

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello to all our SSI members, friends, family and fellow guests. We hoped you enjoyed your time with family, friends and loved ones. With the weather changing from winter into spring soon, please make sure to stay healthy and safe with the changes - we want to keep all members and guests in good spirits.

The board has been working hard behind the scenes and updates are being made for 2024. Here is what we are working on:

**We are working hard behind the scenes to update the main society website - we are hoping to have the updates done by the end of the month. We might be sourcing some outside help to get this accomplished.

**The games committee for the Indianapolis Highland Games & Festival is already under way and are getting plans set for the event later this fall. More details and information will be provided with upcoming meetings. Please check the newsletter and social media for updates.

Please remember that membership dues need to be paid as they do not roll over each year - it helps us see who is still active with the society currently. **Per review of the board, all membership dues for the year 2024 will be due on January 31th, 2024. You can pay for the fees in person at the next monthly meeting or online via SSI website.

We want to thank our 2023 Board of Trustees for the hard work and commitment they put into the Scottish Society of Indianapolis this year. We wish those who are leaving the board the best wishes and thank you for all you have done this year or in years prior. Moving into 2024, we have a new board that will

Learn How to Speak Scottish Gaelic:

latha Valentine sona dhut

Happy Valentine's Day



MEETING DETAILS:

FEBRUARY MEETING: Keep in mind the monthly meetings moving forward will be the return of the BUFFET. If you are interested in helping with the meat dish - please reach out to the board.

We are looking for members attending the meeting to bring a side dish. Please bring a dish from the category based on the first letter of your last name with at least 3 servings per attending family member:

A-G --- Dessert
H-M --- Veggie/Casserole
N-Z --- Salad

Meat Dish: (someone has volunteered this month)

NOTE: If you are interested in helping out with the meat dish, please be aware you will be reimbursed by the board (up to \$75.00 for the dish).

We will ask if you are a member to please do the donation of \$5.00 and guests will be \$7.00. First time guests do not need to pay - after your first visit, you will need to pay the guest fee. If you have not paid your dues, please make sure you do so in person or at the welcome table.

The monthly meetings take place every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 7:00pm

continue to work and get this society to another level with preserving Scottish history, culture and everything in between. Here is your SSI Board of Trustees for 2024:

President: Carter Keith

Trustees: Greg Bowers, Linda Cassady, Armand Hayes, Samuel Lawson, Sarah Rae, Risa Stockton

At this time, do not hesitate to reach out to our board if you have any questions or if you want your ideas heard. With the weather and seasons changing, please stay safe and healthy. Thank you! Slainte!

~ Sarah Rae

2024 Board of Trustee Member, Newsletter Editor

and then the presentation will begin at 8:00pm.

**Special events for the year will be on a Saturday.

All updates in regards to monthly meetings will be announced each month in the newsletter and on our social media sites.

[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>



SSI Board of Trustees for 2024 (from L to R): Greg Bowers, Armand Hayes, Carter Keith, Sarah Rae, Linda Cassady, Samuel Lawson, Risa Stockton

Next Meeting: February 14th, 2023

PLEASE WELCOME NEW SSI MEMBERS:

- No new members to mention this month

NOTICES FROM THE BOARD

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

The board advises that membership



renewal of the yearly dues for SSI must be taken care of during the year. You can pay for your yearly membership online through the website or payments can be made in person with a form at our in-person meetings - we will have forms available to complete. Keep in mind that membership dues for 2024 will be due in full on January 31st. Please make sure you pay your dues!

****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED****

As the buffet returns to the society meetings each month, we are looking for volunteers to help supply the meat dish - along with volunteers to supply an appetizer station during social hour. If you are wanting to volunteer - there will be sign up sheets set up at the welcome table at the Latvian Center during the monthly meetings. Please be aware you will be reimbursed for payment on the meat dish. You can also email indyscot@gmail.com to express your interest.

****50/50 RAFFLE IS COMING BACK****

We are working on bringing back the 50/50 raffle for our monthly meetings after the board of trustees unanimously agreed to have it return. The money donated for the raffle will go towards the future events SSI will partake in and/or to help fund those events.

****ASSISTANCE IN MEETING SET-UPS / CLEAN-UPS****

With the assistance of the Board of Trustees, we will need help with set up of the meetings along with the clean up at the end. If you see one of the board members getting things ready or needing help cleaning up, feel free to step in and help out. Everyone needs to pitch in and assist.



****INDY ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING UPDATES****

The Indy Royal Scottish Country Dancers have some updates moving forward in 2024.

Moving forward with this organization, Barry Levitt will now be managing the group. He will co-manage the group moving forward along with Bernadette Lange (a certified Scottish country dance instructor), James & Heidi Horton, and subject matter expert Sue Gaebler.

The Indy RSCD are looking forward to dancing with the attendees coming in the March monthly meeting. The date of that event will be on Wednesday, March 13th.

If you are interested in joining the group or even coming to a dance session - you can reach the organization in these two ways - one is email: IndyRSCD@gmail.com or the other is by phone #317-426-1656. The group meets Monday evenings during the month - they start around 6:45pm and like to finish up around 8:30pm.

INDIANAPOLIS
SCOTTISH
HIGHLAND
GAMES &
FESTIVAL -
COMMITTEE
UPDATES



If you are interested in being a part of the games committee or wanting to give your ideas of how we should shape the event this fall, the next meeting will be taking place sometime in February - update on the date will be noted in a separate notice and through social media. The location of the meetings will be at McCallister's off of 96th and Meridian St.

Here is the recent update regarding what is in the works for this event in October:

We have learned a lot from our event last year and there will be many improvements for the 2024 event. Some of those changes will include the following:

- Looking to have four pipe bands (currently

we have two).

- Better signage and directions with a printed map and schedule for all visitors.
- The layout of the grounds will be changed to improve access to activities and improve overall appearance.
- The main stage will include a great variety of entertainment and will be moved to a more central location.
- The two beer wagons will be moved to other parts of the grounds.
- More tables will be available for visitors.

We are currently promoting the games as we speak and those promotions will be taking place with an earlier exposure than last year. Thank you to Greg Bowers who is the Games Committee chair and Rebekah Lawson who is the Games Committee vice-chair.

Mark your calendars - The 2024 Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games & Festival will be taking place on Saturday October 12th, 2024 at the Marion County Fairgrounds and Event Center.



Burns Dinner Lite: Gentlemen of the SSI including past/present SSI presidents and fellow pipers who performed at the dinner



Burns Dinner Lite: Toasts to the USA,
Scotland and the Scottish Society of
Indianapolis



Burns Dinner Lite: SSI board member
Samuel Lawson giving the Toast to the
Haggis. He later on in the meeting gave a
wonderful rendition of the Burns poem
"Tam O' Shanter".



Burns Dinner Lite: SSI board member Sarah Rae giving the Selkirk Grace prayer.



MEETING RECAP - January 2024: Burns Dinner Lite

On the evening of January 10th, the SSI hosted their annual Burns Dinner Lite. This was about the celebration and immortal memory of one of Scotland's celebrated poets Robert Burns. During the dinner, we had the parade of pipers and flags - along with the presentation of the Haggis. We had presenters who did toasts to the USA, Scotland and the SSI; the Selkirk Grace; the immortal memory to Burns; some poetry readings as well. Tom and Kathy Hohman helped set up the hall for the meeting and it was a great site to see. The attendance of members and guests was well received and it was a good time.

The board would like to thank those who helps participate for the presentation of the dinner including the following: the two pipers Jeff Keston and Chad Dykman, Matt Douglass, Sarah Rae, Greg Bowers, Armand Hayes, Samuel Lawson and Judy Keith.



NEXT MEETING/EVENT - February 2024 - Whisky Tasting with Elite Beverages

Another tradition to have this upcoming meeting with the SSI. Interesting in tasting some amazing whisky selections - well, you are in luck. With the assistance of our SSI VP of Whisky Matt Douglass, we will be having a whisky tasting event with the assist our sponsor and guest Arnie Lewin from Elite Beverages. This is a popular meeting so definitely join us for a great time. This meeting is set to take place on Wednesday, February 14th.

****Note:** Keep in mind the date of this event does take place on Valentine's Day.

This event will take place at the Latvian Community Center. Social hour begins at 6:00pm with announcements and dinner beginning after 7:00pm. Presentation will start at 8:00pm.

SSI 2023 MEETINGS - WHAT IS COMING UP?

Note: Subjects/Topics are subject to change.

- February 14th, 2024 - Whisky Tasting with Elite Beverages
- March 13th, 2024 - Demonstrations and Dancing with the Indy RSCD
- ***March 15th, 2024 - St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Indianapolis (note: SSI does march in the parade, more information to come if you are interested in participating
- April 2024 - *Presentation TBD*
- May 2024 - *Presentation TBD*

****If you would like to present or have a topic that would be good for our monthly presentations, please reach out to the board at indyscot@gmail.com. We will need presentations starting after the month of March.**

We will advise if the meeting topic will change via an update email or through the SSI social media. If you are interested in presenting a topic during the 2024 year next year, please reach out to the board members and we will discuss. Thank you!

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