

The National HIBERNIAN DIGEST



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

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Fitzpatrick to be awarded JFK Memorial Medal

Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA, 1st District) has been selected as the 2024 John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal recipient. Congressman Fitzpatrick will receive the award during the 2024 National Hibernian Convention.

Congressman Fitzpatrick said, "It is an honor to be this year's recipient of the Ancient Order of Hibernians' John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to President Danny O'Connell and the entire membership of the AOH for their service in this prestigious organization. As the descendant of Irish immigrants and as a public servant, I have always sought to be a voice for the Irish American and global Irish communities. During my time in Congress, I have worked to advance peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland, advocate for the preservation of Irish heritage, and strengthen the U.S.-Ireland relationship, all for the benefit of generations to come. I accept this medal with gratitude for my family and in remembrance of my ancestors, who like so many others, came to the United States with courage and conviction to build a better life for us all."



The John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal will be presented during the Hibernian National Convention on Saturday, August 10, 2024. The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America will award biennially, a gold

medallion to be known as the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal to a Catholic of Irish birth or descent outstanding in his or her field of endeavor.

Bishop Cullinan to be honored with Fr. Flanagan Award

Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford & Lismore, Ireland, has been selected as the inaugural Father Edward J. Flanagan Human Dignity Award recipient. Bishop Cullinan will be on hand during the AOH-LAOH National Convention to receive the award.

Bishop Phonsie, as he is called by many, said in a letter to the AOH, "I am humbled beyond measure on being chosen for the Fr. Flanagan Award from the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I first met the AOH in Columbus, Ohio, in July 2018 when my good friend Eddie Cotter (founder of Dead Theologians Society) invited me to Tara Hall in Columbus. I was struck by the fact that the meeting began with the Rosary! I was delighted to be in the company of so many Americans of Irish heritage who exemplified the best of that tradition of faith, friendship and concern. I felt very much at home. Later that month I was invited to the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, where then Vice President Danny O'Connell showed me such kindness and hospitality. Once again, I felt very much at home and was privileged to see how so many Irish people have flourished in the land to which their ancestors went and who reach out in prayer and fellowship to those who need a helping hand. I wish to thank the AOH for their support of our national seminary of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

"I do not see why I should be honoured with this Award," Bishop Cullinan continued, "and certainly am not fit to be mentioned in the same sentence with Fr. Edward Flanagan who did an enormous amount of good for countless young men who otherwise would have been left to their own devices. I will endeavour to be in some way less unworthy to accept this Award by trying to live up to the standard of humanity set by Fr. Flanagan



and hope that the Ancient Order of Hibernians will continue to be inspired by him to uphold all that is good and true and Irish."

The Father Flanagan Human Dignity Award will be presented on Friday, August 9, 2024, during the Irish Night banquet. This Award will be conferred biannually during the Hibernian National Convention. This award is conferred to an individual or group outstanding in the defense of the unborn or in advocating for those who suffer from injustice, poverty, homelessness, abandonment or other forms of societal neglect.

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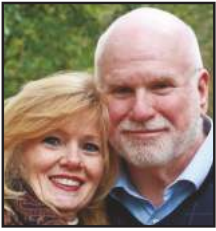
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DAN DEVINNEY

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



How the Irish Taught the Jews to Become American

Thursday, September 26, 2024 · 4:30 p.m. · 215-16 McKenna Hall



Hasia R. Diner
New York University



With the support of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, since 1978 the Cushwa Center has supported the study of the Irish experience in Ireland and America. Each fall, the center hosts the Hibernian Lecture at the University of Notre Dame.



learn more at
cushwa.nd.edu/events



Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism
Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies



From the ashes of the Trade Center to the Baile na nGael, I've been proud of my time in FDNY and followed by the AOH. About 10 days into the attack on the WTC, I noticed the American and Irish flags flying on West Street. Thinking it was FDNY's command post I went over to look for orders but it wasn't there, all our leadership had perished. Those flags got to me and I kept thinking about what they meant and how it was affecting me, being a citizen of both countries. Finally a bell went off in my head. In my neighborhood there was an AOH Hall, the Baile na nGael, the home of the Irish, a place that I use to go to for parties as my children grew, Baptisms, Confirmations, Shindigs, etc. I found out that this week they were swearing in new members. So after a day of digging through the rubble looking for

remains of civilians and fellow FDNY firefighters, I went to the Hall to get sworn in. My turnout gear was covered in the results of my days work, blood and ashes from sifting through the sharp metals, stone and powdered cement. I felt very proud that this Irish org. would have me in it. I saw the shock on the faces of the division officers that were there swearing me in but I stood proud to be one of them. The next day I was back at the site continuing my search for life or for anything that would give a sign that someone's family could have closure. I took that knowledge with me into the AOH.

I've been in the AOH for 23 yrs now from Brooklyn to now in Florida, I've worked my way up through the ranks and became Division President twice in Brooklyn and three times in Florida, though one term in Florida was for one year, I am President now. I was Kings County President, NY State District Director, NY State Commodore Barry Chair, Division FFAI Chair for 8-9yrs, County FFAI Chair 8yrs, NY State FFAI Committee member 4yrs, Florida State Immigration Chair for 4yrs, Florida State FFAI Chair in my 5th yr, and National FFAI Committee member 4 yrs. I've travelled to Ireland with the National FFAI trips at least 12 times.

Well that's my story and I hope all who read this will see that I've been active in our organization over the years that I've been in it. There are other things that I could have added but when you see me, ask me before you vote. I would be glad to tell you.

So remember. . .

Vote for Jim Sullivan, Director



president's message

By *Danny O'Connell*

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America has set the bar high for Irish American organizations since 1836. Today we continue to improve at the Division, County, State and National level. I have been blessed with a tremendous national board over the last four years and I commend all of these Irish Catholic gentlemen for their tremendous teamwork that had continued our success.

We came through COVID leading the way in technology. Zoom began as a necessity for the 2020 national convention, then quickly became the new communication standard between Ireland and Irish America. The AOH hosted Zoom meetings and webinars throughout COVID serving as a conduit between Irish America and Ireland. Constantly inviting our friends from other Irish organizations, such as the Irish American Unity Conference, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Good Friday Agreement and the LAOH. Our topics included Legacy Justice, Freedom for All Ireland, Irish History, Irish American History, Pro Life, and so much more.

The AOH initiated the international fight against the horrific British Government Legacy Bill in Northern Ireland, hosting a Zoom webinar just four days after it was announced in the "Queen's Speech." Today, the bill is in court, opposed by every political party in Northern Ireland, opposed by every Human Rights organization, opposed by most people in the United Kingdom, and opposed by everyone except the Tory Government, which is on their way out. Organizations around the U.S. have followed our lead and joined the opposition to the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023. We even received a "Thank you" email from Ian Paisley for being against the bill. The only thing the legacy bill accomplished was to unite all parties in Northern Ireland for the first time in history as opponents to this bill.

At a time when many organizations are reducing their participation and activities, we have been able to expand our work supporting our basic principles and building the future of Irish America by attracting younger members. We created a partnership with the Saint Patrick Centre to help breathe new energy into the Young Ambassador program. In two years, we have 19 Young Ambassadors in this life-changing program. In 10 years, we will have more than 100 Young Ambassadors to Northern Ireland. We initiated the McNabb Scholarship Program during the Pittsburgh convention and will expand it this year, awarding young members convention packages. We are also building closer ties to the young clergy in Ireland creating "Project Saint Patrick Ireland" to provide financial support to the seminarians in Ireland, donating \$58,000 over the last two years.

We expanded our prestigious awards program, adding the Father Flanagan Human Dignity Award to the JFK Memorial Medallion and the Sean MacBride Human Rights lineup. These prestigious awards have honored people from Ireland and the U.S. ranging from Taoiseach's to Bishops, and the Father Flanagan Human Dignity inaugural recipient will be our close friend, Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford & Lismore.

Our expanded efforts with the Catholic Church in Ireland led to an invitation from The Most Reverend Eamon Martin, Primate of All Ireland, to join him and Cardinal Sean Brady, Archbishop Emeritus of Armagh, for tea on Pancake Tuesday. The meet and greet was an opportunity for me to reconnect with Cardinal Brady who Past AOH President Judge Jim McKay and I have met with in the past. The meeting also set the stage for an ongoing partnership between the AOH in America and the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Our recent meetings with political leaders in Dublin are covered elsewhere in the Digest. One of the major changes I noticed on this last trip is the number of political leaders who requested a meeting with the AOH once they became aware of our visit. One such leader was the Ceann Comhairle since 10 March 2016, Seán Ó Fearghaíl, Fianna Fáil TD who hosted a reception for the Top Four national AOH officers in his office in Leinster House.

In closing, I look forward to the 2024 National Convention in Orland, Florida, August 7-11 and I hope you can attend. God Bless, Danny O.



The leadership of the AOH met with the leadership of the Catholic Church in Ireland. From left, Secretary Ray Lynch, Father Colm Hagan, Cardinal Sean Brady, Danny O'Connell, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Sean Pender and Fr. Barry Matthews.



vice president's report

By *Sean Pender*

The recent FFAI tour of Ireland was another amazing experience, shared by members from throughout the U.S. The meetings with members of the Irish government, the newly restored Northern Ireland Stormont government, the Catholic Church in Ireland and, of course, all the groups that the Christmas Appeal supports, once again showed the regard that the Ancient Order of Hibernians has in Ireland. It was an honor to be part of it.

I was recently asked by a county board to explain the reasoning once again behind the 2024 per capita increase and thought my reply would be important to share with the entire body.

The per capita amendment was presented at the Pittsburgh convention. The presentation complied with the National Constitution, Article 29, Section 3. There was a considerable amount of discussion on the matter and the motion passed. Per capita would be increased to \$16 with 2023 payment in 2024. (\$20, but if paid by February 15, a \$4 discount is applied, so let us use \$16 for our conversation.)

A \$12 per year per capita equates to \$1 a month or \$0.033 a day. A \$16 per year per capita equates to \$1.33 a month or \$0.044 a day. The membership at the convention passed the increase no doubt understanding that asking for an additional investment of \$4 a year, \$0.33 a month or just over a penny a day was worth it so that our Order can invest in our future.

Let us look at how we are using that investment, as approved by the National Board at the October meeting.

- \$25,000 yearly donation to support seminarians in Ireland; last year there were fewer than 30 young men in the seminary. It is our goal to help rebuild the church in Ireland and stand with those who will lead that charge. It harkens back to our origins when we answered the call of Bishop Hughes to protect the church in lower Manhattan.
- \$30,000 yearly spend to send 10 young members to the two-week St. Patrick Ambassador program at the St. Patrick Centre in Downpatrick. For years we have talked about what we can do to attract new members and develop new leaders; under President O'Connell's leadership we developed such programs. This program, which is offered to current young members and will hopefully give our Order 100 new young leaders over the next decade.
- Lastly, the board approved a \$67,000 investment to totally update our national membership roster program and website, and work towards a mobile application for all members to promote better communication and access. The current system is made up of two standalone systems that need to be constantly monitored for performance. It does not provide the data we need to view and analyze membership data. The online membership application process, which is part of the roster system, will be totally overhauled. The old system did not provide follow-up and we have had many applications in the last seven years that were not processed.

The investment in technology and expansion to targeted social media marketing is the way we will grow the Order. We must have the technology to support that growth.

Brothers, we are an organization that is approaching our 200th anniversary in 2036. If we do not invest in our organization with plans to get younger, improve our technology while promoting our faith and heritage we run the risk of limping into that year with an aged organization on our last legs.

I would suggest that we should ask our members is it worth an investment of just over a penny a day to invest in our organization, our members and our future. The body in Pittsburgh answered that YES and National leadership are now executing those plans.



Martin Galvin spoke at the site of the murder of Sean Downes by the RUC on August 8, 1984. Martin had been speaking at the event that day when Downes was killed.

More photos on page 6



interim secretary

By Ray Lynch

Greetings! As we are getting closer to our National Convention from Aug 7 through Aug 11 in Orlando at the Rosen Center, I'd like to remind you all of a few administrative things that will need to be completed. Each State, County and Division will soon be sent a delegate list (with the proper number of designated delegates/alternates for each level) to fill out. This document is a fillable form and should be sent back in that format. To be eligible to seat your delegates and alternates for Convention voting your division needs to be in good standing. Please take note that there are still some Divisions who are in arrears with their Per Capita and, as of now, are ineligible to be a delegate/alternate until the Per Capita is submitted.

Please don't wait to book your rooms and purchase your packages. For Convention information go to aoh.com and click on the Convention link; this will take you to the website where you can book your room, purchase your package, and also fill out a request for an ad in the Convention journal. If you need any assistance with anything you encounter on the Convention website, please feel free to reach out to me and I'll help walk you through it.

I would like to take a second to thank you for all your recent efforts in updating your rosters. Keep up the great work, we truly applaud your efforts! If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me (irishyankeenut@gmail.com).

Stay Blessed Brothers, in our motto....



treasurer's report

By Liam McNabb

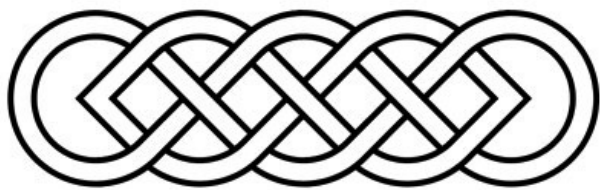
Your "Dues at Work"

As you may have read in this Digest in recent months, several investments have been made in the Order. Donations and/or financial support to charitable and other organizations, such as the Saint Patrick's Seminary in Maynooth, Ireland, and the Young Ambassador Program are examples of recent commitments of our National Board. The Young Ambassador Program is an investment in our future as many young Hibernians learn more about Irish culture and leadership. Another investment in our Order's future is in our operations through our membership management system, which is a "work in progress" and will yield results for many years to come. These important upgrades allow for self-direction at the local level and will improve record keeping of membership information.

These are just a few examples of short- and long-term investments in our Order from the dues that members pay at the local level. There are many more examples of projects, supported by dues, that relate to collaboration with partners, political and/or social, and advocacy that have led to productive relationships with the Irish government and key stakeholders in Washington, D.C.

Local Ownership

Growing the Order is a priority! While the National Board has many organizing and recruiting resources such as marketing materials and social media opportunities, Divisions need to be motivated to expand their membership. The national resources, for which every member paid, are available to help any Division succeed, but the drive and desire to grow begins with local leaders and members. Divisions know their respective communities best and, as such, are in the optimal position to develop an effective strategy to promote their great work and make a compelling case for others to join. Your National leadership supports your work but cannot serve as a worthy substitute to promote your local efforts on your behalf. We offer our assistance to work together to grow the Order but invite you to take the lead.



Email blasts enables immediate Hibernian call to action!

The national email system provides an opportunity for the National Board to share information with members between publications of the Hibernian Digest. This system also gives us instant contact with our members when we need a call to action on any Hibernian issue.

If you do not receive our email blasts and wish to be a part of our call to action team, please be sure to get your email updated on your membership information. Your financial secretary can update your information today. We need you as part of our team.



Director's Report

By Dan Deviney, Deputy Legal Counsel

I hope you and your families all had a great St. Patrick's Day. Before you know it the summer holidays will be upon us. That means plenty of AOH golf outings, picnics, festivals and other activities. These activities are what keep us connected and they breathe life into Hibernian life.

We are in the middle of a National Social Media Campaign. Many of you have been contacted by your State Presidents or a member of the Advertising Campaign Committee concerning recent applicants who applied through the National website. Please contact them and vet them as soon as possible. Once you deem them eligible to join use the activities of the summer to show them what Hibernian life is like. Use the activities to seal the deal.

A 30-member delegation of Hibernians, including National President Danny O'Connell and National Vice President Sean Pender, and other national and state officers, arrived in Ireland in mid-February for a two week fact-finding mission that included stops across the six counties, and ended in Dublin with key political meetings at Leinster House. The centerpiece of the tour was the presentation of nearly \$150,000 in Freedom for all Ireland grants at the Houben Centre on the grounds of Holy Cross Church Ardoyne, Belfast.

I attended this year's FFAI trip. Although I always wanted to attend the trip something always got in the way, so this was my first time on the trip. For years I heard about the trip. How appreciative the families, the people, and the groups are, and with the recent political gains of republicans their government representatives are. How you gain a much better feel for their appreciation for the AOH. How you gain a much better idea of how hard it was to endure what they went through. I must tell you that it is all true and then some.

This trip is something you are not going to get anywhere else, for several reasons. The access you have to people who were there as children and young adults during the Troubles who tell you their stories. We were given a tour of the Derry murals not by a tour guide but by one of the three men who painted them. The access to those in government and outside of government who are seeking justice for them and their families. Access to individuals and groups that are shaping Ireland's future. All the while you are there people are thanking you as representatives of the AOH and Irish America for everything you do. They express their thanks not only with words but by having lunches or dinners for you and yes even stopping legislative proceedings to recognize you. I also should say that there is also plenty of time to bond with your Hibernian Brothers. This trip was worth at least twice what it cost. So if you do not take this trip at least once during your time in the AOH you are really missing out.

I also want to thank the Division leaders who worked hard to clean up their forms and the Roster System and to congratulate the new AOH Young Ambassadors.

The AOH at Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame has long held a special place in the collective heart of Irish America. Founded in 1842, just six years after the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Notre Dame's path to its current status as a preeminent institution of higher education paralleled the journey of generations of Irish immigrants and their progeny who overcame nativist resistance and other obstacles to work their way into the fabric of American life. The "Fighting Irish" moniker, officially adopted by Notre Dame for its sports teams in 1927, is today an abiding and beloved testament to the connection between what is now a great university and a vast fan base of so-called "Subway Alumni," many of whom have never been to the storied South Bend Campus.

The South Bend Tribune reported Dec 5, 1977, "the directors of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, the AOH, the largest fraternal organizations of Irish and Irish Americans, have approved plans to raise \$1.3 million to endow the University of Notre Dame's new center for the study of American Catholicism. The unanimous decision of the national board of the Hibernians announced jointly by the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, the University President, and John Keane, AOH president, subject to ratification of the Hibernians at their meeting in Killarney, Ireland."

"The roots of Ireland are deep in the history of Notre Dame," commented Father Hesburgh. "The Hibernian presence on campus will be in the nature of an ethnic home coming. While the Irish flavor of the Notre Dame's athletic teams is well known, less understood is the fact that the religious brothers of Irish descent helped found the university, and two of our earliest presidents were born in Ireland."

The AOH initiated the study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame now known as the Cushwa Center for the study of American Catholicism. The AOH Notre Dame fund continues to support undergraduate scholarships, original scholarship in the field of Irish or Irish American history through annual Hibernian Research Awards, and also sponsors the annual Hibernian Lecture (since 1982), a prestigious lecture series in which leading academicians are invited to address some aspect of the Irish experience.

The Hibernian Lecture is open to the public and presents a great opportunity for those who have never been to the campus to take in all that Notre Dame has to offer. This year, the lecture will take place in McKenna Hall on the afternoon of Thursday, September 26, 2024. For those making a long weekend of the trip, the Fighting Irish football team takes on the Louisville Cardinals on Saturday, September 28, at Notre Dame Stadium, kickoff time TBD.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By BOB MEHRENS

It seems hard to believe that two years have passed since we met in Pittsburgh. I would like to welcome all members to make plans to attend the 2024 AOH National Convention in Orlando, Florida, August 7 to August 11. The convention provides a great opportunity to create lifelong friendships with Hibernians from across the country. The registration has been open on the web page www.aoh.com.

Over the past four years, the team effort by the National Board has been remarkable. The good work can be seen at every meeting and convention nationwide. The leadership from top to bottom has continued to improve, and your recruitment and retention efforts continue to pay dividends for the future of the organization.

I would again like to thank National Historian Dan Taylor for a great series of programs that he provided during Irish American Heritage Month. For those that missed or may want to go watch again you can register and watch on YouTube. Hopefully, at this reading, all divisions and states have caught up on their Form 9s and email updates. The National Board continues to work toward sharing our news and information with 100 percent of our membership. This has been a long slow process but with your help we can ensure that every member receives all messages from the board. Thank you to all State, County and Division boards for your attention to details as you completed your Annual Reports.

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

Montana



Dancing into Montana's St. Patrick's weekend
Members of the Tiernan Irish Dancers perform in the Rotunda of the Montana State Capitol during the kickoff ceremonies for the St. Patrick's Day weekend.



The statue in front of the Montana State Capitol, Thomas Francis Meagher, draped in the green, white and orange of Ireland, looks out over the Helena Valley in the early morning of March 15, 2024.



Experience that Counts!

Elect

BOBBY MEHRENS

National Treasurer

- National Director
- Co-Founder Copper Kings Degree Team
- Endorsed by his home Division 1, The Montana State Board
- Former Anaconda AOH Division 1 President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary
- Former Montana AOH State President 2013-2019
- Montana State Convention Co-Chair
- Anaconda AOH 125th Anniversary Co-Chair
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- Anaconda AOH Building Corporation Board Member



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Irish • Catholic • American

NATIONAL BOARD CHAPLAINS

Rev. John Keehner..... Chaplain jekeehner@yahoo.com
Rev. Michael Healy..... Chaplain hibhealy@hotmail.com

NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS

Daniel J. O'Connell..... President..... djoconnell@ysu.edu
Sean Pender..... Vice President..... paddyspeed@yahoo.com
Ray Lynch..... Secretary, Interim..... irishyankeenut@yahoo.com
Liam McNabb..... Treasurer..... liammcnabb@hotmail.com

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Timothy McSweeney..... National Director NY, VT..... newjack12007@yahoo.com
Raymond Lynch..... National Director..... irishyankeenut@yahoo.com
FL, GA, SC, NC, TN, AL, LA
Dan Devinney..... National Director..... devinneydaniel10@gmail.com
PA, DE, OH, WV, MD, DC, VA
Sean O'Dowd..... National Director..... seanodowd@aoh.org
IL, MI, IN, WI, MN, IA, MO, KY, KS
Richard H. Thompson..... National Director..... rthomp521@comcast.net
MA, ME, NH, CT, RI, NJ
Robert E. Mehrens..... National Director..... meetah2@hotmail.com
MT, WA, OR, CA, NE, CO, AZ, NM, TX, OK

CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Daniel Taylor..... Historian / Archivist..... dmtaylorjr@gmail.com
Ryan Curry..... Organizer..... aoh.natl.organizer@outlook.com
John O'Connell..... Editor Hibernian Digest..... editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
Martin Galvin, Esq..... FFAI Chairman..... mgalvinesq@AOL.COM
Patrick Ryan..... Charities and Missions..... patrick@rivierstad.com
Pat Lally..... Catholic Action..... lally 8404@hotmail.com
Ron Hagan..... Project St. Patrick..... rhagan@hagancca.com
Larry Squires..... Pro-Life..... lsquires@desccpm.com
A.J. Smith..... National Legal Counsel..... asmith@bssnylaw.com
Neil Cosgrove..... Political Education..... ncosgrov@optonline.com
Paatrick Flaherty..... Veterans Affairs..... p.e.flaherty44@gmail.com
Tom Lambert..... Immigration..... tomlambert12@aol.com
Chris Cooke..... Digital Coordinator..... chris@chriscooke.com
Judge James McKay..... Oversight Committee Chairman..... jfmaoh@me.com
Dennis Parks..... Oversight Committee..... dparks121@yahoo.com
John Wilson..... Oversight Committee..... johnj_wilson@yahoo.com

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

Jack Schneider..... Rituals & Degrees..... jack1515@aol.com
Bill Sullivan..... Hunger - Irish Way..... williamsullivan@verizon.net
Study Abroad Scholarships

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Judge James McKay..... Past President..... jfmaoh@me.com
2016-2020 / Charity Liaison
Brendan Moore..... 2012-2016 / FFAI Committee..... brendanaoh@yahoo.com
Seamus Boyle..... 2008-2012 / Political Education..... shayboyle@gmail.com
Jack Meehan..... 2006-2008..... meehanaoh1@aol.com
Ned McGinley..... 2002-2006 / Political Education Committee..... nedaoh1@aol.com
Notre Dame Fund
Edward J. Wallace..... 1994-1998 / Catholic Action Committee..... ewallac2@twcny.rr.com
George Clough..... 1990-1994 / Constitution Committee..... BookODays@aol.com
Veterans Committee
Nick Murphy..... 1986-1988 / Constitution Committee..... upkerry@optonline.net

The National hibernian digest

"Ireland, One and Indivisible. Though the heavens fall" HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND
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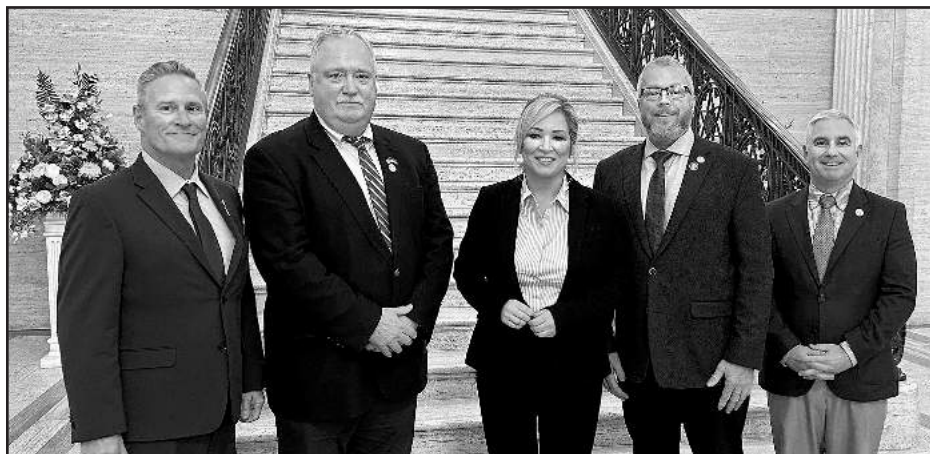
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JOHN O'CONNELL..... National Editor/Advertising..... (646) 436-0811 editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
KIM DePEAUX..... Assistant Editor (LAOH)..... laohnationalnews@gmail.com

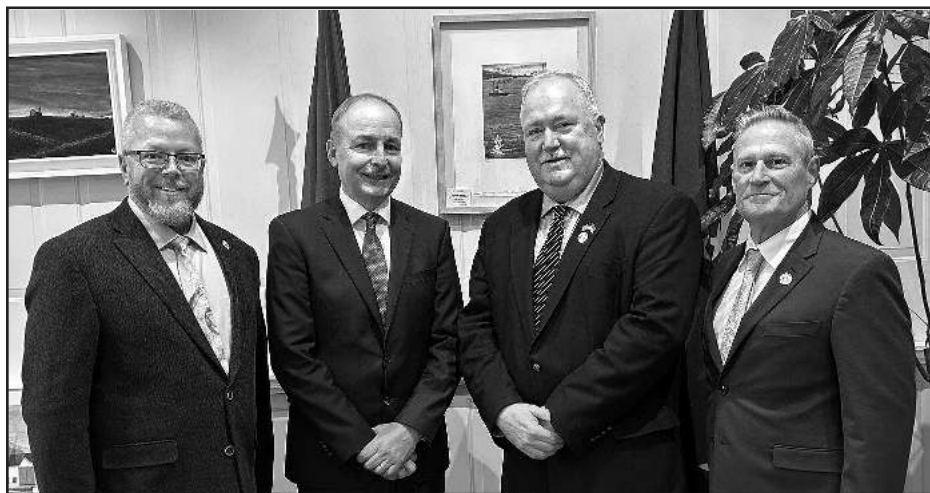
VICE PRESIDENT continued from page 3



Dept. of Foreign Affairs' Ciarán Madden, Martin Galvin, DFA's Julie Connell and Sean Pender.



The AOH Exec. Board with Northern Ireland First Minister Michelle O'Neill at Stormont. From left, Secretary Ray Lynch, VP Sean Pender, O'Neill, President Danny O'Connell and Treasurer Liam McNabb.



AOH President O'Connell, with Irish Tanaiste Michael Mairtin, second from left, and VP Sean Pender and Secretary Ray Lynch



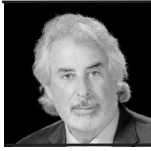
organizer

By RYAN CURRY

As all of you are aware, the sacred month of March is our peak season for recruitment. Thus far, there has been a significant uptick through our online application portal. It is now imperative that each Division convert qualified applicants into initiated brothers of our Order. Please be certain that these applications are assigned within Division leadership and applicants are vetted and actively engaged. All of these applications should be fully processed by the May Division meetings with qualified applicants initiated by the June Division meetings. These applications must not be held over for the summer months.

The National Marketing Committee has played an active role in strategic marketing through social media channels within certain target geographies. This program was rolled out in early March and has been part of the aforementioned successes in recruitment. All brothers involved are thanked for their efforts. In future months, our Order will look to implement further as well as share learnings with State and local leadership.

In closing, please remember that one goal of the National Organizing Committee is to reinvigorate a culture of growth within our Order. When vetting applicants, always remember to ask the final question: "Do you have any friends and family that would also be interested in our Order?" These referrals are not only essential to our growth but also establish with the applicant that we all have a duty to recruit those worthy of membership.



Director's report

By Sean O'Dowd

FFAI 2024 Tour

Last February I attended the 2024 Freedom for All Ireland tour with National Officers, FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin and members of the AOH. As is often the case, we met with and made financial donations to groups we support throughout Northern Ireland and Maynooth, Co. Kildare. One of the main purposes of these trips is education and fact finding. It was a pleasure to meet old friends and make new ones. Through a series of lectures and presentations, we heard firsthand the effects of contributions we made to the FFAI Christmas Appeal.

National Honorary Member

For the first time in recent memory, Dr. Tim Campbell, St. Patrick Centre, Down Patrick, N. Ireland, was presented an Honorary Membership by National President O'Connell. Dr. Campbell was surprised and visibly emotional with the honor.

The St. Patrick Centre was born out of the Good Friday Agreement and is the only permanent exhibition of Ireland's Patron Saint in the world. St. Patrick's grave is in the church grounds just above the Centre.

St. Patrick Centre Young Ambassador 2024

Congratulations to Padraig Gallagher of Dyersville, IA, one of 10 Young Ambassadors going to Ireland in June. The AOH has made a commitment to send 10 young members each year for 10 years.

Investments in Our Future

The National Board is making substantial upgrades to our Membership Roster System. All Division Financial Secretaries and Presidents have been asked to confirm and update their electronic officer and membership roster. All Officers must have a valid email address on file. All members should have a current email.

For this investment to work properly and be successful, we all need to be active. As members, when asked by your Financial Secretary for your updated information, please reply promptly.

New Member Applications

Late last Fall our National Organizer put together a task force to clear a backlog of Member Applications; a strict timeline was adhered to as we reached out to perspective members; State, Division Presidents and organizers were asked to follow up with these potential new members and report back status. Moving forward, applications will be requiring prompt follow up.

The National Organizer is implementing a system that will be able to track and monitor the processing of applications by the Division Presidents and Division Organizers.

National Convention Orlando FL August 7 through 11

Registration is now open for this year's AOH/LAOH Convention. National Conventions are excellent opportunities for members new and old to meet each other, discuss the workings of the Order and create contacts throughout the AOH. All State, County and Division officers are asked to get their delegates/alternates put together. By the time you receive this Digest the Convention will be approximately 12 weeks away.



Project St. Patrick

By Ron Hagan, chairman

As Easter has come and gone, we encourage all Hibernians to please think of our Easter Appeal for 2024. We ask all Divisions, State Boards and even individuals to consider a contribution to the Easter Appeal. All funds raised by the Easter Appeal are used to help seminarians and religious students pay part of their education expenses. The grants that are distributed are in the amount of \$500 but as we all know this is just a drop in the bucket of what the overall costs of the education costs are.

We have provided on our aoh.com website a form, 2024 Project St. Patrick Donation Form, which all Divisions, Counties or State Boards use to donate. Any donation of \$500 or more qualifies for a certificate to honor an individual, group or charity, or in memory of someone. A donation of \$1,000 would qualify for a certificate for two individuals. We are asking all the Divisions to please consider making a commitment to contribute to Project St. Patrick during this 2024 Easter Appeal.

We also ask the Divisions to please consider filling out the 2024 Division Diocese Form. This form is used to update our records annually of the Diocesan Vocational Directors within your Division's geographical community. These are the leads that the Project St. Patrick committee uses to send out notices to the current Vocational Directors; they then notify the seminarians and religious of the opportunity to apply for the Project St. Patrick grant. Please note that this process helps strengthen your ties between the Divisions and the Diocese.

Please contribute! It is part of our heritage to support the religious!

Please support Project St. Patrick



Director's report

By Richard Thompson

I trust everyone had a wonderful St. Patrick Day season celebrating our Irish heritage. We as Hibernians have always been proud of our faith and heritage, and as leaders in the Irish American community have and rightfully so encouraged and promoted the proper way to celebrate and honor St Patrick and what he means to our faith and Irish heritage.

We as Hibernians return to the operation of our Boards and Divisions, to provide charitable assistance to those in need, award scholarships to our children and grandchildren, run and promote programs that maintain the Irish culture through music and dance, sports and literature. I think for many of us this is a labor of love. I want to thank all those Brothers out there that are involved with events sustaining the Irish culture. We so often take for granted the behind-the-scenes work that goes into these events and the time and effort our Brothers expend to make an event successful. Thank you.

A very important event is coming up on our Hibernian schedule this August. Our National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Our conventions are always important as we conduct the major business of the Order while in session. We need you there as a delegate or candidate for office. Because without the participation of the membership it can stall the good works of the Order. There are many important decisions to be voted on that requires delegate participation. There will be elections for our Officers that will lead us into the future and you want to be there to vote for the candidates of your choice. Brothers please consider being a delegate to our National Convention this August. All the information about the convention can be found at aoh.com.

In closing I would like pay tribute to a Hibernian Brother who passed away this St. Patrick's Day. Dr Joseph Downes of Division 19 in Lowell, Massachusetts. He was a past division president and served as the Massachusetts State Board Historian for many years up until his death at age 85. He was a practicing chiropractor for 55 years and served as Chief Deputy Boxing Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Joe loved all things Irish. He will be dearly missed by his family and his Brothers and Sisters of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. May he rest in peace.

Elect

Ed Dougherty National Director



- Ed Dougherty, a proud member of Division 39, in Philadelphia, since 1995, is the Immediate Past Pennsylvania State President. He asks for one of your votes for National Director at our August National Convention in Orlando.
- On the National level, Ed has served as Credentials Chairman for our conventions in St. Louis, Atlantic City, Louisville, and Pittsburgh; Hibernian Charity President; Hibernian Charity Recording Secretary; on the Hibernian Charity Board; and Hibernian Hunger Chairman.
- On the Pennsylvania State level, Ed has been the State President (2021-2023), State Vice President, and State Chairman Hibernian Hunger Project.
- Ed has served as a delegate to our national conventions in Foxwoods, Philadelphia, Boston, New Orleans, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Atlantic City, Louisville, and Pittsburgh. He has been a delegate to state conventions in Wilkes Barre, Philadelphia, Bethlehem, Pocono Manor, Wyomissing, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, King of Prussia, Pittsburgh, King of Prussia, Scranton, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Johnstown.
- On the County level, Ed has been the Philadelphia County Board President, County Financial Secretary, County Chairman of the Hibernian Hunger Project (and is still active on this committee). He is currently his Division Financial Secretary and served as Division President, Vice President and Recording Secretary.
- Ed has helped fundraise and assisted with national projects for Super Storm Sandy Relief, Commodore John Barry Memorial, and the Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge, PA.
- Ed was born in Philadelphia and am happily married to my amazing and beautiful wife Maureen for 39 years. He has two wonderful daughters, Caitlin and Maura, and three grandchildren and blessed to be expecting another grandchild in June. He is the Supervisor of Court Operations in Family Court of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

"I am very proud of my family, religion, heritage and being a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I am endorsed by the Pennsylvania State Board, Philadelphia County Board and Division 39. I would be humbled by your vote and honored to serve as a National Director."



charities & missions

By Patrick Ryan, chairman



Brothers – what do St. Patrick’s day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, Pentecost and Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, to name a few, all have in common? Our Priest!

Without our Priest there is no Mass. Without Mass, there is no Catholic Church. We are Irish – Catholic – American, and I want to humbly ask for your support of the Catholic part of our motto in supporting and giving to Project St. Patrick.

Project St. Patrick was created to help our seminarians on their path of discernment and study to becoming Priest. Your generous giving over the years has greatly and positively affected hundreds of seminarians who have been ordained, but without your continued support we will falter and now is not the time for this. With so much persecution of Christians throughout the world, it is of grave importance that we remember and reflect on what your faith means. To grow in faith means to believe in your Church. Our Priests do not just pop out of the ground clothed in cassock and vestments, but come from the pews as young men and with your love, care and steadfast support become seminarians and ordained Priests.

I ask again for your continued support of our seminarians. Project St. Patrick is part of the Charity Appeal, which goes on all year long, but once a year during Lent and the Easter season we make an effort to promote this wonderful project. If you have donated, I want to extend a heart-felt Thank You! If you have not had a chance to participate you can do so by scanning the QR code here in this article or go to:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/easterappeal>

If you are not able to donate to the appeal please say prayers for those who are seminarians and those who are discerning a religious life. Also, if you are in need, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

I want to remind you to let your Division President and Charities & Missions Chair know that the annual charitable report is due. We need these for many different reasons:

1. We have to report to the IRS on our organization’s giving and works, etc....
2. We receive grants from several entities that also require this report. The level of support they give is based on YOUR responses. I cannot make it up so please help a little Irish lad from Kentucky. We have a report to give at the convention and your data is of utmost importance. I look forward to seeing many of you in Orlando and being the best Hibernians we can be.

Charity Appeal is Counting on You

The Hibernian Charity Appeal is our primary vehicle for individual members to contribute to our charity programs. These programs include The Ancient Order of Hibernians – Saint Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program; Project Saint Patrick; Project Saint Patrick, Ireland; Hibernian Hunger Projects; Hibernian Disaster Relief; and the Irish Way and Study Abroad scholarships. Our projects highlight the Hibernian core values and enhance our universal commitment to brotherhood.

We would like to personally thank all those who have been loyal contributors and invest each year in the success of our worthy charity appeal. We are pleased to report that our average donation continues to rise, which contributes to the growth of generosity to our community. Today, we challenge each member to prayerfully consider supporting our Hibernian Charity Appeal with a tax-deductible donation today! Your individual donation will support our charitable work.

This year’s goal is to dramatically improve member participation and our hope is that every Hibernian donates regardless of the amount. Each gift makes a difference! With your financial support the Ancient Order of Hibernians will continue to promote our faith, our Irish culture, our concern for community, and our unwavering aspiration for a free and United Ireland.

ORDER OFFICIAL AOH APPAREL TODAY! SHIRTS, JACKETS, HATS, AND MORE!



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Official Apparel

www.aohapparel.com

HELP WANTED

All Irish Need Apply

If you have experience, talent or skills in these areas please contact

paddyspeed@yahoo.com

- Marketing
- Polling / Surveys
- Recruitment
- Graphic design
- Social Media
- Coding
- Ad design development
- Video production
- Knowledge of **Wordpress** or **Canva**
- Government relations
- Web site design and development
- Publicity
- Ad Creation
- Ad Campaign Creation
- Ad Campaign Performance Monitoring
- Fundraising
- Sponsorship
- Non-Profit management
- Finance / Investments
- Newspaper Editing
- Proofreading
- Knowledge of AP Stylebook



Director's Report

By *tim mcsweeney*

April... such a wonderful month. April means we've survived another St. Patrick's Day Season. No more dances, dinners, parades, community events and being out five nights a week. Who's kidding, we're counting down the days to next March. We're Hibernians, that's just what we do. March was a whirlwind of events across New York State. Although we showcase our noble Order in March, we are proud Hibernians 365 days a year.

Recruitment

New York has seen an uptick in new members over the last few months. A combination of grassroots recruiting and an aggressive social media campaign, spearheaded by our hardworking State Organizer Tim Weklar, made this growth possible.

Hibernians honored at NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade

Grand Marshal Maggie Timoney led an outstanding group of Men and Ladies Hibernians Up 5th Avenue in the 263rd New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16. Those honored were: New York County Aide Msgr. Donald Sakano, Bronx County Aide Jack McCarrick, Queens County Aide Bridget Rush-Hernandez, Kings County Aide Joanna Gunderson, Richmond County Aide Yvonne Sheehan, Rockland County Aide Sean Michael Walsh, Nassau County Aide Paul Doud, Orange County Aide Donald Higgins, Suffolk County Aide Rev. Henry Reid, and Westchester County Aide Peggy Flynn.



Freedom for all Ireland

By *Martin Galvin, Chairman*

AOH presents FFAI grants in Belfast

One of the great recent AOH innovations is our ability to broadcast webinars on YouTube, which allow hundreds of AOH members across the country to see and hear key speakers from across the six counties. There have been perhaps no more moving programs than our annual presentations of Christmas Appeal grants, where representatives of each grant winner speak directly to Hibernians about the work they do for Freedom for all Ireland, and what AOH contributions mean to that work.

This year's presentations took place February 18 at the Houben Centre, on the grounds of Holy Cross Church in Ardoyne, Belfast. The venue itself, a flashpoint where schoolgirls were once daily targets of vicious sectarian abuse as they walked to attend a Catholic school, is highly symbolic.

Seventeen grant recipients participated alongside a 30-member Hibernian delegation that included all four top national officers and senior national and state leaders. These Hibernians stood in for all the Hibernians around the country, who made the donations that made these grants possible.

Heartfelt

It is one thing for Hibernians to hear about the importance of the Christmas Appeal from national officers or a National FFAI Chair.

It is something very special to hear heartfelt words of appreciation from justice campaigners like Mark Thompson of Relatives for Justice, or representatives of the iconic Ballymurphy Massacre and Bloody Sunday campaigns. Frankie Quinn of EALU (meaning Escape) a Tyrone support group for former political prisoners, described the vital job training and counseling EALU is able to provide for ex-prisoners with AOH help. Joe Austin and Eamon Hanna spoke about how Hibernian grants are used to maintain the graves of Irish patriots in Belfast and Tyrone.

Joe Doherty — who had a New York street named for him while inside a federal prison — talked about the impact of years of struggle on New Lodge and the work Greater New Lodge does particularly with young people in the area.

Brian McKee of the Houben Centre and Dr. Tim Campbell of the St. Patrick Centre described the additional accomplishments made possible by AOH grants.

Applicants

Other successful grant applicants were the Bogside Artists, Green Cross, the O'Neill-Allsopp Memorial Band, Duchas-Oriall, Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation, the Witness Project and cross-community groups, including Bridges Beyond Boxing, and the Omagh Choir.

Colin Harvey, of Ireland's Future, spoke about the AOH contribution to his group's efforts to secure a vote that would allow for the reunification of Ireland. This issue is becoming an AOH priority.

Christmas Appeal

None of this would have been possible without the contributions made by Hibernians around the country, and the work done by FFAI Committee members and National Directors. Once again the Christmas Appeal eclipsed last year's record. Just under \$150,000 was distributed. States like Florida and Virginia in the south and Ohio in the Midwest have now joined New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts as leaders. Other states in the west are growing.

I want to thank everyone who contributed. Much more importantly, those grant recipients whose work for Freedom for all Ireland you supported, thank you. If you ever had any questions about the Christmas Appeal or even about why anyone should join the AOH, watch that Hibernian Grants YouTube.

Three generations in Albany

Recently, Ryan and Patrick Guiry were sworn in as members of the Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5, in Albany, NY. Ryan and Patrick join their father Chris and grandfather, Division Life Member Ron Guiry, as proud Hibernians. These are new young, motivated members of our Order. Both Dad and Grandpa beamed with pride.

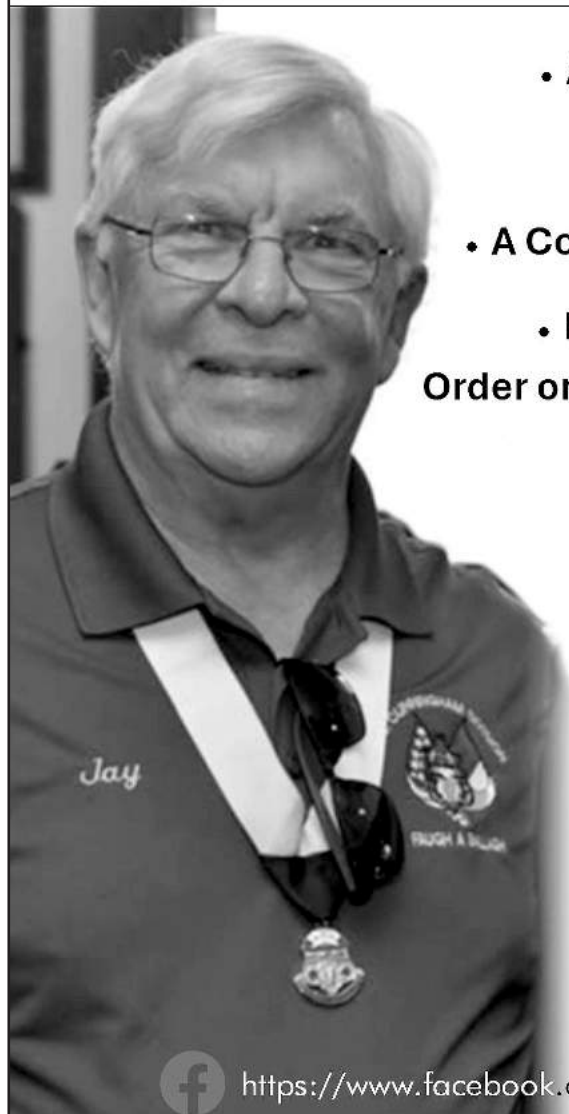


Three generations of Hibernians in Albany.



Honored at NYC St. Patrick's Parade.

Jay McCarthy For National Director



- A Proud Hibernian
- A Proven Leader
- A Corporate Executive
- Ready to Lead Our Order on a National Level!

As a past Virginia State President & dedicated AOH member since 2007, I am committed to keeping you informed & enhancing, growing and maintaining Our AOH membership!

Sláinte Jay

<https://www.facebook.com/jay.mccarthy.77>



catholic action

By pat lally, chairman

Some recent events in Ireland may be indicative of trends or opportunities that may bear upon developments in the United States. On March 8, two referenda, which polling showed to be winning by substantial margins, were actually soundly defeated, one of them by the highest ever "no" vote in an Irish referendum. One measure was designed to widen the definition of marriage, to include other "durable relationships." The second was to remove from the Constitution a provision that women should not be forced by economic necessity to work outside the home, to the "neglect of their duties in the home."

While the Irish bishops did not directly call for a "no" vote, they did circulate a letter to be read at Masses the weekend before the vote. The letter said that the family is the basic cell of society, essential to the common good, and based on "the exclusive and life-giving public commitment of marriage." The bishops also noted that the second measure would have the effect of removing all reference to motherhood from the Constitution. Ireland's Mothers Day fell on March 10 this year.

The results have buoyed up family and pro-life groups in Ireland, especially after some signal defeats in recent years. In 2015, Ireland became the first nation to legalize same-sex marriage by popular vote, 62 percent at that. And in 2018, by popular vote of 68 percent, the right to life of unborn children was removed from the Constitution. In contrast, these two most recent "progressive" measures went down by 67.7 percent and 73.9 percent, respectively. Taoiseach Leo Varadkar was heavily invested in the passage of the two measures, which were backed by all of the political parties except Aontu, Ireland's fledgling pro-life and social conservative party, which holds one seat in the national legislature.

The events seem to have elicited some soul-searching by backers of a "progressive" agenda. Supporters of new hate speech laws that may curtail free speech may be backing off. Some party leaders and influencers are urging less attention to the "woke" agenda of small interest groups and more listening to what ordinary people have to say. Some have questioned support for certain non-governmental organizations, which actually receive government funds to the tune of 6.2 billion euros annually, and are heavily involved in pressing for radical change regarding life and gender-related matters.

Backers of a more pro-life and pro-family agenda have noted that the difference between the defeats on abortion and same-sex marriage and the victories against these two recent referenda is likely a result of a voting bloc that has been willing to go along with much of the new agenda, but has found the most recent measures going too far. Here is fertile ground for political coalitions as well as field for using persuasion and example to bring more voters to the pro-life and pro-family side.

On March 20, Taoiseach Varadkar announced that he was resigning immediately as his party's leader and would surrender his prime ministership as soon as a successor is able to take his place. He cited "personal and political, but mainly political" reasons for his decision. It would likely be going too far to credit his referendum defeats alone for this, but it is likely that the voting results added to a larger list of setbacks in influencing his decision.



veterans affairs

By patrick flaherty, chairman

Greetings to all and I hope that everyone had a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day! I know out here in Montana we were all very busy with events stretching out over several days and culminating with the Mass on St. Patrick's Day itself. An exhausting weekend, but still a lot of fun with great potential for outreach to the community. I also hope that everyone had a joyous celebration of our Risen Lord over Easter Week and that we can all use this as a time to re-commit to our faith.

Memorial Day is coming upon us soon and it behooves us to remember what the day stands for and who we are celebrating. This is the day that we remember those who "gave the last full measure of Devotion" (to put it in the memorable words of Abraham Lincoln). Memorial Day began in 1868 as Decoration Day, a day to remember the fallen of the Civil War, based on the efforts of Major General John A. Logan (serving as the President of the Grand Army of the Republic) but has since expanded to cover all of those who gave their lives fighting for our country. Memorial Day became a federal holiday in 1971. However, in 1996, a poll was conducted and people were asked what Memorial Day was all about and the overwhelming response was "the beginning of summer" or (from kids) "the day the pools open."

In light of this disappointing and sad response, the White House under President Clinton instituted the National Moment of Remembrance that occurs at 3 p.m. (1500 hrs.) local time as a way to bring the attention of the country back to the reason for the holiday. For those of you who have not been, I recommend a trip to Washington, D.C., and Arlington National Cemetery to observe the Wreath Laying Ceremony that occurs at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is a particularly moving and poignant event.

On a lighter note, Memorial Day does mark the beginning of summer, so I encourage all of us to get outside (wear your sunscreen!) and do things. We all know that the winter season is a dark and dangerous time for those with depressive disorders, mental illness or PTS. Summer can be an aid or, in some cases, even a natural cure for some of these issues. So get outside, do things, soak up some of that Vitamin D, and find ways to expand your horizons. Go for a walk, go hiking in the mountains (the Appalachians are only hills, come to Montana for REAL mountains) or go camping; but use your common sense and take the necessary precautions to stay safe. For me, I "glamp," a four-star hotel is roughing it for me. Take your family (yes, those annoying people in your house). It lets you reconnect and if nothing else, you can trip them when the bear is chasing you. Seriously, however, get outside, do things with your family and friends. You will be surprised how good it can make you feel. It will also help those around you as they are the most important people to all of us.

One last thing, the National Convention is coming up in August. I hope to see a lot of you there so that we can discuss issues that affect us all as Veterans. In the meantime, I am holding Zoom meetings on the third Tuesday each month at 5 p.m. (Mountain Time), 7 p.m. on the East Coast. Everyone is invited, just let me know and I will send you a link. We can chat about the convention and what items or issues you think we need to discuss.

TOM LAMBERT

AOH NATIONAL DIRECTOR

- AOH Member since 1986
- AOH National Immigration Chair & NYS Legal Counsel
- Past NYS AOH President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, District 2 Director & Organizer
- Chair 2017 NYS AOH/LAOH Convention, Buffalo, NY
- Past President & Vice President, Division 1 Buffalo, NY
- Past President; Vice President & Financial Secretary, Division 3, Kings Park, NY
- Past Member Tara Court Major Degree Team
- Organized 2010 Major Degree Ceremony at Buffalo Irish Center for all Western New York.
- Delegate to NYS AOH Conventions in Melville, Albany, Pearl River, Saratoga, Uniondale, Buffalo, Albany & Binghamton.
- Delegate to National AOH Conventions in Philadelphia, Boston, Cincinnati, Verona, St. Louis, Atlantic City, Louisville, Pittsburgh & Orlando
- 2010 Hibernian of the Year, Buffalo, NY
- 2019 Irishman of the Year: Knights of Equity/Daughters of Erin, Buffalo, NY
- Marched in two Bloody Sunday Parades in Derry and travelled to Ireland as part of FFAI support in 2022
- Hosted children from the North of Ireland for five summers through Project Children

Elect...



Tom Lambert



Richard O'Brien

RICHARD O'BRIEN

AOH NATIONAL DIRECTOR

NATIONAL:

- National Hibernian Charity Board Member.
- Coordinated the NJAOH forum with Ms. Quinn presentation on the Ballymurphy Massacre National FFAI tour.
- Chairperson of the Atlantic City Irish Pub fundraiser for 2016 National Convention.

STATE:

- Current NJAOH President.
- Past NJAOH Vice President.
- Past NJAOH Treasurer.
- Represented the NJAOH at Atlantic City, Louisville, and Pittsburgh National Conventions.
- Represented the NJAOH at National President Dinners in Pearl River, Washington D.C., and Youngstown.
- Represented the NJAOH at PA Conventions in Scranton and NE Philadelphia. NY Conventions in Buffalo and Syracuse.
- Represented the NJAOH with National VP Sean Pender and Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo on AJR63 legislation declaring every March will be Irish American Heritage month in NJ.

LOCAL:

- Joined the AOH in 2004 (20-year member).
- Major Degree in 2005.
- Former Monmouth County NJ President.
- Former Middletown NJ Division President.
- Former Middletown NJ Division Financial Secretary.

EDUCATION:

- Saint John's University, M.B.A. in Finance.
- The University of Scranton, B.S. in Business Management.

ENDORSEMENTS:

NJAOH State Board, Monmouth County NJ Board
Middletown NJ Division 2.



pro life

By Larry Squires, chairman

Dear Beloved Brothers in Christ and St. Patrick,
 Jesus Christ is Risen Alleluia! Hopefully, you and your family celebrated a happy and blessed Easter Sunday! There are so many Pro Life issues to cover in this issue of the Digest, I'll only be able to touch on each very briefly, but the Pro Life Committee will also be providing additional coverage in the monthly AOH Pro Life Newsletter that is published via email on the first Friday of each month. If you don't receive the Newsletter and would like to, please email me at lsplitcmf@gmail.com.

At the end of March, the Supreme Court of the United States was hearing a case regarding the abortion pill mifepristone, the first pill taken in a two-drug regimen for a medication abortion. The challenge and complications of the case are deep and far reaching, and at the time this article was written, a decision wasn't expected until June, but the fact remains that medication abortions are now the most popular form of abortion in the United States. For a Catholic view and detailed technical information on the topic, please reference <https://www.usccb.org/chemical-abortion-fact-sheets>. You can also view the USCCB's Amicus Brief filed with the Supreme Court at: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2024/bishop-burbidge-invites-faithful-prayer-supreme-court-hears-case-abortion-drugs>. Medication abortion isn't the only application where pharmaceutical companies profit from ending life.

Also in March, I was visiting a funeral home, when I overheard, "The doctor called the family into a consulting room and explained what was going to happen. He then proceeded to explain how they were going to inject 'mom' with certain medications to ease her pain and bring about the inevitable in a humane fashion. With no objections from the family, the doctor proceeded, and a half hour later mom was in a better place." This event took place in Pennsylvania, where there is not a legal assisted suicide law in place. The patient in this case was unconscious, did not have a Living Will, and was not able to participate in the decision to end her life. For Catholic teachings on end-of-life issues Google the Vatican document Samaritanus Bonus, on the care of persons in the critical and terminal phases of life, or point your browser to <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/assisted-suicide-euthanasia>. You may also want to Google "Catholic Living Will for [Your Home State]." A Living Will needs to be completed by you, signed by two witnesses, and notarized. Your executor and health care providers should receive copies of your Living Will.

In vitro Fertilization, commonly called IVF, has been in the news recently, because of a new law in Alabama prohibiting IVF. There are several documents regarding IVF available at: <https://www.usccb.org/prolife>. The documents help to unravel the complexities and complications of IVF and provide Catholic teachings on the topic.

Please remember to keep all of our brothers dealing with life issues in your prayers. I'm hoping to see all of you at the National Convention in Orlando this August, and may God bless all of you!

In Our Motto, Larry.



AOH Pro Life all year round

One New York AOH Brother, National Life Member Tom Lilly had three family members attending; Ayme, Catherine, and Vincent were witnesses for life on Good Friday. Catherine is in the pro-life club in her high school and they all made their own signs for the event. We need more people to stand up and show their respect for life, you cannot just be pro-life from an easy chair.

**Make it your job
 to grow the AOH!**



anti-defamation

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

Often, when the National issues a press release challenging a defaming trope or a caricature of the Irish people, I will get a significant number of responses that "It is only a joke" or "The Irish are bigger than this."

It's time to confront this issue head-on. Stereotypes are not harmless fun; they directly threaten our cherished institutions and traditions. Comedians do not create stereotypes and tropes; bigots create them. In the case of the Irish, they were skillfully contrived by the British and then refined by American groups such as the "Know Nothings" and Ku Klux Klan to undermine Irish attempts to be seen as a vibrant, positive community deserving of respect.

This not only ignores a significant part of our oath as Hibernians, "That I will not countenance by my presence, nor support, any performance that may reasonably be interpreted as caricaturing or debasing the Irish people," but it completely ignores the corrosive, real-world effect that these stereotypes have on our community. The stance of dismissing stereotypes and defamation as "just a joke" poses a significant risk, particularly when other groups are actively and vocally challenging defamatory portrayals.

The advocacy of different groups against stereotypes and defamation, regardless of how it may sometimes be viewed as extreme, has effectively communicated the importance of treating their cultures and identities with respect. They have made clear that the promotion of stereotypes, even those seemingly benign or said in jest, will not be tolerated. Their actions have led to tangible changes in how their cultures are portrayed and discussed in public forums, media, entertainment, and, most importantly, for the future of our community schools, highlighting the power of taking a unified stand against cultural disrespect.

Such stereotypes not only misrepresent our heritage but also set low standards of behavior and bias toward Irish/Irish American events. A Boston City councilor made recent headlines calling for "changes in the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade," despite the fact that the legitimate issues raised about behavior on the sidewalks, parks and beyond on parade day had nothing to do with the parade and are entirely outside the scope of the hard-working members of the Irish American community.

These distortions of stereotypes have real consequences, fostering an environment where people feel encouraged, if not expected, to embody these clichés. The expectation of excessive drinking and disrespectful antics, unfortunately, drives the actual experience

continued on page 18

Brenden Walsh

Candidate for AOH National Director

Leadership - Experience - Results

Current Offices

Connecticut State Board Treasurer
 Fairfield County Board Recording Secretary

Previous Offices Held

Past Connecticut State Board President
 Past Connecticut State Board Vice President
 Past Connecticut State Board Webmaster
 Past J. Philip Gallagher Division Financial Secretary

Special Committees

National Digital Committee
 Connecticut State Board By-Laws Review
 Greater Danbury Irish Festival (Past Co-Chair)
 Greater Danbury Irish Cultural Center

Endorsements

Connecticut State Board
 Fairfield County Board
 J. Philip Gallagher Division, Danbury, CT

Citizenship and Education

Irish Citizenship
 Sacred Heart University, BS in Financial Management &
 Business Administration



Rituals & Degrees

By Jack Schneider, Chairman

Our 2024 Major Degree Program is off to a strong start once again this year. To date, at the time of this writing, four Major Degrees of the Order ceremonies have been exemplified. Well over 100 candidates were conferred their Major Degree in these events and we welcome them into the Inner Chamber of Hibernian Brotherhood. Impressive class sizes of more than 40 candidates have been noted on several occasions.

Another three Major Degree exemplifications are scheduled within the next month.

We recently observed the 1,010th Anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf, which took place on April 23, 1014, just north of Dublin when "Clontarf's Fateful Field was grandly won." In this battle, Irish forces under High King Brian Boru repulsed and defeated a Norse-Irish Alliance effectively ending Viking power in Ireland. Tragically, Brian Boru himself was killed in the battle but was elevated to legendary status as a result.

With this mention of "Brian of the Tribute," we would like to extend our congratulations to our own Brian Boru Major Degree Team of Virginia, whom I believe are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of their certification as a Major Degree Team this year. Brian Boru MDT exemplifies Major Degrees of the Order generally in the Mid-Atlantic Region covering Virginia and North Carolina. They are also one of our more traveled MDT's having exemplified multiple National Convention Major Degrees and even a significant road trip Degree all the way to Montana. The Montana venture was significant in that it assisted in establishing a foundation of Degreed Brothers in Montana that eventually led to the formation of the Copper Kings Major Degree Team in 2021, our first Major Degree Team west of the Mississippi River.

The Brian Boru Team is led by Team Chairman Brian Kiernan. Their team website is www.brianboru.org.

We look forward to seeing many of our fellow Degree Team members at our National Convention in Orlando in August.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order

Saturday, May 8. Crafton, PA. St. Philip's Church Hall, 50 West Crafton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Tri Abhainn (PA) MDT exemplifying. Candidates and Observers can pre-register at www.allegheyaoh.com/degree-team

Saturday, August 11. Orlando, FL National Convention Major Degree. Rosen Center Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL. <https://orlandoirish2024.com/home-1>



The Nassau County Board was happy to host — at the Irish American Society of Queens, Nassau and Suffolk — the Tara Court Degree Team in the team's stellar exemplification of the Major Degree of the Order on February 4. Behind the first row of seated Board members are the newly degreed brothers. Photo by Hibernian County Officer Jim Henry.



Immigration

By Tom Lambert, Chairman

I hope you all enjoyed St. Patrick's Day as we honored the patron saint of the Island of Saints and Scholars!

I have promised to keep our Brothers apprised of any changes in U.S. Immigration policy, especially if there is an effect on Irish immigration. In this regard, the calendar moved forward into the New Year, and there was hope for progress on immigration. As was noted previously, a bipartisan immigration bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in May. The "Dignity Act of 2023" was passed in the House, but not in the Senate. Observers noted there was no clear path for approval in the Senate. This had proven to be true. The bill combines proposals to increase security at our borders with provisions to revise the process for seeking asylum. Since that time, in a press release dated September 20, 2023, the Biden Administration had taken new actions to increase border enforcement and to process work authorizations, while continuing to call on Congress to act on more comprehensive immigration reform.

Unfortunately, a bill which would have combined elements of both the Dignity Act and increased border security, especially the southern border, appears to be going nowhere because of pushback in the House of Representatives. The Senate bill would have also tied continued aid to Ukraine and Israel to passage of this legislation. As a result, we have still not seen immigration reform come to fruition. Any changes in U.S. immigration policy toward Ireland is tied to changes in immigration enforcement at our southern border. Despite this most recent set back, the Ancient Order of Hibernians will continue to push extremely 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. Our work continues!

On a brighter note, Congressman Mike Lawler from Rockland County, New York, and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, from Pennsylvania, who are also AOH Brothers, have been part of a bipartisan group in the House of Representatives who are pushing for immigration reform despite the current obstacles. Efforts by both congressmen are not limited to immigration reform. Both congressmen, along with Congresswoman Betty McCollum from Minnesota, were signatories on a letter authored by Congressman Lawler that urged the Irish government to take the United Kingdom to the European Court of Human Rights in the wake of enactment of the Legacy and Reconciliation Act. This British legislation would shut down ongoing investigations in the North of Ireland going back to the "Troubles." The bipartisan letter was also sent to Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Tanaiste Micheal Martin. This letter, which had heavy support from AOH Brothers, did help to prompt the Irish government to take the British government to the European Court. Hopefully, the next time Neil Cosgrove or Martin Galvin asks for our support in reaching out to an elected official, the response will be even greater! As noted in the Irish Echo, Congressman Lawler was quoted as saying, "I believe all of us are opposed to the legacy and reconciliation act. I believe it undermines the Good Friday Agreement and does not serve the UK, Ireland, or Northern Ireland well."

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 do not forget to include Officers for all positions, including Immigration. As always, I would be happy to work with any local Immigration chair. Please contact me at TomLambert12@aol.com with any comments or questions.

Project St Patrick Mass/Prayer Cards

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

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Email: rhagan@haganpcpa.com

Elect



Keith Reynolds, National Director COMMITTED TO OUR FUTURE!

- Endorsed by the Florida State A.O.H.
- Florida State Vice President
- Co-Chair 2024 National Convention
- Former Deputy National Organizer 2017- 2022
- 2024 Grand Marshal of the Melbourne St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Former N.Y. State Director & Organizer
- Past President of Div. 1 Orange Co. N.Y. & Div. 2 Brevard Co. FL
- U.S.M.C. Veteran
- Member of Innisfail Major Degree Team



Irish way & study abroad

By **Bill Sullivan**, chairman

Do you have a child or grandchild thinking of studying on the Emerald Isle either this summer or during the 2024–2025 academic school year? If so, we have some great news for you! One opportunity that should not be overlooked is the scholarship initiatives that the AOH National Board offers to its members.

Irish Way for High School students

For high school aged students, the Irish Way High School Program offers a once in a lifetime opportunity for American high school students to study in Ireland during the summer. This multifaceted program consists of a wide variety of classes, workshops and tours. This summer's 2024 program will take place in Ireland June 30 to July 24. Your AOH National Board offers a \$1,000 Irish Way Scholarship for a child and grandchild of an AOH member, as well as to an AOH member who is attending high school. For more information on this scholarship, and the Irish Way, please check out our AOH National Web Page under Scholarships. Information on this program and our Irish Way scholarship can also be found on the AOH Face Book page thanks to our assistant web master, Chad Ghastin.

Study-in-Ireland scholarships for college students

Do you have a college student in your family thinking of studying abroad in Ireland anytime during 2024 or 2025? If so, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of the scholarship opportunities that your National Board offers. Just what are these opportunities? The National Board offers two \$2,000 study abroad scholarships for a full year of study in Ireland, and a \$1,000 scholarship for one semester of study. Please check out the AOH National Board website under Scholarships for a Study Abroad scholarship application and other pertinent information on studying in Ireland at the undergraduate and graduate level. Information on our study abroad scholarships, can also be found on the AOH Face Book page, again thanks to Chad Ghastin. Please note: our college scholarships are open-ended until filled.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments or questions. I look forward to hearing from you! My email address is: williamsullivan@verizon.net



Irish American Heritage Month

By **Neil Cosgrove**
chairman

Once again, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America conducted a nationwide campaign during Irish American Heritage Month, utilizing Facebook and YouTube to engage a broad audience. The video campaign reached more than 207,000 individuals. Our daily profile series reached 107,705, with total engagement signified by taking an action with the post (liking, sharing, commenting) at 49,717, approximately 46.16 percent. These numbers reveal a strong interest in Irish American heritage across various age groups and regions. As a point of reference, the Irish American profile that garnered the most engagement this year was the post on Fr. Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J., who earned the Medal of Honor aboard the USS Franklin in WW II.

The campaign successfully engaged diverse age groups, with notable activity among both older and younger demographics on Facebook and YouTube, respectively. Regions such as New York, Pennsylvania, California, Florida and Texas showed high levels of engagement, indicating areas with strong interest in Irish American heritage. What was both surprising and disappointing are the states where we have solid Irish American presence and Hibernian presence yet scored relatively low, indicating that the opportunity to take advantage of Irish American Heritage Month was not leveraged.

The national campaign's reach provides a platform for growth, but local divisions are vital in converting this interest into active community engagement and membership expansion. Local efforts are essential to sustain the momentum generated by the national campaign.

The national campaign's success is a testament to the widespread interest in Irish American heritage. Local divisions must build on this by initiating targeted actions that resonate with the community's interests. By organizing local events, engaging with the community, and utilizing social media effectively, local divisions can play a crucial role in expanding the AOH's reach and impact. Divisions should capitalize on this momentum, engaging their communities through targeted initiatives and recruitment centered around our heritage. We can continue to celebrate and preserve our rich heritage through collective action, ensuring that the AOH remains a vibrant and influential organization in promoting Irish American culture. In doing so, we can fulfill our pledged duty to preserve our heritage and grow the Order, the epitome of a "Win-Win."

Deadline

Articles for the June-July issue
are due no later than June 1, 2024



Hibernian hunger project

By **Bill Sullivan**, chairman

Our sincere thanks and gratitude go out to those Divisions who submitted Hibernian Hunger Project Applications on their Hunger projects for 2023. Without doubt, as evidenced by the HHP applications received, divisions are addressing hunger in their communities in a variety of ways. Our thanks also go out to the AOH National Board, the Hibernian Charity Board, and to those members who directed their Charity Appeal donations to be used for our hunger awards. As a result of their generosity, 17 divisions received grants for their 2023 Hunger projects. The Committee reviewed all applications that were submitted and found it very difficult to select this year's recipients because of the many fine projects done by divisions. In all, the committee selected five Divisions to receive \$1,000 grants, and 12 Division projects were selected to receive \$500 awards.

Awards

Divisions selected to receive \$1,000 grants were: the Father Henry Tansey Division 5 AOH of Albany NY; Division 1 AOH of Monroe, NY; the Father John Lynch Division in Roanoke, VA; Division 39 AOH of Philadelphia, PA, and Division 32 AOH in Chicago, IL.

Divisions selected to receive \$500 awards were: Division 2 AOH of Carbondale, PA, the Father John Murphy Division 9 AOH of Plymouth, MA; Division 3 AOH in Buck's County, PA; the Saint Patrick Division 2 AOH in Babylon, NY; the JFK Division 1 AOH in Bridgeport, CT; Division 4 AOH of Huntington, NY; the Patrick Torphy Division 2 AOH of Middletown, NJ; the Msgr. James Ruddy Division 1 AOH of Watertown NY; Division 2 AOH of Saint Louis MO; Division 5 AOH of Bucks County, PA; the Commodore John Barry Division 1 AOH of Saratoga Springs, NY and the Michael Dougherty Division 1 AOH of Bristol, PA. In future Hibernian Digest articles, we will share how each of these Divisions addressed hunger in their areas.

Division leadership on hunger

Since the inception of our HHP grants nearly four years ago, we have made progress with Divisions reporting on their Hibernian Hunger Projects. Despite this positive note, the fact remains that only 10 to 12 percent of divisions filed a Hibernian Hunger Report from 2020 to 2023. Though these numbers may be discouraging, they are approximately seven times the number that was reported prior to 2020. Just how can we help divisions to file for an HHP grant? The first step is for the division president to appoint a Hibernian Hunger Project chairman. I am confident that if each Division President did so, we would see a significant increase in Hibernian Hunger Applications.

Why is it important for each Division to have a hunger chairman? The data from our HHP applications is used when the AOH National Board applies for grants. The information that is furnished by the AOH weighs heavily in the decision of the grantee. Division presidents can show their leadership, and Division HHP chairmen can play a key role when your division files an HHP application. The AOH, both nationally and locally, will be the better for it!

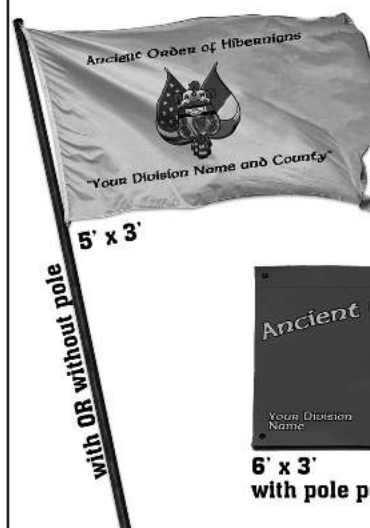
Plan now

The next round of Hibernian Hunger Project Awards will cover Division Hunger Projects that will take place between January 1 to December 31, 2024. Applications will be due by February 15, 2025. If you have not already done so, now would be a good time, to plan and implement a Hunger-related event.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments, or your questions. I look forward to hearing from you! My email address is: williamsullivan@verizon.net



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New Jersey

Reaching out to those in need

Annual Thanksgiving and Easter Dinner Project

The St. Patrick Division 1 - Somerset County, NJ, has a committee led and supported by Dan Esposito, Tom Lenahan, Pat Mannion, Tommy Burns and numerous AOH Brothers solely for the purpose of its annual Thanksgiving and Easter dinner projects. This annual event centers around our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The committee's responsibilities are around three key functions contributing to the success of the Division's Dinner Project: Recipient need and relationship management; Operations, procurement, assembly, distribution and fund raising; and Community outreach and promotion.

Fifty to 70 Easter Dinners are distributed on Good Friday to include a ham and all the fixings. The Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, we hold our Annual Irish Seisiun — founded by the late Michael Berry — which brings members, friends and family from our community together for Irish music, food, drink and fellowship at the Knights of Columbus of Somerville. This festive gathering also serves as a turkey and pantry item drop off for the following morning assembly and delivery of more than 100 turkey dinners the Monday prior to Thanksgiving.

All financial donations, and financial support from brothers, sponsors, donors and generous partners, such as Albertson's / King's of Whitehouse, ShopRite of Flemington, and the Knights of Columbus, Somerville Council 1432 are allocated at 100 percent for the dinner project, which impacts our Tri-County areas in Somerset, Middlesex and Hunterdon Counties of NJ.

Organizations and Families in the Somerset, Hunterdon and Middlesex counties receiving our support include Center for Great Expectations, Binnacle House (Hunterdon Youth Services), AGAPE House, Visions & Pathways, Elijah's Promise, Anderson House (Turning Point), Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP), Somerset County Food Bank, identified families in need and individual families from Immaculate Conception Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, Somerville, Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church, Middlesex and Mary Mother of God Church, Hillsborough. — Thomas Lenahan, Saint Patrick Division 1



Members of the St. Patrick's Division 1 were hard at work preparing food donations.



South Amboy AOH helps 'Daniella's Gift'
The Colonel David B. Kelly Middlesex County Division 1 in South Amboy, New Jersey, recently held a fundraiser at the AOH building in South Amboy for Daniella's Gift, attended by approximately 100 people. Anthony Biancianiello is the president of Daniella's Gift and he started the charity to honor his late wife who worked with the families of social needs children. All proceeds go to supporting the many needs of these families. Two of the division members, Jeff Seidel and Shane Hughes, were instrumental in getting the fundraiser started. Not only are they AOH members but they also perform in a band named Almost Average. The band provided entertainment throughout the night, free of charge, and a local restaurant, Amano's, provided pizza (most for free) and all proceeds from the evening went to the charity. \$2,000 was raised for Daniella's Gift. More charitable events are being planned, including an evening to benefit the South Amboy First Aid on April 13. From left, Jeff Seidel and Shane Hughes, Anthony Biancianiello, President of Daniella's Gift, Dory Bruno, Treasurer of Daniella's Gift, and Joe Britton, President of the Colonel David B. Kelly Middlesex County Division 1 in South Amboy.



On parade in Belmar
Brother Ed Neafsey, left, was Grand Marshal at Belmar Saint Patrick's Day parade. Pictured here with President Rich O'Brien.



New Jersey Hibernians making a difference in their communities, exemplifying our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Indiana

The 152nd St. Patrick's Day Celebration for Kevin Barry Division 3



Members of the Indiana's AOH Kevin Barry Division 3 and Indiana's LOAH Our Lady of Knock Division 1 and with our special guest Kevin Byrne, Consul General of Ireland in Chicago and Rev Joseph Moriarty who is the Chaplain for both the AOH and LOAH divisions. Before our St Patrick's Celebration both divisions attend mass at the historic Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church, It is the oldest Catholic parish in Indianapolis originating back to 1837. It was built by both Irish and German Immigrants.



Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB the president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary with Tim Coughlin the Division's Vice President. Father Robinson is receiving a \$3,000 donation made to the Seminary paid by fund raising through our annual 'Map of Ireland' page that is part of the St. Patrick's Celebration Program.



Since 1985, during our St Patrick's Celebration through the generous support of our members and friends, the Kevin Barry Division 3 has awarded over 60 scholarships to deserving high school seniors. Recipients are judged on the following criteria: Scholastic achievement, Extracurricular activities, Irish heritage, and their Involvement in church, community and Irish culture. This year we are proud to offer the following scholarships, each worth \$1500 to the following winners. From left, Katlin Gallagher, Jack O' Brien, Wil Battles, Molly Walsh, Patrick Cadwallader and

Oklahoma



Tulsa Hibernians celebrate with Dropkick Murphys

Members of the Bobby Sands Division 1 of Tulsa presented a present to the Dropkick Murphys, a Massachusetts Irish-American rock group. The present was a painted guitar that included references to Oklahoma and its native son, folk singer Woody Guthrie, as well as the AOH.

The Dropkick Murphys were given access to the Woody Guthrie archives by Woody's daughter, Nora Guthrie. The group put music to unpublished lyrics and recorded the album "This Machine Still Kills Fascists" at the famous Church Studio in Tulsa, OK, founded by Tulsa musician and producer Leon Russell. The Dropkick Murphys were among a notable roster of artists who recorded there, including Eric Clapton, Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Joe Cocker and Tom Petty.



Catholic Men weekend in NW OK

Brothers from the Bobby Sands Division 1 attended and volunteered at the Catholic Men Show weekend campout last fall at the Benedictine Our Lady of Clear Creek Monastery in northwest Oklahoma. From left, Justin Layton, Joe Meyer, Tom Nchols, Al Meyer and David Lawrence. The Meyer brothers and Justin Layton fried up catfish on Friday night while slow smoking pork butts all night for about 50 hungry Catholic men from around the state and country.



Veterans Day Vols

Tulsa Hibernians, from left, Brother David Lawrence and Past President Jim Bartlett and Past President Nathan Wilson of the Bobby Sands Division of Tulsa, OK, volunteered at the annual Veterans Day Luncheon at the American Legion Post One in Tulsa.

Pennsylvania

In the spirit of our Motto

Dennis Kelly Division 1 had a busy fall last year starting in September with an Eagles' watch party fundraiser for various Division charities. We also collected items for the Delaware County Child Advocacy Center, an organization that provides comprehensive and timely child-focused services in a safe, child-friendly setting. We also collect items for The DCCAC at three restaurants in Delaware County that are owned by Dennis Kelly Division members. By December we had collected a truck load of stuffed animals, backpacks, toiletries and blankets that were dropped off to the appreciative DCCAC staff. This work of Christian Charity has been organized by Brother Kyle Meakim for many years, all our Havertown Brothers as well as Brothers and friends from Delaware County participate in the spirit of Our Motto.

In December we kicked off our Home Heating Project Fundraiser to help those in need pay their utility bills. Raffle tickets that match the January PA Lotto Daily Match 3 is a winner. This project is organized by Brother Harry Quinn and over the years we have helped many families keep up with their utility needs during the winter months.



Delaware County Child Advocacy Center staffers with Dennis Kelly Division members John Cavanagh, Kyle Meakim, Gerry McConnell, Tom Meakim, Jay Burke and Brian Friel.



Man of the Year

The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 annual Man of the Year Dinner presented Michael Robinson the Man of the Year plaque and sash, which represents the Division's best of the best. Mr. Robinson has been a member for many years and has helped contribute to the Division to help those in need. We are happy to honor Michael Robinson. He is what a Man of the Year represents. From left, Joseph Holland, Robert McAndrew, Charter President Patrick O'Malley, Father Richard Fox of St. Patrick's Parish, 2024 Man of the Year Michael Robinson, Shillelagh Award recipient Rob Fletcher, Kevin Donovan, Joseph Hosie Past Pennsylvania State AOH President and current president of the Monsignor Farrell Division, and Keith Oleski.



Marching in Philadelphia

Members of Joseph Friel Division 5, Philadelphia, and their enthusiastic young family members gathered for a photo before departing to march in Philadelphia's St. Patrick's Day parade, the second oldest in the nation. First marched in 1771, the route covered approximately 2½ miles through downtown center city and took two hours to complete. Every Division from Philadelphia's district participated along with many others from the Philadelphia "collar" counties. Adding to the joy of the holiday, the Division once again approved an annual donation to the Project St. Patrick Fund. As our Division President Monaghan said, "It is just as important that we support our clergy as it is to be viable and proud of our heritage in the community."



Honoring heroes

The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 presented a wreath to two Irish heroes at the Lackawanna County courthouse, Patrick Delacey and John Delaney, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients during the Civil War. The division has been doing this for many years. We should never forget our servicemen and women and we are here today to thank these heroes for their bravery during Irish heritage month. From left, John Fletcher, Dan Donovan, Michael Robinson 2024 Man of the Year, Robert Fletcher Shillelagh award recipient, charter president Patrick O'Malley, Kevin Donovan and Joseph Holland.



Grand Marshal Sean Cullen with Montgomery County Saint Patrick's Parade Committee at the Grand Marshal's Ball on March 2.

On parade in Conshohocken

Irish Hearts In America was the theme of the Saint Patrick's Parade in Conshohocken, PA. The Montgomery County Saint Patrick's Parade Committee is made up of AOH, LAOH and social members of the AOH Club House. The parade in Conshohocken has become one of the biggest community events in Montgomery County that started in Conshohocken in 2006.

Parades



Governor Greg Gianforte (in hat) and Thomas Francis Meagher Division President raise the Irish Tri-Color at the Montana State Capitol to kick off the St. Patrick's Day Weekend. Montana's governors have participated in this ceremony for most of the last 40 years.



The Herbert-Cady division in Alexandria, Virginia, marched in the town's Saint Patrick's Day parade. A week after the parade, the division hosted its annual Saint Patrick hooley, with Irish music, culture, food, drink and dancing. The event, with the Basilica of Saint Mary in Alexandria, raised \$11,000 for Catholic Charities' Christ House — a local food pantry. — Ken Wolfe, Alexandria Division VP



The Fr. Solanus Casey Bergen Division 32 on parade in River Edge, New Jersey.



Hibernians from Nassau County and all around the New York area were thrilled to march in the NYC St. Patrick's Parade on March 16. Several NY Hibernians were named as Aides to the Grand Marshal.



WV Hibernians march in PA
The Wheeling Division 1 along with family and friends marched in the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16. — Tom Murphy, VP



Nassau County, NY, Hibernians marched proudly in the Glen Cove, Long Island, Hibernian St. Patrick's Day parade.



Monmouth County Division 16 marched proudly in the Belmar-Lake Como parade, and led the line of march in their local parade in Freehold with a good turnout of Brothers and families.



Minnesota Shamrock Division leads Parade
It was a fine day for the Irish when the Shamrock Division once again led the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Belle Plaine as it has done for the last 30 years. St. Patrick's Day in Belle Plaine is a festive event that starts appropriately with an Irish Holy Mass. The Shamrock Division guides the parade through downtown, ending with the ceremony to crown Miss Shamrock. In its Hibernian goal to promote traditional Irish music and culture, the Shamrock Division sponsors an Irish band and Irish dancers to entertain the festive crowd. Shamrock Division member Bill McCue and his wife, Lynette, were Grand Marshals of the parade. The Shamrock Division has 95 members and proudly parades our Hibernian banner from the John Ireland Division.

George J. Clough, Jr. July 25, 1932-February 11, 2024

Past National President George J. Clough, Jr. beloved husband of 64 years to the late Shirley Ann 'McGarvey' Clough and their late children Terry and Phyllis Clough, their two surviving children Kevin & Shelagh, grandson Sean, great grandchild Kailey, and daughter-in-law Cathy. George was Hibernian for over 50 years, during which time he served in many positions on the National Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He was elected to two terms as National President from 1990-1994 joining Brother Jack Keane as one of only four people west of the Mississippi to be elected to be President in the 188 year history of the Order.



Cardinal John J. Glennon Division 2 in St Louis can proudly say they had two National Presidents from their division. He chaired the 1978 National Convention in Killarney, Ireland and made many trips back and forth to Ireland at that time planning a very successful convention. On one of his trips he found a home and purchased for his family in Feakle, a village in County Clare, Ireland for his wife Shirley and son Kevin and daughter Shelagh.

As National President George visited Northern Ireland many times and marched in the "Bloody Sunday" commemoration in Derry City. On his trips to Northern Ireland he visited the Political Prisoners in the Maze (Long Kesh) prison and delivered the proceeds of the Annual Christmas Appeal Fund to Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at receptions held at the AOH Hall in Derry City.

He served for 17 years as Chairman of the Notre Dame-Hibernian Fund in addition he served as National Legal Counsel and on the National Oversight Committee. He was instrumental in the St. Louis AOH/LAOH bid to attract the 2014 National Convention in St. Louis; he was glad that someone else was the chairman! He was one of the founding members of The Metropolitan; St. Patrick's Day Parade in St. Louis, 2024 will mark its 55th year. George was a guiding influence in the start of Ancient Order of Hibernians Parade in Dogtown, St. Louis MO celebrating 40 years in 2024.

He proudly served in the United States Air Force. After his active duty, George received a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College and went on to receive a law degree from St. John's University. After graduation he worked as a corporate attorney and continued to serve in the United States Air Force reserves for 20 years.

Dennis J. Murphy

The Pittsburgh Irish Community and the Ancient Order of Hibernians lost one of their stalwarts. Dennis J Murphy, 83, passed away peacefully on November 11, 2023, and moved on to his final reward after a life well spent. He was one of the most influential people in the State of Pennsylvania in the passing of the MacBride Principles many years ago. He graduated from Duquesne University and taught at St. Canice and St. Bernard Schools and later became the Director of Religious Education at Our Lady of Grace, Scott Township, for 25 years.



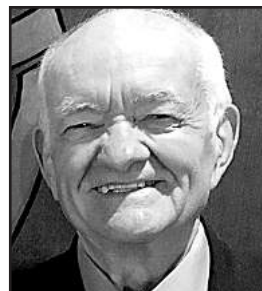
In 1979, Dennis and partner Dan Sweeney purchased a bar in Carnegie, PA. With the help and suggestion of a Sister of Humility, who taught at OLG, he named the establishment "The Pour House." The Pour House became the center of all things Irish in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. Many of the new employees of the bar were from the North of Ireland, which helped it cultivate the atmosphere of a bar in Ireland. Dennis always opened his home to these young people and helped them to become established in the States. He made sure all of them were well cared for and the bar became the home for the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh.

With so many Irish around, Dennis decided it was time to establish an AOH Division in the area. On September 17, 1989, the Sean MacBride Division 32 was founded in Carnegie. It has grown from a membership of 17 to a contingent of more than 160 members. Many members of Division 32 have taken leadership roles in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and nationally. This was all a result of his influence and guidance. Dennis will always be remembered for sharing and celebrating his Irish heritage. Many pints were raised in his honor by those who knew and loved him on Earth and those welcoming him in Heaven.

Leo J. Murphy

Leo J. Murphy, an AOH National Life Member and 53-year Hibernian, passed away on March 1, 2024.

A proud Irish Catholic immigrant, Mr. Murphy joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Division 2 of Babylon, Long Island, NY in 1970. A nationally recognized life member and past division president, Leo devoted more than 50 years to promoting our motto of 'Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.'



AOH National Treasurer Liam McNabb stated, "Leo was a not only a great Hibernian but also a Hibernian leader, known to all, who set an example for many about being an upstanding Irish, Catholic gentleman.

"The arrow on Leo's moral compass always pointed toward character, principle, integrity, honesty, and honor," said longtime friend and fellow St. Patrick's Division 2 Brother, John Biesty. "With Leo's passing, the Irish American community and the AOH has lost a great scholar and gatekeeper of our Irish heritage. Leo was extremely knowledgeable on every aspect of our culture, which included its history, language, sports, music, folklore and the arts. Over the decades we all learned much from Leo. "Back in Leo's heyday, he was among the best known and respected AOH Brothers in our Order. Many National

officers sought Leo's advice and opinions on various matters. He proved his reputation while attending local, state and national conventions. His debating and oratorical skills were legendary. Leo knew the AOH rules, regulations and by-laws inside and out, and it was woe to any Brother who was brave enough to challenge him," said Biesty. "He was, without a doubt, one of the most loyal and dedicated Hibernians to have ever joined our Order. Leo was a man who served with honor for 53+ years and never wilted from beginning to end."

Mr. Murphy was a member of the Hibernian Players Theater Group and in 2003 founded the 'Then and Now Club', a monthly social gathering held at Division 2's Hibernian Hall for retirees to enjoy lunch and each other's company. Mr. Murphy also served as a lector and catechism teacher at Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Babylon.

Richard William Morrison

Richard William Morrison, 82, of Elon, North Carolina passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, February 15, 2024, in the company of his wife of 38 years, Janet Tykwinski Morrison. Richard was born in Jersey City, NJ. to two adoring parents, Genevieve and William, on October 27, 1941. In terms of iconic moments and experiences, his childhood rivaled that of Ralphie Parker in A Christmas Story. Filled with old western cowboy outfits, days working at his father's Texaco station, being the only left-handed lox cutter at Tabatchnicks Delicatessen, classic cars, days at the Jersey Shore, Dodgers games, and many train sets.

During his time at Rutgers University, Richard started his career at Western Electric. The role with the company brought him to Elon, North Carolina in 1973. In 2000, after 38 years, he retired from Lucent Technologies as Transportation Supervisor. While Richard had many stories to tell about finding treasures, his favorite one was how he found the love of his life, Janet, in Denver, Colorado. They shared a love for feeding people. If you've been in the Alamance Country area for any amount of time, you likely have enjoyed some of their cooking through their catering company: VIP catering, hot dog cart outside their home on Halloween, and famous 6 foot submarine sandwiches.

As a relocated Yankee, he loved the area and found ways to serve the community. He was elected the Parent Teacher Organization President six times. After retirement, he began substitute teaching for Alamance County Schools. He ran for Mayor of Elon twice. With his wife, they founded the 9/11 Salute to Heroes Parade and remembrance. As an Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church parishioner in Greensboro, he served in multiple capacities including: usher, fundraiser, Council 939 Knights of Columbus 4th degree Sir Knight, and past President of Ancient Order of Hibernians NA Cara Division. He was honored as the Hibernian of the Year in 2010 for his work with Rothar Turas annual bike ride benefitting the Down Syndrome Network of Greater Greensboro. The Morrison family was celebrated as the family of the year in 2009-2010 for their efforts fundraising for Victory Junction and Coats for Kids.

What mattered to Richard most was God and family. He is survived by his wife, Janet, and children Denver, Brittany (Ryan), Tracy (James), Laurie (Chris), Kerry (Walter), Chris (Angela), Maureen (Salvador), Richie, and Melissa. His legacy lives on through his grandchildren: Samantha, Brandon, Sabrina, Francesca, Santino, Gianna, Luke, Ryan, Kelsey, Garrett, Bayleigh, Ashley, Lindsay, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Penny, Ziggy, and Goldie. He was preceded by his parents, brothers, Charles and William, and granddaughter, Landy. Never having met a stranger, he had a very large extended group of family and close friends. He will be dearly missed by all. He was a wonderful husband, Dad, Grandfather, Uncle, friend, and mentor to many.

There will never be another man exactly like Richard Morrison. While we don't have enough space to list all the things we'll miss about him, a few include the twinkle in his eye he got when he negotiated or found a good deal, had a funny joke, or a great story to tell.

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ANTI-DEFAMATION

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of the day for too many. This cycle of stereotype reinforcement detracts from the true significance and meaning of the day, risking the integrity and perception of Irish identity in the public eye. It is truly a case, as one T-shirt for sale on Amazon puts it, "Let's Get Drunk and Blame the Irish for Our Behavior." What gets wrongly banned in Boston, could be banned everywhere.

Brothers, we are Hibernians; we are called to a higher standard, and we should be proud to be the latest in a long tradition of defending our faith and heritage. It was disturbing to see images of a Hibernian in my Facebook feed, in Hibernian attire, putting a glass of Guinness in the hands of a statue of Saint Patrick to enact a toast. In another video, with AOH banners prominently displayed, there were images that were more in keeping with a saturnalia. It is important to note that I did not go out looking for these images; Facebook served them up to me as it knows I have an interest in things Irish. We need to be aware that when we post things on Facebook, it is not sharing an image with a few friends, you are broadcasting.

As Hibernians, we are not just custodians of our rich Irish heritage but also defenders against defamation that undermines our collective identity. The time has come for us to take a firmer stance against stereotypes and defamation, recognizing their harm not as abstract concepts but as immediate threats to the dignity of our community. We must lead by example, showing through our actions and words that we do not tolerate misrepresentations of our culture.

South Carolina

Historian promotes the state's Irish heritage

Tom Elmore, the AOH State Historian for South Carolina and president of the St. Columba Division in Columbia, SC, has been on a quest to bring to light the importance of the Irish and Irish-Americans in the history and development of the Palmetto State.

Last year he published Celtic Columbia, a history of the Irish, Scots and Scot-Irish in the greater Columbia area from the 1730s until today. The book was very well received with Elmore being interviewed by local publications and television stations. He also gave numerous PowerPoint presentations related to his work all across the midlands of South Carolina.

This year, he is finishing up a project to identify Irish and Irish-American sites across South Carolina. To date he has found more than 200, with at least one in every county in the state. Among the sites are canals, railroad tunnels, churches and houses.

Elmore's next project will be promoting awareness of the role the Irish played in South Carolina in the American Revolution. His research has found that more than 11 percent of all Revolutionary War veterans from South Carolina who applied for a pension were born in Ireland. In addition, three of the four signers of the Declaration of Independence from South Carolina were Irish-Americans.

For more information, you can contact Elmore on Facebook or at Elmwood994@aol.com.



Tom Elmore, the South Carolina's AOH State Historian, visited the Basilica of St. Peter's cemetery in Columbia, SC. The Basilica was founded by Irish immigrants in 1821.

California



Hibernian Sing Song Band members Jesse Moynahan, left, and his father, Tim Moynahan, played traditional Irish tunes at the American Legion in Long Beach on January 13.

Hibernians honor Veterans in Long Beach

Brothers from the Joseph Plunkett-Joe McDonnell Division 3, Los Angeles County, gathered at American Legion Post 496 in Long Beach, CA, on January 13 for its monthly meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, an all-Hibernian music group, the Sing Song Band, performed an assortment of Irish songs and tunes for our military veterans gathered at the post. The Sing Song Band appears regularly at the American Legion and has had the honor of performing there on Memorial Day and Veterans Day over the past few years. In so doing, the band has been blessed in spreading Irish culture while paying tribute to our veterans.

Connecticut

By Frank Kearney

We hope everyone had an enjoyable St. Patrick's Day and judging from the activities reported by the Connecticut AOH membership it certainly was an active one.

We want to start by offering congratulations to Phil Gallagher. The members of the Danbury Division voted to honor him by renaming the division the J. Philip Gallagher Division No.3 in recognition of his many years of dedication and service to the Order on the local, state and national levels. Congratulations Phil! The division had an active and enjoyable St. Patrick's Day beginning with a successful and enjoyable fund-raising event at Molly Darcy's Pub on February 18 and concluding with their parade on March 24. Their 64th Annual Ball on March 2 honored Barbara Randall and Kevin Finucane as Hibernians of the Year.

At the Winter State Board meeting in Danbury, Past State President Brendan Walsh announced his intention to seek the office of AOH National Director at this year's national convention in Orlando, Florida. Brendan has served the Order at every level and received a unanimous vote of support from the members in attendance.

Meriden sponsored their 49th Annual St. Patrick's Parade on March 16 through downtown Meriden and honored retired Meriden Police Detective and longtime Division Financial Secretary Michael Collins as Parade Grand Marshal. Congratulations Mike!

Bridgeport's JFK Division celebrated the St. Patrick's Day season with a pub crawl, their 74th Annual Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and their Annual Breakfast at the Fairfield GAC on March 3. Their Annual Bridgeport Parade was held on March 15.

The Stamford AOH had a busy month of March with their parade on March 2 and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont visiting the club following the parade conclusion. Their Communion Breakfast was on March 10, the Kings of Connaught concert on March 16, mass and a flag raising on the 17th followed by food and entertainment at their hall and ending the month on the 21st with the Irish Band Dreams of Freedom.

New London's John P. Holland Division marched in three area parades: Norwich on the 3rd, New London on the 17th and Mystic on the 24th. They sponsored the annual raising of the Irish flag at the New London Town Hall on March 9 and on the 23rd presented a History of the AOH in New London County.

The Hartford AOH Division 2 participated in the Hartford St Patrick's parade on March 9. They organized and operated a food drive at Christ the King Parish in Wethersfield on March 10 and on March 24 were joined by U.S. Congressman John Larson for a ceremony at the Irish Labor Memorial in Windsor Locks.

The New Haven AOH, one of the New Haven Irish Societies who sponsors the New Haven St. Patrick's Parade, were joined by members from other New Haven County AOH divisions and participated in their parade on March 10.

The Waterbury Division hosted a month filled with activities that included their Annual Parade on March 3 led by Grand Marshal Rick Dalton, a Corned Beef Dinner on the 9th with entertainment by Band O' Brothers, Radio Station WATR Voice of Ireland, hosted by LAOH Member Bridget Collins Regan, daughter of Past AOH National Vice President Connie Collins on the 10th and on the 17th Mass followed by the Irish Mayor of the Day (Jack Alseph) Ceremony at Waterbury City Hall a day filled with Food and music, including Irish Balladeer Mark James and the Waterbury Police Pipes and Drums.

Colorado



St. Patrick's joy in Denver

St. Patrick's weekend was busy for the AOH, as it was here in Colorado. On March 16, the AOH massed all three Divisions behind the new banner of the Colorado State Board as we marched in the Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade, the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade west of the Mississippi. The following day, the Colorado AOH celebrated with a Sash Mass at St. Patrick's Oratory in Denver. St. Patrick's Oratory, (formerly Church), has a long history with the AOH. Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan, priest and Hibernian, built the church for his growing congregation over a hundred years ago. After Mass, the AOH hosted a breakfast for about 100 churchgoers and Hibernians. All in all, the weekend was a great success for the Colorado AOH, and their new State Board.

Michael O'Rourke

Michael O'Rourke passed away suddenly on January 7, 2024, at the age of 95. Born on May 22, 1928, in Rathpeak, Ballinasloe, County Roscommon, Ireland.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Anastatia (Aine) (nee Wallace), and his devoted children, Eileen Kenny (Martin), Maureen Cori (Michael), Michael (Ann Marie), Sean (Tricia), and Siobhan Wilson (John-"Jay"). Dad "Pop Pop" was a proud and loving grandfather to Emily Cori (Carley), Liam, Austin, Luke, Jack, Annie, Michael, Quinn, Shannon, Logan, Sean, Ronan, Kristina, and Brendan. Also survived by his loving sisters, Mai (McGuinness), Roseann (Colleran) and Kathleen (Guinan). Plus, many nieces and nephews for whom Dad enjoyed many special times with over the years. In addition to many friends, he made through the years.

Mike O'Rourke is predeceased by his father (John), mother (Mary) (nee Fallon), Siblings (Marty, Tom, Delia, John Joe, P.J. and Willie)

Having honorably served in the Korean War, he was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1582, Inwood, New York. His commitment to service continued for over three decades with TWA-Trans World Airlines, where he retired after 32 years of dedicated work. His involvement in the community was unwavering; he was a fifty-six-year-old member of the Woodmere Fire Department. Where he served as the departments' Chaplain for over 25 years. A testament to his dedication to public service.

Dad's commitment to faith and fraternity was evident in his longtime memberships with the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 3 Nassau County and as a 4th Degree Knight of the Knights of Columbus. He embodied the values of these organizations, spreading friendship and support throughout his community and faith.

He loved his garden and enjoyed the simple beauty of his zinnias, roses, and dahlias. Golfing with his family and friends. Playing cards at the Irish American Center and let's not forget dancing.

Michael O'Rourke's life was defined by loving connections, a kind demeanor, and a friendly smile that could light up any room. He was the definition of a true gentleman.

He will be deeply missed, but his spirit will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know him.



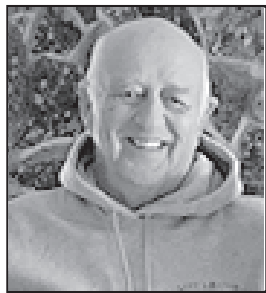
Nassau County Hibernians honored recently passed National Life Member Michael O'Rourke by dedicating a Major Degree in his honor. Mike O'Rourke was also a co-founder of the Nassau County Feis more than 51 years ago. After that ceremony on February 4, from left, Queens County Board President Edmund Seewald, Joe McDonald (Nassau County AOH Vice President), Ken Ferguson (President), Jeff Nisler (Tara Court Major Degree Team), Sean O'Rourke (Past District Director and son of the Honoree), Ed Friel (Past President & National Life Member), Mike Byrne (NY State District Director), John Nolan (Recording Secretary), Sean Hood (Financial Secretary) and Jim Henry (Marshal).

John 'Jack' Ward (1945-2024)

Brother Jack Ward, Past Division President of the Thomas Francis Meagher Division in Helena, Montana, passed away unexpectedly at home. Leave it to Jack to live large but die uncharacteristically quietly and without fanfare. A true Irish goodbye. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for more than 34 years.

Jack was a Navy Veteran and earned his wings of gold as a Naval Flight Officer. He continued his military service in the Naval Reserves for more than 15 years.

The Thomas Francis Meagher Division will bid farewell to Brother Jack at a ritual led by current Division President Patrick Flaherty. We will miss our Brother Jack.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let
the perpetual light shine upon them.
And may the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Bhí Éire go mall ag roghnú amhrán náisiúnta oifigiúil. *Ireland was slow in choosing an official national anthem.* Ghlac na daoine leis *A Soldier's Song*, a scríobhadh (i mBéarla) timpeall 1910, ach ní raibh sé oifigiúil go 1926. *The people accepted..., which was written (in English) around...but it was not official until...* Scríobh Peadar Kearney agus Patrick Heeney é. *...wrote it.* Níorbh fhada go dtí go raibh leagan Gaeilge de ann – idir 1917 agus 1923. *It wasn't long until there was an Irish version – between...* Tá cúpla leagan ann, ach glactar leis an gceann seo le Liam Ó Rinn (foghlaimoír na Gaeilge de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge) go coitianta, cé nach bhfuil aon leagan oifigiúil Gaeilge ann. *There are a few versions, but this one by...(a learner of Irish from The Gaelic League) is commonly accepted.* Gaeilge na Mumhan atá ann. *It's Munster Irish.* Ní úsáidtear ach an curfá mar amhrán náisiúnta oifigiúil, cé go bhfuil trí véarsa ann. *Only the chorus is used as an official national anthem, although there are 3(+) verses.* Ba é Cumann Lúthchleas Gael a spreag úsáid an leagain Ghaeilge go mórmhór. *It was the GAA who especially encouraged the use of the Irish version.* Seo daoibh na focail agus míniúcháin orthu. *Here are the words and explanations of them.*

Sinne Fianna Fáil, (is) sinne.... *Fianna are Iron Age warriors, with Fionn mac Cumhaill. Fál is a goddess name of Ireland.* / atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn, *Faoi gheall – under a pledge* / Buíon dár slua *a band of our host/throng* / thar toinn do ráinig chugainn, *Over waves... do = Munster past tense particle. ráinig = arrived (tháinig would be better...)* / Faoi mhóid bheith saor *Under oath (sworn) to be free* / Seantír ár sinsear feasta, *old country of our ancestors from now on* / Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill. *(autonomous verb form) will not be left/remain under the tyrant nor under the thrall (slave)* / Anocht a théam sa bhearna bhaoil, *téam = I go. The gap of danger (the breach).* / Le gean ar Ghaeil, chun báis nó saoil, *gean – affection. Chun (for the purpose of) + genitive – death or life* / Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar, *With gun screech (ag scréach better, or scréach gunna...), under the shooting of the bullets* / Seo libh canaig(i) **Amhrán na bhFiann** *Here y'all have it, sing the song of the Fenians.*

Is minic a chloistear daoine gan Ghaeilge á chanadh, agus mar sin ní bhíonn an fuaimniú i gceart acu. *One often hears people with no Irish singing it, and so the pronunciation is not right.* Ach tá leaganacha ar fáil (ar Youtube) atá go maith. *But there are good versions...available.* Molaim an ceann le John Spillane agus scaifte páistí, agus an ceann le hEmma Sophia, a bhí cúig bliana d'aois ag an am. *I recommend the one by...and a group of children, and the one by...who was 5 years old at the time.*

Illinois

New Michael Walsh Division 16 in Chicago's western suburbs

We are proud to announce the creation of the new AOH Michael Walsh Division 16 in the Western Suburbs of Chicago! Started by longtime AOH members Fergus Walsh and John O'Brien, membership is growing and brothers are excited to start serving their community and taking part in the AOH mission locally and at large! We recently marched in our first St. Patrick's day parade in Naperville, IL, and had a great turnout. We are excited to continue on in the tradition of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity and would love to have any interested or prospective members join us!

For more information please contact Fergus at Fergus.walsh@gmail.com or John at obrien.john21@gmail.com.



Members of the newly formed Michael Walsh Division 16: Tom Dougherty, Steve Condon, James Boland, Sean O'Brien, Vincent Boland, Fergus Walsh, John O'Brien and Dennis Monroe.

Pennsylvania

Football & Christian Charity

The Dennis Kelly Division 1 had a busy fall starting in September with an Eagles' watch party fundraiser for various Division charities. We also collected items for the Delaware County Child Advocacy Center, an organization that provides comprehensive and timely child-focused services in a safe, child-friendly setting.

We also collect items for The DCCAC at three restaurants in Delaware County, which are owned by Dennis Kelly Division Brothers. By December we had collected a truck load of stuffed animals, backpacks, toiletries and blankets that were dropped off to the appreciative DCCAC staff. This work of Christian Charity has been organized by Brother Kyle Meakim for many years, all our Havertown Brothers as well as Brothers and friends from Delaware County participate in the spirit of Our Motto.

In December we kicked off our Home Heating Project Fundraiser to help those in need pay their utility bills. Raffle tickets that match the January PA Lotto Daily Match 3 is a winner. This project is organized by Brother Harry Quinn and over the years we have helped many families keep up with their utility needs during the winter months.



Delaware County Child Advocacy Center staffers with Dennis Kelly Division Brothers John Cavanagh, Kyle Meakim, Gerry McConnell, Tom Meakim, Jay Burke and Brian Friel.



Salute
Raising of the Irish flag on March 3 at the Lackawanna County Courthouse Scranton, PA, Mike Robinson, AOH Division 4; Dot Crowley, LAOH County President, Harry Smith, Division 2; AOH Lackawanna County President, Jack McIntyre Irish Cultural Society, Alice McDermott LAOH Division 1 & President of the Society of Irish Women.



Irish Unity Summit
Pennsylvania AOH officers attended the Irish Unity Summit in New York City at the Great Hall at Cooper Union on March 1. From left, Paul Towhey Jr., Tom Coughlin Jr., Ed Dougherty and Bob Moyer. More than six hundred Irish and Irish Americans attended from the seven largest organizations in America. Many keynote speakers included Sinn Fein President Mary Lou McDonald on the continuing peace process in Ireland for a United Ireland.

Florida



Passing the Shillelagh
Division 2, Melbourne, held the annual "Passing of the Shillelagh" at Meg O'Malley's Irish Pub in Downtown Melbourne on March 13. From left, Florida State Secretary Greg Seán Canning, Division VP Kevin McNeil, Florida State VP & Parade Grand Marshal Keith Reynolds and Division President Brian McCann.

Minnesota



New division in Kilkenny/Le Center
Members recently formed the Kilkenny/Le Center (MN) Division and planned their first scholarship raffle. At a subsequent meeting, Michael Collins, Fin Sec./Treasurer of the Kilkenny/LeCenter Division, presented a check to Blake Kosanda. Blake was grand prize winner in the division's raffle.

Kansas

Fr. Donnelly Division honors Hibernian of the Year Matt Bauer

The Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division of Johnson County, Kansas, honored its Vice President Matt Bauer as the 2023 recipient of the John T. O'Neal Sr. Hibernian of the Year Award. Matt has been a Hibernian since 2016 and has served on the Donnelly Division Board since 2018. He recently took up the mantle of organizing and leading the Donnelly Division in their volunteer service at the Kansas City Irish Fest's Hibernian Gate every Labor Day weekend.

As the Donnelly Division's Hibernian of the Year, Bauer rode in a dignitary car with his wife and daughter. His dedication to his family and the Donnelly Division are inspirations to his brother Kansas Hibernians. When asked about this honor, Bauer said "I am deeply honored to receive this recognition from my Hibernian brothers. It is a testament to unity, Catholic charity, and friendship shaping our division. I am grateful for the support from our chapter. I pledge to continue to live up to the ideals that are at the heart of our organization."

Fr. Thomas Butler Division Shamrock Fundraiser

The Fr. Thomas Ambrose Butler Division in Leavenworth County, Kansas, raised \$6,225 with a Shamrock Fundraiser to assist the Leavenworth St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee cover their parade's insurance costs this March. The Butler Division took over this fundraising effort after the Leavenworth Downtown Association dropped the St. Patrick's Day Parade insurance policy from their books after the 2023 parade.

Hibernian Tim Scanlon was one of the co-founders of the Leavenworth St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1984 and has continued in his leadership role since. Through the Shamrock Fundraiser, the Butler Division accepts \$1 donations per shamrock from local businesses in Leavenworth and awards a trophy plaque to the business with the most shamrocks on



Matt Bauer with his wife Mary Brigid and daughter Maggie driven in the 2023 Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade by Hibernian Charlie Lamont and his girlfriend Nancy Sachsen flanked by past Hibernians of the Year, from left, Shaun Cronin (2011), Charlie Roult (2021), Zach Kittle (2017) and Larry Shepard (2008).

St. Patrick's Day. This year, Alicia Messer, bar manager at the Ten Penny Restaurant and Bar on Cherokee Street in Leavenworth, was the recipient, raising on her own \$1,437 for the Shamrock Fundraiser.

Michigan



Recruiting in Grand Rapids

The City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, asked the members of the Fr. John Whalen McGee Division 1 to have a booth at the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The Hibernians sampled traditional Irish fare while handing out membership forms to prospective members. From left, Patrick Newcombe, Patrick Sullivan, Mrs. Claus and Michael Scott.



Newcombe named Grand Marshal

Presentation of the 2024 Grand Marshal Proclamation to Patrick O'Hare Newcombe. Division 1 President & State of Michigan Vice President Patrick Sullivan, left, with Patrick Newcombe, Grand Marshal and Division 1 Financial Secretary.



'Rifles' led the parade

AOH Rifles led the Detroit's St. Patrick Parade in historic Corktown with the American, Michigan, Irish and Vatican flags.

New York



Irish American Heritage Month on Long Island

Islip Township Supervisor Angela Carpenter presented the AOH and LAOH of Division 7, East Islip, with a citation declaring March as Irish Heritage Month in Islip Township. During the March 15 ceremony, the dome over Town Hall was lit green which has become an annual tradition in Islip.

New Hampshire



Shanahan Division President Colin Glennon, left, awarded the Past President's pin to Mike Farley, who served as division president from 2015 to 2022.
— Mike Dolphin



Shanahan Division members Tom Hayes and Ryan Curran received their Major Degree on February 3 in Albany, NH. — Mike Dolphin



Brother Mike Farley assisting with painting the Shamrocks on Elm St. in Manchester on March 9 prior to the Parade



AOH President O'Connell marching in the Manchester, NH, St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 24.



The Shanahan Division marching in the Manchester parade on March 24.

Missouri

Padraig Pearse Division serves the community one shrimp at a time

The Padraig Pearse Division 1 in Kansas City, Missouri, puts on one of the best Lenten Dinners in the Midwest to raise money for students attending Catholic high schools across the Kansas City area. People from all around the area travel to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Redemptorist Parish to feast on hot boiled shrimp, baked pollock, cheese pizza, corn, potatoes and cole slaw. Additionally, LAOH members sell dessert items to patrons, which

will assist in their own fundraising efforts. All proceeds from the Friday evening dinners go to the Division's Charities, where high school students author essays about different topics and the students are judged to receive a scholarship to help with school tuition. The Division gives out six scholarships to worthy applicants. Make sure to stop by if you are ever in KC during the Lenten season.



Ready to serve up a great Lenten meal were, from left, Immediate Past President Mike Nash, President Dennis Murray and Recording Secretary Michael Murphy.



Members of the Padraig Pearse Division 1 were geared up and ready for one of their shrimp dinner nights.

West Virginia



The Order is growing in Wheeling

At its January meeting, Wheeling, West Virginia, Division 1 welcomed two new members into the organization, Nik Hutchison, left, and Robert Rohrig. Both want to learn more about Irish culture and contribute to our growing Order.



Two more Hibernians in WV

Following on the recruiting success in January, two additional Hibernians were welcomed into the Wheeling Division 1 in February! Kevin Duffin, left, and Brian McGraw were proud to be at the division's February meeting as new members.

— Tom Murphy, Vice President.

Missouri



St. Louis commemorated the 40th anniversary of the AOH St. Patrick's Parade. Leading the parade were the iconic Anheuser Busch Clydesdales, drawing cheers from spectators. The Clydesdales, pulling an ornate beer wagon, symbolized the city's brewing heritage intertwined with Irish culture. The parade showcased a diverse array of participants, including Irish dance troupes, bagpipers and marching bands, all contributing to the festive atmosphere. The AOH Honor Guard also led the procession, emphasizing the event's importance in uniting the community. As the parade concluded, the echoes of Irish music and laughter resonated, leaving a lasting impression of unity and celebration. The AOH St. Patrick's Day Parade continues to be a cherished tradition, exemplifying the city's rich cultural tapestry and fostering a sense of pride among its residents.



Lt. Tim McDonough receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Division 2 brother, Lt. Tim McDonough (retired), was honored with the Lifetime Achievement in Law Enforcement Award at the AOH's annual ceremony, "Hoses, Handcuffs, and Hardhats." Recognized for his decades of dedicated service, McDonough's integrity and commitment to public safety have made a profound impact in St. Louis. Tommy Wahl, President of the HHH, praised McDonough as an exemplary officer and community leader. The ceremony, attended by local officials and law enforcement, celebrated McDonough's contributions to justice and community welfare. McDonough's award highlights the essential role of law enforcement in preserving public safety and fostering community trust. The AOH extends its congratulations and gratitude to Lt. Tim McDonough for his outstanding service to St. Louis.



Raising the Irish Flag in St. Louis

Alderman Bret Narayan of St. Louis Ward 4 was honored for his pivotal role in recognizing Irish American Heritage Month. Recently, he received shamrocks from Patrick McDonough, president of the St. Louis Cardinal Glennon Division II, in appreciation of his efforts. Alderman Narayan introduced a resolution to raise the Irish Flag in St. Louis for the first time, symbolizing the city's acknowledgment of Irish heritage. This significant gesture marks a milestone in celebrating diversity and inclusivity within the community. Alongside Narayan in the picture are Joe Murphy and Joe McGettigan from the Division 2 Honor Guard, representing the collective effort in commemorating and honoring cultural richness.



St. Louis commemorated the 40th anniversary of the AOH St. Patrick's Parade

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New York



Awards banquet honors Utica Hibernians
Attendees at the Irish Cultural Center in Utica, NY, banquet hall feasted and feted a dozen honorees on February 17. They were welcomed by the Irish music of the Craobh Dugan O' Looney band and led in the prayer of invocation by Father Joe Salerno. Honored were, from left, Patrick Costello, AOH Lifetime Achievement Award; Patrick McGrath, Matthew Sullivan Irish Spirit Award; Gracie Schell, Thomas Malley Volunteer of the Year Award; Marianne Buttenschon, Friend of the Irish Cultural Center Award; Colleen Kain Martin, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Gradam Award; Robert Wood, Patron of the Arts Award; Tom Powers, Celtic Harp St. Patrick's Day Parade Claddagh Award; (center front) Janet Blaney, LAOH Mother Theresa Award; (not shown) Beth Loftis, the James Agen-Raymond Durr Award; (not shown) PJ Green. — By Tom Loughlin Jr.

Devereux Division adds 15 new members

According to Division President Patrick Roach, speaking to attendees at the organization's Christmas party following the degree ceremony, the induction class was the largest in his memory and likely a record for the AOH here.

President Roach acknowledged the attendance of a contingent of members of the LAOH Ladies of Knock, forecasting a future of productive inclusivity for the two groups.

— Tom Loughlin Jr.



St. Patrick's Vigil Mass

New York State Richmond County JFK Division 1 members attended the Staten Island St. Patrick's Vigil Mass at St. Peter's Church on March 15. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Peter Byrne and Bishop John O'Hara. Fr. Patrick Buckley said the homily, and Fr. Louis Jerome and Fr. Brendan Gormley also served. Afterwards there was a reception held in Farrell Hall, with Irish soda bread and green cupcakes and donuts served with tea and coffee. — Submitted by Cornelius O'Sullivan, Division FS.



Hibernians support vital food pantry

Saratoga NY Division 1 made a donation of food and funds to the Schuylerville Area Food and Emergency Relief (SAFER) Food Pantry. The Brothers make assistance like this monthly to an underfunded and often understaffed Saratoga County food pantry. The staff at SAFER Food Pantry are committed to their mission, and Division 1 is proud to play a small part in their effort. — Submitted by Mark Lyon (Saratoga Division 1)



Fifteen Oneida County men were inducted into the John C Devereux Division 1, receiving the Order's St. Patrick's Degree on December 21 at the Irish Cultural Center in Utica.



Oneida County Hibernians earned national recognition for their facilitation of the 17-ton food distribution at the Irish Cultural Center in 2021 on that "no-parade" Covid St. Patrick's weekend. Here, Jeffrey Isherwood directs traffic at the food pickup. The Compassion Coalition refrigerated truck looms in the background.

Irish American Heritage Month proclaimed in Babylon

Long Island's Town of Babylon proclaimed March as Irish American Heritage Month on February 28. Town of Babylon officials stood alongside President Jim McGrath and Past Presidents of St. Patrick's Division 2 at Babylon Town Hall to proclaim March 2024 as Irish American Heritage.

The proclamation was made by Town Councilman Terrence McSweeney (who is also an AOH Division 2 member) and supported by TOB Supervisor Rich Schaffer. The proclamation was presented to President McGrath.

Councilman McSweeney in his presentation told the many great works and contributions of the Irish American community and asked all to celebrate the achievements that Irish Americans have done over the years. The Town of Babylon has a rich history of Irish Americans settling in the area during the 19th and 20th centuries and continuing to make their mark in various fields such as law enforcement, firefighters, politics, hospitality and restaurateurs to name a few.

President McGrath was humbled by this proclamation and asked all Town of Babylon citizens to honor and recognize the significant contributions of Irish Americans in the town and welcomed all to join us in celebrating Irish American Heritage Month.



At the IAHM proclamation, from left, Bob Farrell - Pipe Major, Saffron United Pipe & Division 2 Recording Secretary; John Biesty, Past President; Bill Kelly, Past President; Jack Gerrity, Past President, Ed Cotter, Past President; Jim Killen, Past President; John Rattigan, Past President; Jim McGrath - President; Rich Schaffer - Supervisor, Town of Babylon; Bill Corrigan - Suffolk County President & Past Div. 2 President; and other town officials.

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of . . .

Ladies National President

by Marilyn Madigan

The last few months have been a busy and productive time for our Order. We participated in mBan Breakfast sponsored by the Irish American Partnership honoring Claire Cronin the U.S Ambassador to Ireland, meeting at the Apostolic Nunciature, National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, Ad hoc meeting at the British Embassy, the Irish Echo 40 under 40 Awards, Irish Unity Summit, Ambassador's St. Patrick's Day Reception, Brunch for Catholic Leaders and the St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the White House.

While in Washington DC, I started to make arrangements for Nuns of the Battlefield Monument Centennial. The Centennial Celebration will be held on Saturday September 21, 2024. Please save the date. Events will include a Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral, Ceremony at the Monument and a dinner at the Army and Navy Club. More details will be announced later.

We are extremely proud of 9 of our members who were recognized by the Irish Echo 40 under 40 Awards. For the second year in a row the Empowering Women Award was presented to a member of the LAOH. Congratulations to Bridget Linton from Ohio.

This year is the 1500 Anniversary of the death of our Patron St. Brigid. To commemorate this milestone, we are developing a program Brigid's Hearth to assist men and women in ministry to our Church.

I was proud that the LAOH was one of the sponsoring organizations for the Irish Unity Summit. We were well represented at the Summit with members from 8 States and the District of Columbia.

I have to admit the highlight of the year has been to represent the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians at the White House on St. Patrick's Day. I was honored to attend the Brunch for Catholic Leaders and meet Sr. Kathleen Lunsmann IHM of SOAR and Sr. Simone Cambell of Network Lobby for Catholic Justice. Sr. Kathleen expressed her and SOAR's appreciation for all the financial support that our membership has provided for many years. We discussed our Humanitarian Fund and our new program Brigid's Hearth. It really is great to hear how our membership has made a contribution to our Church.

I hope everyone had a Blessed Easter. I would like to share the prayer that Sr. Kathleen of SOAR sent to me. *Risen Lord, as the sun rises each day, may we experience the joy of your Resurrection in the beauty of nature. May we find light, hope and strength even when facing the challenges of life. Transform us in your grace, so we may be messengers of the promise of Easter to all we meet, and may our hearts soar in gratitude, for the gift of Eternal Life. Amen*



LAOH President Marilyn Madigan with Sr. Kathleen Lunsmann IHM of SOAR

Ohio



2024 Parade Honorees and the Hibernian of the Year, Sarah O'Brien Division 11, President Dierfiur of Charity second from right

New York



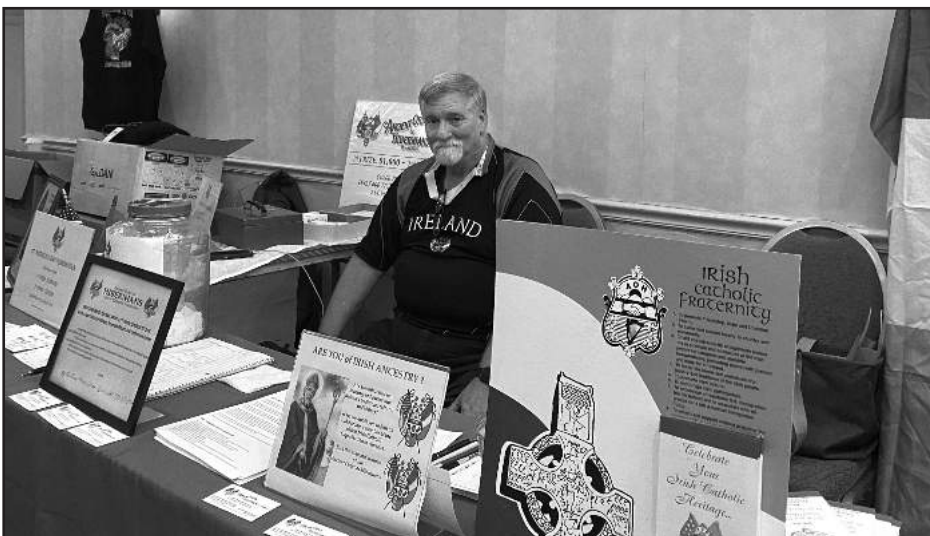
JFK Division 1 held a fundraiser to support Cathy Turck with her campaign for LAOH National Secretary in Orlando. A great time was had by all with food, raffles, and a wreath to take home. Special thank you to Karen Keane for her donation of time, talent, and treasure, as well as her sense of humor!

www.ladiesaoh.com

Massachusetts

Division 8 Lawrence held a host of events during Irish Heritage Month and announced their 2024 awards. The Richard Cardinal Cushing Award was presented to Sean Cardinal O'Malley and the Irishman of the Year was presented to Brian Farrell of Haverhill during the Division's 152 Annual Saint Patrick Banquet and Dance. The Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award was presented to Dalia Diaz of Lawrence at the Division's Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon and Lawrence Mayor Brian De Pena declared March as Irish Heritage Month in the City of Lawrence, recognizing Division 8's commitment to cultural awareness for the past 153 years in the city. The Irish Flag flew in the city park across from City Hall from March 1-31. Division 8 will hold its annual commemoration of the Great Hunger at the An Gorta Mor Memorial in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in May. The Division will hold its fourth annual cornhole tournament in September, which is being chaired by Division 8 member Tim Doherty.

The Plymouth Father John Murphy Division was abuzz with activity this past quarter. Under the sponsorship of State Organizer Dick Wall, they hosted the Cape Cod Irish Festival at the Irish Village in Hyannis and helped recruit and raise awareness of the AOH. In early March, several division members were invited by Consul General Sighle FitzGerald to attend a community reception for the Taoiseach of Ireland Leo Varadkar. It was a packed evening with many representatives from all of the Irish Organizations in New England. The Division marched in the Annual Scituate St. Patrick's Day Parade and a few days later we were able to secure the final approvals for the "Dublin" project with Plymouth Select board.



State Organizer and Lynn Division 10 President Dick Wall helping to recruit at the Cape Cod Irish Festival

Division 14 Watertown had an exceptionally busy Irish Heritage Month. In the 1st week of March, the Division hosted a food drive at the Waltham Market Basket and then a fundraising concert the next day to raise money for Project St. Patrick. The highlight of the month was marching in the Boston Saint Patrick's Day parade. We were pleased to march alongside AOH brothers from New York, New Jersey, and New London, CT. In addition, the Division hosted the 1st recent genealogy session under the leadership of brother John F Murphy and closed out March with a combination blood drive / food drive. Members of Division 14 AOH also helped out the Watertown LAOH with the Ham-O-Rama event to raise money for the Watertown LAOH scholarship fund.



Division President, Michael Schilling, John Sullivan, Consul General Sighle FitzGerald, Plymouth County Commissioner Gregory Hanley, State Representative Joan Meschino, and Gregory Shanahan



The Freedom For All Ireland Banner generated a lot of enthusiasm and support in the South Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Georgia

Irish American Heritage Month in Georgia

Brothers representing the AOH National Board, the Georgia State Board and the Archbishop Donoghue Division accompanied Consul General Caoimhe Ni Chonchúir and Vice Consul Eimear Nolan to receive the State of Georgia's Proclamation of Irish American Heritage Month from Georgia Governor Brian Kemp. The AOH presented Governor Kemp with a crystal bowl of shamrocks to commemorate the event. The bowl was made in Ireland by Dingle Crystal while the shamrocks were grown in Georgia by Peachtree Farm, a working farm staffed by developmentally disabled adults.



At the presentation ceremony were, from left, Gabe Sterling, COO of the Georgia Secretary of State's office; Sean Patricia, President of the Archbishop Donoghue Division; Ryan Curry, National Organizer and President of the Georgia State Board; Butch Elmgren, Deputy State Organizer of the Georgia State Board; Caoimhe Ni Chonchúir, Consul General of Ireland in Atlanta; Brian Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia; Marty Kemp, First Lady of the State of Georgia; Dan Cassidy, Immediate Past President of the Archbishop Donoghue Division; Eimear Nolan, Vice Consul of Ireland in Atlanta; Mike Moors, State Organizer of the Georgia State Board.

Maryland



Division 3 supports Hibernian Society Dinner

The Hibernian Society of Baltimore held its annual dinner March 14th. The event was well attended and highlighted intergroup participation between the various Irish organizations throughout the Maryland area. The Hibernian Society of Baltimore was organized in 1803 and incorporated in 1818 to do all such...as shall be necessary, for the purpose of affording charitable assistance and advice to such emigrants from, or natives of Ireland arriving at, or residing in any part of the State of Maryland, as may be in want and deemed worthy. — Stephen H. Riegger

Virginia

At the 2018 AOH National Convention we “condemned in the strongest terms the outrage against our Irish history and heritage and insult of all Irish Americans” and called upon City Council and Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia, to “return the good name of Colonel John Fitzgerald to the public square.” Regrettably, our resolve fell upon deaf ears.

In 2019 our Virginia brothers established the Irish Culture Society of Virginia, a 501c.(3) with the primary objective of raising funds to commission a full-size bronze statue of Colonel Fitzgerald. The Basilica of St. Mary in Alexandria (the church Fitzgerald founded in 1788) agreed to provide a suitable location for the statue. The Society met with a highly regarded Catholic sc. tor who reviewed the project, offered professional advice and the estimated cost for a life-size bronze statue installed at a designated location.

Why is this memorial to a Wicklow born immigrant important?

- Irish immigrant to the Virginia Colony where Catholicism was illegal. He secretly held Mass in his home and eventually founded the first Catholic Church in Virginia.
- Overcame discrimination and was elected to the House of Burgesses, the colony’s legislative body.
- Joined the Continental Army, fought alongside Knowlton’s Rangers at Harlem, recognized for bravery, and promoted to command the 3d Virginia Regiment.
- General Washington selected him to be his aide-de-camp.
- Crossed the Delaware with Washington to fight at Trenton and Princeton and wintered at Valley Forge.



Fr. John Lynch Division (Roanoke, VA) installed its officers for 2024. From front left, Chaplain Dan Derringer, President Brian Carroll, Installing Officer State Board Secretary Edwin Hanson, Vice President Paul Miller. From back left, Recording Secretary Roger Vest, Treasurer Paul Yengst, Sr., Marshal Sherm Swisher, Chairman of the Grievance Committee Rick Vitolo, and Sentinel Dan Hamrick.



Fr. John Lynch Division (Roanoke, VA) Brothers Glen Hall, left, and Recording Secretary Roger Vest presented a donation of \$600 to the 82nd Division Christian Soldiers Food Pantry. This donation will cover one month’s electricity bill for the pantry that provides food to households with nutritional needs.

- Alerted Washington to the “Conway Cabal” plan to remove him from command.
- Wounded at Monmouth and released from military duty.
- A visionary leader who invested in and built an international commercial seaport in Alexandria.
- Elected Mayor of Alexandria
- Director of the Potomac Company to improve navigability and link the Potomac and Ohio Rivers via the Potomack Canal.
- Served on the committee to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
- With Alexander Hamilton, founded the Bank of Alexandria, a branch of the National Bank.
- Appointed by Thomas Jefferson as the first “Collector of Customs” at Port of Alexandria.

• Fund raising stalled in 2020, 2021, and 2022 when planned events and activities were prohibited. In 2023, sporadic donations continued thanks to a few committed Hibernians. Still, achieving the \$80,000 goal at the current annual donation rate can be projected for 2046. Colonel Fitzgerald, George Washington’s lifelong friend and confidant, deserves better attention.

It is clear our brothers in Virginia cannot do this alone, so we ask for financial support from all Hibernians. Donations can be made through our website <https://irishcultureva.org> or by USPS mail to the Irish Culture Society, Post Office Box 667, Locust Grove, Virginia 22508.

If you are 70½ or older a perfect charitable gift is a Tax-Free IRA rollover. It is important that the donation is managed by the custodian/manager of your IRA prior to taking your RMD!

Thank you for your support.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Bill Halpin, Chairman of the Board, Past Virginia State President

Wisconsin

Milwaukee Hibernians celebrate our heritage

The Rev. William J. Kelly SJ Division, in Milwaukee, WI, had a great Irish American Heritage season, highlighted by St. Patrick’s Day celebrations on March 9. Mass at St. Patrick’s was followed by the official downtown parade, then the less formal west-side parade. A steady 25 mph wind didn’t deter our marchers, but hats and signage were at risk all day. Every year we pick up new members due to these efforts. Several members found their way to a favorite gathering spot for continued fellowship.

March also brings our annual elections, and a new slate of officers were sworn in. Our division is now led by Max Loker, 2022 recipient of the Thomas McNabb Young Hibernian Leadership award. We thank Chris Kellenberger for his four years of tireless service.

Please join us at Milwaukee Irish Fest www.irishfest.com, August 15-18!



A sunny, breezy St. Patrick’s Day parade in downtown Milwaukee.



The afternoon west-side parade, under cloudy skies.

Ohio



Bluestone Div. 3, Cuyahoga County

The Bluestone Division held their annual Scholarship Raffle in February. This is the 10th anniversary of the Reverse Raffle, which raises money to support and promote Catholic high school education as well as donations to seminarians. The freshman year scholarships are granted to grade school students who wish to attend area Catholic high schools but may not be able to do so without the scholarship. Pictured are members of the Bluestone Division and members of the LAOH Deifur of Charity Division, who were present to support the fundraiser.

Columbus celebrates Patrick and Brigid

Patrick Pearse Division 1 in Columbus finished up a successful St. Patrick's (and St. Brigid's) Day season, as St. Patrick's Day was officially proclaimed by Columbus City Council, we brought our pikes along to "spearhead" the Parade, and also hosted six different Irish, Scottish and Americana bands at Tara Hall over the weeks leading up to and on the day. We're the place to be to celebrate your Irish heritage in Columbus.

Joining us in the Parade, our Brother and Dominican Prior of St. Patrick Church, Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, cut a fine figure. He has a wealth of knowledge in medieval Christian and Irish history, among other things, and he'll tell you all about it with a little prompting. He's likely forgotten more than most of us will ever know.

Next up, Major Degrees at the Hall on April 4, in Akron on April 20 and our 4th Annual Freedom for All Ireland Irish Road Bowling event at Deer Creek State Park (Beach Road) on April 27.



Proclamation Day in City Council Chambers, from left, President Bruce McPherson, Hibernian of the Year Scott Robinson, and Commodore Barry Award winner John Homan.



Akron's Mark Heffernan Division President Dale Norris presented Father Thomas McCann his Project St. Patrick certificate after the St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Hall. The Division made Project St. Patrick donation in Father McCann's name last year.

Maryland



Towson Division 3 holds St. Patrick's Day Mass

AOH3 Towson held its annual Parade Day Mass and Breakfast on March 10 at the Sheraton Hotel in Towson followed by the Division's march in the Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Mass/ Breakfast/ March is a decades-old tradition characterized by marchers dressed in morning suits and sashes. Baltimore's St. Patrick Parade is truly the jewel in Maryland's emerald crown. For over 65 years, thousands of spectators from the region have crowded the streets and sidewalks of downtown Baltimore and the famous Inner Harbor to watch thousands more march and celebrate Irish culture, music, song, and dance. — Stephen H. Riegger



Division and Hibernian Society hold joint party

Division 3 in Towson and the Hibernian Society of Baltimore held the Annual Christmas party in December at the "An Poitin Stil" located in Timonium, Maryland. The annual event blends members from both organizations. — Stephen H. Riegger



Towson Division 3 volunteers at Our Daily Bread Soup Meal Center

Headed by Catholic Charities, which consists of a family of more than 2,000 talented and dedicated colleagues, supported by nearly 8,000 selfless volunteers, and more than 10,000 generous donors, these marvelous individuals are of all faiths, ages, and ethnicities, and together, they touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals and families each year. On one day we served 350 hot meals and 80 vegetarian meals. It is a great feeling to be able to serve the underprivileged people of Baltimore and provide to them a short period of dignity. From left, Joe Dougherty, Brian Franklin, Jim Sweeney and John McManus.

New York

200 years of Irish enthusiasm steps off in Utica

Irish immigrant entrepreneur, financier and champion of Roman Catholicism John C Devereux led a group of Utica's leading citizens and other friends of Ireland's patron St. Patrick out of Baggs Hotel and through the yet-to-be paved streets of Utica, New York, in a procession that marked Utica's first St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1823.

Two hundred years later a parade the size of which Devereux could have hardly imagined, one ranked third largest in New York State behind only New York City's and Rochester's, stepped off from Soldiers and Sailors Monument down the green-striped parade route on Utica's Genesee Street.

The parade, a combined effort of several Irish social and fraternal organizations seemed to have AOH sweaters and sashes everywhere one looked...and while the parade capped the climax of Utica's Patrick's week, the John C Devereux Oneida County Division 1 kept Patrick's name in the news for more than a week with its traditional slate of annual activities.

On Friday prior to the parade, the Passing of the Shillelagh empowered two Grand Marshals, spouses and Irish traditional musicians Tim and Chris Hoke. On Tuesday, combined efforts of Irish groups inspired by the locating of the Devereux family grave plot conducted an all new Shamrock Ceremony to honor the dynamic Irish pioneer and his work here.

On Wednesday attentions turned to the Irish Flag raising at Utica's City Hall, the painting of the traditional green stripe on Genesee Streets by 2024 Parade Grand Marshals. Friday's observance started early in neighboring Rome. AOH and new Rome Mayor Lanigan raised the Irish flag in Veterans Memorial Park, with the important St Patrick's Mass Friday night at St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Church in Utica.



Irish American Heritage Month celebration

Brother Denis P. McGowan, a long-time Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Columille Division 4, NYPD Emerald Society and the Emerald Society of the Federal Law Enforcement Agencies member, was able to organize two events at his City of New York mayoral agency, the NYC Department of Buildings, in March 2024 that recognized and celebrated Irish American Heritage Month.

Brother McGowan is the co-chair and founding member of the Irish American Heritage Employees Resource Group at his agency, and has been active in Irish circles in Brooklyn and Staten Island since 1980. His dad, Brother Hugh P. McGowan (Flatbush Division 35) and his family were from Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim, and his mam, Margaret T. McGowan (nee Nolan) and her family were from Ahascragh, Galway. His mam was in the Junior Ladies Auxiliary and Ladies Auxiliary to the AOH from the 1940s to 1970s.

As a result of his efforts, an agency-wide announcement was made on March 1, 2024, about Irish American Heritage Month, and two days were designated by his agency as part of the month's recognition of the Irish and their tremendous contributions to the US. Putting together a committee of dedicated Irish and Irish Americans from his agency, McGowan raised the necessary funds and hosted a free full Irish traditional breakfast for his agency's workers and a free demonstration of traditional Irish dance to highlight Irish culture through music and dance, serving as a master of ceremonies for both Irish American Heritage Month events. One of his Brother Hibernians and co-workers, Brother Gerald Cusack, of the AOH New York County Board, also greatly assisted him in these dedicated efforts.

A popular event was the fourth annual traditional full Irish breakfast, was held on Wednesday March 6. Retired DOB Assistant Commissioner and Chief Executive Engineer Timothy D. Lynch, a licensed Professional Engineer and a Dublin native, was invited as the guest speaker. Brother McGowan sang the chorus of the Amhrán na bhFiann (The Soldiers' Song) in Irish, and The Star-Spangled Banner and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On March 20, Brother McGowan had a demonstration of traditional Irish dance held at the Gibney Dance Studio. It was performed by two world championship trad Irish dancers (college level) from the legendary Donny Golden School of Irish Dance, with master Irish dancers Joe Harrison and Noel Spillane, who once performed for Irish President Michael D. Higgins. Both are in the current cast of Riverdance.

These events have been conducted as annual events at the agency since 2019 based on the tremendous success of the dancing and of the breakfast. This shows what can be accomplished through teamwork, hard work, and dedication, and pride in one's Irish culture and heritage.



Sons of Ireland brother and Mayor John Buckley read the City of Hornell Irish Heritage Month Proclamation at our annual joint meeting with the Daughters of Erin. From left, LOAH President Maggie Cregan, Buckley in the center, and AOH President Mark G Kelly.



Mayor John Buckley, right, named our brother Larry Vetter, center, as the Grand Marshal of Hornell's St. Patrick's Day parade

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

Maryland



Division 3 donated to St. Elizabeth School
Division 3 in Towson and the St. Brendan Scholarship Fund presented a check to the principal of the Saint Elizabeth School during the annual Christmas Bull and Oyster Roast in December. Founded by the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore and inspired by the spirit of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi and the heritage of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Saint Elizabeth School provides educational, therapeutic and vocational services for students with intellectual disabilities and other challenges as well as support services for their families and caregivers. — Stephen H. Riegger

Alabama

Huntsville St. Patrick's Parade with Esteemed Court, Bagpiper, and Father Treacy Division as Color Guard

This year was a special one for the 47th Huntsville St. Patrick's Parade to not only include the largest crowds to date with over 10,000 lining the downtown streets, which the police noted were well behaved and tidy, but also to have our Grand Marshal, Dr. Fiona Chambers, participate in the parade and present session on the Business of Sports to the Chamber of Commerce. Dr Chambers is a senior lecturer/associate professor at University College Cork with experience in education, sports and innovation. Dr. Chambers was an active participant in the parade and all the activities surrounding the parade, which included leading a sing-a-long of "Ireland's Call" at the parade after-party celebrating Ireland winning the Six Nations.

The Parade Queen was Tracy Cieniewicz, who has organized the Irish Evening for more than 12 years supporting United Cerebral Palsy, which our division has been

honored to support over the years. This year, our division was proudly led by the Huntsville Bagpiper who recently relocated to Huntsville from New Jersey and has supported many causes throughout the community. We were also very fortunate one of our brother's two daughters served as Parade Princesses: Gianna Mary King and Lily Bridget King

Our division is always humbled, honored and grateful to be the official color guard carrying the flags that are blessed in front of St. Mary's Church, where the stops for the priest at St. Mary's Church to bless the flags and the parade. This year, Fr. Joy Thomas Nelissery gave a very moving blessing. The following day was St. Patrick's Day and several of the brothers with their families attended mass at St. Mary's and Fr. Joy thanked us for the day before and encouraged parishioners to seek us out and join our worthy Order.



Father Treacy Division with the Grand Marshal, Parade Court and Bagpiper.

New York



NYC Hibernians meet with Cardinal Dolan

Members from AOH New York County met with Cardinal Timothy Dolan at his residence prior to attending mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. From left, AJ Smith, Finian McKiernan, Tom Beirne, Dennis Grogan, LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan, Paul Mahoney, Cardinal Dolan, William Lee, Jerome McCarthy, Jamie Hamilton and Matt McFarland.



Annual Yonkers Communion Mass and Brunch a continued success

On Feb 4th Myles Scully, Division 1, Yonkers held their annual Brendan Murphy Memorial Communion Mass and Brunch at St. Joseph's Seminary. The Eucharist included the historic MacSwiney Chalice made in 1640 and used throughout the days of the Penal Laws in Ireland. Fr. William Cleary celebrated the mass. Brother Chad Ghastin received the Hibernian of the Year award and special guest speaker was James McGovern, Commander, Yonkers City VFW Post 1666.



Welcome To The 2024 AOH/LAOH National Convention



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

Wednesday, August 7th — Sunday, August 11

You are invited to Orlando, Florida

For online **ROOM RESERVATION** (\$125 + taxes)
and **EVENTS REGISTRATION** please go to
<https://aoh.com/2024AOHLAOHconvention>

Events Registration through the Mail:

This Form is for Convention events only. **Please print neatly.**
(Does not include Hotel Registration.)

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I am a member of the AOH / LAOH (circle either AOH or LAOH)
Membership # _____

Division # _____ County _____ State _____

Officer or Chairman of _____ National Board; _____ State Board; or _____ neither

Guest Registration: Name _____

Email _____

RESERVATION PACKAGES

Full Events Package: \$215 if reserved by June 15, 2024.

Full Events Reservation made after June 15 and thereafter: \$235.

Options:

Full Package includes all of the separate choices listed below.
Indicate choice and # of meals.

Select Entrée:

Irish Night - _____ Chicken/Sliced Pork Loin; or _____ Vegan

Final Banquet - _____ Pan Seared Salmon;
_____ Sliced Beef Sirloin; or _____ Vegan

Icebreaker (Wed., Aug. 7, 7-9 PM) \$60: Casual Attire, Buffet,
complimentary draft beer and signature drink.

Irish Night (Fri., Aug. 9, 6-10PM) \$85: Business Casual Attire.

Select Entrée: _____ Chicken/Sliced Pork Loin; or _____ Vegan

Final Banquet (Sat., Aug. 10) \$90: Formal Black Tie Optional.

Select Entrée: _____ Pan Seared Salmon;
_____ Sliced Beef Sirloin; or _____ Vegan.

Registration Only: \$25

* Please consider making all reservations and payment online to streamline
the process.

** If registering through the mail, please remit this form and payment to:
AOH National Secretary, PO Box 1742, Jensen Beach FL 34958-1742.

** If paying event registration by check, make payment payable to:
"The AOH/LAOH National Convention"

Pennsylvania

National Life Members Denny Maher and Ed Halligan

Hard work deserves recognition, and two AOH Brothers who truly deserve this honor for
the many years of their dedication to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America are Denny

Maher and Ed Halligan from Pennsylvania. Both received Life Member Awards.

Denny received his at a meeting in Pittsburgh and Ed at a gathering of Division 39
organized by Past National President Seamus Boyle. Congratulations to Denny and Ed!



Ed Halligan with his AOH Brothers from Montgomery County where he is a member of Division 2 Sean
McBride.



Denny Donnelly, National President Danny O'Connell, Denny Maher and Jim
Green.

New York



Easter Rising Memorial Service The Nassau County AOH, along with other Irish American organizations in the county, held ceremonies on April 1 at the Easter Rising Monument in Mineola,
NY, to commemorate the Easter Rising in 1916. The Monument was planned, funded and is maintained by the Irish Monument Committee, which includes the Nassau County Board of
the AOH, the Brehon Law Society, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk & Queens, Irish Americans in Government, Irish Northern Aid, the Police
Emerald Society, Hofstra University's Irish Studies Program and the Sheriff's Emerald Society. Photo by Rosemarie Byrne.