

The Order Gives Voice to the Causes of Irish America



Ambassador Designate Edward Crawford, center, with National Director Dennis Parks, left, and the late Roger Weist, at the Green and Red Ball of The Mayo Society of Cleveland, on Sept. 29, 2018.

Call to Action

The Order is concerned that we are approaching 700 days without a U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. In that interval, over 70 other ambassadors have been appointed and confirmed. The close relationship between Ireland and America predates the founding of the United States, and it is a grievous disrespect to that relationship that the post of Ambassador has been vacant for so long. Given the current Brexit situation, it is imperative to U.S. interests to have an Ambassador in what will soon be the only predominantly English speaking country within the European Union.

The president recently nominated prominent Irish American businessman Edward Crawford to the post of Ambassador to Ireland; he must now go through a hearing by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee before proceeding to the Senate for a confirmation vote. National President McKay sent a letter to each of the 21 current members asking for a swift hearing and approval for Mr. Crawford. This was followed by a "Call to Action" to the

Brothers who are constituents of these senators, asking them to call their senator's office and ask for their support for the Crawford nomination. We hope that by the time you read this the United States will once again have an ambassador in Ireland

The AOH continues to embrace its responsibilities as "the Voice of Irish America" by advocating the cause of the Irish.

Hibernians were the coordinators and sponsors of a five-state speaking tour by Ms. Carmel Quinn on the four-decade quest for justice by the families of the Ballymurphy Massacre victims. Ms. Quinn's young brother, John Laverty, a Catholic priest and a mother of eight were among 11 innocent civilians killed over a three-day period in August 1971 by members of the Parachute Regiment at the start of the British Government's policy of internment without charge or trial in Ireland.

The Ballymurphy families have been fighting for justice ever since, only to encounter a well-orchestrated campaign of

continued on page 6

Join us in Washington on Jan. 18

By John Patrick Walsh, Pro-Life Chairman

The March for Life will soon be upon us and we hope that you'll join us on Friday, January 18, to march for those without a voice. We will again gather at 9 a.m. in the Irish Channel Pub (500 H St NW, Washington, DC 20001) for a good breakfast before our 12:30 p.m. gathering at the corner of 7th Street & Constitution Ave. for the march. The cost of breakfast remains the same at \$25/pp cash or check (pre-registration always appreciated).

The 2019 theme, Unique From Day One, perfectly encapsulates our understanding of Catholic pro-life teachings. While we understand each person to be born with limits, be they physical or mental, we affirm that each individual is unique and worthy of celebration. As Catholics, we profess the intrinsic value of each life; and as Americans, we strive to protect individual liberty and access to opportunity. By joining us in Washington, D.C., or your local pro-life rally, you help give witness to the beliefs that we hold most dear and provide a public face for those unable to advocate for themselves.

We march for the lives that could have been. We march for those who see no other way than to force their own end. We march for women who feel pressured to choose abortion because they are unsure of support. We march because our society equates children with loss of opportunity. We march for better access to healthcare. We march because our justice system writes off some as irredeemable, and then ends their lives. We march because society



Members of the AOH National Board and other Hibernians marched for life in D.C. in 2018. This year's march is on January 18.

often portrays the young and elderly as inconveniences. We march because we debate restrictions on weapons without discussing the need to teach our children the inherent value of all life.

Brothers and Sisters, we join thousands each January in the hope that someone else sees our efforts and is moved to make a public profession for life. If you're on the fence about joining us, or maybe your views aren't fully in line with the teachings of our faith, take a leap and come out anyway. Open yourself to listening and learning, question old and current beliefs. In short don't be afraid to grow and remember that change starts with you.

DATED MATERIAL

In This Issue...

Pursuing Justice



Carmel Quinn

Hibernians sponsored Carmel Quinn's powerful and enlightening U.S. tour in search of justice for the victims of the Ballymurphy massacre. See page 18 for our extensive coverage of her AOH/LAOH-supported efforts.

State News

Alabama	12
Colorado	19
Connecticut	11
Delaware	15
Florida	15
Illinois	15
Indiana	11
Kansas	12
Kentucky	9
Massachusetts	12
Missouri	13
Montana	14
Nebraska	15
New Jersey	13
New York	23, 24
New Mexico	9
Pennsylvania	17
Rhode Island	16
South Carolina	10
Texas	19
Virginia	2, 19
West Virginia	12
LAOH	20



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American

NATIONAL BOARD CHAPLAINS

Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi – AL Chaplain jpresley@mobarch.org
Rev. Michael Healy – CA Deputy Chaplain hibhealy@hotmail.com
Rev. Patrick Collum – LA Deputy Chaplain pcollum@arch-no.org

NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS

James F. McKay III – LA President jfmaoh@me.com
Daniel O'Connell – OH Vice President djoconnell@ysu.edu
2020 National Convention Chairman, Orlando
Jere Cole – NJ Secretary jcole4838@gmail.com
Sean Pender – NJ Treasurer paddyspeed@yahoo.com

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Dan Dennehy – NY Immigration Chairman dandennehy@hotmail.com
Liaison Met NY City
Ed Halligan – PA Liaison DE, NJ, PA emhall12@comcast.net
Liam McNabb – NY Liaison NY liammcnabb@hotmail.com
Dennis Parks - OH Liaison IN, KY, MI, dparks121@yahoo.com
OH, TN, WVA
William Sullivan – MA Liaison CT, MA, ME, williamjsullivan@verizon.net
NH, VT, RI
John Wilson – MO Liaison CO, IL, IA, KS johnj_wilson@yahoo.com
MO, MN, MT, NE

CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Michael McCormack – NY Historian / Archivist aohbard@optonline.net
Timothy McSweeney – NY Organizer / Liaison Newjack12007@yahoo.com
CA, ID, NV, ND, UT, WA, WY,
and All Emerging States
John O'Connell – NY Editor editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
Martin Galvin - NY FFAI Chairman mgalvinesq@AOL.COM
Joseph Norton – GA Charities and Missions docsnorton2@gmail.com
John Fitzmorris III – LA Catholic Action jdfitzmorris@yahoo.com
Liaison AL, AR, LA, MS
John Patrick Walsh – MD Pro-Life Chairman jaywarp1@gmail.com
Liaison MD, VA, DC
James Kuhn – LA National Legal Counsel/Constitution jkuhn7478@gmail.com
Neil Cosgrove – NY Political Education Committee ncosgrov@optonline.com
Anti Defamation / IAHM Chairman
James Green – PA Veterans Affairs seamus.green317@gmail.com

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

Vic Vogel – NY Project St. Patrick victorjvogel@yahoo.com
Jack Schneider, PA Ritual & Degree Chairman jack1515@aol.com
Paul Gowdy – MI Hibernian Hunger Gaudy9plow@aol.com
Jeff Nisler – NY Webmaster Jeff.AOH@Nisler.com
Michael Joyce – TX Liaison – AZ, NM, OK, TX

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Brendan Moore – NY 2012-2016 / PEC – FFAI brendanaoh@yahoo.com
Seamus Boyle - PA 2008-2012 / Brexit – Special Projects shay39@comcast.net
Jack Meehan – MA 2006-2008 meehanaoh1@aol.com
Ned McGinley – PA 2002-2006 / Chairman Notre Dame nedaoh1@aol.com
Oversight Committee Chair
Edward J. Wallace – NY 1994-1998 ewallac2@twcny.rr.com
George Clough – MO 1990-1994 / Oversight Committee BookODays@aol.com
Nick Murphy – NY 1988-1990 / Oversight Committee upkerry@optonline.net
Joseph Roche – MD 1984-1988 jar32@aol.com

The National
hibernian digest

"Ireland. 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
SHANNON LEHN Assistant Editor assthibernianeditor@gmail.com
JEFF NISLER Online Editor editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com

St. Patrick's Day



A
O
H



A P P A R E L

AOH2018.itemorder.com
CarriganAOHColorado.com

ORDER HERE

Virginia



The General Thomas F. Meagher Division completed its annual charitable donations program in November. The division distributed more than \$10,000 to our four parishes, three pro-life organizations, two Catholic education scholastic awards, the 2018 Freedom For All Ireland campaign and other approved division charities. In the photo, Brother John Hogan is presenting a check to Father John Ziegler, pastor at St Patrick Catholic Church in Spotsylvania.



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American

Hibernian
SNOWBIRD SOCIAL

Thursday, Feb. 7, noon to 3 p.m.

Tim Finnigan's Pub

2885 S. Federal Hwy., Delray Beach, FL

Join fellow Hibernians for an afternoon of fun

This will be a great opportunity to stay in touch with the AOH during the winter and meet fellow Hibernians who winter in Florida and also meet some Floridian Hibernians.

Do you have a talent to share? Let us know.

Pipers, singers, musicians, entertainers are welcome.

All are welcome, including lapsed or prospective members

Lunch with soft drinks and dessert \$25.

Reservations required.

Contact: Tim Myles - Tintam614@aol.com or 516 660 7456

Jim Sullivan - Jim@brooklynirish.org or 347 224 4822

Committee Ed Wallace, Tim Myles, Matt Reilly, Jim Sullivan



president's message

by Jim McKay III

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

BREXIT continues to be a problem for Ireland especially in the North. No decisions have been made as of this writing whether or not we will see a hard border erected again. We are all anxious to see whether the British Prime Minister's government stays intact over this question with her patchwork quilt approach of stabilizing her Tory Government with the 10 members from the two Unionist Parties in the North of Ireland. The rock and ripple effect of Britain's withdrawal from the European Union has yet to be determined. However, what is obvious is that Ireland will now be the only English speaking member of the EU.

I have finalized the arrangements for my President's Dinner this upcoming October. We will be meeting at the Marriott Metro Center in Washington, DC, on October 18 and 19, 2019. Rooms will be \$169 per night; that rate will be in effect two days before and two days after the event. Anyone who has recently traveled to the DC area knows this is a fabulous rate for October. The Marriott Metro Center is located on the Hill, a block and a half from St. Patrick's Church where our Saturday evening Mass will be held right before the banquet. We will hold our National Board meeting that same Saturday morning at 10 a.m., at the hotel and conduct the business of this noble Order. The Friday night festivities will involve a reception either at the Ambassador's residence or the Irish Embassy, depending on size requirements. Because this is a President's Dinner and not a National Convention, the hotel block is small and anyone wishing to attend should make their reservations early, as I am sure at that rate the rooms will go fast. Also, I want to remind you all of the Right to Life March in Washington on Friday, January 18, 2019. Our National Life Chairman, John Patrick Walsh, as usual, has planned a number of events to not only make this successful, but also to let our voices be heard loud and clear on the right of unborn children. Hope to see all Brothers and Sisters there.

God Bless.

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."



national secretary

by Jere Cole

It is that time of year again, when our thoughts turn to collecting the per capita from each division. By now you have all received your rosters for updating and many have already returned, thank you.

Per capita is due to the national office by February 15, 2019. Remember, you are paying per capita for 2018. We are always one year behind. Per capita is based on your membership as of December 31, 2018. It is the per capita that you collected during the 2018 calendar year. Divisions that were established in 2018 also owe per capita. It is one dollar per member for each month that the division was in existence in 2018. Members exempt from paying per capita include priests, active military, and national life members.

The Form 11, which MUST accompany your payment, is available online from AOH.com; it is a fillable PDF and will automatically calculate your payment. Unlike in past years you MAY include all amounts due, including initiations and reinstatements, in a single check made out to the AOH National Board.

Divisions who do not pay on time will not be considered in good standing and cannot participate in their local state conventions this summer.

2019 membership cards will begin being mailed in January 2019. This year we are not waiting for a per capita payment or a revised roster before mailing the cards, so if you did not supply us with updated information DO NOT expect that the cards will be accurate.

Along with the cards you will receive an updated Charities and Missions form for use this coming year.

We have been saying for some time now that 2019 will mark a MAJOR advance on the way we update rosters. Your division's Financial Secretary will have the responsibility and ability to MAKE HIS OWN CHANGES TO YOUR ROSTER. This change will be phased in starting in January after a period of internal tests. Once this system is fully operable, Form 40s will cease to exist.

Please continue to source ALL forms from AOH.com and DO NOT use any you may have on hand.



vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

Brothers, recently you received the AOH annual giving request, the label program. The labels themselves are a small token to thank you for supporting Hibernian Charities. This is the one time of the year we ask you as an individual to support our national charitable causes. Each and every donation from \$1 to \$1,000 will make a positive impact on our charities.

Our goal this year is participation! Regardless of the donation amount, we need you in order to be a successful TEAM. **Together, Everyone Achieves More.** Join the team, make Hibernian Charity a success with your annual donation today!

I am honored to serve as your 2020 Convention Chairman and wish to thank President McKay for the appointment. It is a natural fit for the vice president to serve in this chair working closely with the president. The convention is our greatest opportunity to move the AOH forward. Your participation in our convention is the foundation for the convention's success. Take a minute today to save the date, July 22 – 25, 2020, Orlando, Florida.

National convention success begins with the state conventions. As we become officers, we pledge to attend our division, county, state and national meetings. Please take the time, in every meeting you attend, to discuss and promote the importance of participating in your 2019 State Convention. During your meetings, discuss the fact that the national convention success will depend on our membership. Please encourage attendance and participation. With your help, we will succeed!

The marketing committee has been working in small groups focusing on action items established during our 2016-2018 term. We will begin a new session of full committee meetings in order to keep our approach fresh and cutting edge. I trust you will notice the difference especially with our online approach.

National Director Liam McNabb will be heading up our division of promotional programs and disseminating our marketing materials in the Digest as well as on online. You will notice he initiated a minor yet dramatic change to our recent email blast by including a local division post within our Thanksgiving Day email. We will continue this as often as possible because we understand our success begins at the division level. Liam will also be sharing information on meeting management and protocols that will help new and old divisions and officers alike.

National Organizer Tim McSweeney continues to direct the recruiting efforts. In addition to overall growth, our goal is membership in every state in the country. Our success will depend on the efforts of you and your Hibernian Brothers as we work to recruit and retain members.

In the near future, we will begin including surveys in our email blasts. Liam McNabb, Scott Partika and Lee Patterson will work with our officers to create surveys that will give our members the opportunity to provide real-time feedback. Please take the time to complete the short surveys. Your voice is critical to our success. In order to participate in our surveys, you will need to participate in our national email program. Please take a moment to update your email with your secretary or president via the Form 40.

In closing, it struck me sad today as I browsed Facebook, a number of proud Hibernians, Democrat, Republican and Independent alike, sharing the type of statements that we complain so loudly about when the Orange Order or others make the same type of statement against the Irish. It appears for some it is OK for us to use the same type of words against our political opponents. The reality is, it is not OK. When you post, or re-post, look at the meme, the cartoon or whatever it is, substitute Martin McGuinness for the one you are poking fun at, substitute the Orange Order as the commentator; do you still think it is OK or funny? Often it is inappropriate, especially for a Hibernians. Remember, Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity.

Facebook is a great tool for the AOH; we need to utilize it in a positive, proactive manner to promote our Order. Positive posts promoting our work and membership can greatly outweigh any negatives if used properly. Avoid negative and narcissistic posts, focus on the positives of the AOH and help us grow our membership.

God Bless. Danny O.



Danny O'Connell hands Scott Partika the gavel following Scott's installation as President of Franklin County (Columbus, Ohio) Patrick Pearse Division.



Treasurer's Report

by Sean Pender

Happy New Year to all members and their families! Here's wishing you and yours all the best that the world has to offer in 2019.

The New Year always brings with it an opportunity for introspection and review, and as we enter this New Year I'd like to offer some thoughts on organizational recommendations and personal reflection.

The tax-exempt project that we have worked on for my entire first term has been frustrating at times but it is a reality that we have to deal with every year and it cannot be ignored. Proper planning and follow up by divisions and boards are critical to ensure compliance. The goal of all divisions and boards for 2019 and every year thereafter is, once tax-exempt compliant, to stay current with their tax responsibilities, which basically means that taxes have to be filed every year. As a properly attached subordinate to the national parent, all divisions and boards have a fiscal year of July 1st to June 30th meaning that the tax deadline for filing is November 15th. Use the start of 2019 to set up the plan to accomplish this timely and yearly. Our constitution was updated in Louisville to place tax preparation and filing as a responsibility of the treasurer. Plan the work and work the plan.

On a personal note I'd like to recognize the passing of Andy Keane of AOH Division 5 of Albany, NY. He lost his courageous battle to a long illness in late November. I had the honor of knowing Andy not for a long time but long enough to call him friend. He traveled with me to Ireland with a group I brought in 2014 and we stayed in touch ever since. No one who was around Andy ever asked, I wonder what Andy thinks about this; you knew. It's a Keane family trait. He was a good man, who loved his family and who advocated for others. He supported those like him, who were in recovery, and that made me think that we as an organization should also probably do more to help, support and recognize those in recovery. In his time of need what was so inspiring was that while in hospice care at home near the end of his life he did a public service announcement to promote the value of hospice care as a quality of life option not only for the patient but also for the family. And in a final act to help others his obituary plainly stated: In accordance with Andy's strict directions, in lieu of flowers, people wishing to make a memorial contribution may do so to the AOH Freedom For All Ireland Fund. On November 14th just days after his beloved Giants beat the 49ers, Andy entered to his eternal reward. Rest easy my friend, you are missed.



Director's Report

by John Wilson

I want to wish my Hibernian brothers a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year. Looking ahead into 2019, how can we work on retaining our members? If you are the president of a division you need to imagine your members as your employees who work for your non-profit organization. With any company you want to know your employees, know where they live, what they work best at, how to keep in touch with them, and you want to keep them informed and be able to communicate with them individually.

If an employee misses work, do you call them to inquire why they didn't come in? It's the same thing with your membership. If they don't come to a meeting or an event, you need to find out why they didn't come and let them know they were missed. At work how many days of no shows, no calls from an employee before a light bulb goes off that you realize they aren't coming back?

Keeping your members in touch with your division is very important. Their reasons for becoming a Hibernian may be diverse but letting them know what's new and new opportunities for them to get involved will ensure that they feel part of the organization.

As a leader, you should have empathy and respect for the membership. Answer phones promptly, return calls on voice mail, reply to letters and emails within a reasonable time. Email is often the most efficient method of communication. Develop a system of sending emails direct from the database. Don't forget to make some provision to use paper when required — you don't want to exclude members who don't use email.

Keep in regular contact with your members and let them know what your division is doing on their behalf. Managing your nonprofit organization requires knowledge of state regulations or applicable Internal Revenue Service (IRS) codes dictating the requirements for maintaining your nonprofit status. Also required are basic business management principles to keep the organization on a sound financial footing to meet its mission effectively. Understanding the aspects of nonprofit management will help you apply the appropriate management principles to your organization. Be good stewards for the AOH and know your by-laws and our National Constitution.

Create job descriptions for committee members, what the purpose of the committee is, and the scope of work and responsibilities of committee chairs and members.

Groom future board and committee members in advance of their service by recruiting potential officers and chairs to serve on committees. Show all committee members the job descriptions of committee chairmen and members; the committee's budget; historical progress or results of the committee; any short- or long-range plans for the committee. As in business you don't want a lot of turnover, you want your employees to succeed. How will your division grow in 2019?



Director's Report

by Bill Sullivan

Winter has arrived in New England! Though the calendar may show it still to be fall while I'm writing this, mid-November brought snow and well below average temperatures to most of the region. However, this early winter weather did not deter any Hibernian activities on all levels of our Order. Many Divisions are now planning Christmas activities, Installations and their Irish Heritage Month Celebrations.

We are happy to announce that the Hibernian Charity Board will again provide the funding for our 2019 Irish Way and Study Abroad Scholarships. In addition, the Hibernian Charity Board will increase the funding for each of these scholarships. The Irish Way Scholarship, which had been \$500 for many years, will now be \$1,000. Our Study Abroad Scholarships, which had been \$1,000 for a full year of study in Ireland will now be \$2,000. Likewise, scholarships for one semester of study in Ireland will increase from \$500 to \$1,000. My thanks to the Hibernian Charity and the AOH National Board for doubling the awards for these scholarships. This will provide big dividends for the Order in the future.

The Irish Way, which is a summer program for American High School students in Ireland, is under the auspices of the American Cultural Institute. The dates for the 2019 Irish Way Program are June 27 to July 21. For information and an application on the Irish Way please contact Carol Buck, either by email or U.S. mail. Carol Buck's email address is cbuck@iaci-usa.org or you can write to her at The Irish American Cultural Institute, PO Box 1716, Morristown, NJ 07962.

The National Board of the AOH offers two annual \$2,000 Study Abroad Scholarships. The recipients of these scholarships must attend an accredited college or university in the United States and be accepted at an accredited college/university in Ireland.

Should not enough applications for the Study Year Abroad Scholarship be received then \$1,000 Scholarships for Semester Abroad Programs or \$1,000 Master's Degree in Irish Studies Abroad Scholarships will be considered and granted when appropriate.

All these scholarships are available for the son or daughter or grandchild of an AOH member. An Application Request Form for both these scholarships is included in this issue of the Hibernian Digest.

Since our National Convention in Louisville, I have had the opportunity to visit and take part in many AOH and Irish-related events in the New England region. I look forward in 2019 to continuing these visits to AOH and Irish events, Divisions and State Boards. In early November, I attended the New York State Meeting and Testimonial for New York AOH President Victor Vogel in Melville, Long Island, and in mid-November I attended the Golden Bridges in Boston where the 10th Annual Dave Burke Golden Bridges Award was presented to Dave Barrett.

As we look forward to the start of 2019 with hope and anticipation of what it will hold, we look back upon 2018 with much thanks and gratitude for what we have accomplished as an organization. We also look back fondly and remember those who left us in 2018 and thank them for all that they did to make the AOH the great organization it is today!

My sincere best wishes to all my Brother and Sister Hibernians and their families for a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!

Please feel free to contact me at any time with comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: williamjsullivan@verizon.net

Deadline for Feb. - March issue

All articles and photos are due no later than
FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Email blast enables immediate Hibernian call to action!

The national email system provides an opportunity for the National Board to share information with members between publications of the Hibernian Digest. This system also gives us instant contact with our members when we need a call to action on any Hibernian issue.

Most recently, the call to action went live as Neil Cosgrove, Political Education Chairman, activated the system to promote the approval of Edward Crawford as Irish Ambassador.

Neil prepared a letter to be sent to each member of the Senate Foreign Relations committee. Then he prepared talking points and direct telephone numbers for each Senator.

Finally, we initiated a blast to every member in each state involved requesting immediate action.

If you do not receive our email blasts and wish to be a part of our call to action team, please be sure to get your email updated on your membership information. Your financial secretary can update your information today. We need you as part of our team.



Director's report by Dan Dennehy

Wreaths Across America for the first time has named the Basilica of Old St Patrick's Cathedral as a ceremonial site to honor the graves of veterans with a wreath at Christmastime. Monsignor Donald Sakano, NY County Chaplain and Pastor of Basilica of Old St Patrick's Cathedral, joined AOH New York County members Tom Beirne and Bill Duggan, Friendly Sons of St Patrick of Morristown, NJ, in placing wreaths at the Basilica cemetery. All Hibernians were welcomed to the ceremony, which commenced at noon on Saturday, December 15, 2018, to coincide with the ceremony at Arlington and 1,400 other cemeteries across the United States.

Congratulations to NY State AOH for winning best honors from the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. The 2019 Parade Grand Marshal is Dr. Brian O'Dwyer, Esq., our MacBride Award Winner, and his aide at large, is Siobhan Dennehy, Executive Director of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. Congratulations to all Hibernians who will be Grand Marshals and Aides in parades across the USA!

The AOH New York Metro area is home to some of our largest and oldest Divisions. As new officers are elected for our Divisions, I am working with the Metro area leaders on the outstanding EIN matters through our work with National Treasurer Sean Pender. All Divisions are focused on recruiting new members. This work is made easier by the fillable forms our National Organizer has made available. I look forward to two new Divisions in the New Year in Westchester and Orange Counties.

Our youngest Division, Division 17 Thomas Addis Emmet Division New Rochelle, in Westchester, continues to recruit and do charitable works for the community. Westchester Division 18 Peekskill supported Westchester County Treasurer Cathal McGreal in his Annual Turkey Run, which fed over 400 needy families at Thanksgiving. New York County once again hosted the NYS Mass for Life at St Patrick's Cathedral, along with the Sister for Life, a wonderful youthful religious order.

Honored to represent our National President and members at the farewell for Margaret Corrigan, 50-plus-year secretary to New York's Consuls General and the first meeting with Brian Glynn, new Department of Foreign Affairs Head and introduce him to AOH work on immigration and the matters. Thank you to outgoing legislators including U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley and NYS Senator Terrence Murphy for their many years of assistance and welcome to newly elected legislators like NY Senator Alessandra Biaggi, granddaughter of late great US Rep. Mario Biaggi. Senator Biaggi and other friends of the AOH are committed to the approval of the McGuinness Principles in towns, counties and states across America.

On February 7 at Tim Finnegan's DelRay Beach, Snowbirds and members in Florida are asked to join in a festive gathering arranged by Tim Myles. Contact Tim at (516) 660-7456 for more.



Cara Dennehy, daughter of Dan and Siobhan Dennehy, helped Peekskill Hibernians and First Responders load trucks with 400 turkey dinners with all the fixin's. The Quiet Man Public House Annual Turkey Run is organizational by Cathal McGreal, AOH Westchester Co Treasurer. Photo by DD.



NYS AOH ProLife Chair Jack O'Brien, NY County Board member Matt McFarland, NY County President Dennis Grogan, National Life Member Tom Slattery, NY County VP Ed Meehan joined by delightful Sisters of Life at NY County hosted Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Photo by Dan Dennehy



Director's report by Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation

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

If your Division set goals at the beginning of your term, the next couple of months are an ideal time to check and measure progress. As mentioned in previous columns, every elected and appointed office should be filled and it is critical they function as a team. Though doubling up of officers often occurs based out of interest (example, the Division Vice President may have an interest in Political Education and serve as Political Education Chair), it is also important for Officers and members back each other up.

A strong recommendation promoted by our National Secretary, Jere Cole, is for each Division to have a "back up" Financial Secretary who can assist with duties but also be a point of contact for critical initiatives (receiving membership rosters and cards, etc.). This is a best practice for Financial Secretaries as well as the many other integral positions of the Division. Stronger Divisions have a leadership team that is prepared to carry on a project or task if an Officer is on vacation or suddenly becomes ill. The operations of a Division and momentum toward achieving a goal continues, without interruption, when there is consistent communication and collaboration. Though every one of our Officers is important, the current and future well-being of our Divisions and Order overall are more important and we must keep moving forward.

If your Division is struggling with operations or struggling to identify what goals to set, who is involved, etc., please don't hesitate to contact me directly or an experienced state officer in your area.

Tom Honored

The late Tom McNabb's legacy reached far beyond his service to the AOH. The Irish American Heritage Museum was one of the organizations that benefited from the former National President and National Secretary Emeritus' hard work and commitment. The Museum recently honored Tom at their annual Gov. Hugh Carey Gala. Pictured is Liam McNabb accepting the award from Museum Executive Director Dr. Elizabeth Stack.



**The Hibernian Digest's latest edition and archives
can now be found on our webpage,
www.aoh.com.**



Director's report by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I hope you had a Merry Christmas and I wish you the best in 2019. Congratulations to all of the new incoming Division officers. Taking a leadership role in your Division is an exciting time. During the transition, you may have numerous questions concerning the ins and outs of running your Division. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your State President or your National Liaison with questions. We are here to serve you and help you grow your Divisions.

It has been a busy time in the area that I'm National Director for. In Kentucky, the new Division in Lexington has received its charter and is up and running. With two Divisions in Kentucky now, a new State Board is in the process of being formed.

In Tennessee, the Nashville Division has also received its new charter and is also up and running. If you are on Facebook, please follow these two Divisions. For newly formed Divisions, they are already doing great things.

In Ohio, the fall AOH State Board meeting was held in Columbus by the Patrick Pearse Division. The Friday evening before the meeting, a Celtic New Year's event was held.

In Michigan, congratulations are in order to National Hibernian Hunger Chair Paul Gowdy. He and his wife Agnes have been named Grand Marshals of the 2019 United Irish Societies St. Patrick's Day Parade in Detroit. A well deserved honor to both of them.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at dparks121@yahoo.com.



Director's report

by Ed Halligan

October and November were busy. New Jersey had their State Board meeting on Oct. 13 at Kildare's in Mercerville, NJ. Many topics were discussed. One that stood out was Immigration. Malachy McAllister updated us on his ongoing battle of the past 30 years. His hearing comes up in March 2019. Dan Dennehy came in from NY to advise us of the limited visas allocated to the Irish. If someone needs legal assistance, have them contact Dan and he will put that person in touch with those who have the experience.

The following day, Division 3 of Bucks County sponsored a Major Degree where 12 members received the lessons of our Order.

I visited with the Corporal Bernard McCarren Division 2 in Delaware at their Division meeting. This Division does fundraisers with the University of Delaware and another one on Black Friday at a department store. They sell hot dogs and soda to the shoppers for a dollar. The hotdogs are usually donated. This is an all-day event.

The first weekend in November, I attended the New York State Board meeting and State President Vic Vogel's Testimonial. A good meeting and a great Testimonial. Matt Buckley, the Charities and Missions Chair, advised that the Charities and Missions reports are about Hibernians. When legislators ask, what does the AOH do, we can refer them to our charitable works. It is important that all Divisions understand the importance of the Charity and Mission Reports.

New Jersey Division 1 Gloucester County held a Major Degree on Nov. 10. Twenty-six members from PA & NJ received their Degrees.

Veterans Day, Nov. 11, started out with a memorial at Division 1 in Montgomery County, PA. From here I went to the Freedom For All Ireland annual fundraiser in Philadelphia. The Special Guest was Carmel Quinn from Ballymurphy. Her brother, John Laverty, was one of those murdered in the 1971 massacre. She was 8-years-old at the time. You must see and hear her speech. The AOH Facebook site has her speech from the Cleveland event.

Congratulations to Pearse Kerr, the PA State Co-Chair for FFAI, on being inducted into the Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame.

I hope you and your families have had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



project st. patrick

by Vic Vogel, Chairman

Applications for Project St. Patrick Grants have been mailed to the various dioceses and numerous seminarians have responded. The applications are being reviewed at this time and the selection process is underway. When completed, the appropriate applications will be sent to the National President and grants will be awarded. I am extremely proud of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for the care and responsibility that is given to our seminarians. The incentive may well make the difference in a young man's drive to become a Priest.

I want to thank the many Hibernians who returned Project St. Patrick Cards and made a donation. Project St. Patrick Cards may be obtained by contacting me at victorjvogel@yahoo.com. Your participation makes the difference! Thank You.



ORDER GIVES VOICE continued from page 1

obstruction. Ms. Quinn's tour was a huge success, speaking to packed halls with some attendees coming considerable distances to attend. A video of one of the talks has garnered over 10,000 views.

The Order hopes that through its support in raising awareness of their struggles that justice for the Ballymurphy families, and for all those seeking justice to resolve the legacy of the troubles, can no longer be denied.

Right To Life March

Looking to future events, the Order will once again be participating in the annual Right to Life March to be held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 18, 2019. All members who can are encouraged to attend and speak out for the unborn who cannot speak for themselves. More details will be forthcoming on the National website and by email, but a special request has been made for pipers to attend this year as a means of drawing even greater attention to this important cause.

"Qui tacet consentire videtur," or "He who is silent is taken to agree." Our oath commends us to always speak out in defense of our faith and heritage; it is important that you add your voice to ours.



Immigration

by Dan Dennehy
Chairman

Ireland gets Hibernian help in Irish E3 visa push

A Congressional Bill to add visas for the Irish sailed through the House of Representatives, and got challenged in the Senate. At the time of writing this article in early December, Hibernians in Oklahoma, North Carolina and Missouri are calling on their U.S. Senators to support nearly 5,000 bi-annual renewable visas for the Irish. Irish visa winners could bring their spouse and children to live and work in the U.S. as part of a reciprocal deal, which eases work and retirement rules and a path to Irish citizenship for Americans in Ireland. If successful, it will be the first dedicated renewable visas for Ireland in nearly 30 years. The AOH has, once again, proved that we are the only organization with such tremendous reach to legislators across the USA.

In the White House last Saint Patrick's Day, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar proposed a reciprocal deal to President Trump. Although the original plan called for addressing undocumented Irish, the program that the White House finally agreed to involves the unused visas from Australia's 10,500 E3 visas. First granted in 2005, E3 visas were only for Australians, who never used more than half of the 10,500. These visas require at least a bachelor's degree and do not address the undocumented Irish. But as Irish Senator Billy Lawless, who first spoke about the reciprocal deal at our National Convention in Louisville said, "it's the best chance at immigration reform we have had in 20 years."

Wisconsin Republican Jim Sensenbrenner and Massachusetts Democrat Richie Neal sponsored the House bill. Speaker Ryan mandated that it be fast-tracked through the House, which could lead to a quick passage in the lame duck Congress. National AOH President Judge McKay and our Immigration Committee remained in constant communication with the Irish Embassy, Congressman Neal's office and other legislative offices and focused on the leading legislators in both political parties. Brian O'Dwyer, our 2018 Sean MacBride Humanitarian Awardee, urged his U.S. Representative Jerry Nadler over Thanksgiving to assist Neal and Sensenbrenner, and House Resolution 7164 quickly passed the House in a procedure known as "unanimous consent."

The Senate came next, and almost overnight eight holds were placed on the bill by Republican Senators who wanted amendments added. Any such tweaks would scuttle the chances of the reciprocal deal, and time was short. By working with President McKay, Neil Cosgrove- National Political Educational Committee Chairman, the vigilant Keith Carney and our AOH National Immigration Committee, National Directors, National Liaisons, State Presidents and their members enabled constituents in each state to have an informed dialog directly to their Senators and their offices on the visa bill. Irish Ambassador Dan Mulhall, his staff and Senator Billy Lawless, as well as many friends in Congress, recognize the vital role Hibernians have played in the effort. I close this article confident that we will win this and grateful for all the Hibernians who participated in this effort with our National President.

I wish each and every member a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year from Siobhan, our daughters Ashling and Cara, and I.



Martin Galvin, right, AOH National Freedom for All Ireland Chair, Dan Dennehy and Noel Murphy clerk to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade And Defence, participated in the talk, as did representatives of the Irish Centers and ILIR. Concerns about returning to Ireland and visa denial. An impassioned account of the undocumented Irish were given to the delegation and Consul General Ciaran Madden. The delegation detailed the reciprocal deal, credited the community, particularly those of us lobbying for the E3 Bill, assuring that Ireland remains dedicated to the undocumented.



On December 3, Dennehy, center, assisted New York Irish Consul General Ciaran Madden and Fr. Brendan Fitzpatrick, pastor of St. Barnabas and Division 5 Woodlawn Chaplain, along with the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Aisling Irish Community Center, and ILIR in hosting the consulate's first-ever off-campus reception at St. Barnabas in Woodlawn, The Bronx. The reception welcomed the visiting Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs, including Senator Billy Lawless, who met members of the Woodlawn and Yonkers community, including Hibernians from Bronx, Manhattan and Westchester.

Coming Home to the AOH Family – The Horans & the Dowds

**By Don Connolly
District of Columbia State
Organizer**

Only four short years ago, AOH-DC Msgr Thomas M. Wells Division 3 consisted of a couple of guys getting together in the back booth of McGinty's Pub. We began a concerted effort to rebuild in Montgomery County, Maryland, and found a new home at the Rosensteel Knights of Columbus council in Silver Spring. The effort — we called it Project Lazarus — took off, and before long the Division was viable once again.

While visiting a Knights of Columbus council hall a few weeks ago in another part of the county, Past Grand Knight (and clubhouse manager) Mike Horan told me, "I've heard what you Hibernians are doing over at the other Knights council, and we want you guys to start doing that here." He went on to say that although he had never joined AOH, his father had been a Charter Member of Emerald Isle Division 1 in Ocean City, MD. Before long, Mike and his brother Billy were new members of their dad's organization.

Mike went on to ask us to talk to some of the other Irish Catholics there, so Msgr Wells Division arranged an outreach session there in place of our regular monthly gathering. Some of the first men we talked to, Kevin and Brian Dowd, mentioned they had some family history in the AOH. Kevin picks up the narrative here:

"I am not sure when my father joined the Hibernians but I suspect it was shortly after he arrived in Washington, D.C., in 1917.

"My maternal grandfather, Martin Meenehan, was awarded a gold pin in 1900 for recruiting the most members to the AOH in the country that year and a smaller pin for recruiting the most members in Wilmington, Delaware.

"My father had a fierce love of his

native country and would have sought out fraternal organizations soon after his arrival. I know the Irish at that time gathered in church halls and private homes to listen to Irish music and dance. This is how my father first became acquainted with my mother's family.

"He was elected as National Director in 1946 and served four years and in 1950 as National Vice-President. In 1954, he was elected National President and proposed the change to a two-year term. He also used his influence as the head of the Capitol Police to lobby the Irish members of Congress in the fight against the partition of Ireland. He sponsored many Hibernian groups on trips to Capitol Hill for the thrill of their lifetimes.

"My father loved the Hibernians and worked tirelessly to make sure its membership rolls were filled. The D.C. area boasted of several divisions during this time including his beloved Commodore John Barry Division. In 1955, he was made an Honorary Life Member and from then until his death in 1971, he worked to make sure that the Hibernian banquet at the Mayflower Hotel was one of the biggest and most successful in the country.

"Shortly after his death and without the driving force of his personality, Hibernian numbers began to decline. There was a thriving local chapter at St. Raphael's that had been renamed after my father but my brothers and I never joined.

"A few weeks ago, I ran into Don Connolly at the Knights of Columbus and he told me of a potential area rebirth. My youngest son, Brian, and I decided to join as a tribute to my father. My two older sons, Brendan and Patrick, will soon follow. I sincerely hope that the Hibernians grow into the force they once were. I am equally sure that my father is smiling down and



Nat'l Convention 1952 — Michael Dowd, VP, Vera Geoghan, George Reilly, Nat'l President, Peggy Dowd, John Geoghan, Nat'l Secretary.



D.C. Hibernian Banquet 1954 — Captain Mike Dowd escorts President Eisenhower through the banquet hall. In the background are Senator Eugene McCarthy, Minn., and Detective Daniel Slattery, AOH member.

cheering you on."

Mike Horan, Kevin and Brian Dowd were initiated at a ceremony presided over by Division President Charles Burnham and State President JP Walsh on November 13.

As one who found and joined the AOH because of my grandfather's membership a century ago, I invite all Hibernians to join me in saying, "Welcome Mike, Billy, Kevin, Brian, Brendan and Patrick into the family."



organizer by Tim McSweeney

As we start the new year, it's time to evaluate the overall welfare of our division. What are we doing well? Doing badly? And what can we improve upon? Increasing membership is always a discussion to include in your division evaluation. A solid recruitment plan is a great way to start the year. Elements of this plan should include:

- Gathering the proper recruitment material, which is available from your state or national organizer.
- Forming a division organizing committee. These are the Brothers who will take the lead and man recruitment tables, design recruitment displays and direct the face-to-face recruitment events.
- Targeting events to conduct recruitment at fairs, festivals, parades, dinners, lectures, etc. The month of March provides us with a tremendous amount of events at which to recruit. But don't just target March, part of your plan should include everything all year long.
- Identify places where recruitment posters can be hung. Parish halls, libraries, community centers, bars, pubs, restaurants and any place of business.
- Lastly, your division should set a goal for recruitment. It can either be a set number or percent of your existing division membership.

I know that there are divisions that do not actively recruit. This will lead to your division closing. Don't be the reason this happens; recruit, recruit, recruit!

I am more than happy to assist any division to develop a recruitment plan. Please contact me at newjack12007@yahoo.com or 518-961-1588.



hibernian hunger project by Paul Gowdy, Chairman

The so-called famine in Ireland was a defining event in the history of Ireland and Britain. It has left deep scars and bitterness in the Irish race for the disgraceful ignorance of the arrogant British government that ruled that time.

"That one million people should have died in what was then part of the richest and most powerful nation in the world, is something that still causes pain when we reflect on it today. Those who governed in London at the time failed their people." These were the defining words of Prime Minister Tony Blair back in 1997, talking about AN GORTA MOR in Ireland. Their mis-management in Ireland resulted in the deaths of millions of Irish and forced a massive immigration to the USA, Great Britain and Australia.

As descendants of those who lived through that horrific period, the memory is always with us. We must never forget this wanton neglect of our Mother Ireland.

As Hibernians we have a responsibility to our grief-stricken ancestors to aid those in our present communities who, due to circumstances beyond their control, face hunger daily.

Our National AOH Hunger project was implemented in the hope that our membership would reach out and help feed those unfortunate hungry families. What can we do to help those suffering adults and children?

I ask that every AOH state, county and division board to contemplate the appointment of a Hunger Project Chairman. Their prime responsibility is to encourage and implement a Hunger Program at their Board level. I also request that they report regularly with status reports of their Hunger programs to their local and National AOH boards.

I will be in regular contact with AOH Boards for updates on the progress with their 'hunger' assignments and projects.

Please communicate to me any projects that your AOH Board already performs. I will begin communicating with all AOH State boards, gathering information pertinent to current or some-time 'Hunger' projects in their jurisdictions.



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack

Historian

As we enter the cusp of the year, there are many things to call to mind. Primarily, it's the season to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Secondly, there are many traditions to recall like the Christmas candle in a holly-encircled window during penal times to signal that the forbidden Mass would be held there that night; then there's the hunting of the wren on St. Stephen's Day (December 26); and who can forget Little Christmas on January 6 when the visit of the Wise men was remembered by visits from distant relatives (and more gifts). In recent years, January 6th has been referred to as 'Ladies Christmas' when, in return for all the work the ladies did in preparing for the holidays, they were given a day off and the men took over the cooking and cleaning! I suppose it's never too late to say thank you. The season also brings light into the oldest still-standing man-made structure on the planet as the sun on the winter solstice illuminates the heart of Newgrange. All of these things are a part of our history and the stories can be found on AOH.COM in the HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS link; just go back to the December postings for previous years.

Another major recollection is the Centennial of the most defining event in Irish History – the founding of Dail Eireann – for it led to the War of Independence that fought the Brits to the treaty table, resulted in the 26-county Free State and ultimately to a partial Republic of Ireland. See the accompanying Echoes from of Irish History.

Another great example that history is still alive just came into my hands. It's a chronicle of an ancient Diocese of Kilmore (Cavan and Leitrim) and it takes the reader through the many eras in Irish history in which it had survived from 1100 to 1800. It is a great companion to Fr Gallogly's post-1800 history of the area and Fr. Gerry Comiskey's recently published book on the history of St. Patrick's Church, Milltown and Drumlane Abbey from 1878 to today. Reading these made me feel like a native of the area and I can understand why Cardinal Dolan said this was a book he would treasure since his ancestors are from that Diocese.

Thanks to the Washington, D.C. AOH for the invitation to speak at the re-dedication of the Thomas Devin Reilly Memorial on December 1. Keith Carney and his trusty sidekick, the Beltway Bulldog Jack O'Brien, were perfect hosts.

Happy Christmas to all who keep the traditions alive!

New York Hibernians

If you know of a New York monument, memorial or plaque relating to Irish or Irish American history please let our NY State Historian know of it at aohbard@optonline.net. credit will be given to the provider in a new publication on the subject.

2019 AOH Ireland Tour

February 10 thru February 19

Double Occupancy \$1,050*

Working with Derry Blue Badge Tours, we have once again put together a tour of the North for 2019.

Space is limited to 40 travelers; reservations will only be held

based on receipt of non-refundable deposits.

Air transportation is responsibility of traveler.

A \$300 non-refundable deposit is due by January 4;

Balance due by January 22.

Make checks payable to Sean Pender,

credit cards not accepted, checks or money order only.

Please write in memo area: FFAI 2019 Tour.

**Single supplement to be determined*

Mail deposit and reservation form below to:

Sean Pender AOH Treasurer, 13 Scullin Drive, Yardville NJ 08620

For more information, call 609-462-7056 or email paddyspeed@yahoo.com

Echoes of Irish History

The Most Defining Moment In Irish History

By Mike McCormack, AOH Historian

As 2018 ends, we recall that a century ago was a time of great change in Ireland. The Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) goal of Home Rule, an Irish parliament under the Crown, was supported by many before 1916, but Britain's reaction to the Rising struck them like an Irish Pearl Harbor. The British secretly court-martialed and murdered the leaders who should have been treated as prisoners of war; they unleashed nation-wide Martial Law treating every Irishman as a rebel and Loyalists convinced Lloyd George to break off a piece of Ireland and give it to them. The reaction was predictable – no longer would Home Rule under the Crown do, for now, like the heroes of Easter Week, they wanted total independence.

Sinn Fein, an insignificant party, gained strength by defending the Easter Week patriots. By 1918, they had four local election victories and became a new political force. Further, many Volunteer units re-formed as the Army of the Irish Republic and young women joined a reinvigorated Cumann na mBan. The Hibernian Rifles of the American Alliance folded their organization into the new IRA as the First Battalion, Dublin Brigade.

In 1918, Michael Collins, adjutant general of the Volunteers, became Director of Intelligence, establishing a network of spies among the police, the British army and even in Dublin Castle – Britain's control center. His spies intercepted messages and Collins often had them before the intended recipient. In April, a British Report confirmed partition and concurrently, conscription was ordered in Ireland. Reaction saw an unlikely alliance of Church and Sinn Fein rally opposition. As America entered the war, reducing the need for more recruits, and Irish opposition growing, conscription was never enforced.

In May, the British blundered again, claiming an attempt by Sinn Fein to import German arms for another rising and arresting 150 of the leaders. The so-called German Plot was found to be propaganda by Dublin Castle to destabilize growing nationalist sentiment. Collins had warned of the coming arrests and some escaped capture while others chose to be taken to secure a propaganda victory. The internment was significant since it took the accommodating leaders away while militant leaders, heeding Collins' warning, remained, allowing Collins to consolidate control and put the organization on a more military footing.

On July 4, the frustrated British finally banned Sinn Fein, the Gaelic League and Cumann na mBan and forbade public gatherings, including GAA games. The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), one of the largest organizations in Ireland, had always been nationalist and responded by arranging a program of 1,600 matches at 3 p.m. on August 4 calling it Gaelic Sunday. As many as 4,000 teams with nearly 100,000 players; took the field! The British ended their attempt to dictate to the GAA!

By the end of 1918, nationalism had grown considerably and the final nail in Britain's political coffin was hammered by themselves when, at war's end, Lloyd George called for a December election to insure his continued power. However, an act, passed in 1916 to defuse Republican ire after the botched handling of the Rising, extended the vote to men over 21 and women over 30. This put nationalists in a position to take the country by storm and they did so making 1918 a year of profound political change. When the votes were counted on December 28, Sinn Fein won 73 seats as opposed to IPP's 6 and Unionist's 22. The 1918 Election was the last all-Ireland election; the first to allow women to vote; and the first to elect a woman (Countess Markievicz) to the British Parliament.

Then, on January 7, 1919, Sinn Fein's elected members decided not to take their seats at Westminster; instead, they formed their own independent Parliament called Dail Eireann. On January 21, 24 members of Dail Eireann first met at Dublin's Mansion House; in a roll call 35 names were in British prisons. They declared Ireland an independent Republic based on the principles of 1916, which led to the War of Independence that fought the Brits to the treaty table, resulted in the 26-county Free State and ultimately to a partial Republic of Ireland! That meeting, 100 years ago, was the most defining moment in Irish history!

A Remembrance

By George J. Clough, Jr.
Past National Pres.

Last September, I attended the 40th Anniversary Dinner at Notre Dame of the Notre Dame-Hibernian Fund with Past National Director Alex McGarry. We enjoyed the report on how successful the Fund has been. The present value exceeds \$2,600,000 and it has distributed over \$1,600,000 in grants to over 80 scholarship students who were members of the AOH or the LAOH or sons and daughters of members and assistance to the CUSHWA CENTER for the study of American Catholicism.

Alex and I were the only members who

were at Killarney for the National Convention in 1978 when the Fund was authorized. The approval was not easy as the men did not vote in favor but the ladies voted in favor, Alex was the spokesman for the Fund and was explaining it to the Convention and received objections from Father Murray, a Holy Cross priest and Chaplain of the Division in South Bend,, and the members from the District of Columbia who wanted Catholic University of America to be involved as the LAOH made a donation of \$50,000 years ago but the money was still the same as when it was given. Msgr. Eagan, who lectured at Notre Dame, was a member of the Order being sworn in shortly before he spoke in favor of

the Fund. Alex, in view of his strong support in presenting the proposal to the Convention, was not reelected for his second term as National Director.

As we looked over the votes, National President Jack Keane asked me as I was National Director of Constitution and Ritual, could we combine the votes. I said since there was nothing in the Constitution to preclude it, we could. He then said what if we get a point of order from the floor, I informed him that after reviewing Roberts Rules of Order, I believe that if a Point of Order was raised, I was on firm grounds to rule such a motion out of order. Thus, the Resolution was adopted, and we began what was to be a long relationship with the

University of Notre Dame.

That year Actor Pat O'Brien was the Kennedy Medal winner. He was not in the best of health and we wondered how he would handle the Final Banquet. However, our fears were not to be a problem. When he got up to accept the award he got up and gave the "Win one for the Gipper" speech from the movie Knute Rockne All American and he sounded just as if it was 1940 again. This was a fitting end to a Convention that got the AOH and LAOH forever connected to the University of Notre Dame and to collaborate on many joint projects in the future.



political education

by Neil Cosgrove, Chairman

Brothers, it is my hope that you and yours have had a blessed Christmas and wish you joy and happiness in the New Year. Let us also make this a year of returning to our core values of active action in the protection of our faith and heritage. Just as activity leads to a strong and healthy body, so too does action lead to a strong and dynamic organization. Apathy in an organization is like atrophy in the body; both imperil health.

In response to recent events in the North of Ireland, a coalition of concerned Irish American organizations have organized to seek reaffirmation of America's commitment to peace and freedom in Ireland through an initiative called the McGuinness Principles. The four principles, Equality, Respect, Truth and Self Determination, are the basic pillars of any free, modern society. That there is a need to reassert our expectation of these fundamental rights in the North of Ireland is a sad indictment of how much remains to be done under the Good Friday Agreement. Despite having given two decades of relative peace to all communities of Northern Ireland, in the age of Brexit some British MPs have suggested that the Good Friday Agreement, a signature moment in U.S. diplomacy and a beacon of hope to other nations mired in sectarian conflict, has served its purpose and is expendable.

Two decades since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, families of the victims of Ballymurphy, Loughinisland and numerous other atrocities of the troubles are still awaiting justice. The fundamental concept of "parity of esteem" for the Irish Culture is still all too absent in Northern Ireland government policy. In 20 years since the signing of the GFA there has been no progress on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, and now with Brexit, the citizens of Northern Ireland are losing the impartial protection of the European Court of Justice. This is why the McGuinness Principles are needed now.

At our 2018 National Convention, the Hibernians "(endorsed) fully and unequivocally the Martin McGuinness Principles of Equality, Respect, Truth and Self-Determination; will promote the same; and will undertake to encourage other Irish-Americans, their organizations, elected officials, candidates for office and friends and family to endorse and fully support the Martin McGuinness Principles." Therefore, I ask you and the brothers of your states for assistance in seeing endorsement of the Principles by your state legislature. If the Hibernians can turn the map of the U.S. "green" with broad state support for the McGuinness Principles, it sends a powerful message that Americans expect commitments to be honored and progress to be made in the north of Ireland. It also sends a message as to the reach and strength of the Hibernians and the principles they stand for.

By the time of this article, a summary of the McGuinness Principles and a template resolution for your state government to pass shall be sent to your State Board. Given that the McGuinness Principles are rooted in fundamental American values, no American politician of any part should hesitate to endorse them. I thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

History has shown time and time again that Britain only becomes interested in the welfare of Ireland when America shows an interest. It was in reaction to growing American outrage that the executions of the Volunteers of 1916 were halted. It was America's anger over the deaths of Terence MacSwiney and Kevin Barry that bought England to the treaty table in 1921. It was American indignation over the death of the Hunger Strikers that resulted in the appointment of a U.S. Special Envoy, the Good Friday Agreement and two decades of peace. It is our duty as Hibernians and Irish Americans to speak out again before the peace of Northern Ireland is sacrificed on an altar of Brexit expediency.

Kentucky

After mid-July, with the successful conclusion of a memorable Louisville-hosted National AOH Convention, the Father Abram J. Ryan Division went back to the business of serving the community through good deeds.

Not resting on its laurels, the division continued its tradition of active service in the local community. On August 11th, the Hibernians manned the Little Debbie Snack Booth at the St. Joe's Picnic for the Kids. The Ryan Division has annually manned the booth as part of a 169-years old event that supports and provides a home for abused and neglected children. The Hibernian booth helps raise funds and enhances the experience of the 60,000 people who attend to support this important cause.

With DeSales' 28 to 3 victory over Holy Cross, the region saw what is hoped for a temporary end to a 34-year catholic high school football rivalry. The Ryan Division has annually awarded the Hibernian Cup to the victor and hopes for a future renewal very soon.

Gratefully, an even longer Louisville Catholic high school football tradition continues with the annual presentation of "the shillelagh" to the St. Xavier Tigers who conquered the Trinity Shamrocks 21 - 7 in late September. The hard-fought annual rivalry battle for "the shillelagh" was witnessed by a crowd estimated at 30,000.

In September the Hibernians held their eighth "Irish for Kids" Golf Scramble benefiting Boys & Girls Haven. Drawing 133 golfers, the event raised over \$8000 to help young residents develop skills critical to successful adulthood. The Division has yet to determine what is enjoyed more by participants: the scramble or the Hooley Party held at Molly Malone's afterwards.

Finally, in mid-September, the Division's annual Half Way to St. Patrick's Party at O'Shea's provided the joyful reassurance that St. Patrick's Day was not far away.



freedom for all ireland

by Martin Galvin, Chairman

Standing with Ballymurphy

During the recent New York State Board meeting, Worthy National President Judge McKay said one of the strengths of the AOH is that with a few phone calls, Brothers around the country will respond and accomplish a great deal. Carmel Quinn's AOH-sponsored tour exemplified this strength. Over nine days, brothers in Philadelphia, New Jersey, Long Island, Washington, D.C., Albany, the Bronx, Manhattan and Cleveland organized major public events.

We also organized political meetings, which produced a public statement, by Senator Schumer, and received pledges of support for a new Congressional initiative by Congressmen and staff. The Irish Embassy honored the Ballymurphy Massacre families hosting a reception whose importance will not be missed by the British.

AOH support for the Ballymurphy Massacre families made headlines in the Irish-American papers, and also in the Irish News in Belfast.

Our AOH Marketing Team prepared a video of Carmel Quinn's speech in Cleveland, which is being viewed across the country and in Ireland.

Ballymurphy is a fundamental test of legacy justice. If the British will not give justice, where innocents, including a Catholic priest waving a white handkerchief and the mother of 8 children are shot down, how do we get justice in any case where British troops are involved?

Victims' families believe that American support is crucial in their fight for justice and count on the AOH to lead the way for them. They are deeply grateful for what we did to highlight Ballymurphy and want to send more speakers to appeal for our help. We would like to bring speakers to more cities in the Midwest, New England etc.

Congressional Initiative

Last April, 16 Members of Congress joined a bipartisan letter sponsored by the AOH to the British Ambassador about legacy truth. The British Ambassador and colonial British Secretary Karen Bradley had to reply. Britain pays attention when American Congressmen and Senators are watching.

We are waiting for a Congressional draft letter on Ballymurphy to be approved. Once we have the draft we will be asking members to meet with their own Congressmen and get them to join.

Christmas Appeal

You have received the Christmas Appeal mailing. Has your State Board, County Board and Division taken up this mailing at your meeting and joined the Christmas Appeal for Freedom For All Ireland? AOH donations to carefully chosen charities through money raised by the FFAI Annual Christmas Appeal, alongside our political and educational campaigns, are the cornerstone of our FFAI initiative.

Our National Officers are asking for a commitment from everyone to participate and support FFAI with a donation or fundraising event. Help make Freedom For All Ireland, not an aspiration or endeavor but the reality for those Irish people still denied it.

Ireland's Declaration of Independence

During our National Convention, a resolution was passed to commemorate the centenary of Ireland's Declaration of Independence. On January 21, 1919, representatives elected in the 32 county election of 1918 assembled as a National Parliament, and voted Ireland's Declaration of Independence. Like the signers of America's Declaration, Irish patriots risked imprisonment or death at the hands of the colonial British government. We want to promote this proud event with state, city and local proclamations of Ireland's Independence Day.

FFAI Monthly Bulletin

Please check for the monthly FFAI Bulletin on the New York State and National AOH websites. We want to give you monthly updates on key events in the north with short analysis and explanation.

Please contact me at MGalvinEsq@aol.com

New Mexico

Many good deeds done in the Hibernian Southwest!

It has been a busy year for the Brother Mathias Barrett Division 1 in Bernalillo County, New Mexico!

The first weekend in October, Division President Jim Larkin joined Brother Chris Shay, accompanied by Vice President Tom Farrell playing bass in Mac-Tire of Skye Pipes & Drums, to provide information to fair-goers in Farmington, NM.

Coming next spring, the Division is signed up to chair the Ticket Sales for the Brother Mathias Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner fundraiser for the Good Shepherd Center on St Patrick's Day.

Brother Mathias Barrett came to Albuquerque from Waterford, Ireland, in 1951 and founded the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, who feed the homeless at the Good Shepherd Center. This is the biggest Irish Catholic event in New Mexico and provides an excellent opportunity to introduce the Brothers to the public as we personally engage to serve the homeless outreach effort.



veterans affairs

by Jim Green, Chairman

I was very pleased about being given the opportunity to share a Veterans Day email message directly to our Hibernian veteran brothers. And I thank you for your kind responses. Vice President Danny O forwarded the email message for me – thank you, brother – and indicated that I’ll be able to generate messages on my own in the near future. That would be one great accomplishment that I was hoping for, so more of that to come. Stay tuned.

As reported before, I received a listing of all of the email addresses of the State Presidents, so I sent all of them an email asking for them to respond with the contact information for all of the State Veterans Affairs Chairmen. Many have responded with that information or with a promise to fill the position in their upcoming State Board agendas. Hopefully, that will also enable better communications with the States, then hopefully County and Division Chairmen.

I continue to consult with brother Danny Eakins of Ohio and have recently written to AOH webmaster Jeff Nisler about working to update the AOH National Veterans webpage with current and meaningful content. Hopefully by the next edition of the Digest, we will be able to announce the updates to that page. Many thanks to Danny and Jeff for their professional assistance with this effort.

I was informed recently that the National Secretary’s office has sent out the latest Division rosters for their annual review by the Financial Secretaries. PLEASE include in your review an assessment of who is or is not marked as a military veteran. I would ask the veterans reading this column to please check with your Secretary to ensure that your status is updated. We can’t communicate with each other if we don’t know that you’re a veteran. You’ve earned this recognition; please help us make sure that our records are correct. Thanks!

Don’t forget that with Division elections recently completed and swearing-in ceremonies to commence, these are great opportunities to present your Division veterans with their Hibernian Veterans Pin. I keep hearing of more and more Divisions around the country performing presentation ceremonies that we are all so proud of. Our veterans deserve to be recognized, and this small token of appreciation will mean a lot to them and



the brothers of your Divisions. If you need pins, please order them through the form on the National website and/or contact the National Secretary for help. If you need my assistance, please write to me and I’ll be happy to assist.

A National Veterans Memorial & Museum opened recently in downtown Columbus, Ohio. It’s a museum of and for all veterans, whether they served in conflict or in peacetime. The museum focuses on the lives and stories of individual U.S. service members, so if you’re in the Columbus area any time soon, please stop in to see it. I hope to have the opportunity in the coming months to do so.

Regarding the photo that accompanies this article: You’ve all likely heard about the tragic shooting that took place at the Tree of Life Synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh in October. As part of the Pittsburgh-wide response to show support for the Jewish community, a group of Hibernians – men and women led by Allegheny County Division 17 President Bill O’Neill – attended Sabbath services at Temple David in Monroeville the following Friday. We, in our AOH hats and jackets, were warmly welcomed and embraced by our Jewish brothers and sisters of the congregation. It was an emotional experience for all of us and reminded us of what is truly important in our world – that love is stronger than hate.

Until next time, God bless all you do for the Order and for our veterans.

Albany Vets Pin



Albany Division 5 honored its members that served in the United States Armed Forces at an event chaired by Peter Lounsbery on November 9th at the Albany Hall. Division 5 President Tim Carey presented Albany AOH veterans with the new AOH USA Veterans pin after a brief program featuring remarks by Albany County Legislature Chairman and Division 5 brother, Andrew Joyce. Food and refreshments were enjoyed after the presentation.

South Carolina



The Mass of the Roses

St. Gregory the Great Parish in Bluffton, SC, is home to a large and vibrant Hispanic community. Each year there is a day-long festival in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which concludes with a procession and celebration of the Mass of the Roses. The Bishop Patrick Lynch Division was once again honored by our Hispanic brothers and sisters in Christ to play a significant role in the festive procession and Mass that followed.

Left: Past President Richard Kearns placed a dozen red roses at the feet of the Virgin of Guadalupe during Mass.



Under the colors, brothers from the Bishop Patrick Lynch Division processed into Saint Gregory the Great Church for the annual Mass of the Roses in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Irish American Heritage Month

by Neil Cosgrove, Chairman



Brothers, as you read this column we will be in a new year and many looking past the cold dark days of winter to spring and the traditional celebrations of our Irish Heritage and St. Patrick's Day. As with Christmas that has just passed, let us not forget the true meaning of St. Patrick's Day and Irish American Heritage Month nor be apathetic in our participation. As trite as it may sound, let's resist phrases such as "the Green Season" as if we were paying tribute to a color or as if our heritage is something we take out of the closet and put on for one day of the year. The contributions of

Ireland's sons and daughters deserve to be honored and recognized and appreciated. March is a time to celebrate Irish pride, but also a time to educate, and sadly we must educate too many of our own, as to why we are proud.

We as Hibernians have a duty to promote Irish American Heritage Month. On the National Board level we continue to advocate for parity of treatment of Irish American Heritage Month on par with the rightful celebration of other heritages. We will again look for a "win-win" as we have had in previous years in actively promoting Irish American Heritage and the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the media and on the internet. Last year's Irish American Heritage Month video reached 10,000 people, and each view promoted both our heritage and the Order. We will continue our Irish American profile series, one profile alone reached 7,000 people. Topping this will be a challenge, but it is a challenge we fully embrace. I ask one favor of each of you: when you see these Irish American Heritage Month article, videos, etc., on Facebook please Like and Share. If even a small percentage of our membership did this Irish American Heritage Month could no longer be ignored.

We need your help brothers in establishing and reinforcing Irish American Heritage month. As the media covers your parades and dances be sure to mention the importance of Irish American Heritage Month. Take on as a division project or event "in honor of Irish American Heritage Month." Consider promoting Irish American Heritage Month and your division by engaging your local media and proposing a story on the contribution of the Irish in your community both past and present and the role your division is playing. What a natural recruitment opportunity!

Edmund Burke once noted, "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors." Concerning the AOH, truer words were never spoke. If we do not promote ourselves, if we do not do more than pay lip service to "Irish pride," if we surrender the message of St. Patrick's Day to a green-tinted carnival of stilt walkers and dancing bears, then the future of our heritage and Order is bleak. I call upon you all to take March as an opportunity to reacquaint yourself with your heritage and promote with the dignity, joy and pride that our ancestors deserve.

Indiana

Kevin Barry Division Special Mass

Annually, the Kevin Barry Division 3, in Indianapolis, Indiana, has a Mass said for members who passed away during the year. This year the Mass was held at 10:00, on Sunday morning, October 21, at the Division's home parish St. Philip Neri Church. The Hibernians recognized and honored Raymond Mellen, Thomas McHugh, Bob Cavanaugh, Robert J. Dangler, Robert Baxter, Philip E. Curran and Thomas Patrick Burke.

At the Mass' conclusion, celebrant, Father Christopher Wadelton, invited all the Division officers to come forward. Following the introduction of the officers, Division President Bob McCurdy presented Father Chris and St. Philip Neri Parish a check for \$1,000 as an AOH donation towards parish equipment. The church was filled with appreciative applause as Parish members expressed their thanks for the donation.

With the donation presented, long-time member and Division treasurer, Chuck McGinley, provided an informative and comprehensive talk covering the history and purpose of AOH and the regional engagement of the Kevin Barry Division with a focus on the long tradition of charitable gift giving.

Treasurer McGinley note the October 21 proximity to the first meeting of the Berry Division which was held 60 years ago, on Oct. 10, 1958. Recognized in front of the congregation was still-active past president and charter member Denis Moriarty who attended that first meeting, 60 years ago. Denis and his wife, Ita, came to the U.S. as young adults having been born and raised in Ireland

It was announced that all surviving charter members will be honored and recognized at the 2019 annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Indianapolis.

The special Mass celebration continued with a reception of coffee and AOH-supplied donuts in the parish social center.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

On the weekend of September 15-16 in Roscommon, Ireland, two of Connecticut's own were honored with an invitation to speak at the Ruarri O Bradeigh Autumn School. Waterbury AOH President and Connecticut FFAI Chair Joseph O'Flaherty and New Haven County FFAI Chair Peadar Mac Maghnuis gave an overview of the accomplishments and future plans of the Erie Nua United States Campaign.

Brother Mac Maghnuis cited the mission of the Éire Nua U.S. Campaign: "Its mission is to secure the support of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to end partition of Ireland in the context of a British withdrawal from the six occupied Irish counties, followed by the establishment of a 32-county federal Irish Republic as outlined in the Éire Nua document. It is our goal to meet and speak with U.S. policymakers to create a pathway for Congressional hearings to create change in U.S. policy that currently supports a partitioned Ireland."

The two FFAI Chairmen stated the Éire Nua U.S. Campaign is planning for the 100th anniversary of Dáil Éireann in 2019. It is planning a simulation session creating the Dáil Uladh (Dáil Ulster) with representations from the nine counties in Ulster. It will be a provincial Dáil model, based on Éire Nua. It will be an initial demonstration/discussion for a New Ireland federal republic government model that could become a reality in a new 32 County Constitution that would be written following a British withdrawal from Ireland!

The month of November saw Connecticut Hibernians replicating the good that they have done in the past. Both Danbury and New London sponsored Masses to honor their deceased members while the AOH Veterans Committee in Waterbury continued their exceptional work for local Veterans by hosting a pancake breakfast for their benefit. In addition the Waterbury AOH as usual awarded three scholarships to students attending Sacred Heart and Holy Cross High Schools.

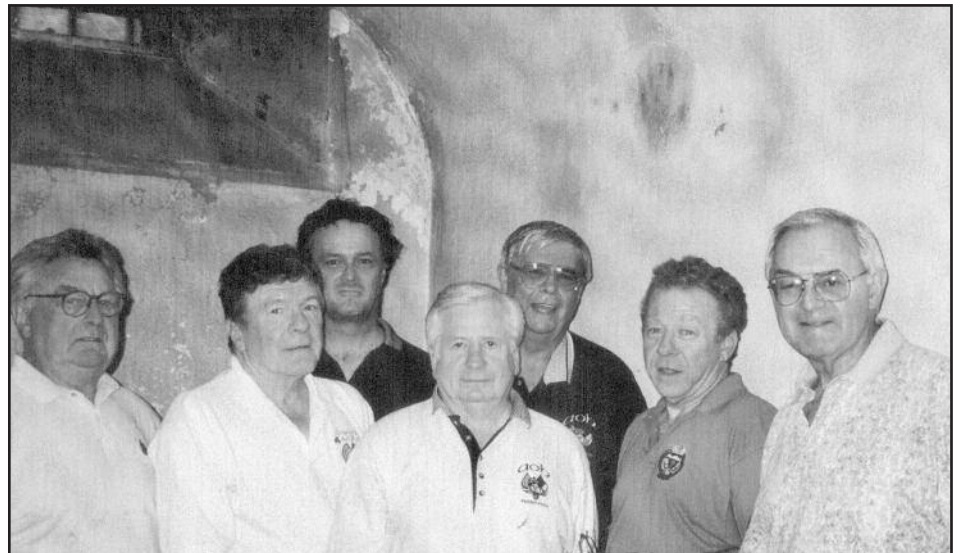
The JFK Division of Bridgeport once again embarked on their Shamrock matching program, which annually raises \$3,000 to provide a Merry Christmas for the Kids at Sister Theresa Tremblay's Pre School and Rescue Mission.

Stamford Hibernians completed the month of November with good cheer and song at their annual Christmas cocktail party on the 30th.

I would like to send accolades to Tommy Hennessy of Danbury and Bob Pawson of Waterbury on being named Hibernians of the Year by their brother Hibernians in recognition of their contributions.

Don't forget to check out Sacred Heart University's. digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_hiber

For news or info contact me at: jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



In this classic AOH legacy photo taken in July of 2002 at the former Carbon County jail in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, the late Joe Dolan of the Albany Irish Historical Museum, Past National Director Phil Gallagher, Past National Archivist Michael Cummings, the late Tom O'Malley of the Scranton AOH, Past National Director John Kane, National Historian Mike McCormick and Deputy National Historian Tom Conway stand below the famous hand print of Alex Cambell who imprinted it on the wall of his jail cell to proclaim his innocence the night before his execution, for being accused of being a Molly McGuire, which took place on June 21, 1877. The hand imprint remains to this day. The Hibernian crew were assembling a museum exhibit entitled 'The Story of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.'

Peadar Mac Maghnuis and Joseph O'Flaherty in Roscommon giving an overview of the accomplishments and future plans of the Erie Nua United States Campaign.

(photo by Robert W. White)



Massachusetts

By Charlie Sinclair

In May 2019, the Massachusetts AOH and LAOH will gather to celebrate their 100th Biennial Convention at the Seacrest Hotel in Falmouth, MA. The committee has been working for many months to ensure that this will be an event to remember. Co-Chairpersons for the Convention are Jack Lahey, Massachusetts AOH State President, and Margaret O'Connor, LAOH State Vice President. More information on this event will follow in the next edition of the Hibernian Digest.

Here is a sampling of AOH events and activities that are taking place across the Bay State.

Division 8 Lawrence: On November 1, Division 8 kicked off their annual FFAI Christmas Appeal Fundraiser. The Division Members have pledged a donation of \$1000 for the Christmas Appeal. On December 12, the Division's Christmas Party was held at the Claddagh and the 2019-2020 Installation of Officers will take place January 27, following a Mass at Sacred Hearts Church in Bradford, MA celebrated by their Chaplain, the very Rev. John Delaney V.F. A reception will follow the Mass and Installation.

Division 18 Salem: The Division thanks Melanie Provost for chairing the Division's Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and our members who donated so generously to this cause. All donations received were given to Haven for Hunger in Peabody, MA. We also thank Sue Quirk for chairing our Angel Tree for the Salvation Army and our members that gave gifts for the children. This was another great job for putting smiles on the faces of those most in need!

Division 36 Worcester: On November 28, Division 36 hosted the Massachusetts State Board AOH and LAOH Brunch, and the State Boards were honored with a visit by the Consul General of Ireland of Boston, Shane Cahill, a supporter of Division 36 and the Worcester Hibernian Cultural Center. The Installation of Officers will take place at an Installation Brunch on January 6, at 12:30 p.m. in the Kerry Room at the Cultural Foundation.



Massachusetts Hibernians and Irish from throughout New England gathered at the World Trade Center in Boston on Nov. 16 and 17 for the Golden Bridges Conference. Among the highlights of the two-day conference was the presentation of the 10th Annual Golden Bridges David R. Burke Award to David Barrett of the New England Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, MA. Dave Burke, who served on the AOH National Board for more than 30 years, passed in 2009. The award was presented by his wife, Patricia Burke. Pictured, from left, were (Front Row) John Foley, Seamus Mulligan, Greg Jackson, Mrs. David Barrett, David Barrett O'Hanlon. (Back Row) Martin Ó Muilleoir, Bill Sullivan, Patricia Burke, Margaret O'Connor, Mrs. Seamus Mulligan, Frank O'Connor and Bob Collins.

We wish all our Brother and Sister Hibernians a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. And that's the way we see it in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. God Bless!

West Virginia

Irish Road Bowling Fundraiser a Hit for Charity and Recruiting

Bishop Whelan Division in Wheeling, WV held its annual Irish Road Bowling fundraiser on September 15. There were 851 bowlers at the fundraiser.

Bishop Whelan Division uses Irish Road Bowling (Ból an bhóthair) as its major fundraiser. Nine years ago the division decided it needed an event to raise funds. With Brother Craig O'Leary in the lead, some members attended a road bowling event in Kingwood, WV to determine if road bowling could be organized in Wheeling. Members took what they saw and fine-tuned it to meet the organization's goal to put on their own event. The money raised supports many local charities and the event has inadvertently become a major membership drive, as new members join

each year after taking part and learning about the AOH.

Road Bowling has been played for centuries in Ireland. A mainly rural sport, its premise is simple. The game is played along a meandering country road with curves and hills and the road, or course, may be as long as one or two miles. Typically, two players alternate taking a turn throwing a heavy iron ball or bowl (just smaller than a softball) underhand along the road. The winner is the one who can navigate the planned course in the fewest number of throws. What makes the game a bit more interesting is that residents of the area follow the participants and make bets throughout the game. These crowds make for great craic (good fun) and time well spent with family and friends. The roads usually are not closed off players have to keep an eye on

vehicles sharing the road. The game is played mainly in the Counties Cork and Armagh.

In West Virginia the sport has grown since the mid-1990's, with currently almost 20 road bowling events each year. It is played somewhat differently than in Ireland with team play and less emphasis on betting. At the annual Wheeling game each participant pays a fee which includes bowling, dinner, music and drinks. In 2010, the first year of the event, 26 teams participated while 2018 had 168 teams, while in 2018 the number of teams grew to 168. The large amount of teams and players give Wheeling a claim to the largest road-bowling event in the world.

After the last iron ball has been bowled, the bowlers as well as those watching on the sidelines were invited to catered meal with live Irish music performed by

Brigid's Cross. The party lasted well into the evening.

A trophy, named in honor of Fr. Jeremiah McSweeney, was awarded to the team that had the fewest throws. Fr. McSweeney, originally from Rossmore, Co. Cork, has ministered to Roman Catholics throughout West Virginia since his arrival in the 1970's. He attends the event each year.

The funds raised are used to assist those in need in the Wheeling area. Not only is the event for a good cause, but it has increased the popularity of road bowling in West Virginia and created a great outing for family and friends. The road bowling is open to all who want to participate. However, the success has been so great that the division is considering having to put a cap on the number of participants for future games.

Kansas

Irish Road Bowling in Kansas

The Fr. Donnelly Division, Johnson County, Kansas successfully concluded two Irish Road Bowling scores during 2018. The spring and fall competitions are rapidly becoming "can't miss events" within the region's Irish community and all "bullet" throwers. This past October's "score" (proper term for an Irish Road Bowling 'event') was held in a fine mist, much like an Irish morning, with 61 teams of four players each competing over a 1¼ mile course at the Wyandotte County Park. The winning team came in with a score of 19 throws. The Division was delighted to learn a team traveled over 800-miles from San Antonio and promised to return.

The great fun and competition has the serious purpose of raising money to support two important local charities and at the Division's November meeting, checks were presented to Sonny Wilson, Executive Director of the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (SAFE) and to George Noonan, Executive Director of the Duchesne Clinic located in Kansas City, Kansas.

SAFE, sponsored by the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission, provides immediate funding support to the families of first responders killed in the line-of-duty. The Division's relationship with SAFE extends back to the initial Irish Road Bowling event in 2014. The annual spring scores have always included a separate bragging match among area firefighters and police officers in the "Red/Blue Roll-off."

The Duchesne Clinic provides health care to the uninsured and underinsured of Wyandotte County. The Duchesne Clinic is a component of the northeast Kansas Catholic Caritas Clinics, begun by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth County.

The Donnelly Division received support for its IRB efforts from many sponsors, including Barry Law and JR and Company, and even gets donations from its KCMO brothers in the Pearse Division and good friend Terry Kast of Weston, Missouri's Celtic Ranch.

Alabama

Father Tracy Division honors its veterans

The Father Tracy Division hosted a special ceremony to recognize and honor its veterans. During the ceremony, each of the Division's veterans were named with their respective service. For the veterans in attendance, the Division president individually presented an AOH veteran's pin in recognition of their valuable contribution to our nation.



Pictured at the Father Tracy Division veterans ceremony were, from left, Michael Bollinger, Stephen Robinson, Gerard Delaney, and David Gray.

Missouri

Out of the Darkness

On April 6, 2017, the St. Charles AOH Michael J Roarty Division 1 lost its youngest member, Joshua Thomas, to suicide. Joshua was a college student at Truman State University when he passed away just eight days shy of his 19th birthday.

According to the American College Health Association, the suicide rate among young adults, ages 15-24, has tripled since the 1950s and suicide is currently the second most common cause of death among college students.

In response to this tragedy the Michael Roarty Division of the AOH sponsored a team at the Out of the Darkness community walk on September 30 at Creve Couer Park. Money raised at this walk goes to support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The Michael Roarty Division set a goal of \$5,000 as it would cover the cost of placing an Interactive Screening Program on a college campus; something that was not available at Truman State University when Joshua lost his life. At the time of the walk the team had raised \$6,455.



Additionally, the Hibernians went about educating the public on Catholic teaching on suicide. There is a widely held belief that the church teaches that anyone who loses their lives to suicide is automatically condemned to hell. Because of this, many turn away from the church in despair. However, the Catechism teaches us that "Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide. We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (CCC 2282-2283). To combat this misconception, the Hibernians gave out 1,500 pamphlets entitled "Divine Mercy After Suicide" as well as 1,500 rosaries to provide healing and hope to those who desperately need it.

To find out how your division can help fight suicide and contribute to the Catholic response contact us at suzmic76@gmail.com.

Pearse Division Awards Kansas City Scholarships

Annually the Padraig Pearse Division 1, Kansas City Missouri awards \$500 scholarships to four-five area students attending Catholic high schools. As in past the August awards were attended by the Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Bishop of the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese. The Bishop brings a good deal of formality and ceremony to the program but is happy to share a laugh with the Hibernians, winners and family and friends attending.

Judging was conducted by 13 Hibernian volunteers who evaluated the 20 student entries on their volunteer, religious, academic and extracurricular activities and then scored a 500-word essay. Entries are blinded so judges do not know the names or schools of competitors.

Each year a different topic is selected for the essays, in 2018 the topic focused on the United States history of immigration with the title "Tell an Irish-American Story." Topics ranged from the more familiar, President John Kennedy, to more obscure but worthy Irish-Americans.

In 2018, the Kansas City Irish Fest continued its partnership and presented one of the awards, resulting in a fifth scholarship award presented by Fest-Founder Ed Follis. A highlight to the evening was awarding scholarships to a brother and sister; Josh and Anna Frerker. Josh's essay was on Kilkenny-born James Hoban who would migrate and as an architect design the White House. Anna entered with a paper about Dublin-native Mary Francis Clark who founded the Sisters of Charity and schools and hospitals for immigrants and Native Americans.

Other winning authors and their essay topics were: Olivia Powel, daughter of Hibernian Brian Powell, and the Irish Fest Scholarship Winner for her essay on Mother Jones; Olivia Ervie, granddaughter of Pearse's Tom McGuire, writing about Father Edward Flanagan; and, Anna Cernich who chose the late, much loved, Kansas City Bishop Raymond Boland.



Bishop James Johnston with scholarship siblings Anna and Josh Frerker and their mother, Nicole.

New Jersey

Lecture on Ballymurphy in NJ

On November 12, Carmel Quinn spoke at the Bayshore Catholic Center in Middletown, NJ hosted by the Vol. Patrick Torphy Division II. She was joined by FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin, Malachy McAllister and Tommy Quinn. AOH and LAOH members from Jersey City to Cape May were present to listen to the Appeal. It was a highly informative, inspirational and provocative evening.

The Ballymurphy Massacre was a series of incidents in August 1971 in which the 1st Battalion, Parachute Regiment, of the British army killed 11 civilians in Ballymurphy, Belfast, Northern Ireland, as part of Operation Demetrius. The shootings were later referred to as Belfast's Bloody Sunday, a reference to the killing of civilians by the same battalion in Derry a few months later.

In 2016, Sir Declan Morgan, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, recommended an inquest into the killings as one of a series of "legacy inquests" covering 56 cases related to the Troubles. These inquests were delayed as funding was not approved by the Northern Ireland Executive. The former Stormont first minister, Arlene Foster, of the DUP, deferred a bid for extra funding for inquests into historic killings in Northern Ireland, a decision condemned by the human rights group Amnesty International. Foster confirmed she had used her influence in the devolved power-sharing executive to hold back finance for a backlog of inquests connected to the conflict. The High Court said "her decision to refuse to put a funding paper on the Executive basis was unlawful and procedurally flawed."



National Treasurer Sean Pender Presents a Response from NJ Congressman Frank Pallone to Carmel Quinn. From left: Division President: Declan Cassidy and NJ State Vice President: Richard O'Brien. All photos by Brother Geo S.



Rituals & Degrees

by Jack Schneider, Chairman

Athbhliain faoi mhais daoibh! Best wishes for a most Happy, Blessed and Prosperous New Year to all my fellow Major Degree Team member Brothers and all Brothers and Sisters throughout the Order. May 2019 bring forth much joy and happiness to you and your families.

The AOH currently has nine active Major Degree Teams located along the eastern seaboard from New York south to Florida and into the Midwest in Ohio who are certified to exemplify the Major Degree Ceremony. I would like to wish all our Degree Teams much success as they pursue their endeavors in the coming year.

If you have not yet achieved status as a Fourth Degree Hibernian by taking your Major Degrees, may I suggest you possibly consider that goal as a New Year's Resolution. Recall that when you took the oath when joining the AOH, you agreed to "receive the Lessons and take the Test of our Order in accordance with our laws." I believe you will find it to be a most worthwhile experience in enhancing your appreciation of your Irish heritage.

With this being an odd-numbered year on the calendar, it is a year in which AOH State Conventions will be held and Major Degree ceremonies are often offered as part of the agenda in locales where our Major Degree Teams are active. One does not have to participate in the entirety of a convention to be able to register to be a candidate or an observer for a convention Major Degree.

I will be working with all our Major Degree Teams, the Hibernian Digest Editor and our National Webmaster to ensure that upcoming Major Degree events for this year are publicized with relevant dates, times, locations and related details.

On occasion, a Major Degree Team is afforded the opportunity to exemplify a Major Degree ceremony at a venue with historic significance to the AOH. Such was the case on October 20, 2018, when the St. Columbkil Knights Major Degree Team of Bronx County conducted a Major Degree Ceremony at the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in Manhattan, a site very prominent in the early history

Montana

Life Membership for Brother Mike O'Connor

Montana State President Bob Mehrens was honored to present National AOH Life Membership to a well-deserved brother, Mike O'Connor. Mike has spread Hibernianism throughout Montana and the Western United States for the past three decades. He has been elected a National Director multiple times. He is proud to hold the stature of Past President for both the Montana State AOH and the Thomas Francis Meagher Division in Helena, Montana. Mike is recognized as the historical authority on the Hibernians in Montana and is currently the head of the Thomas Francis Meagher Association.



Life Membership Honoree Mike O'Connor with Montana State President Bob Mehrens.



Bishop Brunett Award Winner Alice Klundt with Meagher Division President Tim Gilboy

and for 28 years she has served as the Disaster Training Manager. She was recognized for her service and dedication and celebrated by the fact she returned from hurricane duty in Florida just in time to receive the award.

With the awardee safely back in Montana, all in attendance enjoyed a wonderful dinner and a great social evening.

Division Charter Dinner

This year the Thomas Francis Meagher Division of Helena, Montana gathered for their Charter Dinner to celebrate 34 years of service, charity, and proud representative for the Catholic Faith. The Division was reactivated in 1984 and the seeds sown by a committed group of Hibernians has led to formation of five Divisions in Helena and six Divisions statewide across Montana yielding over 600 members.

The Charter Dinner is also when the Division awards the Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett Medal for Social Justice. This medal is awarded each year to a Montanan who has demonstrated a commitment to their community in any area of social justice. This past year represented the 19th Brunett recognition and it was presented to Alice Klundt of Great Falls, Montana.

Ms. Klundt has been an active disaster responder for the American Red Cross since 1986

AOH NATIONAL BOARD ANNOUNCES 2019 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

TO APPLY PLEASE CHECK ONE

- AOH IRISH WAY HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP (\$1000)
 AOH IRISH STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP IN IRELAND (College)

The Irish Way Program

LIVE & LEARN IN IRELAND
 EXPERIENCE IRELAND SCENERY, PEOPLE & CULTURE
 LEARN IRISH HISTORY, LITERATURE & DANCE

For more information on the **Irish Way Scholarships**

Email: cbuck@iaci-usa.org or write to:

Irish American Cultural Institute
 PO Box 1716, Morristown, NJ 07962

For more information on the **Irish Studies Scholarship** contact:

William J. Sullivan, National Chairman
 324 Winter Street, North Andover, MA 01845
 E-MAIL: williamjsullivan@verizon.net

TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Present HS Grade _____ or College Attending _____

Parent/Grandparent is a Member of Division _____

County _____ State _____

Parent/Grandparent Name _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2019

PLEASE NOTE:

Parent/Grandparent must be a paid-up member of a Division.
 Verification will be checked with National & Divisional Secretaries

A Tale of the Wren

The celebration of Christmas in Ireland does not end with the setting of the sun on Christmas day; it extends a full 12 days. Any feast that falls in that period is part of the celebration. Saint Stephen's Day, December 26, is one such feast.

In early times, the children of Ireland would begin the day with a hunt for a small wren which they would kill and place in a little box. Today, a box decorated with feathers simulates the victim satisfying bird-lovers and saving the trouble of the hunt. These Wren Boys, as they're called, dress in old clothes in as many combinations as imagination allows. They then carry the 'victim' and some musical instruments, pots and pans, centering around a Bodhran (one sided drum) as they go from door to door, singing the traditional Wren Song and collecting pennies as a reward and to 'bury the wren'. They are following a ritual that was old before the Christian gospel was first preached in the hills of Galilee. But what had the little wren done to be hunted down through history? An ancient Druidic lesson tells that the wren was condemned to by his fellow birds because, he used trickery to oust the eagle from the kingship of all birds; the story was a lesson to children about the virtues of honesty.

With the coming of Christianity, Celtic feasts and dieties were changed. The Christian version relates that the wren flew from a bush betraying the hiding place of St. Stephen who was captured and martyred as a result and the day became St. Stephen's day when all good men should hunt and kill the little beast in his memory, adding one more measure of religious significance to the season.

STATION BANNERS

Banners needed for your division
 or county board meeting stations?

Contact:

Kat at cat@CatzGraphix.com or call 734-502-9192
 (Cat is daughter of a Michigan Hibernian)

Nebraska

August Recognition for Hibernian Christmas Cheer

The Father Flanagan Division of Omaha, Nebraska were honored with a prestigious award at the annual Madonna School Celebration this past August. In recognizing the Division as the "2018 Honoree of the Year" the school noted the Division "... has been among the staunchest supporters of Madonna School since the very earliest days back in the 1960s. The jolly Irishmen took up the cause of helping Sister Mary Evangeline and her special students, and they have never strayed from their kindness to all our students and families."

The recognition highlighted the annual Christmas party where a full-chicken luncheon is served for the entire student body, faculty and staff. The day included a Christmas Carol sing-along and a Hibernian dressed as Santa O'Claus. In addition, fundraising work throughout the year with a special focus on operating a fireworks stand over the 4th results in the Division delivering as much as \$5,000 in some year to help fund the ongoing operations of the school.

As noted in the recognition the Division has dedicated more than five decades to support the school which has a mission to help students and adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities to become as independent as possible. Madonna comprises four elements: a K-12 school for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, a Life Skills Transition Program for those 18-21 years old, Madonna Employment Services for adults on their way to competitive employment, and Madonna Community-Based Services for adults not ready for employment.

It is impossible to tell who has more fun at the Christmas Party the children receiving their gifts or the Hibernians making a joyful Christmas possible for the entire Madonna School family.



Former and current AOH-Father Flanagan Presidents, from left, Chris Roh, Michael McCarville, Hugh Spellman, Larry Bradley, Richard Fitzgerald, Tim Lonergan and Madonna School President Jon Burt.

Delaware

Supporting local parishes, schools

Members of the Corporal Bernard McCarren Division in Newark, Delaware worked the Blue Hen Beer Garden during the 2018 Football Season at Delaware Stadium. This is the sixth season that the Division has worked the Beer Garden at UD football games. Funds received by the Division are used to support various Catholic charities, including the four parishes in Newark and Bear Delaware, as well as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at each parish, local Catholic schools and Catholic Campus Ministries at the University of Delaware as well as other Non-Profit community organizations.



Pictured prior to the Delaware-Villanova football game on November 17, from left, Bernie Sauppee, Brian J. Phelan, James Maney, Joe Krankemann, Matthew Turner, President Ed Burke, Mike Quirk, Dan Holmes and Mike Butler.

Florida

Division makes donations

Members of Lake Co. Florida, Div. 1 sponsored the presentation "The Shroud of Turin Encounter," given by international expert Russ Breault. The event provided for donations of \$700 each to The Paulist Fathers Seminary and the Diocese of Orlando Seminarians. Seminarians are a major recipient of donations from the Division. Another recent recipient was Hands of Mercy Everywhere, a maternity home in Bellview, which received \$1,000.



Division Treasurer Jim Judge presents a \$700 check to Father Mariusz Dymek, Pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, in Summerfield, FL. St. Mark is staffed by the Paulist Fathers. Other members of the Division present were Division President Joe Farrell, Secretary John Gaffney, Leo Falon, Frank Noonan and Chuck Novotny.

Illinois

From Dublin to Illinois

At the November meeting, longtime member of the Irish American Heritage Center and Dublin native Peter Corrigan joined Illinois Division 32 at the urging of his friend and marshal, Gerry Holley. In addition, Historian Gerry Loughran gave an informative address on the life of Michael Collins including how he was murdered in 1922 in his home county. Emphasis on the AOH guiding principles of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity is the drive behind Division 32's goal to reach 100 members in 2019.

Also at the meeting, several social events were scheduled including the Lourdes Soup Kitchen Thanksgiving turkey dinner for the less fortunate, the annual Division Christmas party, the Christmas dinner for the less fortunate at the Our Lady of Lourdes Soup Kitchen, a Texas Hold 'em tourney at The Six Penny Bit Pub to benefit the Freedom For All Ireland Fund and the Division's St. Patrick's Day party at De Paul Prep High School. Additional information and photos can be found at Facebook AOHAOH.



At their eventful meeting, from left, Peter Corrigan, Marshall Gerry Holley and far right is Past President Sean O'Doud.

Illinois Armistice

On November 8th, three days before the centennial anniversary of Armistice Day, Division 59 President Tim Noonan, Terry Cornell and Joe McGovern along with the American Gold Star Mothers, rededicated the long-forgotten Chicago Council of Gold Star Mothers monument, which has been restored to its original specifications ensuring that the Gold Star Mother's monument will not be forgotten.

The monument is situated on a commanding vista in the forest preserve, between an outdoor classroom and a child's play area, so everyone can learn of the sacrifices that our military and their families continue to endure to this day.



Division 59 President Tim Noonan

In memoriam

Michael Diamond

The officers and brothers of St. Brendan the Navigator Division 17 in Long Beach, New York, are sad to report the passing of Brother Michael Diamond.

Michael joined St. Brendan the Navigator Division 17 as a charter member and earned his Major Degree in 1994. During the early years, Michael was an active member of the annual St. Brendan the Navigator Irish Heritage Parade and Festival, and the Annual Picnic Committee. He joined the Executive Board in 1999 and went on to be President of Division 17 for two years. Diamond was a recipient of the Division 17 Man of the Year award in 2003 and was recently honored as Aide to the Grand Marshal for the Saint Brendan the Navigator Irish Heritage Parade and Festival on Oct. 6 of this year.



Michael is one of the members responsible for building the beautiful monument at Hibernian Plaza on Washington Blvd. and Park Avenue in Long Beach. Each time passing it on Park, it serves to remind his friends and family of the positive impact Michael made to his community and continue his greatest ambition – helping others.

Michael was a member of the AOH Honor Guard for many years. Mike took great pride representing the AOH and Division 17 while participating in this ceremonial unit as he marched on 5th Avenue in NYC's Saint Patrick's Day Parade, as well as many other local parades, festivals and memorials.

Michael was born on November 13, 1958, to Michael and Mary Diamond in the Bronx and moved to Long Beach as a child. After graduating Long Beach High School, Michael worked on the tugboats as a cook and deckhand. He married Joanne Bella Diamond. Together they had five children: Michael Jr., Jenea, Antoinette, Joey and Cassandra.

Brother Michael joined the NYPD in 1989 and worked in Midtown before moving to the Harbor Patrol Unit. He retired in 2009 and went on to work for the Sandhogs, Local 147.

Michael loved working for the NYPD and contributing to the AOH, and he loved playing golf and hanging out with his family and friends. But most of all, he loved being around his grandchildren, McCartney, Charlie and Darla May.

Michael was a great brother, friend and mentor to all in the AOH. His legacy will forever live on through the lessons be passed on. Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh a Anam (May his soul be at the right hand of God).

Irwin, John: (1933-2018). Brother John Irwin, formerly of AOH Pinellas Division 1 and recently Division 2, passed away on Friday, July 13th after a long illness. John was AOH Florida State Treasurer in 1997-1999. The funeral took place at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in Clearwater on July 18th. Florida State President Jim Cahill and FL State Secretary Greg Canning were present to pay respects.

James J. Reilly (1937 - 2018): Brother Reilly, of Middletown, loving husband of Katherine M. (Doran) Reilly and member and Past President of AOH JFK Division 1 in Bridgeport, passed away October 24. He was born in Bridgeport on 20 January 1937 to the late George and Mary (O'Neil) Reilly, and graduated from Fairfield College Preparatory School in 1955 before serving as a radio operator in the United States Army. Jim worked in the printing industry for many years and retired in 1999. He went on to be "daycare" and Poppy for his 5 grandchildren. In recent years, Jim served as a volunteer and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford, CT. In addition to his wife, Kathy, he is survived by their 4 children, Patrick and Geri Reilly of Stamford, CT; Kate and Patrick Lenehan and their 3 children, Brianne, Sean and Brendan of Middletown, CT; Colleen Reilly and her 2 children, Torin and Katherine Montgomery of Kirkland, WA; Daniel Reilly of New York, NY. He is predeceased by sister Mary Varhol and brother George Reilly, Jr. He is also survived by brother in law John Doran and his wife Jodie as well as several nieces and nephews.

Rooney, Charles (1934-2018); Brother Rooney passed away in October after a lingering illness. An Army Veteran who had moved to Florida from South Carolina. In addition to being a Major Degree member of the AOH, he was a former Color Corp Commander in the Knights of Columbus. A member of AOH Pinellas Division 2, he served as Treasurer from 2012 until he took over the reins of Division President in 2015. A supporter of the Faith Formation and Daystar at St. Mary's, he also assisted with membership drives in Tampa at both the Florida State Fair and the Renaissance Fair. He accepted Irish American Heritage Month Proclamations from City Councils, attended Forty Days For Life prayer campaigns, LAOH Dinner Dances, and Florida State Board Meetings. His funeral took place in Pittsburg and a forthcoming memorial mass will take place in Florida.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Tá eaglais an-chlúiteach i Montréal Ceanada, Baisleac Notre-Dame. There's a very famous church in M, the basilica... Tagann turasóirí ó gach cearn den domhan chun í a fheiceáil. Tourists come from all over the world to see it. Tá an taobh istigh an-dathúil, le hadhmad snoite go healaíonta. The inside is very colorful/beautiful, with wood artfully carved. Tá na dathanna go hiontach, idir dúghorm, corcra, ór agus airgid agus níos mó, le soilse á lonrú. The colors are wonderful, between dark blue, purple, gold and silver and more, with lights illuminating them. Tá sé go hálainn ar fad. It's really beautiful. Agus tá an taobh amuigh go breá, freisin, i stíl an Athbheochain Ghotaigh. And the outside is great, to, in the Gothic Revival style.

Tógadh idir 1824 agus 1843 í. It was built between... Faoin am sin, bhí sí an eaglais ba mhó i Meiriceá Thuaidh – agus b'amhlaidh an scéal le caoga bliain. At that time, it was the largest church in North America – and that's how it was for 50 years. Rinne fear de bhunadh na Fraince an taobh istigh. A man of French extraction made the inside. Ach rinne fear de bhunadh na hÉireann an taobh amuigh, fear darb ainm James O'Donnell. But a man of Irish ancestry made the outside, a man named... Rugadh i gContae Loch Garman é i 1774. He was born in County Wexford in... Protastúnach a bhí ann, ach a mhalairt leis an ngnáthscéal, d'iompaigh sé ina Chaitliceach ag deireadh a shaoil, agus is eisean an t-aon duine amháin a cuireadh sa bhaisleac. He was a Protestant, but unlike the usual story, he converted to Catholicism at the end of his life, and he's the only person buried in the basilica.

Chuir sé faoi sna Stáit Aontaithe in 1812, agus ba ailtire é a rinne foirgnimh i Nua-Eabhrac. He settled in the US in..., and he was an architect who made buildings in NY. Ar an drochuair, tá siad go léir imithe. Unfortunately, they are all gone. Chuaigh sé go Ceanada chun an eaglais seo a dhéanamh, agus d'éirigh go breá leis. He went to Canada to make this church, and was very successful. Fuair sé bás ansin in 1830. He died in...

Is iomaí eaglais iontach tá i Montréal (agus ar fud Québec). There's many a wonderful church in M. (and all through Q.). Tá ceann atá an-chosúil le Neamh Peadar sa Róimh, Ardeaglais hMuire, Banríon an Domhain. There's one which is very similar to St. Peter's in Rome, The Cathedral of Mary Queen of the World. Agus ceann breá eile, sin Baisleac Naomh Pádraig. And another great one, that's the Basilica of St. Patrick. Cathair Fhrancach is ea Montréal, ach is iomaí Éireannach a chur faoi ansin, freisin, agus thóg siadsan an eaglais seo idir 1843 agus 1847. Montreal is a French city, but many Irish settled there, too, and they built this church between... Seamróga is fleur de lys le chéile atá inti. Shamrocks and ... are in it

Rhode Island

Members of the Rhode Island AOH (Newport Div. 1) have been hard at work, using their extensive membership to give back to their local community, charities and veterans. We, as Hibernians, need to continue to focus on Christian Charity especially as participation in our faith dwindles. Throughout the course of the year members of the division participated in various local events, such as blood drives and singing in nursing homes during the holiday season.

Recently, Newport Div. 1 hosted a fundraiser for a local member's son, who was diagnosed with a form of stage 3 cancer, and is being treated at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. During this day it was great to see both our division along with the LAOH Newport and community members come together to raise money for a young boy. This fundraiser was an absolutely huge success, and the family was shocked by the outpouring of support.

Newport Div. 1 hosted an event for Veterans Day weekend focused on honoring the veterans of their division. During this event they proudly handed out the National AOH U.S. Veterans Pins to over 47 of their veterans. In the picture accompanying this article you can see the proud veterans standing in front of the clubhouse in Newport, RI. The division hopes this will be their first annual ceremony as a way to honor our brothers who made the absolute sacrifice serving in the United State Armed Services. The Dennis E. Collins Davison 1- Newport, RI is extremely proud of the efforts shown from all members to embody Christian Charity.



Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Irish Thunder's 25th Anniversary

The Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums celebrated the band's 25th Anniversary on October 20. With three hundred people attending the event it was a really good night for the band and family members. Special recognition was given to Piper Bob Kirkpatrick. Bob was one of the original band members back in 1993 and is still a member of the band after 25 years.

The idea of having a bagpipe band came about and Jack Rossiter met with Tom Canty, who was a retired police officer and a piper who started the Emerald Society Pipe Band in 1972. Rossiter spoke to Canty about the Ancient Order of Hibernians Notre Dame Division of Montgomery County, Pa. The division at the time was only going on its third year and became the biggest AOH in the state of Pennsylvania.

And so it began on December 1993 six would be pipers showed up for practice under Pipe Major Canty. With advertisement in the Irish Edition and AOH Newsletter about the formation of the band seven more members joined that included two drummers. Tom Canty himself also became an AOH member.

The band played its first performance at the AOH Irish Festival in September of 1994. They only knew a couple of tunes but made such an impression on the people attending the festival that a few more AOH members joined the band. Piper Chris Dougherty made a recommendation that the band be call Eireannach Toirneach, which is translated from Gaelic as Irish Thunder. The Irish Thunder became the very first AOH Pipe Band in the state of Pennsylvania.

In 1995 Canty returned to his native Ireland. Anthony Fucito was elected Pipe Major. Anthony played with Saffron Kilts in New York. In 1997 Frank Larkin took over as Pipe Major. Frank had played in several band in the New York area over the years including Saffron and Nassau County Fire Department, of which he was the Pipe Major.

In 2002 Frank Larkin stepped down as Pipe Major and Cullen Kirkpatrick took over and is still the Pipe Major of Irish Thunder. In 2017 the band came out with its first CD "An Irish History Lesson." The band averages twenty five events a year and practice on Wednesday nights at the AOH club house in Bridgeport and are always looking for new members. You can check the band out on IrishThunder.org or Facebook Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums.



Honoring our heroes

On the Eve of Veterans Day, the Ancient Order of Hibernians from Msgr. William Farrell, Division 2, Lackawanna County, PA, started their evening with a Mass at Saint Rose Church in Carbondale, followed by a dinner at the rooms of the Trinity Club.

This very special honor highlights the many veterans of the Brotherhood. The Order has a special lapel pin Honoring Our Heroes. The Master of Ceremonies was Division Vice President Frank Burnett and the Honor of pinning the Vets was done by Brother Michael Rogan, United States Army from JFK, Division 1, Scranton. Assisting Brother Rogan was AOH PA State President Joe Hosie and Division President Jeff Sears.



Sitting, from left, Jim Larkin, Navy; Mike Rogan, Army; Joe Moran, Marines; Standing, from left, Frank Burnett, Div. Vice Pres.; Tom Moffitt, Marines; Ralph Bensing, Navy; Mike Hosie, Navy; Rich Ruggiero, Army; John Ketchick, Army; Bob Rogers, Navy; Jim Roche, Army; Tom Opeil, Air Force; Ken Moran, Army; Joe Connor, Navy; Pat Moran, Navy; Jeff Sears, Division President.

Scholarships awarded

The Joseph E. Montgomery AOH Division 65, Philadelphia County, sponsored a golf outing on September 27 at the Springfield Country Club. The proceeds went toward the Division Scholarship Fund that helps needy incoming freshmen attend Catholic high school. This year, the Division Awarded \$10,000 each to Cardinal O'Hara High School and Bonner & Prendergast High School. Division 65 has awarded more than \$35,000 in scholarship money toward Catholic education over the last three years. The 120-year-old Philadelphia County Division was the first to name a Division after a living Brother, who served as President for over 40 years. For more information on Division 65, which meets in Delaware County, visit their website @ aoh65.com.



Division Members with \$20,000 Scholarship Fund Proceeds.

Donation to Holy Family



AOH Division 5, Bucks County, recently donated \$4,000 to the Holy Family Regional School, Levittown, PA. The donation will be used by the Technology Department to purchase Chromebooks for classroom use. From left, AOH members Tom Groark, Dan Keelan, Tony O'Malley, Holy Family Principal Kara Haggerty and Holy Family Technology Director Mary Ann Conway.



Photo of just a sampling of the many AOH/LAOH Members packing food boxes for the hungry at Amen to Action the morning after Thanksgiving at The Pittsburgh Convention. Fr. Joe Mele, Allegheny Div. 4, helped organize the event and Bishop David Zubik, Allegheny Division 4, led the prayer service before the 4000 volunteers started preparing and packing food. And a note from Fr. Joe read: "Brothers and Sisters, I can't thank all of you enough. I thought it was fantastic when so many of you wore your green pull overs and other jackets. I sincerely hope I can return the favor to all of you somehow. You were great. The Irish always help when needed! God bless you and your families especially at Christmas!"

AOH stands with Ballymurphy at Embassy, Congress



An Irish Embassy reception, with key members of Congress, and major public events in Albany, Cleveland, Philadelphia, the Bronx, New Jersey, Manhattan and Long Island heard Carmel Quinn's call to "stand with us" in the fight for Ballymurphy justice. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer became the first Congressman to issue a public statement, while other Congressmen promised support for Ballymurphy truth. Ms. Quinn, the sister of John Laverty, one of the 11 victims of the Ballymurphy Massacre, was in the United States in a tour organized by the AOH.

Irish Embassy

Ms. Quinn was hosted at a reception in honor of the Ballymurphy Families at the Irish Embassy. She was introduced by Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Lonergan. She gave a moving description of the murder of each of the 11 victims, including Fr. Hugh Mullan, a Catholic priest waving a white cloth, a grandmother Joan Connolly, and Ms. Quinn's own brother John Laverty, over a three day period, after the British reintroduced Internment without charge or trial on August 9, 1971.

Ms. Quinn said her own mother had wanted the world to know that her son was innocent and that the British had not only murdered 11 people but had lied and unjustly labeled all of the victims as gunmen or gunwomen to justify murders.

The reception was attended by Irish government officials, many members of our Order, Congressional staff and members of the Irish American Unity Conference.

AOH National Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Martin Galvin noted, "The very fact that the Irish government would support these Irish victims of British injustice by giving them a platform and formal reception at this time is an important and profoundly welcome statement."

Senate

Quinn held key Congressional meetings. Sen. Schumer met Quinn and her husband, Thomas Quinn, along with representatives of the AOH and Irish American Unity Conference and immediately issued a formal public statement saying: "Justice has been too long delayed for the innocent victims of the Ballymurphy Massacre and I am proud to join today with Ms. Carmel Quinn, sister of victim John Laverty, to call for a full independent international inquiry into these unjustified killings of civilians by British paratroopers in 1971. I applaud the AOH for the ongoing advocacy for peace and justice in the north of Ireland and I will work with them, the Irish American community and the Ballymurphy Families to advance the efforts to finally achieve justice for all the Ballymurphy victims. And we shall continue the work to build the support here in America to advance a just, inclusive and equal society throughout all of Ireland."

House

Other key Congressional leaders who met her were Congressman Eliot Engel, under consideration for Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee; Congressman Richard Neal, a leader and co-chair of the Friends of Ireland Congressional Committee; and Congressmen Mike Doyle, also of the Congressional Friends of Ireland. The Ballymurphy representative met with aides for Congressmen Chris Smith, Brendan Boyle, Peter King and Conor Lamb in Washington. She met outgoing Congressman Joseph Crowley. Ms. Quinn noted that a Congressional letter on Legacy Justice signed by 16 members last April was a major boost and got pledges of more Congressional action.

She also met with key Senate Foreign Relations Committee and State Department staff.

State and City Council

At her first public event in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania State Legislators Michael Driscoll and Kevin Boyle joined Ms. Quinn on the stage to present a House of Representatives Citation, to the Ballymurphy Campaign for "their unrelenting pursuit of justice... for all those killed in the Ballymurphy Massacre."

City Councilman Bobby Henon presented a Philadelphia City Council Resolution honoring Ms. Quinn and the Ballymurphy Campaign, for their "resilience, determination, and ... tireless work to ensure that a new inquest be open to find truth and justice surrounding the incident."

"The Ballymurphy Massacre Inquest will be a fundamental test of Britain's ability to give legacy justice," FFAI Chairman Galvin said. "If relatives cannot get justice where 11 victims, including a Catholic priest and mother of 8 children were killed by British troops, how can we expect justice in any killings or collusion murders where British troops were involved?"

The event was organized by AOH FFAI co-chairs Gerry McHale and Pearse Kerr. Other prominent AOH members included former President Seamus Boyle, National FFAI Committee member Malachy McAllister and National Director Ed Halligan. Quinn also received a presentation from Liz Kerr of the Ladies AOH.

Public Events

Ms. Quinn spoke in New Jersey, Long Island, the prestigious AOH Fr. Murphy Awards event in Albany, and she was honored by Bronx County AOH along with Congressman Crowley and the Irish Echo Editor Ray O'Hanlon. She concluded the week in midtown Manhattan hosted by New York State Board AOH with a presentation by State President Vic Vogel. At each event she described how the 11 murders unfolded over a three day British killing spree and the grief, suffered by her family, and all families as the dead were smeared and family homes were raided and searched in order to make them appear guilty of something. Ms. Quinn noted that her life, her parents' lives and other family members had been shattered, while every attempt they made for a simple inquest to exonerate their loved ones was stalled, ridiculed or blocked by giving DUP head Arlene Foster a veto on court funding.

Cleveland

Perhaps the most well-attended public event took place in Cleveland, Ohio, organized by National AOH Vice-President Danny O'Connell, National LAOH President Carol Scheyer and Marilyn Madigan at the Cleveland Irish-American Club. AOH members from across Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan traveled long distances to attend. Proclamations were presented from Ohio Congresswoman Marcy Kapture, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and City Council President Kevin Kelley. This event was videotaped at the request of AOH Boards around the country so they could hear and see Ballymurphy's appeal via Facebook or the National AOH Website.

Albany honors Martin Galvin



National AOH Freedom for All Ireland Chairman Martin Galvin was honored with the Fr. John Murphy award bestowed by the Albany AOH and LAOH. Keynote address was given by Carmel Quinn from Relatives for Justice



NY State President Vic Vogel addresses the Long Island event for Ms. Quinn.



Photos of Carmel Quinn's brother and family.

Virginia



At a memorial Mass for Father Lynch Division departed brother Brother Pat Finnigan, President Jim Sullivan, Chaplain Fr. Stephen McNally, and Brother Jim McNabb light candles in memory of deceased Brothers Jim Donckers, Ray Correia, and Kent Lewis. Mass was held on November 2 at Church of the Transfiguration in Fincastle, Virginia.



President Jim Sullivan, Fr. Lynch Division (R001) presents a donation to Eagle Scout Candidate Derek Gilday. Scout Gilday is the son of Brother David Gilday and was raising funds for his Eagle Scout project to construct a storage building for a Roanoke community garden.

Colorado



Each month Colorado's Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division serves supper to the women's homeless of Denver at the Samaritan House homeless shelter. On October 23, the brothers served supper and also presented Samaritan House two checks totaling \$1,100 that they had collected. \$700 was raised at their annual New Year's Eve fundraiser and \$400 was from a collection taken at the Irish Festival Mass in the summer. From left, Rick Steck, Ike Chappell, Tim Tullar, Carrigan Division Samaritan House Chair Tim Henning, Mike Sheridan, Eddie Schumm, John Aylward, Lisa Jones, Director of Operations at Samaritan House, accepting the checks on behalf of Samaritan House and Kevin Croghan.



In October the Michael Collins Division 1 of Denver hosted an AOH/LAOH Sash Mass at Denver's historic St. Patrick's Oratory. Incoming division chaplain Deacon Jim Bloom delivered the homily. The division is helping fund the replacement of the Stations of the Cross in the neighboring Poor Clares' convent garden. In November past division president Tom Burke, a leading member of the Irish American Unity Conference, spoke to our meeting about the problems Brexit poses for Ireland. He spoke of the need for Americans to be a strong voice for justice and peace in Ireland.

Texas

Msgr. McCabe Division continues focus on hunger issues in Central Texas

Continuing with the division mission, members of the Travis County 1 AOH and the LAOH Golden Rose of Ireland volunteered at the Central Texas Food Bank in preparation for the holiday season. Members worked with other community organizations to help prepare 6190 meals for working families. While Central Texas is one of the fastest growing areas of the country, it has a hunger rate that is almost 2% above the national average. The Monsignor McCabe division is proud to continue to partner and support the Food Bank as we remember those Irish to whom hunger was a constant companion.



Hibernians attend Mitchell lecture on Good Friday Agreement

Member of the Monsignor McCabe division were honored to be invited to hear Senator George Mitchell in Austin, when he spoke about his role in the Northern Ireland Peace Process on the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. The Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, the Consulate General of Ireland in Austin and the British Consulate General in Houston hosted the event. Mitchell's remarks were followed by a lively Q&A session. The lecture was part of the LBJ School Dean's Distinguished Leaders Series.



Ladies hibernian news

Ladies AOH National Board

Msgr. Jason A. Gray	Chaplain	msggray@stthomas-church.net
Carol Sheyer	President	csheyer@fuse.net
Karen Keane	Vice President	laohkaren@live.com
Marilyn Madigan	Secretary	memadigan@gmail.com
Mary Ann Lubinsky	Treasurer/Asst. Webmaster	maryannlubinsky@gmail.com
Sandi Swift	Irish Historian/Webmaster	sandiswift@ladiesaoh.com
Colleen Bowers	Missions & Charities	colleenbowers@ladiesaoh.com
Cathy Turck	Catholic Action	laohcathyt@gmail.com
Patricia A. O'Connell	Organizer	oconnellp407@comcast.net
Shannon Lehn	Asst. Editor Hibernian Digest	shannonclehn@gmail.com
Agnes Gowdy	Freedom For All Ireland	sengarose@gmail.com
Maire Leffel	Fundraiser	maireleffel@aol.com
Ann-Marie Nyhan-Doherty	Immigration/Education	dancingds@comcast.net
Mary Hogan	Program Chair	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Mary Conlon	Supplies	mandjconlon@atmc.net
Margaret Hennessy	Auditor	mhtax@optonline.net
Kathie Linton	National Convention Chair	katielin10@gmail.com
Maureen Shelton	Degree Team Liaison	mtshelton@live.com
Maureen Shelton	125th Anniversary Chair	mtshelton@live.com

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Patricia A. O'Connell	Illinois	oconnellp407@comcast.net
Mary Hogan	New York	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Michigan	mtshelton@live.com
Margaret Hennessy	New York	mhtax@optonline.net
Mary Ryan	Massachusetts	
Dorothy Weldon	Pennsylvania	dorothyweldon@comcast.net
Mary T. Leatham	New York	mtleatham@aol.com
Mary B. Dolan	Massachusetts	bridgie136@gmail.com
Peggy Cooney	Pennsylvania	peggy.cooney@ymail.com
Mary Paglione	Florida	marypaglione@comcast.net
Kathie Linton	Ohio	katielin10@gmail.com

President's Message...

by Carol Sheyer



Hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving Holiday and as we celebrate the upcoming Christmas Season with family and friends please take time to remember the men and women who are serving our Country and are unable to be home for the Holidays. Also, say a prayer for all our Hibernian Sisters and Brothers, and others, who have suffered this past year during the hurricanes, floods and fires.

The second weekend in November I, along with LAOH Vice President Karen Keane, Past National President and 2020 National Convention Liaison Kathie Linton and the National AOH Officers, visited the site for the 2020 National Convention in Orlando. The hotel is outstanding and the staff was very accommodating. The local committee is working hard on the many details

Also in November, I attended the Carmel Quinn's, Ballymurphy Massacre family member, talk which was hosted by the Cleveland Hibernians. It was a very powerful, sad and educational speech.

Make sure your calendars are marked and plans are in the making for you to join us at the 125th Anniversary Celebration at the Historic Dearborn Inn in October, 2019. Please read the article about the 125th Anniversary by Past National President and 125th Anniversary Chairperson Maureen Shelton also in this issue of the Digest.

One of the first projects the Anniversary Committee did was to issue a 125th Anniversary logo. For those of you who might not have seen the logo I am happy to be able to show off the logo at this time.

The National Board voted to sell 125th Commemorative merchandise. We have bracelets in Antique Silver and Antique Bronze, a Challenge Coin and a Lapel pin. The pictures and order form for these amazing items are on the LAOH website.

By the time you are reading this the 2018 Year End Reports should be in the hands of the State Officers and hopefully been forwarded to the County and Division Officers. The forms can also be found on the website.

The first issue of our quarterly electronic newsletter was sent out the beginning of October. In order to make the newsletter a success we need input from the LAOH membership throughout the States. If you did not receive a copy of the newsletter, please send your email address to Shannon Lehn at assthibernianeditor@gmail.com in order to be added to the distribution list. This is the same email address to send articles for the newsletter.

If at all possible I would encourage anyone who can, to participate in the 2019 March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, January 18th, or to participate in your local March for Life events.

In closing, my wish for you and your family is that each Christmas Season gets better and better and you have a Blessed and Healthy New Year.



Ladies, please subscribe to our website for updates and important information delivered right to your email.
www.ladiesaoh.com

Like and follow us on Facebook:

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians or search @ladiesaoh2016

LAOH Anniversary Special Event

It is my privilege to have been appointed the Chair of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Official Anniversary Celebration by National President Carol Sheyer. This is a once in a lifetime special event and such an exciting time for the LAOH...125 years of Greatness! The LAOH will continue to make history as it's members, family and friends come together during this memorable celebration October 10 through 12, 2019.

The event will take place at the historic Dearborn Inn located in Dearborn, Michigan. As a cost saving measure for all, President Sheyer has combined the Interim Board meeting, her Testimonial, and the 125th Anniversary of the LAOH. All will take place during this weekend that promises to be nothing short of amazing.

The LAOH will kick off the celebration in a spiritual manner on October 10. We will go by bus to the Solanus Casey Center. At the Center we will have a private tour, LAOH National Chaplain Monsignor Gray will celebrate Mass and lunch will be following mass. While at the Center, there will be time to pray and petitions may be offered at the Blessed Solanus Casey's final resting place. Later that evening there will be a special presentation that you will not want to miss.

All those in attendance will have the opportunity to visit the Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village on October 11. Both venues, are approximately one mile away from the hotel. That evening, the State of Ohio cordially invites all to attend a hooley in honor of National President Carol Sheyer. Plan on an evening

filled with music, dance and a good time with sister and brother Hibernians, as we celebrate with our National President.

Saturday morning the Interim Board meeting will take place. At 3:30 a photographer for a book that we will be producing commemorating 125 years of the LAOH. Each State will be asked to contribute their history to this publication. Photographs will be taken of all Boards and State representatives in attendance this weekend. This is our history in the making and we want to record it. The book will come out after the the 125th Celebration so that we can include these photo's.

Monsignor Gray will celebrate our evening Mass followed by cocktails and the gala dinner. After the dinner, there will plenty of time to enjoy the evening socializing, dancing and having a good time.

Don't miss out on this memorable time as we make history with this momentous milestone of 125 years of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Inc.

Our group code for rooms LAOH 125 Anniversary you will also be able to reserve your room via email by going to the LAOH website. The cut off date for rooms will be 9/13/19.

877-757-7103 Marriot Hotel line.

Maureen Shelton

125th Anniversary Chairperson/PNP

Degree Team Liaison

Vice President

by Karen Keane

I hope this newsletter finds each of you in good health and feeling joy as we celebrate Advent and prepare for Christmas. The last few weeks have been difficult with the loss of my brother, but also very encouraging and inspiring. It is in our darkest times when we feel lost and are full of despair, that the love and faith we have as Hibernians bring the light of God's love back into our lives. The love and support that I have experienced (yet again) from my Hibernian Sisters and Brothers has renewed my faith and restored my energy. There are no words of thanks that I can give all of you; all I can do is be prepared to help a sister or brother in their time of need. I believe we are at our best as Hibernians when we come together to help others in need. Too often we get caught up in the politics and personalities and sometimes forgot that being a Hibernian is not about sitting on the Dais or being photographed with a celebrity, but rather it is about helping our Hibernian Family and other receive the Love of God; the pillar of our faith. Enough on that note or Msgr Gray or Cathy Turck will think I'm after their jobs.

Everyone should have received the letters sent to the State Presidents (for forwarding to the Divisions) regarding the nominations for the Sean McBride Award. This is one of the two joint awards with the AOH National Board. If you have not received the letter outlining the nomination process, please check with your State President or myself; I will get that out to you.

President Sheyer, along with National Degree Team Liaison Shelton, have scheduled an exemplification of the Major Degrees at the National Convention in Orlando, which will take place on Wednesday afternoon. This was scheduled for Wednesday at the request of the delegation at the National Convention in Louisville. I hope to see as many members as possible in attendance.

The Junior Members have been working hard across the country to help others in need, especially for the approaching Christmas Season. Junior Divisions have reported their work for area Veterans during the month of November. Please encourage and support all Juniors across the country; they are the future of the Order.

In closing, I wish each of you Blessed Advent and Christmas Seasons and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

laohkaren@live.com; 518-369-8783

Treasurer

by Mary Ann Lubinsky

I hope everyone had a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. Being the new National Treasurer is an ongoing learning experience. I was off to a slow start but then things quickly picked up. There were requests to open new bank accounts and I recently had my first EIN request. In addition, I am working hard to get those Annual Treasurer Reports into the hands of the State Treasurers! These were also slow but now moving faster since I got the hang of it.

Thanks to my predecessor, Secretary Marilyn Madigan, and Vice-President Karen Keane for answering all my financial questions. There is a lot to learn and they have been so helpful. And that's what we are all about, right? Living our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Any good you can do for a Sister only makes us all the stronger.

My best wishes to all for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ohio



The Ohio LAOH welcomed Carmel Quinn to the West Side Irish American Club. Carmel spoke on the Ballymurphy Massacre and her work with Relatives for Justice.

Freedom For All Ireland

I was honored to Chair the FFAI Event featuring Carmel Quinn from Ballymurphy. The National Board was well represented with President Carol Sheyer, Missions and Charities Chair Colleen Bowers, FFAI Chair Agnes Gowdy, Fundraiser Maire Leffel, Assistant Editor Hibernian Digest Shannon Lehn and myself in attendance. Many LAOH State Officers Sisters from around Ohio joined the local Division at this event.

Carmel Quinn spoke about the Ballymurphy Massacre. It was a very emotional experience for all in attendance. The AOH recorded her speech and can be found on the website. I recommend everyone to listen to Carmel Quinn. The Ballymurphy Families and others with Relatives for Justice need to know the truth about the loss of their loved ones. During the time, Carmel Quinn was visiting the United States the Inquest started. When she returned home, she spoke at the Inquest. They need our help so please participate with the AOH and LAOH FFAI Christmas Appeal.

AOH and LAOH members from Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania were represented at this event. In addition to the Hibernians, members of Irish Northern Aid of Cleveland were present.

I was honored to present Carmel Quinn Proclamations from Congresswomen Kaptur and City of Cleveland Council President Kelly. National President Carol Sheyer presented a Certification of Friendship from the LAOH.

An event is not successful without help from many dedicated individuals. A special thank you to my Sisters of the Our Lady of the Rosary Division for all their help from working the door, bar, hall arrangements but mostly for their hospitality in providing baked goods. I would like to thank the West Side Irish American Club for use of their hall, and Billy Chambers and Francis Quinn for sharing their musical talents.

Together we can accomplish anything. So let us step up to help with FFAI.



Carmel and Tommy Quinn were presented with a special gift proclamation from the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Pictured (left to right) are Tommy Quinn, LAOH National President Carol Sheyer, Carmel Quinn, and LAOH National Secretary Marilyn Madigan.

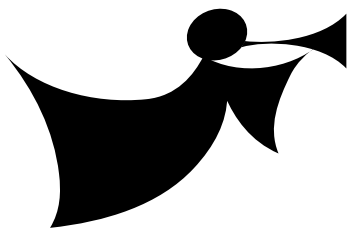
Historian

by Sandi Riley Swift

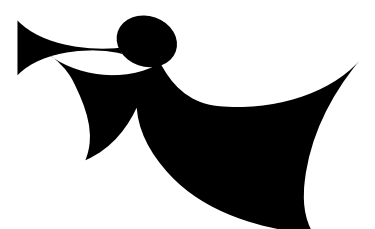
As the end of the year closes in, I would like to remind all Division, County and State Historians to please do your Historian Report this year. I have sent out a link and the fillable form is also on the website. Please be sure you have all your information together prior to completing the form and submitting it. We will use this information for the celebration of our 125th Anniversary. We have also designed and have limited collectible items available for the commemoration of our anniversary. You can see them on the website and download the order form for charm bracelets, collective coin and a pin.

If you have any questions about the history report, please contact me. If you have not received any emails from me please send me your information. As new Historians are being elected I would like you to contact me with the information in order to keep my contacts current.

www.ladiesaoh.com



nollaig sona duit
merry christmas to you



Cassandra (Cassie) A. Smith-Christmas

When I was about 12, or 13, I entered an essay contest that was being sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fredericksburg chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I was so excited to write about one of my newly found passions—the impact of women on the Irish Nationalist Movement. I had just finished reading Leon Uris' book, *Trinity*, and I had been steeped in Irish history and culture while participating in Celtic events with my family. I was thrilled to win the contest.

After graduating from the College of William and Mary with a degree in linguistics, where I also played fiddle in Williamsburg's colonial taverns, and in the "Ireland" section of Bush Gardens' "Old Country" nearby theme park, I studied linguistics at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. At the recommendation of my MA advisor, mentor, and now good friend, I completed an in-depth study of a Gaelic-speaking family on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. As a result of my thesis, I was awarded a scholarship to undertake a PhD program in Celtic Studies at the University of Glasgow, where I expanded my thesis into my dissertation.

When I received my PhD, I went to work for the University of the Highlands and Islands in Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides. Two years later, I took up a fellowship at the Institute for the Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh, where I wrote my book *Family Language Policy: Maintaining an Endangered Language in the Home* (Palgrave, 2016). I was then awarded a fellowship from the Irish Research Council to continue my work on language use in families, this time in Irish and Scottish Gaelic, with families in the Outer Hebrides and families in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht. I started my project at the University of Limerick, but then when my project mentor, Professor Tadhg Ó hÍfearnáin, took up the Chair of Modern Irish at the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG), I continued my project at NUIG. I now live in Galway, a lively city with the opportunity to participate in so many cultural activities—Irish language, Celtic music and dance, and Irish history. Besides, I am not too far from Sligo, the home of the woman about whom I wrote in my first Irish essay, Constance Gore-Booth, the Countess Markevich. I am happy to say that I will be staying on in Ireland. I have recently started a project in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht with the Smithsonian's SMiLE (Sustaining Minoritized Languages in Europe) initiative and will be carrying on my work on language use in families with a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship from the European Commission.

District of Columbia

In November, we celebrated our annual Mass for the deceased members at the historic Franciscan Monastery in NE Washington. Many in the church admired our group sitting up front in our tri-color sashes. Our Holy Innocents Mass was celebrated at our Lady of Mercy in Potomac, Maryland. After the Mass, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the beautiful La Hinge Restaurant, which is owned by Christy and Frank Hughes, dear brothers who hail from County Longford, Ireland. We were so proud to support the men in the unveiling celebration of a new memorial stone for Thomas Devin Reilly, an Irish patriot of the 1848 rebellion. Young Reilly was able to elude capture by the British and came to the United States. He rests eternally with his wife and daughter in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington, DC. As a fitting tribute, we ladies placed a wreath at his grave.

Michigan



Kathleen Busen, a member of the Mary of the Gael Division in Monroe, and Mary O'Connell, a member of the Rose Kennedy Division in Redford, are registered nurses. They were recognized at "A Gathering of Friends" banquet held at the Atheneum Suite Hotel on November 15th. They have each volunteered for over twenty years at the Cabrini Clinic. The clinic is staffed by volunteer physicians, nurses and pharmacists. It is located in Cork Town, Detroit and is the oldest free medical clinic in the country. The clinic serves a diverse population of uninsured and underinsured adults, many of whom are the working poor. All our Michigan LAOH sisters congratulate Kathie and Mary on their much deserved award and dedication to this ministry.

The Radiant Light Women's Conference was held on October 19 & 20th at St. John Neumann Church in Canton, MI. Wonderful speakers, workshops, time for reflection and fellowship, Eucharistic adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation were offered. In addition, about 30 tables were set up for groups to present information and for the sale of religious items. The LAOH in Michigan made a display describing each of the divisions in our state, the day and time of their meetings, and some of the division's traditional events. We distributed information and applications, as well as provided a prayer card from the Breastplate of St. Patrick to all the Conference attendees. Twelve applications were picked up and so far our State President, Barb Weir had inquiries from 4 ladies and directed them to the divisions closest or most convenient for them.

**Deadline for the
February-March issue
is NO LATER than February 1**

Pennsylvania

On 11/8/2018, a new division was installed in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Division #5 of Bucks County is named in honor of St. Brigid of Kildare. The division was installed by State Organizer, Ellen McCrane. Assisting in the installation of officers were Rae DiSpaldo, State President, Clare McManus-Fulginiti, State Missions and Charities Officer, Nancy Cullen, Past State President, Eileen Modica - Montgomery County President and Becky Puchalski, Philadelphia County President.

The officers of the new division are as follows: President - Marie Keelan, Vice-President - Ruth O'Malley, Recording Secretary - Elizabeth Grobark, Treasurer - Melissa Stanton-Lagomarsino, Financial Secretary - Carol Lyons, Irish historian - Patricia Finnegan Gardyan, Missions and Charities - Maureen Lennon, Catholic Action - Kathleen Maahs, Mistress at arms Amy Morgan and Sentinel - Donna Donohue. The Pennsylvania State Board welcomes our new sisters to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians!



New Division in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

New York

By Denis Patrick McGowan

Retired NYPD Detective and Marine Veteran to Lead 55th Annual Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade

At the quarterly meeting of the Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade in November, Jack King was unanimously elected to serve as Grand Marshal of the 55th Annual Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade, to be held Sunday, March 3, 2019, on Forest Avenue, Staten Island, NY. In his acceptance speech, Jack humbly noted: "This is a first, I believe, in the 55-year history of the Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade, of us having a father and son march together as a Grand Marshal and an Aide. I am very proud to serve my community to honor our Irish heritage and Roman Catholic faith, and especially to represent our community as the Grand Marshal of the 55th Annual Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade in 2019."

A resident of Staten Island since 1953 and member of Our Lady Help of Christians R.C. Parish, he graduated New Dorp High School, and in 1960, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving with the Second and the Third Divisions, until receiving an honorable discharge as a Corporal. After his discharge, King worked in the construction industry until being sworn into the New York City Police Department (NYPD) in 1973. During a distinguished career in the NYPD, he received more than a dozen commendations, including two NYPD Chief of Detectives awards. He retired in 1993 with the rank of Detective and is a long-time member of the NYPD Emerald Society.

Proud of his Irish Catholic heritage, Jack has been involved in the Irish-American community for decades; in 1999, he joined AOH St. Columcille Division No. 4, taking his Major Degrees in 2000. He has held many offices in the Division, including President, as well as President of the Richmond County Board. He is the current Chief of the AOH CuChulainn Celtic Warrior Major Degree Team. He also served as a Director and President of the Columcille Irish Cultural Center with its library of more than 1,000 Irish and Irish-American books. He is Chairman of the Staten Island Irish Fair, was Drum Major of the Staten Island Pipes and Drums and Director of the Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade. In 2005, he was elected as Irishman of the Year by the Columcille

Irish Cultural Center and in 2009, was awarded the AOH Commodore John Barry Medal for his years of service to the Irish-American community and the Order. In 2011, he was elected to serve as an Aide to the Grand Marshal of the Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade and in 2016, was elected to serve as Aide to Senator George J. Mitchell, Grand Marshal of the New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Jack's pride in his military service as a Marine led him to serve in local veterans organizations espousing the cause of the Staten Island veteran. In 2005, King joined the Staten Island Detachment No. 246 of the Marine Corps League, and has served as the State Chaplain of the Marine Corps League's Department of New York, as well as the Staten Island Detachment, of which he is a Life Member and Commandant of the Detachment. He is also the Pound Keeper of the Staten Island Pound Salt No. 69 of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, a fun-and-honor society of the Marine Corps League. He is also a Life Member of the Catholic War Veterans Post No. 1934 and is a member of the American Legion. He received the Four Chaplains Award, for his service to the veterans.

King and his family are parishioners of Our Lady Help of Christians where he served as President of the Men's Club for more than ten years and aided the parish in numerous activities. He is married to Nancy Sindle from Rossville, Staten Island, and they have three children, Sean, Shanna and Noel. The Kings' daughter, Shanna, sadly passed away in 1999. King's son Sean is also a proud Brother member of St. Columcille Division No. 4 and one of the finest performers of the role of Ard Ri (High King) on the Cu Chulainn Celtic Warrior Major Degree Team with his father.



NY PEEKSKILL

Division 18, Peekskill, New York, had a festive gathering on Dec. 2 where it awarded Hibernian Veterans pins and a certificate to its veteran members. These veterans participated in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars. The newest member, Tim Murphy, received the Silver Star for Valor in Vietnam. President Clive Cronin was assisted by Division 18 officers Aidan O'Kelly-Lynch, state director Brian Kelly, and National Director Dan Dennehy.



NY BRONX DINNER

Celebrating at the annual dinner of The Bronx County AOH Board last Sunday were County President Bob Nolan, honorees Taryn Duffy of Empire City Casino, Joe Murphy of Country Bank, Carmel Quinn also the guest speaker, Ray O'Hanlon, Editor of The Irish Echo and Martin Galvin, County Vice-President and FFAI Chair. Honoree Rep. Joe Crowley missing. Photo credit Nuala Purcell.

New York

Photos by Digest Editor John O'Connell

New York President's Testimonial

The New York State Board held its Semi-Annual Meeting at the Melville Marriott on Saturday, November 3rd. Officers, both elected and appointed, gave reports listing the many accomplishments achieved during their terms of office. Mass was celebrated in the evening by NYS Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid, and was followed by a Testimonial Dinner honoring NYS President Vic Vogel. The event was well-attended and included most of the top National and State AOH and LAOH Officers.



The top officers on the AOH National Board congratulated President Vogel, center. From left, Secretary Jere Cole, Vice President Danny O'Connell, Vic, President Jim McKay and Treasurer Sean Pender.

Bill Powers received the Burns-Hayes Award.

One of the highlights of the evening was a performance by the Roisin Dubh Irish Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Bill LePage.

Mike McCormack was the Master of Ceremonies and introduced Dignitaries and those making presentations. Vic thanked the Dinner Committee, chaired by Walter Butler and Kathleen Ring, and spoke about how the charitable work of the Order has profoundly affected his life and been extremely rewarding.



During the productive State Board meeting held earlier in the day, President Vogel and the Board presented the AOH Veterans Pins to former members of the Armed Services.



Roisin Dubh Irish Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Bill LePage, performed at the testimonial.



Vic Vogel and Kathleen Ring.



Mass was celebrated by Fr. Henry Reid, NY State Chaplain. Hibernian State Presidents Vic Vogel and Jacqueline Clute offered the Gifts



Proud of their leader, the NY State Board lined up to congratulate Vic Vogel at his testimonial. From left, Fr. Henry Reid, Past NY State President and National Organizer Tim McSweeney, Vic, VP Tom Lambert, Secretary John Manning and Treasurer Tom O'Donnell. Past State President Jim Burke is pictured in the far left of the photo.



NY State President Vic Vogel was joined by members of his Suffolk, Long Island, Division 7 at his Testimonial Banquet on November 3.