

TheNational

hIBERNIAN digest



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

Vol. LXXXIII No. 3 USPS 373340

April-May, 2025

1.50

Thompson, Murphy to Receive Hibernians' McBride Award

Mark Thompson and Andree Murphy have been named recipients of this year's prestigious Sean MacBride Award by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The award, presented biennially by the AOH, is given to outstanding individuals whose work memorializes the human rights contributions made in the courtroom, on the international stage and founding of Amnesty International by Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Sean MacBride. This year's honorees were chosen because their work through Relatives for Justice (RfJ) in support of victims' families battling for truth about the state-sponsored murder of their loved ones, emulates the human rights contributions of Dr.

Sean MacBride. The announcement, attended by National President Sean Pender, Freedom for All Ireland National Chairman Martin Galvin and Deputy FFAI Chairman Bob Bollbach, was made in Ardoyne, Belfast, with members of the RfJ Board of Directors, including Chairman Bill Rolston and Director Patricia Kelly in attendance. Victims' families and RfJ staff, including Paul Butler, were also present.

Visa Discrimination
National President Sean Pender also introduced a special guest, Maeve Conway, the 10-year-old girl denied entry into the United States last August



Mark Thompson and Andree Murphy for a dream visit to Disneyworld because her father had been a Republican political prisoner decades earlier. Pender pledged that the AOH would continue to fight for her and for others unfairly denied entry to continued on page 15



Members of the National Board at the site of the Michael Collins ambush near Béal na Bláth.

Experiencing the Places of Irish History

By Daniel Taylor, National Historian

The late Professor Marshall McLuhan presciently noted, long before the advent of the World Wide Web, that we “live today in an age of information and communication [in which] electric media instantly and constantly create a total field of interacting events in which all men participate.” The contents of entire libraries now reside online, making history accessible from any place, at any time, without the need for even local travel. Even so, there has been a renewed interest in recent years, across many disciplines, in the concept of place. Place, as noted

by J. Nicholas Entriken, “presents itself to us as a condition of the human experience” such that “our relations to place ... become elements in the construction of our individual and collective identities.” The first stop for travelers on the recent Hibernian History Tour of Ireland, fresh from the Dublin airport, the grave of Theobald Wolfe Tone in the ancient burial ground at Bodinstown, County Kildare, illustrates the significance of place in Irish history. Standing before the ruined church, dating to 1352, that forms the backdrop of Tone's final resting place, the group contemplated

Tone's legacy as the father of Irish Republicanism and the significance of Bodinstown as a place of annual pilgrimage for generations of Irish patriots. Later that same day, our group stood atop Vinegar Hill in County Wexford and looked out from the base of the historic windmill, which stands, as it did in 1798, a silent, enduring witness to the sacrifices of the common people of Wexford who died, in the poignant words of Seamus Heaney, “shaking scythes at cannon.” The port town of Cobh in County Cork, from which so many of our ancestors embarked on their one- continued on page 15

DATED MATERIAL

In This Issue...

Honored



50 Years of Service – Past National Secretary Jere Cole Page 12

Special Visit



The Primate of All Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin Page 11

Profiles in Leadership



Pennsylvania State President Denny Maher Page 8

State News

New York	5, 28, 31
Ohio	5, 15
Virginia	10, 26
Wisconsin	13
Missouri	13
South Carolina	15
California	16
North Carolina	16
Connecticut	17
Delaware	17
Illinois	18
Michigan	18
Florida	19
Iowa	19
Indiana	20
Louisiana	21
Maryland	22
New Jersey	22, 29
Massachusetts	23
Pennsylvania	24
Minnesota	25
New Mexico	25
Nebraska	27
Montana	27
New Hampshire	28
Tennessee	28



66 In 2001, I helped in the founding of Ave Maria Mutual Funds. Since then, I have personally invested tens of millions of dollars in these Catholic Mutual Funds. After realizing substantial gains, I continue to own several million dollars worth of shares, which I plan to hold indefinitely.

The excellent financial performance of the Pro-Life, Pro-Family Ave Maria Mutual Funds has helped me pursue many charitable endeavors related to the Catholic Church.

Tom Monaghan

TOM MONAGHAN
Chairman
Ave Maria Foundation

1-866-AVE-MARIA

AVE MARIA
MUTUAL FUNDS

avemariafunds.com

This testimonial may not be representative of the experience of other customers.

*As a member of the Ave Maria Mutual Funds Catholic Advisory Board, I receive compensation from the Funds of approximately \$10,000 per year, which I do not believe affects my objectivity. Such compensation for my time and advice is not payment for this endorsement. I truly believe in the mission of the Ave Maria Mutual Funds. - Tom Monaghan

Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Schwartz Investment Counsel, Inc., a registered investment adviser established in 1980, serves as investment adviser for Ave Maria Mutual Funds and invests only in securities that meet the Funds' investment and religious requirements. The returns may be lower or higher than if decisions were based solely on investment considerations. The method of security selection may or may not be successful and the Funds may underperform or outperform the stock market as a whole. All mutual funds are subject to market risk, including possible loss of principal.

Request a prospectus, which includes investment objectives, risks, fees, charges and expenses and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing. The prospectus can be obtained by calling 1-866-283-6274 or it can be viewed at www.avemariafunds.com. Distributed by Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC.

200-174-011525 | 17940280-UPD-02/01/2024

Morally Responsible Investing Takes Faith Into Account

When people invest in mutual funds to help them achieve their financial goals, they do so primarily for diversification purposes as they grow their portfolio. Yet investing in morally responsible mutual funds has become increasingly popular as more Americans seek to align their portfolios with their religious beliefs.

Investors who choose Ave Maria Mutual Funds — the largest family of Catholic mutual funds in the U.S. with over \$3.5 billion in assets — enjoy an added level confidence in their investments. They know there is a moral screening process applied to the companies chosen for attractive investment opportunities.

The experienced team at Ave Maria Mutual Funds ensures that all investments are screened to eliminate any company that is engaged in the support of abortion, pornography, or embryonic stem cell research, as well as any company that makes corporate contributions to Planned Parenthood. With its pro-life, pro-family focus, the Ave Maria Mutual Funds provide six different funds for investors who want to align their investments with their moral beliefs and faith-based values.

For a complimentary, no-obligation information kit, including disclosure details, please call 1-866-AVE-MARIA or visit avemariafunds.com. Ave Maria Mutual Funds also has agreements with many major financial intermediaries. Please contact your financial advisor to find out more.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

The Adviser invests only in securities that meet the Fund's investment and religious requirements. The returns may be lower or higher than if decisions were based solely on investment considerations. The method of security selection may or may not be successful and the Fund may underperform or outperform the stock market as a whole. All mutual funds are subject to market risk, including possible loss of principal. The Fund's investments in small- and mid-capitalization companies could experience greater volatility than investments in large-capitalization companies. Diversification does not ensure a profit or guarantee against a loss.

Request a prospectus, which includes investment objectives, risks, fees, charges, expenses, and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing. The prospectus can be obtained by calling 1-866-283-6274 or online at www.avemariafunds.com. Distributed by Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC. 20250103-4127506

Marching for Life in Washington, D.C.

Hibernians from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life on January 24. After a wonderful breakfast at the Irish Channel, our brothers listened to two inspirational speakers. Kristan Hawkins, President and CEO of Students for Life of America spoke first, followed by Sister Nancy Downing of St. Ann's Center for Families, who was introduced by Washington, D.C., State

President Don Conolly. Don also remembered a great Hibernian, Jack O'Brien, who had recently passed. Our brothers joined more than 200,000 marchers to file past Congressional office buildings, the U.S. Capitol, and ending at the U.S. Supreme Court, before gathering at the Dubliner Pub for refreshments. The March for Life will be held next year on Friday, January, 23. Mark your calendar now to save the date!



Just some of the Hibernians who participated in this year's March for Life in Washington, D.C., were Tim McSweeney, Fr. Henry Reid, Dan Devinney, Ray Lynch, Liam McNabb, Sean Pender, Fr. Kevin Fields, Pat Maguire (Colorado State President), Philip "PJ" Morgan (Florida Pro Life Chairman), Tom Robinson (Maryland Pro Life Chair and State VP), Keith Reynolds, Denny Parks, Pat Lally, Pat Maguire's grandson, National Pro Life Chairman Larry Squires, and Don Connolly (Washington, D.C. State Pres).



president's message

By sean pender

In the first quarter of 2025, our organization successfully engaged in a series of major events that significantly enhanced our visibility and strengthened our partnerships. We used this time to continue to develop relationships and sponsorships with many other Irish organizations and position the AOH as the premier Irish organization in the U.S. and the voice of Irish America. While consistently promoting the positions that we consider important. Notable highlights included the Irish Citizenship webinar cohosted by Immigration chair Den Dennehy, the Irish Consul General office of NY and the Irish American Baseball Society. With Project Children we hosted a webinar regarding their 50th anniversary and the upcoming October 2025 celebration in County Monaghan. With the LAOH and GAA clubs we hosted an 11-city, 14-day book tour to launch *Lost Gaels* by Peadar Thompson. When we collaborate with like-minded groups we amplify our impact. Joint initiatives and co-hosted events allow us to share resources and reach a broader audience, further solidifying our position within the community and promoting growth.

We continued to invest in events that recognize youth and our younger members. The AOH National Board sponsored the attendance of Davy Holden, one of the world's leading providers of Irish history content on the web, at the 18th annual Gael Scoil in NJ. Once again sponsored by Joe Cahil Division 10 of Mercer County, NJ, and chaired by Gerry O'Rahilly, it was an amazing two-day event that I was proud to attend. In May thanks to collaboration with the AOH in Florida and the University of Southern Florida at Tampa, Gael Scoil will be unveiled at a new location. For several years working with Gerry, we have offered Gael Scoil to other areas of the country. It is my hope that 2025 will be the year others will finally step up and bring this program to other locations. In late February we honored AOH members at the Irish Echo 40 under 40 in Lower Manhattan.

I was honored to spend time with two great leaders of the church: the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of the Bridgeport diocese in Connecticut, and Eamon Martin, the Archbishop of Armagh and the Primate of All Ireland. Bishop Caggiano and I shared the dais at the 75th anniversary communion breakfast of the Bridgeport AOH. At the invite of the Bronx AOH and Father Brendan Fitzgerald and with local members we met the archbishop privately prior to attending mass and a concert to benefit the cathedral in Armagh.

To grow our Order, Chad Ghastain, Chris Cooke and Ryan Curry continue to collaborate and work to expand our membership. Areas like Iowa, Michigan, California and South Carolina have been engaged. Our increased social media presence is yielding more applications than ever, but we continue to have issues with timely follow up. This is an area where we MUST improve; national directors will be tasked with overseeing the successful conversion of applicants to members. This must be a priority to all our leadership.

The highlight of the first quarter was the AOH history trip to Ireland, hosted by AOH Historian Dan Tavlör and me and documented by AOH Digital co-coordinator



LAOH President Mary Ann Lubinsky, Ireland's Taoiseach Micheál Martin and National AOH President Sean Pender at the White House on St. Patrick's Day.

Chris Cooke. We spent an amazing 10 days in Ireland. See Dan's article in this issue. We finished the trip in Dublin, where Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Martin Galvin and I had high level discussions with all major Irish political parties and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs regarding the issues of legacy justice and unity referendum. I traveled to the North with Martin and Deputy FFAI Chairman Bob Bollbach, and we presented the yearly FFAI Christmas Appeal grants to 19 very worthy organizations; a remarkable \$150,000 was raised and distributed. Well done to all who contributed.

In early April, the AOH will be a leading voice and co-sponsor of the Ireland's Future USA Gala dinner in Philadelphia. Ireland's Future is setting the path to a united Ireland and the AOH is proud to be part of that historic project.

In closing for reflection, I stood in the graveyard of St. Mullins in Carlow during the AOH History Tour and I showed many on the trip the penal altar that still stands. From the altar a priest would say mass while keeping an eye out an opening in a wall where he could see the lookout who was posted on the motte (hill). Throughout the centuries, courageous Irish men and women risked their lives to attend Masses held at mass rocks in secluded woods, led by brave priests who faced the threat of execution by British forces if discovered. The Ancient Order of Hibernians was established 189 years ago in response to the urgent call for the Irish community to safeguard the church from the attacks of those who opposed it. Our ancestors demonstrated remarkable bravery in celebrating Mass and defending their faith. As we have closed out Irish American Heritage Month it is essential to recognize that our Catholic faith constitutes a significant aspect of our Irish heritage and deserves to be celebrated alongside events such as the St. Patrick's season.

Patrick's season.

In March, cities and towns across the country witness the Irish community proudly marching to honor their heritage. It is my aspiration that in the coming years, we can fill our churches to celebrate the faith of our forebears.

Rockland County AOH members at *Lost Gaels* book launch at Rockland GAA grounds.



vice president's report

By liam mcNABB

State Conventions

This year is a state convention year when states will organize meetings and events that bring members from throughout a state together to conduct business and elect officers. State conventions are important for many reasons. Business is conducted and state officers are elected for the new term. It is also a fun experience to meet and be together with so many other Hibernians.

Regarding state conventions, I strongly recommend the following:

To state leaders: Organize a structured schedule that supports quality leader/officer reports, sharing of information, and encourages productive discussions. Treat the business of the Order as important AND make the experience meaningful for others to learn and participate. The Blue Book is a terrific guide. Including a Major Degree in your schedule is also critical.

Social events, such as hosting/attending Irish music or other cultural presentations, would ideally be included and available for members to

socialize and network.

To delegates and attendees: Please attend and participate! Your state leadership shares important information at conventions, and it is your opportunity to not only learn but contribute. It is your opportunity to engage with leadership and support their work while also meeting other Brothers.

Any member of a Division is eligible to serve as a delegate at a state convention and represent your division. If you're interested, please contact your Division President.

Hibernian Charities

Thank you! Thank you to all Brothers who contributed to the Hibernian Charity Appeal in recent months. Though we started the initiative later than usual, it didn't impact your generosity. Your financial support will help other Brothers and their families through the Hibernian Disaster Relief, when needed. Project Saint Patrick, Hibernian Hunger and the Irish Way program also benefitted from your support, just to name a few of our charities.

Thanks again for demonstrating your commitment to supporting others and opportunities for us to share our culture with the next generation.



secretary's report

By Ray Lynch

Good day Brothers, I hope this message finds you in good spirits and excellent health. I am writing to address the need for the completion of Form 40, as well as to clarify our policies concerning the reissue of membership cards. Your understanding of these processes is crucial for ensuring timely updates and maintaining accurate records within our organization.

To begin with, Form 40 must be filled out with meticulous attention to detail. This form significantly facilitates various updates and administrative functions, which are essential to get information about our membership. We also use Form 40 for the Hibernian Digest mailing list. Division Presidents and Financial Secretaries must take time to ensure that all sections of the form are completed correctly. Also, please Do Not Use all capital letters when filling the information out. Doing so makes the transfer of information cumbersome. In addition, when entering address information, the street address and apartment information should be listed on only 1 line - not 2 lines. The 2 lines are only used when entering a PO address in addition to the street address or when entering the name of a Church or Institution. For example: 2568 Broad Street, APT 14B is entered entirely on one line — not 2 lines.

Additionally, I would like to draw your attention to our policy concerning the reissue of membership cards. Reissues are strictly accepted under specific circumstances, such as outlined below for your reference:

- Changes in Veteran status.
- Updates regarding your Major Degree; and
- New memberships, which necessitate the issuance of a fresh card to represent your current standing within our organization.

It is important to note, however, that we do not accommodate requests for card reissues solely based on changes of address. This card only represents that you are a member in good standing for the year on the card, it is not used for identification purposes. Of course, if your card is unserviceable, we will replace it.

Should you have any further questions, require additional clarification, or need assistance to complete your Form 40, please do not hesitate to reach out to Deputy National Secretary Greg Seán Canning (201-787-6650; grioghar@mac.com) or myself, Ray Lynch (772-298-2244; irishyankeenut@gmail.com). We are here to support you throughout this process and ensure everything is handled smoothly.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. We greatly appreciate your attention to these policies and look forward to assisting you soon.



treasurer's report

By Dan Devinney

I hope everyone enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day Season. I also hope everyone had a very Happy and Holy Easter. Thanks to all the Divisions who took advantage of the constitutional discount and paid their National Per Capita early. Your efforts make it easier to plan for the good work of the Order. If you do not already have one in place, the next thing you need to do is create a plan to contact those division members who are delinquent in paying their dues. It is important to remember that our Constitution in Article XVIII Section 13 sets forth the framework for handling this issue. The framework lays out a list of constitutional duties with a timeline for completion before a member can be suspended. This framework gives the member every opportunity to maintain his membership. However, this process takes time and it is imperative that you initiate it as soon as possible.

State Conventions

This year is a State Convention year. The National Board has asked State leadership to send them information concerning the dates and locations for their state convention. The National Board would like to have representatives at as many state conventions as possible so that we can see firsthand the good work done throughout the Order. If you have not already done so please get that information to National Secretary Ray Lynch.

Hibernian History Tour

At the time of writing this article I have just returned from the AOH History Tour in Ireland. National President Sean Pender and National Historian Dan Taylor put together a great tour with unique site locations stacked full of historical information, Irish culture and plenty of time for your own brand of fun. Lastly, I need to tell you about a conversation I had with our bus driver. I knew he lived in another part of Ireland and when I asked him why he came so far to take us from location to location he told me he would do anything for the AOH. He told me a little bit about his family history and that he knew firsthand about the good work the AOH does in Ireland especially for those who need it most. Those are his words not mine. I could not help thinking that it is not only the organizations we support that appreciate our good work. It is also the people of Ireland, every day working men and women, who appreciate the good work we do together.



Director's report

By Ed Dougherty



Philadelphia County Officers being installed.

I hope you all had a great St. Patrick's Day season. I was able to participate in the Hamilton, NJ, and the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day parades. I was able to attend the Philadelphia County Installation of Officers. Also, I traveled to Michael Dougherty Division 1 for the exemplification of the degrees of our Order by the Isle of Erin Degree team in Bristol, PA, on February 22; 41 members received their degrees that day. I was invited to the St. Patrick's Day Bucks County Sashing Dinner. This year's Grand Marshal was Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick. Brian is a member and attended our past convention in Orlando and sits on the Irish Caucus.

Consider taking the next step

Spring has arrived and numerous state conventions will take place in the next several months where we will reaffirm current leadership or choose new leaders. We in the AOH have been blessed over the years with Brothers at all levels playing key roles that have led to the successful organization we enjoy today. The National Board has been urging our State, County and Divisions to fill all the constitutionally required positions on each Board. The National Board has witnessed that our most successful Boards and Divisions have the constitutionally required positions filled. Our most successful National programs can trace their success to the fact that a committee chair has been appointed in many of our Boards. Your officers are very important, they have certain duties to fulfill. Your committee appointments are important to allow the steady flow of information from the National Board down to the Division level and back up to National. This is where leadership steps in. As a national director we are always looking for the next leaders to carry our flag forward. If you think you can help our organization at any level, please take the next step. It is one thing to be on the team and yet another thing to play in the game. Brothers, I understand we all have family, work and other commitments. We do have the resources available to help you in just about any position you choose to fulfill. Please consider an active role in our Order.

Easter Appeal for Project St. Patrick

I would like to mention the Easter Appeal to benefit Project St. Patrick. Please consider an individual donation or more importantly have your Division or Board make a donation to help our seminarians. This program harkens back to the origins of our Order when our members were called upon to protect our Catholic priests while they celebrated mass for the faithful back in Ireland under the threat of death from British oppressors.

Lastly, I would like to say "THANK YOU" to all the brothers who helped with our Open Applicant Lists. Your dedication and help is appreciated.



Members of Division 39 who attended the installation were, from left, Chuck Haughey; Director Ed Dougherty, Past National President Seamus Boyle, County President Pearse Kerr; Jude Fanning; President Shawn Anderson; Jack Haggerty; Joe McCusker; Mike Boyle; Mike Cligget; Ryan Casey; and Jim Snyder.



Director's report

By Keith Reynolds

I would like to start by thanking all the State Presidents in my assigned area for their diligence in completing all the open applications; your hard work is much appreciated.

On Feb.15 I had the honor of attending with National Secretary Ray Lynch and Past National President Ed Wallace, a presentation of the movie, "How to Diffuse a Bomb, the Project Children Story," in Jupiter, FL. It's always an honor to speak with Denis Mulcahy and his team as we prepare for the Project Children 50th Anniversary Celebration in Monaghan, Ireland, this October.

I had the honor of marching in several St. Patrick's Day Parades in March: St. Augustine, FL, Melbourne, FL, and Savannah, Ga. It was great to see old Hibernian friends and to greet new ones.

On Tuesday, March 11, we ran the Project Children Webinar "Move to Monaghan Peace Campus." The webinar was moderated by National President Sean Pender and speakers from Project Children were Denis Mulcahy, Catherine Flood, Patricia MacBride and Sheila Keenan. If you missed it, you can view the webinar on our AOH Youtube page.

On Thursday, March 13, Deputy National Secretary Greg Sean Canning and I were honored to attend the Consul General of Ireland Sarah Kavanagh's gathering at the Castle Irish Pub in Orlando for the formal appointment of the new, Irish Honorary Consul in Orlando, Patrick Delaney. The event was attended by Irish Government Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D.

To finish the month, on March 28, Irish Consul General Sarah Kavanagh, National Secretary Ray Lynch, Deputy National Secretary Greg Sean Canning, myself and many brothers from the Broward County Division and Florida, traveled down to Miami to Loan Depot Ballpark to attend Irish Heritage night at the park.

This was a joint gathering of the Irish American Baseball Society, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Emerald Society. An on-field award was presented to Marlins Pitcher Declan Cronin. The Consul General had the honor of throwing out the first pitch.



Director's report

By Patrick Ryan

Greetings Brothers! Spring has sprung and if you live anywhere in the Midwest, I am sure that your sinuses have let you know. I am anxiously awaiting the Kentucky Derby in My Old Kentucky Home on the first Saturday of May. This is always an exciting time and is considered the fastest two minutes in all of sports.

The reason I bring this up is that our Irish ancestors built the horse racing industry here in the U.S. and continue to lead the way in breeding, training and management of these beautiful horses. I like to think that we continue celebrating our Catholic and Irish heritage from all the festivities of March and St. Patrick's Day all the way to May with the Derby, Preakness and Belmont especially knowing that there is an Irish connection at every turn.

When we think of spring, we often see the blooming of flowers on the trees and bushes and the beauty and renewal that it brings. This year I was able to be in our capital on the peak bloom day for the famed cherry trees at the Tidal Basin and Jefferson Memorial. It was absolutely amazing to see and experience. Pictures do not do it justice. But what I got from this experience is thinking how trees grow from the branches and not at the trunk. How they reach for the sun and bring life to the rest of the tree. This is very much like our Order - we grow at the Division level, our branches. Your state and national boards are here to help guide these branches to grow straight, true and strong. It is Brothers like you at the Division level that make the whole tree strong. Our Catholic faith and Irish roots keep us planted and able to survive the strong winds and storms that we go through occasionally. We have put a lot of effort with our recent push to go through open membership applications and new recruitment using social media and I ask you to help spread the word about our Order and all the great things that we do.

One of the great things I do within my area is to hold a Midwest States Town Hall where we go over information of the day and then host a guest to speak. We have had the honor of having our National President Sean Pender as our first guest and that was a great meeting. You Brothers really had great questions and it was good to see the open and honest dialogue between all of us. We had Chad Ghastin talk about social media and how to use it, and I think we can see the results. Our latest guest was National Director and Organizer Ryan Curry who gave us a wonderful presentation on what organizing really means and the best practices doing it. I have some other fabulous guests lined up to talk with us. These meetings are Midwest centric but if you wish to see what we are doing and want to participate please reach out to me and I will share the link. I look forward to seeing you all online and hopefully at your state conventions.



Director's report

By Ryan Curry

As our Order concludes this sacred season, I'm proud to report that we've achieved a record-breaking milestone — our national website received more applications than ever before, marking a 49 percent increase over last year's previous high. While our shift to electronic applications continues, this growth is truly a testament to the tireless efforts of our State, County and Division Organizers who have worked diligently to raise awareness of the AOH and the value of membership. I commend each of you for your dedication!

Our focus must now shift toward converting these applicants into fully initiated Brothers in the months ahead. We cannot allow applications to sit idle through the summer. Division Organizers should take the lead, assembling teams to vet and initiate candidates as soon as possible.

Equally important is ensuring these new Brothers are properly integrated into our Order. While each Division may tailor its onboarding process, several best practices should be prioritized to foster strong retention:

- Provide a working understanding of how a Division operates — this foundational knowledge is essential.
- Encourage each new Brother to receive the Major Degree. If a local opportunity isn't available, explore options such as attending a neighboring State Convention as a group.
- Engage new Brothers in committee work that aligns with their interests — this is where our future leaders begin to emerge.
- Empower each Brother to be a force for growth. Help them identify and connect with potential members in their personal and professional networks.

I extend my sincere thanks to the National Organizing Committee for their outstanding work this year. Their ongoing efforts are building the foundation for sustained, nationwide growth of our Order.



Director's report

By Tom Lambert

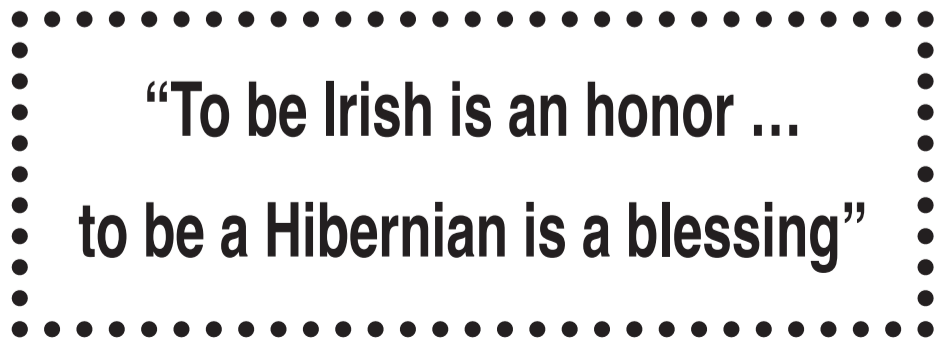
I hope everyone had an enjoyable and productive St. Patrick's Day season. As always, St. Patrick's Day is the time when we show our pride as descendants of those who trace their lineage back to the Island of Saints and Scholars. Hopefully, our public participation in events associated with St. Patrick's Day celebrations helped tremendously with recruitment to our noble Order. Our efforts at on-line recruitment also continue. The backlog of on-line applications has been addressed. This is a valuable tool in ongoing recruitment. If an officer requests that you follow up on one or more applications, please do so as soon as possible, and be sure to report the results to those in leadership positions as soon as possible. I would like to give a shout out to NYS AOH Organizer Tim Weklar who has been coordinating the contact of these possible new members!

While recruitment issues have taken up most of the time of the National Board, other events are occurring. National President Sean Pender and our National Historian Dan Taylor led a group of Hibernians on a trip to Ireland, which boasted an itinerary that included stops at historical sites in Kilkenny, Kinsale, Killarney and Dublin. It sounds like quite the trip! If a similar trip is planned in the future, make plans to travel!

Speaking of Ireland. Kudos to FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin and Deputy FFAI Director Bob Bollbach for again doing an outstanding job in raising more than \$150,000, a new record for the Christmas Appeal! These Grant donations were presented in a ceremony held at the Houben Centre in Belfast on April 5, by AOH and LAOH members. Please make plans to donate to the Christmas Appeal next year if you have not previously done so! Having been a part of this very worthwhile effort and presentation in the past, I have seen firsthand how much the groups who benefit from these grants rely on these AOH donations as they work for peace in Ireland.

I also look forward to continuing collaboration with my fellow Directors: Ryan Curry, Ed Dougherty, Keith Reynolds, Patrick Ryan, and Rory Schulte. There is a lot of energy within this group. We make an effective team!

If any AOH Brother needs to reach me to discuss any AOH issue, I can be reached at TomLambert12@aol.com or on my cell phone at 716-796-7687.





Director's report

By RORY SCHULTE

My Journey from Skepticism to Appreciation

I would like to preface this article by saying that what I have written below is not directed toward our past leadership in any way. Instead, it is my testimony of the early days of my membership and my ignorance that would soon be put into check.

When I joined the AOH in 2014, I wouldn't have been able to tell you much about our National Board, if anything. If you'd have asked me if I knew names like Murphy, Wallace, McGinley, Meehan and Boyle, I'd tell you I'd probably heard them in a movie or read them in a book. Names like Brendan Moore or Jim McKay may have come across my radar but, again, I would have had a better chance of guessing correctly the \$2,000 questions on Jeopardy. My ignorance would ultimately be fixed, and I would learn the importance of our National Board.

My first introduction to the National Board would be in 2016 during my time as Vice President of my local Montana division in Great Falls. We were told that our nonprofit status would soon be expiring if we failed to get our information updated with the IRS and the National Board. I think we all remember those dark days of the AOH when we thought the IRS paperwork was never going to end. Here I am, not once ever hearing of this elusive National Board, being told by "Big Brother" that we were in danger of losing our division. I thought, Who are these guys? Who are they to dictate what we do in our division? Like most Irishmen, my patience and calmness immediately kicked in, and I was ready to embrace these men as brothers... I can't even use words like Irishmen, patience, and calm in the same sentence without cracking a smile. It would take almost seven more years before I would totally understand the purpose and goals of our National Board.

Now, as I sit on the National Board, elected by you, my Brothers, I come, asking you to take a better path than I did. See the National Board for what it is: a group of dedicated Brothers just like yourselves who are trying to make the Order better for all involved. Please be patient with us as we guide the Order through this technological time, have compassion for us as we send you emails for the 20th time. And mostly, say prayers for us and your fellow Brothers as we try to navigate this Order through a tumultuous time in our country.

Lastly, we are always here to respond to your questions or concerns. Our email addresses are on the website and it's our job to be here for our membership. I hope everyone had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day! National Director Rory Schulte



Deputy chaplain message

By FR. COLM MITCHELL

I imagine by the time this issue of the Digest is sent out, we will be into the Easter season. As Irishmen, Easter has two distinct but important meanings for us. First and foremost, it is the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. Secondly, it is when we commemorate those who gave their lives for Irish Freedom.

Again, the most important thing we celebrate on Easter is our Lord's Resurrection. This is his victory over sin and death. Because of this, salvation and paradise are possible for us. We must remember what our Lord endured for our salvation. He, an innocent man, took all of our sins upon himself. He suffered greatly at the hands of his captors. He was beaten to a pulp, spit upon, insulted and mocked. He endured this for you. He did this because he loves you. After his agonizing death on Good Friday, he was placed in a tomb. On Sunday morning, that tomb was empty. Let us remember this. Let us share this joyous news of Christ's victory over sin and death with everyone we encounter. In response to what Christ did for us, let us make sure that we avail ourselves to the graces our Lord wants to give us. Let us make sure we attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every Sunday. Let us make sure we regularly go to confession so we can worthily receive our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

The organizers of the 1916 Rising knew full well of the true meaning and importance of Easter. This is why they chose it as the time to strike their blow for Irish Freedom. Sadly, they were not successful. In the decades since, while we have gotten closer, we have not yet achieved their goal of complete freedom for the Irish Nation. Let us use this time to remember all those who have lost their lives since 1916, especially the fallen volunteers. Let us pray that not another drop of blood will have to be shed before their goal is realized.

Slán agus beannacht.



Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS

Irish • Catholic • American

NATIONAL BOARD CHAPLAINS

Rev. Martin O'Reilly	Chaplain	NJ
Rev. Colm Mitchell	Deputy Chaplain	IL

NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS

Sean Pender	President	NJ	paddyspeed@yahoo.com
Liam McNabb	Vice President	NY	liammcnabb@hotmail.com
Ray Lynch	Secretary	FL	irishyankeenut@yahoo.com
Dan P Devinney	National Treasurer	PA	devinneydaniel0@gmail.com

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Rory Schulte	MT, OR, NE, CO, NM, OK, KS, WA	MT
rory.schulte38@gmail.com		
Ryan Curry	TX, GA, TN, AZ, CA	GA
Ed Dougherty	PA, NJ, DE, OH, WV, MD, WDC, VAPA	
eddoc215@verizon.net		
Tom A Lambert	NY, MA, ME, NH, VT, CT, RI	NY
tomlambert12@aol.com		
Patrick S Ryan	IL, MI, IN, WI, MN, IA, MO, KY	KY
aoh.patrick.ryan68@gmail.com		
Keith Reynolds	FL, SC, NC, AL, LA	FL
		hiberniancop@gmail.com

CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Daniel Taylor	Historian / Archivist	PA	dmtaylorjr@gmail.com
Ryan Curry	Organizer	GA	curry1809@hotmail.com
John O'Connell	Editor Hibernian Digest	NY	editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
Martin Galvin, Esq	FFAI Chairman	NY	mgalvinesq@aol.com
John C Tarpey	Charities and Missions	PA	tarpey49@verizon.net
James (Jim) T Russell	Catholic Action	NY	russe340@aol.com
Kevin J Delaney	Project St. Patrick	PA	kdelaney1936@yahoo.com
Lawrence (Larry) J Squires	Pro-Life	PA	lsquires@descomm.com
Christopher H Thompson	National Legal Counsel	NY	ctalawman@aol.com
Neil Cosgrove	Political Education	NY	ncosgrove@optonline.com
Patrick E Flaherty	Veterans Affairs	MT	p.e.flaherty44@gmail.com
Dan E Dennehy	Immigration	NY	dandennehy@hotmail.com
Chris Cooke	CO-Digital Coordinator	NC	chris@chriscooke.com
Chad Ghastin	CO-Digital Coordinator	NY	ceghastin@gmail.com
Dennis (Denny) J Parks	Oversight Committee Chairman	OH	
dparks121@yahoo.com			
Robert (Bob) E Moyer	Oversight Committee	PA	rmoyer222@yahoo.com
John J Wilson	Oversight Committee	MO	johnj_wilson@yahoo.com
William (Bill) J Sullivan	Hunger - Irish Way Scholarships	MA	
williamsullivan@verizon.net			

NON-CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

John (Jack) K Schneider	Rituals & Degrees	PA	jack1515@aol.com
Daniel Taylor	Notre Dame	PA	dmtaylorjr@gmail.com
Alan Delozier	Archivist	NJ	borradh@aol.com
Nolan Maloney	Under 40 Advisory Board	TX	nomaloney@gmail.com
Greg Buehner	Under 40 Advisory Board	SC	gregory.buehner@gmail.com
Tim McSweeney	Special Advisor to President / Chief of Staff	NY	
newjack12007@yahoo.com			

DEPUTY

Greg Seán Canning	Deputy Secretary	FL	grioghar@mac.com
Robert Bollbach	FFAI	NY	bobbollbach@gmail.com
Donald R Connolly	At-Large Organizer	DC	donald.r.connolly@gmail.com
Brenden Walsh	On-line Applications Organizer	CN	
bwalsh@ctaoh.org			
TBA	Hibernian Charity President		
Tim Quinn	Hibernian Charity Secretary	KY	tquinn80@hotmail.com
Michael (Mike) P Joyce	Hibernian Charity Treasurer	TX	mpjoyceii@gmail.com
TBA	Hibernian Charity Trustee		

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Daniel O'Connell	Past President, 2020-2024	OH	djoconnell@ysu.edu
Hon. James F McKay III	Past President, 2016-2020	LA	jfmaoh@me.com
Brendan Moore	Past President, 2012-2016	NY	brendanaoh@yahoo.com
Seamus Boyle	Past President, 2008-2012	PA	shayboboyle@gmail.com
John (Jack) J Meehan Jr.	Past President, 2006-2008	MA	meehanaoh1@aol.com
Edward (Ned) P McGinley	Past President, 2002-2006	PA	nedaoh1@aol.com
Edward J Wallace	Past President, 1994-1998	NY	ewallac2@twcny.rr.com
Nicholas Murphy	Past President, 1986-1988	NY	upkerry@optonline.net

The National hibernian digest



"Ireland, One and Indivisible. Though the heavens Fall"

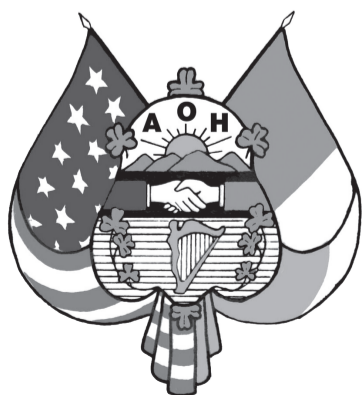
HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

Subscription price of \$10.00 included in the organization's dues. Periodical postage paid at Jensen Beach, Florida 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, Jensen Beach, FL.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National Hibernian Digest, PO Box 1742, Jensen Beach, FL 34958-1742. The Hibernian Digest reserves the right to not include articles in this publication due to space limitations and editorial determination. The articles submitted to the Digest do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., its Board of Directors, the Editor or its membership. The Hibernian Digest welcomes letters to the editor. Please send via e-mail to editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com and include your letter in the body of the e-mail. DO NOT send as an attachment. Letters can be mailed (typed only) to AOH Editor, National Hibernian Digest, c/o John O'Connell, 87-30 256th St., Floral Park, NY 11001. ALL LETTERS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please include contact phone numbers for follow up.

JOHN O'CONNELLNational Editor/Advertising(646) 436-0811 editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
Kim DepeauxAssistant Editor (LAOH)laohnationalnews@gmail.com



Make it Your Job to GROW the AOH!



deputy national organizer

By Don Connolly

Reverend Fathers and Brother Hibernians,

In the first three months of 2025, we welcomed 62 new At-Large members from 24 states, ranging in age from 18 to 89. Arizona is in the lead with nine new Brothers. Approximately one third are military veterans. At Large members are becoming more involved, participating in some of the online National Committee meetings.

New members are inquiring about the possibility of starting new divisions in Plattsburgh, NY; Phoenix, AZ; Houston, TX; and Las Vegas, NV; just to name a few. What does that mean?

Forming a new division is a commitment not to be taken lightly. It is far more than finding a few other Irish Catholic men to get together, share a few pints, and tell lies about how great it is to be us. It takes dedication, commitment and drive.

Having said that, building a division is one of the more gratifying things you can do. This is how we pass on our heritage and history to the new generations, as well as caring for the current generations through our charitable work.

Like any organization, it requires some local leaders willing to take charge. The national board and state leaders can provide training, guidance, and assist with targeted ad campaigns. If you are interested in the possibility of starting a new division in your area, email me at donald.r.connolly@gmail.com



irish-american heritage month

By neil cosgrove, national chairman

I am writing this article just as March and Irish American Heritage Month have closed. Given production deadlines, I have not been able to do a deep dive analysis of the results, but I think I can safely say we have kept our oath to promote and preserve the contributions of Irish Americans. One of our Irish American Heritage Month videos was seen by more than 300,000 people across the nation. Over a quarter of a million people became aware of the contributions that Irish men and women and their descendants have made to America, and equally important, they saw that the AOH is committed to keeping their story alive. Again, more details to follow.

However, while we turn the page of the calendar, we can not turn our back on our heritage. After surviving hundreds of years of oppression and efforts by one of the most powerful empires that history has ever seen to eradicate our history, we are seeing new and sadly very effective threats to our heritage.

The new danger is Artificial Intelligence airbrushing the Irish out of history. It must be appreciated that A.I. is not an "All Knowing," unbiased oracle; its responses are tailored and limited to the material it is trained on. A.I. is only as good as what it's trained on — and it's primarily trained on recent documents that emphasize other heritages, but not the Irish. Our stories are often missing from that data. The risk is real: we may be digitally airbrushed out of the historical record, not out of malice, but out of omission. We all have likely laughed at some point when we have seen an obviously bad A.I. image, and how it is fake, but will our children (or even their teachers) be able to spot bad A.I. answers regarding their heritage? If we don't speak for our history, no algorithm will.

Apathy toward our heritage among the young is growing; should that surprise us? How can you be passionate about something you know little about? That should sound alarm bells with every Hibernian. Edmund Burke, himself an Irishman, said it best: "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors." If we don't teach the next generation who we are and where we come from, they won't know what's worth defending — or what's at risk of being lost.

March is Irish American Heritage Month, not Irish American History Month. History is the past, a collection of names and dates. Heritage is identity. It's a legacy. It's the roadmap of how people from a tiny Island on the fringe of Europe went from famine ships and "No Irish Need Apply" to being successful in every field of human endeavor. When we lose our connection to that past, we become easy prey to those who want to erase it or rewrite it because it may be an inconvenient truth that does not fit into a narrative they wish to tell.

We are members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, founded not just to celebrate Irish culture but to defend it. And you cannot defend what you do not know. If our children and grandchildren don't learn about the Great Hunger, the Civil War Irish Brigade, the Molly Maguires, and the Easter Rising, our history dies with us. And if our history dies, our Irish identity becomes hollow — just green beer, inflatable Leprechauns, and plastic shamrocks once a year.

So I urge each of you: Don't just be Irish once a year, be a Hibernian. Be the keeper of the flame. Share our stories, not only about Commodore Barry, but your Father, Grandfather, etc. We talk a lot about "keeping the tradition alive" and "being proud to be Irish"; let us translate those words into action.

New York

Hibernians Organized Irish American Heritage Month Events

By Brothers Denis P. McGowan and Gerald Cusack

In March of 2019, Brother Denis McGowan, Richmond County Past Vice President, a Life Member of AOH St. Columille Division 4, recipient of the 2017 Emerald Society of the Federal Law Enforcement Agencies' Emerald of the Year Award and recipient of the 2017 Irish Echo's Law and Order Award, learned that his City of New York agency's website was celebrating March as Women's History Month. So he sent an email to his agency's commissioner. He respectfully reminded his fellow employees that March had also been designated Irish American Heritage Month since 1991 by Presidents of both parties. He reminded them of the tremendous contributions of the Irish and their descendants by sharing a litany of examples, beginning with the fact that 33 million Americans proudly claim Irish ancestry.

Brother McGowan listed examples of Irish loyalty to America, from Commodore Barry and two thirds of Washington's army being Irish to the 150,000 Irishmen who fought for the Union during the Civil War. He included the seven Irishmen who signed the Declaration of Independence and noted that 258 Irish-born and 2,018 Irish Americans received the Medal of Honor for their bravery and sacrifice. As builders, he cited Kilkenny-born architect James Hoban, who designed and built the White House and the Irish who built thousands of parish churches, cathedrals, schools, hospitals and orphanages across the country. They also built railways, tunnels, bridges and skyscrapers and became leaders in the labor movement from the Knights of Labor to the AFL-CIO and scores of union leaders in between right up to Peter McGuire, the father of Labor Day. He mentioned John Holland, who built the U.S. Navy's first submarine, and William 'Wild Bill' Donovan, commander of the Fighting 69th, who became head of the Office of Strategic Services which became the CIA. He included military heroes from Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII, to Col. Eileen Marie Collins, the first woman to pilot the Space Shuttle in 1995, and of course, our AOH Brother, President Kennedy. He closed with the request that St. Patrick not be referred to as 'Paddy' and asked for proper respect for the Patron Saint of Ireland during this Irish American Heritage Month.

As a result, since 2019, an agency-wide announcement is made in March about Irish American Heritage Month, and two days are designated for a celebration of Irish culture and heritage. With a committee of fellow employees of Irish birth and Irish heritage from his agency, Brother McGowan has raised funds and hosted a free Irish traditional breakfast for his agency's workers every year, serving as a master of ceremonies for the events, and is ably assisted by our dedicated Brother Gerald Cusack of AOH New York County Francis P. Beirne Division 9.

— Photo by Ms. Samantha Modell



Guests of Honor at the event included Ms. Sheila Lynott, Bro. Denis McGowan, center, and Deputy Consul-General Gareth Hargadon.

Ohio

IAHM in Ohio

Thanks to the efforts of State President Denny Parks, Past State President Bob Harper and Brother Scott Partika, Governor Mike DeWine once again recognized March as Irish American Heritage Month in the State of Ohio. From the Proclamation: "Ohioans of Irish descent, currently numbering more than 1,600,000, have played a vital role in shaping Ohio's history and culture, exploring our frontiers, building our canals and railroads, and serving our great state and nation through their military and public service, hard work, ingenuity, and creativity..."



Profiles in Hibernian Leadership



Denny Maher,
Pennsylvania State President

How long have you been a Hibernian?
My Division, Sean MacBride Division 32, was founded on September 17, 1989. Due to a work business commitment that day, I officially joined the Order in November of 1989.

What is your current office and what other AOH leadership roles have you held in the past?

My current office is Pennsylvania State President. I was elected President on my birthday, July 22, 2023, at the State Convention in Johnstown, PA. In January of 2024, I was honored to be presented with the AOH Life Member medallion and ribbon by Past National President Danny O’Connell at my Division meeting. It was great that it happened with my Division Brothers and family in attendance.
Prior to President, I was the State Vice President. I was also a State Marshal under

continued on page 14



freedom for all ireland
By martin galvin, chairman

Hibernian Hardliners

The Belfast Telegraph on March 21 headlined the story that British Secretary Hilary Benn had met with Irish Republican “hardliners” during his visit to Washington. The story was accompanied by a photo of the British official who presides over the six counties for Keir Starmer meeting an American delegation that included National AOH President Sean Pender and myself (wearing an Easter Lilly). While the ground rules of the meeting prevent me from quoting directly, Hibernians will have no doubt that we took a hard line in support of victims’ families fighting for legacy justice, challenging Benn to keep his pledge to repeal and replace the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) cover-up commission.
We were there because British officials recognize that the AOH is an influential voice in shaping Irish American opinion, and AOH “hardliners” on issues like Freedom for all Ireland must be heard.

Irish Government

During the first week in April, Hibernians were in Leinster House, meeting with key Irish representatives, including two party leaders and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. It was a crucial week as tariffs were being announced and a major dispute over opposition speaking rights dominated the parliamentary agenda. Yet these key officials made time to brief and get the views of the AOH because Irish America is important and the AOH is an important voice in Irish America.

Congressional Letter

At the same time as we were meeting in Leinster House, Hibernians were calling local Congressional offices and getting backing for a bipartisan Congressional letter in support of the Finucane family and justice for the murdered Civil Rights lawyer murdered by British state agents.

Christmas Appeal Grants

Hibernians also presented a record \$150,000 in Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) grants to 19 applicants, during a live webinar broadcast from the Houben Centre in Belfast. Each grant winner spoke about their work for Irish freedom and how much they count on AOH donations. The event is now posted on YouTube so it can be watched by any Hibernian who wants to see where our contributions go.
Among the recipients this year were the Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign, and Bloody Sunday Trust, whose respective half-century battles for justice have been an inspiration to victims’ relatives across the north. Others who were awarded grants because of their work in fighting for legacy truth were Relatives for Justice and the Witness Project. The EALU center was awarded a grant for its work with Republican ex-political prisoners in Tyrone.

A heritage grant was awarded to the St. Patrick Centre. Both Belfast National Graves and Tyrone National Graves were awarded grants for their work in honoring and caring for the graves of Irish patriots.
Joe Doherty, who spent years in a New York prison battling extradition, spoke on behalf of the Greater New Lodge Commemoration Committee.
The Bogside Artists and Martin McGuinness Foundation were among the Derry grant winners. Green Cross, Dúchas-Oriall, Committee, Bridges Beyond Boxing, and the O’Neill-Allsopp Memorial Band were also grant recipients.
Among the first-time recipients were the Ardoyne Youth Club and Eileen Hickey Museum. A special contribution will be made to Ireland’s Future, which is holding a major event in Philadelphia in April.

Crucial Role

No Hibernian should underestimate the impact Hibernian hardliners have on Freedom for All Ireland. No Hibernian should overlook your crucial role in giving the AOH its strength. We can influence British and Irish officials, Congressmen and key groups doing vital work in Ireland only because we stand for members across 50 states, who work to support Freedom for All Ireland.

Ireland’s Future

The AOH was prominently represented at the Ireland’s Future gala in Philadelphia in April. Ireland’s Future is an organization comprised of numerous leaders and stakeholders in Ireland and the North of Ireland that promotes constitutional change within the framework of the Good Friday Agreement. Former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, the event’s keynote speaker, presented the benefits of a united Ireland through a multi-year campaign for a referendum.



A large group AOH members attended the event that included Past National President Seamus Boyle and National Directors Ed Dougherty and Ryan Curry.

Former Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, left, with AOH National Vice President Liam McNabb.

50 years
SAVE THE DATE
Project Children
50th Anniversary Celebration

Dates: Tuesday October 7 – Saturday 11, 2025
Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan, Ireland

Scan the QR code for accommodations and event calendar

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR "MOVE TO MONAGHAN" PEACE CAMPUS AT PROJECTCHILDREN.ORG

‘How to Diffuse a Bomb’

The Brothers of The Fighting 69th Division 18 Peekskill were proud to host Denis Mulcahy and Project Children along with the recipients of the Denis Mulcahy Scholarship for a screening of “How to Defuse a Bomb, The Project Children Story.”



From left, Denis Mulcahy & Miriam Mulcahy, with Catherine Flood, Linda Croston, Division 18 President John Joyce and District 4 Director Clive Cronin.



hibernian hunger project

By Bill Sullivan, national chairman

Congratulations! This year there was an increase in Hibernian Hunger Project (HHP) Applications received as compared to previous years. We can attribute this directly to the work done by our Hibernian Hunger Project State Chairmen, who encouraged divisions in their states to file a hunger application. At the same time, we want to thank those divisions who submitted HHP Applications for the work done by them in 2024. We still have a long way to go to have all divisions on board to appoint a Division Hunger Chairman, as well as submit a HHP application, but we are making progress each year.

On Monday, February 3, we held our second Zoom meeting with the HHP State Chairmen along with many of our national officers. Discussion centered on encouraging the state chairmen to contact divisions in their states to submit their hunger grant applications, as well as encouraging division presidents to appoint a hunger chairman. The data from the HHP applications may be beneficial when the AOH National Board applies for grants, since this information might impact the decision on the grant. The next HHP State Chairmen Zoom meeting will be held on Monday, May 5.

As evidenced by the HHP applications received, divisions are addressing hunger in their communities in a multitude of ways. Due to the generosity of our members, 29 divisions received grants for their 2024 hunger projects. Due to the numerous first-class projects submitted, the HHP committee found the judging very difficult, but after much thought and discussion, decided on the five divisions who would

receive \$1,000 grants, and the 24 division who would receive \$500 awards.

Divisions selected to receive \$1,000 grants were: Division 1, Allegheny County, PA; Division 87, Port Richmond, Philadelphia, PA; the Father John Lynch Division, Roanoke, VA; Division 1, Saratoga Springs, NY; and Division 1, of Sarpy County, NE.

Divisions selected to receive \$500 awards were: Division 2, Carbondale, PA; Division 2, South Amboy, NJ; Division 1, Columbus, OH; Division 1, Buck's County, PA; Division 2, Babylon, NY; Division 2, Middletown, NJ; Division 1, Watertown NY; Division 1, Guilford County, NC; Division 3, Fairfax, VA; Division 1, Watervliet, NY; Division 1, Binghamton, NY; Division 3, Silver Springs, MD; Division 5, Buck's County, PA; Division 1, St Charles County, MO; Division 1, Omaha, NE; Division 39, Philadelphia County, PA; Division 1, Holyoke, MA; Division 2, Cape May County, NJ; Division 32, Cook County, IL; Division 1, Manchester, NH; Division 1, Helena MT; Division 1, Cambria County, PA; Division 1, Lucas County, OH; and Division 2, St Louis, MO. In future Hibernian Digest articles, we will report on how these Divisions addressed hunger in their communities.

Tim Myles of Nassau County, NY, initiated a successful hunger project on his own, where customers of local businesses could purchase a paper shamrock and write their name on it for a nominal charge. The business would then display the shamrock for other patrons to see. All monies collected from this activity were donated to local food pantries in the New York area. This is certainly an idea that a division could utilize as their hunger project.

The next round of Hibernian Hunger Project Awards will cover Division Hunger Projects that will take place between January 1 – December 31, 2025. If your division has not already begun planning a hunger project, now might just be the time to do so!

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



charities & missions

By John Tarpey, national chairman

I remember when I first joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, what struck me was the willingness of the brothers to volunteer. Our brothers volunteer at food banks, their local church, other Catholic organizations, as well as within their communities.

Division 9 in Pittsburgh has continued serving Old St. Patrick's Church. They were able to get businesses to volunteer to help invest in stained glass windows, doors, fixing the grounds and updating this historical church.

Now that I am working on the National level, I still see that same commitment to volunteering in the community from around the country. It makes you proud to be part of an organization that is committed to improving their community and helping the less fortunate.

Examples:

- When Hurricane Helene hit the south, brothers in the Carolinas worked with their local parish to deliver supplies to those impacted in other parts of the state.
- In Chicago, Division 32 works closely with the Soup Kitchens at St. Mary of the Lake. This is a weekly event that Division 32 volunteers set up, serve the food and take down the tables.
- Division 2 in Cornwall, New York, provides a monthly breakfast for senior citizens. They work with a local hospital to provide toys for children while also giving to local food banks.
- Division 32 in Carnegie, PA, uses its annual Christmas Party as an opportunity to collect diapers for the local Genesis House. Genesis is a maternity care facility for pregnant women in need of shelter.
- Division 1, South Hills Pittsburgh, PA, contributes to the local Food Bank and to KDKA Turkey Fund annually. One of its members works with a number of community food security groups donating around 200 hours of his time to these community groups.
- The Fr. Mychal Judge division in Kentucky supports a dinner at the Hilda Barg Shelter throughout the year with monetary donations and volunteering their time.
- The Notre Dame Division 1 in Montgomery County, PA, as part of their Hibernian Hunger Drive collects nonperishable foods during the month of March that go to the Patrician Society of Norristown that provides help for elderly people on fixed income, homeless persons, recently unemployed and underemployed breadwinners.
- Division 39 in Philadelphia works with many community groups, raising funds and delivering food baskets throughout the Philadelphia area without regard to religious affiliation.
- On the National AOH level, Hibernian Charity has donated to St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families: through Project St. Patrick the National has awarded grants to 66 individuals in 2023 and 73 in 2024, with more to follow in November. We support The Gaelic Athletic Association (with support from Joe White of Div. 9 in Pittsburgh).
- National AOH has granted \$5,000 in scholarships as well as money for the Young Ambassadors Program, which helps engage with younger brothers just starting out on their Hibernian journey.
- Under the auspices of the Hibernian Hunger Project in 2024 the National AOH provided \$8,500 in awards for 2023 projects and this year will award \$11,000 for 2024 projects.

Proud to be part of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America.



project st. patrick

By Kevin Delaney, national chairman

The 2025 Easter Appeal is underway! This year is the 30th Anniversary of Project Saint Patrick. The primary business of Project Saint Patrick during the appeal is to raise funds for scholarship grants awarded to Seminarians and Religious. We need every division to participate with a donation to ensure the success of Project Saint Patrick and demonstrate our commitment to our Church. The Donation form can be found on the AOH website under the "Forms" tab at the top. Here's the link to the Donation form..... https://aoh.com/gobansaer/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025_Project_St_Patrick_Donation_Form.pdf.

Project St. Patrick was created to help our Seminarians on their path of discernment and study to becoming a Priest. Your generous donations throughout the years have positively affected hundreds of Seminarians who have been ordained. We need your continued support to expand our good work. Our Priests do not just appear clothed in their vestments but come from the pew as young men and with your prayers and steadfast support become Seminarians and eventually an ordained Priest.

The next Project St. Patrick zoom call will be on April 29th at 8 p.m. Eastern time with all the various State Project St. Patrick chairs across the country. The goal is to have a quarterly zoom call to help increase the flow of knowledge and information both ways between the National Chair and the State chairs. I'm happy to report that the engagement of the State Chairs is bearing fruit in multiple ways. The dialogue on the calls is very interesting and informative.

I've also received information from Brothers from Florida to Montana on Vocation Directors in their respective states that we've never received before. So we'll be able to increase the number of Vocation Directors contacted for the application process. The Vocation Directors are key in the grant application process since they provide the Project St. Patrick application to the Seminarians and write the letters of recommendation.

I encourage all Project Saint Patrick chairs at the Division level, County level and State level to join the next scheduled zoom call. Please email me at kdelaneypsp@yahoo.com if you'd like to receive the link for the next scheduled zoom call.

I'd also like to provide an update on Project Saint Patrick Ireland. President Pender traveled to Ireland in March to present a grant to St. Patrick's National Seminary in Maynooth. Saint Patrick's is the only Diocesan Seminary remaining in Ireland. President Pender will be presenting a grant for \$25,000 from the National Board to help rebuild the Church in Ireland. We can be proud of our Order's efforts to support the Seminarians in Ireland.

I've added a QR code at the top of this article. The QR code will allow an individual to easily donate to Project Saint Patrick by following the directions on the screen. The use of modern technology makes it easy to contribute to Project Saint Patrick at any time.

I wish my all of my Brothers and their families a fruitful Lent and a Blessed Easter Season.



Project Saint Patrick Mass/Prayer Cards

Project Saint Patrick cards are available by sending your request to:

Kevin J. Delaney, National Chairman
AOH Project St. Patrick
2532 Wood Ave, Bristol, PA 19007
kdelaneypsp@yahoo.com



veterans affairs

By *patrick flaherty*

Well, another St. Patrick's Day is in the books. I hope that everyone had a happy and safe celebration and that you were able to recruit a few new members to your division. At least as far as my division is concerned, we all made it out alive and well and we have at least a couple of prospective members for the next couple of months. But, on to other things.

The next big event for Veterans as a whole is Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. This day commemorates those that gave their utmost in the service of our country. Abraham Lincoln described it as the "last full measure of devotion." It truly is the last thing that a person can give, their lives. In a way, this ties in with the major Catholic event of Easter. The time when Jesus gave his life so that we might have the chance to go to heaven. I do not mean to belittle what Jesus did for all of us, but the sacrifice is similar. As it reads in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." The similarities are profound and we should remember and respect the choices and sacrifices those who have gone before us made for their friends. I hope that you all take time out to remember and celebrate

the gift that those people have given us and the opportunities that gift has opened up for all of us and our families.

The Easter Season is our time to reflect and be with family and friends to celebrate the sacrifices made by Jesus for us and our everlasting lives. Take time during this season to reach out to others, especially Veteran friends that you haven't seen in a while and check in with each other. Holidays are always tough as we remember those who are no longer with us and who can no longer celebrate with us.

I have recently added a couple of new resources to the Veterans Affairs section of the AOH Website and I encourage all of you to visit the site and explore the resources available. There are many, and some may be valuable to you. If you have a resource site/organization and would like to see them added to the Website, please do not hesitate to let me know. I will, of course, vet the information that is submitted before I can allow it to be posted. I recently received some solicitations from organizations that wanted to be a part of our resource page. Upon investigation, one was a clear scam and one was a disguised solicitation for money. I will try to prevent that from getting on the website, to the best of my ability. In any case, if you are ever seeking to get help with something, make sure that you check things out yourself to avoid any pitfalls that may lie in wait.

As always, if you have questions or concerns you can call me at (406) 459-3958 or email me at p.e.flaherty44@gmail.com and I will do my best to get you any help or answers that you need.

In our Motto.

Virginia

Sweats for Vets

The 2025 S4V (Sweats for Vets) distribution ceremony on January 18 at the VAMC Martinsburg was a great success because of the efforts of the many volunteers from October to January. As this year's AOH coordinator, I am reluctant to try to thank all of the volunteer groups and organizations that made the ceremony possible as I know I will inadvertently omit some. But certainly a most sincere and heartfelt thank-you goes to the Knights of Columbus (Northern Virginia Councils and Assemblies), the Ancient Order of Hibernians – Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Division (Loudoun), Leesburg VFW Post 1177, the LAOH – Daughter of Erin Division (Loudoun), the many churches, the numerous Virginia schools (St Joseph, St. Theresa and Our Lady of Hope Catholic Schools) for their "Thank you for your Service" cards, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Vistas at Lansdowne/Lansdowne Woods communities and of course Terry Stotler and his VAMC Team.

Twenty volunteers mustered at the VFW on Saturday, loaded 600 S4V sets and other garments into a 15-vehicle caravan and then traveled to the VAMC Hospital. VAMC had 15 volunteers that made the facility ready for our arrival and provided guidance and assistance throughout the ceremony for the S4V distribution efforts that followed.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Colors by the Knights of Columbus Color Guard from JP11 Assembly (Potomac Falls) that kick-off the ceremony. The 2025 S4V ceremony was the 18th (with about 50 volunteers in attendance) and we even had one of the original co-founders of the project in attendance, Brother Frank Nauert. Saturday's ceremony was especially heartwarming to see all of the previous efforts come together.

We collected and wrapped approximately 700 new-sweat outfits and



AOH Brother Dan Gillespie, VFW Officer Steve Hood, AOH Past State President Jay McCarthy, VA Director Terry Stotler and the JP11 Color Guard.

distributed 600 sweat-outfits to VAMC. The remainder will be distributed to the VAMC Washington, D.C., and to the National Medical Center in Bethesda at a later date. We collected, wrapped and distributed more than 1,000 pairs of socks, distributed 20 new winter coats, distributed over 1,200 "thank you for your service" cards to Veterans. We donated approximately \$5,500 to the VAMC from various contributors to be used for VAMC Veterans' essential needs at the facility.

Division supports Archdiocese for the Military Services



The 6th Annual Exceptional Single Malt Dinner was held on February 1, the Feast of St. Brigid, hosted by the Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Division in support of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Thirty guests enjoyed several exceptional Irish whiskeys along with a 1st class Irish dinner, Irish music and much Irish bantering. Our Division is privileged to have active two Military Chaplains among its membership.

Division President Dennis Corrigan, VA PSP & PDP Jay McCarthy, Archbishop Timothy Broglio, Bishop Joseph Coffey and VA State President Bob Fay. A \$5K donation to the Archdiocese for the Military Services was happily accepted by the Archbishop.



immigration

By Dan Dennehy, national chairman

I hope everyone had an enjoyable, productive Irish American Heritage Month, particularly our Feast of Saint Patrick celebrations nationwide.

My family and I attended the St. Patrick's Day Mass for the New York Fighting 69th Regiment at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This event honors the Grand Marshal and Hibernian Aides from Metropolitan New York. Concelebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan and other clergy, the Mass featured a moving homily from Archbishop Eamon Martin, who traveled from Armagh, County Tyrone, the seat of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

The Primate of Ireland's visits are rare. On March 16, Archbishop Martin visited St. Barnabas Parish in Woodlawn; like his legendary predecessor, Archbishop Tomas O'Fiaich, Martin met with AOH National leaders and held a community reception. Woodlawn is home to AOH Woodlawn Division 5 of Bronx County.

Archbishop Martin spoke about the desperate Irish who arrived in New York during An Gorta Mór with little more than the clothes on their backs. Despite their hardships, they held onto great hope forged in adversity and grounded in the same strong faith that had inspired Saint Patrick centuries earlier to persevere. He remarked, "It's no wonder so many Irish people and their descendants played pivotal roles in building the great city of New York, serving as leaders in their parishes and communities, as well as in business, education, healthcare, law and emergency services." He emphasized that the responsibility to strive for better lives for future generations rests firmly on our shoulders.

After the Mass, I had the chance to thank Archbishop Martin for sharing his hopeful message. In the spirit of his inspiring words, I want to emphasize the AOH's priority regarding immigration in 2025. We aim to educate and inform our fellow members and legislators, encourage the hiring and support of Irish immigrants, put an end to visa denials for Irish individuals seeking U.S. visas — particularly for residents of Northern Ireland and Irish artists — and contribute to the celebrations and commemorations of the USA's 250th anniversary, which will highlight the Irish contribution to America.

Please watch the AOH webinar, Obtaining Irish Citizenship and Passports. Hosted by the Consulate General of Ireland NY and the Irish American Baseball Society and presented by President Sean Pender and myself, it is filled with excellent information about the documents, requirements and benefits of Irish citizenship and passports. The video can be found on www.aoh.com or Ancient Order of Hibernian YouTube using the title Obtaining Irish Citizenship Webinar.

You can locate a local Irish Immigration Center at www.ciic-usa.org. Your involvement at these centers is encouraged, and I urge everyone to participate for mutual benefit.



National Immigration Chairman Dennehy and his daughter Cara, had the pleasure of meeting Tánaiste Simon Harris at the Knights of St. Patrick Luncheon, which was hosted by John Tully, the Past President of NY County Division 7 and the Chair of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. They had a productive discussion about ongoing efforts to seek reciprocal immigration and driving license legislation.



Immigration Chairman Dennehy with Archbishop Martin on March 17 at Cardinal Timothy Dolan's post-Mass breakfast in NYC.



political education

By Neil Cosgrove, national chairman

Thanks to coordinated outreach by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, 37 members of Congress signed onto the recent bipartisan letter urging President Trump to appoint a U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. That's a significant achievement, and one we should all take pride in. It reflects growing recognition in Washington of the critical role the U.S. must continue to play in securing peace, economic development, and justice in the North.

Credit where it's due: this didn't happen on its own. It happened because Hibernians picked up the phone, sent emails, and made this matter to their representatives. Every one of those 37 signatures has an AOH member behind it who got involved and followed through — and we thank you.

But as proud as we are of that number, we need to be honest with ourselves: it should have been higher.

This was not a controversial issue. The Special Envoy role has existed under every U.S. President since 1995. It supports peace. It supports business. It costs the taxpayer next to nothing. And yet, we didn't get signatures from several congressional representatives who represent districts where Hibernians are well established.

One of the signers? A representative from Guam. That's right — Guam. Meanwhile, in areas with strong AOH presence, we came up short.

As we reviewed those districts, one thing became clear: in every case where support was absent, so was meaningful outreach from our local divisions. That's not about blame, it's about reality. We can't expect results if we're not making the ask. Political engagement isn't passive, it's personal, and it's local.

This should be a wake-up call. Having a presence isn't enough. Our voice must be heard directly by the people we elect. Offices need to know that when the AOH is engaged it's a call to action. That's how we build influence, that's how we deliver results.

We got 37 this time. That's our floor, not our ceiling. Let's get to work.



Hibernians attend Ireland Funds Gala

The Order's leadership attended the annual Ireland Funds Gala in Washington, D.C. The AOH attended the event to support the organization as it raises funds for charitable programs and services in Ireland and beyond. Taoiseach Micheál Martin was the featured speaker at the event, which also honored fellow Hibernian and Congressman, Brendan Boyle. From left, National Secretary Ray Lynch; Sister Nancy Downing, President and CEO of the St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth & Families in Washington, D.C.; National President Sean Pender and National Vice President Liam McNabb.





rituals & degrees

By Jack Schneider, national chairman

With this being a state convention year within the AOH, there will be many opportunities for non-degreed members to “receive the Lessons and take the Test of the Order,” thereby fulfilling the obligations for full membership prescribed at your initial initiation. Many Major Degree ceremonies will be offered as part of this year’s state convention slate throughout the country. Currently, only about 30 percent of the Order membership have received their Major Degree. We encourage all non-degreed Hibernians to take advantage of these degree ceremonies and be welcomed into the Inner Chamber of Hibernianism.

Here is a complete list of our state convention Major Degree ceremonies being offered this year:

- Michigan – Saturday, May 17. Grand Rapids. Amway Grand Hotel, 187 Monroe Avenue, NW, Grand Rapids, MI. Sons of Milesius (OH) Major degree Team exemplifying. www.michiganaoh.org.
- Ohio – Saturday, June 28. Cuyahoga Falls. Sheraton Suites Akron, 1989 Front Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Sons of Milesius (OH) MDT exemplifying. www.aohl-aohohio2025.org.
- New York – Saturday, July 19. Rochester, NY. www.nyaoh.com
- Pennsylvania – Saturday, July 19. Scranton, PA. Hilton Scranton and Conference Center, 100 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA. Isle of Erin (PA) MDT exemplifying. Candidates and observers are encouraged to pre-register at www.aohlaohpa-convention.com or www.isleoferin.com.
- Virginia – Saturday, August 2. Richmond, VA. Brian Boru (VA) MDT exemplifying. www.aohvirginia.org.
- Montana – Saturday, September 13. Helena, MT. Knights of Columbus Hall, 1867 North Washington Street, Helena, MT. Copper Kings (MT) MDT exemplifying. www.hibernian.org
- South Carolina – Saturday, September 13. Brian Boru (VA) MDT exemplifying. www.scaoh.org.
- North Carolina – Saturday, October 4. Southport, NC. Brian Boru (VA) MDT exemplifying. www.ncaoh.org.
- Florida – Saturday, October 12. Orlando, FL. Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Boulevard, Orlando, FL. Innisfail (FL) MDT exemplifying.

We look forward to seeing as many Brothers as possible participating in these Major Degree exemplifications as candidates or observers. Best of luck to all our Major Degree Teams in carrying out our rituals and safe travels to all.

Congratulations to Jere Cole

Former AOH National Secretary Jere E. Cole, Jr, a member of Division 9 in Essex County, NJ, was recently honored for 50 years of service at the West Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department in West Caldwell, NJ. “This recognition, received this past November, was a truly wonderful experience,” Jere said.

Jere has spent his entire life giving back to society by serving his community, encouraging civic involvement, and promoting his Irish Catholic Heritage. Jere was a Detective for the Essex County Sheriff’s Department, retiring in 2010 after 20 years of service. He was honored with the Essex County Sheriff of the Month Award. Jere has been a 50-year member and was 1st Assistant Chief of the West Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department. In connection with his firefighting activities, Jere was the Past President of the Fireman’s Association and was the Past State Secretary of the New Jersey State Exempt Fireman’s Association. Jere sat on the Board of Managers at the Fireman’s Home in Boonton, New Jersey, representing the volunteer firemen of Essex County. He was also the Secretary-Treasurer of the New Jersey State Fire Chief’s Association for over 20 years.

Jere’s Irish heritage has always been an important aspect of his life. It is this pride that has led him to become involved in numerous Irish American organizations, especially the Ancient Order of Hibernians, of which he’s been a member for 25 years. He’s been on the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee and had the honor of being 2014 Grand Marshal. Jere also has been on Newark St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee where he served as General Chairman and 2022 Grand Marshal.

After graduation from high school in 1964, Jere enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served in the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal.

With all of his involvement, Jere still finds time to be with his family. Jere resides in Caldwell with his wife of 50 years, Margie. They are proud parents of two daughters Dawn and Kelly and proud grandparents of Cole Thomas Schmittler, AJ, Hunter and Casey Wilce. Jere is currently employed at the law firm of Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti in Morristown, New Jersey.



Jere E. Cole, Jr.



Irish way & study abroad scholarships

By Bill Sullivan, national chairman

It’s hard to believe that 2025 is already a third over and summer will soon be upon us. Do you have a child or grandchild of high school or college age who has talked about studying in Ireland? If so, now is the time to do something about it. Your AOH National Board has scholarship initiatives to make this idea possibility happen. The AOH offers a \$1,000 scholarship for high school students to study in Ireland during the summer in the Irish Way Program. At the same time the AOH offers a \$3,000 scholarship for a full year of study and/or a \$1,500 semester scholarship for study at a college of your choosing in Ireland. Let’s find out more.

For more than 35 years the AOH has helped American high school students study in Ireland through the Irish Way Program. This multifaceted program consists of a wide variety of classes, workshops and tours. The dates for the 2025 Irish Way Program are June 29 – July 23.

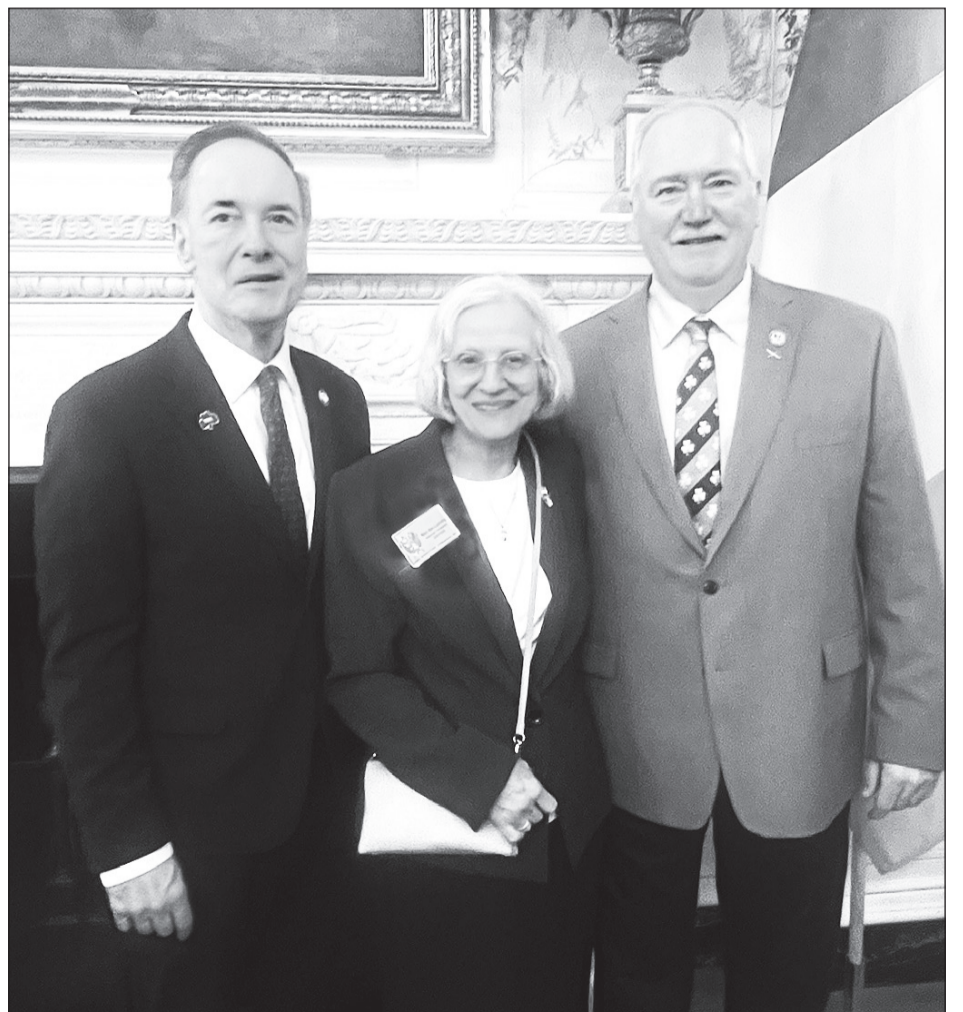
The \$1,000 scholarship offered is for an AOH member who is attending high school, as well as for the child or grandchild of an AOH member. For more information on this scholarship, and the Irish Way Program, please visit our AOH National Web Page (aoh.com) under Committees/ Scholarships. Information on this program and our Irish Way scholarship can also be found on the AOH Facebook page.

If you are a college student, or the parent or grandparent of a college student who just might be on the fence to study or not study in Ireland, take the leap or at least give it some serious thought. This scholarship could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study abroad! Opportunity does not knock twice! We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this scholarship’s golden opportunity. Please check out the AOH National Board website under Committees/Scholarships for a Study Abroad Scholarship Application and other pertinent information on studying in Ireland at the undergraduate and graduate level. Information on our study abroad scholarships can also be found on the AOH Facebook page. Please note: our college scholarships are open-ended until filled.

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

Hibernian Leadership at the White House

AOH and LAOH national presidents Sean Pender and Mary Ann Lubinsky were guests of President Donald Trump at the White House for the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration honoring Irish Taoiseach Micheal Martin. Mary Ann and Sean met AOH member Congressman John Joyce of Pennsylvania at the reception and later were hosted by the Irish government at Blair House where they were received by the Taoiseach and Ireland’s ambassador to the U.S., Geraldine Byrne Nason.



Pennsylvania Congressman John Joyce, M.D., a proud Hibernian, with national presidents Mary Ann Lubinsky and Sean Pender.



pro Life

By Lawrence Squires

Hopefully you're enjoying a wonderful and blessed Easter with your families, and you're busy planning your summer activities and vacations. During the month of May, we celebrate Mother's Day. If your mom is still alive, make the effort to spoil your mom, because nothing is too good for her!

In February, our family suffered the loss of a cousin, who was 66, and was under the care of her 91-year-old retired nurse mother for the last several years of her too short life. Cancer is a horrible disease that attacks without prejudice and frequently forces very difficult end-of-life decisions and situations. The relationship between my cousin and her mother, who is also my Godmother, was nothing short of miraculous, especially in the last weeks of my cousin's life. My aunt moved with the strength and stamina of a woman one-third her age, even if her face was soaked with tears, as she tended to my cousin's needs. As I witnessed this act of love, I gained a new appreciation for the powerful bond between mother and child. As sad as the situation was, my aunt and cousin were relieved, and so very happy, when Fr. Tom Burke came to their house and heard my cousin's last confession, presented her with the Holy Eucharist, and anointed her with the Holy Chrism. They both felt blessed and fortunate to be Catholic and fully supported by their parish, pastor and the sacraments, as end of life became imminent. Although cut too short by cancer, and ending in sadness, my cousin had a full life from conception to natural death.

While my aunt is amazing, there are many more mothers like her, with powerful stories of their motherhood and how faith pulled them through impossible situations. Many of these mothers fill the ranks of volunteers for 40 Days for Life. These moms show up on the sidewalks around their neighborhood abortion facilities to pray and urge new mothers to avoid abortion and look to other options for their pregnancy, as they, like my Godmother, carry the intense pain of losing a child in their heart.

The AOH National Pro-Life Committee meets once a month by Zoom, usually the Monday or Tuesday before the First Friday of each month, which is when the Pro-Life Newsletter is published. We are gaining new attendees every month, usually Brothers who hold a Pro-Life Chair at the State, County or Division level, but also there are many brothers who are not Pro-Life Chairs but have a vested interest in Pro-Life activities. If you would like to join the Pro-Life Committee, please



The AOH National Board was prominently represented at the Annual Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C., in January. The AOH is proud to initiate what we anticipate will be a long-term partnership with St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families. The National Hibernian delegation traveled to St. Ann's Center in Hyattsville, MD, located just outside of D.C. During this visit, the delegation met with Sister Nancy Downing, CEO of St. Ann's Center, and Sue Flaherty, Vice President of Development. The AOH presented Sister Nancy with a check for \$5,000, establishing the AOH as a major sponsor for St. Ann's Spring Gala fundraiser scheduled for May. Next year we will add St. Ann's as a direct pro-life donation, as part of the annual Hibernian charity appeal, to continue to demonstrate our commitment to pro-life.

send me an email at lsplitcmf@gmail.com. If you're a State, County or Division President, and you need some assistance with filling a Chair, or wondering what's involved in the office, send me an email, and we'll schedule a call and get your Pro-Life Chair up and running! — May God bless you! In Our Motto! —Larry Squires

Wisconsin

Milwaukee Hibernians Return to Our Roots for St. Patrick's Day Celebration

The Rev. William J. Kelly, S.J. Division celebrated St. Patrick's Day early on a gusty March 15 in Milwaukee. Our division was honored to march in two parades — Milwaukee and neighboring Wauwatosa. We enjoy the festivities, and the parades help us target and recruit prospective members whom we greet along the route.

Before marching, we joined celebrants at St. Patrick's Church for a special mass honoring our patron saint. The mass featured rousing processions by the Greater Milwaukee Fire and Police Pipes and Drums, and an Old Testament reading in Irish. Our AOH Division Chaplain, Rev. Michael Maher, S.J., provided the homily. St. Patrick's Parish was founded in 1876 and became the spiritual home for Irish immigrants.

This namesake parish and its history make this the city's most appropriate church to celebrate this holiday mass. And while St. Patrick's Parish today serves a predominately Hispanic community, composed of immigrant and first-generation parishioners from Latin America, it unintentionally complements our division's efforts in Christian charity. Each year through our fundraising, we donate tens of thousands of dollars to three local Catholic schools that lack the financial support of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The schools receiving these funds provide education largely to a population who likewise are the children of recent immigrants. You can read about our 2024-2025 fundraising efforts in the next issue.

While St. Patrick's Day remains a time to celebrate our shared culture and heritage, we should also recognize that we are the beneficiaries of the sacrifices made by our Irish forebears.



Rev. William J. Kelly, S.J. Division members at the 5th annual Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Parade in downtown Milwaukee.

Missouri

The St. Louis County Board President and Governor Mike Kehoe spread the spirit of our Order and Christian Charity at the Ancient Order of Hibernians' Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dogtown! This celebration is one of the largest St. Patrick's Day parades in the country, and is put on by St. Louis Hibernians.



St. Louis County Hibernians' famous Color Guard led the St. Patrick's Parade in Downtown St. Louis. From left, Joe McGettigan, Mike Finnegan, Mike Quinn, James O'Donnell and Kevin Flynn.



Mike Quinn -St. Louis County Board President, left, and Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe.

‘Lost Gaels’

‘Remembering the Members of the GAA Killed During the Conflict in Ireland’

By Peadar Thompson

I would like to thank each and every one of you Hibernians who contributed, volunteered and otherwise came to show your support to the Lost Gaels U.S. Tour. And that is a lot more people than words in this article. It is still hard to take in the magnitude of the tour, which managed to bring together folks from the AOH, LAOH, the GAA, and indeed the entire spectrum of the Irish diaspora in 11 different cities. Before we had even finished, we sold out and but for an emergency shipment from Dublin, I would have likely been the first person to come to Cleveland and Chicago on a book tour without any books!

The tour kicked off in Boston, where I was warmly received by Dick Thompson. No relation but you’d be forgiven for thinking so by the manner of his hospitality. Later that day, I met with my tour manager, roadie, driver and all-round tour entertainment, Sean Pender. Otherwise known to you all as Mr. President.

Whilst a throat issue was getting the better of my voice on the morning of the event at Division 14 in Watertown, a pre-show pint from the lovely people from the Banner County at the Dooliner soon had me back to normal.

Over the next 11 days, I visited Albany, Glastonbury, Orangeburg, New York, Middletown, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Chicago. As each venue filled, I was taken aback not only by the hospitality and welcome I received, but also by the genuine interest and care that people had for the stories I had the honor to share. I have always said that this book, *Lost Gaels*, is about one thing – people. And that same sentiment can be said for the tour. If ever anyone needed their faith in people restored, they have only to meet any of those I had the privilege of meeting on this tour. For me, that is the real strength of the USA. The America I saw on my tour was the America who brokered the peace I grew up enjoying, and a people who embrace the seanfhocal, ‘ar scáth a chéile a mháireann na daoine’.



Attending one of the book presentations were, from left, Deputy Freedom for All Ireland Chairman Bob Bollbach, Elizabeth Stack, Author Peadar Thompson and National President Sean Pender.

Profiles in Hibernian Leadership

continued from page 8

President Pat O’Brien. In the past I held the offices of Division Vice President and President as well as Chairman of our Communion Breakfast, Scholarship Committee and a volunteer for our fish fries and our Greater Pittsburgh Irish Open Golf Outing. At the County level, I was the chair of Missions & Charities, before being elected as Allegheny County Treasurer, Vice President and President. It was as Allegheny County President that I had the opportunity to co-chair, along with LAOH Allegheny County President Eileen O’Malley, and a wonderful supporting cast, the 2022 AOH/ LAOH National Convention held here in Pittsburgh. This event is something that we are very proud of. I am a founding member of the Tri Abhainn Major Degree Team from Pittsburgh. Tri Abhainn is Irish for “Three Rivers.” The team came about due

Thompson, Murphy to receive Hibernians’ McBride Award

continued from page 1

America because parents or grandparents had been involved in the Irish conflict, until this un-American visa discrimination policy is ended.

Nomination

Deputy FFAI Chairman Bob Bollbach was then asked to read the nomination, which had been submitted by FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin with 10 co-sponsors from across the country:

“During the 1969-98 Irish conflict, hundreds of families who saw loved ones murdered by British crown forces, directly or in collusion with loyalist agents, had their grief intensified by the knowledge that the British state was complicit in the murder of their loved ones. For these families there was nowhere to turn. British authorities had little sympathy for nationalist victims and less interest in uncovering state force wrongdoing. Courts largely acted as rubber-stamps upholding crown forces, rather than as impartial dispensers of justice...

“In 1991, victims’ relatives gathered in Dungannon to find a way to get justice. Those who attended knew they would have to overcome all the legal obstacles which the crown had as its disposal, but also physical threats from crown forces and their loyalist agents. Mark Thompson, whose brother Peter had been shot by British troopers, and Andree Murphy became leading figures in the group Relatives for Justice which emerged...

“RfJ played a key support role in getting truth through inquest decisions like that exonerating the Ballymurphy Massacre victims, or Ombudsman investigations finding collusive behavior by loyalist agents.

President’s Dinner

The actual presentation of the Sean MacBride Award will be made in New Jersey this fall at the Presidential Testimonial Dinner.

to the persistence of Denny Donnelly, who understood the need for another degree team within the State to help bring more Brothers into full membership in the Order. As of this date, we have had 10 Exemplifications of the Major Degrees of the Order since our start in 2019.

What motivated you to serve as an officer at the local level?

Some people asked me why I waited so long to seek an officer’s position. The answer is that my Division, Sean MacBride Division 32, had always had great leadership within it. I was approached by Denny Donnelly and some senior members within my Division, who were encouraging me to run for the Vice President position. Once I was elected, the scope of involvement within the Division and the Order changed. I wanted to make sure that my Division continued to be one of the most active in Allegheny County and across the State.

Were you inspired to serve at a higher level?

As Division President, I started to attend Allegheny County Board meetings with more regularity. This was really my first step into meeting and formulating friendships with Brother Hibernians across the County. It was at these meetings that I learned about the other six Divisions within the County and what type issues each were having. Most of the time, the issues that another Division was having were the same that my own were. Communication between the Divisions helped alleviate common issues.

As a County Officer, the scope of my involvement increased again. In addition to focusing on the issues of Allegheny County, I was now becoming more familiar with the issues of the State Board by attending State Board Meetings in other cities and not just in Pittsburgh. Once again, I met members from across the State while formulating friendships with great Hibernians.

The inspiration to serve at higher levels within the Order comes from believing in what the Order stands for: Promoting “Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,” a free and united 32-County Ireland, perpetuating the history and traditions of the Irish people and supporting the Catholic Church and its Clergy. Believing in these principles is what drives us to be a Hibernian.

What leadership role did you enjoy the most?

I have enjoyed all the leadership roles that I have had. As you advance thru the ranks in the Order your vision and horizon expand with each step. The duties of a Division President and a State President are almost the same, but the horizon has expanded greatly in the journey from one to the other as does the responsibility to the Order.

Any recommendations for members considering seeking office, whether it is local or county or higher?

I would recommend that the member who is considering office, to remember what brought you to the Order in the beginning. Our fraternity, our faith and our heritage are all connected. Use that connection that brought you in and build upon that. Be a positive influence to your members and always learn from those that have gone before you and those that you are following along your path. Take advantage of making new friendships with those in your State as well as other Hibernians across the Country.

I also recommend making connections with government officials who are sympathetic to AOH causes relating to Ireland and can get our voices heard within our government to help be our advocate for justice and equity in Ireland and hopefully securing a free 32-County Ireland.

Experiencing the Places of Irish History

continued from page 1

way journey from the land of their birth, proved as significant a place as any on the tour, as we reflected on the horrors of An Gorta Mór and the triumph of those who survived to make a new life in America. The group spent a relaxing two days in beautiful Kinsale, the site of the infamous siege and battle of 1601-1602 in which the Irish forces of O'Neill and O'Donnell could not break through to relieve their Spanish allies, with disastrous results for the old Gaelic Order. Traveling west through County Cork, a roadside stop at the Michael Collins ambush site near Béal na Bláth allowed the group to contemplate the relationship and intertwined legacies of Collins and his erstwhile comrade, Éamon de Valera, at the place where Collins received his mortal wound. The famous Ring of Kerry provided beautiful scenery en route to Derrynane House, the home of Daniel O'Connell, where our travelers took in the beauty of the place while contemplating O'Connell's great triumph of 1829, Catholic Emancipation, his failed effort to repeal the Act of Union, and his place in the pantheon of Irish heroes. The group stopped at the majestic Rock of Cashel, seat of the Kings of Munster for 500 years, before traveling deep into the past in the Boyne Valley, where the ingenious Stone Age builders of the Newgrange complex showed a strong understanding of the significance of place. Later that day, before travelling on to Dublin, members of the group stood on the Hill of Tara, like the legendary High Kings of Ireland before them, and placed their hands on the Lia Fáil, or Stone of Destiny. The penultimate stop on the tour was the GPO, where our travelers took in the battle scars still extant on the magnificent Greek Revival portico and reflected on the events of Easter Week, 1916, and the tumultuous years that followed. The tour concluded, appropriately, at Glasnevin Cemetery, where we descended into the tomb of O'Connell and stopped to reflect at the final resting places of Parnell, de Valera and Collins, among many others. History is truly at our fingertips in this remarkable age of technology, but there is something special about being in the places that have shaped and informed the Irish identity. For recap, photos and videos of tour visit: <https://aoh.com/2025historytour/>

Ohio



Supporting BirthCare

The Irish Brigade Division 1 of Medina County, Ohio, presented a check, a sack of diapers and children's clothing on February 3 to BirthCare of Medina County. The Hibernian brothers collected money and goods at their Christmas party in December, specifically to assist this Catholic Charities agency. BirthCare's mission is to provide emergency assistance and sympathetic support to families with young children to help assure their safety, warmth and health. From left are Pete Chrystal, volunteer Tracy Bayer, volunteer; Division President Jacob Durda; Tony Manley and Joe Casey.



Catholics for Life

Patrick Pearse Division 1, Columbus, OH, presented a \$1,000 check to Catholics for Life. This was at the City of Columbus City Counsel Chambers on proclamation day. The city has for 60 years proclaimed St. Patrick Day to be recognized by the city. We also had a proclamation from Governor Mike DeWine of Ohio, and Franklin County in Ohio. It's on Proclamation day when the Irish organizations of Columbus announce their charitable contribution for the day. In the photo are President Jerry Tracy, VP Bryan Horn, and Secretary Mike Cosgrove. The recipient is Gabriel Vance of Catholics for Life. — Jerry Tracy

Texas



Irish Echo's 40 Under 40

40 Under 40 recipient Michael Roy, AOH Austin, Texas, his wife Erin, President Sean Pender, Ireland's Ambassador to U.S. Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ireland's Consul General Boston Sighle FitzGerald, and Ireland's Vice Consul General New York Aisling O'Boyle.

South Carolina

Charleston Hibernians celebrate IAHM

After months of planning during the months leading up to March, the Msgr. John L. Manning Division, Charleston, played a major role in the execution of three events; hosting the Annual Gathering of the Clans' marking the beginning of Irish American Heritage Month; sponsoring — with the Our Lady of Knock Division, LAOH — the annual Irish Family Day; the annual Irish Supper, honoring the St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal and, of course, a primary sponsor of the Annual St. Patrick's Day parade. — Al Stiles, Division President



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



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS

Official Apparel

www.aohapparel.com

California

San Francisco Division 17 honors the centenary of Fr. Peter Yorke's death

This year marks the centenary of the death of Fr. Peter Yorke, a beloved American Irish Catholic priest who served at St. Peter's Church in San Francisco during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Throughout his life, Fr. Yorke was a staunch defender of the Catholic Church against bigotry, a vocal champion for labor rights, and an advocate for Irish nationalism. Fr. Yorke's story is beautifully captured in the book *Consecrated Thunderbolt: Father Yorke of San Francisco*, by Joseph H. Brusher.

To honor his legacy, Division 17 commemorated Fr. Yorke's remarkable contributions by marching with banners honoring Fr. Yorke during this year's St. Patrick's Day parade on March 15. Each Palm Sunday, the United Irish Societies of San Francisco — including the Division 17 — hold a memorial celebration in his honor at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Installed in Ventura

Ron Harper took the pledge as the President of the Ventura Easter Rising Division for the 2025-2026 term. Ron, a graduate of Loyola Marymount, is a respected veteran and active member of Our Lady of the Assumption Church. John McNally was elected Vice-President, with Paul Caron assuming the roles of Treasurer and Financial Secretary.



Ron Harper

An annual St. Patrick's morning Mass was held at the Ventura Division's church base, Our Lady of the Assumption, with Father Leon.

LA Names Honorees

The City of Los Angeles presented its Irishman and Irishwoman of the Year awards in March. This honor has been awarded since 1875. The winners were singer Ken O'Malley and Consul General Los Angeles Marcella Smyth.



From left, Honoree David Mannion Esq., Honoree AOH Division 1 Los Angeles President Liam Fountain, President of The Irish Fair Griff Healy, Consul General of Ireland Los Angeles/ Irish Woman of the year Marcella Smyth, Singer/Irishman of the Year Ken O'Malley, and Honoree Restaurateur Darren Coyne.



Honoree AOH Division 1 Los Angeles President Liam Fountain, President of the Irish Fair Griff Healy, and AOH VP Division 1 LA Kris Maines.

North Carolina

Donating to help in North Carolina

Na Cara Division 1 of Guilford County, North Carolina, has been very busy in 2024 and 2025. When Hurricane Helene hit Western Carolina the division sent a \$500 check for the relief fund. One of our members, Past President Bob Jackson, felt that we could do more. This year it was decided to forgo the usual grab bag and our members brought toys to be sent to Western Carolina children. Bob told us that it was one of the best experiences he has had.

At our Christmas party the officers for 2025 were announced and the tickets for the Rooney fundraiser went on sale. This charity has donated over \$200,000 in its 20-year history. The recipients range from a coffee shop run by people of all abilities to Catholic School students and to a Catholic refuge for unwed women.

On January 4, the division attended a UNCG basketball game. One of the players on the University team comes from the Emerald Island. Clinton Efinda is from Naas, Ireland, in County Kildare. This native of the Old Sod came up to our seats and spoke with our contingent and had his picture taken with us.

The standing committee has scheduled an indoor golf tournament in February. We hope that they will have prizes for the great, the good and the bad. Plans will be made for the reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. On that day the Na Cara man of the year will be announced and the drawing of the \$5,000 prize from the Rooney Fund.

As you know PICKUPANDROPOFF is now doing three different groups. Five years ago we started delivering food from area vendors. It now involves 17 men going to 19 vendors in Greensboro and delivering it to Room at the Inn, a Catholic-started maternity home, and to Sanctuary House, a place where people with serious but treatable mental problems go for help. We made 720 deliveries last year.

Three years ago we started working with Backpack Beginnings where we pick up lunches for kids to take home for the weekend. We started delivering to two schools and now have eight. The seven drivers we have now last year delivered 15,660 lunches.

Our newest effort involves picking up food from Harris Teeter stores and delivering it to the Backpack Beginnings warehouse three times a week. This will fill a truck each time so that one driver will only go once a week. In the first week of recruiting for this I found four volunteers. At the warehouse individuals and families who qualify will be able to shop in a large grocery store setting for free.

— Ned Croughan, Na Cara Division 1 President, Guilford County.



Past President Michael Fanning presented \$500 scholarship donation to St. Pius School Principal Antoinette Aguilera. The donation funds come from Na Cara Division Annual Irish Raffle. Present at the presentation were President Ned Croughan, Guilford County, Na Cara Division 1; Evan O'Donnell Division Organizer; Tom O'Connell, parishioner of St. Pius and AOH member; and Fr. Christian Cook officiating.



Mike Holihan Standing Committee, Bob Carr Recording Secretary, Ned Croughan President, John McKinney Vice President, Mike Fanning Financial Secretary

Connecticut

Around the Divisions

By Phil Gallagher

The JFK Division of Bridgeport held its 75th annual Communion Mass and Breakfast on March 2. The Mass was said at St. Augustine's Cathedral by Bishop Frank Caggiano, followed by breakfast at the Fairfield Gaelic Club where National President Sean Pender was the keynote speaker.

The J. Philip Gallagher Division of Danbury held their 65th annual Hibernian Ball on March 1, where Patrick Fahey and Eileen Cunningham were crowned as Hibernians of the Year. Patrick and Eileen would go on to serve as Grand Marshals for the 30th annual Danbury St. Patrick's Day Parade on the 23rd, chaired by AOH Vice-President Kevin Hearty.

New Haven Division 7 President Peter McManus reported a great turn out for the New Haven parade, originally founded by the New Haven AOH in the 1950s and which is considered the largest spectator event in the State of Connecticut. Division 7 will sponsor a dinner for the Parade Committee and marching award winners on April 7.

On April 27, the New Haven AOH and the Irish American Community Center will recognize the 1916 Easter Rising Commemoration. It will be on the Center's field at 1 p.m. David Albright, CT AOH President, will give the oration.

Division 2 of Hartford is sponsoring its 4th annual high school essay contest. The contest offers substantial cash prizes and is being administered by Division President Mike Enright and Division Vice President John Gallivan.

The Philip Sheridan Division of Stamford hosted Sean Keane and his band from Galway before an appreciative audience on March 29. Stamford will also host the Fairfield County biennial convention on September 20.

It is worth noting that the Grand Marshal of the Stamford St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 2 was that great Hibernian Lady, Bridie Barron. Bridie and her late husband Mike were the owners of the popular Burns Tavern. Mike was a very effective and popular Division President in Stamford a number of years ago.



At the Gaelic Club Breakfast, from left, Phil Gallagher, Past National Dir. and State Archivist; Sean Pender, National President; Tom Keane, State Secretary. Back Row: Brenden Walsh, State Treasurer; Brian Hearty, State VP; David Albright, State President; Tom Donohue, President Bridgeport Division.

The Monsignor Slocum Division of Waterbury began the parade season on March 1 with a colorful procession that ended at their Hall.

The Waterbury AOH led by President Sean Regan will also host the Biennial State Convention on October 3 and 4.

The John P. Holland Division of New London did triple marching duty as they marched in parades in Norwich, Mystic and New London where Hibernian Jim Stephenson served as Grand Marshal.

The Meridan Division hosted its 50th annual St. Patrick's parade on March 22. The mayor of Meridan, Kevin Scarpati, was quoted as saying "Yesterday was a great turnout for our 50th St. Patricks Day Parade. Special thanks to the Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. 1 of Meriden for organizing another successful parade...."



Bishop Frank Caggiano, National President Sean Pender and Division President Tom Donohue

Division Hosts 75th Annual Communion Breakfast

On Sunday, March 2, the Bridgeport, CT, JFK Division hosted their 75th annual Communion Breakfast. Division President Tom Donohue invited Bishop Frank J. Caggiano to celebrate Mass at the St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport.

More than 200 AOH Brothers and their families attended a beautiful Mass with full regalia from the Division, including Brother Art Began leading the division into church on the bagpipes. Following Mass, the Division held a full Irish breakfast for 200 brothers at the Gaelic American Club in Fairfield.

The breakfast committee consisted of Frank O'Brien, Dave Howe, Pat O'Keefe, Mark Smith, Tom Keane and Tom Donohue, who invited local politicians to join and speak about their experience with the AOH and all our charitable work in the community over the years.

Bishop Caggiano gave a heartfelt speech at the breakfast on the significant role Irish Catholics have played in the Catholic Church going back to Saint Patrick of Ireland.

The keynote speaker was AOH National President Sean Pender, who inspired the guests with all the great work the AOH is doing nationally, and encouraged more of our youth to get involved. Pender emphasized how important it is today as Brothers to stay focused on our core values of Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity.

Delaware

Wilmington on Parade

On Saturday, March 8, members of the Cpl. Bernard McCarren Division marched in Wilmington's 48th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.



From left, John Newman, President Ed Burke, Brian J. Phelan, Mike Quirk, Ryan Quirk, Chris Roney, Dan Holmes, Sean Hellenga and Mike Butler. Front Row: Marty Drinan.

Hibernians at Ambassadorial Reception

Members of the Corporal Bernard McCarren Division were guests of Ireland's Honorary Consul to the State of Delaware, Brian McGlinchey, at a reception for the Ambassador of Ireland to the U.S., Geraldine Byrne Nason, at the Patio at Archmere Academy in Claymont, Delaware, on February 23.



Pictured are Hibernians Jason Casper and Brian J. Phelan, with Ambassador Bryne Nason and Honorary Consul of Ireland Brian McGlinchey.

Illinois



Chicago AOH hosted a very successful Lost Gaels book launch at the Irish American Heritage Center. From left, Sean O'Dowd, Sean Pender, author Peadar Thompson, National Deputy Chaplain Father Colm Mitchell and Tim Noonan.



The Hibernians of the Michael Walsh Division, DuPage County, IL, delivered donated goods on February 12 for Reclaim13 (www.reclaim13.org), a fantastic woman's organization in Lombard, IL, that counsels and works with female victims of trafficking and domestic abuse.

St. Clair Hibernians honor St. Patrick

Members of Michael P. Keeley Division 1, St. Clair County, IL, gathered before the start of the Division's 22nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Belleville.
— Mike Tiernan, Illinois State Treasurer



From left, John Sheahan, Dave Meehan, Past State President Bob Simpson, Mike Tiernan, Liam Coonan, Mike McAnally AKA St. Patrick, Chris Frillman, Tom Wiegert, Larry O'Neill, Jeff Dorries and Don Gravlin. Great weather brought out the largest audience in the parade's history to watch the 100-unit parade. The Division also collected money and a car full of food for Hibernian Hunger.

Naperville Hibernians on parade



The Hibernians of the Michael Walsh Division 16, of DuPage County, had a blast at the Naperville St. Patrick's Parade!



Cardinal Joseph Tobin

Michigan

Cardinal Tobin and Project St. Patrick

Fr. Joseph Tobin, Holy Redeemer Parish, was Chaplain of the Patrick Ryan Division from 1984 to 1989, meeting in Detroit at that time. He is the oldest of 13 children. In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI named Fr. Tobin to the Roman Curia post of Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSA). In 2012, Benedict appointed him to serve as the Sixth Archbishop of Indianapolis. Pope Francis named him to the College of Cardinals in 2016 to serve as the Sixth Archbishop of Newark.

Cardinal Tobin speaks English, Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese. He also reads several other languages. He has participated in many Synods of Bishops, and has been a member of the Canon Law Society of America since 1985.

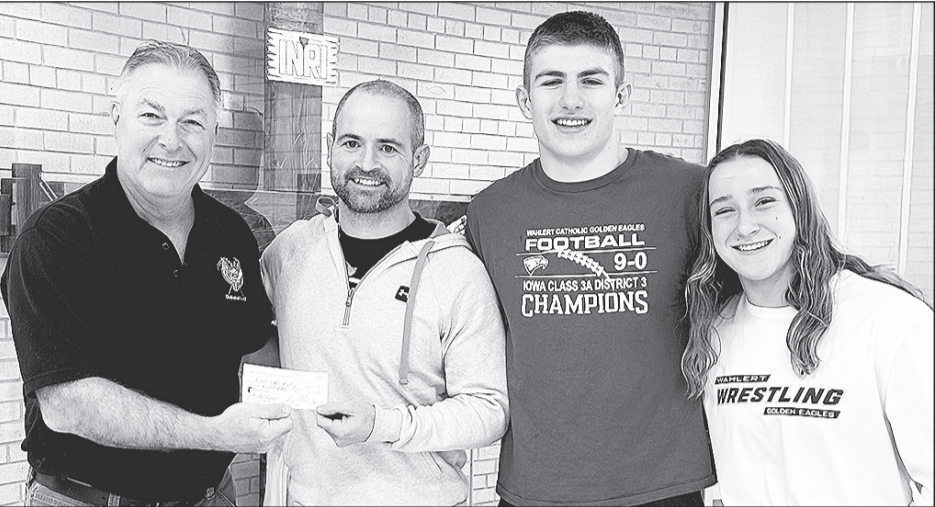
The Patrick Ryan Division currently meets in Plymouth, Michigan. We are most proud that Cardinal Tobin has been a member for about 40 years! When he received his 2025 AOH membership card, he was informed about our Division contributing two \$500 Project St. Patrick donations every year and encouraging seminarian applications from Detroit Sacred Heart Major Seminary (SHMS) resulting in about 15 grants to them each of the past few years. Cardinal Tobin was impressed with our Division's continued support of seminarians and provided our Division a \$500 check to donate to Project St. Patrick. Our Division will be making three \$500 Project St. Patrick donations this year, including Cardinal Tobin's and another \$500 donation directly to an SHMS seminarian this year. We strongly believe Project St. Patrick should be supported for vocations to continue assisting seminarians in their pursuit of education for the priesthood.

Iowa

Hibernians donate to Catholic H.S.

Dubuque County Division 2 makes annual donations to several non-profits that have an Irish or Catholic link or to those less fortunate, such as a church's food kitchen. Each year some funds are put away until they reach a large sum. In the past, a 20 ft.-high cross was purchased for Dubuque's only Catholic high school, Wahlert High School. 2024 is one of those years that Division 2 is saving up for another large future project.

For 2024, a donation has been given to the Dubuque Wahlert High School wrestling teams for the purchase of new uniforms. The presentation of the funds was made in the lobby area of the school, which happens to be where the holy cross hangs.



Dubuque County Division 2 Past President, Iowa Past President Robert McCullough presented a check to the Dubuque Wahlert Catholic High School wrestling teams for the purchase of new uniforms. Division 2 donated funds to outfit both the men's and women's teams. From left, Robert McCullough, Wrestling Head Coach Joel Allen, Men's Wrestling Team Captain Brody Schmidt, and Women's Wrestling Team Captain Eve Skrocki.

Dinner in Dyersville

Division 1 holds a dinner the week before the annual Dyersville, Iowa, St. Patrick's Day parade and events. McNulty's Irish Dancers performed at the annual St. Patrick's dinner for Dubuque County Division 1 in Dyersville. Photo credit: Bob Felderman



Florida



On Saturday, March 15, the AOH Melbourne St. Patrick's Day Parade was held in downtown Melbourne. This year's Grand Marshal was AOH Florida State Treasurer PJ Morgan, center. With PJ are National Secretary Ray Lynch, left, and National Director Keith Reynolds.



Irish Heritage Night

The Ancient Order of Hibernians were invited to attend Irish Heritage Night at Loan Depot Ballpark, home of the Miami Marlins, on March 28. Before the game, Irish Consul General Sarah Kavanaugh, AOH National Secretary Ray Lynch, AOH National Director Keith Reynolds, Irish American Baseball Society representative Robert Pecchio and members of the Emerald Society were on the field. A presentation was made to Marlins Pitcher Declan Cronin by Irish American Baseball Society representative Robert Pecchio. Also on hand were National Deputy Secretary Greg Seán Canning and members of the Broward County, St. Lucie County, Brevard County and Orange County AOH.



IRISHBASEBALL.ORG/AOH



Indiana



153rd Annual Kevin Barry Division 3 St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Sunday, March 16th, was a wonderful day for our annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration. The event began at Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church, the oldest church in Indianapolis, built by Irish immigrants. Before Mass, our division's chaplain, Fr. Joseph Moriarty, led members in prayer at the Chapel of Saint Patrick and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Celtic Cross in the church's courtyard. Members of Kevin Barry Division 3 and the Our Lady of Knock Division 1 gathered for a group photo before attending Mass.

Following the service, we took part in a short parade, led by the St. Patrick's Day Rogues Pipe & Drums, marching to the Indiana Roof Ballroom, where the celebration was held. This year's event had one of the highest attendance rates in recent memory, proving that our ongoing efforts to promote Irish culture and heritage continue to reach new audiences.

The celebration was honored by the presence of several distinguished guests, including Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett, President Daniel Elsener of

Marian University, and Indianapolis Sheriff Kerry Forrester, along with Indianapolis City-County Councilor Derek Cahill (R-District 23), both of whom are Kevin Barry Division 3 members. We were also pleased to welcome Fr. Paul Nord, OSB, a monk of the St. Meinrad community who serves as a Formation Dean and Adjunct Instructor of Scripture at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. Additionally, representatives from Aer Lingus, Evelynne O'Halloran and Jeff Wright, were in attendance, further strengthening our ties with Ireland.

The celebration kicked off with a performance by the Indianapolis Ceili Band, which plays traditional instrumental Irish music. One of the many highlights of the event was our donation to Saint Meinrad Seminary. Supporting the next generation of priests is a cause we deeply believe in, and our contribution to Saint Meinrad is a meaningful part of our program. The seminary has long been a pillar of Catholic education and formation, preparing young men for a life of service in the Church through rigorous academic, spiritual and pastoral training.

The program also included the presentation of our division's Hibernian Presidents' Award to Bob Welch Jr., as well as the division's Hibernian of the Year Award to Brian Lyons. Additionally, we awarded scholarships to six outstanding high school graduates, recognizing their achievements and dedication to faith, community, and Irish heritage.

The day concluded with a fantastic performance by Eunan McIntyre, a talented musician from Glencolmcille, County Donegal, whose music brought an authentic Irish spirit to the celebration.

Photos by Timothy Hill



From left, Fr. Joseph Moriarty Chaplin, Tim Coughlin Vice Pres, Fr. Paul Nord of St. Meinrad



From left, Brian Lyons Standing Committee Chair, David Ruhmkorff President.



From left, Bob Welch JR, David Ruhmkorff President.

Division 3 Awards Major Scholarships

During the 153rd annual Kevin Barry Division 3 St. Patrick's Day Celebration, we awarded six scholarships, each valued at \$1,500. Since 1985, through the generous support of our members and friends, the Kevin Barry Division has provided scholarships to deserving high school students. Our selection criteria are based on four key areas: scholastic achievement; extracurricular activities; Irish heritage; and involvement in church, community and Irish culture.

This year, we received many outstanding applications, but the chosen winners excelled in all aspects of the scholarship committee's requirements. We are proud to congratulate this year's recipients. Emily Dinn from Western High School was awarded the AOH Kehoe Scholarship. She and her father, Rob Dinn, are the first father-daughter recipients of the AOH Kehoe Scholarship, as Rob received the scholarship in 1995. The AOH Katie White Scholarship was awarded to Harrison Forestal from Bishop Chatard High School. Peter Certo from Scecina Memorial High School received the AOH Joe & Mary Frances Dugan Scholarship. Tommy O'Gara from Bishop Chatard High School was awarded the AOH Denis & Ita Moriarty Scholarship. Abby Beasley from Cathedral High School received the AOH Jim McCaughna Scholarship, and Luke McGinley, also from Cathedral High School, was awarded the AOH Pat McNulty Scholarship.

We are also thrilled to announce our new partnership with Marian University in Indianapolis. As part of this collaboration, Marian University has pledged to grant an additional scholarship to any of our award recipients who choose to enroll at their institution. Founded in 1937, Marian University is a private Catholic institution known for its strong liberal arts curriculum and commitment to faith-based learning. It is also home to the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Indiana's



Our outstanding scholarship winners are, from left, Luke McGinley, Abby Beasley, Tommy O'Gara, Peter Certo, Harrison Forestal and Emily Dinn.

first new medical school in more than a century.

We couldn't be more excited about this partnership, as it aligns with our mission to provide young people with access to an excellent Catholic education. As a result, Emily Dinn will be attending Marian University and will be the first recipient to benefit from this partnership. She will receive an additional \$3,500 scholarship, bringing her total scholarship amount to \$5,000.

Louisiana



Daniel S. Foley

Foley Named Hibernian of the Year

The Honorable Daniel S. Foley has been proclaimed Hibernian of the Year. Brother Foley has been a proud Hibernian for many years. He was instrumental in reviving our Order in New Orleans. Brother Foley's long list of accomplishments as an attorney demonstrates his dedication to his clients and the community. He lives out his Catholic faith each day and strives to promote Hibernianism. Brother Foley is the proud father of four and the proud grandfather of six.

His efforts on the Louisiana Hibernian Charity Board of Directors were instrumental in completing the Hibernian Memorial Park at West End in 2023. Ireland's Ambassador to the United States, Geraldine Byrne Nason, spoke at the Park's dedication and blessing. Additionally, Foley's

leadership played a significant role in funding the award-winning documentary "They Swing Their Picks: The Irish & The New Basin Canal."

Foley said that he was overwhelmed to be named Hibernian of the Year. "With generations of heritage linked to the Emerald Isle, I have a deep and abiding love for the Irish. I stand on the shoulders of my Irish forefathers who came to America, settled in New Orleans, and brought their faith and traditions to our community. Being named Hibernian of the Year is an honor I will cherish forever."

Christian Charity

Each year, the St. Bernard Division conducts its annual toy drive. Collection boxes are placed throughout the New Orleans area. This past Christmas, 14 bags of toys were donated to the Family Violence Program of St. Bernard and 46 bags were donated to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church. St. Bernard Division is in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. It is located a short distance outside the City of New Orleans.



A Special Donation

The James Cardinal Gibbons Division presented a check to St. Michael's Special School during a culinary arts class. Each year, our divisions strive to make donations to worthy causes. St. Michael's Special School was founded in 1965 by Sr. Lillian McCormack of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. It serves children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



A fitting place to honor St. Patrick

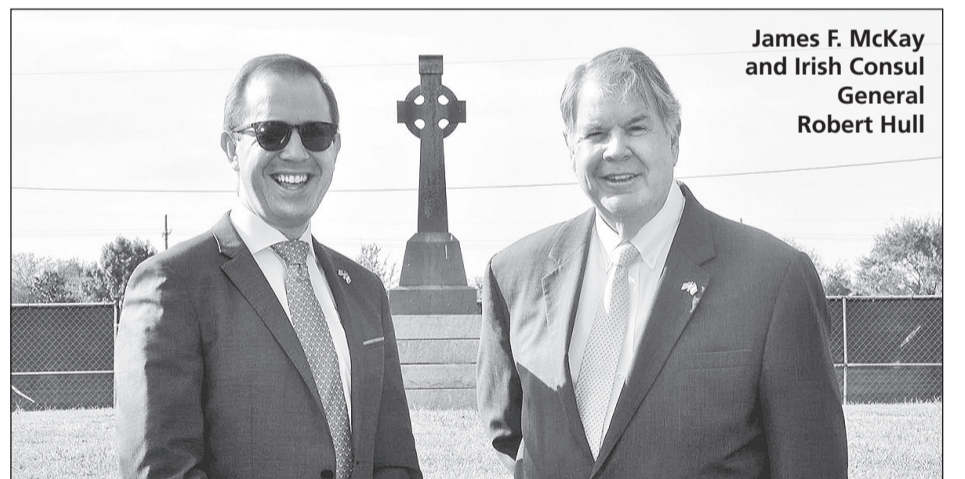
The Louisiana AOH recently celebrated its annual St. Patrick's Mass. As per tradition, the Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's Church in New Orleans. Pictures are AOH members with Archbishop Aymond and clergy. Although the parish was established in 1833, St. Patrick's cornerstone was laid on July 1, 1838, and saw its first mass celebrated on February 23, 1840. St. Patrick's is the church of our Irish ancestors. It is fitting that we gather there each year to honor our Lord, to celebrate St. Patrick, and to celebrate our Hibernian of the Year. Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond (14th Archbishop of New Orleans) was the principal celebrant.

Hibernian Memorial Park: 'Enduring Resilience'

In 1990, a Celtic cross was erected atop what once was the New Basin Canal. The canal was a critical connection between Lake Pontchartrain and the heart of the City of New Orleans. Constructed between 1832 and 1838, Irish laborers toiled with shovels and picks, with many losing their lives. By 1950, after losing its economic viability, the canal was completely filled in.

Today, the Hibernian Memorial Park demonstrates the enduring resilience and spirit of the Irish community in New Orleans.

The next phase of the park is underway. Brick pavers and a wall of honor will bear the names of contributors. Future plans include installation of life-sized bronze Irish laborers demonstrating construction of the New Basin Canal. The park pays homage to the contributions to the sons and daughters of Ireland who came to New Orleans in search of a better life. May their legacy be preserved for future generations.



James F. McKay
and Irish Consul
General
Robert Hull

in memoriam

In Memoriam of Brother John McCrossen

Brother John McCrossen was proclaimed Hibernian of the Year in 2024. However, our annual celebrations took on a different form.

Brother McCrossen was diagnosed with cancer. It took its toll and thus began his decline.

Our annual Hibernian Mass was held with Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond as the principal celebrant. Prior to the final blessing, the honoree and our officers are brought before the altar. However, Brother McCrossen was watching from his hospital bed. His family accepted his honor.

Brother McCrossen led a life of service to his church and his community. He was called home to the Lord on August 26, 2024.

To sum up Brother McCrossen's life, one may turn to the Book of James (2:26). "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."



Maryland

Honoring Sister Clare Crockett of Derry

On January 14, the Commodore John Barry Division, of Annapolis, Maryland, observed the official opening of the cause for beatification of Sister Clare Crockett of Derry, Ireland. The Division hosted a viewing of the documentary “All or Nothing” following the journey to sainthood of the remarkable young woman from Ireland whose vocation took her from Northern Ireland to Spain and South America. Sister Clare was a holy force of nature who died in 2016 with some of her students when an earthquake struck the Catholic girls school she taught at in Ecuador.

The viewing of the video took place in the historic Charles Carroll House on the campus of St. Mary’s Church and school in Annapolis. Charles Carroll was the sole Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. The event coincided with the opening of the cause for her beatification that took place two days prior at the Cathedral of Alcala de Henares in Madrid, Spain. For more information on the cause for her beatification: bit.ly/3FSUZH8



Supporting St. Elizabeth School

At a St. Patrick’s event sponsored by St. John’s Tenth Ward, members of Division 3, Towson, presented a donation of \$1,000 for the amazing work the school does for special needs children. — S. Riegger



Enjoying one of the many fundraisers held annually to support the St. Patrick’s Day Parade held in Baltimore. Each fundraiser is hosted by a Division, LAOH, or supporting Irish organization.



Investiture

Parade Grand Marshal James Farace and Honorary Grand Marshal James Burns are invested with their sashes along with Deputy Marshals at the Installation Mass held at the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore City.

— S. Riegger



Hibernian Society of Baltimore holds black-tie dinner

Division 3, Towson, was well represented at the Hibernian Society of Baltimore’s annual black-tie dinner in March. The Society distributes substantial scholarships to qualified applicants. Keynote Speaker was Dr. Robert Redfield, former director of the Centers for Disease Control.



The Annual Leo Welsh Mass, Breakfast and March was held March 16 at the Towson Sheraton Hotel. The day features a send-off Mass and breakfast followed by marchers bused to the parade site in Baltimore City. Pictured are the members of Division 3, Towson, St. Patrick’s Day Mass, Breakfast and March.

New Jersey

New Jersey News

NJAOH State Board President Rich O’Brien and State Board Secretary Jerry Logan marched with Division President Joe Coleman and Daniel O’Connell Division 2 brothers, in Cranford Township’s first ever St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Rich O’Brien stated, “This newly formed Division is just about three years in service and has almost 100 members. Thanks to Past Division President Tim O’Brien for his hard work forming the division and to Joe Coleman, the new Division President, for his hard charging energy.”

In Morristown, new Division President Ryan Mack led his recently revived Division down the parade route proudly displaying flags and AOH cheer to over 50,000 spectators. This renewal in Morris County and the high energy Ryan brings is what we have been working on for over three years. I am proud of Ryan and his Board and am sure they will be one of the strongest Divisions in northern New Jersey over time. Also noted in the parade - Grand Marshal Keith Wood began playing the traditional Celtic instrument when he was 12 years old. Nearly five decades later, bagpiping is his full-time occupation. He has performed in countless parades, ceremonies, competitions and other events, thrilling crowds in New Jersey and beyond. Parade Starter John “Jack” Downs of Madison is a proud Irish American just shy of his 92nd birthday. The role of Parade Starter is bestowed on someone who has demonstrated exceptional service to the local community.

Jack’s Irish roots can be traced to his great-grandfather William Kelly, who left County Meath at the age of 16 during the Great Hunger. William traveled to New York as a crew member aboard the ship Cushla Machree. Within days of his arrival, he made his home in Madison. Jack has been involved with several Irish organizations. In the early 1960s, he was a charter member of the Newark based Emerald Pipe Band, where he learned to play



Union Parade, from left, Joe Stulpin; Joe Coleman, President, in the center; and Tim O’Brien, Past Division President (Charter members).

the bagpipes. While on a trip to Ireland with his sons in 1981, Jack discovered the rural village of Camp in County Kerry. A decade later, he and Anne returned and purchased a small farmhouse just outside the village in beautiful Gleann-na nGealt. Jack’s son Tommy is married to our Past State President Bill Young’s cousin Tricia Downs.

Morristown is important to us with the revitalization Ryan brings to his division and the opportunities for men in the area to get involved with us!

Massachusetts



At the book tour, from left, Brother Jack Lalond, Brother John Travers, Don Mullan, Division President Michael Schilling, David Tereshchuk, Brother Greg Hanley, Brother Greg Shanahan and Brother John Sullivan.



At the scholarship presentation were, from left, Division Financial Secretary Thomas McTigue, Erin Quinn, and Division President Michael Schilling.



Attending the Abington St. Patrick's Parade: Division members Brother John Sullivan, Brother Brendan Burke, Brother Matt Moore, Jack Schilling, Brother John Travers, Brother James O'Sullivan, Brother Greg Hanley, Jacob Little, Division President Michael Schilling, Brother Greg Shanahan.

Michael Schilling - Craic on the Coast: An Division Podcast

Welcome to Craic on the Coast, a lively and engaging podcast celebrating Irish culture, history and heritage on the South Shore of Massachusetts. Based in America's Hometown of Plymouth, MA, this podcast is proudly brought to you by the Father John Murphy Division.

Each episode dives into the rich tapestry of Irish-American life in the region, blending history, storytelling, music and community voices. From exploring the waves of Irish immigration to Massachusetts to highlighting the modern contributions of Irish culture, Craic on the Coast captures the enduring spirit of the Irish on the South Shore.

Listeners will enjoy:

- **Historical Deep Dives:** Learn about the Irish experience in Plymouth and beyond, from 19th-century immigrants to today's vibrant Irish-American community.
- **Cultural Spotlights:** Celebrate Irish traditions, music, dance, and folklore with local musicians, performers, and storytellers.
- **Community Connections:** Hear from guests involved in the local Irish community, from members of the AOH and Irish clubs to organizers of festivals and parades.
- **Modern Craic:** Explore how Irish culture thrives today with pubs, local businesses, sports, and connections to Ireland itself.

The podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or YouTube.

Busy first quarter for a Bay State Division

The Father John Murphy Division has been busy these past few months. We had our annual Christmas dinner at which we presented our 2024 Dr. Bill & Rita O'Connell Scholarship to Miss Erin Quinn. Erin is currently a freshman at Auburn University.

In January, the Father John Murphy Division hosted a book tour event with guest author David Tereshchuk and Don Mullan. With over 100 in attendance the commentary was riveting and the questions from the public were thought provoking.

In March the Father John Murphy Division participated in the Abington St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrating the day in a new town in Plymouth County. In addition, division members attended a fundraiser event for the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail.

Around the Divisions

By Rick Connell, Division 14 President

Watertown Division 14 had about 60 people attend the Lost Gaels book signing on Feb. 20, including National President Sean Pender, State President Joe McCusker and former National Director Dick Thompson (who organized the tour stop in Watertown). As part of Irish Heritage month, brother John Murphy hosted a genealogy event at the member's lounge, the several members of the Division 14 AOH and LAOH marched with Hibernians from New London and Bridgeport, CT, in the South Boston St. Patrick's Day parade. Finally, on Saint Patrick's Day itself, Hibernians from Watertown, Plymouth and Lynn divisions were honored to serve as ushers at the annual Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston with newly minted Archbishop of Boston, Richard Henning.

The Plymouth Division' Christmas Celebration dinner was well attended, and the Division recognized Miss Erin Quinn as the 2024 Dr. Bill & Rita O'Connell Scholarship winner. Scholarship Committee Chair Brother Tom McTigue and Division President Brother Mike Schilling presented Erin with a certificate of award for her scholarship.

Lawrence Division 8 celebrated 2025 in truly a grand style with a whirlwind of Irish Heritage Month activities, which included banquets, luncheons, concerts, a film festival, a lecture, an author series and a food drive. Lawrence Mayor Brian Depena helped raise the Irish flag and issued a proclamation officially declaring March as Irish Heritage Month in the City. Mike Greenler, a 20+-year member of the division, was selected as the 2025 Irishman of the Year. The Most Reverend Robert P. Reed received the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award and Patricia Mariano was awarded the Hon. John E. Fenton Sr. Citizenship Award.

Division 8 will hold their Annual An Gorta Mor Commemoration in May or early June at the An Gorta Mor Memorial in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery. Tim Doherty and his committee are in the midst of planning the Divisions annual corn hole tournament for September.

Salem Division 18 honored William O. Ahern as Irishman of the Year, Jen Dumond-Walz as Associate Irishwoman of the Year, and Michael "Bo" Boltas as Associate Irishman of the Year.

The James A. Curran Division 1 and LAOH Division 2, Holyoke, marched in the Holyoke Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March 23. We had 30 marchers, two floats, a vintage car with a 20 ft. Irish flag, and two members dress as both Saint Patrick & Saint Bridget.



Dick Thompson, far left, organized and National AOH President Sean Pender, far right, attended the Lost Gaels book signing event in Hibernian Hall in Watertown on February 20.



Massachusetts Hibernians from Watertown, Plymouth and Lynn restarted the tradition of serving as ushers for the St. Patrick's Day mass at the Cathedral.



Salem Division 18' William O. Ahern as Irishman of the Year, Jen Dumond-Walz as Associate Irishwoman of the Year, and Michael "Bo" Boltas as Associate Irishman of the Year.



James A. Curran Division 1 and LAOH Division 2 of Holyoke's Saint Bridget float was awarded the first-place designation for a religious theme.

Pennsylvania



In the Ring of Honor

On March 16, Roxbough's Division 5 joined the other Philadelphia divisions along with several divisions from the surrounding counties in the nation's second oldest St. Patrick's Day Parade. Along with a number of other Irish-based societies, thousands of participants marched and tens of thousands of spectators honored the Glorious Saint Patrick and our Irish heritage. This year's event had a special favor for Division 5 and our President, Brian Monaghan. Brian, who is also Philadelphia County Board Vice President, was an inductee into the Parade Association's 2025 Ring of Honor. The annual Ring of Honor recognizes persons of Irish lineage from the Philadelphia Tri-State Area who have had a profound impact in the local Irish community. Brian's contributions to the Hibernians and to our charitable causes certainly fits that description. Pictured here are Brian wearing his Ring Sash and a number of our Division#5 members celebrating his award.



Best in the Pittsburgh Parade

Allegheny County's Division 32 Sean MacBride has clinched the prestigious prize for Best Overall Irish Entry at the 2025 Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade. The division made a striking impression as the Brothers of Division 32 proudly carried flags representing all 32 counties and the four provinces of Ireland. Leading the division were Treasurer Charlie Boehm and Past President Tim Regan carrying the division banner, while Sean Seagriff carried the American flag and VP John Truel carried the Irish tricolor. Paul Towhey, Sean McBride, Tommy Welch, and Michael Knight each carried a province flag. Division 32 President Eric Haenni once again served as the official announcer for the parade. — Photo Credit Amie Downs



In the Ring of Honor

From left, Pete Hand, of Notre Dame Division 1, Montgomery County; Kevin Haney, Blackjack Kehoe Division 4, Delaware County; and Brian Monaghan of the Officer Joseph Friel Division 5, of Philadelphia County, were honored by the Saint Patrick's Parade Observance Committee. They were inducted into the Ring of Honor for the Saint Patrick's Parade in Philadelphia. AOH members filled three of the eight positions in the Ring of Honor, which honors individuals who have contributed to the community over the years.



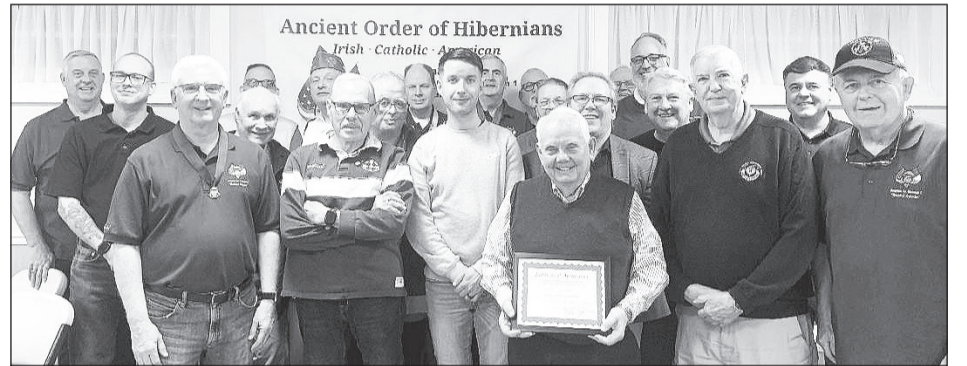
Commemorating the Fallen

On March 17, members of Baile Na nGael Division 2, Easton, PA, participated in events commemorating St. Patrick, Ireland and the fallen Irish soldiers and sailors from the Civil War. Division Treasurer Timothy Reilly and President Joseph Fitzpatrick, set down a wreath in the Town Center Circle commemorating the Irish fallen of the Civil War. In the photo, Phillipsburg Town official and Division 2 members at the Flag ceremony. From left, Police Chief Anthony Goodell, Mayor Randy Piazza, Jr., AOH Division members Dave Halley, Chris McAtee, Vice President, Joseph Fitzpatrick, President, Timothy Reilly, Treasurer, and City Council member, Keith Kennedy.



Project St. Patrick

In the spirit of Project St. Patrick, Dauphin County, Bobby Sands Division 1, presented Harrisburg Diocese's Bishop Timothy Senior with a check for \$1,000 in support of our seminarians to offset some of their expenses. Bishop Senior was welcomed into Division membership and received a custom AOH shirt and his membership card. The check, presented by President Gerald McGlynn, represented proceeds from a recent Division fundraiser for Hibernian Charities.



Remembering Jack Kehoe

What a great way to celebrate Irish American Heritage Month with our guest speaker Joe Wayne, great grandson of Jack Kehoe, a Hibernian wrongly convicted and executed for being an alleged "Molly Maguire" in the PA coal fields! Joe shared a great story with our Division about the wrongs dealt to many AOH members and how he worked to receive a pardon for Jack Kehoe.



Judge Munley Named Man of the Year

The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4's annual Man of the Year Dinner honoring retired Judge Thomas J. Munley was a great success. It was a fine opportunity to honor the judge for his significant impact on our community and our country. There were more than 250 friends, numerous elected officials, and family in attendance to congratulate and honor him for all that he has done. From left, Executive Board Members Rob Fletcher, Robert McAndrew, John Fletcher, Fr. Richard Fox of St. Patrick's Parish in Scranton, our James Connor Shillelagh Award Recipient Thomas Lynch, and our 2025 Man of the Year retired Judge Tom Munley, Mike Robinson, Kevin Donavan, Charter President Patrick O'Malley and Joseph Holland.



Remembering Heroes

The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 presented a wreath to two Irish heroes at the Lackawanna County courthouse, Patrick Delacey and John Delaney, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients during the Civil War. The division has been doing this for many years. Our keynote speaker is our 2025 Man of the Year, retired Judge Tom Munley. We should never forget our servicemen and women and we thank these heroes for their bravery during Irish Heritage Month. From left, Kevin Donovan, John Connor, Judge Tom Munley, Charter President Patrick O'Malley, Rob Fletcher and Mark McDade.

Minnesota



Shamrock Division celebrates two St. Patrick's parades

'Twas a fine day for the Minnesota Irish when the two Minnesota AOH Divisions joined and marched together in the St. Paul St. Paddy's Day Parade. St. Patrick's Day in St. Paul started with an Irish Mass at the St. Paul Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Kevin Kenney and followed with a brunch provided by the LAOH. Soon after, they were off to downtown St. Paul where, in the shadow of the Landmark Center, the Shamrock Division and the John Ireland Division started their march through the streets of St. Paul. The streets were crowded with cheering Irish 'til they came to the parade completion at the Saints Stadium. The nice weather and large crowds made it a great day for the Irish.

The Shamrock Division also marched in and led the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Belle Plaine, MN. In our goal to support traditional Irish culture, the Shamrock Division arranged an Irish band and Irish dancers to entertain following the parade.

The Shamrock Division is located in southern Minnesota and has approximately 85 members. See our website: hiberniansshamrock.com or on Facebook. @hiberniansshamrock for more information.

The Shamrock Division starts the St. Paul St. Patrick's Day Parade in the shadow of the historic St. Paul Landmark Center.



The Shamrock Division lines up to lead the St. Patrick's Day parade in Belle Plaine, MN.

Division 4, Ramsey County, celebrates St. Patrick's Day

Minnesota's 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 Saint Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Saint Paul. We were honored to have Bishop Kevin Kenney as the Celebrant at the Mass. 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 Colin Stephens from Cretin Derham, Larkin Crummy from Hill-Murray, and Georgia Bratt and Alyssa McLaughlin from St. Agnes.

Additionally, in support of 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 presented a \$1,000 check to the Saint Paul Seminary, which was founded by Archbishop John Ireland, for whom Division 4 was named.

Following the Mass, the Archbishop John Ireland Division was joined by our Hibernian brothers from Minnesota Shamrock Division 1 and the AOH was well represented in this year's parade in downtown Saint Paul. — Charlie Callaghan



From left, Past President Vince Courtney, Vice President Bill Claugherty, Bishop Kevin Kenney, Dick Warren and Dan Lyons at our annual Saint Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

New Mexico



Wreaths Across America

Albuquerque Hibernians closed out a good year with solemn remembrance of those who served while we participated in Wreaths Across America. Pictured at the San Ysidro Roman Catholic Church in Corrales, NM, are, from left, Hibernians Fr. Jim McGowan, Deacon Steve Rangel, Val Varela, Division VP Bill Brennan, Tom Farrell, President Tim Gannon, Doug Perry (Assoc), Larry McGlynn, Liam Hickey and Bobby Hickey. — Submitted by Tom Farrell

ANCIENT ORDER
OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

Virginia

Pro Life lobbying in Virginia

Members of the Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Division participated in the annual Virginia Pro Life Lobbying initiative. We were disappointed by the reception we received from our legislators. We hope to be back in force on April 2 for the Virginia Pro Life march. From left, Cunningham Division VP Gerard Oswald, Past Virginia State President Jay McCarthy, and families from Northern Virginia.



On Parade, Raising Funds, in Alexandria



The Herbert-Cady division in Alexandria, Virginia, marched in the local Saint Patrick's Day parade. A week later, the division and the Basilica of Saint Mary hosted an Irish hooley, with food, drink and entertainment, raising \$13,000 for Catholic Charities Christ House.

Virginia's Gaelic Mass

The State AOH was privileged to have Fr. M. Valentine Keveny celebrate the 46th Annual Gaelic Mass for the AOH/LAOH on March 1. Fr. Valentine is pictured here with several Virginia officers.



Ready to march in Alexandria

Past State President Jay McCarthy, St. Patrick, VA State President Bob Fay and Cunningham Division President Dennis Corrigan getting ready to march in the Alexandria St. Patrick's Parade on March 1.



Corporate Communion

In the spirit of the month of St. Patrick, the Cunningham Division gathered at St. Theresa Parish for its quarterly Corporate Communion followed by a brunch on March 16. Our organization received a number of kudos that morning as we were proudly wearing the green. Current and past officers of the Cunningham Division on the altar of St. Theresa Church.

Nebraska

Omaha holds Hibernian Banquet

The Father Flanagan Division 1 held their annual Hibernian Banquet on February 15 at the German-American Society of Omaha. Also in attendance was the AOH Sarpy County St. Columbkille Division and the Mother Catherine McAuley Division of the Ladies AOH. The banquet was attended by 150 Hibernians and guests.

The banquet began with a color guard, piper and cocktails. Irish music was provided by Connor Dowling. After dinner and dessert, the Craí na Tíre Irish Dancers performed. Awards were presented and the night was closed with the singing of "The Soldier's Song."

Brother Dan Esch served as the Master of Ceremonies and received the Hibernian of the Year Award. "It is nice to recognize individual Hibernians for the work they have done during the year," said Esch.

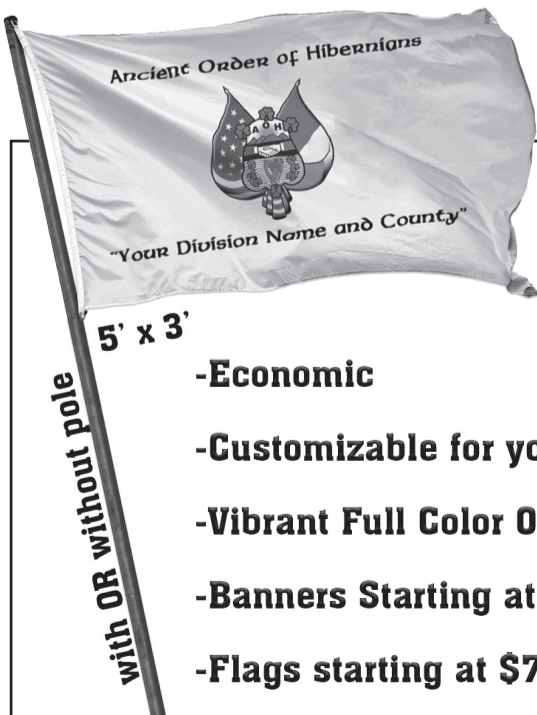
"It is nice to do the banquet with Sarpy County and the ladies. Recognizing all the things going on," Esch added. — Submitted by Mike McMorrow, Division Historian



Hibernian award recipients, from left, Grant E. Hrabovsky (Veteran Award), Colm Breathnach (Hibernian of the Year, Sarpy County Division), Thomas Simpson (Newcomer of the Year), Michael J. McMorrow (Newcomer of the Year), Jeff Brown (Presidential Service Award, St. Patrick), Dan Esch (Hibernian of the Year), and Commander Paul K. Taylor (Presidential Service Award, American Legion Post 1, Omaha). Not Pictured: Shannon Ryan-Stamper (Lifetime Achievement Award). Photo by Alice Sullivan



LAOH award recipients, from left: Kelly Hajek (Outstanding Service), Amber Ripa (Outstanding New Member), Kerry Knight (Lady Hibernian of the Year), and Nancy Casey (Lady Hibernian of the Year). Photo by Alice Sullivan.



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

Visit Our Website!
AOHapparel.com
609-624-3262
Bro. Mike Hagen

The official apparel of the AOH



6' x 3'
 with pole pockets OR grommets!

Montana



AOH Cemetery Plot Restoration

Benjamin Franklin poignantly said, "Show me your burial grounds and I'll show you a measure of civility of a community."

In 1885, St. Patrick Cemetery in Butte, Montana, had its first burial. It was originally known as simply the Catholic Cemetery. Butte experienced rapid development in the late 19th Century as a flourishing and prospered mining community. Employment opportunities in the mines attracted a surge of European immigrants, most notably the Irish. Thousands of immigrants came to Butte to work in one of the mines owned by Marcus Daly, born in County Cavan, Ireland.

The dangerous work in the mines took its toll on many miners. The AOH answered in paying out thousands of dollars in sick and death benefits to its members. They were in charge of making arrangements for the wakes and funerals of its members. A plot for the burial of its members existed on the cemetery's northside.

In August 2023, Butte Hibernians began restoring the AOH plot. They began with leveling the ground, up-righting headstones, arranging ground pavers, installing new curbing and resurfacing the ground with new turf.

On September 19, 2024, a dedication was held in which a memorial bronze plaque was unveiled with approximately 50 Hibernians and guests present. It was an honor to have Eamon O Cuiv, a member of the Irish Parliament and grandson of Eamon de Valera, as the guest speaker for the propitious occasion. The inscription on the memorial plaque, in both English and Irish, reads in part, "At a time when no social services were available, the A.O.H. provided food, clothing and financial support for needy families. Their only motivation was love of God and their people, but their work nurtured unity, friendship and love of their Irish heritage. They are the unsung heroes of Ireland – pray for them."

— John Mulcahy, Chairman, St. Patrick Cemetery Committee



Montana, Ireland trading commission

Governor Greg Gianforte (seated right) and Montana Senator Mike Cuffe (seated left) with Attorney General Rossa Fanning of Ireland (standing center), together with members of the Irish Delegation, the Montana Legislature and the Thomas Francis Meagher Division of the AOH, celebrated the signing of a Bill establishing a Trade Commission between Montana and Ireland in the Governor's Office at the Capitol on March 17. AOH Members present are President Patrick Flaherty, Vice President and Life Member Mike O'Conner, Life Member Tom Pahut and Member John Malia.

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

New Hampshire



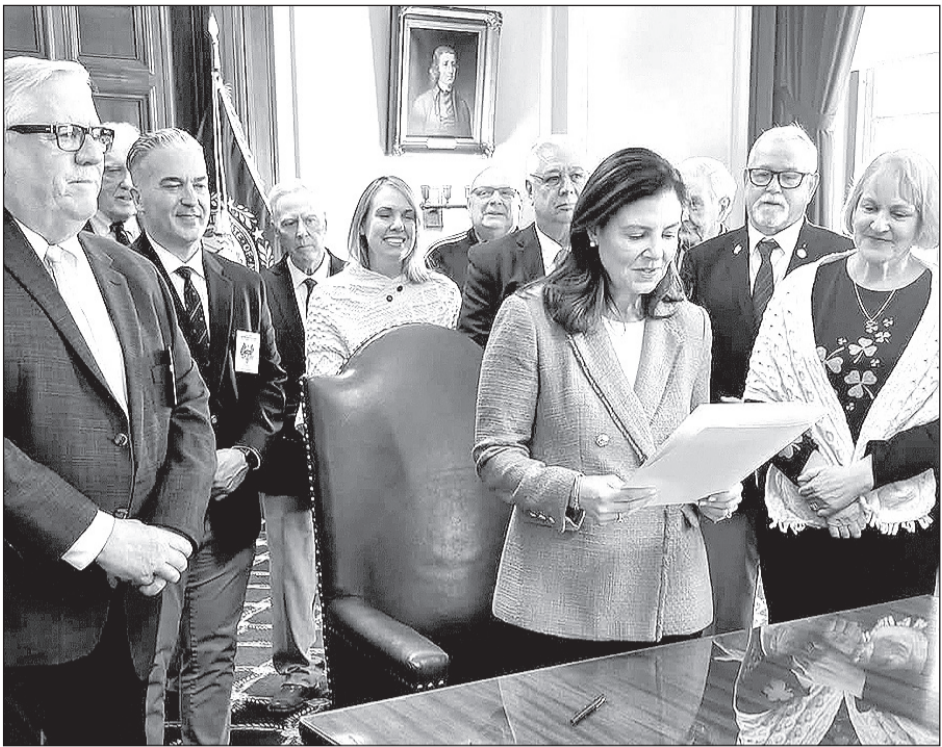
Recruiting successes

New Hibernians were inducted into the William J Shanahan Division 1, Manchester, NH, on March 5. Being inducted by President Colin Glennon are, from left, Rory Robinson, Liam Hetherman and Ronan Hetherman. — Mike Dolphin



St. Patrick's Day Mass

Nearly 30 members of New Hampshire's LAOH and Division 1 AOH gathered at St. Anselm College in Manchester to celebrate Mass on St. Patrick's Day. It was the second year of a tradition that began in 2024. Father Jerome Day, Benedictine Priest at the college, celebrated the service. Father Day is the former pastor of St. Raphael Church in Manchester and a past grand marshal of the Manchester St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Governor signs Heritage declaration

On Friday, March 14, at the New Hampshire State House in Concord, Governor Kelly Ayotte, flanked by NH AOH and LAOH State Presidents Colin Glennon and Anne Nichols, signed and read a proclamation declaring Irish Heritage Month.

Tennessee



Division 2 celebrates the Feast of St. Blaise

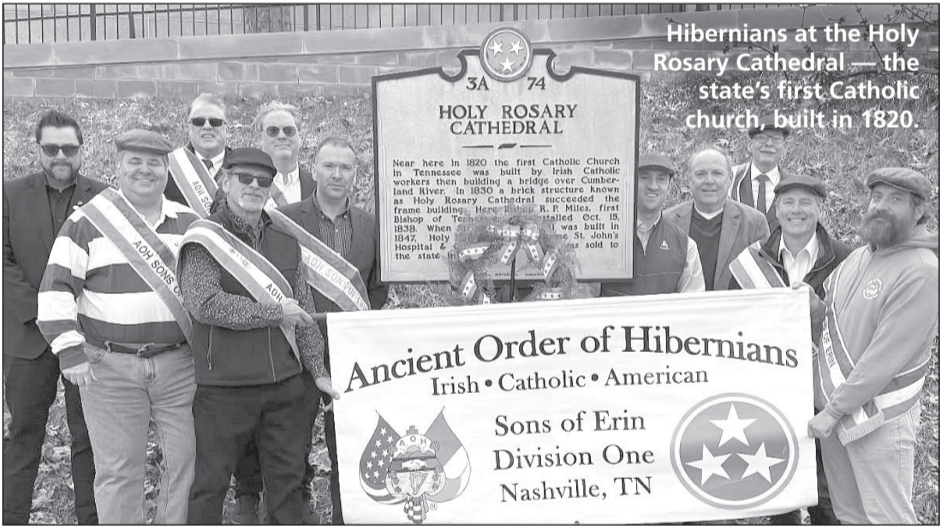
On February 3, after Suffolk County, NY, Division 2's monthly meeting was completed, Division Chaplain Msgr. Brian McNamara offered to bless the members' throats to celebrate the Feast of St. Blaise. — Jim Killen, Division 2 Public Relations

Working together for good

In December of 2024 the many members of the Msgr. Lawrence E. Giblin Division 1 of Broome County, NY, along with members of LAOH Division's 1 and 2, and Juniors held a fundraiser for Nathan's Butterflies. Spearheaded by the efforts of Stephen and Kelly Cole, both Vice Presidents of their respective Divisions, and in our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, we have held this event every year since 2021 choosing a different charity each year. After an incredible effort this year, we raised \$5,001; to date we have raised more than \$11,675 in the name of the AOH and LAOH. We are proud to do our part in our community, and with God's grace, we will continue to do so.



Stephen Cole and his wife Kelly, and Bill and Frances Bidwell, representives of the charity Nathan's Butterflies.



Irish Faith, Catholic Legacy: Remembering the Pioneers Who Spread Catholicism in Tennessee

Officers and members of the Nashville Division 1 gathered at the Tennessee State Capitol to pay tribute to the legacy of Nashville's earliest Irish Catholic settlers. The event honored the founding of Holy Rosary Cathedral — the state's first Catholic church, built in 1820 — and recognized the vital contributions of Irish immigrants who played a key role in shaping the city's infrastructure and faith community.

Attendees reflected on the perseverance and dedication of the Irish Catholic pioneers who, before establishing the state's first place of worship, were instrumental in constructing Nashville's first bridge. This essential feat of engineering not only connected a growing city but also symbolized the resilience and unity of the Irish Catholic community.

Conor Doolan, Division Historian and event organizer, emphasized the deep connection between these early Irish laborers and the city's Catholic foundation.

"The Irish Catholic settlers of Nashville didn't just build bridges and churches — they built a future for generations to come," Doolan said. "Their faith and hard work laid the cornerstone for both our city's growth and its enduring Catholic community. Yesterday's memorial was a testament to their legacy and a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who came before us."

The event brought together Hibernians, historians and community leaders, all united in remembering the struggles and triumphs of Nashville's Irish Catholic pioneers. Through this memorial, the Nashville Division 1 reaffirmed its commitment to preserving and honoring the heritage of those who shaped the city's cultural and religious landscape.

— Kevin Philbin, VP, Division 1

New Jersey

Division Supports Its Own

The Pat Torphy Division 2, from Middletown, New Jersey, recently raised more than \$80,000 to benefit Maggie Gibson, the daughter of one of the Division's members, who is fighting Hodgkin's Lymphoma. This will allow Maggie to continue with her medical treatment.

On January 18 more than 600 people attended a spaghetti-and-meatball event that started at noon and ended at 8 at the VFW 2179 – Route 36, Middletown. Attendees enjoyed excellent food, drinks, Irish and rock and roll music, desert, and coffee for \$25/pp. Many donors stopped by and dropped off checks and others

went directly to the Go Fund Me page Donate to "Support Maggie Gibson's Fight Against Lymphoma."

Division President Ryan Quilty stated, "Our past division president John Foy and his wife Janine Foy, who is a member of St. Bridget's Ladies Ancient Order Hibernians Division, Monmouth County, chaired the event. ... Thank you to the joint effort of the AOH and LAOH members who are a testament to our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Thank you to Joe Daly and the team at VFW Post 2179. Thank you to all the friends, family, donors, bands, volunteers, and anyone whom I may have missed. Maggie and the Gibson family are filled with gratitude with the outpouring of thoughtfulness, compassion and generosity. Please remember to keep Maggie in your prayers on her road to recovery as she continues to beat Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The Pat Torphy Division has and will continue to support our brothers and sisters in time of need. This is one of the reasons we belong to the AOH." AOH Division 2, PO Box 852, New Monmouth, NJ 07748. — Submitted by Bill Young



Division Past President John Foy and Maggie Gibson.

Polar Plunge for Catholic Education

More than 500 people attended the 19th Annual Polar Plunge in Sea Bright, NJ, on February 2, and raised over \$150,000 for Catholic education in Monmouth County. This adds to their \$2,000,000 raised in the past 19 years.

Division President Ryan Quilty said, "Jim Shaw, our Polar Plunge Chairman, has worked tirelessly for 19 years leading the effort and created, motivated a great team to manage and operate the event. Jim makes sure all details are followed and the beach is clean and safe for the plungers. Jim is easy to work with and keeps the charge going, focusing on the reason why people are jumping into the freezing Atlantic Ocean. Monies raised this year and previous years go directly into the schools who participated and keeps the Catholic education strong. Shaw also runs a pub crawl months prior to the plunge to cover all logistical costs so monies raised go to the school."

Shaw said, "The event raised \$150,000 for Catholic Schools. St. Ben's had \$58K, Holy Cross \$42K and St. Mary's \$20 K. One hundred percent was retained by the schools. It doesn't happen without each of you.... [S]houtouts to the Registration Team who have been supporting us every year. Sharon, Cherie, Lisa, and a rookie, Kevin Gibson. Big thanks to the Sea Bright Police, Fire and First Aid who keep everyone safe. Larry Basinski played the tunes, a real professional! John Foy, Jim Bruncati and the Security Team, the Patrick Torphy Pipes and Drums; Flag and Banner Bearers! Great Job! Lottery Team Jerry and Pat! All who helped, Thank you so much!"



Freehold AOH members with Rich O'Brien State President. From left, Ron Byer, Kevin Weldon, John Keane, Michael Arnot, Rich O'Brien, Trace Donohue; Front: Ernie Morgenstern.



State President Richard O'Brien and Pat Torphy Division Members, including Ryan Quilty and John Ward.

Celebrating 35-Year Division Anniversary

On February 21, the Volunteer Patrick Torphy Division 2, Monmouth County, celebrated 35 years in service. Ryan Quilty, Division President stated, "On February 21, 1990, AOH Monmouth County Division 2 was chartered with our Sentinel, John Ward, being one of the founding members. The Division, then named the Brian Boru Division originally, met at the American Legion Post 338 in Leonardo, NJ. In the early 2000s the Division moved to where we are today and was renamed the Volunteer Patrick Torphy Division in honor of Pat Torphy after his passing.

"On February 21 we held our 35th anniversary event with food, beverages, music and many stories old and new. State President Richard O'Brien presented us with a plaque along with Past Division Presidents, past and current officers, and the last surviving Charter member John Ward.

"Pat Torphy, a former AOH member, was born in Dublin in 1927 and passed away at the age of 74 in 2001. Pat was active in the freedom movement in Ireland and moved to the U.S. and worked as a union electrician out of Perth Amboy. He travelled to Ireland with other AOH members to walk in the Bloody Sunday march several times. When Pat was walking the route many Derry residents along the route ran out of their homes and recognized him for who he was and what he stood for. Pat was a close friend of Joe Cahill, also a prominent figure in the Republican movement and former Chief of Staff of the Irish Republican Army. They both met and caught up at the Felons Club in Belfast prior to one of the Bloody Sunday marches. Pat was a kind and educated brother who will never be forgotten.

"Our division has won several AOH awards for raising money for charity in Ireland, prisoner's children fund in Ireland, and local assistance in New Jersey and the U.S. We also run a Polar Bear Plunge each January that has raised over \$2M to support area Catholic Schools. I want to thank State President Richard O'Brien, who is an active member and Past Division President, for all that he has done not only for our membership in the Torphy Division but all the great work he has done over the past four years in his state position."

••• Ryan Quilty worked with AOH National President Sean Pender to secure a book tour stop on February 26 with Peadar Thompson, Lost Gaels book author. Quilty stated, "Peadar Thompson's book on GAA members killed during the Troubles is ready for release in late February. Lost Gaels remembering the members of the GAA killed during the conflict in Ireland. This night provided an opportunity for local AOH Brothers and Sisters to learn first-hand what actually happened to the GAA members.



From left, Ryan Quilty, Pat Torphy Division President; John Ward, Charter Member; and Richard O'Brien, State President.

Remember the AOH in your will

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

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of. . .

the Ladies National President

by Mary Ann Lubinsky

I am so excited to write that tomorrow I will be joining some of my LAOH sisters on the 2025 FFAI trip. This will be my first trip to Ireland!

I hope everyone had a wonderful St. Patrick's Week!

Last week, just prior to St. Patrick's Day, I was very fortunate to attend several events in Washington, DC including a reception for the Taoiseach at the Ambassador's Residence, the Washington Ireland Program Breakfast with the US Capitol Dome in the background on one side and the Washington Monument on the other! That evening, I attended the White House event for the Taoiseach with AOH President Sean Pender. Following that we had also been invited by the Taoiseach to attend a reception at the Blair House. On Thursday, March 13, it was the Northern Ireland

Bureau Breakfast. Needless to say, it was a very busy few days!

On Saturday, March 15, I was honored to be the Grand Marshal of the 2025 Leo F. Haley St. Patrick's Day Parade in my hometown of Pottsville. I got to share the spotlight with some Pottsville Firefighters who were recognized for their saving the life of a woman last year. I was certainly in special company.

In just a little more than three weeks, it will be Holy Week, a very solemn time to recall the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that you will attend as many services as you can and that you have a Blessed and Happy Easter.

In case you have not yet heard, the 2025 LAOH National Interim Board Meeting will be held September 13, 2025, in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.



The NYS LAOH had great representation at Governor Hochul's Irish Heritage Reception at the Governor's Mansion on March 19th.

From L to R: Dolores Desch (Albany LAOH), Kim DePeaux, Denise Murphy McGraw, and LAOH National Secretary Cathy Turck (Schenectady LAOH), Governor Kathy Hochul, NYS President Regina Begley, Mickie McGuinness Baldwin (Schenectady LAOH)



The Lackawanna County Men's and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH &AOH) gathered to celebrate the Feast of Saint Brigid of Ireland. Father Richard Fox celebrated the Eucharistic Liturgy at Saint Patrick's Parish in West Side Scranton PA.

New York

Generosity Recognized



Members of Suffolk County's Division 7, East Islip, presented Frank Gagliardi, owner of Francesco's Trattoria, with a plaque in recognition of his generosity for donating brunch to the Community Children's Christmas Party each year. From left, committee member Greg Baist, Past President Shawn O'Neill, committee member Jim O'Kane, Vice President Kevin Smith, Frank Gagliardi and Committee Chairman Vic Vogel.



Queens County Hibernians on parade



Western Nassau County Hibernians joined their Queens County brothers in marching in the Bayside parade.

Bayside comes out for St. Patrick!

The St. Patrick's Parade was held in Bayside, NY, on March 29, to the great enjoyment of the many who marched and many more who applauded along Bell Boulevard in Queens. The Grand Marshal was Hibernian Tony Jackson, with honorable Aides Kathleen Cadigan, Rev. John Costello, Tim Farrell, Lena Kelly, Glenn Lynch, Sean McDonald, John Monahan, Brendan Mullaney, Paul Nicaj, Maureen O'Neill and rev. Frank Shannon.



'Going bald for cancer research'

Mike Hogan, left, and Bernie Harney, of the Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5, Albany, recently participated in the St. Baldrick's Foundation "Go Bald for Childhood Cancer Research" event. Besides being treated to a fashionable new haircut, Mike and Bernie raised \$4,700 toward childhood cancer research.



President Pender, alongside Bronx County President Martin Galvin, presented a book on Archbishop Hughes to Archbishop Martin.



Front, from left, Bronx County Chaplain Fr. Brian McCarthy, Archbishop Martin and Division 5 Chaplain Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald. Standing, Fr. Barry Matthews, Pat O'Hara, Martin Galvin, Sean Pender, Jim O'Farrell and Jack McCarrick.

Pender and Bronx Hibernians meet with Ireland's Archbishop

President Sean Pender led a delegation of Bronx County Hibernians to meet with Archbishop Eamon Martin when the Primate of All Ireland visited St. Barnabas Parish in the Bronx on March 15. Hibernians presented Archbishop Martin with a book about Archbishop John Hughes, the Tyrone man who founded St. Patrick's Cathedral and whose call rallying the Irish to defend a Catholic Church led to the founding of the AOH. Hibernians also thanked the Archbishop for his work on legacy justice and Irish reunification. Bronx County also sponsored the benefit concert organized by Division 5 Chaplain Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald.



Utica St Patrick's Parade draws big crowd

Story and photos by Tom Loughlin Jr.

Dating back to 1825 when Oneida County AOH Division namesake John C. Devereux led a group of Irish celebrants through the city streets after Catholic mass, the 2025 parade capped off a week of observances honoring Ireland's patron saint.

Devereux Division 1 figured heavily in the planning and execution of the traditional Irish flag-raising at Utica's City Hall, painting a green stripe down the parade route, conducting a Hibernian Mass at St Joseph/ St Patrick's Church, and there was a large presence of both the AOH and the Ladies AOH in the parade.

Hibernians were led down the parade route by Grand Marshal Hibernian Tom Powers, Jr., operator of the Celtic Harp restaurant in Utica's Brewery District.

The Utica parade's St. Patrick, Jim Sullivan.



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



Father John E. Keehner

National Chaplain 2020 - 2024

Past Chaplain Ohio State Board

Past Chaplain Ohio Mahoning County Division 6

Past Chaplain Ohio Stark County Division 1

Congratulations
Bishop-Elect John E. Keehner
For the Diocese of Sioux City

Appointment announced by the Holy Father on 12 February 2025
Ordination Mass - May 1st at 2 pm - Attendance via Invitation Only

Sioux City Cathedral of the Epiphany

April 30 Vespers & May 1 Ordination

Livestream on Diocese YouTube Account

Livestream on KTIV Channel 4 Sioux City



New York



Nassau County Hibernians enjoyed marching in honor of St. Patrick in the Glen Cove AOH parade.

Hibernians March in Glen Cove

The Mike Moran Division 8, Nassau County, held its St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 23, in Glen Cove, a city of Long Island's North Shore. Dozens of contingents marched and many hundreds came out to watch the parade, a joyous tradition in the city and a tribute to the months of hard work done by the organizing committee, led by the LAOH's Lisa Bartley Forgione and AOH Division 8 President Andy Stafford. Hibernians donate proceeds from the parade to local charities.



This year's parade honored Grand Marshal Joseph McDonald, center, who's on the Nassau County AOH Board, and Aides Past Division 8 President Sean Basdavanos and Glen Cove LAOH member Irene Abrams.