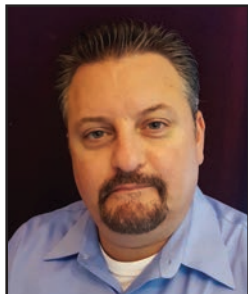


## Hibernian Charity Board reorganized



Joseph C. Casler



Michael P. Joyce II



Billy Lawless



Joseph J. Norton, Ph.D.



Brian O'Dwyer

During the 2016 National Convention in Atlantic City, the general assembly authorized the National Board to reconstitute the National Hibernian Charity. The Hibernian Charity was organized years ago to raise money for the many charitable works of our National Order and was long overdue an update. The NHC was designated by the IRS, as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation which provides an additional incentive for charitable donations. Donors to NHC may claim a tax deduction for their donations according to the law. As a tax-exempt non-profit corporation, NHC is also poised to compete for grants from the nation's largest philanthropic foundations that restrict their gifts to only tax-exempt non-profit corporations. Pursuant to the charge of the general assembly, the National Board revised the Bylaws of the NHC Constitution to modern operations, conform to best business practices and permit NHC to effectively compete for grant funding.

One of the Bylaws changes was to change the title of the Board of Directors to Board of Trustees. The National Board believes the title "Trustee" better conveys the fiduciary responsibility entrusted to Board members and will aide them in their mission. The purpose of this Board of Trustees is not only to administer funding to our many charities, but to seek funds from the many philanthropic individuals and organizations across the nation and abroad. With this in mind, the National Board selected eight new members to serve on the newly constituted NHC Board of Trustees. We wanted individuals who had fundraising and foundation experience, who could bring a spirit of professionalism to the Board of Trustees, and command the confidence and respect of donors. They come from different professions and different walks of life, but all share the National Board's commitment to meeting the charitable demands of the National Order.

The members of our new NHC Board of Trustees are:

**Joseph C. Casler**, New Orleans, Louisiana. Joe has served Hibernian Charities for several years and is Managing Attorney for Progressive Insurance in Louisiana, North Texas and Mississippi.



Patrick Sean Ryan



Ted M. Sullivan



John Patrick Walsh

**Michael P. Joyce II**, Austin, Texas. Mike is Vice President of Operations & Research for the Texas Business Leadership Council (TBLC) in Austin and has eight years of experience in the non-profit sector.

**Billy Lawless**, Chicago, Illinois. Billy is a businessman in the Chicago, Illinois, area, and is originally from Ragoon, County Galway. He was appointed to the 25th Seanad Eireann in May of 2016, becoming the first overseas Senator in Ireland.

**Joseph J. Norton, Ph.D.**, Mableton, Georgia. Joe is a proven global leader in Organizational Design, Development and Cultural Change known for streamlining business processes and operational efficiency.

**Brian O'Dwyer**, New York, New York. Brian is Senior Partner for O'Dwyer & Bernstein, LLP, and has been cited as a New York Super Lawyer since its inception, which a peer ranking is given to only the top 5 percent of the profession as surveyed by the Bar of

continued on page 6

## Frontlines of the Pro-Life fight are in your own backyard

By John Patrick Walsh, Pro-Life Chairman

Election season always seems to point a spotlight on the topic of abortion with politicians racing to claim the mantle of "pro-life" or "pro-choice"; this election certainly didn't disappoint in that regard. Perhaps it's my "inside-the-beltway" mentality, but I often grow frustrated with pro-life allies who focus too much on federal elections. I already hear the cries, "But Brother Walsh, without a pro-life president or Congress how will we: appoint pro-life justices, stop taxpayer-funded abortion coverage, protect against government overreach," and so on. Don't get me wrong friends, having a pro-life executive and legislative branch is incredibly helpful to furthering respect for all stages of life; but have you ever stopped to think about which level of government has the most impact on your daily life?

**Most Pro-Life battles are won or lost on the state level**

In early July, the Guttmacher Institute, former research arm of Planned Parenthood, reported that states have enacted 334 pro-life laws in the past five years. That accounts for a full 30 percent of all pro-life legislation passed since Roe v. Wade in 1973. The report stated that as of July 2016, state legislatures have already passed 46 laws to protect mothers and the unborn. Many of these laws

have had a chilling effect on abortion providers by requiring more stringent health and safety standards for clinics and physicians. The same five-year period has seen the closure of 162 abortion clinics.

Sadly, for every battle we win there seems to be an unheralded loss, often masked in false compassion. Too often the pro-life movement is boiled down to abortion, to the exclusion of all other related issues. While advocates of life celebrate legislative or electoral victories, here are but a few examples of defeats experienced in our own backyards:

Colorado – On election night, Coloradans approved by a 2-1 margin Proposition 106, known as the "End of Life Options Act," which will legalize assisted suicide. Colorado becomes the fifth state to legalize assisted suicide, joining California, Oregon, Washington and Vermont. (Montana allows doctors to defend themselves in court if prosecuted for assisting in a suicide, provided they can prove prior consent.)

Indiana – Monroe County Council (which covers Bloomington, IN), led by the county mayor, voted this November to award two taxpayer-funded grants to organizations that provide and fund abortions. The council awarded Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky and All Options Pregnancy Center grants totaling \$2,000 and \$3,250 respectively.

Washington, D.C. – On November 15 the D.C. City Council voted 11-2 to pass a bill legalizing doctor-prescribed suicide for anyone "18-years-old or older who has a prognosis of six months or fewer to live." The bill will not be opposed by Mayor Bowser, but luckily must be approved by Congress, which is expected to veto the legislation.

**Overturning Roe v. Wade must become the dream, not the goal**

"I do not believe that just because you're opposed to abortion, that that makes you pro-life. In fact, I think in many cases, your morality is deeply lacking if all you want is a child born but not a child fed, not a child educated, not a child housed. That's not pro-life. That's pro-birth. We need a much broader conversation on what the morality of pro-life is." — Sister Joan Chittister, OSB

If I thought I heard cries before, many of you may well be screaming, "What is he doing quoting a dissident nun, sanctioned by the Vatican?" Friends, let me fill you in on an inconvenient truth that many advocates for life — including this guy who's asking you to come to D.C. on January 27th to participate in our annual Pro-Life Breakfast before the March for Life — don't like to admit. Overturning Roe v. Wade must become the dream, not the

continued on page 6



# ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS® IN AMERICA

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## The National HIBERNIAN Digest

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

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

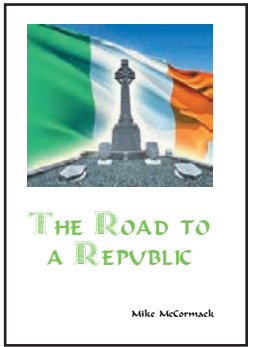
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## AOH National Board Directs All Label Program Proceeds to Hibernian Charities.

In a recent vote your national board has designated Hibernian Charities as the recipient of all proceeds from the Label Program. The largest benefactor will be Project St. Patrick demonstrating our commitment to our clergy. Other programs that will be shored up include the Irish Way Scholarship, the Study Abroad Scholarship and National History Day.

## AOH Label Appeal needs you to succeed!

Everyone should have your labels in hand. Please take a minute today and send your donation to help continue the tradition of the AOH making a difference since 1936! Your Support will provide direct assistance to our Hibernian Charities.

Send your donation today to: Danny O'Connell, AOH National Vice President, 340 E Kline Street, Girard, Ohio 44420.

Remember, if there are any changes in your address or corrections to your name, contact your financial secretary today and have the corrected Form 40 sent to the National AOH Office.

## AOH UPDATE

The first week of every month President McKay will distribute and email an AOH UPDATE, which will include feature articles of interest on Catholic Action, Charities, Political Education and other timely issues related to the goals and objectives of the Order.

You can receive the update directly via the Hibernian E-mail Blast by sending your e-mail address to the National Office at AOH.Forms@AOH.COM. You can also view the update on the AOH webpage, WWW.AOH.COM. UPDATES will be posted when the e-mail is sent.





## president's message

by Jim McKay III

Dear Brothers,

Thanksgiving has come and gone and now we are in those hectic days before Christmas when we sometimes tend to forget what the birth of Christ's Feast Day is all about. We should take some time in our lives, especially at this time of the year, on the message of Christmas and how it should comfort and support us in this material world.

The National Board has just reorganized our National Hibernian Charity with a naming of a new Board of Trustees to guide them. We have also dedicated a revenue stream with the proceeds from our Annual Label Program funding the many causes that our Hibernian Charity sponsors. One in particular is our National Project St. Patrick program, which helps financially seminarians with some of their everyday needs.

Our National Board is trying to adjust to the recent national elections by continuing to lobby on national issues that directly affect the Irish here in this country as well as in Ireland. Matters such as immigration, deportations, BREXIT concerns and other such issues that require us to be vigilant and available to the newly elected lawmakers as well as those in the executive office. If we are to consider ourselves the voice of the Irish in this country, it is important that we have access to these lawmakers on all of the issues just mentioned as well as the re-urging of the common theme of all Hibernians, that of a united Ireland.

On January 27, 2017, the Hibernians will participate, as we all have done in the past, in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Our National Life Director, John Patrick Walsh, for the tri-state area, as usual has planned a number of events for the Hibernians who participate to make this a successful event as well as to let our voices be heard loud and clear on the rights of the unborn children. Hope to see many of you there.

I wish all my Brothers and Sisters a Happy and Holy Christmas.

God Bless



## national secretary

by Jere Cole

### Timely Reminders

Per capita is due to the national office by February 15, 2017. Remember, you are paying per capita for 2016. We are always one year behind. Per capita is based on your membership as of December 31, 2016. It is the per capita that you collected during the 2016 calendar year. Divisions who do not pay on time will not be considered in good standing, and may not participate in their state convention this summer.

Members exempt from paying per capita include priests, active military and national life members. Per capita for new members is only one dollar for each month of membership.

Divisions that were established in 2016 also owe per capita. It is one dollar per member for each month that the division was in existence in 2016. Clergy, active military and national life members are, of course, exempt.

It is critical that our membership total numbers match your membership total numbers, especially Lines 11 & 16 on the Form 11. If our numbers and your numbers are off, we will need to figure out why.

On another note, the cover sheet of the rosters that were mailed in November should have said National Life Members, not Life Members, this is being changed in our database as I write this column. For national's purposes, we are tracking the number of National Life Members in each division. If you have life members at the divisional level, that is not the same thing. Sorry if this has caused any confusion.

If you have received your 2017 cards and have sent in additional changes, please be aware that we are processing those additional Form 40s, but cards will not be issued until sometime in February, as we want to be sure all rosters and 2017 membership cards are out first.

### New Mailing Address

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973-575-0050

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## vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

Brothers,

Happy New Year! The first six months serving as your Vice President has been a positive learning experience. Our focus on communication appears to be paying off. The re-organization of the Hibernian Charity is complete and a new Hibernian Charity Board is in place. After reading the resumes of the Charity Board members I have to say we have a very impressive group of leaders prepared to take our Charity to the next level. I wish the best of luck to the new board members.

We are deep into the 2018 convention preparation and the Louisville committee is working hard to get a jump on preparation. The committee should have specific information in your hands by your state convention. By the time you read this the 2020 convention contract will be complete as well. The reality is that the success of each convention is based on membership participation. I hope every Hibernian will take a serious look at attending and participating in each convention as we move forward. I am amazed of what I have learned from my Brother Hibernians during each and every convention I have attended. Your attendance at the convention will make it better for everyone!

As the New Year unfolds my focus will turn to degrees and rituals. The rituals committee will include a member from each Certified Degree Team (CDT) and review and recommend changes to the ritual and updates to the Blue Book. In addition to this work we will be promoting the degrees of the Order. The December email blast included a list of all Certified Degree Teams and their contact information. Currently we have two teams that are being re-organized and one forming. We will continue to promote scheduled degrees and encourage every non-degreed Hibernian to make his degree at his earliest convenience.

The Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award nominations are coming in and soon we will be sending ballots out to the authorized voters as listed in the National Constitution. If you are on the list of voters we ask that you return your ballot as soon as possible. The winner will be announced shortly after the March 16 deadline for voting. The award will be conferred during the National President Testimonial Dinner in New Orleans scheduled on October 14, 2017.

I have sent an email to state presidents asking for state convention details. We plan to have these listed in the Hibernian Digest but we need the dates, location, web page and contact numbers in order to promote your event. It is important that we participate in our state conventions and a bonus when we have a chance to visit a convention away from home. Publishing your convention details will help traveling Hibernians become aware of conventions they may be able to drop in on.

God Bless, Danny O. Daniel.oconnell@aoh.com.



## treasurer's report

by Sean Pender

Best wishes to all members and your families for a happy and healthy 2017, may your blessings be many.

As we reset the calendar it is that time of year when divisions will soon be submitting their per capita, remember the timely payment of per capita allows your national board to operate effectively. 2017 per capita is based on your membership count on December 31st 2016 and dues collected in 2016. By properly budgeting or allocating the per capita portion of annual dues when collected divisions can ensure timely payment.

When submitting checks to the National Board please make sure that checks are completed correctly checks should not be postdated and never made out to an individual.

Recently many divisions have contacted the national board with questions regarding federal tax filing concerns and EIN requirements. We are engaged with our accountant to review these questions and hope to have guidance for divisions in January.

As a reminder regarding taxes: Each division, county and state board must file a 990 with the IRS each year-end and each must have and use their own EIN (Employee Identification Number, IRS tax ID number) when filing. The only thing you need to use to identify with the AOH national 501C8 tax exemption is the group number 0832. The AOH is a 501C8 organization, exempt from paying Federal Income Tax. Donations to the AOH are not tax deductible.



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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Bill Sullivan

As we look forward to the start of a New Year with hope, optimism and anticipation of what 2017 will hold, we look back upon the year that has just passed and reflect upon the events, accomplishments and times that shaped our Hibernian lives and the world about us with gratitude and, to a degree, some sadness.

As 2016 passes into the history books, I want to thank the delegates at our Convention in Atlantic City who helped elect me as one of your six National Directors. Over the next two years, I look forward to working on your behalf with all members of the National Board for the good of our Order. I also want to thank the 2016 AOH and LAOH National Convention Committee for the fantastic job they did. Thank you for your time, hard work, efforts and talents.

At the same time, another memory that 2016 evokes is one of loss. Just a week prior to our National Convention in Atlantic City, we lost a great Hibernian, Past National Director Joe Brady of Newport, RI. Joe was a member of the AOH for more than 35 years, and had served as Rhode Island State President, an AOH National Director and National Anti-Defamation Chairman. I had the honor to represent the National Board at Joe's funeral in Newport. Saint Joseph's Church that day was filled to capacity with members of the Brady Family, Brother and Sister Hibernians, members of the RI State Senate, where Joe worked, as well as many friends. It was a wonderful tribute to a great Hibernian.

Since our National Convention in Atlantic City over the past six months, I have had the opportunity to visit and take part in many AOH and Irish related events in the New England region, all of which made us proud of being Irish and a Hibernian. I look forward in 2017 to continuing these visits to Irish events, Divisions and State Boards. In early November, I attended the testimonial for New York State President Timothy McSweeney in Albany. As one would expect it was a first class Hibernian event.

With 2017 now upon us, we will soon celebrate Irish Heritage Month with a host of activities, each of which will serve to honor, preserve and promote the AOH and our Irish Culture. Though these events celebrate our heritage, there is so much more we can do to see that our Order will grow and survive well into the next century. Exactly what am I referring to? Why not consider sponsoring a new member! With a host of multifaceted Irish events over the next few months, why not bring some AOH applications with you when you attend a function, and ask others to join. Just who can you ask? Brothers, Uncles, Sons, Nephews, Cousins, Neighbors, In-laws, Co-workers and Friends. You are the best Ambassadors for our Order. People are more likely to join if they are personally asked to join. Think of why you joined the AOH? In most cases you joined because someone asked you! Why not help strengthen our Order, and make one of your New Year's Resolutions to sign up at least one new member in 2017! If we all did that, the AOH would double in size over night. Will you accept this Hibernian Challenge for 2017? Please consider it. Thanks!

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: williamsullivan@verizon.net Have a great 2017!

## Tax Issues – Losing your tax-exempt status

Have you received a letter from the IRS stating you have lost your Federal Tax exemption? If so, this is a result of not filing your taxes.

All divisions and boards are required to and should be filing their taxes annually using your division's Federal Employee Identification Number (EIN). Your federal tax exemption is received through the AOH National board by including our group number -0832- when you file taxes. Failure to file your taxes for three (3) consecutive years results in your division losing their exemption.

The following is a process for reinstatement outline by our National Board Tax Accountants. There are three different scenarios.

Ancient Order of the Hibernians

Tax Exempt Status Retroactive Reinstatement

Determine what form the organization is required to file. The type of form required is determined by the following:

Gross receipts under \$50,000 - 990-N

Gross receipts between \$50,000 and \$200,000 and total assets under \$500,000 - 990-EZ

Gross receipts over \$200,000 or total assets over \$500,000 - 990

### Scenario 1:

**Streamlined Retroactive Reinstatement of Tax-Exempt Status Within 15 months of Revocation and tax exempt status not previously revoked, eligible to file 990-N or 990-EZ**

1) Complete and submit Form 1024 (Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a)) no later than 15 months after the date of revocation letter. Only Parts I, II, III and Schedule D of the Form 1024 must be completed. "Revenue Procedure 2014-11, Streamlined Retroactive Reinstatement" should be written at the top of the application.

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by John Wilson

This past fall I mailed out a questionnaire to all of the Divisions in my assigned states as National Director, and I want to share their stories.

### **Matt Davis President of Kevin Barry Division 3 Indianapolis:**

Our March Breakfast is usually our best performer. Focusing on the centenary celebration we hosted Waterford musician Mosey Moran at the program titled "Ireland's Freedom in Song and Story." Guests included Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett and his Eminence, William Joseph Cardinal Tobin. We attended Mass together at our March Breakfast, the Summer Social and our Irish Fest and, of course, our Memorial Mass in November. We donate to Catholic missions and relief programs, refugee funds, etc. Some members participated in this past year's Celebration of Life Mass.

### **Division 1 President: Tom Fitzgerald of Dubuque County, Iowa:**

We embrace our Irish Heritage.

Proudly show the community we are Catholics. On the day of our St Patrick's Day Parade we have an Irish Mass attended by the Brothers and their families. We have 71 members in our Division, and nine of them are clergy.

To raise money through events so that we can donate to good charitable causes. We help sponsor a trip from our local High School to the March for Life in Washington.

### **Division 1 Butte, Montana, President Joseph "Joe" Lee:**

One of the highlights of this past year was on October 20th; we held a luncheon reception for the Irish Ambassador to the United States Anne Anderson — great turnout. Irish Consul General Phillip Grant was also in attendance.

The AOH here was organized here in 1879 by a handful of Irish immigrants. The AOH grew to three Divisions and a combined membership of approx. 1,000 members. This was generated by the large immigration of Irish to Butte to work in the mines and related jobs. Butte had and continues to have a large Irish population. Some writers have dubbed Butte as the "The Most Irish Town in America." It has also been referred to as Ireland's 5th Province. Butte Irish responded in kind with large monetary donations being made in the name of Ireland's freedom.

Most important role of the AOH: preserving our Irish Heritage and Culture. We have worked toward this end in many different ways, e.g. Irish-American Heritage Month Proclamation, our annual St. Patrick Day Parade; we work closely with our LAOH, and the renovation of our Hibernian Hall Exhibit located at the World Museum of Mining, support of An RI Ra Irish Festival. We volunteer with the community's annual "feed the children program," donate to the local food bank and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, scholarship to Catholic High School.

### **Division 1, St. Clair County, IL: President Michael Tiernan:**

We co-sponsor a 5K run in March and the downtown Belleville St Patrick's Day Parade, the Irish Open golf tournament in June, a halfway to St. Patrick's Day bowling tournament in September. Our most successful event this year from a fund raising view was the golf tournament. At our December meeting we have a holiday meal and select charities to receive the donations from our fund raising work during the year. Our Division participates in the National Board's Ten Club and we are usually in the top 10 in donations for the organization. But that is a sad state because we are a small division and only able to donate a few hundred dollars so it appears not many Divisions participate. Recruitment is mainly word of mouth although we do look for opportunities to tell the Hibernian story and encourage others to join us.



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope this article finds you well and I wish a happy and prosperous 2017 to you and your families. The AOH was founded to protect our Clergy. One of the best ways we can get back to our roots is to actively support our Clergy and Seminarians today. One of the best ways to do this is by your Division or County Board hosting a clergy dinner.

In 2013, we hosted our first clergy dinner in our local division in Akron, Ohio, the Mark Heffernan Division. We invited all of the Priests, Deacons and their wives in our County to our hall for a private dinner. The idea behind the event was for our Division to live the Hibernian motto as well as get back to our roots. This dinner has continued over the years, it has grown in size from nine attendees at the first dinner to more than 20 at the most recent one in October. The clergy get to enjoy a complete Irish meal, Irish entertainment and fellowship among their peers.

An unanticipated benefit of this dinner has been recruiting. Several of the clergy attending our dinner not only joined, but also have recruited their own parishioners, whom they know to be Irish to join. One of the things striking to me was that a lot of the clergy in our area didn't realize that the AOH was a Catholic organization. Brothers now may be the perfect time for you and your division to reach out to the clergy, host them for a private dinner or invite them as your guest to any Hibernian event for the matter. Let them witness first hand that the AOH continues to support our clergy today. I'm sure you won't be disappointed with the results.





## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Dan Dennehy  
Immigration Chairman

I wish all the Blessings of Christmas and a happy, prosperous 2017 to you and yours. This Christmas, sadly, is an anxious time for Irish Immigrants and their families. Campaign promises from the President-elect threaten programs that facilitate the Irish to work here, and deportation may separate families. We remain committed to working with U.S. lawmakers, Irish Immigration Centers, Senator Billy Lawless, the Chicago Celts and Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson and others to promote fair and legal paths for the Irish and end the plight of the undocumented. I will be hosting conference calls and meetings on lobbying action and discussion of immigration issues with a panel of experts in the coming weeks. Contact me at [dandennehy@hotmail.com](mailto:dandennehy@hotmail.com) if you are interested in participating. Recently, Hibernians, including AOH Maryland State President Jay Linahan, attended the signing of a U.S. State Dept. and Embassy of Ireland agreement to extend the J1 12 Month Program, which allows young Irish and U.S. students to live, work and enjoy our traditional cultural exchange. "J1 Summer and 12 Month Visa Program" Information at <https://j1visa.state.gov>

Legal options are available to either Irish and U.S. citizens to live, work and travel. We are firmly urging those eligible to pursue U.S. citizenship, especially Green Card holders, to do so right away. I recommend that one need not pay exorbitant fees to unscrupulous attorneys to explore these options. Guidance and support are available from Irish Immigration Centers affiliated with the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers. Information: [www.ciic-usa.org](http://www.ciic-usa.org)

I thank the Queens and Bronx-based Emerald Isle Immigration Center, its Legal Counsel John Stahl, and Siobhan Dennehy, Executive Director, for helping me compile information for this article. EIIC employs highly qualified staff to assist clients in many aspects of immigration life and law and have helped thousands of immigrants to become U.S. citizens. They provide essential information on the procedures for most immigration matters, such as re-entry permits, lost or replacement green cards. EIIC also offers a citizenship program, by appointment, to assist with the application forms. The EIIC also has two attorneys on staff for individual consultations. Link for appointments: [eiic.org/eiic-services/contact-us/](http://eiic.org/eiic-services/contact-us/)

The Embassy of Ireland, Irish Consulates, and Honorary Consulates: (New Orleans based AOH National President Judge James McKay is an Honorary Consulate General) These offices are available for emergency situations, visa applications, and renewals of Irish Passports. Information: <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/usa/about-us/team-ireland-in-the-usa/#>

"The Project Children Summer Work Travel Program" provides a once in a lifetime opportunity for students from Northern Ireland and Ireland to spend eight weeks in the summer working in the US to further their knowledge and experience in their chosen field of study.

Information: <http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/summer-work-travel/#participants>

"Work & Travel Ireland" U.S. students and recent graduates can visit Ireland for a summer or up to a full year, take on paid seasonal work to help fund the experience.

Information: <https://www.interexchange.org/travel-abroad/work-travel-ireland/>

"Diversity Immigrant Visa Programme (DV-18)" This randomly selected Department of State annual lottery is a legal, albeit remote chance for Irish people to get a Green Card. Ireland is eligible as a country with historically low rates of immigration to the US. No single country will receive more than 7 percent of the available DVs in one year. The annual entry submission for DV Immigrant Visas is early October to the beginning of November. Information <https://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>

The "Irish Citizens Information Board" provides information on coming to live in Ireland, rights of residence, studying or working in Ireland. Link: [www.citizensinformation.ie/categories/moving-country/moving-to-Ireland](http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories/moving-country/moving-to-Ireland)

"Crosscare Migrant Project" (formerly Emigrant Advice) offer information, advocacy and referral organization for migrants in vulnerable situations intending or returning Irish emigrants, as well as immigrants and members of new communities in Ireland. Link: [www.migrantproject.ie/](http://www.migrantproject.ie/)



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Tom O'Donnell  
Project St. Patrick Chairman

Brothers we are in the process of finalizing PSP applications for the year. Thank you to all States, Counties, Divisions and members who have continued to support Project St. Patrick. This great program serves as our contact with our local Dioceses. This is a terrific stepping stone to the advancement of our Order and getting the knowledge of what we about out to the general public.

Our National Board can't stress enough the importance of this joint venture that has been established between the AOH and the LAOH. Remember that it is our duty and responsibility to help protect and support our young men and women that have chosen vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life, to devote their lives to God.

Again, Project St. Patrick is an ongoing drive during our Annual Campaign and throughout the year. We will always accept donations and Scholarships on behalf of our members. Name recognition scholarships are a great way to recognize or remember someone from your Division that has truly lived in our motto.

And also, I know I repeat this every report. Project St. Patrick Prayer Cards are a great source for spreading the mission of PSP. Additional PSP cards can be obtained by contacting me at [NLNOD@comcast.net](mailto:NLNOD@comcast.net) (type PSP in the subject line). Again, if anyone needs additional information regarding Project St. Patrick, please feel free to contact me. Hopefully 2017 can be our most productive Campaign to date.

National Hibernian Digest, December 2016-January 2017



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Liam McNabb

### Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation

Quality Improvement & Evaluating the health of your Division: continued...

Vision for your Division: Congratulations to newly installed and returning Division Officers. Thank you for your service and commitment to promoting the Order and fostering the ideals and practices we hold sacred.

What is your Vision for your Division? Does your term in office have a theme? Will your Division focus on charitable work? Increasing membership? Retaining current members? Engaging your membership in projects? If the answer is yes to some or all of these questions, what goals have you set for the coming term?

Do you and your Division Officers have a "succession" plan moving forward? Ideally, Division Leadership will be looking to new and current Officers to take on challenging opportunities. Turnover among Division Officers can be healthy as new and fresh perspectives can be the "shot in the arm" a struggling Division needs to gain momentum toward setting and achieving goals.

Is there a "disconnect" between the Division President and the all other elected Officers? Is there a "disconnect" between the Division Leadership and the membership? It may be helpful to have an officer and member "roundtable" to explore/discuss ideas for growing the Division. Strong AOH Divisions often conduct this type of discussion where members are engaged and have an opportunity to contribute to the strategic planning of the group. In addition, members can talk openly about their experience in being recruited to join and what the initiation process/experience was like for them. What often emerges from these discussions are new and innovative ways to market the Order in an effort to attract new members. Ideas may include using new technologies, social media, appointing a team to assist the Division Organizer following up on membership applications, developing new partnerships with other community based organizations, etc.

Stay tuned, as there will be more to come in coming months related to training opportunities to assist Divisions with a variety of practices.

Through ongoing collaborative and meaningful discussions, we can learn from each other in order to "Strengthen the Order for the Next Generation."

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you or your Division is interested in a Quality Improvement discussion and/or to share ideas to assess and improve the health of your Division.



## freedom for all ireland

by Paul Gowdy  
Chairman

2016-2017 Annual Christmas Appeal is under way and the checks are coming in. Annually there are many divisions who just seem to ignore our FFAI Appeal requests or possibly do not believe in the project we have sworn to support. Granted when our Christmas Appeal began, the prime focus was to provide funds to organizations in Ireland sworn to help the families of the interned and imprisoned republicans. Before I left Belfast in 1977, I had personal experiences with the Green Cross organization. I witnessed the unending work they performed helping the families with money, food and clothing while also providing transport for visits to their loved ones in Long Kesh. Since the Good Friday agreement and the release of the republican prisoners, the Appeal focus changed. Prisoner rehabilitation, education and job re-training became an important project to help with employment opportunities.

In the posted 2016-2017 Annual Christmas Appeal package, I included a list of all the recipient organizations that received a check including the amount. I am sure the division Presidents shared this information when discussing the Appeal Package with his membership. It is also worth noting that when all the donations are received our cut-off date is usually in mid-April. When the cash total is presented to the National Board, they normally add 15 percent to that total. So, the more money we receive for the Christmas Appeal, the bigger the gift from the National AOH Board. We make a trip one time a year to present checks to these needy Irish organizations. We say, "This donation is from the Hibernians in America. We wish it could be more. We hope it helps." They say, "Thank you, we appreciate your help. This money will go to good use. Tell all our friends in America we thank them from the bottom of our hearts."

The money is good. Knowing that they have allies in the USA is a big bonus.

So, dig deep in your pockets brothers, work those fund raisers and let's make this year's Appeal the biggest year for donations.

It is that time of the year when all AOH divisions will be having their Officer elections. I appeal to all Boards to ensure that an FFAI office is appointed and his contact data (name, telephone # and email address) is forwarded to: Michael Mellett, my appointed FFAI Deputy, at [michael.mellett@hotmail.com](mailto:michael.mellett@hotmail.com). Michael is a member of the Baltimore City St. Patrick Division 5. He has been an active member both in his Division and State levels including the Chairs of FFAI, Immigration and Political Education. He is very talented and will be a great addition to the FFAI National Chair.

Michael and I will be working closely to improve political communication and news items from Ireland and the National FFAI to our AOH Boards. We plan to work closely with our sisters in the LAOH. A database that consists of all FFAI officers will help us ensure that any pertinent information to be shared will have an FFAI contact in every division. If there is no FFAI appointee, then the division President or Vice-President name and contact information will be a help.

As the holiday seasons approaches, let me wish all my Hibernian brothers and sisters a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



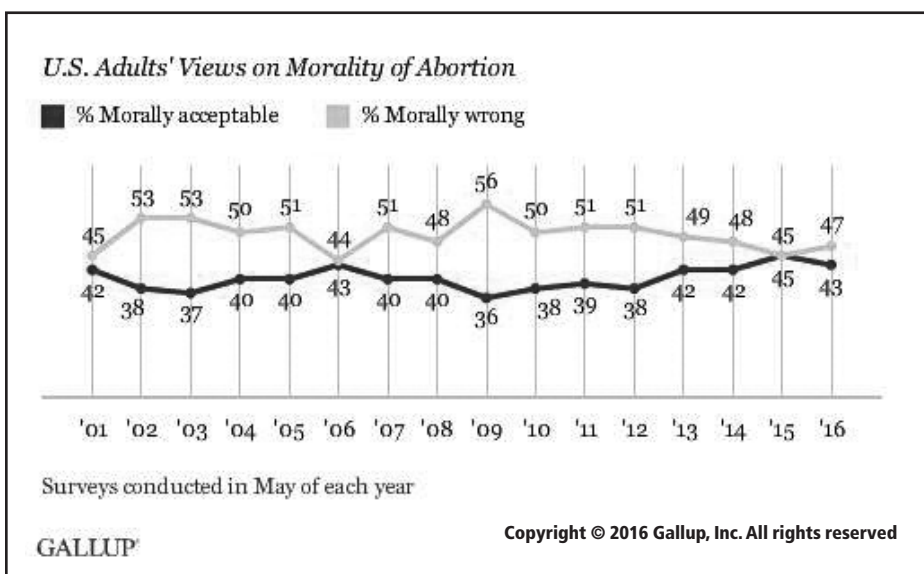
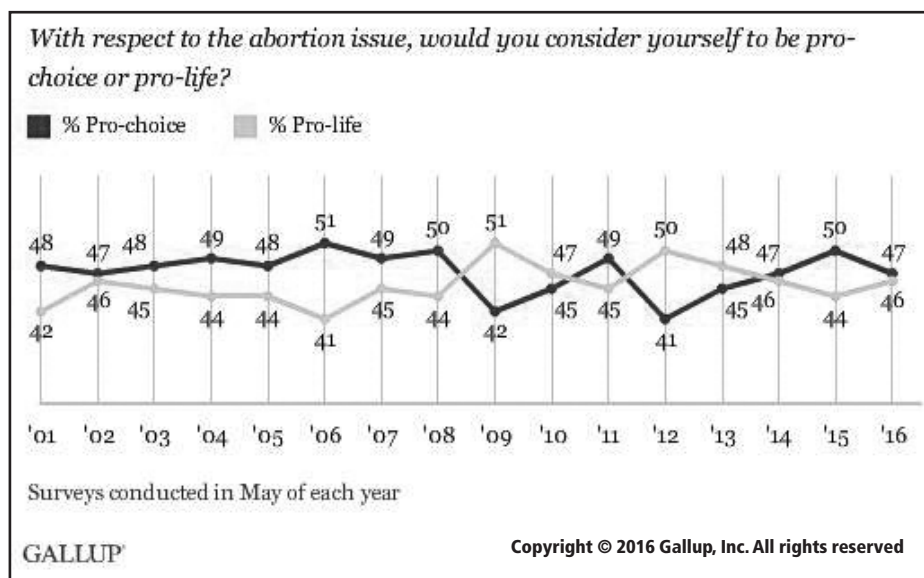
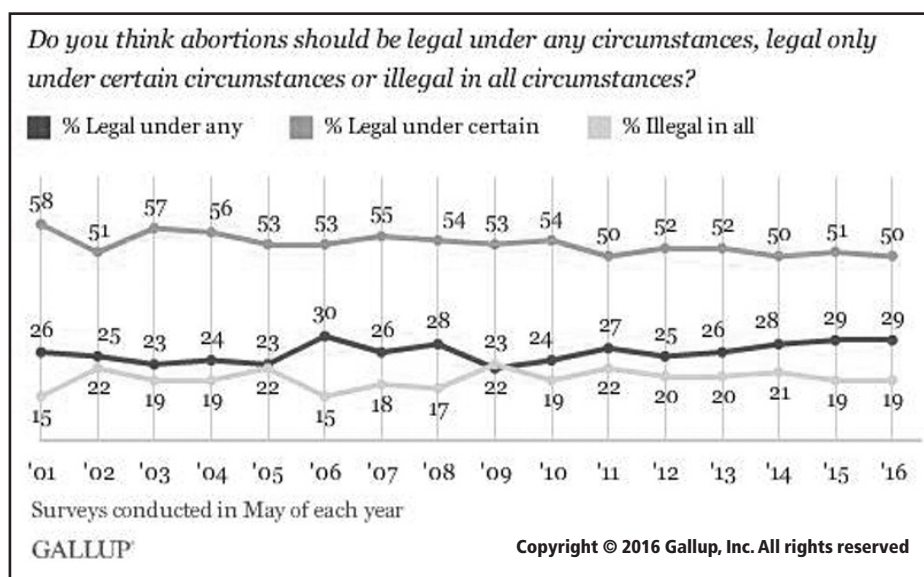
**PRO-LIFE**  
continued from page 1

goal, if the pro-life movement wishes to succeed in changing hearts, minds and laws. We are in the midst of a battle for the hearts and minds of our fellow Americans; changing the way they see the issue before us must be our primary goal.

As the graphs accompanying this article show, American's view on abortion has become fairly consistent over the past decade, varying by only a few points every year. Unfortunately, those views have solidified due to the vast number of our brothers and sisters who have been touched by abortion. It doesn't help that many of the most vocal "pro-life" legislators have forgotten that being pro-life includes opposition to capital punishment and euthanasia, support for programs that seek to provide healthcare and food to children and mothers, and the litany of other noble causes our faith calls us to espouse. Too often I hear naysayers claim that 'pro-lifers only care about babies until they're born.' Not so! But it is hard to effectively defend our firmly held ideals when we allow our mantle to be publicly worn by those who do not understand, or worse, do not accept, the full meaning of "pro-life."

**Hold firm on life, but seek to understand critics**

Pope Francis has called us to meet people where they are, and that is the key to changing how future generations perceive the pro-life cause. However, supporters and critics alike must remember that all life issues become irrelevant without the opportunity to be born. Few are those unmoved by images or videos highlighting the reality of abortion. Something within us cries out at the intentional harm to the innocent. As Catholics we must meet our neighbors "where they are" and through reasoned, logical appeals move them toward a full understanding of the pro-life position. Always look forward, but don't forget to keep an eye on your backyard.



**CHARITY**  
continued from page 1

New York City. He is also the Founder of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center.

**Patrick Sean Ryan**, Crestwood, Kentucky. Joe is the owner of Johannus Church Organ Consultants. A major aspect of Joe's business is helping churches raise the funds needed to be able to purchase a new church organ.

**Ted M. Sullivan**, Atlanta, Georgia. Ted is listed as one of Irish American Magazine's Business 100 List for seven of the last eight years. Currently with Global Client Partner, Consulting Practice, SAP. He is the AOH Georgia State Board President. He has been focused on building executive relationships within Entertainment, Media and Communication Fortune 100 companies for the past 10 years.

**John Patrick Walsh**, Silver Springs, Maryland. JP is Deputy Director of the Federal Affairs Office of Florida Governor Rick Scott. Currently he promotes and represents the Governor, Cabinet and Legislature before Congress and the Federal Government, while providing constituent services to Floridians visiting and working in the capital. He is the AOH National Pro-Life Chairman and President of the District of Columbia State Board.

To ensure a guaranteed annual revenue stream, the National Board passed a motion that all proceeds derived from our National Label Program drive be dedicated to funding the many important charities that we support. A good example is our National Project St. Patrick Program, which provides funding to seminarians to assist with the costs of their everyday needs. This revenue stream will assist but will not cover all of the needs of the Hibernian Charity. The Board of Trustees will have to solicit contributions to cover the difference. By recruiting Trustees with fundraising and foundation experience, the National Board is confident the National Hibernian Charity will continue to grow to meet the charitable demands of advancing our faith and heritage.



*Irish American Heritage Month*

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Brothers, you have likely seen the commercials for Ancestry.com for their DNA product, which they promote as being able to identify your ethnic makeup. One commercial shows a man who grew up thinking he was German but Ancestry.com determined he was actually Scots and he is shown wearing a kilt and full highland regalia at the commercials end; "instant Rob Roy." Another has a woman who finds out she has considerable Native American DNA and all of a sudden she is surrounded by Native American pottery. Is this what people think heritage is? Something that can be put on and taken off on demand or just a collection of chromosomes with no thought or personal connection? I hope that we as Irish Americans have a much deeper understanding of our heritage; it is the living memory of our own family's story set in the context of the bigger and proud Irish narrative. I hope we are taking the time to pass on our family's story to the next generation so that they know where they come from without the need to provide a saliva sample. This is one reason why Irish American Heritage Month is so important.

As in years past Brothers, please reach out and ensure that Irish American Heritage Month (IAHM) is proclaimed in your state and then follow it up with local action. Can your Historian give a talk open to the public? What about working with your library to arrange a display of books on famous Irish Americans? Ensure that all schools in your area receive a copy of the Presidential proclamation. Above all, make sure your local media covers your activity. Let's show them that Irish Heritage is alive and remember that IAHM events can be a powerful recruiting opportunity.

It is imperative that we as an Order are seen promoting IAHM, for if we do not embrace it how can we ask others to? Please make sure your website is up to date in March and that "March is Irish American Heritage Month" is featured prominently. Let's try to reclaim our St. Patrick's Day celebrations from those who would try to reduce it to a commercial green bacchanal; let us not just pay lip service to them being celebrations of our heritage and culture.

Brothers, to be frank, our heritage is at a tipping point right now. We are seeing a generation of our young people growing up with little knowledge of history in general and their heritage in particular. We are seeing the forces of commercialism enter our traditional music, dance and sport and a misguided effort to "increase their appeal" by "toning down" the Irish aspects so as to appeal to a broader audience. We are seeing academia, such as Prof. Richard Jensen, who claimed that "No Irish Need Apply" was a myth fabricated by Irish America, distorting or exorcising the contributions of Irish Americans from academic curricula because the story of a people who came to this county the victims of war and famine and yet were able to reach the heights that Irish America has is something they can't or don't want to explain.

We joined the Hibernians as proud descendants of Ireland, by oath we are the guardians of our heritage. Let us not make the mistake of assuming that our heritage will always be there and that it is a cause as worthy of our efforts as the many other great causes we embrace. If we do not promote, pass on and protect our heritage specifically during March as Irish American Heritage Month then the future of our heritage and the next generation of Hibernians is in jeopardy.

Let us not see our heritage reduced to a saliva test.

**Deadline for February-March issue**

All articles and photos are due no later than

**FEBRUARY 1, 2017**



# Missouri



## NATIONAL HISTORIAN GIVES PRESENTATION IN ST. LOUIS.

More than 150 members of the AOH and LAOH representing seven AOH Divisions from Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky attended a reception and lecture by AOH National Historian, Mike McCormack, in St. Louis on Nov. 18 after which Brother McCormack received a standing ovation. The lecture, entitled "The Ancient Order of Hibernians: Origin and Support for the Easter Rising," was sponsored by the Irish Studies Program at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, headed by Professor Eamonn Wall, in conjunction with the Missouri and Illinois AOH and organized by Past National President George Clough and Pat National Director Jim Wahl. Some of the attending Hibernians officers pictured are (front row, from left) Fr. James Byrne, Missouri State Chaplain; Patrick Ryan Vice-President Div #1, Louisville, Kentucky; John Wilson, National Director; George Clough, Past National President; Mike McCormack, National Historian; Bob Simpson, Illinois State President; Joe Murphy, President Div #2, St. Louis; Dennis Pouge, President Div #1 St. Louis and Judge Jim Wahl, Past National Director.



## Historical Happenings by Mike McCormack Historian

## Immigrant dreams perish off Long Island

Congratulations are due to the annual commemoration committee of the Shipwreck Monument in Rockville Cemetery on Long Island, NY. They have been diligently working for several years to promote recognition of this significant memorial to the victims of the Bristol and Mexico shipwrecks that took the lives of so many immigrants – mostly Irish. The committee secured NY State recognition of the monument as a historic site and this year celebrated the addition of the site to the National Register of Historic Places. Well done!

Special congratulations to the Schenectady Pipe Band, which celebrates its centennial in 2017. Formed 100 years ago by Isaac Riddell – its first Pipe Major – the band has won multiple awards for its musical proficiency and has performed for international dignitaries, rock stars and thousands of loyal fans. Keep on piping!

Thanks to AOH in St. Louis and the University of Missouri for the invitation to lecture on the AOH and their support for the 1916 Rising. The courtesy extended by PNP George Clough, Judge Wahl and Professor Eamonn Wall was a tribute to Irish hospitality. It was great to meet with old friends, State Presidents from Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky, State Chaplain Father Byrne and many other interested and interesting people. For those inclined to travel to St. Louis, a word of advice: the Holiday Inn at the airport, managed by AOH National Director John Wilson, has the softest beds in town. Thanks again to all for a very enjoyable time.

Congratulations to *The Gael Scoil* in Trenton, NJ, sponsored by Div. 10 in Mercer County who have been promoting a remarkable program of Irish education for the past 10 years. It consists of a weekend of lectures and workshops on Irish music, dance, sports, history and even food for youngsters of all faiths and cultures to learn about things Irish. Classes are offered beside field lessons in Hurling and Gaelic Football. Storytelling and films augment the lectures from pre-historic Ireland to the present. Students also learn the basic steps of Irish dance, how to make soda bread and even weave a St. Brigid's Cross, both of which they get to take home. They will also learn the histories of the bodhran, harp, fiddle, tin whistle and bagpipes and hear them played. They will hear the Irish language of our forefathers and perhaps bring a few phrases home to use.

It's a remarkable two-day adventure for any youngster and you can learn more about it at [www.gaelcoil.us](http://www.gaelcoil.us). The 2017 adventure in Irish will take place on February 11-12 at Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville, NJ. It has been said that if we only retain trivia, family anecdotes and fashionable but distorted versions of our culture from uninformed media, we have nothing of value to offer our children about who they really are! Thank you, Division 10 and all your instructors and supporters, for your outstanding efforts.

Div. 2 in Olean, NY, recently donated a late 19th century banner to the Irish-American Heritage Museum in Albany. This two-sided banner features oil paintings of St. Patrick and St. Bridget and was created by the Benziger Brothers firm in New York City that specialized in religious art. It is quite beautiful, but in need of reconstruction. It is currently at a conservator's studio for an estimate on restoration. If you would like more information or would like to donate to its conservation, please contact the Museum at 518-427-1916 or [info@irish-us.org](mailto:info@irish-us.org). That might be a good project for a historian's committee. Thanks to the Irish-American Heritage Museum for protecting our AOH archives.

We're working with seven archives to compile one comprehensive listing of all AOH memorabilia. Each one is digitally formatted differently and coming up with a common format is a tremendous effort, but I'm learning so much more about our past than I ever knew.

Don't forget to check out the Historic Happenings for December and January on [AOH.COM](http://AOH.COM) and [NYAOH.COM](http://NYAOH.COM). Until next time, keep well, keep the faith and keep that tradition alive!

The voyage of millions of 19th century Irish to America was staggering in hardship. Many know of the Coffin Ships during the Great Hunger and the incredible death toll associated with the 6 to 8 week journey in ill-equipped vessels. However, little is known of the tragedies that befell those who left before the blight.

Between 1815 and 1845, a third of all cross-Atlantic traffic was Irish. Most went to Canada, but between 1825 and 1840, 220,000 Irish emigrated to the U.S.

Few had as tragic a journey as the men, women and children who sailed on October 16, 1836, on the ship *Bristol* and those who followed eight days later on the *Mexico*. Both ships wrecked off Long Island's South Shore and the double-tragedies filled the tabloids for months. There were few maritime regulations, but these events brought sweeping changes in the maritime industry to insure safe travel along our eastern coast, and federal revenue vessels were assigned to sea rescues.

The *Bristol* reached America on November 21, and signaled for a pilot to guide them through the Narrows into New York harbor. Pilots were self-employed local boatmen, who guided arriving vessels into port safely, but none wished to work this chilly Sunday! Later that evening, a storm and strong currents drove the *Bristol* toward Rockaway Shoals. It grounded, and pounding seas wracked her. The captain ordered the passengers below. An hour later, a tremendous wave struck. Everything not tied down, including lifeboats, were swept overboard. Hatches were ripped off and the vessel filled with water. The work of death was instantaneous, as 60 of the 82 passengers were taken, unprepared, into eternity.

Meanwhile, the *Mexico* encountered storms and heavy seas and took 71 days to reach New York. Arriving on December 31, Captain Charles Winslow signaled for a pilot, but the pilots had adjourned to a Manhattan saloon to ring in the New Year. Winslow tried to keep the ship away from the shore while he waited for a pilot, but currents and a storm carried his ship to the shore at Long Beach. The ship was overloaded with a cargo of iron and coal adding to the difficulty controlling her; the 111 passengers were a secondary commodity. The crew, worn by months of battling rough seas, lost both lifeboats in launch attempts in the freezing weather. At 3 p.m. the following day, a rescue boat reached the *Mexico*, rowed by courageous 51-year-old local boat-man Raynor Smith, who ignored the storm with his long boat and six-man crew.

He and his men took in Capt. Winslow, four crewmen and three passengers who'd been helping the crew. The remaining terrified passengers were left behind praying that the boat would soon return. As day turned to night, Smith and his crew couldn't make another trip for the storm had worsened. It was so intensely cold, that no one could remain on deck longer than half an hour. Fifteen minutes after the rescue boat had departed, the ship struck bottom at Hempstead beach.

The *New York Express* reported: *When (passengers) perceived that no further help came from the land, their piercing shrieks were heard at a distance and continued through the night until one by one they diminished. The next morning the bodies of the many unhappy creatures were seen lashed to different parts of the wreck, embedded in ice. It is believed that none drowned, but all froze to death. Of the 108 victims, two-thirds were women and children. They slowly froze to death just 200 yards off Long Beach, in sight of the land of their dreams.*

Today, the victims sleep in the Mariners Burial Ground at Rockville Cemetery in Lynbrook, in Nassau County, NY. To their memory, a marble obelisk was erected in 1840, funded by donations from local farmers and baymen, and money salvaged from the dead who lacked next of kin to claim their remains. To this day, the Nassau County AOH attend an annual commemoration ceremony at the monument to remember the victims who died in the same year that the AOH was founded.





## veterans affairs

by Jim Green  
Chairman

Greetings brothers. By the time this issue of the Digest goes to press, the major holidays will be behind us. I hope they were blessed and bountiful for you and your families. I've been hearing from a number of Hibernians across the country who are actively engaged in doing great things for veterans, and I appreciate your confidence in me and am inspired by the veterans activities that you and your Boards are engaging in. Keep up the great work.

In our area — in and around Pittsburgh — there are many projects underway that either Hibernians are leading or are involved with. Besides the monthly Bingo games that all of our local Divisions take turns leading at the VA hospitals, along with fundraisers to provide for special meals and events for the hospitalized vets, there are also community events that Hibernians are engaged in.

One such effort is providing rehabilitated homes to homeless veterans through the city Urban Redevelopment Authority and "Habitat for Humanity." The city's mayor said that the idea is to "end homelessness among veterans by first upgrading houses, then providing them to homeless vets, which will also help to revitalize the city's housing stock and stabilize the neighborhoods."

This is a great win/win plan that you could investigate for similar activities in your area, or even suggest as an idea to your city or town administrations. We all know that the winter months will be bearing down on us very soon, so please be especially sensitive to veteran homelessness in your area and try to engage your local Divisions in projects to help them find shelter. Be aware that what may be in their minds is a strong distrust of allowing people to get "close" to them, as a result of their experiences in the conflicts they've been injured in — physically and emotionally — so please try to be helpful, but sensitive.

May our Lord Jesus bless your efforts and the Holy Spirit be with you as you try to make a little positive difference in their lives. I'm attaching a few very good web links that may help you, and others, reach out for veterans benefit information. In addition, there is a link to a "military records" site, which you can use to obtain a copy of your DD-214 and other military records. I've been told that many veterans are looking for a way to obtain a copy of their separation papers, and this is the place to go.

One last thing I'd like to do is occasionally recognize a particular Hibernian veteran who we should honor and remember. A long-time member of AOH Division 17 in Monroeville, PA — Joseph "Joe" Lynch — recently passed away at the young age of 94. Joe was a WWII U.S. Army Air Corps veteran, who flew 25 bombing missions over Germany. Please keep Joe, his family, and his Hibernian brothers in your prayers.

Until our next issue of the Digest, I wish you all God's blessings and safe travels.

Military Benefits information - [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov)

DD-214 - [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records)



## political education

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

It is hard to write an article on Political Education without making some observation on the recent election. Many have questioned the political campaign and the tactics of both sides, and rightfully so. However, we have once again seen the greatness of America in that we have seen a dramatic change in political philosophy achieved peacefully through an election. This simply does not happen in the vast majority of the world; as much as people may be concerned as to the state of the nation there is still much to take pride in and reminds us why our ancestors came to this country and their unmatched record of serving it loyally and faithfully.

We have challenges ahead. There has been talk to eliminate the J-1 Visa program and other measures that would even greater tip the already unjust immigration system against the Irish. While things have been ominously quiet on the Brexit front, this shouldn't be misconstrued as the potential crisis being over. Having no plan, the British government is doing what politicians the world over always do; avoiding making a decision or commitment until forced to do so. At the moment the matter is tied up in the British courts, but most experts agree this is a temporary speed bump. The threat that this can pose to the Good Friday Agreement brokered by the United States cannot be understated: the imposition of a hard border, withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights, the financial disruption and the associated social disruption. The sad fact is that the U.S. eye has been off Northern Ireland for many years, lulled into a misbelief that the issues have been resolved. As Hibernians we know better, and as Americans it will be our responsibility to educate our elected representatives so as not to squander one of the greatest triumphs of U.S. diplomacy and risk the resumption of violence.

Brothers, we are coming to the end of the centennial year of 1916. We celebrated the achievements of a small, but dedicated band of men and women accomplished against all the odds and in defiance of naysayers in taking on the most powerful empire in the world. Let us carry their example before us into 2017 and every year. Let us banish the phrase "You'll never change anything" from our thinking. Let us be united and take action and resolve to be powerful advocates for our causes of Immigration Reform, a United Ireland and Right to Life. Let us not complain about other groups getting preference for their agendas if we have not lobbied our representatives as hard as they have.

Let us resolve to make 2017 a year of action and remind the political pundits that Irish America is still here and a force that must be recognized.



## Visiting the Medal of Honor Grove

Hibernians were joined by Medal of Honor recipients recently at the Medal of Honor Grove.



From left, at the AOH Obelisk, were members from AOH Montgomery Co. Pa., Mike Cligett Division 39 Phila, Jim Mannix Division 39 Philadelphia, and MOH recipients Brian Thacker, Mike Thornton and Barney Barnum. — Submitted by Seamus Boyle, Past National AOH President.



Division 39 Veterans Chairman Jim Mannix and Medal of Honor recipient Barney Barnum.

The Hibernian Digest's latest edition and archives can now be found on our webpage, [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com).



# Virginia

## Virginia Hibernian Honored in Massachusetts

By Bill Halpin, VP,  
Virginia State Board

The AOH established a division in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1901. It was known as Division 18. This year the Hibernians of Division 18 identified a gentleman of exemplary character, quality and Irish-Catholic heritage to serve as their role model; a person for whom their division would be known in perpetuity. Major Mike Tivnan, USMC (ret.) a Salem native, was that man. On September 17, in a ceremony featuring members of the U.S. Congress, the Mayor of Salem, AOH dignitaries and the Tivnan family, Division 18 was renamed the Major John "Mike" Tivnan Division 18. Mike was well known in Virginia AOH circles. All Virginia Hibernians mourned with Mike's family last year when Mike entered the Fiddler's Green, that very special place in heaven reserved for military heroes. Mike was a Marine helicopter pilot who served two tours in Viet Nam and was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor. He served President Lyndon B. Johnson as a pilot in Marine Helicopter Squadron One. Mike retired from the Marines and joined the AOH and in 1982 Mike founded and served as charter president of the Lt Col Jack Dowd Division (PW01) in Woodbridge. Mike was an AOH Life Member. Honors well deserved.



Major Mike Tivnan, USMC



Major John "Mike" Tivnan Division 18, Salem, MA



### Col. Cunningham Division recognizing veterans

In recognition of Veterans Day and in gratitude for the service of all veterans, the Col. Cunningham Division presented a special contribution to Father Richard Guest, of St. Theresa Church, who accepted the donation on behalf of the Archdiocese of the Military Services, during a special fund-raising period for the Archdiocese.

Brothers of the Cunningham Division continue to have the privilege and honor to serve as part of the welcoming parties for veterans of World War II and the Korean War arriving on Honor Flights at Dulles Airport. The most recent Honor-Flight welcoming by the Col. Cunningham Division was on August 10 for a large group of primarily Korean War veterans. The Honor Flight program brings veterans to Washington, D.C., as a tribute to their service and provides these heroes with a chance to visit the World War II Memorial and other sites in Washington. We have so much to thank these men and women for, and now there are fewer and fewer of them left for us to pay tribute to.

## Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Dedicated

In the 1960s and '70s, thousands of Irishmen and women came to the U.S.A. on work visas. During the war in Viet Nam, many were drafted into military service and others volunteered; more than 2,500 served. The memorial commemorates the 29 Irishmen and one Irish woman killed in action during the conflict.

Located in Monastery Park, Ennis, County Clare, the memorial is black granite featuring the names of the 30 fallen. The seven bronze panels across the top reflect the immigrant journey to the United States. Appropriately, the dedication ceremony was planned for 11:11 a.m. on November 11. The 30 names were read, six each by five readers; Virginia AOH State Vice President Bill Halpin was honored to be one of the readers. After taps and due to heavy rain, speeches by representatives from the U.S. Embassy, the Father Francis Duffy American Legion Post (IR-02), the Irish Defense Force, and city and county officials were moved inside the Glor Theater.

The Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project was established by Matthew Carroll in 2010 and continued by John Dullahan, himself an Irish immigrant drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966. Carroll, Dullahan, and Halpin served with the U.S. Army in Viet Nam. Halpin has been involved in the project since inception. Mr. Carroll attended the 2014 AOH National Convention in St Louis soliciting support for the project.



Bill Halpin presenting names



The memorial

Photos provided by Gary Collins, a photographer writing for The Clare Herald.

At an All Souls Mass celebrated by Fr. Stephan McNally, Chaplain of the Fr. John Lynch Division, in Roanoke, Virginia, Division President Bill Howard lit a memorial candle for deceased members of the Division. Mass was celebrated at the Church of the Transfiguration in Fincastle, Virginia. Following Mass, the parish treated the Division to an Italian dinner at the social hall.



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# Pennsylvania



## JUDGE MUNLEY GARNERS MITCHELL MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Lackawanna County Judge Thomas Munley was presented the 2016 John Mitchell Day Award during an October ceremony at Mitchell's gravesite at the Cathedral Cemetery, Scranton, PA. Mitchell was a famous union leader activist. From left, Lackawanna County Commissioner and former Charter President of the Hook O'Malley Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 4 Patrick M. O'Malley, who presented the award, and Judge Munley, a member of the AOH Division.



## POTTSVILLE DIVISION HONORS LAOH PRESIDENT

JFK Division 2, Pottsville, recently held their Annual Communion Breakfast, at which they honored the 2016 Irishman of the Year, Lydia Laughlin, who is the LAOH Schuylkill County President and JFK Division 2 Vice President. Lydia Laughlin is pictured here with some of the many previous Irishmen of the Year. From left, front row, Leo Haley, Lydia, Mark Atkinson and Don Kerns. Back row: Dan Koury, Joseph Lubinsky, Robert Laughlin and Thomas W. Rowan.

## Prisoner-made harp raffled off

The Father Patrick Healey Division 6, of Lackawanna County, PA, is sponsoring the chance to win a handmade Irish Harp made by Irish political prisoners in the H Block Section of the Long Kesh Prison in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The drawing will be held at the Division 6 Post-Parade Party on March 11, after the Scranton Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Chances for this Irish Harp are \$3 per chance or 2 for \$5. Please submit a check made out to AOH Division 6 in a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Father Patrick D. Healey Division 6, P.O. Box 20187 Scranton, PA 18502.

Ed and Barbara Cadden Ingoldsby made this generous donation of the Irish Harp. The Ingoldsby's had hosted two children who were part of the "Irish Political Prisoner Children Holiday" during the summers of 1999 and 2000. This IPPCH program offered the children of Irish political prisoners a peaceful vacation in the United States, away from the violence-filled Orange Order "Marching Season" in Belfast, Ireland. Several years later when the Ingoldsby's visited Ireland they visited with the Gillen's in West Belfast, whose children they had hosted. Mr. Joseph Gillen Sr. presented them with this handmade Irish Harp, made by the H Block prisoners as a token of his appreciation for sponsoring his two children Joseph and Brian in the U.S. Mr. Gillen himself had served time in the H Block in Long Kesh Prison. All of the proceeds of this raffle will benefit numerous local charities.



Pictured, from left, David Walsh, Gerry Sealey, Ed Ingoldsby, Frank Spager and Brian Kennedy.



## DIVISION ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

John F. Kennedy Division 2, in Pottsville, Schuylkill County, PA, AOH and LAOH, recently celebrated their 50th and 45th anniversaries respectively. The members who attended the celebration were, AOH: Leo Haley-President, Dan Koury-Financial Secretary, Harold Krammes, John Dalton-Vice President, Joseph Lubinsky-Secretary, Al Lubinsky, Don Lubinsky, James "Flash" McDonald, Ron Devlin, Thomas Rowan, Dave Fogarty-Treasurer, Joe Post, Robert Laughlin, Charles Maurer, Robert McNamara, Hugh McGowan, Brian Bilansky, Gary Hess, George Halcovage, Don Kerns, Ted Manion. Guests Patrick Gibbons and Joseph Corby from Patrick Dormer Division. LAOH: Mary Ann Lubinsky-Division President, Lydia Laughlin-County President, Kathleen Valibus-Secretary, Rose Petrusky-Treasurer, Alberta Maurer-Financial Secretary, Betty Murphy-Irish Historian, Maureen Lubinsky, Diane Krammes, Maria Dalton, Linda Clarke, Carol Syzdek, Kathy McGowan, Linda Brennan, Charlene Corby, Noreen O'Boyle, Cathy Quinn, Winnie Kerns, Mary Frantz.



# Connecticut

**By Phil Gallagher**

This past year the General Philip Sheridan Division of Stamford, Connecticut, celebrated the 125th anniversary of its founding. This Division has been one of the more important Divisions in the history of the AOH in Connecticut and along with the Meriden and New Haven Divisions helped to keep the spirit of Hibernianism alive in Connecticut during the dark days of the Depression and World War II, when the Order suffered a significant decline in membership.

The Stamford AOH produced a National President in the 1960's when Patrick Hogan was elected to that high office. Past State President Malachy Lyman of Stamford served as National Treasurer and would certainly have advanced to the office of National President if he had lived. As State President in the years after World War II, Malachy led the revival of the AOH in Connecticut by establishing the JFK Division in Bridgeport in 1950, which in a few years became the largest AOH Division in the United States.

The high point of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the General Philip Sheridan Division 2 of Stamford occurred on September 17, 2016, when a Dinner/Dance was held at the Stamford AOH Hall. A fine program was produced for this occasion and we quote from the history of Division 2, written by Brian O'Neil, which was reproduced in the program:

"The first Stamford Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed as Division One in 1877. The second Division, our General Philip Sheridan Division, was formed in 1891. Up until about 1910 the 2 divisions continued. The two divisions often shared meeting halls, and merged in 1911. The AOH supported the Rising, which created the Republic of Ireland in 1916, and supports the dream of a united Ireland.

"General Philip Sheridan was a national hero who played a significant role in the Civil War and whose leadership brought great pride to Irish Americans. Historic accounts of the Civil War suggest that he led soldiers from Stamford on several occasions during the war. His death in 1888 was an occasion of national mourning. The naming of our Division after the General must have been an overwhelming choice and a point of pride for those who may have served under him..."

Elsewhere in Connecticut Hibernians have been busy as usual this past autumn. Danbury Hibernians held their annual mass for deceased members, while the Waterbury and New London AOH held their annual ceremonies honoring their deceased members in the shadows of the magnificent Celtic Crosses that mark their Hibernian grave plots. New London Hibernians also held their annual Communion Breakfast on November 20 at the Coast Guard Academy.

Kudos to Danbury AOH members Rich Hawley and Kevin Stanton for running a very successful golf outing in October that benefited the Greater Danbury Irish Center.

A Mashed Potato Martini Night was held at the Meriden AOH on December 9, and Waterbury hosted the annual New Haven County Board Christmas Carol fundraiser for the Christmas Appeal to benefit the families of political prisoners in Ireland on December 4.

Bridgeport Hibernians held their annual tailgating party at West Point in November and are now in the process of raising the \$3,000 they annually give to St. Theresa's Mission thru their sale of \$10 Shamrocks that will be displayed at their annual communion Breakfast in March.

Finally, congratulations are due Jason King of Danbury and Paul Moriarity of New London on being named Hibernian of the Year by their respective Divisions.



**Past Presidents of the Stamford LAOH & AOH gather in front of their beautiful home on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the founding General Philip Sheridan Division 2. Photo by Brian O'Neil**



**Past and present leaders of the AOH & LAOH were out in force at the October luncheon in Waterbury honoring past State Presidents: Bill Flannery, John Weihl, Joanne Noonan and Hilda Kelly. Photo by Brian O'Neil**

**The annual wreath-laying ceremony at the monument dedicated to the Irish Connecticut 9th Volunteer Regiment was held on November 9, at Bay View Park in New Haven. This regiment made up mostly of Irish born and Irish Americans suffered hundreds of deaths in the Vicksburg Campaign where a monument also was erected to remember their bravery. From left, Robert Larkin, the event chairman; Richard Hopkins, representing the Irish History Round Table; Mary Ann Quinn, from the Civil War Round Table; Mary McMahon, from the Conn. Irish American Historical Society; John Sullivan, from the AOH Div. 7 in New Haven; and bagpiper Pat Whelan. Photo by George Waldron**



**National Director Bill Sullivan and Connecticut State president Tom McDonough present Past National Director and Past Hibernian Charity Secretary Frank Kearney Jr., center, with his richly deserved Life Membership Award at the October State Board meeting held in Stamford. Photo by Brendan Walsh**

**Best Wishes for a happy and prosperous new year  
from your  
National Board**



# Wisconsin

by Rick McMahon

## Three Milwaukee Catholic Schools get AOH Scholarships

The Rev. William J. Kelly SJ, Division in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, presented scholarships to three schools in the area.

St. Rose & St. Leo Primary School, with approximately 475 student enrollment in grades K4-8, the schools serve the West side communities with excellent elementary education within the Messmer Schools, Inc. The schools have a long history of serving Irish and German families in the Merrill Park neighborhood since 1893, and now serve a more diverse population. Principal- Donna Schmidt. Messmer Schools, Inc. also includes a Middle School and High School with over 1600 students. President-Jim Piatt.

Nativity Jesuit Academy, celebrating 23 years of service to the Latino community, serves the South side community expanding to elementary and middle school Latino students emphasizing Christian leadership and service. The school serves students in grades K4-8, and staff includes President- Sue Smith, Director of Elementary School- Vanessa Solis and Director of Middle School- Mike Meuler.

Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee, consisting of Notre Dame Primary School and Notre Dame Middle School sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. A unique feature of the Primary School (K4-4th grade) is the co-educational dual-language dedicated to serving the Latino community. Notre Dame Primary was also 1 of 12 schools nationally to be part of the Two-Way Immersion Network for Catholic Schools. With 439 graduates, the school has a long-term commitment to helping place students in college-preparatory high schools. Principal- Patrick Landry.



Representatives of St. Rose and St. Leo Primary School, Nativity Jesuit Academy and Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee receiving 2016 AOH Scholarships.

# Connecticut



Aidan Reilly, left, won the Jack McCarthy Scholarship; Aidan is the son of Brian Reilly. Katherine Colgan won the Monsignor Slocum Scholarship; Katherine is the daughter of Marion Sullivan Colgan.

## The AOH Scholarship Fund

The AOH Scholarship Fund of The Monsignor Slocum Division 1 (Waterbury, CT) was started by Jack McCarthy in 2001. The sole purpose of the fund was to support Catholic education for children and grand children of the AOH and LAOH members. Originally, the fund was supported by many fund raisers, including raffles, dinners and numerous bus trips to the horse races at Saratoga, N.Y. The fund is now generously supported by the annual Jack McCarthy Golf Tournament and Outing.

We all owe a great deal to the committee member and supporters who make this this year's recipients were awarded \$1,000 each.

# Kansas

## The Hibernian Cup

The Inaugural Hibernian Cup football game between St. James Academy and St. Thomas Aquinas High School was played on October 7. The Hibernian Cup rivalry is between two Eastern Kansas League (EKL) rivals and sister schools in The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. The game is a revival of a "trophy game" in the Kansas City area. These "trophy games" games have ceased in Kansas City due to schools consolidating or closing.

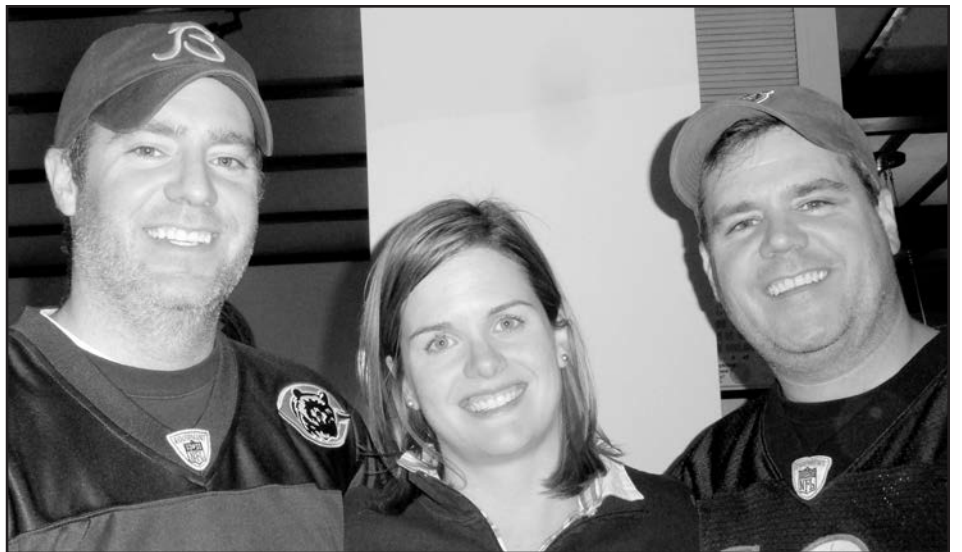
The Hibernian Cup Game is sponsored by the Father Donnelly Division of The Ancient Order of Hibernians who are based in Johnson County, Kansas. In addition to the awarding of the Hibernian Cup, The Donnelly Division awarded each school \$1000 to be used in their general scholarship fund.

Before the game, The Father Donnelly Division Honor Guard, in full dress kilt uniform, presented the colors for the National Anthem. The game was a hard fought, spirited event with Saint Thomas Aquinas prevailing 24-7. At games end, both teams met at the 50 yard line to shake hands and share a moment in prayer together. The evening culminated with the awarding of the Hibernian Cup trophy at midfield to the winning captains.



Larry Shephard, left, Gordo Grohmann (VP), Denny Dennihan, Charlie Lamont (Pres) and Saint Thomas Aquinas High School Captains, Nick Bulleigh, Steven Rohde, Mason Howard and Angel Dominguez.

# Illinois



Division 2 president Kevin O'Malley, his wife, Meaghan, and his brother, Jim, hosted a Bears bash Nov. 13 at the Irish Heritage Center in Chicago.

By John O'Donnell

## A busy December in Chicago

December was a busy month for Division 32 with the annual Christmas party Dec. 10, spearheaded by Marty Moriarty, and the Christmas feeding and gift presentation for the less fortunate at the Our Lady of Lourdes Soup Kitchen Wednesday night, Dec. 14, prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

The soup kitchen is at the parish of AOH member Fr. Mike Shanahan. Also, AOH State 2017 raffle squares are sold by brother Sean O'Dowd, and the odds are decent with 72 winners out of 500 chances.

The Division will also be posting a 2017 Member Business Directory in hopes that business can be conducted amongst members. On our Facebook AOHAOH we added a bunch of pictures from throughout the year. For details on these and other Division 32 activities, including a Texas Hold Em tourney to benefit the Freedom Fund for All Ireland on January 29, visit our website of AOOH.ORG.



# Michigan

## Seminarian donations

The Patrick Ryan Division contributed \$500 to seminarians Robert Kilner and Mark Livingston, who are nephews of Division members.

Robert is a member and unofficial chaplain of an AOH Division in Washington D.C. He graduated from the Catholic University of America in 2010. He went to the Pontifical North American College in Rome studying theology for the past three years. He is assigned to a parish in the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. and will be ordained a priest in 2017.

Mark is serving a pastoral assignment at our Lady of Sorrows church in Farmington, MI now and will pursue his education next semester. He will be ordained a deacon in 2017 and a priest at Detroit Sacred Heart Major Seminary in 2018.

The Division has contributed to Project St. Patrick several times in the past and expects to contribute more in the future. It was decided to contribute directly to Mark and Robert because theirs was a personal relationship with Division brothers and it was important to contribute now for their immediate education support.

## “SouperBowl” benefits Capuchin Soup Kitchen

The Hibernians in Macomb County, Michigan, namely the AOH Fr. Solanus Casey Division and the LAOH Ethel Kennedy Division, hosted their 25th Anniversary of their annual “SouperBowl” benefit for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and once again it was a huge success. The event ran from noon to 7 p.m. on October 9, with local Irish entertainers and dancers donating their talents all day long. Over 40 restaurants donate the soup and over 20 bakeries donate bread and pastries. The donation at the door was \$20 and this included a commemorative soup bowl and all the soup and bread one could eat all day long. Pastries and desserts were sold. The Irish Baker donated his breads and scones, which I may add sold out in about 30 minutes. The AOH and LAOH families and friends worked the event; this entails about 120 work shifts that needed to be filled. And the end result, we were able to present the Capuchin Brothers with a check for \$17,500. This makes over \$300,000 for the 25 years. Well done AOH Brothers and LAOH Sisters.



The Patrick Ryan Division recently contributed \$500 to seminarians Robert Kilner and Mark Livingston, who are nephews of Division members. Pictured with Mark Livingston are Division members left to right: Tim Higgins, Mike Rouhan (uncle), Mike Riley and Frank Bernacki.

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# Massachusetts

Plans are underway for the Mass State Convention which will be held in Hyannis from June 2 -4. State Vice Presidents Jack Lahey and Mary Whidden are the Convention Co-Chairs.

Past AOH State President John Kelley of Division 36 in Worcester died on November 1. Brother Kelley was State President from 1977 – 1979. He was laid to rest on November 7 in Saint John Cemetery in Worcester.

## News from around the state:

Division 1, Holyoke: The Division’s Christmas Party was held (as of this writing) on December 5 and the Children’s Christmas Party followed on December 11. On February 25, the Dan Curran Irish Night will be held and a Communion Breakfast is scheduled for March 12.

Division 8, Lawrence: On November 1, Division 8 kicked off their annual FFAI Fundraiser. The Division held a concert featuring Derek Warefield and the Young Wolf-

Tones on November 12. On December 14, the Division’s Christmas Party was held at the Claddagh.

Division 10, Lynn: This year Division 10 participated in the Lynn Tech Festival of Trees Fundraiser and the Division’s Children’s Christmas Party was held on December 4. The Installation of Officers will take place in January.

Division 14, Watertown: Division 14 held a Turkey Shoot on November 18, which raised \$2,500 to benefit needy families during the holiday season. On November 20 the Division held an Ice Bucket Challenge to benefit the Angel Fund.

Division 19, Lowell: State President Hogan installed the Division new President, Steve Daly in September. The Division’s Christmas Party was held on December 7 and on December 10 the Division took part in the Annual Ringing of the Bells, which raises funds for needy families

And that is the way we see it in the Great Commonwealth of Massachusetts. God Bless!

# Kentucky



The Father J Ryan Division proudly presented Jeff Haley, CEO of Boys & Girls Haven, a check in the amount of \$10,000. This money was raised from our annual Irish For Kids Golf Scramble.



## Minnesota



Pictured, from left, are Irish Delegate Eoin Hennessy; former Kilkenny, Ireland, Mayor Andrew McGuinness; Tim Halloran, President of Shamrock Division of AOH; Kilkenny, Ireland, Mayor Patrick O'Neil (holding the hurling stick); and Kilkenny, Minnesota, Mayor Kevin Taffe.

### Halfway to St Patrick's Day

The September meeting of the Shamrock Division was host to special guests from Kilkenny, Ireland, to mark Halfway to St Patrick's Day. The guests were in Minnesota to attend the Halfway to St Patrick's Day event in Kilkenny, Minnesota. They spoke on the history of Kilkenny, Ireland, and on the success of the Kilkenny Cats hurling team.

The two Kilkennys have become "Sister Cities" to acknowledge their long relationship. An agreement was signed in Kilkenny Castle in Ireland to seal the agreement in 2013. These two cities have a special relationship. In the 1850s, a teacher named Dennis Doyle left Kilkenny to immigrate to the United States and he eventually settled in the Kilkenny area of Minnesota. Doyle helped establish the local post office and since the office needed a name, he named it after his hometown of Kilkenny, Ireland. In the recent years the mayors of Kilkenny take turns traveling to each other's city on St Patrick's Day and on Halfway to St Patrick's Day. The present mayor in Ireland, Kevin Taffe, is the great, great grandson of Dennis Doyle.

## Georgia



Savannah AOH President Brian Crowley, Irish Consul General Shane Stephens, Vice President Walt Harper and Secretary Dan Bendig.

A dedication ceremony was held on October 22 as the Savannah Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Consul General of Ireland unveiled four limestone benches in Robert Emmet Park. Representatives from both the city of Savannah, as well as 14 local Irish societies of Savannah attended the event.

The new benches are made of Irish limestone; from the same quarry in Ireland that makes up Savannah's Celtic Cross monument, which makes its home in the park. The benches are engraved with the names of donors and Irish organizations who contributed to their funding.

"It will be a place for just the general public and tourists to enjoy," said Brian Crowley, president of AOH Savannah. "They'll have somewhere to sit and enjoy this beautiful monument. But it's also a testament to the strength of the Irish culture in this town and something for the Irish people to be proud of."

The Irish government provided part of the funding.

## New Jersey



Division 32 Hibernian of the Year Dennis O'Brien and Division 32 Trustee and Founding President Kevin Weldon

### Charity Dinner Dance in Belmar

Division 32 of Belmar, New Jersey, held their third annual charity dinner dance on November 19, 2016, at the Spring Lake Manor in Spring Lake. The goal of this event was to raise funds for their annual scholarship programs, dedicated to local elementary schools. The event included a sit-down dinner, refreshments, prizes and a silent auction, with music and entertainment provided by the Snakes.

The Division also honored community members and local dignitaries for their honorable and tireless efforts during the past year. This year's recipient of the Hibernian of the Year Award was Division 32 Treasurer Dennis O'Brien. Women of Irish Heritage, Jersey Shore, past president Kathy Essner and John Keane of the AOH's Division 16 of Freehold each received the division's John Cardinal O'Connor award, and Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore past President John Carr received the division's Irishman of the Year award. John Nagle, of the Spring Lake Manor, and the Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore received special recognition for their support and assistance.

— Ray Barnes, Division 32 President, info@aohdivision32.com

## Delaware



President-Elect Ed Burke, Ryan Quirk and Fundraising Chairman Bernie Sauppee.

### Raising funds on 'Black Friday'

Corporal Bernard McCarren Division 2 in Newark, DE, continued their Thanksgiving tradition of selling hot dogs at Boscov's Department Store to hungry shoppers on Black Friday. Thank you to Boscov's for making this space available to us. Many thanks to Schmidt Bakery, Aramark, Pepsi and Costco for their generous donations. More than \$1,200 was raised. Hibernian participants were President Mike Quirk, George Murphy, Marty Drinan, Mike Handlin, Kevin Calio, Jerry Clifton, Ed Burke, Ryan Quirk, Bernie Sauppee and Brian J. Phelan.



# North Carolina



## A SPECIAL GIFT

Joseph Dougherty, president of the North Carolina State Board, was thrilled to present a donation check from the National Board to his granddaughter, Sister Marie Jennette, at the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist motherhouse in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Sister accepted the check on behalf of her Order.



## AOH help at New Bern House

Every year members of the Governor Thomas Burke Division, Wake County Division One of the AOH in North Carolina renovate a room at the New Bern House, a shelter in downtown Raleigh that provides transitional housing for families in need. Every year members of this AOH division also donate items so the New Bern House can provide Thanksgiving dinner for those in need. The above photo shows members of the AOH Wake County Division One and the staff and volunteers of the New Bern House along with all the turkeys, hams and all the fixings that were donated on Saturday, November 19. Thanks to these donations, the New Bern was able to feed 500 people on Thanksgiving Day.

— Eddie Foley, President, AOH, Wake County Division One, Governor Thomas Burke Division

The Guilford County Na Cara Division 1 distributed \$9,000 to charities from proceeds generated by its annual Patrick J. Rooney Charity Raffle. In furtherance of its commitment to direct Catholic Action, members of Na Cara also led a Hurricane Matthew Relief Drive that raised over \$1,000 to purchase non-perishable food items. As a result, a truck load of food, baby care items and bags of used clothing was driven and delivered to St. Francis de Sales Church in Lumberton, N.C.

— Steve McEnaney, N.C. State Vice President

# New York

by Tom Loughlin Jr

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, in Utica, site of the one and only Ireland-related monument in the city, once again hosted the annual mass memorializing the Irish "Potato Famine" on Nov. 13. The memorial is a grim single Celtic cross, reading "An Gorta Mór," The Great Hunger of Ireland.

Sponsored by the Hibernians, the cross is surrounded at its base with memorial bricks donated in memory of Irish relatives.

From 1845 to 1849 that catastrophic crop failure and coinciding mismanagement of other food sources by British landowners caused more than one million Irish deaths and emigration of more than a million Irish to the United States.

Each year, Oneida County's John C. Devereux Division of the AOH, and the Ladies of Knock LAOH Division observe the disaster and memorialize the dead with a mass at the church and prayers at the monument.

This year, Hibernian speaker Kevin Kearney of Clinton tempered the somber observance with upbeat comments about the impending completion of the long-awaited Irish Cultural Center near St Joseph/St Patrick's Church in West Utica and awakening of Irish cultural awareness in Central New York.



Photo Tom Loughlin Jr.

On Nov. 12, the AOH Division 16 and Ladies AOH Division 16 donated \$5,714 to Hospice Care of Westchester/ Putnam Counties. The presentation was made at the annual Tree of Life ceremony held at the Holiday Inn in Mount Kisco. Hospice Care, (Visiting Nurse Association), a non-profit home health care agency, provides home health services to patients with advanced illnesses.

On November 30, the AOH and LAOH donated \$5,904 to Rosary Hill Cancer Center, located in Hawthorne. Rosary Hill Home is run by the Dominican Sisters and provides hospice care for incurable cancer patients who are unable to afford care for themselves.

Since 1992 the AOH has donated \$226,903 to Hospice Care of Westchester /Putnam and Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne and other organizations. Chairman Charles McGuinness administered the fund raising drive. The Division is grateful to the following parishes for their help: St. Mary's-Katonah, St. Matthias-Bedford Hills, St. Patrick's-Bedford, St. Francis of Assisi-Mount Kisco, St. Patrick's-Armonk, St. Lawrence O'Toole-Brewster, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton- Shrub Oak, Holy Innocence-Pleasantville, St. Joseph's-Somers and St. John's/St. Mary's-Chappaqua.

Division 16 was formed on September 13, 1891, in the northern Westchester County area. The Division has a long and distinguished history of supporting different community groups in the area as well as supporting the northern Westchester's annual Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day parade since 1991. The Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to announce that the 27th annual St. Patrick's Day parade will be held on Saturday March 11, 2017, in Mount Kisco and annual dinner on Saturday March 4, 2017. The honorees for 2017 are Grand Marshal Joan Stewart, Hibernian of the Year Patricia O'Connor, and Friend of the Hibernians Donald Ford.

— Submitted by William McCormack, Marshal, Div. 16.



## AOH DONATION TO ROSARY HILL

Elizabeth McGuinness; left, Anne Haug, LAOH; James McHugh, AOH; Sister Mary Thanh and Sisters of Rosary Hill; Charles McGuinness, AOH; Margaret McHugh, James Cullinane, AOH. Photo by Charles McGuinness.



# New York

## Commemorating The Rising

On April 24, 2016, Commodore John Barry Division 2 in Syracuse, New York, commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising by honoring James K. McGuire, the “boy Mayor” of Syracuse. McGuire was an active supporter of the Rising through his involvement in Clan-na-Gael, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and the Irish Republican Army. He was also instrumental in bringing Eamon De Valera to Syracuse in 1919 to raise money for the new Irish Republic.

The commemoration started at St. Agnes Cemetery, with a procession to the gravesite of Mayor McGuire and a reading of the Easter Proclamation (i.e., the Irish Declaration of Independence) by Judge Joe Fahey — McGuire’s great-nephew. The Division then hosted a brunch at Kitty Hoynes Irish Pub during which former Congressman Jim Walsh read the Proclamation.

This event was open to members, family, and friends, and included food, drink, Irish dancers and music. Guests included descendants of Mayor McGuire, AOH and LAOH members from other upstate divisions, as well as local, state and federal elected officials. Several local media outlets provided coverage. Special thanks to Geordy Austin and his team of volunteers, David Hoyne for his hospitality, and those who participated in and attended the event.



Judge Joseph Fahey, Great-nephew of Syracuse Mayor James McGuire speaks with Freedom for All Ireland Chairman Geordy Austin and his wife Diane.



Former U.S. Congressman Jim Walsh reads the Easter Proclamation.

**PROJECT SAINT PATRICK  
PRAYERS CARDS**

ARE NOW AVAILABLE  
BY CONTACTING:  
**TOM O'DONNELL**  
[NLNOD@comcast.net](mailto:NLNOD@comcast.net)

## AOH sponsors 8th Annual FF Sean Tallon Gaelic Sports Tournament

The 8th Annual Firefighter Sean Tallon Tournament was held on November 13th at Gaelic Park in The Bronx. The tournament is held each year to remember the life and legacy of NYC Firefighter Sean Tallon, who was a member of Ladder Company 10 in NYC and lost his life responding to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade center on September 11, 2001.

The tournament is sponsored by the AOH of the greater New York City Metro area and is operated under the authority of the New York GAA Minor Board.

The FDNY Ceremonial Unit Honor Guard and the FDNY Emerald Society Pipes and Drums lead the over 400 “Under-8” players onto the field to compete in a day long tournament competing in Gaelic Games. The competition is now in its 8th year and has grown to include 4 football divisions and 1 hurling division.

Thanks to the several AOH sponsors who ensure this tournament is success each year. Sponsors included the AOH Bronx, Queens, and Westchester County Boards as well as Divisions 3 and 5 of The Bronx, Division 18 Peekskill and Division #1 Yonkers.



FDNY Honor Guard and the FDNY Emerald Society Pipes & Drums led players onto the field at Gaelic Park for the Sean Tallon Tournament. Photos Kevin Ellis



Family members of Sean Tallon with AOH members at Gaelic Park in The Bronx.



Rangers Under 8 won The Sean Tallon Cup for 2016.



# To the editor...

## Medal of Honor Grove Project

To the Editor:

For those of you not familiar with the MOH Grove, it is the oldest memorial site in the country that is dedicated to all Medal of Honor recipients dating back to the Civil War. Each state has a one-acre plot that contains an Obelisk, flag poles for the American and state flags and a metal plaque placed in the ground with each recipient's information on it. This Grove is a 52-acre site situated at the headquarters of the Freedom's Foundation in Valley Forge National Park outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

As you know, the Medal of Honor was created in 1861, during the Civil War, to give recognition to those who distinguished themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity" in combat with an enemy of the United States. This medal is the highest military honor, awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. From its inception in 1861, fewer than 3,500 Congressional Medals have been awarded.

Over the years, this sacred site has been badly neglected by the caretakers and fallen into disrepair. In 2010, the AOH, with many friends and local people, began a campaign to take the Grove back by cleaning it up and repairing many of the things that needed to be done. With thousands of volunteers, including AOH members, friends, Veterans and local students, spearheaded by local AOH President Mick Dunleavy, Wally Nunn and a Pennsylvania State Senator, Andy Dinniman, the Grove was brought back to a level of respect and honor but still needed years of work to complete.

After many cleanups, meetings and political connections in the area, a 501c3 was formed with the sole purpose of assuming the responsibility of maintaining, improving and enhancing the entire 52 acres by raising the money to do so. The corporation, "The Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove," was officially started in June of 2011. The board is made up of local people who initially cleaned the grove, including AOH members, donors and Medal of Honor Recipients themselves.

With the permission of the Freedoms Foundation, the National AOH President of the AOH, Joseph Roche, erected an Obelisk there in 1985 putting the names of all those recipients who had not been recognized by any state because they were immigrants from other countries and therefore were not part of any state. This is our Obelisk and it, too, needs some repair and upgrading. There are only two outside organizations with plots in the Grove and the Ancient Order of Hibernians is one of them.

Our goal is to make the necessary repairs to our AOH plot and to the other State plots, which would include, but not limited to, repairing or replacing damaged Obelisks, flagpoles, new flags, road and walkway repairs and general cleanup.

Since its inception, the Friends of the Grove have received about \$400,000 through grants and donations. The Medal of Honor Foundation, a national organization, donates \$50,000 a year to the Friends, for the upkeep of the grove, but that is earmarked for numerous projects as soon as it is received. Miles of roadways have been replaced or resurfaced over the past four years and our goal is to have this completed by 2018. \$28,000 is earmarked each year from the grant for the paving alone. Donations have been received from the AOH, numerous Veterans organization and individuals. One of the largest private donations was a \$10,000 Golf cart from Bernadette Heenan, an active person in the Irish community from Bucks Co., PA, so many of our older veterans can finally see the entire grove. The Hibernian Charity has raised another large donation of almost \$22,000 over the past five years through your generosity.

AOH donated \$21,845 through Sister Veronica IHM, an Irish nun from Immaculata College in the area, who over a 17-year period compiled the only complete record of recipients of the Medal of Honor. Her efforts resulted in a handwritten portfolio for each of the 3,387 recipients describing their acts of valor and other pertinent information that is widely used today and is the information inscribed on their plaques. There are only 79 living recipients left as of July of this year.

Only 24 Obelisks are made of Fiberglass, the rest are constructed of stone or granite and our hope is to replace these with either the state stone or granite. Many members attending the National Convention in Atlantic City this past summer were misinformed that the Grove no longer needed funding. Nothing could be further from the truth; that is why and we are asking for the continued help of the Hibernians, individuals and any Veterans Organizations we know of so we can complete this project. Maryland has their new obelisk ready for installation at a cost of over \$30,000. Many other states are in the process of raising the money to do the same. Some of these Obelisks are in deplorable condition and our goal is to have all needed obelisks replaced, install electric at all state sites so the flag can be flown 24/7, water run to areas so these areas can be cleaned and the grove brought back to its original state. We are asking for your help to continue this work which began with the AOH Obelisk in 1985. If you need to find out what condition your state obelisk is in please contact us and we will send you a report. Below are some sites you can go to to get more information.

Donations should be made out to Hibernian Charity.

Thank you.

Seamus Boyle shay39@comcast.net

Mick Dunleavy mjdunl@aol.com

www.friendsmohgrove.org

http://www.homeofheroes.com/moh/states/1\_states.html

*nollaig sona duit*  
*merry christmas*  
*from the staff of the hibernian digest*

## Remembering Al O'Hagan

To the Editor:

The Ancient Order of Hibernians lost a true Hibernian and mentor to many on October 26. We will always remember Al O'Hagan for all the contributions he made to the AOH, as well as the religious and civic communities he was involved with.

Al O'Hagan, battling through his long suffering health issues, which never actually slowed him down, fought long and hard for himself, this organization and everything Irish. He was admired by many and it was testament during his passing.

The family of Al O'Hagan had requested that long time friend, Charles "Chip" McClain, lead the Ritual for a Deceased Member. The request was honored and our Hibernian Brother "Chip" did an admirable job.

I want to personally, and as President of Kings County, thank Chip on behalf of the membership of Kings County, for taking the lead during the Ritual ceremony. I would like to also thank all of our Hibernian Brothers, far and wide, for visiting and taken a part in the Ritual. Brothers from Queens, Nassau, Suffolk, Albany, Staten Island, New York County and from New Jersey and possibly from other locales, and also the members from the LAOH, attended, which literally surrounded the family and friends of AL O'Hagan during this service.

Our condolences and respect goes out to Catherine, Sheila and Shaun and the entire O'Hagan family.

Steve Kiernan



## Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton

le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

[The translation of this, and all previous columns, can be found at [tomhasnateanga.blogspot.com](http://tomhasnateanga.blogspot.com)]

Táimid go léir dubh dóite den olltoghchán, agus ba chóir dúinn uile díriú ar chúrsaí níos taitneamhaí. Táthar ag súil go raibh deis ag gach duine cuairt a chur ar a chairde gaoil ar Lá Altaithe. Agus táthar ag súil go ndéanfar amhlaidh i rith na Nollag chomh maith. Ná bímis ró-ghnóthach chun aird a thabhairt dár dteaghlaigh, is fiú dúinn féin.

Ní miste liom Oíche Shamhna, ach is ait liom le fada an méid soilse a chuirtear suas, mar a bheadh an Nollaig ann. Don ghnáthdhuine, is dócha, is fearr leo lá mar sin gan baint ar bith le creideamh ar bith, ná na fíor laethanta tábhachtacha. Cheapfaí go mbíonn níos lú suime i laethanta saoire na hEaglaise. Dar liomsa, oireann na soilse don Nollaig, agus níl siad chomh hiontach má chrochtar suas iad go minic ar feadh na bliana. Is duine den tsean-déanamh mé, is dócha.

Nílím ag rá nach gcuirimid maisiúcháin suas ar laethanta saoire eile – déanaimid – ach oireann rudaí áirithe do laethanta áirithe amháin, i mo thuairimse. Níor mhaith liom crann a chur ina sheasamh i mo theach ach amháin um Nollaig, mar shampla. Tá daoine ann a dhéanann a leithéid, ach is fearr liom cloí le traidisiúin.

Agus cé gur níos tábhachtaí an Cháisc, ní sháraítear traidisiúin na Nollag. Bíonn bia blasta againn ar Lá Altaithe agus mar sin de, ach briosaí agus mílseáin na Nollag, agus bia blasta eile, bíonn sin an-deas ar fad. Crochadh na stocaí, an crann Nollag, Daidí na Nollag – is breá liom iad go léir. Agus dar liomsa, níl aon cheol ann atá níos fearr ná ceol na Nollag. Ní minic a choimeádtar ceol traidisiúnta ná ceol clasaiceach i mbéal is i gcluasa na ndaoine, ach amháin ar an Nollaig, agus in aimsir na Cásca. I measc na ndaoine uile, bíonn an bua ag ceol na Nollag, cinnte. Is iomaí finscéal do na páistí a chumadh agus a chantar, ach ina measc sin bíonn iomann iontacha, a chuireann breith íosa agus grá Dé i gcuimhne dúinn.

Táim cinnte nach miste le héinne na bronntanais, ach oiread... Bíonn spraoi againn rudaí deasa a roghnú do na daoine a ghráimid, agus is deis ar leith an tséasúir seo chun meanga gáire a chur ar aghaidh gach éinne. Thug Dia an bronntanas is fearr riamh dúinn ar an lá seo, agus is oiriúnach ar fad go bhronnaimid iontaisí ar a chéile i gcuimhne do sin.

Bíonn cláir theilifís iontacha ann gach Nollaig. Sean-chinn mar Charlie Brown agus Rudolf, agus cinn nua leis na hamhránaithe is nuaí freisin. Tá an Nollaig fite fuaite inár gcultúr, in ainneoin go mbíonn an cultúr céanna ag casadh a chúl le Dia. Tuigeann gach duine grá na Nollag. Más féidir – agus níl am bliana eile níos fearr ann chuige seo – ba chóir dúinn luadh le daoine cé hé foinse an ghrá seo. Rugadh Críost ionas go mbeadh Dia inár measc mar dhuine daonna. Aililíú!

## Note from the Editor

Photos submitted to the Digest for use must be at least 1 megabyte large, high resolution .jpg files sent as attachments with an article. Phone photos, while fine for social media, are generally too small to reproduce well in print, especially when cropped to include only relevant content. Cameras take better pictures, especially when set to "Large" size and "Fine" resolution. Each photo must have a caption, in which all identifiable people are named, from left. Captions should be at the top of the article, which should also be attached. Do not embed your photos into Word documents, and do not send .pdf files. Thank you. JOC



## Alfred J. O'Hagan

Brother Alfred J. O'Hagan passed away at his residence in Deptford, NJ, on October 26, 2016, surrounded by his beloved family. Brother O'Hagan was 81.

Brother O'Hagan served the Irish-American community for decades, and served as the Grand Marshal of the 1986 New York Saint Patrick's Day parade. He also served as the Grand Marshal of the 1996 Bay Ridge Saint Patrick's Day Parade and was a founder and Grand Marshal of the Park Slope Irish-American Day Parade in 1976. He was also the founder of the AOH Great Irish Fair in Coney Island in 1981, which has raised millions of dollars for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Brooklyn and recently celebrated its 35th anniversary.

Brother O'Hagan first joined the AOH in 1949, when he was 19 years of age. His father and grandfather were very active in the Order, and his grandfather, Brother John O'Hagan, a Derryman, was a founding member of the famed Round Tower Major Degree Team of Kings County and was a Past Grand Marshal of the 1927 New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

He was a Life Member of Division No. 19 in the Gerritsen Beach section of Brooklyn, NY, and served on the Division, County, State and National Boards, and was a Past New York State President. He was instrumental in the purchase of a former American Legion Post and turning it into Baile Na nGael, "Home of the Irish," as a center for Irish cultural and social activities in Brooklyn. It is the home of AOH and LAOH County Boards and Divisions as well as the Round Tower Major Degree Team, of which Brother O'Hagan served as the Team's Chief of Escort for decades. The team exemplified the Major Degrees, "the Inner Circle of the Hibernian Brotherhood," on hundreds of occasions throughout Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau County, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Upstate New York under his guidance and leadership.

Brother O'Hagan served in the Korean War as a Marine, being sworn in the elite all-Irish "Shamrock Platoon" by actor Tyrone Power. A member of the Brooklyn Detachment No. 1 of the U.S. Marine Corps League, Brother O'Hagan was always proud of his service to this great nation and loved the Marine Corps. A graduate of Brooklyn College, Brother O'Hagan was employed for 35 years by the Brooklyn Union Gas Co., retiring as an executive.

The injustice and persecution of the Irish Catholic Nationalist minority of Northern Ireland saw Brother O'Hagan in the forefront of the cause of Irish freedom, leading demonstrations in front of the British Consulate in New York, and he held top level meetings with the Irish government regarding the Northern Ireland situation. He was invited to private dinner meetings with more than one taoiseach.

His community service including a lifelong record of charity and of aiding of others in need. He founded the first Boys and Girls Club of Brooklyn, was CEO of the Coney Island Chamber of Commerce, and served on the Community School Board of District 22 for 18 years. Brother O'Hagan was recognized by the White House for his community service.

His wake was held at the Marine Park Funeral Home in Brooklyn, and was attended by Officers and Brother and Sister Hibernians from the National, State and County Boards of the AOH and LAOH, accompanied by a large contingent of Brother and Sister Hibernians from Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. The Hibernian prayer service was

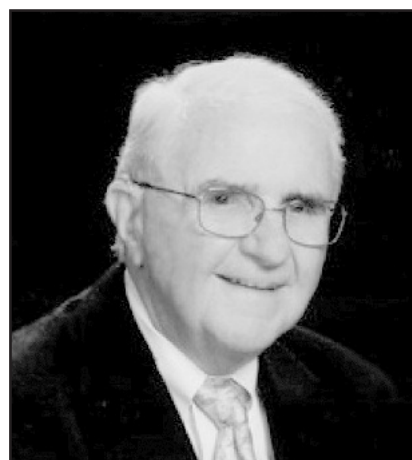


Brother O'Hagan leading the 1986 New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

conducted on by Brother Charles "Chip" McClean, New York State Past President. A Brooklyn tradition included the singing of rousing renditions of "Star-Spangled Banner" and "The Soldier's Song" by all in attendance.

Our Brother is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Catherine (Fahey); their children, Sheila McGill and Shaun O'Hagan; and six grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters Ethel Karnbach and Pat Rooney.

Brother Denis P. McGowan, St. Columille Division No. 4, Richmond County Board.



## Henry "Hank" V. Kensing

Henry Vincent Kensing (known as "Hank" or "The Mayor" to so many) died in the early morning hours of October 24, 2016.

Hank was a member of Frank Fox Division 16 of Mount Kisco for more than Fifty Years. He has served as announcer from the reviewing stand since the beginning of the Mount Kisco St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1991. Hank was honored as Grand Marshal of the parade in 1993 and was a faithful participant and supporter of Hibernian activities.

Henry Kensing was born on June 1, 1933 in the village of Mount Kisco to parents Howard and Susan Kensing (nee O'Brien). He graduated

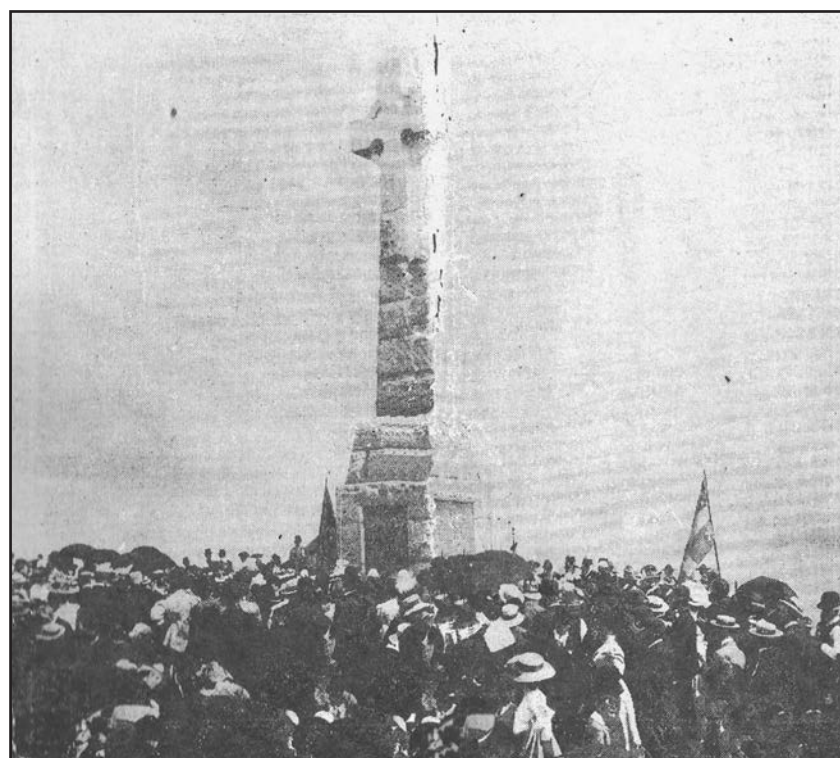
from Regis High School in 1951 and from Fordham University in 1955. He served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant.

Following his honorable discharge from the service, he entered Harvard Law School and graduated cum laude in 1960. Hank was admitted to the New York State Bar that same year and was an active member until his death. He had a successful career as a corporate lawyer, culminating in 14 years of service as the Vice President and General Counsel of the Dynamics Corporation of America.

He served as Village Trustee for four years from 1963-1967; as Mayor of the Village of Mount Kisco for 14 years from 1967 to 1981; and as Town Justice for 15 years from 1990 to 2005. He was involved in all aspects of the civic and community life of his beloved hometown, participating in and offering instrumental support to local organizations too numerous to list, among them the Knights of Columbus, the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Hank is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years, Eileen Kensing; by his son Ned and daughter-in-law Nicole; by his son Sean and daughter-in-law Vanessa; by his son Brian and daughter-in-law Allis, and their children Ava and Brianna.

## A Look Back



Sept. 15, 1909  
American AOH erect largest Celtic Cross in the world on Grosse Isle off Quebec in memory of thousands of Irish immigrants buried there in 1847 fleeing the Great Hunger.



## Tax

### continued from page 4

- 2) Submit the appropriate user fee with Form 8718 (User Fee Exempt Organization Determination Letter Request). If annual gross receipts average less than \$10,000 during the preceding 4 years, the fee is \$400. If annual gross receipts average more than \$10,000 during the preceding 4 years, the fee is \$850. The fee and form 1024 should be submitted to:  
Internal Revenue Service  
P.O. Box 12192  
Covington, KY 41012
- 3) If required to file the 990-EZ, properly complete Forms 990-EZ for all years not filed, write "Retroactive Reinstatement" on the forms and mail to:  
Department of Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service Center  
Ogden, UT 84201-0027
- 4) If the organization was required to file Form 990-N, no prior year filings have to be completed.

### Scenario 2:

#### **Retroactive Reinstatement of Tax-Exempt Status Within 15 months of Revocation and tax exempt status not previously revoked, required to file form 990.**

- 1) Complete and submit Form 1024 (Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a)) no later than 15 months after the date of revocation letter. Only Parts I, II, III and Schedule D of the Form 1024 must be completed. "Revenue Procedure 2014-11, Streamlined Retroactive Reinstatement" should be written at the top of the application.
- 2) Submit the appropriate user fee with Form 8718 (User Fee Exempt Organization Determination Letter Request). If annual gross receipts average less than \$10,000 during the preceding 4 years, the fee is \$400. If annual gross receipts average more than \$10,000 during the preceding 4 years, the fee is \$850. The fee and form 1024 should be submitted to:  
Internal Revenue Service  
P.O. Box 12192  
Covington, KY 41012

- 3) Submit a reasonable cause statement with Form 1024 to as why the return was not filed for one of the three years not filed.
- 4) Properly complete Forms 990 for all years not filed, write "Retroactive Reinstatement" on the forms and mail to:  
Department of Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service Center  
Ogden, UT 84201-0027
- 5) Include a statement with Form 1024 that all required returns have been filed.

### Scenario 3:

#### **Retroactive Reinstatement of Tax-Exempt Status Not Within 15 months of Revocation and tax exempt status not previously revoked**

- 1) Complete and submit Form 1024 (Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a)) as soon as possible. Only Parts I, II, III and Schedule D of the Form 1024 must be completed. "Revenue Procedure 2014-11, Streamlined Retroactive Reinstatement" should be written at the top of the application.
- 2) Submit the appropriate user fee with Form 8718 (User Fee Exempt Organization Determination Letter Request). If annual gross receipts average less than \$10,000 during the preceding 4 years, the fee is \$400. If annual gross receipts average more than \$10,000 during the preceding 4 years, the fee is \$850. The fee and form 1024 should be submitted to:  
Internal Revenue Service  
P.O. Box 12192  
Covington, KY 41012
- 3) Submit a reasonable cause statement with Form 1024 to as why the returns were not filed for all three years not filed.
- 4) Properly complete Forms 990 for all years not filed, write "Retroactive Reinstatement" on the forms and mail to:  
Department of Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service Center  
Ogden, UT 84201-0027
- 5) Include a statement with Form 1024 that all required returns have been filed.

## Deadline for February-March issue

**All articles and photos are due no later than  
FEBRUARY 1, 2017**

**to editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com**



President Jim McKay, Congressman Peter King and Vice President O'Connell had a chance to speak about the issues facing Hibernians recently in Washington DC.

**The Hibernian Digest's latest edition  
and archives can now be found on our  
webpage, [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com).**

## Georgia



**DONATION TO HOMELESS IN IRELAND FROM GEORGIA HIBERNIANS**  
Brian Crowley, president of the Monsignor Daniel J. Bourke Division 1, in Chatham County, GA, visited Dublin in the autumn and presented associates of the Fr. Peter McVerry Trust — a wonderful cause to help the homeless — a generous donation of \$1,600. Special thanks to the AOH brothers and all who have helped raise proceeds for the Charlie Mel Charitable Fund this year, which helped make this happen.



# Ladies Hibernian News

## New York

Congratulations to our sister Karen Keane from Division 1 in Albany NY for being elected as the LAOH National Secretary. Karen's commitment to our order is unmatched and her hard work was evident throughout the Convention. Way to go Karen!

Christian Charity and giving back to the community has been a constant theme in New York. Albany Division 1 began September with a back-to-school supply drive for their "adopted school" Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in Albany and they launched a new website, [www.laohalbany.org](http://www.laohalbany.org). In October personal care items will be collected for their friends at Community Maternity Services of Albany. Schenectady Division 1 hosted their annual baby shower for Birthright of Schenectady at their September meeting. Birthright assists mothers with keeping and providing for their infants and children. Many items and cash were donated to this worthy organization. Suffolk County LAOH and the Babylon Breast Care Coalition held a "Taste of the Town" fundraiser at the Hibernian Cultural Center in Babylon. Over 20 area restaurants, bakeries, a craft brewery and a winery provided samples and tastes of their foods and beverages. The fundraiser was well attended and was a huge success.

Broome County has a new Junior division. The newly formed Junior Division, Golden Rose Chapter, had the first members installed on June 9, 2016. Congratulations to these Junior ladies.

Capital District Hibernians, in conjunction with brother and sister Hibernians from Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk County, attended their annual pilgrimage to The Shrine of North American Martyrs in Auriesville, NY on October 2, 2016.



## Ladies AOH National Board

Msgr. Jason A. Gray	Chaplain	<a href="mailto:msgrgray@stthomas-church.net">msgrgray@stthomas-church.net</a>
Patricia A. O'Connell	President	<a href="mailto:occonnellp407@comcast.net">occonnellp407@comcast.net</a>
Carol Sheyer	Vice President	<a href="mailto:csheyer@fuse.net">csheyer@fuse.net</a>
Karen Keane	Secretary	<a href="mailto:laohkaren@live.com">laohkaren@live.com</a>
Marilyn Madigan	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:memadigan@gmail.com">memadigan@gmail.com</a>
Dee Wallace	Irish Historian	<a href="mailto:deew93395@gmail.com">deew93395@gmail.com</a>
Mary Ann Lubinsky	Missions & Charities	<a href="mailto:maryannlubinsky@gmail.com">maryannlubinsky@gmail.com</a>
Colleen Bowers	Catholic Action	<a href="mailto:bowers033@gmail.com">bowers033@gmail.com</a>
Mary Hogan	Organizer	<a href="mailto:laohbklyn@aol.com">laohbklyn@aol.com</a>
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	<a href="mailto:mtshelton@live.com">mtshelton@live.com</a>
Margaret Hennessy	Auditor	<a href="mailto:mhtax@optonline.net">mhtax@optonline.net</a>
Mary Ryan	Good & Welfare	<a href="mailto:nanaryan713@aol.com">nanaryan713@aol.com</a>
Dorothy Weldon	Budget Committee	<a href="mailto:dorothyweldon@comcast.net">dorothyweldon@comcast.net</a>
Mary T. Leatham	Freedom for All Ireland	<a href="mailto:mtleatham@aol.com">mtleatham@aol.com</a>
Mary B. Dolan	Immigration & Legislation	<a href="mailto:bridgie136@gmail.com">bridgie136@gmail.com</a>
Peggy Cooney	Budget Committee	<a href="mailto:peggy.cooney@ymail.com">peggy.cooney@ymail.com</a>
Mary Paglione	Budget Committee Chair	<a href="mailto:marypaglione@comcast.net">marypaglione@comcast.net</a>
Kathie Linton	2018 Nat'l Conv. Chair	<a href="mailto:kathie.linton@akrongeneral.org">kathie.linton@akrongeneral.org</a>
Mary Conlon	Supplies & Merchandise	<a href="mailto:mandjconlon@atmc.net">mandjconlon@atmc.net</a>
Sandi Swift	Web, Press, Social Media	<a href="mailto:webmaster@ladiesaoh.com">webmaster@ladiesaoh.com</a>
Mary Ellen Chajkowski	Legal Counsel to President in Organization Matters	

### PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Mary Hogan	Organizer	<a href="mailto:laohbklyn@aol.com">laohbklyn@aol.com</a>
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	<a href="mailto:mtshelton@live.com">mtshelton@live.com</a>
Margaret Hennessy		Deer Park, NY
Mary Ryan		Marlboro, MA
Dorothy Weldon		Monongahela, PA
Mary T. Leatham		Troy, NY
Mary B. Dolan		North Brookfield, MA
Peggy Cooney		Pittsburgh, PA
Mary Paglione		St. Lucie West, FL
Kathie Linton		Uniontown, Ohio

## President's Message...

by Patricia O'Connell



On behalf of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc National Board, I wish all readers blessings for a peace-filled 2017 Year. I am hopeful that all members have taken time to say thank you to all officers who served the Order during the 2016 Year. Let us be united within the organization as we give our support to the recently elected officers at each level of our organization as they begin their agreed-to leadership role in the 2017 Year to guide and sustain the work of our Order.

The officers who served during the 2016 fiscal year at each level within the LAOH organization are responsible to complete the year-end annual reports requested by the National Board Officers. State Board Officers will receive electronic copies of the mandated year-end annual reports for the various entities recognized within each state. It is the responsibility of the State Board Officers to disseminate the electronic copies in a timely manner within their state and to assist the officers within their state to complete their reports. State Board Officers are responsible to forward electronic copies of the completed year-end annual reports for all entities recognized within their state to the National Board Officers as directed.

National Treasurer Marilyn Madigan, with assistance from other designated persons, is continuing to work with the Internal Revenue Service in determining the exempt status of the recognized LAOH entities at each level within the organization. Your timely responses to National Treasurer Madigan's requests are important.

I ask for your continuing support to the joint effort of the AOH-LAOH in nominating a worthy candidate for consideration for the 2017 Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award. As stated in Article XXVII of the AOH Constitution and in Appendix II of the LAOH Constitution, this award is "to memorialize the Human Rights contributions made by Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Sean MacBride, and to recognize the efforts of others who make similar contributions in the cause of peace, justice, and the economic well-being of the Irish people." LAOH members may contact National Vice President Carol Sheyer for further information.

As you build your calendars for the 2017 Year and schedule your various events, I ask that you remember to maintain a balance in your charitable giving among our LAOH National Charities, namely, Columban Fathers, Columban Sisters, & Appeals for Aid, our Catholic Action Funds, namely Project St. Patrick & Support our Aging Religious (SOAR), the Freedom for All Ireland Fund, namely the Christmas Appeal & the Easter Appeal, and your locally designated charities.

May St. Brigid and St. Patrick continue to bless our LAOH members as we engage with each other to strengthen and sustain our organization.

## Irish Historian

by Dee Wallace

I am reminded that the Easter Rising we just celebrated a few months ago in New York City remains with a lot of history for all of us alongside a paperback booklet Mike McCormack wrote, entitled *Power in Lace*. It is a powerful story of a "Tribute to the Daughters of Erin". One of my favorite chapters is Ireland's Joan of Arc and The Kilmainham Madonna. A great read, Mike and thanks for the copy.

Irish History has always been a part of our culture and I am so excited that many of our schools are participating in the Irish History Writing Contest and the topic for this year is "The Role of the Irish in world War 1".

On another note, there is a lot of information on the website about the National Women's History Museum and what they are planning for the future. It is certainly worth a look and I believe you will find it empowering. I have copied below from their site their information and I know you will find it most interesting.

### Our Mission

The National Women's History Museum educates, inspires, empowers, and shapes the future by integrating women's distinctive history into the culture and history of the United States.

### Vision

The National Women's History Museum's vision is to build a world-class museum at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

The National Women's History Museum currently raises awareness and honors women's diverse experiences and achievements through its dynamic online museum, educational programs, scholarship and research. Once housed prominently among the other great museums of Washington, D.C., it will create better understanding and greater partnerships among men and women.

The National Women's History Museum will be the first museum in any nation's capital to show the full scope of the history of its women and will serve as a guiding light to people everywhere.

### Our First Success – The National Women's Museum

The Museum is in its infancy, but our founders have already accomplished a great deal. **NWHM** was the driving force behind the raising of the Woman Suffrage Statue, a monument to Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, from the U.S. Capitol Crypt to the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. For the first time in our nation's history, our foremothers are honored with our forefathers!"



# Pennsylvania

The Irish Memorial of Philadelphia was chosen the host of the 2016 International Great Hunger Commemoration. Since 2009, the Irish government has sponsored annual joint commemorations of An Gorta Mor, which led to the deaths of more than a million people in mid-19th century Ireland. One is held in Ireland, the other in a city that opened its arms to some of the more than 1 million refugees who fled Ireland between 1845 and 1852.

This Commemoration pays tribute to those who died, suffered or fled the starvation. It also raises awareness of the problem of chronic hunger, which now affects more than 1 billion people worldwide.



Members of the PA LAOH State Board attended the International Great Hunger Commemoration in Philadelphia. Pictured here are: (l-r) Barbara Jones, Consul General of Ireland Minister; Clare McManus-Fulginiti, PA State Catholic Action; Ellen McCrane, PA State President; Heather Humphreys, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; Maria Gallagher, PA State Treasurer and Shirley Murphy, PA State Historian.



**Pennsylvania Winners of the LAOH 2016 National History Contest**  
Several state winners/participants as well as Level 1 winner all came from Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill, PA. From left to right are Ben Johnston, Ashley Goss, Mary Earnest (Division Historian and Immediate Past President of Cumberland County, Division 1), Maureen Pham (1st place \$500 winner in Level 1), and Julia Aungst.



**ALLEGHENY MASS FOR DECEASED MEMBERS**  
LAOH Division 11, Allegheny County, PA, held their annual mass for deceased members at St. Stanislaus/St. Patrick parish in Pittsburgh's Strip District. Pictured L to R: front row: Lynn Snatchko, Treasurer; Pat Tragesser, FFAI; Joy Short, M&C; Fr. Nicholas, pastor; Eileen Curran, Mary Lou Conroy; Marlea Gallagher, Mistress At Arms. Back row: Shirley Murphy, PA State Treasurer and Division VP; Maggie Cloonan, Shirley Sestric, President Back row: Patricia Moorhead, Mary Ellen Myers, CA



Two PA Allegheny County Division 11 members received National Life Membership at the recent National convention in Atlantic City. Pictured receiving their certificates from Allegheny County President Kathleen Diulus are Margaret Cloonan and Shirley Murphy.

*Please support Project St. Patrick*

# Massachusetts

The MA LAOH has been busy over the last couple of months. The State Board co-hosted a Memorial Mass and luncheon with their AOH counterparts for members throughout the state. Entertainment was provided and a successful basket raffle was held at the event. Proceeds will help defray costs for next year's State Convention. Div 8 Lawrence co-hosted Derek Warfield and the Young Wolf Tones for their listening pleasure. Div 36 Worcester hosted Irish Tenor John McDermott. Div 10 Lynn held a membership drive with 11 prospective members being approved for membership. Div 14 Watertown hosted a Turkey Shoot with a chance to win Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Division 2 Holyoke has been volunteering at various organizations for those in need.

The LAOH, Inc. Division 1 in Lowell held a Tea on Sunday, October 16th at St. Joseph's Workers Shrine to celebrate their 30th Anniversary and to honor all Past Division Presidents for their service. A luncheon buffet was enjoyed by all as each Past President was awarded a certificate of achievement and appreciation.

Lowell's Division 1 President Joyce Burgess accepted a Lifetime Membership from the LAOH National Board that Noreen Conlon, a division founding member, was at the 2016 AOH/LAOH National Convention in Atlantic City. This award was presented to Noreen on Sunday by LAOH State President Anne-Marie Nyhan Doherty and Division 1 President Joyce Burgess. Noreen was surrounded by her loving family, friends and sister Hibernians for this very special occasion.

# Kitty is on the move!



Birthday girl Kitty Geissler with Congressman Eliot Engel at the American Irish Dinner Dance. Kitty turned 104 on November 4th. She is a member of Kitty Geissler Division 11, Tarrytown, NY.



# Ohio



Ohio State Board at their fall meeting



Medina County Lady Hibernians, Akron, OH celebrate the canonization of Mother Teresa, Saint Teresa of Calcutta. September 3, 2016



Our Lady of the Rosary Division's 70th Anniversary celebration, Cleveland OH. October 12, 2016



## NOTICE

Please be sure all photos submitted for publication are taken with a camera, **NOT** a cell phone. Your cooperation is appreciated.

# Michigan

## Chocolate Affair Michigan Division Raises \$8500.00 for First Step

2016 marks the 12th year for the Elizabeth Fagan Division, of Wayne County, Michigan to host "A Chocolate Affair" event to benefit First Step. Area restaurants, bakeries, caterers and chocolate makers provide samples of their chocolate specialty desserts for guests. The Sweet Adeline's "Voices in Harmony" perform. A special blessing was said by our LAOH State Chaplain, Fr. Noel O'Connor. Many sisters from other LAOH Divisions across the State of Michigan attended, as well as Kristy Pagan, Michigan State Representative for the 21st District, and Honorary Chair of this year's event. Kristy is a very strong advocate in the Michigan House of Representatives for her Domestic and Sexual Assault program, funding, awareness and public education.

The Division was proud to present First Step with a check for \$8500. The proceeds of this event enables First Step to provide comprehensive counseling, shelter, education and advocacy for victims of domestic violence and their families, and promotes peaceful families and safe communities in the southeast Michigan area.



L-R Theresa Bizoe, Assistant Executive Director of First Step; Barbara Weir, LAOH Elizabeth Fagan Division President & Event Chair; and Kristy Pagan, Michigan State Representative for the 21st District and Honorary Chair of this year's event

## Loses 99 Year Old LAOH Member

Ruth Hennigan Minnick, Charter Member of the Ethel Kennedy Division of Macomb County, Michigan, passed to her eternal reward on October 1st, just 28 days before her 100th birthday. Her great grandfather immigrated from County Mayo. Ruth helped organize this Division in 1969 and was a very active member for many years both at the Division and State Level. She was a member of the St. Brigid Degree Team, and was the oldest LAOH member in the State of Michigan.

Rest in Peace, Ruth Minnick.

# New York



Members of the Capital District Trinity Degree Team pose with Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard for a picture after mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs. The Degree Team led the procession into the church with members of the AOH Honor Guard.



## New York

AOH-Division 5-Woodlawn, The Bronx, held its annual Spirit of 1916 Awards Benefit on Sunday, October 16, at The Rambling House in Woodlawn. Honorees included Monsignor Edward Barry, Dan Dennehy (AOH national director), and the Irish Deportees marking the 20th anniversary of their case.

A special award was presented to the Tallon Family, in memory of FDNY Firefighter Sean Tallon, who lost his life on 9/11. Additionally, grants were presented to the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Aisling Irish Community Center, and the Deirdre O' Mara School of Irish Dance. *Photos by Nuala Purcell*



Spirit of 1916 Man of the Year Award recipient Monsignor Edward Barry and Bob Nolan (president, AOH Bronx County Board). Photos by Nuala Purcell



Seamus Boyle, Marty Galvin, Eileen Tallon, Rosaleen Tallon, Aidan Curtin - The Tallon Family were presented with a keepsake of Tyrone's Hugh O'Neill and a beautiful plaque from the AOH in remembrance of FDNY Firefighter Sean Tallon who lost his life on 9/11.



A special award was presented to the Irish Political Deportees marking the 20th anniversary of their case, which included Charlie Caulfield, Noel Gaynor, Joyce Crossan (wife of the late Kevin Crossan), Brian Pearson, Robbie McErlean, Matt Morrisson, and Gabe Megahey.





## Bronx Hibernians honor three

The Bronx County Board honored three New Yorkers at its annual dinner dance at Rory Dolan's on Nov. 20.

County President Bob Nolan introduced the honorees: Hugh O'Lunney, of O'Lunney's Times Square Pub; Terence Monahan, Chief of Patrol for the NY Police Department; and John O'Connell, the National Editor of the Hibernian Digest.



The Bronx County Board's Martin Galvin, left, National AOH President James McKay, Honorees Terence Monahan, John O'Connell and Hugh O'Lunney proudly holding their Celtic Cross presentations, and Bronx County Board President Bob Nolan.

National President Judge James McKay and other members of the National Board, as well as New York State President Tim McSweeney, attended the event.

With music by the Kitty Kelly Band, more than 150 Hibernians from the Bronx and beyond attended the pre-Thanksgiving event. It was a wonderful way to usher in the holiday season. *All photos by Nuala Purcell.*



National Secretary Jere Cole, left, National President Judge Jim McKay, Past National President Brendan Moore and NYS President Tim McSweeney at the Bronx annual dinner



National and state dignitaries at the Bronx event, standing, from left, Eileen Moore, John Dunleavy, NY County President Tom Bierne, Brendan Moore, Honoree John O'Connell, Past NY State President James Burke, National Director Dan Dennehy, State Treasurer John Manning, and seated, from left, National President Jim McKay, National Secretary Jere Cole, State Vice President Vic Vogel, and state President Tim McSweeney.



Nassau County and Division 8 members (Honoree John O'Connell's division in Glen Cove), standing, from left, Gerry Herbert, Pauline Stafford and Andy Stafford, and seated, from left, Tim Myles, Barbara Conroy, Bob Panzenbeck, Mike Byrne and Rosemarie Byrne.

## Yonkers Division Celebrates 125th Anniversary

The Myles Scully Division 1 of Yonkers celebrated the 125th Anniversary of its founding with an Anniversary Mass and Dinner Dance the week of November 12th. The Division was founded in the Sacred Heart Parish of Yonkers on November 1, 1891.

The Mass was held at Sacred Heart Church and celebrated by Division 1 Chaplain Fr. Matthew Janeczko OFM. Members then attended a celebratory brunch at The Fairways Catering Hall at Dunwoodie Golf Course in Yonkers along with their families.

The 125th Anniversary dinner dance was held at the Westchester Manor in Hastings on Hudson. Several senior officers of the AOH were in attendance, including Past National President Brendan Moore, National Secretary Jere Cole, National

Director Dan Dennehy, NY State President Timothy McSweeney, NY State Vice President Vic Vogel, NY State Secretary Tom Lambert, and NY State District Director Tom Beirne.

The Division also welcomed family members and descendants of its founder and namesake Myles Scully. Myles was a Yonkers Police Lieutenant and leader in the local Irish community. Family members were presented framed copies of the Yonkers Division Charter as well as a memorial plaque to commemorate the historic milestone.

Entertainment was provided by the Cunningham Brothers Band and a performance by The Flynn School of Irish Dance.



Division President Kevin Ellis with Barbara Scully (center) and family members of Myles Scully.