Ireland’s Centenary Program launched

Charles Flanagan T.D., Ireland’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, was in New York on Jan. 7 and 8 to officially launch the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme in the U.S. The launch started with a breakfast hosted by Ireland’s Ambassador Anne Anderson in the Consulate General of Ireland in New York. Minister Flanagan, Ambassador Anderson and NY Consul General Barbara Jones addressed the gathering, followed by readings by prize-winning Irish author Colm McCann from his recent works, Irish tenor Anthony Kearre, a recitation of W.B. Yeats’ Easter 1916, and young Irish singer Ailbhe Fitzpatrick performed a wonderful rendition of a song written in 1916 by Angela Ryan, Hoist the Flag.

In attendance were members of the New York Centenary Program Committee, which worked over the past year to produce a list of centenary commemorative events taking place in the New York region throughout 2016. The committee was headed by Dr. Maureen Murphy (Hofstra University) and comprised of leaders of New York’s academic, fraternal, arts, historical, cultural, media and community based organizations and included AOH members Dan Dennehy, John Garvey and Robert Peterson and Irish Consular staff, including Irish Consul General Barbara Jones and Deputy Consul General Anna McGillicudy. The events scheduled for the 2016 Centenary Program in the U.S., including many AOH/LAOH efforts, can be read online at: https://www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/newyork/our-role/commemorations-in-new-york/2016-commemoration-program/

That evening, a gala event hosted by the N.Y. Irish Consulate for the Consular Region was held at the breathtaking restoration of the historic Pier A on N.Y. Harbor overlooking Ellis Island and Lady Liberty. National AOH President Brendan Moore, as well as Hibernians and other representatives of the Irish community from several states, attended. An original copy of the Proclamation was on display and excellent Irish traditional artists and singers entertained all.

Just before departing for Ireland, Minister Flanagan held a briefing, along with Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson and N.Y. Consul General Jones with National President Moore, National Secretary Jere Cole, National Immigration Chair Dennehy, and several business and community leaders on matters concerning our mutual work on the centenary, immigration, the economy and Good Friday agreement related matters.

Come join in the historic commemoration of the 1916 Rising

On Saturday, April 23, the ladies and men of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will be commemorating the centenary anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland. This will begin at 1 p.m. with a Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on 5th Avenue in New York City.

The Mass will be concelebrated by many of the Chaplains of the New York area Divisions. The New York Hibernian Choral will sing the liturgy that afternoon. Many Irish dignitaries along with New York’s Consul General, Barbara Jones, will attend to commemorate this historic event.

Immediately following the Mass, all Hibernians and Mass attendees are invited to process down 51st Street to 345 Park Avenue where they will gather on the Plaza, which is directly in front of the office building of the Irish Consulate. All present will assemble on the Plaza for a reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. Numerous pipe bands have already committed to join in the procession.

April 23, 2016, represents the eve of the anniversary date of the 1916 Rising in Dublin. All over the rest of the United States Division presidents have been asked to take some time out on that day for their own commemorations with some type of special event and for their own reading of the Proclamation.

Also to commemorate this very special year the National Boards of the ladies and men Hibernians have created a collectors album for this centenary year. The album will contain a history of the Road to Rebellion written by our own historian, Michael McCormack. It will also feature special messages from different Hibernian Divisions and members across America to help memorialize the event. The album can be purchased online at harrisonconnect.com or by calling 1-800-877-6554.

On Sunday, April 24, in Pearl River, New York, the Rockland County Hibernians will be sponsoring a commemoration of their own with a dedication of their new GAA field, with a parade and with their own reading of the Proclamation.

All are invited to attend these functions in NYC and Rockland County that weekend.
On Moving Forward

2020 National Convention. (That's right! It's not a misprint!)

Please be aware that if your state or local area is actively considering hosting the 2020 AOH-LAOH National Convention I need to hear from you by EMAIL (brendanaoh@yahoo.com) as soon as possible, but certainly no later than 5th March 1st, 2016. Gone are the days when our convention delegates were expected to vote on competing future convention sites based on a five-minute presentation. We now look to secure a site four years in advance so as to lock in both favorable rates and acceptable dates. Therefore, we need to convey to interested local planning committees what our essential requirements are in terms of room pricing, number of rooms, meeting and function needs, etc. When such information is studied and deemed acceptable on our end, we do a preliminary inspection. To date, one state has already furnished its preliminary overview. If you plan to be in contention for 2020 let me know now. The 2016 delegates in Atlantic City will be voting on a 2020 site.

Centenary of the Easter Rising.

National Vice President Jim McKay is moving ahead with planning for this momentous occasion and has already provided the essentials in the previous issue of the Digest. What Jim and his 2016 Committee have created is a New York City event that is a joint AOH-LAOH project in partnership with the Irish Government’s New York Consul General, Barbara Jones. Please plan to be in attendance at this once-in-a-lifetime event if at all possible.

2016 National Convention.

Yes, as hard to believe as it is, Atlantic City is getting closer and closer. Essential information has already been provided and the New Jersey AOH-LAOH Committee is committed to providing a convention that is uniquely productive and enjoyable. Please realize that as we move along, much of our planning for space and catering starts to depend upon and more on the numbers of room reservations and event packages that we are seeing. Please do yourself and us a favor: take care of room and package reservations immediately.

Email Addresses Needed.

In the November-December edition of the Digest I mentioned that there are times when we need to quickly be in direct touch with our Hibernian membership. Important issues may arise at any time demanding immediate action on the part of the AOH, or on occasion it might be beneficial that all our Brothers be made aware of some internal matter. I want to mention, again, that National Secretary Jere Cole and National Treasurer Danny O’Connell are working together to develop a complete list of AOH email addresses. Please assist by providing yours, and I simply ask that this request (1) be made known at your next division meeting and (2) be published in your division newsletters. Contact information can be forwarded to AOHFORMS@AOH.COM. Please provide the following: (1) your full name; (2) your complete membership number as it appears on your Membership Card; and (3) your email address.

Northern Ireland’s “Fresh Start.”

That is the title attached to the latest agreement to avert a collapse of the power-sharing government in the Six Counties. There are many of us who definitely remain hopeful, without necessarily feeling convinced. The Stormont House Agreement clearly provides for a truth-recovery process to be enacted and, in fact, guarantees that such will occur.

Therefore, it remains both troubling and counterproductive that Britain’s Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Theresa Villiers, continues to act as though she has been granted a special veto power over this aspect of what has been agreed. Her continued reckless attempts to shroud the truth of her government’s complicity in the murders of so many non-combatants can only frustrate efforts to establish a positive atmosphere of reconciliation and cooperation.

Just when our Brothers in the Northeast thought that winter decided not to come this year, the big chill finally descended, reminding them that January means “January.” I just hope spring doesn’t forget when it’s time to make its entrance. By the time you read this article, the ballots for our John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal will have been disseminated to our Constitutional electors for their consideration and vote. The results will be published not in this issue but the following Hibernian Digest. As you know, this very prestigious award will be presented at our upcoming National Convention in Atlantic City on Thursday, July 14, 2016. Our annual Label Program is in full swing and as usual, our members have been donating generously. The Label Program gives us an opportunity to raise funds for the many charity projects of our Order.

As 2016 begins, we also remember that this is the Centenary Anniversary of the Rising of 1916 in Ireland. Our State Presidents have received on a monthly basis a history of the Rebellion from 1914 to Easter week of 1916. A great deal of thanks must be given to our National Historian, Michael McCormack, whose excerpts from “Road to Rebellion” will appear in the Centenary Album that you all have been hearing so much about for these past six months. This album is still available and will be a collector’s item that every Division and Order member will want to have to show their grandchildren in years to come.

All Divisions are reminded that Saturday, April 23, 2016, has been designated as our Centenary Commemoration Day. On that day, all Divisions are asked to conduct a special gathering with a meeting or Mass where the Proclamation of the Irish Republic can be read, so that all of our members will appreciate the significance of that day and year in Irish history.

Because St. Patrick’s Cathedral is the epicenter of Irish Catholicism in the United States, a Mass of Thanksgiving and Commemoration has been planned there on Saturday, April 23, 2016, at 1 p.m. with a procession immediately following down 51st Street to the Plaza at 345 Park Avenue. All Mass attendees and Irish Pipe Bands are invited to join in the procession. All procession participants will gather on the Plaza in front of the building of the Consul General of Ireland’s office for a reading of the Irish Proclamation. All members of our Order are invited to attend this function and be a part of history.

Our 98th Biennial Convention will take place in Atlantic City, New Jersey, from this July 11 thru the 14th, 2016. The National Convention Committee, headed up by National Director Sean Pender, has put together a spectacular program at the luxurious Harrah’s Hotel and Casino in the heart of the city. All pertinent information for attending the convention can be found in this Hibernian Digest. I hope you will start making your reservations early as obviously this is going to be a very popular venue for our Order. I hope that all my Brothers have a meaningful and holy St. Patrick’s Day and never forget that we are Hibernians every day of the year.

God Bless.
Brothers, with 2015 well underway every division should have paid the 2015 national and state per capita dues. If this is not paid, your division members are not in good standing and not eligible to participate in AOH functions, including the upcoming National convention. I recommend that each of you verify your membership status during your next division meeting that your per capita dues have been paid. I also recommend that each Financial Secretary and Treasurer report to your membership when your per capita dues have been paid.

Your division collected 2015 dues throughout last year. The dues you are being assessed now are for 2016 and the national and state portion will be paid next year. It is critical that the per capita portion of your dues are restricted and only used to pay the per capita when due.

The 2015 per capita dues are based on your total division membership as of December 31, 2015, less your clergy, national life members and active duty military members. The Form 11 worksheets are available on the AOH webpage as fillable PDF. The preferred method is to fill out the form electronically, print, and send with your checks. You may print and fill out by hand, but you must print neatly.

EIN Numbers – AOH National Group Federal Tax Exemption: Please include your Division (county or state) EIN number on all Forms 11’s and 12’s. This is the only way to include your division (county or state) in the National Group Federal Tax exemption. State and County Boards should have submitted an updated Form 12. No money is due with the Form 12, however, this is the only way to include your State or County Board in the National Group Federal Tax exemption.

The AOH is a 501(c)3 organization, exempt from paying Federal Income Tax. Donations to the AOH are not tax deductible.

RECRUIT AND RETAIN MEMBERS!

With the Green Season upon us and the Centenary Celebration well under way there is no better time for you to recruit a new member. I am asking each member to bring in one new member to each division now. Find a family member, find a friend, find someone from your parish, the important thing is for every member of the AOH to bring in one new member now.

Once you bring in a new member it is also important for you to get the member involved and retain his membership. The first step in recruiting is installation. The second step of recruiting is renewal. Your recruitment of a minimum of one new member a year will guarantee the success of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America for generations to come.

Recruitment must be discussed at every meeting and included in every newsletter and solicited at every public function.

I wish each and every member a Happy St. Patrick’s Day and hope to see as many members as possible at the National Convention in Atlantic City, July 11-14, 2016. Register for the convention and book your room today! Convention links can be found on WWW.AOH.COM.

Deadline for March-April issue

All articles and photos are due no later than MARCH 1, 2016

Thank you to everyone who has responded and supported the Project St. Patrick Appeal, your response has been excellent. The primary business of PSP is to raise funds for scholarships awarded to seminarians and religious. We are currently in the process of reviewing and issuing this year’s grants. We are asking every Division, County and State to continue with your participation. Your donations and use of the St. Patrick cards help to ensure the success of PSP and demonstrate our commitment to our Church. Remember, Project St. Patrick is a year-round program.

Each donation of $500 or more creates a name recognition scholarship in the name of your Division, Chaplain or anyone you believe is worthy of such recognition. The donating Division, County or State will receive a certificate recognizing this honor. Donations of $500 or more in memory of a deceased individual will also come with a certificate in memory of the honoree. These certificates will serve as a reminder of the great works that our members have done during their lifetime of dedication.

Make Project St. Patrick a priority. Set a goal to support vocations. Name recognition scholarships are available for donations of $500 or more. These may be turned in as a PSP donation at any time.

Please continue to request and use the St. Patrick Prayer/Mass cards. Please keep spreading the information to your membership at your meetings on all levels. Again, your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated. If more St. Patrick Prayer/Mass cards are needed or if you require more information please do not hesitate to contact me. If by e-mail, simply type PSP into the subject line.

Vote for Sean Pender for National Treasurer in Atlantic City 2016

National Freedom for All Ireland Chairman 2006-2014; NJ AOH President 2011 -2015

National AOH Director 2014-2016; National Co-Organizer and 2016 National Convention Chair, and Candidate for National AOH Treasurer in Atlantic City 2016

Working hard so that those that we follow would be proud of what we do……

Eternal Rest Jim McLoughlin 1927 – 2013 and John Pender 1921 – 2006

...and so that those that follow us will want to do the same

“Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.” “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.
The Forgotten Irish Slave Trade

As we approach the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising, I would like to focus this year on some historical events that took place in Ireland that involved atrocities that were enacted against the Irish people. One such atrocity is the forgotten Irish Slave Trade that existed from the early 16th century to the 19th century.

At the beginning of the reign of James 1, the new British monarch encouraged the sale of Irish as slaves to the New World colonies in North America, South America and the Caribbean. This encouragement was an attempt to further reduce the native population of Ireland since the genocide and banishment policies of Elizabeth failed to significantly achieve that goal.

The first recorded sale of Irish slaves was to a settlement along the Amazon in South America in 1612. However, before that there were most probably a number of unofficial arrangements. Since the Irish were considered of no importance, details of how they were dealt with were not officially recorded.

The official beginning of the Irish Slave Trade began when James 1 issued the Proclamation of 1625, which required that Irish political prisoners be sent overseas and sold to English settlers in the West Indies. With this proclamation, King James sold 30,000 Irish prisoners as slaves to the New World. The official records of Irish slaves continued well into the 18th Century.

By the mid 1600s, the Irish became the main slaves sold to Antigua and Montserrat. In 1637, a census showed that 69 percent of the inhabitants of Monserrat in the West Indies were Irish slaves. Since the Irish were not well suited to working in the heat, many became victims of heat exhaustion and even death. To deal with this problem, African slaves had to be bought.

To reduce the population in Ireland and to meet the demand for more slaves in the New World, ordinary Irish men and women would either be kidnapped or accused of some petty crime if there weren’t enough prisoners to be had. According to John Martin of the Montserrat and Jamaica, who was a member of the English Parliament and a subsequent member of the English Parliament and a subsequent member of the English Parliament, this made the Irish the preferred “livestock” for English slave traders for 200 years. Because of this policy, the majority of the early slaves to the New World were actually white.

Due to the failed rebellion of 1641, over 500,000 Irish were killed and another 300,000 were used as slaves between 1641 and 1652. Because of this, Ireland’s population fell from 1,500,000 to 600,000 in one decade. Since the English did not allow Irish men to take their wives and children with them across the Atlantic, many women and children became homeless. Britain’s solution was to round them up and auction them off as well.

Unfortunately for the Irish, the policies of James 1 continued under Charles 1 and the dread Cromwell. In the 1650s, thousands of Irish women and men were killed and many more sold into slavery. This began when Cromwell instigated the ethnic cleansing of Ireland in 1652. He demanded that all Irish people were to resettle west of the Shannon, in arid, uninhabitable land, or be transported to the West Indies. The Irish refused to relocate peacefully, for the most part, since they couldn’t survive if they did.

According to the estimates of O’Callahan, over 100,000 Irish Catholic children between the ages of 10 and 14 were taken from their parents and sold as slaves in the West Indies, Virginia and New England during the 1650s. In this decade, 52,000 Irish (mostly women and children) were sold to Barbados and Virginia. Another 30,000 Irish men and women were also transported and sold to the highest bidder. In 1656, Cromwell ordered that 2,000 Irish children be taken to Jamaica and sold as slaves to English settlers. Unbelievably, but truly, from 1651 to 1660 there were more Irish slaves in America than the entire non-slave population of the colonies.

The following historical records speak for themselves:

A law, published in 1657, read:

"... It was a measure beneficial to Ireland, which was thus relieved of a population that might trouble the planters; it was a benefit to the people removed, which might thus be made English and Christians... a great benefit to the West India sugar planters, who desired men and boys for their bondsmen, and the women and Irish girls... To solace them..."

(Prendergast, The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland, Dublin, 7, 1865)

Soldiers were encouraged to kill any Irish who refused to move; such actions not considered a crime. However, since the slave trade was so profitable, it was far more lucrative to round them up and sell them as slaves. Games were even organized to fill quotas by capturing whoever came across their path; they were so inhuman that they accidentally captured a number of French and English and several thousand Scots in the process. When most were sold to the sugar planters in Barbados, Jamaica and throughout the West Indies, some writers assert that at least 20,000 were sold to the American colonies.

In 1742, a document entitled Thurlow’s State Papers, published in London, opined that:

"... It was a measure beneficial to Ireland, which was thus relieved of a population that might trouble the planters; it was a benefit to the people removed, which might thus be made English and Christians... a great benefit to the West India sugar planters, who desired men and boys for their bondsmen, and the women and Irish girls... To solace them..."

(Prendergast, The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland, Dublin, 7, 1865)

Not all slaves made it to the New World. According to written record, in at least one incident 132 slaves, men, women, and children, were dumped overboard to drown because ships’ supplies were running low. They were drowned because the insurance would not pay if the slaves were allowed to starve. Typical death rates on the ships were from 37 to 90 percent.

It should also be noted that African slaves, not tainted with the stain of the hated Catholic theology and more expensive to purchase, were often treated far better than their Irish counterparts. Irish slaves would endure such treatment as having hands and feet set on fire or strung up and beaten for small infractions.

Richard Ligon, who witnessed these things first-hand and recorded them in a history of Barbados he published in 1657, stated:

"... I have seen cruelly they done to servants as I did not think one Christian could have done to another." (Richard Ligon, A True and Exact History of Barbadoes, London, Cass, 1657, reprinted 1976)

According to Sean O’Callahan, in “To Hell or Barbados,” Irish men and women were incarcerated like cattle there, just as the Africans were. In addition, Irish slaves, who were harder to distinguish from their owners since they shared the same skin color, were branded with the owner’s initials, the women on the forearm and the men on the buttocks.

O’Callahan goes on to say that the women were not only sold to the planters as sexual slaves but were often sold to local brothels as well. He states that the black or mulatto overseers also often forced the women to strip while working in the fields and often used them sexually as well. (Sean O’Callahan, To Hell or Barbados: The Ethnic Cleansing of Ireland, Dingle, Ireland: Brandon, 2001.)

In the 18th century, England continued to ship tens of thousands of Irish slaves for more than a century. Records state that after the 1798 Irish Rebellion, thousands of Irish slaves were sold to both American and Australian colonies. The transportation of Irish slaves did not officially end until 1839. when a new British law ended this policy of genocide.

If anyone, black or white, believes that slavery was only an African experience, then they’ve got it completely wrong.

Why are our public and even private schools not teaching these facts? Why is this history not mentioned in the history books? Why is this topic so seldom if at all discussed?

We must not allow their story to be one that their English pirates intended: To (unlike the African book) have the Irish story utterly and completely disappear as if it never happened.

Catholic heritage has experienced many threats; but one wonders if Edmund Burke’s observation on the penal laws that they were “a machine of wise and elaborate contrivance, as well fitted for the oppression, impoverishment and degradation of a people... as ever proceeded from the perverted ingenuity of man,” would not equally apply to the selective interpretation of diversity that passes for political correctness in our society. Let’s send a copy of the national and local Irish American Heritage Month Proclamation to every school in our community and ask them to accord the same respect and coverage to the contributions of Irish Americans that they accord other heritages. Let us embrace our role in the true Celtic tradition to pass on personally our great and historic and unique culture to the next generation through talking and engaging with them and sharing the wonderful gift that is our heritage.

Let us make a special effort to pass on that Heritage to the young people in our lives. They are constantly seeing other heritages promoted while ours is demeaned or perhaps, worse, not even acknowledged. Our heritage has experienced many threats; but one wonders if Edmund Burke’s observation on the penal laws that they were “a machine of wise and elaborate contrivance, as well fitted for the oppression, impoverishment and degradation of a people... as ever proceeded from the perverted ingenuity of man,” would not equally apply to the selective interpretation of diversity that passes for political correctness in our society. Let’s send a copy of the national and local Irish American Heritage Month Proclamation to every school in our community and ask them to accord the same respect and coverage to the contributions of Irish Americans that they accord other heritages. Let us embrace our role in the true Celtic tradition to pass on personally our great and historic and unique culture to the next generation through talking and engaging with them and sharing the wonderful gift that is our heritage.

New Mailing Address
1120 Bloomfield Avenue
P.O. Box 539 (07007)
West Caldwell, New Jersey 07006
973-575-0050 JCOLE4838@GMAIL.COM

Brothers, March and Irish American Heritage Month will soon be upon us; are you and your division ready? Have you had Irish American Heritage Month proclaimed in your state, and have you made sure that it was covered in your local media? Is your Website updated with the Facebook page up to date, and have you had a fundraiser or a division meeting where you outlined the upcoming events for March?

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National Hibernian Digest, January-February 2016
Father Logan hopes that this information will motivate dioceses and religious orders to be more involved in the care of military families. He emphasizes that while the military family segment is not the most populous, it is the one that needs and deserves the most attention. The report concludes with a call to action, urging all Catholics to support the military community.

**Veterans Affairs**

The New Year is upon us. Things are changing all around us. But some things do not change, including the continuing criticism of the beleaguered Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA has earned its fair share of criticism of the past couple of years, so in a way it is kind of understandable that there are many calling for it to be shut down, and for all VA medical services to be privatized. In my opinion, that would be wrong. It is well documented that veterans suffer post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, Agent Orange-related illnesses and other wounds of war in far greater percentages than the general population at large. The VA, despite its well-documented problems, still provides the best possible care for these unique health issues. It is also recognized that in some instances veterans should be able to seek treatment at government expense at a facility outside the VA. If, for example, the VA facility is backlogged, too distant, or unable to provide a particular treatment, the vet should be able to be treated at government expense. The problem here, though, is that the relatively new “Choice” program has already taken hits from Congress. Over $3 billion has been cut from the Choice program to fund other VA needs. We need to continue to remind our elected representatives that our current military personnel and our veterans fought for, and continue to fight for our freedom, and deserve the best vision possible care.

I have commented in the past on the relationship between military service and religious vocations. Well, the good news continues. Father Aidan Logan, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS), pointed out that at a time when less than one percent of the nation’s population serves in the Armed Forces, in 2015, over 16 percent of those ordained came from military families, and 6 percent have served on active duty.

The cry from the AMS is that the nation’s military chaplains are at a low ebb. They need new vocations to attract, train, and send to the service. It is a rich field and the need is urgent. We need to continue to seek out those called to this ministry that is so vital.

Finally, please remember to thank a Veteran or an active duty Soldier, Marine, Sailor, Airman or Coast Guardman. They are a constant reminder that our cherished freedom and liberty can never be taken for granted.

**Political Education**

Brothers, 2016 is an important year for us both as Americans citizens and individuals with a strong Irish Heritage. In addition to electing a new president, 2016 will also see a number of important elections in the United States Senate, House of Representatives and numerous Gubernatorial contests. It is our duty as Citizens and Hibernians to educate ourselves on the positions of all candidates and to participate in our government: too many brave men and women wear the green on their graces in defense of that right that too many Americans take for granted and do not exercise.

It must be clearly stated that as a 501C3 organization we cannot engage in any activity that can be construed as advocacy for a particular candidate or party. We must be very aware of this fact and watch specifically what is posted on our AOII web and Facebook pages and traditional newsletters. That, however, does not mean that as citizens we cannot ask candidates seeking our vote what their position is on matters of concern. Where do they stand on a reunified Ireland? On Right to Life? The MacBride Principles? On the “Golden Door” so open to many other nationalities being unjustly shut to Irish Immigrants for 50 years? Let us be frank, the time when candidates are most attentive is when they need your vote; now is the time to get their attention. Let it not be said that they are not interested in your vote or are not concerned. Where are they on these critical issues?

We must also, Brothers, continue to protect the MacBride Principles where adopted and promote them where they have yet to be enacted. If you reside in a state where the MacBride Principles have been adopted there is likely a provision that a yearly report is made on Macbride compliance. Request a copy of that report! Multiple requests for the compliance report is a very easy and effective way to show that people are still interested in the MacBride Principles and will hold their state officials accountable. Do not be put off by the absurd argument that MacBride is no longer needed because “things are quiet now”; do we want to wait until trouble breaks out again? There are many reasons to be concerned, a newly elect DUP first minister who has made comments more in keeping with the Northern Ireland of the 1970’s than the 21st century, the recent “Fresh Start” political deal between Stormont, the UK and Irish governments contains another “Failed Start” to deal with the legacy issues of collusion and justice for victims of the troubles. A “Brexit,” Britain’s threat to leave the European Union, would have the effect of a re-imposition of a hard border between the Six Counties of the North and the 26 of the Republic and very likely means that Britain would no longer be party to any of the EU human rights legislation that they now erroneously claim make MacBride redundant.

The basic principle of fairness encapsulated in MacBride have no “expiration date,” justice never goes “out of style.” MacBride has been a guardian of the peace; to say it is no longer needed because “things are quiet” is absurd as saying we no longer need policeman in our society because the crime is down. Let us continue to push for MacBride and look long and hard at the motives of any politician who seek to do away with it.

**Military Affairs**

The National Right to Life Committee (NLRC), the nation’s oldest & largest pro-life group, represents 30 state affiliates and more than 3,000 local chapters.

“The NLRC unequivocally condemns unlawful activities and acts of violence regardless of motivation. The pro-life movement works to protect the right to life and increase respect for human life. The unlawful use of violence is directly contrary to that goal.” (Carol Tobias, Pres.)

The National Right to Life Committee has always been involved in peaceful, legal activities to protect human lives threatened by abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. NLRC has and pledges to continue to oppose any form of violence to fight the violence of abortion. NLRC has had a policy of forbidding violence or illegal activity by its staff, directors, officers, affiliated state organizations and chapters. NLRC’S sole purpose is to protect innocent human life.

NLRC pledges to continue to work through educational and legislative activities to ensure the right to life for unborn children, people with disabilities and the elderly. NLRC will continue to work for peaceful solutions to aid mothers and their unborn children. These solutions involve helping women and their children and do not involve violence against anyone. The National Right to Life Committee supports any state and/or federal legislation that would help reach their goals.

Get involved in your state Right to Life Committee.

**Prayer For Life**

God our Creator, We give thanks to you, who alone has the power to impart the breath of life as you formed each of us in our mother’s womb. Grant, we pray, that we whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Protect all life. Change the hearts and minds of those who would bring harm to the unborn. Give us strength to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

**MHT All of Ireland 2016**

29 Sept—11 Oct
Tour The Entire Emerald Isle

Dublin - See all of the South Counties - Derry - Giant's Causeway - Belfast—WWII Military Sites (Battle of North Atlantic & U.S. Army Training Sites for Invasion of Africa & Europe)

CEO Col Warren Wiedahn, USMC & Mayor of Derry, the Honorable Elisha McCallion wearing a MHT ballcap!

MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS, INC
13198 Centerpointe Way, Ste 202
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285 * 800-722-9501 * mhtours@miltours.com * www.miltours.com

National Right to Life: What is it? Who is it? Why is it?

The National Right to Life Committee (NRCL), the nation’s oldest & largest pro-life group, represents 30 state affiliates and more than 3,000 local chapters.

“The NRCL unequivocally condemns unlawful activities and acts of violence regardless of motivation. The pro-life movement works to protect the right to life and increase respect for human life. The unlawful use of violence is directly contrary to that goal.” (Carol Tobias, Pres.)

The National Right to Life Committee has always been involved in peaceful, legal activities to protect human lives threatened by abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. NRCL has and pledges to continue to oppose any form of violence to fight the violence of abortion. NRCL has had a policy of forbidding violence or illegal activity by its staff, directors, officers, affiliated state organizations and chapters. NRCL’S sole purpose is to protect innocent human life.

NRCL pledges to continue to work through educational and legislative activities to ensure the right to life for unborn children, people with disabilities and the elderly. NRCL will continue to work for peaceful solutions to aid mothers and their unborn children. These solutions involve helping women and their children and do not involve violence against anyone. The National Right to Life Committee supports any state and/or federal legislation that would help reach their goals.

Get involved in your state Right to Life Committee.

Get involved in your state Right to Life Committee.

National Hibernian Digest, January-February 2016

by Neil Cosgrove

Chairman
Brothers, we all strive for a United Ireland. It is in our blood. Recently, a couple of AOH brothers reminded me of Article 3 of the National AOH Preamble, which states that we are, "To strive for the return of the six counties in the North of Ireland as long as the voters in that region want it linked. Supporting the Annual FFAI Christmas Appeal with donations for the Irish organizations that apply annually to the AOH/LAOH for financial aid is our major project and proves that we care and appreciate their on-going struggles.

I was born and brought up on the Falls Road in West Belfast. I witnessed abuses by RUC and British soldiers. I witnessed Internment episodes, Diplock Court injustices, and visits to relatives and friends in Crumlin Road Prison and Long Kesh. I lost many close friends.

No one wants a United Ireland more than I do.

I visit Ireland, North and South, annually and I have seen many culture changes. The possibility of a United Ireland is not on the near horizon. Let me share with you some of the changes I have witnessed on those trips back to the Island of my birth, since the Good Friday Agreement was implemented in April 1998.

Catholic education is proving superior by the number of Catholic children's success rate with job applications and entrance to universities in the so-called British Isles.

In my day there were maybe 15 percent of Catholic students registered in Queens University, Belfast. In 2011 the attendance at N.J. Universities was approximately two-thirds Catholic. That figure is currently estimated to be even higher.

The majority of the teaching staff at Queens University is Catholic.

Below is a list of families who are sending their children by train to Coleraine University, 65 miles away. (Remember Coleraine U. was originally earmarked for Derry but because of the Catholic majority in Derry, the Unionists at Stormont decided to move it to Coleraine, a huge Protestant area.)

Employment in the Protestant areas like the Shankill Road and Sandy Row is at an all-time low. In the Catholic areas employment is not happening.

Due to the old adage from the Unionists, “Every Protestant will have a job,” Protestants spurned a good education because they were guaranteed a job. Not anymore, not since the GFA.

Catholics worked their tails off because they knew that with a good education they could get jobs in and out of Ireland. That has come to be true.

Nationalist ex-prisoners have organizations like Green Cross, the Conway Mills Center, Relatives for Justice, all operating to help with job re-training programs and health assistance for those who were tortured and abused whilst guests of her majesty’s loyalist citizens, i.e., RUC, BRITISH ARMY, MI5, MI6, UDA, UVEC, Stormont Government (UUP). Not forgetting assistance from the Garda. With prison or internment on their resume it is still difficult for them to get work outside of nationalist areas.

BBC 5 or Radio Ulster has a large number of Gaelic speaking programs, which are aired daily. It is hilarious to hear the loyalist uproar to have the Irish language spoken and sung on their BBC station.

An armed rising against the British will not succeed.

Helping Sinn Fein in their political initiatives in the north and south of Ireland is currently the best strategy for the AOH/LAOH in America to help achieve our blessed United Ireland without a protestant backlash. Loyalists may not like it but it is done at the hallowed places.

I think the majority will comply peacefully. Plus the Brits will have to show the link. Supporting the Annual FFAI Christmas Appeal with donations for the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center in San Francisco, a concert will be held in San Francisco on April 22, 2016. IRELAND'S POET-PATRIOTS, traces Irish history from 1803 to 1916 through poems, speeches and writings by 10 Irish authors, from Robert Emmet and O'Donovan Rossa to Yeats and Connolly and Pearse and others, set to music in both Irish Trad and original “Hiberno-European” musical styles. The concert celebrates Irish culture with the goal of educating American audiences about Ireland’s long struggle for freedom and independence. One of the highlights of the evening is the song ‘A Fenian Ballad,’ written by Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa about his family’s personal tragedies during An Gorta Mór. This concert will also be performed in Washington, D.C., and Chicago later this year. Please visit website at www.IrelandsPoetPatriots for more information.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the April 23rd National Hibernian 2016 Easter Rising Commemorations in NYC and in July at our National Convention in Atlantic City, where I will stand as a candidate for National Director and am hopeful for your support.

The AOH/LAOH in America is the biggest support organization for sending aid to Ireland and vocally supporting a UNITED IRELAND. Presently we are concentrating on reminding the world about the British government’s sins during the recent ‘troubles.’ We are still fighting for an official inquiry into the Pat Finucane murder. I knew Pat Finucane and he was a good friend and recent U.S. citizen, Billy Lawless from Chicago via Galway. Across the back in Belfast; He was a prince of Ireland’s Special Relationship to Yeats and Connolly and Pearse and others, set to music in both Irish Trad and original “Hiberno-European” musical styles. The concert celebrates Irish culture with the goal of educating American audiences about Ireland’s long struggle for freedom and independence. One of the highlights of the evening is the song ‘A Fenian Ballad,’ written by Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa about his family’s personal tragedies during An Gorta Mór. This concert will also be performed in Washington, D.C., and Chicago later this year. Please visit website at www.IrelandsPoetPatriots for more information.

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It's McGinley
No Holds Barred

On December 17, the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma, announced that Ned McGinley, long-time head wrestling coach at King's College and past Head coach of the United States Olympic Wrestling Team, has been selected for induction into the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place April 24, 2016, in Hershey, Pa.

In 1968, McGinley started the wrestling program at King’s College and is currently still at the helm where he has led the Monarchs wrestling team to 499 victories. The Monarchs began as a Division II team but joined the NCAA Division III ranks in 1996 and 2000. “An honor like this towards the end of your career is one of those things that puts a cap on your career and something that you can look back on for the rest of your life,” McGinley said. “It’s an honor and a great feeling.”

The Monarchs also placed fourth in the 2000 NCAA Division III National Wrestling Tournament to Wachovia Arena (now Mohegan Sun Arena) in Wilkes-Barre where King’s second place as co-host of the NCAA tournament with the University of Scranton. In 2002-03, King’s highest national ranking ever. McGinley also spearheaded the effort which brought the 2002 NCAA Division III National Wrestling Tournament to Wachovia Arena (now Mohegan Sun Arena) in Wilkes-Barre where King’s served as co-host of the NCAA tournament with the University of Scranton. In 2002-03, King’s finished 11th in the Division III National Tournament and produced a pair of individual national runner-ups. A two-time Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) “Coach of the Year” and recipient of the NCAA “25-Year Coaching Award,” Ned is a member of the Luzerne County sports Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association, and the NCAA Wrestling Halls of Fame.

As a wrestler himself, McGinley was a two-time district champion and regional runner-up at Kingston High School, where he graduated in 1960. He was the team captain his senior year and had a dual meet career record of 31-1-1. He graduated from Wilkes College in 1965 after earning 4 letters, posting a career record of 50-14. He was also a two-time medalist in the MAC and earned a Bronze medal in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (1963).

In addition to coaching wrestling at King’s, McGinley serves as the college’s Athletic Recruiting Coordinator since 1999-2000. “An honor like this towards the end of your career is one of those things that puts a cap on your career and something that you can look back on for the rest of your life,” McGinley said. “It’s always good to be recognized by your peers in any way but especially within the wrestling community since it has been such a powerful and rewarding part of my life. I’ve had a lot of great moments and memories over the years but when you are in the national finals with an athlete you recruited, coached, and built a relationship with, you certainly come to understand at that moment why it was all worthwhile. We had six national finalists here at King’s so having had several national championship opportunities stands tall. When you really think about the fact we graduated over 90 percent of our wrestlers over the years, the most rewarding thing is to bring in young men and have them complete their academic career and graduate on time. And to see so many of them out there all over the country giving back in their own way is especially rewarding. An award like this makes you reflect back and think about all the positive things that have happened over the years. Its a very special feeling.

It is also a special feeling to have had Ned as a guiding officer over the many years of his service to the AOH.
Division 1, Holyoke: In November, Paul Hogan was reelected to another two-year term as Division President. The Division’s Christmas Party was held on December 7 and the Children’s Christmas Party on December 13. Division members continue to volunteer monthly at Kate’s Kitchen, a local food pantry in Downtown Holyoke. A large committee is working on the Division’s Centenary Celebration of the Easter Rising that will be held on Saturday, April 23.

Division 8, Clinton: Division 8 began 2016 with a $1,000 donation to the AOH National Board’s Annual Christmas Appeal. All monies donated were raised under the guidance of Division 8’s Freedom for All Ireland Committee Chairman Bob Collins. The National Board’s Annual Christmas Appeal. All monies donated were raised under the guidance of Division 8’s Freedom for All Ireland Committee Chairman Bob Collins. The National Board’s Annual Christmas Appeal and unanimously endorsed AOH National Board Liaison to New England, Bill Kerry Griffin, Vice President; Charlie Sinclair, President and Peter Gifford - Standing Committee Chairman. State President Paul Hogan served as the installing officer.

Massachusetts

By Bill Sullivan
Division 14 in Watertown hosted the fall meeting of the Mass State Board on Nov. 14. At their November meeting, the State Board donated $500 to the FFAI Christmas Appeal and unanimously endorsed AOH National Board Liaison to New England, Bill Sullivan’s bid for National Director at the AOH National Convention in Atlantic City in July. The State Board is considering hosting the exemplification of the Major Degree in May 2016. Division 18 in Salem will host the mid-inter meeting of the State Board on January 30.

Many Divisions across Massachusetts have spent the last several months celebrating the Christmas holidays with a number of events and are now in the midst of planning many of their Saint Patrick’s Day festivities, as well as a number of events to commemorate the Centennial of the Rising of 1916. Here is a sampling of activities from across the Bay State.

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In Memoriam

Thomas “Tom” Vincent Kelly Sr., 95, of Emerald Isle, NC, and Shinhopple, NY, passed away on Nov. 7, 2015, at Crystal Coast Hospice House, Newport, NC, while surrounded by family.

Tom was born in 1920 in Brooklyn and grew up there. He attended New York City public schools and graduated in 1938 from Samuel J. Tilden High School. Tom joined the U.S. Navy at the outbreak of World War II and spent the entirety of the war fighting in the Pacific. He served on the U.S.S. Bushnell (AS-15) and then the submarine, U.S.S. Billfish (SS-286). At the end of the war he was honorably discharged having obtained the rank of Fire Controlman 2d Class (SS).

Tom married Eleanor McBride and joined the NYPD in 1945. His career with the police ended with his retirement in 1974 and moved with his wife to Shinhopple. Tom did not stay retired for long and served as the area’s Postmaster and General Store owner, a position that he would hold for 10 years before retiring again.

He and Eleanor moved to Kellyville, NY, and remained there until her passing in 2004. The final chapter of Tom’s life found him living in Emerald Isle, NC, where he could be closer to his children and their families.

Tom was known for commanding full to all those endeavors that he undertook and this is reflected in all the organizations that he belonged to. He served as a member of Submarine Veterans of World War II, NYPD Honor Legion, NYPD Emerald Society, Holy Name Society, NYPD Detective’s Endowment Association and the National Association of Postmasters.

He was also an officer or member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. 5 New York County, AOH Div. 1 Wake County NC, Irish American Society of Nassau Suffolk and Queens, County Longford Men’s Association and The United Irish Counties Association.

Tom is survived by two daughters, Eleanor M. Simmons and husband Richard of Long Island, NY, Moira L. Patterson and husband William of Syosset, NY, three sons, Dr. Thomas V. Kelly Jr. and wife Maryanne of Raleigh, NC, Owen M. Kelly of Emerald Isle, NC, and John M. Kelly and wife Connie of Franklin, NY and Emerald Isle, NC; grandchildren Alexandra Simmons, Heather Lu, Kathleen Kelly, Thomas V. Kelly III, Maureen Kelly, Liam Patterson, Niall Patterson, Samantha Coffin, Rachael Kelly, Sean Kelly, and Molly Kelly; Great Grandchildren, Sophia Rose Lu, William Alfred Lu, Ciara Rose Patterson, and Andrew Kelly; and one sister, Veronica Kellihier.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Eleanor Mary McBride Kelly; grandchildren, Alice Kelly; siblings, Helen Moore, Rita Corbett, Joseph Kelly, Aloysius Kelly, and James Kelly.

John Michael “Mike” Tivnan
AOH Life Member John Michael “Mike” Tivnan, Major, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired, passed away at his home in Woodbridge, Virginia on October 31, 2015. Mike was the founding president of the Lieutenant Colonel John A. Dowd, USMC, AOH Division 1, Woodbridge, Virginia. Born on April 12, 1935, and raised in Salem, Massachusetts, Mike will be remembered as a genial, humble man who was justly proud of his Irish-Catholic heritage, the Boston Red Sox, and the United States Marine Corps.

A graduate of high school, Mike got his bachelor’s degree from Columbia and then earned a commission in the Marines. He went on to earn the Gold Wings of a Naval Aviator and serve in combat in Southeast Asia. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V” for Valor, the Air Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with three stars and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Mike’s skill as a pilot was recognized by his assignment to Marine Helicopter Squadron One at Quantico, Virginia. During Mike’s time with squadron he had the distinction of being assigned to fly President Lyndon B. Johnson aboard Marine One.

After retirement from the Marine Corps, Mike took up permanent residence in nearby Woodbridge, Virginia, and became a consultant to the Naval Air Systems Command.

Many of his fellow parishioners at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Woodbridge were, like Mike, transplanted Irish-Americans from northeastern cities like Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. A good number of them were also Marines, police officers, or federal law enforcement agents. Gathering them together, Mike organized the first golf tournament in honor of Prince William County and — fittingly given the composition of the membership — named it after an Irish-American posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic action in Vietnam. Thanks in no small part to the foothold established by Mike Tivnan, the Hibernian presence within Prince William County now includes three men’s and two ladies’ divisions.

One of Mike’s many AOH-related initiatives was the establishment of the John F. Kane Scholarship Fund. Mike’s vision — complemented by his wife Barbara’s administrative talents — translated a bequest from the late Brother Jack Kane into an investment program that has endured for more than 15 years in providing scholarships to the children and grandchildren of AOH/LAOH members. Another of his favorite AOH activities was Irish road bowling. Despite the challenges imposed by father time, Mike enthusiastically embraced the sport and was instrumental in obtaining a large supply of “bowls” to equip the division to host tournaments.

He is survived by his wife Barbara and four children, Michael Edward (Diane), Kathleen Marie Brassei, Karen Jean Sweazea (Steve) and Brian Patrick Tivnan, as well as seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mike’s impact on the AOH in Virginia was recognized by the large delegation of state officers in attendance at his wake, and by the Hibernian sashes worn by all eight pallbearers during his Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Angels on November 6, 2015. In recognition of Mike’s contributions to his Country, Corps, and Order, among those AOH Brothers who had the honor of escorting his remains were a cross section of active and retired Marine officers, current division officers and past presidents. Following the Mass the AOH Pallbearers relinquished their duties to a Marine Corps Honor Guard for internment with full military honors at Quantico National Cemetery. Semper Fi and Godspeed, Brother Mike!

Maryland

By Tim Harvey

November in Maryland brought about the Annual AOH-LAOH Memorial Mass as we came together to remember those members who have passed during the last year. The mass was celebrated by the LAOH State Chaplain, Rev. Joseph Simmons, and afterwards members gather for a meal at a local restaurant. Also during November, the AOH joined with all the other Irish organizations of Maryland to celebrate everything Irish at the Maryland Irish Festival with music, food, dance and exhibitions on Irish history and culture.

December 12th saw many members from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Harford County traveling to Arlington National Cemetery to participate in Wreaths Across America placement of wreaths on each of the graves in Arlington. Many commented on how rewarding it was to help remember those who have sacrificed so we can be free. Members were led by State President Jay Linahan, State Vice President Mike McConnell, and State Secretary Michael Willis, who was able to place a wreath on his father’s grave. State Treasurer Dennis O’Keefe and Past State President George Hogan participated in the placement of wreaths at the local Annapolis veteran’s cemetery.

State President Linalan has been honored with the election as the 2016 Baltimore St. Patrick’s Parade Grand Marshal. On March 13th, after a parade mass at the Baltimore Basilica, Jay will lead the Irish of Maryland. St. Elizabeth’s School, a school for special needs students, has been selected to serve as Honorary Grand Marshal for this year’s parade.

Plans are in full swing for the Maryland 2016 Centennial Commemoration of the 1916 Rising. A combined AOH-LAOH committee has been hard at work in arranging a night of historical displays along with re-enactors and song on April 16th at the Church of the Immaculate Conception auditorium. There will be a mass at historic St. Patrick’s Church followed by a brunch and children’s learning events in the parish hall. Hosting State events on this weekend frees up members to participate in division commemorations or traveling to New York for National events on April 23rd.
We have arrived at the year that means so much to the Irish. It is the centennial of the year that the liberty tree, planted by so many generations of patriots, began to bear fruit. The three major factors that combined to make 1916 the year to remember were Frustration, Inspiration and Motivation. Frustration at the many prior attempts at independence – both peaceful and violent – that had failed; Inspiration provided by the Gaelic Revival, whose history lessons produced a sense of pride and determination to try again; and the Motivation provided by the exiled Irish and their sons and daughters in America who helped fund the attempt as well as its aftermath.

This year, Irish patriots worldwide will pay homage to the men and women who put their lives on the line for a free and independent Ireland 100 years ago. Since Easter is a moveable feast, the Republic of Ireland will commemorate the traditional Easter Week which begins on March 27, while AOH Divisions, County and State Boards will join the AOH National Board in coordinated efforts being planned across America for the historic date of the Rising which began on April 24.

There is also a major memorial being planned in Suffolk County, NY, not far from the home site of Thomas J. Clarke before he returned to Ireland. It will be unveiled at the Cohalan Court Complex in Islip on May 3 – the date that the executions of the patriots began with Tom Clarke.

As far as this writer is concerned we should remember the patriots all year long since their sacrifice really began with the planning which started much earlier. However, we must never let it obscure the greater sacrifice that Easter signifies and that is the sacrifice that Jesus made when He gave up his life for us all.

Neither, we should also be mindful of the trying times that followed like that tremendous spirit displayed by the prisoners who suffered the brutalities of imprisonment after the Rising, especially those in Freenogch concentration camp; the heroic conflict during the War of Independence and the courage of ordinary citizens who supported the outlawed Dáil Éireann to create a nation in the face of oppression; the tragic struggle endured when brother fought brother; the struggle to define that nation; and the ultimate trials on the road from a Free State to a Republic. I don’t think any nation suffered such a traumatic seven-year birth as did the Irish people from 1916 to 1923.

Secret heroes
Among the unsung heroes were two who are rarely mentioned because the tasks they undertook were secretly performed. They were the courageous couriers, Tommy O’Connor and John Kenny. They carried funds and coded dispatches between the leaders of the movement in England and Motivation. En route, they were beaten, starved and captured many times. O’Connor, a transatlantic seaman based in Liverpool, was recruited by Tom Clarke. He memorized the code so that it couldn’t be found on him and explained it to John Devoy. He also carried funds from America and on one occasion, smuggled a large sum of money over to Clarke hidden in a leg cast. He also managed to get a doctor’s note attesting to his haggis broken leg to get through customs. He also fought in the Rising under Nial Daly. In 1917 he again resumed his work as the main I.R.B. courier but, after America became involved in WWI he was arrested upon arrival in New York for violation of the ‘Trading with the Enemy Act’ and was sentenced to a year and a day in an Atlanta penitentiary. He served 10 months of his sentence before being released early for good behavior. He returned to his courier activities though not now as frequent.

County Kildare native John Kenny was also a courier, but he was based in New York. A member of Clan na Gael and business manager for Devoy’s Gaelic American newspaper, in 1914, Devoy convinced him to also carry dispatches across the pond and to Germany as well for haggis arms for the Irish. Like Tommy O’Connor, Kenny knew and served the many men whose names are well known in the lexicon of Ireland’s struggles, but their names go mostly unnoticed because of the clandestine service they provided. Yet without them, it is doubtful that the story would be as we know it today.

Write in support of Robert Emmet Park!
The AOH D.C. State Board, with Jack O’Brien at the helm, have managed to get the statue of Robert Emmet ready for the Centennial. It was erected in a small park at the corner of Massachusetts Ave and 24th Street, on the 50th anniversary of the Rising, and statue of Robert Emmet ready for the Centennial. It was erected in a small park at the corner of Massachusetts Ave and 24th Street, on the 50th anniversary of the Rising, and

The Road to Rebellion
Thanks to all who commented on my recent book, The Road to Rebellion, however, it is not me who deserves praise but those who did the deed, I only tell their story (see www.shamrockandclover.com). I think I have a lot more to tell. Remember the heroes!

Michael Mallin was born in a tenement in the Liberties area of Dublin in 1874. He grew up knowing the poverty of a time when whole families lived in a single room. To escape that poverty, at 14 he joined the British army as a drummer boy and served in a British Army Band in India. His experiences there radicalized him and his political beliefs developed dramatically. He began to sympathize with the Indian rebels for he saw parallels between their existence and the poverty of his own Dublin roots. He came to believe that British rule in Ireland could only be removed by physical force.

continued on page 12
Illinois

Chicago Hibernians add members

At the January 6th monthly meeting, Division 32 re-elected President Ray Prendegast, VP Kevin O’Malley, Recording Sec John Resch, Financial Sec Pat Flaherty and Treasurer Mike O’Malley. Re-elected Trustees were Tom Burke and Gerry Loughran (also our Historian) with four new Trustees being elected to two-year terms of Bernie Byrne, Jack Morrissey, John Mortarity and John O’Donnell.

At this same meeting three new members of Kyle Lylte, Gavin Zack and Garrett Diamond were sworn in via the time honored AOH pledge of membership ceremony.

And Past President Sean O’Dowd reported that Division 32's state raffle ticket allotment was sold out. A portion of every $10 raffle ticket sold goes to the division, and this money will go toward the St. Patrick’s parade and other expenses.

Events for Division 32 include a Texas Hold ‘em Tourney Sunday, Jan 31, to benefit the Freedom For All Ireland Fund at Six Penney Bit Pub, and the annual parade march and St. Patrick’s party scheduled for Saturday, March 12th. Details are available on the newly revised website of AOOH.ORG on the EVENTS tab for any AOH brothers or sisters who will be in the Chicagoland area these dates and would like to participate.

Also, in conjunction with other Chicagoland Divisions of #59, and LAOH #1 and #8, it was announced that a 1916 - 2016 Uprising commemoration ceremony, mass and reception will be held the late morning and afternoon of Saturday, April 23 at The Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago. AOH member Father Dan McCarthy is expected to be one of the celebrants of the mass this day.

— Submitted by Trustee and Publicity Director John O’Donnell

Chicagoland’s Division 32 officers were elected in January. From left, President Ray Prendegast, VP Kevin O’Malley, Recording Sec John Resch, Financial Sec Pat Flaherty and Treasurer Mike O’Malley. Re-elected Trustees were Tom Burke and Gerry Loughran (also our Historian).

The Illinois State convention was held on September 18-19 at the Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette Hotel. Elected were President Bob Simpson, Vice President John Donovan, Treasurer Sean O'Dowd, Secretary Dann Haney.

Minneapolis

Shamrock Division hosts Christmas Party

The Shamrock Division hosted its annual Christmas Party at the Lakeside Supper Club on Dec. 16. Forty-six members and spouses attended.

After an initial gathering and social time, President Tim Halloran welcomed new and current members to the event. A toast was offered in honor of our oldest member, Leo Lynch, who passed away this last year. President Halloran recapped some of last year's events and highlights. He announced the events for the upcoming year. The Hibernian Scholarship fund has given out 35 scholarships since 2008 totaling over $16,000. The Scholarships are awarded to local deserving young Irish scholars going off to college. This last year the Shamrock Division once again expanded its Founders Day Celebration with a dinner and evening of Irish music. This event was well received and enjoyed by our division. We will be planning to repeat the event again this year. Halloran announced that five new members joined our division this last year, bringing our membership to 77 members.

The rest of the evening included dinner and social time. Information on the Shamrock Division can be obtained by visiting our website at www.hibernians-shamrock.com.

Deadline for March-April issue

Profiles in Patriotism continued on page11

Back in Dublin at the turn of the century, Mallin was a music teacher, a devout Catholic and a teetotaler who spoke in a gentle voice. He loved reading history, but he was also frustrated by those whose discipline fell short of the high standards he set for himself. He had a strong sense of right and wrong, disliked swearing and his political and religious beliefs were easily offended. He worked in various jobs, but his work as a silk weaver proved most fruitful – a trade he had learned in India. He earned a living as silk weaver and shop owner and he helped the Silk Weaver’s Trade Union strike for four months until their demands were met. In 1909, he became Secretary of the Silk Weavers’ Union. His shop went out of business in 1913 at the time of the Great Dublin Lockout, but he found a new job in the Irish Transport and General Workers Union as a band instructor. Mallin also accepted the post of second in command and chief training officer of the Irish Citizen Army (ICA) formed after the 1913 Dublin Lockout in order to protect workers from the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP), Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) and employer-funded strike-breaking gangs of thugs.

On the eve of the 1916 Rising, Mallin played the flute in the four-piece Worker’s Orchestra during a recital for the Irish Citizen Army in Dublin’s Liberty Hall. The next morning, Easter Monday, the planned rebellion began and Mallin was assigned to command a garrison in St Stephen’s Green and, later, the College of Surgeons. Mallin’s lack of military training made him the least effective of the Rising leaders. He commanded the garrison at St Stephen’s Green with Constance Markievicz as his second in command. Occupying St Stephen’s Green, an open park with almost no shelter and surrounded by tall buildings, was militarily questionable, yet he ordered his men to dig trenches, which was pure folly. In no time at all, the serene city park was transformed in a wasteland with hastily raised barricades and criss-crossed with trenches. Remarkably, they did not attempt to seize the nearby Shelbourne Hotel. When the British occupied the Shelbourne, they poured rifle fire down on the rebels in the Green. It is not surprising that Saint Stephens Green was the first outpost to collapse on the third day of the Rising, forcing the Republicans to withdraw in the adjacent Royal College of Surgeons. Mallin held the College and it took a direct order from James Connolly to persuade him to surrender on Sunday 30 April. Countess Markievicz kissed her automatic pistol before handing it over.

At his court-martial, Mallin was convicted and remanded to Kilmainham Jail where he was executed by firing squad on 8 May. In his last letter to his wife, he wrote: I find no fault with the soldiers or the police and he requested that she pray for all the souls who fell in this fight, Irish and English. He commented, so must Irishmen pay for trying to make Ireland a free nation.

Profiles in Patriotism

Illinois Hibernians in Derry

Mike Tiernan, right, President, St. Clair County IL Division 1, presented a framed division logo to Jimbo Crossan, President of the Irish National Board and President, Derry Division 1, during a recent visit to the AOH Hall in Derry, Ireland.

Join the AOH E-Mail List Today

All members not currently receiving the e-mail blasts are invited to join our e-mail list. You can join today by sending your e-mail contact information to the National Board at AOHFORMS@AOH.COM. You need to include your: (1) full name; (2) membership number from your membership card; and (3) your e-mail address. This e-mail list will only be used for information directly related to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. — The National Board

National Hibernian Digest, January-February 2016
Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

Living up to the motto of Christian Charity was high on the minds of Connecticut Hibernians this past Christmas Season.

Led again by the energetic and always giving Joan Finn, the men and women of the Danbury AOH and LAOH packed 50 baskets full of turkeys and nourishing food for the needy on Dec. 21, at the Greater Danbury Irish Center. This is an annual activity that Danbury Hibernians and their friends have been doing for many years.

Financial Secretary Chris Boyle remarked that the generosity of the members Bridgeport's JFK Division never ceases to amaze he and his fellow officers because once again the annual Shamrock Drive for the benefit of Sister Theresa Trombly's Rescue Mission in Bridgeport reached its goal of $3,000.

Bridgeport Hibernians were saddened by the news that AOH brother and retired Fire Captain Ben Murphy died on November 20, 2015. Brother Murphy passed at the ripe old age of 104! He may have been the oldest Hibernian in America at the time of his death.

State President Tom McDonough reported that on Dec. 11, 2015, the State and New Haven County FFAI Committees held a joint fundraiser, at the Meriden AOH Hall, for the benefit of the annual FFAI Christmas Appeal. Admission to the event was free but attendees had to pay to sing or not to sing Christmas Carols! Based on those rules, the sponsoring Committees could not lose! But that is ok. It was for a good cause.

We mentioned in the last Hibernian Digest that the Hartford AOH-sponsored the first ever Irish Road Bowling Tournament in Connecticut, What we didn’t mention is that the money raised from this endeavor is to be given to the Wounded Warrior Project.

New London's John P. Holland Division President, Rick Connell will take to the Roads for another reason on April 18, 2016 when he runs in the 120th annual Boston Marathon. Brother Rick is running this race as a tribute to the victims of the 2013 Boston Marathon attack and to raise money for cancer research, which as a former cancer researcher he feels very deeply about. If you want to help Rick you can donate at the following site: http://www.runDFMC.org/2016/rickpage.

Kitty O'Mahoney Gallagher

One Sunday in mid-August of 1963 I journeyed from my home in Bethel down to Gaelic Park in the Bronx accompanied by a friend of mine who was not Irish. We watched the games and began watching the evening dancing when my friend who had imbibed a bit, thought he could imitate an Irish accent. I had just begun to cringe when from behind me I heard a female voice say to my friend “you better cut that out because you are not doing very well.” I turned and saw a slim, pretty dark haired girl with fire in her eyes. My friend did not get the message, which made her all the madder. To diffuse the situation, I asked the girl, who was Kitty O'Mahoney from Glenville, County Cork to dance. That dance would last over 52 years.

Kitty, whom I married on July 25, 1964, passed to her eternal reward Dec. 8, 2015, after a courageous 7 1/4 year battle against stage 4 ovarian cancer. I would like to thank all my AOH and LAOH friends from around the country for their prayers and kind words. I would like to share with our readers the fine tribute my daughter Monica posted on Facebook the night of her mother’s passing.

Seventy-eight years ago, on November 1, 1937, All Saints Day, Catherine Veronica O'Mahoney (Kitty) was born. She touched the lives of everyone she met by a kind word, funny quote or much needed wisdom. After her diagnosis of Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer 7 years and 3 months ago, she made a choice of whether to fight, or accept her fate. With her family always in the forefront of her mind and heart, she began a battle that she fought without complaint or anger in its entirety. She defied odds, symptoms and side effects that left not only her family and friends, but caring medical professionals, in awe of her strength, positive attitude and determination. She was an inspiration to so many people along her journey. On Dec. 8, 2015, The Feast of The Immaculate Conception, Kitty peacefully took her last breath with her husband and five children around her. The world lost an amazing human being, but we also gained an angel unlike any other. She cared about, worried and prayed for her husband and five children around her. We are okay. You may rest well knowing we are okay.

We also gained an angel unlike any other. She cared about, worried and prayed for her husband and five children around her. The world lost an amazing human being, but 2015, The Feast of The Immaculate Conception, Kitty peacefully took her last breath with

Stamford 2016 St Patrick’s Day Parade announced

CT Supreme Court Associate Justice Andrew McDonald to be Grand Marshal

The Stamford St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has announced plans for the 2016 Parade scheduled for Saturday, March 5, at noon. Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court Andrew McDonald will serve as the 21st Grand Marshal, leading the “green parade” through Atlantic and Bedford Streets. A native of Stamford, Andrew attended Stamford public schools, graduated from Cornell University and received his law degree from UCConn. He was appointed Associate Justice in 2013 after having served as the chief legal advisor to Governor Dannel Malloy and his Cabinet. Andrew McDonald began his legal career in the Stamford office of Pullman and Comley, LLC, and also began his years of public service to the city and the state at the same time. He served on the Stamford Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives before moving to Director of Legal Affairs and Corporation Counsel for then-Mayor Malloy. Following the example of his mother, the late CT Representative Ann McDonald, Andrew then set his sights on Hartford and was elected to the CT Senate, where he served for eight years and headed the Senate Judiciary Committee, before joining the Governor’s Cabinet. In addition to leading the parade, McDonald will be honored at the Grand Marshall’s dinner on March 4, at the Stamford Sheraton Hotel.

For further information, please contact Michael Feighan at # 203-614-9448 or email: info@stamfordstpatricksdayparade.com

Scholarships for Waterbury students

The AOH Monsignor Slocum Division 1, Waterbury, annual scholarship program was started in 2001 by Jack McCarthy; Jack was a staunch supporter of the AOH and held many local and state offices. He was a deacon and served as chief administrator in many local Catholic high schools and grammar schools.

The scholarships are open to children and grandchildren of the AOH and LAOH members in the division who are attending a Catholic high schools. During this 15-year period, more than 60 scholarships have been awarded. The funding for the scholarships is now supported by the annual Jack McCarthy classic golf tournament.

This year’s recipients were awarded $1,000 each. Colleen Pelletier is attending Holy Cross High School. John “Jack” Greene is attending Sacred Heart H.S.

The AOH also sponsors a scholarship through the Waterbury Sportsman’s Club. This scholarship is also for $1,000.

Deadline for March-April issue

All articles and photos are due no later than March 1, 2016

100TH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING COMMITTEE

Presents the Unveiling of the

1916 Easter Rising Monument

Sunday, APRIL 24, 2016

Following the Memorial Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church

4 PM Unveiling of the Monument at the

Gaelic American Club

74 Beach Road in Fairfield, Connecticut

Reception Immediately Following

with Guest Speaker Martin Galvin

2 PM Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church

1719 Post Road in Fairfield, Connecticut

Mass to be Celebrated by

The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport

Assisted by The Reverend Victor Martin, Pastor of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church

For additional information, email poe6575@optimum.net or call (203) 644-9073
Nebraska

Omaha Hibernians celebrate 50 years of helping Madonna School

On Dec. 11, the AOH Father Flanagan Division of Omaha, Nebraska, celebrated the Golden Anniversary of putting on a Christmas party for the Madonna School for Exceptional Children. For 50 years the Omaha group has volunteered to ensure the students and staff at Madonna School are not forgotten during Christmas.

For decades, AOH Brothers Pete McGinn and Tom Ryan have been organizing the annual feast. Archbishop George Lucas presided over Mass for the students. As always, this year included a special visit from Santa Claus who enlightened the entire affair.

As the party came to a close, the Irish Charities of Nebraska, which is a charitable arm of the AOH-Father Flanagan Division, donated $5,000 to the Madonna School. The Father Flanagan Division and the Madonna School hope to celebrate another 50 years of working together.

At the Madonna School were, from left, State President Bill Guaghan of AOH Nebraska, Archbishop George Lucas of the Archdiocese of Omaha, President John Farnan of the Irish Charities of Nebraska, President Larry Bradley of the AOH-Father Flanagan Division, and President Jay Dunlap of the Madonna School for Exceptional Children.

Michigan

Michigan Hibernians help Sacred Heart School

Sacred Heart School of Hudson, MI, received a $1,100 check from the St. Patrick Division of the Lenawee County AOH. Sacred Heart principal Beth Reamsnyder (far right) accepted the check along with kindergartners and first-graders during a Christmas break party at the school. AOH members, from left, are Bill Carey, Patrick Maguire (Division President) and Tom Brennan. Carey and Brennan are alumni members of Sacred Heart School. AOH and LAOH members made the contributions. Proceeds will be used for new textbooks, educational supplies and improvements. Sacred Heart School is the only Catholic elementary K-8 school in Lenawee County.

Wisconsin

AOH joins in the Highland Games

Hosts another successful Taste of Ireland scholarship fundraiser

Several AOH brothers and their families joined other Celtic families from Scotland and Wales at several entertaining events held on September 4, 5 & 6 at Waukesha County Fair Grounds. The 2015 Wisconsin Highland Games events included pipe & drum, heavy athletics competition, Celtic canines, musical groups, dance competitions, children’s activity area and the clan & cultural area.

At the event, three AOH brothers, Bob Botsford, Dean Hunter and Rick McMahon, also had the honor of singing with a nationally-known Irish group/dancers named PaddyGrass, with lead singer Irish-born Derek Byrne. The musicians perform traditional Irish tunes, Bluegrass and Gospel music, and their talented dancers also performing among the audience, making it a wonderful and unique event. The organizers of the Highland Games were most welcoming and invited continuing participation of AOH in future years.

The William J. Kelly, SJ Division also hosted our very successful 2nd Annual scholarship fund-raising event, Taste of Ireland, on Sept. 17. We remain committed to raising funds to support scholarships for needy students at three inner-city Catholic Schools in the Milwaukee area. This has been an ongoing effort by our Division over the past 20 years, raising more than $300,000 to support this wonderful program.

At the event, eight Milwaukee-area Irish restaurants participated in a friendly food competition, along with live Irish music by Tallymoore, U2ZOO and the Shamrock Club Pipes and Drums. An expanded silent auction area added to the fun, and offered an excellent variety of items to round out the event. A big ‘thank-you’ to all.

Guest/food judge Michele McCormack, local CBS 58 affiliate News Anchor, with AOH brothers Christopher Brust and Corey Webster at the 2nd Annual Milwaukee Taste of Ireland 2015.

At the Madonna School were, from left, State President Bill Guaghan of AOH Nebraska, Archbishop George Lucas of the Archdiocese of Omaha, President John Farnan of the Irish Charities of Nebraska, President Larry Bradley of the AOH-Father Flanagan Division, and President Jay Dunlap of the Madonna School for Exceptional Children.

AOH brothers Bob Botsford, Dean Hunter and Rick McMahon joined members of PaddyGrass on stage at the Wisconsin Highland Games 2015.
Gen. Meagher and Fr. Corby at the Battle of Fredericksburg Commemoration

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, not unlike that day 153 years ago, the City of Fredericksburg commemorated Irish Brigade losses in the Battle of Fredericksburg. National Park Service historian Frank O’Reilly presented a stunning account of how General Thomas Francis Meagher inspired his Irish Brigade in the face of near certain death. How he adorned his soldiers with green sprigs of boxwood to remind them of their heritage and their future in America. Confederate forces, estimated to number 25,000, occupied the high ground south of the city. Nonetheless, the Irish marched through the city under artillery fire to the base of Marye’s Heights. There they assaulted uphill and across open fields toward the dug-in Confederate positions hidden behind the stone wall at the Sunken Road. Father William Corby, Irish Brigade chaplain, later said it was “a body of about 4,000 Catholic men marching – most of them – to death.”

Two Virginia AOH Divisions, General Thomas F. Meagher Division (Fredericksburg) and Father Corby Division (Fairfax), joined the National Park Service and the 28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment re-enactors in the annual ceremonies at the Fredericksburg city dock, where the brigade crossed the Rappahannock River, and at Mary’s Heights, where the brigade assaulted the Confederate positions.

Major James Dooley Division, Richmond

In 1980, members of the newly chartered AOH division in Richmond, VA, named their division after Major James H. Dooley. Major Dooley, a CSA ordnance officer at war’s end, was a prominent Richmond philanthropist. The Dooley division returned his spirit of philanthropy by donating $1,760 to help restore two paintings of Dooley’s parents, John and Sarah Dooley, who emigrated from Limerick in 1832. According to the Sisters of the Visitation in Richmond, the two portraits belonged to Major Dooley’s sister, Mother Superior Mary Magdalen. They had been stored in Richmond’s Monte Maria Covent’s attic for many years and are in very poor condition. The Maymont Foundation, the prime caretaker for Major James Dooley’s land and mansion, is raising funds to restore the portraits.

Prior to the Civil War, John Dooley, also a CSA Major, organized the Montgomery Guard, a primarily Irish militia unit. The Guard wore distinctive green coats at drills, parades and other official functions, including the reburial of President James Monroe. During the Civil War, the Montgomery Guard was renamed Company C, 1st Virginia Infantry. The principles of Hibernianism are reflected in a handwritten note found in a pocket of the senior Dooley’s uniform. He wrote the Montgomery Guard is “a permanent and respectable Irish organization composed of men, who love the green Island which gave them to the world & of those, who with affectionate reverence & devotion, remember her as the home of their Ancestors.” Interestingly, on a table in John’s portrait, one can see a book entitled “History of Ireland.”

AOH supports local parish outreach

Members of the John Cardinal O’Connor Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians present a check for $800 to Monsignor Timothy Keeley, pastor of Saint Bede Catholic Church, in support of the parish’s social ministry outreach. The donation will assist the Outreach Center in providing for the needs of the area poor and homeless as Social Ministry endeavors to end homelessness one relationship at a time. The donation was among the $3,000 in gifts made this year by the division to 10 Williamsburg area organizations.

At the donation presentation were, from left, Art Conroy, PJ McQuade, Patrick Golden (division president), Monsignor Timothy Keeley (division chaplain) and Bill Krantz. Conroy, McQuade and Krantz are all past presidents of the division.

Father Corby Division color guard at Marye’s Heights.

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Ohio

New Akron mayor an AOH member

The Saint Brendan Division, Summit County 3 in Ohio is proud to announce that member Dan Horrigan was elected the Mayor of Akron, Ohio, and received his Oath of Office on Friday, January 1, 2016, at a public ceremony attended by family, politicians, city employees and friends — several of whom were AOH and LAOH members.

Mayor Horrigan is the 62nd mayor of Akron and the first new mayor in 28 years. He is a life-long resident of the North Hill area of Akron, where the Saint Brendan Division’s hall, Irish Jack’s Pub, and his family parish, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, are located.

Pennsylvania

Irishman of the Year honored

The John F. Kennedy Div. 2 Pottsville (Schuylkill County) of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Communion Breakfast was held on November 15th where the Irishman of the Year, Joseph Lubinsky, was honored.

At the Communion Breakfast from left, Dan Koury, AOH Division Financial Secretary; Leo Haley, AOH Division President/Past County President/Past National President/Past National Chairman of the Constitution, Ritual & Progress Committee/National Life Member; Joseph Lubinsky, AOH Division Secretary and Irishman of the Year; and Mary Ann Lubinsky, LAOH Division President/PA Past State President/National Catholic Action Officer.
Running from Kansas City to Dublin

KC Hibernians Hit the Streets for Health, Camaraderie and Commemoration

On a beautiful autumn Sunday morning in Kansas City, John Maloney is pumped. In just a few minutes, he and several other members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in St. Louis and Stafford branches of the Irish Catholic dioceses will be off and running.

The Hibernians were racing in the third annual Regalia Run to benefit the University of Missouri-Kansas City. “We’re excited to be here,” Maloney said. “Each month we run a different 5K (3.1 miles) for a good cause.”

Maloney and his fellow runners have been burning up their sneakers lately. And along with the health benefits and camaraderie, their running supports education and promotes a greater awareness of Irish history.

“The Ancient Order of Hibernians has always supported education,” said Jerry Lonergan, another member of the Hibernian running group. “We have UMKC alumni in this group, and this is the start of Founders Week, to celebrate the founding of UMKC. The proceeds go for scholarships for UMKC students.”

Padraig Pearse Division 1 also raises money for Catholic education and supports seminarians throughout the diocese, Lonergan noted.

The runners’ determination to promote awareness of Irish history was demonstrated by their T-shirts, which depicted a battle scene from the Easter Rising (Éirí Amach na Cásca) of 1916. To commemorate the 2016 centennial of that event, the Kansas City Hibernians set a goal to collectively run 4,053 miles - the distance from Kansas City to Dublin, Ireland - in one year.

“Part of the Ancient Order of Hibernians’ role is to educate people about Irish culture and Irish history,” Lonergan said. “The centennial of the Irish Easter Rebellion is an important thing we want to make people aware of.”

The Rebellion broke out on Easter Monday, April 24, 1916. Members of the Irish Volunteers, led by schoolmaster and Irish language activist Padraig Pearse, seized key locations in Dublin and proclaimed an Irish Republic. The British quickly put down the Rising and executed most of its leaders, including Pearse. But the Rebellion marked a turning point in Ireland’s struggle for independence, which culminated in the establishment of the Republic of Ireland in 1949.

Over breakfast in a Kansas City café a few weeks later, Hibernian Kurt Killen said he and Lonergan hatched the Kansas City-to-Dublin idea after running in a 5k race on Thanksgiving Day 2014.

“We wanted to combine the camaraderie and health benefits of working out and running with the commemoration of the Easter Uprising,” Killen said.

Killen also emphasized the Hibernians’ mission to raise awareness of Irish history. He recalled that hundreds of years ago, priests in Ireland taught children at clandestine outdoor “hedge schools,” because Ireland’s British rulers had abolished Catholic education.

In addition to supporting the Catholic schools in the Kansas City urban core, the Pearse Division awards four scholarships every year to students attending Catholic high schools in (or should we say throughout?) the Kansas City area. Components of the merit-based scholarships include students’ grades and their involvement in their schools and churches. But the biggest component is an essay they write on some aspect of Irish history.

Killen said that while most Americans treasure and value their independence, their running supports education and promotes a greater awareness of Irish history.

What happened 100 years ago and why that happened, but that we re-instill an appreciation for what we have today. The Easter Rising stemmed from a desire for self-rule, a desire for independence, a desire for autonomy. These things are all part of who we are. That was true 100 years ago and it’s true today.

As the UMKC race wound up, the Hibernians were drenched with sweat and glowing with a sense of accomplishment. The first Hibernian across the finish line was George Knipp, whose race time was clocked at 27:45. “I feel great,” Knipp said. “After these runs you’re always a little more energized.”

Knipp said the Kansas City-to-Dublin running project “has everything to do with the camaraderie of our group and wanting to set a goal for ourselves. We all run a little bit. This seemed like a good fit for our group. It’s been a lot of fun.”

As AOH runner Brad Heydon waited for his girlfriend Lindsey Buckles to finish he noted, “since she is not a member of AOH we don’t count her miles, but on race days she is considered very much a part of the team.”

Maloney, whose time was just under 29 minutes, said it had been the toughest race the Hibernian group had run to date, due to the hilly terrain. “But there’s a lot of great scenery. We could see the highlights of Midtown Kansas City and the Country Club Plaza area. It’s a beautiful morning, and it goes to a good cause.”

As Lonergan collected his age group first place medal, the group’s leading mile collector and resident walker John McEvoy mentioned the good turnout. McEvoy noted that only members Bill O’Reilly and Brian Powell could not participate in the UMKC race. For O’Reilly the group is determining an appropriate punishment, since a visit by a mother-in-law is not considered a good enough excuse. And while Powell apparently continues to run during the week, the group is contemplating wearing black bands at future races to mourn his recent lack of attendance.

Killen said he was confident that the Hibernian runners would meet their Kansas City-to-Dublin mileage goal by the end of 2015. And after that? “Maybe we should do a round trip,” he said with a grin.

Addendum: The run to Dublin was completed in October and the group decided to run a circuit around the Republic of Ireland (580 miles) - by the end of 2015.
Yonkers Division 1 donates to Maria Regina High School

The member of The Myles Scully Division 1 visited Maria Regina High School in Hartsdale to present a $1,000 donation in support of the school’s recent fundraising effort. Division Charities and Missions Chairman Jack McDonald, along with Treasurer Mike Morley and Past Division President Tom Allison were shown where there are plans on making extensive upgrades to both the school infrastructure and its educational programs. These plans include a particular focus on making improvements to its computer and technology education programs to better prepare its students to compete in today’s job environment.

“We are truly grateful for their generous donation. If it wasn’t for supporters like the AOH, our efforts to remain affordable while providing a quality catholic secondary education that keeps pace with instructional technology would be even more challenging. We are extremely thankful for their willingness to make a difference in the lives of the students who are entrusted in our care,” said Mrs. Reidy.

Funds for the donation that was presented were raised at the Hibernian’s Annual Charity Golf Outing, which is held every spring.

Maria Regina High School is an independent Catholic All Girls High School that was founded by the Sisters of the Resurrection in 1957.

At the presentation were, standing, Jack McDonald, left, Principal Valerie Reidy, Tom Allison and Mike Morley, with students from Maria Regina High School.

Project Children founder hosted by NY AOH

Denis Mulcahy, founder of Project Children, addressed attendees at Mohawk Valley Community College’s “Diversity and Global View Series” event sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians John C Devereux Division of Oneida County, NY, (Utica). Fellow guest speakers were Geordy Austin and Eddie Gilmartin, both of Belfast, who listened attentively as they waited their turn at the lectern. On far right is moderator William Perrotti of the college. Starting in 1975 with three Catholic and three protestant children flown to his home in America to avoid the tensions and dangers of “The Troubles,” Project Children has flown 22,000 Irish children of all religions to more than 1,500 American host families. Mulcahy has been nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. Denis is a retired member of the New York City Police Dept. bomb squad.

‘The Road to Rebellion’

Ten books entitled “The Road to Rebellion” by AOH Historian Mike McCormack were donated to New York State’s Goshen Public Library and Historical Society by the Orange County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Road to Rebellion is an illustrated account of the causes leading to and the events during the Easter Rising of 1916 in Ireland. The AOH will be celebrating the upcoming centennial of the Easter Rising, which led to Ireland’s independence.

The library is part of the Ramapo Catskill Library System, serving public libraries in Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Southern Ulster Counties. The books will be available to 51 libraries within the system.

The gifts were made possible by a donation from NY State AOH Freedom for All Ireland Chairman Ciaran Geraghty.

At the presentation were, standing, Jack McDonald, left, Principal Valerie Reidy, Tom Allison and Mike Morley, with students from Maria Regina High School.

Vic Sackett named Hibernian of the Year

The Nassau County Board held its well-attended annual Ball on Jan. 9, at which Vic Sackett was honored as the Hibernian of the Year. Vic is a past Division 8 president, a past Nassau County Board president, and a long-time FFAI chairman at various levels of the AOH. He was joined by his family for the wonderful occasion.

Vic Sackett, second from left, was named Hibernian of the Year at the Nassau County Ball on Jan. 9. From left, County AOH President Tim Myles, N.Y. State Assemblyman Brian Curran, who honored Vic with a state citation, and Sean Hood, who did a great job organizing the successful County Ball. Photos John O’Connell

Deadline March-April issue March 1
editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
Good works by the AOH, LAOH of Mt. Kisco

The AOH Division 16 and LAOH Division 16 donated $3,438.46 to Hospice Care of Westchester/ Putnam counties, New York, on Dec. 2. The presentation was made at the annual Tree of Life ceremony held at the Holiday Inn in Mount Kisco. Hospice Care (Visiting Nurse Association), a non-profit home health care agency, provides home health services to patients with advanced illnesses.

On Dec. 5, the AOH donated $3,318.46 to Rosary Hill Cancer Center located in Hawthorne, NY. Rosary Hill Home is run by the Dominican Sisters and provides hospice care for incurable cancer patients who are unable to afford care for themselves.

Since 1992 the AOH has donated $215,385.14 to Hospice Care of Westchester/ Putnam and Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne, and other organizations. The fund-raising drive was administered by Chairman James McHugh and assisted by Grace Murphy, LAOH. The Division is grateful to the following parishes for their help: St. Mary’s-Katonah, St. Patrick’s-Bedford, St. Francis of Assisi-Mount Kisco, St. Lawrence O’Toole-Brewster, St. Patrick’s-Armored, Holy Innocence-Pleasantville, and St. John’s/St. Mary’s-Chappaqua.

Division 16 was formed on Sept. 13, 1891, consisting of men of Irish descent and practicing Roman Catholics living in the northern Westchester County area. The Division has a long and distinguished history of supporting different community groups in the area as well as hosting northern Westchester’s annual Mount Kisco St. Patrick’s Day parade since 1991. The Division is pleased to announce that our 26th annual St. Patrick’s Day parade will be held on Saturday March 12, 2016, in Mount Kisco and annual dinner on Saturday March 5. For further information or an application visit our website at www.AOHDIV16.org.

Monroe Library receives AOH donation

The AOH Joseph Duelk, Jr., Division 1 in Monroe, N.Y., recently partnered the Ladies AOH 5 Mary of the Gael Division to make a book donation to the Monroe Free Library: Two copies of the book “The Road to Rebellion” by Mike McCormack, which tells the story of the 1916 Easter Rising, a rebellion mounted by Irish republicans to end British rule in Ireland and establish an independent Irish Republic.

The Centenary of the Easter Rising will take place in 2016, and the AOH will be planning a number of events to commemorate this anniversary.

Hibernians on the Hudson

The Hudson Valley Irish Fest, located on the Hudson River in Peekskill, is hosted by AOH/LAOH Westchester County Division 18 and is held in late September each year. At the festival were, from left, national officers Sean Pender and Dan Dennehy, New York State President Tim McSweeney, and state officers Fr. Henry Reid, Keith Reynolds and John Manning.

Honors in the Bronx

The Bronx County Board of the AOH enjoyed their annual dinner at a packed Rory Dolan’s on McLean Avenue on Nov. 22 when they kicked off their remembrance of the freedom fighters in Ireland in 1916. County President Bob Nolan congratulated the honorees at the dinner, from left, NYS President Tim McSweeney; NYS Commander Catholic War Veterans Jim Mullarkey; Msgr. Edward Barry, Pastor, St. Barnabas Church and Chaplain, Woodlawn-Wakefield Division 5 AOH; Nolan; Richie Fitzsimmons, Business Manager, Local 147, LIUNA; and National President AOH Brendan Moore.

At the NY Orange County board meeting, national life membership was awarded to Jim Kelly. George Anderson, Div 1 president; State President Tim McSweeney; honoree Jim Kelly, Div 1 VP Tom Flynn, and Orange County President Tom McDonald.
The best part of being a National Officer is the opportunities that come your way and the many Hibernians you meet. In November, I was honored with three great opportunities. The first opportunity was visiting the Hibernian Records at the Archives of Catholic University. The Archives have shared with the LAOH a PDF file of the National Hibernian from 1908-1914. This will help us as we plan for our 125th Anniversary. Thank you to Dr. Meagher and his staff for this important record. After visiting the Archives, I had the privilege of going to the National Battlefield. I would like to thank Gail Dapolito for arranging this special opportunity.

The third opportunity and the main reason for being in the Washington and Baltimore area was the invitation to speak at the Maryland Irish Festival about the Women of 1916. In addition to my talk, I was able to bring the Women of 1916 Posters as well as the Cumann na mBan Display to be used by the Maryland State Board. I was honored to meet many Maryland Hibernian Sisters who are committed to promoting our Order and Irish History.

We are at the judging stage of the Irish History Contest. I look forward to reading about the Remarkable Women of 1916. Our Order needs to make sure these Women take their place in Irish History. March 8 is International Women’s Day. On or near this day, our Order should have events to remember the Women of 1916.

The LAOH has a new presence on Facebook with the goal of sharing stories of the Women of 1916. Please like this page LAOH Honor the Women of 1916 and share your 1916 Events. On Saturday April 23, the AOH and LAOH will be commemorating the Easter Rising with Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral and a public reading of the Proclamation on the Plaza in front of Patrick's Cathedral at 1:00 pm. After the Mass, there will be procession to the Plaza at the Irish Consulate for the reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. Please plan on attending.

Hope everyone had a Blessed and joyous holiday. As we begin this historic year, 2016 “The Year of Centennials” there is much work to do. Both the LAOH and the AOH will be jointly working with the Irish government to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland. This is a solemn occasion, a commemoration that belongs to all of us, both here and in Ireland. Many of us grew up hearing the stories and reading books about 1916 and the sacrifice the women and men of Ireland made for freedom. Irish Men and Irish Women: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

I am calling on all our members and divisions across the USA to commemorate this solemn anniversary; remember all involved in your masses and prayers, have a public reading of the “Proclamation”, tell our history and the struggle that the Irish have fought for generations for freedom. Please share your photos and events with of Webmaster and Publicity Chasts so we may have a history of what we the LAOH have done to Honor our History. Our Historian has many exhibits and information available; our Order also has commemorative pins and shirts available via our web-site LadiesAOH.com.

Pat O’Connell and I had the pleasure of attending the official 2016 kickoff in the USA with Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson & Consulate General Barbara Jones in NY. Our LAOH / AOH 2016 Commemoration will be in New York with mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral and a public reading of the Proclamation on the Plaza in front of the Consulate General’s Office on April 23, 2016.

Congratulations to our Missions & Charity Officer Dee Ramp upon her marriage to Harry Wallace on January 9, 2016. Much happiness to you both.

Plans for the 2016 National Convention in Atlantic City are proceeding; the Ladies in NJ are working very hard to see that we have an enjoyable and productive convention. Package info will be available via website as well as mailing to all our states.

I will be attending the March For Life in Washington, DC, many Parades and Masses, historical events. I look forward to seeing many of you. Thank you to everyone for all your gifts and kind wishes presented at my Presidents Dinner and to all those who attended the National Interim Board meeting.

My hometown Brooklyn St. Patrick’s Parade has honored me by making me their 2016 Grand Marshal. When I marched on Sunday, March 20, 2016 as Grand Marshal, I will do so proudly as the LAOH National President and for that, I thank my sister Hibernians.

As we approach February, the month of St. Brigid of Ireland, let us all celebrate the life of our Patron Saint by trying to emulate her kindness to others. May the joy and kindness that St. Brigid showed to others be in our hearts. Happy Saint Brigid’s day to all.

Michigan

The Catherine McAuley Division in Oakland County, MI adopted a previously homeless family who was preparing to move into a new home before Christmas. The members purchased gifts of dishes, silverware, coffee pots, toaster oven, towels, sheets, comforters, cleaning bucket and supplies, gift cards and lots more.
Who are the Columban Sisters you ask. They are the most wonderful, prayerful, committed group of missionary religious women and Sisters and the most God fearing group of Sisters that travel the continents in eight different countries and live in very different situations to help those who are deprived of everything. These Sisters are walking daily in the footsteps of our founding women, embracing the mission of Christ in our world with enthusiasm and hope. They are inspired by St. Columba’s prayer. “Lord, kindle our lamps that we may always shine in your presence and always receive light from you, the Light Perpetual.” For our own darkness may be overcome and the world’s darkness driven from us.”

“As missionary religious women, we commit ourselves to be witnesses of God’s love at every stage of our lives wherever we are. We commit our selves to be contemplative and prophetic in all we are and in all we do.”

We accept that the potential is great and that the darkness of letting go and taking risks, so that we may promote life together work for the transformation of our world. Below is the most wonderful article by Sister Bernadette Lee. An inspiring article by Sister Bernadette Lee, Missionary Sister in the Philippines.

“Has been a year since I started my ministry with the children living in the cemetery. It has been a fruitful year for me in many ways even if I speak very little of their language, which is Tagalog and they speak almost nothing of English. Strange as it “sounds” we have become very good friends because I think we let our hearts speak to one another. Whenever I teach them how to play the recorder I feel a connection with them that speaks of love and friendship.

An unforgettable experience I had with the children happened on all soul’s day. In the Philippines people go to the cemetery to visit their dead. On November 1st and 2nd all roads lead to the cemetery. We have the same practice in Korea but in a very different way. That day I decided to go to the cemetery to meet the cemetery children. The cemetery where I was in Korea is situated near the place, I was shocked to see crowds and crowds of people inching their way to get inside the cemetery grounds. It was a shoulder to shoulder, elbow to elbow walk to get inside the gate of the cemetery. It took me hours to get in and once inside it took me a few more hours to look for my little friends who live there. All the time I was on the way to the cemetery.

And then I saw the children and I couldn’t believe what they were doing. They were at work! They were very busy going from tomb to tomb scrapping the wax from the burned-out candles; they were picking empty bottles and cans here and there, they were furiously cleaning the tombs. I was wondering why they were doing all this hard work. All I knew was that only yesterday I heard that a kilo of wax drippings would sell for ten cents; the empty bottles and cans would sell for less but cleaning the tombs would pay them. As I watched them working I noticed that there was joy in what they were doing. The little friends dragging plastic bags which looked bigger than their clothes were very happy. They were talking about the work they were doing while they were scrapping, polishing, picking up the throw away of the crowd of people who came to visit their dead. Many thoughts were racing in my mind and many feelings were beating in my heart. Suddenly I just found myself joining the children in their work. We were scrapping the wax, we were picking up empty bottles and cans and cleaning as many tombs as we could clean that day.

So engrossed in our work we did not notice that darkness had fallen. It was very dark in the cemetery. The only light came from the flickering candles. I had difficulty seeing in the dark; I couldn’t see well even just a meter away but my little friends were jumping from tomb to tomb with no problem at all. They reminded me of bats who can clearly see in the dark.”

“Sister, this is the time of the year that we do not sleep”

“Why? Is it because of so many people around?”

“No, Sister. Our houses are gone.”

Weeks before All Saints’ Souls Day, the cemetery people dismantle their own makeshift houses because the owners of the tombs where they live would come and visit their dead. The demolition is done by the cemetery people themselves. Once it has been done, no one can call their own. A lot of “wow’s,” “fantastic” and other superlative in Tagalog were heard the day the Learning Center was opened. They couldn’t believe that they now have a space for themselves.

“Sister, can I sleep here tonight?”

“Sister, can I take a shower here in the Center?”

“Sister, can I read a book?”

“Sister, can I study here instead of going to school?”

The Learning Center has been operating regularly since its opening day in December. It is open every day. There are two shifts: the morning shift and the afternoon shift. The activities we have designed for them are centered around the following: hands-on, book reading, research, book reading, eating a good meal before going to school, taking a shower and other little concerns of those who come to the Learning Center. Every Saturday we teach the children music and art. We hold catechism class for 70 children every Saturday morning. Before class begins we teach them the basic things to make the center a comfortable learning place for the children. The signboard “Mosaic Centre” was done by the children and we put it outside the house. The children were extremely happy to know that they have a place which they can call their own. A lot of “wow,” “fantastic” and other superlative in Tagalog were heard the day the Learning Center was opened. They couldn’t believe that they now have a space for themselves.

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Endorsements

Illinois Endorses Patricia A. O’Connell for National President

The Illinois State Board and Illinois Hibernian Sisters are honored to place into nomination Patricia A. O’Connell as a candidate for the Office of National President. As you are aware, Pat has worked to support and sustain the mission, values, and goals of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) at the National Board first as the Missions & Charities Officer, next as the Irish Historian, then as the Treasurer, and presently as the Vice President. Currently, Pat is serving as the President of the Illinois State Board and has served as the Treasurer and Financial Secretary in her local Peoria County Division 1.

In each of the LAOH offices in which Pat has served whether it has been at the National Level, State Level, or Division Level, she has demonstrated her ability to responsibly carryout her duties and to work as a team player. Pat is very easy to work with, to serve, represent, and lead the members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

Pat is active in her parish serving as a Eucharistic Minister. She has served on her Parish Council as President and Secretary. In the local Peoria community, she is active in two non-discriminatory organizations. Pat currently serves as Vice President in the Friends of Clonmel, a Sister-City organization with County Tipperary Ireland, and as Secretary of the St. Patrick Society of Peoria.

In her professional career prior to her retirement, Pat worked as an educator serving as a teacher, supervisor, and administrator in parochial, private, and public educational institutions spanning pre-school through graduate school. Pat earned her Doctorate in Educational Administration at Illinois State University, her Master’s Degree in Specials knowledge and skills while serving as a State Board Trustee and County Division Treasurer. Mary has served on the State Board was as Vice President and Board Trustee of the West Side Irish American Club.

Marilyn has served in many leadership positions: Registrar with the North American Camogie Board, Vice-President of the Irish Music Academy, and Board Trustee of the West Side Irish American Club. She is currently a Deputy Director of the United Irish Societies and Treasurer of Cleveland Comhaltas.

Marilyn’s most celebrated accomplishment has been the successful Hierarchical Recourse to the Congregation of the Clergy for the Parish of St. Patrick-West Park. She serves as a vital member of the West Side Irish American Club. She is currently a Deputy Director of the United Irish Societies and Treasurer of Cleveland Comhaltas.

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In her professional career, Marilyn received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. John college and has been employed as a Registered Nurse at University Hospitals Case Medical Center since 1977. One of Marilyn’s heroes is President John F. Kennedy, and to paraphrase, Marilyn might say, “Ask not what the Hibernians can do for you - Ask what Marilyn Madigan can do for the Hibernians”. Marilyn has shown her dedication as a hard worker and fine communicator as Fundraiser and Irish Historian, and is a credit to the important work of our Order. Ohio is proud to support Marilyn Madigan on the National Board.

Pennsylvania endorses candidates for National Office

The Pennsylvania LaoH State Board announces the endorsement of two candidates for National Office at the 2016 National LAOH Convention.

Coleen Bowers is placed in nomination as National Columbia. Coleen mentors new officers within Allegheny County and Division 11 and also serves as the Office of National Secretary, as she is the proven worker and leader, dependable, reachable and esponsible!

Mary Ann has served and still serves on the Division, County, and State LAOH’s constitution and by-laws to all members. In addition to her duties at the Junior, Division and County levels, Colleen has served on the PA State Board and held many offices including President from 2009-2011.

Also, the Pennsylvania State Board is pleased to nominate Mary Ann Lubinsky for National Office. Mary Ann’s Schuykill County and John F. Kennedy Div LaoH National Board show her to be a fine candidate.

South Carolina endorses Mary F. Conlon for National Office

The South Carolina State Board is honored to nominate Mary F. Conlon as a candidate for the Office of National Board. Mary is the immediate past President of the SC State Board having served two terms in that capacity. She is currently serving as the State Treasurer. Mary’s previous experience on the State Board was as Vice President and Secretary. She also served on the Constitutional Review Committee for our National Convention of 2014. Within her Myrtle Beach Division, she serves as the Recording Secretary and is a member of the State and National Degree Team. Mary has been a strong, contributing member of our organization working toward friendship, unity and Christian charity among all our Sisters.

Mary is active in her parish serving as a Eucharistic Minister, committee of the Loaves and Fishes (food pantry), Bereavement and Sanctuary Enhancement. She has served on her Property Owners’ Association Board, Parents’ School Boards and various athletic organizations.

Mary attended Rider College and the Universidad de Javeriana. Prior to retirement, Mary worked for the U.S. Navy as an Employee Relations Specialist and then in private industry as a contractice for the U.S. Navy in a similar capacity.

Mary’s father, Francis (Pat) Magee, husband and brother are also longtime members of the AOH. In the LaoH/AOH communities of South Carolina, Mary is known as a worker that promotes our motto. The SC State Board and our four SC Divisions take great pride and pleasure in nominating Mary F. Conlon for the office of National Catholic Action and ask for your support.
Caesars Entertainment and Harrah’s Atlantic City cannot wait to host and welcome you, the delegates of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, to the Harrah’s Waterfront Conference Center this coming July!

During your stay with us at Harrah’s Atlantic City, we know that you will never run out of ways to enjoy your free time. With a limitless array of activities right here on property, there is always something to explore. Harrah’s is home to the Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa, which offers a variety of signature spa services from facials and massages to manucures. The Pool at Harrah’s is open 365 days a year courtesy of a glass dome, creating your personal tropical oasis.

Test your skills in the kitchen at The Viking Cooking School, which combines a hands-on teaching experience and a gourmet toy store filled with the finest culinary tools available. Not to worry if you work up an appetite at the convention and exploring the property as Harrah’s Atlantic City has a variety of exceptional restaurants. Some of the favorites include Martorano’s, which brings bold flavor to the boardwalk with Italian American classics, Sammy D’s, which takes East Coast favorites to the next level and The Steakhouse at Harrah’s, offering premier fine dining all within walking distance of the conference space.

We couldn’t be more thrilled to have you with us this July at Harrah’s Atlantic City for your National Convention. We look forward to hosting you!

Hibernian Singers, a delight on the stages of the world

By Tom Jordan, choir member and Past AOH Suffolk County President

The Suffolk Hibernian Festival Singers, which recently celebrated its 35th year, was started by Brother Hibernian Ronnie Allen in 1980 with 12 members, all Hibernians. We did not make that a requirement, however. We are now 85 strong, about 60 percent of whom are members of the AOH. We do require that they have a good voice and love Irish music.

We started in nursing homes and at parish masses. Although that is still one of our goals, thanks to having acquired excellent, professional direction and training, as well as Ronnie’s contacts with the Irish entertainment community, our horizons have expanded tremendously over the years.

It seemed no time before we were performing at Radio City Music Hall with Frank Patterson — four times — at Carnegie Hall with Frank and Phil Coulter; Ronan Tynan, and Andy Cooney — seven times — so far.

Jim & Angela Molloy, residents of Wicklow County, Ireland, are promoters of Irish entertainment in both countries. In 2002, they featured us in the Irish opera, “The Irish Ring,” with such stars as Anthony Kearns, and Kathryn Smyth in the Lyric Opera House, Baltimore; State Opera House, New Jersey; and Carnegie Hall.

They invited us to do the same in Ireland the next year in Slate Hill, Galway; in Kilkenny, Waterford, and the National Concert Hall, Dublin. We were invited to sing the High Mass in Latin in St. Peters Basilica, Rome; in St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Armagh at a Mass celebrated by the then Primate of All Ireland, Tomas Cardinal O Fiaich.

While at a banquet in the Town Hall, Derry, we gave a “command performance” in the legislative chambers downstairs, “commanded” by the Lord Mayor and his wife, both of whom returned the complement by giving us a stunning performance. We’ve sung in various famous settings in France, Austria, San Diego and San Francisco.

As for St. Patrick’s Church, Bay Shore, this was our 29th consecutive Christmas Show, each soldout weeks in advance. Ronnie tells me that this last one allowed us to present Msgr. Tom Coogan with $10,100.
Welcome to Atlantic City!

Registration
For convention events only; does not include hotel reservations.

Name _______________________________

Address ___________________________ City __________________ State, Zip Code __________

Email address __________________________ Telephone __________________

I am a member of the AOH/LAOH (circle one) AOH Membership # _______ Division # _______ County, State _______

Complete Package: $200 if reserved by June 1, 2016. Reservations made after June 1, 2016: $220.

Full Package includes:
Icebreaker Reception “Sounds of the Jersey Shore” buffet & complimentary draft beer at Harrah’s famous “Pool”. Casual Attire.
“Irish Night” includes a Duet of Chicken and Shrimp. Entertainment provided by the Willie Lynch Band. Business Casual Attire.
Installation Banquet - Choice of (circle one): Chicken Beef Salmon.
Entertainment provided by the Eamon Ryan Band. Black Tie Optional.

Ali Carte Options:

- Icebreaker (Monday): $65
- Irish Night (Wednesday): $90
- Installation Banquet (Thursday): $95

Registration with secure on line credit card payment available at www.aoh.com/ac2016 or send completed registration form with check made payable to: AOH/LAOH National Convention.

AOH/LAOH National Convention
949 Bonita Lane
Manahawkin, NJ 08050