

The National HIBERNIAN DIGEST



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

Vol. LXXX No. 4 USPS 373340

August-September 2023

1.50

Hibernians to Celebrate Peace and Leadership in Youngstown



Bertie Ahern

In what shall be one of the concluding events marking the 25th Anniversary year of the Good Friday Agreement, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America will honor former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern for his work in achieving peace in the North of Ireland and to recognize President Daniel J. O'Connell for his leadership of the AOH as part of the events of their National Board meeting in Youngstown, Ohio. Our reception will be on October 13, and our President's Testimonial and Sean McBride Award Dinner will be held on October 14.

The event's centerpiece will be the recognition of former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern for his crucial role in the peace process in Northern Ireland. Ahern, who will be the 18th recipient and second former Taoiseach to receive the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award, has been lauded for his transformative role in the Irish political landscape. Having held the office of Taoiseach for three successive terms, his leadership has marked a significant chapter in modern Irish history.

The pinnacle of Ahern's legacy was his pivotal involvement, alongside then-British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in negotiating the groundbreaking Good Friday Agreement in April 1998. This accord is a landmark in Irish and world history, ending 30 years of violence in what was proportionately one of the most violent conflicts in history and ushering in an era of peace that previously was inconceivable.

It is fitting that Mr. Ahern should receive the Sean MacBride

Humanitarian Award. The award was established to memorialize the Human Rights contributions made by Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Sean MacBride and to recognize the efforts of others who have contributed to the cause of peace, justice and the economic well-being of the Irish people.

Also to be honored is President Daniel J. O'Connell for his exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Irish America. As the head of the oldest and largest Irish American organization in the United States, O'Connell's stewardship has guided the organization through the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, challenges that have claimed many other Irish organizations. Under his leadership and during the pandemic and post-pandemic era, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America raised and distributed record-setting funds for FFAI, Project St. Patrick, and Hibernian Charities. O'Connell's efforts have positioned the AOH as a significant voice within Irish America, facilitating engagement with political parties on both sides of the Atlantic and both sides of the aisle in Washington.

O'Connell's legacy includes the establishment of innovative programs and partnerships that have strengthened the Ancient Order of Hibernians' role in promoting Irish heritage and goodwill. Notably, his efforts have led to fruitful collaborations with the St. Patrick Centre, the creation of the Father Flanagan Human Dignity Award, and substantial fundraising activities for initiatives like FFAI, Project St. Patrick, and Hibernian Charities.

Reflecting on his tenure, O'Connell underscores the collective effort that has driven the Ancient Order of Hibernians' success. O'Connell commented, "To be a successful leader, you must have a great team. The AOH is a great team."

For those eager to participate in this significant celebration, detailed information can be found on the event's official website, www.AOH.com. The event promises to be a testament to the enduring spirit of peace, camaraderie and shared heritage that continues to bind Irish communities in America and Ireland.

New Hibernian growth program focuses on youth



The Young Ambassadors in front of Saul Church. From left: Tommy Cosgrove, Dean Gandley, Aiden Morely, Thomas Clarke, Logan Joyce, Sean McNamara, Austin McKay, Brendan Savage, Patrick Clarke, Jack Mickle, Colleen Mortell and Maple Waldron.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America is increasing our attention on our young members who will be the future leaders of the AOH and Irish America. Research shows that today's youth are looking for organizations to be flexible, make them feel good about life, address issues they care about, and allow them an opportunity to make a difference in the world. One new AOH program addressing these issues is the AOH St. Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program. You can hear more about the programs directly from the Ambassadors in the center section of this issue of the Hibernian Digest.

Special Section Pages 11-14. Read what our Young Ambassadors say about their Irish experience

The future success of AOH and of Irish America in general rests in the hands of today's youth and how they choose to embrace their Irish American heritage. Organizations that sit back and simply wait for younger people to get involved will end up alone in the room. To avoid this fate, we must find out what younger Irish Americans are looking for and engage them. To appeal to Irish American youth, we must make membership in the AOH attractive and rewarding to them. Dr. Tim Campbell and President Danny O'Connell met with the 2023 Young Ambassador Class on a Zoom call two months after the program concluded to debrief and begin evaluation of

continued on page 11

DATED MATERIAL

In This Issue...

Political Action



Bob Nolan
FFAI

Page 7

Sworn In



Wilton Cardinal Gregory
Washington, D.C.

Page 18

Recruitment Award



Dennis Harty
New York

Page

State News

Alabama	.....6
Colorado	.....2
Connecticut	.....16
Florida	.....19
Maryland	.....19
Massachusetts	.....18
Montana	.....2
New Jersey	.....14, 21
New York	.....14, 21, 23
North Carolina	.....16
Ohio	.....20
Pennsylvania	.....19, 24
Virginia	.....7
Washington, D.C.	.....18
LAOH	.....22

Montana



Important anniversary

Members of the Thomas Francis Meagher Division, in Helena, Montana, draped the base of the Meagher statue in front of the Montana State Capitol with the tricolor and arranged to have the Irish Flag flown over the Capitol on August 3, the 200th Anniversary of Meagher's birth in Waterford, Ireland. After his service in the Civil War, Meagher was appointed Territorial Secretary of Montana and later Acting Territorial Governor. The Flag shown was flown over 33 The Mall in Waterford, Ireland, where Meagher first flew the Irish Tricolor on March 7, 1848. From left: Project Chairman Tom Pahut, Div. Treas. Dan Gruber, Div. Pres. Patrick Flaherty, Thomas Francis Meagher, John Malia, Div. Fin. Sec. PJ McHugh and Erik Burke.

Colorado



New Division!

Colorado is proud to announce the formation of a new Division! The St. Patrick Division 1, Arapahoe County, Colorado, was installed in July of this year. This is the first time since the mid 20th century that Colorado has had three men's Divisions. We are happy to congratulate our new Brothers and wish them success!



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

New! A.O.H. Pole Flags & Banners



- Economic
- Customizable for your Division
- Vibrant Full Color Options
- Banners Starting at \$50.00
- Flags starting at \$70.00

Visit Our Website!
www.AOHapparel.com
The Official Apparel of the A.O.H.



5' x 3'
with pole pockets OR grommets!

www.AOHapparel.com
609-624-3262
Bro. Mike Hagani

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



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Official Apparel

www.aohapparel.com



president's message

By *Danny O'Connell*

It is the beginning of my last year as President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and the end of my first 15 years as an elected officer on the National Board. What an incredible ride it has been. Thank you, brothers, for this incredible opportunity. As I prepare for the fall national board meeting, I realize once again what a fantastic National Board I am serving with.

Leadership is service. and I will continue my service to you as your president in high gear right up until the moment I have the honor of swearing in our next National President. We have a strong agenda for the next year, which begins with the four pillars: membership recruitment and retention, the National Charity Appeal, the Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal, and the Freedom for all Ireland Christmas Appeal. We have done a good job with all these programs, but we all know we can do even better by increasing our overall participation.

The St. Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program will provide recruiting and retention support for younger members. The key to success of the program will be to improving participation in the National Charity Appeal that provides the necessary financial support for the program. We need to raise \$30,000+ a year to keep the program at its current level and you know expenses will not be going down in the future. Last

year's Charity Appeal had a 7 percent participation rate. We are asking for the other 93 percent of the membership to help with an annual donation of any amount.

Our Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal is geared to helping young seminarians in both the U.S. and Ireland. Last year we were able to award every seminarian grant request received and provide another \$23,000 in financial support to the seminarians in Ireland. Increasing our participation in the Easter Appeal will help us remain a top supporter of our future clergy.

The Freedom for all Ireland Christmas Appeal continues to grow annually. We have more than doubled our collection and distribution of funds over the last several years. With success comes challenges. This year's challenge is to raise our level of financial support. We know we can succeed in this goal because we have you working together with us.

These four pillars are key to our success on the national and international stage. The key to our overall success is what you do at the division level. This is where the heavy lifting comes into place. The Hibernian Hunger Projects, Catholic Action communion breakfasts, support for our Pro-Life activities, and everything else you do is the glue that keeps us together. The most important action may be our Irish American Heritage action. From road bowling to music sessions to GAA activities, keeping the Irish American traditions alive is a critical charge of the Order.

Brothers, I am asking each one of your to do what you can to help us continue as the greatest Irish American organization in the U.S. You are a difference maker and a critical part of our team. We all have specific interests and areas we excel in. Lead where you can, offer support to our leaders in other areas and, most importantly, live our motto: Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. Thank you for the work you do.



vice president's report

By *Sean Pender*

The business of the Order was conducted throughout the country as states had their conventions in this odd-numbered year of the Hibernian calendar. I have attended several and wanted to offer some thoughts.

We have done a particularly good job in conveying what is happening in our areas of responsibility; where we need to improve is promoting and reporting on the connectivity of the local to the state and national regarding state and national objectives. It is obvious that our successful division and boards are active and visible in their communities and that is what keeps us viable locally. Where we need to improve is reporting on the success of each jurisdiction or area of responsibility to the four pillars of the organization and other areas of advocacy.

Along those lines I will be working with the executive board to create a dashboard/scorecard that can be easily used by leadership at all levels to track important indices such as membership numbers, and local results pertaining to advocacy, and participation in our yearly Freedom for all Ireland, Project St. Patrick and Hibernian charity appeals. The hope is that by focusing all on these important goals of the Order we will see improved participation in appeals and more activity in calls to action.

Notes from conventions: incredibly special moment in Binghamton at the NYAOH convention when Father Gary Donegan and Reverend Bill Shaw gave a closing blessing to the convention; and in Pennsylvania, when outgoing President Ed Dougherty presented Kevin Haney with the PA state outstanding volunteer service award.

Lastly, congratulations to the Johnstown PA AOH team that hosted us at the PA convention. There has never been a local business community that welcomed us the way that Johnstown did. Well done.

In June I lost a very good friend, Monsignor Crean Division 1, Trenton NJ, AOH member Dave Doran to ALS. Dave fought this hideous disease for almost five years and never let it get the best of him. All you need to know about Dave is that on March 10, just months before his untimely passing, Dave continued his yearly practice of participating in the St. Baldrick's drive to raise funds for children with cancer. As we approach the holiday season, a time when we give thanks. I wanted to give thanks for the friendship that Dave offered to me and to so many others.

Well done good and faithful servant. May you enjoy your eternal reward.



All blessings have great meaning, but the blessing at the NYAOH convention in mid July by the Rev. Bill Shaw, left, and Fr. Gary Donegan, right, had tremendous significance. Both clergymen work for peace in the north of Ireland and graciously attended New York's Hibernian gathering. AOH President O'Connell joined in the prayers.



Pennsylvania State President Ed Dougherty presented Kevin Haney with the outstanding volunteer service award at their convention.



National VP Sean Pender and President Danny O'Connell with PA Convention chairman Bill McKinney, Jr.



Before the NY Convention, Sean spent an enjoyable afternoon golfing with National Treasurer Liam McNabb and Kevin and Danny McNabb.



treasurer's report

By Liam McNabb

Appropriate Treasury Practices

At recent state conventions, there were discussions regarding appropriate practices for Division, County and State Boards to review, approve and pay for expenses related to the respective jurisdiction. In an effort to help with treasury related questions and to mitigate risks, President Danny O'Connell explained the practices of the National Board at these conventions and we strongly encourage each level of the Order to replicate these processes.

As outlined in the AOH National Constitution (Article XI, Section 4), the National Treasurer can only issue payments on approved vouchers submitted by the National Secretary and approved by the National President. Our practice is for the National Secretary to create a voucher with the specific expense, assign the voucher with a number and submit to the President for review and approval. The voucher is then sent to the Treasurer to make the appropriate payment. This process is conducted in a timely manner and these steps occur via a series of emails that include National Officers to ensure awareness.

As with any team, communication among leadership is critical for a variety of reasons but, in this case, it demonstrates transparency and is an example of a "check and balance" for the Order along with the defined voucher process. Having a thorough process in place is important when managing Division, County or State Board funds, especially since members place their trust in us to protect their hard-earned dues.

Again, we encourage each level of the Order to consider including a voucher process as part of your bills and claims procedures. It will protect the organization's resources and your membership will have even more confidence in the leadership of the Division, County or State Board.



Director's report

By Dan Deoinney, Deputy Legal Counsel

I would like to thank all my Hibernian Brothers and Sisters for the hospitality they extended to my wife and I during our visits to their State Conventions. As I sat in the meetings I was impressed with all the hard work of the State Boards that was reflected in the committee reports. The reports also reflected all the charitable and other works done by our Hibernian Brothers at the county and division levels. I also attended several Degree Ceremonies that were performed by several different Degree Teams. It was interesting to see how the ceremonies varied slightly while presenting so consistently our history and our Hibernian message.

I have often heard it said that the Divisions are the backbone of our Order. They allow the County Boards, State Boards and National Boards to accomplish all that they do. They also allow us to complete the missions outlined in the Four Pillars of our Order.

The key to coordinating all this hard work is communication. That is why it is so important to make sure the roster system database is updated with the most current addresses, phone numbers and, most importantly, e-mail addresses for all Division members. An up-to-date roster ensures that the members in your jurisdiction are receiving the latest important information from you and other leaders in our Order.

Also at this time when so many new State Presidents are beginning their first administrations and others have the opportunity to re-tool their existing administrations, I cannot impress upon them enough how important it is to fill the chairs of their administration. These chairpersons will be key parts in your communication system that enables you to communicate with others throughout your jurisdiction and the rest of the Order. They also will be the key players that you will need to accomplish your goals for your jurisdiction. Many hands make the load light. Do not underestimate the importance of making this your first step.

Ambassador Program

I have had the opportunity to speak to one of the participants of the Ambassador Program after his return from Ireland. He used words like "chance of a lifetime" and "life changing" to describe his experience. I would like to congratulate the leadership of the National Board on their inaugural success of another great program.

A perfect time to recruit

One more thing, I know the summertime is a great time for recruitment. But we are coming into what I like to call the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Season. It is another great time for recruitment. Let's make the best of it.

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



interim secretary

By Ray Lynch

Greetings to all who read this article. As I am gaining a better understanding of the National Secretary's duties and responsibilities, I thank you all for your continued support in allowing me the time to do so. We know that the mission of the Order goes on and we need to jump into a new venture with both feet to stay in stride. I recently sent a "how to" out to all the new State, County and Division Officers who were recently elected at their respective State Conventions. This manual pertains to updating your online rosters (Form 9s, individual adds or subtractions) so you don't need to wait for the Secretary's office to assist. If you do not have access to the reporting system, please send me an email and I will assist in getting it for you. The roster system is where communication starts.

Constitutionally we are required to have a full slate of Officers on every level, but as of this communication there are still many unseated Chairmen. For example, the National PEC cannot get important information to the State, County or Division level if there is no State, County or Division PEC Chairman recognized on your Form 9.

Please do all you can over the next few months to get into your roster and make the needed updates and additions to assist us in being able to bring you the news and information of the Order. If you have any questions or need assistance please feel free to contact me either by email (irishyankeenut@gmail.com) or phone (772-224-4928).

Stay Blessed Brothers, in our motto....



Director's report

By Tim McSweeney

NYS AOH Convention

The Binghamton Doubletree Hotel was the site of the Biennial Convention of the New York State Ancient Order of Hibernians July 13-15. The Convention was opened with Mass celebrated by NYS AOH Deputy State Chaplin Jim O'Rourke. Following Mass, State President John Manning called the Convention to Order to begin the business proceeding.

Later that evening, the Convention was addressed by NYS Attorney General Latisha James. Ms. James pledged her full support of the Houses of Worship Hate Crime Bill. When passed by the NYS Legislature, this Hibernian-created-and-sponsored law will provide all crimes committed in a house of worship to be fully prosecuted as felony offenses. This Hibernian-led effort is being aided by other religious groups and denominations.

Friday of the Convention included a keynote address by Fr. Gary Donegan and Rev. Bill Shaw. Fr. Donegan, well known for his work at Holy Cross Church Ardoyne, provided a boots on the ground perspective of current legacy issues and still active sectarian struggles in Belfast. Rev. Shaw, a Presbyterian Minister, echoed Fr. Gary's statements, on the need for peace and proper implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and also the need to reseal the Stormont Government. Friday evening saw Bridget McNabb, wife of the late Tom McNabb, throw the first pitch at the Binghamton Rubble Ponies' Irish Night Baseball Game. Bridget's Slider was clocked at a stellar 87 mph.

Saturday was the Installation of Tom O'Donnell as NYS AOH President. Tom Beirne will serve as Vice President, with Kevin O'Reilly as Secretary and AJ Smith as Treasurer. NYS AOH looks to the future with this leadership team.



Tim McSweeney, center, at the New York State AOH Convention, flanked by Rev. Bill Shaw, left, and Fr. Gary Donegan.

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



Director's report

By BOB MEHRENS

It seems hard to believe that three years have passed since being elected to the National Board. During this time, I have seen growth in the Order as well as many wonderful accomplishments by the AOH across the country. The current board is composed of several diverse and talented men. Each of us having our own little talents that result in one large, common goal, the growth and success of the Order.

We all need to continue to be active in speaking up on our objectives that affect Irish Americans and continue to promote our four pillars. The most important way for our voice to be heard is for every city, county and state board to continue to build on their appointed committee lists as well as email lists. We live in a world that makes shared information and ideas so easily accessible.

As members we all need to be diligent in providing the correct information and participating in the committees to help ensure the success of the AOH for future generations. Just a reminder of some of the committees that are appointed and their respective chairs if any brother is interested and would like to reach out.

- Pro Life Larry Squires LSquires@descomm.com
- Catholic Action Pat Lally lally8404@hotmail.com
- Hibernian Hunger Bill Sullivan WILLIAMSULLIVAN@verizon.net
- Veterans Affairs Patrick Flaherty p.e.flaherty44@gmail.com
- FFAI Martin Galvin MGALVINSQ@aol.com
- Historian Dan Taylor dmtaylorjr@gmail.com
- Charities and Missions Patrick Ryan aoh.patrick.ryan68@gmail.com
- PSP Ron Hagan rhagan@hagancpa.com
- Political Education Neil Cosgrove ncosgrove@optonline.net
- Immigration Tom Lambert tomlambert12@aol.com



Project St. Patrick

By RON HAGAN, chairman

The next step for Project St. Patrick is our favorite step, selecting our annual Grant recipients. This begins with letters to our diocesan vocation directors soliciting applications. The letters will request the vocation directors notify candidates that Hibernian grants are available to seminarians and religious from the AOH and LAOH. The vocation directors will then share the link for the 2023 applications for them to complete and return to the vocation director.

The directors will complete the process by providing a recommendation for the candidate and emailing or mailing the completed grant application to the chairs of the AOH and LAOH. The deadline for applications is the beginning of November. The review process will begin immediately, and recommended applicants will be forwarded to President O'Connell and President Madigan for final selections.

The successful candidates will receive a congratulation email from the committee notifying them they will receive a grant check from Hibernian Charities directly. As we end another year of Project St. Patrick fundraising we hope to reach our goal of supporting all applications. Last year the LAOH was able to provide 18 seminarian grants plus a \$1,000 grant to the Little Sisters of the Poor for a \$10,000 total. The AOH was able to provide 66 seminarian grants, and the AOH provided the seminarians at St. Patrick's Seminary in Maynooth, Ireland, with a separate \$23,000 donation toward their upcoming trip to the Holy Land, for an AOH total of \$56,000. Together we assisted 84 seminarians from around the U.S. serving Hibernian Dioceses, the Little Sisters of the Poor, and all 23 of Ireland's current seminarians.

Please remember to support the Project St. Patrick's Easter Appeal each year. Our success comes from every State, County and Division Board participating, individual member donations, and memorial prayer cards.

Support Project St. Patrick



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
- Current Montana FFAI Chair
- Anaconda AOH Hibernian of the Year 2016
- Anaconda AOH Parade Grand Marshal 2015
- Anaconda AOH Building Corporation Board Member



Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS

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@hagancpa.com
Larry Squires..... Pro-Life..... lsquires@descomm.com
A.J. Smith..... National Legal Counsel..... asmith@bssnylaw.com
Neil Cosgrove..... Political Education..... ncosgrove@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..... williamjsullivan@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



Director's Report

By Richard Thompson

It is now that time of year that our State & County Boards and Divisions return to the business of the Order. Most State Conventions have been completed, although we have a few left to complete this fall. Many new officers and committee chairs have been elected and appointed. It is a time of renewal for all of us. We must support our officers and committee chairmen at every level of our Order; it is the foundation of our success. One of our best resources are our past officers and committee chairmen; with their help we can develop the future leaders of our great Order. Again, along the lines of new officers and committee chairmen, please fill the constitutionally required positions on your Board's and Division's rosters. Then submit the Form 9 with the proper updated information to the National Secretary's Office.

This fall will be a busy time for most of us as our Boards and Divisions return to their regular meetings and business. For many the main chore will be the collection of next year's dues. When collecting dues also comes the retention of members. Please, if you have members who have not paid their dues for this year reach out to them to inquire do they wish to remain a member. Sometimes we all face hardships, but they can be worked out to retain a member. Also remember the dues increase for the coming year. Dues have been raised to \$20 per member, but there is a \$4 discount to \$16 if paid on or before February 15, 2024.

The National Board will also kick off the FFAI Christmas Appeal this fall and please do not forget Project St Patrick. Donations to these National programs can be sent in all year long. The interim National Board meeting and President's Dinner will be held in Youngstown, Ohio, in October.

Brothers, please make sure your Division Financial Secretary has your most updated personal contact information. This information will enable you to receive emails and the Hibernian Digest in a timely manner and will keep you informed of what is happening in your Division in your County, State and Nationally.

Please be an active member and recruit a new member today.

Alabama

Fr. Treacy Division resumed Live Bald charity event

The Father Treacy Division last held their signature charity event, Live Bald, in 2019 as an in-person event with many participants, and resulted in raising \$20,588 for childhood cancer research. The 2019 event was our 4th annual Live Bald event on behalf of St. Baldrick's Foundation to Conquer Childhood Cancers. Over the four years the event was held, our division raised more than \$100,000! Then COVID hit in 2020, and that first year a virtual "do it on your own" was tried but did not work as well as intended. So our division paused Live Bald until we could once again find a business to host an in-person event. Well, that business was the Fractal Brewing Project and they gladly hosted Live Bald on April 1, 2023.

Leading up to the day of the actual event was a lot of planning by many of our brothers and those who have volunteered for so many years with our division to bring back the raffles, food options, live music, children activities and, of course, the shaves, as well as to work out all the logistics needed to bring back our division's signature charity event.

Our division knew that even with all of the hard work it would not be the same as it was our last year of having an in-person Live Bald in terms of raising much needed funds for childhood cancer research. Our division still set an aggressive goal of raising \$10,000. We exceeded it by raising \$18,864. Not only that, we had an incredible turn out of division brothers helping with the day of event needs, members of the public, musicians who volunteered their time, the incredible volunteers who supported us in the past, and of course the incredible shavers. The best part is that Fractal Brewing Project enjoyed this worthy cause so much that they have already scheduled Live Bald for next year! We are very humbled, honored and grateful that our division has brought back our signature charity event and look forward to next year's Live Bald event and raising much more needed funds for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

The National hibernian Digest

"The Land One and Indivisible, Though the Heavens Fall" HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND
Subscription price of \$10.00 included in the organization's dues. Periodical postage paid at Oreland, PA and additional mailing offices USPS 373340

A bi-monthly publication dedicated to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The National Hibernian Digest is the complete chronicle of the ideals, hopes, and achievements of Hibernians everywhere. The National Hibernian Digest is printed and mailed out of Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-9998 and additional mailing offices in February, April, June, August, October. Office of publication is Ancient Order of Hibernians, Oreland, PA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National Hibernian Digest, P.O. Box 437, Oreland, PA 19075
The Hibernian Digest reserves the right to not include articles in this publication due to space limitations and editorial determination. The articles submitted to the Digest do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., its Board of Directors, the Editor or its membership. The Hibernian Digest welcomes letters to the editor. Please send via e-mail to editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com and include your letter in the body of the e-mail. DO NOT send as an attachment. Letters can be mailed (typed only) to AOH Editor, National Hibernian Digest, c/o John O'Connell, 87-30 256th St., Floral Park, NY 11001. ALL LETTERS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please include contact phone numbers for follow up.

JOHN O'CONNELL..... National Editor/Advertising..... (646) 436-0811 editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
KIM DePEAUX..... Assistant Editor (LAOH)..... laohnationalnews@gmail.com



Father Treacy Division resumed Live Bald charity event, raising \$18,864.



Director's report

By Sean O'Dowd

This fall most of the State Conventions have been completed. Congratulations to all incoming State Officers and thank you to outgoing State Boards. Whether you have been elected to a second term or starting your first, you are the lifeblood of our organization and the commitment and eagerness to step up and serve this honorable organization is applauded.

It is beneficial to the AOH that members not only know what their own Divisions are doing but what the State and National has to offer them. To accomplish this, the National Board has been on a quest to have all State and Division rosters continually updated so information may be shared back and forth. It is up to you, our members, to keep your Division Financial Secretary informed of any changes in your email or contact information. Along with Division Presidents, State Presidents should review their rosters to be sure they are up-to-date.

The National Board wants to thank all of our members for your help and contributions that have allowed the AOH to be at the forefront of Irish issues at local, state and national levels. Our membership is sought out for our insight, understanding and knowledge of Ireland, its history, and the impact the Irish Diaspora has. We work together on everything that impacts Ireland and Irish America.

On July 14-15 I was asked to participate and represent the Order in a conference hosted by the Consulate General of Ireland. Presenters and attendees included representatives from the Embassy of Ireland/DC, Ireland Dept. of Foreign Affairs HQ, and Consul Generals from Atlanta, GA; Austin, TX; Cultural Ireland; and the Emigrant Support Programme DFA. In addition, there were 37 groups from eight states (with six AOH/LAOH members representing other groups). The focus of the conference was to build the capacity of Irish organizations so they can more effectively achieve their mission.

Corresponding with National Secretary's Office

When talking or emailing with the AOH National Secretary's Office, please include your AOH ID/travel card number, which is the 10-digit number on your membership card. This makes it easier for the office to process your request.



At the productive and informative conference were, from left, David Ebbs ESP/DFA, Jim Cavanaugh, AOH NE; Kevin Byrne, Consul General Ireland/Chicago; and National Director Sean O'Dowd.

Virginia



Feeding the hungry

The Fr. John Lynch Division, in Roanoke, Virginia, has spent 2023 living Christian Charity. We added \$500 to the grant given us by the Hibernian Hunger Project, and paired that with another matching grant to give a total of \$2,000 to Feeding Southwest Virginia. FSV, an affiliate of Feeding America, has been addressing the food insecurity problems of 26 counties in Virginia since 1981. In addition to monetary contributions, the Division has provided manpower to distribute food to food banks. After a tour of the Salem, Virginia, facility, Division President Brian Carroll presented a check to Pamela Irvine, President and CEO. — Submitted by Paul Yengst



freedom for all ireland

By Martin Galvin, Chairman

Fight Britain's Legacy Cover-up Bill

The British will enact their Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill in early September. They say they want "better outcomes" in legacy cases. What they mean is that they keep losing at inquests like Ballymurphy, Ombudsman Investigations such as Operation Achille, civil cases like the Miami Showband lawsuit, or criminal trials like the McAnespie murder verdict.

British officials keep repeating that crown forces were responsible for only 10 percent of the north's killings. Legacy proceedings are uncovering the truth about British complicity in hundreds of collusion murders carried out by paid loyalist agents.

The amnesty bill is Britain's admission of guilt. British officials know the facts and are afraid to face their own courts, inquests, ombudsmen, etc. They must change the rules so Britain can get better outcomes in spite of the facts.

Victims' families — some of whom have fought the battle for justice for 50 years — have vowed to keep up the fight. They are counting on the AOH to be their voice in America.

Congress

They are counting on us to be their voice in Congress. Now is a time to reach out to your local Congressional Representative and say that Irish issues like legacy justice are important to voters in their District. As an example of what Hibernians are doing, Congressman Ritchie Torres met the AOH on July 24th, for a briefing on legacy justice. The delegation included National Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Martin Galvin, New York State Deputy Political Education Director Bob Nolan, and Division 3 member Joseph McManus.

The Congressman has already joined a number of Congressional sign-on letters opposing the British legacy coverup. He was especially interested in the case of Liam Ryan, a Tyrone-born former Bronx resident and American citizen, who was murdered after he returned to Tyrone by off-duty members of the Ulster Defense Regiment, on November 29, 1989. This is the type of meeting that Hibernians across the country are using to build Congressional support.

Will your Congressman join the Congressional protest letters?

Christmas Appeal

Last year Hibernians shattered all Christmas Appeal records by raising more than \$160,000. This money was desperately needed by groups who are being squeezed by the British.

Grants were awarded to justice campaigners like Relatives for Justice, Ballymurphy Massacre Committee, Bloody Sunday Trust and the Witness Project; groups helping ex-prisoners or bereaved like EALU and Green Cross; heritage groups like the St. Patrick Centre and Duchas Oriall; groups keeping patriot graves like Belfast National Graves and Tyrone National Graves; Cross-community groups like the Houben Peace Centre Project, Bridges Beyond Boxing, Omagh Thunder Basketball and Omagh Choir; commemorative groups like the O'Neill-Allsopp Flute Band and Greater New Lodge Committee. First time recipients included the Bogside Artists, Ireland's Future, and McGuinness Foundation.

I am personally appealing to every State, County and Division President, to take a lead, and find a way to donate through special fundraising or donations from funds. Don't let them down!

Please donate to this year's Christmas Appeal. Together we are making a difference. All checks must be made out to "Ancient Order of Hibernians." Payments should be sent to AOH-FFAI at PO Box 904, Jefferson Valley, NY, 10535.



Members of the AOH met with a Member of Congress in July. From left, Joe McManus, Congressman Ritchie Torres, Martin Galvin and Bob Nolan.



charities & missions

By Patrick Ryan, chairman



history report

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.
national historian



I hope that everyone is having a great summer and has attended or is going to your state convention. I have had the privilege of attending several this year and am always proud to see the camaraderie. Since more Divisions are adding Charities & Missions chairmen I want to say that I am always here to help you learn what information is needed and how to fill out and organize your forms. They are important for many reasons but for your local Division it gives you a snapshot of the activities and donations of your Division. You should

review this info every quarter. Our Worthy National President has put out a couple of challenges for our various efforts and I encourage everyone to participate. Charity begins at home and extends into our lives and the importance of two of the Pillars – Charity Appeal and Easter Appeal are wonderful ways to participate.

We use an on-line giving platform which we started using last year and it is easier than it ever has been. You can simply scan the QR code with your phone and it will take you directly to our giving platform or go to www.aoh.com and click the green button at the top – Donate to the Hibernian Charity: This site is completely secure and goes straight to the Charity.

I am always here to help and I have a new email address dedicated solely for Hibernian use: aoh.patrick.ryan68@gmail.com. I look forward to answering your questions about the Charity Appeal or help with filling out the Annual Events Report. I look forward to seeing many of you in Youngstown for the President's Testimonial Dinner and National Board Meeting.

from the editor's desk...

By John O'Connell

I've received inquiries seeking guidance on best practices for Hibernians to publicize the good deeds we do. Division leaders and members deserve to be proud of the work the AOH does in the community. When we do acts of Christian charity, when we perform Hibernian Hunger Projects, when we contribute to the Order's Project St. Patrick, when we lead Irish American Heritage programs, whenever we do good in the name of our Motto as Hibernians, we should be publicizing those deeds both internally in the Digest and in State, County and Division publications and social media, and externally in your local community newspapers and online news and feature-story sites.

Good external publicity reinforces the fact that the AOH is the voice of Irish America in your community, and reveals to all who don't already know that Irish Americans in general and the Hibernians specifically are deservedly proud of our history, heritage and current contributions to America.

Good publicity helps recruitment and retention, the first of the Order's Four Pillars. Practicing Catholics of Irish birth or descent or adoption may not necessarily know about the AOH, and seeing pictures and short articles in the local newspapers will attract them to contact us. Men who are already Hibernians become even more proud of their membership when they see their own charitable work highlighted locally.

In terms of best practices, I recommend first that the division president appoint a publicity chairman, hopefully someone who likes to take photos and can write clearly. When your division does good work, have the publicity chairman take an action photo, e.g., Hibernians loading a car trunk with canned foods for your Hunger Project, and send a focused, sharp, bright .jpg-formatted photo and brief, concise Word-formatted caption and narrative saying who's in the photo, what are they doing, why, and who the AOH is. Also include an easy way for readers to contact us if they are eligible and interested in joining.

Even before that, the division president, VP or publicity chairman should contact the local newspaper's editor and establish a relationship. Tell the editor who you are, the important role the AOH plays in the community, and ask how they like content submitted. Don't wait until you want an announcement published or demand newspaper coverage of your event to first contact your local editor. Form an equitable relationship first. Find out what they want and let them know what you want and treat the editor with respect and understanding.

In future columns I'll discuss how best to submit content internally to the Digest, and some advice on best use of social media.

The Battle of Yellow Ford

The victory of Hugh O'Neill at the Battle of Yellow Ford (August 14, 1598) was the high-water mark of Gaelic Ireland's last stand against the invaders from the east. Four centuries after the Anglo-Norman invasion, only the "Pale," a limited area emanating from Dublin, was under direct English control and the "Kingdom of Ireland" proclaimed by Parliament for Henry VIII in 1542 existed in name only. Beyond the Pale, de facto control rested with the Gaelic nobility and the Seanghaill (old foreigners), descendants of the original Norman invaders. Sixteenth century efforts of the Tudor monarchs of England to expand the reach of the Crown beyond the pale, now known as the "Tudor Reconquest of Ireland," met with stiff resistance, and by the time the last of the Tudors, Elizabeth I, took the English throne in 1558, a new factor – religion – had been introduced into Irish and European politics.

Elizabeth followed her father Henry's break with Rome by formally establishing the Church of England in 1559, but while England embraced the Reformation, the people of Ireland, Gaels and Anglo-Normans alike, stayed true to their Catholic faith. The Nine Years War (1593-1603) pitted a confederation of Irish lords, both Gaelic and Anglo-Irish, against the English Crown. The Battle of Yellow Ford resulted from O'Neill's siege of an English fort, with a garrison of some 300 troops, guarding a bridge over the Blackwater River, which separates counties Tyrone and Armagh.

When word of the situation reached Sir Henry Bagenal, the English Marshal of Ireland, he took it upon himself to lead the force that set forth to break the siege. Bagenal, by coincidence, was O'Neill's brother-in-law, as O'Neill had eloped in 1591 with Bagenal's sister, Mabel, who added insult to injury by converting to Catholicism before dying in 1595. Bagenal's forces numbered as many as 4,000 on foot, many veterans of campaigns on the Continent, and more than 300 cavalry, with heavy muskets and brass cannon.

O'Neill, learning the strength of the approaching army, sent word to "Red" Hugh O'Donnell, who promptly came to O'Neill's aid with 3,000 men. As the Irish considered what course to take against such a formidable force, O'Donnell's Bard, an O'Cleary, came forward to assert that St. Berchan, nine centuries earlier, had foreseen that the men of the North would defeat an invader at that very location. The decision was made: the Irish forces would stand and fight.

The Irish made effective use of the boggy terrain and prepared ditches and mounds and felled trees to channel and impede Bagenal's forces, posting light forces to attack and harass the attackers as they attempted to navigate the obstacles. Hours into the battle, as Bagenal came forward to a great trench at which his forces had been subject to a furious Irish counter-assault, the Marshal was shot through the head and killed as he raised his visor to survey the field. If the Irish victory was not then assured, a stray spark that ignited Bagenal's powder wagon left no question, as the survivors retreated from the field, taking Bagenal's body with them.

The Irish victory made Ulster free and Gaelic Ireland ascendant, but the success was short-lived. Long-sought Spanish aid came too late and with the defeat at Kinsale in 1602, the die was cast. The Nine Years War ended in defeat for the Irish in 1603. The Flight of the Earls followed in 1607 and in 1609, the Plantation of Ulster with Scottish Presbyterian settlers commenced, changing the course of Irish history forever.

At-Large Membership Update

By Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer

During the past month, we had four of our At-Large members transfer over to a division being formed in Fort Myers, Florida. We wish the best for them as they become regular division members, meeting on a monthly basis. We currently stand at 62 At-Large members from 27 states and Puerto Rico.

Our plans are to start hosting Zoom meetings with the At-Large members in an attempt to make them feel like they are part of our big family and not out there on their own. We hope to have some of our National Committee chairmen attend from time to time as guest speakers to further show some of the hard work our Order performs and accomplishes.

At-Large members, don't forget to notify me if you move or change email addresses. That way, you will be sure to be kept updated on any upcoming activities.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!



catholic action

By pat lally, chairman

The Eucharistic Revival, which the bishops of the United States have been promoting, recently passed several milestones. The movement was initiated due to the concern of the faithful that many Catholics have lost belief in the true meaning of the Eucharist. This trend in unbelief was highlighted by several opinion surveys done over the last few years. The Revival, approved in June 2021, was to pass through a year-long diocesan preparation phase, followed by a parish phase of equal length, to finish with a national phase to culminate in a Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis.

The milestones of which I speak are, first, the progress report delivered to the bishops at their recent assembly June 15 in Orlando, by Bishop Andrew Cozzens, of Crookston, Minnesota. Bishop Cozzens, who is heading up the Revival, seemed encouraged by the activities and preparations generated so far, with 81 percent of U.S. dioceses having appointed a point person for the Revival.

The second milestone was the June 19 meeting of Bishop Cozzens and his committee with Pope Francis in Rome. The Pope enthusiastically endorsed the bishop's efforts, lamenting that many Catholics have lost the true meaning of the Eucharist and "the sense of adoration." He also blessed a large monstrance that will be used at the Congress next July.

Eucharistic congresses are a fairly modern development, tracing their origin to a gathering held in Lille, France, in 1881. The last large Eucharistic congress held in the United States was in 1976, in Philadelphia.

Leading up to the Congress next year, there will be four regional walking pilgrimages, commencing in San Francisco in June 2024, followed by pilgrimages to the tomb of Blessed Michael McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut, one in the Brownsville, Texas, area, and one in Minnesota. Local AOH divisions please take note of any opportunities to participate.

Congresses, pilgrimages and youth days are often pointed to as wonderful opportunities for grace in our lives. Perhaps you know a priest or religious whose desire for the vocation was awakened or confirmed at such a gathering.

As I have mentioned, the last large eucharistic congress of this nature in the United States was in Philadelphia in 1976. One feature of that gathering was People of the World Day, on which 22 different ethnic Masses were celebrated. The Irish Mass drew about 40,000 people to the Irish Mass, celebrated on the grounds of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. I wonder what our members think of the idea of a visible and active presence of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Indianapolis this coming July.

— lally8404@hotmail.com



hibernian hunger project

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

Has your division completed a Hunger Project for 2023? If so, Congratulations! If not, now is the time to put your foot to the pedal and get moving! In the last several editions of the Digest we gave brief descriptions of some of the projects of our \$1,000 and \$500 winners. In this month's column, we will continue noting the projects of several more Divisions who received grants, in the hope that after reading about some of the projects, it just might help your division to develop their own Hunger Project.

Passaic County, NJ, Division 16's Hunger Project was a yearlong activity where members collected and distributed more than 8,200 pounds of nonperishable food items that were distributed in Paterson and Elizabeth. Through the efforts of Division 16 members in conjunction with Catholic Charities and various veterans' organizations, more than 1,600 people were fed.

In the time of the Great Hunger in Ireland, American Indians contributed aid to the Irish with what little they could afford. In that spirit and to help repay what the Indians gave to Ireland, Division 16 of Passaic County also donated Christmas Food Baskets to the Southwest Indian Foundation for food relief. The Division also provided funding for food to the children's food relief at the St. Labre, Red Coud, St. Bonaventure and St. Joseph schools, as well as to three Indian senior agencies: the Southwest Reservation Aid, the Southwest Indian Foundation and the Native American Heritage Foundation.

Division 4, of Breezy Point, NY, organized a successful food drive on the weekend of March 19-20, 2022. Division members set up tables in front of businesses in the neighborhood of Breezy Point, and collected canned goods, non-perishable items, as well as cash donations from community members. The division also coordinated with several local parishes to have boxes set up in the churches for food donations on that same weekend. In addition to collecting food, the division also gave out flyers about the Great Hunger, in hopes of educating their community about this terrible time in Irish history.

Division 4's Food Drive helped to stock almost 1,000 pounds of canned goods and non-perishable items at St. Mary Star of the Sea Food Pantry. The members also raised more than \$1,000 during the weekend, which was used to purchase supermarket gift cards that they gave to St. Mary's, who in turn gave them to the less fortunate in the community.

Commodore John Barry Division 1, of Saratoga Springs, NY, has made charitable giving to local hunger projects and food pantries a major focus. During 2022, Division 1 members worked on a parking mission for St. Mary's Church, which is located in downtown Glens Falls and sits next to a large events venue. On specified nights, division members worked in the church parking lot, providing parking for fees set by the church. Division 1 split the money collected with the church, and as a result they were able to contribute \$2,000 to various food pantries and hunger projects impacting hundreds of families in the area.

The next round of Hibernian Hunger Project Awards is due by February 15, 2024, and involves Hunger Projects that take place between January 1 and December 31, 2023. We hope that your Division submits an application for one of our grants!

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments or questions. williamsullivan@verizon.net

Remember the AOH in your will

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

Maryland



Div. 3 Towson volunteers at Our Daily Bread

Members of the St.. Brendan Div. 3 Towson, MD, volunteered at Our Daily Bread meal service, serving a mid-day meal to more than 350 clients. Our Daily Bread is sponsored by Catholic Charities and is open 365 days a year, serving meals to the poor, underemployed and homeless in Baltimore. In addition to crucial meal service Our Daily Bread Employment Center has helped people in need with case management, job training and employment counseling. Future volunteer days are being planned. — Submitted by Stephen H. Riegger Sr., Division 3 VP



pro life

By Larry Squires, chairman

Dearly beloved brothers, in Christ Jesus and St. Patrick,

Have you ever given thought to how we make decisions? Especially decisions of considerable importance; for instance, who am I going to marry, where do I want to live, what do I want to do for a living and, most importantly, where do I want to spend eternity. Hopefully, we all spend time every day on the last question.

When we attend Mass, we are presented with Holy Scripture that daily provide instructions on how to live our lives if we want to spend eternity in heaven, and thankfully, Holy Scripture is also loaded with examples of God's inexhaustible mercy and forgiveness. This regular instruction should provide the basis for all of our decision making; consequently, if other forces have overpowered our faith formation, we become susceptible to disordered decision making, and may even believe we're right, when we're wrong, and have no need for repentance or confession.

When it comes to pro life issues, we really need to rely on our faith formation and Holy Scripture to provide the truth. The pro choice crowd is becoming ever more bold in their statements, and it's even common to hear them chant or see them carry signs that proclaim, "I thank God for my abortion," and "Mother Nature aborts three fourths of all conceptions." This type of language can become very confusing to someone without a solid faith formation, especially a young woman considering abortion. As faithful Catholics, we need to keep our ears open during the Mass readings and homilies for direction on pro life issues.

One of the most powerful of Jesus' comments comes from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 13, 41-43: "The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear." Notice that Jesus first addresses "all who cause others to sin." This comment leaves no room for those who claim not to personally believe in abortion, but support abortion in some way, that others may fall into the temptation of legal abortion.

There is also strong temptation in the media to separate us across party lines and personal beliefs by projecting an opinion that all pro choicers, or all pro lifers, have exactly similar traits, habits and behaviors, when nothing can be further from the truth. As Hibernian brothers, we need to love and support one another, regardless of our party or personal beliefs. It's impossible to influence anyone when we cast false judgement upon our brothers, and we violate Jesus' commandment to love one another as he loves us! As we come to October in a few weeks, the Month Dedicated to Life, let's pray for unity among our brothers, an eternity united together in heaven, and a time when all life, born and preborn, is loved and respected equally among all.

May God bless everyone. In Our Motto.



organizer

By Ryan Curry, chairman

As many of you are aware, we have spent the last year focusing on refining our application process. Much of this has been related to the tracking of applications that are submitted through our national website and subsequently routed to State, County and Division leadership.

However, the most important part of the overall application process occurs at the Division level. As each application is received by the Division, its leadership should have a process in place to evaluate the applicant. While it is ultimately the responsibility of the Division membership to elect applicants, leadership should provide them with the appropriate details to make an informed decision.

A best practice has been to interview the applicant. While this interview can be informal in setting, the conversation should be treated as confidential. These interviews should include the sponsor and at least one additional brother, preferably the President, Chairman of the Standing Committee, or Organizer. Suggested points of discussion within the interview may include:

- How did the applicant initially learn about our Order.
- How has the applicant celebrated his Irish heritage in the past.
- Has the applicant had the opportunity to trace his Irish roots.
- What parish is the applicant a member of.
- What talents and interests does the applicant have.
- How would the applicant expect to contribute to our Order.

While the interview should seek to familiarize Division leadership with the applicant, it is also an opportunity for the applicant to ask questions and learn more about our Order.

Upon completion of a successful interview, the applicant should receive a formal invitation to the next meeting of the Division so that he may be proposed for membership.



veterans affairs

By Patrick Flaherty, chairman

The National Guard and Reserve play an important role in our Nation's defense and have been doing so since before we became a nation. The Militia, as they were named, were members of the community between the ages of 16 and 60 who were called upon to provide for the defense of the community. Whether this meant as soldiers, law enforcers or firefighters, they fulfilled these roles on an ongoing basis and were organized as Military units for ease and conformity throughout the community.

The first muster occurred in 1636, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which makes the Reserve Components 387 years of age, somewhat older than the country and lots older than the Regular forces (Florida argues for an additional 71 years based on records from the Spanish colony in St. Augustine). No matter the date, the Reserve Components, as they are now called, have been involved in every war, police action or peace-keeping event in our Nation's history. These men and women are the people next door, the cop on the beat, the firefighter out on a medical run, the airline pilot who everyone hates because their flight is delayed, your son's and daughter's teacher and many others. They do this because of love of their family, their community and their Nation.

The time commitment is growing. It used to be "One weekend a month and two weeks a year," but now it is more likely to be how often you are at home. Despite this, they do not get the same pay or benefits that the Regulars get, even though they are required to meet the same training and administrative requirements while holding down civilian jobs and maintaining the part of the family and community. That, however, is changing slowly but surely. Every so often there is a new law designed to bring the Reserve Components more into line with the Regulars as it relates to pay and benefits. The pay has become equitable, with Reserve Components getting the same amount of pay for the same amount of time, with a little extra for official drill periods, but everything else is a one-for-one pay, which makes things a bit better.

On the benefits side, however, there is less progress and it is much more haphazard and reliant on politics than is fair for the men and women who have put their lives on hold to go to their Nation's call. This too has been getting better, but there are still numerous gaps in the coverage of the Reserve Components. A new bill introduction in Congress aims to cover some of those gaps. The "TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act" (S. 1670) and the House companion bill (H.R. 3668) would help to ensure that "grey area" retirees would be covered by TRICARE. This grey area is comprised of Reserve Component members who were entitled to receive retirement pay before the age of 60 because of deployments, but didn't receive TRICARE coverage until 60. They could get TRICARE benefits, but only through purchase of TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR), an expensive premium-based plan. The passage of these bills would allow grey area Reserve Component Retirees to receive the benefits that would align the age that many retired reserve personnel begin receiving retirement pay with the age at which they can enter TRICARE. Many Veterans organizations are supporting this and it would help provide the support necessary to the "Militia" who have supported this Nation for so many years.



immigration

By Tom Lambert, chairman

I hope all are enjoying their summer months. The calendar moves forward, but there is no progress on Immigration. The bipartisan Immigration bill introduced in the House of Representatives, the "Dignity Act of 2023," has been passed in the House, but not in the Senate. Observers note there is no clear path for approval in the Senate. The bill combines proposals to increase security at our borders with provisions to revise the process for seeking asylum. The Ancient Order of Hibernians has continued to push very hard for a revision of the current E3 Visa to allow approximately 5,000 unused visas, from the 10,500 visas previously allocated to Australia, to be reallocated to Ireland on an annual basis. While in Washington, D.C., earlier this spring, AOH President O'Connell had occasion to speak to Congressional leadership. He made it clear to the leadership that it has long been the position of the AOH that any Immigration bill should allow for a revised E3 Visa. Leadership was receptive, but there is still a lack of progress. We will continue to monitor this fluid situation in possible immigration reform. Our work continues!

Lastly, if your Division, County or State has yet to have prepared an updated Form 9, please do so ASAP and submit it to our National Secretary. Please don't forget to include Officers for all positions, including Immigration. 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.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, Tom.

Deadline for articles for the Oct.-Nov.-Dec. issue of the Hibernian Digest is no later than October 1.

Young Ambassadors

NEW HIBERNIAN GROWTH PROGRAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this year's program.

The Ambassadors to a person said the accommodations in Newcastle, County Down, were perfect. Three cottages on the Irish Sea close enough to town to get where they needed in Newcastle. These self-catering cottages also divided the group into three smaller groups during their downtime. Bottom line, Newcastle is a good place for the Ambassadors to be. The two weeks stay appears to be a good fit as well. Many of the Ambassadors had the opportunity to stay on in Ireland to visit more of the country. Everyone on the call said they were looking forward to a return visit in the North of Ireland.

Aidan Morley explained he left with a different opinion of the North of Ireland than he expected. He was "fascinated on how different" things were in the North from what he expected. The group agreed that it was different and exceeded their expectations. On the list of improvements for next year is to increase the interactions with similar-aged young adults. Getting to see Gaelic games, including hurling, was a great opportunity. The ambassadors joined the hurlers on the field and had the opportunity to participate with the locals with an on-pitch demonstration. A few have added the GAA app to their TV.

We also discussed the age of future Ambassadors, and it was determined that everyone should be at least one year beyond high school graduation and up to 24-25 years old. This was only the second time the program had 12 people, which removed some of the more individual programs. The group determined it was for the best



Ballynoe Stone Circle - 5,000 years old - older than the pyramids and Newgrange, Downpatrick

providing a more rounded experience for everyone there. Colleen Mortell told us that when she spoke to the Milwaukee Friends of St. Patrick Centre they picked up on the fact she had a more well-rounded experience than previous Ambassadors. The AOH partnership with the St. Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program is off to an incredible start. And now we hear directly from the Young Ambassadors.

Aidan C. Morley

I wasn't sure what to expect when I arrived in Northern Ireland. I was getting there a couple of days before everyone else because I had to leave a week early for military training. I was met by Dr. Campbell, whose hospitable manner and expert knowledge of the region quickly set the tone for what would become arguably the greatest learning experience of my life.

The first few days, it was just me at the St. Patrick Centre. I sat in on a Celtic Art Conference, which featured some of the most famous Celtic artists in the world as they talked about their craft and how they sought to keep their culture alive through art. I enjoyed the one-on-one time with Dr. Campbell as I saw the lasting effects of the Troubles in certain regions of County Down.

The strong bond between all of the Ambassadors, as Dr. Campbell taught us from location to location, was something to behold. Hearing from varying sides of the conflict and the politicians working to take the region forward was a fantastic experience that enabled me to form my own opinions, which were quite different from when I arrived in Northern Ireland.

Overall, it was the people that made the experience. My fellow Ambassadors, the people of Northern Ireland, and Dr. Campbell in particular, created and nourished an informative and memorable experience, one that I will reference for the rest of my life.



Aidan Morley and the other Young Ambassadors learned hurling in County Down, Northern Ireland, on June 13.

Brendan Savage

Visiting the North of Ireland as part of the Young Ambassador program was one of the most enriching experiences of my life. Staying in County Down, on the Irish Sea, and right in the Mourne Mountains, I believe this is one of the most beautiful places on Earth.

We got to meet with the different political parties in the North, learn about topics of policing since the Good Friday Agreement from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, visit the Capitol at Stormont, see a Gaelic Football match, learn the sport of hurling, go on a beautiful kayaking trip as the sun set past 10 p.m., and, of course, visit many historic sites related to St. Patrick. At night there are many pubs all around where terrific traditional Irish music is played. Dr. Tim Campbell, who runs this program, did a wonderful job at finding many activities to immerse us in the culture of Northern Ireland. I would suggest this program to any young person who is interested in Ireland, and I look forward to promoting this incredible opportunity for young Irish Americans for years to come. It is truly an amazing, life-changing experience. I thank Danny O'Connell and the entire National AOH Board for making this trip possible for us. I believe I speak for our entire group of Young Ambassadors when I say we made many lifelong friends during the trip.



Brendan Savage, Schenectady JFK Division 1, with Sinn Fein MP Chris Hazzard and Sinn Fein MLA Cathy Mason.

Young Ambassadors

Maple Waldron, Friends of St. Patrick

When I embarked on my trip to Northern Ireland, I was nervous and didn't know what to expect. I was so happy to discover how kind and welcoming my fellow Young Ambassadors were, and had a blast exploring and learning with them. I was able to come away not only with a deep understanding of the history, culture and politics of the North, but lifelong connections and memories.

One of the most meaningful parts of the trip for me was the opportunity to take an Irish language class and learn about revival efforts such as opening language centers, teaching it in school, and offering translation services to the community. After my own studies on the history of the Irish language, it was amazing to see it thriving and to have the opportunity to connect with Irish speakers.

I gained a new understanding of St. Patrick's work and lasting legacy through the St. Patrick Centre, and visiting holy sites like Saul church, St. Patrick's earliest site of Christian worship.

I was even able to visit a local high school and see how different Northern Ireland's education system is, and even received ideas from the teachers there to use in my own teaching philosophy as I begin my career in education.

My travels have enabled me to share the rich culture and history of Northern Ireland back home in Arizona and encourage others to visit this beautiful country.



The Young Ambassadors with St. Mary's High School students. From left, Tommy Cosgrove, Colleen Mortel, Jack Mickel, Thomas Clarke, Maple Waldron, Dean Gandley, Sean McNamara, Austin McKay, Brendan Savage, Patrick Clarke and Logan Joyce.

Dean Gandley, The North of Ireland

My recent trip to the North of Ireland with Tim Campbell of the Saint Patrick Centre has helped deepen my knowledge of the political situation in the North. As the District Office Director for New York State Assemblyman Joseph P. DeStefano, I have a deep interest in politics and how different governments work when compared to the United States. Currently, there is no working executive in the North, leading to much frustration from political leaders and the public, who continue to suffer without a working government. The Young Ambassador Program allowed us to meet with members from across the political spectrum: Sinn Fein, the SDLP, Alliance and DUP. Each gave their own opinion on a united Ireland, rejoining the EU, why there was no working executive, and various other local issues impacting the people of the North.

While some people are divided by politics, religious leaders in the North are working together to ensure that there is peace and food security in the North. In Downpatrick, for example, leaders from the Catholic Church (Fr. John Murray), the Church of Ireland (Rev. Henry Hull), and Presbyterian Church (Rev. Owen Patterson) came together and discussed how the three groups work together to fight food insecurity in the North. A lack of food transcends religious and national identities, so the three main religious groups united to fight hunger. These three are an example of what a united North can look like, all people working together and healing a society that suffered much during the Troubles. If there is to be a united Ireland, there must first be a united society, or the North may again descend into an armed struggle between nationalists and unionists.



Sean McNamara, St. Patrick Centre Ambassador

The Saint Patrick Centre youth ambassador program was an incredibly formative experience for me. The program provides opportunities to learn more about Ireland's rich history from the fourth century all the way up to modern day, following the influence of incredible figures like Saint Patrick and James Connolly. Beyond history, Ambassadors had a chance to learn more about their field's eurocentric counterparts, with chances to meet face to face with politicians, doctors, lawyers, teachers, pastors and even whiskey distillers.

Being able to experience the way of life in the North was an incredible part, seeing the maritime sports and hobbies, as well as the different sporting culture of hurling and Gaelic football. The program also offers a chance to enjoy the great sights of the North, from the Giant's Causeway, Carrick Island's famous Carrick-a-Rede bridge, Slieve Donard, and museums in Belfast such as the Titanic museum (If that floats your boat [pun intended]). Overall, an experience I wouldn't trade for the world.



Young Ambassadors at Carrick Island, from left, Sean McNamara, Logan Joyce, Austin McKay, Thomas Cosgrove, Brendan Savage, Thomas Clarke, Jack, Colleen Mortell, Maple, Dean and Patrick Clarke.

Young Ambassadors

Austin McKay from New Orleans, LA

Gold in Great Store

In the early summer of 2023, myself and 11 North American students were nominated by their local Irish heritage organizations to participate in the St. Patrick Centre Ambassadorship Program. We lucky 12 were spirited to Newcastle for a two-week immersive Irish educational course, intended to give us the tools to promote our common Irish heritage.

On our first full day in Ireland, Dr. Tim Campbell, the director of the St. Patrick Centre and our patient guide for the trip, corralled all the ambassadors for our first group activity. It would be a casual hike up the Mountains of Mourne. We expected a small two-hour hike and were ill prepared for the reality of a grueling six-mile trek. Halfway through our ascent, we climbed to an old smugglers' cave to rest and eat lunch when we realized that we were out of water. We soldiered on and reached the top. As our focus expanded from the trail to the horizon, the rolling hills and ancient rock walls, the sheep bounding in patches of green, it was the sweeping countryside and coast that we were ill prepared for.

This would become the theme of the trip for me. I found myself ill prepared for the beauty of Ireland, the intensity of the music and culture, and the heart of her people. And now I'm returning with gold in great store, the Irish in my heart forever. Thanks to the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the St. Patrick Centre for sponsoring this incredible event. I will never be the same.



Exhausted and parched, we finally reached the top of the Mountains of Mourne after a grueling six-hour trek.

Colleen Mortell

My time in Northern Ireland is something that I hold close to my heart. It was an opportunity for me and my fellow Ambassadors to step out of our comfort zones and broaden our horizons. Tim Campbell, the director of the Saint Patrick Centre, set up a wide variety of opportunities for the group that engaged all of our interests in some way. We met with clergy members, politicians, community leaders, educators and health care professionals. We also got to kayak, do some hiking, watch a GAA match, explore tons of historical landmarks, go on a variety of tours, and much more.

One thing that I know we all enjoyed deeply was learning more about the story of Saint Patrick and how his life greatly impacted Ireland. Saint Patrick's legacy has created a sense of unity and peace for many, many people in Northern Ireland.

When I was selected to represent the Friends of Saint Patrick Centre Milwaukee, WI, chapter I was quite honestly terrified. Traveling to a new country alone to meet a group of strangers was scary, but also so exciting. Now that the trip has ended, I can confidently say that it was one of the best experiences of my life. I feel blessed to have had this opportunity that allowed me to face some of my fears, learn more about the history and culture of Northern Ireland, and meet an incredible group of friends. The spirit of Saint Patrick will forever be planted in my heart.



We kayaked on Strangford Loch out to an island where we grilled out and enjoyed the sunset. From left, Maple Waldron, Me, Sean McNamara, Thomas Clarke, Austin McKay, Aiden Morley, Thomas Cosgrove, Jack Mickle, Patrick Clarke, Logan Joyce, Dean Gandley and Brendan Savage.

Patrick Clarke

My name is Patrick Clarke and I have been a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians since 2018. This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to be one of the few St. Patrick Centre's Young Ambassadors in 2023 and, as such, experienced the marvels of Northern Ireland over two weeks. The purpose of this trip was to foster relations and understanding between young Irish Americans and Northern Ireland with a specific focus on the nation's politics, culture and society; however, this endeavor also granted me the opportunity to learn more about my ancestor's home, my family history, and Ireland's faith and history both through its ancient ruins and magnificent churches. I learned of the political distress in Northern Ireland and the lingering effects The Troubles had on the nation. I learned the government has not met in almost two years due to this distress and that many legislative actions cannot be accomplished without such a working government.

I also saw the beauties Northern Ireland has to offer. I saw St. Patrick's grave and Saul Church, hiked the Mourne Mountains and the Giant's Causeway, played hurling, and watched a game of Gaelic; most importantly, however, I saw the community Northern Ireland has to offer. I saw the once-dividing lines between Catholics and Protestants fizzle away as neighbors came together to help one another. I did not see a nation divided by religion or economy, but a people united by faith and love. I saw Ireland.

I would like to express thanks to both the AOH, particularly my brothers in Louisville, Kentucky, and the St. Patrick's Centre in Downpatrick, County Down, for without their support I would not have been able to experience Ireland in such a marvelous way. My daily blog can be read at <https://patlarke56.wordpress.com>. Erin go bragh!



Patrick Clarke, left, and Thomas Clarke on Strangford Lough.

Young Ambassadors

Thomas Clarke

My name is Thomas Clarke, and I am a member of the Fr. A.J. Ryan Division 1, Louisville, Kentucky. Over the summer, I had the great opportunity of joining the Saint Patrick Centre through their Young Ambassador program. I, along with 11 other young adults, ventured throughout Northern Ireland to learn more about their culture and society. We met with members of major political parties to learn more about the unrest left behind from the Troubles and explored the nature of Down to see the beauty that this part of the world has to offer. With the Centre being located in Downpatrick, the leaders of the group stressed a particular interest in Saint Patrick and his importance in the area. Multiple days were reserved for learning about the life of Saint Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. We visited Saint Patrick's grave, Saul church, the Mourne Mountains, Giant's Causeway, and many more special places. Overall, this trip enabled me to further develop my understanding of the history and culture of Northern Ireland from both Catholic and Protestant viewpoints.

This trip also helped develop my career as a chemical engineer as the Saint Patrick Centre wanted to personalize this trip for each ambassador. The Young Ambassadors interested in politics were able to meet with the House of Commons, the health care workers visited local hospitals, and the engineers (me included) were able to explore the rising industry in County Down. This came in the form of a distillery where we toured the establishment and learned more about the business process. I was also able to meet with the County Council to discuss how they were ensuring continuous growth in important areas like renewable energy and how to make industry more sustainable for rural areas. Learn more from my blog: <https://wordpress.com/posts/thomlarke.wordpress.com>.



Thomas Clarke standing on the shore of the Giant's Causeway

Logan Joyce, AOH Division 1, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

I spent the first 24 years of my life in the USA. I never thought that I would have the opportunity to leave the USA in my 20s. The St. Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program gave me the chance to visit Northern Ireland and explore my maternal ancestor's homeland. I was the first person in my mother's bloodline to walk in County Antrim and County Down since the 1700s. The St. Patrick Centre is located in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland. The St. Patrick Centre in Downpatrick is the only exhibition in the world dedicated to the life and legacy of St. Patrick.

I can't believe how much I learned about the history and culture of Northern Ireland! Dr. Tim Campbell is the Director of the St. Patrick Centre. Tim took so much time to teach us about the history, geography and culture of Northern Ireland. Tim's passion and knowledge of Northern Ireland's history was unlike anything I've ever seen! We had the opportunity to live in Newcastle, which is one of the most beautiful towns I've ever seen. It is located in southern County Down and is a very popular weekend getaway for Northern Ireland's citizens. I saw the ocean for the first time in Newcastle. The landscape of the Mourne Mountains and the ocean is breathtaking. I have never seen anything like it in my life.

I encourage everyone to visit Northern Ireland. Also, I encourage young people to sign up for the St. Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program. If you go, you will never regret it. I will never forget my experiences in Northern Ireland. It truly changed my life for the better. The people there are very generous and hospitable. I can't wait to go back to Northern Ireland in the future with my family!



New York



Convention participants
Officers of the Saratoga Springs Division 1, from left, Vice President John Neeley, Treasurer Mark Lyon, Organizer Dave Cummings and Division President Bob Melia had a great time participating in the New York State Convention in July. Photo John O'Connell

Florida

By Jim Sullivan, President Indian River County Div. 2 Florida State FFAI and Immigration Chairman

I was invited out to Colorado this past summer and met with our Denver Division on the Order's Christmas Appeal. We had a very good meeting where I explained the different ways that they could raise money without putting too much burden on their membership. The meeting lasted almost three hours and I think that their enthusiasm was evident and will show in the future.

I met with Division President Tim Henning, VP John Aylward and FFAI Chairman Dr. Ed O'Shaunessy. I couldn't get the other members names. They were the FFAI Committee members. I would also like to thank (not pictured) Charlie Hagan, formerly of Palm Beach County Division 2, for setting this meeting up.





Rituals & Degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

Rituals and Degrees 101

National Board Chairs have been requested from time to time to publish information related to their respective chairs here in the National Hibernian Digest to explain the functions of their offices particularly for the benefit of new members.

What are the "Rituals and Degrees" of the Order? The Rituals of the Order include three different categories of ceremonies:

- 1) Rites of Initiation of New Members,
- 2) Installation of Order Officers, and
- 3) Deceased Member Rituals.

The manner in which these various ceremonies are to be conducted are contained within the Order's Blue Book within Section IV, with the exception of the Major Degrees of the Order, which is separately contained within the Major Degrees Manual.

Copies of the Order Blue Book can be obtained from the National Secretary's office on request. Access to the Major Degree Manual is restricted only to the Order's active Major Degree Teams or to prospective new teams seeking certification.

The Rites of Initiation include both the Shamrock Degree and the Major Degrees of the Order. The Shamrock Degree is conferred upon new initiates to the Order at the time of initiation or immediately thereafter, usually at the local division level or perhaps in a county-wide ceremony. The Major Degrees of the Order are conferred approximately 20 times a year nationally and can only be performed by officially certified Major Degree Teams of which there are currently nine. A listing of our active MDTs can be found on the AOH National website on the Rituals and Degrees subpage. A member in the Order is not considered to have achieved status as a full Hibernian until he receives the Lessons of the Order in the Major Degree ceremony.

The Major Degrees are considered vitally important since members who receive their Major Degrees are more apt to retain membership for the long term.

Installation of Officer ceremonies take place at all levels of the Order; local, county, state and national and occur soon after an election of officers. In some jurisdictions, Installation of Officers takes place on a county-wide basis with several divisions participating and makes for a wonderful event that boosts Order camaraderie.

Deceased Member Rituals include the Hibernian Prayer Service, which is performed at a viewing of a deceased member and the subsequent Memorial for a Deceased Member, which takes place at a Division Meeting.

Additional information on "Rituals and Degrees 102" will be presented in a future column further defining the activities, duties and organization of the office.

On a sadder note, the National Rituals Board extends its sincere condolences to our Brothers on the Sons of Milesius Major Degree Team of Ohio on the recent passing of its long-time Team Leader, John O'Connor. He was an integral part of the Sons of Milesius Team for many years and will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order

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

Saturday, October 7. Bayshore Catholic Center, 12 Highway 36, Middletown, NJ. Host – New Jersey State Board. Isle of Erin (PA) MDT Exemplifying. Candidates are urged to pre-register for this Degree at www.isleoferin.com.

Saturday, October 28. Florida State Convention Major Degree. Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL. Innisfail (FL) MDT exemplifying.

Sunday, November 5. Center Valley, PA. DeSales University Center, 2755 Station Avenue, Center Valley, PA. Host – Tir na nOg Lehigh County Division 1. Isle of Erin (PA) MDT Exemplifying. www.isleoferin.com



political education

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

With many newly elected State, County and Division boards, it is worth asking, "What is Political Education?" Political Education is a means to an end rather than an end itself. It is a servant to our objectives: Freedom for all Ireland, Catholic Action, Immigration, just recognition of our heritage and culture, etc. Our worthy chairs in those causes are the tip of the spear, but just like a spear, no matter how sharp the spear point is, it is useless without a solid shaft to give it reach. That is political Education, and that reach and strength is you.

We can take pride in that while other groups talk, the Hibernians walk the walk. Thanks to your efforts, there is still no hard border in Ireland today. We have a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland and the needed attention that role brings to issues in Northern Ireland, despite repeated attempts by both parties to end that mission. We continue to educate our U.S. elected leaders on the Northern Ireland legacy bill as we try to rally them in opposition.

You, Brothers, have been so effective that the U.K. has announced plans to create its own "diaspora" outreach to counter Irish (and that is to say AOH) influence in Washington.

New Advocacy Platform

Our new advocacy platform enables us to quickly reach our elected leaders in a targeted way on our issues. When you enter your information, it will pull up your relevant elected officials. When you click Send, it will personalize it as coming from you and be delivered to the appropriate staff desk for that issue. I say that it takes less than five minutes and have been told by a few brothers that that is a gross overestimate, that it is more like a minute. I know that some of the canned response letters that some of you received back can cause an eye-roll but realize that it is a receipt that your message was received. We have feedback from some of our friends in Washington that they notice when we have a campaign. It is hard to believe that it would be ignored if we were to send several thousand emails to the White House or a hundred to a Congressional representative from their constituents.

Answer the Call

This, however, brings us to our challenge. We need more Hibernians to answer the call. On a given email blast, 60 percent of our brothers don't open the email (and we know they know how to use email, or else why do they have email addresses?). We need to get rid of the "technologically challenged boomer" excuse. The internet has been around for decades, and anyone under the age of 80 would have used it in their professional lives. We should expect better response to our calls to action.

Most sadly of all is when I get emails that "I am not going to write to this politician because I don't like him/her." Brothers, at any given time, any given politician is likely going to be opposed by 49 percent of us, but they have the job now, and they are the only ones who can effect change today. We can't afford to hibernate in our cave until the next election cycle.

Brothers, to survive as an Order, we must be active and be seen to be involved 365 days a year, not just on March 17. When there is a call to action, there is a Hibernian duty to respond.

To those recently elected as leaders in this organization, you are called to be active in promoting our calls to action to your brothers, not just be a forwarder of emails. If your state, county or division is not responding to take the few minutes to answer a call to action, then questions need to be raised about the Hibernian commitment in your area.

In conclusion, brothers, unity and active participation are not just desirable traits for our Order; they are essential for our survival as an organization.



Irish way & study abroad

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

If you are a regular reader of this column, you probably have a good idea of just what our scholarship programs are. If not, you are really missing out on some great benefits that just might be of tremendous help to you and your family. Here is a brief description of what the Irish Way is, who is eligible for this scholarship, and how to apply!

The Irish Way Program is a unique cultural and educational program for American high school students, who travel to Ireland in the summer for a three-week stay. While there they participate in programs involving the Irish language, literature, culture and history. The AOH National Board offers a \$1,000 Irish Way Scholarship for a child or grandchild of an AOH member toward the cost of this program. The dates for the 2024 program have yet to be announced, however if you are interested in finding out more about this program or applying for the AOH Irish Way Scholarship, we suggest that you contact the Irish American Cultural Institute at www.iaci-usa.org. You are also encouraged to visit our scholarship page on the AOH National Website (aoh.com).

Scholarships

Likewise, the AOH National Board offers scholarships for studying abroad in Ireland

for college or a university at the undergraduate and graduate levels. If you are thinking of studying abroad in Ireland, here are some particulars that will be of interest to you.

National Board Scholarships are available for the children and grandchildren of AOH members, as well as AOH members who meet all the guideline of these scholarships and who pursue courses of study at colleges in Ireland, either for a semester or a full year of study. The AOH National Board offers two annual \$2,000 Study Abroad Scholarships for a full year of study in Ireland. Should not enough applications for the full year of study be realized, then \$1,000 Scholarships for Semester Abroad Programs will be considered.

With the start of a new academic school year without a doubt there are many students who just might be considering studying abroad in Ireland, be it on the high school or college levels, and that is why we have dedicated this column to give you more insight into our scholarship resources that the AOH National Board has available to help you and your family.

For students who might be considering studying at a college in Ireland during the 2023–2024 academic year, our Study Abroad Scholarships for both the undergraduate and graduate levels are still available and will be open until filled. Why not consider studying in Ireland during the spring semester of this school year? Not only will it be a memorable experience but would look terrific on your resume for future employment!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns and comments. I look forward to hearing from you! williamsullivan@verizon.net Stay well and safe!

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

The summer has been a busy one for State President Brian O'Neil and other Hibernians as there was no fall off of Hibernian activity in the Nutmeg State. Brian attended the July meeting of the New Haven Division where he was presented with a Historic Hibernian Rifle Sword that had belonged to 19th Century State President Thomas Dunn. The sword will be displayed at the State Convention in Stamford on October 20-21.

New Haven Hibernians are also involved in organizing the first Gaelic Mass held in the New Haven area. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Andrew O'Connor of New York on September 17, at the Irish American Community Center 9, Venice Place, New Haven. For further info contact Finbar Moynihan at 203-272-0118.

President O'Neill traveled to New London on July 29 for the annual regatta of the North American Currach Association that was held at the Custom House Pier.

Both the JFK Division of Bridgeport and Division 2 of Hartford sponsored sporting competitions at which visiting Hibernians captured the major prizes! The 2023 Hartford Irish Road Bowling Tournament was held on July 29 and the winning team came from LAOH Division 36 in Worcester, Mass. The 3rd place team was composed of AOH brothers who also came from Worcester!

Meanwhile, in Bridgeport, the JFK Division held a cornhole tournament that drew 20 teams. The first- and second-place winners were all from the John A. Gildea Division of Danbury. First place went to Brothers Peter Hearty Jr. and his brother Brian while the 2nd-place prize was won by Jay King and Mathew Fagan. Third place went to local Hibernians Joe Trovarelli and Dave Janny.

Mass honoring Mission of Malta House

A major event drawing a number of Hibernian dignitaries will be held on Saturday, September 16, at the Malta House in Norwalk, when Bishop Frank Caggiano will celebrate Mass at 5 p.m. The mass will honor the Mission of Malta House, which promotes the dignity of God-given life by providing a nurturing home environment, support services and independent living skills to pregnant and parenting mothers of all faiths and their children.

Future events

Steve Troiano and his co-chair Tim Bunting and their committee chairs are hard at work planning the Greater Danbury Irish Festival, which will be held at the City Central Danbury Green on September 25-26. This is a choice venue and will be the first time the Danbury Irish Festival will be held there.

On October 21 the annual golf outing benefiting the Great Danbury Irish Center chaired by Rich Hawley will be held at Centennial in Carmel, NY. The banquet will follow at the Irish Center in Danbury.

News or info: jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



Worcester Massachusetts Hibernians proudly display their third-place trophy at the Hartford Road bowling event.



All hands on deck as New London Hibernians celebrate at their booth on Currach Regatta Day.



AOH member Kevin Quinn throws out the first pitch on Hibernian night at the Danbury Westerners game.

North Carolina

NaCara Division 1 Guilford County

There was much activity for the division in the past months. The winner of the Patrick Rooney Fund Raffle was announced. The winner took the trip to Ireland for four as their prize. This raffle brings in \$10,000 that NaCara can donate to various organizations in the Triad area.

This is the highlight of our year with the Hibernian of the Year being announced. Jim Keaney Jr. was awarded the honor for his tireless work for NaCara. Every event that the Division is involved in Jim is the first man there and the last to leave. His father had received the award in the past. We had our annual luncheon for the reading of The Proclamation of the Republic 1916. Al Guecia and Ned Croughan and their committee have been hard at work in the planning of the North Carolina State AOH Convention. The dates are 9/22-9/24 and is to be held at Embassy Suites in Greensboro. Our President Michael Manning, Past President Bob Jackson and Vice President Ned Croughan are the people running it. More information can be found on the guilfordaoh.com

Our worthy brother Jim Furman and his crew are still working on the PICKUPDROPOFF food program. This program is in its fourth year; there are about 27 food vendors participating in the program.



President Mike Manning, left, congratulated Jim Keaney Jr on being NaCara's Man of the Year.

Project St. Patrick Mass/Prayer Cards

Ron Hagan, Chairman Project St Patrick,
7326 State Route 19, Unit 0512, Mount Gilead, OH 43338-9336
Or email: rhagan@hagancpa.com

In Memoriam

David M. Doran, 63, of Robbinsville, New Jersey, passed away on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at his residence in Robbinsville, surrounded by his loving family.

Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, Dave earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Buffalo. For many years he lived in New York City and Plainsboro before moving to Robbinsville in 2007 where he was a beloved and active member of the community. ONE Project was one of Dave's passions and he was committed to their mission of "making a difference by bringing people from different backgrounds together to address social needs through education and volunteerism." He was very devoted to his Irish heritage and proudly founded the Robbinsville St. Patrick's Day Parade. He was a member of the Hibernians, Msgr. Crean AOH Division 1, volunteered as a coach for the Robbinsville Recreational Soccer teams, and was a founder of the Robbinsville Bulldogs Travel Soccer Team.

Dave was very devout in his faith and was a longtime member of St. Gregory the Great R.C. Church where he touched many lives over the years. He served as a Eucharistic Minister and was a member of many committees within the church.



Kevin Kearney, 92, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2023.

Kevin was a tremendous presence in the Irish American community in Utica. Kevin was a charter member of the AOH John C. Devereux Division in Utica, where he served as President and in many leadership positions. Kevin also served on the New York State AOH Board as District 3 Director and traveled through Central New York to support many AOH Divisions and activities.

Kevin was honored as Grand Marshal of the Utica St. Patrick's Parade in 1997 and was also very active for a number of years on the Great American Irish Festival Committee. Committed to promoting his heritage, Kevin taught Irish dancing for many years and continued to teach while into his late 80s.

Prior to his time as a Hibernian leader in Utica, Kevin lived in Rochester where he also served as a leader in the Rochester AOH Division. He was an integral member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and was highly active in planning the Rochester Feis where he competed as an Irish dancer.

Kevin was born in 1931 in Woodside, Queens, NY, and was one of five brothers and sisters. He graduated from St. Michael's College in Vermont in 1953 with a degree in Social Work. Kevin began his career working for the NYS Division of Parole in Queens, moving to Rochester to continue that work. In 1959, Kevin married the great love of his life, Ann O'Leary, moving to Utica in 1960, where he took over the NYS Division of Parole Field Office. He joined a new state agency, Mental Health Legal Services in 1964, as supervisor of the Utica office.

In addition to the Irish Community, Kevin and Ann were active in their local parish and many non-profit organizations. Kevin was respected as a leader and mentor to many AOH Officers and members and will be greatly missed for his wisdom, passion and dedication to Hibernianism.

He is lovingly remembered by his beloved wife, Ann of 63 years; his sisters, Peggy and Patricia; children, Kevin (Kara), Mary (Tim), Annie (Steve), and Margaret (Michael); nine grandchildren, Katie, Clare, Kyle, Ryan, Dana, Kelly, Stevie, Thomas, and David; one great-grandchild (and one on the way) and numerous nieces and nephews.



Norm Shea, National Life Member, 93, passed away peacefully on June 20, 2023, with his daughters by his side. He was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on May 3, 1930, and was the son of the late Norman Sr. and Florence Shea.

He graduated from De La Salle College Preparatory School in Toronto, attended the University of Toronto and graduated from the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) School of Instructional Technique, where he was an instructor of Ground School. He later worked for Air Canada, and transferred his family to the United States to work for Mohawk Airlines. He was the first person on the scene of the 1972 Mohawk airline crash in Albany, showing the EMS responders how to open the aircraft's door and identifying a flight attendant who died in the crash. Later, Norm joined U.S. Airways as Operations Instructor and Station Manager and after retiring worked for Denny Farrell at the NYS Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

One of Norm's proudest achievements was as a National Life Member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians' Father Henry Tansey Division 5, Albany, serving as President of the Division, and marching as Co-Grand Marshal in the 2008 Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade. He loved traveling to Ireland with his fellow Hibernians.

He was married to his beloved wife Marie for 60 years until her death. They enjoyed their travels to Spain, England, Italy and the Panama Canal. Their favorite trip was to China. He also loved his many annual family trips to Cape Cod. Norm played semi-pro hockey, was an avid golfer, reader, bowler and played baseball, softball and soccer.

Norm is survived by his five daughters, Catherine Newell, Laura Shea (Alexander), Maureen Shea, Peggy Shea (Kent) and Mary Ellen Shea; grandchildren Jillian Price (Michael), Mark Shea Price, Casey Kennedy (James), Benjamin Newell, Michael Field (Kendall), and Alison and Tarryn Franciosa; great grandchildren Jasper Schwabe and Zachary and Olivia Kennedy. He is also survived by sisters-in-law Patricia Shea and Marjorie Ball. He was predeceased by his parents, sisters, Peggy Casey and Sheila Shea, and brothers, Don and Barry Shea.



Leo Ignatius Welsh, a National Lifetime Member of Division 3, Towson, Maryland, passed away on June 22, 2023.

The most significant affiliation of Leo's life, other than, of course, his marriage to Sue, was his membership in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, specifically St. Brendan's Division 3 in Towson. From 1968 until his death, he exemplified the values of friendship, unity, and Christian charity as a member, officer, president, elder statesman and ultimately recipient of Lifetime Membership in the Order. He also served as Maryland State AOH president for four different terms, National Convention co-chair, State Convention treasurer, State Organizer, and served as a National Director in the 1980s.

It was as a member of the AOH that Leo was exposed to and become involved in the two signature events of the Baltimore Irish American community: the Maryland Irish Festival and the Baltimore St. Patrick Parade. In addition to volunteering, fundraising and marching, Leo was an important, active presence on the boards that guided these events: Irish Charities of Maryland, of which he was a founder and president; and St. Patrick celebrations. For many years he organized and staffed — with family members and their friends — a booth promoting the pubs that supported the festival through the sale of glassware and T-shirts. As for the parade, he retired from marching after serving as Grand Marshal in 1992, preferring to volunteer as an organizer. As a beloved member of the Irish community, "Uncle" Leo, as he came to be known by many, also supported the efforts and events of many of the other Irish organizations in the Baltimore region and beyond.

His service to his church took many different forms throughout his life including being the first Parish Council president at the Shrine, serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for many years, and most recently assisting the office staff with money counting. First Friday devotions, Lenten daily Mass, and numerous visits to funeral homes and churches to bury the dead occupied his faith life. In 1987 Leo also joined the Catholic War Veterans and was the Commander of the Monaghan Post 736 at the time of his death.



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 Neachtain

Tamall ó shin bhí deis againn an áit mar a raibh príosúin (mar dheia) Andersonville (Camp Sumpter, go hoifigiúil), in Georgia. *A while ago we visited where Andersonville prison was in Georgia. I rith an Cogaidh Chathartha Mheiriceánaigh, ní dhearna ceachtar den dá thaobh go maith maidir le príosúnaigh. During the American Civil War, neither side did well with prisoners. Mhalartaí iad at tús an chogaidh, ach thit an córas sin as a chéile, agus bhí an iomarca príosúnach acu ina dhiaidh sin. They were exchanged at the beginning of the war, but that system fell apart, and they had too many prisoners after that. Bhí campa go dona ó thuaidh in Elmira, Nua-Eabhrac, mar shampla. There was a bad camp in... for example. Fuair mórán príosúnach bás. A lot of prisoners died. Ach an ceann ba mheasa acu uile, ba é sin Andersonville. But the worst one of all was... Idir 1864 agus 1865 fuair 13,000 príosúnach bás, as an 45,000 a bhí ann. Between...died out of...who were there. Ba chosúil le sluachampa géibhinn na Naitsithe é. It was like a Nazi concentration camp. Bhí sé plódaithe thar fóir, leis an iomarca daoine sa champa faoi cheathair, tinneas agus ocrais ar gach duine, agus iad gan dídean chóir. It was extremely crowded, everyone was sick and hungry and without proper shelter. Cuireadh an bardach chun báis i ndiaidh an chogaidh mar gheall ar a chuid coireanna cogaidh. The warden was executed after the war because of his war crimes.*

Is iomaí duine de shliocht na hÉireann a bhí ann agus a fuair bás ann. *Many of Ireland's offspring were there and died there. Tá reilig náisiúnta ag Andersonville anois, agus níos mó Éireannach curtha ann ná in aon cheann eile dá leithéid. There's a national cemetery there now, and more Irish are buried in it than any other of its kind. Tá tionscadal ar siúl chun na saighdiúirí seo a ainmniú is a aithint - féach [https:// irishamericancivilwar.com/andersonville-irish/](https://irishamericancivilwar.com/andersonville-irish/). There's a project afoot to name and recognize these soldiers - see...*

Duine de na hÉireannaigh a bhí ann ab ea Thomas O'Dea, as Contae an Chláir. *One Irishman who was there was...from Clare. Ealaíontóir ab ea é a rinne líniócht chun taifead a dhéanamh de gach a tharla sa champa, agus conas mar a bhíodh cúrsaí ansin. He was an artist who made drawings to record everything that happened in the camp, and how things were there. Finné tábhachtach ab ea é. He was an important witness. Tá na pictiúir seo le feiceáil ar chúpla leathach atá ag irishamericancivilwar.com. You can see these pictures on a couple of pages at...*

Duine tábhachtach eile ab ea an tAthair Peter Whelen, as Contae Loch Garman. *Another important person was Father...from Wexford. Tugadh "Aingeal Andersonville" air, as an méid a rinne sé ar son na bpríosúnach, agus an t-aire a thug sé dóibh. They called him the Angel of Andersonville, because of all he did for the prisoners, and the care he gave them.*

Washington, D.C.

D.C. Division welcomes first African American Cardinal into the Order

The Commodore John Barry Division in Washington recently swore in Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of the Washington Archdiocese, at a private ceremony held at St. Matthew's Cathedral in the heart of D.C. Cardinal Gregory has been celebrating the St. Patrick's Day Mass at historic St. Patrick's Church in Washington, always ushered by the DC AOH. He is a frequent visitor to Ireland and said he enjoys the culture and Irish people.

Father Brian Jordan, OFM, an active member of the Barry Division, and was a chaplain at the World Trade Center in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, attended the ceremony. He said that, "It was such a historic occasion for the AOH to swear in the first African American Cardinal, that he felt he had to be in attendance and participate."

Two other new members joined the ranks of the Barry Division that day, including Father Charles Cortinovis, who is the Executive Director, Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese, as well as Mr. Liam O'Connor.

A special gift was presented to the Cardinal and Father Cortinovis by Barry Division member and author Paul Belford. The bound trilogy called "Swampoodle," a historic fictional story of Irish Catholic immigrant families that came to Washington, D.C., during the Great Hunger and with hard work and determination prospered over the years and generations of their families.

Keith Carney, president of the Division, noted that this was, "One of the proudest moments of my time in the AOH to be able to administer the oath of our Order to a Prince of the Church." Father Jack Hurley, long time Barry Division Chaplain and associate pastor at St. Matthews Cathedral, helped to organize the event. Father Hurley exclaimed, "I am obviously delighted that our Archbishop has become a member of the AOH. At the same time, I am grateful for this recognition by Cardinal Wilton Daniel Gregory of the AOH role in the spiritual and secular life of the Nation's Capital, increasingly a center of concern about Ireland, notably in connection with the Good Friday Agreement. Cardinal Gregory has served the Catholic Church, first in his native Chicago and Illinois, several years as Archbishop of Atlanta, and now in Washington. Indicative of his Ireland connection are the three separate times he has been there. In sum, I am proud that this champion of racial and social justice, the highest ranking African American Catholic ever, has chosen to become a Hibernian!"

Also in attendance and instrumental in having the Cardinal join the division was D.C. State Board President Don Connolly and State Board Chaplain Kevin Fields.



From left, Kevin Dillon, Paul Belford, John Quill, Ralph Day, Father Jordan, Kevin Corkery, Don Connolly, Cardinal Gregory, Father Fields, Keith Carney, Father Cortinovis, Father Hurley, Stephen Sullivan, Monsignor Jameson and Shane Creelman.



Father Jordan, left, Cardinal Gregory and Father Fields

Massachusetts

Division 8, Lawrence, having a productive summer

On June 3, Division 8 presented a 50-year membership pin to Tom Casey. Tom was initiated as a member of Division 8 on January 10, 1973. Mr. Casey, a native of Lawrence, presently winters in Florida and summers at his home in York, Maine.

On June 21, Division 8 presented their annual scholarships and history awards at their annual ice cream social. Five recipients were selected to receive scholarships and two students received history awards.

Jim Murphy spearheaded a membership drive in the neighboring town of North Andover at their annual National Night Out on August 1, which was attended by nearly a thousand people.

Division 8's Third Annual Cornhole Tournament will be held at the Division's home base, the Claddagh Restaurant and Pub, in Lawrence, on September 9, and is expected to draw many members and friends from all over New England. Division 8 member Tim Doherty is chairing a large committee for this event.

Division 8's next monthly meeting is scheduled for September 13.



Division 8 had a membership booth at North Andover National Night Out on August 1 that was manned by Division members. From left, Jack Lahey, Carol Calderone, Bob Gauthier and Jim Murphy.



Easter Rising Commemoration in Scituate

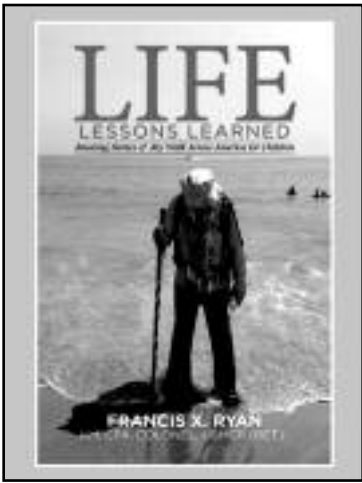
The Father John Murphy Division 9 Plymouth had our annual Easter Rising Commemoration on April 23 in Scituate. The event was well attended, and featured the Consul General of Ireland, Laoise Moore, as the keynote speaker. We were honored to have Congressman William Keating, as well as Jim Cantwell, Senator Ed Markey's state director, and AOH National Director Bill Sullivan. From left, State Representative Joan Mescino, State Representative Patrick Kearney, Consul General Laoise Moore, State Director Jim Cantwell, AOH National Director Bill Sullivan, Division 9's John Sullivan, Division 9 President Mike Schilling.

Remember the AOH in your will

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

Pennsylvania

Brother Ryan treats Dauphin Division 1, to book presentation



Brother Frank X. Ryan recently presented the back story to his book, "Life Lessons Learned." This story details his journey of walking 2,806 miles across the U.S. to assist the Sisters of the Good Shepard in raising money for their mission, which includes helping children with emotional and behavioral issues. Brother Ryan serves as the chairman of their board of directors.

Ryan, CPA, CGMA, MBA, is a former PA State Representative and a well-decorated Marine reserve colonel (Ret). His military expertise includes special operations, civil affairs and economic warfare. Pennsylvania's Dauphin County, Division 1, is proud to have this Brother within our ranks. Ryan's book is available on Amazon.



Division 4 brothers help with 31st Annual O'Malley Run
AOH brothers volunteered at the 31st annual Paul "Hook" O'Malley 1 Mile Fire Cracker Race Against Cancer. Hook O'Malley was a local boxing trainer who succumb to cancer on September 25, 1992. He had an immense impact on the youth of this community, which is still felt to this day. All donations benefit the American Cancer Society. From left, Erin Zablocki holding Elli Rocco Zablocki, AOH members Keith Oleski, Matt O'Malley, James Barrett, Coach Joseph DeAntona, Jason Miller, AOH President Patrick O'Malley, Vanessa Thomas and James Moran.



Scholarships awarded

Division 5, Levittown, PA, recently awarded seven \$1,000 scholarships to local Catholic school students. The students submitted essays based on the AOH motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. From left, AOH member John McGurrin, students Madelyn Beck, Sarah Beck, Brayden McGuckin, Addison Stefenack, Hannah Ross, Lyla McDermott, Chloe Secoda, AOH member Rich Schafer.



A.O.H. Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division Four Sash Presentation
Kevin Donovan 2023 Man of The Year receive his sash from John Fletcher 2022 Man of The Year. Mr. Fletcher presented the the sash and spoke about what a quality individual Mr. Donovan is, what a credit to our community and division he is, what an impact he has, and what a true friend he is to all of his A.O.H. brothers.



Exemplification Ceremony in Johnstown

Ten candidates received their Major Degrees on July, 22, during the 102nd Pennsylvania AOH – LAOH Biennial Conventions, held in Johnstown, PA. The Exemplification Ceremony was conducted by the Tri Abhainn Allegheny County (PA) Major Degree Team at the Frank J. Pascarella Convention Center in Johnstown. The team is led by Denny Maher, who was elected State President at the same convention. From left, front row: Stephen Welch, Martin Radovanic, Mike Garver, Jim Abrams and Matthew Hughes; back row: John McGrath, John Besseck, Christian Seseck, Gary Noll and Michael Cafilin.

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

New Jersey



From left, Marty Pavin, Tommy Verlezza, Treasurer Jack Nosti and recipient, President Dennis McLernery, and Bill Young, Past State President/State Organizer.

Ocean County Division 5 salutes Jack Nosti

Jack Nosti, treasurer of the Brendan Tevin Division 5, was recently recognized at the New Jersey State Board bi-annual convention on May 19 and 20. Division President Dennis McLernery arranged a personal presentation to Jack.

State President Richard S. O'Brien said, "I am proud to recognize Jack Nosti, our past State Treasurer and Convention Chairman, for all of his hard work serving the State Board. Jack is a guy we can always count on, and he made sure whatever he was doing, was on target. At our recent convention, I made sure we presented Jack with a plaque with the following statement:

Jack Nosti

*Our brother who is always available for us!
You managed our money, managed our conventions, authored our by-laws,
presided over divisions, and never stopped!*

*We want to thank you.
New Jersey State Board
2023 Convention*

Ohio



Ohio installs new state board

A successful State Convention was held this past June in Cincinnati, Ohio. National President Danny O'Connell installed the new State Board, consisting of President Dennis Parks, Vice President Bruce McPherson, Secretary Pete Chrystal, Treasurer Greg Brown and Directors John Myers and Chris Schulte. Sinn Fein TD Rose Conway-Walsh was the keynote speaker at the installation banquet.



Honoring Ohio's Irish veterans

The brothers of the Summit County Mark Heffernan Division 2 in Akron donated a memorial stone in honor of all Irish veterans at the Ohio Veteran's Memorial Park in Clinton, OH. After a procession to the stone led by the Division Honor Guard, an unveiling took place and the stone was blessed by Division Chaplain Deacon Robin Adair.



Celebrating 45 years!

The brothers of the Washington County Monsignor Donal O'Carroll Division 1 in Marietta recently celebrated their 45th Anniversary. A luncheon was held at the Lafayette Hotel on July 23, 45 years to the day of its founding. A Mass preceded at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta.



Historic First

Nicky Parks Norris and Dennis Parks, the first brother-and-sister team of State Presidents, will lead Ohio Hibernians into the future. Pictured here are Ohio State AOH President Dennis Parks, Ohio State LAOH President Nicky Parks-Norris, Irish TD Rose Conway-Walsh, and National President Daniel J. O'Connell.

New Jersey

State President O'Brien and his team continue!

The New Jersey State Boards held their bi-annual convention on May 19 and 20.

The convention opened May 19 at the Col. David B. Kelly Division 1, Middlesex County, followed by an ice breaker with the Ladies AOH. The convention re-opened for business on the next day at the APA Hotel in Woodbridge.

State President Richard S. O'Brien stated, "I am happy to report that we had a successful two-day event covering AOH business and fellowship. Reports were given by each chairman, by-law changes took place, recruiting techniques were shared and several questions were asked and answered by membership and leadership."

Our featured speaker — direct from Ireland — was Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, the publisher of the Belfast Media Group titles and of the Irish Echo in America. He has been involved in journalism for more than four decades and has penned columns for both the Andersonstown News and the former daily Irish language newspaper Lá. He is the author of several books in Irish and English, including 'Ceap Cuddles' and 'Belfast's Dome of Delight'. He has served in politics for Sinn Féin, both in Belfast City Council and in the power-sharing Executive at Stormont.

As co-founder of events company Aisling Events, he has hosted a range of transatlantic conferences, including the Big Irish Campfire, the New York-New Belfast Conference, and the Belfast International Homecoming. He is the proud recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

Máirtín spoke about his youth in Northern Ireland and growing up there and then making a difference. He stressed the importance of the U.S. and Northern Ireland relationships and how they are what is helping make positive change in the north!

"I pledge for the next two years we focus on growing membership in New Jersey. This is critical to keep the Order going!" O'Brien said.

National President Daniel O'Connell, National VP Sean Pender and National Treasurer Liam McNabb attended and spoke on national issues.

Our Award recipients were:

Jack Nosti Ocean 6 Division – Honorable Mention

Our brother who is always available for us! He managed our money, managed our conventions, authored our by-laws, presided over divisions and never stopped.

John Hughes Passaic 16 Division - Corporal Michael Curtin Award

Brother Hughes, Chairman of the Right to Life Committee, has impacted a young woman's life. She came to Brother Hughes' seeking spiritual support and through John's

care and compassion, a child's life was spared. His steadfast faith, his love for every human life, and his commitment to others has truly made a change in a family's life.

Wayne DeAngelo Mercer 10 Division - Volunteer Pat Torphy Award

Brother DeAngelo, a member of Division 10, Hibernians Foundation member Division 1, the Hamilton Elks Club #2262, the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, as well as Past President and soccer coach for the Hibernian Athletic Association demonstrates his commitment to Irish-America and the community he serves. Wayne successfully proposed legislation that declared March Irish American Heritage Month. Through his work with other legislators and Governor Murphy the legislation was signed.

Father Daniel G. Cahill Monmouth 2- McFaul-Mullen Award

This award celebrates Fr. Cahill's 50th Anniversary of his Ordination as a priest. Fr. Cahill was ordained on June 17, 1973, in the Diocese of Trenton. Born in Killarney, Ireland, he has never forgotten his heritage or commitment to Irish-America. He serves as state chaplain of the LAOH, as he has for more than 25 years, and has been chaplain for the Monmouth County AOH, and for 23 years was chaplain for the Bayside Council of the Knights of Columbus.

The next convention site is Hamilton, NJ, home of Mercer 1, in 2025. Details to be developed.



National Board and State Board members.

New York

Devereux Division fights hunger in Central NY

by Tom Loughlin Jr.

Little more than two years after they distributed 17 tons of food to Utica NY's hungry from the Irish Cultural Center parking lot on St Patrick's weekend 2021, Oneida County Hibernians took to another field of battle in the Hibernian fight against hunger. We held the 27th annual Joseph T White Irish Scramble golf tournament at Hidden Valley Golf Club in Whitesboro.

As a result of the golfers participation and generosity, we were able to donate \$5,000 to the Food Bank of Central New York. Lord willing, the Dauntless Devereux Division 1 of Oneida County will be fighting hunger next year as well.

The Hibernians and the Food Bank of Central New York salute Division co-founder Joseph T White for establishing the event and for his ongoing inspiration.

Photos Tom Loughlin Jr.



AOH Oneida County Hibernian President Patrick Roach, left, and tournament chairman John Simmons presented a check for \$5,000 from the Joseph T. White Irish Scramble golf tournament proceeds to Lynn Hy of the Food Bank of Central New York.



Everyone was smiling after the Joseph T White Irish Scramble tourney, especially Lynn Ky of the Food Bank of Central New York holding the \$5,000 tournament donation check.



Hibernians assembled around the Great Hunger Memorial at our Lady of Lourdes. Fr. Salerno welcomed the memorial at Lourdes, Utica's only Irish monument.

Key figure in Central NY Hibernian life retires

Utica's Fr. Joe Salerno, a priest who has loomed large in the recent history of the AOH John C. Devereux Oneida County Division, and Ladies of Knock LAOH, retired from his position in the administration of Utica's Our Lady of Lourdes/Mary, Mother of our Savior parishes of the Syracuse Diocese July 1.

Salerno hosted the Hibernian's An Gorta Mor Mass yearly at the Lourdes campus. Fr. Salerno authorized the siting and construction of Utica's only Irish memorial, the An Gorta Mor Celtic Cross on the church grounds. Illuminated at night, the Cross' base is formed by memorial bricks purchased by Irish Uticans honoring their ancestors.

On June 22, the retiring priest celebrated his 75th birthday in grand style in a gala fete, which filled the lobby of the Doubletree Hilton Hotel Utica with hundreds of well wishing former parishioners, friends and admirers attending.

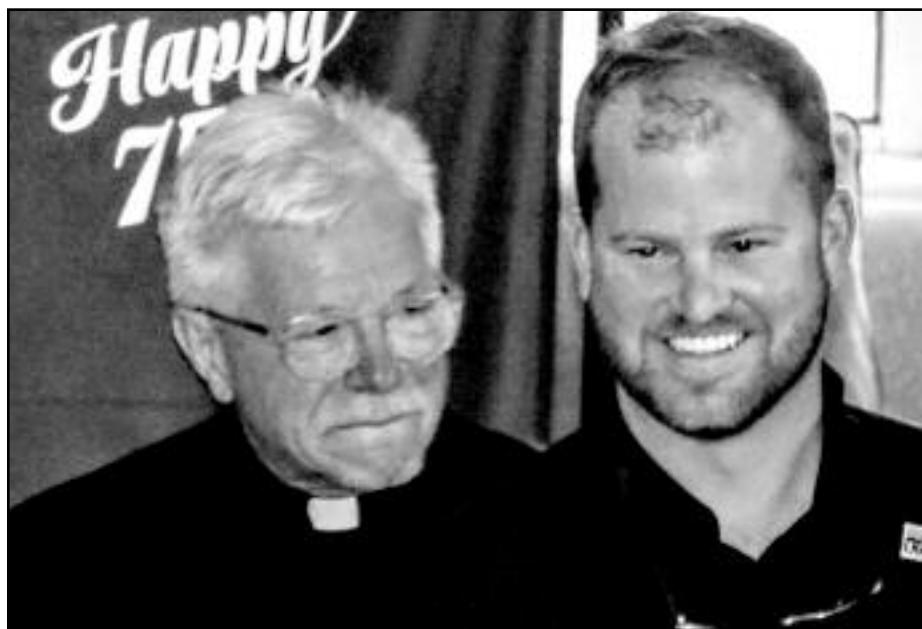
The event, organized by Hibernian Pat McGrath, saw Utica's Fire and Police Departments' co-chaplain delivered to the event in a UFD fire truck and given a UPD honor guard and escort.

Utica and Central New York's Assembly representatives Brian Miller and Marianne Buttenschon presented Fr. Salerno with official citations of the legislative body and NY State Senator Joe Griffo, a former Rome mayor delivered an honorarium from the NY State Senate.

Fr. Salerno will be standing in at local parishes when needed.

Fr. Salerno chose his former parish, St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Church in East Utica to deliver his retirement day homily. Parishioners there had earlier named the church's social and lecture facility "The Salerno Room" in his honor.

Photos Tom Loughlin Jr.



Fr. Salerno and Gala organizer Patrick McGrath "Mr. Utica St. Patrick's Parade" together as the birthday celebrant was about to address his assembled admirers.

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of . . . the Ladies National President

by Marilyn Madigan

Summer and Fall are a busy time for us. I am so honored to be able to attend the State Conventions. My apologies for those Conventions that I was unable to attend. I love going to the Conventions because it allows me the opportunity to interact with our membership. Our Sisters that take the time out to attend this Conventions are the backbone of our Order.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer with their family and friends. During summer we celebrated our Country's Independence and our Freedoms. As Irish American Catholics, let us reflect on these quotes: "May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right" Peter Marshall and "As members of civil society, let us continue to uphold the values of freedom, responsibility, fraternity and solidarity. And as Christians, let us always make charity, faith and hope the basis of our lives and our actions." Pope Francis. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians throughout our history have cherished our freedom as Americans and as a Catholic organization have demonstrated our faith in action. As a Catholic Organization we should be educated in Social Justice Issues. Over the past couple of years, the Catholic Social Justice Educations Committee have been working very hard to educate our members on these important issues. Although the LAOH is not a political organization, we should listen to the words of Pope Francis "None of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice." Our members at the Division level are demonstrating their concern for Catholic Social Justice Issues by their volunteering at Hunger Centers to Women's Shelters and addressing injustices such as the UK's Legacy Bill. Our actions speak volumes to our communities and those affected by these injustices.

As Irish Americans who cherish our freedoms and hope to see our beloved Ireland be reunited and a free society, I have requested that our members say this prayer for Irish Unity written by Ellen Marie Hess from Virginia. We encourage our Hibernian Brothers to join us.

Prayer for Irish Unity

Heavenly Father, as we gather here today, Ireland's exiled children in America, we pray for Irish Unity. Though Ireland, the land of saints and scholars, has suffered 800 years of oppression her people have endured because of their faith and the strength of their spirit. We celebrate the natural beauty of our homeland from the rolling hills of Connemara to the rugged Cliffs of Moher to the streets of Dublin and we pray that this beauty will one day be a symbol of our unity. We ask that you bless the efforts of those who seek to unite Ireland. Strengthen the resolve of those who fight for justice and open the hearts and minds of those who would impede it. Through your grace and mercy may Ireland be transformed into a land of peace, justice and equality, a nation once again. We ask this through our savior Jesus Christ. Amen

New Jersey

One of the oldest divisions in New Jersey, the Margaret Fastow Fitzpatrick Burlington County Division 3 celebrates its 120th Anniversary this year. This division boast two national presidents, Margaret Fastow 1974-1976 and Mary Paglione 1996-1998 from its membership.

On July 6th the division celebrated by taking a lunch cruise on the River Lady, an authentic reproduction paddlewheel riverboat. The cruise included a lovely meal, music, dancing and a historic guided tour past the homes of the rich and famous along the Toms River in New Jersey.

Among those who attended were LAOH NJ State Chaplin, Father Dan Cahill, Past National President Mary Paglione, NJ State President Jacoba Kenna, Division 3 President Marianne Sweeney, other state board and division members and friends.



From Left to Right: Denise McInerney Missions and Charity, Nancy Rhodes Treasurer, Kate McGrath Secretary, Jacoba Kenna President, Maread Gallagher Vice President, Lauren Tracey Irish Historian, Eileen Daly Catholic Action.

www.ladiesaoh.com

Pennsylvania



PA. Installed officers

Top Row: Carole Cooney-Syzdek Treasurer, Brianna Curran Irish Historian, Mary Ellen Myers Mission & Charities, Shirley Sestric Catholic Action. Bottom Row: Carolyn Killion, Vice President, Kathleen Diulus President, Patti Flaus Secretary.



Left to right: Incoming State President, Kathleen Diulus, National VP Maryann Lubinsky and National President Marilyn Madigan .

New York

NY AOH gathers in Binghamton for convention

New York Hibernians held their productive and news-making biennial convention in Binghamton from July 12 through July 16. Appropriately beginning and concluding with Holy Mass, celebrated by Deputy State Chaplain Fr. James O'Rourke, the convention included very special guests: Ireland's Consul General Helena Nolan, Fr. Gary Donegan and the Rev. Bill Shaw from Belfast, State Attorney General Letitia James with assistants (who are Hibernians!) from her office, and national AOH officers.

Officially revealed at the convention was one of the important initiatives begun during President John Manning's term. Action was taken by Manning and State Legal Counsel AJ Smith in writing and proposing a Bill for the State Legislature to address the increasing vandalism and violence against Catholic churches. Manning and Smith have met with State Attorney General Letitia James and gained her support for strengthening "hate crimes" laws to include attacks of houses of worship.

Fr. Gary and Rev. Bill gave motivating speeches at the well-attended banquet. The two Belfast clergymen spoke of the progress being made in the north of Ireland toward peace and prosperity, and identified the political obstacles still obstructing complete implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

A golf outing, well organized by State Sports Chairman Dave Cummings, preceded the convention. The funds raised from the golf outing went toward the Thomas McNabb Annual Sports Scholarship. This scholarship was started by President Manning and his officers.

The newly elected state board consists of President Tom O'Donnell, VP Tom Beirne, Secretary Kevin O'Reilly and Treasurer AJ Smith, and District Directors throughout the state. Installation was performed by National President Danny O'Connell at St. Patrick's Church after the concluding Mass by Fr. James O'Rourke.

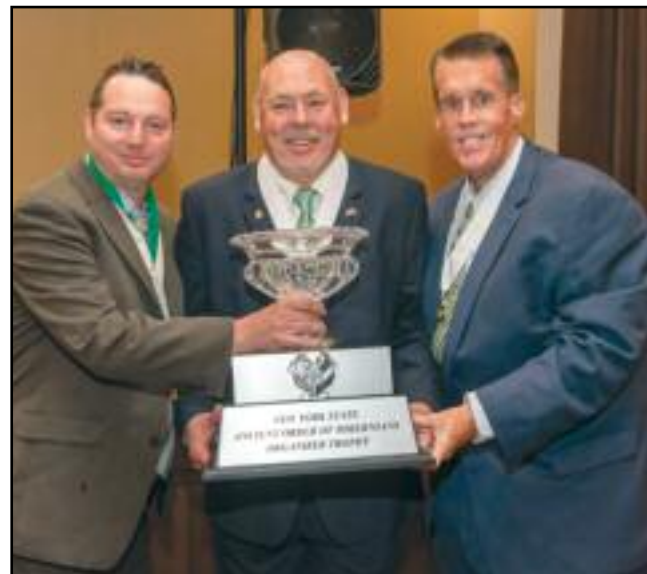
Photos by John O'Connell



On the golf course in Binghamton the day before the start of the convention, from left, State VP Tom O'Donnell (to be elected state president later in the weekend), State Secretary Thomas Beirne (to be elected VP), State Sports Chairman Dave Cummings and outgoing State President John Manning.



Deputy State Chaplain Fr. James O'Rourke celebrated the convention's opening Mass.



Suffolk County St. Patrick Division 2's President Dennis Harty, center, was presented with the NYS Organizer Award in recognition of his division's significant and substantial membership increase. State Organizer Tim Wekler, left, and President John Manning made the presentation to great applause.



President John Manning appointed an ad hoc committee to work on a project that harkens back to the very formation of the AOH: the protection of our Catholic churches from vandalism and violence. Pictured here with dignitaries visiting the convention are the members of this committee. Standing, from left, Assistant State Attorney General Michael Danaher, National Treasurer Liam McNabb, Past National and NYS President Brendan Moore, State Catholic Action Chairman James Russell, National PEC Chairman Neil Cosgrove, Long Island Director of Intergovernmental Affairs (in the AG's office) TJ Hatter, and state directors Craig Speers and Dennis Grogan. Seated, from left, National VP Sean Pender, National President Danny O'Connell, Irish Consul General Helena Nolan, Attorney General Tish James, President John Manning and AOH Legal Counsel (and now State Treasurer) AJ Smith.



Each of these Hibernians was presented with the distinguished Commodore John Barry Award for their exceptional service to the Order in New York. President Manning awarded the Barry Medal to the 40 elected & appointed officers of the state board for their hard work and dedication during his administration. "We as an organization like so many just came out of a worldwide pandemic and needed to pick up the pieces and move our Order in the right direction," Manning said.



Members of the Monsignor Lawrence E. Giblin Division 1, Broome County, received their major degree at the New York convention held in Binghamton. From left, Gerald Walker, Chris McManus, Steve Cole, newly elected State President Tom O'Donnell, Jeff West, KC Ellis, Dan Davenport and District 7 Director John Walker.



Three of the honored guests at New York's convention were, from left, Fr. Gary Donegan, NYS Attorney General Letitia James and the Rev. Bill Shaw. Fr. Gary and Rev. Bill are heroes in the struggle for peace in the north of Ireland. AG James is working with our National and NYS AOH Legal Counsel AJ Smith to pass legislation that would increase legal penalties for attacks on Catholic churches and other houses of worship in the state.

Pennsylvania

PA State Convention in Johnstown

The AOH/LAOH Pennsylvania State Conventions took place in Johnstown on July 20 to July 22. More than 200 Hibernians and guests attended this event, including some National Officers. This is not the first time this reunion happened in Johnstown. Hibernians had planned to meet in Johnstown 134 years ago when the flood destroyed that area.

The AOH Cambria County, Lady of Knock Division 1, hosted the convention. This division has 51 members and they really did a great job.

The new AOH State President is Denny Maher, taking the place of Ed Dougherty, and LAOH President Kathleen Diulus is taking over the reins from Maria Gallagher. The installation mass took place at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral with the Celebrant Mark Leonard Bartchak, Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown.



Gathering after the meetings, Brother Jim Hook, Larry Squires, Catholic Action; Denny Maher state president, and Joe Hoise past PA state president.



State officers were installed.



At the convention meeting President Ed Dougherty presented Outstanding Volunteer Award to Kevin Haney.



Front Row: Tom Coughlin Jr. Secretary, Tom Gilbride Vice-President, Denny Maher President, Jim Green Treasurer; 2nd Row: Frank Jones Director 2, Bob Moyer Director 1, Ed Dougherty Past President, 3rd Row: Ken Walsh Director 7, Ted Miller Director 6, Bob Kelly Director 5, Jack Fagan Director 4, Dave Bloomer Director 3.



Top standing: Rick Burnett, Financial Secretary of AOH; John Price, Chairman; Don McCarthy, Treasurer of AOH. Front row: MaryAnn Demark, LaSalle Academy; Liza Froncek; Vanessa VanDeusen; Mrs. Murphy, Principal of LaSalle Academy.



Fundraising for Mother of Mercy House
Division 2 held a fundraising luncheon on April 23 at the Newtown American Legion Hall. From left, Hibernians President Joe McCann, Mike Shields, Mother of Mercy House manager Alex Rodriguez, and AOH members Scott MacFarlane, John McGovern and Art Reinhold. The occasion was the fundraising for the Mother of Mercy House, located in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. Division 2 took the opportunity to donate \$2,000 to the Mother of Mercy House cause in helping the homeless and underprivileged folks in the Kensington area. Each week, these and other Brothers visit the Mother of Mercy House to help the staff distribute food and clothing to the area residents.

Catholic scholarships

The Carbondale Trinity Club has awarded its annual \$1,000 scholarships to two LaSalle Academy students who will be furthering their Catholic education. This year's scholars are Liza Froncek and Vanessa VanDeusen and both students will be attending Holy Cross High School. Liza and Vanessa were selected because of their academic excellence and for their community mindedness. Liza is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Froncek and Vanessa is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse VanDeusen. Both girls are altar servers of their parishes.

The Trinity Club is a joint venture between the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Msgr. William Farrell, Division 2, and the Columbia Hose Company No. 5. The Trinity Club was formed in 1999. The scholarship program for eighth grade students is one of only a few available to students pursuing education at the high school level.