

# KSFA December Newsletter



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We hope you are having a wonderful start to the holiday season! The Kalamazoo Scottish Festival Association(KSFA) is currently using our winter off season to prepare for the next games season and our 31st Annual Festival to be held September, 9, 2023. We are excited to bring you several updates about the KSFA in this months newsletter. As always, if you have any suggestions for us, feel free to send us an email: [info@KalamazooScottishFest.org](mailto:info@KalamazooScottishFest.org)



Ever wanted to learn some proper jigs and reels? Well you're in luck! The KSFA is proud to sponsor our own Kalamazoo Scottish Country Dancers. They meet Mondays at 7:30pm at Grange Hall in Kalamazoo:

No experience or partner required. See our site for more details:

[Kzoo Scottish Country Dancers](#)

Following our annual meeting in November, the KSFA has elected new officers for the 2023 festival year. To learn more about the KSFA, its history, and operation, visit the Association Page on our website and subscribe for more updates.

[Association Page](#)

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## New Records at our 30th Annual Festival & Games



The 2022 KSFA Festival & Highland Games hosted a great Highland Games competition this year. We want to thank our many sponsors and the hard labors of experienced athletes in setting up the field, scoring, judging, and competing.

60 athletes aged 10–69 competed, with nearly half of the competitors being novices in the sport of highland throwing. Many were drawn through weekly practices held in Kalamazoo and Holland, which began in the spring to train athletes in all nine highland events.

The actual Festival Games included competition classes for male and female athletes; ranging from youth to Masters classes of athletes over 40 years old. Many personal bests for heights and distances were achieved by throwers this year; including a new world record for Sue Hallen in the 65+ women's class. Where she threw the 22# Braemar Stone 21' 3.5"!

New and experienced throwers are always welcome to join our athletes in this fun and demanding sport. It is full of comradery and encouraging competition where athletes coach each other to excel. And it gives folks a great reason to wear a kilt! Keep watching the KSFA site and Facebook for practice announcements.

# Flowers of the Forrest



The KSFA regrets to announce the loss of founding member and past Officer Patricia King, who passed away Tuesday November 29th. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. Pat was a hard worker and could always be seen helping at events and bringing joy to everyone around her. She was active in nearly a dozen local and state non profit organizations. She will be greatly missed by all. For more information Pat's obituary can be found below:

[https://www.winkelfuneralhome.com/patricia-a-king/?fbclid=IwAR0rO725jUP9p\\_\\_OdnN-WWYrEEpI3kHUTK\\_46fNPs2Fx2LG28R\\_pX4zDNI](https://www.winkelfuneralhome.com/patricia-a-king/?fbclid=IwAR0rO725jUP9p__OdnN-WWYrEEpI3kHUTK_46fNPs2Fx2LG28R_pX4zDNI)

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The board of directors voted to join The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA), as a member organization.

COSCA is a national Scottish cultural organization that works as an intermediary between the Clan Societies, St. Andrew's Societies, and Games to promote Scottish culture across the nation. They are themselves sponsored by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and the Scottish Tartans Authority.

Being a member of COSCA will bring many benefits to our annual programming and better connect us with the wider Scottish-American community. For more info on COSCA visit their site:

COSCA



April 6th is National Tartan Day, a Federal holiday to celebrate tartan and all who wear it. For the occasion, the KSFA is planning a Tartan Day Luncheon. To be held Saturday, April 1 in, Wayland, MI. More details to come soon!

For info on our other planned events please see our 2023 calendar.

Events Page



We hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

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