Kentucky Hibernians prepare for National Convention

It was December 1, and while most Hibernians around the country were getting everything ready for Christmas, the Kentucky Hibernians — led by local chairs John and Julia O’Dwyer — were leading the local team to prepare for the AOH-LOAH National Convention in July.

That’s right, we have the good fortune of having a husband and wife team leading the way for another successful Louisville Convention and you won’t want to miss a day of it. As our Kentucky brothers and sisters work hard on the advance work you may wonder how you can make their life easier. It’s simple, get your packages and rooms booked as soon as possible. The earlier the better.

The convention will begin Wednesday, July 11, with the opening Mass followed by the Taste of Louisville icebreaker, sure to bring back the memories of conventions past. Thursday’s joint session will be the start of convention business, including proposals for the 2022 convention site. If you are interested in presenting a convention bid for ’22, contact Danny O’Connell, AOH National Vice President. Following the joint-session both the AOH and LAOH will get down to the business as hand.

Friday, July 13, brings nominations of national officers to the forefront, followed by a great evening Irish Night event. The O’Dwyer’s have a great night of Irish entertainment planned that

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‘New Energy’ needed in Brexit crisis

By Neil Cosgrove

In the “Through the Looking Glass” world of British policy in Northern Ireland, inactivity has been occurring at a frantic pace. Eighteen months since deciding to leave the European Union and eight months after triggering Article 50 committing the UK (and an unwilling Northern Ireland electorate) to leaving the EU by April 2019, it is clear that the British government still has no plan. They continue to attempt to hide this fact in a cloud of diplomatic doublespeak of “frictionless borders” and irrelevant trivia on the history of “the Common Travel Area”. As regards the CTA, it is interesting to note while Westminster constantly repeats they have “no desire to return to the borders of the past,” they forget those “borders of the past” existed in the “Common Travel Area” era, which they cite to dismiss fears over a hard border. Drawing inspiration from H.G. Wells, attempts have been made to hand-wave the possibility of a border with miracle technology; proposals ranging from license plate readers to permanently moored blimps.

Despite best efforts to repackaged wishful thinking as a plan, the Republic of Ireland and the European Union have not been taken in by this British blarney. Dublin, with the commendable backing of the European Union, has made it clear that any return to a partition, no matter how allegedly seamless, is unacceptable and a threat to the Good Friday Agreement.

There is only one way to avoid such a possibility as a consequence of Brexit, a “special status designation” for Northern Ireland, which would allow it to be in synch with the European Union (and member Republic of Ireland), thus eliminating the need for border checks and infrastructure.

Insiders in the Tory government are reported to have stated off the record that “special status” is a practical and acceptable solution they would embrace to resolve the Brexit border crisis. Special status would move Britain’s post-Brexit EU border to the Irish Sea and take the isle of Ireland out of the Brexit divorce proceedings. However, there is a problem: the loyalist Democratic Unionist Party.

The DUP, on whose support Prime Minister May’s government relies to stay in existence, have already categorically rejected any proposal that would grant special status to Northern Ireland. The irony here is ripe, from its inception in 1922, “Northern Ireland” has been a special status area designed at its birth and supported by gerrymandering to give special status to Union interest. DUP leader Arlene Foster has stated that “the DUP will not countenance any arrangement that would lead to a new border being created in the Irish Sea. The United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union as one nation and we are leaving as one nation.” There is historical hypocrisy in Ms. Foster’s statement; she has apparently forgotten that Ireland twice voted to leave as one "their nation," not the Republic of Ireland, not the EU, have countenance any arrangement that would lead to a new border being created in the Irish Sea. The United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union as one nation and we are leaving as one nation.” There is historical hypocrisy in Ms. Foster’s statement; she has apparently forgotten that Ireland twice voted to leave as one nation, the Home Rule Act of 1912 and in the rejection of British governance in the election of 1918. Ms. Foster’s antecedents Carson and Craig had no difficulty in asking for special status then without a blush.

The final irony is that in rejecting even discussion of a special status area, Ms. Foster is ignoring the majority of the electorate of both Unionist and Republican communities who clearly expressed their will to remain in the EU; the DUP and Ms. Foster have a remarkably elastic view of democracy; it stretches and shrinks to suit their special interests. However, facts and logic are being drowned out as members of Ms. Foster’s DUP are busy banging the Lambeg drum and playing the frayed “Orange Card,” using incendiary rhetoric of “Irish Blackmail” to categorize the crisis that “their nation,” not the Republic of Ireland, not the EU, have created.

The hypocrisy of the DUP’s attitude toward special status is so great; it is continued onto the next crisis. We are rapidly approaching the one-year anniversary of the collapse of the
His Excellency, Bishop Paul J. Drican

By Paul Gowdy

Pope Francis announced on May 4, 2017, that Father Solanus Casey, a member of the Capuchin Franciscan Order of St. Joseph in Detroit and one of the co-founders of the city's Capuchin Soup Kitchen, had passed the rigorous test assigned to the process of canonization, by being elevated from Venerable to Blessed by the Roman Catholic Church. Fr. Solanus was born Bernard Francis Casey on November 25, 1870, and lived on a farm near Oak Grove, Wisconsin. He was the sixth child in a family of 16, born to Irish immigrant parents who left Ireland after the famine years. At the age of 21, Bernard entered St. Francis High School Seminary in Milwaukee to study for the diocesan priesthood. In 1897, he joined the Capuchin Order at Detroit. In 1924, he was assigned to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit.

He said during his final illness, “I’m offering my suffering that all might be one.” He died at the age of 86 on July 31, 1957, at the same day and hour of his First Holy Mass 53 years earlier. Fr. Solanus co-founded the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in 1929 and today it serves Metro Detroit by providing food, clothing, and human development programs to the people of the community, in addition to preparing and serving up to 2,000 meals a day.

The Fr. Solanus Casey Division AOH and Ethel Kennedy Division LAOH in Macomb County, Michigan, have worked together for 26 years organizing the annual Hibernian Capuchin ‘Souperbowl’ Benefit for the Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The planning meetings run monthly from April through October every year. Our fundraiser is possible thanks to numerous donations and volunteers without whose help we could not be successful. Eight local Irish music groups volunteered their time together with two Irish Dance schools and an Irish Choir. The Detroit Gaelic League radio show was present performing live with news items, interviews and Irish music during our event. Forty-five local restaurants donated 280 gallons of various soups. Twelve bakeries donated assorted breads, doughnuts, cakes, Irish soda bread and pastries. Sixty-six door prizes were donated ranging from high-class jewelry to numerous gift certificates from local merchants. Our volunteer count covering the seven-hour event requiring 120 volunteers who prepared and served soups, sold raffle tickets, managed the car park, and many other tasks. After the event we were able to donate $17,000 to the Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Our total of money raised for the Capuchins since the inception

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president’s message
by Jim McKay III

As I write this, the year is winding down, and by the time you get this issue, we will be in the very beginnings of the new year. While the joyous light of our holy Christmas still shines upon us, this is a perfect time to plan ways to help His Light guide our path into 2018.

We recently held the President’s Dinner in New Orleans, where our National Board gathered to conduct the business of our Noble Order. The LAOH also chose to gather there for their respective meetings. I think our gatherings were productive and at the same time were enjoyed by all. On a personal level, I’m glad these only come every other year.

Our National Vice President Danny O’Connell debuted our new advertising campaign designed for new membership. It’s very tech savvy and represents the first time that we have used our membership talents in this field with such success. Only time will tell on its effectiveness, although early reports indicate that we are reaching the market intended.

In New Orleans, we also heard the reports of the chairmen of our various committees who detailed their activities since the convention in Atlantic City. Obviously too long to include in this article, but if any of you all wish to get a copy of these reports, our National Secretary Jere Cole has them on file for your personal use.

In January many of our Hibernians, both AOH and LAOH, will participate in the March for Life event in Washington, D.C. We invite all of our membership to participate if possible on that very special day. Our National Life Director John Patrick Walsh has, as usual, planned a number of events for the Hibernians this year.

Both Marie and I would like to take this opportunity to express our hope that you all had a Merry and Holy Christmas, and wish all of my Hibernian Brothers and Sisters a healthy and happy 2018.

God Bless.

national secretary
by Jere Cole

Per Capita Time

It is that time of year again when our thoughts turn to collecting the per capita from each division. By now you have all received your rosters for updating and many have already returned, thank you.

Per capita is due to the national office by February 15, 2018. Remember, you are paying per capita for 2017. We are always one year behind. Per capita is based on your membership as of December 31, 2017. It is the per capita that you collected during the 2017 calendar year. Divisions that were established in 2017 also owe per capita. It is one dollar per member for each month that the division was in existence in 2017. Members exempt from paying per capita include priests, active military and national life members.

As you complete the Form 11 to send with your payment: It is critical that our membership total numbers match your membership total numbers, especially Lines 11 & 16 on the Form 11. If our numbers and your numbers are off, we will need to figure out why.

Divisions that do not pay on time will not be considered in good standing and cannot participate in the national convention in Louisville this summer.

When you receive your 2018 membership cards, you will also receive a fresh printout copy of the roster and a new Form 11, along with a Missions and Charities event report form.

All forms, including the Form 40, are available as fillable PDFs online at our website www.AOH.com and you are encouraged to use only those new iterations of the forms. Please discard all old Form 40s and Form 9s you may have in stock.

If you have received your 2018 cards and have sent in additional changes, please be aware that we are processing those additional Form 40s, but cards may not be issued immediately as we are prioritizing the processing of the rosters and issuance of 2018 cards to be sure all rosters and 2018 membership cards are out first.

Remember the AOH in your will

Please consider the Order when writing or rewriting your will, and add a paragraph along the lines of: “I leave to The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America [X percent of my estate or a specific dollar amount] for its charitable works.”

Deadline for Feb.-Mar. issue

All articles and photos are due no later than FEBRUARY 1, 2018

vice president’s report
by Danny O’Connell

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas spending time with family and friends celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is always a special time of the year for every Irish Catholic American.

LABELS: In the spirit of the season for giving, I am asking every Hibernian to take a moment today and make your label donation. As you know, 100 percent of the label proceeds go to Hibernian Charities in support of AOH projects. These include Project St. Patrick, Irish Way Scholarships, History Day, Hibernian Disaster Relief, and more. Last year we raised $18,000 and this year we would like to do even better. Remember, no donation is too large and no donation is too small. Together Everyone Achieves More. Work together we will accomplish amazing things.

MARKETING, PROMOTION and ADVERTISING COMMITTEE: As you know, we have kicked off our national advertising campaign. Our goal is to educate the Irish, Catholic, American community about the AOH by promoting our work. First the committee updated our branding logo with a simple statement about who we are: Irish – Catholic – American. We have sent the brand logos in 4-color, 2-color, and gray scale (B&W) to every president at every level for whom we had an e-mail address. The best thing you can do is use this everywhere you can.

Second, we updated and modernized the webpage and created a landing page to take us from our advertising to the AOH. This took quite some time and a lot of work for the committee and especially our web team. Moving forward, we will be mapping out more work. Third we created advertisements with three specific themes based on research as to what Irish Americans are looking for: Embrace your Irish Heritage; Join the voice of Irish America; and, Grow your Irish American community. These three themes have appeared to resonate well as we have received response in the first three weeks of the campaign from 22 states.

Finally, we are now in the follow-up stage. This is where fast action on everyone’s part is critical. National Organizer Tim McSweeney is following up on the application. When Tim contacts you for assistance we need immediate action. We need to cultivate Irish Americans who are interested in the AOH and vet them as well. I, on the other hand, am following up on the requests for more information. We have a goal to reply to all requests within 24 hours. This has created a challenge for Tim and me but I’m happy to report that most requests for more information are turning into applications if the individual meets our requirements.

I’m sure Tim will report moving forward on the possibility of new divisions in states that currently have no AOH activity as well as the revitalization of the AOH in many locations. Beyond this, we have forwarded many requests for information to LAOH President Patricia O’Connell who is personally following up.

Convention: 2018 is here, which means Louisville here we come. The local convention committee has been doing a bang-up job preparing for this year’s return to Louisville. We can’t thank John ODwyer enough for leading the local AOH team. You will see the advertising kickoff in today’s Digest (on the back page) and we suggest proceeding in the proper order. We will see the advertising kickoff in today’s Digest (on the back page) and we suggest proceeding in the proper order. The LAOH National Convention.

Ritual: Degreed members understand the full importance of our ritual including advance degrees. It is important the we promote, encourage and assist our non-degreed members in receiving their major degrees. This can range from simple encouragement to getting in the car and driving four hours with them to participate in a degree ceremony with them. Your assistance here advances the work of the AOH and will help us to retain the new members, With the National Convention right around the corner, now is the time to plan how your non-degreed members to receive their majors. We look forward to seeing many of you in the Degree ceremony in Louisville.

God Bless.

deputy chaplain’s report
by Rev. Michael H. Healy

New beginnings can warm the cockles of our hearts. God is always promoting new beginnings. He encourages us to start anew and to rid our souls from guilt and lost occasions and expectations. He grants us his mercy and forgiveness and offers us reconciliation. This opportunity to reconcile with him and with our neighbor helps us to put past behind us. As the saying goes “The River Goes Anywhere – The Rock” and to put aside our divisions and to be in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Charity is the corner stone for the Hibernians. In the New Year we have much to be grateful for. Our dynamic leadership, both men and women, have demonstrated for us, their commitment to our country, our church by making us aware of the issues of faith, our voice on behalf of the unborn, our constant support for our brothers and sisters in the northern counties of Ireland. Though we live in turbulent times, I am told the best fishing occurs when the tides come together. It is then that we see our sense of character when we face the tides of Evil. As I write these few words I am aware of the Gospel of the first Sunday of Advent: Stay awake and be watchful, the Lord is  coming. May we be ready to greet Him. Have a happy and holy New Year and the blessing of St. Patrick and St. Bridget be with you. Amen.
Happy 2018 to all. The start of a new year is a great time to review the successes of the past, plan for the future, and commit to improve as needed. As an organization I think the AOH can look back at 2017 as a successful year where we laid the groundwork to execute a successful 2018. The National Board meeting in New Orleans in October served to highlight our past work and present our future plans, and I must say the excitement and energy among the members was palpable.

Our National President has said the AOH is the voice of Irish America and it is a voice that is speaking out on the issues that are important to us. Our Vice President has helped steer the marketing and social media committee to create and launch a major national marketing campaign targeting growth among others who are Irish, Catholic and American. Technology is being leveraged to streamline processes, a new way to identify and recognize veterans has been launched, and we continue in our work to promote life, enact a fair immigration policy for the Irish and the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

I will continue to update divisions and boards regarding the ongoing tax exempt status process with the hope that 2018 will be the year that we will be able to get to 100 percent compliance throughout the Order. Remember, all divisions and boards MUST file a yearly 990N with the IRS to maintain tax-exempt status. Finally, I’d ask all members, divisions and boards to remember that when submitting payment to the National Board to make sure the check is made out to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and not to any officer; please do not postdate checks and do not send cash as payment. With every good wish for a happy, safe and peaceful New Year.

**Treasurer’s Report**

by Sean Pender

**Director’s Report**

by Bill Sullivan

First, my sincere thanks to our Brother and Sister Hibernians in New Orleans for all their hard work, time and effort in putting together a full weekend of activities as we honored our AOH and LAOH National Presidents. Your hospitality, friendship and welcome were greatly appreciated. On the same note, our National Board meeting was productive and with the new initiatives in place regarding membership among others, an ambitious and positive course has been set for our Order for the 21st Century!

Here in New England, we have had a terrific fall season with a whirlwind of activity. Six days after returning from New Orleans, National Organizer Tim McSweeney and National Director Liam McNabb, conducted a Leadership and Organizational Seminar that was attended by representatives of four New England States. The conference, hosted by Division 26 in Worcester, MA was informative and the exchange of ideas offered will benefit all. Another seminar is being planned for this coming spring in Connecticut.

On November 4, a street was dedicated in Lawrence, MA in memory of five-term AOH National Director David Burke, who passed in 2009. It was a great tribute to Dave, who was a dynamo for our Hibernian Order and for all things Irish. “David Burke Way” will keep his memory alive for generations to come!

On November 8, LAOH Massachusetts Past State President Sheila Lynch passed suddenly. My sincere condolences to my fellow Brother and Sister Hibernians in Massachusetts on her passing, and especially to the members of Divisions 10 and 18 where Sheila was a member. On November 12 and 13, I attended her wake and funeral and expressed my personal condolences and that of our National Board. May God grant her eternal rest.

As this column goes to press, Brother Hibernian Tom McGrath is about to begin his 225-mile run from Boston to New York. Tom is running to raise funds for the American Wheelchair Mission. On the eve of the race a fundraiser was held at the Home of Division 14 in Westwood, MA, and on the morning of the fundraiser Tom was held at the Home of Division 36 in Worcester. Over the next five days, as Tom makes his way along his route, he will make nightly stops in Stafford Springs, East Hartford, New Haven and Greenwich CT; fundraisers are planned at each site. Brother McGrath plans to arrive in Manhattan on December 8 where a celebration will be held at the Basilica of St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral. Tom Beinme and James Hamilton of New York, along with Frank Kearney of Connecticut and Dick Thompson, Joe McCusker and Dave Clark of Massachusetts are coordinating this endeavor in their respective states. My thanks to all of you for your time and efforts in planning this cooperative venture of the AOH, K of C and Gaelic Associations.

As we and our Divisions are operating in a new calendar year, many officers returned to the same position and others are new to the duties of their respective offices. Knowledge is key and, ideally, there was a transition or orientation period that allowed new officers to work with their predecessors. As the officers are the “backbone” of the Division operations, it is critical that each man is prepared and has the appropriate tools to perform the obligations of his office.

As stated in my previous articles, Division leadership should regularly share and discuss the roles and responsibilities of each elected and appointed officer to better inform the officers and membership of ways to contribute to the Order. A recommended practice is to openly review (or read aloud) the description of four offices at every other Division meeting. This approach may better inform current officers of expectations as well as welcome interest from the membership. Members will sit on the “sidelines” until they recognize an opportunity to be involved or if they are invited to serve.

Stronger Divisions use succession planning and have a strategy to use resources (members that offer to share skills and talents) as effectively as possible to advance the mission of the Order. This planning allows experienced officers to “pass the torch” to newer officers. Ideally, there is a seamless transition from one officer to the other and work on Division goals continues in a positive direction.

A challenge to Division officers: Who will succeed you next year or the year after? Now is the time to recruit someone to train and educate so you can “pass the torch” to strengthen the Order. Make an investment now in the future of our Order.

**Director’s Report**

by Liam McNabb

**Strengthening the Order for the next generation...**

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**Director’s Report**

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I wish you a happy and healthy 2018!

Congratulations to the new State Board installed at the recent Maryland State Convention in Ocean City. Brother Mike McConnell was installed as the new State Board President. The convention was a great success and a lot of work was accomplished.

In Maryland, the AOH brothers were present for the beatification celebration for Blessed Fr. Solanus Casey at Ford Field in Detroit. During that weekend’s events, the AOH Hibernian Rifles, along with members of the Fr. Solanus Casey Division, stood guard at the tomb of Blessed Solanus Casey at the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit.

In Virginia, the Brian Boru Major Degree team performed an exemplification of the Major Degrees in early November.

Brothers, being a National Director has allowed me an opportunity to see the amazing things our Order is doing. As our new recruiting program is taking off, please be sure to inform new members that they are not only part of your local Division but are also part of an Order that reaches across the United States. I think it is important that all members know that the great things we are doing locally are a reflection on all of us.

As always, please e-mail me with any questions or concerns at dparks121@yahoo.com

**Treasurer’s Report**

by Sean Pender

Happy 2018 to all. The start of a new year is a great time to review the successes of the past, plan for the future, and commit to improve as needed. As an organization I think the AOH can look back at 2017 as a successful year where we laid the groundwork to execute a successful 2018. The National Board meeting in New Orleans in October served to highlight our past work and present our future plans, and I must say the excitement and energy among the members was palpable.

Our National President has said the AOH is the voice of Irish America and it is a voice that is speaking out on the issues that are important to us. Our Vice President has helped steer the marketing and social media committee to create and launch a major national marketing campaign targeting growth among others who are Irish, Catholic and American. Technology is being leveraged to streamline processes, a new way to identify and recognize veterans has been launched, and we continue in our work to promote life, enact a fair immigration policy for the Irish and the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

I will continue to update divisions and boards regarding the ongoing tax exempt status process with the hope that 2018 will be the year that we will be able to get to 100 percent compliance throughout the Order. Remember, all divisions and boards MUST file a yearly 990N with the IRS to maintain tax-exempt status. Finally, I’d ask all members, divisions and boards to remember that when submitting payment to the National Board to make sure the check is made out to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and not to any officer; please do not postdate checks and do not send cash as payment. With every good wish for a happy, safe and peaceful New Year.
I want to thank all my Hibernian brothers that I met this past year for all the great work that has been accomplished. Our marketing campaign is in full swing and the dedicated members of National Board continue to work to help grow the Order. Please take a minute and go to our webpage, aoh.com, and under “about the AOH” look at the “AOH Division Directory” to see if and how your Division is listed. If any of the information needs to be corrected or updated, please contact our AOH National Webmaster Jeff Nikola.

In the Division, I want to thank several members who work with the Knights of Columbus diligently every year to provide Thanksgiving dinners to over 3,000 people through the “No Hunger Holiday” program now in the 27th year. http://nohungersholiday.com/. With this endeavor completed, we now focus on the Adopt-A-Family Program. This Program helps struggling parents with children, the unemployed or under-employed, and the elderly on fixed income have Christmas by providing them with food and gifts, but also basic needs such as gas cards and household items. Now in its 30th year, our Division adopted one of the 600 families and purchased items to provide a nice Christmas for this family. Bernie McNamara, a member of my division and also a member of the Loyal Order of the Squirrels, provided over 400 new and refurbished bicycles; this is enough to give a bike to each child served through the Adopt-A-Family Program. McNamere has been fixing up bikes for the Adopt-A-Family Program for 17 years. He has nine people who work two days a week for three months, right up to the Adopt-A-Family weekend.

January 19 will be the “March for Life” in Washington, D.C. President McKay asked at our summit in October to reach out to bagpipers and Hibernian Bands to join the AOH at the March for Life in Washington. It falls on a Friday this year and if you can’t make it to D.C., please join one of the marches near you. http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2018/local-march-for-life-events/. We are not only Hibernians for Life but we are Pro-Life! As you make plans for your local St. Patrick’s Day celebrations it would be a great time to think how to promote Irish American Heritage Month. This is probably a good time of the year to send your request for a proclamation from your governor and local officials requesting March be designated Irish American Heritage Month.

Make plans now to join your fellow Hibernians in Louisville for the 2018 National Convention. Have a blessed and safe New Year.

As of this writing, and having just observed Veterans Day, we are all now preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus with our families, friends and fellow Hibernians. So, though you may see this after the holiday, I want to wish you and your families a very blessed and happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

I hope you have had all the opportunity to see an image of the new AOH Veterans pin, which will be available through the AOH National Office. I wish to thank brother Danny Eakins and his Division brothers in Ohio for triggering the idea of creating a veteran’s commemorative pin. We then formed a committee and I’d like to thank them for participating in the project – they are Danny Eakins, and National Board Vice President Danny O’Connell, Secretary Jere Cole, Historian Mike McCormack and myself. Mike McCormack submitted a design recommendation that was selected for the pin. Brother Ed Johnson’s company in Rhode Island is producing the pin. We are all hoping that your Divisions have by now pre-ordered enough pins ($5 each) to honor their veterans by presenting them their pins at a Division meeting or gathering. If not, the AOH Order Form has been modified to include the Veterans pin to allow for future individual or group orders.

In other news, I recently found out from brother Brendan Cooney that veterans are now authorized to shop online at the Navy Exchange, tax-free and reduced prices – at www.mynavyservice.com/Veterans - You’ll need to sign on to register, but that’s it. I used to love to visit the “Exchange” when I was on active duty and this is a real benefit. Check it out!

Brother Ted Dougherty of Philadelphia shared information on Help for Heroes. Through a new partnership between the DAV and the PenFed Foundation, qualifying veterans of all eras may be eligible for one-time, needs-based grants. The program provides honorably discharged veterans financial assistance through a direct payment to a third party. To find out more about qualifying and to locate a DAV national service officer, visit: www.dav.org/veterans/find-your-service-officer

Lastly, now that your Financial Secretaries should have received their Division rosters for this year’s updates, please reach out to your Division members to determine who your veterans are and check-off the new veteran’s box on the roster for each of them. It’s very important to do that now so that we can communicate more effectively with our Hibernian veterans throughout the year.

God bless all you do for the Order and for our veterans.
What Is Catholic Action?

What defines “Catholic Action” in the AOH and on what should Division, County and State Catholic Action chairs focus their energies? There is the issue of Vocations, and the continuing decline of men and women entering the religious life.

That is our first action that we Hibernians must take in the coming years. Put a hand on the shoulder of a young man or a young woman whom you believe may be called and ask them if they are considering religious life. Even if they answer in the negative, respond by telling them this simple phrase a priest once told me: “Well, don’t say no one ever asked you.”

But we cannot stop there. We Hibernians, especially our Catholic Action chairs, need to proclaim what the Catholic religious life means and then help to create a world in which young men and women desire the religious life for the right reasons.

In the 10th chapter of St. Matthew’s gospel, Christ commissions his Apostles, gives them their tasks, warns them of the resistance and dangers they will face — often from those of their own household — and finally tells them to remain steadfast and courageous despite all the difficulties. The key to Catholic Action and the stirring of a Vocation lies in that very passage. All of us in this Order, protectors of our Holy Mother Church, often need challenge and confrontation when our words, actions and attitudes at times run counter to the oath we take and the motto we are required to uphold. Sometimes, that means risking the wrath of fellow Hibernians, and sometimes that means being condemned for being confrontational and by speaking the truth.

There seems to be more and more divisiveness and bullying when it comes to the debate over the manner in which we fulfill our oath and motto; and social media has only served to magnify this already. We have Hibernians who openly proclaim Roman Catholicism as co-terminus with political party affiliations. We have Hibernians who believe their opinion is so right that they take precedence over anyone else’s perspective.

We have Hibernians whose desire for harmony, peace and so-called “appropriateness” is more important than the challenge and confrontation that Christ demands of us at times and of which Christ has empowered our priests and religious to be ever mindful.

And where is the chair of Catholic Action for the Division, County and State level? Shouldn’t that be step up and be a voice for reason amidst the unreasonableness that often seems to dominate both discussion and action and create a world where all can hear the Word of God sans the noise of the culture. Catholic Action is more than just carring out a task assigned by a politician or public figure make a statement that seems to attack our Holy Mother Church. Obviously, the chair should bring such issues to the attention of the Order, but they should also be vigilant for the opportunity to serve the people of the Church.

They should remind their brother Hibernians that the Gospel says only a little about being outraged, but it does say volumes about judging others. They should remind their Hibernian brothers and all those considering the religious life that the Gospel calls us to feed the poor, tend the sick, bring relief to the suffering and end injustice. They should remind their brother Hibernians that our Holy Church and our Ancient Order is made up of sinners, and no one possesses absolute comprehension of the mind of God.

Finally, the Catholic Action chair should never hesitate to get their fellow Hibernians talking and discussing the issues confronting the Church and doing justice for its members and making sure that those who would bully others into silence in favor of their own personal perspectives have “their tables overturned in the Temple of their self-righteousness.”

Rituals & Degrees

As is stated on our national web site, the main purposes of our degree programs are: “Waken a pride in the ancient race of our forefathers and develop an interest in the history and destiny of that race.” We are going to take a break from the descriptions of the names and sponsors of our Major Degree Teams, and tell you a bit about the officers you have met so far.

Recall that prior to the advent of Saint Patrick and Christianity in Ireland, very little if any, of Ireland’s laws, history, stories of past gods and goddesses was written down. Ireland’s indigenous system of law, known as Brehon law, dates from the Iron Age, perhaps as early as 1200 B.C. It developed from customs that had been passed orally from one generation to the next. Brehon law was administered by Brehons. They were similar to judges, though their role was closer to that of arbitrators. Their task was to preserve and interpret the laws.

The Brehons of ancient Ireland were wise individuals who memorized and applied the laws to settle disputes among members of an extended family. In the centuries prior to and shortly after the advent of Christianity, there were very few towns or cities in Ireland. Small villages or tribal groupings were the norm. This societal structure thus helped define who the Brehons served. Some were attached to clans, and were allotted a portion of land for their support. Others lived independently by their labor. They were recognized as a professional class apart from druids and bards. Do you think today’s law schools are tough? For a Brehon, the preparatory course of study extended over some 20 years. The Brehon laws were originally composed in poetic verse to aid memorization. While the laws were not written, there was a very formal system of schools and instruction through which a Brehon must have passed before he was so recognized.

It is believed the laws were written down for the first time in the seventh century A.D. Most of the punishments handed down by the Brehons were based upon what was known as an “honor price.” For example, a child had a lower honor price than an adult. Punishments might be allotted in terms of cattle or goods. Not often did a case become subject to something similar to appellate review, but if it were, a Brehon of higher status had to do it. One wonderful example involved a widow whose sheep wandered into a neighbor’s yard and ate his grass. The neighbor took it to the Brehon who ruled the widow was guilty and her sheep should be killed and the meat given to the offended neighbor. The widow appealed, and upon review, the higher level Brehon decided the grass was a renewable resource so overruled the first decision and said the sheep’s wool for the coming shearing should be awarded to the neighbor.

It should be noted that Brehon Law extended into the 1600’s when English law supplanted Brehon Law. For those many centuries, Brehons and their role in Irish government made them very powerful in the administration of laws and the way Irish society was run.

It is my hope that this little glimpse into one of the major officers in our past will encourage you to get your Major Degrees, or if you already have the Major Degrees but it has been some time ago, that you will go back as an observer, and re-learn these lessons all over again.
The program, along with excursions to local Gaelic football tournaments and hurling matches. The Isle of Erin Major Degree Team had the Exemplification of their 88th Major Degree on Oct. 15. The Degree Team home base is at the Notre Dame Division 1 out of Montgomery County, Pa., and that was the location for the Degrees of the Order.

This Degree was a lot more special to the team after losing three of its members in the last few months. The Three Jims, Jim Nash, Jim Wilson and Jim Cunnion, all went into the Lord’s Hands.

Jim Nash was the Shamrock Team Speaker. Jim Wilson had the parts of Escort and Sentinel on the team. Jim Cunnion, who was a Charter Member of the team, served as the Ollamh and Escort. All three of these gentlemen also served as officers of the Notre Dame Division a few years ago.

With 24 candidates and 18 observers it was a good day for the team keeping in their hearts the loss of their fellow brothers. Before the degrees started it was announced that these Degrees of the Order would be dedicated to these three men. And before the closing of the degrees a moment of silence took place and Irish Thunder Pipers Joe McGlinchey and Mike Brown played Amazing Grace in honor of the three Jims. It was a good day for the team. A day that the Three Jims looked down on us and enjoyed what their Brothers continue to do for the Order.

Irish Way & Study Abroad
by Greg Sean Canning
Chairman

A new year for the Irish Way - Study Abroad Program is now underway. This program consists of two parts:

The first section is the Irish Way Program, which is a unique cultural and educational program for American high school students that began in 1976. During the summer, students who participate in the Irish Way travel to Ireland for a three-week stay. The multifaceted program encompasses three components:

Education: Students are introduced to Ireland’s history and traditions through structured sessions in Irish language, literature, history and culture. Students also participate in workshops of Celtic art, music, folk dancing and traditional Irish sports such as hurling. All sessions are taught by certified Irish secondary level teachers.

The Irish Experience: Field trips to museums, sites of archeological, geological and historical significance and to the world-renowned Abbey Theater complement the program, along with excursions to local Gaelic football tournaments and hurling matches.

Irish Touring: The final days of the Irish Way are spent touring Ireland. The Irish Way was founded on the belief that fostering an appreciation of other cultures is an important part of an individual’s development. This program provides an opportunity for young people to explore the rich heritage and tradition of Ireland while also experiencing the country’s distinct culture face-to-face. As a result of the above three facets, students return from the Irish Way Program with a new understanding and appreciation of their Irish heritage.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the $500 AOI Scholarship, you will need to submit the Irish Way Program Application. Program dates for 2018 are June 30 - July 24.

Get an application from the Irish Way Contact: Taryn Harrison, Coordinator for the Irish Way Program; email: tharrison@irishlifeexperience.com Phone: (781) 850-3322 [Ext. 122]

Selection of Scholarship Recipients: As has been the case for the past 25 plus years, the selection of all scholarship recipients will be done by the Irish American Cultural Institute.

The second section is the Study Abroad Scholarship Program, which is designed to encourage the children and grandchildren of AOI members at the university level to seriously consider courses of study in Ireland whether it is for a semester or a full year of study at colleges in Ireland. To achieve this goal, the National Board offers two annual $1,000 Study Abroad Scholarships in Ireland for the sons, daughters and grandchildren of our members. The recipients of these scholarships must submit the official application and attend an accredited college/university in the United States, and be accepted at an accredited college/university in Ireland, that is recognized by the institution that he/she attends.

Should not enough applications for the Study Abroad Scholarship be realized, then $500 Scholarships for Semester Abroad Programs or $1000/500 Masters Degrees in Irish Studies Abroad Scholarships would be considered and granted when appropriate.

All scholarship applications are judged by an independent and impartial panel appointed by the chairman (Greg Sean Canning). The decision of this panel is final.

Application Deadline: Midnight, May 1, 2018. Get an application from the National AOI Irish Way Study Abroad Chairman Greg Sean Canning, email: gsc@mdc.com Home Phone: (401) 330-4230; Mobile Phone: (201) 787-6650

Isle of Erin Degree Team remembers The Three Jims

The Isle of Erin Major Degree Team had the Exemplification of their 88th Major Degree of the Order on Oct. 15. The Degree Team home base is at the Notre Dame Division 1 of Montgomery County, Pa., and that was the location for the Degrees of the Order.

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App...
Echoes of Irish History

By Mike McCormack

Irish slavery is a volatile issue. Some minimize it as they do the Great Hunger for fear of alienating British interests and some exaggerate it as a racial issue against Black Lives Matter movement (we got over it, why can’t they). Some even exaggerate the number enslaved to demonize the British, which is unnecessary since historical truth is enough to do that. The question is whether bondage against one’s will (temporary or otherwise) is considered slavery. I have many items on Irish slavery, including one by Liam Hogan, a recognized scholar on the subject: “The great human and economic contradiction of transportation to the colonies in the 1650s (which included an estimated 30,000 Irish people) understandingly scars our collective memory and it deserves both respect and close attention from anyone interested in the history of the unfree labour systems in the Atlantic world. Prior to the sugar revolution and the massive investment by Europeans in enslaving and dehumanizing African people, the living and working conditions of prisoners and slaves were similar. As the British colonies transformed to large-scale sugar plantations both groups were exploited for profit, indentured servants for decades and enslaved Africans for centuries.”

Mr. Hogan considers indentured servitude different than slavery, yet he confirmed that kidnapping of Irish men, women and children did occur and they were sold into bondage. That is the dictionary definition of slavery. He added: “Many servants in the British American colonies suffered hardships and the historical record is replete with examples of them being treated poorly or abused. An indentured servant’s bondage was time-limited, usually 3–7 years but could be up to 10 years for POWs or convicts. Richard Ligon (an English planter in Barbados from 1647–1650) lamented how the paternal/reciprocal relationship that existed at home between master and apprentice was diminished in the colony. As Planters controlled the councils and paid for the future labour of their servant in a lump sum it created a new exploitative dynamic, which did not exist in England. This labour system commodified the servant to the extent that they were now a commodity. Their labour, their time, was now less a commodity and it could be traded as such. Thus a servant’s labour was a type of chattel. Planters sought to extract the maximum returns from their investment by working their servants from the moment they arrived into their ‘care’ to the moment the indenture expired. The mortality rate was high. Many survived. Many did not. Since those who opposed the Crown were considered convicts and indentured for decades; those who didn’t survive, in fact, lived a life in slavery.”

To dismiss or minimize any historical event because some misuse it for unethical purposes disdains those who experienced the event. All groups that endured subjugation had a common experience. They all suffered psychological, abuse and injustice and the duration didn’t diminish the impact. While the treatment of Blacks was reprehensible, so was that of the Irish, no matter how many there were or for what time frame! Rather than letting nay-sayers divide blacks and Irish, their rhetoric should bring them closer to a mutual understanding because they both suffered under the lash. Further, those owned temporarily were treated harsher since owners ensured the health of their long-term slaves. Mr. Hogan even posted: “Many of them suffered under extremely harsh conditions, dying from punishment and hard work. The plantation system dehumanized them during the duration of their service. Their lives . . . were commodified. They could be sold, traded, and left in wills. This detestable form of bondage was temporary, but only if you survived long enough.”

Recently Irish-Americans in general and the AOH in particular have been accused of racism since former National President Boyle and this Historian wrote on Irish Slavery. As for being racist, we can defend many instances of Irish-American relationships with African-Americans from their days of co-habitation in New York’s Five-Points slum (where they jointly invented tap-dancing) to present day support for hunger prevention. We have even publicized such Irish-African friendships as Frederick Douglas and Daniel O’Connell who jointly invented tap-dancing) to present day support for hunger prevention. We have even publicized such Irish-African friendships as Frederick Douglas and Daniel O’Connell to present day support for hunger prevention. We have even publicized such Irish-African friendships as Frederick Douglas and Daniel O’Connell.
you will surely want to attend. The evening will conclude like each night with great hospitality provided by the visiting delegations.

Saturday promises to be a big day with elections in the morning and installation in the afternoon followed by the presentation of the John F. Kennedy award to an Irish Catholic who is outstanding in his or her field of endeavor. The 2018 award winner will be announced in February.

With the convention upon us, now is the time to be scheduling your vacations from work or your time away from retirement. Join the nation’s finest Irish Catholic Americans in Louisville for the 2018 Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians National Conventions.

MICHIGAN

continued from page 2

of the ‘Superbowl’ benefit is approximately $320,000.

Because of our hard work over the years the Capuchins honored us with tickets on the main floor of Ford Field where the Beatification Mass took place on November 18. Members of the Bergen County, New Jersey; AOH division, also named their group after St. Philip Neri, the parish priest. Members who passed away were Thomas J. Kennedy, Timothy Hayes, James Sullivan.

St. Philip Neri parishioners had been requested to bring socks and underwear to Mass and gave an excellent homily, and Hibernians were active and prayerful participants in the service. The Mass was a fitting tribute to our deceased brothers. The choir played and sang beautifully, Fr. Chris said an inspiring number of Hibernians. The choir played and sang beautifully, Fr. Chris said an inspiring homily, and Hibernians were active and prayerful participants in the service.

After Mass, Hibernians joined St. Philip Neri parishioners in the church hall for coffee, donuts and good conversation. The donuts were provided by the Division and the efforts of our recently elected 2018 AOH president, Bob McCurdy (standing behind Fr. Chris - center of photo). — Jim Lynch

Why I am a Hibernian

I am a Hibernian because I have always loved and have been enchanted by my “Irish Roots.” I have met and became friends with many who believe as I do … to be Irish is a blessing but to be Hibernian is an honor. I feel as if I have this large, extended family that will always be there for me and I for them.

Joe Casey, Medina County, Ohio

Remembering deceased Hibernians

On November 19, Kevin Barry Division 3 in Indianapolis honored those AOH members who had passed away during the past year. This annual event took place at our home church, St. Philip Neri, with a Mass said by Father Christopher Wadelton, AOH member and pastor. Members who passed away were Thomas J. Kennedy, Timothy Hayes, James F. Lyons, Thomas J. McHugh, Dr. Patrick Michael Conneally and Fr. Timothy Sweeney, OSB.

St. Philip Neri parishioners had been requested to bring socks and underwear to Mass to donate to the children of need in the area. Hibernians were asked to do the same and they responded.

Church attendance was excellent, with pews nearly filled with parishioners and a good number of Hibernians. The choir played and sang beautifully, Fr. Chris said an inspiring Mass and gave an excellent homily, and Hibernians were active and prayerful participants in the service. The Mass was a fitting tribute to our deceased brothers.

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Reverend Hugh Donald Cannon

Our Lady of Knock, Division 7, East Islip, NY, Chaplain

Father Hugh D. Cannon passed away unexpectedly on October 23.

Father Hugh was born on May 20, 1939, in Manhattan. He was the son of Hugh and Mary (O’Donnell) Cannon, both originally from County Donegal. Father was taught by the Sisters of Charity, the De La Salle Brothers, and graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx.

His vocation to the priesthood began in grammar school and continued when he joined the Montfort Missionaries in 1958. He received his first vows on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1960. This was followed by attending the major seminary in Litchfield, Connecticut, for the following six years where he studied Philosophy and Theology, along with other subjects. He was ordained a priest on March 5, 1968.

He was first assigned to Saint Theresa of Avila Parish in St. Louis, Missouri. He spent two and one half years working with the poor in the inner city. At that time, he also served as the Montfort Vocational Director and the Director of the Propagation of the Faith for the community in the Midwestern States.

Father Hugh always said, “Some priests are thoroughbreds and some priests are plow horses. I am a plow horse.” By this he meant that his calling was to be the ‘Parish Priest.’ His love was to work with and be there for the people. All who knew him know that there were none better at this than Father Hugh. His gentle approach, mischievous sense of humor, ability to listen, empathize and counsel often masked that fact that he was a highly intellectual and well-read scholar. He had an M.S. Degree in Education from Iona College and an M.Div. from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, along with a Degree in Alcoholism Counseling and a certificate in Spiritual Direction. He was at ease in any situation with anyone. To say that he was loved by his parishioners would be taken as an understatement by all of us who knew him.

Father Hugh served as an associate pastor at Infant Jesus Parish in Port Jefferson, St. Ignatius Loyola in Hicksville, St. John Nepomucenoe in Bohemia, and Mary Immaculate in Bellport. He served as pastor at St. Pius X in Plainview and St. Peter the Apostle in Islip Terrace. He retired to St. Mary in East Islip in 2013. Whenever he served the parishioners became his extended family and over the years he always came back to those parishioners for the baptisms, weddings, funerals or just a visit in their homes.

Along with all of this, Father Hugh was a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus, State Chaplin for the New York State Fraternal Order of Police, and Chaplin to the Suffolk County Police Department.

Our Lady of Knock Division 7 has had many wonderful chaplains over the course of our 55 years. They were all priests of great devotion and spirituality who mentored us in our faith. Father Hugh did this as well but, in a way, he was so much more. Father Hugh was a Hibernian in every way. He lived and breathed his Irish Heritage. He guided us in our faith and in our culture and had a gifted approach in bringing both together through his entertaining stories. He was part of the AOH, not just for his official responsibilities, but also as a true member of our division. He was with us at our cultural events, our holiday parties, our fundraising activities and our masses. He regularly came down to our pub just to chat and see how we were doing. At those times he was just one of the Hibernians. He could make a joke and he could take a joke. Most importantly, he was there for our joy and our sorrow. In good times and bad, whether we called him or not.

Father Hugh was not only a priest. He was the kind of person that we should aspire to be. Because of this, we at Division 7 have decided to rename our annual award that is given to one of our own who best exemplifies our motto the “Father Hugh Donald Cannon Award.”

At the end of the Reagan administration, he practiced law at Mullikenholz, Brismek, and Bellinger, and was the firm’s lead trial lawyer. He represented a wide range of clients in federal and state court proceedings and also tried numerous cases in jury trials. He represented and obtained favorable outcomes for clients in a wide range of areas, including personal injury, products liability, medical malpractice, and commercial litigation. He was a member of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association.

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By Phil Gallagher

When the AOH was revived in Danbury, Connecticut in 1959, several hundred men of Irish birth or descent answered the invitation to join the new Division 3, which is now known as the John A. Gildea Division. Many of these men, as does a sizeable portion of the Danbury area Irish community, trace their lineage to the Loop Head Peninsula in the western area of County Clare that lies north of the mouth of the Shannon River. It is an area that suffered greatly during the Great Hunger but that today ranks high on the list of best holiday places to visit in Ireland. Names like Keating, Keane, Lynch, Collins and McCarthy predominate in this section of Clare as they do among the Irish community of Greater Danbury.

Two young immigrants from the Loop Head Peninsula became charter members of the new AOH Division that was formed in Danbury in that long-ago year of 1959. They were Michael Keane, from Moween, in the parish of Kilchuber, and Michael Liddane, from Tullogh Cross, in the parish of Kilbannyvone. Now some 58 years later these two sirsy, Irish gentlemen remain on the rolls of the Danbury AOH as active members. They seldom if ever miss joining with their brother Hibernians in marching in the Danbury St. Patrick’s Day or Memorial Day Parades or in helping at Division activities such as the Greater Danbury Irish Festival.

Danbury Hibernians recently gathered to pay tribute and say goodbye to Mike Keane, who after spending most of his life in Danbury, has moved to Florida to be close to his three daughters. We wish him well in his new home and hope he comes back to visit in Danbury and to march with us in another parade.

Congratulations to Danbury Chaplain Father Jeffrey Couture on being named pastor of St. Francis Church in Weston, Connecticut. He has been a very active chaplain and has packed the Danbury Irish Center several times with his Theology on Tap programs.

Congratulations also to Ray Walk, of Waterbury, and Tom McCauliffe of Danbury, on being named Hibernian of the Year by their respective divisions.

Kudos to the JFK Division of Bridgeport for their annual Christmas Shamrock Contribution for Children program, which always raises serious money for good causes.

The New London and Waterbury AOH, as they annually do, honored the memory of deceased Hibernians under the shadow of the Celtic crosses that adorn the cemetery plots that each division owns in their respective cities. Waterbury has been very active with entertainment in their hall every Friday night and in hosting their annual pancake breakfast for the benefit of veteran’s causes such as housing.

Hibernians from around Connecticut are very pleased and excited that the Naugatuck Division has acquired a new home of their own, which has already led to an increase in membership.

New London Hibernians and all who had the pleasure of knowing him were saddened to hear of the death of Past Division President Joe Coleman on October 30, 2017. Bridgeport Hibernians were also saddened with the recent death of Eileen Sheehan McCarr, the wife of Brother Peter McCarr, and daughter of prominent Bridgeport Hibernians the late Bob and Marge Sheehan.

May Eileen and Joe Rest in Peace.

Don’t to forget to check out Sacred Heart University’s digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_hiber
For news or info contact Phil Gallagher at: jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net

NEW ENERGY

NEW ENERGY continued from page 1

devolved Northern Irish government and seem to be inexorably moving to direct rule. Much has been written that one of the major obstacles is the refusal of the DUP to honor agreements they signed a decade ago to treat the Irish language and its speakers with parity of respect. The irony here is that the DUP, which wishes to see Northern Ireland transformed into “West Britain,” are actually refusing to implement protections for speakers of indigenous language that have been in place in other parts of the United Kingdom, specifically Wales and Scotland, for years. So much for “Union” with Great Britain, so much for rejecting special status.

The situation, Brothers, as I write this article, can only generously be described as a mess. You have a DUP that would squander the two decades of peace and prosperity that the Good Friday Agreement initiated; it is clear the DUP “would rather rule in hell than serve in heaven,” and a bewildered British government that must rely on the consent of the DUP in order to stay in power. It appears that their only remaining strategy is to rally their supporters behind the idea of a disastrous hard Brexit by engaging iningoistic oratory about “Irish Blackmail” and never surrendering to the EU. However, neither Dublin nor Brussels created this mess, London did.

What is grievously needed are new, impartial eyes on the problem and an infusion of new energy. Through this escalating crisis the leadership of the United States is conspicuously missing. A year on, there is still no ambassador to Ireland or special envoy to Northern Ireland. It was U.S. leadership 20 years ago that helped negotiate the Good Friday Agreement and break a cycle of violence that some said could never be broken. Yes, the U.S. faces many challenges, but any executive will tell you one of the keys to management is to find a strong leader, empower them and delegate. To be fair, the previous administration also delayed appointing the previous ambassador to Ireland. It is clear that on both sides of the aisle that Ireland, Northern Ireland and Irish America are not a priority and it is up to us to remind them that we are here, we are interested in what happens on the isle of Ireland, and we will hold our elected leaders accountable.
Community partnership pays dividends for AOH division in Johnstown

The Irish, Germans, Slovaks, Croatians and Hungarians all built their own churches and maintained their cultures in a small section of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, known as Cambria City. For more than a decade, each church has participated in what is called the Ethnic Fest in Cambria City, during Labor Day weekend. Tens of thousands from across America have attended each year to sample the food, music and culture.

The five ethnic Catholic churches have been consolidated into one. In order to preserve their Irish heritage, Our Lady of Knock division partnered with the Alternative Community Resource Program, a large youth alternative education organization in Johnstown. ACRP, as it turned out, purchased the former grade school of St. Columbus Irish Church as one of its education centers. The basement of the building had always been known as The Irish Pub and was featured during the Ethnic Fests over the years. Following the church closing the AOH division came up with the idea of providing the Irish help, cooking, and entertainment for the Irish Pub to continue during Ethnic Fest. ACRP partners in manpower and resources.

The AOH presence has gone beyond the Ethnic Fest to involvement in the AAABA baseball tournament, to honoring our veterans and deceased priests on Memorial Day, and providing breakfasts for Johnstown’s Crime Stoppers and Push Out The Pusher programs.

The AOH is becoming the place to be and the momentum has never been greater. Regardless of the fact, over the years Johnstown has shrunk in population by two thirds: its largest loss of life in Gettysburg. The Michael Collins Division 1 of Cumberland Co., Pa., has been caring for grave sites at Gettysburg twice a year for 10 years. The division just started another project in Harrisburg performing cleanup of Michael Madden, for his heroics, in the Civil War. Madden was the first Irish immigrant to receive The Medal of Honor, awarded to him in 1898. The members of Michael Collins Division 1 are proud Hibernians who dedicate their time and efforts as often as they can to accomplish our mission.

Erie Division 3 recently presented a $600 donation to St. Patrick’s Haven – Homeless Shelter for Men, located in Erie. PA. Such donations are consistent with their long tradition of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The AOH in Erie was first organized on May 12, 1896. Pictured, from left, are Tom Welch, AOH President; Tim Donlin, AOH Secretary; Msgr. Henry A. Kriegel, St. Patrick’s Church, William “Bill” Raordan, AOH Treasurer; St. Patrick’s Haven Center mission was started over 30 years ago by St. Patrick’s Parish, but is now a Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph. — Paul D. Francis, Division 3.

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Massachusetts

By Charles Sinclair

The Massachusetts State Board meeting was held on Nov. 4 at the Home of Major John “Mike” Tivnan Division 18 Salem. State VP Jack Lahey announced that the site of the 2019 State Convention will be held at the Seacoast Inn in Falmouth.

Here is a sampling of AOH events and activities that are taking place across the Bay State.

Division 1 Holyoke: The Recognition Reception honoring Paul Hogan with the 2018 Citizenship Award by the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade Committee for the 67th Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade will be held on Sat. Jan. 27, 2018 at 5:30 PM at the Wherehouse. Cost is $45 PP. Please respond by Jan. 19, 2018 to Francis Hennessey 413-785-5667. The 2018 Parade will be held on March 18. Paul has devoted his life’s work to promoting Irish Culture. He has been a staunch advocate for keeping Christ in Christmas. It would be greatly appreciated if all Hibernians and friends would attend the upcoming event.

Division 8 Lawrence: Bob Collins received the David R. Burke Golden Bridge’s Award on Nov. 17, at the Seaport Plaza Hotel in Boston. Our sincere congratulations & best wishes to Bob for a well-deserved honor.

Dave Burke Way: East Kingston St. in South Lawrence was renamed and dedicated in honor of our very own Dave Burke.

Division 10 Lynn: On Sunday, Nov. 19th, Division 10 Lynn took a busload of members into Fenway Park to watch the AIG Fenway Hurling Classic. It was Galway VS Dublin in Game 1 and Tipperary VS Clare in Game 2. In the final, it was Galway VS Clare with Clare winning the Championship. It was a great (but cold) day enjoyed by all.

Division 14 Watertown: Their annual Turkey Shoot was held on Nov. 17. All proceeds benefit the Sunny Whooley Fund helping local families in need during the holidays.

Division 18 Salem: The John “Mike” Tivnan Division 18 dedicated its new conference room in memory of James “Jim” Burke for his dedication and support he gave the club. Jim was a member for over 40 years.

Division 19 Lowell: The Division held their annual Memorial Mass and communion breakfast on Nov. 12 at Tewksbury’s Oblate Residence held in conjunction with the ladies AOH Division 1. Mass was celebrated by Co-Chaplain John Harley. Breakfast was served after mass.

Division 36 Worcester: On Dec. 1, we hosted a fund raiser for the American Wheel Chair Mission. Tom McGrath will be running from Boston to NYC in 7 days. We were very proud and excited to be able to play a small part supporting this very inspirational man who has done amazing runs for various causes.

And that is the way we see it in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. God Bless!

Ohio

Central Ohio AOH assist Dead Theologians Society

The Patrick H. Pearse Division 1, in Columbus, Ohio, presented a $1,000 check to Eddie Cotter, executive director of the Dead Theologians Society (DTS).

“Once we heard this program needed our help, we quickly set aside proceeds from our charity golf outing to answer the call,” stated Ed Norris, president of the AOH division.

The donation is enough money to start two youth programs in Ireland, with a focus on charity golf outing to answer the call,” stated Ed Norris, president of the AOH division.

DTS has been active in Ireland for the past six years. Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan of Waterford and Lismore Diocese serves as spiritual director of DTS in Ireland.

Inspired by the lives of the saints, the Dead Theologians Society began in 1997 at St. Francis de Sales Church in Newark, Ohio, as a parish program for high school teenagers. In a prayerful and intriguing atmosphere, teens regularly packed the church to discover the treasures of their Catholic faith.

As news of this effective teen program spread, representatives from surrounding parishes visited St. Francis de Sales Church and began chapters of their own. Appearances on the Eternal Word Television’s teen show, Life on the Rock, as well as numerous articles in Catholic and secular publications, catapulted the Dead Theologians Society onto the international scene and highlighted the society as a faithful and effective response to Pope John Paul II’s call for “a new evangelization for the third millennium.” As news about DTS continues to spread, new chapters continue to form.

DTS has reached as far as Africa in recent years. The AOH in Columbus plan on continuing support of DTS with annual giving, sharing information with Hibernian divisions throughout Ohio and promoting their cause during the AOH/LAOH National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, in July 2018.

More information about this program is available on their website at http://www.deadtheologianssociety.com.

On the Weekend of November 25 & 26, a Tribute to the Manchester Martyrs, was held by Division 8 AOH in Lawrence, MA. Pictured from left, Frank O’Connor, Division 8 Vice President; Robert Bateman, Past AOH National Historian; Jack Lahey, Mass AOH State Vice-President; Joseph Bateman and Camille Bateman.

Members of Division 14 AOH in Watertown, MA participated in the Mass for Mission Sunday on October 22 at Saint Columbkille’s Church in Brighton MA. Pictured, from left, Paul Connolly, Past State President Richard Thompson, His Eminence Cardinal Sean Patrick O’Malley, Middlesex County President Leo Falter and State Treasurer Joe McCusker. Cardinal O’Malley is a member of Division 14.

Remembering the victims of the Brig St. John

On October 8, Father John Murphy Division 9 Plymouth, honored the memory of the 99 emigrants who died in the shipwreck of the Brig St. John on October 7, 1849. The Mass was held at St. Anthony’s Church in Cohasset and the Mass was celebrated by Father Aidan Walsh. We were honored to have in attendance Past National President Jack Meehan and Paul Hogan. The Mass is an annual event that honors the memory of the Irish men, women and children who were fleeing the Great Hunger in 1849 and after traveling safely across the Atlantic came to a tragic end off the shore of Cohasset, Massachusetts.
Kentucky

The Father J Ryan Division has been very busy these past months. In July the Division marched in the annual Portland Parade giving bags of candy to children along the parade route and held its first "Christmas in July" proceeds benefitting Boys and Girls Haven. In August Hibernians, family and friends worked The Little Debbie Snack Booth at the annual Orphans' Picnic. The great weather brought a huge crowd, which bought all the snacks and lots of money was raised.

In September, the Division's attention turned to football where annually the division awards a Hibernian Cup to the winner of the Holy Cross/DeSales games and The Shillelagh to the Trinity/St. Xaiver winner. On a rainy September 1 night DeSales defeated Holy Cross 49- 0 (Hibernian and DeSales alum, Tommy O'Shea, presented the Cup). On September 29 The Shillelagh was claimed by Trinity following its 28-0 win.

Other September activities included the annual Irish Community celebration of Half Way to St. Patrick's Day and the Division's annual Irish for Kids Golf Scramble. The scramble was held at Seneca Golf Course with over 120 golfers who afterwards enjoyed a Hooley held at Molly Malone's celebrating over $10,000 raised for Boys and Girls Havens.

In October, the Division monthly meeting was graced with Archbishop Joseph Kurtz presence. He spoke of the importance of family to the Church's mission. He stressed the need to support Catholic education in Louisville and acknowledged the charity work of the AOH encouraging continued effort and focus in support of current and future initiatives. Officers John O'Dwyer and Patrick Ryan presented the Archbishop a Certificate of Brotherhood, shared a sip of Guinness, and the Bishop ended the evening visiting with AOH and LAOH members.

The Division looks forward to hosting the July National Convention; come early and stay late.

Why I’m a Hibernian

Many young Catholic men want to become involved in service to the Church, they just don’t know how. I fell into this boat, and then I was introduced to the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The AOH offers an ability to join with other like-minded Irish-American men to do more in support of the Church. I can be proud of the legacy of support the AOH provides to the community, financial and otherwise. We host dances, concerts, parties and parades in order raise money for charity and the less fortunate – all while showcasing the positive contributions the Irish have made throughout history and in modern day America. Last but not least, I joined the AOH to have a good time! Whether it’s the camaraderie of a monthly meeting, a St. Patrick’s Day party, the annual year-end party or the family-oriented summer picnic or Christmas party – there is always a good time to be had. To be Irish is a Blessing, to be a Hibernian is an Honor!

Patrick Fogarty
General Thomas F. Meagher Division

Montana

The Montana State Board 2017 and national officers, from left, Sean Pender, National Treasurer; Joe Lee, State Vice President; Jack Kelly, State Recording Secretary; Dan Reardon, State Treasurer; Bob Mehrens, Montana State President; and John Wilson, National Director.

At a presidential gathering, from left, were National Director John Wilson; Past National Director Mike O’Connor; Past Montana State Presidents Jack Kelly, Tom Pahut, Tom McCarthy; current State President Bob Mehrens; and National Treasurer Sean Pender.

Pat Dunlevy, Marcus Bourke, Tim McMonigal, Boys & Girls Haven Representative, Rob Fallahay, Jeff Haley of Boys & Girls Haven, Deacon Dan, Bernie Fallon, Billy Whalen, Boys & Girls Haven Representative, Joe Fallahay, John O’Dwyer.

Past National Director Mike O’Connor with the Anaconda AOH Pipe Band members at Montana’s State Convention in Kalispell, Montana

Jeff Haley of Boys & Girls Haven, Deacon Dan, Bernie Fallon, Billy Whalen, Rob Fallahay, Boys & Girls Haven Representative, Joe Fallahay, John O’Dwyer.

Pat Dunlevy, Marcus Bourke, Tim McMonigal, Boys & Girls Haven Representative, Rob Fallahay, Patrick Ryan and John O’Dwyer, we present the check from our golf scramble to the Board members of Boys & Girls Haven.
Missouri

Annually the Pearse Division in Kansas City Missouri awards four $500 scholarships to students enrolled in Catholic high schools throughout the region. This year Bishop James Johnston served to welcome and recognize the four recipients of the award.

Initially applicants were asked to write an essay on any aspect of Ireland. In 2016 the Division began selecting a topic for the 500-word essay. This year’s topic was “An Irish Saint not Named Patrick” designed to expand students, and members, awareness of the quantity and quality of Irish saints. There 30 submissions this year with 16 different saints identified, the most popular selection was St. Brigid of Kildare with four essays selecting her. In addition to the essay, each entrant is also scored based on answers to questions about their scholarship achievements and activities around faith, extracurricular and volunteer pursuits.

The winning four this year were all young women and included one freshman, one sophomore and two seniors. Two were daughters of Pearse members (judging was conducted by Hibernians and entries did not identify the applicants). Winning Hibernian daughters were Olivia Powell (Brian Powell) with an essay on St. Ailbe, the patron saint of Munster and Madison McCormick (Dr. Dave McCormick) who wrote about St. Ita of Killeedy.

The other winners were, sophomore Katherine Kallas writing an essay on St. Grimonia, a martyr beheaded by her own pagan father for refusing his order to marry. Senior Rosemary Cherian whose essay was on St. Oliver Plunkett the archbishop of Armagh who was also martyred by way of beheading.

As part of the awards ceremony, each winner read their essays and with their families had pictures taken with the Bishop. Bishop Johnston congratulated the four young scholars and thanked the Pearse division for its ongoing support of Catholic school education.

Georgia

Hibernian Savannah Division brother Kieran McMullen and Brother Sean Donohoe of the Capuchin Day Centre for the Homeless were preparing meals. The Savannah AOH donated $1,500 to the Capuchin who feed 700-800 meals per day to the homeless and needy in Dublin. The Capuchins also have volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists and chiropractors that provide services to those in need. It is expected that 10,000 children will receive care at the center during the year.
New York

Helping in the community
For Thanksgiving, Hibernians donated turkey dinners with all the fixings to the St. Mary’s food pantry in Evans Mills, N.Y.

Father Chris Looby, St. Mary’s Church pastor, graciously received the donation from the AOH with great joy. Father Looby noted that many residents in the Evans Mills area have family members in the U.S. military and would welcome such a worthy gift.

Sean Hennessey, president of the Watertown AOH Division, said: “The holiday season can be tough on those less fortunate. Hopefully this donation will bring some relief to families that are having a bit of a tough time this Thanksgiving.” Hennessey continued, “The AOH was founded on the motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Hopefully this donation, by members of the Msgr. James Ruddy Division, lives up to our mission.”

Each package includes: a 15+ lbs. turkey, 5 lbs. of potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberries, yams, canned corn, a bottle of soda and both pumpkin and apple pie.

Special thanks to the members who made personal donation to this cause: Kevin Shaughnessy, Tim Sweeney, David Ard, Sean Hennessey, Dick Lawlee, Bill Flynn, Jim Fitzpatrick and Tom Shaughnessy.

Honors in The Bronx: National, state and local officers and honorees gathered to celebrate at the annual dinner of The Bronx County AOH Board on November 19, at Rory Dolan’s. From left, honoree Martin Galvin, President Bronx Division 5 and NYS Chair, Freedom for all Ireland; Robert Eustace, recording secretary, Uniformed Firefighters Assn. representing honoree Gerard Fitzgerald; District Director Aidan O’Kelly-Lynch; honoree and NYS AOH President Vic Vogel; honoree Eileen Mannion Collum, chef-owner, Eileen’s Country Kitchen/The Heritage; Bob Nolan, President, Bronx County Board; NYS AOH Treasurer John Manning; National Secretary Jere Cole; National Director Dan Dennehy; past NYS President Jim Burke; Fr. Brian McCarthy, County Chaplain; NYS Director Tom Betne and past NYS President and National Organizer Tim McSweeney. Photo by Nuala Purcell.

An Gorta Mor Mass: Members of the AOH and LAOH Knock and John C Devereux Divisions gathered at the Great Hunger memorial at Our Lady of Lourdes church in Utica following their annual Irish Famine memorial mass on Nov 12. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr.

Hibernians honor Frank Duffy
Earned Silver Star in WWII
On Friday, December 1, members of the Rockland County AOH and LAOH gathered in Pearl River to honor Frank Duffy. In WW II, Mr. Duffy was awarded the Silver Star for “outstanding courage and intrepidity” for single handedly halting a grenade attack by Japanese forces who were attacking his unit’s position. Mr. Duffy was recently selected as the “Parade Commander” to lead the 2018 Pearl River St. Patrick’s Day Parade. In recognition of his service to our country, the Rockland County Legislature declared December 1, 2017, “Francis T. Duffy Day” in Rockland County.

Pictured, from left, are Parade Co-Chair, AOH Div. 3 President Dermot Moore; AOH County President John McGowan; Frank Duffy and his wife, Bridget; Ladies AOH County President Lillian Murphy; and Parade Co-Chair Mary O’Sullivan.

Hibernians doing good works in Dutchess County
By Mike Shepheard
As president of the AOH in Dutchess County, NY, I am happy to report on the good work in the community that was performed by our division on November 9. The membership provided meals for about 150 people in need at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie. The event was chaired by brother Jim Englishby who solicited donations from local supermarkets in addition to the food donated by our division. The division also held our annual charity dinner dance on October 21, and raised over $5,000 to be used for our charitable endeavors, which include supporting Meals on Wheels, Birthright, the Dutchess County St Patrick’s Parade, to name a few.

New Jersey

Helping in the Highlands
Brothers from Monmouth 2 volunteered on November 25th to sheet rock a home in the Highlands damaged from Superstorm Sandy. Pictured from left to right are Robert Little (owner), John Teevan, Joe Harrington, Tim Hourican, Declan Cassidy, Rich O’Brien, Mike Burke, Jim Shaw and Gene Lennon. Photo Credit: Brother Declan Cassidy

Honors in The Highlands: National, state and local officers and honorees gathered to celebrate at the annual dinner of The Bronx County AOH Board on November 19, at Rory Dolan’s. From left, honoree Martin Galvin, President Bronx Division 5 and NYS Chair, Freedom for all Ireland; Robert Eustace, recording secretary, Uniformed Firefighters Assn. representing honoree Gerard Fitzgerald; District Director Aidan O’Kelly-Lynch; honoree and NYS AOH President Vic Vogel; honoree Eileen Mannion Collum, chef-owner, Eileen’s Country Kitchen/The Heritage; Bob Nolan, President, Bronx County Board; NYS AOH Treasurer John Manning; National Secretary Jere Cole; National Director Dan Dennehy; past NYS President Jim Burke; Fr. Brian McCarthy, County Chaplain; NYS Director Tom Betne and past NYS President and National Organizer Tim McSweeney. Photo by Nuala Purcell.

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North Carolina

North Carolina Hibernians Live Charity

The North Carolina State Board, on behalf of the all North Carolinian AOH, is pleased to announce the tireless generosity and fraternal charity embodied by NC Hibernians. In 2017, five Divisions collectively donated over $75,000 in monetary gifts, as well as significant material donations and hundreds of man hours, to various worthy organizations and causes within the state, spreading the message of Christian love and goodness and Hibernian fellowship to many in need of help and hope. Thanks to the efforts of good and honest Irishmen, a few more people will know of Christ’s mercy. The offices of the North Carolina State Board are proud to associate themselves with such warmth and kindness, and it is in that spirit that they impart their well wishes in this Sacred Season to Hibernian brothers and sisters across the nation and throughout the world. In this season of giving it is imperative that Hibernians continue to remember those in need of Christian Charity. As Jesus himself taught, “In the same way your light must shine in people’s sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in Heaven” (Matt 5:16). Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh!

Ewe’s Tree Band Has Fun, Helps Out Community

Ewe’s Tree Band began sometime around 2010 when three members of the Governor Burke Division of Wake County, NC found out they each had an interest in music. They started playing Irish tunes and after a few months of practice they played at an AOH function. When another member of the AOH was heard to exclaim “Well they sure don’t sound like U2,” the name “Ewe’s Tree” was born. Since then, one of the original bandmates has moved on, but two other AOH brothers have since joined, making the trio an ensemble featuring the tin whistle, guitar, concertina, and mandolin. Ewe’s Tree plays a variety of Irish music, from traditional pub songs to modern favorites. They play often at festivals and local venues and events but they also donate much of their time to worthwhile fundraising efforts. A local Irishwoman and victim of an attack in need of help paying medical bills, a young woman with cerebral palsy who uses her birthday each year to fundraise for Catholic Charities, an area mission collecting food for a Thanksgiving meal for the needy, and various nursing homes and community centers have all benefited from Ewe’s Tree’s music, fellowship and generosity. Furthermore, the Raleigh St. Patrick’s Day Parade annually conducts fundraisers at which Ewe’s Tree are a common sight and sound. If you ever find yourself lucky enough to be in our area, you’ll want to find out where these guys are playing. Whether it’s St. Patrick’s Day or just a random Friday night, you’re sure to have a great time!

New Jersey

Congratulations to new state board

The newly elected N.J. AOH State Board Officers held their first official meeting on October 7, at the Fort Mercer Club in National Park. The meeting was hosted by AOH Division 1, Gloucester County.

Elected N.J. AOH State Board Officers presided over their first meeting. Seated, from left, Jim Miller, Treasurer; Rich O’Brien, Vice President; Larry Prelle Sr., President; and Mike Rhodes, Secretary. Photo Credit: Brother George Stampoulos

Congratulations to new state board

The newly elected N.J. AOH State Board Officers held their first official meeting on October 7, at the Fort Mercer Club in National Park. The meeting was hosted by AOH Division 1, Gloucester County.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year

from your National Board
Washington D.C.

By John Patrick Walsh, President

D.C. Elects New Board

The brothers of Washington, D.C., held a successful convention Saturday, September 9. Invited guest speakers included Sisters from the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara Novitiate House (in nearby Upper Marlboro, MD) and William Fitzmaurice from the University of Maryland Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). Both speakers talked about their roles as missionaries and the need for evangelization in our backyards, a call to action that the gathered Hibernians were happy to support financially and spiritually.

The convention culminated with the election of the new state board officers: President John Patrick Walsh (DC4), Vice President Francis Moran (DC3), Secretary Brian Curran (DC2) and Treasurer Stephen Sullivan (DC3). A special note of gratitude to National Treasurer Sean Pender for swearing in the new officers on behalf of our National Board. The evening’s festivities were capped by an unforgettable surprise after a wonderful mass, the congregation’s organist played Amhrán na bhFiann as the recessional.

Division 3 Supports Future Religious Opportunities

What’s better than a few beers, good friends, some friendly poker and watching ND beat USC? When you mix all four with an opportunity to live our motto by helping the less fortunate in your community! That’s exactly what the brothers of Division 4 (Washington) did Saturday, October 21, at Hamilton’s Pub in downtown D.C. Organized by President John Simpson, the luck of the Irish was with everyone, as a few hundred dollars were raised for the National Capital Area Foodbank. Special thanks to the John Barry Division Charitable Trust for their assistance in collecting the participant entry fees.

Division 4 Demonstrates Christian Charity Through Charity Poker Game

Division 3 (Montgomery County) has recently adopted the Sister Servants Novitiate House for its charitable work. Brother Mike Dombro has led efforts to collect groceries and gift cards for the Sisters and their charges, while Brother George Rogers has organized seasonal maintenance and clean up days for the buildings and grounds. By opening these opportunities to all D.C. Hibernians, Division 3 has helped provide the Novitiate House with a clean and safe home from which to fulfill their holy mission.

Virginia

A trip to Hibernian Coal Country

Virginia State FFAI co-chairmen Jim McLaughlin and Terry Riley organized a field trip to the Pennsylvania coal region, which looked into AOH history along with a private tour of the historic Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville. Fifteen Virginia Hibernians plus spouses enjoyed the trip. Yuengling is the oldest continuously operating brewery in America. After the tour we stopped at the Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe) courthouse where 13 Hibernians, known as the Molly Maguires, sat through a show trial and were found guilty. Seven of them were hanged, including, the last man standing, Jack Kehoe. From the courthouse we visited the Hibernian House in Girardsville home of the Black Jack Kehoe Division 4, Delaware County.

Division Past President Joe Wayne, Jack Kehoe’s great grandson and current owner of the Hibernian House, captured everyone’s undivided attention as he explained the frequently misquided stories surrounding the plight of Irish coal miners, the coal country Hibernians, and the “Molly Maguires.” Joe told us the Hibernian House has been in his family since about 1870. His great grandfather, Joe Kehoe, held AOH meetings there, a tradition that continues today. Joe has a vast collection of AOH memorabilia, much of it still used in traditional AOH ceremonies. The walls are covered with photos, murals and artifacts. The Hibernian House is a time capsule and should be on every Hibernian’s bucket list.

Father Pat Kelly, left, and Division President Jay McCarthy.

Fair winds and following seas to Father Pat Kelly

Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division is bidding farewell to Brother/ SMA Father Pat Kelly as he undertakes a new assignment in Ireland in December. Beloved priest to many, Fr. Pat begins a new adventure in his homeland following over 25 years in America and in countries served by the Society of African Missions. Slainte’, Fr. Pat, and thank you for your service to our Church and to the AOH.

New D.C. State Board, from left, Treasurer Sullivan, Secretary Curran, National Treasurer Pender, President Walsh, Vice President Moran.
New York

By Bill McCormack
Division 16 working the motto

AOH Division 16 and Ladies AOH Division 16 donated $6,228 on Nov. 29 to Hospice Care of Westchester/Putnam Counties. 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 December 9, Hibernians also donated $6,228 to Rosary Hill Cancer Center, in Hawthorne. 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 $230,359 to these two and other organizations. Chairman Brian Jones administered the fund raising drive. The Division is grateful to the following parishes for their help: St. Mary’s, in Katonah; St. Patrick’s, in Bedford; St. Francis of Assisi, in Mount Kisco; St. Patrick’s, in Armonk; St. Lawrence O’Toole, in Brewster; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, in Shrub Oak; Holy Innocence, in Pleasantville; and St. John’s/St. Mary’s, in Chappaqua.

Division 16 was formed on September 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 supporting the northern Westchester’s annual Mount Kisco St. Patrick’s Day parade since 1991. The Mount Kisco St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee is pleased to announce that the 28th annual St. Patrick’s Day parade will be held on Saturday March 10, 2018, in Mount Kisco and the annual dinner will be held on Saturday, March 3.

New Division 18 Chaplain, Fr. Vincent Druding of Assumption Church, blessed the runners bearing turkeys at the start of the Quiet Man Public House 6th Annual Turkey Run in Peekskill on Nov. 18. More than 300 families, including beneficiaries of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center Meals On Wheels program, received Thanksgiving feasts thanks to the efforts of Westport, Co Mayo, man and Westchester AOH treasurer Cathal McGreal. McGreal owns two local businesses, the Quiet Man Public House and Hibernian Millwork. AOH Division 18 Peekskill Westchester and Hudson Valley Irish Fest & Center helped Cathal by sponsoring the Running of the Turkeys.

Hospice Care donation presentation with William & Will McCormack, AOH, Charles McGuinness AOH, Ann Michele Murphy Quirolo, Hospice CEO, Margaret McHugh, Jim McHugh, AOH, Bernadette Mcguire LAOH, Dana Hickey, AOH, Ed Reilly, AOH, Ann Hough, LAOH Mount Kisco, Jim Cullinan, AOH.

Virginia

By Bill McCormack

30th Anniversary for Meagher Division

The General Thomas F. Meagher Division celebrated its 30th Anniversary in November. During the month, the division remembered 23 deceased brothers at a special Mass celebrated by Division Chaplain Father Jerry Wooton. The division hosted a 30th Anniversary dinner party featuring traditional Irish food and live Irish music. The highlight of the evening was a presentation by National Park Service Historian Frank O’Reilly. O’Reilly presented a riveting talk on General Meagher’s experience with the Young Irelanders, the “Rising of ’48,” and his circuitous journey to America. He explained Meagher’s motivation in forming an Irish brigade comprised of units from several states. Meagher envisioned this as a means for Irish immigrants to be accepted as Americans. All attendees received a special anniversary pamphlet on the history of AOH and the division.

Why I am a Hibernian

My wife and I moved with our two children to the suburbs from Philadelphia, where I was born and raised. I had heard of the Ancient Order of Hibernians watching the Philadelphia Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. In the suburbs, people tend to keep to themselves. I found it hard to meet new people. When I saw the notice of an AOH Division forming in our area I thought that it would be a good way to make new friends and share a common interest, our Irish heritage.

Ken Young
“Yellow” Jack Donehue, Division 4
Montgomery County, PA
President’s Message...  
by Patricia O’Connell

On behalf of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Inc National Board, I bring you greetings for a 2018 year filled with Hope as you continue to be an active LAOH member working together with other members in your local area and across your state as the opportunity presents itself to you. To the newly elected officers who are taking the leadership reins in each state, I say THANK YOU for stepping-up to work with your division, county board, and state board members. I am confident that your out-going officers at the division, county board, and state board are there to support you. I say THANK YOU to these officers who have completed their term of office. Your National Board Officers are also available to assist you if you contact them.

All officers who served during the 2017 Year are the responsible agents to complete the following 2017 Annual Reports, namely, the Annual Financial Report, the Annual History Report, and the Annual Membership Report. National Treasurer Marilyn Madigan, National Irish Historian Dee Wallace, and National Secretary Karen Keane have forwarded these Annual Reports and the necessary instructions to complete the Annual Reports to the appropriate State Board Officers and to the State Presidents. Please contact the appropriate National Board Officer if you need assistance. I am requesting that you adhere to the time-lines given in the instructions for each Annual Report. National Catholic Action Officer Colleen Bowers informed all State Board Catholic Action Officers and State Presidents that no Catholic Action Report is required for the 2017 Year.

National Vice President Carol Sheyer will soon be sending to all State Presidents information regarding the nomination process for the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award that will be presented by the LAOH National Board at the 2018 National Convention being held in Louisville KY July 11-14, 2018. I ask that each State President make sure the information is made available to the LAOH membership at each level within your state. With our LAOH membership being present in 29 states and the District of Columbia, you can understand why the instructions recommend that each state submit one (1) candidate for consideration. As you solidify your Division, County Board, and State Board Calendars for the 2018 Year, please build-in support to get your membership to the 2018 National Convention being held in Louisville KY, July 11-14, 2018. By the time you read this article, the 2018 Convention Registration and Package Information will be available on the LAOH website (www.ladiesaoh.com) for you to easily download. The Degrees of the Order will be exemplified by the Ohio State Board Degree Team. Past National President Kathie Linton is the LAOH 2018 National Convention Chair. She will be providing 2018 National Convention information and updates as they become available. The Call to the 2018 National Convention is scheduled to be forwarded to State Secretaries and State Presidents in April.

I pray that all members get involved in the works of the Order within your state. Your commitment to participate in and support the works of the Order is critical to sustain our organization. Our membership will grow if we ask potential candidates to consider membership. May our patron saints, St. Brigid and St. Patrick, bless us as we engage with other LAOH members and live our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

Catholic Action

by Colleen Bowers, National Catholic Action Officer

I presently have been working with the PSP Ad Hoc Committee that our National President has charged me to chair. I want to share the names of the committee to give them the praise they deserve for the dedication these past 7 months, working to the goals we have been charged with. The committee consists of Kathie Linton, Past National President Ohio, Mary Ann Klein, Indiana, Bernadette Sullivan, New Jersey and Cheryl Daniels, South Carolina.

I want everyone to mark their calendars for the 2018 March for Life on January 19, 2018 in Washington, D.C. You can find the detailed information at www.marchforlife.org.

Presently, National PSP Director Tom O’Donnell and myself are working on the 2017 Project St. Patrick grant selections. Last year we gave 64 grants out to the religious for their continuing education.

Please do not forget to make your Catholic Action donations to Project St. Patrick and SOAR. SOAR is celebrating their 30 year anniversary this year. To find out more on SOAR and Project St. Patrick go to the National website www.ladiesaoh.com under Catholic Action.

One other item I need to address is please use the donation Catholic Action form as needed and, per a vote at the National Interim board meeting, there will no longer be any Annual Catholic Action forms required to be filed with National.
New Jersey

2017 Catherine Dean Scholarship Winner

The New Jersey LAOH Monmouth County Div. 4 awarded Isabel Murrer (nickname Bella) the 2017 Catherine Dean Scholarship. Catherine Dean was the first president of the division. In her honor, the scholarship is awarded to candidates who have demonstrated academic accomplishments, dedication to community service and excellence in writing skills. One of the application requirements is submission of a composition based on a topic which is different each year. The 2017 topic was the Easter Rising, also known as the Easter Rebellion, which was an armed insurrection in Ireland during Easter Week, April 1916. According to Bella, she had heard about the armed action prior to the scholarship application. In preparing for her application, Bella researched the subject matter to become more proficient and as a result, she became appreciative for the bravery of the Irish nationalists who established the Irish Republic. Bella was the valedictorian at Red Bank Catholic High School in the 2017 graduation class. The scholarship award helped Bella with her college expenses at Notre Dame University where she is a computer science major. Bella plans to concentrate in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Design. She wants to become AI proficient because she foresees a future where this science will be used in many facets of life such as the health field and entertainment area.

Bella is shown here with her parents and brother along, with our scholarship committee Patty O’Malley and Mary Ellen O’Halloran.

South Carolina

Maureen Binder, President of the LAOH St. Ciara Division of Beaufort County, SC and its members honored Liz Ryan as their Hibernian of the Year at the Country Club of Hilton Head dinner in Hilton Head, SC. Liz has held several offices since joining the LAOH in 2011. She served as Historian, headed committees for the Annual Essay Contest for high school students, the SC LAOH State Convention which was held in Bluffton, SC for the first time in 10 years. The St. Ciara Division is proud to call Liz our Hibernian of the Year for 2017!

Michigan

Member Awarded National Lifetime Membership

At our LAOH State Board Meeting on October 28th, a shocked Julie Lewis heard her name being announced as a National Lifetime Member. Julie joined the LAOH in 1992. She personifies the credo of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Julie has held the Offices of Catholic Action, Secretary and two terms as President on the State Board. She held every position in the Catherine McAuley Division, at least once. She has served as the Degree Team Co-Chair in our State and was an appointee on the National level. Julie is either an organizer or member of many committees, whether it’s making baskets for raffles, taking admission tickets or selling raffle tickets. She co-chairs the Children’s Tent at the Irish Festival each year and plans activities, lessons and entertainment for the children. She is a strong supporter of the best image of the Irish; often challenging vendors and businesses who sell t-shirts and other items with offensive sayings and/or images. She is tireless in her work to promote her Irish Heritage and the LAOH. Julie also volunteers at her parish church and actively supports Right to Life events and activities. All her Michigan LAOH sisters congratulate Julie on this much deserved award.

L-R: Maureen Shelton, past National President, Julie Lewis, proudly displaying her National Life Member certificate, and Barb Weir, Michigan State President.

Pennsylvania

On November 5, 2017 members of PA Allegheny County Division 11 attended their Annual Memorial Mass for deceased members at St. Stanislaus Church in Pittsburgh’s Strip District. Pictured from left to right front row: Division President Shirley Sestric; Elleen Haggerty; Division M&C Chair Joy Short; National Life Member, PA State Treasurer and Division 11 VP Shirley Murphy; Back row: Nicky Skubal, Division 11 Catholic Action Chair Mary Rogers Schubert; Division 11 FFAI Chair Pat Tragesser and Division 11 Catholic Action Chair Mary Ellen Myers.

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Kentucky

Wishing everyone

Bliadhna math úr!

Happy New Year

Kentucky State Board, from left to right: Carol Sheyer (National Vice President), Sandi Swift (National Webmaster/Publicity), Molly Dobson (Vice President), Julia O’Dwyer (President), Patricia O’Connell (National President), Natalie Peterinelli (Treasurer), Maureen Toner (Secretary), Maureen Zalla (Irish Historian) not pictured Missions & Charities, Shannon Hulesman, and Catholic Action, Clara Fulkerson

Deadline for the February-March issue is NO LATER than February 1

Ladies, please subscribe to our website for updates and important information delivered right to your email. www.ladiesaoh.com

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Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians or search @ladiesaoh2016
Benches dedicated at Rockville Cemetery, Nassau County
Immigrant victims of ‘Bristol’ and ‘Mexico’ remembered

At this year’s memorial service on Oct. 28 for the victims of two shipwrecks (the Bristol in 1836 and the Mexico in 1837) two Memorial Benches were added to the site known as Mariner’s Monument. The monument, in Lynbrook, NY, is a mass gravesite for 139 victims (mostly women and children of Irish descent) from these two ships. The memorial benches were made possible by the efforts of the Nassau County Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies AOH and the Historical Society of East Rockaway & Lynbrook.

Co-Chairman of the memorial service Andrew E. Healey (Nassau AOH chairman of Charities & Missions) said that, “it’s been equal partnership between our respective organizations. We have worked together for three years now, to renovate and re-educate the public about this historic site. In 2015, we completely renovated and refurbished the grounds around the monument for its 175th anniversary. We also added three placards to explain each of the shipwrecks and one to explain the events of that time and the good that came out these tragic shipwrecks. Then in 2016, we were able to get New York State and Federal landmark recognition. This site has now been added to the Federal Register of Historic Places in the USA. And finally, this year, 2017, we added two new granite Memorial Benches for the public to sit on, after they read the placards and reflect on this historic site.”

Healey also said, “These were Irish immigrants trying to make a new life for themselves here in America, but were unfortunately cut down by the rough seas. We honor them for their courage and their belief, that America is a land of opportunity.”

At the dedication of the memorial benches were members of the Nassau County AOH and LAOH and the Historical Society of East Rockaway & Lynbrook and many local residents. The Hibernians were represented by, from left, Long Beach LAOH division members Marian Cronin (County VP) and Peg Hannan, Jack O’Brien, Peter Begley (Nassau board president), Tim Myles, Sean Hood, Michael Lavin, John King, Carol McTigue, Ted McTigue and Jim Henry. Photo by Digest Editor John O’Connell.
Welcome To The 2018 AOH LAOH National Convention in Louisville, KY

Register for the Convention Full Package to enjoy all the good times!

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For ONLINE REGISTRATION and RESERVATIONS please go to www.louisvilleirish2018.com

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July 11th – 14th
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$125 per night per room including free wifi. Parking is a flat fee of $10 per day. Please call (860) 580-5200, extension 5658 at the reservation number above.

Complete Package: $160* & $200* above base rate have been applied. Discounted price will be $180 per person.

Full Package includes:
- Hospitality Suite in the Galt House Hotel
- Admission to all events (includes all meals)
- All meetings, seminars, workshops, and social events
- Registration

Airfare Options:
- Airfare to Louisville (includes all taxes and fees)
- Airfare to Louisville (no fees)

Accommodation Options:
- Hotel Accommodation (includes all taxes and fees)
- Hotel Accommodation (no fees)

Registration:
- Checking in on July 11th, 11:00am
- CHECK IN: Friday, July 11th, 11:00am
- Registration: July 14th, 11:00am

*Includes $20 Registration Fee

All of your convention needs can be found at www.louisvilleirish2018.com including Links to:
- Package Registration
- Hotel Registration
- Things to Do
- Items for Purchase
- General Information
- and more each month

We will be staying at the famous Louisville hotel...The Galt House. The hotel is in the heart of downtown and located on the Ohio River close to everything Louisville has to offer.

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