

## Record Hibernian attendance at 45th March for Life



Members of the AOH National Board, the New York State Board, and Hibernians from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, D.C. and beyond gathered in Washington, D.C. for the annual March For Life on Jan. 19.

Hibernians from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C., on January 19 for the 45th March for Life. This year's theme was "Love Saves Lives" and featured the first live address to participants by a sitting U.S. president. Estimates of the crowd topped 100,000 marchers, with the massive youth participation being especially inspiring. Record attendance at the annual AOH Pro-Life Breakfast was capped by an engaging speaker, Patrick

Kilner, and impromptu Hedgerow Mass by Fr. Henry Reid, of New York.

Hibernian attendance has steadily grown the past five years, with over 100 brothers and sisters marching behind the AOH banners in 2018. As awareness grows, so do our numbers; please consider joining the AOH contingent next January.

**Additional photos on page 23.**

## National board meets with Congressmen; All Hibernians must take action

**By Neil Cosgrove**

One of the great gifts our forebears celebrated in immigrating to America was the freedom to vote and have a say in their government; a right so long denied them in their own country. The right of the governed to have a voice in their government is still an alien concept in many parts of the world. Even today, despite voting to stay by a clear majority across all communities, Northern Ireland is being dragged out of the European Union (E.U.). As Irish Americans, we should never take the exceptional privilege to hold our government accountable for granted; nor give into the sin of

lazy apathy summarized in the statement "You will never change anything."

In this spirit, the Hibernians are making the Irish American presence felt in Washington. In February, members of the national board traveled to Capitol Hill to meet with legislators on both sides of the aisle to request a hearing on the lack of progress on key elements of the U.S. brokered Good Friday Agreement (GFA) as we mark its 20th anniversary. The GFA is a landmark in U.S.

**Continued on page 9**



New Jersey Congressman Chris Smith met with members of the AOH national board. From left, Nat'l VP Daniel O'Connell, Nat'l Political Education Chairman Neil Cosgrove, Nat'l Secretary Jere Cole, Congressman Smith, Nat'l President James McKay and Nat'l Treasurer Sean Pender.

### In This Issue...

Why are YOU a Hibernian?



Jim Lowney  
Page 14

AOH's Veterans Honored



Jim Green  
Page 8

The Irish Echo



A Message from Ray O'Hanlon  
Page 9

### State News

Alabama	13
Connecticut	12
Colorado	12
Indiana	13
Kansas	13
Maryland	14
Massachusetts	15
Missouri	14
Nebraska	14
New Jersey	17, 18
New York	16, 17, 19
Ohio	15
Pennsylvania	2, 15, 19
South Carolina	17
Virginia	18
LAOH	20



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**HIBERNIANS**  
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**NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS**

Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi – AL	National Chaplain	jpresley@mobarch.org
Rev. Michael Healy – CA	Deputy National Chaplain	hibhealy@hotmail.com
Rev. Patrick Collum – LA	Deputy National Chaplain	pcollum@arch-no.org
James F. McKay III – LA	National President / WA	jfmaoh@me.com
	OR, CA, CO	
Daniel O’Connell – OH	National Vice President	djoconnell@ysu.edu
	2018 National Convention Chairman, Louisville	
Jere Cole – NJ	National Secretary	jcole4838@gmail.com
Sean Pender – NJ	National Treasurer	paddyspeed@yahoo.com
Dan Dennehy – NY	Nat’l Director Immigration	dandennehy@hotmail.com
	Chairman / Liaison Metropolitan NY City	
Liam McNabb – NY	Nat’l Director / Liaison NY	liammcnabb@hotmail.com
Thomas O’Donnell – PA	Nat’l Director / Project St. Patrick	NLNOD@comcast.net
	Liaison PA, NJ	
Dennis Parks - OH	Natl. Director/ Liaison OH, VA	dparks121@yahoo.com
	WV, MD, DE, DC, MI	
William Sullivan – MA	Nat’l Director / Liaison ME	williamsullivan@verizon.net
	MA, NH, VT, RI, CT	
John Wilson – MO	Nat’l Director / Liaison MO, IL	johnj_wilson@yahoo.com
	IN, KS, NE, MT, IA, OK	
James Kuhn – LA	National Legal Counsel /	jkuhn7478@gmail.com
	Constitution Committee	
Michael McCormack – NY	Historian / Archivist	aohbard@optonline.net
Timothy McSweeney – NY	Organizer	Newjack12007@yahoo.com
John O’Connell – NY	Editor	editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
Paul Gowdy – MI	FFAI Chairman	gaudy9plow@aol.com
Michael Mellett MD	Deputy FFAI Chairman	michael.mellett@hotmail.com
Ted Sullivan – GA	Charities and Missions Chairman	tedmsullivan@me.com
Joseph Norton – GA	Charities and Missions	docsnorton2@gmail.com
	Deputy Chairman	
Tom Beirne – NY	Hibernian Hunger Chairman	tombeirne4@hotmail.com
John Patrick Walsh – MD	Pro-Life Chairman	jaywarp1@gmail.com
John Fitzmorris III – LA	Catholic Action	jdftzmorris@yahoo.com
	Liaison LA, TX, AR, MS, AZ, AL	
Neil Cosgrove – NY	Political Education Committee	ncosgrov@optonline.com
	Anti Defamation / IAHM Chairman	
James Green – PA	Veterans Affairs	seamus.green317@gmail.com
Brendan Moore – NY	Past National President	brendanaoh@yahoo.com
	Oversight Committee	
George Clough – MO	Past National President	BookODays@aol.com
	Oversight Committee	
Nick Murphy – NY	Past National President	upkerry@optonline.net
	Oversight Committee	
Joseph Roche – MD	Past National President,	jar32@aol.com
	Deputy Chairman Oversight Committee	
J.J. Kelly – VA	Ritual & Degree Chairman	IrishKnight1@verizon.net
Ned McGinley – PA	Past National President,	nedao1@aol.com
	Notre Dame Fund Chairman	
Jeff Nisler – NY	Webmaster	Jeff.AOH@Nisler.com
Greg Sean Canning – FL	Irish Way and Study Abroad	grioghar@mac.com
	Program / Liaison NC, SC, GA, TN	
Seamus Boyle - PA	Past National President	shay39@comcast.net
	Special Projects	
Jack Meehan – MA	Past National President	meehanaoh1@aol.com
Edward J. Wallace – NY	Past National President	ewallac2@twcny.rr.com
Thomas J. McNabb, NY	Past National President	mcoleman@gmail.com
	Secretary Emeritus	

The National  
**hibernian digest**



"The land, One and indivisible, though the heavens fall" HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

Subscription price of \$8.00 included in the organization's dues. Periodical postage paid at West Caldwell, NJ and additional mailing offices USPS 373340

A bi-monthly publication dedicated to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The National Hibernian Digest is the complete chronicle of the ideals, hopes, and achievements of Hibernians everywhere. The National Hibernian Digest is printed and mailed out of Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-9998 and additional mailing offices in February, April, June, August, October and December. Office of publication is Ancient Order of Hibernians, West Caldwell, NJ

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National Hibernian Digest, P.O. Box 539, West Caldwell, NJ 07007 The Hibernian Digest reserves the right to not include articles in this publication due to space limitations and editorial determination. The articles submitted to the Digest do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., its Board of Directors, the Editor or its membership. The Hibernian Digest welcomes letters to the editor. Please send via e-mail to editor@hiberniandigest.com and include your letter in the body of the e-mail. DO NOT send as an attachment. Letters can be mailed (typed only) to AOH Editor, National Hibernian Digest, c/o John O'Connell, 87-30 256th St., Floral Park, NY 11001. ALL LETTERS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please include contact phone numbers for follow up.

**JOHN O'CONNELL** ..... National Editor/Advertising..... (646) 436-0811 editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com  
**SANDI RILEY SWIFT** ..... Assistant Editor ..... webmaster@ladiesaoh.com  
**JEFF NISLER** ..... Online Editor ..... editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com

**Pennsylvania**



**Attention Pennsylvania Hibernians:**

The AOH has its own special license plate. Dauphin County, Division One "Bobby Sands" (Harrisburg) administers the plate program on behalf of the State Board. You are encouraged to help promote the Order by using our plate on your car or truck. Information can be obtained by contacting our Plate Coordinator, Jim Williams, at jwilli@comcast.net. There's a Special Organization form from PADOT you must complete and that Brother Williams must sign before submitting it to PADOT for processing. He will send you the form simply by writing to him at his email address or at P.O. BOX 6143, Harrisburg, PA 17112. Please don't use any other application form. PADOT'S turn around time is 4-6 weeks.

Many other states have AOH license plates as well. It's a great way to publicize the Order and let people know about us!

*Remember the AOH in your will*

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



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## president's message

by Jim McKay III

Very shortly all of our attention will be caught up with our "green season" for 2018, and I am sure by the time you read this issue, preparations will be ongoing to make March a very meaningful and eventful Irish Heritage month.

This year's Washington, D.C. Right to Life March was one of the biggest in memory as the weather cooperated and the numbers of young people on the streets that day could hardly be ignored by either political party. We are still trying to coordinate having pipers in the parade next year as well as a specific "step off point" for all Hibernians in the march.

BREXIT continues to be problematic for the 32 counties of Ireland. Our National PEC Chairman, Neil Cosgrove, as well as our ad hoc chairman of the BREXIT committee, Seamus Boyle, have been keeping track of developments on the split up of Great Britain and the European Union. However, as the information trickles down to us, you can rest assured that all updates will be forwarded to you through our Digest and monthly email blasts.

Before we know it we will all be descending on Louisville for our National Convention. National Vice President Danny O'Connell is our National Convention Chairman, and John O'Dwyer, President of our Louisville Division, is the state liaison for our National Board. Brother O'Dwyer has put together a great registration plan that allows all members to register online by merely going to our web site with links to our convention hotel, the Galt House, as well as convention registration. The rooms are starting to fill up and I would advise not to wait until the month of May to make your reservations.

Our two national charitable appeals, Freedom for All Ireland and Project St. Patrick, are both in success mode. Project St. Patrick, aka Easter Appeal, is in full swing and already ahead of last year's figures. FFAI is winding down from last year and we are working on the grant requests that are coming in for this upcoming year.

This year marks the 20th year anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and our National Board is working with congressmen in D.C. to conduct a hearing as to its current relevance in lieu of the BREXIT troubles. If this proves successful we will seek to have similar hearings in Dublin and Belfast.

Our membership efforts seem to be bearing fruit with our media campaign on Irish Central. We are forming several new Divisions in states that had no Hibernian presence in the past. I would like to thank Tim McSweeney, our National Membership Chairman, as well as Danny O'Connell, our National Vice President, for coordinating these efforts.

I hope you all have a memorable St. Patrick's Day and look forward to seeing you in Louisville for our National Convention.

God bless.



## national secretary

by Jere Cole

### Per Capita Time

Financial secretaries, have you paid your 2017 national per capita? It was due to the national office by February 15, 2018. Divisions who have not paid will not be considered in good standing and may not participate in the National Convention this summer in Louisville.

Per capita is based on your membership as of December 31, 2017. It is the dues that you collected during the 2016 calendar year. Members exempt from paying per capita include priests, active military and national life members. 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 take a closer look at why that's the case, before any payment is processed. This agreement in numbers is why it is imperative we receive your updated roster BEFORE you calculate your per capita.

When sending your per capita payment, please remember to include your completed Form 11 so that we can credit your account properly. We have payment from some divisions that were mailed without a Form 11. These have been set aside until we receive the Form 11. Also, we need your EIN number to file with the IRS.

County and state per capita checks are handled separately and should not be mailed to the national office. Form 12, however, county and state board information, should be forwarded to this office. Form 12 is available on the AOH.com website.

Form 9s, Certificate of Election, are due to the national office as well. Simply indicating your new officers on the revised roster is not sufficient; we need the completed Form 9. Both Form 11 and Form 9 are available from our website, AOH.com. You should have received a Form 11 with your 2018 cards.

You will note the use of the web address AOHHForms has been eliminated. This was done to prevent confusion with duplicate submissions. Either send your forms to Jere Cole at jcole4838@gmail.com or joe.ryan.aoh@gmail.com.

You should also remember to send in Form 40s throughout the year with changes/additions. It will be less work for you and for us at the end of the year. Charity forms (also sent with your 2018 cards) should be returned directly to Joseph J. Norton, 733 Vinings Estate Dr., Mableton, GA 30126. Or email to: docsnorton2@gmail.com.

Lastly, when communicating with the national office, ALWAYS mention your full division number (and county and state) not just the division name, as we have many duplicate names throughout the country and using the number streamlines our ability to help.



## vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

We are on the fast road to Irish American Heritage month. We will be using this time to promote Irish American Heritage and the AOH on our Webpage and Facebook page. You can take the lead in promoting our efforts by sharing each article as they appear on all your social media and websites.

We will also have a two-week marketing, promotion and advertising run on Irish Central. Please keep an eye on this, which will include at least one AOH article. Again, we ask you to take the lead and share any articles related to the AOH whenever you see them. Your actions will lead to continued success in recruiting as well as the marketing and promotion of the AOH in America.

I congratulate President McKay for his continued leadership. When this board took office, we were instructed to read the national constitution and to follow it. This has been demonstrated in many ways including our president directing the implementation of two committees required by the constitution, the FFAI committee and the Immigration committee. In addition to the committees the National Board is working on job descriptions for every national chair. The first job description implemented was for our National Directors and regional representatives. We anticipate job descriptions will be in place for all positions prior to the national convention.

Following the convention, all of these job descriptions will be made available to each state, county and division board. Many of these will work as local job descriptions at every level with a few minor adjustments. These job descriptions will also help young and upcoming Hibernians see what is expected when you are elected or appointed to an office so you don't have to re-create the wheel with every new elected or appointed level.

The reality is the basis for every constitutional position description and is in the national constitution. This being said, it is always good to read and review the National Constitution first when you have questions about the AOH. The Constitution can be found on the national web site under the "About the AOH" tab.

### Label Program

Our 2017 label program currently designed to support Hibernian Charities has had tremendous initial success. As I write this article we have over 1,600 donations to the program. As you read this, I hope the additional 94 percent of our Order will consider making their donation today. Currently the donations range from \$2 to \$350 with an average donation of \$25.13. Regardless of the amount, every donation is critical to our success. We certainly understand that everyone cannot always participate in our various fundraising campaigns and that is OK. What we do ask is 100 percent participation in prayers for the continued success of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and each of our critical programs. Donations payable to the AOH should be sent to: AOH National Vice President, Danny O'Connell, 340 E Kline Street, Girard, Ohio 44420.

### National Convention

As you know, I am also serving as the National Convention Chairman. The convention is just around the corner and the local committee has done a tremendous job so far. Now is the time for each Hibernian to take a moment, reserve your room, and register to attend the 2018 National Convention. I am sure the efforts of John O'Dwyer, local chair, and the members of his committee will not disappoint you. The Galt House is a tremendous hotel located right on the Ohio River. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Rituals

The rituals committee has been hard at work. We anticipate an updated "Blue Book" manual presented for approval during the National Convention. Once approved, the update will be distributed immediately to each board at every level. The committee is also looking at a potential re-design of the Degree pin as well. Remember the importance of the Major Degree. If you have your Major, encourage everyone you know to take theirs as soon as possible. If you don't have your Major Degree, the 2018 convention in Louisville will be a great place to get it. As always, all Degreed members are encouraged to observe the Major Degrees at every opportunity.

In closing, it has been a pleasure serving each of you as a member of the national board. I look forward to seeing you at the convention and working with you for many years to come. God Bless, Danny O.

## Candidates for National Office

Several brothers have asked how they can become a national officer. The requirements for office at each level can be found in the National Constitution located on our national website under 'About the AOH.'

All candidates for national office, elected or appointed, must: be a member in good standing for a continuous period of six months before election or appointment; have received the major degrees of the Order for at least one year prior to election or appointment; have receptive e-mail addresses available to the membership and regularly respond to e-mails; and shall attend National conventions and meetings unless excused by the national President.

If you meet these requirements and believe you have the ability and experience to serve on the Ancient Order of Hibernians national board, the 2018 national convention is your next opportunity.



## treasurer's report by Sean Pender

It is entirely appropriate that I am writing this article around Ground Hog day as our tax exempt reinstatement process seems to have bogged down and we are not making progress as quick as we should be. In April 2017 we sent a full mailing to all divisions explaining the issues and explaining the next steps to take. Then in June 2017 that was followed by a division/board specific letter informing the board or division of their exact status and what they needed to do. We notified 225 divisions regarding the steps they had to take to clarify their EIN numbers or to re-instate their 501c8 tax exempt status. As of early February only about 60 have done so.

This issue — while aggravating — is not just going to go away, and it needs attention as soon as possible. Though painful, it is necessary to remember that divisions whose tax exempt status was revoked had caused the revocation by their failure to FILE taxes for three consecutive years.

My predecessor and current National Vice President Danny O'Connell worked long and hard to address the tax issues at the national level, he corrected the long sought-after answer to the tax-exempt issue; worked thru IRS to file paperwork that proved that the AOH National was a 501c-8 national organization and that as a parent organization could add subordinates. He was then able to add all divisions and boards who had valid EIN as subordinates and all they needed to do to maintain was to FILE taxes yearly to maintain their status.

Regrettably, the majority of our divisions and boards did not file taxes for three consecutive years and now must follow the re-instatement process, which includes paying a fine and submitting a 1024 and 8718 to the IRS.

In early January 2018 we sent an email to all state presidents and the states liaison asking for a status update of all divisions to be reviewed on the January 24th state president's call. That process seems to have raised the awareness and improved feedback, so I want to thank all who have completed the process or who are now in the process of re-instatement and compliance. Please let's commit this to be done before we meet in Louisville.



## Director's report by Liam McNabb

### Strengthening the Order for the next Generation...

As we all focus on growing the Order, how we market and promote who we are is critical to appealing to prospective members. How do you describe the AOH to your family, friends, co-workers and others in your community? What is your AOH "pitch" or "elevator speech"?

An elevator speech is a clear, brief message or "commercial" about our organization. It communicates who we are, what we do and how someone can benefit from joining the Order. It's typically about 20 to 30 seconds which is the time it takes people to ride from the top to the bottom of a building in an elevator.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is an organization that.....(this is where you fill in the remainder of this sentence). Next, share why you are a Hibernian and what it means to you. Is it because of your Irish pride? Is it for socializing and making new friends? Or is it for business networking that may lead to more customers for your business? Are you a Hibernian because you are "community minded" and enjoy local charitable work? Do you have strong political and cultural beliefs that motivate you to advocate for a Free and United Ireland?

The next opportunity is to determine what is important to your audience (on the elevator or otherwise) and try to approach them in an individualized way. Knowing what is important to one person or a group and trying to match their values with those of our Order is usually very effective. Do they like sports, Irish music or history, meeting new people or would they simply enjoy a night out once a month at a meeting with likeminded people?

We all have different elevator speeches and ways to share our experience as Hibernians and our pride as Catholic Irish Americans. I recommend spending time at your Division meeting to explore your elevator speeches to learn from others as well as prepare each other for promoting the Order in a personalized way.

Regardless of your AOH speech or pitch, we're all associated with people, near and far, who would enjoy hearing more about our Order. Finding the right "connection" between a person's interest and the Order will go a long way to sharing and growing Hibernianism.



## national chaplain's report By Archbishop Thomas John Rodi

One of the powerful lessons we learn from the example of St. Patrick is that of forgiveness. Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates, separated from family and homeland, and enslaved for six years. Finally escaping and returning home, his thoughts about his former captors were not for revenge but to return and preach the word of God to them. Most people having experienced what Patrick did would probably have harbored a deep resentment. Instead, Patrick devoted his life in service to the Irish. He forgave.

We who honor Patrick should follow his example. Allow me to offer some thoughts about forgiveness: First, we learn forgiveness by practicing it. The ability to pardon others is learned first in little things, then in greater. How do we practice forgiveness in our daily lives?

Second, forgiveness is not condoning the wrong. People sometimes confuse forgiveness with excusing the wrong. Forgiveness is saying: I do not condone what you have done, but I forgive you anyhow.

Third, forgiveness is an act of strength. Some consider forgiveness to be weakness. It is not. When we carry a grudge we give the wrongdoer power over us as we continue to recall and retell the wrong done to us. When we forgive we take back power over our lives.

Fourth, forgiveness is healthy. People who forgive have less emotional and physical problems.

Fifth, forgiveness does not take the pain away. We need to be honest with ourselves in admitting the pain we have suffered. Forgiveness brings us peace. Our faith cannot be based upon an emotion, but upon a decision to strive to be Christ-like. The hurts inflicted by others cannot overcome our pledge to follow Christ, who forgives us even when we don't deserve His mercy.



## Director's report by Bill Sullivan

New England has been experiencing record cold temperatures, with dangerous wind chill conditions, during the first part of 2018. We have all heard the statement: "You cannot keep a good Irishman down," and that is certainly true of the New England Irish. Despite these harsh weather conditions, Division Installations and other events in most cases went on as planned. Many AOH members are now looking forward to the hopefully warmer month of March, where a variety of cultural and social activities will take place honoring the patron saint of the Emerald Isle.

On December 1, Tom McGrath kicked off his eight-day run from Boston to New York City from the steps of Boston City Hall. Along the route events were held in Massachusetts and Connecticut to raise funds for the American Wheelchair Mission, I would like to thank Dick Thompson of Massachusetts and Frank Kearney of Connecticut for coordinating the fundraisers in their respective states. Tom finished his run in New York City on December 8 where a celebration was held at Saint Patrick's Old Cathedral. This 225-mile run provided funds to purchase nearly 100 wheelchairs. AOH Brothers Tom Beirne and James Hamilton of New York were instrumental in coordinating this event.

Over the last few months, several Hibernian leaders in New England suffered the loss of loved ones. Daniel F. Herlihy of Division 36 in Worcester, MA, died on January 14. Dan served as an AOH National Director and Massachusetts AOH State President in the late 1960's. Past Connecticut AOH State President Bob O'Sullivan lost his wife of 43 years, Regina, on November 30, and Mary F. Thompson, the Mother of Past AOH State President Richard Thompson, passed on January 27. My sincere sympathy to their families and to our Sister and Brother Hibernians on their loss.

Hibernian growth in the New England area is on the rise due to the hard work and diligence of our National Organizer Tim McSweeney. A new Division is in the works in the Montpelier and Burlington areas of Vermont, and at the same time a new Division in Roslindale, Massachusetts, is also in the planning stage due to the efforts of State Organizer Dick Wall. To help further growth in the Connecticut area, Tim McSweeney is planning to have an Organizational Seminar and Workshop in the spring in the Nutmeg State.

On January 27, Massachusetts AOH State President Paul Hogan was awarded the 2018 Citizenship Award by the Holyoke Saint Patrick Parade Committee. I had the honor to attend this event and relay our National President Jim McKay's congratulatory remarks to Paul and the 300 plus assembled. Brother Hogan is a 44-year member of Division 1 in Holyoke.

As we all know, most Divisions facilitate a host of events during March. Hopefully during this time frame all Divisions plan to recruit new members. If your Division does not have a publicity chairman, appoint one! Use whatever media that is available to you to get the word out about the AOH; and remember the best way to recruit a new member is by personal contact. Many of us have often heard when asked why someone never joined the AOH the response: "No one ever asked me." So simply put, ask someone you know to join! You and the AOH will profit from it.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: williamjsullivan@verizon.net Happy Saint Patrick's Day!



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Tom O'Donnell  
Project St. Patrick Chairman

Every Hibernian and every jurisdiction of the Order needs to be unwavering in our support for vocations, helping those who are called to serve our Church. Just as the Irish protected and defended priests during the horrific penal days in Ireland, so too should Irish-Americans who are proud of their Irish heritage and claim membership in the AOH or LAOH. We must show our support spiritually and financially to seminarians and religious who are in need.

As we get ready to start our 2018 PSP Easter Appeal, I once again call upon our members to continue their support of Project St. Patrick. A mailing will be sent soon regarding this program. It will include a form requesting your local Diocese information. This will help us continue our ability to reach out to your area and be in touch with our supporting Diocese. This also is a great tool in helping us distribute more information about our Order. Everyone is asked to fill this form out and return, even if you have done so in the past. There is nothing better than an updated current list. I ask that our State Presidents distribute this to their Counties and Divisions. Last year's Appeal was very successful and the National Board would like to thank all who helped in supporting Project St. Patrick.

Vocation Grants are awarded annually through an application and selection process. These grants help cover expenses of the men and women who are studying. Again, for each donation of \$500 (or more), we ask that you submit a name of a beloved chaplain, layperson or member, living or deceased, and a PSP Vocation Grant will be named and issued in his/her honor or memory. Any donation, large or small, goes a long way in helping us with this project. Project St. Patrick prayer cards are also a tremendous way to donate toward the program and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. If you require more information or are in need of cards please contact me.

Tom O'Donnell AOH PSP Chairman NLNOD@comcast.net – type PSP in the subject line.



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by John Wilson

When many of our immigrant Irish ancestors stepped off the boats, their only source of worth was a willingness to work. Archbishop Eamon Martin, the incumbent Archbishop of Armagh, is quoted as saying, "Let us think about Patrick, the 'unlearned refugee' (as he once described himself), the slave in exile, Patrick the undocumented migrant."

The plight of Patrick, himself a migrant, has been faced by many Irish people who have struggled to live and integrate into new cultures around the world. Patrick was called to serve and bring God to a people far from his homeland and became a pioneer in an inhospitable climate. People who have come to America want a place where they can feel safe and can begin the process of rebuilding their lives and their families' lives.

In January 2017, Helen Lafferty, of Seattle, originally from Co. Wicklow, was fed up with the growing disdain being shown to immigrants across the country, came up with the idea of "I am an Immigrant" buttons. The message on the buttons continues to change as many people want to show their support through a button, even though they themselves are not immigrants. The options now come in "I am an Immigrant," "I am the child of an Immigrant," "I am the grandchild of an Immigrant," "I am married to an Immigrant" and "I am the friend of an Immigrant," hopefully covering as many bases as possible for people to see the effects of immigration on the U.S. population.

In the scripture, Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 25, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you took me in." As we celebrate our heritage in March during Irish American Heritage Month let us not forget how our immigrant ancestors and the struggles they endured made America great.

I recently learned about The Gael Scoil, which is a two-day program that teaches children from 6-17 about Ireland. Classes are held on Irish history, language, music, Irish dance, Gaelic sports and even a class on how to make Irish soda bread to name just a few of the classes offered. It is sponsored by the AOH Division 10 founded in 2006 in Mercer County, NJ. Starting with just 17 students in 2008 it grew to over 80 by 2012. The brothers of Division 10 believe the number one thing for an Hibernian is to promote our culture.

Their goal in creating the Gael Scoil is to offer young people of all faiths and cultures an opportunity to learn about Ireland and its people. They have captured a unique balance of professional teaching talent and a curriculum that offers students a taste of Ireland's rich history and its wonderful culture in an environment focused on fun. To learn more about this program go to <http://www.gaelcoil.us/>.

This grass roots program is a great way to teach why we are proud of our rich Irish heritage. Happy Irish American Heritage Month!

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



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Dan Dennehy  
Immigration Chairman

### AOH National Irish Immigration Working Committee

I am delighted with the establishment of National AOH Immigration Working Committee to streamline communication across the U.S. on Irish immigration. National President Judge James McKay installed the National Working Committee at its inaugural teleconference including Past AOH National President Ned McGinley of Pennsylvania; Past National PEC Chair Jim Gallagher of New England; Past National Hibernian Digest Editor Keith Carney of Washington DC; South Carolina State President James Lawracy; Past Montana State President Joe Lee working with Past National Director Mike O'Connor, Past California State President Chuck Gildea, Bobby Mahoney, a member from the Alexandria, Virginia, and myself as National Immigration Committee Chair.

The committee is sharing regional and national experience, historical background and current events on legislation, political education, community support, leadership and connectivity like no other. The group has moved swiftly to better understand and encourage equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland by communicating our needs for fair American Immigration Policy.

As I write, Congress is attempting to reform immigration. Along with Immigration Chairs in every Division we are requesting that Congress include the Irish E3 visas and other much needed reforms. We have recognized a slight uptick in deportations of Irish undocumented recently and explored the matter with the Irish Embassy, Consulates, Irish and U.S. legislators and the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers. Late last year, AOH National Executive and Homeland Security leaders also discussed the issue.

We want to assure everyone that our Irish immigrant community is law-abiding and not specifically targeted. Those Irish who have been deported so far are out of status and possess a criminal arrest record. In 1836, Hibernians stood fast against defamation and discrimination of Irish Americans and Catholics from all walks of life. As Ireland faces the consequences of Brexit and as Congress restructures immigration laws, it is crucial that Ireland does not become a forgotten issue.

This committee works with those principles in mind, as we work to get more Irish people legal entry and a bright future here. Please have your Division, County and State Immigration Chairs contact me so that we may introduce you to this committee. As President McKay said, "We think this committee will prove to be a welcomed networking tool for our Order in assisting the Irish undocumented as well as a lobbying force on new proposed Immigration legislation."



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Dennis Parks

As we move into March and Irish American Heritage Month, all eyes turn toward the Irish and the AOH, which President McKay states is "the voice of the Irish in America." I'm sure this year as in years past will be no different in the defamation of our heritage. It is up to us, the members of the AOH who, at initiation, pledged to dispel any of these defamations. Brothers, stand tall at your parades and events. Let's continue to show our communities what good work the AOH is doing not only during March but, all year round.

Thanks to National Pro Life Chair and D.C. State Board President J.P. Walsh for another successful breakfast and program before the annual Right to Life March. The event was well attended and attests to the hard work J.P. is doing.

Thanks to the brothers from the Maryland AOH for their continuing support of Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery. Every December, the brothers help distribute wreaths to be placed on every grave at the cemetery. Every January, the wreaths are collected. I was honored to be able to participate in the collection of the wreaths this year along with several AOH brothers from different states. It is truly a testament to the well-deserved honor that we bestow upon our veterans. If your Division would like to participate in your area, there is a map of participating cemeteries at [www.wreathacrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathacrossamerica.org).

As always, please contact me with any questions at [dparks121@yahoo.com](mailto:dparks121@yahoo.com) and I wish all of you a Blessed and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

## Why I'm a Hibernian

I am Hibernian because I have found the AOH to be a welcoming, accepting, organization striving to preserve Irish Catholic culture and heritage in the ideals of unity, charity and friendship among its members.

It has been a fraternity where I can exercise a ministry of service by leading our meetings with prayer, offering reflections, and lending an ear to those in need. And, to remind us we are Catholic first, striving to be true to our three ideals of friendship, unity and Christian charity in all our deliberations, conversation, outreach and relationships in our Order.

*Deacon Robin Adair, Chaplain for Akron, Ohio's AOH Mark Heffernan Division*



## Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

One of the great misunderstandings as to heritage is to think of it as something we receive, a passive activity, rather than an obligation to preserve and pass on to those who come after us, a dynamic activity. The great Irish statesman Edmund Burke observed that "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors." To put it in a Hibernian context, if we don't take the time to develop the next generation of people who identify with pride as Irish Americans then our fate as an organization is open to question. Investment in our heritage should take equal place among all the other worthy causes; it is who we are, it is our reason for being. We should be promoting our heritage 12 months a year, but specifically in our month of March, Irish American Heritage Month, when the broader community turns itself to thinking about all things Irish, it is imperative and a duty to show that Irish Heritage runs deeper than face painted shamrocks.

To that end, we are now very hopeful that this Irish American Heritage Month will represent a breakthrough in broader recognition of the role that Irish men and women have played in shaping our nation. After being initiated by Brother Schell and with follow-up by the national board, the Library of Congress has informed us that for the first time they will be recognizing Irish American Heritage Month. This is a major step forward; with a respected national organization such as the Library of Congress recognizing Irish American Heritage Month it will be more difficult for other public and educational institutions to feign ignorance. We will pass on the details of the Library's offering as they become available; it is imperative that we all check out and engage with this offering to reinforce the interest in the story of Irish America and cement this recognition as an on-going and developing activity with the Library.

At the same time, we as Hibernians must also heed the dictum "Pray as if everything depended on God and act as if everything depended on you." In that spirit, the National AOH will be commemorating Irish American Heritage Month by profiling famous Irish Americans on the national website and the national Facebook page. We are also in the process of developing an Irish American Heritage Month video. We ask all members to "comment, like and share" these items on their personal Facebook pages and encourage your family and friends to do likewise.

Once again, we encourage our members to seek their state and local municipalities to proclaim March as Irish American Heritage Month. Irish American Heritage Month is a tremendous recruiting possibility. Consider having one of your officers or historians submit an article to your local media at the beginning of March highlighting Irish American Heritage Month and the role Irish Americans have played in your community and the role our divisions are playing today. Please make sure your websites are up to date and on the home page display "March is Irish American Heritage Month."

It is our heritage, March is our month. Let's not trivialize it with phrase like "Green Season"; we should be celebrating the lives and sacrifices of our forebears that made this nation possible, not a color. Other groups with justifiable pride promote their culture and their corresponding pride. Shouldn't we?



## anti Defamation

by Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

It is unfortunate that here in "diverse," "political correct" 21st Century America we as Irish Americans are still encountering the prejudicial stereotypes of the 19th. Those bigoted clichés were created as tools to marginalize the Irish, and sadly many use them for the same purpose today. Whenever the Order highlights an item of defamation, invariably some misguided individual will offer, "We shouldn't let this bother us, we are bigger than that". Here is the question: If insulting your heritage or faith was a good thing why do other groups not permit it? Why do we not see the flood of defaming material that Irish Americans are asked to accept as "good fun" targeting other ethnic groups and their days of celebration? As my grandmother used to say, "The worst form of poverty is an absence of self-respect."

As to what constitutes defamation as opposed to bad taste or kitsch, I put forward a basic test: what would the reaction be if you replace "Irish" with another group. Can we conceive another group tolerating something along the lines of "Irish Today; Hung Over Tomorrow" or "Everyone Loves a Drunk Irish Slut." Do people have free speech? Of course, and many an Irish American fought for that privilege. However, free speech cuts both ways and we can use our freedom of speech to express our outrage and hopefully educate to the point where such items are as unacceptable when they defame Irish Americans as they would be if targeting other groups. We are not seeking "special treatment," merely parity of respect for our heritage and culture. Frankly I question the motives of those who question or oppose this simple and just request.

We often talk about "Irish Pride" and it is one of the reasons we chose to be Hibernians. Let's remember our Oath to not countenance anything that debases or caricatures the Irish people. If you see something defaming, say something and make no apology for being proud of your heritage or for asking the simple courtesy of mutual respect. Let us also remember that besides being an honor, being a Hibernian comes with the responsibility to be ambassadors for our heritage and to represent it with the dignity it deserves and the respect our forebears have earned.



## Organizer

by Tim McSweeney

I am pleased to report that our Order is experiencing significant growth. Our marketing and promotion campaign is playing a major factor. Since October 2017, more than 400 applications and requests for information have been processed. Received applications are forwarded to the jurisdiction where the applicant resides. From there, the local division follows up and vets the applicant.

Our recent upgrades in technology are allowing new members to be delivered to the doorstep of our divisions. In places where we do not have an established division, I follow up with the applicant and persuade them to assist me in starting a Division. The use of this technique has resulted in organizing efforts in Olympia, Washington; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Laurel, Mississippi. It has also aided in helping re-organization efforts in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Burlington, Vermont. Cold calling established an Irish American organization in Phoenix, AZ, and Reno, NV, has resulted in efforts there. Phoenix and Albuquerque (which will both be re-chartered before St. Patrick's Day) efforts are being aided by current members residing in those areas. The establishment of Facebook pages to recruit in all areas mentioned above has been a huge success. If anyone knows of any potential member in these areas please contact me at newjack12007@yahoo.com

On February 22, we welcomed our newest Division, located in the Breezy Point section of Queens, NY. The Division is named The Lt. Kevin Dowdell Division 4 in Queens County. Kevin Dowdell was an FDNY Firefighter assigned to Rescue Company 4, who tragically perished in the World Trade Attack on September 11, 2001. Kevin's sons, Patrick and James, are charter members of the Division. Thanks to NYS AOH Secretary John Manning for his hard work in helping establish this Division.

With the St. Patrick's Day Season upon us, remember that recruiting is the responsibility of every member. With all the parades, dinners, ceremonies and parties we will attend, make an effort to recruit one new member. It's not hard; just tell them why you are a Hibernian and why they should be, too.

An idea for State Boards shared by Missouri State President: Establish a traveling trophy awarded annually to the Division who recruits the most members. This helps provide incentive to divisions to recruit.

Lastly, I'd like to welcome Keith Reynolds as Deputy National Organizer. Keith is a past NYS Organizer and a welcome addition to the Organizer's Office.



## Rituals & Degrees

by JJ Kelly  
Chairman

As is stated on our National web site, the main purposes of our degree programs are: "Waken a pride in the ancient race of our forefathers and develop an interest in the history and destiny of that race." Let me say that at this time, there are a lot of exciting things going on in regard to our Rituals and Degrees programs. One of the most exciting is that we now have a brand new, fully certified Major Degree Team in Florida! Congratulations to Greg Seán Canning, Jim Cahill and all the men involved with the Innisfail Major Degree Team. Well done.

So with this issue I will return to the description of the name of this new MDT. We have all heard this name being used, and know it refers in some way to Ireland. But do we really know the history of the name? Probably not, because as with so much of our Irish history, it is hard to separate fact from myth sometimes. So let's go with what I have discovered – much of it due to research by Greg Seán Canning, some by me, and some just by talking with our National Historian, Mike McCormack.

Ireland has been known by many different names throughout the ages. The Firbolg, one of the earlier inhabitants of the island, referred to Ireland as Inis Ealga or the Noble Island. Later, when these people were conquered by the invading forces of the Tuatha deDanann, the island was renamed Innisfail (pronounced Inish Fawl), meaning "Island of Destiny." In this respect, Lia Fáil, the Stone of Destiny, came to mean Stone of Ireland. Brought to Ireland by the Tuatha deDanann, this stone on the Hill of Tara was used to crown their kings as rulers of Ireland. Here some of the myth creeps in. The stone also was thought to be a "Talking Stone" and hence named Ireland Innisfail.

As you can see, Inis does in fact mean Island. Fai in Irish seems to have many meanings, including hedge, enclosure, king, ruler and welcomes. So some will tell you that Innisfail does in fact mean Island of Welcomes.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the name Innisfail / Innisfail was used in Irish romantic and nationalist poetry as a synonym for Ireland's poetic name Erin. Thus, the name Innisfail came to represent one of the few poetic names for Ireland.

Where is fact and where is myth? I leave it to you. It is my hope that this little glimpse into our past will encourage you to get your Major Degrees, or if you already have the Major Degrees but it has been some time ago, that you will go back as an observer, and re-learn those lessons all over again.

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



## pro-life

by John Patrick Walsh  
Chairman

A special note of gratitude to all brothers and sisters who participated in the March for Life in January. Thanks to dedicated Hibernians around the country we had record attendance at our annual breakfast and later at the march. Attendees were treated to a truly inspiring talk by Patrick Kilner, a local father who spoke of his son, John Paul, and the intrinsic value of his short 14-month life. John Paul was born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, SMA, the leading genetic cause of death in children under 2.

Hearing Patrick speak with such passion about the sacrifice, faith and love that permeated John Paul's story made me reflect on the theme of this year's march, Love Saves Lives. While the SMA diagnosis was terminal, it was love for their son that saved his life with each trach change, NICU visit and surgery. The Kilners could have given in to worldly pressure at any time; but it was their love that granted them the ability to see the intrinsic value of John Paul and allowed them to offer up their fears and sacrifices as a gift to God.

This type of compassionate love is sorely needed today. Take for example the headline of an article I read a few months back, Iceland Close To Eradicating Down Syndrome; one could be forgiven for applauding such news, hoping that a cure was found by the international scientific community. However, a quick perusal of the article dashes those hopes when the reader finds that the small country has achieved these results (mirrored in Denmark, France and across Europe) through genetic testing and the abortion of any affected fetus. Termination rates in excess of 98 percent have made de facto the near eradication of Down syndrome in these countries, but at the price of human conscience. Worse yet is the moral ambiguity that many healthcare professionals in these countries use to justify, or explain away, the ethical dilemma posed by this modern practice of eugenics.

By taking a stand each January, we refuse to stay silent and complicit in the destruction of fellow human beings whose souls are no less valuable than yours or mine. Each of these potential lives thrown away because they do not exceed our modern cost/benefit ratio as it relates to productivity or convenience. Only through examples of selfless, compassionate love can we overcome the widespread cynicism and utilitarianism that fuels modern eugenics.

Brothers and sisters, look to your own families for these examples. Find them in the love a parent has for a child, the care a grown child provides for an elderly parent, and the daily sacrifices those actions require. Once found, use them as the Kilners did to view and protect the divine spark within us all.



## freedom for all ireland

by Paul Gowdy  
Chairman

### Northern Ireland Political News

A recent report about the Irish flag being banned from the Strabane St Patrick's Day parade was incorrect. The flag will be included in their St Patrick's Day parade, despite a previous statement by organizers saying flags and emblems were banned. The Derry City and Strabane District Council said the original statement was meant to promote "inclusion and integration" in the community. However, the council clarified that there is no ban in place.

Four Westminster MPs have called for new legislation to prevent anyone accused of crimes linked to the Troubles in Northern Ireland from being prosecuted. Their proposal would provide an effective amnesty to both members of the security forces and paramilitaries. The campaign is led by two Conservative MPs and two Labour MPs. Last month, NI politicians expressed concern over a government proposal for a statute of limitations on Troubles-related cases. So far, no soldier has been convicted in such circumstances; however, there is still debate about the extent to which early release might or might not apply to soldiers. The letter from the four MP's to Prime Minister Theresa May said expert evidence to the British defence committee indicated a statute of limitation that only covered security force members would "fall foul" of international law. Sinn Fein accused the government of acting in bad faith by suggesting an amnesty for former soldiers.

### New FFAI Appointee

I recently recommended Martin Galvin, the New York State FFAI Chairman, to be appointed to the extended FFAI team. National President James McKay approved the choice. I notified Martin and welcomed him on board. As we move into a new year and after the AOH boards complete their officer elections, we will continue to pursue a slate of members who we feel have the credentials to contribute to improve Irish political news sharing and hopefully increasing AOH membership.

### 2017-2018 Annual FFAI Christmas Appeal

The AOH board's contributions are coming along slowly. My thanks to all those boards and members who have come through with their donations. Traditionally, the bulk of donations usually come from December through March. We brought the FFAI Christmas Appeal completion date forward to the end of February, to help Project St. Patrick with their Easter Appeal project. I am reaching out to those boards and members yet to send an FFAI donation, to try to get their donations in as soon as possible this month.

I have received donation requests from all the usual organizations in Ireland. I have had two new requests for donations. All the donation requests will be reviewed accordingly for validity for an FFAI donation.

Go raibh maith agat

### Project St. Patrick Vocation Scholarship Program

## 2018 Easter Appeal

The founding fathers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians risked their lives to support and protect our clergy.

Today the AOH supports our clergy with vocation scholarships.  
Your Project St. Patrick donation honors the efforts of our founders.

Recognition and Memorial Scholarships of \$500 or more are available!

2018 Easter Appeal Packages have been sent to all Presidents and are available at: [WWW.AOH.COM/PSP](http://WWW.AOH.COM/PSP)

## Label Program, A Hibernian Charity Success!

A special thank you goes out to the 5 percent of our membership who have already participated in the current Label Program. As of the Digest deadline, the average donation is \$25.13. Thank you to all who gave.

Currently the program is at a 43 percent profit and each new donation will help us move toward our 60 percent profit goal. Your donation may be the one that takes us over the top. Please take a moment today to make your Label donation if you haven't already. Make checks payable to the AOH and send to: Danny O'Connell, AOH National Vice President, 340 E Kline St., Girard, Ohio 44420.

Remember, all profits from the label program go directly to Hibernian Charity in support of key AOH charities including: Hibernian Disaster Relief, National History Day, the Irish Way Scholarship Program, and Project St. Patrick, to name a few. This is a great opportunity for each Hibernian to make a personal impact on the AOH Charity Success Story.



## 'Why I'm a Hibernian' Help us recruit new members



Why are you a Hibernian? What are the benefits of being a Hibernian? What's your favorite thing about the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and what's the best activity your division does and the Order does?

As part of our new Marketing, Promotion and Advertising Committee, we are gathering content to help attract and recruit new Irish Catholics to join our Order. We'd like you to join in that effort by thinking about these questions and send your responses in writing to the National Board.

**So we'd like you, in less than 100 words, respond to the statement: "Why**

**I'm a Hibernian," and send it to committee member John O'Connell at his Digest editor email: [EditorHibernianDigest@yahoo.com](mailto:EditorHibernianDigest@yahoo.com).**

We intend to use the best responses in various social media campaigns, on our national and state websites, and in other media.

We're also planning to encourage Hibernians to make brief, informal videos that will enable brothers to tell potential membership candidates "in person" why they are Hibernians and why other Irish-American Catholics should join, and how.



# veterans affairs

by Jim Green, Chairman

I wish you and your families a very happy, safe and blessed upcoming St. Patrick's Day season! We also are now in the midst of our Lenten journeys and we look forward with great anticipation to the holy Easter season and the coming of spring.

In that spirit of optimism, I want to share with you how truly proud and honored I have been to see, first hand, the great success of the Hibernian Veterans Pin program! National Secretary Cole reports that over 3,000 veterans pins have been purchased so far, and we receive more orders every day. I have personally presented pins to the veterans of my home Division One in Pittsburgh in early January, and to a WWII veteran – Nick Murphy (age 92) of Division 17, Monroeville, PA – at the recent Allegheny County Board meeting. Division President Bill O'Neill made the arrangements and assisted me with the presentation. I've also been invited to present Division 32 (Carnegie, PA) veterans their pins at their upcoming Communion Breakfast. I am sharing these stories with you with the hope that you will feel as enthusiastic and proud as I have when presenting the pins, and that more Divisions will order pins for their veterans and make similar presentations. For many veterans, having a public recognition of their service, and showing the gratitude of a grateful nation, has never happened for them. That's why this just feels right to do it now, as Hibernians, amongst our own ranks.

The pride, of course, is not just in presenting the pins – it's very much in receiving them. I recommend that each vet be presented with his pin with a handshake and a genuine "thank you for your service." You'll be glad and proud that you did. The AOH website has the updated order form for veterans pins, but bear in mind that the offer for free shipping expired at the end of December. Shipping costs are minimal, however.

Finally, now that your Financial Secretaries have, hopefully, updated and returned the Division rosters – indicating who your veterans are – the National Office membership database is accumulating veterans contact information, which is a requirement of our AOH National Constitution. As that data matures over the next few months, I will be able to retrieve veterans contact data and be able to begin to communicate more directly with veterans and Veterans Affairs Chairmen across the country. I am optimistic that improving direct communication will allow me to share much more with you in terms of veterans benefits and opportunities. Please note that outside of when the annual roster reviews take place, AOH Form 40 must be used to update the veteran's indicator in our database for new or existing members. All forms have been updated on the AOH.com website.

In closing, I recently found out that Lowe's home improvement stores will provide a 10 percent discount on all purchases by veterans if you identify yourself at their service desks and they update their records. After my record was updated, I immediately received the discount on my purchase that day and the cashier actually thanked me for my service as I paid for my merchandise. It felt great and I got a nice discount as well! Until next time, God bless all you do for the Order and for our veterans.

## Veterans' pins presentation

At the Allegheny County/Pittsburgh AOH Division 1 meeting that took place on Thursday, January 11, AOH National Veterans Affairs Chairman Jim Green presented 13 Veteran Hibernians with their new Veterans Pins. Each brother was presented their pin individually and were each thanked for their service to our country. All of the brothers were very grateful for the pin and for the acknowledgement. I was deeply moved and proud to present them to the Hibernian Veterans of my home Division. — Jim Green, AOH National Veterans Affairs Chairman



At the Division 1 meeting were, from left, sitting, Bill McKee, Dave Ely Sr. and Bob Cunningham; Standing front row: Jack Allen, Tom Long, Rich O'Malley, Jim Green, Glen Connor and Jim Hartigan; Standing back row: Dan O'Toole, Ollie Jedlick, Jim Mooney, Jim Robinson and Jim Caldwell.

## WWII vet awarded AOH pin

On Saturday, January 20, at the AOH Allegheny County (PA) Board meeting, brother Nick Murphy of Division 17 Monroeville, a WWII veteran, received his AOH Hibernian Veterans commemorative pin. Brothers from across the county were present for the annual swearing in of Division Officers and for the presentation of the pin to Nick.

Pictured left to right: Jim Green (AOH National Veterans Affairs Chairman), Nick Murphy (AOH Division 17 member), Bill O'Neill (AOH Division 17 President).



Jim Green (AOH National Veterans Affairs Chairman), Nick Murphy (AOH Division 17 member) and Bill O'Neill (AOH Division 17 President) at the presentation of the Hibernian Veteran Pin to Brother Murphy.

## AOH Notre Dame Veterans Receive Veterans Pins

Veterans of the Notre Dame Division one, Montgomery County, Pa., who attended the January General Meeting were called to the front of the membership. The Honorable Patrick Dugan, an Iraq Veteran, issued the new AOH Veterans pins to the Veterans. Top row, from left, Grant Cantrell, Larry Daly, Tom Nolan, Charles Fennell, Chuck Cannon, Mike Lee and Honorable Patrick Dugan; bottom row: Clarke Glennon, Howard Williams, Ed Wallace, John Edwards and Carl Fox.



## Why I'm a Hibernian

As a young person I never really gave my Irish heritage much thought. As I got older and started having a family I noticed how other communities stuck together: Italian, Asian, Jewish, etc. So many other communities seemed to support each other, buy from each other and share their heritage. I wanted that, too. I saw a piece on Out of Ireland TV show about the AOH. I contacted the NJ State board and learned there were no divisions in my county, NJ's largest by land. Then President Bill Young said why not start a division of my own. With help from him, other Hibernian Brothers, God, and all the saints, especially St. Patrick, the division was finally formed in 2003. Today there are two divisions in Burlington County, NJ, and an awesome St. Patrick's Day Parade in the county seat, Mount Holly. I'm a Hibernian because my Irish heritage matters to me. If it matters to you, join!

Hugh Connelly



**CONGRESSMAN**  
continued from page 1

diplomacy and a light of hope to other nations engaged in ethnic conflict. Yet two decades on, there has been no progress on a Bill of Rights for the people of Northern Ireland, no progress on an Irish Language act despite being committed to in a signed agreement and continued obstruction in dealing with the legacy of "the Troubles" with justice. Compound this with the fact that the devolved government of the North and the disproportionate impact that the British decision to pursue Brexit will have on the people of Ireland and it is not hyperbole to state that the future of the GFA and the gains over the past 20 years are in jeopardy.

As Hibernians, we are committed to seeking that the full potential of the GFA to ensure a permanent and lasting peace based on parity of esteem is achieved and a legitimate means provided to fulfill the aspirations for a United Ireland. As Americans we are dedicated to seeing that the U.S. legacy of leadership in the cause of peace is not destroyed. We will be keeping you informed and hope to count on your support in this effort.

I would be remiss if I did not also note and commend the many Hibernians who respectfully and responsibly exercised their rights of freedom of speech and assembly in participating in the 2018 March for Life. I commend all those who participated in making their voices heard to our elected representatives.

In 2018, 33 Senate seats and all 435 House seats are up for election on November 6, 2018. Stating the obvious, it is already shaping up as one of the most competitive elections in recent memory. It is reasonable to believe that this year politicians of all parties will be hunting every vote, which means they will be listening. This year should be a call for action to all Hibernians and Irish Americans to bring forth our causes of concern. While as an Order we cannot endorse or politic for candidates, we can ask candidates seeking our vote their positions on issues of concern to us and make clear their answers will



**The National Board with Pennsylvania Congressman Brendan Boyle. From left, Sean Pender, James McKay, Congressman Boyle, Jere Cole, Dan O'Connell and Neil Cosgrove.**

influence our decision when we enter the voting booth.

There are many pundits and politicians who doubt that Irish America exists, and to be frank this is based on them not hearing from us enough. Let's make a commitment in 2018 to disabuse them of this notion and remind them we are here, and our causes of concern should equally warrant their attention as with other groups. The preamble to our Constitution calls us to civic participation and to exercise our right to express our beliefs to our government through our vote. Remember, this St. Patrick's Day many Irish Americans will be wearing the green on their graves in defense of that right.

## The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the *Irish Echo*

By Ray O'Hanlon

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, give or take a year, has been around twice as long as the *Irish Echo*.

With a bit of luck, and not a little aid and encouragement from Hibernians, the *Echo* will someday reach the age that the AOH can boast of in this Year of Our Lord, 2018. That would be a remarkable 182.

It would be a brave man or woman who would try to predict how folks will be getting their news almost a century from now. And, hopefully, Hibernians will be reading a paper that still has to choose from an abundance of stories for every issue, though not a story based on the reason for the paper's founding way back in 1928: the partition of the island of Ireland.

Yes, at this imagined point in the future, Ireland is again a single island nation, though also a very different kind of country than the version we know just shy of a couple of decades into the 21st century.

The Hibernians came into being because of immigrants, specifically Irish Catholic immigrants and the threats and dangers they faced back in the 1830s.

The *Echo* came into being as a result of a decision made by an Irish immigrant, and the idea that the many other Irish who were still landing on America's shores at the end of the 1920s required a newspaper that informed them, and also spoke for them, especially on the still hot-off-the-presses story of Ireland's partition. That partition would infiltrate the body politic of Irish America and reach to its very core.

The Hibernians, a Catholic organization before all else, would be pulled into the arena where partition was debated and argued over, not least because it had created a jurisdiction where Catholics were treated like second-class citizens; sometimes as if they were not citizens at all.

The *Echo's* founding publisher, Charles F. Connolly, attracted to himself the sobriquet "smash the border." And there were many in Irish America who were all for a bit of smashing though, as was the case, it was more often than not hard to find a physical border to smash. A reminder, for sure, that the greatest barriers can be those that are unseen, untouchable.

As the 20th century advanced, and as, for most of it, Ireland did not, the westward flow of immigrants across the Atlantic ebbed and flowed, though after passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, it was more former than latter.



When that landmark legislation kicked into full gear in 1968 the ebbing began in earnest.

This was a challenge for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and for sure a challenge for a weekly newspaper that drew heavily on the latest arrivals from Ireland for its readership.

All the while though, Irish America was growing and maturing, becoming broader, deeper, more established in the national fabric.

And so, while immigration from Ireland was tapering away, or being blocked outright, the AOH and *Echo* would adopt and adapt, undergoing the subtle shift from being a little less American Irish to being a little more Irish American.

Not in any official way of course.

Either way, the success and survival of both would depend heavily on being able to reach and appeal to generations once, twice, three times or more removed from those family members who had stepped ashore in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Savannah or New Orleans.

Both have been successful in this, to a degree.

Sure, the Hibernians would like more members, and, sure, the *Echo* would like more readers. But in an increasingly transient and throwaway world the continued existence of Order and paper is a sign of a particular resilience, the kind that the Irish have carried with them to the four corners of the earth.

The *Echo*, being a publishing business, has been buffeted by many industry changes, most especially in the last 30 years or so. That's the amount of time that I have been with the paper. It's been a long run, and it has passed in the blink of an eye.

When people ask me, as they frequently do, how the *Echo* is doing, I usually smile, shrug, and respond: "Well, we're still here."

The same answer could be given for the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

But is it good enough? Frankly, no.

Both the AOH and the *Echo* need to be more than just here. Which means those more members and those more readers.

There are ways of going about achieving this, and one of them is a more active and politically charged AOH working toward desired goals in areas where members of different political leanings find common ground.

More legal immigrants from Ireland is one area. Another is relief for the undocumented Irish, especially those who have been living in the shadows for not just years, but decades.

And there's progress toward a better Northern Ireland for all, and, ultimately, playing a leading role fulfilling

Irish America's desire for eventual reunification.

In addition to these, there are any number of religious, cultural and social areas beyond defined political boundaries that call for Hibernian attention and involvement.

The *Echo's* task is to ride and survive the waves of change that have engulfed its industry. There are far fewer people working for the paper today than 30 years ago. At the same time, the advances in technology have filled the gaps in the human ranks.

And if the AOH is a national organization, so the *Echo* is a national weekly newspaper, available everywhere in digital form but also, interestingly, and against the grain of things, still being read in print in every state of the union.

The *Echo* has its positions and points of view, but its favorite word when it comes to front line issues is "bipartisan." The paper is a registered Independent and values its independence from any and all political parties in the U.S. and Ireland. At the same time it is an open door to sane, sensible opinion from all parties, organizations and individuals.

Most Hibernians recognize this I believe. That's those Hibernians who regularly read the *Echo*, in print or online. Which is to say that not all AOH members do read "smash the border's" 90-year-old creation.

It's a relatively small economic decision, to read or not to read, to subscribe or not to subscribe.

But it's a very big deal for a small paper battling to survive in a world of media monsters.

But so long as sufficient Hibernians, women and men, take note of the *Echo's* existence, and respond accordingly, the paper's future should be assured.

The future beckons.

*Ray O'Hanlon is Editor of the Irish Echo*





## Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack  
Historian

Hibernians around the country are making reservations to attend the 2018 National Convention in Louisville, KY, which is a most historic destination for us. Students around the country are also preparing their entries for National History Day. I am reminded of an event that, for me, provides a link between the two. Back in 1998, I judged an entry entitled 'Bloody Monday' at the NHD finals, which I assumed would be about either the 1920 British murder of civilians at Croke Park or the Derry tragedy in 1972. I was stunned to learn that it was about neither, but a tragedy in Louisville in 1855! In a remarkable example of youth teaching age, I watched as a handful of Louisville Middle School students re-enacted an event from their city's history in a performance they themselves had written. After awarding them a prize for excellence, I dug into the hidden history of an incident I knew nothing about. What I found was astounding.

On Election Day in August 1855, the Catholics of Louisville were attacked by Know-Nothing members of the nativist American Party who proclaimed that newly arriving Catholic immigrants (Irish and German) would undermine their American way of life threatening Protestantism and democracy. I knew that similar outrages were executed in other parts of the country but not Louisville. I found that nativists, inflamed by the editorials of George Prentice, editor of the Louisville Daily Journal, blocked Catholics from the polls. Prentice had denounced Irish Catholics as the most pestilent influence of the foreign swarms loyal to a Pope he called, *an inflated Italian despot who keeps people kissing his toes all day*.

In further research I learned that the nativists, not satisfied with blocking the polls, moved through the main streets of town, attacking and slaughtering immigrant Catholics with ropes, guns, clubs and pitchforks. Catholic Bishop Martin Spalding later described it as a daylong 'reign of terror.' At least 22 were killed in the riots that followed in an attack on the Irish section of Louisville. At a row of frame houses owned by Irishman Patrick Quinn, the street was barricaded and the buildings set alight. Several tenants were shot trying to escape the flames, including Mr. Quinn, who was subsequently thrown back into the fire. One elderly longtime citizen whose murdered body was also thrown into the flames of his burning home was lamented by the Daily Democrat newspaper, acknowledging that his only crime was that he was an Irishman and a Catholic.

Bishop Spalding and Protestant leaders immediately called for calm rather than revenge and established a more tolerant environment. Roy Fuller, who lectured on religion at the University of Louisville, noted that students today can scarcely believe the stories of Bloody Monday and similar anti-Catholic attacks of that era. We have grown up in an America where Catholics have been very visible and significant in terms of numbers, he said, *it's hard to imagine there would be attacks like this directed against Catholics. Students are also baffled by the propaganda of the day, which demonized Catholics as members of a sexually perverse, treasonous conspiracy that was secretly trying to turn America over to the Pope*. He added, *they're even more surprised that people would believe such things*.

Today, Catholics are a quarter of the population and Louisville is welcoming and open to people from all nations, according to Rev. Bill Hammer, head of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations for the Archdiocese of Louisville. In contrast to times past, he reported, there is such a wonderful ecumenical environment. In 1995, then-AOH president Paul Whitty organized the erection of a Bloody Monday historic marker at 1011 West Main Street – the site of Pat Quinn's row of houses – and the Father Abram Ryan Division of the AOH dedicated a page of their website ([louisvilleirish.com/bloody-monday-memorial/](http://louisvilleirish.com/bloody-monday-memorial/)) to a detailed description of what was yet another Bloody Sunday in the history of the Irish. We will write of the remarkable Father Abram Ryan next time and we look forward to greeting our brothers in Louisville in July – some of whom are doubtless descended from Bloody Sunday survivors who bravely kept the faith!

## Saints Preserve Us

(or vice versa)

by Mike McCormack, AOH Historian

May the saints preserve us is an old Irish saying, but it is conversely true that Ireland preserves the remains of many saints. In the months of February and March we celebrate the memory of three of the most popular saints in the entire Christian tradition, all of whom sleep in Ireland.

The first is the only Irish-born of the three. Saint Brigid, whom we remember on February 1, was born of a slave girl and raised by a Druidess. How she became a Christian is unknown, but she formed Ireland's first religious community for women and transformed the pagan sanctuary of Kil Dara into a Christian Shrine, which gave its name to the present Co. Kildare. She lit a flame there dedicated to Christ, which was maintained by her nuns until it was doused by the forces of Henry VIII. Her wisdom and generosity drew people from all over to seek her counsel and knowledge. Her Kildare monastery became one of the great centers of learning in Europe. She continued her charitable work until her death in 525 AD when she was laid to rest in a jeweled casket. Her remains were moved in 835 to protect it from Norse invaders and interred alongside the bodies of Saints Patrick and Columcille at Downpatrick. So strong was the reverence for this holy lady that she became the patroness of parishes, towns and counties all across Europe. During the age of chivalry, she was so revered as a model for women that gentlemen, knights and nobles began the custom of calling the girls they married their Brides – a custom that has come down to this very day.

The second popular saint is the renowned St. Valentine, whose feast we celebrate on February 14. He is honored worldwide by lovers who send messages of affection to their sweethearts on his feast. How did St. Valentine arrive in Ireland? In the early 1800s, during construction of a church in the cemetery of St. Hippolytus on the Tiburtine Way in Rome, the remains of St. Valentine, a third century martyr, were unearthed. Shortly thereafter, in 1835, Irish Carmelite Father John Spratt visited Rome. Well known for his work among the poor and destitute in Dublin's Liberties, he had built a new church to Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Whitefriar Street. While in Rome he received many tokens of esteem for his holy works and one such token came from Pope Gregory XVI: the remains of Saint Valentine. On November 10, 1836, a small golden casket containing the remains arrived in Dublin and was brought in solemn procession to Whitefriar Street Church where they were received by Dublin Archbishop Murray. Housed in a shrine in the side altar, a statue was carved depicting the saint in the red vestments of a martyr. Today, the Shrine is visited by engaged couples who pray to Valentine to watch over their coming lives together and on February 14 a Eucharistic celebration includes a Blessing of Rings ceremony for those about to be married. On that day, the golden casket is removed from the side-altar and placed before the high altar and venerated at the Masses.

The third of Christianity's most popular saints who sleeps in Erin is also not a native of Ireland, but dare anyone say he was anything but Irish, and that is our own beloved Saint Patrick, whose feast on March 17 closes out the saintly first quarter of the year. Born Maewyn Succat somewhere in Wales, he was in fact a Celt and was responsible for establishing the Christian church in Ireland and inspiring its missionary activity that brought Europe out of the dark ages and changed the face of the world. Today, there are celebrations of Ireland's heritage, history and traditions associated with St. Patrick's feast day in every country in the world where the Irish diaspora have settled – and that is everywhere! And Ireland remains the Isle of Saints and Scholars.



## The Escape of the Catalpa Six

By Seamus Boyle, PNP

Still considered the most daring escape ever undertaken is the rescue of six Irish Fenians from Fremantle's Convict Establishment in Western Australia. Of the 62 prisoners at the time, 17 were military personnel charged with recruiting Fenians from within the ranks of the British army and who were already trained in warfare. Many of them had been sentenced to death but had their sentences commuted to penal servitude for life. The six who escaped were known as the Catalpa Six and they never returned to Ireland. They were:

Robert Cranston, of Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone, died and is buried in Philadelphia at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery 4268 Richmond St., (No headstone yet).

Thomas Darragh, of Co. Wicklow, died and is buried in Greenmount Cemetery 4301 N. Front St., Philadelphia 1834-1912 (No headstone yet)

Michael Harrington, of Macroom, Co. Cork, died and is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, NY

Thomas Hassett, of Doneraile, Co. Cork, died and is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, NY.

Martin Hogan, of Co. Limerick, died and is buried in Chicago. A headstone was erected on his grave in 2014 by

the Irish-American community of Chicago..

James Wilson, of Newry, Co. Down, died in Pawtucket, RI, in 1921 at age 85. A headstone was erected on his grave by the Irish-Americans community of Rhode Island.

The story began when John Boyle O'Reilly escaped from this hell hole in 1869 and settled in Boston where he was shortly joined by another former prisoner, John Devoy. O'Reilly received a letter from James Wilson, smuggled out of Fremantle, pleading for help to escape. Devoy took the letter to a meeting of Clan Na Gael in New York where it was read aloud; it ended with the words: "We think if you forsake us we are friendless indeed, this is a voice from the tomb, for is this not a living tomb and we are facing the death of a felon in a British Dungeon." After the letter was read, Devoy exclaimed: "These men are our brothers!" and a rescue was planned.

Money was raised through The Clan and Irish American supporters and in 1875 a three-masted whaling bark was purchased for \$5,500. Captained by George Smith Anthony, an American sympathizer to the Irish cause, it set sail from New Bedford, Massachusetts, on April 29, 1875. After many delays, she anchored in Western Australia on March 29, 1876. The escape itself took place

on Easter Monday morning April 16, 1876. Catalpa anchored in International waters a few hours from Rockingham pier where the six escapees boarded a small boat and began rowing to Catalpa. The alarm was raised by a local who notified the British and a pursuit ensued. After a tense night during which the men lay undetected, they reached Catalpa the next morning. As the men scrambled aboard, Catalpa was overtaken by the British gunboat, Georgette, with a 12-pound cannon and armed militia. When Captain Anthony refused the order to let the British board the ship, a shot was fired across her bow and the British again demanded to board. Captain Anthony raised the American Flag and told the British commander: "This ship is sailing under the American Flag and she is on the high seas, if you fire on me, I warn you, that you are firing on the American Flag." The British retreated and Catalpa arrived home four months later to much fanfare and jubilation and the news of this daring rescue was spread worldwide.

After an intensive search, the chairman of the Fenian Memorial Committee, George McLaughlin from Rhode

continued on page 11

## Michael (Jerry) Ducey

The officers and brothers of the Richmond County (NY) Board are saddened to report the passing of Bro. Michael (Jerry) Ducey.

He was a Life Member of the John F. Kennedy Division No. 1, and was honored to serve as grand marshal for the Staten Island St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2009, in recognition of the tremendous time and effort he contributed to Hibernianism. He served as an officer of both the John F. Kennedy Division No. 1 and the Richmond County Board, and held a variety of positions. He also served as a member of the Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

The New York State Board, Bro. Martin Crimmins, District 5 Director, the Richmond County Board, the Cu Chulainn Celtic Warrior Degree Team, and the three Divisions of Staten Island were represented at the wake held on Friday, January 19, with Past National Director and Past NY State President Charles "Chip" McLean leading the over 25 brothers attending in performing the Hibernian Wake Ritual. Pursuant to the ritual, all Brothers present expressed their condolences personally to the family of our beloved departed brother.

Bro. Ducey was a dedicated family man and committed to community. A lifelong Staten Islander, Bro. Ducey, 85, passed away on January 16, 2018.

He was married to his best friend for 63 years, Cecille (nee deLaet). He was the father to three adoring daughters: Michele Sherry DeMizio, Kristine Ducey, and Diane Ducey Murphy, and dedicated sons-in-law: Joseph DeMizio and William Murphy. He was a devoted grandfather to Milena and Mitchell, Sherry, and Jacqueline Picozzi.

Bro Ducey served our nation as a lance corporal in the Marine Corps during the Korean War and was a loyal member of the Marine Corps League, volunteering much of his time to their charities and events.

Bro. Ducey retired after 40 years of service to Con Edision as an electrical specialist, was a lifelong NY Giants fan, and had been a high school football referee for many years. He was an avid history buff, country music fan, amateur chef, and fiercely proud of his Irish heritage and his family roots in Newfoundland, Canada.

## John Patrick Reilly

Reilly, John Patrick: formerly of Mystic, CT, passed away on January 30, 2018. John was born on May 24, 1927 in Holyoke, MA, to Anthony and Bridget (Meenaghan) Reilly who returned to Belmullet, Co. Mayo with their young family when he was five years old.

John left home to work in England and later returned to the U.S. settling in New York City where he entered the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. John married Margaret (Quirke) at St. Agnes Church in Manhattan soon after his discharge. They settled in the Bronx where they raised their family in Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Parish for over 20 years before moving to CT. He attended St. Edward the Confessor Church in New Fairfield and retired to Mystic, CT and attended St. Patrick's Church. John was proprietor of Reilly's Bar and Grill in the Bronx and retired from Ethan Allen in Danbury, CT.

John was proud of his heritage and a supporter of Irish sport, especially Mayo Football. A devoted member of the AOH, he was also a member of the Eastside Irish American Club, the St. Lawrence Fishing Club, the Knights of Columbus and Korean War Veterans. He also served as Past President of the Mayo Men's Patriotic Benevolent Association of NYC as well as the AOH Danbury Division.

Beloved husband for 59 years of the late Margaret 'Peggy' (Quirke) Reilly, who passed away in June, 2014, he is survived by their five children and families, John and Ellen (Monroe, CT), Brian and Susan (Conway, SC), Kathleen and Todd Cormier (Westport, MA), Margaret and Frank Thompson (Ledyard, CT), and Patrick and Susan (Guilford, CT). He was a loving grandfather to Colleen, Sarah, Brian, Sean, Brendan, Bridget, Connor, Erik, Caroline, Grace, Emily, William, Dena, Keri, and Jodi. He is also survived by several brothers and sisters; Eileen Mescall (Yonkers, NY), Anthony and Bernadette Reilly (Bronx, NY), Shirley Murphy (Bedford, NY), Thomas and Kathleen Reilly (Cairo, NY), Margaret Gehab (Long Island, NY). He was pre-deceased by his brother Pdraig Reilly, his sister Marie Pacher, as well as his brother in laws Fred Pacher, Henry Gehab and Michael John Murphy and John Mescall. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 5, 2018 at St. Peter Church, Danbury. He will be buried in Ireland beside his wife Peggy. Donations may be made in John's memory to AOH Scholarship Fund c/o GDICC, 6 Lake Ave, Danbury, CT, 06810.

## John J. Ryan

John, KHS, age 84, of Pleasant Plains, Staten Island, NY, a retired Battalion Chief of the Fire Department of New York, who died January 22, 2018 in Goshen NY. Born in Mount Kisco, NY in 1933, Brother Ryan moved to Staten Island at the age of 6 and lived in Pleasant Plains until January 2017 and relocated to Goshen, NY. He was a graduate of Wagner College.

Bro. Ryan served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956 in Germany. He served in the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) from 1956 to 1995. During his 38 years with the FDNY, he rose through the ranks to Lieutenant, Captain and retired as a Battalion Chief. Bro. Ryan also worked as a substitute teacher for the NYC Public School system for three years.

Bro. Ryan was a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS) of Jerusalem; a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians' St. Columcille Division 4; the Knights of Columbus Henry J. Stoenthaler Council 1691; the Governor Thomas Dongan Assembly 0697 of the K. of C. Fourth Degree and the Holy Name Society of Saint Joseph - Saint Thomas Roman Catholic Church. Bro. Ryan was also a member of the FDNY Emerald Society and FDNY Holy Name Society. Bro. Ryan was active in the Catholic Salesian Society and served as a church lector. Bro. Ryan was interested in world history, Ireland, U.S. politics and the Catholic Church worldwide.

Bro. Ryan is survived by his wife Carol Spruyt Ryan and five children: Professor Ann Marie Ryan Ph.D.; Reverend Father Stephen C Ryan, SDB; Peter J Ryan, CCCE; Mary Anne Ryan, MSW; Carol Lynn (Ryan) Boyle and four granddaughters.

Brother Martin Crimmins, District 5 Director, the Richmond County Board, and St. Columcille Division 4 were represented at the wake on Friday, January 26, 2018, with Brother James Haynes IV, Division Vice President, leading the Hibernian Wake Ritual. Pursuant to the Wake Ritual, all Brothers present expressed their condolences personally to the family of the our beloved departed Brother. Father Stephen Ryan told the large crowd of attendees that his Dad's favorite organization was the AOH, and his Dad's favorite day of the year was Saint Patrick's Day. Father Ryan thanked the AOH for the Wake Ritual, and for his many years of 'Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity' his Brothers shared with his Dad.



## Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Is cuimhin liom nuair a cheapamar gur saghas míorúilte é an raidió trasraitheora. I remember when we thought a transistor radio was a kind of miracle. Ní raibh gá le feadáin níos mó – agus bhí gach rud níos lú agus níos saoire. There was no need for tubes any more – and everything was smaller and cheaper. Ach ba bheag an rud sin, mar ar ball tháinig an tslis agus an ciorcad iomlánaithe. But that was nothing, as after a while the chip and the integrated circuit came along. Cuirtear trasraitheoirí le chéile le píosaí eile chun ciorcad a dhéanamh. Transistors are put together with other things to make a circuit. Bíonn timpeall fiche trasraitheoir i ngeata loighce amháin. There are around 20 transistors in one logic gate. Is é sin an rud a deir dul ar aghaidh nó stad (0 nó 1) i ríomhaire. That's the thing that says go ahead or stop (0 or 1) in a computer. Dar ndóigh, chun ríomhaire a dhéanamh, tá gá leis na mílte díobh seo. Of course, to make a computer, you need thousands of these. Fiú i 2009, bhain micreaphróiseálaí feidhm as trí bhilliún trasraitheoir an-bheaga, ar shlis. Even in 2009, a microprocessor used three billion very small transistors, on a chip. Agus ó shin, bíonn i bhfad níos mó ann. And since then, there are a lot more.

Tá dlí a chum duine darb ainm Moore a deir go mbíonn an méid trasraitheoirí ar gach slis dhá uair chomh mór – agus mar sin go n-éiríonn luas an ríomhaire níos tapúla - gach bliain go leith! There is a law that someone named Moore created which says that the number of transistors on every chip increases by two times – and therefore the speed of the computer becomes faster – every year and a half! Is fíor-iontach luas na ríomhairí sa lá atá inniu ann. It's truly wonderful the speed of today's computers. Agus tharla an t-athrú seo chomh tapa! And this change happened so quickly! Bíonn na sliseanna ag éirí níos lú agus níos lú i gcónaí. The chips are getting smaller and smaller all the time. An trasraitheoir is lú faoi láthair – agus sílim gur geata loighce atá i gceist, agus mar sin fiche trasraitheoir, le fírinne – sin aon nanaiméadar amháin i méid! The smallest one lately – and I think we are talking about logic gates, so really 20 transistors – that's only one nanometer in size! Mar chomparáid, tá an leathanach nuachtáin seo 100,000 nanaiméadar ar dhoimhne. As a comparison, this newspaper page is 100,000 nanometers thick. Tá snáithe ADN (aigéad dí-ocsairibeanúicléasach) 2.5 nanaiméadar ar dhoimhne. A strand of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is 2.5 nanometers thick. Nach iontach an teicneolaíocht! Isn't technology wonderful!

Dála an scéil, ní féidir aon rud den saghas seo a phlé as Gaeilge, dár le mórán daoine aineolacha... By the way, you can't talk about any of this in Irish, according to lots of ignorant people...

## Why I'm a Hibernian

Heritage, Pride and Service are the simple reasons I'm a Hibernian. Born and raised in New York City and New Jersey within a large deeply Irish Catholic family. My maternal grandparents came here from Co. Westmeath (my mother was born on their passage), and my paternal grandfather came through Co. Galway. I'm very proud of our presence here in Indianapolis! The promotion of Irish Arts, language, music and our own Irish festival at the 6-month mark in September. Our Division has multiple opportunities to serve not just our community, but the community at-large. A GREAT organization for any Irish-Catholic!

Kevin Donohue, Kevin Barry Division 3, Indianapolis Indiana

## CATAPLA SIX continued from page 10

Island, located the graves of these brave Irishmen and with the help of many, has raised enough money to have four of the Catalpa six remembered with proper headstones. The two in Philadelphia: Robert Cranston and Thomas Darragh are the last two and a fund has been started to provide proper headstones for their graves. We only need a few thousand dollars more, so I am asking my brothers to help in any way possible; no donation is too small. We plan to have the headstones erected in the spring of this year and hopefully have a dedication in May. Please make checks out to AOH and Mail to AOH, 7229 Tulip St., Philadelphia, Pa 19135. Please put Grave Marker in the memo on your check. Thank you for your anticipated donation and all donations will be published at the dedication ceremony in May. Contact shay39@comcast.net 215-820-1547.

# Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

State President Tom McDonough presided over a productive State Board meeting hosted by the Danbury AOH and LAOH at the Greater Danbury Irish Center this past January 27. At the meeting, the State Board reviewed the activities of the past fall and discussed the various St. Patrick's activities planned for March 2018.

It was nice to see Past State President Bob O'Sullivan in attendance. Bob was offered condolences by his Hibernian brothers over the recent loss of his wife Ginger who had been very active in the Bridgeport LAOH. Bob is well known among Hibernians from beyond Connecticut in his role as the genial host of the Connecticut/New England Hospitality Suite at National Conventions.

State President McDonough and National Director Bill Sullivan spoke of the activities of the National Board regarding the membership drive and financial matters as well as the support given to Brother Tom McGrath that New England Hibernians gave during his Boston to New York charity run. The Connecticut State Board donated \$150 toward the purchase of a wheel chair.

March is always a busy month for Hibernians and we will be reporting in the April/May Digest how Connecticut celebrated the birth of our patron Saint.

We already know that the Hibernians of the John P. Holland Division will have marched in the Norwich, New London and Mystic Parades; that the Angels of Harmony of Waterbury will have had a busy month singing and that Bridgeport will have held their annual Communion Breakfast with the Mass being held at the Fairfield University Chapel followed by breakfast at the Gaelic Club.

Danbury Hibernians reported that two interesting events will be held in April at the Greater Danbury Irish Center. On the night of April 5, Michael Needham Ph.D. will speak on Ireland and the Brexit situation. Dr. Needham hails from the North of Ireland and will be visiting his in-laws, the Peter and Mary Hearty Family.

On April 29, the Greater Danbury Irish Center will host a Traditional Irish music festival from 1 to 7 p. m.

We end this column on a sad note regarding the recent passing of John Patrick Reilly a Past President of the Danbury AOH and the Mayo Men's Society of New York City. He was a great Irish Patriot and a friend to many!

Don't to forget to check out Sacred Heart University's [digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish\\_hiber](http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_hiber)

For news or info contact Phil Gallagher at: [jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net)



President Rick Connell presents the New London Hibernian of the Year award to Bob Curry.



Fairfield County President Jim Murray presents a check for \$1,950 to Brian Farrell, Director of Education at Saint Catherine's Center for Special Needs. The money was presented in honor of Bob O'Keefe and was raised at the annual AOH Connecticut Softball Bash hosted by the Danbury and Bridgeport AOH.

# Colorado

Denver Hibernians celebrate for charity

On December 31st, the Father Joseph P. Carrigan Colorado division hosted their eighth annual New Years Eve party at the Celtic on Market in downtown Denver.

Approximately one thousand people attended the event, where the guests celebrated midnight at 5 p.m. Denver time, which is midnight in Dublin, Ireland. The Hibernians held raffles and a silent auction and raised over \$8,000 for local charities, including Samaritan House, a homeless shelter in downtown Denver; Purple Heart Homes, a charity dedicated to providing housing for disabled veterans; and Annunciation Catholic School.

Entertainment for the evening included performances by a local Irish band, Juice of the Barley, dance performances by a local Irish step dancing school, Celtic Steps, a bagpipe medley by the Michael Collins Pipe and Drum Band, as well as numerous toasts and a countdown to midnight with the traditional Irish custom of lowering a lamp shade onto the wisest Hibernian in the room.

This year's chosen Hibernian for the lamp shade ceremony was Patrick McGuire, native of Ireland and a long time Hibernian. He was the former Michigan AOH president. He is a recent transplant to Colorado.

The traditional event wouldn't have been possible without the continued support from the owner of The Celtic on Market, Noel Hickey. Hickey has been a long time supporter of the Carrigan Division. He was presented this year with a sash and plaque honoring his contributions and was made an associate member.



Noel Hickey, left, presented with a sash by John Aylward, outgoing Carrigan Division President.



Patrick McGuire

## Deadline

Articles for the April-May issue  
are due no later than  
April 1

# Alabama

## The Father Treacy Division Christmas Social with Families

The Father Treacy Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (below) in Huntsville, AL, had a very well attended Christmas Social at the Maggie McGuinness Pub this past December with friends and family. Our Division is honored to have held one every year since we have started.



# Delaware

## Delaware Hibernians celebrate Catholic school teachers

For a fourth year in a row members of the Corporal Bernard McCarren Division 2 sponsored and served 112 lunches to teachers, staff and administrators at three Catholic schools in the Wilmington Diocese. Typically one or more Hibernian go to each school and oversees the delivery of exceptional lunches from local Chick-fil-A restaurants. Besides delivering product to the school the franchise provides a significant discount. While there is no formal program, the Hibernians report all lunch recipients offer much appreciation and thanks for the division's generosity.

The lunches are part of the National Catholic Schools' Week celebration and Diane Moore at Aquinas Academy noted how important the generous activity is to reinforcing to students and parents the tenets and foundations of the Catholic faith. Hibernian Brian Phelan is one of the originators of the Catholic schools' lunch which was hatched at Christ the Teacher parish school and he feels it is a way to recognize the "underappreciated backbone" of Catholic education. He also praises the tremendous partnership the division enjoys with Chick-fil-A.

The division raises funds for the lunches by working concessions at University of Delaware basketball games, selling beer at football games and working events at the town's arena. Their hard work throughout the year provides what St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish pastor, Fr. Roger Dibuo calls an example that helps children understand the value of "a strong, vibrant, and faith-filled school environment".



## Why I'm a Hibernian

I am third generation Brother Hibernian. My grandfather was in the AOH and my grandmother was in the Ladies Auxiliary from the 1920s to her passing in 1979. My mom was in the Junior Ladies and Ladies Auxiliary up into the 1970s. My dad was a Brother Hibernian. I joined Flatbush Division 35 on April 12, 1984, and took the Major Degree on November 18, 1984, with famed Hibernian Brother Al O'Hagan as Chief of the Round Tower Major Degree Team and noted Irish-American author Brother John T. Ridge, as the Team's Bard.

I love the Order, and what it stands for. I am proud to be a Brother Hibernian because our AOH stands for all that is good in the Irish American Catholic community. Our Order has defended our people and our Catholic faith when we came to this great country and suffered persecution and mob violence from the Nativist Know-Nothings. Our AOH helped strengthen our faith by helping our clergy and building our parish churches and schools here in America.

Our AOH stood by our Northern Irish Catholic Nationalists community who were being denied their civil rights and were persecuted by the Unionists and Loyalists, and placed under siege by the British Army. It was a champion of our people and defended them from injustice.

The AOH helps keep our wonderful culture and heritage alive with traditional music and dancing festivals, and introduces the next generation to our Irish traditions. It honors our heroes of our Irish heritage and our Catholic faith, and tells their story. I love to see our Brothers at work, doing great work and living up to our Order's motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. "To be Irish is a blessing, to be a Hibernian is an honor."

*Denis P. McGowan, Recording Secretary, Richmond County Board  
St. Columille Division 4, Staten Island, NY*

# Indiana

## Barry Division honors its fallen

On Sunday, November 19, the Kevin Barry Division 3 in Indianapolis honored members who passed away during the past year. The annual event took place at the division's home church, St. Philip Neri, with a 10 a.m. Mass celebrated by the division's own Father Christopher Wadelton, also the parish pastor. Those honored at the Mass were: Thomas J. Kennedy, Timothy Hayes, James F. Lyons, Thomas J. McHugh, Dr. Patrick Michael Conneally and Fr. Timothy Sweeney, OSB.

Attendance at the Mass was exceptional with families of the deceased, Hibernians and Neri parishioners filling the church. In addition to Fr. Chris' inspiring Mass and homily, the choir and musicians sang and played beautifully. The Mass proved a fitting tribute to the deceased and greatly missed brothers.

As a special tribute to the fallen, all persons attending the Mass were asked to donate children sized socks and underwear' which were collected and distributed to children in need throughout Indianapolis.

Following the Mass, AOH members joined St. Philip Neri parishioners in the church hall for coffee, donuts, reflection and good conversation. The donuts were provided by the Division through the efforts of newly elected 2018 AOH President, Bob McCurdy



Among Barry Division members donating children items in honor of deceased members were Joe Devine, Bob McCurdy, Jim O'Rourke and Joe Cahill.

# Kansas



AOH honor guardsman Shaun Cronin, Will Swanson (#15), President Charlie Lamont, AOH honor guardsman Larry Shepard, Jared Flood (#4) and Alex Mann (#54).

## Kansas Hibernians Award Hibernian Cup

The Fr. Donnelly Division, Johnson County No. 1, participated in the second annual Hibernian Bowl between two Johnson County Catholic high schools on October 6th. St. Thomas Aquinas High and St. James Academy battled for bragging rights and the beautiful Hibernian Cup at St. Thomas Aquinas' home field in the Kansas suburbs of Kansas City. Friday Night Lights began with the Fr. Donnelly honor guard bringing the colors to the center of the field for the national anthem and the benediction. After a heated battle through the first half, the St. James Thunder yielded to the St. Thomas Aquinas Saints, dressed in Notre Dame blue and gold, 34 to 14. The hard-fought contest concluded with the presentation of the Hibernian Cup to the team captains by Division President Charlie Lamont. Each school received \$1,000 in scholarship funds and the Saints retain the Cup for the second year out of two. The Fr. Donnelly Division supports area Catholic schools by sponsoring the annual Hibernian Cup, but also an annual \$2,000 scholarship program for graduating Catholic grade school students attending Catholic high schools anywhere in the greater Kansas City metro area.

# Missouri

## Pearse Division makes sizeable donation to KC Irish Center

In 2017, a contingent from the Padraig Pearse Division 1 – Kansas City Missouri attended a board meeting of the Kansas City Irish Center and donated \$10,500 to support the purchase and renovation of Drexel Hall. The building, constructed in 1909 to serve as a home for labor unions, currently functions as a ballroom available for weddings, dances and concerts. The upstairs will be re-designed to accommodate office space for the Center staff, a formal board room and library for displaying its sizable collection of Irish-related books and cultural artifacts. Plans call for the lower level to include a pub available for private gatherings.

For a number of years the Irish community in Kansas City sought a permanent, visible and central location. With the Irish Center's purchase and early-stage fundraising, the Pearse Division joined a number of Irish organizations and individual donors in helping get the project on solid footing and moving forward.

Center board president Jay Burrus thanked the Hibernians for stepping up and noted in return the division will, once work is completed, use the pub for monthly meetings. Pearse President Jerry Lonergan emphasized that while the donation was voted on and given by today's Hibernians the contribution comes courtesy of the charitable work of multiple generations of members.

Nancy Wormington, the Irish Center's director, hoped the donation and publicity will help get other Irish descendants or people interested in Irish history coming forward to donate. She mentioned the great relationship the Center has with the Hibernians mentioning the annual keg donation for various Center's activities.

Besides a focus on all things Irish, the Drexel Hall ballroom will remain open for celebrations of all kinds, serving, as President Burrus noted, "as a gathering place for people of all heritages."



KC Irish Center board president Jay Burrus, Center Director Nancy Wormington and Renata Rua Irish Specialist join Pearse members Jerry Lonergan, John McEvoy, Michael Murphy, Joe Flanagan, Lew Hendricks and Zach Daughtrey at check presentation ceremony.

## Why I am a Hibernian



I'm a proud Hibernian because of a deep love of Ireland, its people of faith and its soul-stirring music and songs.

As a Hibernian I am aware that the Hibernian leadership seeks justice for the Irish and stands ready to uphold hard-fought Catholic values and will always be compassionate and aid Irish people and communities suffering bigotry.

My brothers and I are not "Once a year Irishmen."

We strive to build the most positive public image of Ireland, its rich history and the contributions of its martyrs for freedom, and generations of Irish immigrants who have helped to make America truly the land of the free.

*Jim Lowney, Rev. William Clifford Ocean County Division 1, Toms River, NJ*

# Maryland

## By Michael McConnell, MD AOH State President

### Reaching out to Library of Congress on IAHM

Last summer, Brother John Schell, chairman of the Irish American Heritage Month Committee of the AOH Maryland State Board, contacted the Division Presidents throughout the state asking them to participate in a campaign to contact their congressional representatives.

Brother Schell asked the Presidents to request that division members contact their United States Senators and Representatives regarding the Library of Congress and the observance of Irish American Heritage Month. The Library of Congress subsequently informed several members of Congress that they "...will be working in the coming months to expand our resources around commemorative celebrations, including a new guide to Library resources related to Irish American Heritage Month. In addition, the Library will be reaching out to other federal cultural institutions to identify areas of potential partnership. ... The Library takes great pride in housing collections of manuscripts, photographs, music, maps, and film celebrating Irish American contributions. We look forward to highlighting more of those collections for use by scholars, the general public, and the more than 35 million Americans of Irish ancestry."

Maryland AOH members look forward to the Library of Congress's commemorative celebrations of Irish American Heritage Month in March 2018.

# Kentucky



The Father Abram J. Ryan Division would like to recognize some of our veterans. Seated, from left, Robert Dermody Sr., Rich O'Bryan, Brian Clarke and John Callahan; standing, from left, Mark Corrigan, Mike Huollullan, Pat Dunlevy, Mike McQuire, Harold Dawson, Bill Finagan and Patrick Ryan. We would like to thank them as well as all the men and woman for their services. The Father Abram J. Ryan Division hopes to see everyone in Louisville in July for the National Convention. Come early stay late.

# Nebraska

### Omaha Madonna School Christmas Party

The Father Flanagan Division delivered for the 52nd year in a row Christmas joy and gifts to students of the Madonna School. The partnership creates a festive afternoon for the Catholic school's special needs students. Those enrolled at the school include children and adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities learning to become as independent as possible.

Christmas party activities include: lunch for about 150 participants, each student receives a small gift and candy and the day's highlight is a visit by Santa Claus and his elf. Additionally, the Roncalli Catholic High School A Cappella singers join the event and perform and invite those in attendance to join in singing Christmas Carols. The 2017 event was made even more special by the distribution of a unique AOH Christmas coloring book the Father Flanagan Division created. About 30 Hibernians volunteered at the party and others were instrumental in soliciting donations for the gifts and lunches. The day concludes with the Division presenting the school a financial gift of \$2,500.

Throughout the year the Omaha Division raises funds by organizing the annual St. Patrick's Day parade, hosts a golf tournament, and participates at a local firework stands. The smiles and laughter of the Madonna School students and adults at the annual Christmas party provide a great reward for all the year's hard volunteer work.

# Minnesota

### Shamrock Division hosts Christmas Party

The Shamrock Division hosted its annual Christmas Party at the Lakeside Supper Club with 55 of its 92 members and spouses in attendance.

Division President John Devins welcomed the nine new members to the event and recapped some of last year's events and highlights. With \$6,000 being awarded in 2017, the Hibernian Scholarship fund has given out 52 scholarships to local deserving young Irish going off to college since 2008. The Shamrock Division Founder's Day celebration, an evening of dinner and Irish music, was well received and is planned to repeat this year. Information on the Shamrock Division can be obtained by visiting our website at [www.hibernians-shamrock.com](http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com).



# Massachusetts

By Charlie Sinclair

The Massachusetts State Board meeting was held on March 3 at the Home of Division 10 in Lynn. Here is a sampling of AOH events and activities that are taking place across the Bay State.

**Division 1 Holyoke:** Congratulations to Sister Margaret McLeary, SP, founder of Kate's Kitchen and Margaret's Pantry on being selected as the AOH/LAOH Christian Charity Award recipient. Sister Margaret was present for the award at the Communion Breakfast. President Paul Hogan also recognized members of the AOH who served our country in the Armed Forces with their new Veteran's Pins at their Communion Breakfast.

**Division 8 Lawrence:** Irish Heritage events abounded in the immigrant city! Among the highlights of this year's events were the exhibit, "The Irish of Massachusetts," as well as lectures by authors and historians, a film festival, Saint Patrick's Dinner Dance, Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon and Saint Patrick's Parade.

**Division 9 Plymouth:** Annual charitable donations were made to all local parishes of Plymouth out of the Divisions general funds. Donations from the Dr. Bill and Rita Scholarship Fund are being used to make scholarship donations to Sacred Heart School in Kingston and St. John's Seminary.

**Division 10 Lynn:** The Division hosted their annual "Intro to Irish Heritage Month" on February 27 at Lynn City Hall. President Dick Wall opened the event. Present were the Massachusetts AOH Color Guard; Sgt. Nick Shinick, Div. 10 bagpiper; Chaplain Father Brian Flynn; Mayor Tom Magee; Irish Tenor Jimmy Dennis and local Irish Step Dancers. After the event at Lynn City Hall, all retired to the Division hall for an evening of refreshments and music.

**Division 11 Peabody:** The Division will host this year's Mass. AOH State Golf Tournament at the Meadows of Peabody to benefit Mass. State Charities. A post tournament party will follow at the club. Neil Cronin is chairing this event.

**Division 14 Watertown:** The Annual AOH Div. 14 Memorial Golf Tournament in memory of Dan Sr. and Dan Jr. Corrigan will be held on July 20 to benefit the Division Scholarship Fund. The tournament will be held at Wayland Country Club and a post tournament party will follow at the club.

**Division 18 Salem:** The club hosted a Super Bowl Party with the New England Patriots End Zone Brigade as our special guests. The End Zone fired their muskets after every Patriots score and lit up the Salem Skies.

The John "Mike" Tivnan, Div. 18, Golf Tournament will be held on May 7 at Olde Salem Greens to benefit the Division's Scholarship Fund. A post tournament party will follow at the club.

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



**Hogan honored:** The Holyoke Massachusetts Parade Committee held an awards dinner on January 27 at the Warehouse in Holyoke. Pictured, from left, Massachusetts AOH State President Paul Hogan, who received the Holyoke Parade Committee's Citizenship Award from Tim O'Grady, Holyoke Parade committee President. President Hogan is the 53rd recipient of this award. A delegation of AOH and LAOH members from across Massachusetts were in attendance.



**Ambassador Flynn honored:** Members of the Massachusetts AOH State Board gathered at the Irish Pastoral Dinner in Boston where former Ambassador to the Vatican Ray Flynn was honored. From left, Paul Hogan, Mass AOH State President; Bill Mahoney, Mass AOH State Chairman of Catholic Action; Marie Meehan, AOH National Director; Jack Meehan, Past AOH National President; Dick Wall, Mass AOH State Organizer; Back row, from left, Jack Lawless, Past Mass AOH State President; Joe McCusker, Mass AOH State Treasurer; Jack Lahey, Mass AOH State Vice President; ; Ray Flynn, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican, and Dick Thompson, Past Mass AOH State President.

# Why I am a Hibernian

I became a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians because I wanted to connect with my Irish heritage. I continued as an active member because it is a committed group of Irish Catholic men, working hard to preserve our heritage and support our community, and having fun doing it. As an attorney, a serving National Guard officer, and a father of young children, there are a lot of demands on my time, but I find participating in AOH to be worthwhile and am glad to be a Hibernian.

*Matt Heffron, Ramsey County Division, Minnesota*



# Ohio



## Cleveland Hibernians taking action

The Bluestone Division, in Cleveland, Ohio, organized a clean up day in October for the grounds of Saint Philomena Church, in East Cleveland. Our brothers were joined in the clean up by church members and community residents. The Bluestone Division has organized semi-annual clean up days for the past three years.

# Pennsylvania



## Friends, Indeed

On Dec. 16 the Black Jack Kehoe Division 4 along with some dedicated helpers got together for their annual Doc Brown friend in need project. This project was established two years ago after some Division Brothers participated in the Philadelphia Hibernian Hunger Project. We members who took part in that felt compelled to establish our own hunger and giving project due to the lack of names that were submitted in our area in Delaware County.

We knew there had to be more families who needed help. We just needed a way to find them and execute aid to them. This is when the "BJK friend in need project" came to fruition. Immediately it was suggested by a Brother to rename it "The Doc Brown friend in need project" as a way to remember our long time member John "Doc" Brown who had just recently passed. Doc was known for participating in many hunger drives and food deliveries in the past so this seemed to be more than a fitting name. This Divisional project helps families during the Holiday season with providing them meals and gift cards. This year we delivered to 40 families who were submitted to us by friends, family and school districts.

Up from 23 the year before and 4 from when we did the Hibernian Hunger Project. The project is orchestrated by Bro. David Taylor. Bro. Taylor tirelessly works to put together and store all the boxes. He also works hard to get donations of food, turkeys and donations for this gratifying day where we fully exhibit our motto of friendship, unity and Christian charity. I am extremely proud to call each and everyone of them Brothers. These truly are some of the greatest men, friends and Brothers I know. I also feel very fortunate to have the support of many friends and family who help and support not just this, but all our endeavours. Thank you all.

— In our motto, Ronald M. Fisher, President, Division 4, Delaware County, PA.

# New York

## NY AOH hosts Relatives for Justice's Thompson

Mark Thompson ended a weeklong emergency American tour that generated a new Congressional initiative, five public events and formal proclamations of support by the New York State Senate, Assembly and local governments. Sponsored by the New York State Board, Ancient Order of Hibernians, the tour brought together other Irish American organizations, and commitments to help Relatives for Justice and the victims they represent break the deadlock on legacy truth.

The emergency tour was an AOH response to crown moves to give British troopers and constabulary an amnesty, while denying Inquest Courts and Ombudsmen investigators needed funding. Mark Thompson made an emergency appeal for American help, noting that the AOH and Irish-American grassroots had been a driving force behind every American initiative for Irish justice.

Before his first public meeting, Thompson held the first of several pre-arranged telephone briefings, beginning with Congressman Richard Neal's office. These briefings would climax in a meeting with Congressman Joe Crowley and a proposal for a new Congressional initiative to support legacy victims.

## Suffolk County

Thompson's first public address took place at the Suffolk County AOH Hall, in Babylon, Long Island, hosted by New York State AOH President Victor Vogel. Many AOH officers packed the hall, alongside relatives of legacy victims. Chris Thompson of the Suffolk County Brehon Law Society, and noted MacBride Principles campaigner Patrick Doherty, now with New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli's office, also attended. Here RFJ received the first of many legislative Proclamations of support for its work, sponsored by New York State Senator Phil Boyle.

New York Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Martin Galvin noted, "The phrase 'to get away with murder' was literally true of British policy. British crown forces, or their paid agents who colluded and carried out murders, were shielded. Now as Relatives for Justice threatens to use British justice mechanisms to get truth for these victims, the British are starving their own courts, inquest judges and Ombudsman investigations of funding while moving towards pardons dressed up as statutes of limitations."

Thompson began by saying that "Relatives for Justice was mandated to represent hundreds of families in the north whose loved ones, were not alone murdered but then slandered to justify their murders". He pointed in the audience to relatives of Maura Meehan and Dorothy Maguire, killed by British troops in Belfast in 1971, and to relatives of John Boyle, shot by British SAS troops in 1978. He detailed the circumstances of these killings and the legal cover-up which followed, to explain how the British mistreated hundreds of families. He quoted an expression that "when America sneezes Britain catches a cold and we want Irish America to sicken the British with demands for legacy justice." Donations to RFJ were presented at the end of the evening's talk.

## Manhattan

The next night, Thompson spoke in mid-town Manhattan at an event co-hosted by Queens, Brooklyn, New York and Bronx AOH. The crowd included AOH national officers Jere Cole, Sean Pender, Dan Dennehy, Jeff Nisler, Tom Beirne, State President Vic Vogel and Treasurer John Manning. Special thanks to Walter Cooper, Jim Sullivan and Parade Committee Chairman Denis McCarthy. Hibernians were joined by Jennifer Frankola of the Brehon Law Society and Leslie Cassidy of the Irish American Unity Conference.

Here RFJ received a State Assembly Proclamation of support sponsored by Assemblyman Dinowitz and a Bronx Borough Proclamation presented on behalf of the Borough President by Gabriel and Patricia Megahey, friends of long time Bronx resident Liam Ryan. David Tubiolo presented a Proclamation from Westchester County. These Proclamations made special note of RFJ's work for this American citizen, murdered in his native Tyrone.

This time Mr. Thompson pointed to Malachy McAllister, the proprietor of the Wolfe Tone Pub, who escaped an assassination attempt in Belfast, at the hands of British agents as well as the killing of Liam Ryan in Arboe County Tyrone. He explained the facts of these cases, how the British hid the truth and appealed for AOH and American help.

## Rockland

Thompson traveled to Rockland County for an event at the Hibernian House, arranged by Dermot Moore and co-chaired by Vincent Tyer and John McGowan. He met relatives and friends of victims killed by crown forces or crown agents. A cousin of Sam Marshall and friends of Rory and Gerard Cairns were in the audience. Thompson started with an explanation of these killings as well as recent developments in the Loughall inquests. He used these specific cases to illustrate, the obstacles that the British have used to stonewall the families in the battle for truth.

The event also included presentation of a Rockland County Legislature Resolution of support by Vincent Tyer and donations to RFJ.

Before heading to Albany, Thompson detoured to Queens and a formal meeting with Congressman Joe Crowley. He was accompanied by AOH members Sean Pender, Bob Nolan, Dermot Moore and Martin Galvin. Crowley agreed to lead a formal Congressional letter to the British government.

Thompson then headed to Albany and the AOH Hall in Albany where the prestigious Fr. Murphy award was presented to Ciaran Geraghty, Past NYS FFAI Chair by past State President Tim McSweeney. The event was co-chaired by Dolores Desch and John Levandosky, with National Director Liam McNabb as Master of Ceremonies, State President Vic Vogel piping the dignitaries in and State Vice-President Tom Lambert among a host of State and National officers in attendance.

Thompson explained that it was the anniversary of the murder of his brother Peter Thompson. The Thompson family had been laughed at, then threatened when they tried to find out the truth. He explained that that murder, that cover-up and that injustice was the driving force which had motivated him to help form and lead Relatives for Justice, and why he felt so deeply about other families put through the same grief.

Thompson's final public event at the Quiet Man Pub, Peekskill hosted by National Director Dan Dennehy. Thompson said he was overwhelmed by the support he had received night after night, from Irish America and the AOH.

State President Vic Vogel then presented Thompson with a special plaque, as a memento of each of the five tour events.



Mark Thompson at the Suffolk County AOH meeting.

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



Long Island Hibernians gathered in Suffolk as AOH and LAOH members did in other areas in New York State to hear Mark Thompson represent Relatives for Justice. Photos by John O'Connell, Digest Editor.



# South Carolina

## Marching for Life in South Carolina

January 19 marked the initial March for Life event at Saint Gregory the Great RCC in Bluffton, South Carolina in conjunction with the national March for Life in our nation's capital. This event was organized by the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division under the leadership of Jim Coyne, our current Hibernian of the Year. Over 150 people turned out; prayed the Rosary; held flags, signs and posters proclaiming our message of the sanctity of life; and stood behind small white crosses that lined the shoulder of the busiest roadway in Bluffton at the height of rush hour. The event was a big success and the Division is committed to making this an annual event in the low country.



Some of the many participants who lined the shoulder of busy Hwy 278 in Bluffton, SC proclaiming the sanctity of life.

## Hibernians clean up

Bishop Patrick Lynch Division from the Bluffton-Hilton Head area under the organization and leadership of Norm Rustad has been participating in the local "Adopt-a-Highway" program of Beaufort County for the past 13 years. On the third Saturday of every month, brothers assemble at a local ball field before fanning out as two man teams to clean up trash and other debris along some local roadways. AOH has been singled out from among approximately 85 other groups for special recognition by local officials for the service provided to the local community. After the trash pickup is completed the brothers gather at the local IHOP for a well-deserved hearty breakfast and brotherhood and comradery.



Tim O'Connor, Division President; Linda Bauer, Leader of the Right to Life Initiative at St. Gregory the Great Parish; Maureen Binder, President of the St. Ciara Division of the LAOH; and Jim Coyne, Event Organizer take a minute before the March got underway.



Bishop Patrick Lynch Road Warriors take a minute before setting off to pick up trash discarded on the side of the road. Activity organizer Norm Rustad is second from the right.

# New Jersey

## Recruiting in the Garden State

Larry Prella, State President, announced at his January State Board meeting a statewide lawn sign recruiting campaign.

Prella's mission of increasing membership is supported by using lawn signs in the right places throughout the state to encourage prospective members to go the NJ State AOH website and complete a membership application. State Organizers will then contact the prospective member and connect them with a Division close to their home.

Prella stated, "Our lawn sign campaign will get the word out, if you're Catholic and want to join an Irish organization, join the New Jersey AOH! We are happy to have you."



New Jersey AOH state officers sponsored major membership drive. From left, Treasurer Jim Miller, Vice President Rich O'Brien, President Larry Prella Sr., and Secretary Mike Rhodes officially introduced a statewide effort to encourage all divisions to actively seek out new candidates to join the AOH utilizing mass and social media.



# New York



Metro Conference honors 'Running Man' McGrath: On Saturday, February 3, a well-attended meeting of the AOH NY Metropolitan Conference was held at Stout on East 41st in Manhattan. Hosted by New York County President Dennis Grogan and chaired by NYS President Vic Vogel, the meeting received reports from all Downstate County Presidents and Metro area National and State Officers. Much discussion on upcoming events and a seminar on EIN numbers and tax information from National Treasurer Sean Pender and Sean Tuffy, of Yonkers Division 1. NY County Division 7 brother and charity distance runner Tom 'Running Man' McGrath was introduced by National Hunger Chair Tom Beirne and NY County Division 3 Jamie Hamilton and presented with a plaque by Vic Vogel. McGrath received the congratulations of the assembled Hibernians.

# New Jersey

## Irish Heritage Mass — March 3

Fr. Duffy Div. 2, Ocean County, New Jersey, will be holding its 22nd Annual Irish Heritage Mass and Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 3. There will be a 4 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's of the Pines, Manahawkin, NJ, dinner to follow at the Parrish Center, 1d Bishop Way, Manahawkin.

Music by DJ John and Pipers, Corned beef, cabbage and all the fixings! Catered by Sweet Jenny's. \$35 donation. BYOB. NO tickets will be sold at the door.

This year Fr. Duffy will be honoring the Stafford Township Volunteer Fire Department. For tickets or information please contact: Bob Goodwin (609) 978-0635 or Tom Richards (609) 978-1019.



The AOH Fr. Mychal Judge Hudson County Division 1 held their 15th Annual Christmas and Awards Dinner Dance at the Casino in the Park in Jersey City on December 9, 2017. It's one of their two major fund raisers. Congratulations and a huge thank you to Brother James Donovan and his Dinner Dance Committee members. A great time was had by all. Photos by Treasurer George Stampoulos.



New Jersey AOH State Board meeting with new 2018 officers: From left, Dr. Alan Delozier-Historian, Bill Young-Organizer, Sean Pender-National Treasurer and State FFAL Committee Chairman, Rich O'Brien-Vice President, Larry Prella Sr.-President, Mike Rhodes-Secretary, Jim Miller-Treasurer, John Hughes, (second row) Right-to-Life Committee Chairman, Leo P. McGuire-Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman, and Derek Kirby. On January 27, 2018, the NJ AOH State Board held its first meeting of the new year which was hosted by Monmouth County Division I and held at the Knights of Columbus Hall 3187, Fair Haven, NJ. Many important local, state, and national issues were discussed. Congratulations and the best of luck to the new state board members.

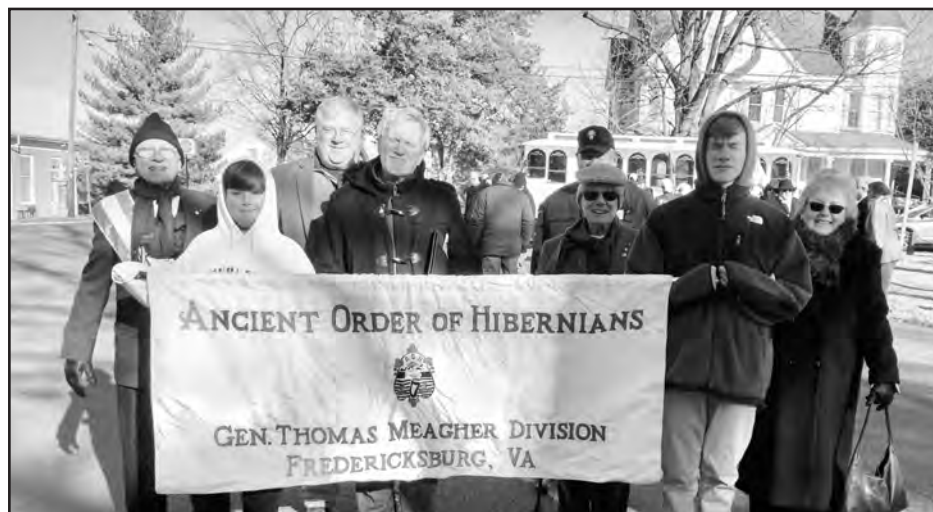


## Annual AOH Polar Plunge

On January 28, the Annual AOH Polar Plunge was held at Donovan's Reef, Sea Bright, NJ. It was started in 2007 by the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 2 Monmouth County, NJ for the purpose of helping Catholic Education. Funds raised by the event are used for scholarship, financial aid, endowments, and facility projects, in an effort to help schools maintain enrollment levels. The event has grown by leaps and bounds thanks to the strong participation of the area Catholic Schools and their PTA groups. It provides a platform for these groups to raise funds without the worries of operating the event. This cooperation has allowed all of the participating schools to see a great return from their efforts with 100% of the funds raised returned to the plunging schools. In its eleven-year history, this event has returned over \$1.3 million for Catholic Schools. Congratulations to Jim Shaw, Chairman of the Polar Bear Fundraiser and a huge thank you to Volunteer Patrick Torphy AOH Division II members for hosting and help raising \$125,000 at this event. God Bless!

The Digest regrets that, due to space limitations, not all the submitted content could be used in this issue. We will use in the next issue whatever couldn't fit in this one. Again, our apologies.  
— John O'Connell, Editor

# Virginia



On a frigid Sunday, January 14 the General Thomas F Meagher Division participated in the 44th annual Religious Freedom March in Fredericksburg. The march commemorates the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom drafted by Thomas Jefferson in Fredericksburg in 1777. The statute guaranteed freedom of religion to people of all faiths and formed the basis of the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.



The McCarthy, Riley and Kilday families of Herbert-Cady Division delivered food and tree ornaments to the Christ House Shelter in Alexandria on Christmas day after Mass. The division also provided the Christmas tree. Sr. Annie was grateful as usual and wished everyone blessings and a Merry Christmas.



On December 10, the General Thomas F Meagher Division (SP01) participated in the 155th Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg, especially honoring the Irish Brigade commanded by Thomas F Meagher. As a large crowd gathered, National Park Service Historian Frank O'Reilly talked about the challenges facing the Irish Brigade and how their valor contributed to the acceptance of the Irish immigrants in the United States. Division President Shawn Lenahan and Past Division President Andy Link presented a boxwood wreath at the brigade memorial. Ranger O'Reilly then led a walking tour retracing the brigade's route to Marye's Heights. President Lenahan stated "It was a powerful and moving experience. It is truly amazing to think of the courage and sacrifice of these men not only for their adopted country but also for all Irishmen in America to come."



# Happy St. Patrick's Day

# Pennsylvania



## Philadelphia Hibernian prize fighter set for March bout

The proud members of Officer Joe Freel Division 5 are preparing for a March 9 boxing match involving Ireland native and Hibernian John Joe Nevin. John Joe has belonged to the division for three years when he emigrated to the United States from County Westmeath and has continued a professional boxing career that includes nine victories, four by knockouts and no defeats. He is managed by fellow Hibernian, Thomas Moran who notes, "We feel John Joe is not just a Division 5 member but a strong representative of the greater AOH, as he hopes to become world champion and carry the AOH story to an international TV audience."

John Joe was the most decorated Irish male boxer in history having won an Olympic Silver Medal for Ireland in the 2012 London Olympics and he was the first Irish amateur to be rated number one lightweight in the world. John Joe will be wearing a special AOH robe and trunks for the March 9th fight.

John Joe and Tom are both active in the Philadelphia Division named for police officer Joe Freel who was killed in the line of duty in December 1994. The division does extensive work in the community through its charity arm HOPE 101, hosting monthly dinners feeding upwards of 70 homeless people. The division runs a food bank that distributes food to inner city Philly organizations, especially Mother of Mercy House and the Last Stop drug rehab. Another special activity is the regular celebration luncheons for veterans living at the Northeast Philly Veterans Home.

The division hopes on March 9th, Hibernians throughout the United States can gather at local establishments and join Division 5 in cheering on John Joe Nevin.



## New leaders: Bucks County Board President Bill Lacey presides over joint installation of 2018 Officers for Bucks County Divisions on January 26.

— Joe Malloy, Treasurer, Bucks County Board



**Honoring Jim Fitzpatrick:** AOH Division, County and State officials from throughout Pennsylvania gathered to honor Jim Fitzpatrick, of Bucks County Division 5, Levittown, PA. He was presented with his AOH Lifetime Membership. Pictured, from left, are Ed Halligan, Immediate Past State President, Mary Fitzpatrick, Jim Fitzpatrick and Joe Malloy, Bucks County Board.

# New York

## Dinner-Dance to honor Joe Brady

The AOH Westchester (NY) County Board is pleased to announce and invite you to attend our Annual Dinner Dance, which will be held at the Mansion on Broadway, 139 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603 on Saturday, April 7, 2018, from 7 to 11 p.m. There will be a cocktail hour beginning at 7 p.m. with dinner and entertainment to follow. Music will be provided by Andy Cooney & his Band.

The Westchester County Board will honor Joe Brady as 2018 Hibernian of the Year. Joe is the Regimental Bagpiper for the Fighting 69th, leading the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade for 28 years. As a Bagpiper and Drum Major, he was the first Irish-American to win the highest awards in the Eastern U.S. Pipe Band Association and is the only one recognized as an adjudicator in both disciplines. Joe is the founder of the Peekskill St. Patrick's Day Parade and a long-time member of AOH Division 18. Joe is also a founding member of the Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade Committee.

The Westchester County Board will honor Robert J.P. "Bob" Bateman with the Freedom of Spirit Award. Bob currently serves as Historian for AOH Division 18 in Peekskill and has served in the same capacity for the AOH National Board. He holds the distinction of Grand Cross of the Sovereign Military Order of Jerusalem. He has served in the 88th Brigade of the New York Army Guard, and is the Military Liaison for the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade. Bob is a graduate of Villanova University and is now an administrator for the Chappaqua School District.

For more information or reservations, please visit [westchestercountynyaoh.org](http://westchestercountynyaoh.org), or contact AOH Westchester County President, Brian Duffy (914) 329-1571 or [aohwestchester@gmail.com](mailto:aohwestchester@gmail.com)

## Yonkers AOH Supports Benefit for Boy Diagnosed with Bone Cancer

A benefit was held earlier in 2018 at Rory Dolan's in Yonkers for a young man who is battling bone cancer. Luke Gallagher is 11-years-old and is the youngest of seven children. He was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma and has already gone thru many treatments of chemotherapy as well as several surgeries to have his legs reconstructed. He is currently in the process of learning to walk again but is still facing at least another 10 rounds of chemo in the future. Luke's older brother, Eoghan, serves as the Financial Secretary of the AOH Division 17 of New Rochelle, New York.

The event, which was in the planning stages for several months, featured live music, dancing performances, gift basket raffles and an autographed sports memorabilia auction. A very special "gaming trailer" was also brought in so kids could spend time playing video games throughout the day.

Division 1 Yonkers was honored to participate and presented the Gallagher family with a \$500 dollar pledge of support at the event. If you would like to get involved and help this fundraising effort, you can visit the website dedicated to helping raise funds for Luke and the difficult challenges he faces going forward. Please visit: [www.benefitforluke.com](http://www.benefitforluke.com)



## At the benefit were, from left, Stephen McDonagh, Mike Morley, Event Organizers, and Kevin Ellis.



**Albany AOH helps the needy:** Members of Albany AOH Div. 5 served meals to needy families at the Albany Rescue Mission. Led by Div. 5 President Tim Carey (fourth from left), AOH members volunteer monthly to work in the kitchen and dining room. Twenty Hibernians, including Kevin McNabb (pictured above, 10-years-old), worked at the shelter during Christmas week to help others in the name of Hibernian Hunger.

# Ladies hibernian news

## Catholic Action



National LAOH Colleen Bowers & March for Life President Jeanne Mancini at the Rose Dinner Washington DC January 19, 2018



## Ladies AOH National Board

Msgr. Jason A. Gray	Chaplain	msggray@stthomas-church.net
Patricia A. O'Connell	President	oconnellp407@comcast.net
Carol Sheyer	Vice President	csheyer@fuse.net
Karen Keane	Secretary	laohkaren@live.com
Marilyn Madigan	Treasurer	memadigan@gmail.com
Dee Wallace	Irish Historian	deew93395@gmail.com
Mary Ann Lubinsky	Missions & Charities	maryannlubinsky@gmail.com
Colleen Bowers	Catholic Action	bowers033@gmail.com
Mary Hogan	Organizer	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Margaret Hennessy	Auditor	mhtax@optonline.net
Mary Ryan	Good & Welfare	nanaryan713@aol.com
Dorothy Weldon	Budget Committee	dorothyweldon@comcast.net
Mary T. Leathem	Freedom for All Ireland	mtleathem@aol.com
Mary B. Dolan	Immigration & Legislation	bridgie136@gmail.com
Peggy Cooney	Budget Committee	peggy.cooney@ymail.com
Mary Paglione	Budget Committee Chair	marypaglione@comcast.net
Kathie Linton	2018 Nat'l Conv. Chair	kathie.linton@akrongeneral.org
Mary Conlon	Supplies & Merchandise	mandjconlon@atmc.net
Sandi Swift	Web, Press, Social Media	webmaster@ladiesaoh.com
Mary Ellen Chajkowski	Legal Counsel to President in Organization Matters	

### PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Mary Hogan	Organizer	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Margaret Hennessy		Deer Park, NY
Mary Ryan		Marlboro, MA
Dorothy Weldon		Monongahela, PA
Mary T. Leathem		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



As you read this edition of the Hibernian Digest, it is hard to realize that we have already celebrated the feast of our patron, St. Brigid. Now, as we are in the midst of the 2018 Lenten Season, I am asking each reader to take a few minutes to thank our Lord for the many gifts He has given to each of us. May we, as Hibernians, give of our time and talent as we work together to meet our 2018 Division, County Board, and State Board Goals and to enrich the lives of our members and to support our Catholic Faith in our communities.

I offer my thanks to the LAOH Officers who are working or who have worked to complete the 2017 Annual Membership Report and the 2017 Annual Financial Report. Meeting your timelines at each level is critical to the support of the next level within each state.

Let me take this opportunity to personally invite each reader to attend the 2018 National Convention being held in Louisville KY in July. The National Convention will officially begin the evening of Wednesday, July 11, 2018 with Mass followed by an "Ice-Breaker" event. You may access Registration, Hotel, and Journal Ad Book information by going to the LAOH website: [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com) and then select the 2018 AOH/LAOH National Convention "button." The LAOH Degrees will be exemplified by the Ohio State Board Degree Team on Saturday July 14, 2018. A Registration Form is available on the LAOH website with the National Convention information. Currently, the planning for the General Business and the Committee Meeting sessions is underway. You may expect to receive a tentative schedule for the General Business and Committee Meeting sessions in mid-April. The 2018 tentative schedule information will be forwarded to State Presidents and to State Secretaries via email. The Convention tentative schedule will also be placed on the LAOH website when it is available.

As the planning for the 2018 National Convention continues, I ask each State President to take the time to forward a copy of your State Board Officers to National Secretary Karen Keane ([laohkaren@live.com](mailto:laohkaren@live.com)) and to me ([oconnellp407@comcast.net](mailto:oconnellp407@comcast.net)) so that we may be assured that we have the up-to-date officer information. When sending your information, please include the following: Office Position, Name, Street Address, City, State, Zip, Phone Number, & Email Address.

I encourage each Division to actively work to grow your membership during these first months of this new year. All Divisions across our 29 States and the District of Columbia face the same challenge, namely, to increase their membership as well as to sustain their current membership.

May our patron saints, St. Brigid and St. Patrick, continue to bless our work and strengthen our membership.

## National Vice-President

by Carol Sheyer

The National Convention is right around the corner and I hope you are working on your plans to attend. During the Convention two different awards will be bestowed. One award, given by the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, is the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Medal. The ballots, along with the biographies of the four nominees, were sent to the voting members the beginning of February.

The other award, given by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, is the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award. On February 1st the information was mailed to the National Board Members and State Presidents asking for nominees for this prestigious award. The completed nomination form and State Board letter of support is to be returned to me postmarked no later than April 15, 2018. Ballots and the nomination materials will be sent to the voting members no later than May 1, 2018.

The Ohio Degree Team will be exemplifying the Degrees of the Order at the Convention on Saturday, July 14, 2018. The application to receive Degrees is on the LAOH website. Please take advantage of this opportunity. For those who have already received their Degrees, you are welcome to be an observer during this beautiful ceremony (observers are to use the Application Form on the LAOH Website).

At any time please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

**Ladies, please subscribe to our website for updates and important information delivered right to your email.**  
[www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com)

**Like and follow us on Facebook:**

**Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians or search @ladiesaoh2016**

# National Secretary

by Karen Keane

It is that time of the year again when we are filing out the annual membership reports and we again promised to do something to increase our numbers. Last year, I wrote about the different things we can do get new members, make them feel welcomed, and more importantly, to retain the members we haven't seen in a while. I wrote about making the new members feel welcomed and wanted; and the importance of being a good example of a Lady Hibernian. Hopefully, everyone has been working with their organizers to grow the Order. The truth will be told when the membership numbers come in before the end of March.

Another way to attract new members is to expand our exposure in the community and the media. I had the honor to be invited to a Blue Mass organized by the LAOH in Broome County, New York (Division 2). This event was a Mass celebrated to honor our first responders. What an excellent idea to show gratitude to our community members that put their lives on the line for us every single day. Events like this expand the presence in the community and shows that we are not all about being Irish.

Many Divisions across the country have baby showers to help assist and support unwed mothers and teenage parents. This is another great way to publicize the good works of the Order.

When you are thinking about membership, remember actions speak louder than words.

# Missions and Charities

by Mary Ann Lubinsky

## Appeals for Aid

Well, the first month of 2018 is already gone. I wish all my LAOH sisters a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Time is moving way too fast! We are less than six months away from the National Convention in Louisville. Before you know it, July will be here with warmer weather.

I have recently had some questions about Appeals for Aid. At the Constitutional Convention in St. Louis, MO, in July 2014, the Constitutional Committee made a motion to drop the third charity. The membership was asked to make donations towards the Appeals for Aid in its place in the hope that more money would be able to be disbursed at the National Convention. The delegation at the Constitutional Convention approved the motion effective immediately.

Appeals for Aid is intended to provide limited aid to charities at the National Convention. All appeals for aid must be submitted to the Appeals for Aid Committee. The Appeals for Aid Committee will bring these recommendations to the National Convention delegates for approval. In the past the amount of money to be disbursed for Appeals for Aid was determined by the National Board based on the recommendations of the Budget Committee.

The Application Letter will be going out in the next few weeks and the completed applications will be due 45 days from the start of the Convention.

If you are a Missions & Charities Division or County Officer, please ensure that you are receiving all my communications from your State Officer. If not, you need to contact her to find out if she has your correct email address. You do not want to miss any important information. This is true of all officers. You need the National communications to be informed and to share the information.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Kentucky!



# National Convention

by Kathy Linton

Horse enthusiasts hoof it every year to Louisville, the home of the Kentucky Derby. This year, there is a special added attraction coming to Louisville when the "Irish Come Marching In" for the National Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. The National Convention will be held at the beautiful and legendary Galt House Hotel located in the heart of downtown Louisville overlooking the Ohio River. It is the oldest hotel in Kentucky with a rich history that dates back to the 1800's. The city is a must see destination with a wealth of outstanding attractions, restaurants, friendly people, affordability and walk ability. The hotel itself features seven restaurants and lounges.

The National Convention will be held from July 11 through 14, 2018. Registration and hotel reservations are open. Please note that the registration form for the convention is located in the Hibernian Digest. The full package price is \$200 if paid by June 1, 2018. After June 1, the registration for the full package will be \$220. The package includes an Icebreaker reception with "A Taste of Louisville," Irish Night, and the Installation banquet. Payment information is on the convention package registration form. The room rate for the Galt House is \$125 per night plus tax including free Wi-Fi. Parking is a flat fee of \$10 per day. When making reservations, please note that the LAOH will hold their meetings on the River side of the hotel.

The National Convention Committee bids you a warm welcome to Louisville, Kentucky. The local committee has been hard at work to make this the best convention ever. Their enthusiasm is quite contagious. Can you feel it? See you in Louisville!

# National Treasurer

by Marilyn Madigan

I am writing this article on the Feast of St. Brigid, the Patron Saint of our Order. Feile La le Brid oribh go Leir Happy St Brigid's Day everyone. This day also marked the start of spring but most of us are still experiencing winter weather. During this time the Hibernians are not hibernating. Divisions and Counties are hosting their Annual Celebrations for St. Brigid's Day and soon will be planning for St. Patrick's Day Parades and events.

The Treasurers are busy with the filing of the Financial Year End Reports. I have been blessed during my term as National Treasurer to have such dedicated individuals to serve as Treasurers. We have had many challenges during this term with the IRS Reinstatement Process. Go Raibh maith agat Thank you to all the Presidents, Treasurers, Kathryn Keane and the staff of Macanta for helping with this important task.

Congratulations to all the new Officers. I look forward to meeting you at the National Convention this summer.

2018 is going to be a great year. One hundred years ago some Irish Women were given the Vote granted by the Representation of the People Act. Constance Markovitz was the first women elected as MP but did not take her seat. This year is also the 100th Anniversary of the Missionary Society of St. Columban. The Columban Missions has been our primary charity since 1935. We need to commemorate these important anniversaries.

We will soon be celebrating St. Patrick's Day. I would like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day "La Fheile Padraig shona dhuit"

# Pennsylvania

Mary Ann Lubinsky, LAOH National Missions & Charities Officer, was recently honored by her AOH brothers of JFK Division 2, Pottsville, PA as "Irishman" of the Year. The award was presented at the Annual AOH Communion Breakfast in December which was well attended by both LAOH and AOH members despite a dose of wintry weather.

In addition to being the current LAOH National Missions & Charities Officer, Mary Ann has served as National Catholic Action Officer, is a Past PA State President, and LAOH JFK Division 2 President since 2003.



Presenting the engraved plaque to Mary Ann were Dan Koury, (left), Division Financial Secretary and Leo Haley, Division President.

# National Webmaster/Asst. Hibernian Digest Editor

by Sandi Riley Swift

As new Officers have been elected, please take a moment to send me any updated information for your State, County and Division President, including the email addresses to be changed on our National Website for contact information.

At this time, it would be helpful for all new Officers to contact their respective National Officer and introduce themselves and provide contact information. As we are corresponding with officers we currently are working on contact information received last year. Email addresses are on the website. To view an email address for a National Officer you can "right click" on their name to view it or "hover" over the name with your cursor and you will see it in the lower left corner of your screen.

Please note that submissions for the April 1st deadline for the Hibernian digest are expected to be heavy due to St. Patrick's celebrations. To ensure your submission is accepted please make sure you follow the guidelines on our website and send them to me by the date due. Articles are submitted in the order that they are received and limited per State. Try to keep the news brief and remember to have separate documents for the pictures and for the tag line. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

## Michigan

On Sunday, January 28th members of both the LAOH and AOH gathered at the Stephen J. Walsh AOH Hall to celebrate a Mass for our patron St. Brigid. Fr. Tim McCabe, the LAOH State Chaplain was our celebrant. Barb Weir, LAOH State President presented a St Brigid medal to ten attendees named Brigid. Refreshments and fellowship followed.

Our eleven Divisions continue to live the "Christian charity" part of our motto. The following highlight just a few of the LAOH charitable works.

Sarah Regan Division donated diapers and cash to a pregnancy center. They collected canned goods for the yearly An Gorta Mor donation and served meals at God's Kitchen in Howell. They visit local parishes for Sunday Mass, celebrating their group and spreading the word about the LAOH.

Mary of the Gael Division filled Christmas stockings for the VA hospital residents. They collected non-perishable food items for a parish pantry in memory of An Gorta Mor. They also financially helped a sister in their Division who is battling cancer.

Catherine McAuley Division supported Leah's Happy Hearts at C. S Mott's Children Hospital in Ann Arbor. They collected socks and underwear for the homeless men at St. Leo's Soup Kitchen in Detroit. They continue to collect small sample sizes shampoos, conditioners, soaps and such for Matrix Human Services in Detroit.

Elizabeth Fagan Division held their Annual Chocolate Affair and donated over \$8700 to First Step which promotes peaceful families and safe communities. They filled 39 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They hosted "No Room at the Inn" which displays many Nativity sets. The \$880.00 proceeds was given to St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Sr. Annette Marie Byrne Division held their Annual dinner and Blackthorn Concert. Two checks for \$4,500 each were sent to Pregnancy Crisis Centers. They also collected items for service men.

## Missouri

On the Eve of January 6th, 2018, the feast of the Epiphany where the Three Wise Men converged on Bethlehem in a humble manger to gift the Christ Child, members of LAOH-JFK3 gathered at Maggie O'Brien's restaurant in downtown St. Louis to celebrate an old, but oft forgotten, Irish tradition: Nollaig na mBan or Little Women's Christmas.

It is a special day when the women of old Ireland "get together and enjoy their own Christmas, while the men folk stay at home and handle all the chores." - Discovering Ireland\* What a day of celebration it was as the women gathered in the cozies at the pubs without the wee ones tugging at their skirts! One can only imagine the essence of tales told as the spirits flowed freely.

To add to this special occasion, ".....it is also common for children to buy their mothers and grandmothers presents on this day....." - Discovering Ireland\* Brilliant!!

The Lady Hibernians enjoyed tasty meals and lively conversation at their own Nollaig na mBan on that evening. After dinner, small gifts were exchanged to a game of "pass it left, pass it right" as a witty story was read aloud. Later that evening, long after dusk, Lady Hibernians returned contentedly home - with a little twinkle in their eyes!

**For man to be himself, he must know himself**  
—Irish Wisdom

## March for Life



**National LAOH Catholic Action Officer Colleen Bowers and LAOH sisters getting ready for the March for Life in Washington, D.C.**

## New York

NEW YORK PROUDLY ENDORSES KAREN KEANE FOR LAOH NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT; AND

CATHY TURCK FOR NATIONAL OFFICE OF CATHOLIC ACTION.

This past summer, the delegations at the New York State Convention unanimously endorsed their outgoing State President, Karen Keane for the Office of National Vice-President. Karen is currently serving as National Secretary and previously served as National Treasurer. Karen served on the New York State Board in every elected position. Also, Karen served on two National Constitution Convention Steering Committee and fought for the rights of all states large and small. Karen is a hardworking, straight talking Lady Hibernian who will serve our Order with professionalism, fairness, and competence.

At the Fall Board Meeting of the New York State Board, Cathy Turck was unanimously endorsed for the National Office of Catholic Action. Cathy served on the New York State Board as Public Relations Chair for a decade and insured the direct communication of information from the Board to the Divisions and Members. Under Cathy's guidance, many Divisions have created newsletters and learned how to create press releases and use various resources to spread the good word of the Order. Cathy is a County President of one of New York's oldest counties, Schenectady, and is the Business Director for the Trinity Degree Team. In her professional life, Cathy is an administrator in state government over seeing the care of disabled citizens.

When asked about Cathy's abilities, a NYS officer stated that "Cathy is a knowledgeable leader who brings a sense of clear headiness and reason to all projects she takes on for the Order." Another member stated that "Cathy is the person who walks into the room and everyone is instantly eager for her presence and what she brings to the table." A Past State President noted "Cathy is the calming voice of reason and a bundle of ideas to improve and deliver results."

The New York Delegation asks for your support in the election of Karen Keane for National Vice-President and Cathy Turck for National Office of Catholic Action.

## Ohio



**AOH and LAOH members at the St. Brigid's Day Celebration, Cleveland, Ohio**

# March for Life



National Secretary Jere Cole, left, National President Jim McKay, National Vice President Dan O'Connell and Nassau County's Sean Hood helped carry the National Board banner in the March For Life.



Hibernians ready for the March4Life were, from left, JP Walsh, Denny Parks, Sean Pender, John O'Connell, Keith Reynolds, Judge James McKay, Daniel O'Connell, Jere Cole (in front), Jeff Nisler, Tim McSweeney and Thomas Beirne.



The National AOH President, Judge James McKay, spoke to Hibernians at a pre-march breakfast at The Irish Channel.



J.P. Walsh organized the day's activities for the Hibernians.



The National Board met with a representative of the Irish Embassy while the board was in town for the March.



New York Hibernians pose at the rendezvous point, the memorial to the Grand Army of the Republic.



Rockville Centre Bishop John O. Barres, right, participated in the March For Life, and stopped by to greet all the Hibernians. With him in the photo is National President James McKay and New York State AOH Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid, center, of Long Island.



Before joining the March For Life, Hibernians gathered for a hedgerow Mass by Fr. Henry Reid, NYS AOH Chaplain.

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**AOH LAOH 2018  
National Convention  
July 11th - 14th  
The Galt House Hotel**

\$125 plus taxes and fees per night per room  
including free wifi. Parking is a flat fee of  
\$10 per day. Phone reservations available:  
Call (800) 589-5200, mention Hibernians  
<https://aws.passkey.com/go/AOHLAOH18>

**Registration**

(For Convention events only; does not include hotel registration. Please print neatly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of the AOH / LAOH (circle one) Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Division # \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete Package: \$200\*** if reserved by **June 1, 2018**. Reservations made after June 1, 2018 and thereafter: \$220\*.

Full Package includes:

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Installation Banquet - Choice of (circle one):	Salmon or Beef	Black Tie Optional



**À la Carte Options:**

- Teetotal (Wednesday July 11th) \$65 \*
- Irish Night (Friday July 13th) \$90 \*
- Installation Banquet (Saturday July 14th) \$95 \*
- Registration Only \$20

**Credit Card and PayPal payments will be accepted on December 15th  
and thereafter. Please consider making all reservations online to  
streamline the process. If mailing, please remit one form per person.**

Make Checks Payable and send to:

2018 AOH LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
PO Box 32037  
Louisville, KY 40232

\* Includes \$20 Registration Fee



**Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
2018 National Convention in Louisville, KY  
Souvenir Journal**

The Journal will be 8.5 inches high by 5.5 inches wide and is available for all your messages and advertisements. Purchase your advertisement in the Souvenir Journal which will be published exclusively for the 2018 National AOH LAOH Convention to be held in the historic Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY, from July 11th through July 14th, 2018.

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