

Dear Family and Friends,

A week or so ago, a representative of the DHA telephoned to request that I approve the organization and acknowledge the DHA's efforts in changing its by-laws.

Since the February 1st Vision letter, clan members have experienced much uncertainty and upset. I had expected to meet some initial resistance from the DHA's directors and officers, but I also expected that, once exposed, the DHA would acknowledge the real and potential harm its actions and business policies is causing members. I expected open, respectful dialogue. I expected policies to be discussed, amendments to be made where necessary, then ratification by a general membership vote – because the standards are for the highest good of clan members – not a personal vendetta.

Instead, until the phone call, the remaining core DHA personnel have vehemently opposed all my efforts to bring reason to the situation. They have resorted to slander and libel toward the membership secretary and others. They have condoned the use of poison pen letters in a forum read by the general public. They have threatened legal action behind the scenes. They issue documents that contain many contradictory, misleading or incorrect statements – all of which confuse and deflect family members away from the issues of good governance, electoral transparency and fiscal protection from potential abuses.

Many of the DHA core personnel are family members and so I have not been quick to lash out or take strong measures. After much consideration, however, I realize that the DHA has forever lost my trust and respect. I will not reinstate the Dunardry Heritage Association (DHA) as an authorized representative of Clan MacTavish and its associated septs.

I applaud the DHA's efforts to change its by-laws. The remaining directors and officers have finally begun to institute the first steps needed to operate in a professional and democratic manner. May they continue to incorporate solid fiscal policies so that those family members who decide to support the DHA will be protected from potential abuses.

For Clan MacTavish, the DHA's actions are a case of too little, too late.

The DHA, is not a representative of Clan MacTavish and its associated names, nor may it collect dues or sell product keeping the funds for itself rather than for the benefit of Clan MacTavish. The DHA has already stated that “the Dunardry Heritage Association (DHA) is a totally separate, distinct, non-profit organization which is NOT in any legal way associated with Clan MacTavish”. (Emphasis is the DHA's). I wholeheartedly agree. The DHA must now follow through on its statement; otherwise, it will be in total violation of its stated position. The Dunardry Heritage Association must change its bylaws to delete all reference to Clan MacTavish and associated sept names plus cease acting as if it has a connection to us.

Since the disavowal I have been working very hard to install the necessary business and legal framework that will not only give Clan MacTavish a permanent and legitimate organizational structure but give us the tools to grow steadily over the coming generations. While it may appear as if nothing is happening at the moment, I can assure you things are well under way. I am also working closely with five clan members on a steering committee so we can get the day to day clan activities lined up in time for the 2006 game season. The steering committee members are: Donley Tomey, Larry Thompson, Steve Stephenson, Chris Stevens and Patricia Adams. These people are doing phenomenal work on your behalf. The steering committee will be replaced by an elected board of directors.

I had hoped to have the fiscal policy in place by February 28, 2006 but this was under the assumption I would be working with a rehabilitated DHA. Since the disavowal, I have had to temporarily change priorities and concentrate instead on setting up corporate structure. However, we are still on track for the May 15th elections. We will be issuing a Newsletter to you very shortly which will give you full details about the organizational structure, elections and other fundamentally important issues.

Please rest peacefully in the knowledge that Clan MacTavish and its associated named families will now have a solid and legitimate structure and it will have a presence at the 2006 games.

We note that the Dunardry Heritage Association has been quite persistent in telling clan members how and where they should spend their funds. The DHA has been very specific that it has no legal ties to Clan MacTavish so we are unclear what benefit this will serve clan members in the long run. Nevertheless, if you choose to support the DHA, we respect your decision and we encourage you to insist the DHA officers and directors implement sound fiscal policies.

If you would like to remain with Clan MacTavish, your 2005 dues will be honored until their expiry. If your fees come due between now and May 15th, 2006, we will officially ask for fees immediately after the election rather than ask for payment sooner. We will not discourage you from sending in the annual dues before May, however. If you decide to send your dues early (\$30 for charter members / \$20 for seniors), then please make the check payable to Clan MacTavish and send to:

Acting Membership Secretary
Clan MacTavish
202 Huntington Woods,
Waynesburg, PA
15370-8246
USA

I want to thank the many of you who have already sent in your letters of intent to remain with Clan MacTavish. We are alive and quite healthy thanks to your continued support! If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to take a moment and send us a letter to inform of us your intent to remain with Clan MacTavish. Please mail it to:

Clan MacTavish
2519 Vivaldi Lane
Gambrills, MD
21054-1410

Finally, I have at long last, posted proof on my forum that the 2004 AGM minutes were falsified. I have also posted a response to the President and Treasurer's February 7th and 8th open letters. It took considerable time to complete because there were nearly 50 incorrect or misleading statements. The forum user code is "clan". The password is "integrity" (in lower case). If you wish to post messages you will need to register and create a profile. You do not need to register if you just want to read the information.

I appreciate your patience while we rebuild, but it will be well worth the wait.

Yours in kinship,

March 16, 2006

