

The National hibERNIAN DIGEST



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



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

Vol. LXXX No. 2 USPS 373340

April-May 2023

1.50

DATED MATERIAL

AOH hosts Taoiseach, Congressional staff in D.C.



At the important Hibernian event were, from left, D.C. State President Don Connolly, National VP Sean Pender, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Nat'l President Danny O'Connell, Past Nat'l Pres. James McKay, Nat'l FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin, Nat'l Treasurer Liam McNabb and Nat'l PEC Chairman Neil Cosgrove.

In a groundbreaking event, the Ancient Order of Hibernians hosted Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and U.S. Congressional staff members at an event

“Your influence is felt not just in Dublin but also in Belfast, in London, and in Brussels.”

—Taoiseach Leo Varadkar

commemorating the Good Friday Agreement held at the Phoenix Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., on March 16. The event was the first time a Taoiseach of Ireland had made a visit to a Hibernian event as an item on his itinerary. The Taoiseach is the Head of the Government or Prime Minister of Ireland. In the words of President O'Connell, “The event was an opportunity to broaden our contact base on Capitol Hill. Many of the attendees were from Congressional offices that wouldn't normally be associated with Irish issues.”

In speaking to the crowded room, the Taoiseach stated, “I think it's fair to say that, at critical junctures, the intervention of the U.S. drove the peace process forward when few others could have.” “Your influence is felt not just in Dublin but also in Belfast, in London, and in Brussels. What America thinks about Ireland really does matter. Each time a crisis has arisen, the support of the U.S. has been sought, and it has been given generously.

“Irish Americans have pushed their representatives in government to keep Northern Ireland on the agenda. I am very grateful to the congressmen and senators and their offices who take an interest in Ireland and make sure it is part of the U.S. agenda.”

The event was very successful, and the staffers, whose energy powers Washington but often goes unappreciated, were grateful that their important role is being recognized. The event brought new



President Danny O'Connell, left, and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at the Phoenix Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. on March 16.

awareness in Washington of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and forged new connections that can aid the work of the Order.

Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern to receive Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award

In this, the year we recognize the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday agreement, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America is proud to announce that Bertie Ahern will be the recipient of the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award. Bertie's commitment to peace in the North of Ireland while serving as Taoiseach 25 years ago helped create the Good Friday Agreement. The AOH will present the award on this October 14th at the National Board Meeting in Youngstown, Ohio.

The Sean MacBride Humanitarian award memorializes the Human Rights contributions made by Nobel Peace laureate Dr. Sean MacBride and to recognize the efforts of others who make similar contributions in the cause of peace, justice and the economic well-being of the Irish people. The biennial award is a bust or likeness of Dr. Sean MacBride. The Award is conferred without regard to the nominee's race, creed, sex, religion, color or National Origin. Bertie Ahern is a signatory of the Good Friday Agreement.

Bertie Ahern retired as Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister) in May 2008 having enjoyed the unique distinction in modern Irish politics of being the first person in over 60 years to have been elected to that office on three successive occasions.

He served as a member of Dáil Éireann (the Irish Parliament) for almost 35 years. He was first elected to the Dáil (Parliament) in 1977 for the constituency of Dublin-Finglas and he represented Dublin Central from 1981 until 2011.

He was Minister for Labour from March 1987 to November 1991 and was appointed Minister for Finance on three separate occasions from November 1991 to December 1994. Ahern was first elected Taoiseach in June 1997; he was re-elected in June 2002 and again in May 2007. In 1997 his party was elected to government in coalition with the Progressive Democrats. This minority administration was supported by a small number of Independent members of Parliament. He received widespread praise for his political skills in ensuring that this administration served its full five-year term and delivered on real political and economic progress for the Irish people.

The defining moment of this period and a defining moment in Irish history was the successful negotiation by Bertie Ahern and Tony Blair of the Good Friday Agreement between the Irish and British Governments and the political parties in Northern Ireland in April 1998.

The Good Friday Agreement transformed relations for

the better between Ireland and Britain, between Ireland, North and South, and between different traditions within Northern Ireland. It instilled a new ethos of tolerance and respect into politics on the island of Ireland and between diplomatic relationships between the islands of Ireland and Britain.



New York

Nassau Divisions commemorate Easter Rising

Nassau County Hibernians joined members of the Irish Monument Committee in hosting the 107th anniversary commemorating the Easter Rising of April 24, 1916. Members of the AOH and the Ladies AOH were accompanied by officers of many Nassau County Irish American organizations, elected officials and representatives of the Irish government.

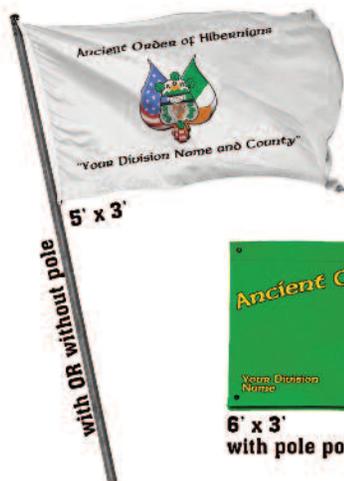


Placing the commemorative wreath were, from left, Nassau AOH President Jack O'Brien, Nassau LAOH President Maureen Caffrey and Dermott Fitzpatrick, the Vice Consul General of Ireland in NY. Photo: John O'Connell



Nassau County Hibernians gathered on Easter Monday in Mineola, New York, to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising. Photo: John O'Connell

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



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

Visit Our Website:
www.AOHapparel.com
The official apparel of the A.O.H.



6' x 3'
with pole pockets OR grommets!

www.AOHapparel.com
609-624-3252
Bro. Mike Hagan

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



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Official Apparel

www.aohapparel.com



president's message

By Danny O'Connell

What an honor it is to represent you, the greatest Irish, Catholic and American organization there is. The only Irish organization with membership in all 50 states and D.C. The largest Irish organization outside of Ireland. The voice of Irish America. Thank you for the work you have done to bring us to this point and to continue to move us forward.

Our accomplishments are many and our issues are varied. We work together on everything that impacts Ireland and Irish America. From support of seminarians to working for a Free and United Ireland. From Pro Life to Legacy Justice the Ancient Order of Hibernians is there. This is why we are a non-partisan organization and we do not support, and we do not oppose, any political candidate or party. We work with everyone we can on every issue we believe in. We would be fools not to follow this constitutional mandate and in turn we would undercut the work of our great Order.

As we begin our state convention season, we must remember our four pillars: The Hibernian Charity Appeal; The FFAI Christmas Appeal; the Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal; and our membership recruitment and retention work. These four pillars make us a good organization, what you do in your local division makes us a great organization. Thank you for your local work on every AOH issue.

It is easy to recognize our recent success stories and we should be proud to share every one of them.

Every Project St. Patrick Grant request was awarded; 67 from the AOH and 20 from the LAOH.

A record setting \$162,000 was distributed from our FFAI Christmas Appeal in the North of Ireland by the AOH.

The AOH hosted a reception during the D.C. St. Patrick's Day events with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and congressional staffers we need to work with in the U.S. House and Senate from both political parties. This is the first time that Ireland's head of government, or prime minister, attended such an event.

The AOH donated \$23,000 via Project St. Patrick toward the formation of seminarians for the diocesan priesthood in Ireland.

The initial class of AOH St. Patrick Centre Ambassadors was selected and will include nine young Hibernians from around the country who will spend two weeks in Downpatrick this June learning about St. Patrick and the North of Ireland.

The AOH was invited to the White House for the Shamrock presentation as recognition of our leadership in Irish America.

The Father Flanagan Human Dignity award was created and will be presented at the National Convention.

The AOH was invited to the events related to the Presidential visit to Ireland as recognition of our role as leaders in Irish America.

The AOH was invited to have a panelist during the Good Friday Agreement 25th Anniversary event with President Clinton and Gerry Adams.

Bertie Ahern, Ireland's Taoiseach who signed the Good Friday Agreement accepted the 2023 Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award.

The list goes on and on.

I had the honor to meet with Aidan McAnespie's family in their home on Palm Sunday. I was moved deeply by this experience especially when they told me they were happy to finally get the hearing and trial but embarrassed that other families did not have the same opportunity. During my time in Ireland, I also participated in the Christmas Appeal Donations, met with EALU, The Omagh Choir, The Omagh Basketball Team, St. Patrick's Seminary in Maynooth, The St. Patrick Centre, Irish Central and many other friends of the AOH. It is incredible how many people in Ireland know the work we do. Each of you as a member are a part of every Hibernian accomplishment.

With all the great accomplishments of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, we must continue to work together as one. Remember, we are a multiple issue-based organization, and we can't detract from the work we do on one issue in attempt to demonstrate support for another.



President O'Connell at St. Patrick Seminary, in Maynooth, Ireland Daniel J. O'Connell, center, with (front row, from left, Fr Shane O'Neill, Director of Formation - Stage of Discipleship; Fr Michael Mullaney, President, SPCM); Fr Tomás Surlis, Rector, SPNS; Fr Séan Corkery, Director of Formation - Stage of Configuration; (back row, from left, Seán Murphy, Seminarian for the Diocese of Kerry; Anthony Hartnett, Seminarian for the Diocese of Raphoe; Jordan MacGabhann, Seminarian for the Diocese of Kilmore.



vice president's report

By sean pender



Attending the Reflections on the Good Friday Agreement, 25 Years of Peace and Progress at the historic Cooper Union, from left, Bill McDermott President of Long Island Friendly Sons of St Patrick; Mark Guilfoyle, President, Friends of Sinn Féin USA; President Bill Clinton; Marilyn Madigan, LAOH National President ; Sean Pender; and Deidre Feerick, executive director of the James Connolly Irish American Labor Coalition.

The first several months of 2023 has brought with it a heightened visibility of the AOH that I have not experienced in my many years on the national board. Our membership should be rightfully proud, and we need to recognize the leadership and vision of our president, Danny O'Connell, whose hard work for and dedication to our Order has made a lot of these successes possible.

In January we continued our long-time support of Pro-Life by attending the National pro-life march in Washington, D.C.

In February I was proud to represent the National Board in Omaha, Nebraska, at the Father Flanagan Division Annual Award dinner to present Thomas Lynch with their lifetime achievement award. Lynch, the Director of Community Programs and Development & Marketing at Boystown, was instrumental in inspiring the AOH to name our newly created and constitutionally approved human dignity award the Father Edward J. Flanagan Human Dignity award. The award to be bestowed initially in Orlando in 2024 and then every two years going forward will recognize an individual or group outstanding in the defense of the unborn or in advocating for those who suffer from injustice, poverty, homelessness, abandonment or other forms of societal neglect.

My sincere thanks to Nebraska State President Mike Addy, Fr. Flanagan Division President Tim Lonergan and LAOH Omaha President Kelly Hajek for their tremendous hospitality during my visit. National leadership attended highly visible events in Washington, D.C., during the yearly St. Patrick's Day events hosted by the Irish, English, North of Ireland and U.S. governments. For the first time ever a sitting Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Leo Varadkar, attended an AOH-sponsored event.

In March we also announced the nine inaugural recipients of the AOH St. Patrick Centre Young ambassadors program, an innovative progressive new offering to identify and inspire young members aged 18 to 24 to apply for an unforgettable two-week program in Ireland.

Our Freedom for all Ireland Christmas Appeal grants of more than \$160,000, a record amount, were distributed by President O'Connell and FFAI chairman Martin Galvin in Ireland. President O'Connell delivered significant grants to seminarians in Ireland while our Project St. Patrick also achieved historic levels of success.

Finally, in early April, I represented the AOH at the prestigious "Reflections on the Good Friday Agreement, 25 Years of Peace and Progress" at the historic Cooper Union in

continued on page 4



At the Cooper Union event, former Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, LAOH President Marilyn Madigan and National AOH VP Sean Pender

VICE PRESIDENT
continued from page 3

NYC. Speakers included Senator George Mitchell, former Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and former U.S. President Bill Clinton. With LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan I was part of a forum of several Irish groups who discussed the Good Friday Agreement and our contributions and support of the full implementation of that historic agreement.

From the office of the Secretary

I want to start this article by thanking you all for your continued patience and support as we continue to work through the rehabilitation of our beloved National Secretary Ed Halligan. Special thanks to PA AOH President Ed Dougherty for coordinating transportation for Ed to his weekly rehabilitation appointments. Brothers from Philadelphia and Montgomery County are stepping up to help Ed's family during their time of need. The Halligan family wants to thank you all once again for your good wishes, support and prayers. Additionally, I want to recognize the efforts of Maria McDonald in the office.

Here are some of the updates we are working on to better serve our members:

An update of all AOH forms on our website. Our goal is to provide 100 percent online access to all forms so that our leadership and membership can easily download any form. This will eliminate the need to order forms from the national office. When finalized all forms will be PDF fillable and include our updated logos.

Our charters are finally being digitized so that going forward the ordering or new or replacement charters will be a much easier efficient process.

We have made great progress in improving address validation of our membership rosters. A member's correct address is the absolute minimum we must have in our roster system. Members with invalid or missing addresses are not receiving their membership benefit of the Hibernian Digest, do not receive the yearly Hibernian Charity mailing and have incorrect or missing information on membership cards. Based on information we receive from the US Post Office (USPS) and reports available from our printer of the Hibernian Digest we have updated over 1,700 addresses. The next upgrade to the roster system will include address verification, which will require correct addresses, so it would benefit all divisions to start correcting this issue now.

Working with our National Organizer Ryan Curry we are working on better follow up and decontrol of the processing of online applications. We need to do a better job of following up on those applications in a timely manner and getting those prospective new members initiated as soon as possible.



secretary's report

ed halligan

by Maria McDonald for Ed Halligan

Spring has arrived and with it a time of renewal as we celebrate the Risen Christ in our tradition of our Easter celebration. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support for Ed. Keep them coming!

It has been nine months since we moved to Pennsylvania and the office is coming along well.

We have been processing per capita forms, we are up to date on all membership cards, and we are getting more organized. The office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You will receive a response to an issue or concern during these days.

The National Board Order Form is in the process of being revised. From the aoh.com site, you will soon be able to print out many of what is listed. Some orders will still need to be sent in.

With that said, here are some reminders for contacting the Office of the National Secretary:

- It would help immensely to remember when writing, emailing or calling the office to Reference a Division by the Division number (the 1st six digits on the membership card).
- Roster updates for new members need to have a proper mailing address and an email address. Have the full or complete name of the member as it is stated on the membership roster.
- Re-instating former members will result in a new member number. We are no longer manipulating the system to keep the former number.
- Division and County Board members need to be updated on the Roster under Form 9 with correct mailing and email addresses. Financial Secretaries receive new membership cards directly.
- Send a form with a check. It is easier for record keeping purposes to have them together. Emailing forms can usually guarantee lost information. Checks sent without proper documentation can result in insufficient information recorded.

Please Make A Special Note:

The correct email address for the National Secretary is emhalli26@gmail.com

The correct postal mailing address for the National Secretary is: P.O. Box 437, Oreland, PA 19075-0437

The forecast for the coming months is warm Irish smiles, open hearts, open hands, and open minds. We wish you a spring full of sunshine and beauty.



treasurer's report

By Liam McNabb

Invest in the Order this year through your participation...

We have written about the benefits of hosting and attending conventions in recent issues of the Digest. As we approach state conventions this year, I encourage you to not only attend your state convention but to participate as much as possible. This includes networking with our Brothers from other Divisions to learn about their local practices and successes. Sharing and learning from others and trying something new when you return home will only make your division stronger.

Conventions are also an opportunity for you to contribute to committee meetings and open discussions with state leadership. As we focus on the future of our Order, what can we all do better to help strengthen our divisions? Have we attracted new members? Younger members? Have we done a good job engaging current and new members?

There is likely to be a representative from our National Board at your state convention and we are all interested in hearing your feedback. Please share your thoughts and ideas with us as, once again, we want to invest in our division and the future of our Order.



Director's report

By Ray Lynch

Brothers, I am not a gambling man but I'm sure you all are anticipating heading into the warmer months. Daylight is helping keep our days longer and before you know it, it will be summer. I'd like to share a few things I have had the opportunity to experience in the State of Florida recently. March is an important month for the AOH with our informational Irish Heritage webinars and our local drive to name March Irish American Heritage month in as many municipalities as possible in the State of Florida.

The Brothers in Florida hustled around and collected 76 Proclamations declaring March 2023 Irish American Heritage Month from 63 cities, 12 counties and 1 from the state to make a grand total of 76. This is the most we have been able to generate since starting our annual campaign under then President Greg Sean Canning. I can only imagine where we will be next year with reaching out to areas like the Panhandle and the northwest part of the state. Also, on March 18, I walked in the Melbourne St Patrick's Parade as the immediate past Grand Marshal. The passing of the shillelagh was held a few nights prior where I handed over my reign to Scotty Marathas, owner of Meg O'Malley's, the local Irish Pub in downtown Melbourne.

I hope everyone and their families had a safe and wholesome Easter holiday. In closing, as you go about your daily business, please continue to keep our National Secretary Ed Halligan in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from medical issues. Please feel free to contact me at irishyankeenut@yahoo.com or (772) 224-4928 with any comments or suggestions.

Florida

New Florida Division!

Members of the Florida State Board travelled to Key West on the 25th of March to install its newest Division. Congratulations to Division President Frank Dunne for all of his hard work in getting this Division and its members together and sworn in. Nineteen new Brothers were sworn into Monroe County, Conch Republic, Division 1 by Florida State Treasurer/Organizer Keith Reynolds, State Secretary Greg Sean Canning and State President/National Director Ray Lynch Good luck Brothers in your new ventures as Hibernians and welcome to the AOH!



CONCH REPUBLIC DIVISION
Key West, Florida



Director's report

By Dan Deuinney, Deputy Legal Counsel

I hope you all had a great St. Patrick's Day Season. I was delighted to hear about many of the parades and festivities that occurred throughout the region. I was even more delighted to hear about many of the successful recruiting efforts at events like the "Sham Rock n' Roll" event in Washington, D.C., where members of the AOH volunteered as bartenders. It was a great idea and gave the brothers who volunteered access to everyone at the event.

I also attended many events myself, but the highlight of my St. Patrick's Day season was being able to march in the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day parade with two of my grandchildren for the first time. I also would like to recognize Ed Dougherty, the State President of Pennsylvania. He, along with the help of other leaders within the state, were able to reverse a possible closure of a division located in an area of the state where there is a prison that housed leaders of the Molly Maguires.

Recently, I was made aware of the potential new division in Maryland. I mention this to you because the potential members of this division made their initial contact with the President of Washington, D.C., Don Connolly, who then worked with Maryland President Mike McConnell to move things forward. These are excellent examples of cooperation within the state and between states to make good things happen.

Congratulations to all the State, County and Local Boards who are able to secure Irish heritage designations for the month of March. I have been involved in these efforts in the past and it takes a lot more phone calls and pushing than that it should. I would like to congratulate Dan Taylor, Neil Cosgrove and all the others involved for another great season of short stories and webinars during the St. Patrick's Day Season. I would also like to remind everyone of what a great recruiting tool these presentations can be. They provide great information about our history and who we are.

By-Laws

The State and County convention season is right around the corner and with it comes not only elections but also bylaw reviews. Our Constitution instructs jurisdictions to adopt only "such By-Laws to govern the transaction of its business not covered by the By-Laws of any superior jurisdiction, or this Constitution." Following this instruction from our Constitution allows you to not only streamline your by-laws but greatly reduces the chance of any future conflicts with the by-laws of a higher jurisdiction or our Constitution should changes be made to such documents. One last thing: please remember you still have time to make your donation to Project Saint Patrick.



Director's report

By Richard Thompson

As Irish heritage month and winter fade into the rear-view mirror, now is the time we as Hibernians return to the work of the Order. Numerous state conventions will take place in the next several months where we will reaffirm current leadership or choose new leaders. The definition of leadership is defined as the act of leading a group or an organization. We in the AOH have been blessed over the years with Brothers at all levels playing key roles that have led to the successful organization we enjoy today. The National Board has been urging our Divisions and Boards to fill all the constitutionally required positions of each Board and Division. The National Board has witnessed that our most successful Boards and Divisions have the constitutionally required positions filled.

Our most successful National programs can trace their success to the fact that a committee chair has been appointed in many of our Boards and Divisions. Your officers are very important, they have certain duties to fulfill. Your committee appointments are as important to allow the steady flow of information from the National Board down to the Division level and back up to National. This is where leadership steps in. As a national organization we are always looking for the next leaders to carry our flag forward. If you think you can help our organization at any level please step forward. Most of us that are or have been in leadership roles can tell you how rewarding and fulfilling it is when you are part of a successful program or you have an opportunity to speak in person with individuals that have received assistance from your actions. It is one thing to be on the team and yet another thing to actually play in the game. Brothers, I understand we all have family, work and other commitments. We do have the resources available to help you in just about any position you choose to fulfill. Please consider an active role in our Order.

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

Remember the AOH in your will

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



Director's report

By Bob Mehrens

It is my hope that everyone had a very successful Irish American Heritage Month. I would like to thank Dan Taylor for coordinating the webinars throughout the month of March for the Order, it is greatly appreciated. Hopefully everyone has been able to recruit several new members and promote our four pillars. We continue to ask all members to work to grow the Order.

As we head into the summer, it is state convention season. Hopefully everyone can attend their state conventions and enjoy the hospitality of the state committees in the communities that are putting those conventions on. State Conventions are a great opportunity to get to know people throughout the state, to make connections that will help to grow all divisions in your states. For those that have not received your Major Degree yet, this is a great opportunity to sign up for a Degree in your neck of the woods. The Montana State Convention will be in Anaconda, September 15 and 16; for more details contact Joe Ungaretti at ungi43@icloud.com. For those who are planning a state convention, please get that information to the national board as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly for travel. I hope everyone has a great summer and I'm looking forward to spending time with some of you brothers at your conventions. Please feel free to contact me with comments or questions at meetah2@hotmail.com 406-560-2699.



Director's report

By Sean O'Dowd

Since our last edition of the Digest, we have passed one of the biggest days on our calendar, St. Patrick's Day. In March from East to West, Detroit, MI, to Hutchinson, KS, and North to South, St. Paul, MN, to Bellville, IL, the AOH planned, sponsored and participated in parades, fundraising dinners and parties to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We invited members of our communities to join us in recognizing the contributions the Irish and AOH have made to their cities and towns.

This was also a time when we saw an uptick in membership applications. It is vital to our organization that Division Presidents and Organizers follow up and sign these men as new members. We want to be sure to not just sign them up but give them a warm welcome, introduce them to other members and create a space for them in our Divisions.

Thank you for your Contributions

It is because of you, our proud members, that the National Board has had a record year in donations for the Four Pillars.

FFAI: Contributions were made to 19 groups including first time applicant Ireland's Future, which will receive a grant to support its work in securing an all-Ireland vote on Irish reunification.

Project St. Patrick: \$500 grants were sent to 66 seminarians plus helping 23 seminarians in Ireland with their trip to the Holy Land.

Magnet/Label Program: Contributions were given to nine recipients for the St. Patrick Centre 2023 Young Ambassador Program for a two-week study program in Downpatrick, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.

Hibernian Hunger Project: To date \$8,500 has been designated to be awarded to various Divisions who submitted applications. Award winners have not been chosen yet, however we are happy to report there has been an increase in applications for the award.

Your increased contributions have allowed us to help those less fortunate than ourselves and support groups that have dwindling resources. This is indeed good news for all as it shows that getting the word out about these programs makes the AOH the largest most influential Irish organization in the country.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Spring!



Kevin Byrne (Consul General), Irish Minister Michael McGrath (T.D.), Sean O'Dowd, St. Patrick's Day luncheon hosted by the Consulate General Ireland-Chicago, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland.



Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS

Irish • Catholic • American

NATIONAL BOARD CHAPLAINS

Rev. John Keehner..... Chaplain jekeehner@yahoo.com
Rev. Michael Healy..... Chaplain hibhealy@hotmail.com

NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS

Daniel J. O'Connell..... President..... djoconnell@ysu.edu
Sean Pender..... Vice President..... paddyspeed@yahoo.com
Edward Halligan..... Secretary..... emhalli26@gmail.com
Liam McNabb..... Treasurer..... liammcnabb@hotmail.com

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Timothy McSweeney..... National Director NY, VT..... newjack12007@yahoo.com
Raymond Lynch..... National Director..... irishyankeenut@yahoo.com
FL, GA, SC, NC, TN, AL, LA
Dan Devinney..... National Director..... devinneydaniel10@gmail.com
PA, DE, OH, WV, MD, DC, VA
Sean O'Dowd..... National Director..... seanodowd@aoh.org
IL, MI, IN, WI, MN, IA, MO, KY, KS
Richard H. Thompson..... National Director..... rthomp521@comcast.net
MA, ME, NH, CT, RI, NJ
Robert E. Mehrens..... National Director..... meetah2@hotmail.com
MT, WA, OR, CA, NE, CO, AZ, NM, TX, OK

CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Daniel Taylor..... Historian / Archivist..... dmtaylorjr@gmail.com
Ryan Curry..... Organizer..... aoh.natl.organizer@outlook.com
John O'Connell..... Editor Hibernian Digest..... editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
Martin Galvin, Esq..... FFAI Chairman..... mgalvinesq@AOL.COM
Patrick Ryan..... Charities and Missions..... patrick@rivierstad.com
Pat Lally..... Catholic Action..... lally8404@hotmail.com
Ron Hagan..... Project St. Patrick..... rhagan@hagancpa.com
Larry Squires..... Pro-Life..... lsquires@descomm.com
A.J. Smith..... National Legal Counsel..... asmith@bssnylaw.com
Neil Cosgrove..... Political Education..... ncosgrove@optonline.com
Danny Eakins..... Veterans Affairs..... dannyeakins@hotmail.com
Tom Lambert..... Immigration..... tomlambert12@aol.com
Chris Cooke..... Digital Coordinator..... chris@chriscooke.com
Judge James McKay..... Oversight Committee Chairman..... jfmaoh@me.com
Dennis Parks..... Oversight Committee..... dparks121@yahoo.com
John Wilson..... Oversight Committee..... johnj_wilson@yahoo.com

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

Jack Schneider..... Rituals & Degrees..... jack1515@aol.com
Bill Sullivan..... Hunger - Irish Way..... williamjsullivan@verizon.net
Study Abroad Scholarships

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Judge James McKay..... Past President..... jfmaoh@me.com
2016-2020 / Charity Liaison
Brendan Moore..... 2012-2016 / FFAI Committee..... brendanaoh@yahoo.com
Seamus Boyle..... 2008-2012 / Political Education..... shayboyle@gmail.com
Jack Meehan..... 2006-2008..... meehanaoh1@aol.com
Ned McGinley..... 2002-2006 / Political Education Committee..... nedaoh1@aol.com
Notre Dame Fund
Edward J. Wallace..... 1994-1998 / Catholic Action Committee..... ewartac2@twcny.rr.com
George Clough..... 1990-1994 / Constitution Committee..... BookODays@aol.com
Veterans Committee
Nick Murphy..... 1986-1988 / Constitution Committee..... upkerry@optonline.net

The National hibernian digest

"Ireland, One and Indivisible. Though the heavens fall" HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND
Subscription price of \$10.00 included in the organization's dues. Periodical postage paid at Oreland, PA and additional mailing offices USPS 373340

A bi-monthly publication dedicated to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The National Hibernian Digest is the complete chronicle of the ideals, hopes, and achievements of Hibernians everywhere. The National Hibernian Digest is printed and mailed out of Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-9998 and additional mailing offices in February, April, June, August, October. Office of publication is Ancient Order of Hibernians, Oreland, PA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National Hibernian Digest, P.O. Box 437, Oreland, PA 19075 The Hibernian Digest reserves the right to not include articles in this publication due to space limitations and editorial determination. The articles submitted to the Digest do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., its Board of Directors, the Editor or its membership. The Hibernian Digest welcomes letters to the editor. Please send via e-mail to editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com and include your letter in the body of the e-mail. DO NOT send as an attachment. Letters can be mailed (typed only) to AOH Editor, National Hibernian Digest, c/o John O'Connell, 87-30 256th St., Floral Park, NY 11001. ALL LETTERS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please include contact phone numbers for follow up.

JOHN O'CONNELL..... National Editor/Advertising..... (646) 436-0811 editorhiberniandigest@yahoo.com
KIM DePEAUX..... Assistant Editor (LAOH)..... laohnationalnews@gmail.com



Director's report

By tim mcsweeney



Hopefully by now, everyone has recovered from a hectic St. Patrick's Day season. The many parades, dinners, open houses and other events help to promote Our Noble Order and provide a much needed jump start to a busy year ahead. Here in New York, we have started the year by adding 186 new members statewide. New divisions in the North Country region are on the horizon.

Governor's St. Patrick's Day Reception

The NYS AOH Executive Board, along with National Treasurer Liam McNabb and myself attended NYS Governor Kathy Hochul's St. Patrick's Day reception at the Governor's mansion in Albany. NYS AOH Leadership was able to network with NYS government leadership. The Hibernian name is well known in Albany and especially in the halls of the State Capital.

Good Friday Agreement 25th Anniversary

It doesn't seem it's been 25 years since the signing of the historic Good Friday Agreement. While this document has never been fully implemented to its fullest extent, it provides a pathway to a Free and United 32 County Ireland. While many arguments can be made for and against this agreement, it did provide an end to much of the violence in the North of Ireland. We who support a United Ireland, Free of British rule, must continue the outstanding work we do, to achieve this goal. This goal is attainable. Less and less do we hear "Well, maybe not in my life," the finish line is near. Keep up the fight and may God save Ireland!



Irish American Heritage Month

By neil cosgrove
chairman

Another March and Irish American Heritage Month 2023 is in the books. I thank all of you who have written and informed me that your state and communities backed our Hibernian President's call to recognize the contributions the Irish American men and women have made by having your own local proclamation and recognition of Irish American Heritage Month.

On the National Level, our Irish American Heritage Month video reached 410,000 people and gathered over 8,000 Likes and 3,300 Shares across the nation, including areas where we, at the moment, do not enjoy a strong AOH presence. On average, the post in our daily profile series generated more than 2,000 Likes apiece. I think we can take some pride in our success in 'perpetuating the history and traditions of the Irish people' while also getting the name of the Ancient Order of Hibernians out to the broader public. It has been heartening to note that we are seeing "Irish American Heritage Month" enter the U.S. vocabulary, especially in the print media.

The question is, did you and your division, county or state participate and take advantage of Irish American Heritage Month? If not, why not? We are all very concerned about our membership numbers; here was an opportunity to both do the 'good work' of the Order and promote ourselves as an organization. If we are not taking advantage of it, it is a squandered opportunity.

We are entering State convention season, and I ask that serious consideration be given when you convene on what you are doing to promote Irish Heritage and Irish American Heritage Month and what more can be done. Irish American Heritage Month is both a duty and a pragmatic opportunity and should be an essential state program.

Brothers, it is not a characteristic of the Irish to rest on their laurels, and our success with our National Irish American Heritage Month program should not blind us to the need to increase awareness, especially among our own young people, of what the Irish have done and why they should be proud to be Irish. Ironically, at a time when 'Diversity, Equity and Inclusion' have become almost a mantra, we are seeing the Irish American experience being airbrushed from the American consciousness. Perhaps a trivial barometer, but I was shocked that none of the national movie networks had any Irish content on St. Patrick's Day or the days leading up to it. This is in stark contrast to how they promote other heritages. The story was similar to the educational channels, at least in my area of tri-state New York.

The message is clear:

- If we, as Hibernians, do not promote our Heritage, no one else will.
- If we do not make passing on our Heritage a mission, our young people will not have a sense of Irish identity.
- Without a sense of Irish identity, our future as an Irish Catholic organization is in peril.



veterans affairs

By Danny Eakins, chairman

Brothers, I hope that your St. Patrick's Day and other Green Season festivities were celebratory and fun. Here in Columbus, we had the most well attended events for our Proclamation Day (the week before St. Patrick's Day) and for the holiday itself. Despite damp, cold and windy weather the public turnout for the parade and the attendance at our city-wide Irish Family Reunion were the largest since prior to the pandemic.

Personal Reflections: Iraq and Vietnam Milestones

There were two important military history commemorations during the month of March. The 20th day of March marked the 20th anniversary of the invasion that began the Iraq War. On the 29th of March the nation observed Vietnam Veterans' Welcome Home Day in the year where we will commemorate the 50th year since the end of America's involvement in the Vietnam War in 1973.

Both wars have significant personal importance to me. My father and fellow Hibernian, Douglas Eakins, is a veteran of Vietnam along with three of my uncles. Our longest and best family friend, and fellow Hibernian, Michael O'Sullivan, served as a Green Beret in Vietnam and was key in guiding my decision to enlist into Army Officer Candidate School. I grew up in a community where most of the men who were Dad's age had also served in or around Vietnam. While that service always had a deep personal meaning to me, that meaning evolved into a deeper understanding as my journey through enlistment into the Army after September 11th, 2001, and subsequent service as a platoon leader in Iraq in 2005, afforded me the privilege and honor of the title "veteran" myself.

My personal and professional pathways as a veteran and advocate have enabled me to better understand and appreciate the full breadth and diversity of the military, veteran, and family experience. In that vein, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all my fellow veterans in our Brotherhood, with a special regard to my comrades-at-arms of the Iraq War, the 9-11 Wars, and the veterans of Vietnam during this milestone year.

Veteran Services Spotlight: Efforts to End Military Retiree Benefits Offsets

Current federal policy imposes an offset where veterans who have retired from the military are required to forfeit all or part of their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability compensation at a dollar-for-dollar rate. For every dollar earned in military retirement, disability compensation is reduced by a dollar. Companion legislation previously introduced to Congress titled the Major Richard Starr Act (H.R.1282 & S.344) sought to provide relief, at least, to those military retirees who were medically discharged for duty-related injuries and for veterans with combat-related disabilities and fewer than 20 years of service (who were medically retired) to receive the full amount of their disability compensation along with their military retirement pay. The legislation was named after Iraq and Afghanistan veteran Army Major Richard Star, who died in 2021 aged 51, from lung cancer acquired during his service as a combat engineer. Since that legislation withered on the vine, 21 national veteran organizations are pressing the current administration to make concurrent receipt relief a policy priority for the fiscal year 2024 Defense Department budget.

Best wishes to you all for a Happy Easter and for a commemorative and reflective Memorial Day on May 29. All members, especially veterans and VA Chairs, are encouraged to participate in National VA Committee meetings held online, generally the third Tuesday of the month, at 7 p.m. ET. Please contact me directly for details. Also, check out the resources listed on the AOH Veterans Affairs website at www.aoh.gov/veterans-affairs. dannyeakins@hotmail.com.



National Board VA Chairman Danny Eakins, right, and Vietnam veteran Doug Eakins at a Memorial Day commemoration in May 2014. Both are members of the Patrick Pearse Division 1, Franklin County, Ohio.



hibernian hunger project

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

Hibernians across the USA are absolutely living by the motto of our Order, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Divisions are addressing hunger in their communities in multifaceted ways. In all, 38 Hibernian Hunger Project applications were received. A big THANK YOU to these 38 Divisions who submitted their Hibernian Hunger applications! The Committee reviewed the applications and again found it very difficult to select this year's recipients because of the scope of all the Hunger Projects. In all, the committee selected three Divisions to receive \$1,000 grants, and 11 Division projects were selected to receive \$500 awards.

Divisions selected to receive \$1,000 grants were: Division 1, Douglas County, NE; Division 5, Bucks County, PA; and Division 1, Oneida County, New York.

Father Flanagan Division 1 of Douglas County, NE Hunger Program centers around Divisions 501c3. The Division over the years has donated to a score of charities. In 2022, Division 1 contributed a total of \$10,500 in meat alone to their community, in addition to canned goods, nonperishable goods and paper products. During 2022 Father Flanagan's Division fed well over 20,000 people. The Division's leadership credits their Hibernian Hunger Project's success to buying food and other products in bulk. In the past 10 years, Division 1 has donated more than \$140,000 in food to the Omaha area. A key to their success: all 125 members of Division 1 participate in some way with their time, talent or treasure to Division 1's Hunger Project.

Division 5 of Bucks County, PA, is in their eighth year operating HOPE 101, which is a 501c3. During 2022, the Division was able to serve guests in person for the first time since the pandemic. A private group, Advocates for the Homeless, has buses that drive those in need to their meal program that is prepared at HOPE 101 by members. Division 5 has partnered with the Mother of Mercy House in Philadelphia, to help supply their food pantry. Mother of Mercy is located in a distressed area of Philadelphia.

Division 1 of Oneida County, NY, in 2022 raised money to feed the hungry in their area through multiple fund raisers, including a raffle, a golf tournament, and a coolers of cheer raffle. To help veterans in their area, a fundraiser, the First Annual Mohawk Valley Guinness Pour Contest, was held. Working with first responders in Oneida County, Division 1 helped feed more than 500 families at Thanksgiving. In addition, Division 1 donated \$4,000 to Central New York's Food Bank, which provided \$28,000 worth of food to the hungry in Oneida!

Divisions selected to receive \$500 grants were: Division 2, Hartford County, CT; Division 2, Saint Louis City County, MO; Division 1, Deer Lodge County, MT; Division 16, Passaic NJ; Division 4, Queens County, NY; Division 1, Saratoga County, NY; Division 1, Jefferson County, NY; Division 1, Medina County, OH; Division 32, Allegheny, County, PA; Division 2, Bucks County, PA; and Father Lynch Division, Roanoke, VA. In future Hibernian Digest articles, we will share how each of these Divisions addressed hunger in their areas.

The next round of Hibernian Hunger Project Awards will cover Division Hunger Projects that will take place between January 1 – December 31, 2023. If you have not already done so, now would be a good time, to plan and implement a Hunger-related event. Why not consider some of these projects that have been accomplished by this year's recipients! You might just need to tweak it some to fit your local needs, and in 2024 your Hunger Project just might be one of the award recipients!

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

Virginia



Standing proud

Brother Hibernians and Brother Paratroopers: LTC (Ret) Cole Slattery, left, past President of the Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Div., Loudoun County, VA, and MAJ (Ret) Keith Kettell, current President of the Herbert /Cady Div. Alexandria, VA, stand proudly before the St. Patrick's Day parade in Old Town Alexandria in early March and meet up again in late March in Palatka, FL, to close out Irish American Heritage Month by jumping from the 80-year-old C-47, Tico Bell. The storied aircraft dropped Paratroopers into Normandy on D-Day June 6, 1944, and again during Operation Market Garden into Holland September 17, 1944. After the war, the Tico Bell flew missions of relief in support of the Berlin Airlift. Presidents Slattery and Kettell served several tours of duty in the 82nd Airborne Division in addition to other Airborne units throughout their military careers.



freedom for all ireland

By *Martin Galvin, Chairman*

Easter Commemoration

Having spoken at Easter Commemorations in Ireland as well as in America, I can tell you there is a major difference. American commemorations center on the 1916 Easter Rising. Irish Commemorations are more focused on Ireland's patriot dead of more recent times.

On Easter Monday I was honored to speak at the commemoration at the Nassau County (NY) Courthouse. The memorial with one large monument surrounded by a number of inscribed stone plaques, is indeed impressive.

Having just returned from Ireland and mindful of the way Easter Monday was being commemorated that day in Tyrone and across the north, I tried to combine both themes.

A seminal event in the Easter Rising had occurred a decade before 1916, when American citizen and Long Island farmer Tom Clarke agreed to return to Ireland as Clan na Gael leader John Devoy's representative, with a mission to unite Republicans and plan a rising. Clarke had already served 15 years in a British prison under brutal conditions. When the Proclamation was being signed the other leaders stepped back and demanded that Clarke's name be above the rest as a sign of his leading role.

Again this past Easter weekend, the 1916 Proclamation had again been read at the graves of Irish patriots who died during the 1969-98 conflict, to signify they had fought and died to achieve the freedom proclaimed over Clarke's name in 1916.

The Good Friday Agreement is being widely celebrated with events marking its 25th anniversary, because the agreement has achieved peace. We join in welcoming the achievement of peace, but we cannot be satisfied until we have freedom for all Ireland.

Among those present were Nassau County AOH President Jack O'Brien, Hibernian Digest Editor John O'Connell, NY State Secretary Tom Beirne, former NY State President Jim Burke and former State FFAI Chair Tim Myles.

Hibernian Grants

The AOH followed a busy St. Patrick's week of key meetings with Irish and British

political leaders in Washington and New York by presenting Christmas Appeal grants in Ireland. This year, the AOH set a new record with members contributing more than \$160,000.

These presentations followed a St. Patrick's Day week in which the AOH hosted Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and voiced crucial concerns about the pending British amnesty bill in meetings with Irish and British officials and six county party leaders.

Each of those groups spoke about how much our AOH contributions mean to them and their work. Our financial grants are important to them, but it is also the morale boost that Irish America is behind them and that we are a voice for them in Washington.

New York



FFAI Award

National FFAI Committee member Bob Bollbach presented an award in recognition of Msgr. Sheahan Division 1 Dutchess County's \$1,000 donation to last year's Christmas Appeal. From left, the Hon. Judge Stephen O' Hare, Past President; Bob Bollbach, FFAI National Committee Member; and James Smyth, President of the Msgr. Sheahan Division.

Grants

AOH presents FFAI grants in Belfast

Nineteen groups from across the six counties joined at the Houben Centre, in Belfast, on April 1, to receive Christmas Appeal grants.

Opened

AOH National President Danny O'Connell, after landing in Ireland that morning, opened the event by saying "the AOH is here today distributing a record shattering \$160,000, contributed by AOH members across the United States in a special Christmas Appeal to support work for Freedom for all Ireland.

"When we raised \$100,000 a year ago people said it would never happen again. Our members said it would never happen again because we will be raising much higher amounts and this year is the first example of what they meant!"

He then called Freedom for all Ireland Chairman Martin Galvin, who began by saying: "We are able to award these grants because of the inspiration you give us in America. Our members hear you and see the work you do for Freedom for all Ireland, and want to stand behind you, whether by being a voice for you in Washington or standing behind you financially as we do today."

Voice in Washington

Relatives for Justice, the first grant recipient called upon, was represented by Mark Thompson, who said: "We see the British pushing through an amnesty bill of shame and it means so much to know that the AOH is behind us in Washington, able to get Congressional and Senate support for us as well as making donations that are vital to what RfJ does."

Next, Maeve McLaughlin, of the Bloody Sunday Trust, said, "The Bloody Sunday Families have spent decades fighting for justice. The AOH has been with us for much of that fight and we welcome your help and support today."

Frankie Quinn, of EALU (meaning Escape), a Tyrone support group for former

political prisoners described the vital job training and counseling EALU is able to provide for ex-prisoners with AOH help.

Joe Austin accepted the grant for Belfast National Graves and said, "It is especially important during Easter Week that the families of Irish patriots see that the graves and memory of their fallen loved ones is honored and AOH contribution is a major help to us."

Niall Murphy, for Ireland's Future said: "I have personally admired the work, solidarity and understanding of the AOH. Your financial and political help can be a major boost in securing and winning a referendum for Irish reunification."

Joe Doherty

Perhaps the loudest cheer came when the representative of the Greater New Lodge Cultural was introduced, "as the man who had a New York street named for him while inside a New York prison, Joe Doherty." Joe Doherty talked about the impact of years of struggle on New Lodge and the work his group does particularly with young people in the area.

Bogside artist Tom Kelly said the AOH donation will help preserve the iconic political murals in Derry's Bogside.

Awards

Other successful grant recipients were Tyrone National Graves, Ballymurphy Massacre Campaign, St. Patrick Centre, Green Cross, the O'Neill-Allsopp Memorial Band, Duchas-Oriall, Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation, the Witness Project and cross-community groups, including Bridges Beyond Boxing, Omagh Choir, and Omagh Thunder Basketball.

Fr. Gary Donegan, whose Passionate Peace and Reconciliation Centre hosted the event, was the final recipient and talked about working for reconciliation in Ardoyne. Others who traveled to the Houben Centre for the event included Malachy McAllister, New York State President John Manning, New York State FFAI Chair Vince Tyer and former State Director Brian Kelly.



Danny O'Connell and Fr. Gary Donegan.



Malachy McAllister presented a check to Bridges Beyond Boxing.



immigration

By Tom Lambert, chairman

I hope that the Saint Patrick's Day season and Easter were enjoyable for all. We are now well into the 118th Congress, but unfortunately, there has been no progress on Immigration. As you are aware, the Ancient Order of Hibernians has continued to push very hard for a revision of the current E3 Visa to allow approximately 5,000 unused visas, from the 10,500 visas previously allocated to Australia, to be reallocated to Ireland on an annual basis. It was hoped that such a revision would be agreed to during this past "lame duck" session of Congress. This did not occur. It was then hoped that action would occur during the current Congress. However, immigration issues have not been successfully dealt with during either session.

As Hibernians, we have learned to be patient. However, our patience is being tested. Patience remains the watchword on the immigration front. Although continued patience in this area is difficult, we as Hibernians need to hang tough for a while longer. We have no choice! We must still have hope that we may see immigration bills passed before the end of the year.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians continues to work with our elected leaders in Washington to maintain a "vital relationship" with the Irish government. Recently, the AOH and Irish Central hosted Taoiseach Leo Varadkar in Washington, D.C. during St. Patrick's Day week. The AOH also hosted many of our nation's Congressional leaders during the same week. Our work continues!

Lastly, if your Division, County or State has yet to have prepared an updated Form 9, please do so ASAP and submit it to our National Secretary. Please don't forget to include Officers for all positions, including Immigration. I would be happy to work with any local Immigration Chair. Please contact me at TomLambert12@aol.com with any comments or questions.



political education

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

As Hibernians, we have a proud tradition of advocating for Irish American interests and values. It is what distinguishes us from so many other fraternal and ethnic organizations. However, to continue this work and achieve our goals, it is essential for you as a member to be involved.

Belief without action is like pondering, "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" perhaps an interesting mental exercise, but in the end, achieving nothing. We need to make our voices heard beyond our Division meetings, where we are preaching to the choir. Facebook outrage may make you feel good for a moment, but it soon passes and achieves nothing.

As an AOH member, you have a unique perspective and a valuable contribution to make to political discussions. By getting involved in political advocacy, you can ensure that your voice is heard and your views are taken into account by elected officials and policymakers.

Involvement in political action not only raises awareness of important issues but also of the Hibernians. It shows that we are a relevant and vibrant organization that is living and relevant in the 21st century.

As a first, but hopefully not the last step, I ask you to please take no more than five minutes to answer our call to action that uses our new advocacy platform. We have already seen tremendous results, and I thank the Brothers who have participated. However, our numbers are below what we should see from an organization our size.

Brothers, we have many examples in our society of small but active groups shaping government policy; if we are not active in promoting our own Irish, Catholic and American interests, then no one else will.

The At-Large membership update

By Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer

We will be having our own state conventions this year and one item we may want to discuss is reaching out to those in the outlying areas who may want to join the AOH. This would be a great challenge for your state organizer take on during his term. We can assist those organizers by working with them on getting new At Large members brought in who may help them get divisions started.

As I have mentioned before, the At Large program was created to allow eligible candidates to join the Order even though they live outside a 50-mile radius from an existing division. One division in Kansas was formed in 2022, entirely made up of At Large members.

We currently have 68 At Large members from all over the United States. Although we like to see the ranks grow, we are even more pleased when these become members of divisions.



Irish way & study abroad

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

As we look to the future, whether it be the summer of 2023 or the next school academic year of 2023-2024, we have hope and great promise. With the pandemic gradually fading into the background, it is time for many to think about what opportunities lie ahead. One opportunity that one should give some serious thought to is the scholarship initiatives that the AOH National Board offers.

The Irish Way High School Program offers an excellent opportunity for high school students to study in Ireland during the summer. The program consists of a wide variety of classes, workshops and tours. This summer's program will take place from June 30-July 24. The AOH National Board offers a \$1,000 Irish Way Scholarship for a child and grandchild of an AOH member, as well as to an AOH member who is attending high school. More information on this scholarship, and the Irish Way, can be found on our AOH National Website under Scholarships.

For college students thinking of studying abroad in Ireland anytime in 2023 or 2024, we encourage you to take advantage of the scholarship opportunities that our National Board offers. The National Board offers two \$2,000 study abroad scholarships for a full year of study in Ireland, and \$1,000 for one semester of study in Ireland. Check out the AOH National Board website under Scholarships for a scholarship application and other pertinent information on studying in Ireland at the undergraduate and graduate level. These scholarships are for the children and grandchildren of AOH members, and for AOH members enrolled in a college program. Please note: our college scholarships are open-ended until filled.

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



rituals & degrees

By Jack Schneider, chairman

Our National Major Degree Program has gotten off to a good start in 2023.

The Brian Boru Major Degree Team of Virginia kicked off the 2023 Major Degree Season with an exemplification of the Lessons of the Order in Fairfax, VA, on Saturday, January 28, 2023. Thirteen Brothers had the Major Degrees conferred upon them at this ceremony.

The Schenectady Major Degree Team of New York then followed up the ensuing weekend with a very well attended Major Degree at the CDIAA AOH Clubhouse in Albany, New York, hosted by the Fr. Henry Tansey Division 5. Brother candidates and observers traveled from as far as Massachusetts and New Hampshire braving cold and bitter temperatures to be a part of this Degree ceremony. An outstanding total of 53 candidates were welcomed into the Inner Chamber of the Hibernian Brotherhood through the efforts of the Schenectady Team on this day. Shout out to National Director Tim McSweeney for his tireless efforts in promoting this very successful Degree event.

On March 28, I had the pleasure of joining our Worthy National Vice President Sean Pender for a dinner meeting in Flourtown, PA, coincident with his travel to the National Office. We had a very productive encounter discussing various Rituals and Degrees related topics mapping out our goals and objectives for 2023 in our continuing efforts to streamline and improve all aspects of our Ritual activities.

By the time you receive this Edition in May, several more Major Degrees will have taken place according to the current schedule.

The Isle of Erin Major Degree Team of Montgomery County, PA, will celebrate their 100th Major Degree Exemplification on Saturday, April 15, 2023, in Bridgeport, PA, in what is expected to be a very well attended ceremony given this historic milestone.

On Saturday, April 22, there will be two Major Degrees nationally. The Tri Abhainn Major Degree Team of Allegheny County, PA, will travel out of state to Wheeling, WV, to bring the Lessons of the Order to our Brothers there. The Copper Kings of Montana MDT will hit the road to Great Falls, MT, on the same date.

We look forward to receiving more detailed information related to the upcoming schedule of Major Degrees to be exemplified at our various State Conventions this summer and fall as our teams finalize details with the Host Convention Committees with regard to specific date, times and venues. I request all Major Degree Team Chairmen to please pass along your State Convention Degree schedule once all details are finalized for inclusion in the next Hibernian Digest Edition.

Upcoming Major Degrees of the Order

Saturday, July 22, 2023, Noon - Pennsylvania State Convention Major Degree. Johnstown Conference Center, 301 Napoleon Street, Johnstown, PA. Tri Abhainn Major Degree Team of Allegheny County PA exemplifying. Candidates and Observers are urged to pre-register at www.2023johnstownconvention.com.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!



charities & missions

By Patrick Ryan, chairman



I hope you all had a wonderful, blessed Easter! I trust that each and every one of you had a wonderful Lenten season and now Easter season. We continue to remember the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and how the charitable works we do directly corresponds with His teachings. One of the biggest and most important ways we can help is to support our clergy.

Without them we do not have a Church. Again, we ask for your support for seminarians with our Easter Appeal benefitting Project St. Patrick. You can simply scan the QR code with your phone and it will take you directly to our giving platform, or go to www.aoh.com and click the green button at the top – Donate to the Hibernian Charity. This site is completely secure and goes straight to the Charity.

We are still gathering and collating all the great works your Division, County and State has done this past year via the Annual Events Report – if you have not yet sent in your report please do so! This report is very important for several reasons: 1. It is required by the IRS for us to fill out. 2. We need this information to help us to better direct our efforts and funds to the events that impact us. 3. It helps you to better know your own direction of giving and level of support your Division gives to each other and to the community and thus you know where you could improve. I know this seems like a daunting task and it really shouldn't as you can go over your yearly calendar and look through the events you have done and the funds you have given. We don't ask for perfection, just a good effort. In my Division, we have started the process by completing the Single Event Report and collecting them and then at the end use these reports to complete the Annual Event Report. This is why it is important to have a Charity & Missions Chair as it is this person's responsibility to document each event and then collate them at the end of the year and turn this report in on a timely basis.

I am always here to help and I have a new email address dedicated to solely for Hibernian use: aoh.patrick.ryan68@gmail.com. I look forward to answering your questions about the Easter Appeal or help with filling out the Annual Events Report. Have a wonderful Spring, take time to relax and reflect and help support your Brothers with your charitable gift. We have Brother CPAs and CFAs available if you wish to discuss a major gift or want to include the Hibernian Charity as part of your estate planning.



pro life

By Larry Squires, chairman

Dearly beloved brothers, in Christ, Jesus and St. Patrick, Jesus Christ is truly risen; He is truly risen. Alleluia!

This year, due to a bout with A-Fib, I spent almost the entire Holy Week in the hospital. I'm fine now, so there's nothing to worry about, but it did give me a lot of time to contemplate several life issues. For one thing, it was the first time that I had been admitted to an emergency room, and they asked what level of effort should be put forth to revive me, should I pass away under their care. Did I want to be resuscitated, to what degree did I want to depend on machines, and other important information, relying on the use of technology to possibly extend my life. It was the first time I had to deal with end-of-life issues in the first party. Consequently, if you don't already have a Living Will, it is a good idea to have one completed, or added to your existing will.

Although not quite as controversial as abortion, End of Life situations are being dealt with very differently across the United States. There are currently 11 states that offer assisted suicide. Frequently, economic, social, independence, chronic pain, becoming a burden, and other issues not mentioned arise when dealing with natural end of life situations, especially with the elderly and disabled. According to Catholic teachings, only God has the right to determine when someone's natural life on earth comes to an end. In addition to being a direct violation of the Fifth Commandment, Thou Shalt Not Kill, it also violates the Fourth Commandment, Honor Thy Mother and Thy Father. Not having Social Security, Medicare, 401k's, and Pensions, the Fourth Commandment was written for the Israelites, who had to maintain the life of their elderly parents, with dignity, even though they may have become a burden.

Towards the end of my stay in the hospital, I was able to watch a technician create an analytic video of my beating heart. I was in complete amazement, as I watched my heart, that began beating in my mother's womb. Watching the monitor made me think about the heartbeat laws that have been passed in many states. To actually see the heart beating inside the chest of someone, whether they're born or unborn, is absolutely magnificent, and you can almost see the hand of God at work making the heart beat every single time. The experience also made me think about laws that have been proposed to force abortion clinics to show the abortive mother a sonogram of her live baby inside her womb. How could anyone face-to-face with her unborn child, see the unborn child's beating heart, and still decide to end that life.

Hopefully you all enjoy a great State convention season, and hopefully all State Boards will appoint Pro Life Chairman, and those states will promote appointment of County Pro Life chairs, and those counties will promote the assignment of Pro Life Chairs at every Division. Only with true Catholic teachings and thorough education can we offset the barrage of false teachings being propagated by media of all sorts. If you're a Pro Life Chair, and not currently on the National Pro Life Team, send me an email at lspttcmf@gmail.com and we will add you to the monthly Pro Life Zoom Meeting that normally takes place at 7 a.m. EST, the Monday or Tuesday before a First Friday. May God bless everyone. — In Our Motto, Larry.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!



catholic action

By Pat Lally, chairman

Given what has been going on in the healthcare field of late, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has recently given us some timely guidance. On March 15, the Conference's administrative arm released a "Doctrinal Note on the Moral Limits to Technological Manipulation of the Human Body." The 14-page document was prepared by the Conference's Committee on Doctrine, chaired by the Most Reverend Daniel Flores, Bishop of Brownsville. In its preparation, the bishops sought the advice of numerous parties, including medical ethicists, doctors, psychologists and moral theologians. Though the document is primarily directed to healthcare professionals, it is also a useful guide to all of us trying to navigate our healthcare system.

The bishops note that today medical practice has at its disposal an amazing range of options, unfortunately, not all of which are moral goods, at least in all circumstances. To aid in discernment here, they lead us through a quick review of some basic truths.

"A fundamental tenet of the Christian faith is that there is an order in the natural world that was designed by its Creator and that this order is good." This is especially true of humans, made in the image and likeness of God. Respect for human dignity requires that decisions made about the use of medical technology must be guided by the natural order. Two crucial aspects of the natural order for humans are that the body is an intrinsic part of the human person — and not simply a machine being used by the soul — and that

our bodiliness is intrinsically connected with sexual differentiation. "Male and female He created them (Genesis 1:27)." This is not then a changeable individual choice. To think so is to usurp the role of the Creator; indeed, adopting this attitude regarding sexual identity easily spills over into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over all of creation.

The Church's moral tradition recognizes two situations in which technological intervention on the human body may be morally justified. One is to repair a defect in the body. We are obliged to use ordinary means to preserve health. Intervention in these circumstances is not without limits: the obligation to intervene no longer holds when the benefits of intervention are no longer proportionate to the burdens involved.

The second situation arises when it is necessary to sacrifice a body part for the wellbeing of the whole body. We may not wantonly destroy or mutilate the body, but there are situations when the welfare of the body as a whole warrants the destruction or removal of part of it.

However, we are faced today with attempts, not to repair the human body or to preserve its general wellbeing, but to fundamentally alter it, in a way which flies in the face of the truths outlined above. Some such attempts are only in experimental stages, e.g., non-therapeutic manipulation of human genetic material or "cybernetic enhancement." But there is one type which is widely practiced today, indeed, seems to be almost a healthcare fad, and that is the attempt, by chemical or surgical means, to change human gender in response to "gender dysphoria" or "gender incongruence."

Our bishops are forthright in saying that these practices have no place in a Catholic healthcare system. Technology must respect the fundamental order of creation. We may not substitute ourselves for the Creator.

The bishops' statement may be accessed at www.usccb.org.

Deadline for articles for the June-July issue of the Hibernian Digest is no later than June 1.



history report

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.
National Historian

A Foul Oath

The role of the British Monarchy, according to the Monarchy, is to serve as a “focus for national identity, unity and pride...” (<https://www.royal.uk/role-monarchy>). This put Albert Edward of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in a bit of a spot in 1901, as he contemplated his coronation as Edward VII. Edward had become the “focus of national unity” upon the death of Queen Victoria on January 22, 1901, and, by happenstance of birth, would be crowned, “by the Grace of God” as King of the “United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.”

As required by law, Edward would solemnly declare “that in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper there is not any transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ ...and that the ...adoration of the Virgin Mary ... and the Sacrifice of the Mass, as they are now used in the Church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous.” What better way to unify the nation than to denigrate the religious faith of several million of his Majesties’ “idolatrous” Irish-Catholics subjects. Edward, crowned on August 9, 1902, had the common sense to be reluctant to say the quiet part out loud, but say it he did after Parliament failed to pass an act removing the anti-Catholic language. The record of the 1901 debate in Parliament, a remarkable testament to the entrenched bigotry of the British establishment, includes a gem of a rhetorical question posed by Patrick O’Brien, Member for Kilkenny, who asked Lord Balfour: “Would the right honorable Gentleman have any objection to having a copy of the ... oath sent to Irish Catholic soldiers now serving in South Africa?”

The declaration was finally altered before the coronation George V, in 1911, but while the quiet part is no longer said out loud, the role of Head of State of the United Kingdom is still off limits to Catholics. The British Constitution specifically requires that Monarch may not be a Catholic or even married to one.

In 2011, the “Mother of Parliaments” “modernized” the law to allow the Monarch to be married to a Catholic (but not be one), because, as Prime Minister Cameron proudly declared, “after all, [the Monarch] is free to marry someone of any other faith.” Apologists justify excluding Catholics by noting that the Monarch is also the head of the established Church of England. This of course is why our Constitution includes the First Amendment (“Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion....”).

The Monarch, the argument goes, is merely a figurehead and the Prime Minister is the head of Government, so no harm no foul if Catholics are excluded. And yet the Prime Minister too has a legal role in the established church, recommending Bishops for appointment by the Monarch, and it is a crime for a Roman Catholic to advise the Monarch on any appointment in the established church. Tony Blair, notably, converted to Catholicism only after he left office, not wishing to provoke a constitutional crisis. When Boris Johnson became the first Catholic Prime Minister, British constitutional experts provided the solution – Johnson would have to delegate responsibility for church appointments to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Current Prime Minister Sunak, a Hindu, on the other hand, is free to weigh in on such appointments, given that he is not Catholic.

Next month, as anachronistic spectacles unfold in London, we should be grateful that we live, by the Grace of God, in a Constitutional Democracy, in which the 14th amendment to our Constitution provides that no state shall deny any person, of any religion, “the equal protection of the laws.”

Please support
Project St. Patrick!



project st. patrick

Ron Hagan, Chairman

As we continue to work on our 2023 Project St. Patrick Easter Appeal, we are witnessing the success of our 2022 Easter Appeal. The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America distributed 67 Project St. Patrick \$500 Grants for a total U.S. donation of \$33,500. The LAOH also funded 20 grants this year, with the combined Hibernian effort supporting 87 young seminarians and religious as they discern their call to vocations. These grants demonstrate to those called to vocations that the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America continues the commitment to our Clergy that we established in 1836 when we were founded.

The AOH has also provided a \$23,000 Project St. Patrick donation to the seminarians of St. Patrick Seminary, Maynooth, Ireland, to support their upcoming pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Currently, St. Patrick’s Seminary is Ireland’s only active Seminary and has 20 seminarians. President O’Connell stated that “most Irish Catholics in America have been blessed with knowing a priest from Ireland. As Hibernians, we are now repaying the priests that have severed Irish America and the Lord by assisting the future clergy in Ireland.”

St. Patrick’s National Seminary website reported that “On Monday, 3rd April, the Seminary was delighted to host a visit by Mr. Daniel J. O’Connell (National President, The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America) and Mr. John J. Manning (New York State President, The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America) during which Mr. O’Connell made a presentation of a donation towards the formation of seminarians for the diocesan priesthood in Ireland. They met with the President of St Patrick’s College, Rev. Professor Michael Mullaney, and with Fr. Tomás Surlis and members of the Community of Formators in the National Seminary. They also met with three of our seminarians: Anthony Hartnett (Raphoe), Jordan MacGabhann (Kilmore) and Seán Murphy (Kerry) who spoke on behalf of the Seminary Community to express the gratitude of the seminarians for the support of the AOH they continue their preparation for priestly service in Ireland today.”

Donations to the Project St. Patrick can be made by following the link on WWW.AOH.COM.



Rev. Professor Michael Mullaney, President of St. Patrick’s College, with Danny O’Connell as he presents the Project St. Patrick’s Donation to Fr. Tomás Surlis, Rector.



Illinois



Hibernian Bishop supports the Order
Bishop Michael McGovern, Bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, IL., and a member of Chicago Division 59, joins the members of St. Clair County, IL. Division 1 at their annual St. Patrick’s Day dinner at their March meeting. He reported on his three years as Bishop of Belleville. He also spoke on the establishment of a maternity fund to assist expectant and new mothers and the response to the prospective seminarian dinners and educational sessions he started after arriving in the diocese. The Bishop also joined the Division members for the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Rhode Island

By Austin Behan

The Newport, Dennis E. Collins Division 1 hosted their annual Christmas Ball at their hall on December 10. In the spirit of Christian Charity, the division also hosted a sock drive and collected toys for donations to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Community Center, to help kids in the community have a wonderful Christmas. The mass was well attended with family and friends. The Division was happy to see everyone back celebrating mass at the hall after three years.

The AOH Golf League has also been extremely busy as they collected \$2,090 in donations from their 60 golfers in the 2022 golf season. This year they supported the charities: Operation Stand Down, Lucy's Hearth, St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph's Church, and the Providence Veterans Memorial. Since 2013 the Golf League has donated \$12,625 to various local charities and organizations.

The Newport Dennis E. Collins Division installed their Division officers for 2023. On January 6, State President Tim Burns performed the installation ceremony with State Directors David Behan and Charlie Masterson as marshals. Congratulations to the following brothers on their election: President Bill Cardinal, Vice President Austin Behan, Recording Secretary Brian Doyle, Treasurer Mike Brown, Financial Secretary David Kane, Marshal Conor O'Neill, Sentinel Timothy Wein and Standing Committee Chairman Patrick O'Neill. Specials thanks to Immediate Past President Kevin Doyle for his leadership over the last few years.



State President Tim Burns with the newly elected officers Brian Doyle, Austin Behan, David Kane, Bill Cardinal, Mike Brown, Patrick O'Neill, Conor O'Neill, and Tim Wein.. Photo Charlie Masterson.

Delaware



Cathy Jones representing the St. Brigid Division of the Ladies AOH, Delaware Governor John Carney, center, and Brian J. Phelan of the Cpl. Bernard McCarren Division.

Irish American Heritage Month in Delaware

On March 16, various Irish American groups, including the AOH and the Ladies AOH, were present at Delaware Governor John Carney's office in Dover as the Governor signed a proclamation declaring March to be Irish American Heritage Month in the First State. The Governor spoke of how his ancestors immigrated from Ireland to Carbondale, Pennsylvania, to work in the coal mining industry. They eventually opened a General Store, which was in operation for several generations in that locality.

Shortly thereafter several guests went across the hall to be present in the gallery of the Delaware General Assembly when House Concurrent Resolution 25, Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and Celebration of St. Patrick's Day, passed in the House by voice vote. The resolution was sponsored by State Representative Sean M. Lynn and State Senator Jack Walsh. The Irish Tricolor, supplied by Seanad Éireann, flew over Legislative Hall in honor of the day's festivities.

Alabama

Father Treacy Division as Color Guard for 46th Huntsville St. Patrick's Day Parade

In January 2022, the Father Treacy division had the honor of hosting Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, the Irish Echo Publisher and former Lord Mayor of Belfast, to meet with our division in Huntsville, but also to meet with civil rights leaders for a story he was working on. At that time, our division introduced him to Sonnie Hereford IV who has been instrumental in carrying on the parade as well as was the first black child to integrate the schools in Alabama in the 1960s.

Subsequently, Mr. Muilleoir invited Sonnie to speak at the 2022 Big Irish Campfire. This past fall as we were starting preparations for the 46th Huntsville St. Patrick's Parade, Sonnie reached out to Mr. Muilleoir to see if he would accept being Grand Marshal, which he did indeed. Then the planning was on to connect Mr. Muilleoir with the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, local endeavors to include the elementary school named after Sonnie's father, and of course to prepare for the parade as well as driving Mr. Muilleoir down to Birmingham for their 43rd annual St. Patrick Dinner Celebration raising funds for a local children's charity.

Our division is always humble, honored and grateful to be the official color guard carrying the flags that are blessed in front of St. Mary's Church, which is the one point in the parade where the Police Department allows the parade to stop for the Father at St. Mary's Catholic Church to bless the flags and the parade. This year, although not in the picture, Mr. Muilleoir got out of his Grand Marshal car and knelt with the brothers as Fr. Joy Thomas Nelissery gave a very moving blessing and then for the first time, came around the banner to be part of the picture in the parade as he and previous priests have been instrumental in centering the parade around the glorious apostle of Ireland, St. Patrick himself. To top it off, our Brother Gordon Keene, who has dressed as St. Patrick for over a decade but has been unable to participate in recent years due to health, was in the picture and in the parade on a scooter dressed as St. Patrick!

Mr. Muilleoir truly added to the fun festivities leading up to the parade, during the parade, and after the parade making the 46th annual parade one to remember!



Fr. Treacy Division with Fr. Joy Thomas Nelissery. Photo Jeff White



Fr. Treacy Division - 2023 Blessings of the Flags by Fr. Joy Thomas Nelissery. Photo Jeff White

California



Hibernians support vocations

Dr. Ronn Knowles, Past President of the Orange County California Division 1, presented a \$3,000 vocations check to the Religious Brothers of St. Patrick in Midway City, California. Thanks to our members generous contributions, Division 1 has donated \$5,500 this year to the vocations outreach program of the Brothers of St. Patrick. For more than 60 years, the Brothers have provided a meeting place for the division.

Colorado



Supporting Denver's St. Patrick's Parade

Members of the Michael Collins Division, Denver, presented a check to Denver St. Patrick's Parade chairman Mike O'Neill on Feb. 17. From left, Treasurer Michael Collins, President Tim Henning, Mike O'Neill and VP John Aylward. AOH Colorado organized the very first Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1908. This year's parade attracted more than 200,000 spectators.

Iowa



Jim Duffy and Shannon Maher presented a check for \$3,000 to Martin Flaherty, Principal of Holy Family School in Des Moines. Holy Family serves five parishes in Des Moines. The school has approximately 250 students made up of kids from 15 different countries. English is taught as a second language to most students. Seventy-five percent are first generation Americans. — Submitted by John Langin, Financial

Colorado

Fifty years a Hibernian!

Brother Patrick Maguire, left, received his 50-year AOH pin from Brother Jim Chappell, president of the Fr. Carrigan Division at a St. Patrick's Day celebratory event at the Celtic on Market in Denver to commemorate Maguire's 50 years of service to the AOH. Brother Maguire first joined the Rahway, New Jersey, Division in March of 1973, then founded the St. Patrick's Division in Adrian, Michigan, in 1985, and is currently establishing a new division in Arapahoe County, Colorado. The day's events included celebrating his wife Angela's St. Patrick's Day birthday. While Maguire is from Co. Louth, his wife Angela is from Co. Mayo, and the owner of the Celtic on Market, also a Hibernian, Noel Hickey, hails from Co. Galway. Brother Noel was the Grand Marshal of the 2023 Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade. — Submitted by Aidan O'Shea, Fr. Carrigan Division.



Patrick Maguire, left, received his 50-year AOH pin from Division President Jim Chappell.

Florida

Irish American-Heritage Month Proclamations

As of March 31st, Florida received 76 Irish American-Heritage Month Proclamations (63 city, 12 county, and 1 state). For 2023, the Florida State Board is hoping to increase that amount by 25 percent with an increase in the number of formal request letters sent to local and county governments. For each of the proclamations received, the State Board will send a formal Thank You letter and a signed Certificate of Appreciation to each of the contributing county and city governments. When accepting the proclamations in person, our brothers spoke about Hibernian appreciation for their participation in this worthy endeavor and in recognizing the importance of our Irish forebears in contributing significantly in areas such as education, business, sports, literature, science, engineering, medicine, law enforcement and the arts. Below is a copy of the Irish American Heritage Proclamation issued by Governor Ron DeSantis for the State of Florida.



Fifty-year Hibernian Patrick Maguire, left, Noel Hickey and Angela Maguire.

New York



Hibernian of the Year
 Son of Ireland Division (Hornell, NY) Hibernian of the Year Award was presented to the outstanding member of our division nominated by the members. Outgoing president Mark VanDurme, left, and Hibernian of the Year David Weyand. — Submitted by Jerry McAneney.



Sons of Ireland scholarships
 The 2022 scholarship winners at Hornell, NY's annual Sons of Ireland division's president's dinner held on January 7. From left, Mark Kelly, elected president; scholarship winners Vince McAneney, Nick Oyer, Ryann Donlon and outgoing president Mark VanDurme.



Toys for Tots
 On December 11, 2022, Division 18, Peekskill, held its annual Christmas Party. It was well attended. At this party, a collection was made for the USMC Toys for Tots Program. A total of 40 toys were collected for the less fortunate children in the Westchester Area. The Marines were very appreciative of our toy donation.



Joe Brady honored
 On February 26, the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade committee held its annual Grand Marshal Installation Dinner at Antun's in Queens. One of the Grand Marshal's Aides is a member of Division 18, Peekskill Piper Joe Brady, center, with parade leaders Hilary Beirne, left, and Sean Lane. He was named Aide at Large by the committee for his years of service leading the parade in front of the Fighting 69th Regiment. This is a great honor bestowed upon him.



Fighting hunger in rural Allegany County
 The Brotherhood of the Trinity, Allegany County (NY) Division 1 President Matthew Cannon, left, presented Jim Campbell, Director of the Catholic Charities Joyce Family Outreach Center, with \$1,000 of food cards in Wellsville, NY. Division 1 has been a strong supporter of the local food bank for the last 10 years, which serves more than 2,000 individuals needing food in rural Allegany County, in Western New York State. Main AOH fundraisers for the Division are our early June Irish Road Bowling Tournament in Andover and our September Fall Car Show in Wellsville, which attracts more than 235 classic cars. Our growing AOH Irish Road Bowling Event is now in its 10th year at our Kilbane Road Course. We also have our 1st Annual "Shortest" Saint Patrick's Day parade in Wellsville on March 17 with a 12-foot parade route.



Division sponsors 'shortest' parade
 The Brotherhood of the Trinity AOH Division sponsored the first annual "shortest" St. Patrick's Day parade — 12 ft. — in downtown Wellsville, NY. LAOH Sister Alice Roach, 92, was our inaugural Grand Marshal! She is the retired principal from our local ICS Catholic School in Wellsville. This was the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in Allegany County, NY (rural western NY state) and our Allegany County Division 1 was the proud sponsor of this great parade! This will be an annual event for our Division! We had our Brothers and Sisters from the Steuben County NY Sons and Daughters of Erin also march with us in our parade! It was a great day to be Irish!



Pennsylvania



Honoring Medal of Honor Recipients
The Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 held a memorial service and wreath laying at the Historical Lackawanna County Courthouse in memory of our two Medal of Honor recipients John Delaney and Patrick Delacey. Both fought in the Civil War. Their heroism was incredible and should never be forgotten. March gives us an opportunity to celebrate their love for their country and celebrate their Irish heritage. All veterans should be thanked for their service. From left, U.S. Army veteran and past Man of the Year John Fletcher, Joseph Holland, Bob McAndrew, 2023 Man of the Year Kevin P. Donovan, President Patrick O'Malley, Don Boyle, Mike Robinson and Rob Fletcher.



Remembering Bloody Sunday
On January 29, the AOH and LAOH of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, held their annual vigil to remember the victims and their families of Bloody Sunday. Replica crosses with the names of the deceased were made by AOH Brother Paul Donovan. Besides the AOH members, the vigil was attended by members of numerous Irish organizations from Scranton and Lackawanna County.



Successful State Board meeting
More than 60 brothers attended our Pennsylvania State Board meeting on February 11 at which Brother Ryan Mullaney, right, FFAI chairman, presented a check to State President Ed Dougherty for more than \$1,000 for Freedom For All Ireland.



Catholic scholarships awarded
Divisions 2 and 5, Bucks County, held their Annual Irish Festival at The American Legion Post, Levittown, PA, in October. In addition to enjoying Irish music, food and refreshments, Division 2 was proud to recognize their 2022 Scholarship winners. Fourteen Bucks County students received \$14,500 in scholarships to their Catholic High School for the 2022-2023 school year. The winners were: James Esposito, Kayleigh O'Shea, Mairead McGinley, Eveleen McGinley, Jacob Stewart, Keenan Stahl, Niamh Cole, Sinead Cole, Grace Kravcak, Isabella Petrillo, Brian Michael Baill, Katharine Brennan, Gabriella Byrd, Mason Burghart. Sinead Cole was the \$1,500 Casey-Burns Scholarship winner. — Mike Shields, Treasurer, Div. 2, Newtown, PA.



From left, Vice President Mike Robinson, John Fletcher 2022 past Man of the Year, Father Richard Fox Division Chaplain and 2020 and 2021 past Man of the Year, Rob Sherry Financial Secretary and Shillelagh award recipient, Kevin P. Donovan Secretary and 2023 Man of the Year, Joseph Holland Treasurer and Charter President Patrick M. O'Malley. The Division is celebrating its 20th anniversary this September.

O'Malley Division 4 holds Man of the Year Dinner

It was a great honor for the Paul 'Hook' O'Malley Division 4 to present the Man of the Year award to Kevin P. Donovan. He has been an AOH member for more than 30 years, and is currently secretary on the executive board of the division and is involved in all of

our charitable endeavors.

Also, Rob Sherry was presented with the Unsung Hero Shillelagh award. Rob is a great contributor to our division. Both Kevin and Rob are great fathers and care deeply about our community and country.

Connecticut

Bridgeport Hibernian Honored in Rome

The Congregation for Clergy in Rome has appointed the Reverend Msgr. Thomas W. Powers, a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport and currently vicar general of the diocese, as the 24th rector of the Pontifical North American College. The appointment of Msgr. Powers came upon the completion of a six-year term of the previous rector, the Very Reverend Peter Harman. Monsignor Powers is a member of the John F. Kennedy Division of Bridgeport.

Monsignor Powers grew up in Newtown, Conn. He attended Immaculate High School in Danbury, Conn., and the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., where he earned a degree in economics.

Monsignor Powers is also well known by Danbury Hibernians for his participation in their Theology on Tap program which is chaired by Martin Tuite.

State President Brian O'Neill announced the dates for the 2023 Connecticut AOH State Convention from Friday, October 20, with an Ice Breaker Night and Reception, and Saturday, October 21, with business meetings, elections and evening banquet. The Stamford Hibernian Hall and Division will be the host once again.

It is sad to note the passing of three notable Hibernians since the last issue of the Digest:

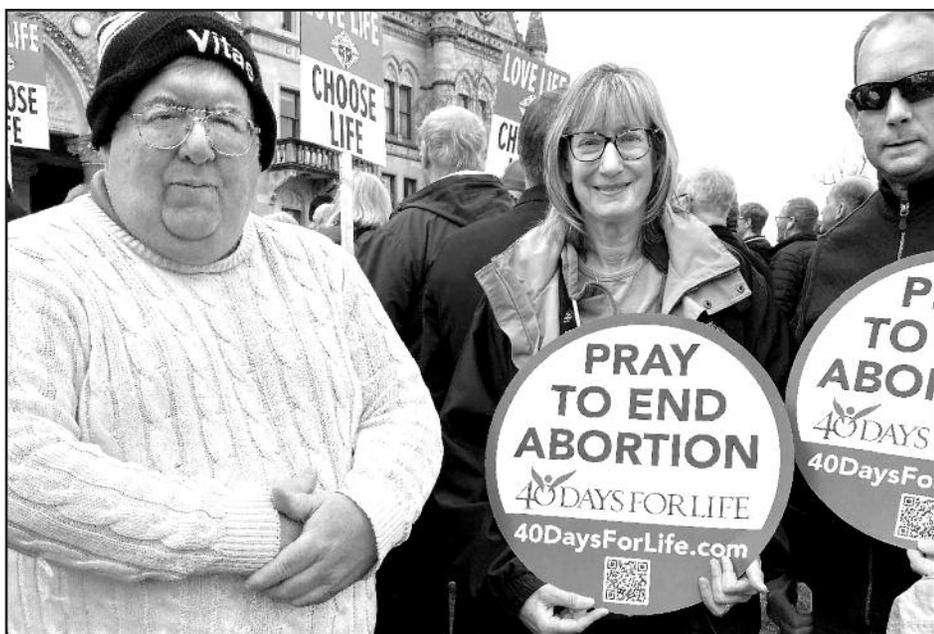
The Waterbury AOH lost founding member Joe Kelly, Danbury lost past President James Beard and Bridgeport lost a long time prominent member with the death of Dr. James Roach! May they rest in peace. For news or info: jpgallagherct@sbcglobal.net



AOH Hartford Brothers were joined by local officials at the wreath laying ceremony at the Irish Canal Workers Memorial in Windsor Locks, Conn.



Hartford Brothers Mike Enright, Kevin Morton and Linus Deasy at the Norwich Saint Patrick's Day Parade. They also marched in New Haven and Hartford.



Danbury Hibernians Martin Tuite and MaryAnn Fahy at the Hartford March for Life.

Georgia

Bourke Division visits local monasteries, food pantries

Members of the Monsignor Daniel J. Bourke, Div. 1 in Savannah, Ga., held their annual Turkey Trot last December, where they donated turkeys, hams and other pantry items to local monasteries and food pantries. The Division's next big event is Irish Road Bowling in the Spring and the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17.



Bourke Division members, from left, Dan Bendig, one of the sisters from the Camelite Monastery in Savannah, Paul Checkak, Chris Hagan and Walt Harper.



From left, Dan Bendig, Chris Hagan, Gene Linton, Jack Daniels, Dan O'Connell, Walt Harper and Paul Checkak.

Nebraska



Honoring St. Patrick in Omaha
AOH Omaha President Tim Lonergan rode the AOH float on St Patrick's Day.

Maryland



Towson Div. 3 presents school with \$1,000 check

Division 3 Towson's Charities Committee, Jack Smith Chairman, center, holding check, and other Division officers and members, presented St. Elizabeth School with \$1,000 to support their mission and programs. The school, located in Baltimore City, has been providing academic and clinical services for children with a multitude of disabilities and academic challenges.

Inspired by another charitable Irish organization, St. John's Old Tenth Ward, the division builds upon supporting the school's programs and services. Other charities supported by the division are various soup kitchens, homeless shelters and a farm operated by the Franciscan Friars, which provides produce for homeless shelters. Div. 3 Towson generates funds through many robust activities, such as an annual Shrimp and Bull Roast, Irish Day at the Races and participation at other Maryland AOH events. — Submitted by Stephen H. Riegger, Sr., VP Division 3



Deputy Marshals installed

Hibernian Division Deputy Marshals at Installation Mass for Baltimore St Patrick's Parade, from left, back row, Thomas Bell, Baltimore City; William Darcy III, Catonsville; Bob Hickey, Harford County; front row, from left, Parade Chairman Sean Hackett, Towson; State President Mike McConnell, Towson; Ron McEvoy, Towson; and Thomas Kelleher, Towson.

The National
hibernian
NOW ONLINE
Digest
www.AOH.com

Montana



Record-breaking food drive!

On March 11, members of Anaconda Division 1 in Anaconda, MT, concluded their week-long food drive. This year marked the 11th year and turned out to be a record for the community: 6,000 pounds of food and \$9,000 were collected for the local food bank.

Kansas

Fr. Donnelly Division wins honors in Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Fr. Bernard Donnelly Division, based in Johnson County, KS, made a strong appearance in the 2023 Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade, winning 2nd Place in the Organizations Category. Twenty-four Donnelly Hibernians marched in the parade while 2022 Donnelly Division Hibernian of the Year Seán Kane followed the marchers in a VIP car ahead of the Governor Stumpy's fire truck, which carried many of the Donnelly Hibernians' relatives.

Seán Kane, 2022's Hibernian of the Year recipient, has been responsible for building the websites of the Donnelly Division, Kansas State Board, and the Donnelly Division's biannual Irish Road Bowling tournaments while also writing the Kansas State Board and Donnelly Division's submissions to the Digest, all this while working on a Ph.D. in History.

The annual Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of the great moments of public exposure for the Hibernian divisions in the Kansas City Area. This year's parade saw more of a return to a new normal after the pandemic, and the Donnelly Hibernians greeted the crowds lining Broadway in Midtown Kansas City with smiles, waves, and in the case of 2017 and 2019 Hibernians of the Year Zach Kittle and Brian O'Laughlin dancing in the streets to celebrate the high holy day.



2022 Donnelly Division Hibernian of the Year Seán Kane waved to the crowds.

Kansas State Board honors Dr. Liam Riggs

The Kansas State Board honored our brother Dr. Liam Riggs, who died on January 22, at the age of 64. A native of Kansas City and a longtime resident of Lawrence, Kansas, Liam joined the Donnelly Division in 2015. He was an Assistant Professor in the Tech Division at Kansas City Kansas Community College where he was dedicated to his students and even made a few appearances in several Kansas City PBS stories covering the KCKCC Tech Division. Liam earned his high degree at the Louisville National Convention in 2018. Liam brought a great deal of life and energy to the Donnelly Division, playing his pipes in several St. Patrick's Day Parades per year and at the biannual Irish Road Bowling tournaments every spring and fall.

The Donnelly Division Kilt Crew honor guard led the procession at Liam's funeral, which was held at St. John the Evangelist Church in Lawrence, Kansas, on February 4. Liam earned his Ph.D. in Education at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri, in December 2022, a long-held dream of his which he hoped to use to his students' benefit. The Kansas Hibernians mourn the loss of our brother and hope we will see him again.



Dr. Liam Riggs with his bagpipes at the 2019 Tiblow Days Parade in Bonner Springs, KS.

Kentucky

Louisville Division 1's spring goes on

The Louisville KY Division 1 was busy this New Year with the Wearin' of the Green Charity Dinner Dance (WOG), St. Patrick's Coloring Contest for grade-school students, Blessing of the Keg and Parade, and our 50th St. Patrick's Day Mass and Parade. Additionally, we kept up the tradition of feeding the homeless on St. Patrick's Day at the Franciscan Kitchen. In the same vein our Division has instituted the Hibernian Hunger Project to help feed the poor throughout the state.

The WOG raised funds for our charity endeavors through ticket sales and our silent auction. Winners of the coloring contest received trophies and a part in our parade. The Mass and Parade went off in great weather and thousands attended. Included was our former mayor who helped bring the parade back and our current mayor, who joined in the celebration.



Brothers Shaun McKiernan and Tim McMonigal entertaining on WDRB Fox in the Morning.



Brother John O'Dwyer and past LAOH President Julia O'Dwyer are this year's Irish Persons of the Year.



Brothers Welch and Favier inspect the latest donations to the Hibernian Hunger larder.

Wisconsin

Division marches in two parades

The Rev. William J. Kelly SJ Division (Milwaukee, WI) had a full day on Saturday, March 11. At St. Patrick's parish, a number of Hibernians joined the local parishioners and other Irish organizations for an 8:30 a.m. mass.

At noon, the Division lined up for the downtown parade. Walking with banners before and after a decorated pickup truck, the Hibernians passed before tens of thousands of Milwaukeeans, earning enthusiastic cheers and thumbs up. Kids along the route were rewarded with candy, and men who looked interested got an AOH can koozie.

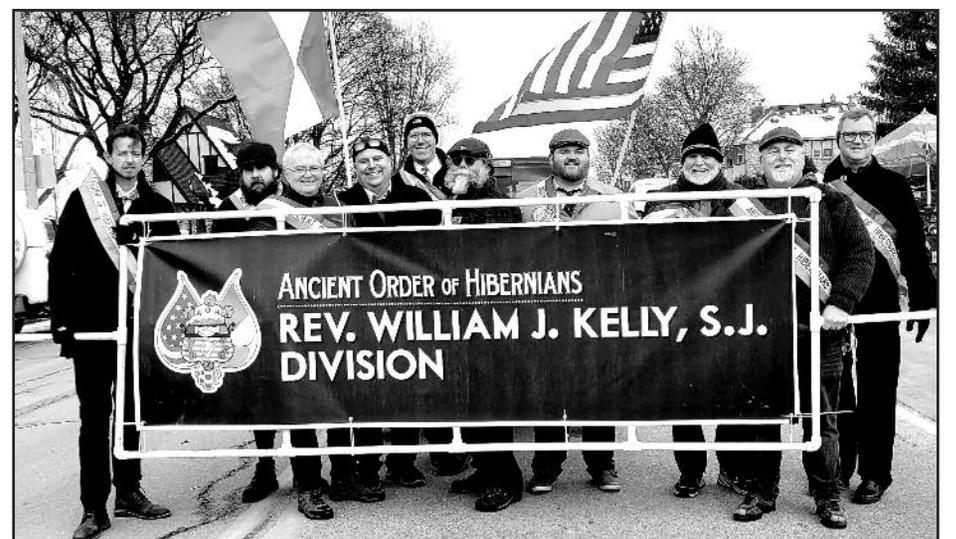
Then at 3 p.m., we queued up again for the smaller, but more energetic Bluemound Rd. parade on the west side of town. Once again, the Division got a warm welcome despite the winter chill, and a great time was had by all.



Before the first of two St. Patrick's Day Parades on Saturday, March 11, the Milwaukee Division attended mass at St. Patrick's parish, led by President Chris Kellenberger, far left.



At the Milwaukee downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 11, officers and senior members are joined by Bernie Brewer, mascot for the MLB Milwaukee Brewers (and a young future Hibernian).



After an early mass and two different St. Patrick's Day parades on Saturday, March 11, the Milwaukee Division celebrates a full day of Irish culture.

Massachusetts



Big Doings by Plymouth Division

The month of March has been a busy one for the Father John Murphy, Division 9, Plymouth. We marched in the Cape Cod Saint Patrick's Day Parade, travelled to the JFK Library in Boston, where our Division President, Mike Schilling, had his photo taken with An Tánaiste, Micheal Martin. Then on March 19, we marched in the Scituate Saint Patrick's Parade. From left, John Sullivan, Mike Schilling, John P. Travers, James O'Sullivan, Patrick Shea, Mike Faut and Greg Shanahan. We also attended the Annual Saint Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, and were present on Saint Patrick's evening to see the Consul General of Ireland, Laoise Moore, receive an award from the Charitable Irish Society. — John L. Sullivan



Plymouth Division attends award ceremony

On Saint Patrick's evening, The AOH Division in Plymouth, known as "the little division that could," attended the Annual Award Ceremony at the Irish Charitable Society. From left, John Sullivan, former Lord Mayor of Dublin, TD Paul McAuliffe, Consul General of Ireland Laoise Moore, Briege MacOscar, Dublin City Counsellor, and Division President Mike and Meghan Schilling.



Photos in the Digest

Good quality photos enhance your articles and successfully depict the fine work you do on behalf of the Order and your community. They also make the Digest look good.

Blurry, dark and small images diminish your articles, and hence the great deeds you do. Bad photos encourage readers to skip your articles and turn the page.

Don't submit screenshots, poorly exposed or "muddy" photos, pictures in which the subjects fill only a small portion of the frame. Submit well lit, high resolution .jpgs, preferably taken with a camera, with the subjects fairly close to the lens. Images about 1 MB in size and 300 dpi would be great

John O'Connell, Editor

Missouri

Irish American Heritage Month

Vice President Patrick Sheehan and President Patrick McDonough of the AOH St. Louis Division 2 met with the City of St. Louis to discuss hosting a celebration of Irish American Heritage Month on March 22 in the St. Louis City Hall Rotunda. The celebration recognizes a number of Irish American leaders, including our past National President George Clough. This is an important event to commemorate the contributions of Irish Americans in St. Louis and across the entire nation.

The AOH St. Louis Division 2 is also in the process of utilizing the resources provide to request both city and state resolutions that recognize the importance of the AOH and its many contributions to the community. This will be an essential step in recognizing the long history of Irish Americans in the United States and their contributions to society and I thank the OH National Board for the help and resources.



Vice President Patrick Sheehan, left, Sara Beth Helsel, City of St. Louis Heritage Month coordinator and President Patrick McDonough.

An Irish American Heritage Month celebration was held at Saint Louis City Hall on March 22. This event was hosted by Michael Butler, the Recorder of Deeds for the City of Saint Louis, and the Saint Louis AOH. Music and entertainment was provided by Eimear Arkins and Eileen Gannon and the talented children from Saint Louis Irish Arts. Patrick McDonough, President of Division 2 in Saint Louis, was the Master of Ceremonies and he, along with Michael Butler handed out the awards.

AOH Past National President George Clough was recognized for excellence in activism for all his years promoting Irish Heritage in Missouri. The Recorder of Deeds presented each of the five recipients their awards and copies of the incorporation records of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of the State of Missouri. In 1885 the AOH State Board was incorporated in the State of Missouri as a Benevolent Corporation. (Since 1885 this type of corporation is no longer available). The name of the corporation is Ancient Order of Hibernians of the State of Missouri.



From left, bottom step, Helen Gannon, for Excellence in Artistry; George Clough, for Excellence in Activism; Joe Jovanovich, for Excellence in Entrepreneurship; Stella Sheehan, for Excellence in Public Service; second step: Joe McGettigan, Patrick McDonough, Patrick Murphy, for Excellence in Education; Joe Murphy, Mike Tevlin third step Dan McDermott, Patrick White, Mike Quinn.

Project St Patrick Mass/Prayer Card

Please note that anyone needing more Project St Patrick Mass/Prayer Cards can order packets of three cards along with envelopes (or more) from:

Ron Hagan, Chairman of Project St Patrick

7326 State Route 19, Unit 0512

Mount Gilead, OH 43338-933

or

Email: rhagan@hagancpa.com

in memoriam

JOSEPH W. KELLY, 83, of Waterbury, Ct., passed away unexpectedly at Saint Mary's Hospital on February 24, 2023. He was the beloved husband of Hilda (Desmarais) Kelly.

Joe was an active member in several local organizations, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians Monsignor Slocum Division 1, where he was one of the last surviving leaders who helped to revive the Division.

One of Joe's happiest days was the day he was honored as the Waterbury "Irish" Mayor for the Day in 2011, and was also proud to have had the opportunity to serve as the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Marshal. He was a quiet, humble man who was extremely proud of his Irish heritage.

Joe was born July 26, 1939, in Waterbury, the son of the late Stephen and Catherine (Delaney) Kelly. He was a graduate of Crosby High School (where he was a three-sport varsity athlete), attending Central Connecticut State University before enlisting with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war, where he proudly served his country in two tours of duty in Vietnam before being honorably discharged.

Joe held several occupations over his lifetime and finished his career as a police officer with Amtrak. He was most proud of being a coach and working with youth sports, including Willie Mays League and youth bowling at the Waterbury Elks. He was an avid UConn Huskies and Boston Red Sox fan.

To honor Joe's memory memorial donations to the AOH Monsignor Slocum Scholarship fund at 91 Golden Hill St Waterbury, CT 06706 would be greatly appreciated.



JIMMY (IRONMAN) KELLY passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on April 1, 2023. He was a Division Life Member and the senior-most member of AOH Father Henry Tansey Division 5 Albany and a 2nd degree Life Member of the Knights Of Columbus.

Jimmy was leader of the well-known Irish American band, "The Galway Blazers," which was handed down from his father Ralph Kelly in 1966. The band members consisted of his brother-in-law Mike Leonard, Jimmy and Michael Mangan, John Joe Callanan and Chris Naughton.

James was the last surviving member.

In his nearly 70 years of performing, he shared stages with many champion Irish musicians and even performed at Lincoln Center. One of his most treasured musical memories was when he was asked to tour with his idols "The Tulla Ceili Band" when they toured America. Jimmy went on to teach scores of young musicians who went on to win competitions in the U.S. and Ireland.

In 2000, he was inducted into the Irish Traditional Music Hall Of Fame and acclaimed "the finest Ceili drummer in America."

He was also always happy to play his second instrument, the two-row button accordion at many gatherings.

Jimmy met his wife of almost 60 years in his family's Irish resort "Kelly's Brookside" in East Durham, NY. They married and moved to Albany, where he worked at Schaefer Brewery until they closed, eventually retiring from Albany County Sewer District in 2002.

Jimmy and his wife Ann, always known for their hospitality, hosted many concerts in their home which came to be known as "Kelly's Basement Concert Series" featuring world class Irish musicians.

His faith was very important to him. He was always carrying rosary beads. He was a big supporter of Father Peyton's Family Rosary and was instrumental in collecting one million rosaries for them to be distributed worldwide.

Jimmy will be remembered for his appreciation of the little things, his quick wit, puns, making people feel comfortable, his work ethic, his love of music, but especially for his love for his wife and family.

Jimmy was born Sept. 28, 1940, in Manhattan, NY, son of Ralph and Theresa Kelly. He was the second of five children, Ralph (Mary), Kevin (Phyllis), Theresa (John), and predeceased by Brendan (Sheila). He is survived by his wife Anna Mary (Leonard), his four children Anna Mary Kelly, Maura Bruda (Bob), Denis, James Jr., his five grandchildren, Cyrus Rivet (Erin), Celia Rivet, Joseph Juliano Jr., Niamh and Shane Kelly and great grandson Arthur Rivet. The Kelly Family would like to formally thank the Albany Fire Department (D Platoon), Engine 11 and the wonderful staff at St. Peter's Hospital.



Richard M. Magner, 74, passed away peacefully on February 5, 2023, after a brief illness, surrounded by family and friends.

Rich and several other future Hibernians traveled to AOH Divisions in Southeastern Pennsylvania to gather information so they could form a new Division in Delaware. Rich was a founding member and first President of the Corporal Bernard McCarren Division of the AOH in Newark, Delaware, in 2003. Later he moved to the Treasurer position and served there diligently for many years.

Born in Bayonne, New Jersey, he moved with his family to Newark, Delaware, when he was eight years old. Rich graduated from Christiana High School in 1966 and later attended Wilmington College.

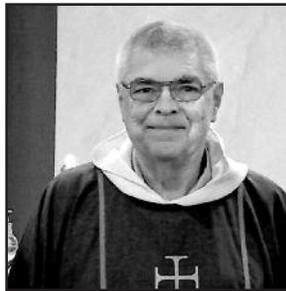
In 1967, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and proudly served his country in Vietnam. He was wounded in combat, received the Purple Heart medal, was honorably discharged in 1971 and returned home.

He spent 30 years working for the Chrysler Newark Assembly Plant and retired.

While in his civilian job, he enlisted in the Maryland Army National Guard and attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Two upon his retirement in 1993, having served his country for a total of 22 years.

After retiring, Rich worked tirelessly for the veterans of Delaware and their families. He joined the Military Order of the Purple Heart in 1998 and held several positions up to and including Department Commander for three years. He was employed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart as a National Service Officer at the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Wilmington from 2001 to 2007 assisting veterans with their disability claims until attaining retirement age. He was appointed by three different Governors of the State of Delaware as a Commissioner of Veterans Affairs representing the Military Order of the Purple Heart and was still serving at the time of his death.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of nine years, Kathy Cardillo Magner and two step-children, David Cardillo and Amanda (Scott) Riffert, and two granddaughters whom he adored, Danielle and Diana.



Fr. Stephen McNally, 69, Chaplain of the Fr. John Lynch Division in Roanoke, Virginia, passed to his eternal reward on January 4, 2023. Fr. McNally faithfully served our Division and the entire community of Southwest Virginia.

Fr. McNally's service in the priesthood began in 1986 in the Diocese of Richmond, where he remained, and included a six-year assignment in Bonn, Germany, as the Chaplain to The United States Mission.

Fr. McNally carried out his witness to the Gospel by acting, at the time of his death, as Pastor of the Church of the

Transfiguration in Fincastle, Virginia, and St. John the Evangelist in New Castle, Virginia. He was Chaplain to many organizations, including the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, the Fincastle Fire Department, the Roanoke Police Department, Public Safety Chaplain of Bedford County, and other federal and state law enforcement and first responder organizations.

In the words of our Division President Brian Carroll, "It is with great sadness we reflect upon a life too soon removed from us. I hope both our sadness and loss are soon replaced by the memory of your joyful demeanor, your story telling and your thoughtfulness. You dedicated your life to the service of others with a particular interest in service to veterans, first responders and your community. Your community was large; it included Virginians, New Yorkers, the Irish, the Italians, fire departments, EMTs, police, and your parishes; your absence and kindness will be a loss amongst these communities. Our loss is profound. Your humor will be missed, and your homilies will serve as a constant reminder that we can be better people, more thoughtful of our place in the world and kinder to all. May God bless you and know that good and faithful friends pray for you."

JOHN WOODS, 87, a Life Member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, passed away in July of 2022, at the St. Patrick's Nursing Home, Bronx, NY, where he was a resident for 15 years. John was a native of Round Stone, County Galway, Ireland. Prior to emigrating to the United States, John was an enlisted soldier in the Irish Defense Forces, having served for a number of years, and was receiving a modest pension. John worked at Fordham University, in the Bronx, in the maintenance department, having been retired for the past 20 years.

John was an active member of Division 5, AOH, Bronx County, until entering St. Patrick's Home, due to failing health. He would play the accordion at Division 5 social events, and was always a great fund raiser for the annual dinner dance with the sale of raffle tickets. On the wall of his room at St. Patrick's Home he kept his AOH Life Membership framed on the wall and was always happy to receive visitors, particularly friends from the AOH.

John was an active parishioner of St. Brendan's Parish, the Bronx, but then later at St. Barnabas Church, Woodlawn, the Bronx, where he was residing at the time of his entering St. Patrick's Home. Fr. Brian McCarthy, Pastor of St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Riverdale, the Bronx and longtime chaplain of the Bronx County AOH, was instrumental in John's care, having been his healthcare proxy and spiritual adviser during John's residence at St. Patrick's Home. Fr. McCarthy was an aide to the Grand Marshal of the 2023 St. Patrick's Parade, 5th Avenue, Manhattan... a fitting honor to a great priest.

John's body was returned, at his request, to Round Stone, Galway, where a funeral mass was conducted and burial took place. Originally from a family of six brothers and two sisters, two brothers in Ireland survive him as well as a sister living in America. John Woods was a proud Life Member of the AOH and beloved by his many friends. May he rest in peace. — Submitted by Hugh O'Rourke, Life Member.

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

Ohio

In February, Patrick Pearse Division of Columbus, Ohio, welcomed our newest member, Most Reverend Earl Fernandes, Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus. Bishop Fernandes joins former Bishop of Columbus, Most Reverend James Griffin, and Most Reverend Bishop Alphonsus "Phonsie" Cullinan, of Waterford and Linsmore, Ireland, as division members. We are blessed.

March brought City Council's proclamation of St. Patrick's Day in Columbus along with our announcement of a \$500 donation to the Brian Muha Foundation, which provides leadership development opportunities to young people in Columbus, Cleveland and Steubenville to help them "run the race of life."

On St. Patrick's Day, the Clann na nGael Irish organizations of Columbus came together for the parade and the Irish Family Reunion, followed by entertainment at Tara Hall. As always, the day began with Mass at St. Patrick's Church, celebrated by our brother Bishop Fernandes, assisted by our Chaplain Deacon Roger Minner and the Dominican Fathers.

Bishop Fernandes spoke to the congregation about our Irish and Catholic identity, "... even in his captivity the Lord made himself present to Patrick."

After catching our breath, our brothers began preparing for Easter Week, and then our Freedom For All Ireland Irish Road Bowling fundraiser, held annually on the last Saturday of April. We hope to see more of our Hibernian brothers, from both in and out of state, on the road.

More information at pearseffai@gmail.com



Brother Jerry Tracy, Brother Bishop Earl Fernandes and President Bruce McPherson.



Bishop Fernandes delivers the St. Patrick's Day Mass homily.

Snowbird Social

More than 65 Hibernians and friends gathered for the 6th annual AOH Snowbird Social at Tim Finnigan's, Delray Beach, on Feb. 16. The social was an idea of Tim Myles to keep Hibernians involved when they are away from their hometown Divisions. The aim is a good time and membership retention. Brothers from seven different states attended.



This year's committee consisted of Tim Myles, Ed and Mary Ellen Wallace, Tom Gallahue and Kevin Westley. The 7th annual Snowbird Social will be on the third Thursday of February at the same venue, which is the mecca for Irish culture in southeast Florida. Tim Finnigan's is also the home of Div. 2, Palm Beach County, which participated in t



Brothers gather to process to Mass.



The AOH and LAOH of Division 6 of Youngstown, Ohio, took part in the 45th annual Mahoning Valley St. Patrick's Day parade. The Mahoning Valley parade started out with a comment made on-air by WKBN radio broadcast by Peter Gabriel in 1979, and so it began. The Ancient Order of Hibernians is proud to represent Youngstown, Ohio. — Submitted by Tim O'Bryan, Division 6, Joseph T. Nalley Sr.

The Digest regrets that, due to space limitations, not all the submitted content may have been used in this issue.

— John O'Connell, Editor

New York

An Irish American of Distinction

On March 24, Hibernian Joe Kelly, of East Setauket, was recognized by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone at the 1st annual Irish American Heritage celebration at the H. Lee Dennison Building. Kelly was named an Irish American of Distinction in Suffolk County.

Joe was nominated by District 5 Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn for his continuous service and contributions to Irish Americans in his community, while sharing Irish traditions, culture and heritage.

Kelly is a graduate of Chaminade High School and retired from the New York City Police Department. He is an active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 9 in Mount Sinai, NY, and is the current Vice President, as well as the AOH Suffolk County Historian. Joe Kelly was a key member in AOH Suffolk County's Mass Rock committee, where he worked closely with Town of Brookhaven Supervisor, Ed Romaine.



Hibernian Joe Kelly



Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Mar is eol do chách, rinneadh na scannáin Tarzan sna 1930í agus 1940í, le Johnny Weissmuller mar Tarzan agus le Máirín Ó Súilleabháin mar Jane. *As everyone knows, the Tarzan movies were made in the 30s and 40s, with...as... Lúthchleasaí Oilimpeach, as an nGearmáin, ab ea Weissmuller. Weissmuller was an Olympic athlete from Germany. Aisteoir iontach as Mainistir na Búille i gCondae Ros Comáin ab ea Ó Súilleabháin. O'Sullivan was a wonderful actress from Boyle in County Roscommon. Meiriceánaigh iad araon ar ball (ise i 1947). They both eventually became Americans (she in...).* Rinne siad scannáin Tarzan sé uair le chéile (rinne Weissmuller níos mó). *They made 6 Tarzan movies together (he made more).* Rinneadh an chéad dá cheann sna tríochaidí luaithe, sula raibh cód Hayes i bhfeidhm, agus is léir sin óna gcuid éadaí – nó an easpa di... *The first two were made in the early 30s, before the Hayes code went into effect, and that's clear from their clothing – or lack of it...* Ba mhór an difear ina dhiaidh sin, nuair a tháinig Buachaill isteach sa scéal. *It was very different after that, when Boy came into the story.* Bhí Barry Fitzgerald sa cheathrú ceann, freisin. *...was in the 4th one, also*

Is iomaí scannán iontach eile a rinne Ó Súilleabháin - chéad réalta scannán na hÉireann. *O'Sullivan – first movie star of Ireland - made a lot of other great movies.* Bhí sí in *An Fear Seang* le William Powell agus Myrna Loy - tús le sraith iontach eile. *She was in The Thin Man with...- the start of another great series.* Agus bhí sí in *Anna Karenina* le Greta Garbo, Frederick March agus Basil Rathbone. *And she was in...with...* Bhí sí fiú in *Lá ag na Rísaí* leis na deartháireacha Marx! *She was even in A Day at the Races with the Marx brothers!* Agus rinne sí i bhfad níos mó fós, le daoine cáiliúla eile. *And she did a lot more yet, with other famous people.*

Phós sí John Farrow i 1936 agus bhí siad pósta go bhfuair sé bás i 1963. *She was married to...until he died in...* Phós sí John Cushing i 1983 agus bhí siadsan pósta go bhfuair sí féin bás i 1998, in aois seacht mbliana is ceithre scór. *She married...in... and they were married until she died at the age of 87.* Duine dá páistí is ea Mia Farrow, dála an scéil. *One of her kids is...by the way.*

Rugadh Máirín 1911. *Maureen was born in....* Chaith sí sealanna i mBaile Átha Cliath, i Sasana agus san Fhrainc sular tháinig sí go Nua Eabhrac i 1929. *She spent time in Dublin, England and France before coming to NY in...* Thug sí cuairt ar a baile in Éirinn i 1988, chuir sí crann os comhar Teach Rí, agus tá leac cuimhneacháin ann ag a teach. *She visited her home in Ireland in..., she planted a tree in front of King House, and there is a plaque at her house.*

Pennsylvania

Division 'Zooms' with Seamus Kearney

Last year on December 8, Division 5, of Bucks County, Pa., had the privilege of hosting a Zoom meeting with Seamus Kearney, author of "No Greater Love." This book chronicles his time in the IRA and time spent in the H blocks of Long Kesh Detention Center (later known as Her Majesty's Prison Maze).

In the book, Kearney speaks about the physical, emotional abuse and starvation suffered at the hands of his guards. He talks about his time as a part of the Blanket protests at Long Kesh and his friendships with Bobby Sands and the other Hunger Strikers, as well as Brendan Hughes, known as, "The Dark." It was also at this time that he learned of the execution of his brother Michael at the hands of the IRA for being a suspected informant. Seamus later learned that this was actually a plan hatched by the actual informer, an individual code named, "Stakeknife."

Several times during the retelling, Seamus would stop and collect himself before going on. All of this occurred in a room so quiet that you could hear a pin drop. Everyone in the room sat quietly, respectfully waiting for him to resume.

In writing his book, Seamus hopes to bring to light Britain's attempt to minimize and/or criminalizing their fight for a free, united Ireland. One example that Seamus pointed out was Britain's attempt to declare amnesty for all crimes committed during the struggles, which could have conceivably pardoned individuals of their murderous activities. Submitted by Kevin Gribbon.



Bucks County Hibernians gathered for a Zoom meeting with Seamus Kearney, author of "No Greater Love."

Please support Project St. Patrick!

Make it your job to grow the AOH!

New York



Grand Marshal McHugh honored Suffolk County, Our Lady of Knock, Division 7, in East Islip, held its annual Grand Marshal's Ball at the Irish Coffee Pub on February 25. Grand Marshal Tom McHugh is being honored with a commemorative plaque by his band mates. Making the presentation were President Shawn O'Neill, Vic Vogel, Pipe Major Bill LePage and the Roisin Dubh Irish Pipe Band.

— Photo Ed Bell

Virginia

Virginia St. Patrick's Coloring Contest

On February 25, 15 school children – kindergarten through fourth grade – were honored as the finalists in the St. Patrick Coloring Contest, directed by the Fr. Michael Judge, OFM, AOH Division. The George Mason University Campus Ministry hosted the ceremony; it was presided over by Father Joseph Farrell, Campus and State Hibernian Chaplain.

All the finalists (first, second, and third place for each grade) received a commemorative T-shirt, their individual entry framed, a St. Patrick Holy Card, and a shamrock plant. In addition, the Grand Prize winner – Carter Lyon, a fourth-grade student at St. Patrick's School, Fredericksburg, VA – received a \$50 award. Each grade had 300 to 400 entries.

This was the fifth year of the St. Patrick Coloring Contest. The contest has grown from one school and a handful of entries to participation by 75 percent of the Arlington Diocese grade schools: over 2,000 entries. The core purpose of the contest is for students to learn about the life of St. Patrick in an interactive manner. Accordingly, teachers are given a lesson guide, biographical information, and a quiz in addition to the coloring contest entry.

Harry Flynn, Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM, AOH Division, has coordinated the Virginia coloring contest since its inception. For the past two years, Caddie Tours' owner, Niall League, has generously sponsored the coloring contest.



Niall League, left, of Caddy Tours, the sponsor of the St. Patrick's Coloring Contest; with Fr. Joe Farrell on the right. The overall winner, Carter Lyon, is kneeling in the front.



AOH Brother (Retired Navy) Dan Gillespie and Jay McCarthy, Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. President on site at the Martinsburg VA facility as the local staff presented a St. Patrick Day dessert to all of the veterans and staff courtesy of the AOH. This has become a quarterly event by the Division which started a couple of years ago when the facility was essentially in covid lock down. We did not want our veterans to think they have been forgotten!

South Carolina

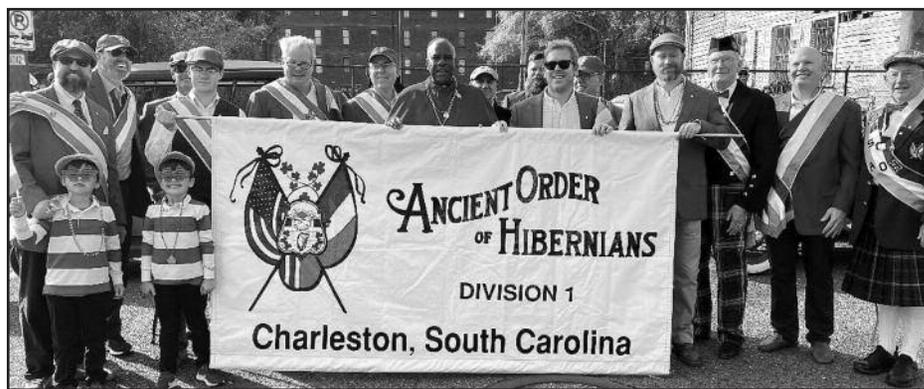
An active March in Charleston

South Carolina's Msgr. Manning Division 1 AOH and Our Lady of Knock Division 1 LAOH in Charleston, SC, had an event-filled month of March. On March 12, the AOH and LAOH of Charleston, SC, kicked off a season of Irish cultural events with a St. Patrick's Day celebration that united our divisions with local Irish dancers, trad musicians, Gaelic Athletic Association athletes and other friends of Ireland from across our region.

The day started with pipes and a prayer and continued with a program of step dancing performances, traditional music, a delicious dinner and céilí dancing. The step dancing included a performance by Addie Bachrodt, a two-time World Championship qualifier and LAOH Division 1 Woman of the Year. More than 200 people of all ages enjoyed the festivities and generously supported a silent auction and raffle.

The proceeds and excitement generated by this event have already planted seeds for more family-friendly events centered around Irish Catholic culture and history.

The excitement continued on St. Patrick's Day. The Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, 14th Bishop of Charleston, celebrated the Memorial Mass for St. Patrick at St. Patrick's Church and then joined the AOH, LAOH and nearly 90 groups and floats that marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. — Submitted by Chris Bermingham



Bishop Jacques at the St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Manning Division 1 Recording Secretary Andrew Wilson and his family at the parade.



Addie receiving Woman of the Year from the LAOH.

New York

A great day in Utica!

Utica's 2023 St Patrick's parade, claimed by many to be New York's third largest behind New York City's and Rochester's, stepped off in balmy sub-freezing temperatures. Spectators formerly thwarted for years by Covid and then a 22" blizzard turned out in good numbers and were in a celebratory mood. Hibernians observed their annual traditions of the Irish Flag raising at Utica City Hall, painting of the green stripe on the parade route, the St. Patrick's Mass at the traditional St. Joseph/St. Patrick's Church and fielded a robust march presence in both AOH and LAOH Oneida County groups.



Utica NY St. Patrick (aka Hibernian Jeffrey Isherwood) waves to spectators on Genesee Street. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr.



John C. Devereux Division 1 flag bearers march past Utica's Devereux Street in the 2023 St. Patrick's Parade. Photo by Tom Loughlin Jr.



Rockland Hibernians host seniors

Continuing a Division tradition, Rockland County Division 3 once again played host for their annual St. Patrick's Day Seniors Luncheon. In line with that tradition, the winter weather decided to make a last-minute appearance, yet the crowd was one of their biggest, with more than 90 seniors attending. All seniors, irrespective of their faith or heritage, were welcomed as the Division's guests to enjoy some Irish hospitality and entertainment in the true spirit of our patron Saint Patrick. There was a lot of corned beef cooked and consumed! One senior said, "It is the best day of the year."



Grand Marshal Thomas Leavey, of New York's Rockland County Division 5, marched to the reviewing stand accompanied by Kevin McAleer, of the Rockland County AOH Edward V. Larkin Memorial Pipe Band, during Rockland's Pearl River St. Patrick's Parade held on March 18. — Photo by Bob Reers.



AOH hosts Babylon's first St. Patrick's Parade

Suffolk Division 2, in Babylon, was honored to host Babylon Village's first Saint Patrick's Parade on March 19. The Village estimated that more than 25,000 people attended the Parade. The Post Parade Party was held at Division 2's hall. A lot of work and many hours went into making the Parade a success. We already have a date for next year, which will be Sunday, March 24th at 2 p.m. Congratulations to Babylon Village and Division 2.

Ladies hibernian news

From the Desk of . . . the Ladies National President

by Marilyn Madigan

Bright Future

The LAOH looks to a bright future with our younger members. The Irish Echo recognized 3 of our Sisters with their 40 under 40 Awards. I was honored to present the Awards to Maggie Brogan of New York, Brianna Curran of Pennsylvania and Maura Flynn of Indiana. All three of these young women are professional women who give of their time, talent and treasure to their local, communities. They also serve in leadership roles in their Divisions. We are blessed to have their dedication and commitment in promoting their Irish Heritage and Catholic faith in action.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Presentation of the Empowering Woman Award to Brianna Curran our National Webmaster. She is a very confident young woman who brings out the best in others. She has many skills that she is willing to share with her Hibernian family. She is a great communicator, stands up for her beliefs and is not afraid to challenge what she thinks is wrong. The LAOH is very lucky to have Brianna as a member. I know she has helped me in leading the organization that we love. I look forward to her leadership skills helping us for many years.

These young members are only the tip of the iceberg. There are so many members of all ages that make us a wonderful Sisterhood.



LAOH President Marilyn Madigan presenting LAOH Nation Webmaster, Brianna Curran with her award

North Carolina



Members of St Brigid of Kildare.

Welcome to our Sisters of St. Brigid of Kildare of Southport, Brunswick County, North Carolina. They are a new division, and they unveiled their newly framed charter at their Christmas dinner party.

Ladies National Vice President

by Mary Ann Lubinsky

Greetings, LAOH Sisters! It is so hard to believe that it is eight months since the convention in Pittsburgh! Thank you for electing me your Vice-President! Many of us came home with COVID but thank God we are all OK! The Proceedings were completed in February and are now on our website, ladiesaoh.com.

As Notre Dame Hibernian Fund Chair, I was honored to attend the Hibernian Weekend in September with our President Marilyn Madigan. It was the first in-person meeting and lecture since 2019. For the Scholarship Fund, we met with Michael Riemke, Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid, and Shane Ulbrich, Assistant Director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. Also in attendance were AOH Hibernian Fund Chair, Ned McGinley, President Danny O'Connell, Vice President Sean Pender, Secretary Ed Halligan, and Treasurer Liam McNabb as well as Ellen Lavelle, a current recipient of the scholarship. It was a very informative meeting including a full report of the fund itself. Ellen is the granddaughter of Patricia Lavelle, our National Board Press Relations Appointee. It was refreshing listening to Ellen speak about her studies, activities, and gratefulness for the scholarship. Following the meeting she attended the Hibernian lecture with us and sat with us at dinner. It was a fantastic day at the Golden Dome. Information will be forthcoming soon on next year's Hibernian Weekend.

I want to give a special "Thank You" to President Marilyn Madigan for allowing me to attend several functions to represent the National Board. These included 25th Anniversary events for PA Carbon County Division 1, PA Philadelphia County Division 61, and 30th Anniversary for Philadelphia County Division 87. I also attended the "Top 100 Irish Women in the Philadelphia Area" where 8 of our LAOH Sisters were honored. I had the special honor of attending the Tara Degree Team Ceremony in November in Philadelphia.

Most recently, Marilyn and I attended several St. Patrick's Day events in Washington DC starting with the program, "Women at the Helm: The Unfinished Business of Northern Ireland's Good Friday Agreement" sponsored by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. The event featured Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, who highlighted women who were present including Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, Signatory to the Good Friday Agreement Monica McWilliams, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States Karen Pierce, Former Minister of State of Ireland Liz O'Donnell and those who have since passed including former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Marjorie "Mo" Mowlam and Northern Irish community worker Joyce McCartan. We were very fortunate to attend a private reception for the presenters following the event. Next, we moved on to the Washington Ireland Program for Service and Leadership event honoring the WIP Class of 2023. The Taoiseach attended and was recognized as a former WIP member. To end that day, we attended a private reception for the new Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, Geraldine Byrne Nason at her residence.

On St. Patrick's Day we attended Mass at St. Patrick's Church celebrated by Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, concelebrated with 5 Auxiliary Bishops and several priests. All in all, it was a spectacular two days representing our National Board and Members!

Pennsylvania

In our motto, "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity," the women of the LAOH Division 4, Lackawanna County, Scranton, gathered to celebrate mass for the Feast of Saint Brigid. The Feast Day, February 1st, is one of the official Holy Days of our order. A very dynamic mass was held at Saint Patrick's Church in Scranton, officiated by the Reverend Richard E. Fox. Dorothea Crowley is the LAOH Lackawanna County Board President.



Front row (L-R): Nancy Earyes, Kristin Krowiak, Mary Kate Warner, Chrissy Lavelle, Elaine Bruno, Fran Kingsley, Nori Connor, Alice McDermott, Dorothea Crowley, Father Richard Fox, Maureen Wallace, Nancy McAndrew Yavoroski, Kate Schneider, Teresa Pelligrino, Karen Savage, Doreen Gilbride. Back row (L-R): Mary Kay Sears, Patty Jones, Mary Ann Abdo, Kathleen Connor, Mary Fran Smith, Tammy Jackson,Carolynn Wahl, Michele McDade, Mary Anne McAndrew, Lori Wagner.

New Jersey

Daniel O'Connell Division 2, Union



St. Patrick's Day in Union, New Jersey, was packed with Irish from all over the state. Leading the newly formed Union County Daniel O'Connell Division 2 was President Tim O'Brien, also a Cranford Police Sergeant.

Although this local division is only in its first year, O'Brien said it already has about 45 members who meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Cranford's Elks Lodge, located at 951 Lincoln Ave. E.

Tim said, "I was also vice president of my PBA some time ago, so I've always been active with philanthropic organizations, and I thought it would be good to give back to the community," he said. "Where there seems to be so many divisions in the country, it's nice to come together with men of a similar heritage and expand on it."

"I've enjoyed being a Cranford police officer for the last 24 years," O'Brien said. "It's a great organization. For that dinner, I'm getting recognized as Police Officer of the Year.

"We should have a lot of fun. There will probably be more police officers who are going and some of them are Hibernians as well. They will be there.

"Establishing a Hibernian presence in Union County was a commitment to my membership when elected State President. I am proud to say, mission accomplished. My grandfather was a member of the Elizabeth Division and it's great to see a strong and vibrant new AOH group up and running," said NJAOH President Richard S. O'Brien. "President Tim O'Brien leads the fastest growing Division in our state. Look for these Hibernians at the Union St. Patrick's Day Parade, especially their new member, State Senator Joe Cryan, this year's Grand Marshal."

The parade honorees were Msg. Timothy J. Shugrue as the Irish Man of the Year, and Mary O'Connor as the Irish Woman of the Year.



Marching in Bergen

The Bergen Fr. Solanus Casey Division 32 marched in the Bergen County St. Patrick's Parade. Aide Sean O'Leary and Grand Marshal Steven Baxter.

New Jersey State Board Convention announcement

The New Jersey State Boards of AOH and LAOH announced their joint 2023 Biennial State Convention. The convention opens Friday, May 19, at 6 p.m. at the Col. David B. Kelly Division 1, Middlesex County AOH (271 Second Street, South Amboy, NJ 08879). An icebreaker will begin at 7:30 p.m. The convention re-opens for business on Saturday, May 20, at 9 a.m. at the APA Hotel Woodbridge, 120 Wood Avenue South, Iselin, NJ 08830.



'Outstanding'

Burlington County Tommy McGuire Division 1 won the 2023 Outstanding Irish Organization Award from the Burlington County St. Patrick's Day Parade committee. From left, Financial Secretary Bill Hicks, Parade Committee Chairman Jim Logue, and State Secretary Jerry Logan. Photo by Alex Pepenella of Burlington County Division 1.



FFAI in NJ

Hudson County, New Jersey, Fr. Mychal Judge Division 1, received a plaque at the February monthly meeting for their donation of \$1,000 to the Freedom For All Ireland National Committee, for last year's Christmas appeal. Bob Bollbach presented the plaque to President Thomas Mahoney and Board Members. — From Martin Galvin.



A unique blend of full leaf black teas with robust taste.

The AOH will receive 10% of the gross sales revenues of the tea to help further their charitable and scholarship programs.

Available at:

**www.harney.com
1-800-TEA-TIME**

New York

Glen Cove Hibernians celebrate 35th St. Patrick's Parade

Glen Cove's St. Patrick's Parade marked its 35th anniversary with Bayville resident, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Sergeant, and 9/11 first responder, Ryan Doherty as the historic parade's Grand Marshal.

Aides to the Grand Marshal were the descendants of past Grand Marshals over the parade's 35 years.



Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Sergeant Ryan Doherty led the 35th annual Glen Cove Hibernian St. Patrick's Parade with his family and friends marching proudly behind him. Photo: Tony Gallego/Gill Associates.

Long Island Hibernians donate parade funds to fight autism

On April 6, the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, consisting of members of AOH and LAOH Division 8 Glen Cove, presented a donation to the Winters Center of Autism in West Babylon, New York. The Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade held its 35th Anniversary Parade on March 19. Ryan Doherty was selected 2023 Parade Grand Marshal. The Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade is the only Hibernian-sponsored parade in Nassau County, Long Island. The Parade Committee selected Winters Center for Autism as its 2023 charity recipient furthering our motto of Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity, by supporting this local nonprofit, founded by Joe Winters, member of AOH Division 3 Suffolk, in Smithtown. Nassau County extended the hand of friendship across the county border to Suffolk County to help Long Island's Autistic community. Learn more at www.winterscenterforautism.com



North Shore Hibernians make donation during Autism Awareness Month. Ryan Doherty, left, 2023 Glen Cove Parade Grand Marshal, a member of Nassau County Division 8; Patrick Winters, Winters Center for Autism President and member of Suffolk County Division 3; and Bill Doherty, Past President Nassau County Division 8. — Photo from Glen Cove Parade Committee / Winters Center for Autism.



Glen Cove Hibernians gather with members of the Winters Center for Autism for the purpose of a donation of \$10,000 to the autism center.

The Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade receives NO public or municipal financial support. We depend solely on corporate sponsorship and individual donations to the Glen Cove Parade Committee Inc. All parade expenses are paid in this way and all amounts collected in excess of those expenses are donated directly to carefully chosen charities. (Photos credit in all reproductions is Tony Gallego/ Gill Associates.)



Grand Marshal Ryan Doherty, his family, AOH and LAOH members and city officials gathered to review the Hibernian's parade. Photo: Tony Gallego/Gill Associates.

Suffolk AOH on 'Conversation with Cardinal Dolan'

Six months in the making, AOH Suffolk County President, Bill Gorham; Past AOH New York State President, Vic Vogel and AOH Suffolk County, Director of Public Relations, Jim Killen journeyed into Manhattan to meet with His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan.

In the September 15, 2022, Catholic Faith Network newsletter, Cardinal Dolan wrote about his more than two dozen pilgrimages to Mass Rocks in Ireland. Coincidentally, on September 18, with AOH Suffolk County Chaplain Fr. Henry Reid and committee members Gorham, Vogel, Killen, Patrick Spero and Joe Kelly, AOH Suffolk County dedicated, blessed and held Mass at their own new Mass Rock on the Thomas & Kathleen Clarke homesite in Manorville, Long Island.

PR Director Jim Killen crafted a letter with photos to share with Cardinal Dolan, mentioning the coincidence of his recent Mass Rock article. Less than two weeks later, a letter of congratulations was received from Cardinal Dolan along with an invitation to be interviewed on his SiriusXM and Catholic Faith Network shows. After months of contact with Cardinal Dolan's team and producers, the interview featuring Bill Gorham and Vic Vogel was accomplished.

President Gorham and Past NYS President Vogel had the opportunity on a national radio and television platform to share with Cardinal Dolan and the audience about the AOH and the great charitable works we do nationwide, how to become a member and in-depth background on AOH Suffolk County's Mass Rock, and the AOH commitment to Irish culture, heritage and faith. Cardinal Dolan stated he was "fascinated and startled" by receiving the letter, as one of his passions are Mass Rocks (in Ireland), and here is one now in "County Suffolk."

Catholic Faith Network aired the segment on the CFN program named "Conversation with Cardinal Dolan" on Wednesday, March 29th at 8 p.m. It was a wonderful way to conclude Irish American Heritage Month. Available:

<https://vimeo.com/user98187253/catholic-faith-network-cfn/video/812938083>



NYS Past President Vic Vogel, left, Suffolk County PR Jim Killen, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and Suffolk County President Bill Gorham.

Minnesota

Archbishop Ireland Division 4 celebrates St. Patrick's Day

Minnesota Archbishop John Ireland Division 4, Ramsey County, celebrated St. Patrick's Day with our annual Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul followed by marching in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Saint Paul. We were honored to have as our Mass celebrant Archbishop Bernard Hebda. We also recognized our scholarship winners from the local Catholic high schools at the Mass. A total of \$6,000 was offered to these deserving students. This year's recipients include Sean FitzGibbons from Cretin Derham, Sam

Lehner from Hill-Murray and Daniel Ryan and Aidan Walsh from St. Agnes. Division 4 also presented a \$1,000 check to the Saint Paul Seminary, recognizing the important work performed by the seminary in the formation of future clergy to serve the Twin City community. At the parade, we joined forces with Minnesota Shamrock Division 1 and — despite the frigid temperature of 14°, the coldest Saint Patrick's Day in 30 years — the Hibernians were well represented and the attendance at the parade was impressive.



From left, President Charlie Callaghan, Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Former President Vince Courtney, and Dan Lyons at our annual St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul.



From left, Treasurer Tim Courtney, Ron Tobin, President Charlie Callaghan, one of our scholarship winners, Hill Murray student Sam Lehner, VP Bill Clagherty, and Dan Lyons at the Cathedral of Saint Paul celebrating our annual St. Patrick's Day Mass.



Archbishop John Ireland Division 4 combined with Minnesota Shamrock Division 1 to march in the frigid but still well attended annual St. Patrick's Day Mass in downtown Saint Paul.



Shamrock Division members marched in St. Paul St. Patrick's Day parade. Pictured are Chris Fahey, President Pat Mulroy and Joe Fahey.

Florida

Florida AOH, LAOH meet with Ireland's Consul General

Florida State FFAI Chairman Jim Sullivan and his wife, Florida LAOH State President Louise Sullivan were invited by Consul General Sarah Kavanaugh to the Consul's St. Patrick's Party in Miami. The Consul General introduced the two Hibernians to the current the Minister of State at the Dept. of Climate Action, Hildegard Naughton. "We spoke of the relationship that the people of America have with the Irish," Jim said. "They both seemed to want to visit more places where the Florida Irish live. My wife and I both suggested that we would volunteer to take them around Florida. The Minister told us it would be in the future because she was heading to Washington, D.C. to meet with the politicians there. After a few hours talking with members of the Irish community in Miami, we were assured that the Irish are strong in Miami. The Consul General told us that she would try and make it to our Irish/American Heritage Celebration that we are having in Sebastian, Fla." — Jim Sullivan, Florida State FFAI Chairman.



Florida FFAI Chairman Jim Sullivan, Minister of State Hildegard Naughto, Florida State LAOH President Louise Sullivan and Consul General Sarah Kavanaugh.