



ESTABLISHED IN 1863

The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Volume 147, No. 6

February 2010

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY—
An open meeting will be held at
Scottish Hall, 111 Larkin St., on MON-
DAY EVENING, February 20th.
Members and friends are cordially invited.
JOHN McLAREN, President.
W. C. COOK, Secretary.



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Up-Helly-Aa: A festival from the Far North of Scotland! By Fred Rutledge

The great festival of Up-Helly-Aa was just celebrated in the Lerwick, Shetland Islands. It is one of the most spectacular of the old Norse customs still celebrated in Europe. In fact, Europe's Largest Festival of Fire!

The origins of this great annual event go back to the days when Norsemen inhabited the islands. The festival marked the end of the Yule feasts, held to celebrate the end of winter and the approach of warmer weather. The ancient festival took the form of a fire feast with great bonfires being lit in honor of the Norse Gods Odin and Thor and torches carried into the farm fields to invoke the favor of the sun. When Shetland became part of Scotland the festival faded away. It was re-started in the 1880s and has continued ever since with only three exceptions: the Death of Queen Victoria, during the First World War and during the Second World War.

Preparations take almost a year. A mass meeting of "Guizers" (about a thousand local men) is held in February and the group elects the supreme commander or "Guizer Jarl". The Jarl and his team begin preparations for the design and manufac-

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A Message from Our President

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

1088 Green Street
San Francisco, CA
94133-3604
(415) 885-6644
Editor: William Jaggers
Email: wjaggers@hotmail.com

Membership Meetings:

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 PM. Light refreshments served after the meeting.

Officers of the Society

Fred Rutledge, President
John Allison, First VP
James Beatty, Second VP
Russ Wallace, Treasurer
Tom Kasinger, Secretary
Bradley Baxter, Ass't Sec.
Roger Weed, Librarian
Josh Kyle, Asst. Librarian
Charles Syers DDS, Physician
Elly Sturm, Chaplain
Mary Gilbert, Bard
Ozzie Reid, Piper
Selby Hausserman, Historian

Trustees—

Bruce McMillan, Chairman
Tom McLaughlin,
John McCorkindale
Bruce Reeves
James M. Robertson
John B. Ritchie, Trustee Emeritus

Board of Relief,

James Beatty

Board of Student Assistance—

Robert Logan,
William Cummings, Sr.
William Cummings, Jr.
Loren Obley



St. Andrew's Society
of San Francisco

Members and Friends:

Last month past-president Gerry Sample did an outstanding job “installing” the 2010 officers with poetry and humor. My heart-felt thanks to him for a job well done, and to those who stepped up to be officers of the society this year. There are many challenges facing our organization, but I am sure with a spirit of volunteerism and cooperation all things are possible.



January saw many Burns Suppers held around the Bay Area. John Allison and crew did a fine job with our 147th Annual Burns Supper on 23 January at the Family. We had an evening of great toasts and entertainment. Thank you John!

I represented our society at the 16th Annual PBFSCO Burns Supper in Pleasanton on 30 January. The event was sold out. Their Burns Committee asked me to present the Immortal Memory which I was very pleased and honored to do.

Coming up on 20 February is the Oakland St. Andrews Society's Burns Supper. It is less formal than most suppers, but a lot of fun. If you can support our sister society I encourage you to attend.

Here are some other events this year to mark down on your calendars.

The Caledonian Club will host their annual Pub Night on Saturday, 13 March at their clubhouse in South San Francisco. This is a great opportunity to show off your poker, darts, dominoes or Scottish Trivial Pursuit skills. We need at least six volunteers to field a team for this “friendly” competition.

The Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister Cities Organization is planning another outing on the Niles Canyon Railroad (the Flying Scotsman) in late April. The event has been growing in popularity each year and it really makes for a fun family-day outing. The old ESNAY silent film studios in Niles have been refurbished and are open to the public which is another reason for going. The ride is follow-up with a family picnic in Sunol.

British Consul-General Julian Evans and the regional British Societies

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Celtic Harp and Story

In Celtic Harp and Story, Patrick Ball rekindles the fire and wonder of an evening of Irish storytelling. For in telling the marvelous old tales of wit and enchantment, and in playing the ancient, brass-strung harp of Ireland, he not only carries on two of the richest traditions of Celtic culture, but blends them in concert to create “a warm and magical performance.”

Patrick Ball concert will be happening in Grass Valley. He is a wire harp player and storyteller. Here is the info on the concert:

Purchase tickets in advance. Concert starts at 2:00 February 14th (Sunday afternoon)

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church in Grass Valley

Cost \$15

For more info contact Anita at (530)272-3699

Check payable to UUCM

Mail to 246 S. Church Street

Grass Valley, CA 95945

This is the write-up on the performance he will be doing:

Whether in the stronghold of a Galway chieftain in the years before history began or yesterday in the snug corner of a pub in Dublin, the Irish have always delighted in storytelling. Their passion for eloquence and wordplay, their deep devotion to their mythical past, their ability to find joy and humor in a dark world, and their belief that the supernatural world could appear between one breath and the next made their stories and the telling of them unrivaled in the world of the oral tradition.

And always, amidst the storytelling, there was music. Jigs, reels and haunting airs graced the spaces between the tales. And first among Irish instruments, and the most honored, was the legendary Celtic harp. With its crystalline, bell-like voice and lavish resonance, it would soothe its listeners and lead them deeper into the realms of the imagination.

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St. Andrew's Society of SF & Related Calendar of Events for 2010

MARCH

FRI, 5 MAR, Concert:
Irish Guards & Royal
Regiment of Scotland
Marin Civic Center.

SAT, 13 MAR, Caledonian Club hosts “All Club” Pub Night, SSF.

MON, 15 MAR, Society Monthly Meeting

APRIL

TUE, 6 APR, TARTAN DAY

SAT, 10 APR, Caledonian Club, Tartan Ball

SAT, 18 APR, John Muir Birthday & Earth Day Celebrations – Martinez.

SUN, 19 APR, The Flying Scotsman Train ride & picnic, Niles Canyon,

Pleasanton- Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister Cities Org. (PBFSCO)

www.pbsco.com

MON, 20 APR, Society Monthly Meeting –

Program: TBD

FRI, 23 APR, Queen's Birthday Ball

SAT/SUN, 24/25 APR Sacramento Valley

Scottish Games,

Woodland

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A Message from Our President continued:



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are holding the Queen's Birthday Ball at the end of April. This event will kick off a "British Week". Our society has been invited to participate with event planning and the Ball.



The St. Andrews Foundation will hold its 19th Annual Dr. Dan Reid Memorial Challenge Recital on Saturday, 1 May at the Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco. This is a world class event to support as well as an opportunity to hear the finest solo piping in the world. Please check the website for details and registration information: www.drданreidmemorial.com or contact Society Piper Ozzie Reid at ozziereid@yahoo.com

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco, St. Andrew's Society of Oakland, the Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister Cities Organization and the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco Joint Ceilidh is scheduled for Saturday, 14 August at the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda. This will be our fourth event together. I encourage your support and participation.

The Scotch Bottoms Committee, chaired by Biz Obley and Wayne Padgett are working on holding this event on the Balclutha at the Hyde Street Pier. The society use to hold a reception aboard this wee bit of Scotland annually back in the 1980s. Negotiations with the Park Service are in the works. More information on these and other events to follow.

I am disappointed to have to report that the Dunsmuir Games, slated for mid-July has been indefinitely postponed. The House and Ground folks wanted to make some very unreasonable changes, so the Games Committee decided to end the event. I will keep you posted as I hear more.

Our newsletter is a place to share Scottish historical and cultural information as well as news on events and members. I encourage those of you with a talent for writing to provide articles for "editor consideration". Bill Jagers has done great job publishing the newsletter, but he and I need your assistance with articles. We will also try to get the anniversary dates of members listed again.

See you on Monday, 15 February.

Yours aye,

Fred Rutledge

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ture of their costumes, the Galley (a Viking longship) and the Guizer Jarl's festival proclamation. The Galley is built to be at least 30 feet long and 6 feet wide.

Those not of the Guizer Jarl's team are split up into smaller groups or squads. Each squad chooses and arranges for the making of their own costumes. In early September the Guizers of the remaining 45 squads begin their squad meetings and preparations. This involves determining the character(s) that they wish to portray with their costumes, while also creating and practicing their acts to perform in the halls they visit throughout the evening of Up-Helly-Aa.



The festival committee begins its year preparing the Up Helly Aa Exhibition that runs from May until September in the Galley Shed. This boasts a full size Galley, Jarl Squad costumes, other Squads memorabilia and an extensive collection of photographs recording the outfits worn and the



The Guizer Jarl and Squad procession.

Guizers involved over the years.

At the end of September the Galley shed is transformed back into to a working shed where the Galley and the torches are constructed during the winter months.

Up-Helly-Aa is always celebrated on the the last Tuesday in January. The day involves a series of marches and visitations, culminating in torch

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Messages from the Wine Country

from Chuck Jamison

OLYMPIC CURLING OPEN HOUSE - LEARN TO CURL

VACAVILLE, CA - Come join Wine Country Curling in celebrating the upcoming Vancouver Winter Olympics by learning the "coolest sport on ice." Wine Country Curling will be presenting a Learn To Curl night at the Vacaville Ice Sports Center Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. The address of Vacaville Ice Sports Center is 551 Davis Street, Vacaville, CA 95688 next to the Brenden Theater complex. (707) 455-0225.

Curling equipment will be provided and it is recommended that loose, warm clothing and rubber soled athletic shoes be worn. Instructors are US Curling Certified. There will be no charge for curlers.

COME LEARN TO PLAY THE COOLEST OLYMPIC SPORT IN TOWN.

Inquiry can be made by calling Jerome Larson (707) 374-3920 or email at jlcurler@frontiernet.net.

Website:
www.winecountrycurling.org

MEMBERSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life Members who have elected to become Patron Life Members for 2010.

PATRON LIFE MEMBERS

PAID TO DATE:

Wade Hughan
John Lord
Gerry Sample
Don Sanford
Brian Tulloch



Burning the Galley

lit procession and Galley burning. There then follows hours of performing acts and dancing in halls throughout the evening and early morning.

Flares go off and rockets burst in the sky to signal the beginning of the festival. The town band plays the Up-Helly-Aa song. At the climax of the festivities the Guizer Jarl descends from the Galley, a horn sounds and 300 torches are flung into the ship, which becomes a blaze from stem to stern. The serious part of the festival is now over, and until dawn the revelry continues with parties of Guizers going from hotel to hall throughout the night.



Festival symbol.

Up-Helly- Aa is a community event that requires total commitment from the people of Lerwick. Many hours of organizing and planning. Up Helly Aa day itself is a celebration following all the winter preparations.



**Membership
Fees are due.**

Please remit to
Russ Wallace.

THE CLANSMAN by Ray McHatton

The clansman jumps in,
Never thinking of the weather.
When trouble finds his kin,
He'll ride with whip of leather.

The clansman never acts a stranger,
Though it may require toil.
If he sees his friends in danger,
He'll prove that he is loyal.

From the mission he has chosen,
The Clansman can not be coerced.
Though hills and glens are frozen,
His kith and kin come first.

When his fellow's larders' bare,
He'll be swift as he is able.
Soon they will have a fare,
To lay upon the table.

If sorrow to his friends arrives,
The Clansman to their side will hurry.
He'll bring some comfort to their lives,
And work to ease their worry.

When his neighbor's crop is bowed with grain,
And storm clouds will loom,
By their side he will remain,
Till wheat has filled their storage room.

The clansman from his forebears learned,
The chain links breaking never.
These feelings have forever burned,
These ties no man can sever.



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SUN, 25 APR,
ANZAC DAY Service,
Grace Cathedral
SUN, 25 APR through
SAT, 1 MAY: British
Week

MAY

SAT, 1 MAY,
Dr. Dan Reid Memorial
Challenge Recital
Marines' Memorial
Club and Hotel –
www.drndanreidm
emorial.com
SAT/SUN, 15/16 Liv-
ermore Scottish
Games & Celtic Fair,
Robertson Park??
MON, 17 MAY, Soci-
ety Monthly Meeting –
Program: Mem-
bers Dinner

JUNE

SAT, 5 JUN, St. An-
drew's Society of Mo-
desto, 29th Annual
Highland Games and
Gathering of the
Clans, Tuolumne
River Regional Park.
MON, 21 JUN, Society
Monthly Meeting –
Program: TBD.

JULY

SAT/SUN, 10/11 JUL,
36th Annual Duns-
muir Scottish Games,
Oakland??
No Society
Monthly Meeting

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BIG MEMBERS' DINNER BEING PLANNED

Get out your calendars lads and lassies and mark the 15th of March for our Advent of Spring, Members' Dinner. This date should be easy to remember as our upcoming meeting in February is also on the 15th of the month. This is a time to bring a prospective new member, invite a member whom we have not seen recently, or simply attend solo for a grand evening of renewed fellowship. There will be a tasty fare (as yet in the planning stages) worthy of your impeccable tastes, served with delicious barb and sonorous song.

What will make this evening unforgettable will be the tales spun by our Past Presidents. This special evening will be touted as a Members' and Past Presidents' Night. We should not only 'never forget' the monumental deeds of our illustrious past, but with some respect and forgiveness appreciate and tolerate their stories rendered for our entertainment and resigned admonition. The total cost for bona fide members is a paltry \$20.00. In fact to accommodate more congeniality, guests are welcomed to sup for the same mere pittance.

In order to greatly assist those who must choreograph and supply the staples for this blessed event, please 'sign up' at our February meeting at the Firehouse, or contact your 2nd Vice James S. Beatty at (510) 459-9395 or resonance.ej@gmail.com. Hope to see you all there!

A FIRST FOR THE LADIES

Those who attended our Burns Supper this past January will heartily agree that John Allison rendered one of the finest celebrations of our Immortal Bard's Birthday in recent years. He not only had but one year to plan in a quickened elevation for this annual tradition, but he accomplished his duties frugally, inclusively, and timely. We should all acknowledge John's many selfless hours during a year that included a knee replacement, and tireless efforts to provide delightful feeds each month to foster good will and hospitality following each meeting. Thanks for a 'Job Well Done.'

This last Burns Night at 'The Family,' signaled an Historic First in the 147th year of our charter. Two women, the 1st and 2nd to join our Order, officiated as duly elected officers: Chaplain and Bard. Mary Gilbert, Deputy Consul General rendered a spirited and informative introduction to her enactment of the traditional 'Address To A Haggis.' All of us were quite taken by the apparent ease with which she so deftly administered the 'final rights' to the hapless creature. With exacting elocution she dramatically persuaded many naive guests that there was no 'tastier puddin' than the one they were eventually going to sample. This must be the reason that my portion which followed seemed considerably trivial. The

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2nd woman to grace our membership roles, Elisabeth Sturm, officially led the banquet hall with the 'Selkirk Grace' as our newly installed Chaplain. She also conducted her services with dignity and aplomb. Later in the program she delighted us with her beautiful singing. We have in the course of this last year been privileged to admit some exceptional new members. We intend to offer them some meaningful assignments that will allow them to feel 'connected', and recognized. Some of these new members are women, along with husbands and wives. Lets be 'welcoming' and 'supportive' of their efforts to "'get to know us'" and secure a niche that offers 'value' to them. We have a lot to offer along with their enthusiastic attendance and participation.

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

We are privileged to have as this month's special program, Rev. Bill Beatty (Pastor Bill), retired minister of College Avenue Presbyterian church. We will learn that he has not really retired but has instead embarked on a project that has dispensed medical supplies to a rural Nigerian hospital that was founded in 1913 by Scottish Presbyterian Missionaries. Over the years this mission hospital deteriorated to one doctor, three nurses, 30 worn out mattresses, and four hours of available electricity a day. This project of 'third-world' benevolence is 'eye-opening' as it is inspiring. This presentation will include actual video of his initial investigative trip there in 2005. You may even see him attired in the costume of a high Chief. This honor was bestowed upon him before he left with their hope that he would return. He intends to return to this hospital in April to view the positive import of his coordinated efforts. Good Program! Don't miss it!

HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY

Our 1st Vice, John Allison is celebrating his 70th milestone in Australia on the 17th of February. He may wish that we will consider him a much younger man upon his return from the 'land down under.' His older son and 'those other relatives' will be up to invigorating him for his eventual ascension to the 'Throne' at the SASSF. The energy required to celebrate this pinnacle of self-preservation will certainly be realized upon his (reluctant?) return. We know our own efforts to assist him will not be taken lightly. The best to you and yours, John. We look forward to your safe return.

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AUGUST

SAT/SUN, 7 /8 AUG,
Monterey Scottish
Games & Celtic Festi-
val,

Toro Park

www.montereygames.com

SAT, 14 AUG, Joint
(clubs) Ceilidh, Encinal
Yacht Club Alameda

No Society

Monthly Meeting

SEPTEMBER

THU, 2 SEP PBFSCO
Pub Night, Pleasanton
SAT/SUN, 3 /5 SEP,
145th Scottish High-
land Gathering

& Games, Pleasanton
Caledonian
Club of

San Francisco,
www.caledonian.org

MON, 20 SEP - Society
Monthly Meeting –
Members Dinner

(Nominating Com-
mittee appointed
for 2010 slate of
officers)

OCTOBER

SAT, 2 OCT, Loch Lo-
mand Celtic Society
Games, Ben Lomand

Society Monthly
Meeting – 18 OCT.
Program: TBD

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Nominating Committee reports findings

Theme:

Samhain (Scottish New Year & Hal-loween)

NOVEMBER

SUN, 7 NOV, Remembrance Day Service at Grace Cathedral

MON, 15 NOV - Society Monthly Meeting – Program: TBD

Candidates nominated from the floor.

SAT, 20 NOV, St. Andrews Society of Oakland, Ball

SAT, 28 NOV St. Andrews Banquet and Ball,

Marine's Memorial Hotel

MON, 30 November, St. Andrew's Day

DECEMBER

MON, 13 DEC - Society Monthly Meeting – (note date change).

TBD. Election of 2010 officers

FRI, 31 DEC, Society's Hogmonay Celebrations, Firehouse

By Murdo MacLeod

ALMOST a fifth of the soldiers in the Army's Scottish Division quit the forces in 2007 (with the loss of the Regiments), according to figures from the Ministry of Defense, or "MoD".

Figures published by ministers reveal that 17.8% of the 3,260 strength of the Scottish Division, which now contains the Royal Regiment of Scotland, left the Army after amalgamation, a total of 580 soldiers.

Meanwhile, according to the information revealed in a Commons Written Answer, there were only 375 who came into the ranks. The military have already have to make up the much of the shortfall in the Scottish battalions through recruiting soldiers from overseas, especially from Fiji. But even with the efforts to bring in foreign soldiers along with a high-profile advertising campaign, many units are still under strength, with battalions being deployed having to borrow soldiers from each other, a practice dubbed the "Rent-a-Jock" system.

The move means that some troops who serve one tour of duty, such as Iraq, then find themselves being sent to areas like Afghanistan with other units in order to bolster the numbers.

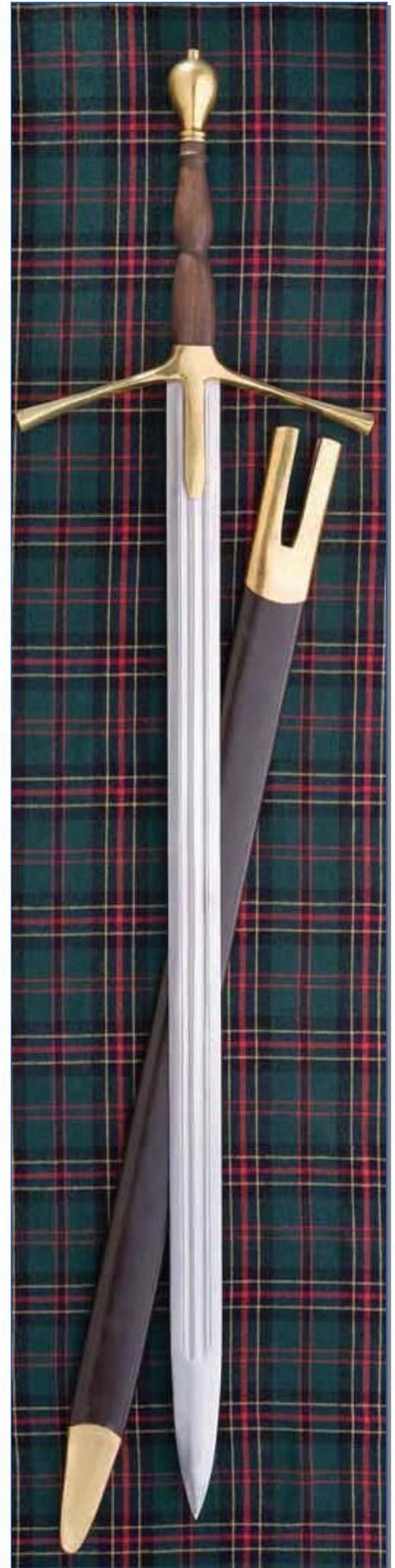
Former army colonel Stuart Crawford, said: "The numbers are relatively speaking on the high side. Of course not all the losses are because of young soldiers deciding to pack it in, some will be down to troops retiring and so forth, and there is always a certain amount of 'churn' in the forces. But think about it this way, out of 100 squaddies who might have served in Afghanistan or Iraq last year, there are 17.8 who are not there now and are either being replaced by new soldiers or by those coming in from other units. That's quite a disruption."

No one was available for comment from the MoD.

**Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco
Meeting Agenda
15 February 2010**

Our mission is to aid financially, and otherwise, any worthy Scot, or any member of the family of any worthy Scot who is deserving of help, and any person of Scottish origin or descent, who is in financial distress; to promote good will and harmony among people of Scottish birth or ancestry; to improve the social, educational and cultural life of persons of Scottish birth or ancestry; to preserve the practice and appreciation of traditional Scottish values and culture; and to acquire funds and property with which to carry out the objects and purposes hereinabove set forth.

- Call to Order:
 - Introduction of Guests
 - New Members First Reading
 - New Members Second Reading/Vote
 - Approval of Minutes (from previous month)
- Member Comments
- President's Report – Fred Rutledge
- 1st Vice-President's Report – John Allison
- 2nd Vice-President's Report – James Beatty
- Treasurer's Report – Russ Wallace
- Board Member Reports:
 - Trustees – Bruce McMillan
 - Foundation – Tom McLaughlin
 - Board of Relief – Elly Sturm
 - Board of Student Assistance – Robert Logan
- Old Business
- New Business / Upcoming Events (see reverse)
- For the Good of the Order
- Next Meeting: Monday, 15 March and Adjourn Business Meeting
- Evening Program: TBD





**IT ALL STARTS WITH
GOOD SEEDS.**

