

The National hibERNIAN DIGEST



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

Vol. LXXXI No. 3 USPS 373340

JUNE-JULY 2024

1.50

DATED MATERIAL

AOH St. Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program a Success

It was a historic visit to Stormont as 16 Americans from the Saint Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program spent the afternoon with members of Northern Ireland's political leadership. On hand for the visit were First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly Edwin Poots, Junior Minister Aisling Reilly and Junior Minister Pam Cameron.

"This is a historic occasion for the Saint Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program, and we are proud to be introducing the political leaders of today to the Irish American leaders of the future," said Dr. Tim Campbell, Director of the Saint Patrick Centre. "We thank our partner, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, for their support in this growing and increasingly successful program." AOH President Danny O'Connell, on hand for the event, said, "It is an honor to be part of such a high-quality program. You could see the Young Ambassadors light up as they had the opportunity to speak with each of the Northern Ireland leaders."

Three years ago, Tim Campbell invited AOH President O'Connell to send someone to the program. "When I spoke with the young woman who attended the 2022 program upon her return, she told me it was lifechanging," O'Connell said. "This two-week leadership program helped her get on the right track for her career and life in general." O'Connell spoke to AOH Vice President Sean Pender who agreed this was a perfect fit for our Order. He then went to work with Tim Campbell to establish this partnership. In under two years, 19

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First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly Edwin Poots, Junior Minister Aisling Reilly and Junior Minister Pam Cameron met on June 11 with our Young Ambassadors, who are participants in our new and successful AOH leadership and recruiting program.

AOH - USGAA announce three-year partnership

As the AOH recruiting efforts continue to focus on young Irish Catholic Americans, we have entered into a collaboration agreement with the United States Gaelic Athletic Association to promote each other's organizations among our respective members and the broader public. This partnership — approved by the national board on June 3, 2024 — follows the recent AOH sponsorship of the USGAA Gaelic Football team who will be playing in a tournament in Limerick on July 12. AOH member Joe White, from Allegheny, PA, spearheaded the sponsorship of the USGAA

Gaelic Football team making history as they play their first match in Ireland.

Over the past few decades, there has been a noticeable decline in the population identifying with Irish ancestry in the United States, with figures dropping from 40.2 million in 1980 to 31.5 million in the 2020 census. Despite this decline, Irish cultural institutions remain vibrant, with more than 160 USGAA clubs and more than 320 AOH divisions all across the country. The AOH is the largest Irish organization outside of Ireland with members in every state. Recognizing the

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National Convention News August 7-11 Orlando, Florida

Our convention hotel, the Rosen Center, is now full. But there is a link to an overflow hotel on our website, AOH.com. Overflow rooms are at the Rosen Plaza with a skywalk between hotels.

Book now!

Reservations are filling up!

Documentary on Fr. Flanagan will be debuted on Thursday evening at the hotel.

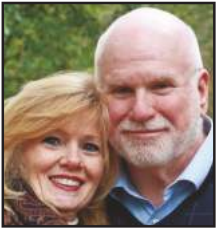
Chances available to win an Alaska cruise by our sponsor, the Getaway Gals.

The AOH Package price is \$235.

Attendees should use Uber or Lyft to get from the airport to the hotel, as this is the most economical option.



The USGAA 2024 Gaelic Football team displayed the AOH logo as they prepare for their tournament in Limerick.



DAN DEVINNEY

*Candidate for
National Treasurer*

Current Offices:

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

Previous Offices Held:

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

Special Committee Appointments:

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

Education & Career:

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

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

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Patrick Sean Ryan

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

- Current National President of Hibernian Charity
- Current National Chairman of Charities & Missions
- Past National Secretary of Hibernian Charity
- Past Kentucky/Division Vice President
- Business Manager for 2018 AOH Convention
- Church musician – organist, trumpeter and vocalist
- Hibernian since age of 16
- Modernized Hibernian Charity by implementing on-line accounting program
- Implemented on-line giving platform – **Qgiv**, allowing better access for Brothers to give
- Successfully implemented investment policy and strategy for Hibernian Charity





president's message

By *Danny O'Connell*

It has been an honor to lead two of the best national board teams ever assembled. In addition to our great work on Irish American history, we continue to make history as the premier Irish Organization outside of Ireland. We are Irish, Catholic, Americans. Our members are exclusively men of Irish birth or descent. We are the only Irish organization with members in all 50 of the United States of America. We are the voice of Irish America, and the leadership of Irish America. The AOH offers a role for every Irish Catholic American from 16 to 99 and beyond.

As we near the end of our term as the current AOH national board, our leadership team continues to perform at a tremendous pace. Most recently, on June 3, 2024, during our final scheduled meeting we approved a three-year cross promotion agreement with the USGAA. This partnership will provide yet another opportunity to connect with Irish American youth as well as their parents. This long-range agreement follows our national sponsorship for a historic USGAA event as for the first time in history, County USA will compete in Ireland with an all-American-born team of 29 young men selected from around the USA.

Special thanks go out to AOH Brother Joe White in Pittsburgh, President of Carl Walker Construction. Without Joe's effort and support this AOH-USGAA partnership and sponsorship would not have been possible.

Young Ambassadors

Our focus on young members continues to be a success. From June 1 to 14, we have 10 young Hibernians in County Down taking part in the AOH, Friends of Saint Patrick Centre, Young Ambassador Program. The Saint Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program provides young people from North America the opportunity to learn about Northern Ireland, its politics, its religion, its economy, its sport and, most importantly, to learn about Saint Patrick by following in his actual footsteps. This program, now in its second year, is a recruiting tool for young members in every division in America. Members one year out of high school up to the age of 24 are eligible for the program. What an incentive for our children, grandchildren, and in fact for all young Irish Catholic Americans to join our noble Order.

'Our historic ties to Ireland'

I am writing this article from AOH Brother Eamon Daly's house in Drumnakilly, Omagh, County Tyrone, as I prepare for a meeting this afternoon with the leadership of the Catholic Church in Ireland. I will visit Saint Patrick's Cathedral and the Parochial House in Armagh later today. Our commitment to \$25,000 in annual Project Saint Patrick Ireland support for seminarians in Ireland ties directly into our overall commitment to youth. It also ties in directly with our founding principle of supporting the Catholic Church, aiding our clergy, and maintaining our historic ties to Ireland. We will be working to support the Saint Patrick's Day 2025 visit to America by the Primate of Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, who will celebrate mass in Saint Patrick's Cathedral. You will learn more about this visit as it is finalized; Archbishop Martin will be in both New York and Boston for Saint Patrick's Day events.

McNabb scholarships

We will be able to meet and hear from our McNabb Scholarship recipients and our Young Ambassadors during the 2024 national convention in Orlando, Florida. These programs can continue to be a national success only if our local leadership get behind them and promotes them. These are both recruiting tools and leadership-team-building tools. As with any tool, you must use them properly to gain value from their existence. The AOH National Board is prepared to help you use these programs to gain young members who will be the future of the AOH.

Fr. Flanagan Award

Another new program developed over the last four years is Father Flanagan Human Dignity Award whose inaugural recipient, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, will join us during the convention to receive his award, celebrate Mass, and enjoy Hibernian fellowship. I recommend you take the time to speak with Bishop Phonsie (as he is known). You will find him to be a wonderful person who enjoys life and the work he does as a leader in the Catholic church.

'Service is Leadership'

I wish to thank you for this incredible opportunity. I love the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve you for the last 16 years as an elected member of our National Board, the last four as your president. Thank you all for the work you do every day to make our organization better. I am looking forward to my next role in service for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. Service is Leadership.

God Bless, Danny O.

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



vice president's report

By *Sean Pender*

Young Leadership Scholarships Announced

As National Vice President and chairman of the Thomas D. McNabb Young Hibernian Leadership Scholarship Program, it was very rewarding to see the increase in applications for this year's award. The quality of the responses made it a very difficult task to choose the six recipients for this year's scholarship. I received nominations, applications and completed questionnaires from our candidates. All completed questionnaires were completed without any reference to name or location, nominees were assigned a number and the submitted application were sent to seven members of the national board and two past recipients of the scholarship. They were asked to choose the top six and then rank them in order.

It is my honor to announce the 2024 Thomas D McNabb Young Hibernian Leadership Scholarship recipients:



Edward Higgins, 18-years-old, is a member of the Division 1, Hernando County, Florida. A member since he was 16, Edward is currently the treasurer of his division and a championship Irish dancer.



Norman McEvoy, 37, is a member of Division 2, Pinellas County, Florida. Norm has been a member since he was 18-years-old in Nebraska. Norman has demonstrated a strong involvement in our Order at both the Division and State level. Since transferring to the Pinellas Division in 2021, Norman has been instrumental in helping to rebuild the Division. He is serving his Division as Vice President, has also assumed State Chairmanship and has been an instrumental member of the 2024 Florida National Convention committee.



Michael Lenahan, 32, is a member of Division 1, Guilford County, North Carolina. A member for just over seven years, he has served as his division's vice president and president. Division 1 Guilford County is the youngest in the state and Michael is the North Carolina State President.



Daniel Kelly, 30, is a member of Division 2, Pinellas County, Florida. He is a member of the Florida Degree Team and has worked with others to help revitalize his division to be one of the youngest in the state of Florida.



Jack Callahan, 25, is a member of Division 8, Rensselaer County, New York. His strong financial acumen and dedication to the Order has been a great asset to his division. Jack travels more than 40 miles to his division meetings and has helped almost double his division's membership in a little over a year.



Rory M. McLaverty, 24, is a member of Division 1, Los Angeles County, California. Rory's family and Hibernian roots are from Montana. He has studied in Ireland thanks to AOH scholarships.



interim secretary

By Ray Lynch

Greetings! As we are getting closer to our National Convention from Aug 7 through Aug 11 in Orlando at the Rosen Center, I'd like to thank all the committee members in the State of Florida for stepping up and making this a memorable experience. For Convention information, go to aoh.com and click on the Convention link; this will take you to the website where you can book your room, purchase your package and fill out a request for an advertisement in the Convention journal.

If you need assistance with anything you encounter on the Convention website, please feel free to reach out to me and I'll help walk you through it.

Also, I would like to take a second to Thank You for all your recent efforts in updating your rosters, getting your per capita payments in and supporting my office's efforts to provide stellar service to the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Keep up the great work, we truly applaud your efforts!

I am running for the seat of the National Secretary at the Convention. Please consider my efforts over the past 10 months when you are casting your vote. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me either by email (irishyankeenut@gmail.com) or phone (772-289-2244).

Stay Blessed Brothers, in our motto....



treasurer's report

By Liam McNabb

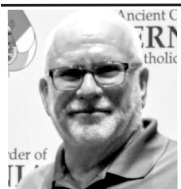
Treasury

We are approaching our National Convention in August and our Order's treasury remains strong. As we highlighted in previous issues of this newsletter, many investments have been made to strengthen the future of our organization through the member roster system and expanding our presence through many new cultural partnerships here and in Ireland. Many of our new partnerships will expose some of our younger members to authentic Irish culture and leadership practices, which we think will serve our Order well in the long-term. Our treasury and the many investments are all made possible through membership dues and our National Board is thankful for your support.

National Convention

Our convention this year will feature several detailed reports from committee chairs, and we hope this information is shared with all members by their respective delegates when they return home. Many members of our National Board, elected or appointed, are subject-matter experts who present information that is critical to our many goals and is always helpful to divisions. Much of this information can be used to help teach members about specific issues and/or assist the division in identifying and pursuing initiatives. The convention will be an enjoyable and productive opportunity for information sharing and, again, we hope everyone benefits from the high-level reports.

In closing, thank you for your patience and support during my two terms as your National Treasurer. I hope to continue to serve our Order as a leader and look forward to more work ahead.



Director's report

By Dan Deviney, Deputy Legal Counsel

Time sure flies fast. We are rolling into another summer and another convention. This time it is a National Convention. I hope you had the chance to join in on some of the breakout sessions. I remember my first convention; it was the National Convention in Pittsburgh in the late 1990s. That is when I got bitten by the AOH bug. Conventions are a great time full of people and fun. You get to see how the business of the Order gets done. You get to meet and engage leaders from all over the country. It is a chance to offer your opinion on the issues facing the Order. It is a great way to peak the interest of a new member or recharge the battery of a member who has been around a while.

As a Director I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Presidents of lower jurisdictions and their board members, especially the State Presidents. We asked them to step up to the plate in the last two years and they delivered big. We hit them with one backlog list after another. Then we followed that up with a marketing program set at increasing recruitment. All of this was on top of their usual duties of collecting per capita, regular recruiting efforts and pushing information down to the lower jurisdictions. In the past I have referred to the lower jurisdiction leadership as the gateway to the membership and you have proven it. Thank you for all you have done.

This is my last article as a National Director. I have truly enjoyed working as a National Director and serving on the various committees to which I have been appointed. I hope you have enjoyed my articles as much as I have enjoyed writing them. With your support I hope to be able to continue writing articles for the Digest as your next National Treasurer. Hope to see you in Florida.



Director's report

By Tim McSweeney

As my time as National Director comes to an end, I must take time to reflect and recognize the people who helped me along the way. Being on the National is not about just wearing a Yellow Ribbon or getting a good table at a banquet. The Director responsibilities have outgrown the mandates of the position in the AOH Constitution. Directors have direct involvement with the collection of National Per Capita payment, gathering Form 9's (paper and in the membership management system) to ensure proper communication flow from the division level up to the national level. During my time on the National I have been honored to work with three great National Secretaries: Jere Cole, Ed Halligan and Ray Lynch. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank my fellow directors, Bob Mehrens, Sean O'Dowd, Ray Lynch, Dan Deviney and Dick Thompson. These gentlemen are some of the hardest working and most dedicated Hibernians I know. This position had its challenges. Many Division Presidents and Financial Secretaries refuse to communicate or do not provide proper contact information. This has been a long-lasting problem within our Order. It's simple to file the form or answer a phone or email. The lack of response to online applications is ridiculous. It's a new member that your division didn't have to recruit. Many divisions ignore these online applicants and only act on them when pressure is out on them by higher jurisdiction. I'm complaining, but I really did enjoy most aspects of being a national director. Moving forward, we must work with, not against, the LAOH. Our two organizations are stronger together, not fighting like children. Thank you to everyone who supported me over the last year.

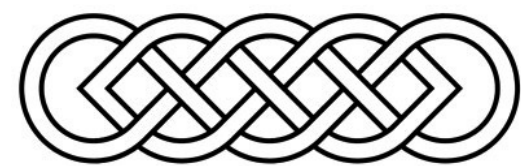
Growing in the Empire State

Since January 1 of this year, New York State has added 335 new members to the roles. This growth can be attributed to grassroots recruitment and very aggressive social media campaigns targeting certain areas and age demographics.



Hibernians Stuff the Bus

The 1st Annual "Stuff the Bus" fundraiser was a tremendous success. The NYS AOH Charities and Missions Chairman Tim Tobin worked in collaboration with NYS AOH Charities and Missions Chairwoman Maura McSweeney. Held during the AOH/LAOH spring meeting weekend in East Durham, Stuff the Bus raised more than two tons of food! This food was given to the Cairo-Durham Central Schools Backpack Program. This program provides nutrition on the weekends to students with food security issues.



At-Large Membership Update

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer

There was another At-Large Zoom meeting held in early May. In addition to our At-Large members, our National Vice President Sean Pender, National Secretary Ray Lynch, FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin and Co-Digital Coordinator Chad Ghastin were in attendance. The members were able to ask questions and give suggestions as to how the At-Large program can improve. Ray Lynch also spoke on the upcoming National Convention. The Zoom call was recorded and was sent out to all those members unable to attend. We also had a Zoom call to initiate two new At-Large members in Maine. That made it more personal and we were able to look at the candidates while the St. Patrick Pledge was administered.

Our At-Large program currently has 93 members from 32 states, Puerto Rico and a missionary priest stationed in Honduras. These numbers include 13 clergy and three active members of the military.



Director's report

By Sean O'Dowd

Wow! Four years have gone by in a snap of the finger. This will be my final National Director report. My second two-year term will come to an end at the August National Convention in Orlando.

Irish heritage, culture and religion were huge parts of my upbringing as a first-generation Irish American. My Dad, who was from County Cavan, and I spent many years visiting and living in Ireland.

When I was invited by my neighbor to attend a local AOH meeting, I thought it was only an Irish social organization, which I was thrilled to be a part of. Although that is true, I came to realize, because of my leadership roles, that there is so much more to the AOH. When I became more familiar with the Order, I learned about all the other important causes that we support. It became clear to me that many people (and members) thought of the AOH the same as I did when I first joined. I moved into leadership roles within the AOH because I felt the message needed to get out, to not only our members, but to the Irish community about who the Ancient Order of Hibernians is, what we stand for and the important causes we support. To my AOH brothers who are on the fence about taking the next step whether at Division, County, State or National – don't wait. Do it now!

I have absolutely enjoyed my time as Director. It has allowed me the opportunity to work with and get to know my AOH brothers across the U.S. I got to see firsthand how committed our members are and the service they provide to their respected communities. I vividly remember... our Iowa Brothers starting an Irish Music festival by recognizing five branches individually of the U.S. military in attendance with honor guard, songs and a salute. Such a moving moment!

To Danny O'Connell, Sean Pender, Liam McNabb, Ed Halligan, Ray Lynch, Tim McSweeney, Dick Thompson, Bob Mehrens, Dan Devinney and National Committee Chairman, thank you. It has been my honor and privilege to work with and learn from you, stand with you and represent the AOH either on the business of the Order, attending events hosted by the Irish Government or other Irish-centered organizations. I appreciate all your support.

To all the State, County, Division Presidents and Financial Secretaries, thank you for your help and collaboration over the last four years. I'd like to add that important as the National Board is we know the work of the Order is done by you and our members.

Finally, I'd like to thank my wife, Lynn, who has supported me during my tenure on the National Board.

I didn't expect the countless rewards the National Director position would provide me. I have experienced firsthand our motto of "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity," tenfold.



Director's report

By Bob Mehrens

When I joined the AOH, I had a vision of what I wanted to accomplish for the AOH of Anaconda, Montana. At the time of my swearing in, the division was at an impasse between young vs old. My vision was to recruit new members that would help bridge the gap between an old way of thinking and rebuild my home division to be not only the best in Montana, but the best in the west. Something happened along the way that changed my vision. I quickly concluded that the AOH needed a leader that didn't prioritize who the best division was or the best state, it was making every member that I crossed paths with a better member. As I have risen through the chairs to become a National Director, I believe I have led by example and have helped add to an already strong foundation to the greatest organization in the United States. It is my hope as I wind down my term as National Director that the work that I and the national board have accomplished over the past four years, has raised the bar for all future officers and that whoever follows us can continue to uphold the four pillars of our great organization. It has been an honor to serve you all and can't wait for our final board meeting in Florida to wrap up a very successful term. As always in our motto, Bobby Mehrens, National Director, Anaconda Division 1.

New Hampshire

Golfing for Good

Seventy-two golfers graced the landscape of Pembroke Pines Country Club in Pembroke, NH, on May 16 for the 2024 AOH Shanahan Division 1 tournament. This event benefits the Christmas Adopt a Family program. Twenty-seven area businesses contributed as hole sponsors, raising more than \$3,200. Registration fees, closest to the pin, longest drive and Monte Carlo holes netted another \$4,000. Manchester needy children will be guaranteed 2024 Christmas gifts in the season. Thanks to Golf tourney chair Kevin Healey and Brothers Brian Cronin and Jeff Nyhan who made this day a success. — Mike Dolphin



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



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The National hibernian digest

"Ireland, 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.

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immigration

By tom Lambert, chairman

As Immigration Chairman, I have promised to keep our Brothers apprised of any changes in U.S. Immigration policy, especially if there is any effect on Irish immigration. Issues that have arisen on the world stage overshadowed efforts to address immigration issues. Issues at our southern border also diverted attention from our effort to seek a modification of the E3 Visa. In April of this year, a bipartisan bill to provide aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, along with humanitarian aid to Gaza, was signed into law. With this issue addressed, there was hope that Congress could be persuaded to look at addressing a fair and equitable immigration policy toward Ireland, in addition to addressing immigration enforcement at our southern border. As reported by the Irish Echo in May, two Bills were introduced in the House of Representatives that would impact Irish immigration through a modification of the E3 Visa, a goal long sought by the AOH. Congressman Mike Lawler, a Republican and Brother Hibernian, introduced one of the Bills. Congressman Richard Neal, a Democrat, and Congressman Mike Kelly, a Republican, have reintroduced a bipartisan E3 Visa Bill. Could these developments foreshadow good things to come? Stay tuned!

The Ancient Order of Hibernians will continue to push extremely hard for a revision of the current E3 Visa to allow approximately 5,000 unused visas, from the 10,500 visas previously allocated to Australia, to be reallocated to Ireland on an annual basis. Our work continues!

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

I look forward to seeing many of you in Orlando this August!
Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.



freedom for all ireland

By martin galvin, chairman

FFAI Resolutions Planned for Orlando Convention

One of the most important aspects of the upcoming AOH National Convention will be the section on Resolutions. Resolutions should be much more than words to be adopted and forgotten on the trip back home. They are intended to set policy objectives followed by a work agenda for the upcoming two years as Sean Pender takes over the leadership of our organization.

At Pittsburgh in 2022, FFAI submitted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the ANCIENT ORDER of HIBERNIANS, calls upon the Irish government, ... to defend the Right to Life of hundreds of Irish citizens, by bringing Britain directly to the European Court on Human Rights.

Hibernians were repeatedly told that there was little chance that the Irish government would ever take Britain to the European Court over the Legacy Act. That was something done only once before on behalf of the Hooded Men, tortured in 1971 after being interned. Victims' families appealed to the AOH that Britain was taking their hopes for justice through Inquests or Ombudsman reports, and without Irish government intervention families might take close to a decade before the European Court would set aside the new law. The AOH resolved to set that objective, then planned actions to work that objective.

We held a series of webinars, which allowed hundreds of AOH members and members of other Irish organizations to hear heartbreaking stories directly from victims' relatives. We got Congressional support, and held meetings with Members of the Dail and Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. The Irish government did indeed, to its great credit, take the historic decision to indict Britain in the European Court on behalf of victims. Irish American opinion, spearheaded by the AOH, made an important contribution in this historic decision.

This year the FFAI committee has submitted three Resolutions for votes at the Convention. The first commends and congratulates the Irish government for taking the case, and also with a Labour government expected to emerge in the July British election, calls upon the new government to repeal and replace the legacy act. A second Resolution reaffirms our historic commitment to freedom for all Ireland, and pledges AOH support for Ireland's future and for all those working to secure a vote that could unite Ireland. A third Resolution calls for an end of discriminatory visa policies stopping Republicans who were active in the Troubles and even their family members from visiting the United States.

Honoring Christmas Appeal Contributors

Once again the Christmas Appeal eclipsed last year's record. Just under \$150,000 was distributed. States like Florida and Virginia in the south and Ohio in the Midwest have now joined New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts as leading contributors. Other states in the west are growing. Seventy-two awards, made by EALU, former political prisoners, will be presented to individuals, divisions and boards who contributed at least \$1,000.

This year we hope to honor each of these donors by presenting their award at our National Convention. If you have not already done so please make sure to notify me or Bob Bollbach via email at BOBBOLLBACH@GMAIL.COM, who will be at the Convention to receive your award for your Christmas Appeal contribution.



Director's Report

By Richard Thompson

As I begin to write this column many thoughts and recollections are running through my head. It is hard to believe that this is my final column after serving four years as a National Director.

I began as a director after our virtual convention in 2020, not knowing how this position would play out in a Covid world. The answer was Zoom, as the Order adapted and found a way to move forward. As things returned to the new normal, the technology has entered the AOH world as a main form of communication.

The director's position can be hard work, frustrating and time consuming. It can be humbling at times and you get to know your strengths and weaknesses very quickly. Yet the rewards of this position far outweigh the frustrations.

I am very proud to have been part of this National Board for the past four years. I truly believe that the work, programs and initiatives that have been implemented are historic and groundbreaking and have set the Order on a path to the future.

Let me also say, I have had the opportunity to work with some great and dedicated Hibernians at the National level right down to our divisions. The work that is being done here in the states and in Ireland is impressive. We as an Order are building new relationships and gaining influence in matters that are important to the AOH.

Brothers, thank you for the confidence and belief in me to elect me a National Director. I also wish to thank you for the encouragement and support I have received the past four years. The question that is frequently asked in this situation is "are we better now than when you first took office?" I can emphatically say yes, I believe we have a clear path forward and we now need our membership to get on board and propel us to new heights.

My final task as a National Director will be to conduct the business of the Order at our convention this August in Orlando. I hope to see many of you there.

Brothers, thank you for the opportunity to serve this great Order!



Charities & Missions

By Patrick Ryan, Chairman



SCAN TO DONATE

Brothers, welcome to summer! This is a wonderful time of the year as many go on much needed vacations, work on projects around the house and sit outside with friends and family enjoying the company of each other and feel the warmth that summer brings. One thing that I have noticed in my neighborhood are the children playing in the yards and riding their bikes, scooters and other various contraptions. It really brings back memories of me and my brothers growing up and probably most of you.

An incident that stood out a few days ago in our neighborhood was one of the neighborhood kids was riding his bike down the road and had a nasty wipe out. His elbows, knees and hands had several abrasions, and you can tell that he was in pain. There were some tears but no crying – there's no crying in baseball and I guess it goes for riding a bike too! What I saw next gave me hope for this next generation: all the other kids quickly showed up at his side to attend to his wounds, console him and lift him up. The charity they showed to their torn-up friend was overwhelming. Everyone gathered around, took their bottles of water and washed his wounds and had him laughing in mere minutes. He walked back up the hill with a friend or two at his side and a couple of others bringing his bike up behind him. As a parent, we are fearful that he was seriously injured but according to the neighborhood doc (he is an actual MD) found nothing serious that warranted a visit to the hospital.

As I watched all this unfold, I reflected on their upbringing and how their parents raised them. To care for others at such a young age and to see how they 'get it' impressed me. I couldn't help but think of our motto – Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity – and how these children embodied these principles. As Catholic gentlemen, we should always keep this in mind as we live our lives. There are so many things that pull us in this and that direction, and I hope that we remember to keep charity in our hearts and minds everywhere we go.

For the first time in a long while, I am not asking for anything. The QR code is above and is there if you feel compelled. What I would like to ask is for those who will be at the convention this year in Orlando that you share a story of growing up and how you showed charity to your neighbors. I look forward to meeting and talking with many of you with notebook in hand and writing down your tales. These are our stories and I think many of them are compelling, so please tell them. See you in Orlando!



Irish Way & Study Abroad

By Bill Sullivan, Chairman

AOH National President Daniel O'Connell and the AOH National Board are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2024 AOH National Board's Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarships.

The recipients of the 2024 AOH Irish Way National Board Scholarships are:

- Finola Giblin, daughter of Edward Giblin of Verona, NJ, and
- Mary Martin, daughter of Michael Martin of Brooklyn, NY.

Finola and Mary will take part in the 2024 Irish Way Program in Ireland this summer from June 30 to July 24. This year's program will consist of a wide variety of classes, workshops and tours.

The 2024 AOH National Board Study Abroad Scholarship recipients are:

- Keara Mulrooney, a student at Sacred Heart University, was awarded a \$1,000 Study Abroad Scholarship for study at Sacred Heart University's Dingle, County Kerry, Campus during the 2024 Summer Semester. Keara's father, Kevin Mulrooney, is a member of Division 20, Nassau County, New York.
- Daniel O'Gara, a student at the University of Notre Dame, will study for the fall semester at Trinity College, Dublin. Daniel and his father, Thomas O'Gara, are members of the Kevin Barry Division 3 in Marion County, Indiana. Daniel received a \$1,000 Study Abroad Scholarship.
- Kiernan Callahan, a student at the University of Kentucky, studied at Maynooth College for the spring semester. Her father, Patrick Callahan, and her grandfather are members of the Louisville, KY, Division. Kiernan received a \$1,000 scholarship.

In the next Digest article, we will note several other recipients of our 2024 Study Abroad Scholarships.

Our sincere thanks are extended to President O'Connell, Patick Ryan, the Hibernian Charity Board and the AOH National Board for providing the funding for the 2024 Irish Way and the 2024 Study Abroad Scholarships.

Information on the 2025 AOH National Board's Study Abroad Scholarships and the 2025 Irish Way Scholarships will be available later this year, in future issues of the Hibernian Digest.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, comments or questions. I look forward to seeing and talking with you at our National Convention in Orlando in early August. Have a great summer!

Indiana

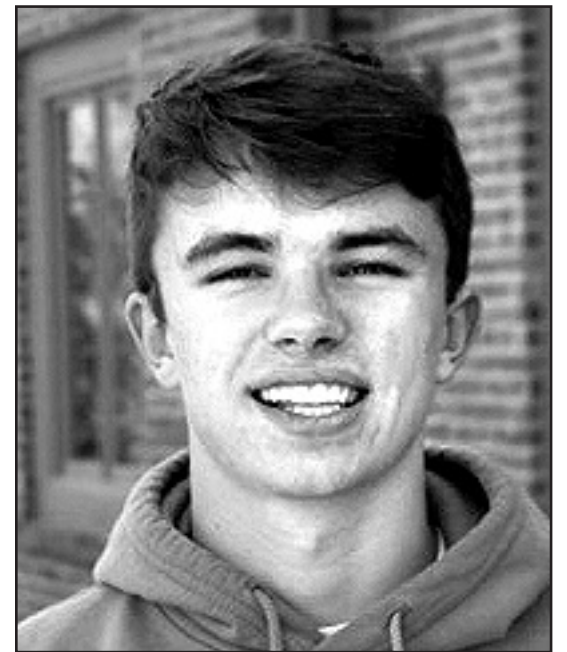
Barry Division member receives the 'Irish Way and Study Abroad' scholarship

Daniel O'Gara, the 2022 Hibernian Kehoe Scholarship recipient, has recently been awarded the AOH "Irish Way and Study Abroad" scholarship. The AOH provides these scholarships through their Irish American Cultural Institute. The scholarships were established for college students looking to study abroad at a university located in Ireland. The National Board offers two scholarships; a \$2,000 scholarship for students who will study for a full year in Ireland and a \$1,000 scholarship for students studying for one semester in Ireland.

Danny, a third-generation Kevin Barry Division member — who is also a junior at the University of Notre

Dame — will begin his semester of study at Trinity College Dublin in September 2024. Danny and his parents saw an article in the our Order's National Hibernian Digest regarding the study abroad program, which prompted Danny to apply for the scholarship.

Danny is the son of Tom and Elizabeth O'Gara. The entire Division offers our congratulations to Danny. President David Ruhmkorff also offers his personal congratulations to Danny and recommends The Cobblestone in Dublin on Thursday nights for good traditional Irish music. The pints are pretty good, too.



Daniel O'Gara

Tennessee

Nashville's Irish American Heritage Month

As part of Irish-American Heritage month Nashville AOH Historian Conor Doolan delivered two well attended presentations in March to reflect on our Irish heritage.

Firstly, at the Special Collections room of the Main Library branch on Church Street, Conor Doolan delivered 'Nashville's Irish Heritage A Forgotten Story'. It was a broad and all-encompassing look at every aspect of Irish heritage in the city from its Scot-s Irish founders, to old Irish societies all the way through time to the current landscape of Irish groups which are flourishing in the city. A highlight of the event was the portion of the talk relating to the original AOH division in the city which dates back to 1884.

Secondly on Easter Sunday, possibly Nashville's first ever event to mark the anniversary of the 1916 Rebellion was held at St. Patrick Church on 2nd Ave. Father Abbott Hall, once part of the Catholic school that existed at St. Patrick's was once again an venue for education. Conor Doolan gave a short presentation on the 'Rising' and coordinated the program for 'Understanding 1916' featuring AOH members reading the Irish Proclamation, recitations of 'The Dark Way' by Joseph Plunkett and 'Easter 1916' by W.B. Yeats. Irish folk songs Grace, the Foggy Dew and the Irish National Anthem 'Amhran na bhFiann' (The Soldier's Song) were also performed.



history report

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.
national historian

Writing Emmet's Epitaph

Epitaph: noun - a phrase or form of words written in memory of a person who has died, especially as an inscription on a tombstone.

Early in the afternoon of September 20, 1803, 25-year-old Robert Emmet, "perfectly devout and composed," was brought to a scaffold on Thomas Street in Dublin, in front of St. Catherine's church, and hanged by the neck, lingering on the rope for as long as 30 minutes. His body having been taken down, his head was severed and held aloft by the executioner as, we are told, his blood ran into the gutter, to be lapped up by dogs. Emmet, fully acquainted with the grim attributes of British justice, no doubt knew that such would be his end the day prior, as he stood to deliver his immortal Speech from the Dock. Having declared that his purpose had been to "make Ireland totally independent from Great Britain," Emmet requested that his "tomb remain unsubscribed" and his epitaph remain unwritten, until Ireland takes her place among the nations of the world.

The British ensured that Emmet's tomb would remain unsubscribed, as searches for his remains, which began almost immediately, continue to be unsuccessful. Emmet's more famous request, however, that his epitaph not be written, has been benignly ignored in the more than two centuries since his death.

Emmet's epitaph is in some sense a work in progress, with each following generation contributing in various ways to the composition. O'Connell and the Catholic Association contributed by achieving Catholic Emancipation in 1829. The Young Irelanders of 1848, the Fenian Brotherhood, Clan na Gael and the IRB will share in the credit when the composition is completed. A significant chapter was written during Easter Week in 1916 and in the Anglo-Irish War that followed, and the work has continued, up to this day, as we contemplate the end of partition and a new, 32-county Republic. Here in the United States, the burgeoning Irish population that would become a force for Irish freedom looked to Emmet as an inspiration for their efforts almost immediately after his death.

Emmet's Speech from the Dock was printed in pamphlet form in the United States as early as 1810. The speech went through multiple printings throughout the 19th century, with many editions featuring a portrait of Emmet. Long before a portrait of John F. Kennedy on the kitchen wall became the stereotype, images of Robert Emmet were ubiquitous in Irish-American homes. Songs inspired by Emmet, most prominently those by Thomas Moore, were sung in music halls and private parlors across the United States. In 1853, a popular song was "Emmet's Last Words: When Erin shall stand 'mid the Isles of the Sea" featuring the lyrics "Till my country shall stand like a gem 'midst the free, Till then let my epitaph unwritten be." John Boyle O'Reilly, one of the Fenians rescued from penal servitude in Australia in the famous Catalpa episode, wrote and recited one of many Emmet-inspired poems, The Patriot's Grave, for the centennial of Emmet's birth in 1878. Perhaps the most significant and intimate form of Emmet remembrance came in the adaptation of the Emmet surname as a given name, as many thousands of Irish-American boys were named Emmet or Robert Emmet well into the 20th century.

The AOH, as the recognized voice of Irish-America, has a vital role to play in realizing Emmet's vision of a free and independent Ireland. As we gather in Orlando, we should be cognizant that, when the day finally comes, ours will be among the many hands to have wielded the pen that finally writes Emmet's epitaph.



project st. patrick

By Ron Hagan, chairman

Now that we are in the summer months, we need to keep in mind the needs of our seminarians and religious candidates as they are out of school for the summer break and hopefully assisting our local parishes, religious administrators and others associated with our churches and schools. Contributions to Project St. Patrick help fund the Hibernian Charity for grants given to the religious candidates selected by their religious directors as candidates for the grant program offered by the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Both organizations over the past three years have been successful in issuing grants to every candidate that has been recommended by their religious directors from their diocese, schools or parishes. Thanks to your contributions to Project St. Patrick, we have provided the full grant amount to all the candidates that have applied.

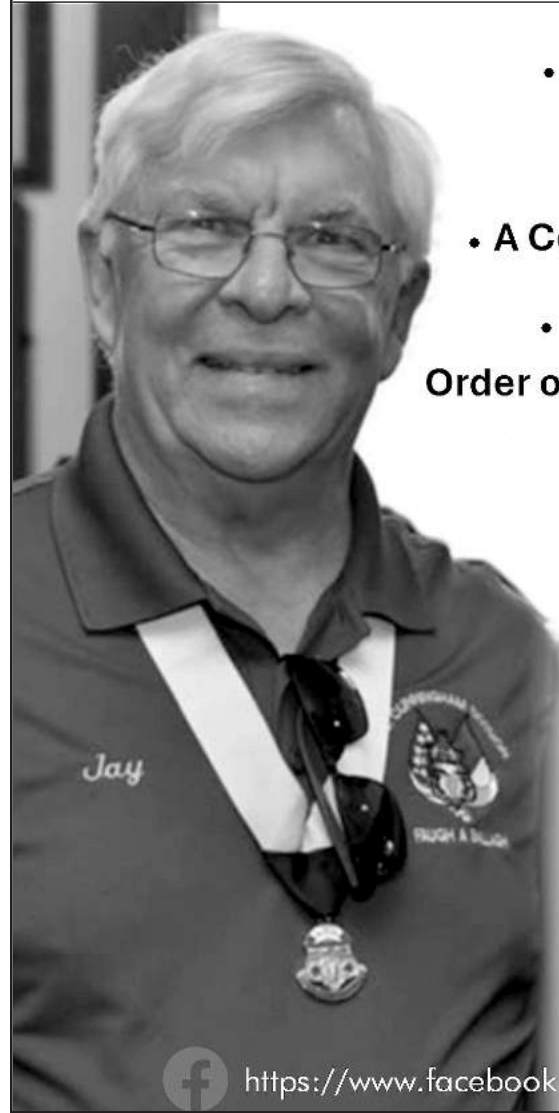
But we still need your help for the coming grants that will be issued this fall in October and November.

There are several ways to contribute to Project St. Patrick by logging onto the AOH website (aoh.com). Under the subheading "CATHOLIC" we have a subheading for "Project St. Patrick." You can read through the general information, which will help you complete the "2024 Project St. Patrick Donation" form. You can also find the form itself under the heading "FORMS." If you look to the right of "CATHOLIC" we also have a "AOH ONLINE DONATIONS" tab that you can do a direct online contribution to Project St. Patrick. And finally, those individuals who would like to donate in the name of a deceased or in honor of someone can also request our Mass/Prayer Cards from the Project St. Patrick chairman.

The summer months will be here and gone before you know it so, please work with your Divisions, Counties and State organizations along with individuals who would like to donate to the Project St. Patrick and donate. The AOH has been supporting the Catholic Clergy for more than 188 years and will continue with your financial support.

Jay McCarthy

For National Director



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

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

Sláinte Jay

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

Connecticut

By Frank Kearney

A very Happy Father's Day to all of our members who are lucky enough to be Dads. The next meeting of the Connecticut State Board will be held on Saturday June 22, at Fort Trumbull State Park in New London hosted by the New London Hibernians beginning at 10 a.m. This is the last scheduled meeting of the board prior to the 2024 National Convention in Orlando, FL, and attendance by all divisions and boards is encouraged. This is also the last meeting with our current National Director Dick Thompson from Watertown, MA, who is at the end of his allotted time as Director. A longtime officer on the MA State Board prior to serving on the National Board, Dick has been a supportive addition to the Connecticut Board throughout his term. Thank you Dick and best wishes in whatever the future holds for you.

Our thanks to all the AOH divisions who honored the men and women who lost their lives in service of our country, and helped keep the AOH name alive in your communities by participating in your local Memorial Day parades and ceremonies.

The Annual Hartford Irish Road Bowling Tournament will be held on Saturday July 20, at Riverside Park in Hartford from noon to 3 p.m., organized and sponsored by the Hartford AOH Division 2 in conjunction with Riverfront Recapture. Registration is \$50 per team of four or \$15 per individual. Visit the Hartford AOH website for registration instructions.

The J. Philip Gallagher Division of Danbury sponsored a successful evening of Irish entertainment at their Irish Cultural Center in Danbury May 16. The evening featured the music of Galway fiddler Frankie Gavin with Catherine McHugh on keyboard.

The men of the Meriden AOH Division supported the city's Annual Daffodil Festival by hosting a table in the event's food tent. They sold Kielbasa and sauerkraut, either as a sandwich or on a plate and bottled water. The division has participated in the festival, one of Connecticut's largest and most favorite annual celebrations since its inception 1978.

The Waterbury division's Veterans Committee sponsored a pasta dinner to raise funds for local veterans. This committee has been one of the division's more active committees. The division also hosted a successful brunch for mothers of club members on Mother's Day.

The members of the Bridgeport Division will assist in serving breakfast at the Thomas Melton Center, 1406 State St. in Bridgeport on July 26 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. The Centers mission is to "...provide a loving, safe and hope-filled community atmosphere that responds to the needs of its guests while respecting the dignity of each person" by providing meals, showers and other support programs. The Center is run by Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc.

To our membership, have an enjoyable summer and we hope to see you in Orlando!



catholic action

By pat lally, chairman

The recent media circus over in vitro fertilization (IVF) amply illustrates many of the problems that any concerned Catholic encounters when trying to get an accurate picture of what exactly is transpiring, and illustrates the importance of Catholic news sources.

Some time ago, several Alabama couples brought suit against an IVF provider, alleging negligence on the part of the provider in the destruction of stored frozen embryos. The destruction occurred after a patient at the facility gained access to the unlocked embryo storage area, removed the embryos from storage, and dropped them.

In the course of rendering its judgment (Feb. 21, 2024), the Court offered the opinion that a fertilized embryo is a legal person under the state's wrongful death statute. This is not the first time a court has made such a judgment, in Alabama or elsewhere. The same is found also in some states' statutes. It is crucial to the plaintiffs' recovery of damages, in the same way that a plaintiff would in a case involving the negligent or intentional injury or death of a pregnant woman, and the consequent death of her unborn child. Such recoveries are often made, even in states in which abortion is practically unrestricted. This is an apparent contradiction in our laws that well-informed activists on both sides of the abortion issue are well aware of.

In the resultant controversy, it is difficult to tell what different parts were played by ignorance, stupidity and the crafty pursuit of self-interest. But the Court's opinion was treated as an outrageous affront, emanating after all from an allegedly retrograde place such as Alabama. The pro-abortion activists, many no doubt aware of the truth, nevertheless as usual reacted violently to the suggestion that a fertilized human embryo is a human being with the right to life, because of what this says about abortion. Meanwhile, several IVF facilities in Alabama suspended operations, alleging that the ruling threatened their existence with ruinous lawsuits, though it should be noted that IVF still continued to be performed in Alabama. Legislators and governors of both parties in Alabama and across the nation made known their uninformed opinions and called for legislation, their calls often reflecting an alleged concern for couples coping with infertility, and not a concern to protect this lucrative industry from lawsuits.

What is the result? The state of Alabama enacted a statute practically immunizing the IVF industry from being sued for negligence such as the above, apparently making IVF unique among medical procedures in being protected from lawsuits by victims of negligence and malpractice, in this case couples who find that their embryos have been destroyed or otherwise lost. Other states and even the federal government may follow suit. Where is the compassion for couples struggling with infertility in this? Meanwhile, the owners of IVF facilities must be enjoying a private chuckle at how gullible some people can be.

The whole incident should remind us of the reasons why the Catholic Church opposes IVF. This can be a difficult stance to maintain, given the emphasis on personal autonomy prevalent in our society and the use of the compassion argument. Certainly, couples who struggle with infertility deserve our understanding and compassion. We

Louisiana

The Ponchatoula West Florida Division conducted another successful fund raiser for our many charities with the AOH Annual Auction for Charities, which was held on May 17 at the Ponchatoula Lions Club.

A large attendance enjoyed a fried catfish and red beans dinner before the bidding began on more than 30 live and 75 silent auction items displayed by Bobby April, our celebrity auctioneer, as well as our professional from Henderson Auctioneers who called the chatter for the winning bid. Last year's celebrity auctioneer, Coach Frank Scelfo, came back this year to participate in the bidding.

The host for the evening was Judge Jimmy Kuhn, the founding President of the West Florida Division, and the driving force of the Auctions from their inception. More than \$20,000 was raised this year for the many charities that benefit from this event.

Each year we invite one of our charities to set up a booth to display the good works they perform. This year we were pleased to have Equine Reflections of St. Tammany, and Ms. Bonny Barry, founder and director, to come and speak of the mental health and therapeutic benefits her organization provides to the community.

Many thanks go out to the members of the AOH, not only locally, but to other divisions in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish. Additional kudos to the Lions' Club of Ponchatoula, Chuck's Sports Memorabilia and to all who generously donated auction items. — Jack Catalinotto, Division Publicity Chairman

Deadline Aug.-Sept. Hibernian Digest

Non-convention related articles no later than August 1

Convention-related articles no later than August 15

need to remember that abortion advocates also play the compassion card, of course, forgetting compassion for the human being whose life is snuffed out just as it is beginning. There are acceptable approaches to infertility for Catholic couples. For some useful materials on the Catholic position, see www.catholicnewsagency.com, and search "in vitro fertilization." The Catholic position is based upon the fact that IVF removes conception from marital relations and treats children as commodities. As practiced today, it entails the creation of many more fertilized embryos than are eventually brought to development, this in turn entailing the long-term storage of embryos as well as experimentation upon or destruction of unwanted or "surplus" embryonic human beings. There is also the exploitation of surrogate mothers. In addition, IVF has led to a welter of lawsuits to disentangle the rights and responsibilities of the parties involved.

TOM LAMBERT

AOH NATIONAL DIRECTOR

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

Elect...



Tom Lambert



Richard O'Brien

RICHARD O'BRIEN

AOH NATIONAL DIRECTOR

NATIONAL:

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

STATE:

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

LOCAL:

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

EDUCATION:

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

ENDORSEMENTS:

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

Elect
Ed Dougherty
National Director



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

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

Brenden
Walsh

Candidate for AOH National Director
Leadership - Experience - Results

Current Offices

Connecticut State Board Treasurer
Fairfield County Board Recording Secretary

Previous Offices Held

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

Special Committees

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

Endorsements

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

Citizenship and Education

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



From the ashes of the Trade Center to the Baile na nGael, I've been proud of my time in FDNY and followed by the AOH. About 10 days into the attack on the WTC, I noticed the American and Irish flags flying on West Street. Thinking it was FDNY's command post I went over to look for orders but it wasn't there, all our leadership had perished. Those flags got to me and I kept thinking about what they meant and how it was affecting me, being a citizen of both countries. Finally a bell went off in my head. In my neighborhood there was an AOH Hall, the Baile na nGael, the home of the Irish, a place that I use to go to for parties as my children grew, Baptisms, Confirmations, Shindigs, etc. I found out that this week they were swearing in new members. So after a day of digging through the rubble looking for remains of civilians and fellow FDNY firefighters, I went to the Hall to get sworn in. My turnout gear was covered in the results of my days work, blood and ashes from sifting through the sharp metals, stone and powdered cement. I felt very proud that this Irish org. would have me in it. I saw the shock on the faces of the division officers that were there swearing me in but I stood proud to be one of them. The next day I was back at the site continuing my search for life or for anything that would give a sign that someone's family could have closure. I took that knowledge with me into the AOH.

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

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

So remember. . .

Vote for Jim Sullivan, Director



pro life

By Larry Squires, chairman

By the time you read this, the Eucharistic Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, should be about underway. When I contemplate the Holy Eucharist, I frequently refer to John's Gospel, Chapter 6, especially the Bread of Life Discourse, which begins with verse 22. Jesus realizes that his followers are interested in him, because he kept them fed, but they haven't yet grasped the fact that we are created with an eternal soul, and our behavior on Earth factors into the eternal disposition of our souls. In verse 40, Jesus states, "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him [on] the last day." So, as humans, we have a biological life that starts with our parents, and a spiritual life that begins at conception and is marked for Christ at our Baptism. From Paragraph 1272 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his belonging to Christ. No sin can erase this mark, even if sin prevents Baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation.

With the upcoming elections this November, we will be bombarded with advertisements, debates and speeches that directly address Pro Life issues that carry the burden of eternal consequence in euphonized terms of health care, woman's rights and compassion. Recall what Jesus says in Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 15: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves." It is our responsibility to know the difference between good and evil, protect and guard our precious gift of salvation, and to share our faith and teachings with our spouses, children, loved ones, elected officials, political candidates and our Hibernian Brothers. If you're not sure about a topic, just Google the topic, preceded by CCC, for Catechism of the Catholic Church. Google's new AI feature does a really good job of locating related content in the Catechism.

By now, most of the state and local Marches for Life have already taken place, with several still scheduled for fall. Make sure and check the AOH Pro Life Newsletter for the latest schedule. The Newsletter is published by email every first Friday. If you don't receive the Newsletter, send me an email at lspittcmf@gmail.com, and I'll add you to the list. May God bless all of you and your families! Hoping to see you in Orlando! — In Our Motto! Larry



political education

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

American politics has become increasingly polarized, with hyperpartisanship on both the left and the right tearing the fabric of our society. Americans have always valued individualism; this freedom is what has made our nation great and attracted our ancestors. In the past, people could "agree to disagree" and find common ground on issues that transcend politics and party.

We are in disturbing times with the rise of social media platforms like Facebook, where you can give "Likes" to the outrageous but never "Rejects" for published claims without facts to a global audience, and a brand of narcissism where people are "entitled to their own truth" and deny any higher authority than their own self-interest.

If left unchecked, this divisive atmosphere could disastrously infect our Order. We must remember that we as an Order are founded on friendship, unity and Christian charity. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to these values, rooted in our shared heritage and faith, focusing on causes and outcomes that transcend party lines. Because of our commitment to goals rather than politics, we have achieved some success in Washington, to the amazement of some pundits.

While our constitution mandates nonpartisanship, this does not mean we are apolitical. Our political engagement is guided by our mission and values rather than party affiliation.

We advocate for issues that align with our principles, such as recognizing the achievements of Irish Americans, promoting our culture, supporting peace and justice in Ireland, and defending religious freedom. These causes can and should unite us across the Order. As we advance the work of the Order, we should not post on Facebook, "Why are you working with him/her?" The answer is simple: they are the currently elected officeholders who can get things done; we cannot wait two, four or six years for someone else who might win the job. Our effectiveness depends on working with all sides, seeking common ground, and fostering collaboration.

To advocate effectively for peace and justice in Northern Ireland, we must engage with leaders from all political backgrounds, emphasizing dialogue and reconciliation. Similarly, supporting initiatives to protect religious freedom is about upholding a fundamental right, not aligning with a political agenda.

While maintaining our nonpartisan stance, we must engage with political candidates and leaders to ensure they understand who we are and what we stand for.

We must:

Promote policies that align with our principles, regardless of which party proposes them.

Educate candidates and leaders about the AOH's mission and values.

Collaborate with a broad spectrum of political leaders while communicating our positions clearly and consistently.

As members of the AOH we need to model respect and civility in all our interactions within the AOH and the broader community. By doing so, we honor our heritage, embody our faith, uphold our values, and contribute to a more united society.



rituals & degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

From time to time, I enjoy recounting some of the more memorable and enjoyable events related to Rituals and Degrees in my 21 years as a member of the Order here in this column. We recently had the five-year anniversary of one such event.

A Certification Review Major Degree occurs when a candidate Major Degree Team (MDT) presents itself to be officially certified as a Major Degree Team, having practiced sufficiently to master exemplification of the Major Degree Ceremony. It is not all that common an occurrence as we have had, I believe, just five, possibly six, such reviews since the turn of the century.

Brothers from the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area had worked for several years toward the formation of an MDT. By the spring of 2019, they felt ready enough to undergo the last step in the process toward becoming certified.

The Certification Review was scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2019, at St. Philip's Church Hall in Crafton, PA. My Isle of Erin MDT teammate Tom O'Hagan and I then made the five-hour plus trip across the breadth of our home state the previous day. After checking into our hotel, we of course made our way to Riley's Irish Pour House in Carnegie, a favorite AOH haunt. There, we met up with Brother Jeff Nisler, Chairman of the Tara Court MDT, and his teammate, Matt Buckley, who drove the seven hours from Long Island to volunteer to be part of the Review Panel.

The next day was a beautiful day in the Western Pittsburgh suburbs. We were joined at the degree venue by then National Vice President Danny O'Connell, Jim Murphy (RIP), Team Chairman of Isle of Erin and Walter Butler from Tara Court, who formed the balance of the seven-man Review Panel.

The candidate team performed the Degree ceremony quite admirably. Through their efforts, a live candidate class of 12 Brothers were thereby welcomed into the Inner Chamber of Hibernian Brotherhood. Team Chairman, now Pennsylvania State President, Denny Maher, was relieved at the conclusion remarking that the seven-man panel convened was a tad intimidating!

Following the Degree, the troops once again convened at Riley's where the craic was mighty indeed. There is nothing quite like the euphoria of a Major Degree Team completing the Certification process.

The Pittsburgh Brothers went on to select the name of "Tri Abhainn" for their team moniker, Tri Abhainn, meaning "Three Rivers" in Irish, obviously a reference to the three water courses that converge in Pittsburgh. The Tri Abhainn MDT has gone on in the ensuing five years to accomplish great things. They have now exemplified a total of nine Major Degree Ceremonies including two Pennsylvania State Conventions and the National Convention in 2022 in Pittsburgh for which they received significant acclaim for their performance. We thus congratulate the Tri Abhainn MDT on the five-year anniversary of their certification.

This tale of course will segue into my often-made appeal as to any interest out there in the Order to form new Major Degree teams. There are still vast areas of the country underserved in terms of having a local Major Degree team to exemplify our ceremony. We stand ready and willing to assist you to take the leap as our Pittsburgh brothers successfully did. I will be available at the National Convention to discuss any interest you may have in forming a new MDT in your area.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order

Saturday, August 11. Orlando, FL: National Convention Major Degree.

Rosen Center Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL.

<https://orlandoirish2024.com/home-1>.

Please pre-register on the Degree link on the Convention website.

Montana

Gallagher off to Belfast as Human Rights legal intern

McKenzie Gallagher, from Butte, MT, will be spending her summer as the 2024 Brigadier General James Cullen Human Rights Summer Legal Intern. The summer legal internship allows a U.S. law student to spend the summer months in Belfast, Ireland, interning for KRW Law, LPP. The internship was founded in 2016 and sponsored by Brehon Law Society of NY and KRW Law, LLP.

McKenzie is in her second year as a law student at American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. Prior to this she attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science. She attended University College Cork (UCC), in Cork City, studying International Human Rights Law and Public Policy, graduating in 2021. At American University Washington College of Law she is member of the International Law Review and the Human Rights Brief. She has written about human rights issues in Northern Ireland. She is interested in international human rights law, humanitarian law and criminal law. McKenzie is the granddaughter of the late Bill Gallagher, former Division President of Anaconda AOH Division 1.



McKenzie Gallagher



veterans affairs

By Patrick Flaherty, Chairman

With the spacing of these articles, it is easy to miss various points on the calendar as time speeds on its way and the months and seasons pass before the next article is ready for publication. As I work on this article, I find that Armed Forces Day has passed, Memorial Day is right around the corner, Father's Day is coming soon and the Fourth of July is looming. All four of these holidays have ties to Veterans and the impacts of the Service they so honorably performed. With that in mind, this month's article deals with some of the results of that service, Traumatic Brain Injury. The experts at the MossRehab Institute for Brain Health graciously provided some information, knowledge and resources to make sure that people get the help they need. Without further ado:

Scars and missing limbs are clear evidence of the trauma suffered by many veterans who were involved in combat. But equally as traumatic are the scars we cannot see, as is the case with traumatic brain injury. Often called an "invisible wound" of war, traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the hallmark injury of post 9/11 Veterans.

To the lay person, the term "traumatic brain injury" commonly invokes an image of someone with limited abilities who requires constant care. However, TBI is defined by three categories: mild, moderate and severe. 80 to 90 percent of people diagnosed with TBI fall into the mild category. Symptoms of mild TBI (mTBI), also called concussion, include dizziness, headaches, inability to focus, irritability and changes in sleep patterns. For most people, mTBI problems resolve in one to three months. But for some, they can persist for

months and even years.

Nearly one in three post-9/11 veterans deployed to war zones endured some type of TBI, mostly categorized as mild, from frequent blast exposure. However, because repeat concussions over a lifetime can affect the brain's ability to heal, some veterans may face increased challenges with recovery. Another concern is diagnosis. Mild TBI does not appear in imaging studies such as MRI or CT, and some of the symptoms overlap with PTS, so it's often overlooked. As a result, countless veterans struggle with things like light sensitivity, vision problems and depression, not understanding their diagnosis and therefore not seeking treatment from programs that exist specifically for them.

Physical, cognitive and behavioral rehabilitation are proven to positively impact the quality of life for TBI patients. There are complex concussion programs throughout the U.S. dedicated to the evaluation and treatment of veterans with mTBI and their unique needs. Utilizing an interdisciplinary team trained in military culture, they create a care plan tailored to the patient and their unique needs. Veterans who attended an intensive outpatient program claimed they felt validated, that it dramatically changed their life for the better, and it helped their family understand their diagnosis.

To learn more about TBI or get information on treatment, contact Kate O'Rourke at MossRehab Institute for Brain Health, via email at MRIBH@Jefferson.edu or call (215) 951-8930 or visit <https://www.avalonactionalliance.org/>. This website lists available resources around the country.

You may also visit the Veterans Affairs website for further resources at Veteran's Affairs (aoh.com). Scroll down the page and there is a list of resource links you can use.

If you have questions do not hesitate to contact me at p.e.flaherty44@gmail.com or (406) 459-3958.

Virginia

Alexandria Vietnam Veterans Memorial Plaque Dedication

Memorial Day 2024 brought us a day of remembrance, and a time to honor our fallen. From the time of the American Revolution with the home of George Washington and Gadsby's Tavern, through the Civil War, and from building torpedoes and launching ships into the harbor during WWII, "service and sacrifice to city and country" has been a frequently said phrase for Alexandrians.

As people gathered and visited nearby cemeteries, including Arlington National Cemetery, Alexandria honored members of the city who served in Vietnam. AOH members Brendan Cooney, Gene Bransfield and John Kilday attended as a plaque with 68 names was unveiled. The partnership between the City of Alexandria, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 609, and the American Legion Post 24, raised over \$15,000 to cover the cost of two plaques. One plaque was placed at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial located at 10 Callahan Drive adjacent to the Alexandria Amtrak Station, while the other plaque will be added to a wall of Gadsby's Tavern in June 2024.

Gadsby's Tavern made its own mark on history, with noted events such as the Birth Night Ball celebration in honor of George Washington, a review of the troops by General Washington from the steps in 1798, the inaugural banquet for Thomas Jefferson in 1801, and a dinner for President James Madison in May 1808, shortly after his inauguration. Gadsby's Tavern also contains the American Legion Post 24 in its basement level.



AOH members Brendan Cooney, Gene Bransfield and John Kilday were among the many who attended as a plaque with 68 names was unveiled. Photo taken from thezebra.org

"To be Irish is an honor ... to be a Hibernian is a blessing"

Elect



Keith Reynolds, National Director COMMITTED TO OUR FUTURE!

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



hibernian hunger project

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

With our National Convention in Orlando only weeks away, and with 2024 just about half over, what has your division done to help solve the hunger problem this year?

In the last edition of the Digest, we noted the recipients of our recent \$1,000 and \$500 Hunger Awards, and in this column we will give a brief description of some of the \$1,000 grant recipients' projects. In future columns, we will highlight the projects of the remaining Divisions who received \$1,000 and \$500 awards for their Hunger Projects.

Hopefully, some of these projects might just be the ones to help your division create your own Hunger Project! As you read this and future columns, it will be obvious that AOH Divisions are making a difference to help combat hunger in their communities.

The Father Henry Tansey Division 5 of Albany, NY, has a multi-pronged Hunger Project. On a regular basis, Division members serve dinner and, at times, lunch at the Capital City Rescue Mission in Albany. This Mission serves the homeless and disadvantaged of the Albany Region on a 24/7/365 basis. Quarterly, and as needed, Albany Hibernians assist in sorting pallets of food and household supplies at the Northeastern NY Regional Food Bank. In addition, Division 5 has a barrel located at the front door of their Hibernian Home for nonperishable food donations that are donated to the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry.

Division 5, in cooperation with the Albany Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee, collects non-perishable food items and monetary donations. In 2023, this collaboration alone generated a \$5,500 cash donation plus hundreds of pounds of food to local food pantries and the Regional Food Bank.

The Father John Lynch Division of Roanoke County in Virginia collects food from multiple retailers and grocery stores in the Roanoke metropolitan area several days a week from 6 a.m. until about noon. The Division, in conjunction with both 82nd Airborne and South West Virginia Food Bank, helped facilitate over 300,000 meals to the less fortunate in the Roanoke area. Additionally, approximately 30 percent of Division members volunteer about 780 hours a year to the SWVA Food Bank, and it is estimated that more than 250 tons of food annually are distributed to the less fortunate through this endeavor.

Division 39 of Philadelphia works with food banks and churches in Northeast Philadelphia. One of Division 39 partners is the Star of Hope Baptist Church, which assists 160 families as well as Saint Francis Inn, which helps many homeless in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. The Division is also involved with the food pantries at Saint Mathews, Saint Bernards and Saint Jerome's parishes.

Division 39, in collaboration with the AOH County Board, distributed turkeys at Thanksgiving, as well as hundreds of Christmas Baskets to families and church groups throughout Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley, which included families from five different zip code areas of Philadelphia.

As you can see, through these division snapshots there are a variety of ways that Divisions attack the Hunger issue in their locale. What works in one area may or may not work for your division. Pick and choose what you think is best for your division, move forward and implement it!

The next round of Hibernian Hunger Project Award Application is due by February 15, 2025, and involve Hunger Projects that take place between January 1 – December 31, 2024. Please feel free to discuss with me your ideas, suggestions and comments on your Hibernian Hunger Projects. I look forward to seeing and talking with each of you in Orlando in August!

Please support Project St. Patrick!

Virginia

Serving the hungry in Alexandria

The Herbert-Cady Division, in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, has been more frequently serving dinners to the needy at Catholic Charities' Christ House in Alexandria. So far this year, the division served between 74 and 82 dinners per night in January, April and May, with its next dinner services scheduled for July 11 and August 8. — Ken Wolfe, Division Vice President



Helping to feed the hungry, from left, Division Vice President Ken Wolfe, Past President Terry Riley, Mike O'Shea, Larry Clark, Bobby Mahoney, Standing Committee Chairman John Kilday, Past President Jim Courtney, and Jim's son, Andrew.



Mass of the Archdiocese for the Military Services
Privileged to provide a financial gift to Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, center, on behalf of the Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Division to support our Chaplains with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. Pictured with the Archbishop and Jay McCarthy, second from left, are Dennis Corrigan (current Cunningham Division President), Margie McCarthy (Past Division President of the LAOH Daughters of Erin) and Celeste Corrigan (LAOH Daughters of Erin Veterans and Military Affairs Chairperson). The event took place at the Thirtieth Annual National Memorial Mass of the Archdiocese for the Military Services held on May 18 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Our Division is honored to have as its members two Military Chaplains on its roster: Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Coffey and Fr. James Hinkle. Thank you for your service to our Church and Country.

Indiana

Kevin Barry Division 3 History Committee decorates gravesites

On Memorial Day weekend Saturday, May 25th, the Kevin Barry History Committee tended to the monument they dedicated in 2000 to the 1st Irish Regiment of Indiana, the 35th Indiana Infantry. The pictured members placed Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Flag markers, with the Irish National Flag, on the graves of 10 fallen members of the 1st Irish Regiment. In addition to the gravesites, volunteers also cleaned up and decorated the memorial.

Kevin Barry Division 3 Historian Kevin Murray coordinated the project, which began in October 2023 by locating the gravesites at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Indianapolis. It is believed that more than 200 other Irish soldiers are buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, many in unmarked graves. Kevin's great-great grandfather was a member of the 1st Irish and died from wounds received on January 1, 1863, in the Battle of Stones River. The Kevin Barry History Committee plans to locate and mark as many graves as possible over the next year.



AOH Kevin Barry Division 3 President David Ruhmkorff and members Tim Sullivan and his grandson William, Ed Cahill, Steve Gutzwiler, Jim O'Rourke, Butch Branson, Brian Fitzpatrick and Kevin Murray.

Ohio



McGuirk named 'Man of the Year'
The AOH Boland/Berry Division 2 in Cleveland, Ohio, honored Jim McGuirk as Cleveland's West Side Irish American Club "Man of the Year". It is indeed an honor to work with Jim. He humbly extols what it means to be a servant leader and a Hibernian brother. From left, Cleveland Boland/Berry Division members: President Duffy O'Neill, Financial Secretary Jim Kilbane, Treasure Ray McGann, Past President Jim McGuirk and Secretary Tom Ginley.



New Hibernians were sworn into the Mark Heffernan Division.



Division brothers take their Major Degree at the Mark Heffernan Div. Hall in Akron in May of this year. The degree was administered by the Degree Team from the Columbus, Ohio, Patrick Pearse Division 1.

Experience Ireland's Heartbeat in Cleveland
The 39th Annual
CLEVELAND IRISH CULTURAL FESTIVAL
GAELIC STORM • EILEEN IVERS • RORY MAKEM
and many more

July 19-21, 2024 Friday, 5-11 p.m. Saturday, 1-11 p.m. Sunday, 1-10 p.m.
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

Live Bands • Irish Dance Performances • Gaelic Sports • Children's Area & Activities • Irish Food & Local Faire • Irish Heritage Exhibitions ... and so much more

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@Cleveland_Irish

CLEVELANDIRISH.ORG SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Pennsylvania



Major Degree in Pittsburgh
The major degree ceremony was completed by the Tri Abhainn Major Degree Team in Pittsburgh, PA, on Saturday, May 11, at St. Phillip Church. From left, Gerard Mahon, Jim Mackin, Anthony Bradley, Chris McNally, Andrew Doherty, Chris Rafferty, Larry Hoerner, Stephen Selfridge, John O'Leary, Patrick Halferty. Seated is Denny Maher, PA State President and Chairman of the Tri Abhainn MDT and Denny Flanagan, President of Allegheny County AOH Division 1, the host Division.



Scholarships awarded
The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 had their annual Vice President Kevin Shaughnessy Memorial Scholarship presentation. Two students from All Saints Academy were presented \$500 checks to further education at Holy Cross High School. From left, Joseph Shaughnessy, Kevin Donovan, Principal Brittany Krumski, Maria McKeel scholarship recipient, Michael Mckeel, Judge Thomas Munly, scholarship recipient Isabelle Normandia, Heidi Paulino, Mike Normandia and Vice President Mike Robinson. Back row, from left, Brian Shaughnessy, Patrick Shaughnessy, John Fletcher, Dan Donovan, Mark McDade, Don Boyle, Bob McAndrew, Father Richard Fox and Joseph Holland.



Recruiting at the Philadelphia Fleadh Festival
Brothers from the Michael Dougherty Division 1 PA-Bucks County came out to the Philadelphia Fleadh Festival on May 11 to help promote the Order and recruit new members. What a great sunny day of fun and Irish music.



Giving back, in our Motto
The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 recently presented numerous checks across our community to help in times of need. The division's primary focus is giving back to the community and those that need it most. The Women's Resource Center was one of the recipients for the fine work that they do protecting our citizens from domestic violence. From left, Joe Holland, Mark McDade, Executive Director of the Women's Resource Center received a check for \$500 from Tom Lynch, President Patrick O'Malley and Don Boyle.

Pennsylvania



Scholarship awarded
The Cumberland Co, PA, Michael Collins Division 1, awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Trinity High School recipient Elizabeth Howard. Elizabeth plans to attend Villanova University this fall. Representing the AOH Division are scholarship chairman Terry Gallagher and financial secretary Mike Powers.

AOH Memorial Day Mass, Delaware County, PA

On Sunday, May 26, in a show of our AOH Motto, Dennis Kelly AOH Division 1, Black Jack Kehoe AOH Division 4, Sons of Ireland Division 17, 'Yellow Jack' Donohue Division 4 and LAOH Trinity Division 4 came together at the Chapel of The Four Chaplains in Philadelphia's Navy Yard (<https://fourchaplains.org/>) to celebrate Mass and honor the sacrifices made by the men and women of our Armed Services who gave their lives for their country. Our Celebrant was Father James Cardosi from St. Denis Parish in Havertown and Deacon John M. Betzal from St. Joseph in Aston.

We welcomed two special guests to read at Mass. Gold Star Mother Judy Faunce whose son, Army Captain Brian R Faunce, died in 2003 while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Gold Star Mother Trudy Corma whose son, Army 1st Lt. Salvatore S. Corma II, died in 2010 while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Both later spoke about the pride and the heartache of being a Gold Star Mother. All in attendance were honored to be with these special Moms. This Memorial Day Mass has become a tradition for these AOH Divisions beginning in 2016. We look forward to Memorial Day 2025.



AOH Memorial Day Mass in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Letter . . .

Retaining members

I am a member of Bucks County Division 1 in Pennsylvania and we suffered like many divisions of not retaining members. We voted to accept members and swore them in only to not see them and lose them next year. Our typical practice was to vote on a member, swear them in then ask them to find a seat in meeting hall.

Recently after a lot of discussion we found success by gathering all our members to meet and greet all members interested in joining. At the meeting we go over National AOH history and current history; Division history, and current events. Discussion includes topics like officer medallions and ribbons; officers' responsibilities; different organizational levels, Division County, State and National; Degree ceremony and state and national conventions. In addition we try to ask what committee they may like to join to help the Division's success.

In our Motto,
 Kevin Loughran

New York

Annual FEIS

Saratoga Division 1 celebrated Irish music, culture, food and dance. Featured were Declan Crowley discussing the history of Irish dance and illustrating several dances. Declan was a featured dancer in Lord of the Dance and he is a Saratoga County native.



Declan and dancing partner, Eve Sheridan, with one of the children at the feis.



April: President John Neeley presents bundles of food and a check to the Manager of the Stillwater, NY, Food Pantry.



May: St Vincent dePaul Food Pantry Div. 1 President John Neeley and Treasurer Mike Joyce present five bundles of food and a check to Pantry President Linda Muscatiello, Treasurer Mary Comitale and Volunteers Shirley Berthiaume and Susan Salisbury.

Supporting Irish Businesses in Saratoga County

Division 1 Brothers donate and hang new Irish Flags at the Parting Glass Restaurant in Saratoga Springs, NY for their continuing support of "all things AOH" in our headquarters community. The event was carried on local TV news and print media.

Kansas

Fr. Donnelly Division honors first responders

The Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division of Johnson County, Kansas, honored the leaders of the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (SAFE) with a check for \$4,000 at their Spring Irish Road Bowling Tournament on April 27. For nearly the last decade, SAFE has been one of the Donnelly Division's principal charities. Donnelly Division President Kevin Donnelly and Hibernian Pete McCluskey were central in organizing this check presentation at the Spring Bowl.

The Spring Irish Road Bowling tournament featured 74 teams of four players each competing on an open-road course in Wyandotte County Park, located in Bonner Springs, Kansas. The Donnelly Division was honored to use this event to provide exposure for SAFE and their worthy cause of helping the spouses and surviving families of first responders killed in the line of duty in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. The three representatives of SAFE who accepted the check were Retired Police Chiefs Mike Hasty of Gladstone, MO; Steve Beamer of North Kansas City, MO; and James Simpson of Liberty, MO.



Fr. Donnelly Division President Kevin Donnelly presented a check for \$4,000 to representatives of SAFE, including, from left, Retired Police Chiefs Mike Hasty, Steve Beamer and James Simpson.

Kansas State Board organizing membership drive in Wichita

The Kansas State Board, with the support of President Andy Sprehe and led by Fr. Donnelly Division Sentinel Jeff Reilley, organized a happy hour at Emerson Biggins West Sports Bar & Grill in Wichita, KS, on April 20 to encourage the creation of a future Hibernian division in that city. Jeff Reilley, a Wichita native, is central to these efforts and the prospects that the AOH will expand to Kansas's largest city are good. The first mixer was held on April 20 and included a contingent from the Fr. Sean O'Shea Division in Hutchinson alongside Fr. Donnelly Hibernians Denny Dennihan, Greg Hawkins, Anthony Keiser and Jeff Reilley. Also in attendance were Kevin Mooney of the Fr. Sean O'Shea Division in Hutchinson, and Mike McEntee, an at-large member formerly of Albuquerque, NM, and Knoxville, TN. Keiser, Mooney and McEntee are all residents of Wichita.



Fr. Donnelly Division Sentinel Jeff Reilley, a Wichita native, who is central to the recruitment effort of a new Wichita division.

The proposed Wichita Division has the support of Fr. Aaron Spexler of the Diocese of Wichita, and Reilley has built strong connections with several local Irish Catholic philanthropists who are eager to see a Hibernian division founded in their city. A second mixer is scheduled for June 6th at Chicken N Pickle, a pickleball facility on the east side of Wichita. The Kansas State Board is also working with Hibernians in Atchison to receive their charter as an official division and has seen tremendous growth in recent years across the state with new divisions in Hutchinson and Leavenworth.



Alabama

Fr. Treacy Division raising funds for childhood cancer research

Last year, the Father Treacy Division resumed their signature charity event, Live Bald, raising funds for St. Baldrick's childhood cancer research grants after a three-year COVID pause. The great venue we used last year sadly closed. But the momentum was back on to continue Live Bald and find a new location. The efforts resulted in using Stovehouse, in Huntsville, for some rented space. The owners were welcoming and worked with our division by donating sound equipment and other items to support us for our event in April. Lots of planning commenced from many of our brothers and those who have volunteered for many years with our division to advertise the event and new location, ensured there would be a raffle and children's activities, as well as work with the local music community to provide all-day entertainment while volunteers got their heads shaved.

As a result of these efforts, our division had an incredible turnout of brothers as well as members of the public – all enjoying the event, many brothers shaving to help raise funds, and a good sense of community for a worthy cause! Our division was able to raise more than \$9,500 for the event and for the seven years we have held the event, our division has raised a combined total of over \$135,000. We are very humbled, honored, and grateful that we have been able to continue our signature charity event and look forward to next year's Live Bald to raise much needed funds for the St. Baldrick's Foundation. — Submitted by Michael Bollinger



Members of the Fr. Treacy Division gathered to raise money for childhood cancer research in April.

North Carolina

The NaCara Division 1, in Guilford County, North Carolina, has been very busy. We hosted the State Convention in September and had our Annual Christmas Party; besides having a dirty Santa game we had the infamous best-looking legs with a kilt on. The division's charity Rooney raffle was sold out as usual. The top prize was a trip to Ireland for four people. The proceeds of \$10,000 is used for part our fundraising efforts for the various Charities in 2024. This year we donated some of these funds to an organization that deals with people with special needs. Slowly but surely we are trying to encompass more organizations that help the people in our community who are not necessarily Catholic but are doing good works.

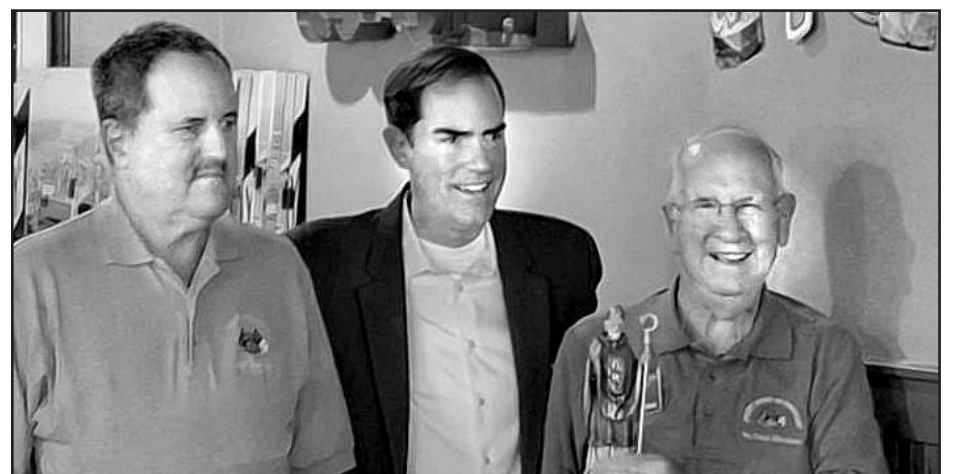
Our St. Patrick Day celebration lasted two days. There was our annual dinner and then the division marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Charlotte.

Every year we hold our Proclamation in April. This year we were lucky enough to have it read in English and in Gaelic. One of the Community Colleges in the area teaches the Gaelic language. (A good reason to move to North Carolina!) NaCara also sponsors a monthly breakfast club that is not limited to members; the whole community is invited.

This year's Hibernian Man of the Year was awarded to Dan Lyons. The PickUpDropOff program would be wanting if Dan was not there. The new Backpack program is also part of his life. The award is well deserved. The food pickup has been going strong for the past four years with basically 17 men picking up food from about 25 vendors five days a week.

The division helped man a water station for the Honor Flight bicycle fundraiser.

The last of business will be our attendance at the Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball game; we want to keep our streak alive of never seeing the team win.



Jimbo Keaney last year's recipient, President Mike Fanning and Dan Lyons

California



Division 1 Los Angeles President Liam Fountain with Irish Consul Los Angeles Conor Doherty-Greene and Division 3 President Jay Hart on March 6 at the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles. It was a joint Mexican/Irish Consulate event celebrating Mexican and Irish culture.



Division 1 Los Angeles President Liam Fountain and Irish comedian Katie Boyle on May 13 at Dynasty Typewriter theater in Los Angeles for 2024 Ireland Week. It was a full week of celebrating Irish artists. Plays, music and comedy. Katie was in Los Angeles on tour for Ireland Week 2024. She has a one-hour special free on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/sRF7MRg060Q?si=QtmwikUgNdF06FFB>

Recruitment Success in San Francisco

San Francisco Division 17 is celebrating a successful recruitment drive, significantly bolstering its membership. Under the leadership of President Michael Keohane, the division has welcomed several new members, invigorating the group with fresh enthusiasm and energy.

Among the new recruits are two vibrant young ambassadors, Shane Reidy and Tony Sheridan, both 19 years old. Their addition has notably lowered the average age of the membership, a development President Keohane cheerfully remarked upon. — Submitted by Liam Reidy



Here's a group photo of San Francisco's Division 17 taken after their May meeting at the United Irish Cultural Center. The future looks bright for the division with this new wave of dedicated members! National AOH Chaplain Fr. Michael Healy is on the far right, front row. President Michael Keohane is third from the right in the front row.



At the donation ceremony were, from left, Oliver Sheridan, Dan Cotter, Jim Gleeson (Artist), Roger Gargano and Division 17 President Mike Keohane.

Fr. Peter Yorke painting donated to San Francisco Division 17

San Francisco artist and AOH Division 17 member Jim Gleeson donated a painting of Fr. Peter Yorke, the former pastor of St. Peter's Church in the Mission District, who is best remembered for his outspoken defense of the city's working-class immigrant community. The painting depicts the imposing Peter Yorke, the front facade of St. Peter's church, an Irish Celtic cross and an assembly of working men to whom Fr. Yorke was a great friend. A staunch Republican, Fr. Yorke was the founder of the California branch of the Gaelic League and a national vice president of Sinn Féin in the U.S. He also organized fundraising events during Éamon de Valera's famous visit to the U.S. in 1919. Fr Yorke passed away on Palm Sunday in April 1925 at the age of 61, and the 100 Year anniversary of his death will be remembered next April 4, 2025. — Submitted by Liam Reidy, San Francisco Division 17

Commemorating the Rising

On Easter Saturday, Hibernians from across Southern California gathered at the Anaheim V.F.W. Post to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising.

Producing the annual commemoration is an example of California Hibernians living the motto of our noble Order. As noted by CA State Secretary Jay Hart, "Hibernians are united by a shared mission to promote our Irish heritage, connect others to their Irish identity and uphold the values of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Our commitment extends beyond commemorating the past; it involves actively contributing to our community and supporting one another in true Hibernian spirit, a spirit that binds us together." — By David McKenna, CA State President



AOH brother & uilleann piper Terry McCarthy pays tribute to the fallen heroes of Easter 1916.



Lt. Máiréad Gillan of Cumann na mBan recites the 1916 Roll of Honor



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin



Pádraig (Dall) Ó Beirn / (Blind) Patrick Byrne

in Belfast in..., which encouraged the teaching of harpistry afterwards, and it was especially taught to the blind. Sin mar a fuair Ó Beirn oiliúint air timpeall 1820. That's how Byrne got his training, around... Ar ball chuaigh sé go Londain, agus ansin go hAlbain, mar a sheinn sé don bhanríon Victoria, agus rinneadh cláirseach oifigiúil don Phrionsa Albert é. Eventually he went to London, and then to Scotland, where he played for Queen Victoria, and was made the official harpist of Prince Albert. In Dún Éideamh in 1845, rinneadh grianghraf de – an chéad cheoltóir traidisiúnta ar an sean-nós a bhfuil pictiúr de ann – agus an chéad chláirseoir ar domhain a bhfuil pictiúr de ann. In Edingburgh in..., he was photographed – the first old time traditional musician of whom we have a picture – and the first harpist in the world to be photographed.

Luadh san alt céanna sin go raibh sean-traidisiúin na cláirsí ar tí a bháis chomh fada siar le réim Éilís a hAon, a dúirt, dar leis, "Go gcochtar na cláirseoirí, pé áit a bhfaightear iad, agus go gcuirtear a n-uirlisí trí thine." It was mentioned in that same article

Léigh mé alt le déanaí as *An Irishman's Diary* a bhí san *Irish Times* faoin gcláirseoir Pádraig (Dall) Ó Beirn. I read an article recently from...about the harpist (Blind) Patrick Byrne. Cláirseoir den sean-traidisiúin ab ea é – b'fhéidir an duine deireanach dá leithéid – a fuair bás in 1863. He was a harpist of the old tradition – perhaps the last of his kind – who died in... Rugadh é timpeall 1794 i Machaire Cluana i gCondae Mhuineacháin, agus ní raibh ach Gaeilge aige go dtí go raibh sé ina dhéagóir. He was born around...in Magheracluane in County Monaghan, and only spoke Irish until he was a teenager.

Dó bair go bhfuair traidisiún na cláirsí bás, ach go raibh Féile mhór na gCláirseach i mBéal Feirste i 1792, a spreag múineadh na cláirsí ina diaidh, agus múineadh do na daill go háirithe í. The harping tradition nearly died, except that there was a great Harps Festival

that the old harping tradition almost died as far back as the reign of Elizabeth, who said, according to him, "Hang the harpers, wherever found, and burn their instruments." Is an-amhrasach, ámh, go ndúirt sí a leithéid. It is very doubtful, however, that she said this. Tá alt maith air seo ag wirestrungharp.com (Dictates Against Harpers). There is a good article about this at... Is casta an scéal, ach ní bhíodh sé éasca do fhilí agus do cheoltóirí siúlacha go minic. It's a complicated story, but the often wasn't easy for itinerant poets and musicians. Bhíodh gá le patrún acu – cosúil le ceoltóirí clasaiceacha na hEorpa. They had need of a patron – like the classical musicians of Europe.

Bíonn Féile Patrick Byrne ann gach bliain i gCarraig Mhachaire Rois (áit ar cuireadh é). There's an annual festival in his honor in Carrickmacross (where he was buried).

in memoriam

Michael C. Farrell, 70, of Freehold, NY, passed away on April 25, 2024.

He was born on November 9, 1953, in Queens, and is the son of Phyllis (Fee) Farrell and the late Thomas Farrell. Besides his father, he is predeceased by his sister Eileen Farrell-Duggan. Besides his mother, Michael is survived by his loving wife of 30 years Jeanne Farrell, his two daughters Bridget Marie Farrell and Meghan Eileen Bolduc and her husband Casey, his two sisters Linda Sanfilippo and her husband Richard and Donna Varous and her husband Peter, and his two brothers, Thomas Farrell and his wife Marie and John Farrell and his wife Suzanne. He is also survived by his sisters and brothers-in-law Barbara and Anthony D'Angelo, James Meade (wife Kathleen predeceased) and CMDR Richard Meade and his wife Kathleen, and many nieces and nephews.

Michael had a personality that possessed warmth, passion and kindness in the twinkle of his eyes. His chosen path was to teach Irish step dancing at his business, Farrell School of Irish Dance, in East Durham, NY, where he just celebrated 50 years of teaching. He possessed great love for teaching dance, hosting and participating in St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations.

Michael was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a proud member the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Greene County Mass Rock Division 2. He also served as Secretary of the East Durham St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.



HELP WANTED

All Irish Need Apply

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

paddyspeed@yahoo.com

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- Video production
- Knowledge of **Wordpress** or **Canva**
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- Web site design and development
- Publicity
- Ad Creation
- Ad Campaign Creation
- Ad Campaign Performance Monitoring
- Fundraising
- Sponsorship
- Non-Profit management
- Finance / Investments
- Newspaper Editing
- Proofreading
- Knowledge of AP Stylebook

New York

The Rochester, NY Irish Community came together for an event on April 24th to commemorate the anniversary of the Easter Rising Proclamation of the Republic. AOH Division 7 President, Jason Gorton and LAOH Divisions 1&4 President, Kelly O'Brien began the event with a reading of the Proclamation. AOH Division Past President and FFAI Chairman, Dr. Patrick Miller followed up with a talk about some of Rochester's many connections to Irish History. Then, LAOH Division Past President, Gayle Shalvoy gave an update on the status of the Rochester Irish American Heritage Memorial planned for unveiling in 2026; and finally, Brother Russ Conlon led the assembly in a rendition of "Soldier's Song" that echoed over the hills and down the Genesee River valley.

In addition to the heavy Hibernian presence, members of the Rochester Police Emerald Society, the Rochester St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, the Patrick O'Rorke Memorial Society, and the Irish American Cultural Institute were also in attendance. The event was held at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery at the grave of Irish Republican Brotherhood member, Thomas O'Bolger. Holy Sepulchre, which was chosen for its significance to Rochester's Irish history, is also the final resting place of County Cavan born Civil War hero Col. Patrick O'Rorke; and Catherine de Valera Wheelwright, mother of Irish President Eamon de Valera, among many others.

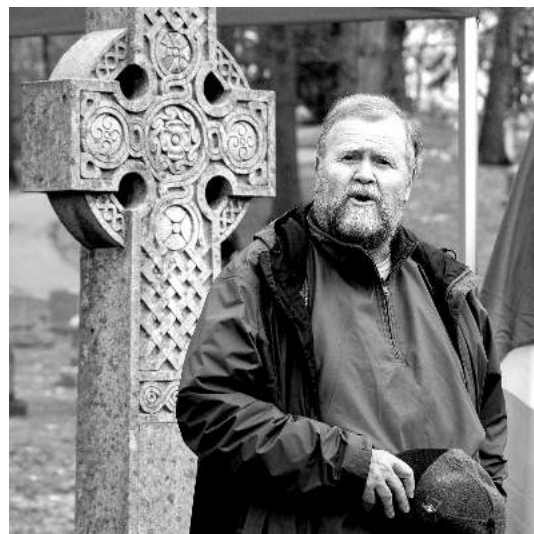
Rochester is honored to have been chosen as the site for the 2025 New York State Convention.



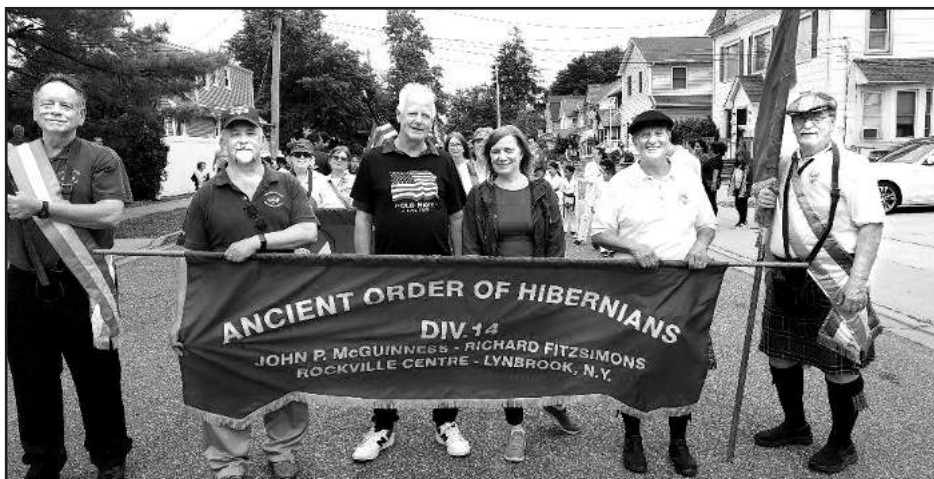
Presidents Kelly O'Brien and Jason Gorton deliver the Easter Rising Proclamation.



Irish Historian and Past President, Dr. Patrick Miller gives a lecture on Rochester's connections to Irish History.



Russ Conlon sings the Irish National Anthem.



Nassau Hibernians marched on Memorial Day Nassau County Division 14 marched in the Lynbrook Memorial Day Parade. From left, Mike Lavin, Jim Henry, Seamus Kerr, Jackie Kerr, Joe Gavin and Kevin Kennedy.



Helping mothers in need Hibernians in New York's Cattaraugus County Division 2 recently teamed up with the LAOH to donate nearly \$1,000 in diapers and a monetary donation of \$500 to local charity Operation Warm Hearts, which provides clothing and supplies to mothers in need. — Submitted by Jim Zanett, Division President



Placing Flags at the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery Each Memorial Weekend Brothers from the Saratoga County Division 1 place American flags of remembrance on the graves of deceased American Veterans. This year, we honored those in the Memorial Section, including vets from the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam.

Massachusetts



Commemorating An Gorta Mor Division 8 AOH and LAOH of Lawrence, Massachusetts, gathered on Saturday, June 1, for their annual An Gorta Mor Commemoration at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence at the An Gorta Mor Memorial that was dedicated in 2006. The Very Rev. John W. Delaney, Division 8 AOH and LAOH Chaplain, led the prayer service. Anne Collins, a member of Division 8 LAOH, recited prayers in Gaelic, and Ed "Hoppy" Curran sang the National Anthems of the United States and Ireland along with several other musical selections. Massachusetts State Historian and Division 8 Historian Frank O'Connor gave an address on the USS Jamestown efforts to relieve suffering in Ireland. Following the service, refreshments were served.

New Jersey

NJ Hibernians honor Kevin John & Maryann Meara

Kevin John and Maryann Meara have held memberships in the AOH Divisions 10 and 1 of Mercer County, NJAOH, Friendly Sons of St Patrick, Irish American Unity Conference, Sons and Daughters of Erin, Irish Northern Aid, Irish Community of Greater Mercer County and the Trenton St Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Kevin and Maryann have been recognized as Co-Grand Marshals of the 2024 St Patrick's Day Parade at Hamilton, 2024 Ancient Order of Hibernians Hibernian of the Year, NJ State AOH Corporal Michael P. Curtin "Leadership Award," 2018 Governor's Jefferson Award Honorees for Public Service "Against All Odds," in addition to other recognition for their years of service.

Kevin served for twelve years as both Hamilton Township Councilman and Mayor and authored resolutions to recognize the various Irish American organizations and events in his community. He authored passage of one of the first local resolutions in America to support Joe Doherty, a political prisoner of the Northern Ireland conflict. On June 16, 2009, the Councilman also sponsored the first United Ireland resolution passed in America at the Municipal Council level. In 1999, Kevin conceived of an Irish Flag Raising to honor the Irish American community with an annual commemoration ceremony.

At the time of the Northern Ireland Peace Process, Kevin was one of a few Irish-American activists invited to the U.S. State Department to be briefed on negotiations by the U.S. Envoys to Northern Ireland. He worked with a team to put Trenton on the map by coordinating visits of dignitaries to the NJ State House, NJ Chamber of Commerce and the NJ AFL-CIO. Dignitaries included U.S. Envoy and Chief Negotiator Sen. George Mitchell, Sinn Fein MPs Gerry Adams, Gerry Kelly and Pat Doherty, Boston Mayor Ray Flynn and former U.S. Congressman Bruce Morrison. Here he met a young Sean Pender, whom he invited to join him on his D.C. trips. In 1996, Kevin ran for Congress and brought Northern Ireland to the forefront of the campaign. His work as founder of the Irish Lobby has taken him from the State House to the White House, where he was an invitee to the White House St. Patrick's Day Receptions.

Kevin is Chairman/Founding Member and Maryann is Treasurer/Founding Member of the non-profit City of Angels NJ, Inc. COA was formed as a first-ever all volunteer community-based grass roots recovery center in response to the tragic June 30, 2008, overdose death of their oldest son Kevin Caley (K.C.) Meara. COA's original mission, to "help people get help," has expanded to also include advocacy. In 2016, Kevin and Maryann were invited by the White House as keynotes to address the first HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) – Heroin Response Strategy Symposium at Towson University. Kevin and Maryann's journey has taken them from KC's bedroom to the White House East Room, where in 2016 he met with President Barack Obama and in 2018 Kevin was invited back to address both the White House Opioid Summit with President Donald Trump and the Department of Justice Opioid Summit with Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

In 2012, City of Angels began supporting the Slattery Detachment of the Marine Corps League of NJ, where Kevin made trips to Andrews AFB ASF, USMC Camp Lejeune's Wounded Warrior Battalion and monthly to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda to visit with injured servicemen and servicewomen. This was the catalyst for COA's Warrior Down support program.

Kevin's genealogical research has traced the Moylan side to the "Moylans of Cork", where he discovered that General Stephen Moylan came to the United States in 1773 to fight in the American Revolution. Moylan became George Washington's Aide-de-camp and secretary, 2nd Quarter Master General of the U.S. and founder of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick in Philadelphia. Moylan is credited as the first Founder to use the phrase "United States of America."

Kevin John and Maryann were born in Trenton, NJ. They have two married children, Killian (Kait) and Kelly Rose (Mike) and two granddaughters Caley Ray and Fiadh Rose. Kevin is second generation Irish Catholic as his paternal grandparents, Philip Joseph and Catherine (nee Boney) Meara emigrated from County Tipperary, Ireland, to the U.S. in 1906. He is one of eight siblings born to Philip Joseph and Marjorie (nee Moylan) Meara. Kevin and his parents are all Honorably Discharged from the U.S. NAVY, where his father served in WWII.



Kevin John, left, and Maryann Meara with AOH National VP Sean Pender.



Unity Tour

The Volunteer Patrick Torphy Division raised \$4,500 within two weeks for the Middletown Police Unity Tour in Washington, D.C. Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity!

Massachusetts

AOH National President Danny O'Connell attended the GAA game at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton. Division 8 Lawrence President Bill Sullivan joined President O'Connell along with AOH National Director Dick Thompson and Mass AOH State President Joe McCusker. Division 8 also held their 2024 Scholarship presentations at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks. Thereafter, Past Division President Tom Connors received his 50-year membership pin. An Ice Cream Sundae Social followed the festivities.

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

Over the summer months, Division 8 is planning weekly golf outings, attend a Fisher Cats Game at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester NH, host a membership booth at North Andover's National Night Out and host its 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament.

The Plymouth Father John Murphy Division hosted another successful Easter Rising Commemoration, attended by both the public and Hibernians alike. Present was the great-grandson of Thomas MacDonagh and the niece of Elizabeth O'Farrell. Both shared family stories and the role of the women in their family tree that played their part in the war of independence. Ms. Catherine Neill then gave her family story of her great-grandmother's role during the war of independence and how her and her family risked what they had to support the cause.



Consul General Sighle Fitzgerald joined Lynn Division 10 President Dick Wall, Plymouth Division President Mike Shilling at the Easter Commemoration event in Plymouth. Brother Greg Shanahan, Brother Greg Hanley, Brother John Sullivan, Division President Michael Schilling, Catherine Neill, BC Librarian Christian Dupont, Prof. Catherine Shannon, BC Graduate Student Tiffany Thompson, Brother Stephen Rice Blenkhorn, Representative Joan Meschino, Consul General Sighle Fitzgerald, State Organizer Richard Wall.



Recipients of the Middlesex County, Watertown Division 14 AOH and LAOH Scholarships. Division 1 Holyoke president Joe O'Connor, and members of the Holyoke AOH and LAOH travelled to Watertown to commemorate Memorial Day with Division 14 and most importantly brought their highly accessorized float! The Memorial Day events included a 9 a.m. mass at Sandbanks Cemetery, followed by a parade through downtown Watertown, and closed with a cookout at the Hall where a prayer was said for those who lost their lives in service to our country.

Minnesota

Shamrock Division celebrates Founders Day and awards scholarships

On a fine spring day the Shamrock Division celebrated once again its Founders Day. It has been 44 years since the Shamrock Division entered the ranks of the AOH. To honor the day, the Shamrock Division had instillation of new members, scholarship interviews, Holy Mass followed by a dinner and an evening of traditional Irish music. The new members were Dennis Hanson, Tom Hanlon and Jeremy Fahey. The Scholarship Committee interviewed scholarship candidates and awarded \$6,000 A.O.H. Scholarships to twelve high school seniors. Scholarship selection was based on the applicants Irish heritage, education plans and how they plan to promote their Irish heritage in the future.

The Shamrock Division is located in Southern Minnesota and has 93 members. Information on the Shamrock Division can be found at hibernian-shamrock.com and on Facebook at Ancient Order of Hibernians Shamrock Division 1.



Scholarship Committee awards \$6,000 in Scholarships. From left, committee member Dick O'Connell, scholarship applicants Madeline Balfe, Morgan Bednarek, Kaylee Smykalsk, Ezra Fahey, Tom Engler, Madelyn Fahey, and committee member Joe Fahey. Other applicants were interviewed at a later date.



Shamrock members enjoy evening of dinner and Irish music to commemorate anniversary of our founding date. From left, members Matt Bigaouette, Vice President Mike Sullivan, Ashton Pankonin, President Pat Mulroy and Francis Bigaouette.



Archbishop Ireland Division 4 conducts installation

The Minnesota Archbishop John Ireland Division 4, Ramsey County, held its annual Installation ceremony and dinner this May at Mancini's Char House in Saint Paul. It was a wonderful evening, and our division welcomed its newly elected officers, including President Brian O'Donnell, Vice President Bill Clagherty, Treasurer Tim Courtney, Financial Secretary George Murphy and Recording Secretary Dan Cunningham. We also honored as our Hibernian of the Year, our long serving division Treasurer, Tim Courtney. From left, Jim Fallon, Mark Connor, Past President Charlie Callaghan, Minnesota State President Mike Haney, President Brian O'Donnell, Treasurer Tim Courtney, Vice President Bill Clagherty, Secretary George Murphy, Mike O'Donnell and Division Chaplain Fr. Dan Haugan.

Archbishop John Ireland Division 4 celebrated St. Patrick

Minnesota Archbishop John Ireland Division 4-Ramsey County celebrated Saint Patrick's Day with our annual Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul followed by marching in the annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Saint Paul. We were honored to have as our celebrant at the Mass, Bishop Joseph Williams. We also recognized our scholarship winners from local Catholic High Schools at the Mass. A total of \$6,000 was offered to these deserving students. This year's recipients include Sean FitzGibbons from Cretin Derham, Larkin Crummy from Hill-Murray and Daniel Ryan from St Agnes. Supporting Project Saint Patrick recognizing the importance of supporting both spiritually and financially the men and women who choose to seek a religious vocation in the Catholic Church, Division 4 also presented a \$1,000 check to the Saint Paul Seminary.



Bishop Joseph Williams joined us in a photo with one of our scholarship recipients. From left to right, President Charlie Callaghan, Bishop Joseph Williams, Larkin Crummy from Hill Murray High School and Past President Vince Courtney.

Massachusetts



Division 14 VP Rick Connell, Irish Studies Professor Guy Beiner, LAOH president Dee Dee Walsh and State President Joe McCusker at the 2024 Division 14 Communion Breakfast. Division 14 Watertown swore in 13 new members in their April monthly Meeting and a few weeks later hosted their largest Communion Breakfast in recent memory. A full Irish breakfast was served, and keynote speaker Guy Beiner; Department Head of Irish Studies at Boston College, spoke of the events that led to the Easter Rising. A reading of the 1916 proclamation helped provide a fitting ending to the event. Watertown closed out the quarter with a scholarship awards presented by the Middlesex County, Watertown Division 14 AOH



The Holyoke and Watertown AOH & LAOH getting ready to take to the streets of Watertown, MA.

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of. . .

New York

Ladies National President

by Marilyn Madigan

Thank you.

I would like to thank all my Hibernian Sisters for placing their trust in me to lead our wonderful organization for the past 2 years. It was indeed an honor and a blessing to be the National President of the largest Irish Catholic Women's Organization in America. Many opportunities came my way; from commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement to speaking about Irish Unity. As I conclude my term, we are in our 130th year and have made an impact on Irish America. Our first achievement was the establishment of the Trinity College Scholarship that today still benefits young women. This year is also special as we commemorate the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument with a Wayside Marker telling the remarkable story of the Religious Sisters depicted on the Monument and how the LAOH had an active role in promoting this Irish American History.

We are a strong Sisterhood and I look forward to our Convention in Orlando. The best part of being a Hibernian is the friendships that are formed and united as we become one Hibernian Family. I may be concluding my leadership role, but I am going nowhere. I will always be a proud and active Hibernian. Thank you again for this great privilege of serving. See you all in Orlando. Let's plan for our future but remember to have fun together.

Love, Marilyn

Montana

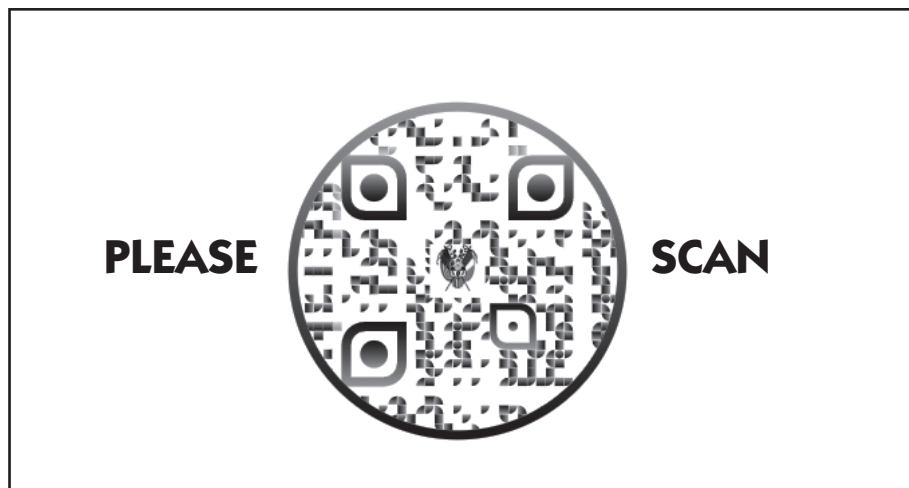
The LAOH National Essay Contest, Level 2, has awarded second place to Asia Ragazzo. Asia is a Senior student at Powell County High School in Deer Lodge, Montana. She is graduating as Valedictorian of her Class of 2024. Asia is an exchange student from Italy and has returned to her home country to complete further education.



L-R Front Row: Pam O' Reilly, MT State Pres, Asia Ragazzo, 2nd Place Level 2 winner, Kim Biere, English Teacher. 2nd row: Colleen Galvin Holzheimer, State Historian, Valerie Walund, Anaconda Historian, Rosemary Corrigan, Immediate Past President, and Mary Kay Breslin, President of the Anaconda Division, Lewis & Clark Co, MT.



Cathy Turck, National Treasurer (left) presented Watervliet LAOH Division President Trish Halligan with a proclamation from the National Board commemorating their 50th Anniversary celebration.



Rhode Island



On May 24 the Rhode Island Irish held their annual Hunger Strike Memorial in Providence, RI. Members of Bessie Bradley participated including, Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Tricia McGiver, Maureen Benz, (state of RI LAOH president, Eileen Benz, recording secretary, Sara Benz Historian and Marie Magee, Vice President Division 12

New York

Yonkers Hibernians Support GAA Youth Sports

The Myles Scully Division 1, Yonkers, held a special fundraiser on April 28 to support the NY GAA Minor Board Redmond Field redevelopment project. The estimated \$3.5 million redevelopment project will create a permanent home and modern facilities for underage Gaelic games in the City of Yonkers. Legendary Irish football broadcaster and New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade commentator Tommy Smyth served as master of ceremonies.



Tommy Smyth, left, and Dwight 'Doc' Gooden.

The event featured NY sports legends Dwight Gooden, formerly of the New York Mets; Amad Bradshaw, formerly of the New York Giants; and former New York Rangers great Ron Greshner. Irish sports stars Cora Staunton, Darran O'Sullivan and Aidan Fogarty were also there. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano praised the AOH, NY GAA Minor Board and attendees for coming out to support future generations of youth sports in Yonkers.

The successful event was attended by several hundred, covered by local news and made possible by the hard work and dedication of Yonkers Hibernians Mike Morley and JP Cone.



At the event were, from left, JP Cone, AOH Yonkers; Darran O'Sullivan, Tommy Smyth, Cora Staunton, Dennis O'Brien, AOH Yonkers; and Aidan Fogarty.

AOH-USGAA ANNOUNCE THREE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP continued from page 1

importance of preserving and promoting Irish heritage, there lies an opportunity for our organizations to collaborate and support each other. By leveraging our collective resources, we can enhance our respective brands, expand our membership bases, share our stories, and safeguard the future of Irish American culture.

Together, we will share the responsibilities necessary to execute cross-promotional opportunities, increased membership opportunities, and increased exposure among our members. Recently, AOH President Danny O'Connell and Vice President Sean Pender met GAA Uachtarán (president) Jarlath Burns in Croke Park to discuss the new partnership. Jarlath expressed excitement over the new agreement.

We will now see monthly promotion of the AOH in USGAA Newsletter (Nuacht), and of the USGAA in the National Hibernian Digest, to include information regarding each organization's mission and goals; acknowledgement at each other's

events, discounts of USGAA apparel through bespoke Masita web store link for AOH members when available to USGAA members as well. The USGAA will provide administrative and coaching development resources in support of any AOH Division that requests assistance in beginning a Gaelic sports program, plus additional benefits and opportunities as agreed by our organizations.

As part of the partnership, members may purchase team gear proudly displaying our logo by visiting <https://masita.ie/collections/usgaa> (When ordering, you should select at least one size larger (maybe two) and most likely select the "regular fit." The player fit is a much tighter cut designed for team members.)



At Croke Park, Dublin, Ireland, VP Pender and President O'Connell proudly displayed the USGAA polo shirt available to you at <https://masita.ie/collections/usgaa>



President Danny O'Connell, left, and Vice President Sean Pender with GAA Uachtarán (president) Jarlath Burns in Croke Park.



Welcome To The 2024 AOH/LAOH National Convention



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

Wednesday, August 7th — Sunday, August 11

You are invited to Orlando, Florida

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

Events Registration through the Mail:

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

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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

Division # _____ County _____ State _____

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

Guest Registration: Name _____

Email _____

RESERVATION PACKAGES

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

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

Options:

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

Select Entrée:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Registration Only: \$25

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

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

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

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM continued from page 1

young Hibernians have completed the ambassador program, and we plan to have more than 100 Hibernian Ambassadors under the age of 36 by 2033. In the year 2032 it will be the 1,600th anniversary of Saint Patrick bringing Christianity to Ireland.

"This program is a recruiting tool," O'Connell continued. "Members constantly ask how to recruit young members. The AOH – Friends of Saint Patrick Centre

Young Ambassador Program should be the first item on the list. We now have an opportunity for up to 10 members who are one year out of high school up to the age of 24 to participate in this incredible program."

This year a young woman joined the LAOH because she learned about the program. Danny O'Connell was able to connect the LAOH President with Tim Campbell and the candidate on Saint Patrick's Day and the LAOH ended up sponsoring her to the program.



The young ambassadors assembled at Stormont Castle with Junior Minister Aisling Reilly and Junior Minister Pam Cameron on June 11.