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COSCA's 2008 AGM FEATURES LORD JAMIE SEMPILL, CO-DIRECTOR OF *THE GATHERING 2009*

COSCA's Annual General Membership Meeting will be held at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina, on Saturday, July 12, 2008. It will take place at 2:00 PM in the Clan Chieftains' tent. The featured speaker will be Lord Jamie Sempill, Vice-Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, who will be answering questions about *The Gathering 2009*. He will be visiting all the clan tents and will be sharing COSCA's tent. *The Gathering 2009*, an international gathering in Edinburgh of clans and highland games, is one of the signature events of Homecoming Scotland, a year long government initiative aimed at encouraging those with a passion or connection with Scotland to come "home".

Lord Sempill has offered to award two free [Passport tickets](#) to *The Gathering 2009* celebration. These will be available only to members of COSCA and those clans / associations which attend COSCA's AGM at Grandfather Mountain. The lucky clan can then use the Passports as they see fit.

"Passport tickets" are all-entry tickets for the weekend, giving you a place in the clan parade on the Royal Mile, a seat on the castle esplanade for the clan pageant and tickets to both Saturday and Sunday at the Highland Games in Holyrood.

To see if your clan or association is currently a member, check for your name on our website. If not, hurry and pay your 2007-2008 dues before the AGM! This can be done on COSCA's website: www.cosca.net or by mail.



Christie Harrison announces COSCA's revised Website www.cosca.net



2007 COSCA's Annual General Membership Meeting at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games



Scottish Symposium Presenters at the Swem Library, College of William & Mary

Marjorie Warren, David Peet, Dr. Beatrix Hardy (Curator), William Sanders, Gloria Hamilton, Duncan Bruce, Kay Nelson, Chris Harrison

SPRING BROUGHT ... TARTAN WEEK & A PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

This year President George W. Bush signed a [Presidential Proclamation](#) making Tartan Day a day of National Observance on April 6. This day was chosen to commemorate the signing of the [Declaration of Arbroath](#) on this day in 1320, which asserted Scotland's sovereignty over English territorial claims and which was an influence on the American Declaration of Independence. With the Presidential proclamation, Tartan Day, and all of the celebrations of Scotland and Scottish culture that accompany it, has become one of the most important event on the Scottish North American community's calendar.

In many areas of the United States, Tartan Day is expanded into a whole week of activities. Included in this year's events was the Kirkin' O' the Tartans at the [Washington National Cathedral](#) in Washington, DC, the playing of Scottish music at Arlington National Cemetery, a grand parade in New York City, Highland Games and other festivities in Illinois, Florida, Colorado, California, and elsewhere across the nation.

TWELFTH ANNUAL SCOTTISH SYMPOSIUM IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Miss Duncan MacDonald and Miss Marcia McCabe, of The Caledonian Foundation USA, were leading organizers in the Twelfth Annual Scottish Symposium, which was held February 22-24 in Williamsburg, Virginia. As part of the program, several distinguished Scottish-Americans presented archival materials to the Special

Collections Research Center of the [Earl Gregg Swem Library](#) at the [College of William & Mary](#). Presentations were made by Gloria Hamilton, American Association of Scottish Games & Festivals; Robert McWilliam, Scottish Heritage USA (SHUSA); Marjorie Warren, Scottish Tartans Authority USA; Chris Harrison, COSCA; Anne Kennedy of The Living Legacy of Scotland; Duncan A. Bruce, author of *The Mark of the Scots*; Kay Shaw Nelson, author of *The Art of Scottish-American Cooking*; Dr. Robert J. Munro, author of *The Scottish Invention of America, Democracy and Human Rights*, Dr. Philip D. Smith, Jr., author of *Tartan For Me*; and William Sanders, founder of Portraits of Patriots.



Marcia McCabe, Chair of Scottish Symposium in Williamsburg, VA



Robert Murdoch presenting Tartan Day Award to Former Senator Trent Lott

TRENT LOTT NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 NATIONAL TARTAN DAY AWARD

Robert Murdoch, National Tartan Day Chairman Emeritus, announced the Recipient of the 2008 National Tartan Day Award: Senator Trent Lott. The United States Senate, under the leadership of the Hon. Trent Lot, passed Senate Resolution No. 155 in 1998, which put Tartan Day on a formal footing in the United States. This provided the opportunity for Americans to honor, on an annual basis, the contributions made by Scottish Americans towards the evolution of the United States, and ultimately culminated this year in the Presidential Proclamation.



SCOTTISH SOUNDS IN WASHINGTON DC

The [Blue Ridge Brass](#) and [Montreat Pipes & Drums](#) were the featured performers for The Kirkin' O' the Tartans on April 19, 2008, at the [Washington National Cathedral](#) in Washington, DC. This cathedral is the sixth largest in the world and the second largest in the nation. Joe Bailey was the Pipe Major. The entire band was under the direction of James Laughridge, who modified most of the music the group played into a unique blend of pipes, brass, and drums. While in Washington the bands also performed at Arlington Cemetery in the amphitheater in front of the [Tomb of the Unknowns](#).

CULLODEN LECTURE AT GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN GAMES

On Thursday, July 10 at 5:00 PM at the Eseeola Lodge Pavilion in Linville, John Batty, a Curator with The National Trust for Scotland for more than thirty years, will present an audiovisual presentation and lecture about about the new Culloden Visitor Center and the [Battle of Culloden](#). (This was the last attempt of the Royal House of Stewart to regain the crown of Scotland, which changed Highland culture in Scotland forever.) Space is limited for this talk. R.S.V.P. now to reserve your space: Phone: (910) 295-4448.

Email: shusa@cmbarqmail.com *The annual SHUSA (Scottish Heritage USA) members' reception will be held on Sunday, July 13, from 6-7:30PM at the same Eseeola Pavilion.*

NEWLY UPDATED WEBSITE FOR COSCA

Following up on a pledge to improve the communications of COSCA to and from the Scottish-American community, Christie Harrson is pleased to unveil COSCA's newly revised website, www.cosca.net. On it you will find areas where clans and associations can announce Annual General Meetings, Highland Games, Flowers of the Forest, links to their own websites, links to festivities in North America and Scotland, and links to the Scottish Coalition, American Scottish Foundation, Scottish Heritage USA, Scottish District Families Association, and the Caledonian Foundation USA, just to name a few. To include such information from your organization, email relevant information to president@cosca.net. Newly available on the site is a way to pay dues online, through Pay Pal. Membership dues can also be paid by post for those who do not have access to the Internet. COSCA's [newsletter archive](#) is on the site. Soon, newcomers will be able to research their sept/clan / family district affiliation with a search feature.



Tartan Bearers Proceeding to the High Altar to have the Tartans Blessed at Washington National Cathedral



Blue Ridge Brass / Montreat Pipes & Drums Perform at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery

COSCA
General Membership Meeting at
Grandfather Mountain Games
Clan Chieftain's Tent
July 12, at 2:00 pm
Invited are representatives from all
Scottish Clans & Associations.

COSCA
Board of Trustees Meeting at
Grandfather Mountain Games
Clan Chieftain's Tent
July 11, 9:00 am
This meeting is for COSCA
Officers, Trustees, and invited guests.



Come see us at the COSCA tent at Grandfather Mountain.

Calling All Clans,
Associations,
Games Organizers

Please advise date/place of
your AGM or Games to
[**webmaster@cosca.net**](mailto:webmaster@cosca.net)

The Claymore

We will be distributing a black & white version of The Claymore by mail to dues-paying members without email addresses, but it also will be available in color as a .pdf download from our website: www.cosca.net

**BEST-PRACTICES WORKSHOPS
 TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO**

The Scottish North American Leadership Conference, cosponsored by [The American-Scottish Foundation](#) and the [Illinois St. Andrew Society](#), will be held in Chicago in October 2008. In response to the need expressed by COSCA and other Scottish-American organizations, its workshops will be opened to those interested in improving the administration and publicity of clan membership, Tartan Week activities, and local Highland Games.

In years past, excellent workshops have been held regarding fundraising, publicity, etc. Featured this year will be information about use of the Internet to publicize events and organizations. This conference will be held, as usual, at [The Scottish Home](#) in Chicago.

Several COSCA officers have attended these conferences in years past and highly recommend their practical nature, as well as their excellent organization and hospitality. Clans, associations, and games organizers may want to plan their budget to allow one or more members to attend these valuable workshops. More about this conference in the next *Claymore*.



THE CLAYMORE
Newsletter of the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations

2800 S. Desplaines Avenue
 North Riverside, IL 60546

www.cosca.net

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