

The National HIBERNIAN DIGEST



"Ireland unfree shall never be at peace" —Patrick Pearse, August 1, 1915

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June-July 2023

1.50

Hibernians build support in Washington, D.C.



AOH makes important introductions

Hibernian leaders recently met with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to introduce him to First Minister-Elect Michelle O'Neill. From left, NY FFAI Chair Vince Tyer, AOH member and U.S. Congressman Mike Lawler, First Minister-Elect Michelle O'Neill, Speaker McCarthy, former Representative Peter King, AOH President Danny O'Connell, Sinn Fein North American Representative Ciaran Quinn and Rockland County AOH Treasurer Bill Lee.

Working with both U.S. political parties, the White House, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America are making a lasting impact that will not be overshadowed by a visit from UK Prime Minister Sunak to the U.S. On Wednesday, April 7, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy left the UK Prime Minister and walked directly into his office to meet the AOH, who had First Minister Michelle O'Neill in hand.

The contingent was led by AOH Brother Mike Lawler, U.S. Congressman from NY who worked with Hibernian Brothers Vince Tyer (NY FFAI) and Bill Lee (NY) to be sure Michelle met as many members of the Congress as possible during her short time

in D.C. Brother Mike Lawler received an exemption as a freshman Representative to become a member of the Foreign Affairs committee. Mike is also a member of the Europe committee and several others.

The key to getting support from Democrats and Republicans is the simplicity of the issue involved – self-determination, parity of esteem, and respect for human rights. These are fundamental human values as well as American values. The asks of the Good Friday Agreement are modest and grounded in human decency. The Irish Times recently reported the AOH "has put renewed energy into Irish Affairs, including the Good Friday accord and

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The AOH St. Patrick Centre Young Ambassadors program begins

Nine members of the AOH and three members of Friends of St. Patrick Centre have landed in Ireland for the 16th overall class and the charter class of Hibernians. The Ambassadors hit the ground running, heading directly to Newcastle, County Down, from Dublin Airport to begin a 14-day trek around the North of Ireland. The aim of the Young Ambassador program is to establish a network of informed and influential individuals throughout North America who can actively represent the northern part of Ireland throughout their lives. Following a Zoom with all the Ambassadors, President Danny O'Connell commented that we have the right crew. These young men and women are clearly ready to jump into life in the North of Ireland.

AOH Brothers include Logan Joyce (PA), Thomas Cosgrove (IL), Patrick Clarke (KY), Thomas Clarke (KY), Brendan Savage (NY), Jack Mickle (PA), Dean Grandley (NY), Austin McKay (LA) and Aidan Morley (SC). These young men are joined by Maple Waldron (AZ), Colleen Mortell (Milwaukee) and Sean McNamara (Toronto) from the Friends of the St. Patrick Centre. They are living in three cottages in Newcastle, along the Irish Sea where they will be responsible for their own meals, etc. for the next two weeks.

Each Ambassador is writing a blog to capture the daily events. Brendan Savage from Division 1, Albany, writes that following the drive to Newcastle for a brief tour of the city and their accommodations, some of the guys went to Vigil Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church for the feast of Corpus Christi. They

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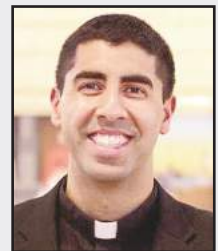


Young Ambassadors had the opportunity to meet with political leaders from all parties in the North of Ireland. The group is pictured here in front of the St. Patrick Centre with Cathy Mason, Sinn Fein MLA, and Chris Hazard, Sinn Fein MP.

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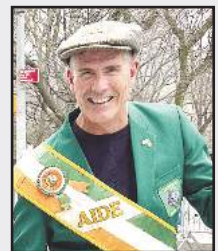
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Grand Reopening

Join us at
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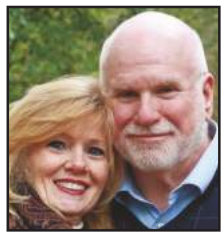
We have a night packed with electrifying live music from none other than Elephant in The Room!

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* All Hibernian members who produce their membership card will receive a 10% discount on the night!



DAN DEVINNEY

*Candidate for
National Treasurer*

Current Offices:

National Director, AOH National Board
Legal Counsel/Constitutional Chair, AOH National Board
Constitutional Chair, AOH Pennsylvania State Board
Constitutional Chair, AOH Allegheny County Board

Previous Offices Held:

Past Legal Counsel/Constitutional Chair, AOH National Board
Past State President, AOH Pennsylvania State Board
Past State Vice President, AOH Pennsylvania State Board
Past Legal Counsel, AOH Pennsylvania State Board
Past County President, AOH Allegheny County Board
Past County Vice President, AOH Allegheny County Board
Past County Treasurer, AOH Allegheny County Board
Past Legal Counsel, AOH Allegheny County Board
Past Division Vice President, AOH Div. 23, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Past Division Financial Secretary, AOH Div. 23 Allegheny County, PA
Past Division Standing Committee Member, AOH Div. 23, Allegheny County, PA

Special Committee Appointments:

Appointed to Constitutional Review Committee by Past Nat'l Pres. Brendan Moore
Appointed as Chairman for multiple fund raisers for AOH Allegheny County Board

Education & Career:

Duquesne University Graduate School of Business, M.B.A. Received December, 1995
Duquesne University School of Law, J.D. Received June, 1993
Mercy Hospital School of Anesthesia, Diploma Received August, 1984
Duquesne University School of Nursing, B.S.N. Received May, 1977
Founding Partner Law Firm of Kennedy, Cannon & Devinney, LLC (Ret.)
Practicing Nurse Anesthetist for 40 years (Semi-Retired)

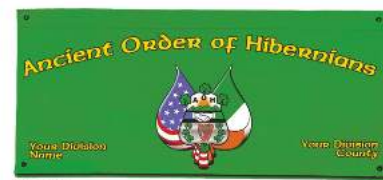
Endorsements: AOH Pennsylvania State Board • AOH Allegheny County Board
AOH Division 23 (Allegheny County) Board

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president's message

By *Danny O'Connell*

Convention season is upon us, and it is a time for our state leaders to showcase their service and accomplishments during their recent term of office. It's a time to get back to the basics and be sure every division is on track and every member understands the working of the Order. This includes required committee reports with a focus on our four major pillars, 1) membership and retention, 2) the Hibernian Charity Appeal, 3) the Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal, and 4) the FFAI Christmas Appeal. These pillars combined with your local service help make the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America the Greatest Irish Organization we know.

It is also time for you to consider if you have what it takes to serve the Order on the National Board. There are 10 elected positions on the board, including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and six at-large directors. At press time, we have one announced candidate for President, Vice President and Secretary, respectively, two announced candidates for Treasurer, and several candidates for Director. It would be great to have 10 or more candidates for Director. When I first ran for national office in 2006, we had 12 candidates for Director, and I finished 12th out of 12. That loss wasn't too bad because I was elected two years later in New Orleans and have just completed my 15th year as an elected member of the National Board.

We have had our share of success stories in the AOH throughout our history. The fact that we are the Oldest and Largest Irish organization with members in all 50 states is a success story. We are Irish, Catholic, American; another Success Story. We are moving forward and advancing with the times. Initiating some of the greatest Irish awards of our time, the John F. Kennedy Award recognizing success of Irish Catholics in their chosen field of endeavor, the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award, and now the Father Flanagan Human Dignity Award, all Irish American Success Stories. Now, we have begun a new program focused on our young members as we partner with the St. Patrick Centre Ambassador program, yet another AOH success story.

Young Ambassadors

I have begun my last three days reading emails and blogs from the Young Ambassadors at the St. Patrick Centre in Ireland. What a way to begin any day. These young Irish Americans will be our future leaders, and I am sure they will represent both the AOH and the Friends of St. Patrick Centre around the U.S. and Canada tremendously during their time in the North of Ireland and long after they return home. I believe that as we grow our partnership with the St. Patrick Centre, we will also grow our membership. This class is

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secretary's report

ed halligan

Greetings to all. Now that the AOH is in State Convention mode during the summer months, congratulations to all new and returning Officers or your respective State Boards. Please remember to revisit your Form 9 online and submit any updates as soon as possible. If you are a new President or Financial Secretary, reach out to the office via email (emhalli26@gmail.com) and Ray Lynch (irishyankeenut@yahoo.com) or contact 772-224-4928; we will update system access for you. Any roster needs: please contact Ray Lynch, Interim National Secretary.

Division Officers, please be sure that your 2022 Per Capita has been paid, it was due February 15, 2023. The per capita form can be found on the AOH website at <https://aoh.com/official-aoh-forms/>. Scroll down the page to Business Forms and click on the Division Financial Report. Follow the directions on the site and the form should be ready to edit. All members in good standing are permitted to attend conventions but your division per capita must be paid for you to participate more than an alternate.

Please remember when contacting the National Secretary office, you are required to reference your division number (the first six digits of your membership number), and a membership number if you need assistance with a member's record. Enjoy the rest of the months of summer. — Maria McDonald, National AOH Office Assistant

*"To be Irish is an honor
to be a Hibernian is a blessing"
Show your Hibernian Pride!*

**Deadline for next issue
of Hibernian Digest
no later than August 1, 2023**



vice president's report

By *Sean Pender*

Hoping that our state and county boards are having successful conventions with focus on the business of the Order, membership growth, and the appointments of full officers and chairs at each jurisdiction.

I had the great honor of representing our noble Order in Dublin at the 2023 Global Irish Forum hosted by the Government of Ireland, department of Foreign Affairs. Along with National Organizer Ryan Curry and Long Island AOH member Chris Thompson we attended the two-day event at Dublin Castle on April 20 and 21. The Global Irish Civic Forum is an initiative of the Irish Government to engage with the Irish diaspora from around the world. The forum brought together a diverse range of groups and individuals who shared a range of views and experiences. There were panel discussions, break-out sessions, and plenty of networking opportunities. Many of the groups are experiencing the same challenges related to funding, post covid activities and growth. I was very impressed with the program and the efforts that the Irish government and specifically the Department of Foreign Affairs has taken to stay connected and concerned with its worldwide diaspora. It is very apparent that the Irish government believes in the value of its diaspora. Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs Joe Hackett closed the forum by thanking the attendees and said that a reason why Ireland is so well respected throughout the world is because of the work of the diaspora. He said that the forum was important because, "You can't understand modern Ireland without spending time with our people abroad.

While my trip to Ireland was shortly after many of the events related to the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and the visit of President Joe Biden, one could still feel the excitement of both important events. I was able to engage in conversations related to two unfulfilled major issues related to the Good Friday Agreement: the UK legacy bill and the discussion on a referendum for a United Ireland. The bill, which was finalized by the British government early in June, is an insult to truth and justice. I am very proud of the leading role we have taken to combat this legislation. Our efforts and advocacy continued as on June 10 we held the first U.S. response to the legislation; the presentation included U.S. Congressman and proud AOH Member Brian Fitzpatrick, who reaffirmed the bipartisan support against this legislation, and the impediments that passage would cause to the U.S.-UK relationship.

In the North, a historic election was held and for the first time ever Nationalist/Republican parties hold most elected seats on local councils. The group Ireland's Future is promoting the discussion of what a united Ireland would look like and what would need to be addressed. Unlike Brexit their efforts have covered economics, health care, investment, social and justice issues. It is a movement we need to support.

Finally, I want to formally declare my intention to run for the office of National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I was honored to have first announced this at my division meeting and then the NJ AOH State Convention. I want to thank the Msgr. Crean Division 1 of Mercer County and the NJ AOH State Board for their endorsement. I would be honored for others to consider supporting my run.



National Organizer Ryan Curry, left, and National VP Sean Pender at the Global Forum in Dublin in April.

HIBERNIANS BUILD SUPPORT
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lobbying against British Troubles legacy proposals." This effort will continue until we have a free and United Ireland.

In a busy 24 hours, the AOH walked away with a strong re-commitment of support for the Good Friday Agreement, including new resolutions making it clear that the GFA has strong bipartisan support. President Danny O'Connell commented that we met with more Representatives than we have ever been able to meet in one day thanks to Rep. Lawler. His ability to connect the AOH and in turn Michelle O'Neill with the highest-ranking Republicans in Congress turned a lot of heads.

In addition to Speaker McCarthy, the AOH held meetings with Rep. Mike McCaul (TX), Chairman of the Foreign Affairs committee and a member of Homeland Security; Rep. Steve Scalise (LA), Majority Leader; Warren Davidson (OH), member of the Foreign Affairs committee; Rep. Dr. John Joyce (PA), member of the AOH and the Friends of Ireland Caucus; Rep. David Joyce (OH), Chairman Homeland Security and member of the Appropriations committee; and Rep. Jim Bard, member of the Foreign Affairs committee. Later in the day a reception was hosted where 15 U.S. Representatives stopped in to meet Michelle O'Neill and the AOH.

As Hibernians, we will continue to work with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle as we have done with AOH Brother Brendan Boyle (PA); Mike Kelly, the co-chair of the Friends of Ireland caucus; Bill Keating (MA), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; and every U.S. Representative and Senator who will support the rights of the people of Ireland, both North and South. It's time for the U.S. to hold the UK's feet to the fire, communicating to them that if they want to continue our "special relationship" they must support the Good Friday Agreement and demonstrate that support by ending the horrific legacy justice bill in Parliament.



O'Neill in D.C.
First Minister-Elect Michelle O'Neill enjoyed time in Washington, D.C. recently with New York Hibernians Vince Tyer and U.S. Representative Mike Lawler, and Peter King, a great friend of the Hibernians.



Hibernians gather with O'Neill
Michelle O'Neill flanked by two Hibernians serving in the House of Representatives, Mike Lawler (NY) and Dr. John Joyce (PA). Joining them were three more Hibernians, Vince Tyer (NY), Danny O'Connell (OH) and Bill Lee (NY).

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."



treasurer's report

By Liam McNabb

Involve others in leadership...

In my previous column, I highlighted how state conventions gather us together to conduct the business of the Order. As we are gathered together, it is an opportunity for engagement — for leaders to engage the membership and vice versa. Being together allows all of us to enjoy social activities but to also network with our Brothers from other Divisions to learn about their practices and successes. While conventions come and go, the sharing of best practices should continue, and it is incumbent upon our state and county leaders to create moments and facilitate these opportunities.

While many states have concluded their conventions at this time, there are others preparing for their meetings. Either way, the work is beginning for many new and returning Hibernian leaders and we ask that you focus on developing goals for your respective terms. A basic expectation from the National Board is to recruit leaders for all positions — elected and appointed — to carry out the important work related to each topic, issue or committee. This is critical for operations and, as always, an opportunity to involve, teach and coach newer members and leaders. Give someone a chance to serve in a role and contribute to the mission. We all make mistakes, but all learn and then move forward. Please consider taking a chance on involving someone new in your work. This engagement is valuable for the work of the group today and an investment in our members and leaders for the future.

As always, if I or someone from the National Board can help your leadership team with this approach or others, please contact me.



Director's report

By Dan Deviney, Deputy Legal Counsel

As we move into convention season, I would like to first thank all the Presidents in the various jurisdictions who are finishing up their tenure as President. They should be congratulated for not only their accomplishments as Presidents but for all their accomplishments as they made their way through the Chairs to the office of President. I would also like to congratulate all the incoming officers and wish them the best in this new phase of their AOH leadership. I would like to remind the new incoming Presidents of their duty to fill all their constitutional appointments. These appointments create the backbone of your administration. They are the means by which you communicate with the rest of your jurisdiction and the jurisdictions above and below your own. If you do not create this system of communication you are like a general going into battle with no way of communicating with your troops. Your chance of success is greatly diminished. These appointments also create the core workforce you need to accomplish your agenda.

What should that agenda be? Your agenda should be rooted in the fabric of our Order. It should be rooted in our Irish heritage and our Catholic faith. It should be structured around the Four Pillars of our Order: The Charity Appeal, whose programs look to feed the hungry, support those in trouble and promote our Irish heritage. The FFAI Appeal, which supports our efforts for a free and united Ireland. The Project Saint Patrick Appeal, which supports those called to serve our Lord in the United States and Ireland. Lastly and probably most importantly is membership recruitment and retention. This last pillar is an activity that needs to happen 24-7-365.

Make no mistake there is a lot of work to get done here. It is going to take a small army to make it happen. The building of that army is the job of the President and his Executive Board. The first step in the job of building that army in any jurisdiction needs to be the filling of the Chairs of the Order.



Director's report

By Ray Lynch

Brothers, I am sure you all are enjoying the warmer days we are experiencing across the nation. Summer is a great time for family and friends but it's also the time that the AOH moves into State Convention mode. Make every effort to come out and support your respective State Boards at your Conventions. This is a great way to connect with brothers and be part of the Business of the Order. These conventions are also an opportunity to partake in the Exemplification of the Major Degree, a very important right of passage for the Order.

In other news, I'd like to share something I have had the opportunity to begin to experience since our last Digest. Our Worthy National President appointed me Interim National Secretary as Ed Halligan is still on the mend. This will undoubtedly be a tough task to fill his shoes, but with everyone's assistance and patience I have confidence that I will get up to speed quickly. I will be reaching out to the current State Presidents to try and assist them with squaring away their County and Division Form 9s and roster information. This is a very simple process if you have a few minutes and the willingness to help me get your state's rosters up to par. These rosters are vital in our communication, both electronic and mailing information from the National Office. Thanks in advance for your anticipated assistance with this important matter. In closing, as you go about your daily business, please continue to keep our National Secretary Ed Halligan in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from medical issues. Please feel free to contact me at irishyankeenut@yahoo.com or (772) 224-4928 with any comments or suggestions.



Director's report

By BOB MEHRENS

Happy belated Father's Day and Happy 4th of July to all our members. It is my hope that everyone is having a happy and safe summer. State conventions are in full swing, and the National Board is working harder than ever to ensure that we hear from as many brothers as possible. The business of the Order can seem tedious at times but if we all remain diligent in our duties; as members of division, county and state boards we can continue to grow the Order. Remember that if we all continue to support the four pillars of the Order, we can ensure the success of the AOH for generations to come. Convention season is an exciting time because you all continue to find great leaders to pass the torch to. Please do whatever possible to help your leadership by letting them know what interest each of you have as an AOH member so the Presidents can appoint chairmen accordingly. Another reminder to all brothers: if you have an opportunity to receive your degree, please make that a priority in the upcoming months.

It has been my pleasure to serve as a National Director for the last three years. I have met so many wonderful people, so many great brothers, so many great leaders who continue to guide me.

At this time, I would like all of you to know that at the convention in Florida, I will be running for national treasurer. I have been a Hibernian for nearly 20 years now. I have been a Division and State President, along with holding all the chairs at the division level. My professional experiences as a leader outside of the Hibernians has paved the way for me to continue in a leadership role for the AOH. At 49 years old I am ready to fulfill all the duties necessary to make the AOH successful going forward over the next 12 years and beyond. It is my hope that when we get to Florida, after a year of successful campaigning, I'll have one more chance to meet with so many of you in person and hopefully gain your support to take the next step as a Hibernian leader.

One last reminder that the Montana State Convention will be held September 15 and 16 in Anaconda. For more information contact our State Committee Chairman Joe Ungaretti at ungi43@icloud.com



Director's report

By SEAN O'DOWD

The AOH continues to contribute to celebrating our Irish Heritage and culture in the towns, cities and states where we live. Everyone is familiar with St. Patrick's Day and the celebrations surrounding it, but what about all the festivals, feis and GAA tournaments throughout the spring, summer and fall. These are great opportunities for us to show off who the Irish are without all the stereotypes and derogatory comments that unfortunately accompanies St. Patrick's Day. They are also an excellent time for recruitment of new members, with so many families attending dance competitions, GAA games and live music events. These are great venues for your State, County or Division Organizer to set up a tent.

Here is a short list of the many Irish festivals throughout the Midwest that AOH/LAOH are contributors: Iowa Irish Fest (Waterloo IA - August 4-6), Milwaukee (WI - August 17-20), Peoria Irish Fest (IL - August 25-27), Kansas City (MO - Sept 1-4), Michigan Irish Fest (Muskegon - Sept 14-17), Indy Irish Fest (IN - Sept 22-23).

Missouri State Board Officers

I attended the Missouri State Board Convention in Rocheport. It was my honor to represent the National Board and swear in the new Officers. I'd like to congratulate the new President - James Dugdale, VP - Richard Shoaf, Treasurer - Dennis Murray and Secretary - Michael Murphy. It was a well attended convention with thorough and complete reports. They did a great job of mapping out a comprehensive plan for the next two years and are off to a good start. Thank you past Missouri State President John McEvoy for your work and leadership over the last two years.

Conventions and State Board Meetings

For those States who have not yet set dates or don't plan a convention, I'd like to remind you that there still must be an election for State Board Officers for the next two years. It's important to let your National Director know your State Convention or Board meeting dates so we can put it on the National schedule. As a reminder State Conventions are held between May 1st and October 31st.

State, County, Division Roster Updates

Need your help! While planning your State Conventions, please make this a high priority issue on your agendas. For the AOH to excel in the future, we need to be able to connect with Officers at all levels. An accurate, complete and comprehensive officer roster helps everyone to communicate more effectively.



Director's report

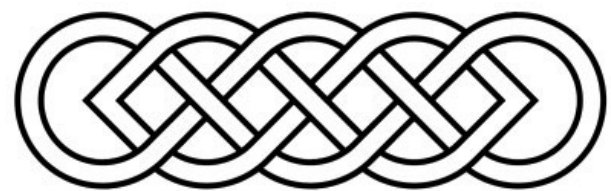
By RICHARD THOMPSON

My State Convention schedule started out in full force in the month of May. The Massachusetts AOH/LAOH State Conventions were held the first weekend of the month. It was a nice weekend at Hyannis on Cape Cod. Both LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan and AOH National President Danny O'Connell attended. Joe McCusker was elected the new State President and at the installation banquet Consul General of Ireland for New England Laoise Moore was the keynote speaker. The highlight of the convention for me was an emotional presentation to my father of his 50-year membership pin, National Hunger/Scholarship Chairman Bill Sullivan also received his 50-year membership pin.

The third weekend of the month brought the New Jersey AOH/LAOH State Conventions at the APA Hotel Woodbridge. Again, our LAOH and AOH National Presidents attended as were National Vice President Sean Pender, National Treasurer Liam McNabb, National Director Dan Devinney and National Charities & Missions Chairman Pat Ryan, along with Pennsylvania State President Ed Dougherty. Richard O'Brien and his Board were re-elected for a second term.

At both conventions I was impressed with the work that is being done at our State and County Boards and our Divisions. These are the brothers that are the lifeblood of our organization and more times than not our brothers are out there working and promoting the best attributes of what it means to be a Hibernian. I commend you all and keep up the good work for the Order.

As with conventions there will be changes in the make-up of the roster for your Boards. This falls into what the National Board has been working on since last November, there are constitutionally required positions and appointments that every Board must fill. Brothers, you have just been chosen as leaders in our organization and filling these positions will hopefully cultivate future leaders for our organization; please fill your required positions and report them properly to our National Secretary's Office. Anyone needing assistance can contact their respective National Director. Brothers, may you and your families have a safe and enjoyable summer.



Director's report

By TIM MCSWEENEY

Divisions around the Great State of New York are busy holding County Conventions and preparing for the New York State Convention to be held July 12-16 at the Binghamton Doubletree Hotel. A golf outing is planned for Wednesday the 12th, with Convention business sessions getting underway on Thursday the 13th. To register and for more information go to www.2023nysaohconvention.com.

The Importance of Attending your State Convention

State Conventions serve an important role in establishing new leadership and ideas within your state. Many may think that Hibernianism stops at your division; simply meet once a month, throw a dance or festival, and the work is done. This is far from the truth. State-level leadership is the direct connection from the National level to the County and Division level. Strong State leadership encourages and inspires the division in their jurisdiction. Establishing exciting new initiatives and goals, while promoting membership growth and supporting the ongoing works of the Order. Be part of this, Brothers. It only helps to make the AOH stronger. Also, our conventions are where Brothers can meet and make new friendship from around your state.

The Enduring Legacy of the McNabb Family

The Father Henry Tansey Division 5, of Albany, NY, swore in a 5th Generation Hibernian on June 7, 2023. Kevin McNabb, age 16, was administered the Oath of Membership, while his father, National Treasurer Liam McNabb, proudly observed. Grandson of the Late Past National President Tom McNabb, Kevin is destined to follow in a long tradition of Hibernian leadership in the McNabb family.



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Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS

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Rev. Michael Healy..... Chaplain hibhealy@hotmail.com

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The National hibernian digest

"The land, one and indivisible, though the heavens fall" HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND
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Officer Changes

We have two changes in our National Board to report.
Ed Halligan, National Secretary, has taken a leave of absence as he continues rehabilitation from his Thanksgiving Day stroke. His leave is effective Sunday, May 21, 2023. We ask that you continue to keep Ed in your prayers.

In accordance with the Constitution, I have appointed Ray Lynch, Interim National Secretary.

Danny Eakins, National Veterans Chairman has resigned effective today, May 23, 2023, due to changes in his personal obligation. Danny plans to remain active in the Ancient Order of Hibernians and support the Veterans Affairs committee.

Patrick Flaherty from Helena, Montana, has agreed to take on the role of National Veterans Chairman. Patrick has been an active member of the Veterans Affairs committee and will be able to continue the work initiated by Brother Eakins.



hibernian hunger project

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

Welcome summer of 2023! In the last edition of the Digest, we noted the recipients of our recent \$1,000 and \$500 Hunger Awards and gave a brief description of the \$1,000 recipients' projects. In this column, we will describe the projects of three Divisions who received \$500 for their Hunger Projects, and in future columns, note the Hunger Projects of the other \$500 recipients. We hope that after seeing some of the projects, it might light the spark, and help your division develop their own Hunger Project. One thing for sure, AOH Divisions around the country are making a difference to help combat hunger in their communities.

- Hartford, Connecticut, Division 2 has held a monthly food drive for more than 36 consecutive months. The food drives are held on Sundays at Christ the King parish in Wethersfield, and four-plus carloads of food are brought immediately following the drive to the food pantry at Saint Augustine Parish in Hartford. In addition to their monthly food drives, Division 2 also has special drives to serve the needs of the less fortunate in Hartford. In August and September, the members collect school supplies; in October, Halloween candy is collected; in November Thanksgiving side dishes are accepted; and in December, a Christmas Toy Drive takes place where over two-plus carloads of toys and over \$600 in gift cards are donated. These special drives are in addition to their monthly food drives. The Division also contributes to the House of Bread of St Patrick and Saint Anthony Parish Monthly Sandwich Stock Up Ministry, where approximately 1,500 people are fed monthly.
- The Cardinal Glennon Division 2, of Saint Louis, Missouri, works with the Saint Peter and Paul Parish Hunger Meal Program. Each month 12 or more members come together to provide meals to those in need by serving as cooks, servers and cleaners. More than 100 meals are served monthly by the AOH. In addition, Division 2 works with Saint Peter and Paul Parish to identify those most in need and provides support to individuals and families in the form of food, service and financial assistance. The Division is in the process of adding a new component to their Hunger Project by collecting winter coats and clothing for the less fortunate in the Saint Louis area.
- Anaconda Division 1, in Montana, has been conducting a food drive each March for the past nine years. Food is collected at three main locations: from the race participants in their annual Saint Patrick's Day Road Race, from local churches of all denominations, and from schools in the Anaconda School District. More than 4,000 pounds of food were collected and distributed to those in need in an area where there is a high rate of food insecurity. What began as a local project in Anaconda has now grown to be a statewide project!

The next round of Hibernian Hunger Project Awards is due by February 15, 2024, and involve Hunger Projects that take place between January 1 – December 31, 2023.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments, or your questions. My email address is: williamjsullivan@verizon.net Enjoy the great summer weather ahead!

Project St Patrick Mass/Prayer Card

Project St Patrick Mass/Prayer Cards are available by sending your order to:

Ron Hagan, Chairman of Project St Patrick
7326 State Route 19, Unit 0512
Mount Gilead, OH 43338-9336

OR

Email: rhagan@hagancpa.com

New York

AOH participates in honoring coffin ship victims in Montreal

On May 28, members of the AOH in America participated in the "Annual Walk to the Stone" memorial ceremony that is organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Canada. The Black Rock Memorial is currently located in between two highways near the Victoria Bridge in the Point Saint Charles section of Montreal, and is the site of a 6,000-person mass grave of coffin ship victims from 1847-1848.

Since the 1860s the AOH Canada has sought to protect the Irish immigrants that perished from typhoid (many of whom were children) from further desecration of their resting place as they fled the Great Hunger. The Black Rock Monument was created after Irish construction workers who were completing the Victoria Bridge in 1859-60 discovered several bodies from the mass grave. The workers refused to work and complete the bridge until there was a memorial on this site. The workers negotiated for a 40-ton granite rock to be placed in the cemetery with the inscription, "To Preserve from Desecration the remains of 6000 Immigrants Who died of Ship Fever A.D. 1847-48." They were not allowed to mention Irish in the inscription.

Over the years the AOH Canada has fought to fulfill the promise inscribed on the Black Rock Memorial by fighting development and encroachment on the site. In 2017, Hydro-Quebec purchased the land the Black Rock Memorial is on with plans to donate 3.65 acres to create a memorial park that is scheduled to be completed in 2028.

The 2023 Walk to the Stone started with a beautiful Mass on Pentecost at Saint Charles Church. After Mass, members of the parish, AOH, representatives from the City of Montreal and other Irish organizations, led by a piper, walked the mile to the Black Rock Memorial. Once at the memorial site, the AOH Canada National President started the ceremony. The Irish, Canadian and United States National Anthems were performed beautifully by Esmé Cavanaugh and Lily MacLean of the band Gráinne.

President Boyle went over the history of the Black Rock Memorial and the 6,000 people who rest uneasily below our feet. Memorial wreaths were placed on Black Rock by many organizations, including the AOH in America National Board, the AOH NYS Board and Schenectady AOH JFK 1 (who hosted President Boyle at their Communion Breakfast the month before). After the ceremony participants went back to the parish center at Saint Charles and shared some delicious Irish stew and samosas along with some traditional Irish music.

This year's event also coincided with the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. MP John Finucane, of Sinn Féin (Belfast North), participated in the ceremony and gave his remarks and paid his respects to the victims of the Great Hunger at that site. The day prior the Friends of Sinn Féin Canada hosted a 25th GFA Anniversary at Hurley's Irish Pub where members of the U.S. AOH were able to meet Finucane, Kevin Callahan from Friends of Sinn Féin Canada, Marion Mulvenna from Concordia University's Irish Studies Program and AOH Canada National President Victor Boyle.

The weekend was tremendously moving and the people, especially President Boyle, were welcoming and gracious hosts. Walk to the Stone will take place in 2024 on May 26 and members of the AOH and LAOH are most welcome to participate.



At the ceremony were, from left, Lily MacLean, Esmé Cavanaugh (Gráinne), Tim Weklar (Albany, Division 5) Victor Boyle (AOH Canada National President), MP John Finucane (Sinn Féin, Belfast North) and Jim Scott (Schenectady, Division 1).



John Finucane, MP, and Kevin Callahan laid the Friends Sinn Fein wreath.

Support Project St. Patrick



immigration

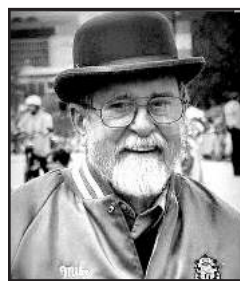
By Tom Lambert, chairman

Summer is finally here! We are now well into the 118th Congress. Is it possible there is progress on Immigration? A new bipartisan Immigration bill was recently introduced in Washington, D.C. Thank you to Brother Neil Cosgrove for the information. The "Dignity Act of 2023" was introduced on May 24, 2023. The bill combines proposals to increase security at our borders with provisions to revise the process for seeking asylum. As you are aware, the Ancient Order of Hibernians has continued to push very hard for a revision of the current E3 Visa to allow approximately 5,000 unused visas, from the 10,500 visas previously allocated to Australia, to be reallocated to Ireland on an annual basis. AOH President Danny O'Connell was in Washington, D.C., recently and had occasion to speak to Congressional leadership. He made it clear to the leadership that it has long been the position of the AOH that any Immigration bill should allow for a revised E-3 Visa. Leadership was receptive. We will continue to monitor this fluid situation in possible immigration reform.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians continues to work with our elected leaders in Washington to maintain a "vital relationship" with the Irish government. This past March, the AOH and Irish Central hosted Taoiseach Leo Varadkar in Washington, D.C. during St. Patrick's Day week. The AOH also hosted many of our nation's Congressional leaders during the same week. Most recently, President O'Connell was again in Washington and met with Congressional leadership. Our work continues!

Lastly, if your Division, County or State has yet to have prepared an updated Form 9, please do so ASAP and submit it to our National Secretary. Please don't forget to include Officers for all positions, including Immigration. I would be happy to work with any local Immigration Chair. Please contact me at TomLambert12@aol.com with any comments or questions.

in memoriam



Michael J. (Jay) Meehan
1932 - 2023

Michael was an adamant supporter of Irish American causes and advocate for Irish issues as well as assisting with local charities. He was a proud member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for 63 years and served as a State Secretary. He also held numerous executive roles with the AOH Division.

Michael was a graduate of Northeast Missouri State College for his bachelor's degree in education and Missouri University/Columbia for his master's degree in industrial arts education. He taught junior high and high school for 40 years at Beaumont High School, the Missouri School for the Blind, and the Clayton School District, all in St. Louis, MO.

Michael was an Army veteran during the Korean War, where he reached the rank of Sergeant. He was also very involved in outdoor education with the Clayton School District and with the Boys Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts awarded him their highest honor for adult scout leaders in 1980.





freedom for all ireland

By martin galvin, chairman

Rhode Island Hunger Strike Memorial

It was great to see Hibernians among the crowd in Providence, Rhode Island, on May 21 at the unveiling of a memorial honoring the 1981 Hunger Strike Martyrs, fittingly located alongside a 1916 Easter Rising monument, and within an Irish Famine Memorial to victims of the Great Hunger. It was an honor to speak about the contribution that Irish Americans made to the victory of the Hunger Strikers.

The Hunger Strike stemmed from an arrogant British plan to dress up imprisoned Irish Republicans as common criminals instead of special category political prisoners wearing their own clothes so that "Britain might brand Ireland's fight 800 years of crime."

When the Irish, beginning with Kieran Nugent, refused, Britain tried to bully, beat and break these prisoners, confined naked except for a blanket, in inhuman conditions. Within three years, Brendan Hughes, the leader of the Blanketmen, appealed to Irish Northern Aid and allied groups like the AOH for help, calling America a crucial battleground.

Released former Blanketmen, including Kieran Nugent, Fra McCann and Seamus Delaney, were denied visas, but defied arrest to bring their story to America. Another Blanketman, Joe Maguire, was smuggled into the 1980 Ancient Order of Hibernian National Convention in Florida. His plea brought a standing ovation and pledges that AOH members across the country would join national protests being planned by Irish Northern Aid in the event of a Hunger Strike.

Thousands across America protested every day during the first Hunger Strike beginning October 27 and ending December 18, 1980. As Fra McCann told me after seeing headlines about the Irish Hunger Strike in lights at Time Square, the Irish struggle was now a major American issue.

British Prime Minister Thatcher saw only her chance to break the prisoners once and for all. Irish America was ready.

When Bobby Sands began his Hunger Strike on March 1, the huge protests around the country were covered daily on local and national news. On the day of his funeral more than 10,000 closed down streets between the British Consulate and Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in New York. Rhode Island Governor Garrahy ordered flags lowered to half-mast on state buildings. Massive protests took place in cities across America.

Royals become symbols of injustice

The British tried to restore their image by dispatching then Prince Charles to sit alongside Nancy Reagan at New York's Lincoln Center. He was met by more than 20,000 protestors standing with brothers of Bobby Sands and Ray McCreesh, and sisters of Patsy O'Hara and Joe McDonnell. When Charles complained, New York's Mayor Ed Koch advised him to "get out of Ireland." Thatcher announced that all royal visits to America were cancelled because of American protests.

Britain planned to make criminals of Irish Republican prisoners and instead made their royals symbols of injustice, who could not show their faces in America.

Hunger Strikers triumph

Britain would take the lives of six more patriot martyrs, but Hunger Strikers triumphed over British criminalization, and America was part of their victory.

Political leaders looked for ways to reflect this support. Ending visa censorship against Irish Republicans topped the list. New York Assemblyman John Dearie called for a Special Envoy, which later became George Mitchell, while Comptroller Harrison Goldin formulated MacBride Principles against employment discrimination. Joe Doherty's arrest raised issues around political offenses and political deportations.

These issues became the Irish agenda and support for them grew during 12 years of administrations aligned with Margaret Thatcher. At the Irish Residential Forum in 1992, Democratic candidate Bill Clinton was faced with them and made his historic pledges.

Never stop

There was a minor controversy, because in addition to saying it honored these martyrs, and quoting Bobby Sands words: "I may die but the Republic of 1916 will never die," the inscription referred to electoral politics and the Good Friday Agreement. As Hibernians we welcome the agreement's achievement of peace, but will never stop until the GFA delivers Freedom for all Ireland.



FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin spoke at the unveiling of Rhode Island's Hunger Strike Memorial.



political education

By neil cosgrove, chairman

Brothers, we have recently seen dramatic examples of the effectiveness of Political Action. From the 'Bud Light Protests' to the Dodgers' reinventing the anti-Catholic group 'The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence,' we have seen the effect that motivated, passionate individuals can have. It is reasonable to question how many people are behind some of the dramatic changes we see in our society; I suspect that many of these changes are spearheaded by small groups, but their organization, constant activity and messaging make it impossible to ignore them as they take on the aura of a mass movement. To use a military phrase, passion is a "force multiplier."

How does this relate to the Ancient Order of Hibernians? We are a nationwide organization with tens of thousands of members; we have the numbers to be a recognized and respected voice. We have the tools in our new advocacy platform to make that voice heard. What we need is passion.

We recently made a "Call to Action" using the advocacy platform, and within 24 hours, more than 1,000 brothers took action. To them, I say, "Thank You," and you have made a difference. However, I must ask, "Where are the rest of you"? Imagine the added impact if, instead of sending 1,000 messages to our elected leader, we sent 10,000. Given our numbers, that is a modest goal, and the fact that we are not doing that regularly is inexplicable, especially when it takes less than 5 minutes.

The AOH does tremendous work because we have some truly dedicated champions, but we owe these brothers more support than merely "holding their coats" while they fight for the causes we hold dear. Please answer the next Call to Action when it goes out; it takes less than 5 minutes. Let's "not wait to get to it later" or "let the other guys do it." We can't complain while other agendas are advanced if we do not have the passion to achieve ours.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!



veterans affairs

By patrick flaherty, chairman

Greetings Brothers,

I have been asked by President Danny O'Connell to step into the shoes of Brother Danny Eakins and finish out his term as the national chairman of the AOH Veterans Affairs Committee. I have (God help me) accepted.

For those of you I have not yet met, I was born in Maryland many years ago and shortly after that, my family forcibly relocated me to the frontier of Montana. I grew up here in the West and it is my home. In 1986, I enlisted in the Montana Army National Guard to help pay for college and began a career that has made a lasting impact on me to this day. I attended Basic Training at Fort Lost in the Woods Misery ... I mean, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. I was a PFC in an Engineer Company and enjoyed some of the work, but quickly realized that I had an obligation to the people that I served with to serve them and I applied for Officer Candidate School. I was commissioned a Lieutenant in 1988, one week after I graduated from Carroll College. I had to get special leave from OCS to go to my college graduation ceremony and I got six whole hours. I served in the normal variety of leadership, Command and Staff positions, to include Company Command of a Chemical Company, Adjutant of a Training Regiment, Officer Candidate School Commander and Base Operations Supervisor at Fort Harrison, Montana, and finally as Deputy Strategic Plans and Policy Officer of the Montana National Guard Joint Staff. I also severed on Active Duty with a year-long Combat Tour in Afghanistan and over two-and-a-half years at the National Guard Bureau and the Pentagon.

My civilian career has included being a Deputy Sheriff/Deputy Coroner, Teacher, Federal Technician with the National Guard, Human Resource Specialist/Manager and currently (as a retirement job) a Transportation Security Officer with the Transportation Security Administration at the Helena Regional Airport in Helena, Montana.

Bundle all of that together, add in another 30,000 words, stir in a bit of whiskey and you will have a realistic picture of me. However, to make it short and sweet, if you look at all of these positions and consider the duties within them, you will find that I am a servant and that I am here to serve.

As I consider stepping into this position, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the great strides that Brother Danny Eakins has made in this position and the emphasis that his predecessor, Brother Jim Greene placed on getting this committee established. Thank you, both. You have left me humbled and scared to take on this important and truly vital commitment for our brethren.

My vision for this position, as I step in, is to expand on what Jim and Danny have done. I want to work on creating a more united or universal Veterans Affairs Committee for the AOH. I know that we are all different and that each state is different. But we do have four things that unite us all: We are Irish, we are Catholic and we are Veterans. And we are all Hibernians!

I look forward to working with all of you for the foreseeable future. In our Motto, Patrick.

At-Large Membership Update



Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer

Great news! At-Large member Father David B. Chacko, (1LT), USAR, a candidate for the Catholic priesthood and United States Military chaplaincy, was ordained a priest on Saturday, May 20, in his home Archdiocese of San Antonio. The new priest, an alumnus of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, plans to serve as an active-duty Catholic chaplain in the U.S. Army providing pastoral care to Catholic soldiers and their families with endorsement and faculties from the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). He is scheduled to go on active duty after three years of pastoral service in Texas under a co-sponsorship agreement between the two

archdioceses. For more information on Fr. Chacko and his ordination, go to <https://www.milarch.org/catholic-u-s-army-chaplain-candidate-ordained-a-priest-in-san-antonio/>

At-Large members were all sent membership renewal notices via e-mail in April; many have paid, but some still need to send their checks to the National Secretary as soon as possible. A renewal form was included in the e-mail.

Our At-Large membership continues to be a resource for growth as some of our members have moved to areas where divisions already exist and have transferred to them. We also have other members who are assisting to get divisions started, one currently close to forming in Florida.

We currently have 65 At-Large members from 26 states and Puerto Rico. Although we like to see the ranks grow, we are even more pleased when these become members of either existing or new divisions.



catholic action

By pat lally, chairman

Though Irish-Americans do not occupy as prominent a position in the American Church as was once the case, they still are an important part of the Catholic Church in America. Indicative of this is the number of Irish Americans whose causes for sainthood have been making their way through the process. Below are some of the Irish Americans who have been recognized as Blessed or Servant of God. The list is by no means exhaustive.

- Blessed Solanus Casey (1870-1957) was born in a rural area of Wisconsin. He worked a variety of occupations, including lumberjack and prison guard, until finding his niche as a Capuchin friar. He spent much of his life as a porter at a Capuchin house in Detroit, becoming widely known for his compassion and simple holiness.
- Father Edward J. Flanagan (1886-1948) is a Servant of God. The Irish-born Father Flanagan is best known as the founder of Boys Town.
- Servant of God Theodore Foley (1913-74) was born in Springfield, Massachusetts. He was a Passionist, rising to become the order's superior general (1964-74).
- Servant of God Bishop Francis X. Ford (1892-1952) was born in Brooklyn and was a Maryknoll missionary priest and bishop. Bishop Ford was imprisoned by the Red Chinese and suffered torture and death in a Chinese prison.
- Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory (1893-1984) was born in County Tyrone. In the States, she started a group dedicated to care of the indigent elderly and infirm. The group became the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm in 1931.
- Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, Blessed Father Michael McGivney (1852-90) is best known as the founder of the Knights of Columbus.
- Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton (1909-92) was an immigrant from Ireland. A Holy Cross father, he founded and zealously promoted the Family Rosary Crusade: "The family that prays together, stays together."
- Servant of God Father Bernard Quinn (1888-1940) was a diocesan priest born in Newark, NJ, best known for his ministry to Black Catholics. Fr. Quinn often braved the ire of the KKK.
- Father Patrick Ryan, Servant of God, was born in Ireland and served in the priesthood in Tennessee. During a yellow fever epidemic in Chattanooga, Father Ryan refused to abandon his congregation, ministering to them till he also contracted the disease and died at age 32 in 1878.
- The Venerable Archbishop John Fulton Sheen (1895-1979), born in Illinois, is one who hardly needs an introduction. He was a shepherd, author and media pioneer whose voice is still heard many years after his death.
- Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon (1867-1954), born in Hanover, NY, initially joined the Holy Cross Sisters. In 1920, in New York City, she founded the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, dedicated to catechesis and evangelization.
- Servant of God Bishop James A. Walsh (1867-1936) was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was a co-founder and a superior general of Maryknoll.



charities & missions

By patrick ryan, chairman

I want to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Easter Appeal, which supports Project St. Patrick. Your support provides financial grants to our seminarians and the Church has no future without these wonderful men called to a life of Christ.

As Catholics we have been taught about charity works through the gospels and various practices such as the outreach programs we do in our Divisions and churches. But what is Charity? Most people think of charity as the benevolent act of giving of their time, talent and treasure. The most general definition of charity means so much more than that. Charity in its purist form means love and encompasses our love for God and our love for our fellow people.

Why is charity work important for us Catholics? As a member of the Catholic Faith we are encouraged to practice charity in different ways. Since the apostolic age, Christians were taught to not just give but to give from the heart to everyone in need. Charity teaches us to have a Christ-like love for our neighbors and this kind of love is unconditional. Charity is also about stewardship. A steward is a person who is tasked with the caring for another person's valuables. The steward is accountable to the "owner" for how well he manages the property he oversees. As followers of Christ, we are stewards of our lives. We are accountable for how well we live it and how well we manage the blessings, resources, capabilities and gifts that we have. We must therefore share what we have to the other members of Christ's family through charitable work.

Charity is one of the pillars of the AOH and I encourage each member to reach out to those who are in need, especially our Brothers and Sisters. I also ask that if you are suffering to reach out and ask for help. Do not be ashamed to ask for help, for as Catholics we are here to help with love and simplicity of heart.



irish way & study abroad

By bill sullivan, chairman

It's hard to believe, but 2023 is just about half over! As we go to press, we are waiting to hear from the Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI) Irish Way Coordinator the name of our AOH Irish Way Scholarship recipient. We will have information in a future Digest article on the Irish Way Program itself, as well as the dates for the 2024 summer program.

We are happy to note that Emily Partika has been selected to receive a \$2,000 AOH Study Abroad Scholarship. Emily, a political science major and graduate of Wooster College, will study at the University of Cork for two years, in pursuit of a master's degree in planning and sustainable development. We wish Emily much success in her future studies.

The AOH National Board wants to help the children and grandchildren of members experience the Irish experience while studying in the Emerald Isle. For those college students still considering a semester or a full year of study at a college in Ireland, for the 2023-2024 academic year, it is still not too late to apply! Our Study Abroad Scholarship application deadline has been extended until filled. The National Board offers two \$2,000 study abroad scholarships for a full year of study in Ireland, and/or a \$1,000 scholarship for one semester of study in Ireland. Please check out the AOH National Board website under scholarships for a scholarship application and other pertinent information on studying abroad in Ireland at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments or your questions. My email address is: williamsullivan@verizon.net Have a great summer!



project st. patrick

By ron hagan, chairman

As we enter the summer months let us not forget about our seminarians and religious who are working toward a religious career. Some of us will be blessed with a seminarian or religious student helping or assisting our pastors, administrators or church workers in maintaining the parish facilities. Besides this part-time work experience in our parishes, most of these students need additional financial support to continue their studies. That is where we can aid them in their goals by providing additional support through Project St. Patrick.

Project St. Patrick is a \$500 grant awarded to these students who apply for the grant through our aoh.com website and have their religious director submit the grant application and the director's endorsement of the candidate to both the AOH and LAOH National Project St. Patrick chairs. The applications will be submitted to the chairs by the end of October. At that time the list of the applicants, along with their religious director's endorsements, will be reviewed by the National AOH and LAOH presidents for the selection of the candidates who will be awarded the grant.

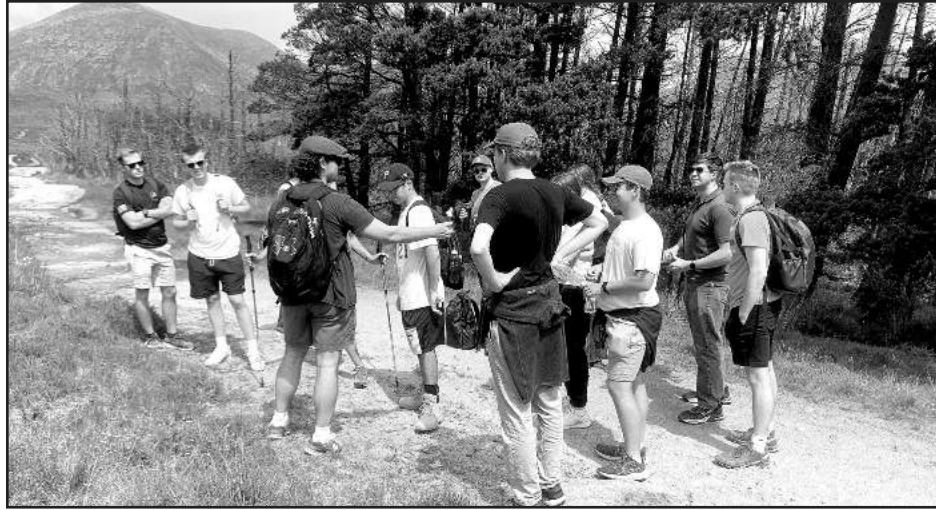
We have been fortunate over the past three years to award 100 percent of all the applicants who applied. We could not have done that without your help. The funds that are collected either with the Division Donation Form or the Mass/Prayer Cards are made available by your efforts. That is why we have our official Easter Appeal drive, which kicks off at the start of Lent and basically is closed by the end of October when we award the grants. By the end of the year and the start of the following year, we start to gear-up again for the Easter Appeal.

Please make 2023 another successful year for Project St. Patrick and have your division donate! Thank you!

ST. PATRICK CENTRE YOUNG AMBASSADORS continued from page 1

then finished the day with refreshments in Quinn's pub. On Day 2 the crew hit the Mourne Mountains for a great trek that included a visit to "Smuggler's Cave."

These Young Ambassadors will have the opportunity to meet people from the five political parties in the North and from all walks of life. The St. Patrick Centre is a brilliant cross-community project that brings people together to work as one. The 14-day program will enable the ambassadors to meet people from their chosen field of endeavor. Who knows what will happen next for these young Irish Americans; maybe one or two will stay on so you can visit them on your next trip to Ireland.



Young Ambassadors took a break on their trek in the Mourne Mountains on their second day.



history report

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.
national historian

Remembering Father Murphy

Father John Murphy was born in Tincurry, County Wexford, in 1753, and educated in a hedge school, where he learned Latin and Greek. Father Murphy, after furthering his studies under the tutelage of his parish priest, was ordained in 1779 and then sent to the Irish college in Seville, Spain, where he continued his studies from 1780 to 1785.

Returning home, Father Murphy was assigned as a priest of the Parish of Monageer, as curate in Boulavougue, where a second "Mass-house" as they were called, was maintained. Father Murphy initially followed the guidance of his Bishop and urged his flock not to participate in the Rebellion of 1798, until outrages against the local population by Crown forces and the yeomanry compelled him to take action.

Advising his parishioners that it was better to "die courageously in the field, than to be butchered in their houses," Father Murphy took to the field to become the warrior Priest known to many through the classic P.J. McCall ballad Boulavougue. "Arm, arm" he cried,

*"God grant you glory, brave Father Murphy and open Heaven to all
your men. The cause that called you may call tomorrow, in another
fight for the Green again."*

"For I've come to lead you, for Ireland's freedom we'll fight or die." On May 26, 1798, at The Harrow, a village in Wexford, Father Murphy and his men killed Lieutenant Thomas Bookey and another cavalryman in a skirmish. "T'was at the Harrow the boys of Wexford showed Bookey's regiment how men could fight." The Camolin Calvary's report of their actions the next day provides that they "burned upwards of 170 houses belonging to the Rebels whose inhabitants had fled and also the Popish Chapel at Boolavouge, whose Priest, John Murphy, headed the rebels the night before." Father Murphy and his men, their numbers strengthened by other similar bands, took up a position on Oulart Hill, where, on May 27, 1798, they obliterated Foote's militia and secured much needed weaponry. Fr. Murphy led his men through Camolin and next set his eyes on the town of Enniscorthy. Murphy, having said Mass for his men at Ballyorril Hill, joined with forces under Edward Roche and overwhelmed the garrison at Enniscorthy in a vicious engagement, with hundreds of casualties on both sides.

Fr. Murphy and his men next fought their way to Wexford town, where they triumphantly entered on May 30, 1798, as the garrison fled. "We took Camolin and Enniscorthy and Wexford storming drove out our foes." The Wexford campaign reached its end on June 21, 1798, at Vinegar Hill, where the United Irishmen were defeated by a force of 13,000 British forces and militia, armed with artillery. Seamus Heaney, in his poem Requiem for the Croppies, describes the battle thusly: "Terraced thousands died, shaking scythes at cannon. The hillside blushed, soaked in our broken wave."

Fr. Murphy escaped Vinegar Hill and headed for Turrow but was apprehended by the yeomanry, who knew when they found his stole and pyx that they had captured a priest. Murphy was tortured and beaten, then hanged on July 2, 1798. His head was struck upon a spike at the local Sessions House in Tullow and his body burned in a barrel of pitch. Murphy was not the only Priest to die in the Rebellion of 1798. Fr. Philip Roche was hanged at Wexford, Fr. Mogue Kearns was hanged at Edenderry, Fr. John Redmon was hanged at Gorey Hill, Fr. Michael Murphy was killed at the Battle of Arklow, and Fr. Thomas Clinch was mortally wounded at Vinegar Hill. "God grant you glory, brave Father Murphy and open Heaven to all your men. The cause that called you may call tomorrow, in another fight for the Green again."



pro life

By Larry Squires, chairman

Hopefully your summer is going well and you're enjoying some well deserved time off on vacation, or, if you're retired, possibly visiting loved ones in a different part of the country. But for a moment, I'd like to turn your attention to the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28, 2023. On that day, Holy Mother Church reminds everyone that Herod had every male child under the age of two put to death, out of disordered fear that a new king would usurp his throne. Can anyone imagine the horror of a government so corrupt that all of our sons, grandsons and great grandsons be put to death for such a heinous effort to maintain political power.

The readings for the Mass of Holy Innocents includes the following passage from Matthew's Gospel. "When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious.

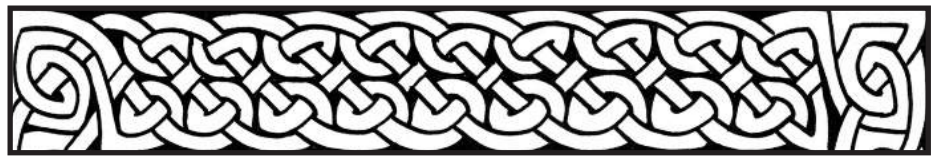
He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet:

A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation;
Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled,
since they were no more."

While the Birth of Jesus at Christmas is certainly a great joy for all of us, the Christmas season also brings this reading as a reminder and caution to be on guard against those who wield their political powers in an effort to repress Jesus and the true Gospel message.

Beginning this year, let's all use this Feast to request Masses for the protection of the unborn and souls affected by abortion. It should still be early enough to have the Masses scheduled in your home parishes. It's also a great way for your parishes to see that the AOH is a Pro Life organization.

May God bless everyone. In Our Motto. — Larry.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Rugadh William Brown i mBéal Easa, Contae Mhaigh Eo, ar an 22ú Meitheamh, 1777. *William Brown was born in Foxford, County Mayo, on June 22nd, 1777.* Nuair a bhí sé naoi mbliana d'aois, bhog sé go Meiriceá i dteannta lena athair, ach níorbh fhada ina dhiaidh sin go bhfuair a athair bás den fhiabhras buí. *When he was nine years old, he moved to America with his father, but it wasn't long afterwards that his father died from yellow fever.* Fuair sé post mar ghiolla cábáin, agus ba é sin tús de shaol ar an bhfarraige ina éireadh sé an-cháiliúil. *He got a job as a cabin boy, and that was the beginning of a life on the sea in which he would become very famous.*

Tar éis deich mbliana ina mháirnéalaí, ghabh na Sasanaigh é agus preasáladh é chun troid ina gcabhlach in éadan Napoleon. *After 10 years as a sailor, the English captured him and impressed him to serve in their navy against N.* Bhí sé in ann a long a chur go tóin poill mar chabhair do na Francaigh, ach níor chreid siad go ndearna, agus cuireadh i ngéibheann é. *He was able to sink his ship to help the French, but they didn't believe he did it, and put him in prison.* D'éalaigh sé – níos mó ná uair amháin – agus chuaigh go Sasana. *He escaped – more than once – and went to England.* Ansin chuaigh sé go Meiriceá Theas. *Then he went to South America.*

Tar éis tamaill, bhí a long féin aige, agus bhíodh sé ag seoladh idir an Airgintín agus Uragua. *After a while, he had his own ship, and was sailing between Argentina and Uruguay.* Scrios na Spáinnigh a long, agus fuair sé é féin ag cabhrú leis na hAirgintínigh ina dtroid i éadan na Spáinne. *The Spanish destroyed his ship, and he found himself helping the Argentinians in their fight against Spain.* Cuireadh i mbun cabhlach na hAirgintíne é, agus d'éirigh go breá leis. *He was put in charge of the Argentine navy, and was very successful.* Bhí sé ina aimiréal acu, agus ina laoch náisiúnta. *They made him an admiral, and he was a national hero.*

Ina dhiaidh sin, throid sé i gcoinne an Uragua agus ansin i gcoinne na Brasaíle. *Later he fought Uruguay and Brazil.* Bhí Garibaldi, laoch na hIodáile, ar thaobh na Brasaíle sa cheann sin, agus is ar éigean nár cuireadh chun báis é. *Garibaldi, Italy's hero, was on Brazil's side in that one, and he was almost put to death.* Bhí lámh ag Brown ina chás, agus murach eisean, bheadh an stair an-difriúil san Iodáil, freisin. *Brown had a hand in his case, and if not for him, Italy's history would have been very different, too.*

Tá dealbha de Brown san Airgintín agus in Éirinn, agus bhí stampaí ina ómós ag an dá thír, freisin. *There are statues of Brown in A and in Ireland, and both countries had stamps in his honor, too.*



RITUALS & DEGREES

By Jack Schneider, chairman

Isle of Erin celebrates 100th Major Degree Exemplification

The Isle of Erin Major Degree Team of Montgomery County, PA, was originally certified as an Order Major Degree Team on March 26, 1995, the vision of Team founder Paul McNulty. As the Team approached the century mark in terms of Major Degrees performed, the Team's founding Division, Notre Dame Montgomery County Division 1, requested the honor of hosting the Team's 100th Major Degree Exemplification. As such, Isle of Erin returned to the site of its 50th Major Degree, the Upper Merion Vantage Academy (formerly Sacred Heart Elementary School) in Bridgeport, PA, for the milestone event on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

The Milestone Degree was much anticipated and very well attended. Forty-eight Candidates received the Lessons of the Order and were welcomed into the Inner Chamber of Hibernian Brotherhood. Over 50 Degreed Brothers observed the proceedings in support of the candidates. A total of 37 Isle of Erin MDT members performed the exemplification.

One of the highlights of the Degree was the attendance of National Secretary Ed Halligan, who continues his recovery from a stroke suffered over the Thanksgiving Holiday. The assembled Brothers gave Ed a rousing ovation when introduced during the recognition of Order dignitaries at the conclusion of the ceremony. Also in attendance were Pennsylvania State President Ed Dougherty and PA Vice President Denny Maher, Team Chairman of the Tri Abhainn Major Degree Team from Allegheny County, PA.

At the conclusion of the exemplification, President Dougherty, on behalf of the Pennsylvania State Board, presented the Team with a plaque commemorating the milestone.

Isle of Erin dedicated this Major Degree to the 22 Team members who have passed on since the Team's certification. In a moving tribute, Team Scribe Dave Bloomer read the names of the deceased and their former role on the Team and a bell was tolled after the reading of each name. The roll call of the deceased was then followed by the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the nine members of Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums in attendance.

The team then presented host division, Notre Dame Montgomery County Division 1, with the 2nd annual James A. Murphy Rituals & Degrees Award in recognition of their role in the founding of the Team, providing the Team's base of operation, and long-standing support over the years. The Team also presented Montco Division 1 with a donation of \$1,000 toward their Building Renovation Fund to address needed repairs at the clubhouse.

Among its accomplishments over the years, Isle of Erin has exemplified three National Convention Major Degree ceremonies and has conferred the Major Degrees of the Order upon more than three thousand candidate Brothers.

If any of our other Major Degree Teams are celebrating anniversaries or milestone events, please submit details to me so that we may afford you proper inclusion here in recognition of the works you do for the good of the Order.

Upcoming Major Degrees

Saturday, July 15, Noon – New York State Convention Major Degree. Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY. Cu Chullain Celtic Warrior (NY) MDT exemplifying.

Saturday, July 22, 2023, Noon – Pennsylvania State Convention Major Degree. Johnstown Conference Center, 301 Napoleon Street, Johnstown, PA. Tri Abhainn MDT of Allegheny County PA exemplifying. Candidates and Observers are urged to pre-register at www.2023johnstownconvention.com.

Saturday, July 29, 1 p.m. – Virginia State Convention Major Degree. Hilton Alexandria Old Towne Hotel, 1757 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Brian Boru (VA) MDT exemplifying.

Saturday, July 29 – Michigan State Convention Major Degree. Sons of Milesius (OH) MDT exemplifying.

Saturday, September 16. Montana State Convention Major Degree. Anaconda AOH Clubhouse, 321-323 Commercial Street, Anaconda, MT. Copper Kings (MT) MDT exemplifying.

Wisconsin

Milwaukee Hibernians celebrate the Order's motto through action

The AOH has a long and rich history in Milwaukee, dating back to 1880. Our current division is named after our founding chaplain, Rev. William J Kelly, SJ, and was founded in 1986. There is also a Ladies AOH group in Milwaukee.

Our division strives to promote Irish culture throughout the year by celebrating the Order's motto, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. We participate in two Milwaukee St. Patrick's Day parades in March, have a two-day party at the VIP area above the Miller Oasis at the world's largest outdoor Irish music party, Irish Fest, each August, and are the ushers at the Irish Fest Sunday Mass.

In addition, we raise funds (\$440,000 over the past 30 years, and \$140,000 in the last five years alone) for three urban Catholic schools in Milwaukee, St. Rose/St. Leo, Nativity Jesuit Academy, and Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee, by hosting an annual Taste of Ireland event in the fall.

At our May 2023 meeting we offered not one but two highlights. First, we presented \$10,000 checks to each of our three sponsored schools. Secondly, we initiated 11 new members into the division. We do our initiations within the context of a Mass, presided over by our chaplain, Fr Michael Maher, SJ, and assisting him was our division Financial Secretary and co-chaplain Deacon Mike Finley.

We hold our division meetings at the Irish Cultural Heritage Center in Milwaukee. Our meetings often feature a guest speaker covering topics that are Irish in nature, but we also have sports-related speakers, get updates from the schools we sponsor, etc. We also discuss any official business that may come before the group. The meetings are available online as well for those who cannot personally attend.



Milwaukee Hibernians raise funds in support three urban Catholic schools. Here they are presenting three \$10,000, one to each of the schools they sponsor.



The division does their initiations within the context of a Mass, presided over by Division Chaplain Fr. Michael Maher, SJ, with the assistance of Division Financial Secretary and co-chaplain Deacon Mike Finley.



The 37 Members of the Isle of Erin Major Degree Team who exemplified the Team's Milestone 100th Major Degree Exemplification.

Connecticut

The Waterbury Division may have the most successful Veterans Committee in our entire Order. This was shown again on April 26, when a pasta dinner to benefit veterans was held at Collins Hall at the AOH on Golden Hill where the pub is open on most days of the week.

Currently the Waterbury AOH is taking reservations for the annual Jack McCarthy Scholarship Golf Tournament to be held in the late summer at East Mountain Golf links.

The AOH Hartford Division continues to do good works like sponsoring a Food & Cleaning Supply drive collection for the benefit of St. Augustine's Church Pantry.

By Thursday July 22, Hartford Hibernians will have sponsored their hugely successful 3rd annual Hartford Road Bowling Tournament at Riverside Park.

The JFK Division of Bridgeport holds its meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Gaelic American Club, 74 Beach Road, Fairfield.

Division 7 of New Haven is sponsoring a Gaelic Mass to be celebrated at 5 p.m. Sunday, September 17, at the Irish American Community Center by Fr. Andrew O'Connor of New York. Division or personal donations to help defray the cost of this event can be sent to Division Treasurer Jason McWade, 3 Brook Trail East, Hampton, CT 06424.

The Fairfield County Board will host the annual John Barry Day Commemoration on Saturday, September 9, in Southport. This is always a classy Hibernian event and is not to be missed.

Many New London Hibernians will be rowing on July 29 at the annual New London Currach Regatta.

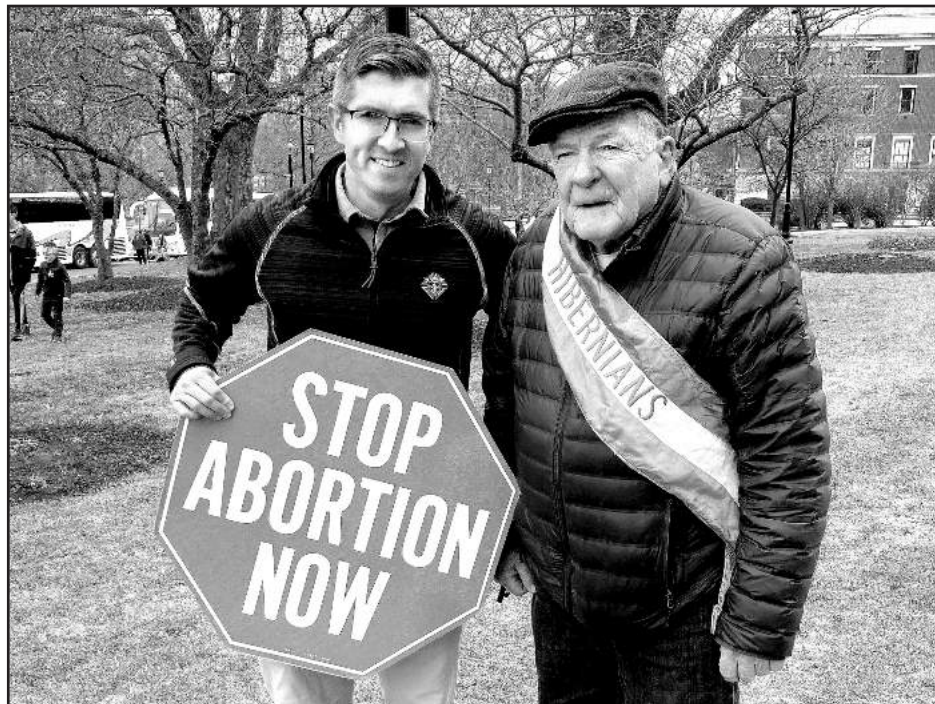
The Meriden Hibernians have landed on their feet after having been forced to sell their home due primarily to the covid shutdowns. They are out of debt and were able to resume the sponsorship and running of their St. Patrick's Day Parade in March.

Mark Your calendars! Chairman Steve Troiano announced John A. Gildea Division of Danbury will host the Greater Danbury Irish Festival on the Danbury Green on the weekend of September 23 and 24.

Rich Hawley has announced that the hugely successful annual Golf Tournament to benefit the greater Danbury Irish Center will be held on Saturday, October 21, at Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, New York.

The Danbury AOH pub is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and for special events. On the first Saturday night of every month there is a Seisun with great music!

For news or info : jgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



New Haven Hibernian Peter Harrison posed with Phil Gallagher at the 2nd annual Connecticut Right To Life March.



Danbury Hibernians welcome the installation of new President Sean Hearty, center, who came out of retirement to serve his brothers once more



Connecticut Hibernians preparing to honor John Barry.

Florida



Palm Beach Hibernians earn FFAI Award

National FFAI Committee member Jim Sullivan, who is also Florida State FFAI Chairman, recently presented the AOH FFAI gift from National FFAI to Palm Beach County's Francis Hughes Division 2 for their \$1,000 donation for this past year's Christmas Appeal in the Rosen Center Orlando at Florida State Meeting (where next year's National Convention will be held) to division FFAI chairman Mike Carey. The division always comes through with large donations to our Christmas Appeal. Present is State President Ray Lynch on the left, Mike Carey in the middle and Jim Sullivan.

Montana



Raising the flag in Montana

On Memorial Day, members of the Thomas Francis Meagher Division in Helena, Montana, raised the American Flag over the Veterans Section of Resurrection Cemetery. This is done on Veterans Day and Memorial Day each year in conjunction with participation in the East Helena VFW Parade on both days, whether in sleet, snow or sun (sometimes all three on the same parade). From left, Neil Connole, Joe Bugni, Financial Secretary PJ McHugh, Chair Standing Committee Tom Pahut, VA Chairman Jack Ward, Vice President Mike O'Connor, Frank Crowley and President Patrick Flaherty, the new National Veterans Affairs Chairman.

Kansas

New Fr. Butler Division initiated in Leavenworth

On Saturday, April 22nd, officers and board members of the Kansas State Board and the Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division from Johnson County, Kansas initiated the first 18 members of the new Fr. Thomas Ambrose Butler Division in Leavenworth County, Kansas. The initiation took place in the basement of Immaculate Conception Church in Leavenworth. The Fr. Butler Division is named for Fr. Thomas Ambrose Butler (1837–1897), a pioneer priest from Dublin who served the Irish communities in Northeast Kansas between his arrival in America in 1867 and his reassignment to the Archdiocese of St. Louis in the late 1880s. Fr. Butler's portrait loomed large over the initiation and swearing in of his namesake division's officers in an emotional ceremony.

The Fr. Butler Division is led by President Brian Rogers, his father Vice President Rick Rogers, Treasurer Ed Standish and Recording Secretary Tim Fitzgerald. This is the third division established in Kansas since the turn of the millennium, preceded by the Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division in Johnson County and the Fr. Sean O'Shea Division in Reno County. The close-knit Butler Hibernians look forward to carrying the Hibernian torch further throughout Northeast Kansas, perhaps in the same "Irish colonies" as Fr. Butler called the communities across the state where he ministered.



At the ceremony were, from left, Fr. Donnelly Division President Charlie Roult, initiating Butler Division Financial Secretary Rod Bray, President Brian Rogers, Treasurer Ed Standish (back facing camera), Recording Secretary Tim Fitzgerald and Vice President Rick Rogers.

Kansas State Board raises \$2,000 for Women's Charity

The Kansas State Board organized the first annual Irish Pickleball Classic on the morning of Sunday, May 21, at Chicken N' Pickle, a pickleball and entertainment complex in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park. Proceeds from the Irish Pickleball Classic went to the Rose Brooks Center, a women's shelter that supports women and their children seeking sanctuary from domestic abuse in the Kansas City Metro. State President Andy Sprehe welcomed the 22 teams and 44 players who competed in spite of the early Sunday hour.

The State Board voted to donate \$2,000 out of the net \$4,200 raised by the event to the Rose Brooks Center.

The Irish Pickleball Classic raised \$4,200 and the state board voted to donate \$2,000 to the Rose Brooks Center, which will go a long way to helping women throughout the Kansas City Metro. A relatively young sport similar to tennis, pickleball has been growing in popularity around the country. The Irish Pickleball Classic offers another avenue of exposure for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Kansas City.

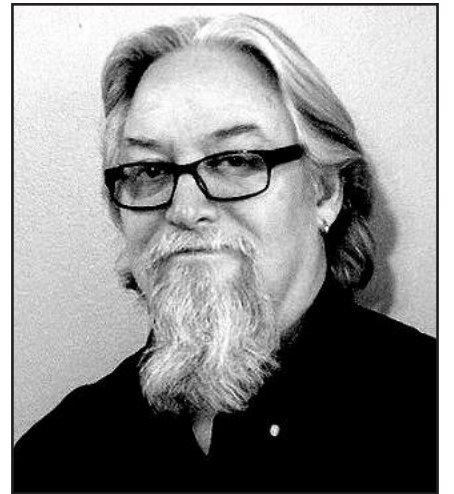


Two teams competing mid-match in the Irish Pickleball Classic.

Fr. Donnelly Division awards \$6,000 in Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee of the Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division in Johnson County, Kansas, is excited to announce the awarding of six \$1,000 scholarships to recent eighth-grade graduates who will be attending local Catholic high schools in the fall. Normally, only five scholarships are awarded, yet this year funds for a sixth were raised through donations made in memory of recently deceased Donnelly Hibernian Dr. Liam Riggs, Ph.D., who lived out his life as a highly regarded educator. That sixth scholarship is officially named the Dr. Liam Riggs, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship.

The recipients are required to submit an application consisting of several essay questions asking why they want to attend a Catholic high school, and how they understand living a "Christ-like life." All of the applicants described challenges they've faced in their lives, demonstrating their resolve to continue their education and live to their fullest. The scholarships are being officially awarded at the June 2023 monthly meeting of the Fr. Donnelly Division. The current Scholarship Committee is chaired by Charlie Lamont and consists of Donnelly Division Treasurer Dan Clancy, Pat Cassidy and Sean Kane.



Dr. Liam Riggs, honoree of the Dr. Liam Riggs, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship.

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts AOH and LAOH State Boards held their state convention at the Doubletree Hotel in Hyannis over the weekend of May 5–7. AOH National President Danny O'Connell and LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan attended. During the proceedings, National President O'Connell presented a National AOH Leadership Award to National Director Dick Thompson Jr. and Past National Director Bill Sullivan. President O'Connell presented a 50-year AOH Membership pin to Dick Thompson Sr., and Bill Sullivan. Elected to lead the State Board for the next two years were: Joe McCusker of Division 14 in Watertown, President; Charles Sinclair of Division 18, Salem, Vice President; Keith Murphy of Division 8, Lawrence, Secretary and Jack Lahey of Division 8, Lawrence, Treasurer.

Division 8, Lawrence, held a commemoration of the Great Hunger at Division 8's Gorta Mor Memorial in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence on June 3 with AOH and LAOH members present from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. A memorial prayer service was led by Division 8 Chaplain, the Rev. John Delaney, V.F., and Francis A. O'Connor, Jr., Division 8 Historian, was the guest speaker. Greetings from the AOH and LAOH Massachusetts State Boards were brought by LAOH State Historian Carol Calderone. Keith Murphy, AOH Essex County Board President, brought greetings from Essex County. A memorial wreath was placed at the memorial by Division 8 LAOH President Anne Marie Nyhan Doherty and AOH Essex County Board President, Keith Murphy. Anne Collins, a member of Division 8 LAOH recited the prayers for the deceased in Gaelic. A reception followed the ceremony.



Hibernians gathered on Cape Cod for Mass State Convention. From left, AOH National President Danny O'Connell; Past National Director Bill Sullivan; Richard Thompson Sr; AOH National Director Dick Thompson and newly elected AOH Mass State President Joe McCusker.

Project St Patrick Mass/Prayer Cards

Project St Patrick Mass/Prayer Cards are available by sending your order to:

Ron Hagan, Chairman of Project St Patrick
7326 State Route 19, Unit 0512 • Mount Gilead, OH 43338-9336

OR

Email: rhagan@hagancpa.com

Pennsylvania



Hibernian of the Year

Tim Regan, center, of AOH Division 32 in Allegheny County, received the County Hibernian of the Year Award at our annual County/Division 9 Communion Breakfast. He is pictured here with County VP Bob Kelly, left, and PA State VP & County President Denny Maher.



Division marches on Memorial Day

Bucks County Division 5 participated in the Langhorne Borough Memorial Day Parade. Besides tossing candy, Vivian Gribbon, daughter of Division 5 member Kevin Gribbon, Jr. and granddaughter of Division 5 member Kevin Gribbon, Sr., makes sure that their furry friends received their treats as well.



Pennsylvania Hibernian marches in NYC parade

Mike Powers, from Division 1, Cumberland Co., PA, visited NYC with his wife, Susan, and had the rare privilege of marching up Fifth Avenue in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with their 18-month-old grand-daughter, Tierna Powers. The three marched with other family members from County Mayo.



Cumberland Division 1 awards \$2,000 scholarship Brothers Mike Powers and Terry Gallagher, representing the Michael Collins Div. 1 of Cumberland County PA, awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Kate Knepper of Trinity HS in Camp Hill, PA. The award was presented during the high school's senior awards event. Kate will be continuing her studies in pre-med.



Donations to food pantry

The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 presented a check to St. Patrick's food pantry due to the closure of the snap program. The Division has been presenting checks since the beginning of the pandemic, and when the snap program was abolished the division decided to help more. This is one of numerous checks that will be presented over the next couple of months. Front row, from left: Father Fox, St. Patrick's Parish West Scranton; current 2023 Man of the Year Kevin Donovan; and President Patrick O'Malley presenting check. Back row, from left: John Fletcher, Michael Robinson, Tom Lynch, Joseph Holland, Keith Oleski, Don Boyles and Rob Sherry.

Presenting his Irish roots

The Donnelly families in Northern Ireland and in Pennsylvania had lost contact with each other more than 100 years ago, and Brother Sean Donnelly had been working for about the last 30 years, since learning of their existence, to find and reestablish contact with his Irish family. His persistence was rewarded with a warm and loving Irish welcome at the family's ancestral homestead, the Donnelly Mill, followed by a grand reunion reception at the Shepherd's Rest Pub, both near Draperstown. Brother Donnelly's service to this Division includes his tenure as our Financial Secretary for many years. — Submitted by Jim Williams, Division 1



Brother Sean Donnelly, right, with his girlfriend, Lori Hetrick, was recognized by Dauphin County, Division 1 President Gerry McGlynn for the excellent two-part presentation Brother Donnelly gave to his Division brothers about his 2022 trip to Northern Ireland to reconnect with his Irish family there and his Irish roots.



The Fourth annual AOH Paul "Hook" O'Malley Vice President Kevin Shaughnessy Memorial Scholarship Presentation

The division gives out two \$500 scholarships to a boy and girl selected by the principal of All Saints Academy yearly for their high school education. The scholarship is a testament to the late Kevin Shaughnessy, who is the glue to our division and will never be forgotten. Front row, from left: Anna Tunney, girlfriend of Kevin Shaughnessy; Patrick Shaughnessy, Kevin's brother; scholarship recipient Lila Kolcharno; scholarship recipient Matthew Fox; Brian Shaughnessy, Kevin's brother; and Patrick O'Malley, president. Back row, from left: John Fletcher, Father Richard Fox 2023 Man of the Year; Kevin Donovan, Tom Lynch, Mike Robinson, Joe Holland, Kieth Oleski, Don Boyles, Kieth Oleski, Rob Sherry.

New York

Celebrating 'Bernie'

Hibernian Life Member Tim Myles arranged an art exhibit and talk about the late Irish Republican artist, historian and raconteur, Brian Mor O'Baoighill, aka Bernie. Bernie died 11 years ago, but his legend lives on. Just about wherever you go you can see his artwork: museums, homes, bars and even Belfast City Hall. The event was held Molloy University, in Rockville Centre, Nassau County, with assistance from Catherine Tully Muscente, Director of the Irish Studies Institute. Besides the art display, there were talks given by John McDonough and Martin Galvin, cohorts of Bernie's from Irish Northern Aid, the Irish People newspaper, where Bernie did numerous editorial illustrations (one which hung in the Museum of Free Derry), and from Radio Free Eireann.



At the art show were, from left, Hibernian Brothers Vic Sackett, Michael O'Rielly, Donal Mahoney, Tim Myles, Martin Galvin and Dermot Kelly.



Yonkers Division 1 makes donation

In May, Myles Scully, Div. 1, Yonkers, delivered on our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity with a \$2,000 donation to Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers. The funds will be used to support several initiatives including technology resources for the STEAM Program. From left, Anthony Giannelli, Guidance Counselor; Yonkers Hibernians Tom Allison and Jack McDonald; Claire Sullivan, Director of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations; and Kyle O'Donnell, Principal.



Irish Music Fest!

Hibernians, from left, Patrick Ryan, Joe McDonald, Mike Byrne and Tom Scanlon met at the Plattdeutsche Park, in Franklin Square, Nassau County, regarding an event agreement for the Irish Fest that will be held this coming October sponsored by the AOH of Nassau County.

Buffalo Hibernians attend Irish Echo awards program

The Irish Echo Irish American Arts and Culture Awards ceremony was held on April 28 at the Statler Hotel in Buffalo, NY. AOH National Immigration Chairman Tom Lambert represented the National Board. Ray O'Hanlon, editor of the Irish Echo and MC of the event, proclaimed Buffalo to be the capital of Irish America on the night of the event. As noted by Ray, "Buffalo has drawn the Irish to its streets and lake-frontage for generations. The city ranks in the top 10 of large U.S. cities in terms of the proportion of population with ties to Ireland. In Buffalo that means over 11 percent of the population, so more than one in 10."



At the Irish Echo's Arts & Culture Awards ceremony were, from left, State Sen. Tim Kennedy, 63rd District, Buffalo; Paddy Gorman of AOH Division 1, Buffalo; Irish Consul General/New York Helena Nolan; Tom Lambert, AOH National Immigration Chairman; and Craig Speers, NYS AOH District 2 Director.

Tennessee

In March, the AOH Nashville Division participated in several events and activities.

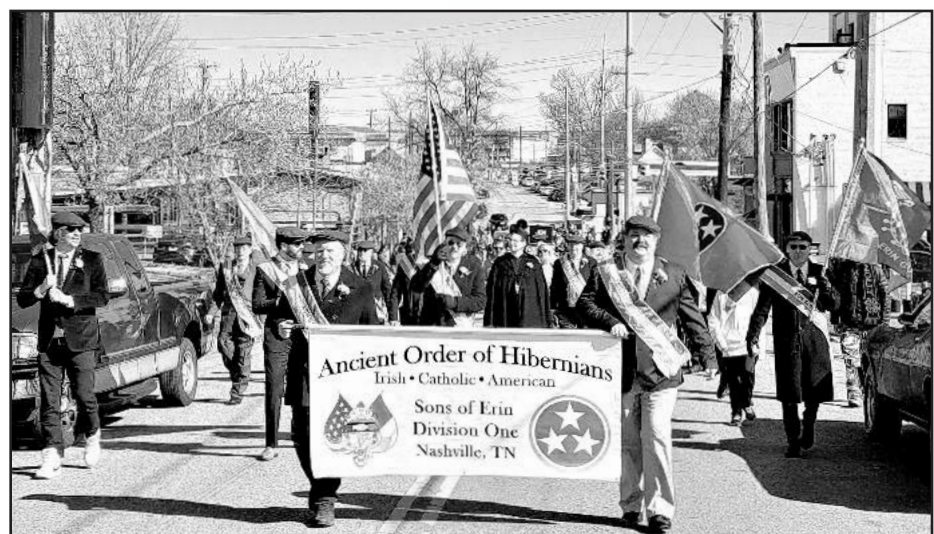
They attended the Sumner County Irish Fest, which had a record-breaking attendance of 2,600 people and the Music City Irish Fest, where the brothers presented themselves well, handed out swag at both events and prospected a few new members.

Nashville held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in more than 20 years. AOH Nashville was the largest group in the parade and won "Best in Show."

The AOH Nashville were special invited guests to attend a St. Patrick's event at St. Patrick Parish and a mass led by Bishop Spaulding.



Nashville Hibernians participated in the Sumner County Irish Fest.



AOH marched in the Nashville St. Patrick's Parade.

Pennsylvania

Kennedy Memorial Gazebo Dedication

On Saturday, June 10, the Kennedy Memorial Gazebo was dedicated to those military who serve our country who died in non-combat training and exercises. The gazebo is located at the Medal of Honor Grove located on the outskirts of Valley Forge National Park. This memorial was spearheaded by the Kennedy family of Malvern to honor their family member, Captain Brian T. Kennedy, of the United States Marine Corp. Captain Kennedy was killed along with 11 other Marines in a flying training exercise on January 14, 2016, off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii.

The memorial is here at the Medal of Honor Grove to recognize the sacrifice of all those in the military who gave the ultimate sacrifice training to defend our country. Hundreds have died over the years and just an example of the over-900 service personnel who died in the training for D-Day.

AOH Notre Dame member Mark Ryan is the Chairman of the Medal of Honor Grove and he invited everyone to stop by the grove and see the improvements that have been made to honor all our military who served our country. — Pete Hand



AOH Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums, Chester County Marine Corps League Color Guard and Grayson Ehm of the Boys Scouts Troop 105 who took part in the Gazebo Dedication.



Display at the Gazebo of the Marines who perished in the Pegasus crash.

Havertown Division 1 had a productive March

March was a busy month for the Brothers of Dennis Kelly Division 1. Our Brother Dan Harrell was the Grand Marshal of the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade, and Brother John Cooke was chosen for the Parade Ring of Honor. Prior to the parade, there were fund raising dinners and other events to promote the parade and Irish culture in the Philadelphia area. We were pleased to host musicians from St. Malachy's College in Belfast, who entertained at the parade Sashing Dinner, the New Deck Tavern, the Springfield Delco Parade and the Philadelphia Parade, where the lads from St. Malachy's won the Father Kevin C. Trautner Award as the Outstanding Religious Organization that displays their Irish Heritage. We also held a successful Bag Bingo Party to support our various charities, we concluded another Hibernian Hunger Collection and, at the end of the month, our high school basketball team traveled to Belfast to play their friends from St Malachy's, all to promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.



Hibernian Dan Harrell, Grand Marshal

Illinois

A Long Tradition

Chicago Division 32 and the local LAOH members were one of approximately 20 groups who marched in the inaugural 2003 St. Patrick's Parade on Chicago's Northwest side. Division 32 and the LAOH have continued that tradition every year since, including several years where Chicago's winter grip had not yet loosened. Over time, the parade expanded and this year had more than 70 groups marching.

On March 12 of this year we again marched with our Division banner, AOH, Irish and American flags, and a giant Irish flag manned by at least 12 of our members, family and friends. The day was seasonably cool, but the wind was slight and there was no snow or rain, so that helped make it an enjoyable march.

After marching, we proceeded to the Edison Park Inn where we enjoyed corned beef sandwiches and beverages. Brother Jim Murphy arranged for a performance by the famed Shannon Rovers Pipe Band, which Jim frequently leads as Flagbearer. Jim got some of the members' grandchildren to march in with the Shannon Rovers, help carry his flag and even bang the big drum a few times. — John Moriarty



Shannon Rover members, from left, Marty Maude, Brother Jim Murphy (green cap), Joe Heinrich (behind Jim), Doc Daly (behind the Irish flag, Jane Gawlik, Billy McTighe (with stripes) and Vicky Foss as well as future AOH and LAOH prospects from left Evelyn Moffo, Ashlynn and Connor Tagge and an as-yet unidentified helper.

Ohio

On the march in Cleveland

The Greater Cleveland Police Officers Memorial Society Parade honors officers and the surviving members who made the supreme sacrifice. Many of those marching are Hibernians and members of the Retired Irish Police (RIP) in the greater Cleveland, Ohio, area. Father Doug Brown is pastor of Mary Queen of Peace church in Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood.

In other news, The Boland/Berry Division 2 golf outing benefiting the Holy Family Cancer Home will be held Friday, August 25.



Rev. Fr. Douglas Brown, Boland Berry Division 2 Chaplain, marched in the Greater Cleveland Police Officers Memorial Society Parade in Cleveland, Ohio. The parade participants included members from local, state and federal law enforcement agencies from throughout the United States and Canada.

Missouri

Missouri State Board in action

April 14 and 15 saw the arrival of the AOH of Missouri to the small town of Rocheport on the banks of the Missouri River. This area hasn't seen such excitement since the Whig Convention of 1840 and the locals were more than happy to oblige and welcome the Irish. The newest AOH of Missouri State Executive Board was sworn in with officiating conducted by National Director Sean O'Dowd who was gracious enough to drive in from Chicago. Former President John McEvoy, of Kansas City's Padraig Pearse Division, also attended to preside over the transition. Newest State Board members include James Dugdale, President; Richard Shoaf, Vice-President; Michael Murphy, Recording Secretary; and Financial Secretary, Dennis Murray. Weekend festivities included an ice-breaker on Friday evening and State Board meeting at the Community Hall on Saturday morning. An induction ceremony with dinner Saturday evening was followed by a hooley with tin whistle and harp musicians and performances by the local Bratten Irish Dance Group. In attendance were members throughout Missouri, including Saint Louis, Kansas City, Saint Charles and Central Missouri. —James Dugdale



April 15 Hooley, Irish Dancers at Rocheport Community Hall



MO State Vice-President Richard Shoaf and family visiting the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales at Warm Springs Ranch near Rocheport.



Former MO State President John McEvoy, right, presented National Director Sean O'Dowd with a painting from a local KC Irish artist in thanks for his journey to Central MO.



Recruiting at Missouri Irish River Festival

Fred Bird stopped by to see how the recruiting for new AOH members was going at the Missouri Irish River Festival over Memorial Day weekend. Members of the Michael J. Roarty Division 1 in St Charles, from left, Chris Burgoyne, Monty Hampton, Fred Bird, John Wilson, Matt Morrison and Leo Tevlin.

Michigan



Helping to feed the hungry

Michigan's Stephen Walsh Division of Michigan hosted a Duelling Piano Concert to raise money for the Redford Interfaith Food Bank. \$1,470 was raised by this event. Pictured is Division President Tim Derrig and Financial Secretary Tim Casey.

Illinois



Brothers Kevin Conway, Mike O'Malley, Mike Hill, Tom Rowan, Tom Norris, John Resch, Mark "Lefty" Howe, National Director Sean O'Dowd, Jim Murphy, Frank Kehoe and John Moriarty in front of a table holding some of the meal bags we prepared.

Helping to feed the hungry

Division 32 continued their tradition of feeding the hungry at Easter when we again teamed up with the Soup Kitchen at St. Mary of the Lake in Chicago's Uptown area. Brothers prepared, wrapped and delivered some 270 sandwiches as well as drinks, fruit, chips, cheese and cookies to prepare meal bags for distribution. Eleven Brothers met at St. Mary's on April 5 to assemble the meal bags. We prepared over 125 complete two-sandwich meal bags and many more with two sandwiches and some of the other components. Joe Henry, who runs the Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's, said 70 people were served that day and that they were able to take an additional meal bag to go. — John Moriarty

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of. . .

the Ladies National President

by Marilyn Madigan

This past spring, I was honored to represent the LAOH in many special events. In April, seven leading Irish American organizations including the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Friends of Sinn Fein, Irish American Unity Conference, James Connolly Labor Coalition, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Brehon Law Societies of New York City, Nassau County and Suffolk County sponsored the Reflections on the Good Friday Agreements: Twenty-five years of Peace and Progress at the Cooper Union Hall in New York City. This event featured President Bill Clinton and Gerry Adams as speakers. I was honored to participant as a panelist. In the Press Releases for the event many of the sponsoring organizations shared their reflections. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were quoted "As we commemorate the Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, we remember all the advocates for peace and justice on both sides of the Atlantic. We especially recognize the impact of the women in the North of Ireland for their dedication and commitment to peace and justice issues. Their advocacy is making peace a reality for their children and grandchildren."

The publication of **Trasna na dTonnta-Across the Waves Women's reflection on the Good Friday Agreement** featuring women on both sides of the Atlantic that were advocates for peace and social justice issues in the North of Ireland was released in Belfast at Áras Uí Chonghaile Falls Road. This publication was a joint project with Relatives for Justice and will be one that historians will value in their research on this period of Irish History. Women need to be remembered in their role in history.

I also attended the Conference at Queens University on Good Friday Agreement at Twenty Five. What an experience to honor this important milestone and hear from the active participants who signed or had a role in this important document including Senator George Mitchell.

My personal highlight of my time in Belfast was being invited to speak at the Relatives for Justice event "It is Different for Mothers." The Event was the Public display of Portraits of Mothers who lost their children during the Troubles. Many of the Mothers featured in the Portraits were present at the event and I was so humbled to be able to address them. I quoted some lines from the Poem "Mother" by Patrick Pears and a friend Mary Monty from Belfast went home that evening and wrote out the entire Poem on a wooden plaque in the shape of a heart for me. What a special gift and memory.

I was honored to attend the Global Irish Forum with National Secretary Sandi Swift, National FFAI Chair Dolores Desch, National Immigration Chair Siobhan Denney, National Webmaster Brianna Curran, Special Advisor Dan Dennehy, Ohio FFAI Chair Rita O'Hara, President of American Woman's Organization/Connecticut LAOH member



Monica Welch and Special Guest Matt Morrison.

The theme of the Forum was "Le Cheile Aris-Together Again" The Forum was opened with an Address from Michael Martin TD Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defense. Sean Fleming TD Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora also addressed the delegation. The first day included three Panel Discussions on the topics: "Responding to the needs of and staying relevant to, an evolving diaspora" "Inclusively, diversity and belonging amongst Irish diaspora communities" and "Building networks to promote economic, cultural and social connections between diaspora communities, their host countries and Ireland." Also on the first day, the delegates met in small groups to share their ideas and concerns that are important to the worldwide Irish Community. There was a special Presentation on Consular Services and Passport Services, Citizen Services of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The first day concluded with a wonderful reception in the State Apartments of Dublin Castle. New friendships and networks were started during the first day. I was privileged to be interviewed as the National President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and part of the interview was showed at the Forum. The Global Irish Forum was livestreamed and can also be seen on the Department of Foreign Affairs website.

The final day included more panel discussions on Our Culture and Influence. The titles of the Panels were "Irish arts and cultural organizations as connections to the Irish diaspora and international audiences" and "Passing on the torch to future generations of the Irish diaspora." The day concluded with open discussions from the delegations and Closing remarks from Joe Hackett Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs. All those attending will be returning to their home countries with stronger ties to Ireland and Irish diaspora communities around the world. I was so honored and privilege to represent the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and Irish America.

LAOH National Vice President

On June 3, along with Past National President Margaret Hennessey, I attended the inaugural Degrees program given in Glen Allen Virginia by the new Tri-State Degree Team comprised of members from Mary Ryan Div 1, Henrico County, Virginia; Lt Col Dowd Div 1 Prince William County, Virginia; Carroll County LAOH Div 1, Maryland; and Daughters of Erin Div 9, District of Columbia.



Degree Team Members and Newly Degreed member (C). 1st row-Mary Grace Boyle, Betty McGowan, Laura Rossmoore (C), Sissy McEntee(C), Lucy Lindsey(C), Susan Holman(C), Catherine Fadden(C). 2nd Row- Karen Yesolitis (C), Maria Humphries, Sissy McEntee (C), Mimi Kloepfel, Lori Forbes, Trish Taylor, Kay Grill, Gwen Neary (C), Eileen Tarr (C). Top row- Debbie Brokaw (C), Ellen Marie Hess, Ellie Kisicki, Jennifer Frost, Alice Alexander, Kelly Parks, Virginia Holman (C).

Freedom For All Ireland

Christmas Appeal

The monetary awards for the 2022-23 FFAI Christmas Appeal were presented in Ireland by National FFAI Chair Dolores Desch and National President Marilyn Madigan in April. They were joined by National Secretary Sandi Swift, National Webmaster Brianna Curran and FFAI Committee members Kathleen Savage, Rita O'Hara, Louise Sullivan, and Nancy Tindall-Sponsel. This year the LAOH awarded a record \$80,000 in Christmas Appeal grants and donations. Groups that we gave to include the Ballymurphy Massacre Families, Belfast National Graves Association,

Bloody Sunday Trust (Museum of Free Derry), Bogside Artists, Bridges Beyond Boxing Belfast, Dúchas Oiriall, EALU, Greater New Lodge Cultural Society, Green Cross, Jim O'Neill & Robert Allsopp Memorial Flute Band Omagh Thunder Basketball, Passionist Peace and Reconciliation Office (Holy Cross), Relatives for Justice The Spring Project, St. Patrick's Center Downpatrick, The Martin McGuinness Foundation, The Witness Project, Tyrone National Graves Association, Springhill Westrock Massacre Committee, HerStory, James Connolly Center and Irelands Future. All the groups we met with were very thankful for the funding, especially this year where the British government has cut funding significantly for nonprofits and charities in the north.

Along with Relatives for Justice we launched the Trasna na dTonnta ("Across the Waves") Women's Reflections on the Good Friday Agreement publication which included written submissions from women on both sides of the Atlantic on the subject. The event was hosted by the James Connolly Centre and attended by members of the community including John Finucane MP who spoke of the power of women during the conflict and their role in bringing peace to the community. The publication is available for download on our website <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/>. For more information and photos of the trip please visit our website as well as our FFAI Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/LAOHFFAI32>.

www.ladiesaoh.com

West Virginia



President Tom Connelly, far right, was joined by daughters Mallory and Claire, along with several members of the AOH who took part in the food packing event.

Feeding the hungry

On April 15, the Wheeling, West Virginia, Division 1, took part in a local food-packing event that was organized by the Carroll Council of the Knights of Columbus 504. Hibernian Tom Burke, who is also the West Virginia State Advocate for the K of C, worked with Cross Catholic Outreach to organize the event. More than 60,000 meals were packed in less than three hours! Six thousand of these meals went to hungry West Virginians, while the remaining 54,000 went to hungry families in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. More than 150 people volunteered. President Tom Connelly's daughters, Mallory and Claire, were integral in keeping the AOH contingent on task! — Tom Murphy



At its April meeting, the Wheeling, West Virginia, Division 1, welcomed two new members into the Order. From left, new member Jon-Erik Gilot, President Tom Connelly, and new member William Wallace. — Tom Murphy



Scholarships awarded

In May, the Wheeling, West Virginia, Division 1 presented its annual scholarships. Three \$1,000 scholarships were awarded. The three winners, from left, Delaney O'Connell, Abigail Riedel and Rose Nettles, will graduate from Wheeling Central Catholic High School this year. Ms. O'Connell will attend West Virginia University and study interior design. Ms. Riedel will attend West Virginia University and study nursing. Ms. Nettles will attend West Liberty University and study elementary education. — Tom Murphy



Major Degree exemplified

On April 22, nine brothers of the Wheeling, West Virginia, Division 1, became Major Degree members. The Tri Abhainn Major Degree Team, led by Denny Maher, came to Wheeling for the ceremony. This was the first time Major Degree ceremony held in Wheeling and West Virginia. President Tom Connelly, center, is flanked by new and existing members of Division 1 that have their Major Degree.

PRESIDENT

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our first in what I believe will become a long line of Hibernian Ambassadors to the St. Patrick Centre.

Being the Voice of Irish America

Another Hibernian Success Story is our political efforts for Ireland. The Ancient Order of Hibernians is the leading Irish American organization and is the Voice of Irish America. We have demonstrated we can, and we must, work with all political parties here and abroad. We have demonstrated we can and must work with our elected leaders in Washington, D.C. from all political parties. We have demonstrated we can

and must work with all elected leaders in Dublin, Belfast, London and beyond if necessary. We are Irish America, and we refuse to accept anything less than a Free and United Ireland, a birth right that has been handed down from generation to generation for more than 800 years.

As Hibernians we do not support any political party, candidate or elected officials. As Hibernians we do not oppose any political party, candidate or elected officials. This is our golden rule for success outlined in our constitution that we must remember as we continue the work of our founding fathers.



Standing next to the Rita O'Hare booth in Bobby Van's, Washington, D.C., were AOH member Congressman Dr. John Joyce (PA), Congressman David Joyce (OH), AOH member Congressman Mike Lawler (NY), AOH President Danny O'Connell, First Minister-Elect Michelle O'Neill and Congressman Michael McCaul (TX). Congressman McCaul is Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Minnesota

Shamrock Division celebrates Founders Day

On a fine spring day, April 29, the Minnesota Shamrock Division gathered once again to celebrate our annual Founders Day. On this day we start with introducing new members to our Order, interviewing and awarding scholarships, and then followed with celebration of Holy Mass. To complete the day we have dinner followed with an Irish band for entertainment.

Established 43 years ago, the Shamrock Division has been celebrating its Founders Day annually at Saint Thomas Church in Jessenland. The area of Jessenland, being the site of the oldest Irish settlement in Minnesota, gives a sense of history and struggle that befits the celebration of our annual Founders Day. The day was well attended by our local members and clergy. Members from the St. Paul AOH, John Ireland Division, attended and were welcomed.

The Scholarship committee interviewed scholarship candidates and awarded a total of \$3,500 AOH scholarships to seven applicants. Scholarship selection was based on the applicants' Irish heritage, education plans and how they plan to promote their Irish heritage in the future.

The Minnesota Shamrock Division has approximately 100 members. We strive to promote traditional Irish culture and heritage in southern Minnesota. For more information and pictures regarding the Shamrock Division, please visit our website and see us on Facebook (@hibernianshamrock). Website: hibernianshamrock.com

— Tim Halloran



Hibernian Scholarship applications Ruarc Gannon, Melanie Smykalski, Peyton Hartmann, Emily Plagge and Morgan Traxler. Shamrock Division members are President Pat Multroy, Scholarship Committee members Dick O'Connell and Joe Fahey.

Division 4's annual installation ceremony

Minnesota Archbishop John Ireland Division 4, Ramsey County, held its annual installation ceremony and dinner this May at Mancini's Char House in Saint Paul. Our division welcomed its newly elected officers, including President Charlie Callaghan, Vice President Bill Clagherty, Treasurer Tim Courtney, Financial Secretary George Murphy and Recording Secretary Mark Connor. We also honored our Hibernian of the Year, three-time former president Vince Courtney. The event was well attended as usual, and a great time was held by all.



Newly elected officers, from left, Mike Haney, Mark Connor, Brian O'Donnell, Pat Donahue, Jim Fallon, Charlie Callaghan, Matt Heffron, Bill Clagherty and Tim Courtney.



Honoring former past division presidents, from left, Mike O'Donnell, Brian O'Donnell, Vince Courtney and Pat Donahue.



Members of Minnesota Shamrock Division prior to marching into St Thomas Church to start annual Founders Day Irish Mass.