

Brexit and the threat to the peace process in Northern Ireland

By Neil Cosgrove

On June 23, 2016, despite predictions from politicians, pundits and bookmakers (the last being usually the most reliable of the three) voters of the United Kingdom, voted to leave the European Union in what has become to be known as "Brexit." The vote for the UK as a whole to leave was 52 percent while the people of Northern Ireland voted 56 percent to remain.

After a wave of initial shock where international stock markets tumbled and the pound sterling plummeted, the situation has since stabilized; not because all is well, but because markets realized that the British government was caught flat-footed and, for the moment, nothing has changed; it may be one of the few occasions in history where not having a plan has been beneficial. However, this is only a respite; Brexit is indeed coming.

Brexit poses a serious threat to the U.S.-brokered Good Friday Agreement, which has seen a period of relative peace in Northern Ireland for the past 18 years. The most obvious threat is the creation of a "hard border" between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Politicians in both the United Kingdom and the Republic have been quick to wave off and scoff at the suggestion that border controls will be imposed, but none has yet given details of how this can be avoided. The plain fact is that currently no EU member state has a border with a non-EU member state that does not have border controls. One of the prime motivators behind Brexit was Britain's desire to impose more stringent immigration controls than the EU would permit; this is simply not possible if people can freely travel through the EU to EU member Ireland and then cross an open border to enter the U.K. via Northern Ireland. Anyone who denies this reality is delusional or disingenuous. A common half-truth in the border discussion promoted by politicians seeking to avoid speaking to the reality of a "hard border" are statements that Northern Ireland and the Republic have historically enjoyed a "Common Travel Area" that predates the EU membership of either country. This is misdirection. The "Common



The current Brexit resolution could mean a re-imposition of the border checkpoints that partitioned the Irish people. Those who try to dismiss the concerns of a "hard border" between Northern Ireland and the Republic citing the "long relationship between Britain and the Republic" seem to forget that for many years this was the face of that relationship. Photo credit: Alain Le Garsmeur "The Troubles" Archive / Alamy Stock Photo

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Hibernian officers gather for Notre Dame visit

By Ned McGinley

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians share in both the responsibility and the benefits accrued to the Notre Dame Hibernian Fund. We were hosted throughout our visit by the Cushwa Center for American Catholic Studies. Within Cushwa they have a designation for Irish American Catholic Studies. Our host, Shane Ulbrich, made the arrangements for our visit. We, the AOH/LAOH, have visited more than 30 times and this may have been our best organized and most spiritual trip.

In a separate article in a future Digest issue we will deal with the Financial Report, but I believe that the Friday and Saturday at Notre Dame had a symbolic spiritual message for our Irish Catholic Fraternities. The AOH arrived in South Bend late

Thursday at St. Mary's College near the rear entrance to the University. We were invited to stay at the St. Mary's Guesthouse on the campus by Sister Mary Ellen Vaughan, Danny O'Connell's cousin. From the Guesthouse, adjacent to the beautiful chapel, there's about a half-mile walk to the Grotto near the lakes, passing the Holy Cross Priests Cemetery.

The St. Mary's Chapel is "in the round" and a place for music, flowers and a fountain. The Guest House is a spiritual center in that several religious orders were there for the Saturday game along with a few Nevada fans. The conversations were great in the communal kitchen in the morning.

Our Friday morning was a wonderful campus tour led by a

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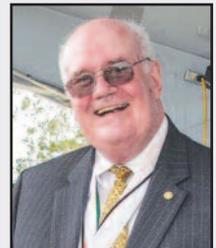


Hibernian lecture at the Cushwa Center

Each year the Cushwa Center of Notre Dame invites one or more distinguished scholars to deliver a public lecture on some aspect of the Irish experience. In addition, the Hibernian Endowment occasionally supports other lectures at Notre Dame that pertain to the Irish experience in the United States. The 33rd annual Hibernian Lecture at Notre Dame featured author and poet Thomas Lynch. His lecture on Sept. 9, centered on the poetry and recent deaths of Dennis O'Driscoll and Seamus Heaney. Some of the Hibernians in attendance were, from left, Danny O'Connell, Carol Sheyer, Maureen Shelton, Jere Cole, LAOH national President Patricia O'Connell, Thomas Lynch, Denny Parks, Sandi Swift, Mary Conlon, Mary Ann Lubinsky and Ned McGinley.

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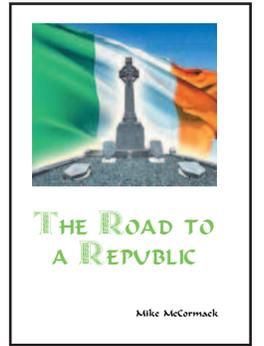


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AOH National Board Directs All Label Program Proceeds to Hibernian Charities.

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

AOH Label Appeal needs you to succeed!

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

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

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

The National HIBERNIAN DIGEST

"Ireland, One and Indivisible, Though the Heavens Fall"

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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president's message

by Jim McKay III

Atlantic City has come and gone and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the National Delegates for the confidence they showed in me when they elected me National President.

The convention was a huge success in spite of all of the early difficulties we had with the site. Harrah's turned out to be an excellent venue to effectively conduct the business of our National Order.

At the convention, three new Directors and three incumbent Directors were elected to serve on our National Board. I recently had the opportunity to appoint 15 Chairmen for our numerous committees, who along with our Past National Presidents, make up our National Board.

I appointed Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop of Mobile, Alabama as our National Chaplain. Archbishop Rodi's family has deep Irish roots in New Orleans where he was born and raised. I also appointed Reverend Michael Healy from California as one of our Deputy Chaplains. Many of you will remember that Father Mike served as Deputy Chaplain under a number of our Presidents and also served as National Chaplain for the Ladies AOH a number of years ago. Our second Deputy Chaplain is Father Patrick Collume, who is currently State Chaplain for Louisiana and a long-time friend of the Hibernians.

I believe the Board I have assembled is quite capable and energetic and will help guide us successfully for the next two years. We are diligently working to improve the face of the Hibernian Charity to make it a practical and efficient charitable arm of our Order. Its goal will not only be to initiate contributions to worthy Hibernian causes, such as Project St. Patrick, Hibernian Hunger, disaster relief, etc., but also to seek out revenue sources other than solely our membership in order to raise funds.

We will also focus on the problem of future membership in all areas of the country as well as try to increase our membership in areas that are traditionally and historically Irish populated.

We will attempt to send out monthly messages through our e-mail list of 7,000 members. These messages will concentrate on current Irish related issues whether they be here or in Ireland as well as spiritual messages reflecting our Catholic Faith. I urge all Brothers to make an effort to join that E-Mail Blast list.

I ask all of our members to embrace the future of Hibernianism with me and to work to make this venerable Order more vibrant and relevant in the Twenty-First Century.

God Bless.



vice president's report

by Danny O'Connell

Brothers, I am honored to be serving as your new Vice President. Thank you all for the tremendous support and good wishes. My time on the national board has been extremely rewarding for me and I'm sure this term will follow suit. The national convention was absolutely incredible and the work completed during the sessions will help us continue to move the AOH forward. I can tell you we certainly hit the ground running following the convention and Judge McKay quickly placed his imprint on our operation. Our primary goal as a board is to improve on the foundation that has been laid over the years.

The most visible progress is the new AOH UPDATE. This will be e-mailed during the first week of each month. If you haven't signed up for the AOH e-mail list you can see the update on the web at WWW.AOH.COM. The update will include an introduction from President McKay and a few articles covering Catholic action, Political education and other critical issues that impact all of us.

When you visit the web page to see the update you will also find the Hibernian Digest most recent publication on the right hand side in a PDF format. If you move to the bottom of the same column you will find past editions. Currently we go back almost a year and soon we will include all Digests since John O'Connell became editor. This success story is a result of cooperative efforts of Jeff Nisler, Webmaster and Digest Editor, John O'Connell.

Label Program: Following the convention my efforts quickly moved toward my new role as VP. First up was the label program. By now, each of you should have received your labels. Many of you have taken the time to make your donation. Thank you! I hope everyone else will take the time to make your donation today. Your support will help the AOH continue to move forward.

I have opened each and every envelope myself noticing several trends in the program. I found it moving that our top donor, as this time, is a member of the clergy. We have also received several \$100 donations including four members of the clergy. I point this out because our clergy are setting the bar high for the rest of us as they so often do. Remember, no donation is too small and no donation is too large. The goal here is to have participation from each and every Hibernian. Please take the time to make your label donation today!

Rituals and Degrees: One of the responsibilities of the Vice President is Rituals and Degrees. JJ Kelly is serving as Rituals Chairman. On July 18, I emailed all degree team Chairmen in order to open a line of communication. I was excited to learn that several people are interested in working on the Ritual Committee. We will begin work immediately on updating the procedures manual (Blue book). This will be an exciting challenge for us and I'm sure our entire committee is looking forward to the end result.

It's hard to believe the Christmas Season is upon us. I wish you and your entire family a very Happy Christmas. This is the time of the year we all reach down deep for Christian Charity. In addition to your local charities remember our Christmas Appeal and the opportunity to help with our cause in the north of Ireland. As always, the success of the Ancient Order of Hibernians depends on our membership. Please make an effort to grow our membership and recruit two or three members to your division between now and St. Patrick's Day. God Bless.



national secretary

by Jere Cole

As we are in the autumn season, it is that time again to have our attention shift to updating our rosters for each division. Rosters will be mailed to each division's Financial Secretary in October. Your financial secretary plays an extra special role at this time of year. He needs to note any membership changes on the roster itself, including spelling, changes of address, transfers, deaths, resignations, suspensions and status adjustments. We ask that you try to write the information as neatly as possible.

Please make all corrections/changes directly on that roster sent to you. Sorry, but we cannot accept any roster generated on your end, as we need to maintain the integrity of the data. You do not need to include Form 40 to supplement the roster, unless it is for a new member. Also, keep in mind that we can only release the 2017 cards once we have received the updated October roster; OR, if there are no changes to the October roster, you can send us a letter certifying that your roster is up to date. We encourage you to make a copy of the changes to your roster before you send it back.

Please return these corrected rosters to us as soon as possible so we may produce your 2017 membership cards and return to you in a timely fashion.

Some other useful reminders

Forms 40s

Occasionally, the national office receives a Form 40 without a membership ID number. It is the responsibility of the financial secretary to assign membership ID numbers. There is now a zero after the 2-digit division number. Why? The extra zero acts as a placeholder for divisions that are under 1000 on their list. When assigning a new member an ID number, please do not reuse past member ID numbers for new members. We ask that you go to the bottom of your membership list and use the next open number. An exception is if a member rejoins the same division, we want to use their former ID number, if it is available.

If you are adding a major degree year it must be verified by either a major degree card or candidate list from the ceremony.

Per Capita

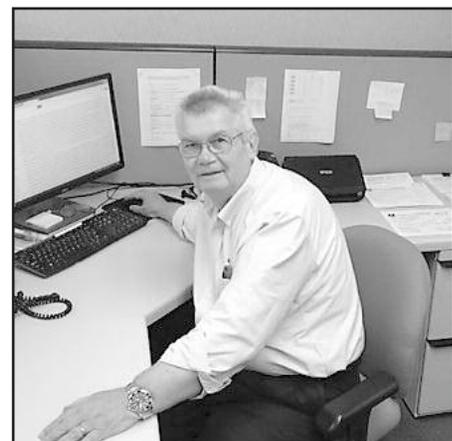
Your division's 2017 per capita is based on your membership as of December 31, 2016. The total members reported on the Form 11 must match the numbers that the national office has on record. Per capita is due on February 15, 2017. Any per capita owed for previous years must also be paid before we issue your 2016 cards.

Members exempt from paying per capita include priests, active military and national life members. Divisions that were established in 2016 also owe per capita. It is one dollar per member for each month that the division was in existence in 2016.

EIN Numbers

You must include your division's EIN number at the top of Form 11. If your division does not have an EIN number, you need to file for one with the IRS. Simply go to <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/how-to-apply-for-an-ein>. Follow the online instructions. Or call the IRS at 1-800-829-4933.

In this issue of the Digest I write to introduce the newest member of the National Secretary's team, Joe Ryan. Joe comes to us with extensive business experience in pharmaceutical advertising and marketing. Now semi-retired, Joe has been a substitute science teacher at a local high school, but is keenly interested in helping the AOH. Joe is a member of the Michael Delahunty AOH Division 9 in Montclair, NJ. He has been extensively involved in the Irish community and Irish Affairs for years, in fact he served as chairperson of the West Orange NJ St Patrick's Day Parade for 4 years. He also served as a 3 term president of the Shillelagh Club in West Orange NJ which is a Irish fraternal organization dedicated to philanthropy. I am confident Joe will have an immediate impact on our operation and look forward to working with him. I would like to thank Melissa Hebrank for her outstanding work over these past two years. She has been instrumental in organizing our office and putting many systems in place. I want to wish her well as she moves on to bigger and better things.



Joe Ryan

Some reminders that will help our operation in the National Secretary's Office. When submitting the Form 40 please be careful to assign the next open number for your division member. Also please include as much information as possible on the form such as email, phone numbers and initiation dates. You will be glad to hear that we have re-designed the Form 9 to make it more user friendly by expanding the input areas to facilitate fill-in.

We will be sending you your rosters in early October, please respond quickly. As always you may contact us at AOH, PO Box 539, West Caldwell, NJ 07007.

You may contact Joe at: joe.ryan.aoh@gmail.com or 973-575-0050 or fax 973-575-0051.



Treasurer's report

by Sean Pender

Brothers, it is indeed a great honor to hold the office of National Treasurer. I would like to thank all who supported me in pursuit of this office and pledge to all that I will work hard in completing the duties of this important position.

As I learn this new position it has become obvious that we as an organization have been extremely lucky to have had our current Vice President Danny O'Connell in this office for the last four years. The technical advances he has implemented have streamlined procedures, which will benefit our Order for years to come. I hope to continue in that vein and to look for ways to maintain or improve this office.

My goal for 2016-2017 will be to complete the work Danny started regarding EIN registration and our Tax Exempt Status. I plan to work closely with Divisions, Counties and States using this column and our website to communicate important information to be sure that they are able to complete the EIN registration process.

I look forward to working with Danny, President McKay, Secretary Cole, and our national directors and chairmen on the National Board to complete the work of our noble order.

As I finish this article in late September I am waiting for the final bill reconciliation from Harrah's Atlantic City. All indications are that we will have a very successful and profitable convention. Sincere thanks to all who supported the 2016 National AOH convention.

I wish a very Happy Thanksgiving to all our members and their families.



Director's report

by Liam McNabb

Strengthening the Order for the Next Generation

Thank you to States and Delegates for your support at the AOH National Convention in Atlantic City in July. I am truly honored for your trust, confidence and humbled by the opportunity to serve, especially with such a strong and hardworking Board.

As National Director, I proudly serve as Liaison to my home state of New York. On the National Board, I want to serve as a resource for my home state as well as other states as we collectively focus on growing and improving the health of the Order. Together, for the "Good of the Order," we can share our talents and skills along with "best practices" to help weaker Divisions to become stronger and smaller Divisions increase membership.

Quality Improvement & Evaluating the health of your Division: Does your Division have strong leadership? Are each of the Officers active in supporting the mission of the Division? How many members are on your Division roster? How many members attend monthly meetings? Have you surveyed your members in an effort to gauge interest? What is important to them and why? Is your Division active in the community?

These are just a few critical questions to begin to assess the strengths and weaknesses of your local organization. (More questions to come in the future.) Answering these few questions will lead to a more thorough evaluation of what practices work well and what needs to change to move your Division in the right direction. To be successful, local leadership needs to have a short-term and long-term strategy to determine where to focus energy and invest in your future.

Our membership is fortunate to have innovative and talented leaders on the National Board and in other key leadership positions throughout the Order. Tim McSweeney, National Organizer (& NY State President), and I plan to develop training materials to assist Divisions with a variety of practices that include: Engaging Membership, Fostering Leadership, Promoting the Order and Recruiting New Members just to name a few. In addition to in-person meetings and training opportunities, we plan to have training material easily accessible through a variety of sources. Through ongoing collaborative and meaningful discussions, we can learn from each other in order to "Strengthen the Order for the Next Generation."

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



Director's report

by Bill Sullivan

The weather here has begun to change and the long, hot, humid days of summer are now but a memory. Hibernian activities after the summer hiatus are now getting back on track, and many Division, County and State Boards are making plans for fall and Christmas events, as well as for Irish Heritage Month 2017.

What a great way to honor a local hero! On September 17, Division 18 in Salem, Massachusetts, named their 114-year-old Division after a local war hero. The Division, now known as the Maj. John Tivnan Division was named after Maj. Tivnan, a veteran of two tours of duty in Vietnam. Following an illustrious military career, which included piloting the Marine 1 Helicopter for President Lyndon B. Johnson, he relocated to Virginia where he found the Lt. Col John A Dowd Division in Woodbridge. Maj. Tivnan's family traveled from Virginia to take part in this historic event. What a great honor for Massachusetts Hibernians to have AOH National President Jim McKay present to take part in the dedication. His attendance added to the impressive ceremonies on that sunny afternoon. May Major Tivnan's dedication and devotion to duty be an inspiration to the officers and members of this grand old Division on the North Shore!

On October 16, the AOH and LAOH Connecticut State Boards honored four of their Past State Presidents at a luncheon at the AOH in Waterbury. Among those honored were: Past AOH State Presidents Bill Flannery and John Wiehn, and Past LAOH State Presidents Hilda Kelly and Joanne Noonan. What a great way for the membership to show their appreciation, respect and gratitude to those who served our order, and to recognize them for their time, efforts, dedication and talents! Congratulations to all and a big Thank You to Dave Howe, Past AOH Connecticut State President, for coordinating this event.

Recently all members received a set of AOH address labels in the mail and State, County and Division Presidents received an email asking them to remind their membership to please contribute to this fund raising campaign. These address labels identify you as a member of the AOH. Please use them to show your Irish and Hibernian pride! To those members who have sent in a donation, THANK YOU! If you have not already sent in your contribution, I ask that you please do so as soon as possible. THANKS!

In a previous issue of the Digest it was noted that our National President has set as one of his priorities the establishment and retention of Divisions. At the present time the Mass State Board under the direction of State President Paul Hogan is hard at work attempting to reorganize a Division in Blackstone. Hopefully this endeavor along with several other initiatives on the table will become a reality. Along the same lines in Vermont, National Organizer Tim McSweeney of NY is diligently pursuing the establishment of a Division in the Burlington area. Vermont, which has not had an AOH Division in over 25 years and with the latest U.S. census showing that 18 percent of Vermonters identify themselves of Irish ancestry, is an area of prime growth for the AOH. Hopefully here as well, we will be able to show progress!

Over the next several months, I look forward to visiting several Divisions in the New England area. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any comments, concerns or questions. My email address is: williamsullivan@verizon.net

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2017!



Members of Division 1, Portland, MA at the An Gorta Mor Memorial service: Pictured left to right are: Matt Barker, Mike Furey, James McClay, Terry McNamara, Father Jerry Levesque, Dan Lynch, Bill Densmore, Jim Avjian and Steve Helphand.

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Director's report

by Tom O'Donnell
Project St. Patrick Chairman

Brothers, I would like to thank our Brothers and Sisters of New Jersey for their great work in hosting and organizing the convention, and thank you to all of our Brothers who attended the convention and for the support that they gave to me. I am looking forward to working with our newly elected Officers and Directors and performing my duties as National Director, PSP Chairman and National liaison to Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

It's time again to stress the importance of Project St. Patrick (PSP). The goal of PSP is to fund grants and increase support for the men and women who devote their lives to Christ. Project St. Patrick again is a joint program, supported by both the AOH and LAOH. The Irish have always been regarded as staunch supporters of our Catholic Faith, her Priests, Brothers and Sisters. In fact, Ireland and the Irish have a long history of encouraging vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. This great program wouldn't be able to exist without you, the members, and your full support.

Through the cooperation of our States, Counties and Divisions with their local Dioceses contacts, mailings have gone out to a great number of Dioceses, Seminaries and Novitiates across the country. And applications for the grants have already started to be returned. Besides individual and AOH/LAOH State, County and Division donations, Project St. Patrick memorial cards are also a great additional source of funding. When a member, family or friend passes away a PSP Card is presented to the family, and a donation is sent into the Hibernian Charity with the donation form.

Additional PSP Cards can be obtained by contacting: Tom O'Donnell – email NLNOD@comcast.net (type "PSP" in the subject line). If anyone is in need of additional information regarding Project St. Patrick, please feel free to contact me.

End of Summer...

By John Wilson, AOH National Director

James Dent wrote: A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken.

It has been a great summer and I am looking forward to watching my sons play Gaelic football, watching college football games, Blue's hockey games and playoff baseball. This is also a great time of the year for the many Irish festivals throughout the Midwest.

The Indy Irish Festival held September 15-18th had the Kilted Mile Run, where participants donned their kilts and were then cheered on by bagpipers and fans! Trophies are awarded to the top finishers with additional awards for those with the "Bonniest Knees," "The Best Step Dance in a Kilt," "Least Likely to finish" and "Best Dressed Kilt."

The Erin Feis in Peoria had a lot to celebrate Aug 26-28 with their local girl, Patricia O'Connell, elected as the new Ladies AOH National President, and in addition great music, arts and crafts.

The "Dubuque's Irish Hooley" was scheduled August 26-27. Their goal is to promote Irish/Celtic music and culture in the city of Dubuque, Iowa, throughout the year. For generations, the highlight of Irish social life was the Hooley. Music, dance, song, good conversation and merriment that flowed freely as described in the Percy French song, "There's a Hooley on in Hannigan's House Tonight."

I made my reservations for Labor Day weekend for the Kansas City Irish Fest at Crown Center. They do a great job and have a wonderful outdoor Mass on Sunday; it is a great place to meet up with fellow Hibernians from Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska. Then October 7-9 the Weston Irish Festival, in Weston, Missouri took place. They draw large crowds for a fun filled weekend of great music and all things Irish. Weston Irish Festival is celebrating their 17th year.

In Omaha, Nebraska, September marks the half way to St. Patrick's Day and time for them to dust off their kilts! Everyone follows the bagpipes to the Holy Cross Festival. Everyone is welcome to celebrate the Irish culture in the big "O" at the 8th Annual Holy Cross Irish Festival. Holy Cross Irish Festival is a two-day event Saturday, September 10th and Sunday, September 11th. This is a time to reflect the city's Irish heritage, where Holy Cross Catholic Church has transformed their annual church festival into the Holy Cross Irish Festival. The big draw is the band Killigans who perform "The Cornhusker" (come a running boy).

October 1, the Kansas AOH sponsored an Irish Road Bowling competition. Irish Road Bowling preceded hurling, rugby and even golf. Road bowling is an Irish sport in which competitors attempt to take the fewest throws to send a metal ball along a predetermined course of country roads. The sport originated in Ireland and is mainly played in Counties Armagh and Cork. Spectators often bet on the outcome over a pint and debate as to who the better player is. The score is held on a course of country lanes of a mile or more.

Montana had the "An Rí Rá Montana Irish Festival" August 12-14th a celebration of the Irish heritage and contribution to the people of Montana. This festival has created its place as a world-class event that draws people from not only Montana, but across the United States and internationally. The An Rí Rá is regarded as one of the best Irish festivals in North America. The festival was founded to promote Gaelic Culture in Montana through language, music, dance and social gatherings.

I am blessed to have been assigned such wonderful Hibernian Divisions and active State Boards. I am looking forward to meeting the members of the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Montana. Please don't hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can help you with.



Director's report

by John Wilson

I would like to thank Past National Presidents George Clough and Joseph A. Roche, and Past National Director James D. Wahl for endorsing me for the office of National Director. I would also like to thank the members of the AOH for electing me for this position. It was great to meet so many AOH & LAOH members and their families in Atlantic City. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as National Director.

Once I was assigned my states and divisions, the first thing I did was to search the web for AOH divisions in my designated states. The AOH Division Directory was put together a few years ago to help visiting members or prospective new member find division meeting dates and times in the different cities or states.

As I looked up my states and the divisions I noticed some had very good websites and quite a few didn't keep up with their web pages and let them lapse. The AOH Webmaster needs to know if you change your information. Please check out your own listing at www.aoh.com/division-directory/ I know quite a few divisions just use Facebook to communicate to their members. Whatever means of communication you use, keep your members interested — use any and all methods at your disposal to provide multiple opportunities to communicate to current and potential new members. Nothing beats the U.S. Mail to keep your members informed, plus it's a great way to use your new AOH return label stickers.

How is the attendance at your meetings or at events you schedule? Sometimes we need to ask our members about how we are conducting our meetings and if they feel we are fulfilling our missions as Catholic gentlemen of the greatest Irish Catholic organization. Ask members to contribute ideas and develop goals that further our purpose in promoting Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity — and actually use their ideas. Keep members continually updated with newsletters and monthly presentations about all the ways they can make a difference. And provide meaningful educational opportunities to encourage attendance at organization events.

Remember, few members want to sit in solemn meetings and focus on business 100 percent of the time — formal and informal activities add fun and keep everyone interested. Ask long-standing members to greet newcomers with a warm and friendly attitude from the first time they walk in the door. Ask meeting moderators to maintain a positive attitude, never apologizing for poor attendance, but praising members who do show up. Sometimes providing food, watching a movie together and celebrations of success also create an engaging atmosphere. Also it is helpful to have a timekeeper.

Helping members get to know each other strengthens the organization and keeps members involved. Use small group sessions at meetings to brainstorm ideas, whether it's on topics about Pro-Life, Catholic Action, Veterans Affairs, Fund Raising, Irish History or member recruitment. Your organization might also form sub-groups for those with more specific interests, since small groups build even stronger relationships among members.

Many organizations find that members who volunteer are more engaged and interested. Some organizations require a certain number of volunteer hours while others simply use encouragement. Increase the volunteer opportunities in your organization by forming sub-committees to work on specific problems; or, keep track of volunteer hours and reward members who reach milestones in 10- or 20-hour segments with certificates or small tokens of appreciation.

I feel blessed to have been assigned to the great states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Montana and hope I get to meet all the members in these great states.



Director's report

by Dennis Parks

Brothers, I want to thank you for the confidence you placed in me by electing me as National Director. I look forward to the challenges ahead and to helping move our Order forward. I would also like to thank and commend the Atlantic City Convention Committee for a job well done. Everyone appreciated your hard work.

I have been appointed as Liaison to OH, MI, WV, VA, DC, MD and DE. I have made contact with all of my state presidents and am looking forward to helping these states continue to grow their membership and participation in the AOH. As Liaison I have encouraged all the state presidents to help us succeed in the 2016 label program.

The first state I had an opportunity to visit was West Virginia, where I attended the Bishop Whelan Division's annual Irish Road Bowling Tournament. They had over 700 participants this year and the money raised is given to local charities. This was a tremendous opportunity for them to showcase the AOH and recruit new members. I want to thank President Mike Welsh and all the members for their incredible Hibernian hospitality.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Hibernian Lecture this fall at Notre Dame. The day began with a review of our Hibernian Scholarship fund and our Cushwa Center fund. It is truly amazing how the University of Notre Dame has grown our donations into strong endowments. The highlight of our visit was meeting one of the Hibernian Scholarship recipients, Allison Walker, from Pittsburgh, PA. She expressed her sincere gratitude to the Hibernians, as well as what it has meant to her to attend the University of Notre Dame. The best part of the trip was finding out Allison would receive additional funding this year that would relieve some of her student loans. This was the first Allison learned of this and it was an exciting moment for everyone.

Brothers, thank you again, and if I can be of any assistance to you, please contact me at any time. (330) 414-1963 or dparks121@yahoo.com



anti defamation

by Neil Cosgrove
Chairman

A frequent refrain when talking about the defamation of our heritage is the fatalistic statement "you will never change it." Well Brothers, I would like to pass on that the AOH has again made progress in defending our proud heritage. I received a message from Brother and former national director Keith Carney that he had spotted a shirt caricaturing and debasing the Irish people at the Paradies Airport Shop in Covington, Kentucky. The shirt had the title "Irish Yoga" and showed a group of individuals sprawled in several poses of intoxication amid a sea of whiskey and beer bottles. Brother Carney, to his credit, took the matter up with the store's management, who attempted to deflect the blame to decisions made at corporate.

We wrote a letter to the CEO of the Paradies Airport Shops, which operates more than 850 stores in 98 airports in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. We stated that we found the prejudicial stereotypes depicting Irish as synonymous with drunk offensive. We asked Paradies a basic question: would they ever consider selling the shirt if it depicted African Americans and was entitled "Black Yoga," or similarly, a "Hispanic Yoga" or "Native American Yoga" shirt? If the answer was, as any person of decency would hope, "No" then what makes selling these shirts targeting Irish American acceptable?

I am happy to report that within 24 hours of our protest we received an apology from Paradies and assurance that the shirts were being pulled from their store shelves. We commend Paradies for taking our concerns seriously and showing themselves to be a responsible corporation by taking decisive action when they were made aware they had defamed our heritage. A person or organization that is willing to admit a mistake and back the sincerity of their apology with deeds is to be commended.

As heartening as this win is, there is no delusion that this is a final victory in seeing our heritage accorded the respect it is due. It is still far too prevalent and readily accepted that defaming stereotypes and bigoted clichés that would not be tolerated if the target was another group are acceptable and "funny" when the object of derision is the Irish. When is the glorification of binge drinking and the broad-based slandering of any group based solely on their ethnicity ever "funny"?

We must, Brothers, take ownership for part of this phenomenon; too many Irish Americans have been too often silent when it comes to speaking out to defend their heritage. "Silence Implies Consent." Defamation of our heritage is not a victimless crime; surveys show a decreasing number of Irish American identifying with their heritage, and closer to home we see challenges in growing our membership. What good, sensible, self-respecting person would want to identify with the message promoted by "Irish Yoga"?

As Hibernians, it is in our oath and best interests to speak out against anything that caricatures or debases the Irish people. Our recent success with Paradies and other organizations in the past shows that corporation will listen if a clear protest is made against defaming merchandise. It is time for us all to take back our Irish identity from those who peddle bigoted stereotypes and negative ethnic clichés for profit. It is possible to stand up to defamation; it starts with you.



California



Ventura Division raises funds for Parish Building Fund: Easter Rising Division 1 Ventura County presented Fr. Leon Hutton, pastor of Our Lady of Assumption, with a check for \$1,300 representing the proceeds from a sold-out Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party. Pictured with Fr. Leon before their Outdoor Mass are President Bill Ferguson Sr. and member Paul Caron. Photo by member Paul Montgomery.

From the Editor

In 1947, the format of our official newsletter – The Hibernian – was revised to become the easier-to-read Hibernian Digest we know today. As we enter 2017 — the 70th anniversary of the Hibernian Digest — we are proud to announce another format change. A digital version of the Hibernian Digest will now be available on the AOH.COM website and will bring the news of our Charitable activities, Irish arts and entertainment, business news, history and holiday events to a wider audience.

With the Digest in print and online, we have the opportunity to include more of our friends' and supporters' advertisements in either or both media formats. Since many of our local merchants are now offering their goods and services on digital media for national consumption, we ask our readers to alert them to the possibility of this newly opened opportunity to reach an interested Irish audience from border-to-border and coast-to-coast as well as several countries around the globe.

In addition, we have altered our publishing dates by one month to help our advertisers reach their potential customers at the most appropriate times. The September-October issue is now the October-November issue to satisfy Christmas advertising; likewise our December-January will satisfy St Patrick's Day advertising and so on. Further, our advertising rates are less expensive than other means of advertising and our audience is most supportive.

Another new bonus: Advertisements submitted through an individual Division will result in a 15 percent commission to that Division.

Help the Order and the Digest — tell your local Irish goods stores and all appropriate potential advertisers to consider the Digest.

— John O'Connell — editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com

2016 Christmas Appeal is Underway!



Brothers, Please remember to join our efforts and support the annual Christmas Appeal. Donations annually from AOH Brothers, LAOH Sisters, Divisions, County Boards, State Boards and Friends have made the Christmas Appeal a cornerstone of our annual giving.

Purpose of the FFAI Christmas Appeal: Provide assistance for charities / agencies promoting defined categories of Hibernian Support that will assist in our goal as defined in the preamble to our constitution: "To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace and unity for all Ireland."

Your donations will help keep the AOH & the LAOH a leader in support for the North of Ireland.

AOH UPDATE

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

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

**A.O.H.
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Dan Dennehy
Immigration Chairman

Thank you for the support for my campaign for election at national convention. As National Immigration Chairman and Metro NY Area liaison, I look forward to the next two years, working for you under the leadership of National President Judge James McKay. The National Board serves all Hibernians, as well as Catholic, Irish and American people, our parishes and the greater community. We will honor all who served the National Board before us with our hard work.

At the convention, many members participated in the Immigration breakout session, which ended with a commitment to maintain AOH Immigration committees nationwide, and inform, mobilize and communicate our AOH Irish immigration agenda to others. Thar Saile President Matt Morrison, Malachy McAllister and others attended, thanking all for Hibernian efforts on their behalf. The convention also provided an opportunity to huddle on Irish immigration issues as Hibernians and with those who joined us, including Ambassador Anderson, Senator Billy Lawless, and Brian O'Dwyer and Siobhan Dennehy of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center.

Since my reappointment as National Immigration chair, I've met new Irish Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald, Ambassador Anderson, Governor Martin O'Malley, Congressmen Joe Crowley and Richie Neal and staff of U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Kirsten Gillibrand, N.Y. State Senator Murphy and several NYC Council members.

In the Irish Seanad, Billy Lawless communicates our issues to his fellow members of the Seanad and Dail. Billy is a man of his word. In spite of a hip replacement days before the event, he was as honored to join us at the convention, as we were to have him. In the Seanad, he is constantly working to resolve Irish Immigration problems and represent those affected. We were set for meetings in September with Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan, Irish Minister for Diaspora Joe McHugh, fellow Irish Immigration advocates and Irish Immigration Centers.

The Irish regularly receive fewer than 150 of the 50,000 annual DV lottery visas in recent years. They also face tremendous competition from Asian and Indian applicants for H1-B visas. Those fortunate Irish who come to the U.S. on short term J1 Visas, are welcomed in our communities. Most would love to stay at the expiration of the visas and cannot. The Irish still love it here, but they are smart enough not to become illegal. That's why we need a restoration of a quota of Irish visas. In 1965, U.S. laws were changed and ended 18,000 annual immigrant visa allotment for Ireland. The AOH was vocal that ending that allotment would damage Irish-American culture and weaken our role in U.S. society.

The architects of the 1965 Immigration Act assured the AOH and Irish America that there would be NO ADVERSE effect on Irish America. We now know that to be false.

2016 is the Centenary Year of the Irish State, yet for half that time the Irish have been LOCKED OUT. A U.S. bill earlier this year was the ideal opportunity to add Irish immigrant visas. Despite our requests to Congress and various diplomatic avenues, it did not occur. Let's work as Hibernians and focus on getting Irish immigrant visas before we face another round of comprehensive immigration confusion.

Please call your Congressional representative and those who seek that office and inform them that "50 years ago, U.S. law removed 18,000 immigrant visas from Ireland. Congressional sponsors of the Immigration Act of 1965 promised that Ireland would not be "adversely affected." We want those visas restored as today fewer than 200 Irish people have received Immigrant Visas in the current laws and we have been adversely affected for far too long!



AOH MEETS WITH IRELAND'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY
Hibernian leaders met with Niall Burgess, Secretary General of the Dept. of Foreign Affairs at a NY Irish Consular reception during the UN visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan.

Deadline for December-January issue
All articles and photos are due no later than
DECEMBER 1, 2016



freedom for all ireland

by Paul Gowdy
Chairman

Let me start by thanking all those Hibernian Boards that contributed to the 2015-2016 Annual Christmas Appeal, which saw a healthy \$69,570 in donations. This includes approximately \$10,000 that was collected by the LAOH. Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI) Co-Chairman Greg Sean Canning visited Ireland and distributed checks to 12 approved organizations, amounting to \$59,000. In 2015 the National LAOH voted to manage their portion of the Christmas Appeal project themselves with their checks going directly to the LAOH FFAI chair.

At the recent National Convention in Atlantic City, Sean Canning and I distributed a framed plaque showing those Heroes executed in May 1916 in Kilmainham Jail, to the 24 AOH/LAOH Boards who donated \$1,000 or more to the Christmas Appeal. Thank you, brothers and sisters. A list of all those Boards will be displayed in the AOH National Web.

There were 52 attendees at the FFAI breakout session at the convention. We were lucky to have as a guest speaker, Sean Murray, from Belfast, N.I. Sean gave us a talk and video presentation on a movie project he is currently engaged in directing, called "Unquiet Graves." It is a story of the notorious 'Glenanne Gang' that operated in the border area in the North of Ireland, especially around Armagh and Tyrone. The gang was made up of members of the RUC, UVF and members of the British army unit, the UDR. They were responsible for numerous bombings and murder raids on Catholic nationalist homes and businesses. Collusion with these units was known by and handled by Britain's MI5 and MI6. Sean gave us an insight to Britain's secret war in Ireland.

I recently returned from over four weeks in Belfast. Whilst there I enjoyed many shows, parades and fun at the Belfast Irish Festival. I spent a few nights in the Felons Club with some friends. I had an afternoon with our friend, Mark Thompson, from Relatives for Justice. We visited the Republican Graves in Milltown Cemetery and both identified with some long lost friends. Mark is still working diligently for financial aid for those families who lost loved ones at the Ballymurphy Massacre. God Bless you, Mark, we are with you all the way.

The packages for the 2016-2017 Annual Christmas Appeal were due to be mailed in late September.

From time to time I will put news items from Northern Ireland on the AOH website.

I thank President James McKay for reappointing me to this position, not forgetting Greg Sean Canning for all of his excellent work over the past two years.



Paul Gaudy, left, with Mark Thompson, Relatives for Justice, at the Memorial for the Hunger Strikers in Milltown Cemetery in Belfast.

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Rituals & Degrees

by JJ Kelly
Chairman

I am honored and proud to let you all know that I have been re-appointed to the Chairmanship for Rituals and Degrees. Many thanks to Judge McKay for this honor.

For those of you who attended the Atlantic City convention, and were able to take part in the very productive discussions we had pertaining to Rituals and Degrees, thank you for such outstanding input and ideas. I think we all agree on the importance of properly conducting our degrees – both the Shamrock and the Major degrees. I want everyone to realize that our Degree Teams do not exist in a vacuum or as a stand-alone activity. What we do is an integral part of what we Hibernians are all about.

We hear lots of words about membership – increasing our membership, retaining members – it goes on and on. The THREE R's of Membership are RECRUIT, RETAIN AND RECLAIM. The AOH Degree Programs are a very big part of RETAIN. Poorly exemplified degree work can discourage members from becoming more active. Most importantly, we must do everything we can to get our members to fulfill the promise they took when first becoming members, and take the Major Degrees. So many of the men who were at the workshop in Atlantic City expressed frustration in getting members to take the Major Degrees. There is no question that taking the Major Degrees greatly increases the probability that a member will stay in the Order and become a more active part of what we do. Over the next few issues I will make suggestions on how to get our members to be more interested in taking the Major Degrees.

One final note here. At the present time, all our Major Degree Teams are in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia, with South Carolina in a reorganization mode. We must do what we can to encourage the formation of teams outside of these few states. I stand ready to assist one and all in getting new teams formed and certified.



Organizer

by Tim McSweeney

I am truly honored to serve as your National Organizer. A little about me: I've been a member of the Fr. Henry Tansley Div. 5 of Albany, NY, for over 25 years. I currently serve as the NYS President. My wife, Kala, and I are the proud parents of our daughter, Isabella, and I've worked for the Albany County Sheriff's Office as a Correction Officer for 16 Years.

My goal will be to find and implement new and innovative ways to effectively recruit new members and to retain, and more importantly, engage existing members.

Recruitment

I find grassroots, face-to-face recruitment effective and allows John Q. Public to see who we are, while finding men eligible to join our Order. Fairs, festivals and community days with recruitment tables are examples. I am in the process of designing kits (banners, posters, stand-up displays) to distribute to all State Organizers, with the intention of these kits being loaned to Divisions and Counties around their respective state to be used at recruitment events. In New York, we recently purchased two 10x10 canopies to be used for recruitment (see the photo). Costly, but effective. Please contact me for information on purchasing a canopy.

I will be placing an order for more tri-fold brochures, recruitment posters and placards. These items will be available from me or through your State Organizer.

Retention

Possibly the toughest challenge we face on the Division level of our Order. I am working with National Director Liam McNabb to develop programming to address this issue.

I cannot do this job alone. Please contact me with your recruitment and retention ideas you may have at newjack12007@yahoo.com.



At the NYS State Recruitment Tent at the Peekskill Irish Festival in September were, from left, Tom Beirne (Hibernian Hunger Chairman), Jim Burke (NYS Past Pres.), Carey O'Brien (Albany Div. 5), NY State President and National Organizer Tim McSweeney and Keith Reynolds (NYS Organizer).



Pro-Life

by John Patrick Walsh
Chairman

An introduction

Brothers, it is my pleasure to introduce myself as your Pro-Life Chairman for the next two years. I am immensely grateful to President McKay for this appointment and the trust he has placed in me. Working together, it is my hope that we will strengthen local, regional and national pro-life activities as Hibernians and men of conscience. I look forward to supporting your division, county and state events in whatever way possible and am always eager for ideas that create a greater respect for life. Brothers and Sisters looking for help or offering ideas can contact me by email: John.Patrick.Walsh@aoh.com or Jaywarp1@gmail.com.

Strive to be GOLD in all things

The Federalist's Mary Katherine Ham had a great article printed earlier this month, "These Olympians' Stories Of Motherhood Add To Their Awesomeness." After reading the examples set by Dana Vollmer, Kerri Walsh-Jennings and Michael Phelps, I couldn't agree more. Training to be an Olympic athlete is a full-time job, requiring years of tremendous will, strength and endurance. The same could be said about being a father or mother. Each of these athletes met and overcame the challenges that parenthood brings, while continuing to train for international competition. So to choose both callings is an incredible feat that should be celebrated and commended.

Perhaps that's why comments on social media, attacking interest in the dual roles held by some of our athletes, were particularly disappointing. As a new parent myself, I'm finally getting a glimpse of the true sacrifices my parents and other family members made when deciding to become the caregiver of another human life. My wife's ability to stay sane taking care of a constantly hungry, dirty, crying newborn, then switch instantly to partner mode and shoulder some of my stress after a day in the office ... it simply astounds me. That she (and all working mothers) will soon return to the workplace after going through the physical and emotional challenges of childbirth, while still fulfilling the role and duties of motherhood at home, is a feat worthy of praise and medals itself.

As a society, we tell our children they can grow up to be whatever they want, we push students to "do it all," and we try to remove all shackles of past notions attached to genders. But just because an individual can do it all, we have yet to support the reality that one should. This contradiction is no better stated than in the term "Pro-Choice"; having a child is seen as a choice instead of a calling.

A saint's patience is required when dealing with sophists on social media claiming to be "pro-feminist, pro-choice." On the one hand they proclaim that a woman is free to be whatever she wishes, that societal chains and glass-ceilings of yesteryear are now broken; but with the other they coddle and deprecate those women seeking to be working mothers, furthering the fallacy that you cannot be successful in both pursuits.

If we intend for our generation to be the last where abortion is a viable first, or second, option for young women, then we need the women in our lives to know that they can be gold in all things. More importantly they need to know there are men in their lives ready to support them.

Pro-Life Breakfast reminder

The Hibernian Pro-Life Breakfast is scheduled for 9 a.m., Friday, January 27, 2017, in Washington, D.C. The DC State Board will be hosting their annual breakfast (\$25 p.p.) and Hibernian Mass before the March For Life.

NOTRE DAME

continued from page 1

doctoral candidate in religion. The young man spoke of the seminal moments of Notre Dame University and the roots of many of the campus buildings. A tour of the Basilica and the Administration (Golden Dome) with an in depth discussion of the religious murals was awesome. We ended at the Hesburgh Library mural and a visit to the iconic stadium.

At the beginning of our tour we were greeted by Father Thomas O'Hara C.S.C., Provincial for the Eastern Order of Holy Cross, at the Eck Visitor Center where our Private Campus Tour began. The Holy Cross Order is a huge benefit to the AOH/LAOH providing Rosaries for our Troops, a National Chaplain (Father Sullivan), and NDU are the custodian of our Hibernian Fund. C.S.C. views our Fraternal Irish Catholic Orders as crucial to the mission of the University.

Later in the day we received the Financial Reports for our funds at the Cushwa Center and the University Student Financial Aid Office. A young woman, an electrical engineering student, from Pittsburgh, a recipient of the Hibernian Scholarship, spoke movingly about the world of a student at Notre Dame, enhancing her Catholic Faith, teaching a CDC class at local parish, and as a senior her acceptance of a position before her graduation.

This was followed by the AOH/LAOH Hibernian Lecture, "Shoulder and Shovelwork": Dead Poets and Eschatologie (the end of time) by Thomas Lynch. It is serious, the subject is dying, but Lynch was both witty and informative, which included poetic readings from Seamus Heaney. Afterwards, we were hosted on campus at a reception and dinner by the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism.

In the fourth quarter of the Saturday Football Game it is announced that there will be Masses on campus at half an hour following the game. St. Mary's Basilica has a Mass but every residence hall on campus has a chapel and a Mass. We sprinted across campus to make Mass at the Basilica. All in all a beautiful two-day spiritual visit to a hallowed Catholic University in Indiana. The committee left with a powerful vision of our Catholic faith.



Irish way & study abroad

by Greg Sean Canning
Chairman

A new year for the Irish Way Study Abroad Program is now underway. This program consists of two major sections.

The first section is the Irish Way Program, which is a unique cultural and educational program for American High School Students that began in 1976. During the summer, students participate in the Irish Way travel to Ireland for a three week stay. The program, which is multifaceted, encompasses three components.

Education: Students are introduced to Ireland's history and traditions through structured sessions in Irish language, literature, history, and culture. Students also participate in workshops of Celtic art, music, folk dancing and traditional Irish sports such as hurling. All sessions are taught by certified Irish secondary level teachers.

The Irish Experience: Field trips to museums, sites of archeological, geological, and historical significance, and to the world- renowned Abbey Theater complement the program, along with excursions to local Gaelic football tournaments and hurling matches.

Irish Touring: The final days of the Irish Way are spent touring Ireland.

The Irish Way was founded on the belief that fostering an appreciation of other cultures is an important part of an individual's development. This program provides an opportunity for young people to explore the rich heritage and tradition of Ireland while also experiencing the country's distinct culture face-to-face. As a result of the above three facets, students return from the Irish Way Program with a new understanding and appreciation of their Irish heritage.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the \$500 AOH Scholarship, you will need to submit the Application. Program dates for 2017 are June 29th - July 23rd.

Irish Way Contact: Taryn Harrison, Coordinator for the Irish Way Program

E- Mail: tharrison@irishlifeexperience.com Phone: (781) 850-3322 [Ext. 122]

Selection of Scholarship Recipients: As has been the case for the past 25 plus years, the selection of all scholarship recipients will be done by the Irish American Cultural Institute.

The second section is the Study Abroad Scholarship Program, which is designed to encourage the children and grandchildren of AOH members at the university level to seriously consider pursuing courses of study in Ireland whether it be for a semester or a full year of study at colleges in Ireland. To achieve this goal, the National Board offers (2) annual \$1,000 Study Abroad Scholarships in Ireland for the sons, daughters and grandchildren of our members. The recipients of these scholarships must submit the attached application and attend an accredited college or university in the United States, and be accepted at an accredited college/university in Ireland, that is recognized by the institution that he/she attends.

Should not enough applications for the Study Abroad Scholarship be realized, then \$500 Scholarships for Semester Abroad Programs or \$1000/500 Masters Degree in Irish Studies Abroad Scholarships would be considered and granted when appropriate.

Selection of Scholarship Recipients: All scholarship applications are judged by an independent and impartial panel appointed by the chairman (Greg Seán Canning). The decision of this panel is final. Application Deadline: Midnight, May 1, 2017

The National AOH Irish Way Study Abroad Chairman's contact information is as follows: National Chairman: Greg Seán Canning, E- Mail: grioghar@mac.com (H) (407) 350-4205; (C)(201) 787-6650; 4530 Caladium Ct., Kissimmee, FL 34758-2156

BREXIT continued from page 1

Travel Area" was a "gentleman's agreement" between a sovereign U.K. and a sovereign Republic of Ireland; it is not relevant to a post-Brexit Britain and an EU member Ireland. Let us also not forget that even in the Common Travel Area era Britain controlled the border with numerous checkpoints manned by the British military. The detrimental effects of seeing a return of such measures cannot be understated.

There are other less visible threats. Economists are in agreement that Brexit will have a severe impact on the UK economy, and history tells us that, economically, when London gets a sniffle Belfast gets the flu. The one undeniable positive of the Good Friday Agreement has been economic; now this one accomplishment is in peril.

Brexit also means that the U.K. will no longer be bound by the European Convention on Human Rights, and despite the U.K.'s Good Friday commitment to enact its own Bill of Rights it has failed to do so. In fact, current Prime Minister Theresa May has been a vocal critic of the European Bill of Rights, stating that it "binds the hand of parliament." We should all be fearful of any government that sees a Bill of Rights for its citizens as an encumbrance. Our own Founding Fathers certainly were.

With Brexit, U.K. ministers are already knocking on the doors of Capitol Hill, trying to secure new favorable trade agreements and treaties to replace what they have lost with Brexit. It is up to us as Hibernians to ask our elected representatives to demand of the United Kingdom a progress report on Good Friday before making any deal to make sure that Brexit is not also a "Good Friday exit"; squandering the chance for a lasting peace. Before making any trade deals our politicians must ask and receive concrete answers from the British government. How will the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic remain open? Why have successive British governments failed to honor their Good Friday Agreement to fully investigate the legacy issues of the past and deliver justice? Will the benefits of any trade agreement benefit all the people of Northern Ireland or will we continue to see investment steered to Loyalist areas?

It is our duty, as it has been since the founding of the Order, to be an American voice speaking on behalf of the people of Ireland; as "Ireland's exiled Children in America," to be advocates for peace and justice in the land of our forebears.

Irish Way Study Abroad Application

2017

National Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians
A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN IRELAND
Scholarship Award \$1000

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City/ Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____

College Presently Attending _____

College Location _____

Please Circle Current Year of Study 1 2 3 4

Anticipated Graduation Date _____

College Major _____ College Minor _____

School or College You Plan to Attend in Ireland _____

Planned Course of Study or Major in Ireland _____

Dates when this Course of Study Begins _____ and Ends _____

Is this Program for a full Year of Study? _____

Is this Program for just one (1) Semester of Study? _____

Future Vocational or Career Plans: _____

Will the Credits from your Course of Study in Ireland be accepted at your College? _____

Will these Credits count towards your Graduation Requirements? _____

List College Activities and Organization Memberships: _____

Are you currently involved in any Community Projects? _____

If so, please explain: _____

Have you applied for any other Scholarship Awards? _____

If so, please list: _____

Father's Name _____ Address _____

City/ Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

My Father is a Member of AOH Division _____

County _____ State _____

My Grandfather is a Member of AOH Division _____

County _____ State _____

Mother's Name _____ Address _____

City/ Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

My Mother is a Member of LAOH Division _____

County _____ State _____

Are you a Member of the AOH or LAOH? _____

If so, which Division? _____

County _____ State _____

Were you ever a Junior Hibernian? _____

If so, where did you belong? _____

County _____ State _____

If you are not a Member, are you planning on joining the AOH? _____

Signature Page and Important Instructions

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Father's Signature _____ Date _____

Grandfather's Signature _____ Date _____

(If your Father is not an AOH Member)

PLEASE NOTE:

- On a separate piece of paper in 100 words or less, please state the reasons that you are applying for this scholarship.
- With this application, please submit the following:
 - An **Official College Transcript**;
 - A copy of your **Acceptance Letter** from the college in Ireland;
 - An **Official Letter** from the college you are presently attending, noting that it will accept the credits the college in Ireland;
 - A **Letter of Recommendation** from two of your professors at the College you presently attend.
- If selected as a recipient of this scholarship, you must submit two (2) 2 x 2 photos of yourself along with the address of your local newspaper.

PLEASE SUBMIT the completed application and all required materials to:

Greg Seán Canning, Chairman
AOH National Study Abroad Scholarship
4530 Caladium Court
Kissimmee, Florida 34758-2156

Email: grioghar@mac.com

Phone: (407) 350-4205

Cell: (201) 787-6650

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Midnight, May 1, 2017



Historical Happenings

by Mike McCormack
Historian

It is said that in every Irish heart there is a poem waiting to get out. Recognizing that most of the leaders of the 1916 Rising were poetically inclined, a novel idea sprang from the brain of Lorcán MacMhathúna and a group of his traditional musician friends that resulted in a historic CD. They took a number of verses written by Pearse, Plunkett, Ceannt and Connolly and put them to music.

The result is a compilation for any history-minded student of the 1916 era. It shows the personal motivations that drove these men to make the ultimate sacrifice. Pearse's poetry speaks of the price of duty being death; Plunkett wrote of the spirit, Ceannt wrote of hearth and home while Connolly wrote verses of the rights of the poor. These are all new tunes but the words are the words of the patriots. I'm sharing this information in the interest of its historical significance, I'm not selling them, but you can find more information about them at 1916visionaries.ie. Congratulations to all involved in this project; it's a keeper.

The generic topic for next year's NHD competition is Taking a Stand in History and if that wasn't made for an Irish entry, I don't know what was. How many times have the Irish taken a stand? Think of Daniel O'Connell's stand for religious freedom, the stand for tenant's rights by Charles Stewart Parnell or Michael Davitt, the stand for worker's rights by James Connolly or by Mother Jones, not to mention the stand for freedom taken by so many Irish over the centuries from Brian Boru to the heroes of 1916. For more on how to enter go to nhd.org and I hope to see you at the University of Maryland next June.

Many thanks for the generous comments on my recent book, *The Road to Rebellion*. The sequel, *The Road to a Republic* is now in production. The research on that has proven to be a fascinating epic on the remarkable dedication of the Irish people through the tribulations of post-Rising oppression, the Frongoch internment camp, the Black and Tan War, a brutal civil war and more political intrigue than a presidential campaign.

Don't forget to check out the Historic Happenings for September on AOH.COM and NYAOH.COM. Until next time, keep well, keep the faith and keep that tradition alive!



Veterans Affairs

by Jim Green
Chairman

Greetings brothers. Following the recent elections at the AOH National Convention this past July, I was contacted by President Judge Jim McKay and was honored by his offer to appoint me as AOH National Veterans Affairs Chairman. I readily accepted, of course. To briefly introduce myself, I am a resident of Pittsburgh, PA, and am a four-year Navy (air crewman) enlisted veteran from back in the days of the Cold War with the Soviet Union. My primary role was to participate with our squadron aircrews with tracking Soviet submarines around the Pacific Rim because of their threat to the U.S.

More currently, I have been a Hibernian for 24 years, receiving my Major Degree in 1993. I have served as Division, County, and PA State President, as well as many other elected and appointed positions. My passion for Veterans Affairs stems not only from my service in the military, but also from the examples of two of my greatest AOH friends – Rich O'Malley and Chuck McKee – both decorated Vietnam veterans.

When I was first elected AOH PA State President in 2005, brother McKee asked me to keep him in mind for anything he could do to help Hibernians. Knowing that Chuck was extremely knowledgeable about veteran's benefits, it occurred to me that I could create an AOH position and name him chairman. Thus was born the position of AOH Veterans Affairs Chairman, with Chuck appointed as the very first Hibernian in America to serve in that position on any level.

Following positive discussions with the AOH National President at that time, Jack Meehan, the position was established on the National Board, with J.J. Kelly named as the first national chairman.

While in attendance at this year's convention, I was contacted by phone by brother O'Malley and informed that Chuck had just passed away after a long medical struggle, which I always attributed to chemical exposure in Vietnam. His widow, Carol, Rich O'Malley, myself, and other family and friends attended his military burial in Arlington National Cemetery on August 30, 2016. Please pray with me that God will welcome his soul in paradise and give him rest.

During my term in this position I hope to establish effective communications with all Hibernian military veterans to pass along information about all benefits you've earned and are entitled to, as well as information on local events that either currently exist for your Divisions to attend throughout the year — such as project "Stand Down" for homeless veterans — or ideas for starting your own local events. I will need the help and input from Hibernian Veterans across the country, so this information can be compiled and shared at all levels of the Order.

My deepest respect and thanks go out to all who served and sacrificed themselves for our great country. My family has a history of military service, and likely yours does too. By the time this article is published, another Veterans Day will have passed, and I hope you had opportunities to honor veterans, or at least "thank a vet" for their service.

I wish you all a peaceful and blessed upcoming Christmas season, and until the next issue, God bless and keep you all.

Echoes of Ireland

The Manchester Martyrs

By Mike McCormack, National Historian

After the American Civil War, the Fenian brotherhood felt the time was right for a long-awaited national rising in Ireland. In February 1867, a small local rising in Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry, finally prompted a rising on March 6. Thousands of Fenians took to the hills, but poorly armed, they were easily put down and hundreds were jailed. Unaware of the failure of the rising, support was sent from America's Fenians. On May 23, the ship *Erin's Hope* with 40 Fenians (former Civil War officers), 5,000 firearms and several artillery pieces on board sailed into Sligo Bay. After unsuccessful attempts to contact Fenians on shore, they sailed to a port outside Waterford where most of the crew disembarked and were captured.

Meanwhile, two Fenians, Thomas Kelly and Timothy Deasy, escaped to England to reorganize Fenians there. Both had been American Civil War officers. Kelly had been declared Head of the Irish Republic and Deasy, a member of Lawrence, MA, AOH Div. 8, led a Fenian brigade. On Sept. 11, 1867, they were arrested in England and on the 18th were bound for Belle Vue Jail in a police van escorted by 12 mounted police. As the van passed under a railway arch, about 35 men leaped over a wall, surrounded the van and seized the horses.

The police fled. The rescuers called on Sgt. Brett, inside the van, to open the door. Brett refused, so one of the rescuers placed his revolver at the keyhole of the van to blow the lock unaware that Brett just bent over to look through the keyhole and see what was happening outside. The bullet killed him instantly. The van was opened and Kelly and Deasy were free.

The vengeful British police invaded the Irish section of Manchester and brought in dozens of suspects arbitrarily seized in a reign of terror. William Allen, Michael Larkin, Michael O'Brien, Edward Condon and Thomas Maguire were charged. Though none of them fired the fatal shot, the vengeful jury found them guilty. Allen proclaimed his innocence, and Larkin said, "I forgive all who have sworn my life away." O'Brien claimed that the evidence against him was false, and, as an American citizen, he ought not to face a British trial. Condon admitted to having organized the attack in his role as a Fenian leader, but claimed, "I was never at the place, it is all totally false." He shouted, "God save Ireland!" The cry was taken up by his companions in the dock. Allen, Larkin, O'Brien, Maguire and Condon were all sentenced to death by hanging, crying "God save Ireland" after each sentence was pronounced.

The trial took place in a climate of anti-Irish hysteria, according to the weekly *Reynold's Newspaper*, which described it as a deep and everlasting disgrace to the English government. In Maguire's case, the witnesses who testified that he was in the forefront of the attack had their evidence disproved. An appeal resulted and Maguire was granted a pardon. Many believed that the others would also be saved since they had been convicted on evidence by the same witnesses who perjured themselves against Maguire. Condon was pardoned on the eve of his execution, but Allen, Larkin and O'Brien were not as fortunate for scapegoats were required. Throughout Manchester, silent congregations attended Mass for the souls of the three innocent Irishmen doomed to die on Nov. 23.

To make matters worse, the executioner miscalculated the correct length of rope required to break the neck of each victim. When the trap floor was released, Allen died almost instantly from a broken neck, but Larkin and O'Brien did not. A local priest in attendance, Father Gadd, reported that the other two ropes were stretched taut and tense by the still-breathing men. The hangman had bungled the job! He then descended below the scaffold and there finished what he could not accomplish from above; to pull on his

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Nebraska

On August 10, in Omaha, Nebraska, the National Ancient Order of Hibernians History Award was presented to two outstanding individuals.

Aubrey Bando and Elaina Madison, both of Nebraska City, won the AOH national contest with their research on the Irish Famine. Each middle school lady received a \$1,000 check to assist and encourage them to travel to Ireland, where a representative of the Irish government would greet them.

The award ceremony took place at the local firefighters union hall where the AOH Father Flanagan Division has their monthly general meetings. The Father Flanagan Division also presented each student with a trophy as the parents and teacher were in attendance. Of note, the school teacher, Mrs. Pennfield, is the Nebraska state history teacher of the year. Great job Aubrey and Elaina.

— Submitted by President Dr. Larry Bradley, Father Flanagan Division, Omaha.



AOH Sarpy County Division President Bob McInery, left, Father Flanagan Division President Larry Bradley, school teacher Mrs. Pennfield, Elaina Madison, Aubrey Bando, Nebraska State AOH President Bill Gaughn and Father Flanagan Division Chaplain Monsignor James Gilg.

New York



At the Shrine were, seated, front row, from left, Ted McTigue (Nassau AOH Div #14), Carol McTigue (Past NYS LAOH Pres.), Ed Kelly (NYS AOH Dir, Dist #1), Brian Kelly (Peekskill AOH Div #18), Timothy McSweeney (NYS AOH President), Mary Beth Durkee (NYS LAOH Secy), Jackie Clute (NYS LAOH VP), Edward Rice (Queens AOH Div. #15 Pres.), Patrick Rooney (Past NYS Dir Dist. # 5), Peter Durkee (Past NYS AOH Pres); and standing, rear, from left, Deacon Charles Wojton and Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard - Diocese of Albany.

Hibernians make pilgrimage to Auriesville

On Sunday, October 2, the New York State Capital District Hibernians and Queens AOH Division 15 in Whitestone sponsored the 2nd Annual Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, New York. The group of 75 toured

the Shrine and held a commemorative Mass concelebrated with Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard, Diocese of Albany and Deacon Charles Wojton of Troy New York. The group also enjoyed a BBQ lunch. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Shrine.

AOH National Board members meet with other concerned Irish American groups on Brexit



At a meeting of Irish activists hosted by NY Attorney John Dearie on Sept. 21 to discuss British Brexit plans, former National AOH President Brendan Moore explained that "The goal is to insure that Ireland ... as a whole ... is not harmed by BREXIT and for Irish Americans to be prepared, if necessary, to disagree with the Irish and British governments on the form of any U.S. initiative to assist." At the Brexit-impact discussion were, from left, Dan Dennehy, Member National Board AOH; Steve McCabe, Esq. Brehon Law Society; Ned McGinley, former National President of the AOH; Brendan Moore, former National President of the AOH; Sean Hood, Nassau County AOH; Mike Cummings; Peter Kissel, Esq. from D.C., National Board, IAUC; Leslie Cassidy, Brehon Law Society; Neil Cosgrove, National AOH Board; Sean Downes, President of the NYC Brehon Law Society; Hugh O'Lunney, 1916 Societies; Tom Corcoran, Esq. Brehon Law Philadelphia; John Dearie Esq. former Member of the NYS Assembly.

Florida

Presentation of National Life Membership

At Hernando County Florida's AOH Halfway to Saint Patrick's Day Party on September 17, Greg Sean Canning, Immediate Past Florida State President and former National Director and current National Board member and Florida State Secretary was awarded National Life Membership. Presenting the award on behalf of the National Board was Florida State President James Cahill. At the ceremony for the presentation of National Life Membership were, from left, Brendan Kelley, President Pasco 2; Greg Sean Canning, former National Director and Immediate Florida Past President; Dr. Michael Higgins, President Hernando 1; James Cahill, Florida State President; Joseph Sandefur, State Chairman; Dan McKinnon, President Pasco 1; Joseph LaGuardia, Florida Past President; and Robert Criste, State Treasurer.



California

California Hibernians honor Robert Emmet

The United Irish Societies of San Francisco held their annual commemoration honoring one of Ireland's great patriots, Robert Emmet, on Sunday, September 18, in front of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. The ceremony took place at the site of the statue of Emmet and a fine representation of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians participated and helped organize the Event.

This statue of Robert Emmet was unveiled by Eamonn De Valera (President of Ireland 1959-1973) in 1919.

Robert Emmet was an Irish nationalist and Republican, orator and rebel leader. He led an abortive rebellion against British rule in 1803. He was captured by the British, tried and executed for high treason against the English king.



Hibernians in the parade and ceremonies at the statue of Robert Emmet in Golden Gate Park. Front row, from left, Michael Keohane; Denis O'Connor, Treasurer; Chad O'Connor; Michael Griffin, Sr.; Patrick Burke, former President Division 17; second row, Jerry De Ryan, Financial Secretary; and Mike Griffin; third row, Roger Gargano, Recording Secretary.



A fine group representing AOH Division 17, in San Francisco, at the annual Robert Emmet Commemoration on this the 100-year anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916.



Division 17 members joined in the parade.

Connecticut

By Phil Gallagher

The 6th annual Connecticut AOH Softball Tournament was held on Aug. 27 at Memorial Field in New Fairfield, where the Danbury men were able to win two closely contested games against a Bridgeport team that put up a valiant fight. Thus, after a lapse of two years, the trophy returns to Danbury where it will remain until next August when Danbury will defend its title in Milford. This tournament raises money for a good cause and this year's beneficiary was Kenny Waterhouse Jr., who is suffering from stage 4 cancer. Kenny's dad was a softball player and a friend to many of the Danbury players.

Bridgeport's JFK Division had their annual outing attending a Bridgeport Bluefish game on Sept. 15. Hibernian McCoy sang the National Anthem.

On Sept. 17, the Stamford AOH celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of Division 2 with a dinner dance at the AOH Home on Greylock Place in Stamford. Stamford has always been a strong Hibernian city where a lot of Hibernian history was made. A number of historical documents and reflections of the history of the General Philip Sheridan Division were on display.

On Sept. 16-18, Danbury Hibernians held the annual Greater Danbury Irish Festival on the grounds of Western Connecticut State University.

On Sept. 24, the annual Commodore Barry Day ceremonies were once again held at Southport Harbor. The Fairfield County Board sponsors this event with an assist from the JFK Division of Bridgeport and the Port 5 Naval Veterans Club.

Also on Sept. 24, at the Pipes in the Valley Music Festival, in Hartford, the Hibernians of that city sponsored the 2nd annual Connecticut Irish Road Bowling tournament. All proceeds from this interesting event went to St. Jude's Children's Hospital Research Center.

The Meriden Division held their annual family picnic in August while the New London and Waterbury Divisions did the same in September. The Waterbury event fell on Sept. 11 and featured appropriate ceremonies to commemorate that terrible day.

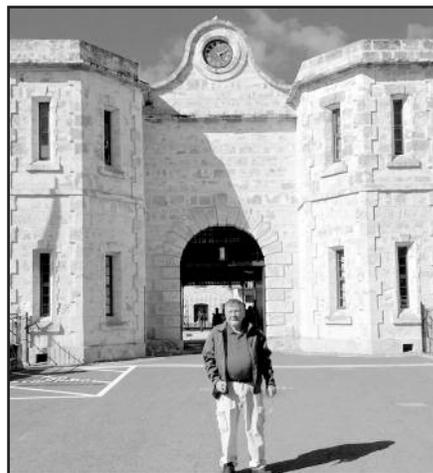
On Oct. 16, Connecticut Hibernians gathered at the Waterbury Hibernian Hall to honor Past State AOH and LAOH Presidents. The Honorees were Joann Noonan, Hilda Kelly, Bill Flannery and John Wiehn.

Australia

My daughter, attorney Eileen Gallagher Ackerson, a member of the LAOH in Danbury, took me on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Western Australia in August. I gained a firsthand knowledge of the sites associated with the 62 Fenian political prisoners who were landed at Fremantle from the English convict ship Hougoumont on January 19, 1868. These Irish Patriots were lodged in Fremantle Prison from which, according to my guide, only 7 individuals made a permanent escape. All of these were Irish. John Boyle O'Reilly escaped in March 1869. Gradually most of the remaining Fenians were pardoned and released, except for a few military Fenians who had deserted from the British Army to join the proposed uprising in Ireland. These men were never going to be released.

The Clan Na Gael in America, under the leadership of John Devoy, came to their rescue by buying and outfitting a whaling ship called the Catalpa and sailing it around the world in 1876. This is a thrilling story, which would make a great full-length feature movie to show how the six Fenian military prisoners were taken off Rockingham Beach a number of miles south of Fremantle. A beautiful monument was erected here in 2005 to honor these six "Wild Geese" who made their escape from here on April 17, 1876.

There are several heroes who played important roles in the rescue. One of them was James Reynolds of New Haven who was born in County Cavan in 1831 and who immigrated to America at 16 and settled eventually in New Haven, where he became a successful businessman and politician. He was a true Irish patriot in whose name the Catalpa was purchased, and who mortgaged his home to secure its purchase. The story of the Catalpa is one I would all urge all those interested in Irish history to research and read.



ABOVE: Past National Director Phil Gallagher stands at the Gates of Fremantle Prison where 62 Fenians were sent in 1862.

RIGHT: Phil Gallagher and his daughter Eileen, a member of the LAOH in Danbury, at the Catalpa Memorial at Rockingham Beach in Western Australia.



Illinois



Division 32's happenings

At our September 7th general meeting, B. J. Mattingly was elected in a special election to fill the office of Division 32 Vice President after Kevin O'Malley ascended to President after the death of Ray Prendergast June 17th.

Other happenings for Division 32 included our annual picnic held Sept. 10 at Bunker Hill Woods. While the day started out rainy, it cleared as mass commenced at 11 am, and by mid-afternoon it was 75 degrees and sunny. At the picnic the 2016 Man of the Year was awarded posthumously to Ray Prendergast, and his widow Adele was on hand to receive the plaque. In addition, six \$500. Catholic school scholarships were awarded for service work performed by worthy students.

After this business was conducted the baggo tournaments- children's games - 50/50 raffle - and bbq food of brats and other summer faire commenced, while the ND vs. Nevada game was shown on a television that actually worked in a forest preserve. All had a good time, and special thanks to Pat Flaherty, Dennis Corcoran, Larry Kelly and Bernie Byrne among many who pitched in to make it a last great fling of summer 2016.

Also, on November 13th there will be a Div. 32 Bears Bash at the Irish American Heritage Center. The Bears will be tangling with Tampa Bay Nov. 13th, and it may be one of the few games the Monsters of the Midway can put in their win column this season. For details on this and other events, check our website of AOOH.ORG

Kentucky

The year so far for Hibernians in Kentucky

The Father Abram J. Ryan Division kept with tradition this past March. It all began with the annual Wearn' O' the Green Party held March 5th. The night was a big success and a good time was had by all. One event that seems to get more popular every year is Blessing of the Keg. The Hibernians, along with many friends, met at the Goodwood Taproom on March 10th for the annual Blessing of the Keg and then it was on to O'Sheas to take part in a pint or two. The week was capped off on March 12th, the day started with our annual St. Patrick's mass that was celebrated by the Archbishop of Louisville, Joseph Kurtz. Then it was on to the Highlands for the St. Patrick's Day Parade

On March 17th The Hibernians took over the Franciscan Kitchen and served a traditional Irish meal, to over 300 homeless people in the Louisville area.

On April 24th, The Father Abram J. Ryan Division celebrated the 100th Year Celebration of the Easter Rising by having the mayor of Louisville, Greg Fischer and our own brother Scott Fitzgerald read the Proclamation at Molly Malone's Irish Pub.

On a rainy Saturday morning, in May, the Hibernians took part in the traditional Portland Parade. The rain could not keep the kids from smiling as they enjoyed the goodies being handed out by the men in green.

On August 13, the Hibernians manned the Little Debbie Cake Booth for the St Joe's Orphan Picnic with all the money benefitting the kids. People sure do love their Little Debbie Snacks.

On September 9, the division proudly presented the Hibernian Cup to the DeSales Colts as they beat their archrival, the Holy Cross Cougars 59-0.

On September 16, the division held their annual Irish For Kids Golf Scramble. The scramble was sold out, as 120 golfers took to the course and helped the Hibernians raise over \$8,500 for Boys and Girls Haven.

All of our brothers and sisters would like to congratulate John O' Dwyer, the President of the Father Abram J. Division, and Julia Garrison, President of the Mother Catherine McAuley Division of the LAOH, on their marriage, which took place on April 16th.

Make your plans now to attend the 2018 National Convention to be held in Louisville.



On March 17th The Hibernians took over the Franciscan Kitchen and served a traditional Irish meal, to over 300 homeless people in the Louisville area.

Massachusetts

Members of Division 18 AOH in Salem were delighted that AOH National President James McKay attended the dedication of their Division to Salem native, Major John Michael Tivnan on the weekend of September 16 and 17. Major Tivnan, a veteran of two tours in Viet Nam, earned a Bronze star with a V for Valor. He found and was the first President of the Lt. Col John A Dowd AOH Division in Woodbridge, VA.

The Massachusetts State Boards Luncheon will be held on November 6 at the Home of Division 14 in Watertown. A Mass celebrated by AOH and LAOH State Chaplain Patrick Armano, will precede the Luncheon. The Guest Speaker will be Meghan Tyler, Professor of Irish Studies at Boston University. Irish Consul General Fionnuala Quinlan is expected to attend. Entertainment will be provided by Don and Sheila Healy.

Division 1, Holyoke: On September 28th, the division sponsored a screening of the Notre Dame Documentary, 1916 at Elms College in Chicopee and on October 15, the Division held their Third Annual Fall Foliage Train ride in the Berkshires.

Division 8, Lawrence: Division 8 will close their 1916 Centennial Commemoration of the Easter Rising with a concert featuring Derek Warefield and the Young Wolf-Tones on November 12. During this event a tribute will be held to honor the memory of the late David R. Burke, Past AOH National Director who died on May 27, 2009.

Division 14, Watertown: Division 14 will hold their Annual Turkey Shoot on November 18. Proceeds from this event benefit local families in need during the holiday season.



Hibernians from Massachusetts celebrate at the AOH/LAOH National Convention in Atlantic City at the Installation Banquet on the final night of the Convention.

Missouri

A special Irish Country Fair

This year's Irish Country Fair in St. Louis was special for a couple of reasons. In addition to marking its 25th anniversary, a portion of the proceeds from this year's event were donated by the AOH and LAOH to Ballwin Police Officer Mike Flamion who was paralyzed from the neck down after a being wounded in the line of duty during a traffic stop in July. A few days after the event, Fair co-chairs Peggy Skredenske and Judy Smith Levitt, from John F Kennedy LOAH Division, and Dennis G. Pogue, president of AOH Fr. Tim Dempsey Division, presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to members of the Ballwin Police Department. There have been a number of fund raising events held throughout St. Louis for Officer Flamion, who will require extensive long-term care.



Lt. Curt Saitta, left, Lt. John Bergfeld, Peggy Skredenske, Judy Smith Levitt, Dennis G. Pogue and Officer Mark Godefroid at the presentation.

Ohio



In conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising, the Mark Heffernan Division in Akron, Ohio, petitioned the Akron City Council to have the portion of Brown Street, where the Division Hall is located, dedicated as "Hibernian Way." National Director and Division President Denny Parks said, "We are honored to have our street dedicated as Hibernian Way. Not only does it honor the brave men and women of the Easter Rising, but the Irish immigrant laborers who helped build the Ohio and Erie Canal as well as the memory of all the Hibernians and Irish Americans that have contributed to our city. I would like to thank Akron City Council President Marilyn Keith and Akron Ward 7 City Councilman Donnie Kammer for their work in bringing this to fruition."

New York

Yonkers Division takes the Ice Bucket Challenge in support of ALS Research

Members of the Myles Scully Division 1 of Yonkers took part in the Annual "Ice Bucket Challenge" which was held on August 7th at Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway. The Ice Bucket Challenge is the worldwide phenomenon that was created by Yonkers native Patrick Quinn to provide funding for ALS research. Patrick was diagnosed with ALS (commonly know as Lou Gerhig's Disease) in March of 2013.

Pat created the Ice Bucket Challenge in 2014, and he has worked tirelessly as an ALS research advocate ever since. To date, The Ice Bucket Challenge is credited with raising over \$220 million dollars towards finding a cure for ALS. These funds were recently credited with enabling a scientific breakthrough when researchers were able to isolate a particular gene that is responsible for causing the disease.

Patrick Quinn has helped raise funds through his "Quinn 4 the Win" charity, which has held local ALS fundraising events in the Yonkers area for the past several years. It was recently learned that his condition has deteriorated, and he will require a special wheelchair as well as a vehicle equipped to meet his personal needs.

Division 1 was proud to present Patrick with a \$2,000 donation at the event. These funds will go directly towards helping him acquire these necessities.

To learn more about the "Quinn 4 the Win" effort to find a cure for ALS, you can visit their website at: <http://q4tw.com/>



Suffolk Hibernians rally for law enforcement

Suffolk County (NY) Hibernians joined forces with local veteran and community organizations on Saturday, August 20, in a mass display of patriotic support for "Blue Lives Matter" at the Islip Town Hall Green. In the wake of numerous attacks against America's Peace Officers, Suffolk County Hibernians rose to show their gratitude and appreciation for the men and women of all Police Departments who serve and protect



Proudly taking part in the rally were County Legislator Tom Cilmi, NYS VP Vic Vogel, Division 7 Past President Kathleen Ring, Division 7 Past President Dave Ring and grandson David, Suffolk County Sentinel John Wahlberg, Division 7 Recording Secretary Eileen Knockenauer, Division 7 Organizer Bob Knockenauer, Division 7 President Vicki Ring, and John Mangan, a 21-year veteran of the NYPD and a 9/11 First Responder..

AOH UPDATE

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

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

UPDATES will be posted when the e-mail is sent.

Iowa

In 1992, 15 men of Irish descent chartered The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division One, Polk County, Iowa. Out of the original 15, only three are still living. We currently have 38 active members.

From the beginning, Division One has had a history of giving and has chosen Holy Family School, Des Moines' inner city Catholic grade school, as a recipient of their financial support. As of March 2016, our division has donated \$44,000 to be given to the teachers to supplement their out-of-pocket expenses for classroom supplies. This money is presented to the school principal at our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner. Our annual dinner is held on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day. Local priests and religious sisters of Irish descent are invited as our guests to attend the dinner.

We also work with the St. Vincent DePaul Society by collecting personal-care items to be distributed to the needy. One of our members is heavily involved with our local Hunger Hike. We help out with registration, handling the water stations and other needs.

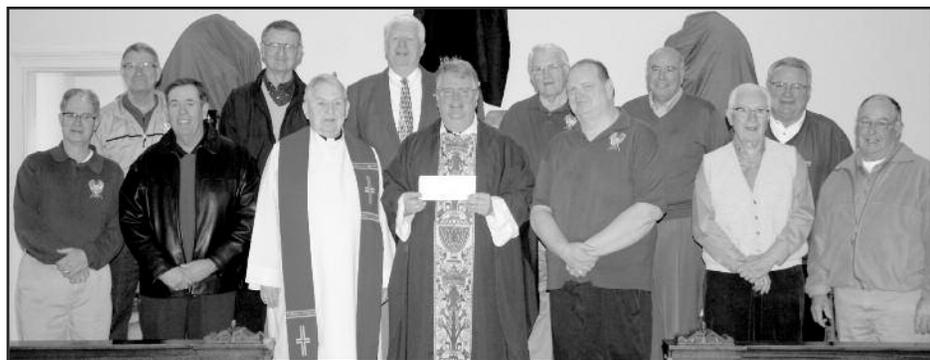
Each year we have a fund-raiser selling raffle tickets for \$2,000 in airfare to Ireland or \$1,000 cash. Because of our especially successful sales in 2015, we were able to give West Des Moines Dowling Catholic High School \$1,000 for their Adopt-A-Student program. One boy and one girl will receive a \$500 grant for tuition next year. In the coming month we will be meeting with the Diocese of Des Moines to present them with \$500 to support their seminarian program.

This division has a very close relationship with St. Patrick's Irish Settlement in Cumming, IA, the oldest parish in the Des Moines Diocese. We have designed and installed a parish sign and have donated \$500 to help replace items damaged or stolen after the church was vandalized.

We also have relationships with The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and the Celtic Music Association and help support them by donating funds to promote Irish music and culture locally.

Recently our division lost our longtime chaplain, Fr. James Kiernan, An Irishman's Irishman, both as a priest and a man. His wit and wisdom will be sorely missed.

"Faith to uphold you, Love to enfold you, Laughter to light up each day. Smiles on your faces, Goodness and Graces, for all of these BLESSINGS, we pray."



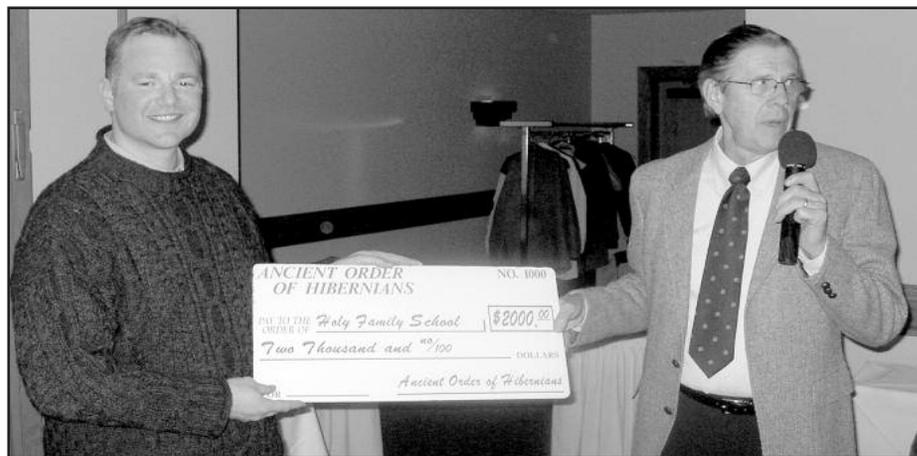
AOH members present check to Fr. Kirby of St. Patrick's Irish Settlement.

Hibernians march at Hooley Music Festival

The AOH Dubuque County Division 2, City of Dubuque, with participation from Division 1, City of Dyersville, marched together in the opening ceremony of the 12th Annual Dubuque Irish Hooley Music Festival at the Dubuque Star Brewery, in Dubuque, Iowa, along the Mississippi River.

There were storm clouds threatening the opening ceremony, but Irish prayers received help and the system moved on with no rain this day. The opening ceremony included the Dubuque Fire Pipes & Drums, and the American Legion Dubuque Post 6 for a combined Veterans Salute. This event took place a week after the state AOH meetings in Waterloo, Iowa.

— Submitted by "Bob" Robert J. Felderman, Brigadier General, USA, Retired.



Chuck Hanrahan presents \$2,000 to Principal Marty Flaherty of Holy Family School.



Principal Jerry Deegan receives donation for two scholarships to Dowling Catholic High School from AOH members.

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

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

AOH Label Appeal needs you to succeed!

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

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

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

PROJECT SAINT PATRICK PRAYERS CARDS



ARE NOW AVAILABLE
BY CONTACTING:
TOM O'DONNELL
NLNOD@comcast.net

New York



Bronx supports vocations

Bronx County Hibernians hold their Project St. Patrick certificate presented at the National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The County donated funds that were used to support vocations within the Catholic Church. County President Bob Nolan, second right, holding the award, is joined by fellow Bronx Hibernians Sean McCarthy, Joseph McManus, Joseph Wall and Martin Galvin.



Recruiting in The Bronx

The men of the Woodlawn-Wakefield Bronx Division 5 gathered at the annual McLean Ave. Merchant Festival and recruited several prospects as future members. Cheered on by National Director Dan Dennehy and County President Bob Nolan, both on right, are, from left, Patrick and Ray Leyden, John Ryan, Division President Martin Galvin, Division 18 President Clive Cronin-Westchester, Bob Cleary and Frank McKenna. Brother Ryan was responsible for the display of flags, which attracted many visitors from the surrounding communities. More than a dozen brothers manned the table throughout the day.

Bronx County Hibernians to honor O'Connell, O'Lunney and Monahan

On Sunday, November 20, 2016, The Bronx County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will hold their annual dinner at Rory Dolan's on McLean Ave. from 3 to 7 p.m.

County Board President Bob Nolan announced that the Board will honor: John O'Connell, the Editor of the National Hibernian Digest; Chief Terence Monahan, Chief of Patrol and Parkchester native, NYPD; and Hugh O'Lunney, O'Lunney's Time Square Pub and Woodlawn resident.

Nolan said, "I am delighted that Bronx County AOH will honor such a distinguished group of men who have achieved great success in their personal lives and within the Irish community."

Martin Galvin, noted defense attorney and President of Bronx Division 5 and County Officer, will close the "Year of Remembrance" for the Irish patriots of 1916 as guest speaker.

For information about tickets to the dinner and commemorative journal contact Bob Nolan at nolanbxbp@hotmail.com

ECHOES

continued from page 10

victim's legs to hasten death – in that manner he killed Larkin. Father Gadd refused to allow the hangman to dispatch O'Brien the same way and for three-quarters of an hour the priest knelt, holding the dying man's hands within his own, reciting the prayers for the dying. Then the long drawn out agony ended. He did O'Brien no favor!

The bodies were callously buried in quicklime graves in unconsecrated ground in the prison. When the prison closed in 1868, the remains were exhumed and re-buried in Strangeways Prison. In 1991 the remains were exhumed once again and re-interred in Blackley Cemetery, Manchester where there have been reports of desecration. Former AOH National Historian Col. Robert Bateman, a descendant of the rescued Capt. Timothy Deasy and a member of the Peekskill AOH Div. 18, is seeking support to have the remains exhumed once again and repatriated to the consecrated grounds of Glasnevin cemetery, where Ireland's heroes sleep. He is seeking supporters to assist a committee in accomplishing this deed in time for the 150th Anniversary (Nov. 23, 2017) of their unwarranted execution. If you can help or need more information contact brother Batemen at rjpbateman@gmail.com

Hudson Valley, greener than ever

"Thousands of lovers of Irish Culture attended the 8th Hudson Valley Irish Fest held Sept. 24 enjoyed beautiful fall weather on the banks of Hudson in Peekskill. Highlights included Irish artists Mundy and Aoife Scott together onstage, a great trad and spoken word.

The festival included tents, a 9/11 memorial with massed pipes and drum bands, and family favorite children's area with 18th Century toys and games and clothing.

The United States Cadet Corps Pipes and Drums and Irish Step Dancers were another highlight, all cadets from USMA West Point.



NY Roses in the Garden with Brian O'Dwyer



NYAOH Pres. Tim McSweeney, National Director Dan Dennehy, Nassau County President Tim Myles, Director Keith Reynolds, Division 18 President Clive Cronin and Past NY State President Jim Burke.



Deni Monet, Mundy with Aiofe Scott at the Hudson Valley Fest.

Pennsylvania

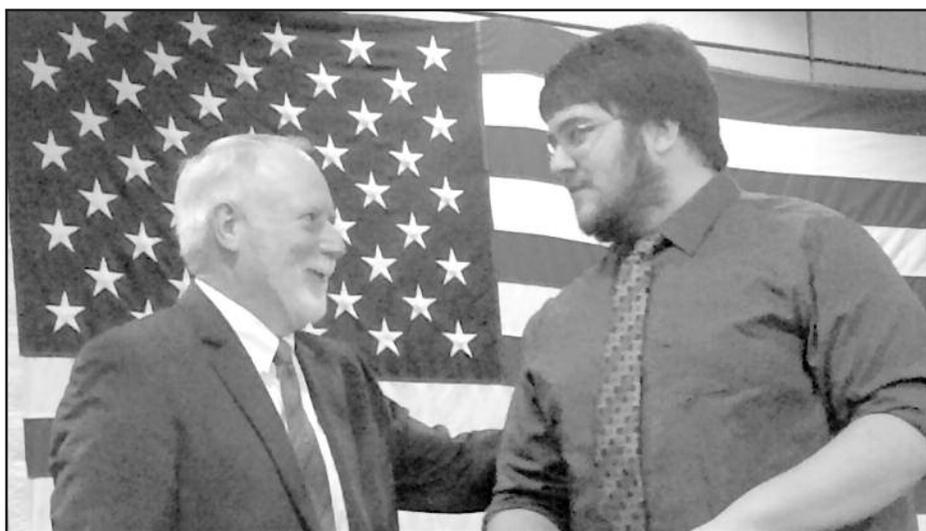
Christian Charity

The motto: Practice Christian Charity is alive and well in Jim Thorpe, Alec Campbell, Division 1.

The AOH and LAOH have performed many charitable events recently and have received many acknowledgements for those good deeds.

Brother Chip Burnett is our main man when it comes to practicing Christian Charity for the AOH. This is Chip's 9th year of coordinating, raising monies, shopping/distributing Easter and Thanksgiving baskets for needy Catholic families in Carbon County and works to provide gift cards to needy Catholic families at Christmas. He's also the leading fundraiser for the Irish Pub "Tour de Shore" (bicycle ride from Philadelphia to Atlantic City) that benefits the families of fallen first responders. Great job Chip and keep up the REALLY good work!!!

The Ladies AOH has also been busy practicing Christian Charity with various fundraisers to support a host of needy programs. Needy Catholic families, the summer lunch program, women in crisis and local food bank are a few of the many charitable organizations that benefit from all their hard work. LAOH President Mary Figura and past president Sherry Beers have led the way along with all the other great volunteers that make that engine run,



Also, Deacon Dan Evans was happy to deliver a scholarship to this year's graduate & recipient Daniel Lindendoll, from the Carbon County Technical Institute (CCTI). Daniel best demonstrated the values of the AOH while attending the CCTI.



John Barry, left, Chip Burnett, Chuck Thamarus and Hugh Dugan.

The Pennsylvania Presidents

Past National Director Dennis Donnelly sent in this picture from the National Convention last July in Atlantic City. The brothers in the photo are all past (or current) Pennsylvania State Presidents or other officers. From left, past Pennsylvania State Presidents are Joe Roche, Ned McGinley, Seamus Boyle, Kevin Donohue, Chris Norris, Jim Green, Denny Gaw, Denny Donnelly, Tom O'Donnell, Dan Devinnay and current President Ed Halligan. Seated in front is Gene Daly, past Treasurer of 22 years, and Gerry Ennis, past Secretary of 14 years.



Hibernians on parade

Hibernians from Jim Thorpe, Alec Campbell, Division 1, celebrated our 19th annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Thousands came from far and wide to enjoy the great celebration. Ten of the best pipe bands on the east coast provided entertainment and many dignitaries from across Pennsylvania, including State Senator Yudichak and State Representative Doyle Heffley. We were especially honored to have Francis (Snits) O'Donnell serve as our Grand Marshal. Our parade also honored the memories of our deceased brothers. The parade was stopped in front of the old jail where members of the Molly Maguires were hanged. Each of their names was called out as a remembrance.

AOH Division president Chuck Thamarus started the parade with a short speech and was instrumental along with LAOH president Mary Dugan Figura in organizing the parade.

If you have the pleasure to come to our next parade there will be many special surprises and you will experience the true meaning of promoting friendship.



Brothers Ed Coll and Chip Burnett had the honor of leading the parade and carrying our banner. Hughie Dugan can be seen firing up the crowd with his "Here Come the Irish" sign.

Washington D.C.

by John Patrick Walsh, President

Division 1 Hosts "Unquiet Graves" Director Sean Murray

On July 6th, Division 1 hosted Sean Murray, director of "Unquiet Graves: Uncovering Britain's Secret War In Ireland". Organized by Brothers Keith Carney (DC) and Bill Pribyl (MD), the evening gathered those interested in gaining justice for the victims and families of British collusion in Ireland. The film presents the factual story of the Glenanne Gang who were centrally involved in the murder of over 120 innocent civilians during the conflict that occurred from 1972-78. Based upon evidence researched by human rights groups The Pat Finucane Centre (PFC), Dublin-based Justice for the Forgotten (JFF), and 'Lethal Allies' author Anne Cadwallader, "Unquiet Graves" is worth looking into for every Hibernian eager for justice in Ireland.

Division 2 Thanks Hibernian and Parish Families

This summer Division 2 remembered that behind every Hibernian stands a family and parish that support our every effort, and for that they deserve our thanks. In July the Division gathered families together at the Prince George County Stadium to watch the Bowie Baysox take on the Erie Sea Wolves. Multiple generations came to enjoy baseball, beautiful summer weather, and post-game fireworks. Following this act of appreciation, the brothers of Division 2 set up a recruitment table at the Sacred Heart Labor Day Festival showcasing a vibrant parish community in Bowie, MD. President Jim April and all Division members serve as an example to the DC Board in how to give back to our Parish communities.

Division 3 Achieves Recruitment Success

Building upon its recent recruitment success under State Organizer and member Don Connolly, Division 3 has continued to lead the DC Board in new membership. The mutually beneficial relationship between Division 3 and KoC Council 2169 has led to the reinvigoration of the once faltering division. Joint events, like the recent 'Halfway to St. Patrick's Day' held this month, has prompted Knights of Irish descent to join the AOH. An unexpected bonus of this effort is that families of former members have helped us fill in some of the local AOH history lost to decades past. It's a truly rewarding experience to watch prospective members find their father/grandfather on Division 3 membership rolls from the 50's and 60's.

Division 4 Congratulates Deacon Bob Kilner on His Ordination

On Thursday, September 29th, Division 4 Brother Bob Kilner was ordained to the Deaconate in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome along with 29 other young men. A seminarian from the Archdiocese of Washington, Deacon Kilner has been studying at the Pontifical North American College. Before their ordination the candidates were given a special audience with Pope Francis. Division 4 congratulates their Brother on his ordination and prays for many happy years of service to God's flock.

Division 5 Brother Jack O'Brien Helps Create 'Robert Emmet Park' In DC

Through the tireless work of Jack O'Brien, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted H.R. 4564 - The Robert Emmet Park Act of 2016. The bill designates the corner of 24th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW in Washington, DC as the "Robert Emmet Park". Congratulations to Brother O'Brien and all involved.

Brothers Carney and Day Honored by DC St. Patrick's Parade

Past ND Keith Carney and Past State President Ralph Day were honored this week by the DC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Brother Carney has been named the 2017 Gael of the Year and Brother Day was selected as a Division Marshal, a deserving honor for men who have done so much for the Order and Irish-Americans.



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Due to space constraints, the interlinear translation to this column will only be available online. Every one of my columns, including this one, can be read here: tomhasnateanga.blogspot.com. And if you want to read more in Irish, check out www.angaelmagazine.com. There are 30 issues available already (to buy in print, or free as pdf files)!

The AOH is dedicated to keeping our Irish culture and identity alive. It is impossible to do this without the Irish language. That is why I have contributed it for 14 ½ years.

Is iomaí duine inár measc a bhíonn ag iarraidh treo nua a bhaint amach dóibh féin. Agus nach mbíimid go léir ag iarraidh bád ár saoil a stiúradh agus socrúithe a dhéanamh ar a chúrsa? Uaireanta bíonn sé de dhíth orainn post a fháil, nó post a fhágáil. Duine a phósadh, nó áit chónaithe nua a roghnú. Bíonn an saol lán de roghanna deacra. Cad a tharlódh murach an socrú seo nó an socrú sin? Ní bheidh a fhios againn riamh. Ach nach as na socrúithe a dhéanaimid a dhéantar ár saol (agus na socrúithe a dhéanann daoine eile)?

Más rud tábhachtach atá i gceist, is maith an rud é comhairle ár leasa a fháil ónár gcairdé gaoil. Ní féidir sinn i gcónaí, go háirithe más mian leat iontas a chur ar dhuine, nó más gá rud a dhéanamh go tapaidh. Maraon le comhairle dhaoine, an rud is tábhachtaí ná aon rud, sin comhairle Dé. Níl sé ciallmhar socrú tábhachtach a dhéanamh gan guí a dhéanamh faoi, agus gan a bheith oscailte do threorú Dé.

Conas a aithnítear comhairle Dé? An toil Dé an rud a dhéanamh, nó ár dtoilne féin amháin? Braithimid inár gcroí sin. Ní bhíonn sé éasca i gcónaí. Uaireanta tugann Dia tuar éigin dúinn, agus is minic nach dtuigfeadh aon duine eile an tuar ach tú féin. Mar shampla, tráth dá raibh agus a bhí inní orm toisc go raibh mé ar ais ar scoil ag ullmhú do phost nua (nach raibh cinnte), fuair mé dollar ar an talamh. Comhtharlú? Neamhni? Ní hea domsa – tuar ó Dhia a bhí ann a thug suaimhneas dom – bheadh gach rud ceart go leor. Agus sin rud eile – an bhfuil suaimhneas ort? An bhfuil tú sásta i do chroí faoin socrú a rinne tú? Sea, bíonn roghanna eile ann i gcónaí, sin rud cinnte pé scéal. YAn ceann maith an ceann a rinne tú, dar leat?

Bíonn sé tábhachtach do mhachnaimh a dhéanamh go cúramach roimh aon athrú mór a dhéanamh i do shaol. Ach ar an láimh eile de, ní mór socrú a dhéanamh ar ball. Tá daoine ann mar ginearáil agus oifigí comhlachtaí agus bíonn orthusan socrúithe tábhachtacha a dhéanamh arís is arís eile i gcónaí. Tá an bua sin ag daoine áirithe, agus neartaítear an cumas sin le cleachtadh. Bunaítear socrúithe ar chiall cheannaithe an duine, freisin. Le cúnamh Dé, bímid ag foghlaim as gach rud a dhéanaimid, agus tuigimid cúrsaí níos fearr mar gheall air.

Pé rud ar a shocraimid i rith ár saoil, is cinnte, den chuid is mó, gur féidir linn é a athrú arís. Seolaimid bád ár saoil ar aghaidh – ní stadann sé go mbainimid ár gceann scríbe amach. Déanaimis ár machnaimh, faighimis comhairle, guímis agus éistimis le Dia – agus déanaimis socrúithe gan inní. Cad is fiú inní in aon chor? Nach mbeathaíonn ár n-athair ar Neamh éanlaith an aeir? Léigh Matha 6:25-34 arís!

Níl aon rud cinnte sa saol seo ach an t-athrú. Bíodh misneach againn, agus ciall, chun na hathruithe is fearr a roghnú i gcónaí.

Support Project St. Patrick

Texas

Hibernians celebrate 2nd Annual Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day to benefit CARITAS

The AOH and LAOH combined once again to host their second annual "Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day" celebration on Friday, Sept. 9, at B.D. Riley's Irish Pub, 204 E 6th St. in Austin.

The event, from 6 to 9 p.m., featured music by Davey Arwine and Sean Orr and Irish Step Dancing as well as basket raffles. The proceeds, including a percentage of the bar revenue, go to CARITAS of Austin.

Mike Joyce, President for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Travis Co. said of the event, "Last year the Hibernians set out to make their mark on the community here in Austin — especially the Celtic community — and develop an annual event uniquely our own, where we could help support Caritas and share our favorite part of the Irish-American experience; for us that's getting together our closest friends for a little "craic". Even better is that our craic is for a good cause — supporting our friends at Caritas of Austin." "Craic" refers to the Irish term for fun, entertainment and enjoyable conversation.

CARITAS of Austin is an interfaith group that has provided services to the homeless and those in poverty for more than 50 years, providing families and individuals with a safety net and resources to achieve self-sufficiency. Last year the AOH raised over \$750 with their inaugural "Half-Way" celebration and hopes to top \$1,000 this year.

Thanks to Friends of the AOH, B.D. Riley's Pub and They Might Be Monkeys Texas Tree and Land Co.

For more information contact Mike Joyce, President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Travis County Division, email mp.joyce@yahoo.com. See www.aohaustintx.com and like them on [Facebook.com/AustinAOH](https://www.facebook.com/AustinAOH) and twitter @AOHATX.

To the Editor...

Dear Editor:

I have received the AOH and LAOH's gift from the Project St. Patrick grants, and please accept my profound thanks.

Your gift is tremendously helpful, and I'm even more grateful for your prayers. Thank you again so much, and know of my prayers for you and the Order.

In Christ,

Christian Huebner

Seminarian for the Archdiocese of Washington



In Memoriam

John Caffrey

Founding member, The Tara Pipes and Drums

John F. Caffrey, of Massapequa Park, New York, died September 8, 2016, at Calvary Hospital in Brooklyn.

John was married to the late Alice (Shanahan) Caffrey, who died on March 21, 2009. Born in New York City, John was the son of the late Nicholas and Mary (Finlay) Caffrey. He was predeceased by his sister, Helen Matteo, and his brothers, Rev. William Caffrey and Bro. Nicholas Caffrey.

John was a graduate of Metropolitan Vocational High School, and following graduation he enlisted in the Army Air Corp., where he served in Japan. Married in 1954, John and Alice first lived in Woodside, Queens, to start their family. They moved to Queens Village, NY, before settling in Massapequa Park, where he lived for almost 50 years.

John was a very active member of his community. He was a communicant of St Rose of Lima Parish, and active in the Memorare Council of the Knights of Columbus; Division 15 of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians; The Tara Pipes and Drums (of which he was a founding member), American Legion Post 1066; and VFW Post 7277.

John is survived by his children: Kevin (Lynn) Caffrey of Westford, MA; John (Mary) Caffrey of Westford, MA; Patricia Caffrey of Brooklyn, NY; Eileen (Stephen) Witowski of New Britain, PA; Maureen Caffrey of Massapequa Park, NY; and Mary (Robert) Arciello of Port Jefferson, NY. And eight grandchildren: Brendan Caffrey of Avon, CO; Daniel (Dawn) Caffrey of Richmond, VT; Sean (Mary) Caffrey of Seattle, WA; Katie Caffrey of Los Angeles, CA; Erin Witowski of Washington DC; Michael Witowski of Philadelphia, PA; Alanna Witowski of New Britain, PA; and Nicholas Arciello of Port Jefferson, NY. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to the Calvary Hospital, 150 55th street, Brooklyn, NY 11220



Joseph "Joe" Cobb

Hibernian Joseph Charles Cobb, 67, died August 3, with his loving family at his side in Cape Coral, Florida.

Joe was a Past-President of the St. Patrick Division 1 AOH, Somerset County, New Jersey, and also served on the New Jersey State Board as Vice-President, before moving to Florida, where he became Organizer on the Florida State Board.

Joe was a Hibernian who made friends wherever he went. He traveled to Ireland on numerous FFAI Bloody Sunday trips, and his presence was always known at countless National Conventions.

Above all, he was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

His work for the AOH, his friendship and his presence will be missed.

Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann. (We shall not see his like again.) May he rest in peace.



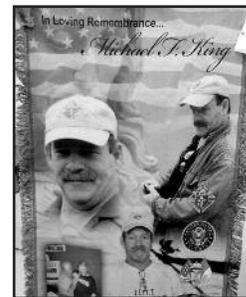
Michael F. King, 56, of Scranton

Michael King passed away on March 28, 2016.

Born in Scranton, son of the late Martin and Helen Kelly King Jr., he was a member of St. Paul's Church and a graduate of Scranton Technical High School. He was a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army.

Mike was also a Major Degree member and the President of the AOH Division 5, where he served with pride. He was very involved in the Knights of Columbus at St. Paul's Council, where he served the Knights as a District Deputy and as a Grand Knight. Both Michael and his brother, Patrick, were very active and Patrick served the Knights as the Faithful Navigator of the 4th Degree as well as a Past Grand Knight. He was the President of the AOH Division 5 in White Haven, PA.

Mike received a Legion of Honor Award from the Chapel of Four Chaplains for service to his country and his community. He was also a Colonel in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. Mike enjoyed fishing and was always there to lend a helping hand to his neighbors or anyone else who needed him.



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

Catholic Action

**The Hibernian motto is more than an oath:
It is a Biblical call to love and understanding**

by John D. Fitzmorris III – National Catholic Action Chair

My favorite book in the entire Old Testament is the Book of Job, essentially a compendium of arguments addressing the question of why bad things happen to good people and why God allows it to be so. Job — a good man and humble servant of God — has his goodness and humility tested in a series of personal calamities. Bereft of family and fortune and afflicted by sores and boils, Job receives a visit from three friends who are torn between their sympathy for him and their belief that he has somehow earned his plight because of his own sinfulness. In a series of dialogues amounting to “people talking over each other,” Job’s friends call upon him to curse the Almighty and die. Job, though, proclaims his innocence and calls God to account. In the midst of the heated debate, a young man named Elihu castigates both Job and the friends for failing to grasp the overall picture. In the end, God finally comes down out of the cloud and “sets Job straight” regarding his place in a much larger world.

Those of us who bear the mantle of Hibernianism would do well to remember the anchor that keeps us true to our ideals is remembering the three major foundations that form our motto, “Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.”

The men who formed the Hibernians when they stood in front of St. James Church in 1836 understood that they were doing more than just standing up for a building or even the priests who served within it. They were defending a faith and an ethic that was well-established in the Sacred Scriptures and from which they derived their motto. I have no knowledge as to whether every parishioner at St. James were close friends, but I am reasonably sure that whatever petty grievances or personality conflicts may have existed vanished when the Know Nothings came down the street intent on murder and arson.

Perhaps that is the essence of Friendship for Hibernians. It means that every Hibernian need not be pals with each other as long as each recognizes the principles that God has made evident through our faith.

How often, though, do we personalize an issue to the point where ad hominem attacks become standard, and we begin “talking over each other” and forgetting the second foundation of Unity.

Unity for Hibernians means that we must recognize the words of Paul when he tells the Corinthians that “a body, though one, has many parts” and that “we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” The Spirit that we Hibernians drink joins us together despite our differing opinions and forms the anchor of our motto, Christian Charity. Charity means the selfless giving to others in times of need. Yet, believing charity to mean just giving things or treasure severely limits the true meaning of what the Church defined as caritas. St. Thomas Aquinas called charity “the perfect virtue” and defined it as “the friendship of man for God” and “that which unites us to God.”

How often, though, do we allow our base emotions to contradict the Gospel, forget our immigrant roots, and call for the same oppressions on today’s immigrants who seek refuge in this country. Too many of us forget the message of Moses in Deuteronomy to “defend the widow and the orphan” and instead piously intone about how many just do not deserve the help that Christ demands that we give. Too many of us even forget the simple dictum of “judge not lest thou also be judged.”

Being a Hibernian and living by the motto of “Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity” is not an easy task. We are not simply an organization for Irish and Irish-Americans to just get together and “enjoy some good craic.” We are Hibernians, and we hold ourselves to an ethic that we solidify when we affirm our Motto.

Michigan



Hibernian ordained

Fr. Paul Joseph Donnelly, an AOH member of the Sullivan and O’Sullivan Division in Flint, Michigan, was recently ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lansing. He is pictured here with Lou Bryan and Patrick Murphy, fellow Hibernians from the same Division, after a Mass of Thanksgiving upon his ordination. Many members of the AOH and LAOH of Flint attended. Fr. Paul will be serving in Flint.

Charities & Missions

By Joseph Norton, Chairman

First off there are a few things related to Hibernian Charity we must all take to heart. We must do our best to offer those in need the gifts the Lord has given us in support of whatever the need of our fellow Americans may be. We must also continue to do what is necessary for enriching our fellow Americans knowledge and enjoyment of Irish Culture. In those efforts it is important to remember that the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. is a 501(c)(8), fraternal beneficiary society, which allows our tax exempt status but does not allow for tax deductions for payments or donations offered for the good of our order.

In our efforts to live the third tenet of our motto: Christian Charity, our ability to serve those less fortunate than ourselves often depends on our knowledge of opportunities to donate our physical, mental, and financial gifts. Leveraging the charitable assets, we have like Hibernian Charities, Project St. Patrick and our historical ties to enriching education, enlightening Irish and general Christian culture, and caring for the hungry, we can become the benchmark of Irish caring!

That will require each of us to give of our time, talent and treasure in relief of those in need, and in order to satisfy the variety of Internal Revenue Service requirements of order, requires the tracking of such efforts. What better way to recruit Our Irish Catholic Brothers than to offer an opportunity to serve the Mother Church with charitable works and giving? Please continue to use the current tracking form for crediting your division, county, and state efforts toward our charitable efforts.

Highlighting our Hibernian Charity as a means for us all to receive the tax benefits for our financially charitable efforts goes without saying, but on recent survey, the knowledge of the Hibernian Charity Website as an avenue for giving was lacking. In our next report, y’all can look forward to increased clarity of how each of you can support our Hibernian Charity and the Charities and Missions of our august Order.

Wisconsin

**Scholarship event for Milwaukee schools a success
By Rick McMahon**

Our Third Annual Taste of Ireland scholarship fund-raiser was held at Historic Turner Hall in Milwaukee on September 22. This exciting event highlighted seven area Irish restaurants that competed for culinary awards.

All those attending sampled the food entries and cast votes for their favorites. Participating in this completion were County Clare Irish Pub, McGillycuddy’s, Mo’s Irish Pub, Mulligan’s Irish Pub & Grill, O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub, O’Sullivan’s Public House and The Irish Pub. Live music by Dublin O’Shea and sparkling performances by Irish dancers added flair to this wonderful evening. This family-friendly event is the focus of the Rev. William J. Kelly, SJ Division in Milwaukee and raises \$30,000 for students in need at inner-city Catholic schools in Milwaukee. We thank all who were involved in planning and who participated in this exciting event.

New York



Commodore Barry celebration on Staten Island

On September 20, members of the Commodore Barry Club paraded to Staten Island’s Commodore Barry Borough Hall for a festive celebration of Commodore Barry’s contributions to our country. Commodore Barry Day is officially September 13 in New York State.

John Barry immigrated to America as a cabin boy and his seafaring skills quickly raised him to the rank of captain. When the Revolutionary War broke out, he vigorously supported his new country by leading and developing the American Navy. He saw many sea battles and was feared by the British.

Renee Sarno greeted President Mary Nolan and presented her with a Proclamation from Borough President James Oddo. Donal Nolan led the members in singing the Irish and American national anthems and played an air on the tin whistle. Tom Alverson of Clan Eireann Pipe Band played the pipes and Assemblyman Michael Cusick spoke about contributions of the Irish to our community. Charles R. Blaich of the Navy League, Mary Hagan of the Ladies AOH and Peter Lovett of the Fort Hamilton Seniors Center also spoke. Members of the US Coast Guard were in attendance. Mary Nolan praised Commodore Barry’s contributions to our country. The Club placed a wreath at the plaque to Commodore Barry outside of Borough Hall.

Ladies hibernian news

2016-2018 LAOH National Board



Back Row, left to right: Immediate Past National President and National Organizer Mary Hogan, National Secretary Karen Keane, National Mission and Charities Mary Ann Lubinsky, National Catholic Action Colleen Bowers. Front Row, left to right: National Treasurer Marilyn Madigan, National President Patricia O'Connell, National Vice-President Carol Sheyer, National Historian Dee Wallace



Ladies AOH National Board

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

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

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

President's Message...



As you read this issue of the National Hibernian Digest, I hope that you take a few minutes to re-commit yourself to living our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The follow-up work of the various committees who were charged with specific responsibilities at the joint AOH-LAOH National Convention is nearly completed. On behalf of the LAOH National Board, I say THANK YOU for all of the work that many of you completed "behind-the scene" to host and manage the National Convention.

At this time, I am pleased to report that I have completed my appointments and assigned specific duties to all of our LAOH Past National Presidents. Your seven elected officers have their duties prescribed in the National Constitution. You may review the assignment of duties for each member of the LAOH National Board as it is presented under the heading of "Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. National Board & Appointees." Each of these members of the National Board has agreed to work together to serve you during this term of office. As you work at the local level and have questions, take the time to ask your colleagues for assistance. Our LAOH communication strata should be division level, county level where county board exist, state board level, and then the National Board level.

By the time that you are reading this article, State Presidents should have forwarded to all members within their State the introductory letters sent by the members of the National Board. Each of the members of the National Board will keep you informed regarding how they may be able to assist you in the carrying out of your duties at the local level. I ask that each member abide by the requests that the National Board members may specify from time to time.

As you learned during one of the National Convention general business sessions, specific personnel are continuing to work with the IRS on behalf of the total LAOH membership. If you have questions regarding any matter pertaining to the IRS, you are to contact National Treasurer Marilyn Madigan. She will assist you in resolving your questions. No member is authorized to contact the IRS directly.

I ask all Division Presidents to review ARTICLE XII DIVISION OFFICERS, DIVISION APPOINTEES, AND DIVISION MEETINGS in our National Constitution. There were no changes to ARTICLE XII at the recent National Convention so all members should have access to this ARTICLE. The election of Division Officers is to be held between October 1st and December 31st with the installation of officers to be held no later than January 31st. Each Division President should work with her State President if she has questions regarding the particulars of holding her Division elections. I remind all readers that two (2) Division members are to be elected to serve on the Division's Grievance Committee at the time that the Division officers are elected. I am hopeful that these two (2) persons will have no specific duties to complete during their elected term.

Once your Division election is held, please forwarded a copy of your newly elected officers to your County Board President and Secretary, if your State has established the County Board Structure in your State, and to your State President and State Secretary. Your State President and State Secretary will send a copy of the recently elected Division Officers to me and to National Secretary Karen Keane. It is imperative that the National President and National Secretary receive these updated Division Officer's notifications in a timely manner so that our LAOH Officer Data Base is accurate.

Now that we are enjoying some cooler fall temperatures, I am hopeful that each of us will have a renewed spirit to take-up each day's new challenges. As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, I wish each of you "hope and peace-filled blessings" as you share some special time with your family and friends. I pray that our patron saints, St. Brigid and St. Patrick, will continue to bless our work and our families.

Articles for the December-January edition are due no later than December 1.

National Vice President

Carol Sheyer

As your National Vice President I am looking forward to working with the Juniors, Degree Teams and the State Vice Presidents.

Presently there are fifteen active Junior Divisions, and this is including the new Junior Division established in Henrico County, Virginia. It is exciting to be able to work with the future members of our organization.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be working with the new Degree Team Liaison, Past National President Maureen Shelton. If you have members interested in receiving their Degrees the LAOH have Degree Teams in six States willing to work with you to confer Degrees. Please contact myself or Past National President Shelton and we will be happy to help to make it happen.

As your National Officer I am here to serve you, so please do not hesitate in contacting me with any questions or concerns.

National Secretary

Karen Keane

As many of you know, our Order convened in Atlantic City from July 11, 2016 through July 14, 2016 and a new Board of Officers was elected and installed. I was given the honor of serving as your National Secretary for the next two years until we convene in Louisville, Kentucky.

As your National Secretary, I am responsible for many items including maintaining a current list of membership and officers in all Divisions across the Country. In order to accomplish this, I will be sending to the State Secretaries and Presidents the membership forms. If you do not receive your State's forms by November 1, 2016, please contact me.

Please remember the change of officers in any Division, County, or State Board should be filed with the National Secretary as soon as possible to insure a consistent flow of information from the National Board.

If you need any other information or assistance, please feel free to contact me between 10:00 am and 8:00 pm eastern time, or anytime via e-mail.

Karen Keane, 108 Kennewyck Circle, Slingerlands, New York 12159
518-369-8783, laohkaren@live.com

Thank you for your support and I hope to meet all of my Sisters that I have not had to honor to do so far.

National Treasurer

Marilyn Madigan

Go raibh mile maith agat (Thank you) for placing your trust in me to serve our Order as the National Treasurer. Since the Convention, I have been very active in this new role. A special thank you to Past National Treasurer, Karen Keane, for all of her assistance with the transition. Karen provided an excellent Manual which has been extremely helpful.

One of the first tasks was the opening of the National Board's Bank Accounts. All of the Order's Accounts are at the same Banking Institution. Each of the Officers and Appointees will have their own accounts. The National Treasurer will work in collaboration with these Officers and Appointees. This new procedure will assist us in being good stewards of the financial well-being of our Order.

The 2014-2016 National Auditor Kathryn Keane gave an update of the Order's IRS status at the Convention. Packages of information were also provided to the State Presidents. During her term, Kathryn and her Office staff have submitted the paperwork for the Reinstatement of all entities with the IRS. Division, County and State Presidents have been receiving correspondence from the IRS in reference to the Reinstatement. These letters are standard procedure to recognize that the application was received. No action is required. The National Treasurer or an individual designated by the National Board are the only individuals authorized to correspond with the IRS. Please send a copy of all correspondence received from the IRS to me at memadigan@gmail.com. All of the correspondence will be filed in the Records of the National Treasurer. The Reinstatement Process has been a huge and time consuming process. Thank you to all involved in this process.

National Irish Historian

Dee Wallace

The LAOH History Contest 2016

It seems that we have just returned from the AOH/LAOH National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey and now it is time for me to focus on what my office of Irish Historian offers. This is going to be a very busy two years and I am very excited about sharing our first upcoming History Contest. In the middle of August, 2016, I sent out all of the information regarding the 2016-2017 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest with the Student Information and Contest Rules. This information was sent to all State Presidents and State Historians with a note for the information to be passed down to their County and Division Presidents.

There are two levels of competition; students in grades 6 through 12 enrolled in parochial, private, public schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to participate in the 2016-2017 Irish History Writing Contest sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Level 1 – Grades 6-7-8 “The Role of the Irish in World War I”

Level 2 – Grades 9-10-11-12 – “The Role of the Irish in World War I”

The Contest officially opens September 1, 2016 and I am hoping that we have a lot of students who will be participating in this contest. All students entering the contest should be given a copy of the Student Information and Contest Rules as well as a copy of the 2016-2017 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria.

There is also an Irish History Contest Brochure on the website as well. This will provide information to each participating student and I would encourage State Presidents, State Historians, County Presidents and Division Presidents to certainly take advantage of this for those students who are interested in the contest.

Go to www.ladiesaoh.com website and on the home page, under offices, click on Irish Historian and you will find all of the information on the History Contest that I have posted. October 1 – November 15, 2016 Students write papers.

I am looking forward to working with each of you and I am just an email or a phone call away from any help that you might need.

Freedom for All Ireland

Mary Leathem

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Freedom For All Ireland chairman for our Order. This is not really a new job for me as I was responsible for this endeavor while serving in the office of Catholic Action when the Ladies' National Board did not have a designated chair back in the 90's. With that said a great deal has changed in these many years and the focus of our efforts has been diversified to meet the growing needs of our Irish brothers and sisters.

I would be remiss not to recognize Peggy Cornish for the wonderful and thorough job she did while serving as the FFAI chairman these last two years. We must remember our appointees work tirelessly to support our National Board and you the women of the Order. I have a copy of the FFAI committee report posted on the website and ask that you familiarize yourself with the recommendations put forth.

Please make all checks out to LAOH, Inc. so that we may have a record of all donations and forward them to 37 Dormay Lane, Troy, NY 12182. We will be continuing the \$10.00 plus club for individual membership donation and appreciate your participation as every donation assists us in helping achieve a lasting peace with justice for all. Once again, there will be recognition for any division raising a onetime donation of \$1000.00. Our hats are off to those who continually try to meet this goal.

This is still a joint project with the Ancient Order of Hibernians and we will strive to communicate the recommendation of the 2016 FFAI committee that both National Presidents and FFAI chairmen discuss the decision making process and set up mutual guidelines for distribution of funds.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or suggestions.

National Webmaster

Asst. Hibernian Digest Editor Sandi Riley Swift

I would like to thank Pat O'Connell for her faith in me to continue on as your National Webmaster and trusting me with the duties of the Asst. Hibernian Digest Editor. My letter of introduction can be found on the website under the "Offices" and the "Webmaster" tab.

The website has been redesigned. Any report forms I have received are under the "Offices" tab at the top of the home page. On the drop down menu just select the Office that you seeking to find forms or reports. As information is sent to me I am posting it. I would like to ask all the State Presidents to check the information for your State under the "Membership" tab and the Division Contacts. I will update any information given to me. If Divisions change email addresses or websites, please forward that information to me. Additionally, forward me a copy of your LAOH State, County, Division, or Junior's monthly newsletter and I will post it on the national website.

We have a "Subscribe" feature on our website. You can sign up to receive a notification email as to important information or updates.

Your content for the Hibernian Digest will also be sent to me at the "Webmaster" email address. Please note "Hibernian Digest" if it is an article you want in the digest, otherwise, by default it will be for the website. Any photos for the Digest must be in high resolution .jpg format. There is a subscription form on the website if you want to sign up, or re-new, your own copy of the Digest. I have emailed all the State Presidents and State Publicity Chairs with the new deadline dates. Please contact me if you have not received the email, as I may have outdated information. Please see the website for information on submitting articles for the Digest.

State Presidents were emailed a list of Digest Subscribers in their States to distribute to Divisions. I have asked for a list of members who read a "shared" subscription with a family member. Divisions please submit this information to your State President so she can submit one list to me. I would like to have this information to by December 1st.

I have added a "Facebook" page. Please "Like" the page. Our Facebook can be found by searching "Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians" or "ladiesaoh2016."

You can reach me at webmaster@ladiesaoh.com.

National Supplies Officer

Mary Conlon

By way of introduction, President Pat O'Connell recently appointed me the new Supplies Chair on the National Board for the period 2016-2018. The duties of Jewelry, Clothing and Supplies have been consolidated into Supplies. I want to thank Pat for this appointment and look forward to meeting and working with you all. Please communicate my contact information, found on the website, to your State Board and Division Officers as well as your membership. Your suggestions and comments for improvement would be appreciated.

All order forms for Supplies, Jewelry and Clothing have been posted on the website. Photos will be coming in the near future. Photos are in the process of being uploaded on the website.

National Missions & Charities

Mary Ann Lubinsky

State Missions & Charities Officers and State Presidents, please forward this letter to every division in your state and ask them to share with their entire membership so they have the most up-to-date information. One special request to all: please check your email at least once a week. Sometimes we may need a clarification and it is very important that we stay in touch with you! There is no better or quicker way than email.

Thank you for choosing me to be your 2016-2018 LAOH National Missions and Charities Officer at the National Convention in Atlantic City! I have thoroughly enjoyed the last two years serving as your Catholic Action Officer and I am looking forward to the next two years in my new role!

I have been a member of John F. Kennedy Division 2, Pottsville PA since 1994 currently serving my sixth term as Division President. I was PA State President from 2007-2009. I will share my personal LAOH history with you in a little bit but right now I want to concentrate on Missions and Charities. Thank you to my predecessor, Dee Wallace, for sharing so much information with me which I am now going to share with you!

We have three National charities: Columban Fathers, www.columban.org, Columban Sisters, www.columbansisters.org, and Appeals for Aid. If you have not done so, you should order a "Starter Kit" from the Columban Fathers (877-299-1920), which contains forms and cards that your members may elect to use when making donations to the Columban Fathers. It is recommended that you submit a \$10 payment when ordering a "Starter Kit". The starter kit contains cards and envelopes for In Memoriam, Spiritual Gift, Recovery, Birthday, Healing, Deceased Mass and Living Mass as well as green enrollment forms, pink Mass forms and white Healing forms. Basically, everything you need!

Each Division, County and State should order a subscription of the Columban Magazine for their Missions and Charities Officer. You can order on-line or by calling the Columban offices at the above toll free number. The subscription fee is \$10. The Missions and Charities Officer can then share information with the members at each meeting.

I just this week received a congratulatory letter from Father Tim Mulroy, the Regional Director of The Columban Fathers. In the letter, Father Tim had to say, *"This fall, Fr. Kurt Pala, the most recently ordained Columban from the Philippines, will take up his first assignment as a priest with Columban missionaries in Myanmar. After fifty years of government repression, and isolation from the rest of the world, the generosity of LAOH will enable Fr. Pala to be a source of support, encouragement and hope for the people of that country, particularly the Catholics who are a tiny minority on the margins of society there. The ongoing generous support of LAOH makes this and may other similar Columban mission stories possible. Thank you!"*

I am looking forward to celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Columban Fathers in 2018! I will send information to you as I receive it. In honor of the upcoming celebration, **Immediate Past President, Mary Hogan, issued a challenge at the New Jersey Convention for each division to donate \$100 extra during the next two years** to the Columban Missions. I hope your division is up to this challenge!

All of the appropriate forms for my office will be on the National website in the near future under Missions and Charities. I can't stress enough how important it is to follow the instructions for each of them before sending! I am attaching the following forms updated with my information for your convenience:

- Missions and Charities Report Form (to be used each time you make a donation to one of our National Charities – never send money directly to the charity, you will not receive LAOH credit). If your Division, County or State elects to use the Columban Fathers' LAOH Mass Form (pink), LAOH Healing Prayer Form (white), or LAOH Enrollment form (green), you are to send these forms only to the Columban Fathers as stated on the form. You must also complete the National Missions and Charities Report form and indicate how you want your donation to be allocated and mail the completed form along with your check. Keep a copy of the report and forward a copy to Division, County, and State levels.
- Acknowledgement Forms for donations made to the Columban Fathers (in case you are out of Mass Cards), Columban Sisters or Appeals for Aid, if you are making the donation in memory of someone or in honor of someone. The acknowledgement form is to be sent to the person you want to inform of the donation.

A few housekeeping hints: Never send cash in the mail. Do not staple checks. Some banks now use electronic check readers when accepting deposits, staple holes interfere with the feeders. Also, ensure that your return address is on the mailing envelope.

I am looking forward to working with all of you for the next two years. If you have any questions or if there is anything I can do to help you, please call or email me. My contact information appears below.

Please support Project St. Patrick

National Catholic Action

Colleen Bowers

This letter is to introduce myself as your newly elected National Catholic Action Officer. I can't express enough how much I appreciate your trust in me by electing me as your National Catholic Action Officer for 2016-2018 at our National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey in July.

As your new Catholic Action Officer please feel free in contacting me if you have any questions or guidance needed pertaining to this office. Our National website is updated with my contact information. To reach me by email please send to colleenbowers@ladiesaoh.com.

Catholic Action Includes:

Project St. Patrick is a Catholic Action program of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ancient Order of Hibernians and friends that was initiated in 1995. This program was created to provide financial support to seminarians and religious by giving vocational grants of \$500.00. Many of the young men and women do not have enough money to cover their expenses (books, insurance, food, clothing, tuition) and are unable to work at outside jobs due to their heavy schedule of classes and studying. By donating to Project St. Patrick and using the Project St. Patrick "In Memory Of", "In Honor Of" cards you can help relieve some of their financial burden. With a \$500.00 donation a PSP vocation grant can be named in honor of your chosen person.

SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious)

The needs of aging religious are a crisis in our nation today. SOAR helps financially distressed Catholic religious congregations in the United States in the care of their elderly and infirm members. The organization provides assistance on a temporary basis. In the past, donations have helped to renovate space for handicapped accessibility, purchase electric beds and handicapped accessible vans and have also helped to install fire alarm, nurse call and wandering system.

Right To Life

Every minute three more children die from abortion in the United States alone and countless others are threatened with death by infanticide and euthanasia. With this statistic in mind it is important for the LAOH to continue their support in promoting and defending the right to life of the innocent human beings.

When making donations to Project St. Patrick and/or SOAR please ensure all checks are made payable to LAOH, Inc. It is IMPORTANT that if the check is for Project St. Patrick mark in the memo PSP and if it is for SOAR mark SOAR in the memo section of the check. This is important so your donations are recorded correctly and you get recognized for the donations made. All checks are to be mailed directly to me with the proper forms to your next entities. See attached forms.

The Right for Life March will be held Friday, January 27th in Washington DC. The date is different due to the Presidential Inauguration, which will be one week prior to the March for Life. If you would like to go to the website it is marchforlife.org where you can download a March For Life Trip Planner for 2017.

All Divisions, Counties and State Catholic Action Officers are required to submit a comprehensive year-end report.

Please ensure you follow the procedures and entities structure on your reports.

I will send you a quarterly report to your State Catholic Action Officer for her to forward to her entities. I have included all forms for your review and use. They have all been updated with my contact information. The new updated forms are uploaded to the National Website for quick reference and downloadable for all if needed.

FYI: In addition there are deadline dates for you to mark your calendars. They are:

1. The completed Division report is due to the County Catholic Action Officer January 31st. If there is no County then the Division report is due to the State Catholic Action Officer by January 31st. If there is only one Division in the entire State, then the report goes directly to the National Catholic Action Officer by January 31st.
2. The County report is due to the State Catholic Action Officer by February 28th. This is a single combined report of all Division reports received by the County Officer. Division reports should never be sent to the State Officer unless listed above.
3. The State report is due to the National Catholic Action Officer by March 31st. This is a single combined summary report of all County Reports received by the State Catholic Action Officer. Division and/or County reports should never be sent to the National Catholic Action Officer unless listed above.

I look forward in working with all of you in the next two years of my term of office.



NOTICE

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

Virginia

Ballyshaners Irish Festival

Frank Herbert-Pat Cady Division provided the color guard for the Old Town Alexandria Ballyshaners Irish Festival in August. The sweltering heat did not keep visitors away from this annual event. Ballyshaners means “Old Towners” in the Irish language. The Ballyshaners, Inc. was founded in 1980 by a small group of dedicated volunteers for the explicit purpose of promoting and preserving Irish Heritage. They achieve this goal by organizing and running the Alexandria Irish Festival and the Saint Patrick Day Parade; both events are in conjunction with the City of Alexandria. All members of the organization are volunteers.



The AOH color guard for the Irish Festival was, from left, Brothers Seamus Barry, St. Patrick (Terry Riley) and Pat Cushing.

Major Degrees

On Sept. 17, the Brian Boru Major Degree Team exemplified our Order’s Major Degrees for nine brothers representing two of the 14 Virginia divisions. The ceremony followed the quarterly VAAOH State Board meeting, hosted by the General Thomas F. Meagher Division in Fredericksburg. Degree recipients are identified by the white and green shamrock emblem seen on their shirts.



The Herbert-Cady Division: Jeffrey Petrino, Kevin McDermott and Mike McEntee; Gen. Meagher Division: John Tracy, Dennis O’Leary, Bob FitzGerald, Jack Grey, Jeff Everett and Bill Vanderveer. Witnessing the ceremony were Virginia Past State President Hugh O’Brien, Bill Gilhooly, Gen. Meagher, President, Andy Link and Virginia State Vice President Bill Halpin (not pictured).

Wisconsin

AOH/LAOH National Convention:

A Synopsis of My Experience as a First-Time Attendee by Chris Kellenberger

As with most things I choose to undertake in life, I try to approach them with a positive attitude and open mind; regardless of others’ opinions and past experiences. I was excited to join the Rev. William J Kelly, S.J. Division of the AOH approximately one year ago, and am glad I made the decision to attend my first National Convention this year in Atlantic City. Based on a shared faith, passion for Irish heritage and culture, and natural tendency to help others, my father-in law, Dr. Denis Lynch, was an advocate for joining the Milwaukee Division, and for attending the National Convention. As a result of the positive experience I had in the first year with my Milwaukee brothers, I figured that the National Convention would offer similar results, but on a broader scale. In combination with that, my love for travel, and getting to spend the special time with my father-in-law, the decision was easy to make. It was a bonus when I learned that my Milwaukee brothers had set aside funds for members who were interested in attending.

Our fellow AOH brothers and LAOH sisters were welcoming and immediately shared stories about the positive ways that attending the conventions had impacted their lives. This type of positive vibe emanated from the Hibernians who we came across during the organized social engagements and hospitality rooms throughout the week. I wish I could say that it was all about jovial conversation, live music and Irish libations, however, the convention is also used as a platform to execute important business and political functions within the Order.

Although the daily meetings were a bit dry in terms of the “fun factor,” I understood the importance and found it interesting to learn of the political infrastructure at the national level. Getting to meet and talk with the national officers and board members, as well as voting on various proposals, was rewarding in its own way. I was impressed by the caliber of guest speakers throughout the week. It was impactful to hear thoughts on various American and Irish current events from Anne Anderson, the Irish Ambassador to the United States; the Irish Consul General to New York, Barbara Jones; and Mary Lou McDonnell, Vice President of Sinn Fein. They do not necessarily agree on how to achieve prosperity and unity in Ireland, but their shared passion for these goals was clearly evident.

The most impactful part of my experience was going through the Major Degree ceremony. I have a deeper appreciation for what it means to be an AOH member, and for the bond that I will forever have with my AOH brothers.

Through the themed workshops, daily mass and business sessions, to the variety of fun social activities, the convention offered different levels of engagement. I would sum it up by saying that you are able to take part in as many activities as you would like. For me, joining the AOH, and deciding to attend the National Convention, is about supporting something bigger and better than just myself. Although the convention legitimized my concern for the lack of youth in our Order, and how that will impact our future, I have come away from it in the same positive place that I started. I look forward to supporting my Division in Milwaukee for years to come, and hope that I have the opportunity to attend future National Conventions.

— Chris Kellenberger is a member of Rev. William J Kelly S.J. Division, Milwaukee, WI



Denis Lynch, Padraig Pearse Nugent and Chris Kellenberger at the National Convention in July in Atlantic City.

Nassau AOH-LAOH host 44th annual Irish Festival

Photos by John O'Connell/Hibernian Digest

The AOH in Nassau County, N.Y. proudly held their 44th annual Feis & Irish Festival on the South Shore of Long Island on Sept. 18.

Young and old and in between had a fabulous time with live music all day long, entertainment and attractions, including Irish step dancing, bagpiping, Irish vendors, traditional Irish

singing, children's games, Irish language, Irish art, Gaelic Cul Camp and plenty of food and beverages.

This year's honoree was the renowned Hibernian and long time Feis & Festival chairman and treasurer Jack Ryan, a member of AOH Division 15 in Massapequa, an AOH Nassau County Board officer and New York State AOH officer.



Step dancers competed at the Nassau County Feis & Irish Festival.



Deacon Thomas Costello, left, of Division 3, Nassau County, and Fr. Henry Reid, New York State Chaplain, who celebrated the Eucharist at the feis.



Jack Ryan, second from right, was the honoree at the 44th annual Nassau County Feis & Irish Festival. Joining him on stage were, from left, Regina McGannon Begley, LAOH state historian; Mike Byrne, past state director and feis chairman; past county president and master of ceremonies at the feis, Donal Mahoney; current county AOH President Tim Myles; and past state LAOH President Carol McTigue.



The Division 15 Tara Pipes & Drums color guard led the dignitaries to the stage for the ceremonies.



The Tara Pipes & Drums performed to the delight of the festival guests.



Some of the dancers took flight during the competitions.



(Photo courtesy Dan Dennehy)
No Irish festival would be complete without Irish soda bread, and the competition was fierce.