



TCFA Chuairt Litrí (TCFA Newsletter)

Tucson Celtic Festival Association



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The frequency of the newsletter has been modified. Rather than quarterly, it will now be published monthly and normally in the week before scheduled meetings.



This coming Saturday, January 12, is TCFA's Annual Meeting when the election of specific officers and Board members, dictated by the association's by-laws, will take place.

All members are invited to this important meeting. The meeting is from 9AM to 11AM. It will be held at St. Pius Catholic Church, 1800 N Camino Pio Decimo in Tucson in the Hopi room. Robert's Rules of Order is the standard: a motion, a second, a discussion and a vote by the all members.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

It is time - Make your reservations and save the date **January 26, 2019**, for the celebration of the birth of Scotland's Poet Laureate, at our annual **Robert Burns Dinner**. It will be held at the Omni Tucson National Resort, 2727 West Club Drive, Tucson. There will be a silent auction – donations are welcome.



A reminder that our association is a corporate member of Tucson Kiwanis and when you get the urge to volunteer at their events, please contact Greg Landers. Their meetings are held each Friday at the Viscount Hotel, 4855 East Broadway Blvd at noon for lunch. Any TCFA member is welcome and only pays for their lunch.

First Annual "HALFWAY TO THE HIGHLANDS GOLF TOURNAMENT"

Saturday, May 11, 2019 will find pipes and kilts on the Omni Tucson National Resort golf course. This will be the first annual golf tournament fundraiser for the Tucson Celtic Festival and Highland Games – and we need your help.

The 2019 Scottish Masters Heavy Events World Championships, being held at our 33rd annual Tucson Celtic Festival in November is the *Crown Jewel* of Celtic Festivals and Highland Games. We are very fortunate to be the only city in the United States chosen to host these games this year! Planning is already underway, but we are going to need three things to make these World Championship games successful: World Class Athletes, Volunteers, and Money. The athletes have already virtually booked all 118 openings. The Volunteers are coming... we hope. That leaves Money. This will be a very expensive undertaking for TCFA. That's where the fundraising golf tournament comes in.

We are fortunate to have a new member in TCFA – an "angel" who has staged seven professional fundraising golf tournaments here in Tucson. Brigid Gannon is a former TEP employee (and TEP Volunteer of the Year – several times), who has put together our golf tournament. We have a planning committee that is gathering to work out the details.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? – First, take some sponsorship/registration flyers and give them to local businesses and philanthropists who may want to help sponsor the tournament. Sponsorship opportunities are available from \$100 to \$5,000 – and donations are made to our non-

profit Tucson Celtic Festival Association. As the accountants say... *"Contributions may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor."*

Second – Mark your calendars for May 11th. We will need volunteers to: help prepare the course early that morning (tables, chairs, signs...); greet and register participants; sit at tables to distribute materials or collect money; help with the luncheon and awards ceremony; generally, "Look Celtic!" We are always amazed that folks have never heard about the Tucson Celtic Festival. Well, this is our chance to show off and let them know who we are. Kilts, sashes and TCFA attire are all welcomed! Questions? – Contact Greg Landers: 520-955-2609 or VicePresident@tucsoncelt.org.

MEMBER BIOGRAPHY...

As part of the newsletter, I indicated that I would include a member's biography. It has been suggested that I start with mine, so you will know what I need when I ask for yours.

I, Jack Hamilton, was born July 1937 in Port Huron, Michigan. Our family traversed the United States 4 times before planting ourselves in Tucson in 1952. The population was about 47,000. I attended Amphitheater H.S. (considered at the time, the Country School) and graduated at the age of 16 in 1954. I enrolled at the U of A on 2 occasions but withdrew to join the USAF in January 1955.

During my 4 years, I was assigned to Parks A.F.B., Keesler A.F.B. and Kirtland A.F.B. As permanent party at Kirtland, I was assigned to the 4926th Test Squadron which was assigned to fly through atomic/hydrogen bomb clouds. During my time there, I was crew chief over 6 bombers and experienced near 100 bomb mushrooms. Joan King and I married in 1957 and we now we have 2 sons, 6 grandchildren (3 of which are TCFA members) and 5 great grandchildren.

After the military, I worked for O'Rielly Motor Company as their service department's assistant manager/coordinator. Fortunately, a friend encouraged me into applying to the Federal

Aviation Administration (FAA) for an air traffic controller (ATC) position. I did and moved to Salt Lake City for training at the Enroute Air Traffic Control Center. After certification and 1 ½ years, I returned to Tucson in 1966 to train in the tower. My FAA career included ATC in the tower, the Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON), training specialist in both, and supervisor in both.

After the 1981 ATC strike when we fired 45 of the 50 Tucson controllers, I was selected to represent all tower supervisors on a national committee. I, eventually, bid on a position in FAA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and spent 2 ½ years on the Executive Staff before returning to Goodyear, Arizona, as Tower Manager. One year later I was selected as Manager of Tucson Tower and temporarily the TRACON Manager. I retired from the FAA in 1995 and worked for the Tucson Airport Authority for 11 years as contractor liaison.

Somewhere along the way, I developed a desire to help others and joined a Kiwanis Club. During my 23 years in Kiwanis, I rotated through all club-elected positions plus Lt Governor and District Board. Our Kiwanis club was one selected for world-wide recognition so my granddaughter, Anna, who was also a member, attended a ceremony at the Executive Building on the White House property.

Three years ago, I retired from Kiwanis and have put all my efforts into the TCFA and found passing along the Celtic information as rewarding as helping Tucson's school children.

Part of your Celtic experience...

This famous Irish Blessing, some believe, was written by St. Patrick, but no one is sure:

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.