidhlig language will continue to survive in the province, but following a steep decline since the mid nineteenth century, the language today is experiencing something of a revival. Nova Scotia's Gàidhlig speaking regions no longer exist in isolation, but the language is being shared once again within the

communities where the language was once predominantly spoken. An Office of Gaelic Affairs has been set up to help to protect and promote the language and the Nova Scotia government even has a Minister of Gaelic Affairs.

In 2010, the Celtic League's Editor and Convenor visited the province and met with Gàidhlig language campaigners and activists, including the CEO of the Office of Gaelic Affairs, Lewis MacKinnon. Up until the late 1990's the League had a branch in Cape Breton – one of the traditional Gàidhlig speaking regions in Nova Scotia.

To celebrate the achievements of the language May has been designated 'Gàidhlig month' throughout the province, which is the only region outside Scotland where the Gàidhlig language is used. A list of some of the events that have been organised for the rest of this month can be found below.

Date: May 10  
Event: Taigh Ceilidh – “The Storytellers”, Sgoil Ghàidhlig an Àrd-Bhaile, Citadel High School Gaelic Classes and An Cliath Clis milling group  
Place: Military Family Resource Centre Windsor St –Young St, Halifax

Date: May 7 - 13  
Event: Féis - The Gaelic College,  
<http://www.gaeliccollege.edu/>  
Place: St. Ann's

Date: May 12 – 13  
Event: A weekend of Gaelic classes  
Place: Àite nan Gàidheal, New Glasgow

Date: May 17  
Event: Gaelic Vignettes in Antigonish County  
Place: Antigonish Heritage Museum, Antigonish

Date: May 18  
Event: “Experience Gaelic”: A Customized Program for School Children in the Pictou region to expose them to the living Gaelic language and culture  
Place: Museum of Industry, Stellarton

Date: May 19  
Event: Grand Mira Gaelic Day  
Place: Grand Mira

Date: May 24  
Event: Department of Education, Gaelic Conference for Teachers - Concert  
Place: St. Andrew Junior School, Antigonish

Date: May 25  
Event: Department of Education, Gaelic Conference for Teachers  
Place: Claymore Inn, Antigonish

Date: May 26  
Event: Comhairle na Gàidhlig Provincial Gathering: Workshops and activities, Gaelic Language sessions, Traditional Marag dinner; Guest speaker: Rodney MacDonald, CEO of The Gaelic College; M.C. Joe Murphy  
Place: Community Centre, St. Andrew's Antigonish Co.

Date: May 27  
Event: Gaelic Ecumenical Service: Annual event with guest preacher, Father Calum MacLellan from the Isle of Eriskay  
Place: Immaculate Conception Church, West Lake Ainslie, CB

# Update

Hello there!

It is with the deepest of regret that I inform you that the Executive board decided not to hold the Dakota Gathering of the clans this year. A date of 27 July 2013 will be our next venue.

With the date changed to 14 July there was a total conflict with the Irish festival in Colorado so that put paid to both Colcannon and the indulgers being able to headline for us. We want the gathering to be big – Impressive and definitely worth the effort that our board put in. Hence our decision. We will work fervently for the 2013 be fabulous!!

The date is still open if SIS wants to do something – just get with Megan at Main Street Square!!

Siaryn Duggan  
Celtic Connection  
of the Black Hills



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# Officers

<u>President</u>	Gary Hamilton <a href="mailto:info@BlackHillsCelticEvents.org">info@BlackHillsCelticEvents.org</a>
<u>Vice President</u>	Susan Peterson
<u>Secretary</u>	Sally Knight
<u>Treasurer</u>	Carole Conrad
<u>Board Members</u>	Bill Knight, Marlene Wilcox, Kevin Queen, Jim Wilcox, & Jim Byrne
<u>Past President</u>	Pat Hamilton
<u>Web Site</u>	Gary Hamilton
<u>Newsletter</u>	John Burke <a href="mailto:jburke67@rap.midco.net">jburke67@rap.midco.net</a>

This sight was suggested for viewing from travelling member Alliya Sanders. .  
<http://www.irishcultureandcustoms.com/ACalend/Beltane.html>

# Sponsors

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