Saying they were there “to pledge American support for Ballymurphy in its battle for truth and justice,” National AOH Vice President Danny O’Connell and National Secretary Jere Cole met Ballymurphy Massacre families on September 23rd. The AOH officers were escorted by victims’ family members to the murder scenes and given a moving account of each killing. The fact-finding visit was also attended by Relatives for Justice. They begin at the spot where Father Hugh Mullan was shot as he waved a white handkerchief. Here Liam and Pat Quinn, then told how their brother Frank Quinn was killed as he tried to help Fr. Mullan and the wounded Bobby Clarke.

They next went to the spot families where four of the Ballymurphy victims were shot, including Joan Connolly and Danny Teggett. John Teggett described how his father was shot 14 times with high velocity rifles, while Joan Connolly’s daughter Philomena described how her mother was shot and left to bleed to death without medical attention.

John Laverty’s sisters Carmel Quinn and Rita Bonar pointed out where their brother was killed along with Joseph Curran. Another brother, Terry, was stopped, and tortured.”

They ended at the spot where Eddie Doherty was killed. There Eddie’s sister Kathleen explained how he was shot in the back.

John Teggett concluded: “The British whitewashed these murders with claims of gun battles and troops under fire. There was no gun battle, no bullets or guns found, no troopers wounded. Our loved ones were murdered, they were shot in the back”.

Andree Murphy, Deputy Director of Relatives for Justice said: “The voices of the families today, as we visited the sites where the 11 were killed, gave eloquent testimony to the horror of the killings, the absolute impunity from which the soldiers who took those lives benefited, and most poignantly the impact that these killings had

continued on page 12

Hibernians meet Ballymurphy families

An Gorta Mor film an opportunity for Hibernian Charity

The harvest season is upon us, and Joe Norton, National Chairman for Missions and Charities, was able to gather in a partnership with IFC Films for theatre showings of the cinematic portrayal of An Gorta Mor, in the film Black 47.

Black 47 is a film about one man’s revenge for the horrors brought upon his family during An Gorta Mor. The partnership enables local divisions to set up stations for food donations, fundraising and information sharing on Hibernian Charities and AOH membership.

Contact was made with IFC after several exchanges with grass roots marketers by the Archbishop Donoghue Division in Atlanta. Brother Norton outlined in an email to IFC Films contacts that the AOH and its charitable arm, Hibernian Charities, have a deep-seated interest in providing financial support for the pursuit and spread of Irish History and the end of hunger — two subjects at the core of Black 47.

Shannon Balstad, IFC Films’ coordinator for Marketing & Publicity, contacted Dr. Joe, and shared benefits and interests were quickly identified. The size of our organization would help drive traffic to the film and we would be able to set up donation stations and information sharing stations in theaters.

With the effects of Hurricane Florence rapidly depleting local food pantries in the coastal Carolinas, food donations became a focus. Ms. Balstad offered to help local divisions by customizing marketing materials, getting food bins and coordinating group sales for interested divisions. Contacts were also shared to allow interested divisions opportunities to sponsor private screenings.

For divisions seeking marketing support and group ticketing arrangement, contact
Shannon Balstad@ifcfilms.com
For divisions seeking information about a private screening, contact
Marie.Zeniter@ifcfilms.com
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SEMINARS AND EVENTS

2885 S. Federal Hwy., Delray Beach, Fl

Join fellow Hibernians for an afternoon of fun

This will be a great opportunity to stay in touch with the AOH during the winter and meet fellow Hibernians who winter in Florida and also meet some Floridian Hibernians.

Do you have a talent to share? Let us know. Dancers, singers, musicians, entertainers are welcome.

All are welcome, including lapsed or prospective members.

Lunch with soft drinks and dessert $20. Reservations required.

Contact: Tim Myles - Timtmd64@aol.com or 516 660 7456

Jim Sullivan - Jim@brooklynirish.org or 347 224 4822

Committee Ed Wallace, Tim Myles, Matt Deity, Jim Sullivan

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SNOWBIRD SOCIAL

Thursday, Feb. 7, noon to 3 p.m.

Tim Finnigan’s Pub

All are welcome, including lapsed or prospective members.

Lunch with soft drinks and dessert $20. Reservations required.

Contact: Tim Myles - Timtmd64@aol.com or 516 660 7456

Jim Sullivan - Jim@brooklynirish.org or 347 224 4822

Committee Ed Wallace, Tim Myles, Matt Deity, Jim Sullivan

OWNERSHIP STATEMENT


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By the time you read this, you may be into your Thanksgiving celebration with your family and the weather you will have hopefully cooled down. Before we know it we will be putting up Christmas trees (yuck). With our new National Board in place, we are now in the process of making decisions that will guide our Order for the next two years.

As of this writing, I plan to set my President’s Dinner in 2019 in Washington, D.C. The dates are October 18th and 19th, 2019. We are currently negotiating with two hotels at this time very close to the Capitol and hope to have an answer before this issue reaches you. Unfortunately, nothing is in stone yet, as it is very difficult dealing with D.C. hotels, but at this point in time, I am very confident.

Obviously, things are already progressing very well for our next National Convention in Orlando in 2020. Although we have not met with them yet, all Florida Committees are in place and ready to start the pre-planning work that assures a successful convention.

I recently attended a Hibernian function in the Tri-State area at the Irish Ambassador’s residence commemorating the Commodore John Barry Day set aside to acknowledge the Father of the American Navy. The members of the Tri-State area should be congratulated for their effort in pursuit of making Commodore John Barry a “household” name in this country.

Recently, two investigative journalists from Northern Ireland, Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey, were detained in Belfast over the suspected theft of confidential documents allegedly related to a 1994 Loyalist massacre in Loughinisland, County Down. While they were watching the Republic of Ireland soccer team play a World Cup game in New Jersey, six patrons of a bar in that area were gunned down by Loyalist killers, members of the UVF. The documentary that the journalists worked on surrounding that incident, entitled, “No Stone Unturned,” has been available on Prime Video for some time now. All Brothers are urged to watch, as it gives great insight into the problems in conducting a serious investigation involving Loyalist crimes in the North of Ireland.

We have already started our Freedom For All Ireland campaign to raise money for worthy Irish causes and the ultimate goal of the peaceful reunification of the 36 Counties. Our new chairman, Martin Galvin, has already hit the ground running and appointed a competent committee to help him in this endeavor. When you attend your Division meetings, please remind your Brothers that all our members should participate in this very worthy cause and be charitable as usual.

As we get ready to enter the Christmas season, please do not forget to prepare ourselves spiritually from this material world and remind our families and ourselves what the birth of our Savior is all about.

God Bless.

Treasurer’s Report

Buy Irish - Hibernian Program retooled to better serve Order and members

With almost 35,000 members and many more closely related family members the talents and skills of our members and families no doubt covers every conceivable business and service. In an effort to connect those members with the larger Hibernian membership the National Board is proud to offer a new Buy Irish/Hibernian program.

For just $25 a year for members and $50 for nonmembers, a business or service can be listed on the AOH website under the soon to be created Buy Irish/Hibernian web page. When activated visit https://aoh.com/buycrissy

This mutually beneficial program will enable:

• The National Board to generate a new revenue stream to offset the loss of the recent U.S. Bank card rewards program.
• Provide members who own businesses and offer services an economical means to advertise to the membership.
• Provide trusted referrals to members and their families who are looking for professional services or businesses to support.

Recently, I had major home renovations done to my house and completed an in-depth bid process by six contractors. It got me thinking I wish I knew of any local AOH members who may also offer these services. This new program will give our members that opportunity whether you are looking for services for HVAC, painting, landscaping, lawyers, accountants, dentists, doctors or funeral directors. Or maybe you are traveling and would like to support an AOH owned pub, restaurant or hotel. The owners of these businesses will be offered the opportunity to list their business/service address, phone and email contact information and their website.

Advertisers can create Hibernian-specific landing pages to offer Hibernian discounts. Hibernian consumers would be able to search by location for needed services and Buy Irish/Hibernian program retooled to better serve Order and members.

How to register

Visit https://aoh.com/registerbuyirish

Complete online form. The input of a valid membership number will drive $25 membership fee while lack of membership number will generate the $50 membership fee. Review for completeness, confirm data, submit request and pay online. The initial go-live date for online access to all Buy Irish/Hibernian program will be January 1, 2019.
New procedures  
As I indicated last issue in keeping with my promise to completely modernize procedures for a smoother operation in this electronic age, we are making some significant changes this year in the way we update rosters. Beginning in the second half of October, your Financial Secretary will be receiving via email a PDF of your roster. As of that date, 10/15/2018, WE WILL STOP SENDING 2018 CARDS, and it will not be necessary to submit Form 40s. Simply make changes to your roster.

As of this writing, 40 divisions STILL do not have an email on file for their Financial Secretary. If your financial secretary does not have an email address, the roster will be sent to the division President. If neither has an email you will not receive a roster until we can communicate via email.

Let me remind you that the Form 40 remains the PRIMARY vehicle to communicate individual changes. So, if you submitted a Form 9 with new officers this past year and indicated an email for an individual that may not have been captured unless you also sent a Form 40. If in doubt, please instruct your financial secretary to communicate with my office to rectify.

Once your roster is received, download the roster and print it out. You then may edit, and scan to email back to the National Secretary’s office at jcole@b2s89@gmail.com, with the notation "Roster Changes" in the subject line of the email. Alternatively, if you are comfortable and able, you may annotate the PDF, save, and email it back. Also, new this year, should you maintain your records in an Excel spreadsheet you may make the changes there and email that back to the National Secretary’s office. Be mindful however that you need to supply ALL the information requested and CLEARLY indicate which records have changed on the spreadsheet.

Please complete as soon as possible as that roster will be used to calculate your per capita due from 2018. Per Capita is paid on the total members as of 12/31/2018. The per capita payment is still only $12 for 2018.

Lastly, and least preferred, you may mail a hard copy to the National Secretary Office as you have in previous years. As always if you make changes by hand we ask that you try to write the information as neatly as possible.

If you have not received a roster by Thanksgiving — something is wrong. Please contact the National Secretary’s office and we will make alternative arrangements.

These changes to procedure will require that you use THE NEW FORMS: 40, 9 and 11 — please be sure to destroy ALL forms you have on hand and only use the new ones that you may download from our website: www.AOH.com, (under Forms).

Beginning in January 2019 we will begin sending the 2019 membership cards. The cards will be based on the best information we have available whether of not you have returned a roster, perhaps triggering additional changes.

Concomitantly, this fall we are phasing in a completely new procedure that will permit your financial secretary to check and update your division roster directly. This will be accomplished by the financial secretary securely logging in via a portal on our website to a copy of your division roster. Change will be entered directly by him. After the changes have been reviewed, they will be permanent. Your financial secretary will be able to also print a copy of your most current roster. Membership cards will continue to be issued from my office.

This new system should be operational for all shortly after the beginning of 2019 and you will be updated frequently. A training guide will be published to lead your financial secretary through the entire process.

I realize this is a big step for many of you but it is necessary if we are to streamline our recordkeeping.

Thank you for your cooperation.
**Director’s Report by John Wilson**

The movie “Black 47” shed light on the history of our ancestors that were starved and who emigrated by the millions during the Famine years, as the British washed their hands with some exceptions. This film portrays the consequences of the greatest disaster of the 19th Century, An Gorta Mór. The movie showed some of the hatred and viciousness of what happened to our relatives. The film makes clear that there were tons of food being exported to Britain daily while Ireland starved. There were also the soup kitchens, in which many of them demanded the starving family convert to Protestantism before they would be fed.

Our 90-year-old Hibernian brother John W. “Bill” Fahey, from Division 5, Suffolk County, NY, has worked tirelessly for many years to convince the Vatican to beatify “the Irish Hunger Martyrs.” He is leading this petition to beatify the victims of the Irish Hunger, by making the point that they died for their faith. He has worked with the Committee for the Commemoration of Irish Famine Victims (CCIFV), an Ireland-based organization, to dedicate and plant memorials in the United States and Ireland to identify the often-unmarked graves of thousands of Irish famine victims. In Ireland a national commemoration day for the Irish Famine is reportedly set to be held on the third weekend in May every year since 2019. To learn more about the efforts of our AOH brother’s work go to http://www.ishungermartyrs.org/. To date, more than 28,000 people have submitted their names in support of his request for beatification of the martyrs. If you would like to add your name to his petition his website provides a way for you to have your voice heard.

Now is a good time to start making plans on how your division will remember An Gorta Mór during the third Weekend in May 2019.

I had the privilege of viewing the film by Maurice Fitzpatrick “In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America.” If you have a chance to watch it you’ll come away with a greater understanding of the Peace Process and the tireless efforts that John Hume spent to get to the 1998 Peace Agreement. In the film, Hume came to the United States because there was nowhere else to go. The Irish government was beginning to exert pressure on the British government to create a lasting solution. But put crudely, Britain was very reluctant to challenge the unionist veto that had brought Northern Ireland to the brink of civil war. The only place from where that pressure could come was from the U.S.

In the words of Hume: “Ireland is not a romantic dream; it is not a flag; it is 4.5 million people divided into two powerful traditions. The solution will be found not on the basis of victory for either, but on the basis of agreement and a partnership between both. The real division of Ireland is not a line drawn on the map but in the minds and hearts of its people.”

**Director’s Report by Ed Halligan**

Hibernian activities are picking up now that the fall is upon us. Look forward to several events in the Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania area. It started in September with honoring Commodore Barry at the bridge named in his honor. A ceremony was held with several members of the New Jersey Ladies State Board and the men’s N.J. State president Larry Prelle and several members of the LAOH & AOH. This ceremony has taken place for several members of the New Jersey Ladies State Board and the men’s N.J. State president Larry Prelle and several members of the LAOH & AOH. This ceremony has taken place for over 40 years.

New Jersey has their State Board meeting scheduled Saturday, October 13, in Hamilton, NJ.

There will be Major Degrees in October and November — October 14 in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, and Saturday, November 10, in National Park, Gloucester County, NJ.

The Annual Freedom For All Ireland fundraiser will be held at the FOP in Philadelphia on Sunday, November 13, with a very special guest speaker, Carmel Quinn, sister of Joe Laverty, who was murdered in the Ballymurphy massacre.

AOH National Treasurer Sean Pender has assigned State & National officers a list of Divisions that haven’t been heard from concerning the EIN numbers and compliance with the IRS. If you haven’t heard from one of the officers yet, you will. I have heard a lot of frustration with the IRS. We will get through this. It’s our nature to succeed.

**AOH Credit Card Terminated**

The AOH credit card agreement with U.S. Bank has been terminated by U.S. Bank. Thank you to everyone who supported this program, which helped us achieve our Hibernian goals. The AOH is looking into alternative C.C.s and we hope to have a program in place soon. If you are familiar with a similar affinity credit card please contact AOH Vice President Danny O’Connell at Daniel.convine@aoh.com.

You will be receiving options to continue your card, but please remember that U.S. Bank chose not to continue with the AOH.

**Director’s Report by Dan Dennehy**

I joined NY AOH President Vic Vogel at a Mass In Irish at Saint Barnabas Church in Woodlawn, arranged by Division 5 President Martin Galvin and Division Chaplain Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald. Irish speakers from the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Aisling Irish Community Center and Gaelic League participated as readers, with Irish singing by Dawn Dougherty and her Irish Music School. Later that evening, my wife Siobhan and I were announced as the 2019 30th Annual Peekskill St. Patrick’s Parade Co-Grand Marshal and were joined on a Hudson Cruise by many Hibernians from near and far, including National Treasurer Sean Pender, National Project St. Patrick Chairman Vic Vogel and National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin. Quite a day!

A highlight of the late summer was the 48th AOH Nassau County Feis and Festival, honoring Richie O’Neal, Nassau County’s Aide in the 2018 NYC St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Another highlight was a Pre-Premiere showing of the excellent new Irish film ‘Black 47’, organized by William Lee, the young President of AOH New York County Division 1, at the IFC Film Center in Manhattan. I attended a talk by Báta O’Hare, Sinn Fein representative for the USA, at Medley College, on Brexit, and participated in a segment on the McGuinness Principles.

National Treasurer Pender attended an address by Taniaste Simon Coveney, on Brexit and Ireland’s effort to prevent any damage to the Good Friday Agreement. Related to EIN and taxes, I am working with several Divisions on their specific issues in conjunction with Sean Pender and NYS Vice President Tom Lambert, and we are pleased with the progress we are seeing and look forward to a resolution of these difficulties.

Elsewhere in this edition you may find an article on the Yonkers City Council adoption of the McGuinness Principles and a piece on the Hudson Valley Irish Fest.
**McGuinness Principles adopted by first major city**

**By Dan Dennehy, National Director**

On September 25, the Yorkers, NY, became the first major city to unanimously adopt the McGuinness Principles. The impetus came from Myles Scully Division 1, Westchester, and its President, Kevin Ellis. The City Council meeting was attended by officers and members from National, New York State and all of Westchester County’s divisions, as well as LAOH members, officers of the United Irish Counties, Hudson Valley Irish Center, Police Emerald Society of Westchester County, and many Yorkers residents. National Director Dan Dennehy and Division 1 Past President Bob Stauf testified on behalf of the McGuinness Principles.

Dennehy testified that as a proud son of Yorkers, he recognized that the City of Yorkers has long embraced the rights of all citizens, including its large Irish American community. The McGuinness Principles seek the same for all in Ireland, by instilling a Bill of Rights, language equality, justice on legacy crimes and self-determination through a referendum on Irish Unity. Bob Stauf then testified that Yorkers was the first City Council to adopt the MacBride Principles and had issued the first proclamation that Gerry Adams received during his first visit to the U.S. Stauf thanked Councilman John Rubio for proposing the resolution and Councilman Mike Breen and Council President Mike Khader for their enthusiastic support.

Councilman Rubio remarked that 20 years ago the Good Friday Agreement was ratified by more than 70 percent of the voters in the North of Ireland, yet much needs to be done so that Martin McGuinness’ legacy may be fulfilled. He also recognized the AOH for keeping the issues of Ireland on their agenda. City Council President Khader said that he studied the McGuinness Principles and the need for these principles is not unique to the North of Ireland. Truth, fairness, and an even playing field are principles we should all live by regardless of race, religion, color, creed or political party, and that is why he proudly supported the resolution. The McGuinness Principles were then adopted with a vote of 7:0.

**Video of the hearing here:** https://www.youtube.com/PlayerController.axf?&FID=ynkyoe1Di=1206

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**Director’s Report**

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope all of you are well. One of the issues that I wanted to touch on in this article is the importance of submitting your Missions & Charities forms to National Missions & Charities Chairman Joe Norton. These forms can be located at www.aoh.com under the Forms section and are easy to fill out. Anything that your Division does for a charity or donates to a charity can be sent in. Keep in mind that each hour a Division member works toward a charitable endeavor is worth a $10 donation. For example, if five of your Division members are working on a charitable project for one hour, that is a $50 donation. By sending in these forms, your Division is adding to the yearly total of donations made by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. If every Division sent in their forms, I imagine that it would be a large sum of money that we donated as a whole.

This not only helps us in recruiting, but reinforces the third pillar of our motto, Christian Charity.

In September, I participated in the Wheeling, West Virginia, Irish Road Bowling tournament sponsored by the Bishop Whelan Division. A record was set this year with 851 bowlers making it the largest Team Irish Bowling tournament in the world. A great job to President Tom Connelly and the rest of the Bishop Whelan Division members.

Also in September, I attended the Annual An Gorta Mor Memorial Mass in the Irish Hills of Michigan. Thanks to Michigan AOH State President Kevin Burke and the rest of the Michigan AOH for the hospitality.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at dparks121@yahoo.com.

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**southwest liaison**

by Mike Joyce

As this is my first report as Liaison for the Southwest (Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona) it is probably appropriate to introduce myself – especially for those in the territory.

I’m in Austin, Texas, with my wife and young son. We’ve been in Austin for 10 years now with no plans to leave. I joined the Hibernians because I wanted an Irish Catholic experience I remembered from my childhood – thanks to countless Christmases with my grandparents in Youngstown, Ohio, and a Milwaukee Irish Fest or two. Unfortunately, the AOH didn’t exist in Austin, so we got some guys together and created it from scratch.

I’m honored to serve and help grow the Order where the red dirt yields to the Hill Country and the desert opens into canyons. While our divisions are few and far between out here, it only means there is a lot of untapped potential in a uniquely Catholic part of the country to find new Hibernians.

Our division in Austin came online four years ago and has served all of Texas as our only active division. Austin just held their 4th Annual Half-Way to St. Patrick’s Day fundraiser supporting the Gabriel Project. I am excited to report that we have a colony in Dallas/Fort Worth close to finding their 15th man. I’m confident they will be chartering in the first half of 2019. In Oklahoma, our friends in Tulsa — which is our oldest division at 18 years in the Southwest — are firing on all cylinders, and our newest division in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is working hard to promote Black ’47. Congratulations to those brothers for getting involved and capitalizing on the opportunity.

What I love about the Order is how accessible all of our officers are and I am no different. Please reach out to me with your questions, membership tips, fundraising ideas, or anything that might be on your mind. You can email me at mjoyce8@gmail.com or call me on my cell at 804-536-6067. I look forward to helping grow the Order.

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**Hibernian hunger project**

by Paul Gowdy, Chairman

Mathew 25:35

“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

There is a certain level of hunger in most communities and neighborhoods across the length and breadth of this country. Our Catholic upbringing teaches us to help, where and when we can, those less fortunate than we are. Making a financial donation from time to time is good. As Hibernians, I believe we can put our minds together and go a step further. So, let us get organized.

Many of our boards may already schedule a regular ‘Hunger’ awareness event. I want those boards to share the details of their projects, the frequency, the volunteer numbers, the source, the amounts of cash raised, the food served or any other pertinent data. The endeavor could range from a local effort by selling raffle tickets for donated prizes. Or on a large-scale, well-attended event with Irish entertainment along with plenty of donated food.

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**By Dan Dennehy, National Director**

On September 25, the Yorkers, NY, became the first major city to unanimously adopt the McGuinness Principles. The impetus came from Myles Scully Division 1, Westchester, and its President, Kevin Ellis. The City Council meeting was attended by officers and members from National, New York State and all of Westchester County’s divisions, as well as LAOH members, officers of the United Irish Counties, Hudson Valley Irish Center, Police Emerald Society of Westchester County, and many Yorkers residents. National Director Dan Dennehy and Division 1 Past President Bob Stauf testified on behalf of the McGuinness Principles.

Dennehy testified that as a proud son of Yorkers, he recognized that the City of Yorkers has long embraced the rights of all citizens, including its large Irish American community. The McGuinness Principles seek the same for all in Ireland, by instilling a Bill of Rights, language equality, justice on legacy crimes and self-determination through a referendum on Irish Unity. Bob Stauf then testified that Yorkers was the first City Council to adopt the MacBride Principles and had issued the first proclamation that Gerry Adams received during his first visit to the U.S. Stauf thanked Councilman John Rubio for proposing the resolution and Councilman Mike Breen and Council President Mike Khader for their enthusiastic support.

Councilman Rubio remarked that 20 years ago the Good Friday Agreement was ratified by more than 70 percent of the voters in the North of Ireland, yet much needs to be done so that Martin McGuinness’ legacy may be fulfilled. He also recognized the AOH for keeping the issues of Ireland on their agenda. City Council President Khader said that he studied the McGuinness Principles and the need for these principles is not unique to the North of Ireland. Truth, fairness, and an even playing field are principles we should all live by regardless of race, religion, color, creed or political party, and that is why he proudly supported the resolution. The McGuinness Principles were then adopted with a vote of 7:0.

**Video of the hearing here:** https://www.youtube.com/PlayerController.axf?&FID=ynkyoe1Di=1206

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It is our duty as brothers and sisters of the Hibernian family to awaken the greater masses in our neighborhoods to the plight of the less fortunate in our midst. We are obliged in the memory of the thousands of our ancestors who died or those who had to abandon their homes and take flight on the cursed coffin ships to the new world. All because of the failure of one food source, the potato.

We all know of the multitude of food being grown in Ireland that was being transported under police and British soldier protection, to be sold in England by so-called Christians whilst Irish Christian people died by the roadside, starved to death. We shall never forget or forgive, but we can shame those heartless bigots with our display of true Christian Charity.

**Step 1.** Each AOH Board share with me data of any Hunger-related event held by their board. Gowdy9plow@aol.com.

**Step 2.** I will publish all those related notifications on the National AOH website.

**Step 3.** I will ensure that the AOH National Board continues to reward any outstanding event with a financial donation and a deserved AOH emblem presentation in recognition of that outstanding board’s effort.

**Step 4.** I will endeavor to have published in appropriate Irish newspapers, bulletins or on radio shows, the efforts and successes of our AOH/LAOH Boards’ Hunger projects.

Give me your support. Let us help those poor souls who wonder each day where their next meal is coming from.

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**The Yorkers City Council, back row, Majority Leader Michael Sabatino, Corazon Pineda-Issaac, Shanea V. Williams, Council President Mike Khader, Minority Leader Mike Breen, Anthony J. Merante and John Rubio. Front row, Aidan O’Kelly-Lynch, NY State Director; Charlie McGuinness, President Division 16 Mount Kisco; Andy Hayden, Division 1; Robert Stauf, Past President Myles Scully Division 1; Kevin Ellis, President Myles Scully Division 1; Dan Dennehy, National Director; Jack McDonald, Division 1; Mike Morley, Aising Center Man of the Year; Peter Van Slyck, President Police Emerald Society of Westchester; and Brian Duffy, President AOH Westchester County.**
In October, Mount Olivet cemetery will see a host of Hibernian dignitaries and members of the general public at the dedication of a granite name block at the recently repaired tombstone of Thomas Devin Reilly, Irish revolutionary, Young Irelander and journalist. In 1808 Ireland, Reilly wrote for The Nation and The Irish Felon in support of Irish tenants. As a member of the Irish Confederation during the Great Hunger, he urged tenants to refuse to pay rents, retain crops to feed their own families and destroy bridges and railway lines to prevent the removal of food from the country. He was involved in the failed Young Irelander Rising of 1848 and fled to America where he became active in U.S. politics in support of Irish independence and secured a job in the U.S. Land Office. James Conneely later claimed him as a pioneer of American labor journalism. When he died, an article in the 7 March 1854 NY Times noted: “In Mr. Reilly’s early demise, the Irish cause has lost an able soldier and the aid of a brilliant intellect.”

The original marble stone above Reilly’s grave was eroded by weather and acid rain to the point where the inscription was barely visible and the Celtic Cross had been broken off the top. Beltway Bulldog Jack O’Brien assembled the usual suspects: Keith Carney, Ralph Day, D.C. State Board President J.P. Walsh and a host of Hibernians to Remember Reilly, and the project was underway. The result is the repaired cross and a granite block replicating the original inscription from the worn tombstone that reads: “On Decoration (Memorial) Day, 1881, Clan na Gael erected this cross in memory of Irish patriot Thomas Devin Reilly, died March 5, 1854 at age 30. May God have mercy on his soul, amen.” On the base is carved, “A soul has come into Ireland.” Other inscriptions include “Jeannie and little Molly, child of Jennie and Thomas Devin Reilly.” The block has a harp at the top and shamrock wreaths on either side and the bottom is inscribed, “District of Columbia Ancient Order of Hibernians – 2018”

Congratulations to our brothers and their supporters for keeping the tradition alive.

For more history, check out the Historical Happenings link at AOH.COM and NYAOH.COM.
I ask that each Division and State to comply with our Constitution and appoint an Immigration Chair. This chair is a resource on promoting fair and equitable immigration between Ireland and the U.S. and providing members with background on current Irish and U.S. immigration policies, issues and concerns.

It’s very easy for Irish citizens to visit here for up to 90 days and for U.S. citizens to visit Ireland for the same amount of time. But what about staying longer? Or living, studying or working here or there? That’s when visas come into play and in both cases, it’s not easy! The regulations to receive a visa to Ireland or the U.S. can be complicated, and those considering staying longer than 90 days need to learn all they can before they travel.

Irish people coming to the U.S. can contact the Irish Immigration Centers here. Similarly, an excellent organization is available in Ireland. To learn more about migrating to Ireland, please visit Cross-Care. Migration Project here: https://www.migrantproject.ie

Irish citizens need applying

The 2020 Diversity Visa Lottery is open from 3 October 2018. The DV Lottery is a green card visa lottery of 55,000 visas for the United States available annually. A computer-generated, random lottery drawing chooses the successful candidates for visas.

Although the Irish only get a handful of the 55,000 DV visas, it’s still worth applying! This is basically the only way to get a green card by lottery, and each person can apply only once. You must apply online, and there is no cost, it is free to enter, and if successful, entrants have the chance to apply for a ‘Green Card’ or permanent resident visa – which allows you to live and work in the U.S. as a legal permanent resident.

Contact the Irish Immigration Centers for more information: www.cic-usa.org

Find a video and complete info here: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/diversity-visa-program-entry/diversity-visa-instructions.html

It’s looking like neither party is willing to tackle U.S. immigration before the November elections. However, after the elections, we must get to know our own legislators and speak to them from our perspective. The Irish have been on the line the longest, many of Irish undocumented have been waiting for a visa since the 1980s! DV lottery, Morrison Visas, J1 Program and other methods succeeded with Irish American immigration advocacy. Which is why we must soon again, make the best deal possible for Irish and American people to travel to each other’s countries.

Hibernians are the only group with the connectivity in towns and cities across the U.S. to make it happen. The AOH National Immigration Committee is focused on these issues and are ready to get to work with you, our members, when the time is right.

I would like to commend President Ben Coleman and his Lincoln, Nebraska, AOH Division for hosting an Irish Hooley to welcome immigrants. Their demonstration of Irish hospitality, an act of friendship and Christian charity toward the newest additions to their community has attracted great goodwill and positive media attention for the AOH, read here: https://journalstar.com/news/local/cindy-lange-kubick-a-warm-welcome-to-new-americans-from/article_e6e6133d-034e-5a83-836eb69c0739a11.html

Contact our immigration chair: Please contact me at MGALINESQ@AOL.COM

New York

Raising funds for charity

The Kings County John T. Rogan Division 12 Boat Ride upon the River Rose out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, New York, was held on August 25. The four-hour boat trip toured Jamaica Bay and the surrounding areas of Gerritsen Beach and other waterfront areas that border the bay. This is the main fundraiser that Division 12 holds during the year. Division 12 financially supports organizations and cultural events that promote Irish heritage and Catholic education. Joining Division12 in this endeavor were our sister Hibernians from Division 22, Division 19 and other Irish organizations in and around Kings County. Submitted by Tom MacLellan.

On the Kings County, AOH Division 12, John T. Rogan Annual fund-raising boat trip on August 25 were seated, left to right, Brian Burns, Tom MacLellan, Frank Thompson, standing were Marc Reilly, Brian Xerub, Brian Cassidy, Jimmy Hart, Jerry McCabe, Jimmy Cassidy, Brian Kelly, John Kelly, Dan Masterson and Phil Gilson.

FFAI plans Ballymurphy campaign

Before meeting the victims’ families in Belfast, National Vice President Danny O’Connell, along with National Secretary Jeri Cole, called the upcoming Ballymurphy Massacre inquest “a fundamental test of Britain’s ability to give legacy justice.”

The families contend that after internment raids ended on August 9th, 1971, British paratroopers opened fire without warning. Ten innocent people, including a Catholic priest, Fr. Hugh Mullan, waving a white handkerchief, and a mother of eight children, Joan Connolly, were shot dead. An 11th murder victim, Paddy McCarthy, died of a heart attack when troopers placed an empty gun inside his mouth in mock execution.

British Royal Military Police then made their troopers innocent and the dead guilty. The British did it again five months later, with too many witnesses on Bloody Sunday. Forty-seven years later the Ballymurphy families will get their chance to put Britain’s claims on trial at a court inquest.

Our national officers stood shoulder to shoulder with them, behind the Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign banner, and pledged AOH support in their battle for truth.

We will keep that pledge with a speaking tour, inquest updates and a congressional initiative. Last January, Mark Thompson, of Relatives for Justice, conducted a weeklong emergency American speaking tour, which inspired a congressional initiative, five public events and formal proclamations of support by state and local governments.

Beginning in Philadelphia on November 11, FFAI will sponsor a five-state tour in which Carmel Quinn of the Ballymurphy Massacre families will give AOH members an up-to-the-minute report on the inquest. We will then provide reports on the testimony.

Congressional call to action

Last April, 16 members of Congress joined a bipartisan letter sponsored by the AOH to the British ambassador about legacy truth. We got 16 signatures, because AOH members called or visited local congressional offices until they signed.

In the British Parliament, the British ambassador, and British and Irish secretaries, Karen Bradley, had to reply. Britain pays attention when American congressmen and senators are watching. FFAI is calling on AOH members across the country to contact your local senators and congressional representatives, and ask them if they will make time to hear Carmel Quinn in Washington D.C. on November 14 or 15.

Appeal

Today, Britain still denies truth and justice to the families of victims murdered by the crown or loyalist agents in places like Ballymurphy or Loughinisland. Brexit threatens catastrophe across Ireland. They even refuse an Irish Language Act. Instead of opening the door to Irish national freedom, Britain and the DUP want to nail that door shut. America can make a difference, but only if the AOH and LAOH, as the voice of the Irish in America, lead the way. Our donations to carefully chosen charities through monies raised by the FFAI Annual Christmas Appeal, along with our political and educational campaigns, are the cornerstone of our FFAI initiative.

This year, our national officers have begun new FFAI education and information programs about British injustices in the six counties. They are implementing many of your suggestions to enhance the Appeal. Our national officers are asking for a commitment from everyone to participate and support FFAI with a donation or fundraising event. Please donate and help the AOH and LAOH make the difference. Help make freedom for all of Ireland not an aspiration or endeavor but the reality for those Irish people still denied it!

FFAI monthly bulletin

The monthly FFAI Bulletin is now available on the New York State and National AOH websites by clicking Reports and FFAI. We want to give you monthly updates on key events in the north with short analysis and explanation.

Please contact me at MCGALINESQ@AOL.COM

Project St. Patrick

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Project St. Patrick

by Vic Vogel, Chairman

I would like to thank all of the Hibernian Brothers and Jurisdictions that have shown support for Project St. Patrick. As an introduction to our newer Brothers and a reminder to others, I would like to take this opportunity to restate the purpose of the Project St. Patrick Memorial Card Program in the hope that it will encourage greater support and increase participation.

Project St. Patrick is a Catholic Action Program of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and friends created to support Priests, Seminarians and Religious spiritually, emotionally and financially. Contributions to this Program will go into an endowment fund. Interest from the endowment will be given to Seminarians, Priests and Religious in the form of scholarships and grants for continuing education and retreats. A contribution in memory of your Loved One enables the vision of St. Patrick to continue. His vision was to bring the Gospel and the Eucharist to all people. The Memorial Card is a tribute to a Patron, our Faith and our families.

Please feel free to contact me for additional Project St. Patrick Memorial Cards. My email address is victorvjvogel@yahoo.com. The Good Work of our Priests, Seminarians and Religious needs the attention of all Hibernians. In that way, it will become our Good Work! Thank you.
By the time you read this, Brothers, we will be looking forward to family gathering around the Thanksgiving table and looking forward with joy to the blessed season of Christmas. We will just be heading into the stark of the dark days of winter and spring will seem a long way away. However, we know how quickly time passes and the time is now to begin planning for the Irish American Heritage Month 2019.

Brothers, I have previously expanded on why Irish American Heritage Month should be at the top of our Hibernian priorities. It is part of our duty as Hibernians and a key reason for our existence as an Order. Heritage is not a gift you receive, it is a gift you pass on and for pragmatic reasons as Hibernians we should be doing everything in our power to encourage recognition of the accomplishment of the Irish in our communities and a reawakening of pride in those who may have become disconnected from their heritage.

Let us also acknowledge that yes there are forces at work that are consciously or unconsciously trying to dilute or deprecate the Irish American experience. Those who wish to remind us that “we are all immigrants” have an obligation to tell the full story of the Irish American experience fairly. As Hibernians we know that the Irish were driven from their homeland due to unspeakable suffering and political repression. We also know that they were not welcomed to this nation with open arms; that is why the Hibernians came into being. Yet, the Irish by their own diligence overcame these obstacles and rose to prominence in every field of endeavor and became nearly synonymous with patriotism, service and sacrifice to their country.

It is a story worth telling, especially at this point in our nation’s history. We have to ensure that our young people grow up with a feeling of pride in their heritage equal to the pride other young people are formally encouraged to feel in theirs. We have to challenge the reticence of our governmental and educational institutions in telling it and correct some selective amnesia. It all starts with asking a respectful why to our educational institutions; why Irish American Heritage Month is not celebrated on par and for pragmatic reasons as Hibernians we should be doing everything in our power to encourage recognition of the accomplishment of the Irish in our communities and a reawakening of pride in those who may have become disconnected from their heritage.

And it is up to our own Hibernian house in order on Irish American Heritage Month. Let’s take some basic steps ourselves as Hibernians to fulfill our duty to promote Irish American Heritage month.

• Begin work now to have March recognized as Irish American Heritage in your state and community.
• Work with your local media to do a story at the beginning of March on Irish American Heritage Month, the role of the Irish in your community, and the activity of your Division (as a side effect you may get some new members).
• Be a good ambassador for your heritage, let’s not deprecate the celebration of our heritage by calling it “The Green Season” or something else trivial; it is Irish American Heritage Month, centered around our celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Let’s remember the reason for season.
• Please update you website, Facebook pages, make sure a recognition of “Irish American Heritage Month” is prominently displayed.

The National plans to continue and expand its “Irish American Profiles” during March, please on the individual sites, like and share and encourage your friends and family to do likewise. The more awareness we raise the more that Irish American Heritage Month will be accepted and respected.

Alabama

Father Trecy Division held their first AOH Recruitment Picnic followed the same month with an initiation of two new Brothers. The Division hosted their very first Half Way to St. Patrick’s Day Recruitment Picnic for Potential Members and their Families in North Alabama parishes. The recruitment picnic included a live performance by Jil Chambless and Dan Vogt, incredible Irish and overall Celtic musicians prominent on the Alabama Celtic music scene since the late 1980s who have also played throughout the United States and abroad. As the result of this picnic, an Initiation was held the same month welcoming two new Brothers into our worthy Order!

National Hibernian Digest, October - November 2018
The news in September illustrated our need to sustain and increase our charitable efforts toward increasing vocations, the pursuit and dissemination of Irish History, decreasing hunger and providing relief in the face of natural disaster. Hurricane Florence reminded us that natural disaster is never far from our door. The pernicious predilection of pedophilia makes all too clear the need to remain united in our defense of the church and support the formation of faithful servants of the church.

The challenges we have recently experienced are balanced by the joy and celebration associated with the many Irish festivals and feasts that harvest time (Lughnasa) brings. The resilience of our Irish ancestors is displayed anew for us this fall in the film Black 47, a cinematic exploration of An Gorta Mór. We have been fortunate to establish a partnership with the distributors of the film in putting up donation stations for Hibernian Charities and information stations for AOH/LACH recruiting. I urge you all to use the film as an opportunity to share with the many who are sadly unaware of the truth of this critical period of Irish history and to make the most of the opportunity to raise funds for Hibernian Charities.

Please donate to Hibernian Charities in support of Project St. Patrick (vocations) the Hibernian Hunger project, Disaster Relief, Medal of Honor Grove, Irish History Essay, Contests, and Study Abroad Scholarships. You can do so by writing your check to Hibernian Charities & Missions by Joseph J. Norton, Ph.D., Chairman.

In memoriam

Michael A. McNerney 1937 - 2018

Michael A. McNerney, 80, passed away on September 4, 2018. He was born in Niagara Falls, NY, on October 7, 1937, Mike was a graduate of Niagara Falls High School and Niagara County Community College. Mike served with the United States Air Force from 1955 until his honorable discharge in 1959.

On October 13, 1962, he was married to Barbara Stybak at Sacred Heart Church in Niagara Falls. Mike worked as an accountant at Hooker Chemical for many years. He was the former owner and operator of Power City Industrial Services and was a certified New York State Appraiser. In 2001, Mike and Barbara became the owners and operators of McNerney’s Irish Imports, which they operated until his passing.

Mike was a member and past president of the Reverend James J. Browne Division 1, Niagara County, New York. Mike was elected to five terms as division president, serving longer than any other division member in history in that office. He also served as financial secretary and numerous other offices for the Niagara County Board, including president.

Mike was an effective ambassador for the division and advanced the cause of the AOH throughout Western New York. While at the helm of the division, he carried out his duties with very human and always first-class approach to his job and to the support of his members. Those who knew him well always admired his work ethic and his ability to juggle the many demands of his job.

Mike is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara (Stybak) McNerney; his daughter, Jennifer; his son, Michael; his grandchildren, Jessica, Mia, and Callum McNerney; and his sister, Phyllis (Robert) Donovan. He was predeceased by his brother, Ronald McNerney.
I would like to sincerely thank Worthy National President Judge James McKay for selecting me to serve as National Chairman of Rituals and Degrees for the upcoming term. It is certainly a great honor and I will strive to put forth efforts to ensure that that confidence was not misplaced. I also look forward to working together with National Vice President Danny O’Connell and all the Major Degree Team Chairmen and Team Leaders in advancing the important Degree works of the Order.

November is a time when we as Catholics take time to reflect upon and remember family members, loved ones and friends who have passed on to their eternal reward, particularly in the celebration of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day.

The Men’s Basketball Team at my alma mater, Villanova University, employs as one of their slogans, “We play for those who came before us,” recognizing those former players who worked hard over the years in establishing a foundation of excellence and building a great tradition. Seeking inspiration and motivation in such a principle certainly has served the Wildcats quite well in recent years.

Likewise, these Brothers who are members of our Major Degree Teams put in extensive time and effort to carry on our wonderful traditions in the ritual of the Major Degrees, in part out of great respect for those Brothers now departed who established and built our fine Major Degree Teams. I am thinking of inspirational men like predecessors at the National Chairmen of Rituals and Degrees position, Al O’Hagan, of the Round Tower Team, and Pat Shannon, of Tara Court, as just two.

My own Isle of Erin Major Degree Team of Allegheny County, PA, has recently endured a difficult stretch in the past 18 months, where no fewer than six active or retired Team Brothers have passed. I would like to acknowledge them now: Frank Mahoney, who served as one of my personal Degree Team mentors; fellow Villanova Alumni Leo Dolan; and our four “Jims”: Jim Nash, Jim Wilson, Jim Cunnon and, most recently, Jim Daugherty. In tribute to Brother Doc and as is our longstanding tradition, Isle of Erin will be dedicating the performance of its next Major Degree Ceremony to Doc’s memory.

As we enter into November we consider it important to carry on the tradition and legacy all of our fallen Brothers helped establish.

And to all former members of our Major Degree Teams who may have passed in the last year, we salute and thank them for their most important service to our Order. In the future, when a current or former Major Degree Team member dies, kindly pass that information along to me as I would like to include their names here in this column.

Also, on November 11, we will commemorate Veterans Day and the 100th Anniversary of the armistice ending of World War I. We salute all our Major Degree Team members who are veterans and served in the Armed Forces and thank them for their service to our country as well as all veterans throughout our Order.

I have recently been advised that Brother Mike Glenn is stepping down as Chairman of the Schenectady Major Degree Team after 41 years of service with that team. We sincerely thank Mike and congratulate him for such an extraordinary record of commitment and dedication to the Degree works of the Order and wish him well. Slainte, Brother!

The pipes, the pipes are calling

The 2019 March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 18, 2019. President McKay has called upon all willing and able bagpipers to help lead the Hibernian contingent. If you are able to help in this endeavor, please contact me by email at jaywarp18@gmail.com.

March for Life planning underway

Plans for January 18’s March for Life are already underway. The annual pre-march breakfast, hosted by the D.C. State Board, will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Irish Channel Pub. Cost remains at $25/pp for the hot breakfast buffet. The committee is working to finalize plans for the Hibernian Mass. Details will be communicated by email to State Presidents and Chairmen.

Now for this year, the committee is looking into hotel rates and room blocks for Hibernians looking to spend the night before/after in D.C. While the March for Life has rooms available at the Renaissance Hotel, better rates were found the day before the 2018 rally by traveling brothers. Hibernians will meet no later than 12:30 p.m. at the corner of 7th St NW & Constitution Ave. (the National Archives Museum). As in years past, we will jump into the parade line after the March for Life banner has gone past our meet-up location.

September/October Awareness Month Designations

For those of us who espouse a pro-life view, September/October are important awareness months in our fight for a fully pro-life society. September is Suicide Prevention Month; National Veterans Affairs Chairman Jim Green has written before about the truly horrifying prevalence of suicide among our veteran population (~20/day). Even more upsetting is that veterans’ suicides account for 18 percent of all suicide deaths, while only making up 8.5 percent of the U.S. adult population. The intersectionality of our pro-life message is truly inspiring, but creates within us a responsibility to always look out for ways to help those harmed by our culture of convenience and instant gratification.

To name only a few, October hosts Mental Illness Awareness Week, Domestic Violence Prevention Month, Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month, Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and Infant (SIDS)/Pregnancy Loss Awareness Month. By honoring and working to promote any of these awareness campaigns, Hibernians help advocate an inclusive and consistent pro-life message that feeds our own soul while protecting others.

Tomhas na Teanga

Tamall ó shin, luachgh m' go raibh mac an Ghinearraidh George McClellan ina mhéara ar chathair Nua-Eabhrach ag tús na fhíachtaoise. A white ago, I mentioned that the son of General G.M. was mayor of NYC at the beginning of the 20th century. D’fhoghlaim mé sin ó phláca ar dhroichead M anhattan. I learned this from a plaque on the M anhattan Bridge. Bhí, i bpáirc eile i mBhrooklyn, Plás Cadman, tá séadchomhartha in ómós dá chomharba, duine darb a'inn William Jay Gaynor. 'Sige, i another park in Brooklyn, Cadman Plaza, there’s a monument to his successor, someone named... Bhi seisean ina mhéara idir 1910 agus 1913. He was mayor between... Agus duine an-suimilí a bhi ann. And he was a very interesting person.

Caiteilghe de bhunadh na hÉireann ab ea abha thuiscíteoirí, agus doibh go raibh sé fín ina bhraithair. His parents were Irish Catholics, and he himself almost became a brother. Achte ar a, chaill sé a chreideamh agus a fós óg. But alas, he lost his faith while still young. D’fhéadfadh sé ina dhildóir ina dhiaidh sin. He became a lawyer after that. Tochtaigh mé as bhreithreámh ar chuir sé acht dochtas Nua-Eabhrach. He was elected as a judge on the NY supreme court. Bhi baint aige le Halla Tammany, agus ba 7aise a cheadaigh leis chun a bheith ina mhéara. He was connected to TH, and it was they who helped him become mayor. Ach cuir sé diomá orthusán, mar rinne sé gach iarracht, mar bhreithreáthas agus mar mhéara, seasaimh le cearta na ndaoine agus a bhfeidhm iomhraíocht. But he disappointed the, because he made every attempt, as a judge and as mayor, to stand with the rights of the people and to be honest. Leasaithseoir ab ea é, agus ba maith le H.L. Mencken é mar gheall air sin. Bhí é a'fearm, and... liked him for that. Ach ní raibh i ndán dó deach strachas, mar a bhi dheach air. Nua-Eabhrach san a'os in. But only frustration was in store for him as it was extremely difficult to set up honest government in NY back then.

I 1910, láimhgha duine darb a'inn James Gallagher sa mhuinteál é. In 1910, a person named... shot him in the neck. Glacadh grianbhal den nóiméad sin, de théaisme,
on the families in the years that followed and to this day”.

AOH National Vice-President Danny O’Connell said: “Both Jerry Cole and I have visited Ballymurphy before and were familiar with the events of the Massacre, but hearing the deep pain in the voices of these family members as they spoke of the murders of their loved ones, while standing in the very spots where these murders were committed, was deeply moving. The AOH, as a leading voice of the Irish in America, recognizes the upcoming Ballymurphy Massacre Inquest will be a fundamental test of Britain’s ability to give legacy justice.”

O’Connell continued by saying, “Today, we stood shoulder to shoulder behind the campaign banner with the Ballymurphy families, to pledge American support in their fight for justice and truth”.

“We will report what we saw and heard today,” O’Connell continued “back to our membership across the United States, and to our elected representatives. The AOH will follow this briefing by monitoring the Inquest, and providing updates on the testimony to our members. We will bring, Carmel Quinn, a sister of one of the Ballymurphy Massacre victims, to America and bring Ballymurphy’s story directly to our members in a multi-state speaking tour in November. These families are entitled to truth about the killings of their loved ones. The AOH pledges to help them in their long battle to get that truth and justice.”

FFAI Chair Martin Galvin that “British colonial secretary Karen Bradley has already admitted she had no understanding how elections are fought in the north. The Ballymurphy Inquest may teach her she has no understanding of how British troops fought by shooting unarmed Irish civilians in the north”.

Remember the AOH in your will

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.”

Why I’m a Hibernian

By A. Warren Scullin

I celebrate and promote my heritage and my values. I am one member of a national organization of brothers and sisters who share these values, helping those in need, believing that it is their duty to make their community a better place for the next generation.

I am a Hibernian — one of thousands — working for peace and justice for all in Ireland, and improving the lives of all by living our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.
Carrigan Division celebrates anniversary of namesake’s death

On August 18, Colorado’s Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division held a Mass to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the death of Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan — the namesake of the division. Carrigan died August 14, 1938.

The Mass was held at Saint Patrick’s Mission Church in Denver. Carrigan came to Colorado before it became a state and his fiery spirit as a pioneer led parishioners to build the church in 1900. The church features roughhewn beams on its ceiling that each have an ‘H’ for Hibernians carved into it.

Following the Commemorative Mass for the Division’s namesake, the group went to Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge for a blessing of Carrigan’s grave.

Pearse Division hearing the call

Under the leadership of a host of new officers, members of the Kansas City Missouri Padraig Pearse Division 1 have responded with a full-on recruitment effort that is yielding impressive results. Since the first of the year members have identified and recruited 12 men to join the proud ranks of the Pearse Division (six in April, six in September). Additionally, three former members have been brought back into the organization.

Under the guidance of Financial Secretary Zach Daughtrey, a new formal and more celebratory initiation ceremony has been developed, so that new members understand this is an important step they are taking and that there are big expectations with calling oneself a Hibernian. Following the ceremony members gather for a brief membership meeting and a toast to the new members.

An ongoing effort to keep the new members engaged involves past presidents being assigned to immediately take new members out to lunch and reinforce the importance of the Hibernians to the Catholic and Kansas City communities, the honor of being a member and to help identify what their interests are, making sure they become active members from the beginning.

The success of these efforts was rewarded over the Labor Day weekend. The Pearse Division ran one of the busiest ticket booths at Kansas City’s annual Irish Festival and this year five of the six April initiates handled at least one shift over the busy weekend (only a long-time commitment over the weekend prevented all six from participating).

Division President John McEvoy complimented members with the quality of the new recruits and challenged members to keep the hard press on to grow the division. He noted recruitment of members is a focus for the national organizations and suspects the Pearse Division in 2018 may be on the leading edge of this effort.

Missouri

Pearse Division President John McEvoy administers Hibernian oath to six new members.

California

EASTER RISING DIVISION 1 VENTURA COUNTY PROCESSES IN OUTDOOR MASS

From left, Joe Delaney, Dan McGrath, President John McNally, Founder and past President Bill Ferguson, Paul Caron and Paul Montgomery.
By Phil Gallagher

The 8th annual AOH Connecticut softball bash was hosted by the Danbury AOH in August. Bridgeport, led by the Ted Lovely clan and a few Danbury free agents, recaptured the trophy. As always money was raised for a good cause, which in this case was for pediatric cardiac research.

The Commodore Barry Commemoration of the Fairfield County AOH took place in Southport on September 8 with the assistance of AOH member Father Victor Martin, invocation, the Port 5 Naval Reserve, the Gaelic American Club Pipe Band, and the John Barry 4th Degree Assembly the K. of C.

A capacity crowd was on hand to witness this colorful event, which this writer had the honor of giving the inaugural keynote address back in 2007! Retreat Director Dave Howe announced that the annual State Board retreat will be held on the weekend of November 2, 3 and 4 at Holy Family Retreat Center. This year’s theme is “No Ordinary Path,” and is inspired by the words of His Holiness, Pope Francis.

The Naugatuck AOH hosted President Tom McDonough and the Connecticut State Board meeting on September 29, at the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia, where Naugatuck Chaplain and Parish Pastor Father James Sullivan celebrated Mass prior to the meeting in the Church’s restored Chapel.

The Greater Danbury Irish Festival was held on the weekend of September 21-23. The event was sponsored by the AOH and LAOH and chaired by Bill Knowles and had a successful weekend on the grounds of the Portuguese Cultural Center.

Stanford Hibernians will hold a Mass for deceased members on November 4, and on December 11 they will co-sponsor a bus trip to the Westchester Broadway Theatre to a concert of the New York Tenors. For info call Lorraine Sheridan at 203 348 7983.

The Connecticut AOH is known for family-oriented activities. In that regard, three Divisions held successful family picnics in September. New London held their annual picnic on September 8, while Meriden’s was held at the spacious grounds of their home on the 15th. Waterbury Hibernians were well fed and entertained by Keltick Kick when their annual picnic was held at the Walcott VFW on September 23.

As we go to press Waterbury and State Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Joe Flaherty was planning the annual 1981 Hunger Strike Commemoration, which we will report on in the next Digest! For news or info: (jpagallagherct@sbcglobal.net)

New Haven Division 7 President Jason McWade and friends enjoyed the Division’s annual cruise of the historic Thimble Islands.

Fairfield First Selectman Mike Tetreau presented a Proclamation honoring Commodore John Barry to JFK President Tom Keane at the Fairfield County AOH Barry Commemoration.

Chairman Mark Ryan, far right, is all smiles as he and other Bridgeport Hibernians celebrated the success of their first cornhole fundraiser!

Over 100 turn out for AOH Division 32’s Annual Picnic

The Flaherty boys and brother Patrick (their Man of the Year) organized the annual picnic, which began with a Mass by Division Chaplain Dan McCarthy and included Bingo, great food, the awarding of six $500 scholarships to Catholic school students who participated in Division service projects and a 50/50 pot-of-gold raffle won by Bill Ristau. Dennis Corcoran, John Bauer, Mark Howe, Larry Kelly, Ken Seigal, Tom O’Connor, John Resch in-absentia and many others pitched in to help make this a great success.

At the August 22 Executive Board meeting, AOH charitable account funds made possible thru dues, golf event sponsorships, raffle participation and generous gifts were approved for donation to The Young Irish Fellowship Club as well as two deserving individuals, one of whom is a Viet Nam war veteran who suffered a stroke on June 20th. For more information, pictures and schedules of upcoming activities please check their Facebook page of AOH AOH as it is their main social media presence.

Illinois

Marty Moriarty, left, Mike Flaherty and John Flaherty.
Massachusetts

By Charlie Sinclair

I hope everyone had a safe and happy summer. Now we can get down to business. Here is a sampling of AOH events and activities that are taking place across the Bay State.

Division 1 Holyoke

Thanks to all who participated in the Big E Parade: Pete, Pat & Paul Hogan, Owen Donohue, Charlie Popp, Amanda Olmo, Paula Paoli, Mary Pat Murphy & Barbara Tovohig. Our contingent swelled with Hibernian Pride as we were joined by members of the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade Committee and AOH members, Devin Shoehan, DJ O’Connor, Mark Joyce & Gerald Healey. Now that’s Unity & Friendship!

The Annual Nostalgic Autumn Train Ride on the Pioneer Valley Railroad will be held on October 27. This trip allows one to take a step back in time by riding inside a 1930’s Era fully restored coach during a one-hour long trip along Holyoke’s longest running rail line.

Division 8 Lawrence

The Annual Hibernian Family & Friends Irish Cookout that was scheduled for September 15 was cancelled due to the 75+ natural gas explosions and fires that rocked South Lawrence, Andover and North Andover homes and business on September 13. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declared a State of Emergency in these three areas. Many residents were forced to evacuate their homes for four days. Though electricity in the area has been restored to most, natural gas service to many will not be restored until mid-November. Many Hibernians who live in the area and whose energy is fueled by gas are among those without heat and hot water.

On November 1, the Division will kick off their 47th annual FFAI Fundraiser and Christmas Appeal, which is being headed by FFAI Chairman Bob Collins.

On December 12, the Division’s Christmas Party will be held at the Claddagh and the Installation of Officers will take place Jan. 2019.

Division 9 Plymouth

The Division held their Father John Murphy Boat Cruise in August. Brother Bill Bell and his band provided music for the cruise. Light food was provided along with Raffle Prizes. All members that attended had a great time!

Division 14 Watertown

The Division’s Annual Turkey Shoot will be held on November 16. All proceeds will benefit the Sonny Whooley Fund helping local families in need during the Christmas Season.

Division 14 extends a big Thank You to all who came out to play and support the Division’s Scholarship Golf Tournament!

Division 36 Worcester

On October 12, Division 36 will hold the Annual Dance to honor John Barry, Father of the U.S. Navy.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Past AOH National President Tom McNabb who passed in late July, a great Hibernian and good friend of the AOH in Massachusetts; and to Past LAOH National President Mary Ryann on the passing of her daughter, Bridget Mary, who passed in mid-August. May God hold them both in the palm of his hand.

And, that’s the way we see it in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. God Bless!

Deadline

Articles for the December-January issue are due no later than December 1

Indiana

August Fun in Indianapolis

In August, the Kevin Barry Division 3 held its annual family Hibernian Day. The day includes events coordinated with the Indiana State AOH reverse raffle, a picnic and golf outing, Vice President Jeff Veldhof organized the event with State President Dan McGinley.

The day of festivities began on a beautiful Sunday morning, with the annual AOH Golf Outing, coordinated by Mike Tobin and played at Pleasant Run Golf Course. Twenty-four players participated in a spirited outing. The competitive event was won by Dan and PJ Miles, Dennis Massingale and Vince Povinelli team.

At the eastside Moose Lodge, the grand day continued with a noon Mass celebrated by Division Chaplain, Fr. Glenn O’Connor. A picnic followed, the Division provided meat, baked beans and chips, and the state AOH brought beverages; members created a mix of dishes and desserts. While enjoying a great meal, members, families and friends were entertained by the Indianapolis Celti Band. Children congregated at a large bouncy house and water slide throughout the afternoon.

Jimmy McGinley announced the drawing for Notre Dame Football tickets, which have been donated for many years by the Earl Myers family. This year an entire season of tickets were available for a special raffle and the winner was Chuck McGinley. Proceeds are used to pay picnic expenses and help with the Division’s many charitable causes.

Following the picnic, the reverse raffle began under the humorous guidance of Master of Ceremonies Tom McNulty. Aided by Chris and Dan Meehan and a multitude of young people to draw numbers, the raffle proceeded awarding many great prizes and leaving only a small number of disappointed ticket holders.

Once again this annual event for a large Hibernian family proved to be much fun, with good cheer and great fellowship!

BBQ for our Veterans – Serving the Real Heroes

From left, OC Division 1 Tom Collins, OC Division 1 President Ed McLaughlin and Donna O’Neill, California State Vice President, and Long Beach Plunkett-McDonnell Division President Dave and Nelly McKenna as well as OC Division 1 Political Education Officer Emmet MacRaghaill.

Hibernian grill specialist Dan Miles, left, Patrick Lyons, Brian Lyons, Bob McCurdy (Division President) and Jeff Veldhof (Picnic Chairman).
Kansas AOH presents ‘Irish Immigrants in Major League Baseball’

Hibernian Brother Seán Thomas Kane, of the Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division, gave an entertaining talk at the Kansas City Irish Fest over the Labor Day weekend. The presentation highlighted the 48 Irish immigrants who have played in Major League Baseball since the 1870s. Kane focused his lecture on some of the more colorful Irish-born players.

Ed Duffy, in 1871, became the first Irish immigrant to play professional baseball. Hugh Daly, one of the top professional pitchers of the 1880s, threw 483 strikeouts in one season, including 19 in one game. On the other side of baseball notoriety, Joe Cleary holds the record for the highest Earned Run Average for any pitcher. The Cork native in his one major league game recorded an ERA of 189.0. That was in 1945, and it was 67 years before the next Irish-born player was seen in another major league game.

Brother Kane discussed local Kansas City baseball history, including two of the city’s pre-Royals’ professional teams: the Kansas City Cowboys (1880s) and Kansas City Athletics (1955-1967). Local Irish baseball players Barney and Frank McLaughlin played for the Cowboys during the 1884 season. Currently, there is only one Irish-born professional player, Belfast native P.J. Conlon, who pitches for the New York Mets’ AAA team, the Las Vegas 51s.

An Irish Cultural Tent is always part of the annual Kansas City Irish Fest, held at Crown Center in downtown Kansas City every Labor Day weekend. Sean has frequently contributed to these cultural workshops, making presentations on other aspects of Irish history and culture. Sean is earning his masters degree in history at the University of Missouri–Kansas City where he is studying the Renaissance and Early Modern European history.

Iowa AOH State Board and the Iowa IRISH Fest

The Iowa State Board, consisting of Iowa divisions Dubuque County 1 (Dyersville), Dubuque County 2 (Dubuque), Blackhawk County 1 (Five Sullivan Brothers Division) and Polk County 1 (Des Moines), held its State Board meeting on August 3 during the Iowa Irish Fest.

Shamrock Division donates to schools

The Shamrock Division of the AOH in Minnesota recently has donated $2,000 to local Catholic Schools. Four Catholic Schools each received $500 donations. The Shamrock Division tries to be active in the local communities by sponsoring programs associated with promoting our Irish Heritage such as funding Hibernian Scholarships, sponsoring local traditional Irish music, assisting in local Irish events and now donating to help local Catholic Schools.

Please see us on Facebook or on our website for more information – hibernians-shamrock.com

Dubuque County Division 2 members prior to marching Colors into the opening ceremony of the Dubuque Iowa Hooley.

Members of Dubuque County Division 1 LAOH St. Brigid before the opening ceremony of the Dubuque Iowa Hooley.
Nebraska

Nebraska Hibernians in Action

Sarpy County Division 1 Hibernians continued their long tradition of serving meals at Omaha’s Stephen Center. In August the division served close to 180 homeless people and families. The Stephen Center was founded in 1984 and named for one of the church’s first deacons appointed by the Apostles and he is recognized as the first martyr. Initially a men’s homeless shelter, its operation has expanded to help families “achieve housing, the addicted achieve sobriety, the sick achieve wellness, and the fearful achieve strength.”

The Division spends hours and resources raising funds for the Center. One feature is the annual harvesting of grapes for the Soaring Winery one of the local Nebraska wineries they work at and are paid by the pound. These efforts result in charitable works in Stephen Center in the kitchen and serving meals multiple times during the year as well as supporting other area foodbanks. Thanks to the members’ volunteering the region knows several hundred residents eat good meals and are prepared to meet the challenges they are desperately trying to overcome.

St. Patrick... special update

Our Flanagan Division has prided our organization in having St. Patrick represented at many of our various events over the years here in the Omaha area, to include our St. Patrick Parade, the longest running parade in this area. One of our mainstays is our St. Patrick statue, which has been part of our organization for several years.

The Barrett family here in Omaha purchased this saintly statue and has graciously let our Father Flanagan Division utilize it in our various events, including the St. Patrick Parade over many years.

Over the years, our St. Patrick statue has aged, like the rest of us, and time came for us to send this statue to get a “facelift,” so he could continue this life of service well into the future. We worked with the Barrett family to determine the appropriate course of action and thanks to the great work by Kris Haase of Haase Statuary, our statue of the great Irish Saint looks 20 years younger and is ready for continued service. In discussing this process with the Barrett family, they were very pleased that they could continue their excellent relationship with our Division and they hope that the good St. Patrick statue will live on as an important part of their family and our Father Flanagan Division! If you are in Omaha, please stop by their fine establishment and take a look at our youthful statue of the good saint.

Newer AOH Division Welcomes Immigrants

The John Fitzgerald Division in Lincoln Nebraska annually conducts a Half Way to St. Patrick’s Day Irish Hooley. The celebration is a highlight of the Capital City’s week long effort to welcome new immigrants, from all countries. The Division assist with the city’s effort to provide information and assist new Americans to transition well to their new home.

As reported in the local newspaper Division President Ben Coleman noted their interest in participation is inspired by “the rude welcoming his people received when they came ashore more than a century ago.”

The new Division (started 2017) opted for a primary focus on the immigrant welcome week for its single big activity; while they begin to grow their membership. The convenient September timing of the annual Nebraska International Week, led to notion of a half-way to St. Patrick’s Day celebration. The Hooley is designed to be family-friendly and free with Irish dancers and when available a band or at least recorded Irish music. The fare is alcohol-free but includes “plenty of potatoes.” In 2018 a local radio station KZUM 89.3FM provided support for the event.

The event provides much publicity and promotion to help with new member recruitment. As numbers grow the Division seeks to grow it fundraising efforts and expand activities to other local good causes and support the Freedom for all Ireland charities.

Caption: John Fitzgerald Division Lincoln brothers (left to right) John Costello, Dylan Tilley, Ben Coleman (President), Dennis Coleman and Mark Lindner

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Hibernians presented with flag

Members of the Notre Dame Division 1 and the LAOH Notre Dame Division 2 of Swedesburg, Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pa., were recognized for their support and prayers to the service personnel of the United States Air Force serving in Syria and Iraq.

Senior Master Sergeant Jeff Tobin and members of the U.S. Air Force 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron sent a plaque and a flag to the AOH membership. The presentation was conducted by Sergeant Jeff Tobin’s father, John Tobin, to Division President Mark Ryan and LAOH President Rae Dispaldo.

The flag was proudly flown in an F-15E strike Eagle on a combat sortie over Syria and Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve by Captain Derek “Trump” Olivares and Captain Troy “Blaze” Wilkie on June 18.

Notre Dame Division 1 President Mark Ryan, John Tobin and LAOH Notre Dame Division 2 President Rae Dispaldo.
Westchester County proclaims 'Gaelic Mass Day'

It was officially "Gaelic Mass Day" on Saturday, September 30, as Hibernians, led by New York State AOH President Vic Vogel and joined by local Irish community groups and parishioners, gathered for an Irish-language Mass at St. Barnabas Parish in Westchester County. The day began with County Legislator David Tubiolo announcing Westchester’s proclamation and presenting copies to New York State AOH, host Bronx AOH Division 5 and St. Barnabas Parish. The Gaelic Mass was said by St. Barnabas Pastor Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald and brought together fluent Irish speakers and many who had never heard the Mass said in the language of their ancestors. It may now become an annual event.

Among the AOH officers leading the march into the Church were State President Vogel, National Director Dan Dennehy, District Director Aiden O’Kelly Lynch, Bronx County President Bob Nolan and Division 5 President Martin Galvin. They followed Piper Dermot Moore, a son of the late Mary Holt Moore, who had been a key figure in the Bronx Gaelic League. AOH and Ladies AOH sashes and medallions made a colorful display. Fr. Fitzgerald welcomed everyone in English to the Mass offered in Irish for “all those persecuted for their Catholic faith and Gaelic language.” Woodlawn residents and Irish speakers, Division 5 Vice-President Ray Leyden, Aoife Farrell of Aisling and Mairead Greenan of Emerald Isle Immigration did the readings. Musician and Irish singer Dawn Doherty played and sang beautifully, while Daithí McLaughlin of the Brooklyn Gaelic Club assisted with the Irish hymns.

In his sermon, Fr. Fitzgerald said “The Catholic faith in Ireland, like the Irish language, had survived centuries of persecution and penal laws intended to wipe it out. Our ancestors had defied everything, attending outlawed Masses said by outlawed priests to keep their language and faith alive. We will survive the problems of today and come through stronger than ever.”

Following the Gaelic Mass, Martin Galvin President of host Division 5 said: “We were overwhelmed by the help and encouragement we immediately got for Gaelic Mass Day. The parish, AOH statewide, local Irish community groups, Irish language clubs and musicians contacted us offering help. We have already been asked to have an Irish language Mass said annually and other AOH Divisions want to follow through on the idea originally suggested by Vic Vogel.”

Galvin continued: “The Irish language is an important and indestructible part of our Irish heritage. We did not anticipate the deep appreciation, which even those like me who regretfully do not understand Irish would feel.

Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald said the Gaelic Mass. Establishing a new tradition of a regular Irish-language Mass in New York is an ongoing priority for Vic Vogel, the New York AOH State President.

FFAI fundraiser Nov. 16

The Albany Freedom For All Ireland Committee is holding our 16th annual fundraiser on Friday, November 16. This event raises funds to support programs that seek peace, progress and justice in the North of Ireland.

At this event we also highlight and honor the leaders in the FFAI movement by presenting the Fr. Murphy Award to individuals who advocate for equality, justice and a united Ireland. This year’s award recipient is AOH National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin for his dedication and resolve in advocating for the rights and freedoms of marginalized groups and individuals in the north of Ireland.

In addition, we are honored to announce our guest speaker, Carmel Quinn, from Relatives for Justice, in Belfast. Carmel is a member of the Ballymurphy Massacre relatives group, which advocates for families’ rights to a full inquest into the death of 11 unarmed citizens. Carmel’s work, and that of many, advocating on behalf of families impacted by this massacre, have led to the long awaited inquest into the investigation of the shootings, which has only just started, 47 years on.

We hope you are able to join us on November 16 but equally important for the support of this event and cause by taking a journal advertisement. The funds raised by this event and its journal go directly to charities active in seeking justice and fostering progress in the North of Ireland. We are accepting Journal Ads until October 31. Call me for a journal ad form of for more information. Go raibh maith agat as do chuid tacaiochta.

— John Levendosky, FFAI Chairman Albany AOH Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5, 917-620-4085

Division 5 banner on the altar as Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald celebrated Mass in the Irish language.

NY AOH State President Vic Vogel, center, was presented with the Gaelic Mass Day Proclamation from County Legislator David Tubiolo, second from right. On hand for the mass said in the Irish language were, from left, National Director Dan Dennehy, Bronx County President Bob Nolan, Vic, David and National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin.

National Director Liam McNabb takes a swing.

HIBERNIANS STEP UP TO THE PLATE FOR THE DISABLED

Albany AOH Division 5 held its annual Wiffleball tournament (chaired by Jeremy Hughes) and family picnic (chaired by Kevin O’Reilly) on September 8. The Wiffleball tournament raised money for the College of Saint Rose’s Living Resources program, which teaches independent living skills to the disabled in a college setting.

— Tim Weklar
New Jersey

9/11 victim honored, Division’s namesake

Hibernians from the AOH Hudson County, Nj, Father Mychal Judge Division 1, made a pilgrimage to the grave of the Division’s namesake, Fr. Judge. They placed a wreath at the gravesite in Totowa, NJ, and had a prayer ceremony led by their chaplain, the Very Reverend Victor Kennedy.

Judge was a chaplain serving New York City firefighters. He was one of the first to run into the North Tower on Sept. 11. On the 17th anniversary of the attacks, fellow Hibernians and colleagues remembered Judge as vividly in death as they knew him in life: a gregarious, irreverent man wholly devoted to God, whom many considered to be a saint.

Scholarships awarded

Four winners of a scholarship for high school students attending Catholic high schools were honored at an awards assembly by the Monmouth Division 2 Father Daniel G. Cahill Division. Pictured with the recipients and their families are President Declan Cassidy, Brother Dan Devine and Brother Craig Palmer.

Virginia

AOH Life Membership for Brother Hugh O’Brien

Virginia AOH State President Bill Halpin was honored to present National AOH Life Membership to Past State President Hugh O’Brien. Brother O’Brien distinguished himself from the moment he joined the General Thomas F. Meagher Division (44SP01). He served three terms as division president and in several appointed positions including Historian, Charities Committee Chairman, Parish Liaison, and the Past Presidents Committee. In addition to climbing the ladder to state presidency, he served as the state’s Bay Irish Chairman and currently holds the Political Education Chair.

Division Fights for Irish-American Heritage Landmark

Alexandria Division President Terry Riley is leading the fight to retain an important piece of Irish-American heritage. A park in the city has commonly been known as Fitzgerald Square, named after Revolutionary War hero and Irish immigrant Colonel John Fitzgerald. However, City Manager Mark Jinks initiated an effort to change the name to King Street Park. Some of cited reports that Fitzgerald owned slaves but one independent research found he did not own slaves. Jinks denies slavery as a decision factor.

Brother Riley has rallied support from several civic organizations, including The Ballyshaners, organizers of Alexandria’s annual St Patrick Day Parades, and parishioners of the Basilica of St Mary, the first Catholic Church in Virginia and was founded by Fitzgerald in 1795. Further, Riley’s petition to restore Fitzgerald’s name has collected nearly 2,000 signatures. Signatories demanded the city council “immediately restore the name Fitzgerald Square to the waterfront project … and emphasize the city’s deep Irish past and current culture”.

New York

Raising funds for charity

The Kings County John T. Rogan Division 12 Boat Ride upon the River Rose out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, New York, was held on August 25. The four-hour boat trip toured Jamaica Bay and the surrounding areas of Gerritsen Beach and other waterfront areas that buttress the bay. This is the main fundraiser that Division 12 holds during the year. Division 12 financially supports organizations and cultural affairs that promote Irish heritage and Catholic education. Joining Division12 in this endeavor were our sister Hibernians from Division 22, Division 19 and other Irish organizations in and around Kings County. Submitted by Tom MacLellan.

Pictured right:

On the Kings County, AOH Division 12, John T. Rogan Annual fund-raising boat trip on August 25 were, seated, Barney Cassidy, Turbo Burns, Tom MacLellan, Frank Thompson; standing were Marc Reilly, Brian Xerub, Brian Cassidy, Jimmy Hart, Jerry McCabe, Jimmy Cassidy, Brian Kelly, John Kelly, Dan Masterson and Phil Gilson.
President’s Message...
by Carol Sheyer

Hard to believe summer is gone and fall has arrived. Hope everyone is experiencing a beautiful fall. Before we know it the Holiday Season will be upon us.

All the National Board appointments have been made and the Board is ready to begin the 216-218 Proceedings. Please be patient with the election process. This is a very specific, and can be found on our website (www.ladiesaoh.com), or I would be happy to forward you a copy. 

Hard to believe the LAOH and AOH have been busy since the last newsletter. On Tuesday evening the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies had a special screening of “In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America” which was written, produced and directed by Maurice Fitzpatrick, who was present to introduce the film. On Friday the Hibernian Lecture was presented by Ruán O’Donnell who spoke on “America and the Irish Revolution, 1916-1922.”

During the visit the LAOH and AOH National Board members had the opportunity to meet with the 2018-2019 Scholarship recipients. Friday evening the LAOH’s donations were presented by National Vice President Karen Keane to the Cuswha Center and the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies.

In the past couple of weeks, raffle tickets for the LAOH National Board Fundraiser have been mailed to every State President and Division President. I am asking for all to participate and purchase raffle tickets in order to make this fundraiser a success.

The 2018 National Constitution will be placed on the LAOH website shortly and once the 2016-2018 Proceedings are approved by the prior administration they will be on the website under the Members Only Tab.

Want again to remind everyone of the upcoming 125th Anniversary Celebration to take place October 10-12, 2019 at the Historic Dearborn Inn. This is a once in a lifetime LAOH celebration so begin planning on attending this fun filled event. Letters with the early planning details, have been mailed to the State Presidents and all Division Presidents. Once all the details are completed information will be up on the website.

The past few days I was going through some papers and came across the following statement from one of our Past National Presidents. She wrote “In the past, all Presidents have stated how strong we must be in our motto of Friendship, Unity and Charity. This is a must! We are as strong as the links that bind a flower, tree or fence. As we pluck the petal, cut the branches or break the link of the fence it becomes weak and unable to flourish. The only way to keep strong is to respect one another. Many of us have strong personalities and some ladies think that their ideas are better, we achieve more with compromise. When we have dispersion in our ranks whether it be on the Division, County or State level we weaken that which binds us together. We are a strong Irish Catholic Organization; we are bonded by love of Faith to our Father, love to one another and love of our country and culture. Remember we must think before we speak, never hurt a sister, she may become one of your best friends in the future.”

Michigan

A Mass at the An Gorta Mor Memorial was held on September 16th at St. Joseph Shrine in the Irish Hills, Lenawee County, Michigan. Following Mass, wreaths were placed on the monument and light refreshments were served. This yearly event is hosted by Our Lady of Knock LAOH Division and the AOH St. Patrick’s Division of Adrian, Michigan.

Assistant Editor, Hibernian Digest

by Shannon Lehn

I am honored and humbled for the opportunity to serve as your assistant editor to the Hibernian Digest. I am excited for this opportunity and thankful to our National President, Carol Sheyer, for her faith in me. I look forward to meeting and getting to know more of my sister Hibernians nationwide.

The deadlines for submission to the Hibernian Digest are the first of every even month. I respectfully ask that the State Presidents forward my information to their Divisions, so our column can be on the page for all to see. Our objective is to show all the good being done in the LAOH throughout the country. Submissions for the Digest are very specific, and can be found on our website (www.ladiesaoh.com), or I would be happy to forward upon request. Submissions can be made to ashtibernianedi- tor@gmail.com. I can also be reached at that email, and also through text or calls at 313-740-6765.

I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to serve the organization that has given me so much. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of any assistance at all.
National Hibernian Digest, October - November 2018

by Karen Keane

Welcome to the new way to share information and ideas across the country. This newsletter will be a great instrument to share your thoughts with your Sisters across the country.

Since Convention, we had our big Hibernian weekend at University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Along with our Brothers from the AOH, we met with representatives of the Office of Student Financial Services and the Cushwa Center. The highlight of the meeting was the introduction of the two winners of the Hibernian Scholarship: Holly Miller of Camden, Ohio and Thomas O’Connor of Park Ridge, Illinois. Holly is a Junior majoring in Chemical Engineering. If we have any members in this field who are interested in mentoring, please let me know. Both students were very appreciative of the assistance given to them by the Hibernians.

The Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at Notre Dame provided us with the information on the grants and, in the afternoon, sponsored the lecture which was the highlight of the day. We were so pleased to hear Professor Ruan O’Donnell’s lecture on “America and the Irish Revolution, 1916-1922.” During his lecture, Professor O’Donnell spoke on the involvement of the LAOH and AOH in the road to Irish independence. His lecture was recorded and, as soon as it is available, I will email everyone the link to watch it yourselves.

After the lecture, all Hibernians were welcomed to a dinner reception at the Morris Inn which was hosted by the Cushwa Center. During the dinner, I was honored to present the two checks which we voted on during the National Convention. The first check was for $4,000.00 to the Cushwa Center to commemorate our 40th Anniversary with this institution. The second check was $2,000.00 for the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Please “like” both entities on Facebook and follow the events there are planning.

I hope that fills you in on what has been going on pertaining to the Office of National Vice-President. If anyone has any questions on these items or Degrees, or Juniors, please let me know.

I wish everyone a fabulous fall. I love the nip in the air and the changing of the trees. I’m not a big pumpkin spice fan thou. Enjoy it to the fullest.

Love to each of you my Sisters,

by Ann-Marie Nyhan-Doherty

President Carol Sheyer has honored me with the Immigration and Education Appointment on the National Board. This will actually be the fourth time I have held this position for I have served in this position under Presidents Ryan, Hennessy and Hogan.

If I were to tell you a little bit about myself it would have to include my strong Irish roots that date back to my grandparents who emigrated from County Cork and I come from a large family with strong Irish heritage. I held the office of President of Division 8 in Lawrence, MA for ten years and the office of Massachusetts State President for two. All the members of my immediate family are members of our local division.

My predecessor Mary Dolan had remarked how difficult this appointment was and I must agree. However, now that the position is referred to as Immigration and Education, I feel that there are many more opportunities to pass on information to the various States.

During my last three terms I was able to make valuable contacts, one of who is Siobhan Dennehy, Executive Director of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center in New York. She will be an asset to this position in her knowledge and experience in Immigration issues. She already knows that I will be counting on her.

My first task is to encourage every state where there is an LAOH membership to appoint a State Immigration person and to strongly encourage Divisions within the state to do the same.

Secondly, I intend to compile a list, with Siobhan’s help, of Immigration services available in each state so that this information could also be provided to our membership to pass on. I will also investigate the use of social media as a tool to inform our members of events, workshops, etc. in their local communities.

I will attempt to do my best and pass on any information that I come across regarding the wonderful work that is being done by our Immigration centers which is just as vital as fighting for Immigration reform. Even Pope Benedict recognizes the importance of the work being done by our own Catholic population. While addressing a group of US Bishops, he was quoted as saying, “The Catholic community in the United States continues, with great generosity, to welcome waves of new immigrants, to provide them with pastoral care and charitable assistance, and to support ways of regularizing their situation, especially with regard to the unification of families.”

I strongly urge our membership to become familiar with Immigration policies among your local senators and representatives. Even though the name of this appointment has changed, an individual LAOH member can always contact their local Congressmen and Senators to call upon them to address the issue of Immigration at every level. We must constantly be mindful that Immigration is not just an Irish issue.

Our LAOH membership needs to make a difference and to join the AOH in their efforts to support Immigration reform and support the wonderful works of our Immigration centers across the country. I am confident that this could be accomplished under the leadership of the National LAOH President-Elect.

If you have any questions or wish to contact me, please do at dancingds@comcast.net or by phone at 978-390-3400. I would also ask that you send me the contact information of your State and your respective Divisions’ Immigration & Legislation Chair. This information would be most helpful and allow me to pass along important information.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and support. It is an honor and a privilege to represent you all.

God Bless. Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

by Maire Kilbane Lefefl

My name is Maire Kilbane Lefefl. I am a member of Our Lady of the Rosary Division 5/10 in Cleveland, Ohio. I have served in many Division Offices including President. I am currently serving on the Ohio State Board as FFAI Chair. I am also the Guardian on the Ohio State Degree Team. I am honored that President Sheyer has appointed me as National Fundraising Chair. It is a great privilege to work with the National Board serving the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. 2019 will be a very exciting time for the LAOH, we will be celebrating our 125th Anniversary. Many plans are underway, especially on the National level. We are hoping to defray the costs from our National Treasury with a wonderful fundraiser. What a great way for State, County, Division boards and individuals to participate in our anniversary by supporting this effort.

Tickets are being mailed out for the LAOH National Board Fundraising Raffle, and extra tickets are available. Raffle details are on the attached flyer. Please make copies of the flyer and hand out at your next meeting, hang them at your Club!
Freedom For All Ireland

by Agnes Gowdy, Chairperson

Our National President, Carol Sheyer, has honored me by appointing me as the 2018-2020 National Freedom for all Ireland Chairperson, and I have accepted.

I have contacted Martin Galvin, the new AOH National FFAI Chairman, to introduce myself so that we can start a friendly working relationship.

I was in Ireland from May 20th to June 13th, 2018 and participated in the presentation of the FFAI checks to the various cross-community organizations as the LAOH National Ambassador, at the request of our PNP Patricia O’Connell.

In Belfast we met with representatives from Bridges Beyond Boxing, Belfast; the boys sometimes have nowhere to practice and we were shown some newspaper clippings of the boys practicing in the streets. The boys come from Belfast and surrounding areas and are a mix of catholic and protestant.

We also met with representatives from the Belfast National Graves, who gave us a tour of the Milltown Cemetery. We visited Holy Cross in Ardoyne and met with Fr. Gary Donegan and his team. Checks were also presented to, Relatives for Justice, Duchas Oiriall, Down Patriot Graves, Green Cross, Greater New Lodge Cultural Society, and the Pat Finucane Center.

We travelled by bus to Downpatrick to visit with a group at the Downpatrick Center. What a beautiful center and they are doing wonderful work.

Just a reminder that when the LAOH are sending their checks, they need to be sent to me. The check should be made out to LAOH Inc. and if you want to designate the money to a specific organization, it needs to be noted in the “note” line. As soon as I have the donation forms I will forward those via email.

I am in the process of setting up the FFAI committee for the next two years and look forward to working together and having a successful term.

Agnes Gowdy, Sengarose48@gmail.com

District of Columbia

In addition to having a marvelous time at the National Convention, the DC Ladies have had a busy Spring and Summer. In May, we shared a table with members of the AOH, at the Irish Embassy’s Open House, where we met many people passing through and we were able to explain our organization. Embassies from the European Community countries participate in this Open House, each spring. Walking up and down Embassy Row and visiting these various embassies is enjoyed by all.

In June, we helped judge the LAOH and AOH awards at the National History Day, which was held at Maryland University. Attending the major league baseball game between the Washington Nationals and the New York Mets on their Irish Celebration Day, was so much fun. The various Irish Pubs in the DC area provided the food. We plan an exciting year ahead, with many activities on the agenda.

Notre Dame Trip

Members of the LAOH, Margaret Haughery Division, New Orleans, Louisiana, and their guests gathered on Sunday, August 19, 2018, to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Knock. Each year as part of the Celebration, the Golden Rose Award is presented to a person who has excelled in supporting the goals of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and who has served the community in an outstanding manner.

The recipient of the 2018 Golden Rose Award is Eileen Capritto. Ms. Capritto has been an active member of the LAOH since 2011 and is involved in many church and community activities. She has received the Regina Matrum Award from the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the St. Elizabeth’s Guild Volunteer Activist Award, plus many more.

The day began with Mass at St. Patrick’s Church followed by a delicious brunch in the church rectory. We were honored to have Ms. Capritto’s family join us on this special occasion. Most, if not all, of her 10 children were with us, together with their spouses and children. Quite a clan!

Congratulations to Eileen Capritto for being named the LAOH Margaret Haughery Division’s 2018 Golden Rose.
Hibernians rejoice in the NY’s Hudson Valley

A great crowd and fine weather on Sept. 29 marked 10 years of the Hudson Valley Irish Fest, a festival organized by AOH and LAOH Division 18 Peekskill. One hundred percent of the festival committee and staff are volunteers. Some traveled from Ireland and across the USA to join Hibernians from Division 18 and Westchester, Bronx and New York County Divisions working on the Fest on a beautiful day!

Dan Dennehy, the Founding Chairman, and AOH NY State Director Aidan O’Kelly Lynch were presented with a Heritage Grant of $15,000 from the Emigrant Support Program of the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs, by newly arrived Sean O’hAodha, the New York Deputy Consul General of Ireland. Terrence Murphy, in the NY Senate; Sandy Galef, NYS Assembly; Linda Pugliese, Cortlandt Supervisor; and John Testa made presentations. Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey, Peekskill Councilmember Ramon Fernandez and Cortlandt Councilmember Creighton participated later in the day. All offered congratulations to the family friendly, community and culturally significant 10 years of our Fest and Center.

Joining representatives of the NY Rose of Tralee Center and Irish singing group ‘Two Wee Lassies’ are Aidan O’Kelly Lynch; Terrence Murphy, NY Senate; Sean O’hAodha, the New York Deputy Consul General of Ireland; Sandy Galef, NYS Assembly; Dan Dennehy; Kathie Talbot, Peekskill City Council; Debbie Carter Costello, Cortlandt Councilwoman; Fiona Brennan, HVIF Inc. VP; and John Testa, Westchester County Legislator.

Tom Lambert, NYS Director Aidan and Valerie O’Kelly Lynch.

The leader of the bands!
Nassau County Feis & Irish Festival

The Nassau County AOH and LAOH joined together to put on another successful Hibernian Feis & Festival on Sept. 16, the county Hibernians’ 46th annual feis. This year’s event was held at Nickerson Beach Park, on the south shore of Long Island.

Attendees and participants delighted in the dancing, thrilled to the marching bagpipes & drum bands, watched the step dancing and pipe band competitions, and enjoyed traditional Irish singing. There were games for kids, and a Gaelic Cul Camp. Many hundreds came and celebrated all that’s best of Irish heritage and culture.

This year’s Hibernian Festival honors Nassau AOH Division 7’s Richard O’Neill for his great service to the Order.

Richard O’Neill, wearing his 2018 NYC St. Patrick’s Day Parade Aide’s sash, was the special honoree of the Nassau County AOH-LAOH 46th annual Feis & Irish Festival. He is pictured here with, from left, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, County AOH President Peter Begley, County LAOH President Marylin Johnson, O’Neill, outstanding Master of Ceremonies Donal Mahoney and Feis & Festival Chairman Mike Byrne.

Roisin Dubh, of East Islip, in Suffolk County, looked and sounded sharp as they took the field.

Fabulous dancers competed in the competitions.

Dancers performed with heart and soul on the feis stages.

Michael O’Rourke was the co-founder, with the late John Bownes, of the Nassau County Hibernian Feis.

The much-applauded Tara Pipes & Drums was one of the competing bands.

County AOH Organizer Warren Scullin manned the New York State AOH Recruitment Tent during the feis.