Southwest Region 2026 AGM Report

Greetings to all officers and members of the U.S. Branch of Clan Macpherson Association. Due to the late start in planning, this year's AGM had to be conducted in a virtual format. However, we are currently making plans for an in-person gathering for the 2027 AGM in Salt Lake City, UT. Please mark your calendars for the late September weekend – details will be published in the Urlar as soon as they are finalized. Richard Barnes has volunteered to convene, and he promises to provide a memorable experience at a reasonable cost. If you have never been to Salt Lake City, you are in for a real treat! The climate is moderate, the scenery is spectacular, and the culinary offerings are out of this world for a city so far from a coast.

As of September 1st, of this year, the SW Region had 76 total members. This figure is comprised of: 38 Life, 1 Term, 32 Annual, 2 Young Adult, and 3 Junior members. Compared to last year, my total membership additions were 18 (31% increase). The specific increases were: 16 Annuals and 2 Young Adults. While these numbers are encouraging, I had several interested people decline to join because of our high annual dues. The yearly dividends from our substantial financial holdings would easily allow us to lower dues for each membership category, i.e. $25 Annual, $15 Young Adult, $1000 Life, $250 Term, and $10 Junior. I believe these dues are more reasonable and would fit the budgets of a lot more people.

The CMAUS was represented at the following Southwest Scottish events since the last AGM:

Scottish Gathering & Highland Games (Salado, TX), November 14-16, 2025
Conveners: Rick & Kim McPherson and Douglas & Jane MacPherson. The organizers found a unique venue which winds along the south side of Salt Creek. Pleasant scenic views but the walk between events was challenging.

SW Christmas Party (Fort Worth, TX), December 6, 2025
Clan Macpherson had a separate table at the Cowtown Scots St. Andrew's dinner. Everyone brought a wrapped Christmas tree ornament for our gift exchange. A great time was had by all!

Robert Burn's Supper (Fort Worth, TX), February 21
We hosted a Clan Macpherson table at this Cowtown Scots Event. It was originally scheduled for January 24, but it was postponed due to ice covered roads in the DFW Metroplex.

North Texas Irish Festival (Dallas, TX), March 6-8
Conveners: Bruce & Kathy Sterba and Rick McPherson. Please note this festival is moving to the North Texas Fairgrounds in Denton, TX for 2027.

Sherman Festival & Highland Games (Sherman, TX), March 20-22
Conveners: Bruce & Kathy Sterba and Rick McPherson. This is the fastest growing Scottish festival in Texas, and I encourage all the SW members to attend in 2027.

Mid-Summer Ceilidh (Arlington, TX), July 25
We also hosted a Clan Macpherson table at this Cowtown Scots event.

Oklahoma Highland Gathering (Choctaw, OK), October 16-18
Conveners: Bruce & Kathy Sterba. We had to cancel due to a conflicting medical procedure for Kathy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce A. H. Sterba
Commissioner, Southwest Region
U.S. Branch of Clan Macpherson Association