

## Hibernians hold historic, virtual national convention



Judge Jim McKay, left, passes the gavel to new National President Danny O'Connell as Vice President Sean Pender, left, and Jere Cole look on.

The historic 100th Biennial Ancient Order of Hibernians National Convention ushered in Daniel J. O'Connell as the 49th President. O'Connell is the fourth Ohioan to take the reins of the AOH, founded in 1836, with membership in all 50 states, and the oldest and largest Irish-Catholic organization in the United States.

Live from Youngstown State University's Don Constantini Multimedia Center, the AOH held its first Virtual Convention — with record attendance — over five days of convention sessions, including three days of breakout sessions and two days of general sessions.

President O'Connell gavelled the convention adjourned following a motion from Past President Judge James F. McKay from the St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown, Ohio, which hosted the convention's Virtual Mass and Virtual Installation.

"#vote-your-machines" was trending during the general

sessions as President McKay kept the convention moving in a positive manner, which included tremendous debate. Our implementation of the technological dimension has enabled us to share video of much of the convention with our membership. This will include the breakout sessions (excluding the constitution session) and all guest speakers. The Installation Mass, celebrated by National Chaplain Reverend John Keehner with concelebrant Reverend Kevin Peters, was presented live by the Diocese of Youngstown broadcast team led by Brother Dominic Calabro. Joining us as readers were Cathy Linton, LAOH National Convention Chair, and Pat Lally, AOH Deputy Catholic Action Chair.

### Live and Virtual Installations

The installation was also broadcast live as President Judge James

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## Applauding Our Progress, Seizing Our Opportunities

### By Danny O'Connell, National President

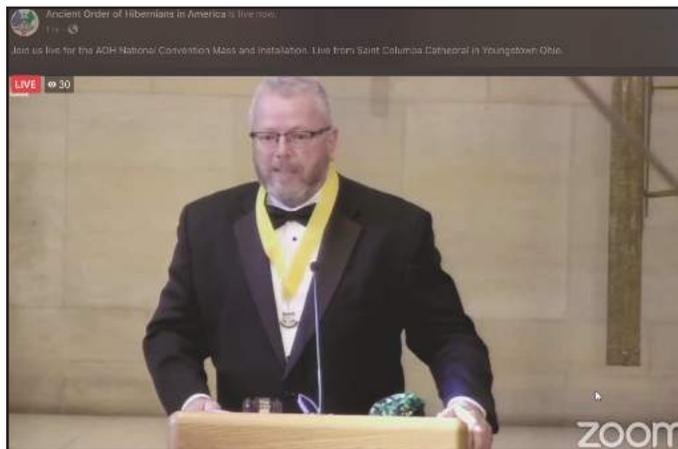
I am honored and humbled to serve you as National President for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. The virtual convention presented us with both challenges and opportunities. I believe we have met the challenges and our opportunities continue.

One major opportunity was the level of participation by our delegates. Our breakout sessions normally have five to maybe 50 delegates. This year, we ranged from 155 to 200. What an incredible opportunity! Our general session grew from, at most, 300 live to 556 virtual at one time. Again, what an incredible opportunity! For the AOH to have continued success we must seize our opportunities whenever they are presented.

### Change... and Continuity

As we welcome our newly elected and appointed national board members, we recognize and thank all of our outgoing board members. Your work has set the foundation for our new board members, and your assistance and cooperation during transition will be critical to the success of our new board.

Mike McCormack is just one example of a Hibernian committed to our success. When we spoke the day after the convention he volunteered to continue his service to the Order to assure both successful transition and continued success of our history and



archive work. Thank you, Mike, for your leadership. As I spoke to each chairman about our transition I received similar commitments from each that they would be happy to work with and guide our new chairmen throughout the transition period and beyond.

I have said many times; our success is based on the work of our membership. Our plan moving forward will involve the leadership

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# Alabama

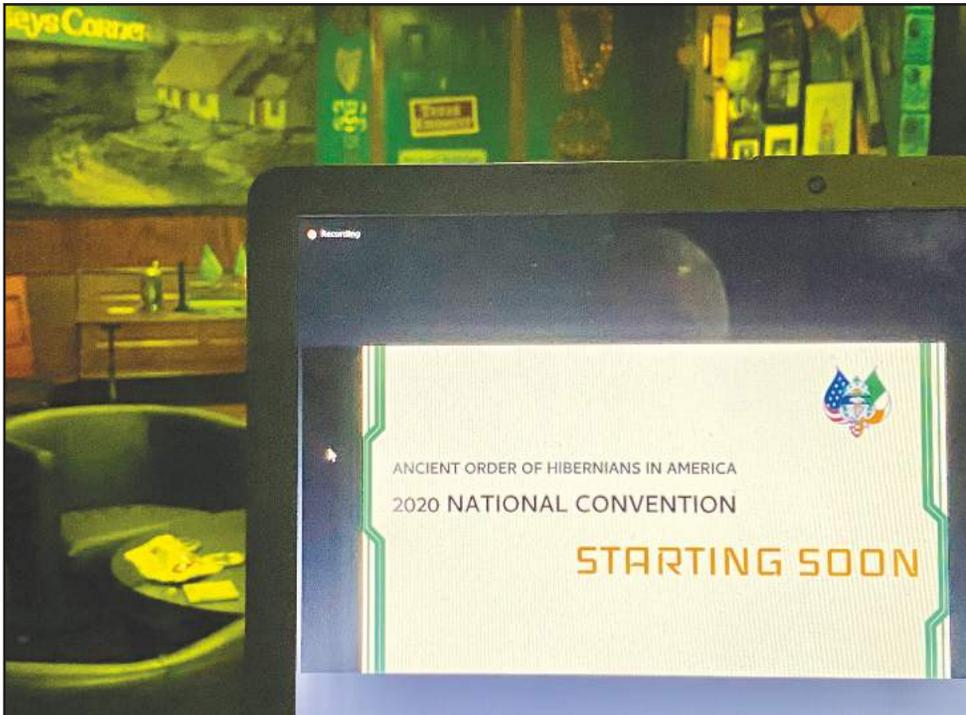
## Father Treacy Division attends National Convention

The Father Treacy Division's of Huntsville, AL, made its first National Convention in 2018, after becoming official in 2011. Three of our brothers attended and received their Major Degree. It was an exceptional time that has been spoken of highly since at Division meetings, encouraging many more of our brothers to attend the 2020 National Convention and receive their Major Degree.

Needless to say, we were supportive of the move to hold a virtual convention and not put any of our brothers in jeopardy. We were grateful for all the hard work of the National Board and others to effectively transition to a virtual environment in full commitment to the Constitutional requirements for discussion and discourse while maintaining the integrity of all credentialed delegates to vote and support our worthy Order.

Our Division and the State of Alabama only had one delegate, but we were proud that our home meeting place, the Maggie McGuinness Pub, was able to support our delegate to fully be engaged in the deliberations of the virtual National Convention and support the nominations and votes for our new worthy National Board.

We look forward to one day being with all of our Brothers in fellowship again. Until then, we stand together as a division with our worthy Order and in full confidence that our new National Board will continue to improve our worthy Order and embrace and live out our motto: Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.



Alabama attended the national convention with great pride.

# Wisconsin

## Helping the hungry in Milwaukee

The Rev. William J. Kelly S.J. Division, of Milwaukee, WI, believes strongly in our motto of Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity. Many in the Milwaukee community have been substantially impacted by the hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for charitable giving is very high, and our brothers answered the call with a \$500 donation to The Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee.

Based on their mission statement, which reads, "Hunger Task Force believes that every person has a right to adequate food obtained with dignity. We work to prevent hunger and malnutrition by providing food to people in need today and by promoting social policies to achieve a hunger free community tomorrow," their broad outreach, and free and local model, it felt right to support their cause. Hunger Task Force collects and delivers all food absolutely free of charge.

Due to the health concerns around close contact in their food bank facility, our brothers were not in a position to meet in person with our friends at the Hunger Task Force. However, their team was kind enough to include a "Thank You" message on their billboard.



The Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee thanked the Hibernians of the Rev. William J. Kelly S.J. Division.

Make it your job to grow the AOH!

## The National hibernian digest

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

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL O'DONNELL OF IRELAND

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**PRESIDENT**  
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at every level in our work at the national level. The first and most important step will be membership recruitment and retention. Each state board will have an elected Director responsible for recruiting and communications. In essence, our directors will serve as liaison for all recruiting efforts. He will be committed to know his state presidents and communicating with each on a regular basis and communicating with his county and division presidents directly as needed. When we have initiatives from any chair, our Directors will provide follow-up communications and promote success by seizing every opportunity.

Each committee chairman will form a working committee that will meet monthly throughout the year. Each state president in states that have an elected state board will be asked to serve on one national committee. We will continue to use our digital tools to communicate as committees and to share our work with our entire membership. The combination of telephone, zoom and our email blasts will provide a strong network of communication.

**Team Work Includes... You**

Each committee will form a team. The team will be open to all members and have a goal of meeting quarterly. Specific committee teams may meet more or less often as needed. The purpose of the team will be to share our work with every Hibernian who has a special interest in that committee. The team will also be used to promote our events, fundraising and calls to action. You will not be limited to a single team. We plan to utilize online surveys to help us recruit members onto our teams. Surveys will also be used to help determine our priorities.

**Using Tech Tools for Learning**

The record number of delegates who participated in our national convention voted overwhelmingly to publicly share our non-business breakout sessions and our guest speaker videos. We are asking every division to establish a schedule to watch each of these sessions over the next few meetings. This can be accomplished during both face-to-face meetings and virtual meetings. I know my local division is holding our meetings through a combined live and virtual participation. There is no better way to learn about our committees than to watch these sessions. These will also be available for each of us to watch on our own time. This type of action will also provide tools for State Conventions as well so we can do the work of the Order when the opportunity presents itself.

Our goals for this board are lofty and, I believe, attainable. We plan to make the most of the tools available to grow our continued success. Your work on behalf of the AOH is greatly appreciated. Your efforts make the AOH the "Voice of Irish America."

In closing, I would like to thank Scott Partika, Eddie Reese and Ed Moss for their nomination of me for National President. Although my dad, Jack O'Connell, is no longer with us, these three men made me realize that he will always be with me. I'm sure my dad made a notation that it took three great men to replace him. Thank you all and God Bless.



## secretary's report

By JERE COLE

**A New Beginning**

Brothers, first I want to thank all of you for your confidence and support by electing me to National Secretary. As you know, the new roster editing tool is now well accepted and appears to be working fine. As I recently said we have bigger plans moving ahead for this coming year. First, we are going to add the ability for divisions to edit their roster of officers, in effect their Form 9. Also, with that capability, the Financial Secretary will be able to edit the EIN # that we have in the system. State and County Board secretaries will be added to the system permitting them to make their edits as well.

This coming fall we will be sending a proforma invoice to each division advising them what they will owe in per capita for 2020. This will alert the divisions to any discrepancies in their roster and encourage them to correct before the deadline cutoff date for December 31, 2020. The number of members on your roster as of that date will be locked in and you will owe \$12. per member on that number. Of course, if the payment is not made by February 15, 2021, just as was the case this year, the per capita will be accessed at \$16. per member.

Future enhancements will permit State Presidents to log in and review the status of all divisions in their state. This will be a "read-only" feature, but should be very informative for the state users.

Again, we thank you for all your support and I welcome any suggestions you may have to further improve our system.

*"To be Irish is an honor  
to be a Hibernian is a blessing"  
Show your Hibernian Pride!*



## vice president's report

By SEAN PENDER

Brothers, I want to start by thanking all of those who have been so supportive of me throughout my Hibernian leadership career. It has been an honor to serve you and those we help. I am extremely proud to be the National Vice President of our noble Order. I know that my father John and father-in-law Jim, two 50-year members of the AOH, toasted my election looking down over me.

The 2020 National convention will go down as one of the most historic events of our history. We were presented with substantial challenges but they were not insurmountable. Led by Past President Jim McKay and current President Danny O'Connell we overcame adversity, leveraged technology, had historic participation numbers, conducted the business of the Order, had spirited interactions and elected a full slate of officers and directors to lead us for the next two years. Thank you to Youngstown State University for hosting us and well done to all, especially Chris Cooke, our digital coordinator, and Tim Noonan, of Illinois, whose talent helped make it all possible.

I am working with new Treasurer Liam McNabb to make sure the transitioning of that important office is as seamless as possible. With Liam fully comfortable and confident in his role I am jumping in to my responsibilities as National Vice President. As your vice president I am tasked with advancing and promoting the Major Degree work of the Order, chairing national conventions and co-chairing with our LAOH sisters the process by which we choose our MacBride and JFK award winners.

Leveraging technology, National Rituals Chairman Jack Schneider and I have already reached out to interested divisions and boards to schedule a training webinar on the requirements of forming a major degree team. These webinars would then be followed by group-specific training modules with the goal to add new Degree Teams. We hope to also monitor the viability of existing teams and work to promote their efforts.

Pittsburgh 2022 will no doubt be a historic gathering, as AOH and LAOH members gather in person for the first time in four years. I look forward to working with Denny Maher and his team to make this a successful event. Pittsburgh is a great American city with so much to offer. The 2020 convention recognized the efforts of our Florida brothers and sisters led by Ray Lynch and Louise Sullivan by awarding the 2024 convention back to Orlando.

Lastly with spirited discussions regarding the JFK award I expect that the next two years will bring with it some of the greatest nominees in recent history for our prestigious JFK and MacBride awards. Let's get to work.



## treasurer's report

By LIAM MCNABB

The virtual convention was a success! Though we couldn't be together in person in Orlando, we persevered and found ways to engage members around important topics and special presentations, and we made decisions as part of conducting the business of the Order. Our convention couldn't have happened without President Danny O'Connell's strategic planning and leadership along with a dedicated crew of Brothers with technological experience who worked behind the scenes.

I'm honored to serve as your National Treasurer. This term, I will continue the important IRS related work that Vice President Sean Pender significantly progressed during his tenure. It is critical for all Divisions to be compliant with IRS filing. More to come on this work but I'll need everyone's help for us to reach 100 percent participation nationwide. I will also continue to lead a "Protocol Committee" comprised of dedicated Hibernian Leaders who will provide recommendations to avoid poor practices or decorum of the Order. Along with our entire Board, I will contribute to our collective priority of growing the Order. This is a "must" for all of us and I will assist with our focus on marketing and promoting our organization to appeal to the next generation.

Congratulations to all elected and appointed National Board members. We have a terrific team of talented Hibernian Leaders and I look forward to our work together for the Good of the Order.

Special thanks to Immediate Past President Judge Jim McKay for his leadership for the past four years and his many years of service on our Board. We commend you for your vision and commitment to advancing our Order.

### Email blast enables immediate Hibernian call to action!

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

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



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## Director's report

By ED HALLIGAN

Congratulations to all the new officers and appointees. Thank you to all the outgoing officers for their dedication and contributions to our Order.

The Virtual Convention was a huge success. There were more attendees at the Breakout Meetings than the past several conventions combined. The Chairmen of those committees did a great job with their reports. Most of the reports should be available to the membership through the National Website. State, County and Division Chairmen, please avail yourselves of those reports.

Many Divisions have not been meeting because of the pandemic. The Irish are resilient, as shown during the campaigns in early July. Several states held virtual caucuses for meetings with the candidates. These meetings were successful. There is no reason why Divisions cannot meet. The popular application was Zoom. Our social calendars may be on hold, but we need to get active and be ready to recruit and do what we do best when all restrictions are finally lifted.

Part of my campaign to be re-elected as National Director — which I thank all you Brothers for supporting me — was focused on Retention. Getting Brothers to want to return to meetings at all levels by making sure Chairmen are comfortable in their different roles. Good reports contribute to interesting meetings. There are outstanding Chairmen throughout our Order. I intend to help Appointed Chairmen by making use of these Brothers along with State and National Chairmen's wisdom. Another ingredient is a Brother who has a passion for history. There are volumes of history concerning the Irish and our Order. Thanks to Mike McCormack, our National Website has many items that you can reference.

Brother Hibernians all have different committees that they prefer. Historian seems to be one of the top ones. Other committees focus on who we are, like Catholic Action, what we do, like Missions and Charities, and what we are about, like FFAI. Make sure that Chairmen are engaged with their position and are willing to have a report at a majority of meetings.

In these past few years, the Ancient Order of Hibernians has come a long way and we are getting comfortable with the nuances of the 21st Century. With the knowledge that was gained at the virtual convention, and the outstanding work of our National President Dan O'Connell, Chris Cooke, Tim Noonan and many others, we can move with confidence without fear of the unknown. It is what is known that presents a problem, and that is: We All Must Grow Our Beloved Ancient Order of Hibernians. It is up to every one of us. Please Recruit.

Thank you again, Brothers, for your support.



## Director's report

By RAY LYNCH

I am sincerely grateful to each of you who cast a vote for me for National Director during our recent National Convention. I will do my best to prove worthy of the confidence you had in electing me to this position. This new venture will be challenging at times, so I am requesting your continued support and recommendations for the needs of the Order. We are growing and strengthening our Order daily, and I am excited to be part of this work moving forward.

While campaigning for National Director I pledged to be the bridge needed to keep the communication lines open between Division members and our National representatives; please keep this in mind when you have any issues or concerns. I will do my best to assist in any way possible to ensure your message is heard.

During these trying times of the pandemic it is best to stay put where I am in Florida but as soon as I am able, I will be visiting the areas I am responsible for: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana. Until then I will be reaching out by phone and Zoom to introduce myself and open the valued lines of communication that we will need to grow our States and help solidify our unity where necessary.

Again, thank you for your vote of confidence and I am passing my gratitude along to all National, State, County and Division Brothers who supported my candidacy. Please feel free to contact me at irishyankeenut@yahoo.com or (772) 224-4928 with any comments or suggestions. Stay Blessed Brothers, in our motto...



## Director's report

By SEAN O'DOWD

My fellow Hibernians, thank you so much for your confidence in electing me as National Director at our 2020 Virtual National Convention. I look forward to working with the new National Board on your behalf. My goal is to help promote the Order in a positive direction, using some of the tried and true methods while also implementing newer technology as was experienced during our virtual convention.

I have been assigned to Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. I'm excited to be a part of this outstanding organization and look forward to the future when I can shake your hand in person.

Traditionally, the fall season has been filled with Irish festivals, which have been a good source of introducing the AOH to prospective members. It still can be as many of these events are now happening virtually. I encourage you to participate, support and represent the AOH at these virtual events, too.

I'd like to thank the past National Board for their outstanding work and commitment to the Order, and congratulations to the new National Officers, Directors and Committee Chairmen.

**Deadline for  
October - November issue  
NO LATER than October 1**



## Director's report

By Richard Thompson

I would like to thank the membership for the honor of being elected a National Director. It was quite the task with a virtual campaign concluding with a virtual convention. I would like to thank all those who hosted virtual conferences for the candidates. A big thank you to the National Board and the team they assembled to pull off a flawless virtual convention. It has allowed the Order to conduct its business and move forward.

I am a member of Tomas Cardinal O'Fiaich Division 14, in Watertown, Massachusetts. I currently serve as Division Treasurer. I have also served as President of the Massachusetts State Board and as a member of many National Committees.

Worthy President Danny O'Connell has assigned me the New England states. I have begun to contact State Presidents, County Boards and Divisions in my region to introduce myself and to inform them of the information I have already received from meetings with the elected officers and the National Board as a whole.

As I see things going forward I will be asking the State and County Presidents to evaluate the Boards and Divisions in their jurisdictions as to how this terrible pandemic has affected them. Are they still functioning and conducting meetings or do they need help in staying viable? I believe there is room for growth of the Order in northern New England states and I will ask State Organizers to identify potential growth areas in their states; this will all be done with the help of the National Organizer.

I plan on using emails and virtual meetings to stay in contact with the membership. I would also like to have a regional meeting, once this pandemic subsides, to help educate and train officers in the proper procedures so that we can have uniformity in our practices. I believe many of our Divisions are just maintaining their presence; I want to help these Divisions to participate at the County, State and National levels. Participating in National issues with the help of Committee Chairmen overseen by the National Committee Chairmen is one area I believe will help Divisions to participate at all levels and hopefully make them feel more part of a National Organization.

I thank all those Brothers and Sisters who have supported me in all my Hibernian endeavors, and I know you will continue to be there. The Massachusetts State Board members past and present and my home Division, Tomas Cardinal O'Fiaich Division 14, Watertown, it has been the strength of this Division that has allowed so many Brothers to seek and be successful in obtaining offices at higher levels of our Order. Finally, my biggest supporter, my Father, a 53-year member of this great Order. Through his encouragement, advice and support I have achieved things in the Order I never dreamed of when he sponsored me for membership.

## Montana



Former National Director Mike O'Connor, right, presented his original Director Medallion to newly elected Director Bob Mehrens at the Anaconda.



Bob Mehrens with his dad and fellow AOH member Jack Mehrens.



## freedom for all ireland

By Martin Galvin, chairman

FFAI was named the favorite committee by more convention registrants than any other. That survey was followed by your great response to FFAI proposals and Resolutions during the Convention, then by emails and phone contacts since. Covid has not slowed down British moves to keep their hold on the north. American help to those still denied freedom for all Ireland remains crucial. FFAI must overcome any obstacles to give them that help.

### Speakers

This year we want to expand FFAI across the country. We are working with new National Directors Ray Lynch, Sean O'Dowd and Dick Thompson to make FFAI more effective in the South, Midwest and New England. We are still planning a new speaking tour in November to address some of our Christmas Appeal events, follow-up on FFAI political issues after the election, and get more areas to support our FFAI political and fundraising initiatives.

In the interim, under an initiative by our National President Danny O'Connell, we are going to try to bring speakers to you via Zoom. We understand this is not the same as having speakers here for you to meet and share your concerns personally, but would allow more areas to hear speakers. FFAI submitted resolutions in anticipation of the 40th anniversary year of the 1981 Hunger Strike, to promote national and local commemorative events about the legacy of the Hunger Strike martyrs and a resolution on British moves to cut off the truth on legacy killings. FFAI will recommend speakers relating to these issues.

### FFAI Congressional Initiatives

Last year our FFAI political initiative took a major step forward with a House Foreign Affairs Committee Congressional hearing and a series of Congressional sign-on letters. FFAI is calling upon AOH members across the country to contact your local Senators and Congressmen, and advise them that issues like legacy justice are important to Irish voters in their district. Try to build contacts in local offices that we can contact about speakers from Ireland or Congressional letters etc.

### States-Cities honor Hunger Strike Martyrs legacy

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike, the death of Bobby Sands MP and nine others. The Hunger Strike and what it represented can be the theme of resolutions in states, cities and municipalities across the state and nation.

Next year is also the centenary of the six county state. The British are celebrating carving six counties out of Ireland against the wishes of the Irish people. The Hunger Strike also highlights that the six county Orange State treated Irish patriots as criminals and tortured them as part of a British propaganda strategy.

### February 2021 Fact-Finding Tour

In 2019, Hibernians completed a highly publicized nine-day fact-finding mission, including leading Hibernians from 13 states. This fact-finding tour had a tremendous impact on everyone who attended. It was also a major morale boost to groups in Ireland who count on AOH support.

Next year we hope conditions will allow us to sponsor a similar tour, that would include meetings with the families of all of the Hunger Strikers as well as discuss the continuing legacy and political meaning of the 1981 Hunger Strike today.

### Christmas Appeal

The 2019-2020 Christmas Appeal was a record-breaking success with almost \$100,000 awarded to a total of 19 groups.

We are concerned about the impact the health crisis may have on the 2020-21 Christmas Appeal. FFAI is asking every State President to support the Christmas Appeal within their state. States and county boards are encouraged to combine donations to earn the award given for \$1,000 donors.



## Director's report

By Bob Mehrens

In 1904, the National Convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri. D.J. Hennessy of Butte, Montana, was elected as a National Director. Almost a century later, in 2000, Mike O'Connor of Helena, Montana, was elected at the convention in Baltimore, Maryland, and reelected in 2002 in Mashantucket, Connecticut. Mike would go for another term in 2010 in Cincinnati, Ohio. With the 2020 virtual convention now behind us, it is with great appreciation that I am writing to you all. I want to thank every Montana Brother for your unwavering support as well as Delegates from around the country who supported me in becoming one of your six National Directors. I would also like to congratulate every newly elected officer on their respective positions. I look forward to working on your behalf with the entire National Board over the next two years, ensuring we continue a positive path going forward. We know the bar has been raised high and look forward to the challenge.

As the summer ends and we continue into the unknown with COVID-19, please continue to answer the call to recruitment. The one common theme that all candidates for National Director shared was the importance of recruitment and retention. Talk with your division and state boards on the importance of gaining and sustaining membership. Help find prospective members in your communities that are worthy candidates who may simply have never been asked. Feel free to contact me at Meetah2@hotmail.com



## Digital Coordinator

By Chris Cooke, Chairman

I am honored to have been appointed as our Order's first Digital Coordinator. I have an extensive IT background as well as a strong background in photography and digital media, which I will be putting to use in this new position. We have ambitious plans and it will take the help of several brothers working together to accomplish our goals. We are in the process of putting together a great team of brothers to help manage our Website and Social Media accounts. I am looking forward to working with this new digital team to help drive our online presence and brand.

*As the saying goes, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade," and this year has had quite the harvest of lemons. I encourage all our divisions to share a short video on their social media accounts talking about how they have been facing this year's challenges and what they are doing to continue their charitable work, turning lemons into lemonade.*

It is exciting to see our Order continue to march forward. Even in the midst of the many challenges we have all faced this year, we were able to adjust and embrace new technologies to hold our national convention virtually. And not only did we make do, but we are looking to permanently adopt a number of the changes that were made for this convention. For those who were not able to watch live or want to re-watch parts of the convention, we will be making videos from the convention available online. The first of these videos have been posted and there are more to come. Like and subscribe to the Ancient Order of Hibernians YouTube Channel to watch all of the videos as they come out.

As the saying goes, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade," and this year has had quite the harvest of lemons. I encourage all our divisions to share a short video on their social media accounts talking about how they have been facing this year's challenges and what they are doing to continue their charitable work, turning lemons into lemonade.



## Rituals & Degrees

By Jack Schneider, Chairman

With the now concluded and historic 2020 AOH Virtual National Convention behind us, the term of office for our outgoing National Officers ends and the term for our newly elected National Officers commences. As with any ending and new beginning, it is an appropriate time for review, reflection and recognition.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our outgoing National President, Judge Jim McKay, for affording me the opportunity to serve the Order as National Chairman of Rituals and Degrees for the past two years. I wish him all the best as he now assumes, as he classifies it, "The most coveted title in the Order," that of Past National President.

Congratulations and best of luck to our incoming National President, Danny O'Connell. Danny, it was a tremendous pleasure working directly with you, as my immediate "boss," on Rituals and Degree matters over the past two years. I'd like to think we accomplished good things just as I am sure you will continue to do in leading our Order forward.

The National Rituals Board and I greatly look forward to being led in our endeavors by our new National Vice President, Sean Pender, who assumes the mantle of directing Rituals and Degree matters for our Order. We hope to continue to accomplish much under your leadership and direction.

And finally, to the National Rituals Board itself comprised of our Major Degree Team Chairmen, thank you for your efforts and cooperation over the past two years. It certainly was most enjoyable. We saw the addition of the new Tri Abhainn Allegheny County, PA MDT to our ranks and our efforts resulted in the successful completion of a new edition of the Order Blue Book, the first such update to that document in 20 years.

I would like to extend thoughts of hope and encouragement to our 250 or so plus Major Degree Team Brothers as we navigate through these difficult times. Not being able to be afforded the opportunity to exemplify the Major Degree at the National Convention and welcome Brothers from throughout the country into full Hibernian brotherhood was certainly disappointing, but we hope, through God's grace, we can return to action possibly later yet this year.

The Virtual National Convention did provide a strong benefit in allowing significantly greater attendance at the Rituals and Degrees Breakout session. I believe possibly close to 200 Brothers were online for my presentation and I thank you for your attendance and participation.

Another positive emanating from the Convention was new talk of interest in possible formation of new Major Degree teams in the western part of the country currently underserved Rituals wise. As I stated during the Breakout session, myself and all our Degree Teams are eager and willing to assist and support the development of new Major Degree Teams in any way possible. It is a vast undertaking, but certainly most rewarding and fulfilling. I think we have now come to a realization that new technologies can be greatly beneficial in expediting training and development of new MDT's.

God bless, stay safe and remain healthy.



## Catholic Action

By Pat Lally, Chairman

Greetings to all my fellow Hibernians. My name may be familiar to some: I have contributed to Catholic Action locally and on the state level in Ohio, and nationally through my contribution to the national e-newsletter.

I am a Navy veteran, retiring from the Naval Reserve at 30 years. I attended a Catholic college in Indiana (not the one you are thinking of). With a great interest in history, I did graduate work, but never found the niche in that field that I sought. I hold offices locally in the American Legion and a local gun club and am a volunteer range officer for the National Matches at Camp Perry. Very involved in my parish and in a local shrine, I also enjoy reading, fishing, hunting and family history.

I am looking forward to continuing my contributions to Hibernian Catholic Action on the national level under the direction of our Chairman, Ron Hagan, to supporting his one-year plan, and taking on our added responsibilities for Project St. Patrick. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve and hope to justify the confidence placed in me by our President.



## Pro Life

By Larry Squires, Chairman

Being a Hibernian is a big part of my life. When I was young, my grandfather would take me to the AOH in Homestead, PA, where he played pinochle with his friends. I'll never forget the bartender, Fetus "Baldy" Cloonan, an Irish immigrant. The Irish in Homestead all went to St. Mary Magdalene that was founded by Fr. Shanahan, and Monsignor Burke was the pastor when I was growing up. Sr. Marie Patrick was the principal, until replaced by Sr. Marie Sullivan, when I was in seventh grade. It was a wonderful place to grow up, and the influence of the Church made a huge difference in my life. The nuns taught us right from wrong and the lessons were reinforced at home. In 1960, John F. Kennedy was elected President. My mother campaigned for him. It was a magical and blessed time to be Irish and Catholic.

As I grew up and learned about the Hibernians, how they defended our Clergy and Religious during the time of persecution by the British, and defended our churches against the Know Nothings in the U.S., I had to join the Order. Surely the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and Irish Day at Kennywood Park, and later South Park, all had plenty of appeal, but, for me, it was the Order's heritage of defending the Church that was the greatest attraction and source of pride, and remains so until this day.

The celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the AOH in America in New York City has been the highlight of my Hibernian career. It was truly a magnificent and blessed day! To march through the middle of Manhattan to Mass at Old St. Patrick's, behind three pipe bands, was a thrill I'll never forget. Through studying our Catholic Faith, I was always fascinated by the number of times scripture commentators bring up works of Venerable Fulton Sheen, and so I dove in and studied many of Fulton Sheen's works and have listened to countless lectures. I was later overwhelmed to learn that Bishop Fulton Sheen was our National Chaplain from 1937 through 1941.

Bishop John Hughes is absolutely one of my all-time heroes. Bishop Hughes dedicated his life to developing a Catholic School system in New York City in order to educate and catechize the thousands of Irish immigrants that were flooding New York City because of the Great Hunger in Ireland.

In my first year as Respect Life Chair, I hope to continue to utilize the virtual venue introduced to the AOH Brotherhood, as a result of the pandemic, to have regular virtual meetings with a Respect Life Committee and, hopefully, all of the Respect Life Chairmen in the Order. We will examine how we, as a country, arrived at our current situation with life issues and challenge many of the strong opinions that exist about life issues. By focusing on Holy Scripture, official Church teaching, inspired works of the saints and Fulton Sheen, we will transcend popular opinion that separates the faithful and nurture a genuine pro-life spirit among all of our brothers, regardless of age, party affiliation or previously held opinions. Also, the committee will stress prayer and fasting to strengthen and guide us in our mission.

I will be praying for you, and I hope that you pray for our Order, that we may always defend Holy Mother Church. May the peace and love of Jesus Christ, the determination of St. Patrick, the wisdom of Venerable Fulton Sheen, and the dedication of Bishop John Hughes be with you always!

## West Virginia

### Scholarships awarded

The Wheeling, West Virginia, Division recently awarded its 2020 scholarships to three high school students. The \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to worthy seniors based on grades, extracurricular activities, knowledge of Ireland and civic and religious activities. The scholarships are to be used for post-secondary education or training.

This year's winners were Maggie Fahey and Jacob Prager, of Wheeling Central Catholic High School, and Anissa Roth, of Wheeling Park High School. Ms. Fahey and Mr. Prager have interest in the field of exercise physiology. Ms. Roth has interest in the field of biology/pre-medicine. All three recipients will be attending West Virginia University in Morgantown.

— Tom Murphy



## hibernian hunger project

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

My thanks to Paul Gowdy for his work and efforts over the past two years as our National Chairman of the Hibernian Hunger Project. As we recently have seen in numerous Web Blasts and Digest articles since the pandemic began five plus months ago, Hibernians across the country have stepped up to serve in these times of need.

In future Digest articles and Web Blasts, we plan to highlight Hibernian efforts on the Division, County and State levels to combat hunger in their communities. However, for this to happen, I will need your help! Please email me a short article on an activity that your Division, County or State Board has done to combat hunger. Whether it be a food drive, volunteers helping out a food pantry or soup kitchen, fundraising or similar event, these stories are needed to show the good works being done by our members. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, so please email me your photos along with your story. My email address is noted at the end of this article.

We are in the process of planning for an AOH National Hunger Month, in which hopefully all Divisions will participate. More information on this and other initiatives will be forth coming soon.

My sincere congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected officers, directors and appointed officers. I look forward to working with you over the next two years. Working as a TEAM, we can achieve more for the benefit of our noble Order.

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



## veterans affairs

By Danny Eakins, chairman

Brothers, I must begin my first report to The National Hibernian Digest as Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee by congratulating all the newly elected officers and directors. Our Order continues to benefit from extraordinarily talented and professional leadership, and I extend my gratitude to the departing National Board that has led and served the Ancient Order of Hibernians so ably over these past four years.

I must also express my gratitude to several brothers without whose support I would not have this opportunity to address you now. First, to our new National President, Danny O'Connell: thank you for your confidence in me and for this opportunity to serve my fellow comrades-at-arms in our Brotherhood. Next, to "Brother Seamus," Jim Green, of Pennsylvania: thank you for your mentorship, your example, and your achievements in leading our veteran brothers. Your service as National Chairman for Veterans Affairs for President McKay's administration has been exemplary and transformational. I can only succeed you and I am pleased to share this message from you to our brothers: "I enjoyed my terms in office and hope they were fruitful. As the new deputy Veterans Affairs Chair, I will be sure to stay in touch!" Finally, thank you to my brothers in the Patrick Pearse Division in Columbus and the Ohio State Board for their tremendous support.

I have been a member of the AOH for just more than five years and have served as Veterans Affairs Chairman for our Division and the Ohio State Board for most of that time. I have been honored to participate in the initiatives undertaken by Chairman Green's term regarding the AOH Veteran Pin and the veteran identifier on the AOH Membership Card. I served as Division Financial Secretary for two years, where I first began the process of identifying Division veterans in our membership database. I am also serving my current term as Division Vice President for the last year and half.

Professionally, I have served as a veteran policy advocate with the Ohio Department of Veterans Services for 11 years. During this time, I have authored and implemented state policies that have expanded veteran opportunities in higher education, professional licensing, business and employment in the State of Ohio. I also serve as the Governor's designated Ohio Team Leader for the National Governors Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Veterans, Servicemembers and their Families.

My military career began with enlistment in the United States Army after the September 11th attacks on Washington and New York. In January 2005 I was deployed to Iraq as a Tank Platoon Leader with the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, where I led more than 300 combat patrol missions. I later joined the Ohio National Guard where I served as a Company Commander and Battalion Executive Officer in the 16th Engineer Brigade.

I look forward to employing my experience in support of our veteran brothers and actively engaging my fellow Veterans Affairs Chairmen across the country as we work to build our Order. In the meantime, I encourage all Hibernians, not just veterans, to check out the veteran resources listed on the national AOH website under the Veterans Affairs committee tab: [www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs](http://www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs).

I also encourage any Hibernian to contact me with questions they may have regarding veteran benefits for themselves, their friends, or family members. [dannyekins@hotmail.com](mailto:dannyekins@hotmail.com) / 614-893-8833

Garryowen!

## New York

### Hibernian Hunger Project in Dutchess Co.

On Flag Day, and the feast of Corpus Christi, Dutchess County's Msgr. Sheahan Division 1, held a streamed mass to commemorate all those Irish men, women and children who lost their lives during An Gorta Mor. As most of you may know, the Irish government has suggested to the Irish Diaspora to remember those who died from the pangs of the Great Hunger by celebrating Holy Mass in their memory.

This year, we committed to doubling our efforts for our annual Hibernian Hunger Project, which asks our members to collectively donate a monetary gift, which goes to our local food pantries. In addition, we requested Fr. Steve Ryan SDB, from the Salesians of the Marian Shrine and Don Bosco Retreat Center, at Stony Point, NY, to celebrate Holy Mass. We would like to thank Fr. Steve for his passionate homily on the realities of those tragic years of 1845-49. Fr Steve did not mince words, and directed the blame, rightfully, on the British government.

We are pleased to report that our brothers responded to the call and together, with matching funds from our division, raised \$4,000. This money will be distributed to four needy food banks in Dutchess County. I would like to thank my co-chairman, Jack Fedigan, without whose dedicated support and energy this effort would not have moved forward. I would also like to thank our Sister Hibernians for their support and encouragement.

Food pantry donations going to St. Mary's Wappingers Falls, Holy Trinity, St. Vincent de Paul (St. Columba) and Regina Coeli.

— Co-Chairmen Gearoid McVicker & Jack Fedigan



### St. Patrick's Division 2, Babylon, NY

After a hiatus of live meetings due to COVID-19, St. Patrick's Division 2's membership assembled at their hall to hold the August meeting. Also attending was special guest Suffolk County President Brother Chris Thompson, who addressed the members, as the Division draped their Charter for eight Brothers who passed since mid-March. From left, Financial Secretary Jerry Belmont, Division President Jim Killen, Suffolk County President Chris Thompson, Division Vice President Dennis Harty, Recording Secretary Jim McGrath, and Sentinel Mike Johnson.

### Saratoga AOH helps maintain shrine, cemetery

The primary focus of the Saratoga Hibernians' summer project was to participate in the maintenance of the Shrine and Cemetery sites of the first Catholic Church in Fulton County. The sites were established in 1856. A secondary focus was to index and photograph some 70 grave stones under the Find A Grave program. Gloversville's Church of the Holy Spirit, under the auspices of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese, is responsible for the sites.

In 1965, Brother Dave Cummings' father directed him to help a Franciscan Brother clean up a shrine and cemetery near the family's summer home; it was penance for a dumb, adolescent deed. The Franciscan Brother, John, had just retired from the NFL St. Louis Cardinals. Some 55 years later, AOH Brother Cummings encouraged his Brother Hibernians to tidy up the historical sites.

To commemorate the June 9, 2020, Feast of St. Columbkil, the Saratoga Hibernians weed-whacked and mowed the two-acre cemetery parcel and sawed and wood-chipped the downfall at the site of the Shrine.

The Saratoga Hibernians "departed" the setting that beautiful June day, but left feeling **continued on page<None>**

### Commodore Barry AOH Division 1

## Raffle For 2 Passes to Attend a Practice Round of the 2021 Masters Tournament

Monday, April 5, 2021 • Augusta National Club

Tickets \$20.00 donation each

Only 250 tickets to be sold

Drawing on: 3 December 2020

Proceeds Support Local Charities

View Our Website... [www.saratogaoh.com](http://www.saratogaoh.com) for more information



## history report

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr.  
national historian

I am honored to make this first report as your National Historian and deeply appreciative of having been appointed by our new National President. Isaac Newton famously said that he had “seen farther by standing on the shoulders of giants.” I can think of no more fitting way to begin my tenure than by acknowledging the incredible contributions of my immediate predecessor, Mike McCormack, a great Hibernian and a true giant in the field of Irish history.

In the late 19th Century, Daniel J. Mahony left his home near Ballybunion and made his way to New York, where he stayed with his Uncle Dan Cahill. He then moved to Pittsburgh and married a girl named Annie Callahan. Dan and Annie’s daughter, Aurelia, married Norman Taylor and named their second son – my father – Daniel Mahony Taylor, after his Grandfather. While attending Central Catholic High School, Dad was introduced to a beautiful Irish girl named Donna Murphy. My parents had two lovely daughters and me – Daniel Mahony Taylor, Jr.

I tell you this to illustrate the point that each of us has a personal and family history that ties us to Ireland. A history that has shaped and formed us. A history that informs our most deeply held beliefs.

One of the stated goals of the Order is “to foster the ideas and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people.” At the National, State, County and Division levels, we have Historians who are charged with encouraging the study and preservation of Irish history. But I submit that every one of us, as an active Hibernian, is called to be a Historian of sorts, ensuring that our personal and family histories are preserved and passed to the next generation.

The family Historian in my life was my father. Dad’s father died when he was very young and he was raised by his mother and her family. The Mahony family history was important to them and they passed it along to Dad, who in turn passed it to me. From my mother’s side I also received a marvelous piece of family history. My maternal great-grandmother, a woman by the name of Kathleen Collins, who came from Ireland by way of Liverpool, used to listen to the radio on Saturdays and would cry when Notre Dame lost. My grandfather told me that his mother was not otherwise a big sports fan – her only interest was Notre Dame football. Although she died long before I was born, this simple story allows me to know something significant about my great-grandmother.

Imagine coming from Ireland, where Catholics were denied higher education for centuries, and finding that there were great Catholic universities here. Imagine finding that one of those great universities was a powerhouse when college football was the game and called themselves the Fighting Irish. Those who are not of Irish descent and do not share our history may never understand the abiding affinity of Irish America for Notre Dame football. But we as Hibernians understand the historical context of this and many other traditions of Irish American and must ensure that those who come after us do as well.

In the coming days we will be working with your State, County and Division Historians to develop a Personal Historian program to provide a framework for each of us to memorialize our personal and family histories and ensure that our ties to Ireland are passed on to the next generation. I look forward to working with each of you in the preservation of our rich history.

# Notre Dame, Nativism and the ‘Fighting Irish’

By Daniel M. Taylor, Jr., National Historian

The country is again in the midst of a movement aimed at retiring team names and mascots deemed to be offensive. As with prior such movements, the “Fighting Irish” moniker and leprechaun mascot, with his classic “fisticuffs stance,” have entered the discussion. Those objecting to the nickname are presumably well-intentioned. But is “Fighting Irish” a slur? Or does the term have an origin of which the University, its students, alumni and the countless “subway alumni” can rightfully be proud?

Long before Notre Dame was established, the Irish soldier had a reputation for military prowess among the nations of Europe. The Treaty of Limerick, in 1691, provided for the “Flight of the Wild Geese” as Patrick Sarsfield and his Irish army of 14,000 joined Mountcashel’s Irish Brigade in the service of France. The Crowned heads of Europe (excluding England) enjoyed the service of generations of military leaders and intrepid Irish units who proved their worth time and time again. These Irish units in European service soon earned a reputation for their dependability and valor, leading continental armies to recruit in Ireland until the British made the practice illegal in 1745.

Irish emigration in the aftermath of the Great Hunger brought large numbers to our shores, just as the simmering conflict between the north and south was preparing to boil over. Anti-Catholic Nativists saw the Irish masses disembarking at American ports as a threat. Catholics, especially Irish Catholics, were considered to be dirty, immoral and “Un-American,” more loyal to Rome than Washington.

The Irish enlisted in the Union Army in great numbers and most readers are well aware of the gallant exploits of the Irish Brigade. The penchant of the Brigade’s commanders for headlong charges and the willingness of the Irish troops soon caught the attention of other combatants, newspapers and the American people. The steady advance of the Brigade against murderous fire at Marye’s Heights on December 11, 1862, amazed the most battle-hardened observers. George Pickett famously wrote to his fiancé: “Your soldier’s heart almost stood still as he watched those sons of Erin fearlessly rush to their deaths. The brilliant assault on Marye’s Heights of their Irish Brigade was beyond description. We forgot they were fighting us and cheer after cheer at their fearlessness went up all along our lines.”

What does any of this have to do with Notre Dame? The exploits of Irish troops reported in the papers could not have been more different than Nativist depictions of the Irish. “Fighting Irish” referred not to drunken brawlers, but loyal American soldiers, the bravest of the brave. Notably, one of the Chaplains of the Brigade was Father William Corby, who later became the President of Notre Dame.

Of the competing genesis stories of the “Fighting Irish” name, the connection between the Brigade, Father Corby and Notre Dame perhaps rings most true. Unlike Indian names adopted by non-Native Americans, the name “Fighting Irish” was adopted by Notre Dame President Mathew J. Walsh, C.S.C., son of an immigrant from County Cork, in 1927. As for the pugilistic leprechaun, the Irish had dominated the sport of boxing for decades. The stance of the leprechaun (search “John L. Sullivan” and look at the image) says it all – he is pure boxer, not barroom brawler. Certainly no one thinks that the “Fighting Illini” name of the occasional Notre Dame opponent is a slur. Come what may, it seems likely that the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame will continue to “fight in every game, Strong of heart and true to her name.”

# Make it your job to grow the AOH!



## political education

By Neil Cosgrove, chairman

Brothers, I thank President O’Connell and you for re-appointing me as your Political Education Chair. I hope that I prove worthy of your confidence.

It would be redundant to say that we are in incredibly challenging political times, not only as Hibernians but as Americans. It is often painful to watch the news and hard at times not to shake your head in despair. There is no sugar-coating or minimizing the challenges that lay ahead. At the moment on the political front, there is a tremendous amount of heat and smoke and very little light. Yet, our history reminds us that we as a people have faced bigger challenges, war, famine and prejudice, and yet we have survived and maintained our identity. It is now time for our generation to step up and do our part, for despite this glorious history, it will only live if we actively support it;

there is no “other guy” who will do the job.

That “Everything is Politics” is a reality, Brothers, and we must remember that in every one of our public or social media actions. We cannot advance our goals on

*Brothers, we need to take Hibernianism and being Irish American out of our meetings and before the public.*

Freedom For All Ireland, Right to Life or Immigration outside of the political sphere. At the same time, to paraphrase the Gospel of John, we need to be “in this world, but not of it.” Pragmatically, we need friends on both sides of the aisle if we are going to get the job done; our causes are rooted in fundamental justice; they should not be partisan. We cannot afford

to engage in litmus tests where if someone is not 100 percent in agreement with 100 percent of what we believe then we will not work with them; that is short-sighted, counterproductive and a luxury we cannot afford; it is a guarantee that other agendas will advance while ours continue to be left at the starting gate. At the same time, we have a right to expect that all elected representatives will actively engage on topics of Irish American interest. To steal a line from

and being Irish American out of our meetings and before the public. We do countless acts of charity as an Order, and I respect the noble sentiment that we do it for “the good work,” not the publicity, but taken to extremes this is a killer as an organization. We are not “once a year Irish,” but if the only time the public, and our political leaders, see us is at St. Patrick’s Day, then we have to forgive them for coming to that erroneous conclusion.

It is crucial that in this political year that we seek every opportunity to meet and engage with candidates and let them know that the Hibernians and Irish America are out there and that their position on our issues influences our vote in November. I will be setting up a call with the State PEC Chairs to discuss outreach with Senate and Congressional candidates; I look forward to then transmitting that message to the Counties and Divisions.

We need to send a clear message Brothers that we are Irish Americans, and we count.

Antidefamation, we ask not to be treated better than anyone else, but we will not accept being treated worse. We have to be clear that we are not going to continue to accept a smile and a “nice to meet you” and “we’ll look into that after ....” Our causes deserve just as much attention and priority as those of any other group.

Brothers, we need to take Hibernianism



## notre dame fund

By ned mcginley, prp  
chairman

It is our 42nd year having a presence on the University of Notre Dame campus, in Notre Dame, Indiana, for the Hibernian Lecture Series presented by the Cushwa Center for the study of American Catholicism. The 2020 lecture, for the first time, was to be presented in Dublin, Ireland, during the Celtic Classic football weekend. The lecture was to be attended by the President of Ireland, Michael O'Higgins, who was scheduled to speak at the subsequent reception. Covid19 virus brought these plans to a halt.

The Cushwa Center, as we accomplished with the AOH-LAOH Convention, is seriously working to live stream this year's lecture from the campus. We will be kept informed and — with the fantastic lessons learned and the confidence instilled by the success of our virtual convention — we have a tremendous opportunity for our membership to live stream the Hibernian Lecture to our AOH-LAOH membership from the campus.

The University of Notre Dame investors are wonderful stewards of the funds we have donated to the Cushwa Center, and the scholarships for the sons, daughters and grandchildren of our AOH/LAOH membership.

We have our reports on both Cushwa and our deposits at the Financial Aid Office for the Hibernian Scholarship Fund:

### Scholarship Funds in Financial Aid Office:

Book Value (The net amount of money our boards have contributed to the Scholarship Fund)

\$ 224,217.85 Our Investment

\$1, 293,835.39 The accumulated, invested, value of "Our Investment"

### Scholarship Recipients:

Therese K. Noonan Freshmen Willowbrook IL Biological Sciences

Thomas P. O'Connor Junior Park Ridge IL. Computer Science

### Cushwa Center Hibernian Fund Report July 2020:

Book Value (AO/LAOH Contributions 06.30.2020)

\$198,315.00 Our Investment

\$1,269,097.24 The accumulated, invested, value of "Our Investment"

**Supported Cushwa Activities:** Tara McCarthy delivered the 2019 Hibernian Lecture. "A Century of Suffrage: Catholic Activism, Class Consciousness, and the Contributions of Irish-American Women" McCarthy is an associate professor of history at Central Michigan University.

This lecture was part of the celebration of the Centenary for the Ladies AOH.

In addition: Three scholars received Hibernian Research Awards for Irish American Studies.

Hibernian Funds contribute to salaries and benefits for staff, undergraduate and a graduate student research fellow.

Our Order certainly receives a tremendous "bang for our buck" at The University of Notre Dame. Our footprint on the UND campus certainly gives us great respect and opportunity.

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



## organizer

By tim mcsweeney, chairman  
and national director

I'd like to thank President O'Connell for reappointing me National Organizer. I also like to announce the reappointments of Joe Casey, from Ohio, and Keith Reynolds, from Florida, as Deputy National Organizers.

Moving forward into the next two years, I plan to use video conferencing platforms to communicate with Organizers at all levels and to conduct recruitment and retention training.

Working jointly with the promotion and marketing committee, our on-line presence will be expanded to include more social media outreach and internet advertising.

### Recruitment Tip of the Month

Upon receiving an application from a potential member, during the investigation committee process, conduct a simple Google search of the person. This will give you a broad idea to the person's character and hopefully avoid a person of bad character being admitted to our Order. Also, research the person on social media. Upon discovery of any information that may be a potential disqualification from membership, discuss the information with the applicant. After which, present your findings to your Division President for further action. All actions of guidance are provided in the AOH Constitution.



## immigration

By tom Lambert, chairman

Brothers, my name is Tom Lambert. I am the President of the New York State AOH. In addition, I am now also the Chairman of the AOH National Immigration Committee. I am honored to accept this appointment. Thank you to AOH National President Danny O'Connell for this appointment. I would also like to acknowledge my predecessor, Dan Dennehy, who capably served as Immigration Chairman for many years. I have a lot to learn and will be relying on Dan's knowledge and experience in the coming months.

My view on immigration issues is framed by my legal background, my five trips to Ireland with extended stays in the North, and is also heavily influenced by my five years of active involvement and experience with the Project Children program. This program, which has done much to promote both the peace process and understanding between different groups from the North of Ireland and their American host families through time spent in the United States, had served as a catalyst for immigration possibilities.

Like everything else in today's pandemic world, Covid 19 impacts immigration issues. Immigration to and from Ireland, complicated prior to Covid 19, has now ground to a halt. However, Covid 19 issues have not prevented the recent deportation of AOH Brother Malachy McAllister. The AOH must continue to work to see that such a miscarriage of justice never happens again. To this end, the AOH National Immigration Committee will work under the guidance of President Danny O'Connell, and with National Vice President Sean Pender, National FFAI Chair Martin Galvin, the Irish American Unity Conference, U.S. Legislators, the Irish Embassy, the U.S. State Department and agencies of the Department of Homeland Security to be ready for the post pandemic state of immigration issues. I will also reach out to my Brother Hibernians for help in contacting these groups and agencies.

An example of an immigration issue currently stalled is the E3 Visas for Ireland Bill, introduced by U.S. Representative Richie Neal. This Bill passed in the House of Representatives this spring, but still awaits action in the Senate. The E3 Visa provides Australian citizens with access to 10,500 U.S. work visas annually, but many visas go unclaimed. The E3 Visas for Ireland Bill would grant the unused Australian visas to Irish applicants. Competition is also present for visas by way of the government of India. India's lobby is pressing a Senate Bill to gain visas, possibly at Ireland's expense! They already receive tens of thousands of H1-B visas a year, which are eventually converted into Green Cards. The AOH National Immigration Committee will keep a close eye on both Bills.

There are also other immigration topics that need current attention. Please keep in mind the privately funded Immigration Centers, which help with the needs of the Irish immigrants, legal and otherwise, who now reside in the U.S. An example of such a Center is the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. The EIIC, like other similar facilities, has not been able to fundraise, but still provides essential services to the immigrant community. These Centers need your financial and moral support. The Executive Director of the EIIC is LAOH National Immigration Committee Chair Siobhan Dennehy. I look forward to working with Siobhan on immigration issues over the next two years.



## Irish way & study abroad

By Bill Sullivan, chairman

My sincere thanks to our National President Danny O'Connell and the webinar team for their tireless efforts to make our 2020 Virtual National Convention a reality. Without doubt it was a great success and allowed us to not only do our constitutional duty but brought the AOH firmly into the 21st Century. It just might be the gold standard for future conventions!

I would also like to thank President O'Connell for reappointing me AOH National Chairman of the Irish Way and our Study Abroad Scholarships, as well as appointing me AOH National Chairman of the Hibernian Hunger Project.

### AOH National Board Scholarship Initiatives:

The Irish Way Program is an educational program for American High School Students that takes place during the summer in Ireland. Students participate in a three-week comprehensive program revolving around the Irish language, literature, culture and history.

The Irish Way is administered by the Irish American Cultural Institute, which is based in New Jersey. Our National Board has participated in the Irish Way for over 30 years and presently offers a \$1,000 scholarship for a child or grandchild of an AOH member who enrolls in the program.

The IACI remains cautiously optimistic that the 2021 program will be back on track, following this year's cancellation due to the pandemic. Information on next year's program is expected to be announced in November.

Your National Board also offers the children and grandchildren of AOH members several opportunities to receive a \$2,000 scholarship for a full year of study at a college in Ireland, and when viable a \$1,000 scholarship for a semester of study at a college in Ireland.

More detailed information on the Irish Way and our Study Abroad Scholarships can be found on our National Board's Web Page. Why not check it out!

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](mailto:williamjsullivan@verizon.net)



## from the editor's desk...

By John O'Connell

I am honored to have been re-appointed as the National Editor of the Hibernian Digest by President Danny O'Connell. This Digest issue you're reading now is the 55th issue I have managed, planned, photo edited and copy edited, and I think I'm getting the hang of it. The work has been made easier with the major help of Joan Mulcahy, who does all the InDesign formatting and page design at the printer, and with editing assistance from Hibernians Mike McCormack, Patrick Abbott, Jerry Lonergan, Ed McLoughlin and Kevin Smith.

Worthy President Danny O'Connell has high expectations of all the elected and appointed officers, so I look forward to new projects, new challenges and new opportunities for the good of the Order. All members of the AOH will benefit from the fresh ways and means on which the newly elected and appointed national board will take the lead. While all organizations these days face serious challenges, the future of the AOH is bright because of its aggressive, collegial, affirmative and imaginative leadership. I am thrilled to have been asked to play even a small part in the important accomplishments coming.

### Content submission tips

In the next few issues I plan to offer some helpful guidance on how to submit articles to the Digest, and some suggestions on how best to write those articles and take good pictures so that all Hibernians can appreciate the good news you want to share.

To start with, the most important guidance I can give is to ask you to remember this term: M3I. That's my acronym for the four elements necessary to make your article valuable to your fellow Hibernians. Every article, report or story should Motivate, Inform, Instruct or Inspire. The best content will do all four of these, but every article should have at least two of them.

For example, an article that reports that Division X held its installation on January 12 at the local hall, naming the new top eight officers, and mentioning that a light repast was offered, is nice and somewhat informative, but every division holds installations. Add something about the new president that might motivate other Hibernians to seek higher office. Instruct readers on what plans the new officers have for charitable giving, fundraising or recruiting. Add something inspiring about the history of the division, the goals of one of its committees, how a past president or new officer overcame adversity to accomplish an aspect of our Hibernian Motto.

So use the acronym M3I to help you write. Try to Motivate, Inform, Instruct and Inspire. Let's pray for each other, brothers.



## Irish American Heritage Month

By Neil Cosgrove  
Chairman

Brothers: It may seem far away, especially with all the distractions competing for our attention at present, but March 2021 and Irish American Heritage Month will be here before you know it. I put it to you that IAHM in 2021 will be critical to us as an Order and an Irish American community; we must redouble our efforts to give it active support.

The arrival of the COVID crisis in March put recognition of Irish American Heritage Month and the traditional St. Patrick's Day celebrations on hold; I don't think anyone then could realize the far-reaching changes that this disease would make to our society, and it has impacted the Irish American community particularly hard. I remember watching as a state politician glibly announced a prohibition against St. Patrick's Day celebrations stating that "We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day next year." While undoubtedly the right call from the standpoint of public safety, we have to seriously ask the question "will we have a place to celebrate next year" given the number of Irish American businesses, some generations old, that have gone out of business. We also have to consider the legitimate possibility that there may be continued prohibitions against parades in March; as I write this, it was recently announced that for the first time in its history, the Radio City Christmas show was canceled; who could have conceived of that? St. Patrick's Day is only three months after.

As Cardinal Cushing noted, "Always plan ahead; it wasn't raining when Noah started building the Arc." We simply cannot, in this new reality, allow two consecutive St. Patrick's Days and Irish American Heritage Months go by without recognition. We already have a severe problem in that there is a growing disconnect between our young people and their heritage; we have clear evidence of that in our recruiting. Let's be blunt: in today's climate, no one is going to pay proper tribute to the contributions of Irish Americans other than us. Paying homage to the sacrifices and achievements of our forebears is a Hibernian duty. Edmund Burke's warning that "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors" must be a call to action. When it comes to Irish American Heritage Month, we have to answer the question posed by President Kennedy: "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Brothers, to that end, I am asking every state president to appoint an Irish American Heritage Month Chairman as per the resolution that was passed at the AOH National Convention in July 2004, and please provide me their contact information. I would also invite brothers who are interested to contact me via the AOH National Website. We do not just need historical knowledge, marketing and promotional skills are required.

As the old (and inaccurate) motivational poster used to say, "The Chinese word for crisis is made up of the characters for Danger and Opportunity." We are as a community in a period of crisis, but this is a tremendous opportunity for us to reclaim the true meaning of St. Patrick's Day and promote Irish American Heritage Month.

## Colorado

### Carrigan Division visits Irish cemetery

The Joseph P. Carrigan Division in Colorado recently visited a rediscovered Colorado cemetery that contains the remains of up to 2,000 Irish immigrant miners. Division members drove into the mountains to Leadville, two hours west of Denver, to the Free Catholic Cemetery, so named because the graves didn't cost when needed.

Experts say that a century ago, the cemetery was neglected and grew back into the forest — only to be recently rediscovered. Most of the graves are unmarked and are only noticeable by the swails over each grave and the piles of rocks next to each one. The city platted the cemetery and so the names of about 1,200 of the people are known.

The Carrigan Division is in discussions about potentially contributing to a new memorial on the site honoring the Irish miners and their families who rest there.

Today, 2,800 people live in Leadville. Silver was discovered there in 1879. It created a vast financial boom that lasted about 10 years. The population of Leadville swelled to 35,000 during those years. Many of those people were Irish immigrants. Most of them left immediately after the boom turned to bust because of the harsh environment and their need to find work. That is partially why the cemetery was mostly forgotten.

While in Leadville, the Carrigan Hibernians also toured the Annunciation Catholic Parish, built in 1880. The parish boasts having "the world's highest steeple" at more than 10,000 feet. Fr. Carrigan, for whom the division is named, served as dean of the church and ministered to many of the Irish immigrants in Leadville and the surrounding area.



Carrigan Division heard a presentation from restoration fundraising committee member Luke Finken. From left, division brothers John Aylward, Mike Boyd, Ed Schumm, Patrick Maguire, Rick Steck and Sean Hudson stood among the mountain pines.

## Kentucky



The greening of Louisville  
Hibernians in Kentucky helped Operation Bright Side keep Louisville beautiful by planting trees in the city.



Helping first responders  
The division formed the Hibernians Relief Program, and teams up with local restaurants to provide lunch for the first responders in their battle to fight the coronavirus.

# Connecticut

**By Phil Gallagher**

State President Brenden Walsh reports that many Connecticut Hibernians participated in the 2020 AOH National Convention. A week prior to the convention, President Walsh conducted a virtual State Board meeting at which the Brothers voted unanimously to support the amendment to the Constitution regarding the Kennedy Medal that was submitted by the tri-state Board of D. C., Virginia and Maryland.

Connecticut Hibernians felt that it was common sense not to give our most important award to a politician who gave one hundred percent support to abortion on demand and it would be equally outrageous for example to give our Humanitarian Award to a Unionist because they opposed abortion.

State Vice President Brian O'Neill submitted a constitutional amendment to make November 22 a National Hibernian holiday. His motion failed to gain the 2/3 majority.

President Michael Enright states that Hartford Division 2 continues to be busy. The Division has held monthly food drives since May to benefit the Food Pantry at St. Augustine Church.

The Division has also added guest speakers to its monthly meetings. John Fitzgerald, the founder of the Irish American Baseball Society, spoke at the June virtual meeting. The Division held an in-person, socially distant meeting in July at the Irish American Home Society in Glastonbury at which Ryan Mahoney, the executive director of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University spoke.

Brother Enright reports that his Division mourns the passing of long-time Brother William Egan, who was Division President in 1959-60. Brother Egan was born in County Offaly and lived to the ripe old age of 92!

Waterbury continues to do a good business and provide a social atmosphere by serving food and beverages outside their Home. They even package the ingredients of a New England Clambake to go.

Several Divisions, such as New London, Bridgeport and Danbury, have been holding Zoom meetings. Fran De Peter of New London hopes that by October his Division will be able to host a live State Board meeting at Fort Trumbull.

State Political Education Co-Chair Tom Keane tells of a marvelous story that appeared in the Connecticut Post concerning longtime member and Past JFK Division President Mark Smith. Mark is an upbeat guy and retired police officer. Mark was singled out because he just donated two hundred pints of blood. That is 25 gallons!! Congratulations Mark. Wow! Some achievement.

We close this column on a sad note. This past week I and other Danbury Hibernians attended the wake and funeral of past John A. Gildea Division President Jim Palardy, who was taken from his family and friends much too early. Jim was a stand-up guy who always let people know where he stood. He chaired at one point the annual Father's Day Golf Tournament. Jim also initiated the fall golf outing that benefits the Greater Danbury Irish Center. As Vice President with President Paul Grassler Sr., he helped greatly with the transition to the Irish Center. Jim's wife, Kate, is a member of the LAOH, and five of his brothers in law, Michael, Steve, Gerry, Brian and Ray Ledan, are Hibernian Brothers. R I P. Jim.

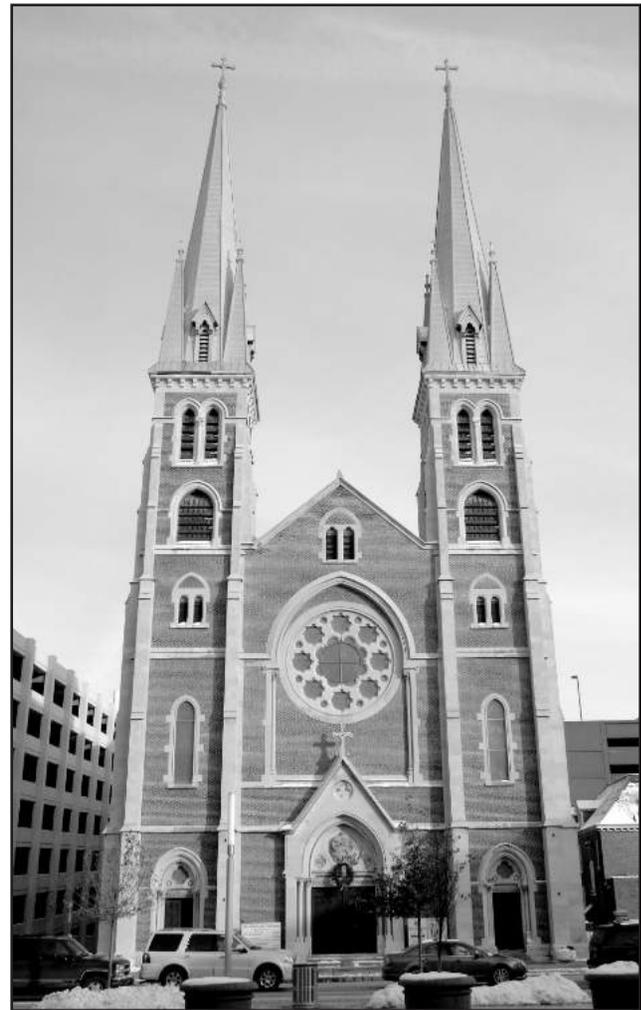


**Bridgeport Hibernian and retired policeman Mark Smith proudly displayed his Red Cross Gallon pins for his remarkable record of donating blood. Photo by Brian A. Pounds, Connecticut Post.**



**Brothers Jim Mulcahy, Mike Enright and John Gallivan along with Father Thomas Walsh, the Pastor of Saint Augustine Church, in Hartford. The Hartford Division has been holding Food Drives for the parish's Food Pantry.**

# Indiana



**St. John Church today. The oldest Irish and Catholic church in Indianapolis.**

## AOH in Indianapolis

Due to the pandemic, Kevin Barry Division 3, in Indianapolis, has had only one meeting since March 5. At that July 9 outdoor and masked meeting, we handled old business, gave away \$1,700 in donations, cancelled our summer activities, and tentatively set our next meeting for August. With the virus surge in Indiana, that meeting may not take place.

Since there is little to look forward to in the near future, it might be interesting to look into the past with a few paragraphs concerning the history of AOH in Indianapolis. The sources are two books: *The Irish*, by William W. Griffin, and *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, by David J. Bodenhamer and Robert Graham Barrows.

The first AOH division established in Indiana was founded in Knightsville, Clay County, in 1871, and was introduced by Pennsylvania coal miners who located in the area.

The city of Indianapolis, founded in 1820 and named capital of Indiana in 1825, was home to more than 3,300 foreign-born Irish by 1870, with the total being 3,760 for all of Marion County. This was 31 percent of the city's foreign-born population. The first two AOH divisions in the city were founded in 1873 and 1874; Divisions 1 and 2 were holding weekly meetings. By 1878 six divisions met either weekly or bimonthly and county officers were named for the first time in 1879.

Divisions were established in Terre Haute in 1879, in Lafayette and Logansport in 1883 and in South Bend in 1885.

The 1880s saw a decline in AOH membership in Indianapolis due to the founding of other Irish organizations. However, activity increased again from 1890 to 1900, when divisions again increased from three to six. At that time, the Indianapolis AOH county headquarters was at St. John's Catholic Church Hall, with county officers consisting of a president, treasurer and secretary. St. John's Parish served as the gathering place for the Irish community. Today, beautiful St. John's is the first Irish and oldest Catholic church in Indianapolis.

By 1910, the Irish population in Indianapolis was 12,225, of which 3,255 were born in Ireland. This would be the peak in AOH membership with eight divisions and about 1,000 members. Each Irish parish had its own division. The Ladies Auxiliary, properly known as The Daughters of Erin, was even more extensive, having nine divisions and 1,100 members.

Indianapolis Irish parishes and when they began: St. John, 1832; St. Patrick, 1865; St. Joseph, 1873; St. Bridget, 1879; St. Francis de Sales, 1881; St. Anthony, 1891; Saints Peter and Paul, 1892; Holy Cross, 1896; and St. Philip Neri, 1909.

Only a few AOH divisions survived in Indiana after 1920. However, in 1936, there were 527 members reported in Divisions 1 and 2 in Indianapolis. Division 1 ended in 1957 and Division 2 was terminated in 1960.

In 1970, a St. Patrick's Division was established on the Indianapolis south side, but only existed into the late 1980s. A second St. Patrick's Division was established in Greenwood in 1994-95, but only existed for a short time.

Today, three divisions exist in Indiana. Kevin Barry Division 3, Indianapolis, was established in 1958 and has a membership of around 350. South Bend's smaller James McDivitt Division has been in continuous operation since its founding in 1965, and Michigan City AOH had their first induction of new members on June 28, 2014.

— Jim Lynch

# Massachusetts

## Around the State

Congratulations to the newly elected National AOH and LAOH boards and Watertown's Division 14 Dick Thompson, elected National Director assigned to the New England area. Many thanks to outgoing Director Bill Sullivan of Division 8 Lawrence for his years of dedicated service.

## Division 8, Lawrence

Robert R. Gauthier, Division 8's Scholarship Chairman, recently announced the recipients of this year's awards. Catholic High School Scholarship: Rosemary Cuddy; College Scholarships: Connor Breen, Ryan Collins, Katliyn Dery and Mary Danahy. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions, Division 8 had to forgo their usual formal presentation of these awards. Recipients were mailed a check in July.

The Division remains hopeful that they will be able to resume their monthly meetings in September at the Claddagh. In the event they are unable to meet at the Claddagh their September Meeting will be held by Zoom.

## Division 14, Watertown

Division 14 has been working diligently at sprucing up the hall, its members area and kitchen during the closure, looking onward and upward to when we can meet again in person. We are very proud to have our own Dick Thompson elected National Director at the National Convention. Way to go Dick!

## Essay award presented

On behalf of Father John Murphy, Division 9, Plymouth, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, I wanted to update all our Hibernian brothers as to the recent recipient of the annual essay contest that we hold every year.

The contest is sponsored by the late Dr. William and Rita O'Connell, who were residents of Duxbury. The award is open to any Duxbury High School senior who will be attending college. The winner of this year's award is Bernadette Farmer, who wrote a beautiful essay about her "Grandma Peggy," whose parents were from counties Cork and Tipperary.

Ms. Farmer movingly recounted what a great impact her grandmother had on her and Grandma Peggy's combination of faith, spirit and caring for all of her extended family touched Bernadette's heart as she eloquently conveyed what her grandmother meant to her in her essay. Our president, John P. Travers, presented Bernadette Farmer with an award of \$1,000 on behalf of our Division and in the memory of our later Brother, Dr. Bill O'Connell.



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# Pennsylvania

## South-Central Hibernians issue more than \$3,000 in scholarships

The members of the AOH Cumberland County, PA, Michael Collins Division 1, had the tough though pleasurable task to determine scholarship winners for college-bound students from Trinity High School. Congratulations to our winners: Megan Goudy, Thomas Chase, Kathleen Sajer and Michael Soule. All of the applicants demonstrated strong leadership ability coupled with their dossier of charitable acts as well as completing an essay on an inspirational Irish heritage leader who affected their life in some way. The stories are amazing! Additionally, scholarships were awarded to students in three local Catholic elementary schools.

## South-Central Hibernians' generosity support local food bank

The members of the AOH Cumberland County, PA, Michael Collins Division 1, responded admirably during the pandemic by using financial resources from its winter fundraising efforts to support the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. The Order presented a check for \$875 to support this worthy and timely cause. Many of our members made a personal financial contribution while the Order agreed to match donations to boost the overall donation amount.

— Mike Powers - President, Michael Collins Div. 1.

# Rhode Island



**Scholarship Committee Chairman David Kerins, left, Lily Bestoso, Dylan McGrath, Siobhan Sullivan and Scholarship Committee member David Behan. Due to COVID, not all winners were able to be pictured.**

The Newport, RI, Dennis E. Collins Division 1 handed out its annual scholarships, which are open to members and their families. This year, the division was proud to hand out \$6,000 in scholarships to six local students. The Hibernian Scholarship Committee awarded the scholarships to Abigail Smith, Hanna Robinson, Siobhan Sullivan, Dylan McGrath, Stella Garcia and Lilly Bestoso, the winner of this year's annual Steve Lepley Scholarship. The members of the RI AOH wishes them the best and look forward to their future success.

While under COVID guidelines the Newport AOH Cigar Club has been busy cleaning up the outside patio at our hall in Newport. They have worked tirelessly to make the patio one of the best and have donated many pieces of patio furniture to continue to spruce up the beautiful hall.

Lastly, but certainly not least, the Newport Division would also like to congratulate two of our clergy members for their dedication and membership to our worthy Order. Fr. Francis O'Loughlin is celebrating 40 years of membership, and Fr. Bernie Healey is celebrating 25 years of membership. The RI AOH is very proud to have these two great men as members, and they continue to truly embody friendship, unity and Christian charity.

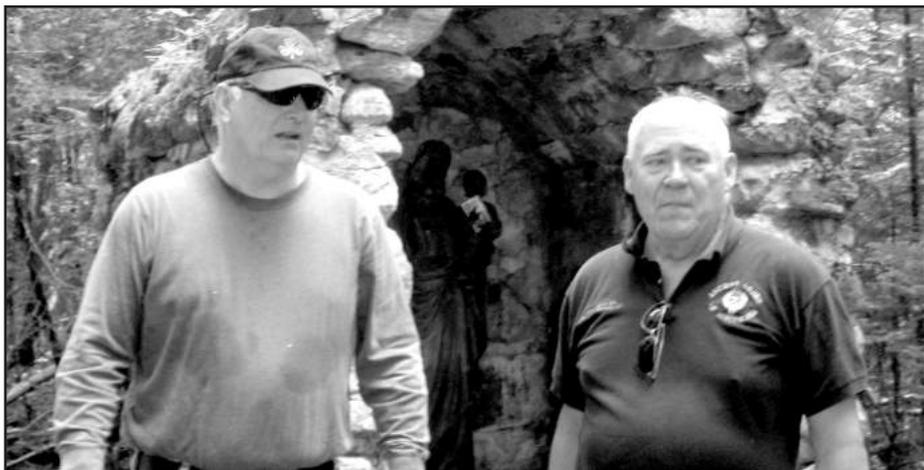
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**NEW YORK**  
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very rewarded and in a state of grace for their efforts. This fall, the Saratoga Division clergy will co-celebrate services at the Shrine with Fulton County Priests. They invite you to share the event in your visit to the First Catholic Church in Fulton County.



Saratoga AOH President Tim McNulty, left, and Past President Dave Cummings discussed the Division's summer project to perform maintenance and rehabilitate the St. Joseph Shrine and the site of the first Catholic Church in Fulton County. The sites were established in 1856.

# Montana



Members of the Anaconda AOH, as well as members of the Montana State Board, got together at the Hibernian Hall in Anaconda Montana to take part in the 2020 Virtual convention.

# Ohio

## Growing the Order - Building the Future

Brother Patrick C. Kelly, Division Organizer, has expanded on the AOH directive: "Make it your Job to grow the Order." Bro. Kelly has taken the challenge one step further. His major recruitment goals and objectives are: Growing the Order - Building the Future.

"It has been my observation," noted Kelly, "over my last 26 years in the AOH, that the Order not only needs to think in terms of membership growth, but the future of the Order as well." To that end, and under Kelly's direction, we have encouraged the younger members of the division to recruit other younger members. Such a plan cannot be without an incentive.

The incentive comes in the form of the newly established Organizer Recruitment Award (ORA), a black shillelagh, making a grand presence on the sponsor's green AOH Sash. Since your initial sponsorship earns an ORA, new members are encouraged to begin thinking of sponsoring new members from their very first day. Subsequently, a shillelagh is earned after every three sponsorships.

The result of the new recruitment program can be seen with the addition of four new members so far this year, which have been recruited by our younger members. In honor of the 42nd Anniversary of the Washington County (Ohio) Division 1, three Shamrock Degrees were conferred, via Zoom, at the July 25 meeting of the Division. The Division welcomed Bro. Bo Doyle, Bro. Jim Hartlage and Bro. Ford Gasperson.

In spite of COVID-19, social distancing, obsessive hand washing and masks, the dogged determination of the Division's recruitment effort has prevailed. The Division thanks Bro. Rob Brannan for setting up our Zoom meetings.

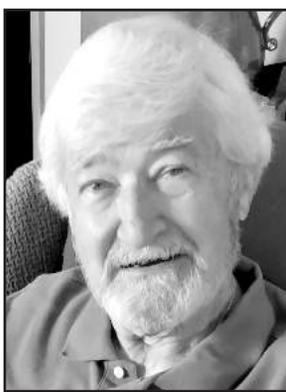
Division President Thomas Binegar has noted, "The Division has exceeded the Ohio AOH request that we add two new members by the end of the calendar year. We continue to carry the history and tradition of the Irish of Southeast Ohio on to future generations. It makes me both pleased and proud to be a part of such an energetic Division."



Bo Doyle



Ford Gasperson



Jim Hartlage

## Charity Run raises \$1,500

The Irish Brigade Division 1, of Medina County, Ohio, in spite of the Covid 19 and early rain, held their 4th Annual AOH Charity Beer Run on July 11, and it was a success. The division thanks brothers Dave Manley and Ray Schulte and their team for all their hard work this past year.

Because of the numerous date changes, several people were forced to cancel, however more than half of them donated their ticket money to the event. The division chaplain, Deacon Bruce Dobbins, was responsible for selling 22 tickets.

The day ended with lots of sunshine as well as clearing close to \$1,500, which will be divided among the division's charities, including Deacon Bruce Dobbins' Veterans Affairs work, the Regina Health Care Center, where one of the division's priest-member resides, and BirthCare of Medina County, for their continued work in assisting poor women with the costs of their newborn babies.

— Joe Casey

## Hibernian Albert Beltz was ordained a Deacon

The Bluestone Division, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, is proud to announce that brother Hibernian Albert Beltz has been ordained a Deacon, in the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio. Albert is currently a Theology III seminarian at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West, which will hopefully lead to his ordination as a Priest. His home parish is St. Joseph, in Maumee, Ohio. Albert is also a classically trained artist with a focus on the historical preservation of sacred art. While pursuing the goals of Project Saint Patrick, the Bluestone Division actively focuses on fundraising activities to support seminarians, and provide scholarships to eighth-grade students, in order to attend local Catholic high schools.



## Tomhas na Teanga

by Jim Norton  
Le Séamas Ó Neachtáin

Fiche-fiche. 2020. Muise. Sheesh. Beidh cuimhne againn ar an mbliain seo go deo, is dócha. *We'll never forget this year, I suppose.* Ceapadh go raibh cúrsaí go dona mar gheall ar an víreas - agus bhí. *People thought things were bad because of the virus - and they were.* Ach ina dhiaidh sin, thosaigh na círéibeacha agus scriosadh de gach sórt, agus teacht chun cinn na barbarthachta. *But after that, the riots and destruction of every sort started, and the rise of barbarism.* Chuirfeadh sé isteach ar dhuine! *It might bother a person!* Agus níorbh fhéidir linn teacht le chéile beo, den chuid is mó. *And we weren't able to get together in person, for the most part.* Níorbh fhéidir linn fiú dul go dtí an tAifreann. *We weren't even able to go to mass.*

Cad tá le déanamh againn, mar sin, i ngleann seo na ndeor? *So what are we to do in this vale of tears? Cad tá de dhíth orainn? What do we need?* Tá an freagra againn, a bhráithre. *We have the answer, brothers.* Tá cairdeas, aontacht agus carthanacht Chríostaí de dhíth orainn! *We need friendship, unity and Christian charity!* Bímis inár n-eiseamlár don saol, a chairde. *Let us be an example to the world, friends.* Bíodh misneach againn! *Let us have courage!*

Is fearr i gcónaí, más féidir, díriú ar na rudaí maithe a bhíonn ar siúl againn, seachas ar na fadhbanna. *It's always better, if possible, to focus on the good things that we have going on, rather than the problems.* Ní minic gur féidir linn fadhbanna an tsaoil a réiteach. *It's not often we can solve the world's problems.* Ach is féidir linn uile ár gcuid féin a dhéanamh chun an saol go díreach inár dtimpeall a fheabhsú. *But we can all do our own part to make the world right around us better.* Má dhéanaimid amhlaidh, níl amhras ach go mbeidh tionchar againn ar dhaoine eile, agus beidh an saol mór níos fearr ar ball, le cúnamh Dé. *If we do like that, no doubt but that we will have an influence on other people, and the wide world will eventually be better, God willing.*

Agus ná déanaimis dearmad riamh de Dhia, a thug cabhair dúinn mar mhuintir i gcónaí, agus nach dtréigfidh sinn riamh, má bhímid dílis dósan. *And let us never forget God, who always helps us as a people, and will never abandon us, if we remain faithful to Him.* Guímis ar a chéile, ar ár dtírne, ar Éirinn, agus ar an saol ar fad. *Let us pray for each other, for our country, for Ireland, and for the whole world.* Dá fhada an oíche, tiocfaidh an lá. *However long the night, day will come.*

"Bíonn ár n-anam ag feitheamh leis an Tiarna; is é siúd ár gcabhair agus ár sciath; is ann a ghairdionn ár gcroí, is iontaoibh linn a ainm naofa. Go dtaga do bhuanghrá orainn, a Thiarna, de réir an dóchais a chuirimid ionat." (Salm 33:20-22)

## Daniel J. Boyle III

AOH Division 3 in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA sadly announced the passing of Daniel J. Boyle, on June 12. Dan spent his career in law enforcement, beginning as a Correctional Officer in Bucks County and ultimately joined the police departments in Sellersville Borough and Solebury Township. He was heavily involved in the Bucks County Drug Task Force. Upon retirement, Dan started Boyle Investigations as well as becoming a vital member of AOH Division 3.

## William Joseph Egan

William "Bill" Joseph Egan, 92, of Vero Beach, FL and Enfield, CT, peacefully passed away on June 17 at home, surrounded by his loving family. Bill was born on February 26, 1928, in County Offaly, Ireland, to William P. and Marianne Egan. He arrived in the U.S. in 1949.

He served as President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Hartford, Division 2, and retired from the Connecticut Department of Corrections, Somers, after 30 years. Bill, a proud Irishman, was an active member of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee for 38 years, receiving the Gallivan Award. He was a member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield, the Elks Club, the Knights of Columbus, and a founding member of The Claddagh Club in Enfield. A devout Catholic, Bill embodied the Christian ideal of loving one's neighbor through his ceaseless acts of generosity and kindness.

Bill found joy watching Boston sports teams and attending Red Sox games. A highlight of his life was his first trip to see a Notre Dame home football game. He enjoyed frequent Caribbean cruises, calls from his children, Irish music, and a good story or joke. Bill loved animals, especially dogs.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Margaret; his children Patrice Gilbert and her husband Bill of Wethersfield, CT, Bill Egan and his wife Paula, and Angela Greene and her husband John of Pompano Beach, FL; his grandchildren, Lindsay, Alison and Ryan Gilbert, Isla Egan, and Jordan Greene; three siblings, Peg Morris, Nancy Goodrich, and Joe Egan, all of CT; many nieces and nephews and family in Ireland. He was predeceased by his parents and an infant brother, James Francis. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Humane Society of Vero Beach or St. Helen Catholic Church.

## Martin J. Madigan, Jr.

Hibernian Martin J. Madigan, Jr. passed away on July 29, 2020.

A leader in the Irish community, Marty was the former Pennsylvania State President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians as well as Oakland Irish AOH Division 9, and was the current President of the Irish Society for Education and Charities, which is a parent organization of the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade.

In 2015, Marty was honored as the Grand Marshal of the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade. A true gentleman, with a big personality and even larger sense of humor, Marty was always quick with a joke and was always willing to help a friend, whatever the circumstance. In spite of all of his accomplishments in life, it was his wife's designation for Marty as "The Trophy Husband" that he was the proudest.

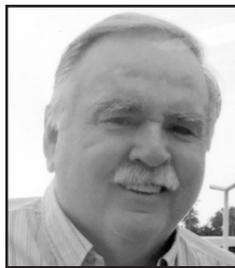
Born in 1954 and raised in Oakland, Marty was a longtime Division Manager of the Wills/Orphans Division of the Allegheny County Department of Court Records until his retirement in 2011. Extremely well known in political circles, Marty was a former Democratic Ward Chairman in both Oakland and then Hampton Township.

Marty will be sadly missed by his friends and family and the world now has another Irish Angel looking down from above. He was the beloved husband of Deborah L. Madigan; proud father of Ryan Martin Madigan; brother of Peggy Cooney (Robert), Martina Allison (Fred), Patrick Madigan (Connie), Michael Madigan (Kathy) and the late Mary Haggerty; also survived by several nieces and nephews.



## James Henry McNamara

James Henry McNamara, age 82, passed away on August 7, 2020, at his home in Point Pleasant Beach. Born and raised in NYC, James lived in Point Pleasant Beach for the past 50 years. He retired as an Ocean County sheriff. James was a member of the AOH, a life member of the Ocean Fire Company 1, and was a NYC firefighter with Ladder 27, Engine 46. He was an exempt member and trustee of the Relief Association. He was Vice President of the PBA Local 379 as well as a member of the Point Pleasant Beach Booster Association. James was also a Little League Coach for Point Pleasant Beach and coached recreational basketball.



Surviving are his beloved wife, Joan McNamara; his loving children, James McNamara and his wife, Jessica of Pound Ridge, NY, Doreen Pavlick and her husband, Michael of Howell, Debra McNamara-Noon and her husband, Todd of Galloway and Dawn McNamara of Brick; his sister, Mary Bohrman of Cocoa, FL; his cherished granddaughters, Caitlin Fisher, Taylor Sibson, Kaylee McNamara, Kyra McNamara, Georgia Noon, Samantha Pavlick and Leah McNamara.

## Pete Murphy

Division 3 in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, announced with sorrow the passing of one of its founding members, Pete Murphy, Sr. Pete died on May 11, within 24 hours after the passing of his beloved wife, Teresa. Pete was born in Cashel, County Tipperary, in Ireland. He immigrated to Philadelphia in 1958 at the age of 18. He ultimately joined the Plumbers Local 690 and retired in 2002. Both Pete and his wife enjoyed spending time with their family and friends as well as volunteering at their parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Buckingham, PA. Pete was an active member of Knights of Columbus 15590 and AOH Division 3.

## James B. Palardy, Sr.

James B. Palardy, Sr., 72, of Danbury, CT, formerly of Bethel, devoted husband of Kathryn (Ledan) Palardy, died peacefully at Danbury Hospital on June 9 after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Danbury in 1948, son of the late Andrew and Rita (Coffey) Palardy. He was a graduate of Danbury High School.

Proud of his Irish heritage, Jim was a longtime member of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians. He served as a past president of the AOH, volunteered in many capacities, and organized the yearly Father's Day Golf Outing. He was honored as a Hibernian of the Year in 2012. He also enjoyed being a member of the Wooster Hose Co.

Jim will be remembered for his great sense of humor and outgoing nature. He was a veteran of the United States Navy. In addition to service on the USS Hornet, he served on the USS Intrepid and was in Vietnam. He worked for the United States Postal Service in various local towns. He retired as a supervisor of the Southbury office after 30 years of employment. Upon retirement, Jim was a beloved member of the staff at the Cornell Memorial and Brookfield Funeral Homes.

In addition to his cherished wife of 50 years, Kathy, he will be missed by his son, James B. Palardy Jr. and his wife, Kim; his daughter, Judy Thurston and her husband, Bill; his five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by his brother, Robert; and his sisters, Pamela Surovy and Marita Palardy; several nieces, nephews, and beloved in-laws. He was predeceased by his brother, Andrew, Jr.

Memorial contributions in Jim's name, may be made to the AOH Scholarship Fund or to the American Cancer Society. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit [www.CornellMemorial.com](http://www.CornellMemorial.com)

## George J. Thomas, National Life Member

George J. Thomas, a member of Division 8, in Lawrence, Massachusetts, passed peacefully on June 11, 2020, after a long illness. He was born in Lowell, MA. George is survived by his loving wife, Gloria, and his five children. He was 87 years old.

George served his country in the United States Navy for four years and was honorably discharged in 1954. George was highly active in his community and served as President of the South Lawrence Associates and Chairman of the Annual Christmas Parade, in Lawrence.

Joining Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians in Lawrence, on April 27, 1969, George took his Major Degree in 1976, and was named Irishman of the Year in 1985. He served as Chairman of Lawrence's St. Patrick's Day Parade for many years and took exceptional pride as Chairman of Division 8's Annual St. Patrick's Day Program Book and the Division's Annual Turkey Cheer. Money raised from these two activities were used to fund Division 8's Scholarship initiatives. He was awarded the Hon. John E. Fenton Citizenship Award by Division 8 in 1991, which is named after Past AOH National President John E. Fenton (1935-39), who was a member of Division 8. Over the years, George served as Financial Secretary for Division 8; AOH Essex County Board President and AOH Massachusetts State Treasurer. He attended numerous AOH Essex County Conventions, Massachusetts AOH State Conventions and AOH National Conventions. In 2008, the AOH National Board awarded Brother Thomas National Life Membership.

His wake and funeral were held in mid-June. Division 8 AOH Chaplain, the Rt. Rev. John Delaney, celebrated his funeral Mass at Sacred Hearts Church in Bradford, MA. A private burial took place at the Veterans National Cemetery in Boscawen, New Hampshire, where Father Delaney offered the committal prayers.



*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.*

**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."

# Virginia

## Father Jerry Wooton

This past Father's Day, General Thomas F Meagher Division brothers visited Fr. Jerry Wooton at St. Patrick Church in Fredericksburg to bid him fair skies and trailing winds as he transfers to Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale. Fr. Wooton has served Virginia Hibernians for the better part of two decades as charter chaplain for Colonel Cunningham Division, General Meagher Division chaplain, and as the Virginia State Chaplain. Fr. Jerry provided Hibernians with spiritual guidance and served as their religious compass and mentor. He mixed his unique sense of humor with outstanding, meaningful homilies at Hibernian meetings, celebrated the Fredericksburg's annual Irish American Heritage Month Mass, and honored General Meagher Division's deceased brothers with the annual Memorial Mass in November.

## Hibernian wins Young Man of the Year

James Lenahan, a third-generation Hibernian and member of the General Thomas F. Meagher Division, was named Young Man of the Year by the Knights of Columbus' St. Jude Council 13599. Lenahan earned the award with his commitment to his faith, community service and academic excellence. He joined the AOH in 2018 and received the Major Degrees in 2019. He served St. Jude Catholic Church as an altar server for the past six years and is an Eagle Scout, who led project planning and execution installing three wooden benches at St. Jude.

Lenahan graduated from Massaponax High School this year with honors and five specialty seals: the Governor's Academic Excellence Seal, the Advanced Math & Technology Seal, the Board of Education Career & Technical Education Seal, the Excellence in Civics Education Seal and the Spotsylvania County Community Service Seal. He will attend the Batten School of Engineering at Old Dominion University.

## Herbert-Cady Division scholarship awards

The Herbert-Cady Division presented two \$500 scholarships to eighth grade students at the Basilica School of St. Mary. Matthew Antonio and Maria Mate received their awards during their graduation ceremony. Two additional \$500 awards were presented to two 11th grade students at Bishop Ireton High School. The awardees were Christopher Johnson and Mary Kate Mull. Christopher and Mary Kate received their awards from Bishop Ireton High School Chaplain Father Noah Morey as well as Basilica of St. Mary rector and Herbert-Cady Division Chaplain Father Edward Hathaway.



Matthew Antonio



Maria Mate



Christopher Johnson



Mary Kate Mull



General Meagher Division President Dave McLaughlin presented the award to Emily at the St Patrick graduation ceremony.

## Meagher Division Scholastic Awards

The General Thomas F. Meagher Division presented two \$1,500 scholastic awards to graduates of Fredericksburg area Catholic elementary schools who were committed to attend a Catholic high school. The 2020 awardee from St. Patrick Elementary School was Emily Warnick. Emily will attend The Summit Academy, an independent classical liberal arts high school rooted in the teachings and tradition of the Catholic Faith.

# Kansas

## Kansas Hibernians at the World War I Memorial

For a balmy week in June, the National World War I Museum and Memorial hosted its seventh annual Taps at the Tower at each evening's sunset from Sunday, June 21, to Saturday, June 27. On June 23, the honor guard of the Father Bernard Donnelly Division, Johnson County, Kansas, was privileged to participate in this solemn ceremony representing the AOH. With the skyline of Kansas City, Missouri, as a backdrop, the honor guard presented the colors at dusk as Taps was played and the Memorial's American flag was lowered. A commemorative wreath was also presented as part of this ceremony in memory of all American servicemen and servicewomen killed while serving our nation.

Taps, a musical piece sounded at dusk and at funerals, has a rich and storied history in the United States. It has long been associated with the U.S. military, and is often played at civilian events around the country. The National WWI Museum and Memorial, also known locally as the Liberty Memorial, is a civic pillar in Kansas City and is a point of pride to the people in the region. Rising from patriotic and citizen initiative, the Memorial is a gathering place for ceremonies and memorials that honor those who served the nation.

The Memorial's annual Taps at the Tower program links the beauty and simplicity of the Taps bugle call with the symbolism of the Liberty Memorial. AOH members of the honor guard participating in this ceremony included Charlie Roult, Kevin Donnelly, Charlie Lamont, Pat Martin and Shaun Cronin. The honor guard was led into the ceremony by our Division President, Zachary Kittle. Zach is a retired U.S. Army Captain, a veteran of the Afghanistan War and a recipient of the Bronze Star.



Our current president and Bronze Medal winner, Zach Kittle, is on the far left.

# Ladies Hibernian News

## Immediate Past National President

## President's Message...

by Karen Keane

by Carol Sheyer

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you and express my sincere appreciation to all of you who have supported me over my 10 years on the National Board. It has been a wonderful journey.

Congratulations to the newly elected National Officers and to the new National Appointees. I wish you a very successful term.

There is no way I would have been able to do the work of our Order without the help and support of my National Officers and Appointees. They were always willing to go the extra mile for what I needed or asked. Thank you for being you.

Once again I want to express my appreciation to the members of the Virtual Convention Committee for all their work to help make history with the 2020 National Convention.

And to the LAOH membership throughout the country – thank you for your friendship. I will always cherish that.

A special Thank You to my LAOH Division Sisters and my Ohio Sisters whose support and confidence encouraged me on my journey throughout all the many years.

And to my husband, Ron, I want to thank him for his love, support and especially for his understanding. To borrow lyrics from an Elvis song I want to say to him "And you're always there to lend a hand in everything I do".

### Welcome to the Roaring 2020s in the LAOH

We are transitioning into the new administration and it promises to be roaring. The virtual convention showed that there is nothing 'ancient' in our use of the today's technology. While we were not able to be together physically in Orlando, Florida, we were able to attend multiple committee meetings and come together to move our reports and motions forward.

The down part of the virtual convention was that we were unable to show Immediate Past National President Carol Sheyer our love, appreciation, and respect for the wonderful job she did as the National President. She presided over our 125th Anniversary Celebration in Dearborn, Michigan, and guided your National Board with grace and patience. Please let Carol know how much you appreciate all the work she did and the leadership she provided us.

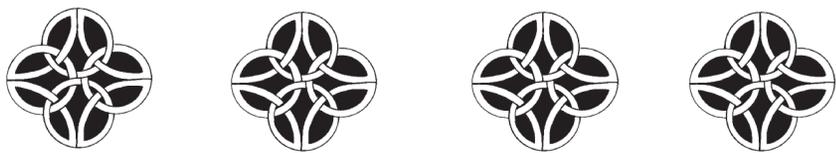
If you look at the box to the left listing your new National Board, you should notice some new names and positions. My vision for the Order for the next two years is to exponentially increase our exposure in the areas of Freedom for All Ireland, political education, immigration, veterans & military affairs, Catholic social justice, missions, social media, and membership; while maintaining fiscal responsibility and transparency.

The area I am most concerned with is the communication between the members and the National Board. To improve this, Kim DePeaux is creating, editing, and publishing the Lady Hibernian Herald which has the primary goal to share the news from the Divisions and members with the rest of the membership across the country. If you want to confirm receipt of the newsletter, make sure you email Kim at the email address provided. Also, send in your articles, events, etc. The more news pieces, the more editions will hit the press.

Also, the National Officers and Appointees will be holding quarterly Zoom meetings with interested members and their State counterparts. If interested in any specific topic, please email the respective chair. Freedom for All Ireland Chair Dolores Desch is already working on guest speakers for Zoom meetings and Facebook live events.

If you have any ideas, please feel free to email me and let me know your thoughts. Also, check out the website [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com) and the Facebook Pages for the National Board and the individual Officers and Appointees.

Stay Informed and Be Involved.

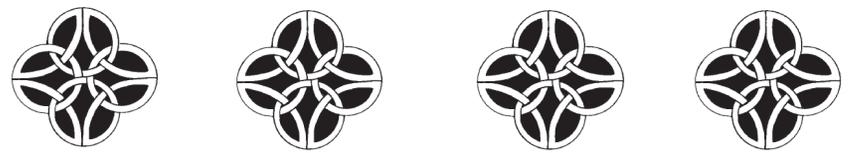


### Ladies AOH National Board

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Karen Keane	President	natlpresidentlaoh@gmail.com
Marilyn Madigan	Vice President	laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com
Mary Ann Lubinsky	Secretary	laohsecretary@gmail.com
Sandi Swift	Treasurer	laohnationaltreasurer@gmail.com
Colleen Bowers	Irish Historian	nationallaohhistorian@gmail.com
Cathy Turck	Missions and Charities	laohnationalmissions@gmail.com
Margaret Cornish	Catholic Action	LaohNationalCA@gmail.com
Kim Depeaux	Press & Public Relations	laohnationalnews@gmail.com
Dolores Desch	Freedom For All Ireland	laohnationalffai@gmail.com
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Siobhan Dennehy	Immigration	laohnationalimmigration@gmail.com
Mary Jo Rawlins	Supply Chair	laohnationalsupplies@gmail.com
Christina Parisi	Auditor	laohnationalauditor@gmail.com
Kathie Linton	National Convention Chair	kathielin10@gmail.com
	& PNP	
Cathie Norton Doherty	Veterans	laohveteransnational@gmail.com
	& Military Affairs	
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Ann Durkin Fisher	Legal Counsel	laohnationallegalcounsel@gmail.com
Kathryn Keane	Tax Expert	kathryn@macanta.com
	& Immigration Co-Chair	
Beth Zuczek	Webmaster	laohnationalwebmaster@gmail.com
	& Social Media	

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Mary Hogan	Past President	laohbklyn@aol.com
Maureen Shelton	Past President	mtshelton@live.com
Margaret Hennessy	Past President	mhtax@optonline.net
Mary Ryan	Past President	
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Mary B. Dolan	Past President	bridgie136@gmail.com
Peggy Cooney	Past President	peggy.cooney@ymail.com
Mary Paglione	Past President	marypaglione@comcast.net



## Junior Hibernian of the Year Award

The 2020 LAOH Junior Hibernian of the Year award was bestowed on Nina age 11, of the Daughters of JFK of Division 1 in Albany, New York. The award was presented on July 25 by LAOH National President Karen Keane. Nina currently holds the dual positions of both Missions & Charities Officer and Catholic Action Officer.

The criteria for this national award include leadership ability, participation in all phases of her junior division, and exhibiting qualities of good manners, congeniality and wholesomeness.

Nina first exhibited the traits of "friendship, unity and Christian charity" when she was six-years-old and she singlehandedly organized a drive to collect Halloween costumes for underprivileged children in her community. She held a yard sale to raise money for her cause and requested donations of costumes from neighbors and friends. In the end, she donated 13 costumes to a local Albany Catholic school. It is now an annual event.

Since that time, Nina has continued to do good deeds. As Catholic Action Officer in her junior division, she obtained rosary beads from Holy Family Ministries' Fr. Peyton's "Family Rosary Crusade" and distributed them to the members of her division. She also organized a collection of pop tabs from aluminum cans to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House to help families stay close to their children in the hospital.

Nina also is committed to feeding the hungry and is active in the local "Back Pack Program" to feed children who otherwise do not have enough food on weekends by filling back packs with food. She also has participated multiple times with the AOH and LAOH divisions in Albany to volunteer at the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

She serves as an usher at her church one Sunday a month for "Youth Sunday" and also takes up the collection and carries the gifts at the Offertory.

Nina also helps at events for LAOH JFK Division 1 in Albany by attending division events and setting up tables and chairs. She also has participated for several years with the division's annual baby shower for Community Maternity Services.

# LAOH Select National Life Members at Virtual Convention

by **Kim DePeaux, Press and Publicity Chair**

At the Virtual National Convention, held on July 25, 2020, the Ladies Ancient Orders of Hibernians, Inc selected two new members for National Life Membership. Patti Flaus from Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and Eloise Stalter from Akron, Ohio were selected to receive this high honor.

To become a National Life Member, one must have "performed Outstanding and Distinguished service to Hibernianism for at least 25 consecutive years". Candidates proposed for this award must be approved by a 2/3 vote of their respective Division, County, State Boards prior to submitting to the LAOH National Board. The National Board can award up to 5 National Life Memberships at the Bi-annual Nation Convention and a 2/3 vote is necessary to be selected. No per capita or dues shall be required of National Life Members.

Patti Flaus is a member of Maud Gonne Division 32 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has served in various Officer positions at the Division and County levels and has been an appointee to the State Board. In addition to elected offices held, Patti has served on various committees on the Division/County and State level as well as committees at the National Convention. Patti also helps our members reaffirm their dedication to our Order as a member of the local Degree Team since 1995. She has helped our membership maintain their dedication to the Catholic Church and Faith by organizing masses in honor of Saint Brigid and Our Lady of Knock, as well as spiritual retreats. Patti fosters friendship between the LAOH and AOH by representing her Division and the County Board at many social functions and fundraisers, working hand in hand with her AOH brothers. Since her initiation into our Order, Patti has generously given of her time and talents to carry out our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. Her dedication to the LAOH has been recognized by her Division and she was honored with the Hibernian of the Year Award.

Eloise Stalter is a member of the Margaret Judge Division 1 in Akron, Ohio. She has held many State Offices including President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Organizer. Eloise has also served in many Division Offices and on several committees for various functions including St. Patrick's Day Parade and Luncheon, All Irish Day, Celtic festival, Irish Craft Faire, Shamrock Building Committee, Memorial Stone Committee, and 15 plus years as part of the Fish Fry Crew. She helped to mentor a new local LAOH Division and recruited many new members to the Order. Eloise was nominated Grand Marshal for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and was named LAOH Hibernian of the Year. Eloise also volunteers at her church and with members of her division at the local Pregnancy Care Center in the community. Throughout the years, Eloise has demonstrated outstanding and distinguished service as a Hibernian. Her Division sisters say she is the epitome of what the LAOH stands for, Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

Congratulations ladies on receiving your Gold Cards!!

## Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Resolutions

The following LAOH Resolutions were approved during the 2020 Virtual National Convention on Saturday, July 25, 2020.

1. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will first and foremost renew our pledge of loyalty to our Holy Father and all the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church without exception.

2. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will support the just treatment of all immigrants, including the Irish nationals that have supported and defended the United States of America for generations.

3. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will support diplomatic intervention in the peace process in Northern Ireland in accordance with the Good Friday Agreement. Furthermore, we continue to support the MacBride Principles, the McGuinness Principles, fight for the reinstatements of the civil rights of the political ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland, and end the English partition of Ireland and assist in bringing a lasting peace to a united and free Ireland.

4. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will continue to work for the growth of our Noble Order throughout the United States, as well as empowering all the membership to combat anti-Irish and anti-Catholic images and statements in our culture.

5. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will, as in the spirit of the Irish Bards, continue to foster the learning of Irish history which will assure the proper and correct retelling of our history with emphasis on Irish women for future generations. Passed.

6. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will pray for the victims of the COVID-19 Pandemic and their families throughout the world. We also continue to pray for our essential workers as well as for our country as we navigate these uncertain times.

7. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. wish to thank and show our appreciation to the Florida 2020 Convention Committee who worked so hard in preparing for this convention.

## Political Education Committee

The National Political Education Committee is a new committee that will inform, educate, and hopefully engage, LAOH members in political and social justice issues that intersect with our Catholic values and Irish heritage. This is a new committee, that for some issues, may have the opportunity to work with our sisters in other committees such as FFAI, Immigration and Veteran's Affairs and Military. The committee will also have an outreach function for committee members to learn about issues and to educate our communities and government officials on issues that relate to the LAOH mission and its values. The committee Chair is Gail Dapolito, LAOH District of Columbia. Gail is excited to help launch this new committee and states it will be a learning experience and expects the committee to evolve and grow with experience. Please reach out with any concerns or questions we can help you with. laohnationalpoliticaledu@gmail.com

## LAOH continues its tradition of Notre Dame Support

At the National Convention, the LAOH continued our commitment to the University of Notre Dame with our donations. A donation of \$2,000 was made to the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Previously, its Director, Patrick Griffin, had written of the commitment with the LAOH to help insure the continuation of Irish Studies.

Also, a \$2,000 donation was approved for the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame. Our Hibernian Fund has continued to cosponsor the research fellowships at the University of Aberdeen's Research Institute for Irish and Scottish Studies, as well as our Hibernian lecture each fall. The Cushwa Center's Director, Kathleen Sprows Cummings, is a supporter of the LAOH.

## Newly Elected Missions and Charities Officer

by **Cathy Turck**

It is an honor and a privilege to have been elected as your new LAOH National Missions and Charities Officer for 2020-2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was clear we would not be gathering in our familiar way and sharing the bonds of sisterhood in Orlando. The Virtual Convention General Session held on July 25, 2020, and all the committee meetings that took place virtually in the weeks before, was nothing short of groundbreaking and history making for our Order. Thank you and congratulations to the planning team for successfully planning and pulling off this endeavor: Marilyn Madigan, Karen Keane, Carol Sheyer, Kathi Linton, and Mary Ann Lubinsky. They say necessity is the Mother of all invention and creation. It certainly seemed that this group of dedicated ladies was going to make it happen one way or another; and lucky for us, they did.

In wrapping up my term in the Office of Catholic Action, I was extremely proud that the LAOH was able to raise enough money through the Project St. Patrick cards and donations this year to provide 76 vocational grants to men and women studying to serve in the Catholic Church. This joint LAOH / AOH project allows us to assist with a one-time grant of \$500 per applicant and each entity contributed \$19,250 towards these grants. Also, through our fundraising efforts, the LAOH was able to present SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious) with a check for \$15,000. Please check the LAOH National website (ladiesaoh.com) for the most recent SOAR newsletter, under the Catholic Action tab. In the newsletter you will find a list of the types of projects that this money is used for. Thank you, ladies, for your continued support of Project St. Patrick and SOAR. Your generosity is inspiring.

Now, on to my new Office of Missions and Charities. I look forward to working with all the State/County/Division Mission and Charities Officers, and you the members, to continue our support of the Columban Fathers (since our pledge to Bishop Gavin in 1935) and Columban Sisters (since 2006). It is important to continue to support both the Columban Fathers and Columban Sisters as they operate Catholic missions throughout the world. You can donate by sending a check made out to LAOH, Inc., in care of me. My address is PO Box 170, Altamont, NY 12009. I will keep a record of your donations and track them for the quarterly report that I will send to your State Missions and Charities Officer. Please make a note of either Columban Fathers or Columban Sisters in the memo section so it can be sent to the correct entity.

I will also be responsible for overseeing the Appeals for Aid committee at the next National Convention. Appeals for Aid is intended to provide limited aid to charities at the National Convention. During our Virtual Convention, 10 charities were awarded \$1,600 each. You may submit a request for aid for a charity in your area, that you work with or have a relationship with. The charity must be a 501(c)3 and the request must be submitted 45 days before the National Convention in Pittsburgh in 2022. I realize that it seems a long time away, but it is good to start thinking about worthy charities in your area. I will be periodically sharing information about Missions and Charities throughout the year via the newly created Facebook page for Missions and Charities, the National Website, and the newly created National newsletter- The Lady Hibernian Herald. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at laohnationalmissions@gmail.com

Be well and may God bless you.

# St. Brigid Humanitarian Award

## Cecilia Leonard and Delores Fitzgerald Co-Honored with LAOH's 2020 St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award

The prestigious St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian national award is bestowed biennially by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) Inc. in recognition of extraordinary acts of humanitarianism. The award embodies the significant difference that the members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. make in the lives of others, their community and church furthering their motto of friendship, unity and Christian Charity. The 2020 St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian award was bestowed on Cecilia Leonard of JFK Division 1 Albany, New York and Delores Fitzgerald of Dean Michael Barry Division 3 Oswego, New York. This is the first time in the history of the award, it has co-award winners.

To receive the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian award a nominee must be a member in good standing of the LAOH and her contributions to the community must be of a humanitarian or civic nature. She must demonstrate qualities of compassion, kindness, understanding and respect for all human beings and promote Catholic action and the Hibernian spirit. Both women have met and exceeded all these criteria.

Cecilia has been a member of the LAOH for more than 40 years and has been elected to the office of president for both the division (JFK Division 1 Albany) and county (Albany County). She also has served as an appointee on the New York State Board for four presidents. Cecilia is a LAOH National Life Member and the secretary of the Trinity Degree Team.

She is one of eight children in a family that is involved in the Catholic Church and especially the missionary work of Father Peyton and his mission to bring families together into a prayerful life. Along with her brother, they organize a successful fundraiser for this organization every year. This event not only raises much needed funds for Holy Cross Family Ministries but also helps promote the works and canonization of Father Peyton. She spends many hours discussing his work and mission with people but also encourages all to pray as a family. She brings a personal touch to his story and this has made thousands of people aware of his mission.

Another aspect of Cecilia is the work she performs for others. She can be found at the Hibernian Hall in the kitchen wearing an apron slicing vegetables, stirring a pot or sweeping the floor. She never refuses to "work in the trenches" and always has a smile on her face. She is consistently willing to help those in need. If she learns someone is sick, Cecilia will deliver food, bake brownies or send a card to let them know someone cares and is praying for their recovery. If she hears of a death in the family, she will make a meal and quietly deliver it to the family without being intrusive. She visits the sick at home, in the hospital or at a rehabilitation facility and is the favorite babysitter for family. She organizes fundraisers for people in need and brings attention to the needs of the poorest people in the parishes and neighborhoods.

Delores has been an active member of Division 3 for almost 50 years. She was the recipient of the New York State, 'Mother Teresa of Calcutta' Award in 2019 for "living her life by the guiding principles of our Order and in the spirit of Mother Teresa."

Delores not only believes in our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, but she lives it as well. She has held many offices in the division, including the presidency, but is more comfortable behind the scenes wearing an apron. She and her husband were active members in their respective divisions and worked for the good of both orders, doing whatever needed to be done.

Delores is known and respected through out the city for her good will and willingness to help where needed. She can be found at the Red Cross, the hospital and the Food Kitchen just to name a few.

When her husband took ill, she took it upon herself to not only brighten his days in the nursing home, but to brighten the days of anyone she encountered; be it staff or residents.

Both women do all these things without ever seeking recognition. They serve "in the dark" where no one sees what is done for others. They shun the spotlight and do these good deeds because they genuinely believe "others first" is the only way to live a Christian life and that we are here on Earth to serve others.

Congratulations goes out to both ladies on living our motto every day.

# Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs

by **Cathie Norton Doherty, National LAOH Veteran & Military Affairs**

The Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs is a new position for the National LAOH and I am proud and incredibly honored to serve as the first appointee. My goal for this position is to build a committee for the LAOH dedicated to serving not just our members who currently serve in the United States Armed Forces and our Veterans who have served, but all veterans and active military in this country and their families, building our own network of support and will offer many ideas on how to do that. I would like to help guide our LAOH members across the country in advocating and supporting women veterans and support legislative issues that can help to improve the support and resources available to those women who have so bravely stood up at one time to defend our rights and freedoms as Catholic Irish American women. I would like to keep our LAOH Veterans informed as to resources and support services available to them and their family members. This committee will also look to further the historical documentation of our LAOH members who have served in the Armed Forces. Please feel free to contact me as to any questions you may have or any support you may want to offer this committee.

laohveteransnational@gmail.com

## LAOH Select National Life Members at Virtual Convention

by **Kim DePeaux, Press and Publicity Chair**

At the Virtual National Convention, held on July 25, 2020, the Ladies Ancient Orders of Hibernians, Inc selected two new members for National Life Membership. Patti Flaus from Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and Eloise Stalter from Akron, Ohio were selected to receive this high honor.

To become a National Life Member, one must have "performed Outstanding and Distinguished service to Hibernianism for at least 25 consecutive years". Candidates proposed for this award must be approved by a 2/3 vote of their respective Division, County, State Boards prior to submitting to the LAOH National Board. The National Board can award up to 5 National Life Memberships at the Bi-annual Nation Convention and a 2/3 vote is necessary to be selected. No per capita or dues shall be required of National Life Members.

Patti Flaus is a member of Maud Gonne Division 32 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has served in various Officer positions at the Division and County levels and has been an appointee to the State Board. In addition to elected offices held, Patti has served on various committees on the Division/County and State level as well as committees at the National Convention. Patti also helps our members reaffirm their dedication to our Order as a member of the local Degree Team since 1995. She has helped our membership maintain their dedication to the Catholic Church and Faith by organizing masses in honor of Saint Brigid and Our Lady of Knock, as well as spiritual retreats. Patti fosters friendship between the LAOH and AOH by representing her Division and the County Board at many social functions and fundraisers, working hand in hand with her AOH brothers. Since her initiation into our Order, Patti has generously given of her time and talents to carry out our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. Her dedication to the LAOH has been recognized by her Division and she was honored with the Hibernian of the Year Award.

Eloise Stalter is a member of the Margaret Judge Division 1 in Akron, Ohio. She has held many State Offices including President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Organizer. Eloise has also served in many Division Offices and on several committees for various functions including St. Patrick's Day Parade and Luncheon, All Irish Day, Celtic festival, Irish Craft Faire, Shamrock Building Committee, Memorial Stone Committee, and 15 plus years as part of the Fish Fry Crew. She helped to mentor a new local LAOH Division and recruited many new members to the Order. Eloise was nominated Grand Marshal for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and was named LAOH Hibernian of the Year. Eloise also volunteers at her church and with members of her division at the local Pregnancy Care Center in the community. Throughout the years, Eloise has demonstrated outstanding and distinguished service as a Hibernian. Her Division sisters say she is the epitome of what the LAOH stands for, Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

Congratulations ladies on receiving your Gold Cards!!

**Deadline for the Oct-Nov. issue  
is NO LATER than Oct. 1**

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

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@ladiesaoh2016**

# Virginia



Brother Tim Dwyer stands next to the Celtic cross.

## Corby Division help with forge Celtic ties

The Father William Corby Division contributed to the purchase of a 500-pound Celtic cross for the new home of St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Fairfax. The idea for the cross was suggested by Division Brother and St. Mary Building Committee member Tim Dwyer. Dwyer proclaimed the cross “ties the new church to the original, historic St. Mary of Sorrows church built in 1858 by Irish Catholics” working on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. The new church is scheduled to be dedicated in Autumn 2020.

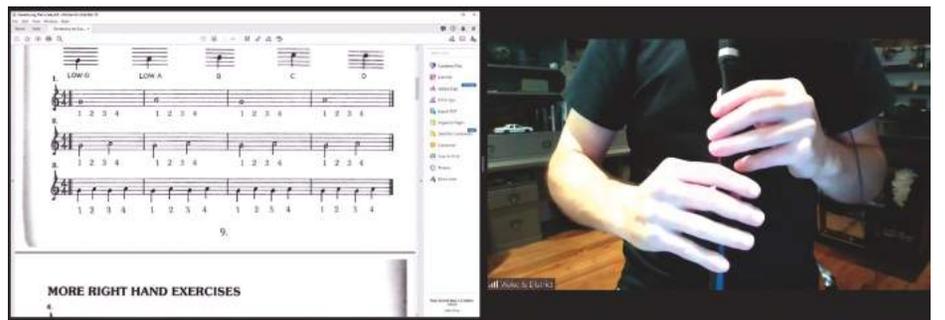


Workers from Coakley & Williams Construction Company move the new cross into position.

# North Carolina

## The Pipes are Calling

It's hard to believe that with everything going on the brothers of the Wake County, NC, Division 1 are in the process of starting a new AOH Pipe and Drum Band. Practice chanters, drumsticks and practice pads have been passed out. They are now several weeks into lessons and learning their first song, The Minstrel Boy. New AOH member Joe Brady, of Wake and District Pipes and Drums, has been leading the lessons virtually through Zoom with the help of Brother Dennis O'Brien. God willing and with lots of hard practice, the new group plans to march in next year's Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Brother Joe Brady leading bag pipe lessons on Zoom.



Brother Kevin Murray, Brother Chris Cooke, Alex R., Dennis O'Brien, George McEvoy, Jack O'Brien, Jim White, Christopher Young and Joe Brady.



Practice Chanters for the new Wake AOH Pipe Band.

**CONVENTION**  
continued from page 1

F. McKay, assisted by National Director Dennis Parks, installed our new officers both live and virtually from St. Columba. Rev. John Keehner stood in for Treasurer Liam McNabb (who was installed virtually) joining Secretary Jere Cole, Vice President Sean Pender and President Danny O'Connell as they formed the cross on the altar for the public installation. National Directors Timothy McSweeney (New York), Raymond Lynch (Florida), Edward Halligan (Pennsylvania), Sean O'Dowd (Illinois), Richard Thompson (Massachusetts), and Robert Mehrens (Montana) were all installed by President McKay virtually during the same ceremony.

**Best Wishes from Ireland**

COVID-19 did not prevent the participation of our many friends from Ireland. Ambassador Daniel Mulhall opened the convention with a warm welcome from Washington D.C. He discussed the unique situation the virtual convention brought to the Order, allowing members from around the country to attend who would not be in attendance otherwise. In speaking about his enjoyable connection with Hibernians from around the U.S., the largest Irish organization outside of Ireland, he also complimented the great historical record of the Order. He continued discussing the attachment Irish America and the AOH has with our ancestral home, which is unique to the Irish. Explaining the U.S. has taken over the UK as the most important economic partner for Ireland places the AOH and Irish America in a position for continued support and influence on Ireland's future.

Sinn Fein President Mary Lou McDonald spoke of Judge McKay's leadership and how her experience following a great leader was similar to Danny O'Connell following McKay. She said to learn from McKay, but to "know this is your time to lead." Mary Lou highlighted the AOH continued support for Unity and Independence. "We can be the generation that makes good the promise of the proclamation that delivers unity and build an Irish Republic of equal citizens." Discussing the challenges ahead with Brexit, COVID and the continued British coverup, she reminded us that "when Irish America speaks, Dublin listens." We learned from her words that the AOH must

continue to be the voice of Irish America advocating and encouraging a plan for Irish unity.

We had the opportunity to hear from Peadar Toibin, the leader of Aontu, a new political party in both the north and south of Ireland. Aontu means Irish Unity. Aontu is also the only Nationalist Republican party that supports Right to Life for everyone. Peadar stated that abortions are up 40 percent since it was legalized in the Republic of Ireland. He worked with the formation of Aontu because the other parties flip-flopped on abortion. Discussing a United Ireland, he discussed how Brexit and even COVID have been pushing the issue of uniting Ireland. Clearly, joint health care north and south can only help the Island.

**'Proud to stand up' for the Faith**

Other speakers included two great friends of the Order, Most Rev. Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan DD, Bishop of Waterford & Lismore, and Mairtin O Muilleoir, publisher of the Irish Echo in the U.S., and author, publisher and businessman in Belfast, who also served as Lord Mayor of Belfast and is a former JFK Medal recipient. Bishop Phonsie spoke to the convention live following our election. He spoke to the fact that the Hibernians are the only Irish organization in America who are truly proud of our Catholic faith and reminded us of Jesus's words that "I am the way, the truth and the light." In closing, he spoke of his "joy that in the states there are sons and daughters of Ireland who are proud to stand up for their Catholic faith in Jesus Christ.

Mairtin O Muilleoir began speaking about Judge McKay's and the AOH's commitment to justice, equality and Irish unity. As a MacBride Principles generation, he benefited from the work of the AOH and Irish America. The AOH will be involved in the Irish America Campfire highlighted by Judge McKay on the panel. He continued that he sees the AOH as the cement of Irish America, the heart and soul. He also commented that as a Catholic organization, our commitment to faith is needed around the world.

The most incredible part of the virtual convention was the attendance. The break-out sessions all had between 157 and 205 delegates in attendance. The General Session had between 470 and 556 members at all times. Close to 650 delegates participated.



After Mass, Vice President Sean Pender, Past President Judge Jim McKay, Fr. Kevin Peters, Chaplain of Mahoning County Div. 6 (Ohio), President Danny O'Connell, Fr. John Keehner, National Chaplain, and Secretary Jere Cole.



Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel, left, visited with Chris Cooke during the AOH virtual convention broadcast from YSU, home of the Penguins.



Top four officers and Digital Coordinator Chris Cooke at the Youngstown State University Stadium, from which the virtual convention was broadcast.



Past and Present National Presidents with Jamal Tito Brown, the mayor of Youngstown, Ohio.